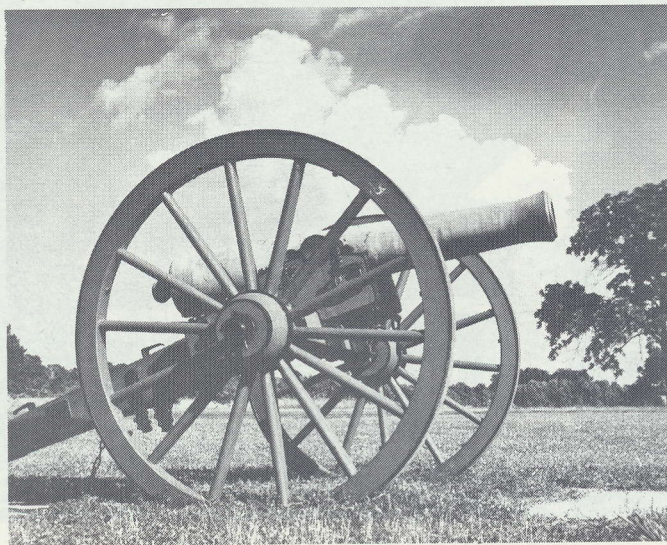


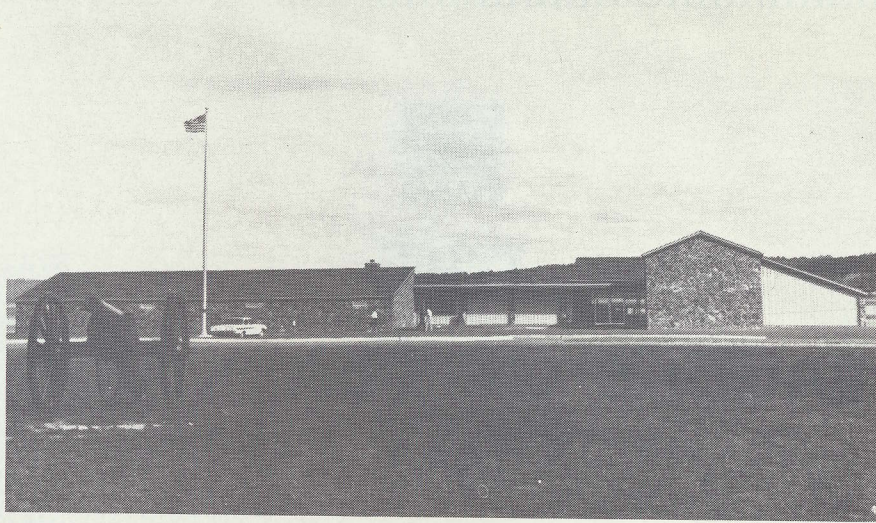
The Battle of
Pea Ridge
1862



THE
BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE
1862



A weathered 12 pounder howitzer silently stands guard at Pea Ridge National Military Park from its position near the Visitor Center on U. S. Highway 62.



PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK—The Visitor Center at Pea Ridge National Military Park features historic displays, Civil War relics, color slides, and a sound theater, giving accounts of battles, troop movements and historic information of the Civil War. Automatic "sound stations," giving information and data, are located along the self-guiding automobile tour route of this 4,210 acre park.



ELKHORN TAVERN—This restoration of the post-Civil War Elkhorn Tavern (the original was destroyed by fire about a year after the Battle of Pea Ridge) very closely resembles photographs of the building that date back as early as 1872. Elkhorn Tavern is now a historic house at Pea Ridge National Military Park.

Return to Pea Ridge

Spirits remembered are not spirits dead . . .
 Now in this peaceful place I pause to name
 Each man who fell unknown, each man who bled
 His way to glory. Theirs was not the blame,
 But, driven by some inner source of pride,
 Each must have known while dying in this lea
 His sacrifice would somehow fit the wide
 And widening pattern of a destiny.

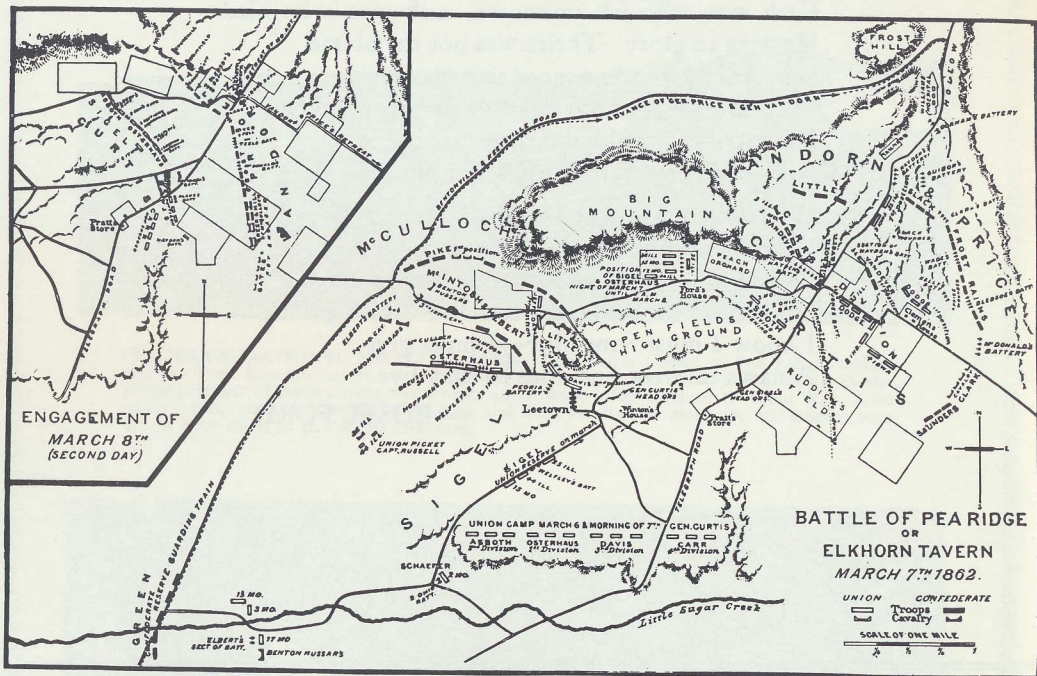
How cold that other March time must have been!
 How bleak those wooded fields in the attack!
 I stand now where a thousand nameless men
 Laid down their lives in war, and, looking back,
 I know I must remember—I must give
 A name to every one, that he may live.

—EDSEL FORD

1. Mr. W. F. McLaughlin - Paintings of the Battle of Pea Ridge (S. E. King copy).
2. Hot Springs National Park - Kurz & Allison Print of the Indians in the Battle of Pea Ridge.
3. National Park Service - All present day scenes of the Pea Ridge National Military Park area, photographed by Edward Hale. Map by Pvt. Squires.
4. Eastern National Park & Monument Association - photographs of Curtis, Sigel, Davis, and Osterhaus. Alvin Seamster other photographs: Map from Battles & Leaders of the Civil War.
5. Roy A. Clifford, "The Indian Regiments in the Battle of Pea Ridge", "The Chronicles of Oklahoma" (Vol. XXV, No. 4) published by the Oklahoma Historical Society.
6. Sketches - Sara Wesley
7. Cover Design and Magazine Layout - Gordon Gurley

The Pea Ridge Campaign

by John W. Bond



On Christmas Day, 1861, Major General Henry W. Halleck, Commander of the Department of the Missouri, appointed Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis, a West Point graduate of 1831 and a veteran of the Mexican War, to be the new Federal commander of the Southwestern District of Missouri. On the next day Curtis left St. Louis by way of the South Pacific Railroad for Rolla, Missouri, headquarters of his new command, to fulfill the Union objective of driving the Confederates from the state of Missouri. This campaign which would culminate in the Battle of Pea Ridge, March 7-8, 1862, came to be known as the Pea Ridge Campaign.

It was for the control of Missouri that the

Battle of Wilson's Creek, near Springfield, Missouri, was fought on August 10, 1861, and why Federal forces were building up in southwestern Missouri in the winter of 1861-62. It was in this portion of Missouri that a "Civil War" was truly being waged. The state remained legally within the Union, but Major-General Sterling Price, a very popular former state Governor and veteran of the Mexican War and at this time commanding the Missouri State Guard, endeavored to control the state for the Confederacy. Not only was there concern for the control of southwestern Missouri; both Union and Confederate forces were aiming for the control of the city of St. Louis. For the Federal forces, the city was a base for western

operations; for the Confederate forces it would be a base for operations into the Upper Mississippi and the Ohio Valleys. The control of Missouri was one of the reasons the contending forces clashed at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in March of 1862.

After arriving at Rolla, General Curtis began making preparations for carrying out his mission. His predecessors, Major Generals John C. Fremont and David Hunter, had not achieved much success along this line. From Rolla, the Federal forces pushed southwestward along the Telegraph Road toward the Missouri-Arkansas line. As the Federals advanced in this direction, the Confederates, primarily Price's Missouri State Guards, retreated along the same route. On February 13, 1862, the Northern army entered Springfield, Missouri, and took it without a battle. Upon learning of the approaching Federals, the Confederates evacuated the town. When one company of the 4th Iowa Infantry Regiment entered Springfield and found no one to contest their entry, they proceeded to the Court House and raised the Union flag. The main body of Curtis' troops left Springfield on the morning of February 14.

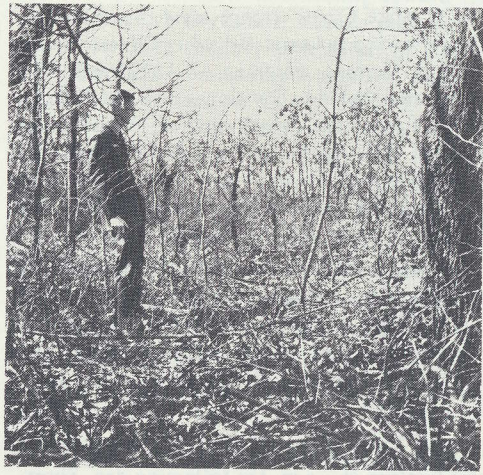
By February 16, Curtis' men, with the cavalry under Colonel Eugene A. Carr leading, had achieved the Union objective of driving the Confederates from Missouri; but, the Confederates had not been defeated. Realizing this fact and hoping to score a major victory over the Confederates, Curtis ordered his men to pursue them into Arkansas.

The first encounter in Arkansas was a minor skirmish with the Confederate rear guard just across the state line at Cross Timber Hollow on February 16. On the next day, six miles south of here, a more serious clash resulted at Dunagin's farm near present-day Brightwater. This engagement, in which the Federals lost thirteen killed and between fifteen and twenty wounded, and in which the Confederate loss was somewhat less, was the bloodiest of Curtis' campaign thus far.

While the Confederates were retreating, Curtis was setting up a temporary headquarters near Little Sugar Creek and studying the area with the thought in mind that it would be a good site for a future battle. Upon the arrival of his First and Second Divisions under Brigadier General Franz Sigel, he planned to advance to Cross Hollow, approximately twelve miles south of Little Sugar Creek, where he thought

the Confederates would concentrate for a battle. After two days at Little Sugar Creek, Curtis moved his force to Osage Springs, just south of Bentonville, and then on to Cross Hollow. On February 22, the Federals drove the Confederates from Cross Hollow, but only after the Southerners had burned the Confederate winter quarters as Camp Benjamin. Curtis maintained his headquarters at Cross Hollow from February 22 until he returned to Little Sugar Creek on the night of March 5-6.

By the time of the Confederate evacuation of Cross Hollow, Price's forces had joined ranks with the main body of Brigadier General Ben McCulloch's troops. The combined Confederate forces then moved to deep in the Boston Mountains southwest of Fayetteville. During this combined retreat Price hoped that he and McCulloch could agree to a "scorched earth" policy, that is, destroying as they moved and preventing the Federals from foraging from the land. McCulloch and Price disagreed as they had done on previous occasions. It seemed that much of the difficulty the Confederates experienced in dealing effectively with the Federals in southwestern Missouri and northwestern Arkansas stemmed from the fact that there was virtually no cooperation between Price and McCulloch. McCulloch, a regular officer of the Confederate Army and commander of the Confederate forces in Arkansas, considered his rank of Brigadier General, superior to that of Major General of the Missouri State Guard held by



Looking east along Union Entrenchments on bluffs overlooking Little Sugar Creek.

Price, commander of the Missouri State Guard. It was because of this lack of cooperation between the two commanders that Confederate high command became concerned and appointed a commander of the newly created Trans-Mississippi District. Major General Earl Van Dorn, a Mississippian and a grand nephew of Andrew Jackson ("Old Hickory"), was transferred from Virginia to this new District. It was expected that the new commander would unite the forces of McCulloch, Price, and Brigadier General Albert Pike, commander of the pro-Confederate Indian forces from the Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma).

On March 3, 1862, General Van Dorn reached the Confederate headquarters on Cove Creek in the Boston Mountains and assumed active command of the combined Confederate forces. The new commander soon let it be known that he intended to wage an all out offensive against the Federal forces; thereby driving them from Arkansas. He hoped that by driving Curtis from Arkansas, it would enable the Confederates to move to St. Louis, capture the city and then get control of the entire state. With that objective in mind, he started moving his troops northward on March 4. By the evening of March 5 the Southern soldiers, weary and exhausted from the forced march through the Boston Mountains, had passed through Fayetteville, occupied by Brigadier General A. Asboth's Federal forces as late as February 23.

While this Confederate movement was taking place Curtis' troops were distributed in the following manner: Brigadier General Franz Sigel, a German emigrant of 1852, with the First and Second Divisions near McKisick's farm, four miles southwest of Bentonville; Colonel Jefferson C. Davis of Indiana with the Third Division on the bluffs above Little Sugar Creek, and Colonel Carr of Illinois with the Fourth Division at Cross Hollow.

When Curtis learned of the Confederate movement his forces were scattered from Little Sugar Creek to Cross Hollow, with detachments as far west as the Indian Territory and as far east as Huntsville. On March 5 he ordered a concentration where the Telegraph Road crossed Little Sugar Creek. Curtis arrived at this location at 2 a.m. the following day. Shortly after arriving he ordered Colonels Davis and Carr to close the Telegraph Road with felled

timbers and to prepare earthworks on the bluffs on the north side of Little Sugar Creek. These earthworks would command an approach from the south by way of the Telegraph Road and an approach from the southwest by way of Little Sugar Creek valley.

The Northern commander thought that the Confederates would advance by way of the Telegraph Road. If so, they would have to cross Little Sugar Creek in the vicinity of his entrenchments. There was no doubt in Curtis' mind that his cannon and troops situated on the high bluffs could wipe out any force Van Dorn might move along the Telegraph Road or up the valley. While Curtis was speculating as to the route Van Dorn would be using, the Southern commander was moving his army by way of Bentonville, some fourteen miles southwest of Curtis' position.

At approximately 10 a.m. on March 6, Sigel, then at Bentonville, learned that the Confederates were only a few miles south of town. Acting upon orders from General Curtis, he had sent the First and Second Divisions commanded by Colonel Peter J. Osterhaus and Brigadier General A. Asboth, respectively, to join Curtis' other forces at Little Sugar Creek. Therefore, he was faced with the Confederate advance with only about 600 men to offer resistance. Sigel had no choice but to retreat, leaving the town to be occupied immediately by the Confederates. After several minor skirmishes in which the Federals had managed to hold their own, a more serious engagement seemed to be developing. However, before the large force of Confederates could attack the rear of Sigel's force, reinforcements under Osterhaus and Asboth had come to his assistance. Well screened by additional artillery and troops, Sigel was able to continue his march to Curtis' base without another encounter with the Confederates.

By nightfall of March 6, Van Dorn and most of his troops had arrived at Camp Stephens, a well established Confederate camp located on Little Sugar Creek, five miles west of where Curtis was entrenched. The Confederate camp was situated near the junction of a road which ran along Little Sugar Creek and connected with the Telegraph Road near Curtis' position, and the Bentonville-Keetsville Road, otherwise known as the Bentonville Detour. This road ran northeasterly from Camp Stephens and, for the most part, paralleled the Telegraph

Road. The two roads joined in Cross Timber Hollow, three and one-half miles north of Elkhorn Tavern, in the direct rear of Curtis' position.

Van Dorn, realizing the futility of a frontal attack against Curtis' works, called his commanders into conference to help determine strategy. The former Texas ranger, Ben McCulloch, who had a detailed knowledge of the area, informed his commanding general that the Federal rear could be reached by making an eight mile march along the Bentonville Detour to the Telegraph Road. Then, a Confederate battle plan began to take shape. First, Van Dorn would have his men pitch their tents and build a camp fire at Camp Stephens, as if they intended to stay there for the night of March 6-7. He hoped that this would deceive General Curtis. Later in the evening he would have his forces move around the Federal right (the Federals were facing south) so as to attack from the rear. A successful attack from the rear would sever Curtis' line of communication and supply, the Telegraph Road. With Confederates squarely across the road, it would be impossible for Curtis to receive reinforcements or to retreat in the event of defeat. About 8 p.m. on the evening of March 6, Van Dorn began his flanking movement with General Price's Missourians leading.

Van Dorn hoped to reach a point in the Federal rear north of Elkhorn Tavern before daylight. He soon realized that it would be several hours later before his troops could get to that point. The men were in no condition for fast marching. They complained that their commander was not very considerate; he was riding horseback while many of the troops had to walk, some without shoes. Three days' of hard marching with very little to eat had almost exhausted the Confederate soldiers. The march around the Federals was further retarded when the Confederates had to remove the timbers which Colonel Grenville Dodge's men had felled across the road during the early part of the evening. While Van Dorn's advance troops were being confronted with felled trees to slow their march, the remainder of his army was south of Little Sugar Creek with no way to cross its icy waters. After considerable delay, two poles were secured and laid side by side to facilitate a crossing. It was almost daylight before the last of Van Dorn's rear forces had crossed the stream.



By 8 a.m. on March 7, the main portion of Price's troops had reached the junction of the Bentonville Detour and the Telegraph Road, three and one-half miles north of Elkhorn Tavern. It was about that time that Van Dorn decided upon a two-pronged attack against Curtis. Price's Missouri troops would move south along the Telegraph Road and attack the rear of Curtis' left and McCulloch's troops, consisting of the Infantry Brigade under the Louisianian, Colonel Louis Hebert; the Cavalry Brigade under the Arkansan, Brigadier General James McIntosh; three regiments of Indians under the Massachusetts native Brigadier General Albert Pike, and five artillery batteries, would move south and skirt the western edge of Pea Ridge, a 150 foot high ridge extending two and one-half miles west from Elkhorn Tavern, and attack the Federal right. Van Dorn thought that simultaneous attacks on both the Federal right and left, then closing toward the center from each side (really a pincer movement) would result in the inevitable defeat of Curtis. The Southern commander's superior number, 16,200, as opposed to Curtis' 10,500, would seem to justify Van Dorn's optimism. Rarely did the Confederates outnumber the Federals as at Pea Ridge. Van Dorn was handicapped in that it was difficult for him to coordinate the operations of McCulloch's troops north of the hamlet of Leetown and those of Price around the Tavern. The Confederate right was at least eight miles from its left, by way of the Bentonville Detour. On the other hand, General Curtis had easy access to both wings of his force.

That Van Dorn had moved around Curtis' right and was moving toward the Telegraph Road was first reported to the Federals about 5 a.m. on March 7. By 6 a.m. there was no



doubt in the Federal's minds that they were being attacked from the rear by a large force. Van Dorn's move was first made known to the Federals through Private Thomas Welch of the 3d Illinois Cavalry Regiment. The Illinois private, who was on guard duty near the Bentonville Detour, was captured about 3 a.m. by Colonel J. T. Cernal's mounted troops, the head of Price's advance. While being taken to the rear of the Confederate line, Welch escaped and reported the Confederate move to his commander, Major Eli W. Weston, who had a Union outpost north of Elkhorn Tavern. Weston, who was the provost marshal for Curtis' army, was using Elkhorn Tavern as his headquarters. Weston soon realized that he could not hold back the Confederates and sent Captain Barbour Lewis to inform Curtis, who, at that time had his tent in the vicinity of Pratt's store.

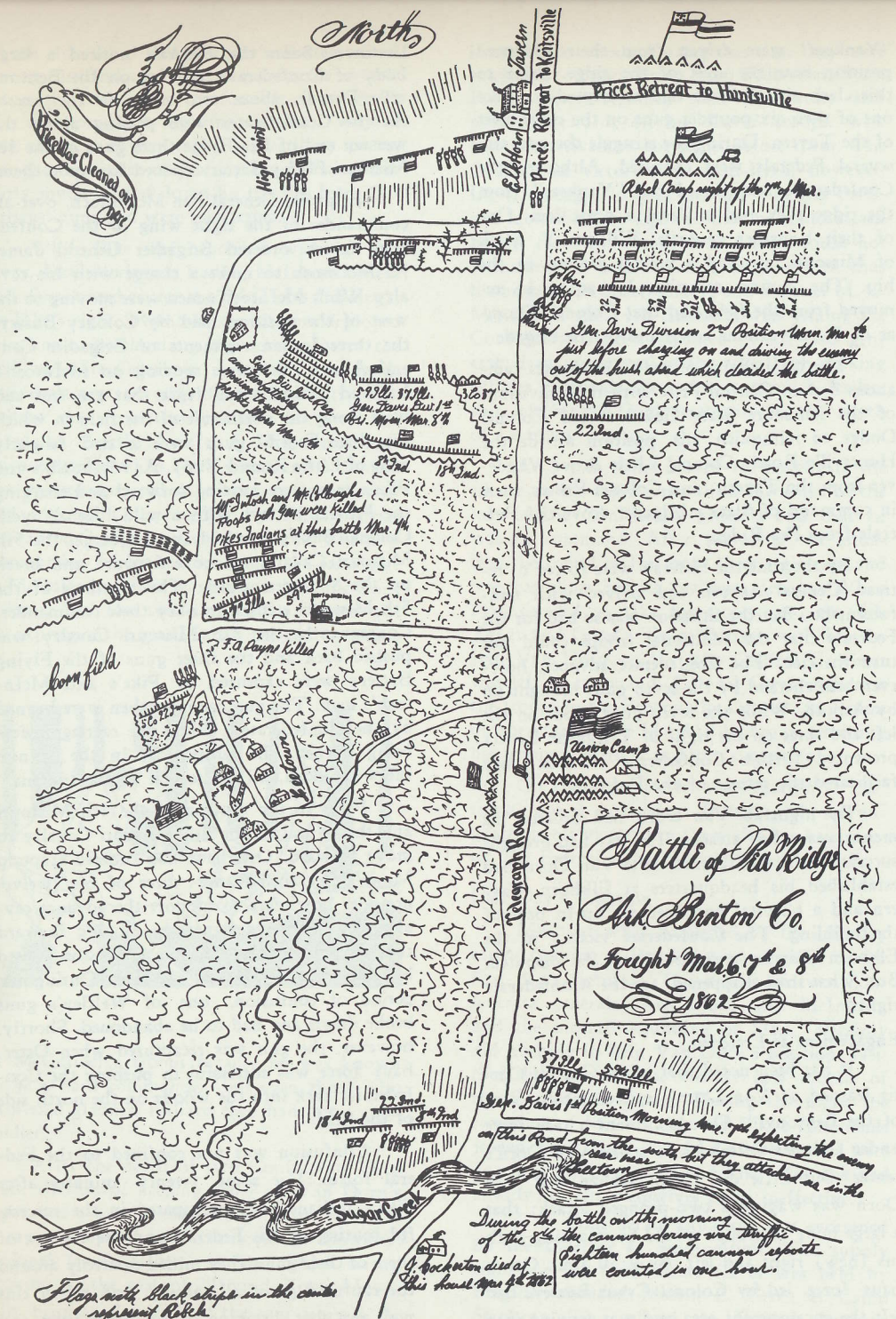
Before Lewis informed the Federal commander of the Confederate move, Curtis had learned of the move through the reports of two of General Sigel's scouts, a Mr. Pope and a Mr. Brown, and had called his division commanders into conference. With the Confederates having made the unexpected move around his right, Curtis had to formulate a new battle plan. He must decide quickly how to meet the attack from the north. The Federal commander's immediate action involved having his troops do an "about face." Whereas they had been facing south, they would be facing north. Early in the conference, Curtis decided to send Colonel Osterhaus of General Sigel's command, with elements of the 3d Iowa Cavalry, 1st, 4th, and 5th Missouri Cavalry regiments, and two artillery batteries to strike what was thought to be the center of Van Dorn's line.

While Curtis was still in conference, he received word that Weston's troops north of the Tavern had been attacked and that a large

number of Confederates were moving along the Telegraph Road. With it apparent that immediate action must be taken, Curtis broke up the conference and ordered Colonel Carr, now commanding the Federal extreme right, to send a brigade to Weston's aid. When Colonel Dodge got to the vicinity of the Tavern with his brigade, he realized that the situation was grave: Price had already started an enveloping movement northeast of the Tavern and was moving toward the Huntsville Road (the dirt road that runs eastward from the Tavern). By the time Dodge got to this area, Major Weston's force which had moved against the oncoming Confederates had been pushed back considerably by Colonel Cernal. The Confederate cavalry officer had negotiated a movement to the left in the vicinity of the tannery and was moving along with his immediate superior, Price, toward the Huntsville Road.

With a careful placement of the troops in Dodge's brigade, Colonel Carr was able to push the Confederates back, temporarily, to Williams Hollow, through which they had advanced. Carr realized, however, that the Confederates were too great in number for him to hold off very long and sent for Colonel William Vandever, commanding one of the brigades in his division, to come to his support. While Vandever was moving his troops up the Telegraph Road Colonel Henry Little of Price's command, who had launched his thrust up Cross Timber Hollow, was approaching the neighborhood of the Tavern, which was being used as Carr's headquarters and a Federal hospital. With a fierce determination the Federals moved forward, and in a desperate hand to hand engagement forced the Confederates to fall back. Vandever ultimately, however, had to fall back because of Little's superior number and artillery fire. At the same time, Colonel Dodge was trying desperately to hold out against Price on the Federal right, about one-half mile east of the Tavern.

While Little was moving hard against the Federal center and Price was pushing hard against the Federal right, Brigadier General William Y. Slack's troops were driving the Federals from Pea Ridge. Shortly after Slack's brigade started crossing Pea Ridge, it was ambushed by a Federal combat patrol, causing considerable confusion in the Confederate ranks. This confusion soon ended, however, and the



MAP OF THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE — Charles S. Squires, a private in Company C, 37th Illinois Infantry Regiment during the Battle of Pea Ridge,

drew this map of the battle. Courtesy — National Park Service

"Yankees" were driven from their advanced position near the crest of the ridge. Prior to this clash the Federals had attempted to place one of their six-pounder guns on the ridge west of the Tavern. During the struggle the gun and several Federals were captured. Although the Confederates had forced the "Yankees" from the ridge they had suffered a great loss. One of their brigadier generals, William Y. Slack of Missouri, received a mortal wound in the hip. The wound necessitated that he be removed from the field and that Colonel Thomas H. Rosser assume command of the brigade.

The final charge of the Confederates came about 3 p.m. General Price with three divisions of the Missouri State Guard forced Colonel Dodge to relinquish his position astride the Huntsville Road; Colonel Little drove Vandever from the Tavern; and Colonel Rosser, now in command of Slack's brigade, drove the Federals from Pea Ridge.

By the time the Federals were forced to retreat, General Asboth had arrived with reinforcements. But the situation was so bad for the Federals that the additional troops could not turn the tide. The Confederate advance, however, was checked by the seven guns brought up by Asboth. While the seven guns (four on the left and three on the right of Telegraph Road) prevented further Confederate advance, they facilitated the retreat of the Federals.

By nightfall Van Dorn had ordered his men to cease their attacks. The day had brought success to the Confederate left. Van Dorn had established his headquarters at Elkhorn Tavern and a hospital had been set up in part of the building. The Confederate victory in the Elkhorn Tavern area could not be disputed. But what had happened to the Confederate right?

Engagement at Leetown

It has been noted that when General Curtis learned of Van Dorn's movement by way of the Bentonville Detour he sent a task force under Colonel Osterhaus to strike Van Dorn's center. But little did Curtis realize that Van Dorn was waging a two-pronged attack; that a large body of troops would be attacking both his (new) right and left. By 9:30 a.m., Osterhaus' force, led by Colonel Cyrus Bussey, had left the encampment area and was moving into the open field north and west of the hamlet,

Leetown. Soon the Federals noticed a large body of Confederates moving on the Bentonville Detour, about two miles to the north. As the Confederates were passing along the western end of Pea Ridge three guns of the 1st Missouri Flying Battery opened fire upon them.

Brigadier General Ben McCulloch, over-all commander of the right wing of the Confederate forces, ordered Brigadier General James N. McIntosh to make a charge with his cavalry. While McIntosh's men were moving to the west of the position held by Coloney Bussey, the three Indian regiments of Brigadier General Albert Pike were moving on McIntosh's left and behind a rail fence that ran east and west along the north side of the field in which the three Federal guns were located (slightly west of Little Round Top). As McIntosh's and Pike's men were moving forward and charging the Federal battery with a wild "Rebel" yell, Colonel Bussey was endeavoring to get the 5th Missouri Cavalry to move forward and break up the Southern attack. The members of the 5th Missouri refused to obey their commander. Consequently the 4th Missouri Cavalry was pushed back and the three guns of the Flying Battery were captured by Pike's and McIntosh's men. The gun carriages then were burned by the Confederates. While the carriages were being burned, the gunpowder in the cannon tubes exploded, killing several of the Indians.

Prior to the routing of the 4th Missouri and the refusal of the 5th Missouri Cavalry to move forward, Osterhaus had ordered Captain M. Welfley to advance three of his twelve-pounder howitzers to support the advance cavalry. As Welfley's men were moving forward they became involved in the confusion caused by the retreat of Bussey's troops. During the period of confusion, one of Welfley's guns broke down and had to be abandoned. Shortly, however, the gun was recaptured when Osterhaus' force was successful in pushing the Confederates back into the woods on the north side of the field.

Confusion was not confined to the Federal forces. For some twenty minutes after Pike's Indians had participated in the successful routing of the Federals and the capture of three of their guns, they milled excitedly around the captured guns, all talking, and riding this way and that, listening to no orders from any one. When several shells from the Federal guns

of the 4th Ohio and Welfley's Battery fired among the Indians, they ran into the woods where they felt more comfortable. They were not accustomed to fighting against "wagons that shoot," as they called the artillery pieces. For the remainder of the day the Indians were fairly much pinned down by the fire from Osterhaus' guns and were ineffective.

While Pike was concerned with his Indians, McCulloch was leading McIntosh's men, (all dismounted except the 6th Texas Cavalry), on Pike's right. McIntosh's men were deployed into line of battle along the north edge of the field opposite Osterhaus' infantry, then made several attempts to cross the field and drive Osterhaus' men from their position, but were unsuccessful. Shortly after 2 p.m. McCulloch, conspicuously dressed in black velvet and a plumed hat, moved forward to make a reconnaissance and was slain, reportedly, by Private Peter Pelican of Company B, 36th Illinois. The new commander, McIntosh, soon met the same fate as McCulloch. There was no question; the Confederacy had lost two able leaders. There was an expression of gladness on the part of some



of McCulloch's troops because he was known to be a hard commander, but even those who expressed gladness realized they had lost a good soldier.

After the death of two Confederate Generals, the job of keeping order on Van Dorn's right was a most difficult one. There still was a ray of hope for the Confederates, however. Colonel Louis Hebert's infantry had started moving to the east of "Round Top" Mountain, prior to the death of the two generals. At first Hebert's men became lost and confused

in the thick woods. During this time they were subjected to heavy firing from Federal artillery. Finally they regained their composure and pushed forward, driving Davis' troops, who had just arrived on the scene, before them. The Confederate victory was short-lived, however. Davis managed to send Colonel Thomas Pattison around to the right so that he could attack Hebert from the rear. Hebert's force could not withstand the attack from two directions, thus his brigade fell apart. Hebert and Colonel M. C. Mitchell of the 14th Arkansas were among the Confederate officers captured. With two generals dead and several of the other high ranking officers captured, there was not much leadership left for the Confederates in the area north of Leetown.

At 3 p.m. Pike moved to investigate the silence on his right; only to be informed of the loss of the Confederate generals and that he was in command. After surveying the situation, he found he had only three regiments and one battalion besides his own troops. When Pike decided to take his troops and the 6th Texas and Good's Texas Battery with him to join Van Dorn on the left, Colonel E. Greer was left in command. Colonel Greer withdrew the troops to the Bentonville Detour. At 1 a.m. on the morning of March 8 he began marching his troops toward Van Dorn's position.

On the Federal side, the situation at Leetown looked promising. It had been an unquestionable victory for them. As has been noted, the Federal right had not fared so well.

Last Day's Fighting

Much of what happened on the last day of the fighting at Pea Ridge was decided by the first day's fighting. The deaths of two Confederate generals: McCulloch and McIntosh, and the mortal wounding of Slack, certainly did nothing to help Van Dorn's position. Neither did it boost the already low morale of the Confederate troops. During the night the remnants of McCulloch's and Pike's commands joined Van Dorn, but McCulloch's men were not in a fighting spirit and Pike's Indians had already proven themselves to be ineffective.

The Confederate situation was worsened by the shortage of ammunition. The supply train for the Confederate forces was held by Brigadier General Martin E. Green at Camp Stephens. This placed the Federals between Van Dorn and his supplies. At daylight on

March 8, Green started moving the supply train toward Van Dorn, but when he got within a mile of Elkhorn Tavern he received orders to take the supply train to Elm Springs and await further orders.

The sending of Green with the supplies to Elm Springs proved disastrous for Van Dorn. When the Federals opened the battle of March 8 with tremendous cannon fire, the Confederate batteries would be pushed forward only to be forced back because of a depletion of ammunition. The Federals, on the other hand, had replenished their supply of ammunition. The Federal ammunition at the front, when the fighting ended on March 7 was desperately low.

During the night of March 7-8 the Federal forces concentrated for the "Shodown." When the fighting started on the morning of March 8, the Federals were distributed as follows: Immediately to the left of Telegraph Road was White's Brigade with four guns, to his left was the 1st Iowa, 4th Ohio with five guns, and the command of General Asboth with six guns. To the right of the road were Carr's troops in the following order: the 18th Indiana, 22nd Indiana, the 1st Indiana with three guns, and the 3rd Iowa. The Confederates were distributed in the following manner: Colonel Little, in command at the Tavern, had his men in the edge of the timber at the eastern base of Pea Ridge; also west of the Telegraph Road were the 1st Arkansas, the 17th Arkansas, Rosser's Brigade, 2nd Missouri; on the east of the road were Wade's Battery, 3rd Missouri, Colonel Colton Greene's 3rd Brigade (Missouri Volunteers), and the 16th Arkansas. Pike's Indians, (those who had not retreated to Camp Stephens), were placed on the hills east and west of Cross Timber Hollow.

At 9 a.m., Sigel, who had moved his men to a large field west of the Tavern and south of Pea Ridge, thought Confederate reinforcements were coming to Rosser by way of the southeast slope of Pea Ridge. The Federal officer ordered two howitzers of the Second Ohio and two guns from Asboth's reserve to be moved forward to prevent any such reinforcement. The four guns prevented any attempt on the part of Rosser to move forward.

Before 10 a.m. Confederate firing had ceased. It was apparent to Van Dorn that he could not hold out any longer against the superior Federal artillery. Although the Confed-

erates had sixty-two pieces of artillery at Pea Ridge and the Federals had only forty-nine, the superior number was worthless without ammunition. Thus, the Confederate commander began withdrawing his troops, first to Williams Hollow then cutting back southeast to the Huntsville Road. Sigel thought Van Dorn was retreating toward Keetsville, Missouri, and moved his troops over Pea Ridge to cut off such a retreat. There were only Confederate stragglers who moved north past Williams Hollow. These were captured by Sigel's men. Before the retreating started, however, Sigel's men did capture the colors and guns of Captain William Hart's Arkansas Battery.

By 11 a.m. the Battle of Pea Ridge, one of the most decisive engagements west of the Mississippi River, had ended with an over-all Federal victory. The casualties were high on both sides; the Federals suffered 203 killed, 980 wounded, and 201 missing, while the Confederates suffered 1,000 killed and wounded and approximately 300 captured. But, Missouri had been saved for the Union.

From Pea Ridge, the Confederates would move to Van Buren, Arkansas, and consolidate their forces. They would then move toward Shiloh in Tennessee, but would get there too late to participate in the battle. Some of the Federals remained in the area for almost a month, but most of Curtis' Army would move to the vicinity of Batesville, Arkansas.



Elkhorn Tavern History

by John W. Bond

Probably there is no landmark in Benton County, Arkansas, that has achieved more fame than has a historic building located on the Pea Ridge Battlefield. This building, Elkhorn Tavern, is famous primarily because of its association with the Civil War battle (known in Confederate annals as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern and in Federal records as the Battle of Pea Ridge) that raged around a former building by that name on March 7-8, 1862. Although the present structure is of post-Civil War origin it is easily associated with the original Tavern and consequently shares the heritage of the original structure. It would be impossible to relate adequately the Battle of Pea Ridge (or Elkhorn Tavern) without discussing Elkhorn Tavern.

The history of the original Tavern predates the Civil War engagement by at least two decades. Traditionally, the building was constructed in 1833, three years before Arkansas became a state. There is likelihood, however, that the building was constructed as late as 1840 or 1841. This assumption is based upon the fact that the original Tavern owner, William Reddick (sometimes spelled Ruddick), received a patent in September, 1840, from the United States Government for the land on which the Tavern was located. As it was a common practice to settle on land before establishing a formal claim for it, there is some support for the 1833 date of construction.

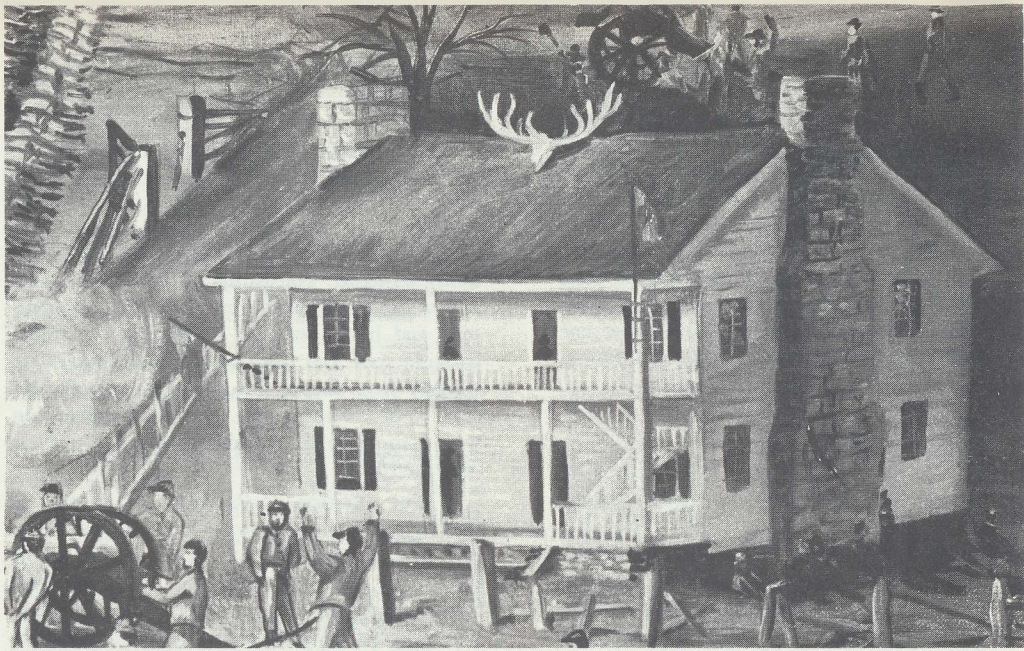
The house which Reddick and his Illinois son-in-law, Samuel Burks, built has been referred to as a cabin. Early descriptions of the house indicate that it was more than a cabin. The two-story building was of log construction, as were essentially all of the houses in this area at that time. It was not until 1848 when Sylvanus Blackburn built a sawmill on War Eagle Creek that sawed lumber was available to people in this section of Benton County. Although a Federal commander who was using the Tavern as his headquarters in the fall of 1862 described the building as an "old fash-

ioned structure, consisting of two apartments and a lean to, on the Virginia model of a century and half gone", he noted that "its overhanging roof and capacious chimneys built up sturdily from the outside gave it an air of comfort." For the most part, the 1862 description would apply to the building when it was first constructed.

The duration of Reddick's ownership of the Tavern is not known. It is known, however, that he did not own the land in 1858 because it was in October of that year that Samuel Burks sold the property to Jesse C. Cox. The property was to remain in his family continuously until it was sold to the State of Arkansas in 1959 and subsequently became a part of the Pea Ridge National Military Park.

The original Tavern was not initially built as a tavern (actually an old-fashioned inn), but as a residence. The building soon became a center of community activity. During the pre-Civil War period it served as a trading post, post office, place of worship, and a tavern where patrons of the stage lines might get something to eat and spend the night. It was in the Tavern that the first Benton County Baptist Society was organized. The Elder Charles Whitley organized the Society in 1842. The building continued to be a place of worship until 1862, at which time the congregation moved to their new church at Twelve Corners, three miles northwest of the Tavern, because of the noisy parties and dances the Federals held in the building during their occupation.

While the lasting fame of the Tavern would result from its connection with the Civil War engagement, it had achieved some prominence prior to that time. Its location in a comparatively sparsely settled area on an important road from St. Louis to the Southwest made it a likely place for travellers to stop for the night or to get something to eat. John Butterfield received a Government contract to carry mail and passengers to and from St. Louis and San Francisco in 1857. After he decided to use this road



ELKHORN TAVERN (1862) — Elkhorn Tavern as it appeared at the time of the Battle of Pea Ridge. When the battle began it was the headquarters for the Federal provost marshal. During the progress of the battle, it served as headquarters for Fed-

eral Colonel Eugene Carr, Federal hospital, headquarters for Confederate General Earl Van Dorn and Confederate hospital. Courtesy — W. F. McLaughlin

that passed the Tavern as the route for his Overland Mail Company, the Tavern became well known. The Tavern was not a scheduled stopping place such as was Callahan Springs, in present day Rogers. Rather, it was a rest stop where food and drink could be obtained. However, individual travelers and those traveling on local stage lines used the Tavern for overnight stops.

The business potential of the Tavern was apparent to an individual from the Kansas-Nebraska Territory who was prospecting for a business establishment in this locality. Jesse C. Cox and his wife Polly, native Kentuckians who had moved to what became Doniphan County, Kansas, came to Benton County in 1858 and purchased the Tavern property. On October 9 of that year Jesse and Polly Cox made their mark on a deed transferring to them 313 acres of land (upon which the Tavern was located) from Samuel Burks for \$3600.

Soon after Cox purchased the building he added an outside stairway so that the church people could go upstairs to the northeast room for their worship services without disturbing

the guests who were downstairs. He improved the exterior appearance of the building by weather-boarding it, with lumber sawed at the mill on War Eagle Creek. The building was already known as a tavern because of its service to the travelers. It was Cox, however, who very appropriately named his newly acquired building Elkhorn Tavern. When a neighbor, Mr. Casedy, gave Cox the horns and the skull of a large elk he had killed he mounted them and placed them on the ridge-pole of the building. The elk horns would identify the building until shortly after the Battle of Pea Ridge, when, reportedly they were taken away by a Federal Colonel, Eugene Carr. The horns were returned some years after the War, through the efforts of the artist and journalist Hunt P. Wilson, and placed on the roof of the rebuilt Tavern.

When Jesse Cox bought the Tavern, little did he realize that it would become famous because of its location in the midst of a decisive Civil War engagement. He was already acquainted with the issues which would precipitate the great conflict: he had lived several



ELKHORN TAVERN (TODAY) — In 1965, the National Park Service reconstructed the building, following years of extensive research. This pro-

gram resulted in a structure that closely resembles the wartime Tavern.

years in the troubled Kansas-Nebraska Territory.

The fear of war which possessed most northwest Arkansans, especially after it was evident that both the Confederates and Federals were preparing for a "fight to the finish," became pronounced in March 1862. From their front porch at Elkhorn Tavern, the Cox family had witnessed the retreat of Major-General Sterling Price's pro-Confederate forces from Missouri and the close pursuit of Brigadier-General Samuel R. Curtis' Federal troops. The Confederates had established somewhat permanent camps at Camp Stephens, seven miles southwest on Little Sugar Creek, and Camp Benjamin at Cross Hollow, approximately seventeen miles south. Knowing this, Cox experienced a great deal of anxiety because of the likelihood of battle in the immediate area. Since he still owned property in what became the state of Kansas, he was able to remove his cattle to that location before the crisis struck. His family and five slaves remained in Arkansas. It is believed that he intended to return to get his family, but was unable to do so

because of the war conditions. His family consisted of his wife and seven children. It appears that five children were married at the time of the battle, and all had separate homes except Joseph. Seventeen year old Joseph and his young wife, Lucinda, lived in the Tavern with the elder Coxes. Elias and Franklin, too young to think about marriage, were still at home.

The battle which Cox had been expecting came closer to home on March 7-8, 1862, than he had foreseen. By nightfall of March 6, the Federals had established a strong position on bluffs above Little Sugar Creek, three miles south, and the Confederates had returned to Camp Stephens. At this time the Federals were using the Tavern as the headquarters of Major Eli Weston, Provost Marshal for Curtis' army. Confederate prisoners, who were Weston's responsibility, and his guards were quartered in the vicinity of the Tavern, possibly in the Tavern. At the same time the Coxes were still using the Tavern as their residence. The area around the Tavern, being in the extreme rear of the initial Federal

position and thereby considered safe from attack, was chosen as the site for a camp for equipment and supplies, including ordnance and food stuffs. A large barn located a short distance southwest of the Tavern was used for commissary and sutler's (equivalent to present day post exchange or PX) stores.

That the Confederates had not spent the night of March 6-7 at Camp Stephens and were not moving up the Little Sugar Creek Valley for a frontal attack, as had been expected, became evident to the Federals during the early morning hours of March 7. The first report that Major-General Earl Van Dorn's Confederate troops were flanking the Federal position and preparing to attack from the rear was made by Private Thomas Welch, an Illinois private in Wetson's command. While on guard duty north of the Tavern, Welch was captured by the Confederates, but managed to escape and reported the Confederate movement to his commander. This intelligence was then passed on to General Curtis.

Weston sent a small force out to resist the Confederates, but soon realized that the Confederate movement (6200 troops immediately under General Price) was a major attack. Realizing that his force was inadequate to hold off the advancing Confederates, he asked for immediate reinforcements. When General Curtis received Weston's plea for reinforcements he was at General A. Asboth's tent, near Pratt's store, one mile south of the Tavern, conferring with his commanders for the formulation of a battle plan. The Northern commander directed that Colonel Carr send a brigade under Colonel Grenville Dodge to Weston's assistance. Dodge's troops took a position near the Clemens farm located one-half mile east of the tavern. It soon became apparent that the advancing Confederates under Price were too numerous for the troops of Dodge and Weston to oppose with any degree of effectiveness. Realizing this, Colonel Carr placed his other brigade under Colonel William Vandever in action north of the Tavern. Vandever's troops would engage the Confederates under Colonel Henry Little and temporarily push them back toward Cross Timber Hollow. The Tavern at this time was being used as the headquarters for Colonel Carr and as a Federal hospital. The Coxes had taken refuge in the basement.

An indication of the activity in the vi-

cinity of the Tavern during the fighting on March 7 is given in an account by a New York "Herald" reporter who accompanied Curtis during the Pea Ridge Campaign. Describing the action as he saw it from the front yard of the Tavern on the morning of March 7, the reporter wrote: "Shells which were thrown too high for effect upon Colonel Vandever's brigade were just the elevation for the Elkhorn, and a rifled cannon projectile passing within a few feet, and bursting twenty yards beyond me, rendered my notes of that moment somewhat difficult to decipher. Two companies of infantry were drawn up near the house, awaiting orders. A shell burst in their midst, killing two men and wounding five others. Another struck in the yard, in the rear of the house, in its explosion shattering the leg of an old regular soldier . . . Still another fell among some horse teams, frightening one into running away, directly up the road and over into the enemy lines, where it was lost. In its flight several of our soldiers were run over, one being seriously and three or four slightly wounded. The drivers of some twenty or more wagons took fright and started for camp at full speed. Had it not been for the determined course of . . . (Colonel) Carr, who, pistol in hand, brought them to a halt, a serious stampede would have been the result. A solid shot struck the house and passed completely through, injuring no one."

Although greatly outnumbered, Carr tried desperately to hold on to the Tavern area. His reasons for anxiety were noted in his official report: "The position which I now held would, if occupied by the enemy, have commanded our camp. We had some stores in a barn near the tavern, and I was constantly expecting re-enforcements, which I knew the general was using every effort to get up to me, and if they arrived in time we could hold the ridge, which would be as valuable to us as to the enemy, and the general sent me word repeatedly to 'persevere'. I therefore determined to hang on to the last extremity." Despite his perseverance, Carr was forced to relinquish the Tavern and the supply camp to Colonel Henry Little, First Missouri Confederate Brigade. The troops under Colonel Dodge were forced back at approximately the same time. The Tavern became the headquarters of Van Dorn and hospital for the Confederates.

The Confederates were excited about

what they had captured from the Federal camp. Private Ephriam Anderson, First Missouri Confederate Brigade, noted in his Memoirs: "The whole camp equipage, tents and cooking utensils, the large barn filled with commissary stores, everything that pertained to an encampment of a division of the army, except wagons, fell into our hands." Most of the Confederate soldiers were more excited over the food than anything else they had captured. Having had not much more than parched corn to eat since the night of March 6, they were overjoyed to learn that the Federals had left barrels of flour, fine hams, good coffee, oysters, sardines, lobsters, crackers and cheese, canned fruits, preserves, pickles and wine. Anderson wrote concerning the soldiers' reactions to having found the food: "Hungry as we were after our long fast, we were now prepared to do justice to this glorious feast. The men were jovial and jubilant over their good fortune: the strong and aromatic coffee gave forth its exhilarating and recuperative power; the rich viands delighted the palates of our grateful boys, renewing their worn frames and exhausted strength, and the nice delicacies crowned the whole with a luxurious finish that even an epicure would have enjoyed."

During the night of March 7-8 both commanders consolidated their forces for the final action on the 8th. The center of the Confederate line was approximately a quarter mile south of the Tavern, while the center of the Federal line was about a quarter mile further south.

The engagement opened on the 8th with artillery fire from the Federal line. It soon became evident to Van Dorn that he had made a mistake. He had left his ordnance supplies at Camp Stephens, twelve miles distant by way of the devious Bentonville detour. No provision had been made for a new supply of ammunition after the first day's fight. By 10 a.m. the situation had become crucial for the Confederates; they were virtually out of ammunition. Realizing the futility of further fighting, Van Dorn ordered his troops to withdraw. Shortly after 10 a.m. the Confederates began to leave the Tavern area, retreating toward Huntsville, Arkansas. The withdrawal of the Southerners left the area in undisputed Federal hands and permitted southwest Missouri to come under Federal control. The victory had won the State of Missouri for the

Union.

When the battle ended the Federals stayed in the vicinity for another month. During this time the Tavern was used, presumably, as the headquarters of one of the Northern commanders. The Cox family, having remained at the Tavern during the battle, now left the building in the hands of the Federals. Joseph Cox and his wife, Lucinda, moved to the home of Lewis Pratt, one mile southwest of the Tavern. They remained with Mr. Pratt, Lucinda's father, until the War was over. It is presumed that Polly Cox (Jesse's wife) and the children joined Jesse in Kansas and stayed there until after the War. The whereabouts of the slaves the remainder of the War is unknown. According to family reports, the former slaves lived with the Jesse Cox family after the War ended and they returned to Benton County.

The use of the Tavern from the time of the departure of the last of the Federals who took part in the battle, to October, 1862, is not known. It is known, however, that in October it was used as the headquarters for Brigadier-General John M. Schofield, Federal commander of the Southwestern District of Missouri. He was in the battlefield area to prevent the Confederates to the south under Major-General Thomas C. Hindman from invading Missouri.

During November and early December, 1862, the building was the headquarters of Lt. Colonel Albert W. Bishop, commander of the First Arkansas Cavalry Volunteers (Union). During the time of Bishop's occupation of the Tavern it was the last station on the military telegraph line running from St. Louis. The Tavern station was very important inasmuch as it enabled General Curtis, now commanding the Department of The Missouri (headquarters in St. Louis), to communicate with his commanders in the field, especially, James G. Blunt, commanding the Army of the Frontier in Northwest Arkansas. The Tavern was particularly important during early December when communications were being transmitted between Curtis and Blunt regarding the impending battle — Prairie Grove, Arkansas.

On December 3, 1862, Bishop received orders to proceed to Prairie Grove, forty miles southwest of the Tavern, to take part in the forthcoming battle. It was probably December 3 or 4 that he left the Tavern. On the night of December 5, Federal Brigadier-General F.

J. Herron, commanding the Third Division, Army of the Frontier, stayed all night at Elkhorn Tavern. He moved toward Prairie Grove on the 6th. According to tradition, three days after Herron's troops left the Tavern area, bushwhackers burned the building. After the fire the only remnants of the original Tavern were the two rock chimneys and the rock walls of the basement.

The date for the reconstruction of the Tavern is a subject of controversy. Regardless of the date for reconstruction, the present structure is historically significant since it is known that it was built on the foundation of the original Tavern and that it was modeled after the earlier building. Also, it is a known fact that Joseph Cox was in the basement of the original Tavern during the Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) and that it was he who built the present structure. This, also, relates the present

Winton Spring, With Fog

Ninety-six years later

Here in this pearl-grey morning I perceive—
dimly, as through an old man's memory—
ghosts that the afteryears of battle leave.
You on the hill there, Colonel! Can you see
two men approach this spring from separate ranks,
one dressed in blue and one in ill-starred gray,
each unaware, creep down the sedge-grown banks
for this sweet water on a bitter day?

And do you see one, (matters not which one)
grow tense to see the other fall inert
to take a long sweet draught, then raise his gun
to cut him down? I don't. I see him skirt
the great spring cautiously, and kneel inside
the ring of waves bewildering and wide.

—EDSEL FORD
In "The Ozarks Mountaineer"

NOTE: Winton Springs is near the scene of the main battle of Pea Ridge. Both armies fought bitterly for their possession since they were the main source of drinking water.

building to the Civil War engagement.

Numerous alterations were made on the rebuilt Tavern from the time it was constructed until it was donated by the State of Arkansas to the National Park Service on March 7, 1960. The first major change came in 1903 when a one-story addition of two rooms was attached to the rear and center of the main building. The major alteration was in 1917 when the house was lengthened to the north by six feet; the original rock chimney was removed and replaced by a brick chimney; and the roof over the double porches was removed. The double porches were shortened and a high gable extended over them.

Despite the alterations made on the rebuilt Tavern, it has been and continues to be associated with the Civil War period. Because of this it has been and continues to be one of Benton County's best known landmarks.

Leetown

by Lois Snelling

Leetown was a thriving little village at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. It was begun soon after John W. Lee came to Arkansas in the mid-1840's, and it was one of the earliest settlements in Benton County. Lee and his wife Martha homesteaded land in the area lying between Little Sugar Creek and the mountain range of Pea Ridge, a tract which included the site of the future village and part of the ground on which the Battle of Pea Ridge would be fought. It also included the small creek that bore the name of Lee and a fine spring that was to supply water for the villagers. Descendants of these citizens remember stories of how the women would gather at the spring to do their family washings and visit with each other while they worked.

On the north edge of the village site John W. Lee built a two-story house of five or six rooms, as a home for his large family. He also erected a building for the store which he operated. Besides these two buildings there were other residences, another store besides the one operated by the Lees, a blacksmith shop, a tannery on the creek, a church and a school. A Masonic Lodge hall was built in 1857 after the Lee family sold a half acre of land to the Pea Ridge Lodge 119. This would be one of the earliest lodges in the county.

Within sight of the Lee house there is today a small burial plot that belonged to the village and which will be preserved in the park plans, according to Superintendent John Willett. Ford's Cemetery near Elkhorn Tavern will also be retained, these two being the only burial grounds within the park area. In the Leetown plot there is pathetic evidence of four or five graves, but if there were ever more than this number no trace is left of them. All of the native stone markers are small and scattered except one, and this one alone bears an engraving. "Robert Braden who was born Feb. 14, 1864, died Feb. 5, 1866." Robert was very young to die, but those days of the '60's were hard on the young as well as the old. Ike was

old, and tradition says that he too lies beneath one of the fallen stones. Ike was a slave who fled in terror with his master's family after the Battle of Wilson's Creek, when the armies turned toward Arkansas. In a safer place beyond the line of march, Ike waited for the war to come to a close. Through the Emancipation Proclamation he became a free man. But he also became ill, and he was homesick. Knowing he was going to die, he asked that he be buried at Leetown and his request was granted.

Whether this Negro belonged to the Lee family is not known. There were numerous families in Benton County who owned a few slaves, though the numbers were always limited in the hill sections. The 1860 census listed 385 in the county. Jesse Cox, owner of Elkhorn Tavern, had five slaves who helped him run the place and who remained with the family after they were freed.

Leetown, unlike many of its contemporary locations now well remembered through historical records — Elkhorn Tavern, Pratt's Store, Trott's Stand (now Brightwater), Cross Hollows, Mud Town (now Lowell) — was not situated on the Military Road, the highway that would become all-important during the Civil War under the name of Telegraph Road. The village lay a mile west of the highway, and was served by a network of rough wagon-roads that led in all directions: To farmsteads, Little Sugar Creek, the small hamlet of Pea Ridge, and into larger roads that led to Bentonville, the Missouri border, White River and Fayetteville.

The Battle of Pea Ridge was divided into two sections — at least for the men who fought them. These participants, in early records often referred to the conflict as the Battle of Leetown and the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern. Historians later combined the two as the Battle of Pea Ridge. This name also was often used by contemporary writers, being taken from the long, craggy ridge that lay to the north of the battleground. The belt of hills had been



The buildings are gone from Leetown and all that remains are the grave markers in the cemetery.

called Pea Vine Ridge or Pea Ridge by the early settlers who found the slopes covered with a growth of wild pea vines. The Battle of Leetown came first, on March 7, 1862. A short distance northwest of the village, the troops met in the early morning and struggled desperately until darkness came. The weather was bitter cold, the men were worn from long marching, rations and blankets were insufficient, and much of the cavalry had been dismounted. It was here at 2:30 in the afternoon that the bold Texan, Gen. Ben McCulloch, was killed and later the brigadier James McIntosh, also fell. It was in the Leetown battle that Gen. Albert Pike's brigade of Cherokee Indians caused havoc through their reaction to white men's military tactics and had to be withdrawn.

The village of Leetown had been deserted by its inhabitants, and what was left of it after the first day's fighting was occupied by Union troops. The Lee house was used as a hospital for the wounded, and in a long trench a short distance away the dead were later buried. Traces of this trench are still visible, though the bodies were removed after the war and reburied in cemeteries in Fayetteville and Springfield, Mo. On the morning of March 8 when the battle was resumed, the lines were drawn in the vicinity of Elkhorn Tavern to the north of Leetown.

When quiet returned to the valley three buildings still stood on their foundations —

the house at Leetown, Elkhorn Tavern, and Pratt's Store on Telegraph Road. The store had survived because General Curtis had established his headquarters there. Union troops occupied the Tavern until the following December. As soon as they left, the bushwhackers arrived and burned the Tavern. After the war ended the building was reconstructed on its original lines and around the two stone chimneys that had not burned. As to Pratt's Store, General Franz Sigel wrote of it after re-visiting the battlefield in 1887, "Pratt's Store, near which Gen. Curtis' headquarters tent was pitched, is still there." But at some later date the store was moved, which left the old John W. Lee house as the only original pre-war building in the battlefield area.

The Battle of Pea Ridge was the kind of conflict where men fought a war in their own backyards, across their own fields, orchards and pasture lands. Many of them had left their homes only recently to join local units in Bentonville, Maysville and Cross Hollow. On old maps of the battlefield one sees points designated as "peach orchard", "corn field", "Ruddick's field", etc.

Doubtless many a man died in his neighbor's field or through his own fire destroyed his best friend's property.

The boundaries of the battlefield were clearly drawn — on the east and west by the Telegraph Road and the Bentonville Detour Road, on the south and north by Little Sugar Creek and the Pea Ridge Hills — and the rugged terrain that these boundaries encircled was well known to such men as the Lees and their neighbors who lived there. There were numerous soldiers named Lee in this battle and in battles yet to be fought — sons and grandsons of John W. Lee. In the vicinity of the vanished village which John W. Lee founded, and in other parts of Benton County, the Lee descendants still live.

Many of the oldest families whose names are best known for their participation in county affairs are related to John W. Lee, either by marriage or direct descent. Probably one of the most familiar names is that of Wade Sikes, who was a teacher at the Leetown school, and married one of John W. Lee's daughters. Wade Sikes (whose father owned the land on which the town of Rogers would be located) was a colorful character who served through a long lifetime as teacher, preacher, soldier and lawyer.

Life in Benton County

by Alvin Seamster

The older people have told many tales, none of which were but true, of the suffering of the people of this county. Until after the battle of Pea Ridge, when the Northern soldiers were stationed all over the county, there was not much suffering among the people. In 1861, there were raised 11 companies from this county, but aside from the battle of Wilson Creek, and the time out training at Camp Walker, Jackson, McCulloch and Stephens, the soldier was able to make a crop with the help of his family.

After the battle of Pea Ridge, the local soldiers were forced to leave the county and the only help in raising a crop came from the children, women and the old men, who were allowed to stay home unmolested. As soon as all the soldiers left the county, the riffraff moved in. Sometimes they were bands of soldiers from either side, or were men who had not enlisted, who turned bushwhacker, and robbed from their neighbors and friends alike. There were many killings in the county, one being Linville Hagan, just south of Vaughn, who had sons in each army, but could not keep quiet. He talked to the Union men in their favor and the Confederates in their favor. Finally some of the local boys were home on leave and heard how he had acted, so they waylaid him about a half mile from his home and shot him. The women folks buried him where he fell, which is now on the Marshall Murray farm.

In 1863, while Capt. Daniel McKissick was away with the army, some bushwhackers rode up to the home of his father, David McKissick, 76 years old, who had been a resident on the same farm since 1831. He was attracted by the men watering their horses at the Spavinaw Creek, just in front of his house. He went to the door and being almost blind, put his hand on the door jamb, trying to see them better, when they, thinking he was reaching for a gun over the door, fired and killed him. He fell into the fireplace and his wife being very feeble put the fire out with water and went to the neighbors to help get him out.

Another case being the time the bushwhackers held Dr. Taliaferro's feet to the fire,

trying to make him tell where he had his money. Then three men went to the home of Robert Walker, NW of Pea Ridge, one going in, another standing guard at the door, while a third held the horses. They were going to burn Mr. Walker's feet to make him tell where he had his money. He only had the light of a fireplace and he gave them the money sack. While the one was down before the fireplace trying to count the money, a daughter, who was standing behind Mr. Walker, handed him an axe. He swung the axe, cutting off the head of the one in a stooping position, then threw the axe at the one at the door, nearly severing his arm. The one holding the horses ran but the next day they were tracked down and shot. The axe used is in the possession of Hugh Webb of Pea Ridge.

It would take a book to relate all the cases, but when quite young, I remember an old man who passed our home frequently. He lived just one mile from us, and he would not travel more than 100 yards without looking back over his shoulder. It was said that during the war, he had killed a local man to rob him, and he always feared that some member of the family would kill him.

Another case was where a man was waylaid along the road at night and shot from his horse and this place was haunted afterwards. Many a time some local boy would ride by the place at night, when some one would ride up beside him for a-ways, then suddenly he would disappear. Many of the local boys raced their horses all the way home from the spot.

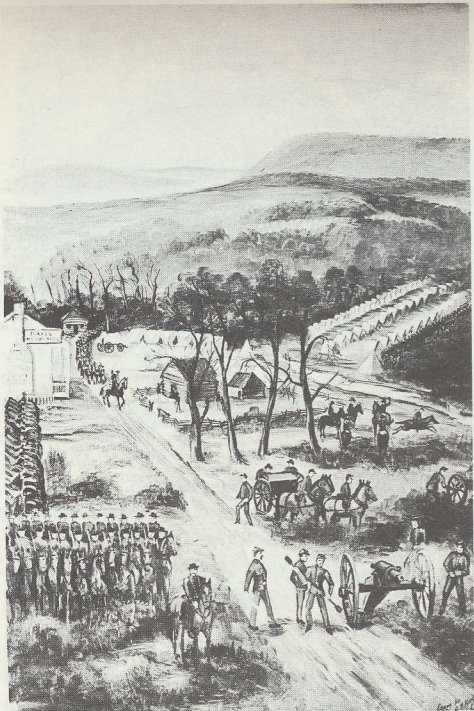
Several soldiers in the War Eagle neighborhood were waylaid by Union soldiers when they tried to slip in home to see their families, and were shot right at home in front of the family. In the old Blackburn cemetery at War Eagle is the following on stones erected.

Noble H. Hamle was murdered by bushwhackers, December 17, 1863.

J. G. S. Blackburn was murdered in front of his wife by bushwhackers Feb. 26, 1863. When first shot he fell behind the door—his wife was screaming—he told her he was not hit too bad—the bushwhackers heard him and shot him again, killing him.

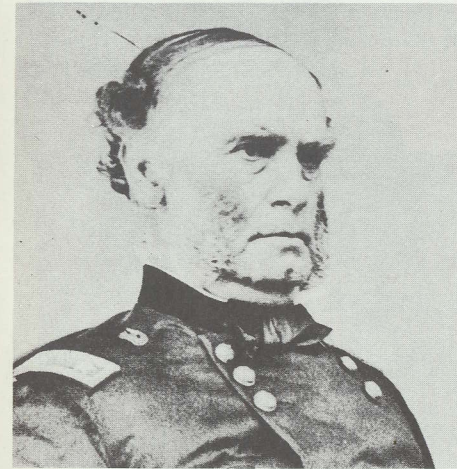
Commanders at Pea Ridge

by Alvin Seamster



THE PAINTING OF THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE—The Sidney King copy of the Hunt P. Wilson painting of the Battle of Pea Ridge. Shown are: Guibor's Confederate battery in upper left, Pratt's

Pea Ridge Store in upper right, and Price's retreating Confederates at the bottom. Courtesy—W. F. McLaughlin.

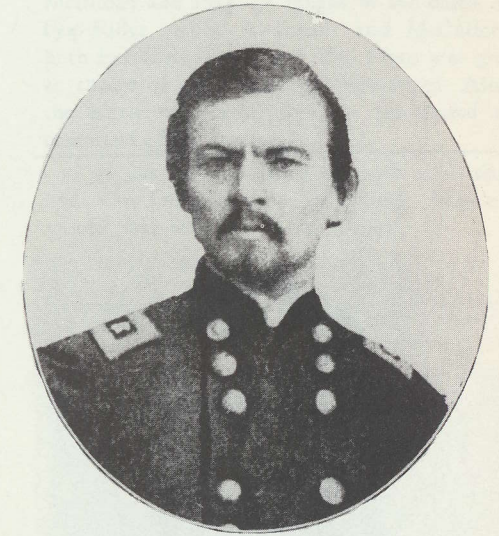


BRIG. GENERAL SAMUEL R. CURTIS
Commander of Union Forces

Samuel Ryan Curtis was born near Champlain, New York, February 7, 1807, and graduated from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., in 1831. He resigned from the army on June 30, 1832, to become a civil engineer and later a lawyer. He served as Colonel of the 3rd Ohio Volunteers in the Mexican War, and afterwards went to Congress.

In May, 1861, he assumed command of the 2nd Iowa Volunteers and shortly thereafter was promoted to Brigadier General. On December 25, 1861, he was appointed commander of the recently created Southwestern District of Missouri. From that time until March of 1862, he was actually engaged in the campaign of the battle of Pea Ridge.

Shortly after the Pea Ridge battle, he was promoted Major General. Curtis moved from Pea Ridge to Helena during the fall of 1862, and was made commander of the Department of Missouri, which included Arkansas. Curtis met General Price again during the invasion of Missouri by Price, where he was again defeated.



BRIG. GENERAL FRANZ SIGEL

Franz Sigel was born in Schusheim Baden, Germany, November 18, 1824, and was graduated from Military School at Karlsruhe. He became a champion of German unity and minister of war in the Revolutionary government of 1848, which was overthrown by Prussia. He later fled to Switzerland, but that government expelled him.

He emigrated to the United States in 1852. He taught in a military institute in St. Louis and edited a military periodical. When the Civil War broke out, Sigel organized the 3rd Missouri Infantry and an artillery battery. After assisting Captain Lyon and Frank Blair in the capture of Camp Jackson in St. Louis, he served in Missouri at Carthage and Wilson Creek.

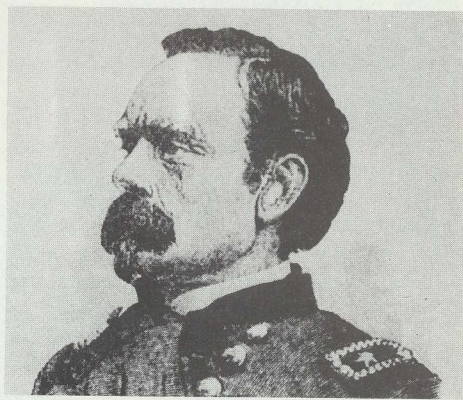
For a short time in the fall of 1861, he

was commander of the Southwestern District of Missouri. He was superseded by General Samuel R. Curtis. During the battle of Pea Ridge he was a Brigadier General in charge of Curtis' first and second divisions. Following the battle of Pea Ridge, he went to the Eastern theater and took part in the second battle of Bull Run in August, 1862. In the spring of 1864, he commanded Federal troops in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Later in life he was Collector of the Port of New York.



COL. JEFFERSON C. DAVIS

Jefferson C. Davis was born in Clark County, Indiana, on March 2, 1828, and served as a volunteer in the Mexican War. Subsequently he entered the regular army and as a Lieutenant was stationed at Ft. Sumpter, S. C., when it was fired upon. With the outbreak of the war he assumed command of the 22nd Indiana. He commanded Curtis' 3rd Division during the Pea Ridge campaign. His troops were heavily engaged in the battle of Leetown on March 7, 1862.

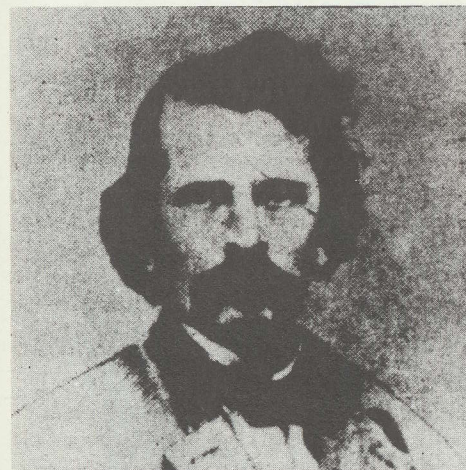


COL. PETER J. OSTERHAUS

(Con't. Next Page)

OSTERHAUS (Con't.)

Peter J. Osterhaus was born in Koblenz, Prussia, in 1823, and served as an officer in the Prussian Army. In 1861, Osterhaus entered the Federal Army as a private in the 12th Missouri Infantry. He was soon commissioned Captain and on April 27, 1861, was promoted to Major. During the Pea Ridge campaign he was a Colonel in charge of Curtis' 1st Division. On March 7th, 1862, he was in charge of the forces that met General Ben McCulloch, North of Leetown.



MAJ. GENERAL EARL VAN DORN

Commander of Confederate Forces

General Van Dorn was born at Port Gibson, Miss., September 17, 1820. He was graduated from West Point at the age of 22 and was assigned to the 7th Infantry. The reason for his appointment to West Point was that he was a grand nephew of Andrew Jackson, but finished 52nd out of a class of 56.

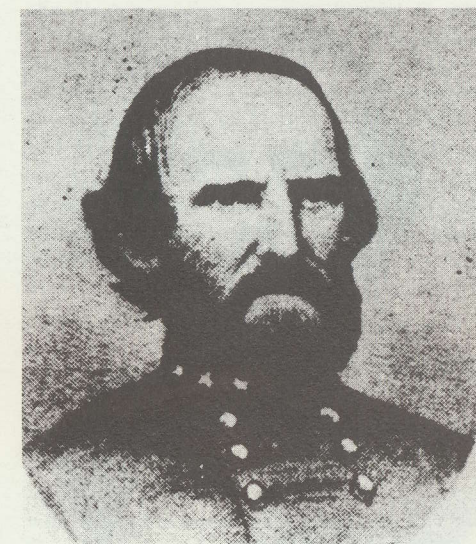
Van Dorn served in the Mexican War and was present at the taking of Mexico City. He was also in many Indian wars, being wounded four times in the Commanche war of the Indian Territory, two of the wounds being from arrows.

When Mississippi seceded from the Union he resigned his commission in the army and was named Brigadier General of State forces, being one of the first six Brigadier Generals

named in the Confederacy, and succeeded Jefferson Davis, who had been elected president of the Confederacy. His first service was at New Orleans, then Forts Jackson and St. Phillips. He saw service in Texas and was then sent to Virginia, where he was assigned to the First Division, Army of the Potomac, then in September 1861, he was appointed Major General.

In January, 1862, he was transferred to the Trans-Mississippi command. There in general command of the forces of Price, McCulloch, McIntosh and Pike, he fought at the battle of Pea Ridge, where McIntosh and McCulloch both lost their lives. Later Van Dorn was given charge of the District of Mississippi. After the battle of Corinth he was transferred to command of the cavalry.

It has been conceded by both sides that had Van Dorn won at Pea Ridge, Missouri would have been lost to the Union.



BRIG. GENERAL BEN McCULLOCH

General McCulloch was born in Rutherford County, Tenn., November 11, 1811. His father was Alexander McCulloch, who fought under Generals James Coffee and Andrew Jackson, in the War of 1812, General Ben McCulloch served under General Sam Houston



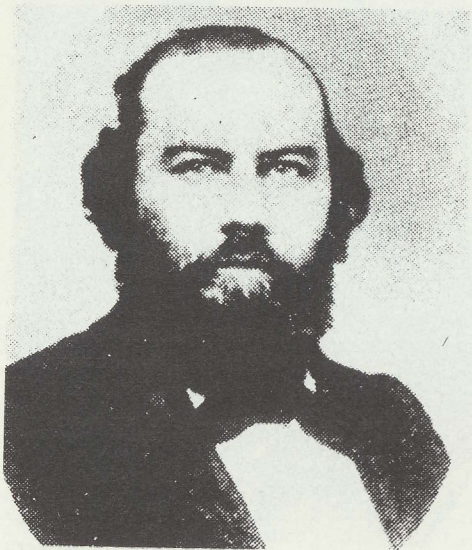
COL. EUGENE A. CARR

Eugene Asa Carr was born in Erie County, New York, in 1830. He was graduated from West Point in 1850. He served in the Cavalry on the frontier until the outbreak of the war in 1861. On August 16, 1861, he was appointed to the command of the 3rd Illinois Cavalry. During the Battle of Pea Ridge, he commanded the 4th Division. His division resisted Price and Van Dorn in the area of Elkhorn on March 7, 1862.

during the Mexican War. He had raised a picked company of Texas Rangers who furnished their own horses and arms. He received great distinction during the war for his bravery.

After the war he went to the gold fields in 1849 and was elected sheriff of Sacramento County. Returning to Texas in 1852, he was appointed U. S. Marshall for the eastern district of Texas and again in 1856 by President Buchanan. In 1861 he was a Colonel in the State troops of Texas.

On May 14, 1861, he was appointed a Brigadier General in the Confederacy. Joining Price in Missouri, he had command of the troops at Oak Hill or Wilson's Creek. In March 1862, he joined General Van Dorn for the battle of Pea Ridge, where he lost his life on March 7. He is buried in Austin, Texas, beside his father who was a Brigadier General in the War of 1812.



BRIG. GENERAL JAMES M. McINTOSH

James McIntosh was born at Tampa Bay, Florida, in 1828. His father, James S. McIntosh, was wounded at Molino del Rey, in the war with Mexico. From this wound the father died.

John Bailie McIntosh, a brother, remained in the Union army throughout the entire Civil War.

General McIntosh was a graduate of West Point in 1849, serving on frontier duty until 1861, when at the outbreak of the war, he resigned his commission and entered the Confederate army. On the 24th of January, 1862, he was commissioned a Brigadier General. His command consisted of the 1st and 2nd Arkansas mounted rifles, South Kansas-Texas regiment, 4th and 6th regiments of Texas Cavalry and Burnett's company of Texas Cavalry.

General McIntosh was killed at the battle of Pea Ridge and is buried at the Confederate cemetery in Ft. Smith.



MAJ. GENERAL STERLING PRICE

Sterling Price was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, September 14, 1809. His early education was in that county, then he graduated from Hampden-Sidney College. At the age of 21 he emigrated to Missouri, where he settled in Chariton County. At an early age he was appointed a Brigadier General in the Missouri State Militia.

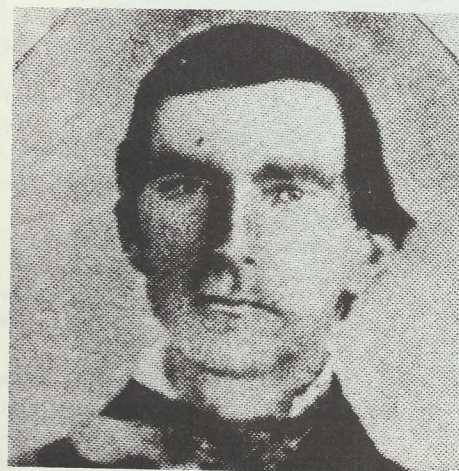
General Price was a Democrat all his life and in early manhood entered politics, being elected to the legislature of Missouri. In 1840

and 1842 he was Speaker of the House. In 1844 he was elected to Congress and served until the War with Mexico, when he raised a regiment for service in that war.

For his gallantry in the war he was appointed a Brigadier General by President James K. Polk. After the war he returned home and was elected Governor of Missouri.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected President, Governor Price was still a Union man, but when the Union captured Camp Jackson, and killed several soldiers needlessly, General Price and many other prominent Missourians organized a State Guard to resist any further bloodshed by the Union.

General Price was in many battles: Oak Hill, Pea Ridge, Iuka, Corinth, Helena, and was in the campaign against Banks and Steele in Arkansas. His greatest misfortune was when, in 1864, he tried to capture Missouri for the Confederacy, but was met by overwhelming numbers and driven back into Arkansas. At the close of the War he was included in Kirby Smith's surrender, but rather preferring exile to submission, he left the United States for Mexico where he had a plot to colonize that country. That proved unsatisfactory and he returned to the United States where he died at St. Louis, Missouri, on the 29th of September, 1867.



BRIG. GENERAL WILLIAM Y. SLACK

Gen. W. Y. Slack, son of John and Polly Caldwell Slack, was born in Mason County,

Ky., August 1, 1816, and lived in Chillicothe, Mo., at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War.

Gen. Slack in private life was a noted lawyer and was expected to have been one of the leading lawyers of Missouri had he lived.

When the Mexican war broke out, Gen. Slack was Captain of the Second Missouri Mounted Volunteers, where he met Col. Sterling Price, later a Major General in the Civil War.

At the battle of Wilson's Creek, or Oak Hills, Gen. Slack was wounded in the groin, a wound which was inflicted on the 10th of August, 1861. In October of the same year he again resumed command of his regiment. He served under Gen. Price at the battle of Pea Ridge, and had command of the 2nd Brigade, Missouri Volunteers. His battalion was composed of Col. J. T. Hughes, Maj. R. S. Bevier and Thomas H. Rosser. It was in the early stages of the battle on the morning of the 7th of March, 1862, when the troops of Gen. Little and Slack were marching up the side of what is known as Pea Ridge or Sugar Loaf Mountain, about one-fourth mile NW of Elkhorn Tavern, that Gen. Slack again was wounded, almost in the same place as at Wilson Creek.

Gen. Slack was carried from the field and was taken East toward White River, but was moved three times from place to place, to avoid capture by the Federals. He was finally moved to Moore's Hill, NW of Gateway, where he died and was buried in the Roller cemetery.

In 1873 the bodies of the other soldiers who were killed at the battle were moved from the battlefield. The Confederates, to Fayetteville National cemetery and the Federals to Springfield, Mo.

It was not until 1880, when Dr. Robinson, editor of the Weekly Advance in Bentonville, started a campaign to have the body of Gen. Slack moved to the Confederate cemetery at Fayetteville.

Several copies of the report of the removal have been saved over the years as to the description of the shiny black hearse, pulled by a four-horse team, with many of the old soldiers who had fought by his side during the short time he had lived, and come to pay tribute to a great hero. The General's wife, Isabella Slack was present from her home in Chillicothe, Mo.



BRIG. GENERAL ALBERT PIKE

General Albert Pike was born December 29, 1809, in Boston, Mass. He entered Harvard but was only able to finance himself to his junior year, then he began teaching and in later years after attaining distinction in literature, Harvard bestowed the Master of Arts upon him. In 1831, he went West with a trading party. From Santa Fe he traveled down the Pecos River, then across the Staked Plains, landing in Fort Smith, where he again became a teacher and a writer. From his writings he attracted the attention of the then Governor Crittenden, who made him assistant editor of the Little Rock Advocate. Here he also studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1835 and practiced until the outbreak of the Mexican war when he raised a company and served under Colonel Charles May.

In 1849 he was admitted to the United States Supreme Court with Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. At the outbreak of the war he was Confederate Commissioner to the Indian tribes. On August 15, 1861, he was commissioned Brigadier General in the Confederate army and at the Battle of Pea Ridge was commander of the entire Indian regiment. He resigned his commission on November 11, 1862.

He was considered one of the greatest scholars of his time, having translated the 'Pandects, and the Maxims of the Roman and French Laws' into English. He was the highest Masonic dignitary in the United States and was author of several Masonic works.



COL. STAND WATIE

General Stand Watie, a Colonel at the Battle of Pea Ridge, was born near Rome, Georgia, in 1806. His Indian name was Degataga, meaning "stand together." His father was David OO-w-tie and his mother was Virginia Reese. She was half Cherokee.

Stand Watie was one of the Treaty Party Cherokees, and was among the first of the Eastern Cherokees to come to the Indian Territory. The Western Cherokee was known as the first Cherokee Indians settling in the then Indian Territory, moving out of Arkansas in 1828, by treaty.

Stand Watie organized the First Cherokee Regiment and commanded it during the war. Under the influence of Albert Pike, he signed the entire five tribes for the Confederacy. In 1864 he was appointed a Brigadier General, thus being the only Indian to reach that position in the Army.

General Watie was the last to surrender, about six weeks after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House. Whether he received the news or just wanted to get as much revenge as possible, is not known.

After the war he returned to his farm on Honey Creek just Southwest of Southwest City, Mo., but later moved to Boggy Depot, where he died September 9, 1871, and is buried in the Polson Cemetery, near his Honey Creek farm. Beside him rests The Ridge, Major Ridge, who served in Morgan's brigade. The Daughters of the Confederacy erected a monument to the General.



MONUMENT TO "A REUNITED SOLDIERY" — During the 1889 reunion of the Blue and Gray on the Pea Ridge Battlefield, this monument to "A Reunited Soldiery" was unveiled. The monument memorializes all who took part in the Battle of Pea Ridge. Above clasped hands are these words of a symbolic poem:

Spirit of eternal light,
Keep silent vigil o'er the brave;
The untarnished blue,
The unsullied gray,
In peace and love unite.

Proud heroes have fallen,
And over their grave
Our hearts are united
Our country to save.

Over the dead the living bend,
And up to their God their voices send,
That in Liberty's crown or Eternity's day
He may place as fair Jewels
The Blue and the Gray.

Courtesy — National Park Service

Butterfield Overland Mail Co.

by F. P. Rose

The stupendous task of opening up routes for postal communications, to keep pace with the rapidly expanding territorial growth of our young nation—through purchase and treaty, from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, and from Canada on the north to Mexico on the south, and now sub-divided into twenty-two great states—over the comparatively short period of fifty years, 1803 to 1853, marks one of the most inspiring chapters in our history.

The culmination of these efforts was reached when, on the morning of September 16, 1858, the first overland mail from St. Louis and Memphis to San Francisco, under contract with the Overland Mail Company, of which John Butterfield was the president, began its first westward trip.

In March, 1857, by Act of Congress, such a contract had been authorized. It was fathered in the Senate by William K. Gwinn, of California, and in the House by John S. Phelps, of Missouri. Under its terms "the Postmaster General was authorized to contract for the conveyance of the entire letter mail from such point on the Mississippi River as the contractors might select, to San Francisco, in the state of California, for six years, at a cost not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars per annum for a semi-monthly, four hundred and fifty thousand for weekly, or six hundred thousand dollars for semi-weekly service, to be performed semi-monthly, weekly, or semi-weekly, at the option of the Postmaster General."

The act further provided that "the service be performed with good four horse coaches or spring wagons, suitable for the conveyance of passengers as well as the safety and security of the mails; that the contractor should have the right to pre-emption to three hundred and twenty acres of any land not then disposed of or reserved, at each point necessary for a station, and not to be nearer than ten miles from each other — provided that no mineral land should be thus pre-empted; that the service should be performed within twenty-five days for each trip. . . ."

Congress had left the location of the route up to the approval of the Postmaster General, and it is a long drawn out story of the clashing interests of those advocating a route starting from St. Louis or further north; those advocating a route starting from New Orleans or Memphis, and another group favoring a route to start from San Antonio to El Paso, Texas. When the bids were opened in June, 1857, the bid of John Butterfield and his associates was found to be the most acceptable.

Mr. Butterfield had submitted three bids. First, a semi-weekly route from St. Louis; second, a semi-weekly route from Memphis; and third, a semi-weekly route starting from both St. Louis and Memphis, to converge at the best point, and proceeding thence on a common line to San Francisco.

This third proposal was the one preferred by the Postmaster General, and on September 16, 1857, a contract was signed for the converging of the two routes at Little Rock, Arkansas, then via Preston, Texas, to El Paso, "and thence along the new road being opened and constructed, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to Fort Yuma, California; thence through the best passes and along the best valleys for safe and expeditious staging to San Francisco, California, and back, twice a week . . . at six hundred thousand dollars a year, during the term of six years, commencing the 16th day of September, 1858."

After thoroughly testing out the proposed St. Louis to Little Rock route, Mr. Butterfield found it impossible for the operation of a stage line, and so notified the Postmaster General. After much discussion, Mr. Butterfield finally persuaded the Postmaster General that the most practical route from St. Louis would be west, and southward through Springfield, Missouri, thence through Fayetteville, Van Buren to Fort Smith, in Arkansas, at which latter point it would converge with the route coming from Memphis, through Des Arc, Little Rock and Dardanelle; and then proceeding over one common line, via El Paso and Fort Yuma to San Francisco.



MONUMENT TO THE BRAVE CONFEDERATE DEAD — This monument, placed on the Pea Ridge Battlefield in September, 1887, honors all the Confederates who fell at Pea Ridge. Especially honored are Brigadier Generals Ben McCulloch, James McIntosh, and William Slack who died as a result of the battle. Inscribed on the monument are the words:

Oh give me a land where the ruins are spread,
And the living tread light on the hearts of the dead;
Yes give me a land that is blest by the dust,
And bright with the deeds of down-trodden just.

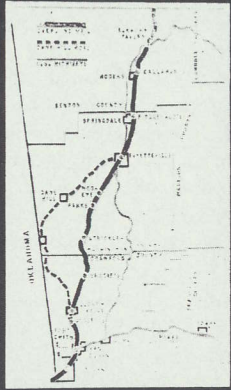
Oh give me the land with a grave in each spot,
And names in the graves that shall not be forgot;
Yes give me the land of the wreck and the tomb,
There's a grandeur in graves—there's a glory in gloom.

The graves of our dead with the grass overgrown,
May yet form the footstool of Liberty's throne;
And each single wreck in the war-path of Might,
Shall yet be a rock in the Temple of Right.

Courtesy — National Park Service



THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL IN ARKANSAS



To commemorate the Centennial passage, through Benton County, of the first Westbound stage coach on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route from St. Louis to San Francisco. Callahan's Tavern, the site of which is about a half mile northeast of this spot, was the first relay station where teams were changed after entering Arkansas from Missouri. The stage arrived here about 7 o'clock on the morning of September 18, 1858.

ERECTED BY THE BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Credit for much of the historical material used in this article must be given to Waterman L. Ormsby, special correspondent for the New York Herald, and the only through passenger on the first westbound stage, for his accurate and interesting report of the trip. It is packed with thrills for every one of the 2,651½ miles, the total distance from St. Louis, via El Paso, to San Francisco.

Mr. Ormsby states: "So far from neglecting to make preparations for carrying out this contract, the contractors have worked with almost superhuman energy to get the details in readiness. I understand they have bought horses and mules enough to have one for every two miles, and wagons or coaches for every thirty miles, of the route, while arrangements have been made at all the stations for changing horses, feeding, etc., so that they can run straight through.

"During all their explorations and expeditions to complete the arrangements, they have received the cordial cooperation of the Postmaster General and the War Department, and received the most gentlemanly attentions from

the officers of the army at the various stations which they passed. The route has been found practicable by the parties sent out by the Company to give them a private report. . . It only remains to be seen whether they will go through at all and if so, in the time specified.

"Your humble servant feels so confident that the men engaged in this work will not belie their reputations, and that the mail to California from St. Louis, overland, will reach its destination, and that he risks the success of the enterprise, and leaving all that he holds dear behind him go through with the first mail bag, and give the readers of the Herald an impartial account of the trip, the difficulties—whether overcome or not, or likely to be—and all the information that can be gathered by rough experience as to the probable success or failure of the overland mail to San Francisco."

John Butterfield's instructions to his drivers were, "Remember boys, nothing on God's green earth must stop the United States mail!"

St. Louis, by the year 1858, had gained an unrivaled place among the important cities in the country as a center of distribution. The

Pacific railroad, the first to lay rails west of the Mississippi River, at that time had completed and in operation one hundred and sixty miles west from St. Louis to Tipton. (Ten miles west of Tipton a stage road met the old Boonville mail road running south to Springfield).

This was advantageous to Mr. Butterfield, in that the mail could be transported by train from St. Louis, via way of Jefferson City, to Tipton and return. Thence by stage through Springfield, and on through Fayetteville, Van Buren to Fort Smith, in Arkansas.

So little confidence was expressed in the success of the enterprise, that when the mail was made up in St. Louis on the eventful morning of the departure of the first Overland Mail for San Francisco, only about a dozen letters and a few papers were entrusted to its care. Even the newspapers ignored this event, and had it not been for the presence of Waterman Ormsby, special correspondent for the New York Herald, the details connected with this important event would never have been preserved.

The morning of the inaugural trip, Thursday, September 16, 1858, found Mr. Butterfield on hand attending to last minute details. He personally escorted the two little leather mail pouches from the postoffice to the train and then accompanied them all the way to Tipton. The train pulled out at 8 o'clock and was due to arrive in Tipton at 6 o'clock that evening.

At Tipton, the Butterfield station men were on the alert with last minute details, preparatory to the start of the great race against time across the vast expanse of the West. Even the horses, it is said, seemed to sense something of the prevailing excitement. When the news arrived over the telegraph wire that the train was actually on the way with the mail, the excitement mounted. A pony express rider sprang into the saddle and dashed off to relay the information to the stations along the route all the way to Fort Smith.

A few minutes after six o'clock, with young John Butterfield on the driver's seat, a brand new coach drawn by six beautiful horses, wheeled up to the railroad station in grand style. A whistle was heard, and in a few minutes a little wood-burning locomotive appeared "belching smoke and vomiting flame" from its high funnelshaped smoke stack, and came "snorting and clanking," with its short train,

into the station from its thirteen-mile-an-hour dash from St. Louis.

Mr. Butterfield stepped from the baggage car with the two little mail pouches slung over one arm, and rapidly walked to the waiting coach and saw them carefully placed in the forward boot. It was a thrilling moment. The horses strained and pawed in the hands of the men at their heads. Mr. Butterfield gave a final inspection, tightened a few harness buckles, reached up and gave his son a silent hand clasp, gave a signal to the conductor, and quickly sprang back into the coach. Exactly nine minutes had been consumed.

The conductor sounded a call on his bugle, then mounted to the seat beside young John. The horses were released and the next moment the first westbound Butterfield Mail, amid a clatter of hoofs and a cloud of dust, whirled away, heading west into the golden sunset. The only interest shown by the village spectators was a voice which called "good-bye" to young John. Little did they realize that history was being made at that moment.

At three-fifteen o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, September 17, 1858, the first westbound Butterfield Mail, twenty-one hours en route, dashed into Springfield over the old Boonville road, approximately four hours ahead of schedule. Amid several loud notes from the bugle of the conductor, young John Butterfield skillfully brought the galloping horses to a halt in front of the Butterfield station on the northeast corner of the square. A large crowd had assembled and Mr. Butterfield and his son were given a great ovation. A salute of several guns was fired in honor of the event.

Mr. Ormsby tells that, "everything being in readiness, we got started again at four o'clock, having been detained at Springfield three-quarters of an hour . . . One thing struck me as creditable, and that was that the mail bag from Springfield was quite as large as that from St. Louis."

Stage lines had been in existence throughout the Ozark region for many years preceding the advent of the Butterfield Overland Mail. They had come into being as new settlements required them, and roads became serviceable. They should not be confused with the Butterfield Overland Mail, as many legends indicate.

The Butterfield Overland Mail contract was authorized by a special Act of Congress for the sole purpose of creating a more rapid

mail service between our Atlantic and Pacific seaboard, than the slow method of steamships down the Atlantic coast to the Isthmus of Panama, thence by pack mules across the narrow neck of land to steamships waiting to proceed up the Pacific coast to San Francisco. Future railroad companies were beginning the survey of the little known western plains and deserts, seeking practical routes over which to lay their rails. The saving of days, and even hours, had become of vital importance in the intercoastal business of our rapidly expanding Nation.

The Butterfield Overland Mail maintained their own stations, where teams were harnessed and waiting in advance of the stage arrival to save minutes, and even seconds in forwarding the mail. SPEED! was ever the word. Mail was only taken on and discharged at authorized division points along the route. The stations mentioned are those appearing on the official map and timetable printed at the time.

Entering Arkansas, in Benton County, over the old Springfield to Fayetteville road, the route passed Elkhorn Tavern a few miles south of the state line, and continued southward to Callahan's Tavern, the first Butterfield station in Arkansas, located in the northeast corner of what is now the city of Rogers. Although Elkhorn Tavern had been established, and always a popular stopping place for travelers, nearly 20 years before the advent of the Butterfield Overland, it never was listed as a Butterfield station.

The first westbound Butterfield stage arrived at Callahan's on Saturday morning, September 18, 1858. Breakfast was had, horses changed and the wagon axles greased, and continued southward, through Cross Hollows to Fitzgerald's, adjacent to the present city of Springdale. From Fitzgerald's it traveled the old road to Fayetteville, next station and the second division point from St. Louis. Later this road became known as the Wire Road when the telegraph line, erected in 1860, followed it from Springfield to Fort Smith.

At about 11 o'clock on this Saturday morning, September 18, the first Westbound Butterfield Mail entered Fayetteville and arrived at its station on College Avenue just across the street north of the present court house. Here the mail sack was opened and a small addition made. After a change of horses, dinner, and everything being ready, the coach departed

for Fort Smith at 12, noon, twenty-two hours and 13 minutes ahead of schedule time.

Fayetteville, Arkansas, dates its history from the organization of Washington County in 1828 when it was designated the county seat and post office established in 1829. It was one of the more important division and timetable stations on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route.

Ormsby states, in describing Fayetteville in 1858, "This town is located up among the hills in a most inaccessible spot . . . said by the inhabitants to be the star county of the state. It has two churches, the county court house, a number of fine stores and dwellings, and, I believe, about eighteen hundred inhabitants. It is a flourishing little town, and its deficiency of a good hotel will, I understand, be supplied by Mr. Butterfield who has bought some property for that purpose."

Hiram S. Rumfield, on his way to Fort Smith to take charge of that Butterfield division, in a letter to his wife, dated June 22, 1860, says: "Traveling along day and night through this solitary region we at length came to Fayetteville—a lovely town in Arkansas . . . The town reposes on the mountain tops, and is handsomely shaded by deep files of trees that line the streets on either hand. It contains a court house, several churches, and many fine stores and private residences . . . From the steps of the courthouse I there witnessed the sale of a young slave boy, a spectacle that was indeed grating to my feelings."

When about 1835 the government surveyed and improved the north and south road passing through Fayetteville, making it a military road from St. Louis to Fort Smith, great impetus was given to the trade and transportation throughout the region. Van Buren and Fort Smith, although favored by the river trade both profited by it, Van Buren becoming a center of distribution for the northern trade.

Two well-traveled roads left Fayetteville for Van Buren and Fort Smith, converging at Cedarville, a small hamlet about forty miles southwest of Fayetteville. One of these was known as the Boston Mountain road, and the other the Cane Hill road. While the Boston Mountain road was by far the roughest, it was the more direct, and for that reason selected as the Butterfield route. The Cane Hill road was the one most in use by local stage lines between Fayetteville and Fort Smith prior to and con-

temporary with the Butterfield Overland Mail Route. When in 1860 the first telegraph line connecting St. Louis and Fort Smith was constructed, it followed the Boston Mountain road.

The Butterfield holdings consisted of the station plot in Fayetteville, and a 360 acre farm a short distance west of town. The station plot was a five acre tract bought from William McGarrah in July, 1858. Besides the station and stables which were located here, the company built and operated a hotel on the property, situated just across the street north of the present court house, and the west side of which is now occupied, in part, by the Opera House. Mr. Butterfield placed his oldest son, Charles, in charge of the station and farm shortly after the inaugural trips.

It is said that the Butterfield home-station and farm at Fayetteville became a favorite retreat for Mr. Butterfield who regarded the region as the most healthful and beautiful along the route, and that he often brought prominent eastern friends with him on these occasions.

With the death at his home in Lincoln, Arkansas, of Alfred Hossman, on July 9, 1932, the last of the old-time stage drivers passed into history. Mr. Hossman had come to Fayetteville with his parents from Tennessee when he was six years of age. In 1858, when he was about twenty years old, he secured a position as a driver on a Cane Hill route. His greatest ambition was to become a Butterfield driver, but the war ruined his hopes. He was nearly 95 years old at the time of his death.

Mr. Hossman often related his reminiscences, and that on numerous occasions he had seen John Butterfield and his sons, Charles and John, both in Fayetteville and Fort Smith. Charles, who was in charge of the station and hotel in Fayetteville, he once saw break up a Negro campmeeting, just to see them run, by driving a mail wagon and four horses right through the middle of it. He says this was the first intimation that there was a Charles Butterfield, as his existence and connection with the company had not been known up to that time.

There were two old Eastern Butterfield drivers Mr. Hossman said he would never forget, "Bill" Hawes and "Dave" Milligan by name, who were greatly admired for their dexterity by the aspiring drivers of Fayetteville. "You could hear the conductor's horn way down the mountain," he recalled, "and it was

a grand sight to see that 'Yankee' Hawes handle them six horses and swing his stagewagon into the square, taking the corners on a dead run."

It was at Springfield, the first division point on the Overland Mail Route, that the regular type of coach was changed to the "celerity" wagons, which was an innovation of Mr. Butterfield to provide a lighter and faster type of conveyance over the rougher sections of the route, as well as something like an overland mail coach sleeper.

Mr. Ormsby relates: "They are made much like the express wagons in our city which are used for trans-shipment, only are heavier built, have tops of canvas, and are set on leather straps . . . Each one has three seats, the backs of which can let down to form one bed, capable of accommodating from four to ten people, according to their size and how they lie . . . When the stage is full, passengers must take turns sleeping. Perhaps the jolting will be found disagreeable at first, but a few nights without sleeping will soon obviate that difficulty, and soon the jolting will be as little of a disturbance as the rocking cradle to a suckling baby. For my part I found no difficulty in sleeping over the roughest roads, and I have no doubt that anyone else will learn quite as quickly. A bounce of the wagon which makes one's head strike the top, bottom or sides will be equally disregarded, and 'Nature's sweet restorer' will be found as welcome on the hard bottom of the wagons as in the downy beds of St. Nicholas."

Mr. Ormsby adds: "White pants and kid gloves had better be discarded by most passengers," and "that the wagons and coaches can hardly be expected to equal the Fourth Avenue horse cars for comfortable riding."

After leaving Fayetteville, Mr. Ormsby observes: "After a rather rough ride of 14 miles, which we accomplished with our excellent team in one hour and three-quarters, we took a team of four mules (at Park's station), to cross the much-dreaded Ozark range, including the Boston Mountains. I had thought before we reached this point that the rough roads of Missouri and Arkansas could not be equalled; but here Arkansas fairly beats itself.

"Had not a most extraordinary team been provided, I doubt whether we would have been able to cross in less than two days. The wiry, light little animals tugged and pulled as if they

would tear themselves to pieces and our heavy wagon bounded along the crags as if it would be shaken in pieces every minute, and ourselves disemboweled on the spot. For 15 miles the road winds among these mountains at a height of nearly 2,000 feet above the Gulf of Mexico."

Hiram S. Rumfield, on his way to Fort Smith to take charge of that Butterfield station, describes his ride from Fayetteville to Van Buren. He says: "No one who has never passed over this road can form any idea of its bold and rugged aspect. It winds along the mountain sides over a surface covered with masses of broken rock, and frequently runs in fearful proximity to precipitous ravines of unknown depth. Over such a route as this the coaches of the mail company are driven with fearful rapidity. The horses are seldom permitted to walk, even when traversing the steepest and most tortuous hills, and when driven at their topmost speed, which is generally the case, the stage reels from side to side like a storm-tossed bark, and the din of the heavily ironed wheels in constant contact with the flinty rocks is truly appalling. The man who can pass over this route a passenger in one of the Overland Mail coaches without experiencing the feelings of mingled terror and astonishment must certainly be oblivious to every consideration of personal safety.

Yet with all these indications of danger and recklessness, accidents rarely occur, and since the Mail company has been established, not a single life has been lost on this part of the route. The coaches are built expressly with reference to rough service—and none but the most reliable and experienced drivers are placed upon these mountain districts. The horses are of the most powerful description to be found, and when they are thoroughly trained to the service, perform the laborious run with apparent pleasure and delight."

The mules, which had made the approximately 19 miles over the mountains, were replaced with horses at Woosley's station for the 16-mile stretch to Fort Smith. As the stage horses galloped down the long hill into the old riverport of Van Buren, the conductor sounded several "merry notes" on his bugle to announce their approach to the ferry men.

While Van Buren was never, never listed as a relay station on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route, yet it occupied a position of vital importance because here was the ferry across the Arkansas River.

Ormsby says: "We crossed the Arkansas, in a flatboat much resembling a raft at Van Buren, a flourishing little town on its banks. Our course through the soft bed of the flats (which were not covered, owing to the low state of the river) was somewhat hazardous, as our heavy load was liable to be sunk on the quicksands which abound here. But by the aid of a guide on horseback, with a lantern (for it was night), we crossed the flats, and up the steep sandy bank in safety. Picking our way cautiously for five or six miles, we reached Fort Smith on the Arkansas River, just on the border of Arkansas and the Indian Territory, at five minutes after two o'clock A. M., having made the sixty-five miles from Fayetteville in fourteen hours and seven minutes, or three hours and eleven minutes less than schedule time."

Fort Smith was one of the earliest of the great chain of the old frontier posts. Its founding dates back to 1817, when a permanent military post was required for the protection of the increasing white population in Western Arkansas and also for the civilized Indian tribes in the Osage territory. The site was on the summit of a sandstone bluff on the east bank of the Arkansas to which the early French fur traders had given the name "Belle Point." The site was recommended by Major Stephen H. Long, who made a survey for that purpose.

It is described in 1858 as a town containing about twenty-five hundred inhabitants. Banks were unknown, gold and silver being the only currency. The principal trade was with the Cherokees and Choctaws in the Indian Territory. It was the southwestern outpost of civilization. There was not another town of equal size or importance on the entire Butterfield route after leaving Fort Smith, until Los Angeles, California, was reached, nineteen hundred miles distant.

Mr. Ormsby describes the arrival of the stage in Fort Smith: He says: "We had anticipated beating the mail which left Memphis, Tennessee, on the 16th to meet us at Fort Smith several hours; but as soon as we entered the town at so unseasonable hour, we found it in a great state of excitement on account of the arrival of the Memphis mail just fifteen minutes before us. They had 700 miles to travel, 500 of them by steamboat, from Memphis to Little Rock, but it was said that they got their mails before we did.

"Fort Smith is a thriving town of about

2,500 inhabitants, and they boast that every house is full . . . As several other routes over the plains pass through this place and have contributed much to its growth, the people evinced much interest; and the news that both the St. Louis and Memphis stages had arrived spread like wildfire. Horns were blown, houses lit up, and many flocked to the hotel to have a look at the wagons and talk over the exciting topic, and to have a peep at the first mail bags . . .

"An hour and twenty-five minutes were consumed in examining the way mails, arranging the way bill, joining the two mails from Memphis and St. Louis, and changing stages; and precisely half-past three A. M. on Sunday the 19th inst., the stage left Fort Smith, being exactly twenty-four hours ahead of the time required in the time table, which had been gained in the first four hundred and sixty-eight miles of our journey. I was the only person in the wagon which left Fort Smith—besides Mr. Fox, the mail agent and the driver . . ."

Fort Smith, being the junction and distribution point on the main line of the Overland Mail system with the Memphis branch, consequently became one of the most important divisions on the entire route. The office was originally located in the City Hotel on Second street, but in September 1860, occupied the lower part of a building opposite the hotel. The company stables were located on Third street, almost in the rear of the hotel. From fifty to one hundred head of horses and mules were stabled here at times as well as several stage wagons held here in reserve.

The first east-bound mail through Fort Smith on October 7th, provided the occasion for a celebration on a most elaborate scale. Business was suspended for the day. Homes and business buildings were decorated, and a parade comprising wagons and floats, representing all the trades and organizations in the town, with a flag bearer in advance, followed by the Fort Smith brass band.

All the local societies were represented in full regalia. The firemen were especially resplendent in their red shirts and leather helmets. A detachment of soldiers from the garrison were also in line. The ceremonies were held in a grove on the government reservation where a speakers stand had been erected and many eloquent addresses were delivered by distinguished men of the town.

The grand ball and banquet which followed in the evening brought the day's festivities to a fitting climax. The ball was held in a large hall on the lower floor of a building in the Rogers block on the west side of what is now Second street. The banquet was given in an upper room of another building on the east side of the street called Washington Hall. Mr. Butterfield was carried into the banquet room on the shoulders of four young men. With the good food, champagne, speeches and toasts which followed, the affair was one of the largest and most successful ever attempted in the state.

It is said that about two weeks before the first mail coach swung out of Frisco headed for the East, the successful laying of the Atlantic Cable had been celebrated. But John Butterfield's coach reached its destination in St. Louis, October 9, 1858, before the cable flashed its first message under a similar length of sea.

The Butterfield Overland had been operating one year and nine months when Hiram S. Rumfield of Tiffin, Ohio, was appointed superintendent at Fort Smith. He wrote in a letter to his wife, dated September 25, 1860: ". . . A disastrous fire was raging Thursday morning the 20th on the opposite side of the street, and the devouring element threatened all that was valuable in the city. Fortunately—I might say provisionally—the morning was calm, otherwise the scene of destruction would have been fearful to contemplate. As it was, the principal buildings destroyed were the Garrison block and City Hotel, the latter being the house in which we board.

"The Garrison block was the pride and glory of the city. It was erected some years since at a cost of seventy-four thousand dollars, and was exclusively devoted to business. Originating in a room immediately above Cline's drug store, the fire soon found its way through the intervening floor, and in an instant the entire concern was enveloped in a sheet of flame. . . The post office was in Cline's store and not a single letter out of some four thousand, exclusive of the Overland Mail from Memphis, was saved . . ."

The Indian Regiments In the Battle of Pea Ridge

by Roy A. Clifford



KURZ AND ALLISON PRINT (1889) — The Indians in the Battle of Pea Ridge are shown in this copy of the 1889 imaginative Kurz and Allison print.

Courtesy — National Park Service (Hot Springs National Park)

With the outbreak of the Civil War the Confederacy immediately sought alliances with the Indian Nations. It was believed by many Southerners that the large herds of cattle of the Indians would be sufficient to feed the entire Confederate army. Also, it was hoped that the Nations would furnish many troops for the Confederate cause.

The Confederacy appointed Albert Pike as Commissioner to the Indians. Pike was well known and well liked by the Indians, and was undoubtedly an excellent choice for this position. Pike took his proposals to the Cherokees but his efforts were unsuccessful because of the desire for neutrality on the part of John Ross and his many followers. Pike then turned to the other Nations where he was successful in obtaining the desired treaties. He then made treaties with the Kiowas, Wichitas, and Comanches whereby the South was to furnish cer-

tain goods and the Indians were to stop their depredations against the virtually undefended ranches and farms of Northern Texas.

By the time Pike had negotiated these treaties the weight of opinion in the Cherokee Nation had swung to the South, and Pike then hurried to Park Hill where his treaty with the Cherokees was concluded.

Upon the completion of the treaties Pike reported to the Confederate capital. On November 22, 1861, the following order was issued: "The Indian Country west of Arkansas and north of Texas is constituted the Department of Indian Territory, and Brigadier General Albert Pike, with the Provisional Army, is assigned to the command of the same. . . ." Pike thereupon returned to Indian Territory to aid in the task of raising troops.

In May of 1861 the Secretary of War for the Confederacy had empowered Douglas

H. Cooper, a former agent to the Choctaws and Chickasaws, to raise among these two tribes a regiment of mounted rifles with Cooper to have command of them. The same communication stated the intention to raise similar regiments among the others of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Cooper found the tribes cooperative and in July reported that his regiment was ready to receive its arms. Recruiting among the other tribes moved steadily forward until it was estimated that there were some six thousand troops under Pike in March of 1862.

On January 10, 1862, the Trans-Mississippi District was established and Major General Earl Van Dorn placed in command. This district embraced Indian Territory, Arkansas and adjacent territory. This order did not state whether Pike's authority in Indian Territory was to be superseded by that of Van Dorn or that Pike was to maintain authority over his particular territory. This later caused Pike to feel bitter towards some of his fellow officers.

On February 13, 1862, General Samuel R. Curtis entered Springfield, Missouri, and the Southern Army under General Price was forced to retreat hastily into Arkansas. On February 22 word reached General Van Dorn of Price's retreat, and his subsequent encampment in the Boston Mountain district in Arkansas. General Van Dorn decided that he should take personal command of the battle which seemed imminent.

Van Dorn found his army encamped southwest of Fayetteville and the Federal forces located about fifty miles from his army. Van Dorn ordered an attack. On March 3, 1862, he sent the following instructions to Pike:

" . . . press on with your whole force along the Cane Hill road, so as to fall in rear of our army. The general commanding desires that you will hasten up with all possible dispatch and in person direct the march of your command, including Stand Watie's, McIntosh's, and Drew's regiments . . . so that your command will be near Elm Springs (marching by the shortest route) day after tomorrow afternoon."

Pike led his regiments toward the Southern forces. He had been held up over the payment of troops and the stipulations of the treaties with the Indians whereby the South was not to use Indian troops outside of the Territory. On March 4 Pike, with a squadron of Texas

cavalry and the Creek regiment of mounted rifles under Col. D. N. McIntosh, overtook the Cherokee Regiment under Col. Stand Watie. On March 6 the Cherokee regiment under Col. Drew was overtaken and a few hours later the regiments caught up with the rear of the advancing army. Pike encamped within two miles of Camp Stephens, some eight miles northeast of Bentonville.

Van Dorn ordered a general advance at 8 o'clock but Pike, who was to follow McCulloch's troops, did not receive these orders until 9:30. An engagement between some advance troops from General Price's command and some Federal troops had already been fought. General Curtis had sent out parties early on the sixth to cut timbers so as to obstruct " . . . the enemy having too many approaches and to erect filled works to increase the strength of my forces. . ." Pike, when he received his orders from General Van Dorn, immediately inquired of McCulloch as to when the road would be open to him and was informed the road would be clear by 12 o'clock. Pike overtook McCulloch's forces but had to wait until sunrise until McCulloch's infantry could cross Sugar Creek on a small rail bridge. After crossing Sugar Creek, Pike followed closely in the rear of McCulloch until halted at Pea Ridge. Meanwhile Price's advance had been held up by the obstructions placed by the Union troops and he did not reach Telegraph Road until 10:00 on the morning of the seventh.

Pea Ridge, where Pike was halted, was some two or three miles north of Sugar Creek. General Curtis described the area as follows: " . . . The valley of the creek is low, and from a quarter to a half mile wide. The hills are high on both sides, and the worn road from Fayetteville by Cross Hollow to Deetsville intercepts the valley nearly at right angles." Northeast of Pea Ridge a "high mountain" stood out and beyond it ran Telegraph Road. There were "rough and rocky" gorges near the road and Pea Ridge itself was fairly level. Southwest of Elkhorn Tavern was a heavily wooded tract of land of about one hundred acres. Pea Ridge runs in a east-west direction and fronted on Elkhorn Tavern and Telegraph Road. Between Pea Ridge and Sugar Creek was a broken stretch of ground covered partially by dense thickets of oaks. The Federal forces were camped and had fortifi-

cations readied on Sugar Creek.

While Pike was waiting near the west end of Pea Ridge the Ninth Texas Cavalry counter-marched to the rear. Pike was told that he was to follow this group. McCulloch was beginning an attack on the Federal flank and the Indian troops followed. The troops moved southward off the Bentonville road into some wooded hills. Pike was told that they were to march some four and one-half miles south to the little town of Leetown which lay some two miles south of the Federal position on Sugar Creek. Pike's men were to form behind the infantry, dismount, and charge with the infantrymen. The troops had marched nearly a mile from the road, following a trail running beside some wooded land and a field, when they came upon a detachment of Federal cavalry supporting a battery of three guns. The battery was 300 yards directly in front of them. Pike formed his command of about 1,000 troops (all Indian but one squadron) behind a fence. The enemy's fire was rapidly wiping out their cover when Col. Watie's regiment on foot and Col. Drew's regiment on horseback with a part of the Texas regiment charged the battery and in a short skirmish succeeded in routing the Union forces and capturing the guns. Pike dispatched the guns into the woods but was unable to send them to the rear due to the loss of battery horses. Pike lost three killed and two wounded.

Meanwhile, Curtis had learned of Van Dorn's strategy and had ordered a change of front and a detachment of cavalry, light artillery and infantry to march towards Leetown. Curtis was worried about the Confederate flanking movement and said that "... The fate of the battle depended on success against this flank movement of the enemy, and here near Leetown was the place to break it down."

Shortly after noon Col. Watie discovered another battery with infantry to their front. Pike endeavored to have the Indians milling around the captured guns turn them on the Federal troops, but the Indians would not assist in this effort.

"... At this moment the enemy sent two shells into the field, and the Indians retreated hurriedly into the woods out of which they had made the charge. Well aware that they would not face shells in the open ground, I directed them to dismount, take their horses to the rear, and each take to a tree, and this was done by both regiments, the men thus

awaiting patiently the expected advance of the enemy, who now and for two hours and a half afterwards, until perhaps twenty minutes before the action ended, continued to fire shot and shell into the woods where the Indians were, from their battery in front, but never advanced."

Pike reported the value of the Indian regiments in this action in keeping the enemy battery engaged.

It was during this time that McCulloch and General McIntosh were killed. McCulloch was shot by a skirmisher of the Thirty-sixth Illinois as he rode through the brush of the northern edge of the field. McIntosh was killed near the same place.

Confederate artillery finally pulled the fire away from Pike's section of the woods and Pike, in order to see more of the battle, went out into the open ground nearer the conflict. Pike had received no orders from anyone since his first engagement was commenced.

About 3 o'clock Pike was informed of the death of Generals McCulloch and McIntosh and took command. Pike was at a sore disadvantage since he knew nothing of the terrain nor the position of the remnants of McCulloch's forces. The battle had faded to minor proportions and Pike, finding his position open to attack, decided that the best course to follow would be to organize the scattered troops and attempt to join Van Dorn's main army. Pike was unable to ascertain the whereabouts of other troops who had taken part in the battle and supposed that they had retreated along the line of their advance.

Pike marched to the Bentonville road and followed it "in perfect order" to Telegraph Road. However, his order to retreat had not been received by Col. Drew who had remained in the woods for some time before marching to Camp Stephens.

This action of Pike's was wisely executed but left confusion among those with whom he could not communicate. Col. Greer of the Third Texas Cavalry said that when he was left in command "My first inquiry was for Brigadier General Pike. I was informed that he had left the field, and, as I afterwards learned, with a great portion of the division."

When Pike reached headquarters late that night, Van Dorn had discovered that the ammunition was dangerously low and that the ordnance wagons could not be found. Van Dorn

went ahead with his plans for the battle.

Col. Cooper with the regiment of Choctaws and Chickasaws and Col. McIntosh with 200 men of the Creek regiment had not arrived in time to meet the enemy and, when they caught the retreating Southern train at Camp Stephens, they remained with it until it reached Elm Springs.

The morning of the eighth, Pike sent the Texas squadron back to one of the Texas regiments and ordered the Cherokee regiment under Stand Watie to a position behind Elkhorn Tavern. This group was to observe the enemy's actions in that sector. Pike accompanied Watie's regiment. After watching the Federal troops which were in open view for two hours, Pike returned to headquarters to report that there was no flanking movement on the part of the Federal troops. At headquarters he was informed that both General Van Dorn and General Price were in the field and tried to find them. On his way to their position he met a detachment who informed him that orders had been given to fall back. There had been a fierce artillery battle beginning early in the morning. Van Dorn and Price had placed most of their forces on Pea Ridge overlooking the Federal positions. When the Federal artillery got the range of the Confederate entrenchments, the secessionists had to withdraw for the heavy fire was killing the battery horses, exploding ammunition chests and causing general disorganization. In this action Captain Clark was killed. Curtis had his left battery working over this main force and in the meantime his center and right batteries were shelling the heavily timbered tract in front of Elkhorn Tavern where the Southern infantry were deployed. The battery fire was so heavy that the Southern troops were forced gradually back to the Tavern and then beyond it. The army was reorganized and a general withdrawal ordered around 10:00 A.M.

When the infantry marched to the rear, Col. Watie ordered the retreat of his regiment from their observation posts. Pike had heard cheering before he learned of the retreat and supposed it came from the Confederates; upon learning that the "field was full of Federals" and both Van Dorn and Price had not been seen he immediately sent an order to Stand Watie to fall back. This order had not reached Stand Watie which accounts for his troops remaining long after there was need for them.

Two hundred were detailed to aid with the ammunition train; however, the train left before the Indians reached the site appointed and the Indians hastened to rejoin the rest of the regiment southwest of Fayetteville.

Pike had fallen in with a party of artillery and had attempted to persuade them to turn their guns on the advancing enemy. The men were confused and many were panic stricken because they supposed that Van Dorn and Price had been lost. The gun crews continued in their flight and Pike was forced to order them into firing position a second time. This brave action was to no avail for a cry of "The cavalry, are coming" caused a disorderly rout.

Pike, Captain Hewitt, and Lt. W. L. Pike, (aide-de-camp), hurried to cut off the batteries in an effort to get them into action. Upon reaching the road where they supposed they would find the artillery, they found themselves cut off by the enemy. While debating what course to pursue they were fired upon by the enemy and quickly rode up the Bentonville road with a detachment of cavalry at their heels. They succeeded in eluding the pursuit and then rode westward between the Pineville and Bentonville roads.

A few days later Pike and his companions rode into Cincinnati where the Indian troops were quartered. Here Pike learned for the first time of the fate of the main army. Col. Drew had retreated to Camp Stephens where he was later joined by the Choctaw and Chickasaw regiment and 200 men of the Creek regiment. These regiments of Indians remained with the army train until it reached Elm Springs. At Elm Springs the Indian forces united and moved with their own train to Cincinnati. Pike spent several days at Dwight Mission writing his report. It was here that Pike wrote his only message in reference to Indian scalplings during the battle.

On March 11 General Curtis moved his headquarters to "get away from the stench and desolation of the battle ground" and later on March 13 he reported that they (Southern forces) shot arrows as well as rifles, and tomahawked and scalped prisoners. When Van Dorn asked to be allowed to send a burying party he was informed of these beliefs. Van Dorn answered:

"He (Van Dorn) is pained to learn by your letter . . . that the remains of some of your soldiers have been reported to you to have

been scalped, tomahawked, and otherwise mutilated. He hopes you have been misinformed with regard to this matter, the Indians who formed part of his forces having for many years been regarded as a civilized people . . . he desires me to inform you that many of our men who surrendered themselves prisoners of war were reported to him as having been murdered in cold blood by their captors, who were alleged to be Germans."

There has been no authoritative support of the report of German murderers, but Curtis secured several affidavits reporting that eight men were scalped. Cyrus Bussey reported: "You will perceive that 8 of my men were scalped . . . has excited among my men an indignation that will, I assure you, exhibit itself on every field. . . ." John W. Noble, one of Curtis' aides reported: "Hearing it reported by my men that several of the killed had been found scalped, I had the dead exhumed, and on personal examination I found that it was a fact beyond dispute that 8 of the killed of my command had been scalped."

There is little doubt that some such actions took place. Although many of the leaders had learned the white man's manner of carrying on warfare, it is doubtful that all of the men had thrown off the age-old custom of taking an enemy's scalp. It was the old story of one people with a set of customs distinct from another people's being censured for what seemed to be barbaric matters. What is savage and barbaric is set by each group as being different things.

Despite this return to the ways of their fathers, the Indians under Pike must be commended for their adaptability in taking up the white man's ways of fighting. Some of the same troops had participated in the battle against Hopoeithleyohola in 1861 and it was reported in an Arkansas newspaper that around 200 scalps were taken and three-fourths of these taken by the Confederate Indians. A short time after the Battle of Pea Ridge, when the North had made use of Indian troops it was said "The fact is noted that when the Indian soldiers were taken out of their country and co-operating with the white troops in operations in Missouri and Arkansas, that they abstained more scrupulously from depredation upon private property than the white soldiers with whom they were associated." This would indicate the degree of order which the Indian troops main-

tained when fighting with their "white brothers."

No apology need be made for the Indian behavior in this battle. If fault is to be found, it lies in the use of the troops outside of Indian Territory. By the treaties of alliance with the Indians the regiments were not supposed to be used outside of Indian Territory. Pike was rather bitter over the use of the Indians in the Battle of Pea Ridge and felt that they had had their treaties infringed upon. He also wrote to Secretary Benjamin deploring the fact that Van Dorn had made no mention of the Indians' part in the battle. Pike had ample reason to complain about this lack since his troops had behaved courageously on the battlefield and had given him trouble only when they became elated over the capture of the three guns. At that time they had become excited and were uncontrollable for a time. It was during this time that the scalplings were supposed to have occurred. Even this incident was not caused by cowardice but rather by too much enthusiasm.

It may be that Curtis feared a reprimand about the reported scalplings and, hence, refrained from all mention of the troops except to say that he had ordered Pike and his men to join the other forces. However, from the attitude taken by General Pike it would seem more likely that the General of the Southern army in this battle had little respect for the Indian troops and purposefully ignored any mention of their bravery in this battle. This would be strengthened by the fact that Van Dorn looked upon the Indians as being useful only as scouting parties. It is regrettable that Van Dorn felt this way.

It is true that Van Dorn had a superior force and brilliant commanders under him. Also it is true that Pike's forces retreated in every instance only after regular troops had broken and run. Under fire the Indians remained cool and fearless. It is little wonder that Pike was angry when Curtis sent page after page of detailed reports to the Confederate Adjutant with no mention of Pike's men. The Indians could have been very useful but for the early disorganization within McCulloch's command. However, they should have been left in Indian Territory where their methods of warfare would not have been questioned. It is interesting to note in this respect that General Pike admitted that the Indians insisted on the right to fight as they wished.

Reunions of Blue and Gray

by Alvin Seamster

The first reunion of the Blue and Gray to be held in Benton County, was 25 years after the battle of Pea Ridge, on Sept. 1st, 1887, and was held at what is now known as Winton Springs. The event was the unveiling of the monument erected to the memory of Gens. McCulloch, McIntosh and Slack, and other brave Confederates who fell on this occasion. The camp ground was one mile SW of the Elkhorn Tavern, near the spring in a densely shaded grove. Thousands of veterans and people of the county and surrounding states assembled for the occasion. The place where McCulloch and McIntosh lost their lives was about a mile West by Northwest from where the reunion was held, McCulloch losing his life on the Foster farm as it is known today and McIntosh on the Morgan farm. The rocks have been moved from where McCulloch fell, but are still intact where McIntosh fell. William Yarnell Slack died from his wound on March 21st, just 14 days after being wounded. He died at Moore's Mill, down the valley from the present Gateway, and was buried in the Roller cemetery, just NE of Gateway, but was removed in 1880 to the Confederate cemetery in Fayetteville.

Their monument was erected on the Morgan farm and remained there a few years, then moved to just SW of the Tavern.

The address of welcome was given by Col. Sam W. Peel, a member of Congress, and the response was made by Judge C. A. DeFrance, who drew a contrast between the welcome on this day and the one extended more than 25 years ago, to the Union Soldiers.

Ex-Governor Lubbock, of Texas, delivered the general address. He was followed by Senator James H. Berry, of Bentonville, who lost a leg at Corinth, and by Col. T. J. Patton and others.

There were many other reunions over the years, some held in Bentonville, but most of them were held at the Elkhorn Tavern as long as the old soldiers lived.

At the reunion held in 1891, there were 12 Bentonville girls who acted as representatives of each State. Mable Clark, Texas; Etta Jack-

son, Louisiana; Effie Morris, Kentucky; Kitty Smart, Alabama; Nannie Whayne, Georgia; Mary Woods, Florida; Katherine Watson, Mississippi; Jennie Berry, Arkansas; Ophelia Bates, North Carolina; a Miss Hines, Tennessee; Carrie Henry, Virginia; Minnie Robinson, Maryland, and Olive Suggs, South Carolina.

Only one still survives, Kitty Smart Burks, widow of Arthur Burks, who still lives in the old Smart home on South Main in Bentonville.

The battle of Wilson Creek, or Oak Hill, held a reunion in 1883, in Springfield, Mo., on August 10th, commemorating this battle on the 22nd anniversary. This was the first reunion in this part of the country where both Blue and Gray met together. It was not until 1888, when Grover Cleveland was elected President, that the American flag was flown generally in Bentonville.

Trail of Tears

by Alvin Seamster

In 1828, the Cherokee Indians living in Arkansas made a treaty with the government for lands in the Indian Territory, and moved completely from the state. They were called the Western Cherokees.

The Cherokees of the East, mostly from Georgia and North Carolina, had been living as the white man for several years. They raised crops and had their own slaves, but when they discovered gold near Dahlonega, Georgia, the white man began crowding them off their farms. For years the government tried without success to purchase their lands and to give them land West of the Mississippi River. John Ross, who was the principal Chief at that time had refused to sign any treaty. Finally in 1835, other members of the tribe signed a treaty giving up all lands East of the Mississippi, for lands in the Indian Territory. Many of the Indians fled into the mountains of N. C. and never were removed. Many of the others had to be forcibly removed by the military.

It was not until 1838-39 that the removal began. The contract for moving them was let to individual bidders for the sum of \$54.00 per head. The Indians were in companies of 1000 each and they brought all their belongings that had not been stolen by the white settlers. There were wagons, carriages, buggies, horse back riders and many were forced to walk all the way.

In 1838, Judge Alfred Greenwood, who had started from Georgia with 1000 Indians, surrendered his command at the Hiwassee River, in Tennessee and returned to Georgia and brought his family to Bentonville. In March, 1839, the same troop passed through Bentonville that he had started with. Judge Greenwood was later named Commissioner of the five civilized tribes.

It was reported that about one-fourth of the Indians died on their way to the new lands, as it was in the winter of 1838-39 that they were forced out of their old homes.

A few of the many companies that were moved passed down the old Wire Road and went through Bentonville, while several others went on through Fayetteville and entered the Nation near Westville.

Some of the advance members who came in 1838 met with the Western Cherokees on the Illinois River below Siloam Springs and made a treaty, which was called the treaty of the Eastern and Western Cherokees. According to the Constitution and Laws of the Cherokee Nation, published in 1875, the treaty party met at the Illinois Camp Ground on July 12, 1838. John Ross was the Principal Chief of the Eastern Cherokees, Going Snake, Speaker of the Council. John Looney, was acting Chief of the Western Cherokees. Some of the Indians names signed to this treaty were, TE-KE-CHULAS-KEE, TE-NAH-LA-WE-STAH, TO-BACCO WILL, YOUNG WOLF, AH-STOLA-TA, LOONEY PRICE, YOUNG ELDERS, DEER TRACK, YOUNG PUPPY, TURTLE FIELDS, THE EAGLE and THE CRYING BUFFALO.

Many of the descendents of the above Indians still live in the Indian Territory, which is now Oklahoma, since 1907.

