2328

Sept 62

Deposition of George W. Fridwell
taken before Esq Southgate Nashville Tenn

I am 35 years of age a citizen of the State of Tennessee and am loyal to the government of the United States of America. On or about the 1st day of July 1862 I entered into a copartnership with John R Moore also a resident of the State of Tennessee for the purpose of purchasing beef Cattle Horses and bacon to be sold in the nashville market. In order to carry on our trade it was necessary that we should have a permit from the board of Trade at Nashville, and for that purpose Mr Moore went to nashville, procured the permit which he gave to me on his return and I Started for Kentucky from my home in South Ea Tennessee for the purpose of purchasing beef Cattle & horses, but when I had got forty miles on my journey, I learned that "Morgan" with his band of Guerrillas had made another raid upon Tompkinsville Ky which was on my route, and not considering it safe for me to go on, I returned to my home

to wait untill he had left the County with his band. I remained at home about two weeks and hearing that Morgan had left with his Guerillas and was at Knoxville Tenn. I started again accompanied by W. B. Ballenger who was employed by me to assist in driving the Cattle. We went into Metcalf Co. Ky and purchased thirty two head of Cattle. I also purchased two head of Cattle in Allen Co Ky making thirty four head in all but two Cattle gave out on the way and I had to leave them and I lost one leaving me but thirty one head in my drove.

Before I started from Mr Henrys in Metcalf Co Ky of whom also I purchased some Cattle I sent a man on ahead to learn whether the road was clear of Guerillas and if it would be safe for me to go on or not. He returned after being gone more than a day and reported that he had been within five or seven miles of Tompkinsville Ky and that

there were no Guerillas in that neighborhood. I accordingly started with my cattle and proceeded to within some seven miles of Tompkinsville when I met Mr Kirkpatrick who was riding pretty fast in the opposite direction in which I was going. I stopped him and asked if there was any news, he replied that the Guerillas were all through the country in the neighborhood of Tompkinsville and that they had entered his house, threatened to hang him and he was then trying to escape from them. He advised me if I was a union man to turn back or I would be captured with my cattle by them. I immediately turned my stock and went back as far as the Glasgow road some twelve miles. I then took that road, having heard that some federal troops were in Glasgow and I thought it would be perfectly safe for me to do so as I would receive protection from the federal force and avoid the Guerillas. I went through Glasgow and proceeded as far as Macon County Tennessee when early in the morning of I

think tuesday the 12th of August a body of Federal horsemen rode up, demanded my surrender and told me to consider myself a prisoner

I asked the officer in command why I was taken prisoner, and he answered, for "driving cattle to the Southern army" I told him I was not doing that but was driving them for the Nashville Market under a permit from the Board of Trade of Nashville, which permit he could see if he wished. He answered that he had no authority to examine my papers but his orders were to carry me and my cattle to Bowling Green When we arrived in Bowling Green Col Bruce commanding the post after examining me ordered me to be placed in confinement And I was kept in prison some four days when I was taken to Louisville imprisoned there nearly a week and finaly released upon taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. I thereupon returned to Nashville leaving thirty one head of Beef Cattle, two horses saddles & Bridles and a colt stolen

and one of the horses saddle & bridle also belonging to H. B. Ballenger who was with me. in the hands of Col Bruce at Bowling Green. I understand that he has since had the cattle butchered for the use of his forces and has also appropriated my horses to the use of the army-

The cattle cost me Six Hundred and Six & 50/100 dollars in gold over and above my expenses which amounts to One Hundred and twenty ~~two~~ & 37/100 dollars. My horses I value at three hundred dollars they having cost me more money than that and my Saddles & Bridles at twenty dollars the revolver pistol at fifteen dollars. Making a total of one thousand and Sixty three dollars and Eighty five cents which I think I am justly entitled to reclaim from the Government of the United States together with the profits that would have accrued to me from sale of said cattle. I am now and always have been an unconditional union man. opposed to the present rebellion against the U. S. Government and never have by word or deed in any manner whatsoever aided or assisted it, but always have on the Contrary opposed it from the

beginning. never having had any sympathy with it whatever. I know also that my partner John R. Wood is a loyal citizen and that he has no sympathy with the present rebellion, he has also taken the oath of allegiance to the United States. he is at present sick at Red Springs McMinn Co Tennessee where he went to watch the movements of the Guerillas and to give me timely warning should they make their appearance in that neighborhood so that I should not be captured by them. I did everything I could do or thought necessary in order to avoid bands of Guerillas that might be prowling through the County and in order to avoid capture by them. I never had any idea whatever of driving the cattle to the Southern Army and am satisfied they would treat me very harshly should they catch me for I am known to be a Union man. Mr Moses sickness prevents him from making a statement also. G. W. Lindsey

State of Tennessee }
Davidson County } Ss.

I George M Southgate, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing deposition of G W Tuidwell, was taken before me at my office in Nashville, Davidson County Tennessee, the statements of the witness were written by Charles H Green, and subscribed by the witness in my presence, and was taken on the 30th day of August 1862. witness being first duly sworn, Given under my hand at my office in the City of Nashville Davidson County, Tennessee this 30th day of August 1862.

George M Southgate (Seal)
Justice of the Peace.

State of Tennessee }
Davidson County }

I P. L. Nichol Clerk of the County Court of said County do hereby certify that Geo M. Southgate whose genuine signature appears to the above certificate & affidavit is now & was at the time of signing the same an acting Justice of the Peace in & for said County duly elected, Commissioned & qualified his Commission being dated March 5. 1860, and as such his official acts are entitled to full faith & credit

Witness P. L. Nichol Clerk & the official seal of said Court at Office in Nashville on the 1st day of Sept 1862

P. L. Nichol
Clerk of the County Court of Davidson County.

I certify that the foregoing is the original, as written out and sworn to by the parties whose names are subscribed. and that they are gentlemen of honor, veracity and unquestionable loyalty to the Government of the United States
Nashville Sept 2d/62

By the Governor

Edward H East

Andrew Johnson
Secretary of State