

## Battle of Prairie Grove

We found our command in camp on Cove Creek, with a detachment on scout patrol. In a day or so we heard cannons and then was on immediate call for volunteers. I volunteered to go. Also my brother and a host of my friends were going. We struck a brisk trot and in about ten miles we met them coming in. The Federals had fell back and our boys were alright. Some time after this we made a raid up in Missouri with the Brigade. We found the Feds. at Springfield and had a skirmish with their outpost and then turned back. They followed us and we would wait for their advance guard to come up then fire on them and run like Nick was in the rair, so on this way until we got to Prairie Grove in Washington County. Here we halted. Our company was called on for the best horse in it. The Capt. come to me and wanted my horse. I toald him if my horse went I would ride him. I then ask permission to go to head quarters and see what they wanted with him.

I went to the General and he wanted to know if that was the best horse in the company. I toald him there was nary one I would give him fur. He then asked me if I was afraid to ride him. "Young man," he seys, "if you ain't shot at in less than ten miles it will be a mistry to me, but you must not stop."

I then sayed, "Perhaps it would be better to send two." He a-greed to this and I ask to select the man to go with me. He toald me to get him and be back in ten minutes. I found my friend Isom, who agreed to go and the General gave us a dispatch to carry to General I. C. Hindman at Van Buren.

We struck the head of Cove Creek and tuck down it. We had to cross it twenty four times. While we

was riding under a bluff some fifty feet high, I heard the word "Halt." I looked up and saw the muzzles of two or three shotguns pointing down. I threw my spurs into my horse and myself flat on my horse's neck, hollering to Isom to come through as fast as he could. They fired several shots at us but they flew wild of the mark, so we kept doing some jockey riding for some distance.

We found Gen. I. C. Hindman and delivered the message, and he gave us one to carry back with orders to make all possible haste. I then told him about being shot at as we come down Cove Creek. He said we had better not go back that way, so when we got to where the old telegraph road turned off, we took it to the top of the mountain. We made good time back to our command with our horses rode down.

General Blunt of the Federal's advance army and our General was having a skirmish every day and some of them right ugly affairs. General Hindman was moving up from Van Buren, the two Generals facing each other for a pitched battle with about thirty thousand on each side.

Things began to look scary to a timid man like me. At last the final day comes. Our regiment has taken a position before daylight on the extreme left of the main battle with orders to sit in our saddles all day.

Our line was a mile long as we were deployed some five or six steps apart to keep them from outflanking us. Between daylight and sunup the cannons commenced and in a short time there was a perfect crash of small arms, and it so continued all day. I believed I could tell that the Confederates was pulling back from their first position, and I fell into a train of reflection as I listened to the guns that

was murdering my countrymen. What was all this far? Where was the wrong that justified this whole-sale murder? It was war, but premediated murder of men of the same Government, raised under the same flag, taught to love and reverend it as the Flag of the free and the home of the brave. Men marched up in front of each other and ordered to shoot each other down in cold blood. Who was responsible for it? Lincoln had bin elected President but he had bin Constitutionally Elected and before he took his presidential seat the South had seceded and set up a Government and defied the North. What was Lincoln to do? He was sworn to support the Constitution and see that the Laws were executed in each State.

It was the same flag our fore Fathers fought under when they released us from the Tyranny of the King of England. It was sacred to me on account I had been bourned in the South and all my youth and early association was here. It was the home of my kin and in its bosom rested my dead.. I loved it with all my affection. How can I help tear up the best Government the world has ever seen simply because they were afraid Lincoln would do wrong? Seceded and brought on a war and we pore devels was killing one another jest to satisfy some oald broke down politician. God forbid that I ever shall have to listen to the guns that is murderin my countrymen again.

I had set here all day with my thoughts, not knowing what minute a orderly would dash up with orders fur us to go into the fight. A little after sundown the guns seast. By this time the Confederates had fell back something like a mild from where the fiting had commenst. Jest after dark we were ordered in between the two armies and dismounted. We were then ordered to lay down on

our arms. Here we layed till one o'clock. About ten o'clock in the night I heard the train commence moving. Oh, how close I listened to see which way they were going. When I heard them take the road for Van Buren, how proud I was, fur I then knew they were on the retreat and the fight was over for now.

At one c'clock we were ordered to go to our horses and cover the retreat. Jest after daylight we were over taken bey thar Calvery. We past about and made it prity warm far them far a few minutes. They fell back and we went on down Cove Creek for some distance before they come up again. This time there seamed to be more of them as they stood their ground and thar was several killed on each side. When the order come far us to sease firing, thar was one proud man and that was me.

This was the last of the Battle of Prairie Grove. It had been hotly contested, very near a draw fight. The number killed and wounded I have forgot.

We camped the next day at Dripping Springs. Here we drew rations far our selves and horses. Thar was a flag of Truce sent back to take care of the dead and wounded. I went with them. They had enlisted a hospital far the wounded and were caring far our men, the same as far their's. The dead they had baired. I went through and looked at all the wounded and it was months before I could keep it out of my mind. I said here that the men were all fools to kill each other. They had nothing against each other, so why not lay down their guns and go home?

Gen. Hindman retreated on down to Little Rock. We were ordered to destroy all the comesary stores at Van Buren. Thar was quite a lot thar. The bacon we burned. The molases we nocked the hed out of

the barrels and poured it out. The shougar likewise. I have bin toald that Gen. Hindman marched his hole army through town and them all most on starvation, and did not ishue them a pound of bacon because it was destroyed to keep it from falling into the hands of the Fed.

While here I rote our my reflections on war and red it to several of the boys. It went to one to another until finally the officers got holt of it. They come to me and sed I was getting up a revolt in the Army and I had to keep my mouth shet or they would shet it fur me.

Our next stop was at Clarksville. While here it come up a big snow and some of the couldest weather I have ever sean followed it. Thar was twenty of us sent about fifteen milds up on the hed of Horse Hed Creek as pickets. We stopped at a ould still house and the Lieutenant toald me to post the pickets and put the post about a mild from camp.

The weather was so coald it was freezing the timber. The men asked me to see the Lieutenant and ask if he would not draw the outpoast closer in. I went to him and sed it was so cold, and the men was thinley clothed, I thought he mite draw in the outpoast to half a mild and let the men stand one hour instead of two.

At this the Lieutenant said, "I have give the order and damd if they haven't got to be obayed."

Brother Joe was standing bey and spoke and ses, "Lieutenant, have you got no simpathy fer the men?"

At this the Lieutenant said, "Hoo in the hell are you that you are putting in your gal?"

At this Joe ses, "My name is Joseph Jones, a privat in the rair rank and, Lieutenant, we are going to run this outpoast as we please. You have no

simpathy.”

At this the Lieutenant says, “You will have hell.”

Joe seys, “Let hell make her charge. I am redy fur a settlement. You are present superceded and have nothing more to say or do.”

I went and poasted out the picket about two or three hundred yards and realeaved them every half hour. The Lieutenant sulled and never spoke unless someone asked him something. We stade here four days and I have thought it was four of the couldest days I have ever sean.

One day while here one of the boys kild a hog and brought it into camp. The Lieutenant cut out a peace of it and was roasting it. He sed if the owner come by he would see that we paid fur it.

I sed, “I am willing to go my part.”

He ses not a cent would he pay fur it because it had been kild without his orders.

I ses, “It was kild without mine but I will go my part. You ought to pay or eat nun.”

All I got was a hard look from him. When we was releaved of the outpoast duty, the boys wanted to talk to the Lieutenant to find out if he was going to report us. I toald them if they would keep brother Joe away I would. I rode up and commenced the conversation. He sayed it was his duty to do so.

I sed, “Leut., this is the one time it is best fur you not to do your duty.”

He ses, “I blame you fur the hole thing. You tuk command and they obeyed you as promp as they would have done had you bin a Brigidior General.”

I then sed, “Lieutenant, if you make any report, jest report me and let the boys go.”

When we got back to camp, as soon as I could I went to see the Colonel and toald him what had bin dun, that I had superseded the Lieutenant and I

expected him to make a report. He sed he hoped the Lieutenant would make nun. That was the last I ever heard of it.

We moved on down to a point and steyd here a month. Gen. Hindeman went on down to Little Rock. We were sent on a scout trip north. We went about two days march and were formed in a square formation and General Cabbele rode out to make a talk. He said we were going on a long scout and would have to go under a grat many hard ships, far us to tell no man where we were going or our business. I did not know any more than my horse. He was making his jestures, looking at me.

I spoke up and sed, "How in the devel can a man tell what he doan't know?"

This created a laugh. The General from that time on called me his know-nothing.

A dispatch overtook us and we turned for Dardanelle. Here we met the balance of our Brigade. While here I was ordered to go to a certain corn crib and get so many bushels of corn. The man commenst begging for his corn. I tould him my orders was posotive and I was compeled to get the corn. He had no way to measure it, so me and him got in the crib to count it out. I heard a chicken squal and, on looking out, I saw the Lady after one of the boys trying to make him put the chicken down. I got out of the crib and toald him to put it down.

His reply was, "You make me."

At this I picked up a stick and started to him. He put it down without a fight and got out of the yard. I toald him not to go inside no more.

Thar was a company of us sent into the Magazine Mountain to ketch up with deserters. It was so vary cold the nights was all but unbearable. When we struck the mountains, we had to go up a creek and

was forced to cross it several times. The water would splash on our feet, freezing a sheat of ice on our boots.

We would get to a house and surround it, then charge up like a bunch of redskins, scaring the women and children into fits. I never did feel right doing this and always felt sorry far the people as they never knew what a bunch of men would do. But again, that was part of this un-Godly war.

It was about mid-night when we got to a vary ould man's house. His name was John Jones. As always, we forced ourselves in and commenst to search the place far his grandsons. We all dismounted and me and Jonathan Isom taken seats bey the fire. I toald the oald man that my name was Jones. He ask where my people had come from. He clamed to be a cousen to my grandfather. At least he knew the family. While I was talking to him, one of my boys picked up a pair of spurs and commenst to put them on. The oald man asked him not to take them as they belonged to his son that was dead. He was keeping them fur a keep-sake.

The boy seys, "That don't make any difference to me, oald man. I want these spurs."

At this I got my blood hi, saying, "Give them spurs back to Mr. Jones and shut your mouth. You have no respect fur your elders at all and should be ashamed of yourself."

He made a effort to push me out of his way. At this time I puld my pistol and sed, "Hand them over."

Isom got up, tuck the spurs out of his hands and give them to Mr. Jones. We then taken our seats by the fire again. We were out of tobacco and asked fur a chew. He gave us a chew, saying he had little but would share what he had. When we were going out



the door, the oald man punched me and sed fur me and Isom to step a-side. Wondering what he wanted, we let the others go in front of us, saying we would be along. After the company started on, he ask us to stay a few minutes. As soon as the others was out of site, he brought in a ladder. Thar was a little scuttle hole that went into the loft overhead. He toald us to go up thar and git all the tobacco that we wanted. So we got well paid fur taking up fur him, getting the spurs back. I never did know where his grandsons were, but was glad we didn't find them. I thought, "The ould mans no fool." He probable had them hid as good as the tobacco.

About daylight, we got to where one Mr. Garner lived. Here we got breakfast and it was mity good. All of us was hungry as bairs. We camped here two days and I had an experience I do not like to recall.

The Garners were nice to us, giving us food, but what a way the boys repayed them.

The second day the Capt. pointed to the crib, "Thar, boys, is plenty of corn. Help yourselves."

They did, then someone yelled, "Lets kill the hogs." Thar was 15 or 20 and vary fat. Thar was four or five hogs shot down, twice the amount necessary. They busted 10 or 12 bee-gums. Of all the unecessary wast, I have never sean the like. I toald Isom I had ruther pay fur everything I eat than to take it in any such a way.

We went into the house and asked the lady what we owed her far the breakfast. We wanted to pay fur it. She toald us to git out of her house.

She was crying and sed, "What is left of the house."

I commenst to tell her that I did not approve of the way the men was doing. About this time a man turned the top bed over and found a pone of bread,

started out of the house. I tuck hold of it and asked him to give it back to the lady. He refused to give it up. I stuck my knife into the pone and commenst to cutting it into. He then turn loose and I got half of it. I offered it to the lady but she sed it was dirty, fur me to take it and git out, and would not take any pay far it. I left feeling as low as a snake.

(A year later I went to the Federals and thar I got acquainted with Garner and his wife. They were good people. I would have known them anywhere. Mrs. Garner recollected me offerin to pay fur the bread. Garner sed as we past out the gap he sean us. We beat him thar bey twenty minutes. He had fifteen men well armed. If he had gotten thar first with his men posted behind the rocks, he would have had a pick-nick killing most if not all of us, which would have served us right.)

We went to Fort Smith, got thar on February 4, 1862. It was my birthday. It had snowed on us all the way. The snow was 14 inches deep, was vary coald and hard to get around in. This was also the day my little boy died, as I learned afterwards. I was sick with a coald and toald the boys I had \$50.00 I would give freely fur a good bed. I got a leave of absence til the next morning.

I went down in town to hunt a bed. I made every hotel and boarding house in town and thar was someone ahead of me, so I started back to camp. As I turned to go back, I saw a house with the door part-ley open. I could see the fire. It looked so inviting that I went up to the door and ask the lady if I could come in and warm far a little while. I felt like I was frozen. The kind lady sed I could come in. I toald her I had walked all over town hunting a bed fur the night as I was sick. I went on tolking, saying it was hard a man had to be draged from home

against his will, and exposed till he caught his death. I happen to shut up and noticed the lady with tears running down her cheeks.

She then commenst, and toald me her husband deserted and come home. He was arrested and taken back to the Army and Hindman had him shot. The good lady toald me she had a extry bed and I was welcome to use it, so I stade thar. The next day I went to the Doctor and got a leave of absence fur a few days, till I got better. This woman had come from a good family, was modest, kind and reserved in her manners. She was afraid that her kindness to me would be misconstrued bey her neighbors, so I paid her fur her kindness to me.

I was orderly Sargent and had a extry good horse. They would call far my horse far scout duty, so I would volunteer to go if my horse went as I didn't like nobody handling my horse but me. I ject wanted him to be treated kind.

So me and five men out of Hanson's company was detailed to go with a scout up into Missouri. While we were gone, Hanson got a detain to take his company and aide the Missouri conscrip officers in forcing men into the service. They were in Clark and Montgomry Counties, so when we got back I went to the Col. to get a pass to our company. He sed he had some prisoners that he had to send to the Rock. If I would take them, I could report to our company.

We went a-bourd a steamboat at Fort Smith fur the Rock, with our prisoners, turned them over at the Rock. Thar was two men that was with the Capt. that had applied fur discharges. They had come back approved and was handed to me to carry to them. On our way out from the Rock we met Capt. Hanson coming in to turn over some of his

prisoners. I toald him I had Small's and Stinnett's discharges. The Capt. asked to see them.

He then sed, "They are well in order and I don't need discharge papers and, Jones, jest say nothing about this to nobody."

At that I knew he was up to something (like not giving the boys thar discharge) so I ses, "I'll play hell keeping my mouth shut Capt. Them boys has a discharge coming and thar going to get it." At this I rode off.

We got to go home and stay a few days till the company come back. So I got to see my mother and little girl once more. Learning the sad news of my little boy's death, I was so low in spirits. They needed me so bad to help them as my mother was about worked down and getting oald. My little girl was all I had left. She would sleep with me at night, telling me she didn't want me to go back to the war. It was almost more than I could bear.

I found our settlement tore all to peaces. When the men that was layin out found that the soldiers was after them, they got together and one Andy Brown as leader held them together till the soldiers run onto them and had what was known as the "Brown fight." As good a man in the country was killed in that fight, James Kilgore.

The next day a lady come to me, saying if I would go into the haircain where I once killed and hung up a large deer I would meet a man that wanted to see me. Not knowing who it was, I set out fur the place, being sure I wasn't trailed. When I got near the place, I commenst whisling a tune to a-tract attention. I heard a stick brake and, looking in that direction, I sean Dairel Carpenter. He had broke the stick in order that I mite see him. He had bin in the woods so long till he was as wild as a deer. When I

went up to him, he spoke in a whisper.

He ses, "John, we have had hell here since I have sean you."

One Major Eiesley had gone to the Govnor and got all the men pardon that had bin laying out in the woods. Thar was three of them. They wanted me to go see the Major and git passes fur his command. They would git picked up bey scouts if they went themselves, so what could I do but help my friends?

The Major's command was at Arkadelphia, twenty milds away, so I hit the road riding all night. I got thar passes and was back the next day, had a certain place in the woods to meet them. I had on a different hat and they did not know me. When they sean me coming, they jumped and run like deer. I had to put spurs to my horse to overtake them. They were out of breath and could scarsly talk, could not understand why I had changed my hat. I sed the hat was a mistake on my part. They were so scared and wanted me to go with them, afraid thar passes would not be respected. I toald them I had but a few days to be at home and wanted to do all that I could to help my mother while I was thar.

(Reader, I tell this in order to show how the times was then and how frighten everybody was. You couldn't trust anyone you did not know well.)

When the company got back, they scouted around a little, then went back to the Rock. Small and Stinnett went to the Capt. to get thar discharges but he denied knowing anything about them. I toald them when we got back to the Regiment I would take care of it far them, as I was the one that was suppose to see that the boys got them. It was vary plain to see, the Capt. was trying his dead level best to get me in dutch with the Col.

When we got to the Rock, the Capt. drew a

wageon and six mules, and we struck out for Fort Smith. The morning we got there, after the roll was called, the Capt. remarked, "I find one of these mules is a fine saddle mule and will have a chance to benefit the company as we always have a man with a lame horse, so I will keep him and just turn in five mules and the wagon."

Well, nobody had to be dumb to know that was against orders. Also the bright commander kept his saddle on it all the time.

About a month after we got back, I was up at the Colonel's tent when Hanson came pacing along on his mule.

The Colonel spoke and said, "That's a damned fine mule of Hanson's."

I said, "We all might ride fine mules if we could get them as easy as the Captain got that one."

The Col. said, "Ordley, let me understand you."

I then said to the Col., "Sir, you know the Captain and me are not on good terms. If I was to expose him, he would come down on me worse."

Jones, I will see that your name is not used."

So I said, "The Captain was to get on detached service and was to draw a wagon and six mules. When I got back I went and turned over a wagon and five mules, the Capt. telling me somebody would have a mule anyway and it might as well be him."

In a few days the Capt. was called to headquarters, but before this came up I went to the Col. and told him about the Capt. having the boys' discharges and refused to discharge them. The Col. made him give them up, and when he had to give up the mule he liked to have went into fits. He came back and swore that was one man he was going to settle with after the war, so I asked if he was throwing that at

me. He lied then and thar, far he sed it was not me.

A few days after this he buckled on his savor and was walking up and down in front of my tent swaring that he had one man he was going to settle with. I stood it as long as I could, then steped out with my pistol in my hand and toald the Capt. to say the word. He put his hand on his savor. As he dun this, I swept back, cocked my pistol and pointed it at him. I did not aim to shoot but one of the boys stuck my arm, knocking it up, and the pistol went off. The Capt. hollowed to the men to arrest me. I walked tward the Col.'s tent and they followed me. I made my report. He sed he would investagate the matter and far me to consider myself arested. The Col. sed I was in no danger far I had the Capt. the worse scared man he ever saw. The Capt. toald the Col. I had give him more trouble than all the rest of his company put together, that I had the whole company so bewitch they beleaved every thing I did was right.

The next scout was to capture Fayetteville, so the whole bugade went the night before. A fog had come up and it got vary dark. We were traveling down the creek when we come to a holt. As the men kept coming up, they got to crowding my horse. I could not make him give so jerked his head around and put the spurs to him. He jumped off the bank, which was fifteen foot high. We landed in the creek and the water was half side deep to my horse. I figure the deep water was all that saved him from falling or breaking a foot.

I could hear them crossing below, so I rein my horse in that derrection. I fell in with the advance gard and it was so dark I could not see to get back to my position. It was jest before day when we sean a light at a house, so we surrounded it and a few men dismounted, closeing in on it. Thar was Federal

soldiers here, so we got two Luts. and eight men, and the worst tongue lashing we ever had to take from a woman. I felt sorry for the girls, but the boys were having a good time and such is the fate of war. Couldn't help thinking of my own little girl that was home with my mother.

The orders was to keep closed up. We knew we were not far from thar picket, and did not go far till we sean a light. The Capt. halted the men, till they all rode up, then give orders for us to go ahead till we was halted again, then charge at the word halt.

So we put spurs to our horses. The sentinel fired his bullet but it missed its ame. We were on him before he could get out of the way, and we charged on the others, capturing every one of them. Now we was inside thar lines and nothing to do but march on. It was getting light a-nuff to see, so we formed under the hill for a charge on thar rifle pits. When the bugal sounded the charge, we all went fileing up the hill. The Federals went into thar rifle pits and commest to salute us with thar bullets, so we turned back, going under the hill out of thar reach. Here we dismounted.

We had lost the Capt. He never was sean till after the fight was over. The Col. toald me to take charge of the men, so I formed them in line. He past down and toalk to me, sed for me to keep the men well up with the command and for us to screen ourselves the best we could while he was getting ready.

General Gabbell had taken his position on a hill with the cannons, and the Federals was shooting at him. He was only 600 yards from them. I could see his men falling as they were killed. I looked up and down our line and the men looked like they had put on whiteing and had a case of palsy. I didn't feel so gay myself. I spoke to one fellow on my right,



saying, "This don't look good to me."

He remarked, "Ordley, thar is a lot of us that will start up that hill that won't come back down."

The word, "Forward," was give and we came in range of thar guns. At the first volly I herd a bullet hit the fellow next to me. He was falling toward me, had been hit in the brest, so I layed him over the best I could. I discoverd a empty house and made a run into it. I found it was weather board but had never bin seald. The boys started to pile into it but we found it was no protection. The bullets come through it like pitchin straws through a sifter bottom. So I yelled that we had better take our chances on the outside. On going out I sean a pile of rock up near the top of the hill. I fell down to the ground and would pitch my gun a-hed of me, till I got my head behind one of the rocks I thought it would turn bullets. I was in danger of our own men, about fifty yards from them and seventy yards from thar rifle pits, but I thought it was the best that I could do at the time. I looked around to find the Col. beside me. He wanted to see how the Federals was situated so he crowled up a little further. He asked me if I could see thar position. I spoke saying, "If I was alowed to live long a-nuff I mite, and that was doubtful." He had come to see so he raised up to take a peap. About that time a volley of balls struck the rock, so he says, "Ordley, let's get away from here." I toald him I'd stay as I would get a shot every once in a while, so I lay here till the fight was over, late that evening.

The first information I had of the retreat was when the Federals raised the shout. I looked and they had left thar rifle pits and was coming strate toward me. I looked to see how the boys was going to stand a charge and they were gone out of sight. I thought I

would surrender, so I jumped up but did not have the nerve to throw up my hands in a open place. I jumped in behind a black jack tree, with my gun in my hand.

They fired a volly at me. The bresh and bark fell all over me. I could not stand that so I left that place in quite a hurry. On the way down I past a Lut. I toald him to mend his licks or they would get him.

“Mend hell! Don’t you know I am doing my best?” ses he.

Well, I didn’t continue the disput as I was running no jockey race. I had a wide open hollow to cross, which was about a hundred yards. The Lut. got to his horse and was soon out of thar reach, but my horse had bin taken with the command, so I had to run across that holler afoot. When the scamps got to the brake of the hill, stoped and commenst shooting at me, I would dodge to one side then the other, as the balls would whistle past me. They stood thar shooting and laughing till I crossed that hollow. Well when I got out of gun shot, I set down and had a good rest, far I had run over my distance.

I had gone in a different direction from the command. I was alone and had no eyda where the command would go, so I struck far the Arkansas River. This led across the Boston Mountains. I traveled till dark. I come up-on a place where I could get up a lot of wood to build a fire to sleep by. I had nothing to cook, was alone in the woods and had no eyda how many of the boys had bin killed.

The next day about twelve I went up to a house to get something to eat. Thar was three grone girls. I asked far something to eat. They sed they would have to cook something as they had jest et dinner. It was ham and eggs. It had bin thirty six hours since I had tasted any food. I et till I was ashamed and yet

hungry.

One girl ask me if I was on the fight. I toald her I was. She ask how it went. I toald her all that I knew about it and toald her how I come to be cut off from the rest. I soon sean witch side she lent to so I did not cross swords with her. She toald me one of the girls thar was Union and I mest be careful what I sed. She also toald me the Union family lived on the road that I wanted to travel but thar was a way I could go around and miss the house. I wanted to know if thar was any men thar. She sed the grandfather but he was vary oald and was a strong Union man.

I desided he was the man that I wanted to stay with that night. I went up to the oald man's house and ask to stay all night. He sed he was sorry but it was a bad thing, I was on the wrong side. I could not stay thar, however he toald me of a house where I could stay.

I then sed, "Sir, I am not fighting far the South because I want too, I'm fighting because I'm forced to fight." I wanted to talk to him about this un-holy war and thought he was the man I had bean looking far.

He then toald me to come in. It was evident at the start, he did not have any confidence in me. But after a while he got strung out and he was a vary interesting man to talk to and was Union to the core.

I was loth to leave but knew they would come after me. I struck the road the next morning. I was four days going eighty milds. I found the command at Rose Vill on the Arkansas River. When I got to camp, it was like one rising from the dead as I had bin reported killed. They had already sent the news home.

The Col. sent far me, asked how I got away as the

Lut. had toald that the last he sean of me I was running far life with five hundred men shooting at me.

I got considerable prase far braveness, however I did not tell the Col. I had not fired a gun in the whole fight. Beleaving as I did, I could not bring myself to kill other men that was forced into this un-holy war as I was. I often wondered how many other men was doing the same thing.

Thar was so many men out of each company allowed furlows to go home to cut wheat, however they had to be men with familys. The capt. toald me I could not put my name in the hat and had no right to draw as I did not have a family.

That got my blood hi, so I ses, "Hell, I don't. I have a mother that is getting up in years that is raiseing my child. We will see about this, Captain." I tuck off as fast as I could to the Cols. tent, telling him what the Capt. had toald me, that I had no right to draw. The Col. sed I had as much right as any other man and wrote out a note to the Capt. to that effect.

The Capts. temper was all blown up. As I handed him the note, he ses, "Draw and get it over with!"

I pulled out a lucky paper. When I got it, I jumped and shouted, "hoorah, I got a lucky paper!"

The Capt. could not hold himself, he was so mad. "Jones, you are the luckest man in the world. Let me see that paper."

I would not have taken five hundred dollars far that paper.