4270

Evidence in the cases of Felix Young Wm Scruggs and others

Charge. Guerrillas, murder horse-shaling &c

Rec'd H'd. Qrs. D.C. Apl. 13th 1863

Office of the Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland

In the cases of Felix Young and Wm. Scruggs, who are charged with murder and with being guerrillas, and in the cases of Larkin Harrington and James L. Knight who are charged with horse-stealing and with being guerrillas, the following evidence was taken before Wm. Truesdail Chief of Army Police

Office Chief of Army Police
Dept. of the Cumberland
Nashville, March 6th 1865.

Statement of James Vester.

I live on Eatons creek about seven miles from Nashville. I hired from James Purdue Guardian for the heirs of Henry Fry deceased - of Robinson Co. Tenn. on the 21st day of Feby a negro man named Jim. Said negro man was murdered by some unknown party or parties on the dividing ridge between the waters of Dryfork and Eatons Creek on last Friday night. On the morning previous to the murder John Holt, who was boarding at my house told me in the presence of Jim - the deceased - that Felix Young and William Scruggs two Guerrillas infesting the neighborhood were at Isaac Holts House - Jim soon after started to his work about two miles from my house on his way he met Jas. Leech and said to him that Young & Scruggs were at Isaac Holts and that they would ruin the neighborhood if something was not done to get rid of them. Leech then went to Isaac Holt, Henry Holt Sr. & John Holt and told them in effect what Jim had said - they immediately communicated it to Scruggs and Young These circumstances took place in the

forenoon of Friday. On Friday night the negro man was killed by two shots from either a pistol or pistols, or from a rifle in a mile of Isaac Holts house - on the same evening Jno Holt left my house to go to the house of his brother Isaac Holt at which place Young & Scruggs were stopping - He took with him a bottle of whiskey - On the day that Dins body was found the identical bottle was found within fifty yards of the negros corpse. The bottle was identified as the same bottle which Holt took from his grocery to his brother Isaac Holts house. Isaac Holt told Benjamin Manlove that Young & Scruggs told Henry Holt Sr. that the negro Dins would tell no more tales. This was after Isaac Holt had told said Young & Scruggs that Dins had spoken of their presence in the neighborhood as being injurious to the people. I believe that Scruggs and Young are the murderers of the negro Dins, and that Isaac Holt was an accomplice in the murder, as he was absent from house on the night of the murder and cannot give a satisfactory account of his absence. Has already told several conflicting stories in regard to it. John Holt has in his possession two U.S. government pistols which he got from Young and Scruggs ~~stated~~ Mrs. Holt told me that

Young & Scruggs stated to him that they killed
two federal soldiers and took the pistols from
their bodies, that they - Young & Scruggs had
also killed three loyal citizens of Kentucky.

James Foster

Office of the Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland
Nashville, March 9. 1863

Statements of Charles Pfeifer and S. Rosenheimer

On the ninth of Oct. last I was on my way
to Owensboro Ky - was going from there to Louis-
ville. There was a party of eight of us in a light
wagon - S. Rosenheim was one of the party
About two o'clock on that day we were sur-
prised by a band of Guerillas and taken prisoners
near Springfield, Tenn. They took us to
Springfield - They took us to the person whom
they called the Captain of the Guerilla band
They searched our baggage - took our pistols
and blankets and then paroled us and told us
we were safe from any interference whatever.
We left Springfield between 3 & 5 o'clock P.M.
and went about six or seven miles - We put
up to stay all night at the house of Mr. Smith
About 8 o'clock some five men on horseback
came up to the gate and asked if there were

some travellers there and being answered in the affirmative they hitched their horses and came in to the yard. Two men came into the house with cocked pistols and came up stairs into the room where the most of us were and pointing the cocked pistols at us, demanded our surrender. One of those two men called himself Capt. Thomas. I recognize the man now confined in jail at Nashville called Felix Young as the said Capt. Thomas. I was at the jail this morning and I know that said Young is the same man who called himself Capt. Thomas. The said two men on coming into the room as aforesaid, compelled us to go out, hitch up and start off with them. They took us about two miles away to a body of woods, stripped us, examined all our goods, took from us about three thousand dollars in money, about six watches and some other things and then let us go warning us to go ahead and not turn back at the peril of our lives. I am not quite sure but I think that Wm Scruggs is one of the men who remained in front of Smiths house, while the said two came up stairs.

Chas. Pfeifer
S. Rosenheim

Head Quarters
Office Chief of Police
Nashville, Feby 18th 1863

Statement of James L. Knight.

I live in Cheatham County seventeen miles from Nashville, Felix Young and Mr Scruggs who live about seven miles from me are guerillas they have been following it since I came home from the Army about six weeks ago. I saw him (Young) day before yesterday and he told me that he had caught two union soldiers. and that he had paroled them and got two fine Navy pistols from them. I was in the rebel Army twenty one months. I was not discharged I was connected with the 2d Tennessee Regt. in Taylors Brigade. I left them. I have never been with any guerillas or horse thieves. I dont know of any other guerillas than those I have named. Young said he caught the deserters last Saturday. I did not see the deserter pass. I did not buy any clothes of or let the deserters have any clothes. I live in the same house with Larkin Harrington.

James L. Knight

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 18th day of Feby 1863
Geo. S. Hampton, Provost Judge.

Office of Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland
Nashville, Feby 20. 186[illegible]

Statements of B. F. Pinkley

I reside in Cheatham Co. near Sycamore Mills about twenty miles from Nashville. I am acquainted with Larkin Harrington Jr. — have known him from a child. His father informed me (and he Larkin also informed me) that when the war broke out he (Larkin) went and joined the Confederate army. That he was at Corinth at the time of the battle, when he left the rebel army - came into the union lines and was given a pass by Genl Buell to go to his home in Illinois, (from which place he first went to the rebel army) He afterwards came to Nashville, and went into Cheatham County, on Sycamore Creek - He afterwards joined Caseys Company of Guerillas (considered guerillas by me) He joined them sometime last Fall - joined them at Whites creek. I dont personally know of any depredations committed by him as a guerilla. I know, however, that when he joined the guerillas he was a poor boy and that he owned no horse. He had a few days ago four fine horses, one a dappled grey said to belong to a Federal colonel. The horse was taken from the Colonel

I am informed near Goodlettsville. George Harrington, an Uncle of Larkin, and Henderson Pinkley (Union men) informed me that Larkin told, that he, the two Knight boys and Young (Wm Knight, Richard Knight & Felix Young) took the horse above spoken of from the said Colonel, his clothing, and demanded his money, but that when they examined him and found but four dollars about him they gave it back to him. I know or have the best reason to believe that Harrington was with the Guerrillas from three to four months. Harrington and Felix Young have been seen together frequently. The rumor in my vicinity is that Young paroled two federal soldiers a short time since

P. F. Pinkley

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
20th day of Feby 1863

Geo. S. Hampton. Provost Judge

Statement of O. D. Harris

I reside in Cheatham Co. at Sycamore mills I am acquainted with Larkin Harrington. I have known him from a child. George Harrington (Uncle of Larkin) informed on last Friday that Larkin and the Knight

boys admitted to him (the Uncle) that they took an iron or a dapple grey horse with saddle and bridle from a Federal Colonel That they also took his boots off and gave them to one of the Knights. and that they took four dollars from his person and gave that back to him. I lived at Ashland last summer. I saw them frequently Richard Knight and the said Harrington They were said to belong to the Guerrillas. They were said to belong there at the time the guerrillas were there. The guerrillas were in the vicinity from August until December, but I dont know that the parties I have spoken of were with them all the time. Jesse Bennett, George Harrington, David Harrington James Moser Wm Durr, Bartlett H Newman, James Fallis, I am acquainted with - They have been connected with the Federal army Three of said boys Jesse Bennett James Moser, and David Harrington have been going about in their federal uniforms committing depredations as Union Soldiers. The others have behaved themselves properly. Bartlett Newman was discharged. The others are said to have deserted. Jesse Bennett, David Harrington and Wm Durr admitted to me that they joined the federal army but said

they never had been sworn in. I only know Bartlett Newman from reputation

E. S. Harris

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 20th day of Feby 1863.

Ges. S. Hampton, Provost Judge

Statement of Thomas O'Brien,

I reside in the same vicinity with Mr. Harris above named. The statement made above in relation to persons said to have joined the Federal Service is true

Thomas his O'Brien mark

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 20th day of Feby 1863

Ges. S. Hampton, Provost Judge

Office of the Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland
Nashville March 9. 1863

Statement of Joseph H. Cox.

I reside on Whites creek eight miles from Nashville. The name of my Father is Herman Cox. I was fifteen years old the 7th day of October last. I have frequently been at places where Young was, when he came into our vicinity — When Col

Shacklefoots men came from Clarksville in January last with a drove of mules they stopped one night in our neighborhood after they put up the mules, two of the men went to the house of a man named Thorley, living at the Foot of the ridge for the purpose of obtaining whiskey. When coming back those two men met Young not far from Thorleys. They arrested Young telling him he was a damned guerrilla. Upon that Young watched his opportunity and shot one of the men I was not present myself but this is the common talk of the neighborhood and I have heard Young himself tell several citizens the same thing. I heard Young say he shot him through the head. Those who were with the murdered man stated that his horse walked with him about ten steps when he fell dead. The man was laid out at the old man Sanders.

Last Fall William Wilson and myself were coming from Clarksville and we met Young and Scruggs with a party of four or six others. A one eyed man named Holmes now in jail was with the party. They had with them a Capt. Haw. and a Lt. Col. whom they had

captured at Dr. Manlowes (Manlove). I dont Know whether they paroled them or not. I dont Know of either of them committing any other depredations.

Young never told me that he had killed any body but the man above named.. I never was with Youngs gang as a guerillas I have never been a guerrilla. I went to Henry Holts (my great uncle) the evening before Young was caught. I went from my Uncles to Young Holt- Young Holt Kept whiskey while I was there Young came there. There were seven or eight there. We all drank considerably, and Young, Scruggs and myself went over to the old man MacNeils. I staid all night at MacNeils. was there when Young & Scruggs was caught. I have had no connection with any of Youngs Guerrilla operations.

A man by the name of Casey was Captain of a guerrilla band in our neighborhood. Young was first Lieut. Scruggs was in the band, A man by the name of Branch held an office in the band. Whitteman I think was third Lieut. Harrington who is now in jail was in the band, Knight who is now in jail was also in it. I think Branch

and Whiteman have gone away

Jos. Cox

Office of Chief of Police
Nashville Feby 18 1864

Statement of Larkin Harrington.

I live in Cheatham County about seventeen miles from this place. F. G. Young and three others who go with him (in our neighborhood) are guerrillas. one of them is called Mr Scruggs. James L. Knight told me that Young told him that he (Young) caught two Union soldiers, paroled them and took from them two navy pistols Knight told me if I am not mistaken, that Young told him that he took three horses from Federal soldiers. Scruggs was with Young at the time the above was done as he told Knight. I have been home the last eight weeks. Previous to that time I was in the Southern Army. I was in the Southern Army in the 2d Tenn. Regt. sixteen months. I belonged to Woodwards battalion about three or four weeks. He had about four hundred men. while I was with them we were in one little fight. I dont know of his command committing any outrages while I was with them.

Dont Know of their Killing any citizens or burning any building. I believe they "pressed" some horses. I was not discharged. I Know several other boys in my neighborhood who were with Woodwards battallion about three or four weeks. Richard Knight, Wm Knight, Geo W. Dowling, James Graves, Robert Chalmers were with said command. Dont think of any others. I Know of a few who came home on furlough from Bates Regt. 2d Tenn. and did not go back. viz: Wm Douglass and George Knight.

I dont Know of any of these parties excepting as I have above stated acting as guerrillas in any way excepting with the said Woodwards command. I left Woodwards command about two months ago.

Sarkis Harrington

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th. day of Feby 1863.

Geo. S. Hampton. Provost Judge

On this the 15th day of March 1863 J. D. D. Dalman. U.S. Commissioner have proceeded to take the depositions in the above entitled case at Springfield, Tenn. of the following persons all of them being first duly sworn - to wit: -

1st Jo. Murphy. first sworn states "I am acquainted with Felix Young. about Sept or Oct. last I saw him with a U.S. Cavalry Saddle. He said it was such. I have seen him ride divers horses in the last few months. Young, Scragg and 3 others last Fall bought 2 Federal Officers by my Mothers residence about 3 miles west of Springfield - they said they had captured them at Dr. J. E. Manlove's in Davidson Co. stating those officers were a Col & Capt. they took them off in 2 or 3 hours saying they would parole them. I do not know what became of those officers after that. A short time since Young to me he had killed 2 Federals, one of them at the foot of the ridge on White's Creek Valley Pike a short time previous. He gave no particulars as to the killing of the other. Young said on one occasion to me that he might be driven to the Southern Army, but if he ever had to go the Federals might track his way by Union men's blood. I saw Young

afterwards in the possession of a Grey Stallion that had been rode by one of those officers. which he (Young) sold for $200. in Confederate money. Young once proposed to me to join him, saying that we could be a great advantage to the country. I told him that I thought not – that he might by sifting about kill a man or two, but that would be of no advantage to the People, and I declined joining him. Young told me that himself and others had captured a small Boat, but did not give me the particulars.

Jo. Murphy

2d Solomon Cobb – sworn states. I live 4 miles west of Springfield, last Fall Young, Scruggs & others brought 2 Federal officers to my house and staid all night. They held those officers as Prisoners. They all left next morning – Those officers were Col. Mitchell and Capt. Harr. Young and others said they got them at Dr. J. C. Mallorys in Davidson Co.

I think I have seen Young subsequently in the possession of a grey Stallion that was rode by one of those officers.

Solomon Cobb

3d J. H. Cobb – sworn states – I live 4 miles

west of Springfield - have but a limited acquaintance with Felix Young - have seen him riding several different horses - once or twice armed with a gun and repeatedly with a pistol or two -

J. W. Cobb.

4th James H. Murphy - sworn states - on one occasion I saw Felix Young with a tolerable large roll of "Green back" money - I do not know the size of the bills, nor the quantity of money, how he came by it nor what he aimed to do with it.

James H. Murphy

5th & 6th G. W. Middleton & James H. Armstrong sworn state - A few weeks since we were engaged hauling rails in a field about 5 miles west of Springfield, when we heard a man riding along the road some little distance off, making a good deal of noise. We at first supposed them to be Federals and stopped to look. We have seen Felix Young. We took one of them to be him. That man swore he would kill some one or two right. He did not name him. Perceiving that we were not at work he cursed the undersigned Middleton and ordered him to go to work. Middleton replied that he did not

belong to him, two others rode up and said "Lee don't shoot" or "don't do that" "you know that's wrong". He presented his pistol and fired in the direction of Middleton - He don't know whether he aimed to shoot him or not. He was about 60 yards distant. He had never had any difficulty with him. He was very drunk on that occasion, so we think.

J. N. Armstrong
G. W. his X Middleton
mark

7th John W. Stark - sworn states. That a few weeks since Felix Young told me he had killed a Federal Soldier at the foot of the Ridge in Davidson Co. on the Whites Creek valley Pike. He said the Federal halted him and asked him if he had a Pass. Young told him he had one and about that time drew his pistol and shot him. This was the substance of his Statement to me as well as I remember.

J. W. Stark.

8th P. M. Fisher. sworn states: I reside at Springfield Tenn. and have for a number of years past - last Fall Felix Young & others were captured by the citizens of that place for alleged Horse stealing.

I was requested by the citizens to, and did guard Young to Murfreesboro to Head Quarters, where myself and others delivered him up to the Confederate Authorities as a deserter from the Confederate Service. Young was there released on condition that he be kept in custody (or considered in custody) till he returned to his command, which was then at Knoxville Tenn. I think. While we were going to Murfreesboro Young remarked if ever I get to see Mr. Holman again (alluding to Col. D.D. Holman) he will never want to send me to Nashville again - for he (Holman) knew very well what they would do with me. I asked him what they would do with him. He said they would shoot him. He further said that Col. Holman wished to take him to Nashville in order to get the reward that was offered for him.

P.M. Fisher.

I am personally acquainted with the parties whose names are annexed to the foregoing affidavits and know them to be entitled to the utmost credit as men of truth.

March 17th 1863.

D. D. Holman
U. S. Commissioner

Statement of D. D. Artman. I have been acquainted with Felix Young for some time but know nothing derogatory to his character until some time during the last Summer, when it was made known to me that there was a party of horse thieves between Springfield and Nashville under guise of Confederate Soldiers and he Young the leader. they some times making Springfield and vicinity a stopping point. Knowing the consequences that would result to the citizens - I induced them to assist me in arresting four of them - which they did with a view of sending them to the Federal authorities at Nashville with a hope that they would be punished for their villany: in this however I was overruled, they were sent to Murfreesboro, discharged and turned loose upon the community to commit their acts of robbery and bloodshed, which they have done with impunity - and from all the circumstances surrounding their several cases I think it would be extremely unkind that they should be turned loose at a time like this when the civil laws of the country are suspended - to commit their brutal acts of murder and

robbery again.

D. D. Holman.

Subscribed and Sworn to before
me this 18th day of March 1863.

Wm Penner
Asst. Provost Judge.