

“Social Studies / History Activity”

“Greene County Citizens Take Sides at the beginning of the Civil War”

Background

Missouri was one of the border states during the Civil War, a state that did not secede from the Union, but was a slave-holding southern state. Like citizens of other border states, the people of Missouri took opposite sides in the conflict. Most did so because of their personal convictions, and those convictions were often complex. While slavery was often a factor that influenced many to choose the southern side in the conflict, in Missouri there were those who were slave holders, yet who remained loyal to the Union and chose to fight for the Union rather than against it.

The citizens of Greene County fought on both sides during the Civil War, some volunteering for the Missouri State Guard (which later formed the basis of the Missouri Brigade), while others fought for the Union in various state volunteer units, or served briefly in various Missouri militia groups or home guard units. Citizens of Greene County determined very early in the conflict which side they supported, and faced the possibility of armed conflict even before the roar of cannons in the Wilson’s Creek valley marked the second major battle of the Civil War.

In the spring of 1861 the citizens of Greene County followed the events taking place in Washington and St. Louis with close attention. When the state put the issue of secession to its citizens in February of 1861 the people of Greene County took to the polls to let their ideas be known. As events in St. Louis began to unfold by April and May of 1861 the residents of Greene County began to take sides in the coming conflict. While General Sterling Price had pledged to dismiss the State Guard in the meeting he had held with General William S. Harney, recruiting in Greene County continued by General Rains.

The Camp Jackson Affair, following just weeks after the firing on Fort Sumter and Lincoln’s call for state volunteers, created strong tension throughout Missouri. In Greene County two fledgling armies emerged: Colonel Richard Campbell’s company of General Rains’ division of the Missouri State Guard, and the Greene-Christian County Homeguard (otherwise known as the Phelps Home Guard) led by Congressman John S. Phelps of Greene County.

Since the election of Abraham Lincoln and the secession of South Carolina in the winter of 1860, residents of Greene County had been meeting in two grass-roots political activist groups, one pro-southern and the other pro-Union. Since Greene County was overwhelmingly Democratic in its politics, these men were largely Douglas-Democrats (such as Phelps), Constitutional Unionists, or Republicans (very much a minority in Missouri). By the spring of 1861 the political rallies of these two groups had become more armed groups of men determined to fight for what they felt was right.

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By mid-May the Missouri State Guard was actively recruiting, following the provisions of legislation passed by the legislature and signed by Governor C.F. Jackson. Pro-Union men of Greene County rallied around Congressman John S. Phelps and formed the Greene-Christian County Home Guard, also known as the Phelps Home Guard, which was raised without state or federal authorization, making them little more than a vigilante organization. The Phelps Home Guard rallied over 1,000 men by early June. Since the majority of Greene County residents were pro-Union it is likely that Campbell's company rallied only a few hundred men.

On June 11, 1861 these two groups attended separate rallies. The State Guardsmen rallied at Fulbright Springs (currently Fulbright Spring Park), while the Phelps Home Guard rallied at Goose Pond south of Springfield before moving to the farm of Congressman Phelps (currently Phelps Grove Park). Campbell's company planned to march to the Greene County courthouse and raise the Confederate flag, something which Phelps vowed he would not permit without a fight. That day both forces marched into Springfield, and paraded around the square (today Park Central Square). Campbell and Phelps had agreed that both the U.S. and Missouri State flags would be raised over the courthouse, with Campbell's company raising the state flag and Phelps' men the U.S. flag. Someone at one point cried out, "That rag ought to come down," referring to the U.S. flag, and some of Phelps' men had even trained their hunting rifles on the state Guardsman who was attempting to raise the state flag on top the cupola with the U.S. flag. Violence was avoided, however, by an impassioned plea by one of Phelps' men. That night both sides encamped along the square, with Campbell's men leaving the next morning.

By late June Colonel Franz Sigel's Germans arrived from St. Louis, marching in on the St. Louis Road (modern day St. Louis Street). Suspected secessionists were arrested, and gunpowder stored in Campbell's barn was confiscated. When General Thomas Sweeney arrived in Springfield by July 1, the Phelps Home Guard was 'authorized' as part of federal forces operating in southwestern Missouri. The Phelps Home Guard performed guard duty in and around Springfield, which became a federal supply depot, and during the Battle of Wilson's Creek the Home Guard was stationed in Springfield to guard Union supplies from a possible Confederate cavalry raid.

Following the Battle of Wilson's Creek the Phelps Home Guard was disbanded by August 17, but Colonel Sigel reported that several hundred home guardsmen accompanied the retreating federal army to Rolla, where they would form the Phelps Regiment and the 24th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, both of which would later fight against their Greene County neighbors of the State Guard at the Battle of Pea Ridge.

Task

This task is designed for use at the fourth, eighth and high school grade levels. Questions and activities corresponding with the respective levels are located with each activity.

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Teachers are encouraged to use or adapt the provided sample questions for their individual classroom. Students are required to read excerpts from the William Rountree Memoir, *The History of Greene County* (Holcombe) and *Past and Present of Greene County* (Fairbanks and Tuck) both available online from the Library Center, as well as *Nine Months in the Infantry* (R.P. Matthews). Students will reflect on what prompted neighbors in Greene County to take opposite sides in the conflict and why they were willing to fight each other on the public square. Students will also examine the Matthews text as a primary source document and compare it with the county histories to see where the sources agree and disagree, specific example being on the date when Sigel's troops entered Springfield, and compare these conflicting dates to an 1861 calendar. Finally, students are to compare the level of political commitment and activity of the Civil War era with the modern day, and attempt to determine if such animosity could happen again.

Show-Me Knowledge Standards Addressed

- SS 2 (knowledge of) continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States and the world.
- SS 6 (knowledge of) relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions.
- SS 7 (knowledge of) the use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, documents).

Show-Me Performance Standards Addressed

- 1.2 conduct research to answer questions and evaluate information and ideas
- 1.5 comprehend and evaluate written, visual and oral presentations and works
- 1.7 evaluate the accuracy of information and the reliability of its sources
- 1.10 apply acquired information, ideas and skills to different contexts as students, workers, citizens and consumers.
- 2.3 exchange information, questions, and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others.
- 3.1 identify problems and define their scope and elements.
- 3.6 examine problems and proposed solutions from multiple perspectives
- 4.2 understand and apply the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in Missouri and the United States.
- 4.3 analyze the duties and responsibilities of individuals in societies.

Activities

Read an excerpt from the William Rountree Memoir (See Resource Packet)

- Full text available online at <http://www.ozarkscivilwar.org/archives/1864>

Read excerpts from Holcombe's *History of Greene County* (See Resource Packet)

- Available online at <http://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/holcombe/moch8.html>

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Read excerpts from Fairbanks and Tuck, *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri* (See Resource Packet)

- Available online at <http://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/paspres/ch11pt2.html>)

Read excerpts from R.P. Matthews, *Nine Months in the Infantry Service* (See Resource Packet)

Discussion Questions

(4th Grade)

- *Why did the election of Abraham Lincoln as president divide people who lived in Springfield and Greene County?*
- *Who was the leader of the pro-Union men in Greene County?*
- *Who was the leader of the Missouri State Guard (southern) men in Springfield and Greene County?*
- *Where did these men rally on June 1, 1861? What parks are there now?*
- *What was the date on which Franz Sigel's German-American troops marched into Springfield and how do we know that?*

(8th Grade)

- *What motivated the men who joined the Phelps Home Guard or Campbell's company of the Missouri State Guard?*
- *Why would a slave owner like Congressman Phelps be pro-Union?*
- *What historic events happened at Fulbright Springs Park and Phelps Grove Park in June of 1861?*
- *What violent event almost happened at the Greene County Courthouse on June 11, 1861? How was it avoided?*

(High School)

- *Why were residents of Greene County forming into political activist groups following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860?*
- *What impact did the Camp Jackson Affair have on political tensions in Greene County?*
- *If the Civil War was caused primarily by slavery, how do you explain Congressman Phelps (who owned 10 slaves) forming a pro-Union home guard unit?*
- *What was the significance of the fact that the Phelps Home Guard was raised without federal or state authorization?*
- *Without state and federal authorization would these men be guilty of murder?*
- *Why did these men take it upon themselves to organize?*
- *Why did the flag raising rallies at the Greene County Courthouse almost result in violence?*
- *How was violence avoided?*
- *What role did the Phelps Home Guard play in the Battle of Wilson's Creek?*

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- *What role did some of the members of the Phelps Home Guard play throughout the rest of the Civil War?*
- *Name some contemporary political activist groups? What do these group stand for?*
- *What political or governmental issues divide people today?*

Resource Packet

William Rountree Memoir,

[\[http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/page_text.php?CISOROOT=/mack&CISOPTR=3565&CISOBOX=1&OBJ=3571&ITEM=9\]](http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm4/page_text.php?CISOROOT=/mack&CISOPTR=3565&CISOBOX=1&OBJ=3571&ITEM=9)

In our community it was not long before each side began to arm. One of the first exciting events that I witnessed was the raising of the first Rebel flag on the courthouse which then was in the center of the public square in Springfield. The Breckenridge Democrats, or Extreme Southerners, were organizing and arming at Farmer's Grove, west of town. Our Congressman, John S. Phelps, was organizing the Home Guards out at his farm south of town. In the mid-afternoon the Rebels marched into town from the west, and almost at the same time the Home Guards came in from the south. It was rumored a Rebel flag was going to be raised. It looked as if war was going to begin right then. John Payne, a rabid Rebel, was making a speech from the top of the courthouse, and Pony Boyd, a loyal young lawyer, was making a Union speech from the steps of the courthouse. One demanded he be permitted to raise the flag and the other that he be prevented. It looked like a clash at any moment. Grandfather and some of the more conservative citizens went to Pony Boyd and got him to stop his speech and consulted other men and, to prevent bloodshed right then on the square, permitted Payne to raise the flag. From that time the war was on and Springfield was the contending point of the armies for three long years.

R. I. Holcombe, History of Greene County, Missouri. Chapter VIII, Civil War in Missouri. [<http://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/holcombe/moch8.html>]

Fort Sumter was fired upon April 12, 1861. On April 15th, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 men, from the militia of the several States, to suppress combinations in the Southern States therein named. Simultaneously therewith, the Secretary of War sent a telegram to all the governors of the States, excepting those mentioned in the proclamation, requesting them to detail a certain number of militia to serve for three months, Missouri's quota being four regiments.

In response to this telegram, Gov. Jackson sent the following answer:

Executive Department Of Missouri,
Jefferson City, April 17, 1861.

To the Hon. Simon Cameron, *Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:*

Sir: Your dispatch of the 15th inst., making a call on Missouri for four regiments of men for immediate service, has been received. There can be, I apprehend, no doubt but these men are intended to form a part of the President's army to make war upon the people of the seceded States. Your requisition, in my judgment, is illegal, unconstitutional, and can not be complied with. Not one man will the State of Missouri furnish to carry on such an unholy war.

C. F. Jackson, *Governor of Missouri.* [43]

On the **22nd of April, 1861**, the Adjutant-General of Missouri issued the following military order:

Headquarters Adjutant-General's Office
Jefferson City, Mo., April 22, 1861
(*General Orders No. 7*)

I. To attain a greater degree of efficiency and perfection in organization and discipline, the Commanding Officers of the several Military districts in this State, having four or more legally organized companies therein, whose armories are within fifteen miles of each other, will assemble their respective commands at some place to be by them eventually designated, on the 3rd day of May, and to go into an encampment for a period of six days, as provided by law. Captains of companies not organized into battalions will report the strength of their companies immediately to these headquarters, and await further orders.

II. The Quartermaster-General will procure and issue to Quarter-masters of Districts, for these commands not now provided for, all necessary tents and camp equipage, to enable the commanding officers thereof to carry the foregoing orders into effect.

III. The Light Battery now attached to the Southwest Battalion, and one company of mounted riflemen, including all officers and soldiers belonging to the First District, will proceed forthwith to St. Louis, and report to Gen. D. M. Frost for duty. The remaining companies of said battalion will be disbanded for the purpose of assisting in the organization of companies upon that frontier. The details in the execution of the foregoing are intrusted to Lieutenant-Colonel John S. Bowen, commanding the Battalion. [44]

IV. The strength, organization, and equipment of the several companies in the District will be reported at once to these Headquarters, and District Inspectors will furnish all information which may be serviceable in ascertaining the condition of the State forces. By order of the Governor.
Warwick Hough, *Adjutant-General of Missouri*.

May 2 1861 — The Legislature convened in extra session. Many acts were passed, among which was one to authorize the Governor to purchase or lease David Ballentine's foundry at Boonville, for the manufacture of arms and munitions of war; to authorize the Governor to appoint one Major-General; to authorize the Governor, when, in his opinion, the security and welfare of the State required it, to take possession of the railroad and telegraph lines of the State; to provide for the organization, government, and support of the military forces; to borrow one million dollars to arm and equip the militia of the State to repel invasion, and protect the lives and property of the people.

May 3, 1861 — "Camp Jackson" was organized.

May 10, 1861 — Sterling Price appointed Major-General of State Guard.

May 10, 1861 — General Frost, commanding "Camp Jackson," addressed General N. Lyon, as follows:

Headquarters Camp Jackson, Missouri Militia, May 20, 1861.

Capt. N. Lyon, *Commanding U. S. Troops in and about St. Louis Arsenal*:

Sir: I am constantly in receipt of information that you contemplate an attack upon my camp, whilst I understand that you are impressed with the idea that an attack upon the Arsenal and United States troops is intended on the part of the Militia of Missouri. I am greatly at a loss to know what could justify you in attacking citizens of the United States, who are in lawful performance of their duties, devolving upon them under the Constitution in organizing and instructing the militia of the State in obedience to her laws, and therefore, have been disposed to doubt the correctness of the information I have received.

I would be glad to know from you personally whether there is any truth in the statements that are constantly pouring into my ears. So far as regards any hostility being intended toward the United States, or its property or representative by any portion of my

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command, or, as far as I can learn (and I think I am fully informed), of any other part of the State forces, I can positively say that the idea has never been entertained. On the contrary, prior to your taking command of the Arsenal, I proffered to Major Bell, then in command of the very few troops constituting its guard, the services of myself and all my command, and, if necessary, the whole power of the State, to protect the United States in the full possession of all her property. Upon General Harney taking command of this department, I made the same proffer of services to him, and authorized his Adjutant-General, Capt. Williams, to communicate the fact that such had been done to the War Department. I have had no occasion since to change any of the views I entertained at the time, neither of my own volition nor through orders of my constitutional commander.

I trust that after this explicit statement that we may be able, by fully understanding each other, to keep far from our borders the misfortunes which so unhappily affect our common country.

This communication will be handed you by Colonel Bowen, my Chief of Staff, who will be able to explain anything not fully set forth in the foregoing.

I am, Sir, very respectfully your obedient servant.

Brigadier-General D. M. Frost, Commanding Camp Jackson, M. V. M.

May 10, 1861 — Gen. Lyon sent the following to Gen. Frost:

Headquarters United States Troops, St. Louis, Mo., May 10, 1861.

Sir: Your command is recorded as evidently hostile toward the Government of the United States.

It is, for the most part, made up of those Secessionists who have openly avowed their hostility to the General Government, and have been plotting at the seizure of its property and the overthrow of its authority. You are openly in communication with the so-called Southern Confederacy, which is now at war with the United States, and you are receiving at your camp, from the said Confederacy and under its flag, large supplies of the material of war, most of which is known to be the property of the United States. These extraordinary preparations plainly indicate none other than the well-known purpose of the Governor of this State, under whose orders you are acting, and whose communication to the Legislature has just been responded to by that body in the most unparalleled legislation, having in direct view hostilities to the General Government and co-operation with its enemies.

In view of these considerations, and of your failure to disperse in obedience to the proclamation of the President, and of the imminent necessities of State policy and warfare, and the obligations imposed upon me by instructions from Washington, it is my duty to demand, and I do hereby demand of you an immediate surrender of your command, with no other conditions than that all persons surrendering under this command shall be humanely and kindly treated. Believing myself prepared to enforce this demand, one-half hours' time before doing so will be allowed for your compliance

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therewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
N. Lyon, *Captain Second Infantry, Commanding Troops.*

May 10, 1861 — Camp Jackson surrendered and prisoners all released excepting Capt. Emmett McDonald, who refused to subscribe to the parole.

May 12, 1861 — Brigadier-General Wm. S. Harney issued a proclamation to the people of Missouri, saying "he would carefully abstain from the exercise of any unnecessary powers," and only use the military force stationed in this district in the last resort to preserve peace."

May 21, 1861 — General Harney held a conference with General Sterling Price, of the Missouri State Guards.

May 31, 1861 — General Harney replaced by General Lyon.

June 11, 1861 — A second conference was held between the National and State authorities in St. Louis, which resulted in nothing.

June 11, 1861 — Gov. Jackson left St. Louis for Jefferson City, burning the railroad bridges behind him, and cutting telegraph wires.

June 12, 1861 — Governor Jackson issued a proclamation calling into active service 50,000 militia, "to repel invasion, protect life, property," etc.

June 15, 1861 — Col. F. P. Blair took possession of the State Capital, Gov. Jackson, Gen. Price and other officers having left on the 13th of June for Boonville.

June 17, 1861 — Battle of Boonville took place between the forces of Gen. Lyon and Col. John S. Marmaduke.

June 18, 1861 — General Lyon issued a proclamation to the people of Missouri.

July 5, 1861 — Battle at Carthage between the forces of Gen. Sigel and Gov. Jackson.

July 6, 1861 — Gen. Lyon reached Springfield.

July 22, 1861 — State convention met and declared the offices of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Secretary of State vacated.

July 26, 1861 — Gen. John C. Fremont assumed command of the Western Department, with headquarters in St. Louis.

August 2, 1861 — Battle of Dug Springs, between Captain Steele's forces and General Rains.

August 5, 1861 — Governor Jackson issued a proclamation at New Madrid.

August 10, 1861 — Battle of Wilson's Creek, between the forces under General Lyon and General McCulloch. In this engagement General Lyon was killed. General Sturgis succeeded General Lyon.

August 12, 1861 — McCulloch issued a proclamation, and soon left Missouri.

August 24, 1861 — Governor Gamble issued a proclamation calling for 82,000 men for six months to protect the property and lives of the citizens of the State.

August 30, 1861 — General Fremont declared martial law, and declared that the slaves of all persons who should thereafter take an active part with the enemies of the Government should be free.

September 7, 1861 — Battle at Drywood Creek.

September 12, 1861 — General Price begins the attack at Lexington on Colonel Mulligan's forces. Colonel Mulligan surrendered on September 20th.

October 25, 1861 — Second battle at Springfield.

October 28, 1861 — Passage by Governor Jackson's Legislature, at Neosho, of an ordinance of secession.

November 27, 1861 — General Price issued proclamation calling for 50,000 men, at Neosho, Missouri.

December 12, 1861 — General Hunter issued his order of assessment upon certain wealthy citizens in St. Louis, for feeding and clothing Union refugees.

Jonathan Fairbanks and Clyde Edwin Tuck, *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri*, chapter 11 Military History, part 2 The Civil War Begins.

[\[http://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/paspres/ch11pt2.html\]](http://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/paspres/ch11pt2.html)

GATHERING OF THE CLANS.

Although the citizens of Greene County earnestly desired to evade actual warfare, all had felt for some time that war could not be averted. Emissaries from the seat of the Confederate government visited this section of the state at various times and encouraged those who sympathized with the South. Governor Jackson sent a large quantity of gun powder, to Linn creek, from which point it was distributed throughout southwestern Missouri to the State Guards and armed secessionists. Greene county's share was brought by stage-coach to Springfield and hidden in Campbell's barn, the major portion of which was finally captured by Federal troops. The Home Guards, composed of Union men, had perfected a number of organizations in this and adjoining counties. They were armed with squirrel rifles, navy revolvers and shotguns. As per previous plans, Campbell's company of State Guards and a large body of secessionists gathered at Fulbright's spring on June 11, 1861. Governor Jackson, in forming the state into military districts, had commissioned John S. Rains, a prominent politician of Jasper county, brigadier-general of the Missouri State Guard of this district, called the eighth district, and it was understood to be in obedience to his orders that the Greene County company mustered. General Rains was well known to the people of this county, and had been a candidate for Congress on the Bell-Everett ticket for the Unionists, against John S. Phelps in the presidential campaign of 1860. He was also at this time a state senator. Word had been sent to all the Unionist companies to gather at Springfield on June 11th and make such a demonstration as would discourage the secessionists, so they gathered on the Kickapoo prairie, about two miles south of Springfield near a small pond, and they came from all directions, bringing their arms, teams, wagons and provisions. The day being oppressively hot and there being a lack of water and shade at the goose pond," John S. Phelps rode out to the meeting and invited the crowd to his farm nearby where it would be more comfortable and they accepted and soon all the companies were encamped in Phelps' pasture. The twelve or more companies were formed into a regimental organization, of which John S. Phelps was chosen colonel, Marcus Boyd, lieutenant-colonel, and Sample Orr and Pony Boyd, majors. The regiment had no sooner been formed than a number of the privates asked the officers to lead them at once to Fulbright's spring so they might roust the secessionists who were there organizing and drilling. Major Orr expressed his willingness to do so, but Colonel Phelps forbade any such demonstration, cautioning his men to do nothing to precipitate hostilities, as they would come soon enough of themselves, and the people would eventually have their fill of bloodshed. Meanwhile the secessionists were preparing for a great demonstration in town, desiring to parade the streets with their forces and raise over the court house a new flag designed for the occasion. Couriers freely passed between the two camps, and it was soon learned that if an attempt was made to raise the flag of the secessionists over the

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courthouse a collision would ensue. Col. Dick Campbell rode to the Union camp and conferred with Colonel Phelps, telling him of his plans to raise a Southern flag over the court house, to which Colonel Phelps stoutly objected, saving that no such banner had a right to, and should not wave over Greene County if it could be prevented. An amicable agreement was finally reached whereby Col. Campbell's men raised the state flag and the other side raised the stars and stripes at the same time over the court house and both regiments paraded the streets of Springfield at the same time, and the day passed without bloodshed, however a clash was narrowly averted. The Home Guards held the town that night, and all was quiet; however, they discussed plans to capture the Southern sympathizers the following day, but before an attempt was made in this direction, Colonel Campbell led his men away, and a conflict among fellow citizens was a second time averted, or more properly, postponed. Phelps' regiment of Home Guards, which had been raised without authority from any source, and only in obedience to the natural rights of self-protection, was disbanded for the time, each man to return to his home and to consider himself a "minute man," ready to be called out at a moment's notice, if needed. [244-245]

Excerpt from R.P. Matthews, *Nine Months in the Infantry Service*

Southern Barbecue and Flag Raising at Springfield, MO, June 11, 1861 [pg 10-17]

Every day in S.W. Mo. Was big with events. The smothered volcano had been kept under as long as it seemed possible.

No one had any authority legally to act on the Union side, in fact all, or most of the County officials were on the opposite side. The Secessionists (they were not yet known by the name of Confederates) appointed a barbecue and flag raising for June the 11th. The Union element could no longer be restrained and a call went fourth for all the Home Guards and Union organizations to meet at the same time and place.

In the minds of all, this meant Blood. Men like Phelps, Boyd, Holland, and Whitlock sprang to the front. These men had been standing on the edge of the yawning gulf doing all man could do to prevent a scene of terror and blood shed unheard of in the annals of the world, should a conflict be precipitated in the wild and heated state of excitement which had existed for months in S.W. Mo. They had done all they could to hold the passions of the Unionists in abeyance, looking and hoping that something would be done by the Federal authorities which would relieve the peculiar position of the Union men of the state. The State Government being held by officials who had already declared their adhesion to the South.

But the time had come when it seemed the pent up flames would burst forth in all the chaotic fury of uncurbed and uncontrolled passion. These men sprang to the front. The Barbecue of the secessionists could not be stopped nor the meeting of the Unionists at the same time and place prevented. It must be directed.

The day came around. A day to which all eyes had centered. A day which all had spoken with bated breath. Under the arrangement of the Union leaders, the Home guards were to assemble at the "Goose Pond" some 2 ½ or 3 miles south of the town.

All the day before and during that night the Home Guards of the more distant parts had been on their way and the morning of the 11th found over a thousand determined men on the prairie near the appointed rendezvous.

Mean time the preparations on the other side in regard to the Barbecue, public demonstration and flag raising had gone on. In addition to the citizen force which had collected, they had the "State Guard" organization which had been mustered into the state service, armed by, and acting under the authority of the State.

The Home Guards, of course, could get no state recognition, and as yet rec'd. no Federal authority. Hence it was declared that while the southern party was acting within state authority, the Home Guards were acting without the shadow of law, state, or national.

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Theoretically this was true. But the 1,000 men who had met at Goose Pond on that morning did not propose to stand on technicalities. They had sworn within themselves that the honor and integrity of the Union should be preserved, and they did not aim to let a little legal etiquette come in the way. The Home Guards were armed with shot gun, rifle and pistol or whatever kind of a weapon he might happen to have around.

After much consultation between the Secession bosses of the Barbecue and the prominent men on our side to whom we had erected by the Court House, which then stood in the middle of the Public Square. While we were marched thro' the town around the square and salute the "Stars and Stripes" which were to wave from the cupola of the Court House.

We marched through the streets and through the square, cheered our "Stars and Stripes" and looked on the "State Flag" as it floated from the tall pole on the west side of the Court House. Having done this we were to move out and disperse to our several homes. Our company was to break ranks on St. Louis street as most of us lived out in that direction.

We had done so, when a wild rumor to us that the Secesh had torn down "our flag." The face of every man was instantly livid with rage. We had honorably carried out our part of the agreement and now if traitor hands had broken the plight and our flag was down, there would be some work done sure enough. We rushed back without regard to order, "But our flag was still there." It seems that a fiery Southern by the name of Cathell or Carthrel, had to get up on the Court House to tighten one of the guy ropes which ran from their pole to the railing around the cupola on which our flag was placed. While engaged in this the "Stars and Stripes" flapped around in his face, taking hold the border of the flag to put it out of his way, he shouted out something to the effect that "that rag ought to come down." But he made no motion to tear it down. If he had the work would have been one of blood. While his hand was on the flag a dozen guns were ready and one motion would have loosed the leaden messengers of death.

The Rebel flag floated from the staff a few days, when its friends took it down and put it away. I say rebel flag. It was called a State flag and the unsuspecting Home Guards, most of them thought it was. But it consisted of the three stripes with the two upright bears on the field while the motto "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" did not appear on the shield.

Thus ended the 11th of June 61'. Nobody was hurt, but nobody felt any better. It was not doubt best that the day should pass thus. Yet I sometimes think if we had captured that outfit that day and stopped that flag raising and we had the strength to have done so, the necessity for the battle of Wilson's Creek might not have occurred and we might have held S.W. Mo. All the time.

Organization of the Phelps' Regiment and Matters Relating Thereto [pg 43-44]

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In the hurry and consternation attending the flight to Rolla after the Battle of Wilson's Creek, hundreds of men had left their homes in southern Missouri without a moment's preparation. No chance to make any arrangement of their private affairs nor provide for the safety and well-being of their families.

These men were willing to do all they could to preserve the life of the nation, and yet their situation was such that it was almost impossible for them to enter the service for the length of time demanded by the Government. Three years, or during the war. And at this time all enlistments were ordered for this period.

Hon. John S. Phelps, whose interests had been identified with South West Missouri almost from the state organization having represented S. W. Mo. in Congress for nearly twenty consecutive years, took the matter under advisement. He concluded if the General Government would accept the services of these men for a shorter term, say 6 months, they might render greater service to the Federal authorities in wresting S.W. Mo. from the hands of the enemy and return to their homes by the next spring and put in a crop and arrange for the care of their dependent families.

With this authority, Hon. J.S. Phelps (or Col.) as we shall hereafter call him, proceeded to enlist and organize a regiment. The term of Capt. Holland's Home Guard Co. would expire in a few days and nearly all of its members determined to re-enlist under Col. Phelps.

Sources

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Published approximately 1914 this county history details the train of events that unfolded in Springfield and Greene County in the spring of 1861.

R. I. Holcombe, *History of Greene County, Missouri*. Chapter VIII, Civil War in Missouri. (<http://thelibrary.org/lochist/history/holcombe/moch8.html>)

This county history, written in 1883, provides a detailed account of the events of the spring of 1861 in Springfield and Greene County. Holcombe was a Civil War veteran from Missouri. He based his history in part on accounts of people who were part of the narrative. Holcombe also published a history of the Battle of Wilson's Creek that is still in print.

R. P. Matthews. *Nine Months in the Infantry Service*. Published by the Greene County Historical Society, still in print.

Matthews was from Greene County and was an original member of the Phelps Home Guard. After the Wilson's Creek campaign he, along with several other members of the Home Guard, journeyed to Rolla and helped to form the Phelps Regiment, a six-month Union infantry regiment that fought at the Battle of Pea Ridge.