2960

Case of 14 prisoners
from Bethel

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2 or more

Nov 62

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5268 ago 1876

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Office of Prov. Marshal
Bethel Penn
Aug. 17th 1862

United States Government
vs.
William Brown James Wilmore
Samuel M. Bradford David Mickey
Oscar Holt John Williams
William Evans L. S. Gregg
J. L Gregg J. S Melvin
John Short William Lilly
William Reed & Gott 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 admission 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 comrads name is Wilmore. He is my brother-in-law. We came to between Huntington & Paris on the first day. On the next day we came to My Fathers 12 miles from Huntington at which place we stayed until last Friday 15th inst. Next night stayed at the house of a man called Burn. From their crossed Railroad at a Steam Mill

three miles from Henderson. Last night stayed at Rushes. No one but Minors stayed with me We came to a party of Guerillas whome we wished to avoid We met them near Burns. We had started for Tippah County Miss. I had relations there I have a family in Graves County 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 do not argue about Secession We intended to be back by the 10th of September Did not travel in the night Rushs told us to go through Isbells, there were about 1000 Guerillas on the other side of steam mill three miles on the other side of Mifflin. They said they were armed Minors 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 name than Brown. Am not positive may have done so. Soon land, no negroes. The Guerillas were from Ky I understood. Suppose they were going to Confederate Army.

James Bilmore. My name is James Bilmore I passed by their names this morning. I live in Graves Co. Ky. Left home one week ago last Tuesday. Where we stopped don't know. Stopped East of Huntington 12 miles. Stayed there 4 or 5 days at Browns. Stayed until Friday morning. Then came on down near Miffin. Stayed with Burr and then came on down to Bushes. 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 Johnston this morning I gave my name as Davis. Bush gave us instructions to Isbells. People 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. 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 Rodfern or Bicker until this morning. A man at Steam mills told us to stay at Taylors.

(4)

"Samuel W. Radford. I lived in Calloway Co. Ky. Wicker 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 Wheelers Bridge 12 miles out of Ky. Wicker was with me. I met him about 3 miles from home. I started to see my brother in southern Army. I traveled that night and next day untill about 1 or 2 o'clock stopped for dinner. Went on to Raines house by dark, left next morning little after the rising of the sun Wednesday we came to Caledonia and McLamoreville and ~~stoped 10 miles~~ late in the evening passed Lavinia and stoped 1½ miles this side. Next morning went on and stopped at Blocks 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. Teled 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 for $125.

$115 in confederate money and $10.00 in hard money. I started with $10.00: have spent $3.50
I sold my horse Friday morning.
Wicker sold his horse further on to a man by the name of Bray. He sold his horse for 40 dollars: one half confederate money the other half Tennessee money. Bray gave us a way bill to go to Hunters. from their to Gt Taylor Hunter is a secessionist and lives 6 miles from montezuma. It is about 12 miles from here to Hunters. We traveled by directions given by men who knowed direct to one person & he to another

(5)

David Hicker. Live in Calloway County Ky. I am married, left home 10 or 11 o'clock monday nights and traveled all night. Stopped with Benson. I got a way bill their showing us the way and names of persons to stop with. We started at night to avoice taking the oath. Did not care to take it then. Men were sent 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~~ with Benson in regard to the way down south.

We herd that he was a secessionist. He gave us each a way bill. We dice not tell him we were going to the Southern Army. The other three men traveled with us two days and then turned back. Friday night stayed with Hunter.

Have three brothers in the southern Army. I ~~told~~ that I started to go to the Southern Army I have not seen one of my brothers for one year the other for 13 ~~months~~ years. We were told that the Southern Army were within 40 or 50 miles I have $40 dollars, soled my mare for it. left home with 50 cents.

Radford paid some of my bills. I soled my horse to Mr Bray. He gave us directions to Hunters, & from their to stay low and from their to Isabells. It was my understanding that there-

over

was a connection of secessionists and that we could pass through by their directions.

(1)

Oscar Holt, Lived in Maury Calloway Co Ky. left home last tuesday morning. left alone, & fell in with others about six miles beyond this place where we were arrested. I started to Camp Moore supposed to be Head Quarters of Genl. Breckinridge, started to see ~~my~~ a brother in the Southern Army. He is wounded. have not seen him for 11 months. I did not intend to join the confederate Army. I have been in the Confederate Army. Have been discharged Have discharge with me. Discharged at Richmond Left Richmond last April (Discharge and letter sent up with the evidence. I have traveled altogether during the day light. First night stopped at Mellons 2nd night stopped at Berrys; next at Hutchisons and saturday night stopped at Heavns. Passed through McConnersville McLemoresville Spring hill, north west corner of Carrol Co east of Humbolt. Wished to avoit Federal soldiers. I had no companion untill the others overtook me. Saw some of other men six or eight miles back. Dont know any of the men My feelings have changed since I was in the Southern Army. I am willing to take the Oath of Allegiance to the U. S Government. Am not a married man Have $4.75 in silver $40.50 Tennessee bills $30 confederate bills

John Williams declines to answer any questions.

(1)

Williams Evans. Lives in Graves County Ky. left home last Wednesday morning. Left in company with others. Fell in with others about the State line, near Cottage Grove with two Mr Griggs I had started down to near Pocahontas to ascertain if I could find out anything concerning my brother who is in Southern army. We traveled both night and day Stopped at Jonesville 1st day at 1 Bay 2nd day Traveled but little 3rd day. Had no intention of joining confederate army. Willing to take oath of allegiance. John Williams overtook me about 1/2 miles this side of Mifflin. Did not know Williams business. Williams says he lives in Carroll County Ky. I have $16.00 Tennessee bills. Some bad money.

(8)

L. T. Gregg. Live in 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 Sheridons. Williams overtook us at Mifflin Left Henry County with five others. Toled persons whenever wished to go. I am a married man Left wife and children. Have about $5.00 have relatives wish to see them. My Uncle named Johnston Have no intention of joining the Southern Army. Being at leisure at home thought it good time to visit relatives.

J. L. Gregg Lived in Henry County Tenn. Left home last Wednesday evening late traveled about 15 miles ~~Started~~. Started in company with brother. Stoped at Olivers traveled all next day stoped at Jenkins. left early next morning traveled 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.

(9)

J. S. Meloin. Live in Henry County Tenn. near Brydsville. Left home monday last with Evans stopped 1st night about 15 or 20 miles from home traveled till nearly day-light Traveled all next day and night. Traveled all next day and most of night Steped 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 $24.00 Married man

John Threat. Lived in Marshal County Ky. 18 years old. Left on Tuesday about noon came as far as Uncles Traveled part of day and night of Wednesday. Stoped at McRainey's Started to see my Aunt who lives near Bolivar. Have not seen her for many years. She lives near Miss line. Saturday evening fell in with several of the other men I am willing to take the oath of Allegiance. Fell in with John Williams saturday evening.

I have two Uncles who are raising Companies in Ky. for Union Army -

William Tilly. I live near Paducah Ky. (5 miles of City) Left on Tuesday morning. Stopped at Priors. Left in Company with Reed & Hurt. Started to Middlebury Hardiman Co Tenn. Going to assist Reed to moove his Mother. Did not intend to join Confederate Army. Left home with $20.00 I am a Union Man willing to take the oath of Allegiance.

(10)

William Reed- Live six miles from the city of Paducah Ky. in McCracken Co- Left Tuesday morning Started for ~~Hardeman~~ Hardin County Tenn Intended to move my mother. Came through Mayfield and Dresden. Have always been loyal. Willing to take Oath of Allegiance John Williams came up while we were under arrest

George N. Hunt Lived in McCracken Co. six miles from Paducah. Left home in company with stepfather William Reed & William Tilly Started to Hardiman County to move Mr Reeds 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 facts that they were all traveling in the same direction and stopped 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 that they were intending to reach the line of the Confederate Army. The testimony is strong circumstantially that they were persons seeking to join the Confederate Army and the Provost Marshal has no doubt of their guilt from the testimony and the circumstances connected therewith the Provost Marshal finds the above named persons guilty

Respectfully submitted

N. N. Reddien

Provost Marshal.