1761

14 prisoners
from Bethel

Wm Lilly. Wm
Reid and George
W. Hurt will
be discharged on
oath of allegiance
Oscar Holt will
be discharged on
oath of allegiance
and bond of $1000

Aug 6

Office of District Prov. Marshal
Jackson Tenn Aug 21. 1862

The prisoners Wm Brown James Witmore, Saml M. Radford, David Wicker Wm Evans, L. T. Gregg, J. L. Gregg J. S. Melvin and John Threat were evidently trying to pass through the lines of the Federal army on way to join the rebel army and not being prisoners of war will be confined in the military prison at Alton Ills. until the close of the war unless otherwise ordered

John J. Mudd
Dist. Provost Marshal

2 or more
81
5268 Agt 1876

U. S.

vs

Wm Brown. Jas. Witmore
Samuel W. Radford Dav. Wickly
Oscar Holt. John Williams
Wm Evans S. T. Gregg
J. S. Gregg J. S. Melvin
John Throat William Lilly
Wm Reed Geo W Hurt

Bethel Term

17th Augt 1.2

Office of Provost Marshal.
Bethel, Tennessee.
August 17th 1862

United States Government
vs
William Brown, James Witmore,
Samuel W Radford, David Frisky, Oscar Holt.
John Williams, William Evans
S T Gregg. J L Gregg.
J. S. Melvin, John Threat.
William Lilly, William Reed,
and George W Hurt.

The above named prisoners were brought before the Provost Marshal, charged with an attempt to reach the lines of the Confederate Army. They were seperately examined, and the following evidence constitutes the admissions of the parties.

1st "William Brown. I live in Graves Co. Ky. about 100 miles from this place. Left home about two weeks ago. My comrade's name is Witmore. He is my brother in law.
We came to between Huntington and Paris on 1st day. On the next day we came to my Father's 12 miles from Huntington at which place we stayed until last Friday. 15th inst. Next night stayed at the house of a man called Burr.
From there crossed Railroad at a steam mill three miles from Henderson.
Last night stayed at Rushes.
No one but Witmore started with me.
We came to a party of Guerillas, whom we wished to avoid. We met them near

Brown. He had started for Tippah County, Miss.
I have relatives there. I have a family in
Graves Co. Ky. I have told no one that I was
going to join the Army. I am not a secessionist.
I am in favor of the South having its rights.
I dont argue about secession. We intended
to be back by 10th of September. Did not
travel in the night. Rush told us to go
through by Rebells. There were about
60 or 70 Guerrillas on the other side of Steam Mill
three miles on the other side of Mifflin.
They said they were armed.
Pittmore started from home with me. He is
not a man of family. Have not passed by any
other name than Brown. I have not given my
name as any other than Brown. Am not positive
I may have done so. I own land. No negroes.
The Guerrillas were from Kentucky I understood.
Suppose they were going to Confederate Army.

2nd James Pittmore. My name is James Pittmore.
I passed by other names this morning.
I live in Graves Co. Ky. I left home one
week ago last Tuesday. When we stopped
don't know. Stopped left of Huntingdon 12 miles.
Stayed there 4 or 5 days at Brown's. Stayed until
Friday morning. Then came on down
near Mifflin. Stayed with Brown and
then came on down to Rush's.
We started to go into Mississippi, probably to
the Southern Army. Did not know whether we
could get there or not. Brown was going with
me. We had talked the matter over.
Brown gave his name as Johnson this morn-
-ing. I gave my name as Davis. Rushes gave
us directions to Rebells. Pooper told us

that was the way to go through into Mississippi.
Told them that we were going down to Miss.
probably to the Southern army. I said this
about supper time. Brown was with me, and
told the same that I did. I am single, Brown
is married. is my brother in law. I did not
start to join any Company. I never saw Radford
or Nicker until this morning.
A man at Steam Mill told us to stay at
Naylors.

3 Samuel W Radford. I live in Calloway County
Ky. Nicker is with me. I will be 18 years
old in September. My parents are living
I left home last Monday night about 8
or 9 o'clock. I traveled Monday night to
Wheeler's Bridge 12 miles out of Ky. Nicker was
with me. I met him about 3 miles from Home.
I started to see my brother in the Southern army.
I traveled that night and next day until
about 1 or 2 o'clock. Stopped for dinner.
Went on to Rames' House by dark. left
next morning a little after the rising of Sun.
Wednesday we came to Caledonia and
McLamoresville and late in the evening passed
Larmin and stopped 1½ miles this side.
Next morning went on and stopped at Blacks.
5 of us started together. 3 turned back.
I supposed they were going to Southern army.
They said they were going back. We traveled on
to Mifflin. Stayed all night with McKaney.
I think. Next day traveled on and stayed
with Hunter. Saturday night stayed with
Eli Hicks. I talked with Hunter told him
that I was going to see my brother in the
Southern army. I have no intention of

joining the Southern army. I did not know what I would do if my brother would not leave the army. I sold my horse ~~and~~ for $125. $115 in confederate money $10 hard money. I started with $10. have spent $3.50. I sold my horse friday morning. Walker sold his horse further on to a man by the name of Bray. He sold his horse for $140. one half confederate, the other half Tennessee money. Bray gave us a way bill to go to Hunter - from there to G. Taylor. Hunter is a secessionist and lives 6 miles from Lexington - It is about 12 miles from here to Hunter's.

We traveled by directions given by men who would direct to one person and he to another -

4th David Walker. Live in Calloway Co. Ky. I am married, left home about 10 or 11 o'clock Monday night and traveled all night stopped with Benson. I got a way bill there, showing us the way and names of persons to stop with. We started at night to avoid taking the oath, said not care to take it then. Men now sat out from Paducah to make us take the oath. I have always been for the Union. Great excitement in our County about taking the oath. I am not afraid to take it. I talked with Benson and inquired the way down South. He knew that he was a secessionist He gave us each a way bill. He did not tell him we were going to the Southern army. The other three men traveled with us 2 days and then turned back. Friday night stayed with Hunter.

Have three brothers in the Southern Army

I state that I started to go to the Southern Army. I have not seen one of my brothers for one year. The other two for 13 years. We were told that the Southern was within 40 or 50 miles. I have 40$ sold my mare for it. Left home with 50 cents.
Radford paid some of my bills. I sold my horse to Mr Bray. He gave us directions to Hunters and from there to Naylors, and from there to Isbells. It was my understanding that there was a connection of secessionists, and that we could pass through by their directions.

5th Oscar Holt. Live in Murray. Calloway Co. Ky
Left Home last Tuesday morning, left alone, fell in with others about six miles beyond the place where we were arrested. I started to Camp Moore. Supposed to be the Head Quarters of Gen. Breckinridge Started to see a brother in the Southern Army. He is wounded. I have not seen my brother for 16 months. I did not intend to join the confederate army. I have been in confederate army. Have been discharged. Have discharge with me. Discharged at Richmond Left Richmond last april.
(Discharge and letter sent up with this evidence)
I have traveled altogether during the day light. First Night stopped at Mallows 2nd night stopped at Berrys. Next at Hutchisons - and Saturday night stopped at Hearns; Passed through McConnersville, Maclemore Ville, Spring Hill

Passed through north west corner of Carrol County, east of Humbolt. Wished to avoid Federal soldiers. I had no companion until the others overtook me. Saw some of others men six or eight miles back.
Don't know any of the men—
My feelings have changed since I enlisted in the Southern Army. I am willing to take the oath of allegiance to the U. S. Government. I am not a married man.
Have $4.75 in silver $40.50 Tennessee Bills $30 Confederate Bills—

6th John Williams declines to answer any questions.

7th William Evans. Live in Graves County, Kentucky. Left home last Wednesday morning. Left in company with others. [illegible] with others about state line, near cottage Grove with two men Greggs.
I had started down to near Pocahontas to ascertain if I could find out any thing concerning my brother who is in Southern Army. Traveled both night and day—Stopped at Yukins 1st day at Kings 2nd day. Traveled but little 3d day—Had no intention of joining confederate army.
Willing to take oath of Allegiance. John Williams overtook me about 1½ miles this side of Mifflin. Did not know Williams business. Williams says he [illegible] Carrol County, Ky.
I have about $15. Tennessee bills. some bad money—

8th S T Gregg Live in ~~Paris~~ Henry County. Tenn—Left home Wednesday evening in company with brother. Started to see some relatives near Pocahontas. I live between Paris and

Dresden. Stopped 1st night at Robbins, and remained all night. Stopped next day at Sheridans. Williams overtook us at Mifflin. Left Henry County with five others. Told persons where we wished to go. I am a married man. Left wife and children. Have about 5$. Have relatives. Wished to see them.

My uncle. named Johnson. Have no intention of joining the Confederate army. Have no intention of joining the Confederate army. Being at leisure at home thought it good time to visit relatives.

9th J. L. Gregg. Live in Henry County Tennessee. Left home last Wednesday evening late. Traveled about 15 miles. Started in Company with brother. Stopped at Oliviers. Traveled all next day. Stopped at Yankins. Left early next morning traveling all day and the latter part of night. Intended to go near to Pocahontas. Have relatives. I have family. Have no intention to join Southern Army. Have no objection to taking oath of allegiance.

Started with six or seven dollars. Now have three or four dollars.

Do not know John Williams.

10th J. S. Melvin. Live in Henry Co. Tenn. near Brydsville. Left home Monday last. With Evans. Stopped 1st night about 15 or 20 miles from home. Traveled 'til near day light. Traveled all next day and night. Traveled all next day and most of night. Stopped at Williams on 4th night. Directed by persons where to stop. Left home to avoid draft.

Intended to go to Miss - to see Uncle -
Left with 26$ Married man -
11th John Thrust - Live in Marshal Co. Ky -
18 years old. Left on Mesdy about noon
Came as far as Uncle's - Traveled part
of day and night of Wednesday stopped at
McRaings - Started to see my Aunt
who lives near Bolivar - Have not
seen her for many years. She lives near
Miss. line. Saturdy evening fell in
with several of the other men -
I am willing to take oath of allegience
Fell in with John Williams Saturdy
evening - I have two Uncles who are
raising Companies in Ky for Union Army -
12th William Lilly - I live near Paducah
Ky. 5 miles of city - Left on Mesdy morning
stopped at Priors - Left in Company with
Reed and Hurt - Started to Middlebury
Hardeman County Tenn - Going to assist
Reed to move his Mother -
Did not intend to join Confederate Army
Left Home with 20$ I am a Union Man
Willing to take oath of allegience -
13th William Reed - Live six miles from the
city of Paducah, Ky. in McCracken County -
Left Mesdy morning. Started for Hardeman
County Tenn - Intended to move my Mother
Came through Mayfield and Dresden
Have always been Loyal. Willing to take
oath of allegience - John Williams Came
up while we were under arrest -
14th George W Hurt Live in McCracken Co
six miles from Paducah - Left home in
Company with Step father William Reed -

and William Lilly - Started to Hardeman County to move Mr Reed's Mother -
I am willing to take the oath of allegiance -

The above constitutes the evidence before the Provost Marshal. The evidence is the admission of the parties under oath - These admissions of the parties, when taken in connection with the fact that they were all traveling in the same direction, and stopping at places where they were directed to stop - all or most of them seeking to reach Pocahontas, or near that place - and that they were traveling a route which evaded the federal lines, is satisfactory of that they were intending to reach the lines of the Confederate Army - The testimony is strong circumstantially that they are persons seeking to join the Confederate Army - and the Provost Marshal has no doubt of their guilt From all the testimony and the circumstances connected therewith the Provost Marshal finds the above named prisoners guilty

Respectfully Submitted
W. H. Redden
Provost Marshal

Prisoners from
Bethel

Office of District Provost Marshal

Case 1 Wm Brown
" 2 James Nitmore

I have reexamined Nitmore and from the testimony and his manner think it probable that they intended going to the southern army were brothers in law

Case 3 Samuel Radford
" 4 David Nicker

Re-examined both. Sold their horses in Henderson Co Tenn. Will not tell how the meeting was gotten up, at which the arrangement to come south was made. Brown is disposed to hide both secessionists were undoubtedly going to the rebel army

Case 5 Oscar Holt

Is only 18 years old served 12 months in the army. was discharged in May (discharge produced) Think he was not going to the army but to see a brother wounded at Vicksburg. Can give good security in Murray Calloway Co Ky

Case 6. – John Williams

Is a rebel soldier, belongs to Regiment Tenn Vol and was returning to the army.

Case 7 – William Evans
8 L. T. Gregg
9 J. L. Gregg
10 J. S. Melvin

All from Henry Co Tenn and have friends south near Pocahontas except Melvin who left home to avoid a draft

Evans ~~He~~ declines to answer as to what he has heard Greggs say about their destination

Greggs were on way to see an Uncle they had not seen for 12 years

Were probably on way to the army are secessionists and poor men

Case 11

John Threat

Live in Marshall Co Ky 18 years old, going to see an aunt near Bolivar, has relatives in Union Army Uncles Knew I was going south did not advise to the contrary, no good if they had, was not going to the army, Think he was

Can 12, Wm Lilly
" 13 Wm Reed
" 14 George M Hurt

From near Paducah. They are semi secessionists. but Reed is evidently a sickly man and is sick now and Hurt who is only a boy has a damaged arm & leg and would not answer for service.

They all tell that Reeds Mother lives a few miles south of Middleburg in Hardeman Co Tenn and that they were going down to move her and her stock to near Paducah,

I think should be discharged on their joint parol to report to the Provost Marshal at Paducah and enter into 1000$ bonds to observe their oaths of allegiance,

All the prisoners except one deny any intention of to go to the service in the rebel army. The exception is David Nicker who really seems more candid than others, I have re-examined all except Brown & Williams