

the cemetery invites the sort of wanton destruction that has occurred. The situation is made worse by the fact that the oldest stones, which are the most valuable in terms of historic interest and in genealogical information, have been the object of the worst destruction.

The annual cemetery meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 12th of this year. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to one of the nearby churches. Important security, preservation and restoration plans will be discussed at this year's meeting. All members of the Jackson Purchase Historical Society are issued a special invitation to attend this year's meeting in order to support the efforts to preserve this historic and picturesque site. Cemetery vandalism is certainly not confined to Asbury, but all those who have an interest in preserving the heritage of Kentucky's Jackson Purchase will surely wish to see this particular cemetery rescued from the clutches of the criminal element which is so bent on its destruction.

Tax deductible contributions toward the preservation, upkeep and security of Asbury may be mailed to Mr. Iris E. Crawford, 503 South 16th Street, Murray, Kentucky 42071. Checks should be made to the Asbury Cemetery Committee.

The Civil War in the Purchase

Lon Carter Barton

"Times are hard... no tobacco selling and money is a perfect stranger to nearly all the people... nothing but uproar over the election of Lincoln and talk of fighting in the Union. But I think the storm will soon be over and scarcely anyone hurt."

So wrote Eliza Gregory, a Graves County farm wife in early December 1860, to a relative in another state. While her observations of the contemporary scene were undoubtedly accurate, Eliza's optimism would prove tragically mistaken. Destruction and devastation unprecedented in our history lay in the path of the storm Eliza believed would "soon be over". The purpose of this paper is to depict some of the intensity of this storm as it swept the Jackson Purchase section of Kentucky - a far western seven-county region that might well have been described as the northwest corner of Dixie.

In the Presidential election on November 6, 1860, a relatively high 66% of Purchase voters cast a total of 4,547 votes for the Southern Democrat John Breckinridge; 2,885 votes for Constitutional Unionist John Bell; 1,158 ballots for northern Democrat Stephen A. Douglas; and a mere ten votes for the National winner, Republican Abraham Lincoln. In this fateful contest, as in every other one during 1861, voters in the Purchase counties returned resounding majorities for Southern, or states' rights candidates. In June, 1861, they reelected Henry Burnett of Trigg County to the Congress, only to see him leave that body six months later because of his unwavering support of secession in Kentucky. In August, 1861, races for seats in the Kentucky House of Representatives, five Purchase counties chose men who were subsequently denied office in Frankfort because of their secessionist activities at the Russellville Convention - which had sought and received provisional admission of the Commonwealth into the Confederacy. Votes, therefore, were early barometers of the popular strength of secessionist views in the region. Without doubt, the Purchase was Rebe country.

To help explain this view, several factors might be considered:

1. the cultural background of most Purchase settlers and residents was Southern; many were of Southern origin;
2. the profitable commercial relationships with such Southern markets as Memphis and New Orleans, which received much of the region's tobacco and cotton;
3. the establishment of Southern branches of the Methodist

and Baptist Churches in the area during the 1840s and 1850s;

4. the expansion in the Purchase of the South's "peculiar institution", as the number of slaves rose from 393 in 1822 to 10,500 in 1860, the latter having a total value of \$5,840,588; and
5. the increasingly defiant rhetoric and editorializing of many Purchase politicians and newspaper editors as the conflict grew nearer.

Impatient with Kentucky's official "neutrality policy" after Fort Sumter, a number of prominent secessionist leaders of West Kentucky convened a mass meeting in Mayfield on May 29, 1861, to consider three options: to join West Tennessee in formation of a new Confederate state; to separate the Purchase from Kentucky and seek annexation to Tennessee; or to maintain a "watchful wait" until a later date, when circumstances would surely demand the secession of the entire state and its admission - on a permanent, not provisional, basis - into the Confederacy.

Official notification of this meeting (held on the courthouse lawn because of the over-flow crowd) reached President Lincoln in a message from General George MacClellan's headquarters in Louisville. Dated May 30, the dispatch read in part

...a very delicate question is arising as to western Kentucky, that portion west of the Tennessee River... a convention is now being held at Mayfield which may declare the Jackson Position (*sic.*) separate from Kentucky and its annexation to Tennessee....

It turned out, however, that this was one "delicate question" the new President was not forced to confront. The Mayfield Convention - led by such strong states' rights men as ex-Congressman Burnett, Graves County State Legislator A.R. Boone and Colonel Lloyd Tilghman - failed to reach a consensus, amid an all-night debate and a flurry of majority and minority reports.

If political indecision prevented the outright secession of the Purchase, her sons left little doubt of their intent to "secede" individually by enlisting in Confederate units being organized during the summer and fall of 1861. Many of these found their way to Camp Boone, near Clarksville, Tennessee, where they began their military careers. Others joined nearer home, especially at Columbus. An estimated 5,000 volunteers ultimately became members of approximately 30 companies raised in the region. Most of these eventually were placed under General Nathan B. Forrest (particularly the 3rd, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky Regiments), while others who joined the 2nd Kentucky Regiment fought in the famed Kentucky "Orphan Brigade".

While Johnny Rebs were filling Southern ranks, the Unionists of the Purchase, though out-numbered, responded to the Northern call by enlisting primarily in the 15th and 16th Kentucky Regiments. An estimated 600 Billy Yanks from the Purchase counties filled eight companies raised mostly in late 1862. These were deployed in scouting operations in the Green River section, and later as pursuit troops on the trail of General John Hunt Morgan and finally as units of the Army under General Sherman in Georgia.

As summer turned to autumn in 1861, military activity in the Purchase accelerated swiftly. The river-bounded region became a strategic borderland between Blue forces gathering at Cairo, Illinois, and a Gray army collecting just south of the Tennessee state line. The value of the great river systems of the Purchase as an invasion route to the Southern heartland was not lost on Union officers - principally General U.S. Grant - in Cairo. . . to aggressively resist such invasion was the Southern plan, as fortifications were built and manned along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers just below the Kentucky border.

During the first week of September, Confederate forces moved from Tennessee to occupy Hickman and Columbus on the Mississippi, to the great delight of citizens of these communities and to the consternation of Union headquarters in Cairo. Realizing the need for immediate action, Grant moved several of his regiments up the Ohio and occupied Paducah, to the apprehension of many of that city's residents. When Grant returned to Cairo, he left in command of the Paducah garrison General Eleazer A. Paine - a name that many citizens of the Purchase would find difficult to forget.

With the occupation of points along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers by opposing armies, Kentucky's neutrality - if it ever really existed - was over. The Purchase had become a major theater of operations.

As a part of the Confederate defense line that now extended from Bowling Green westward to Columbus, two additional sites joined Forts Henry and Donelson - Fort Heiman in Calloway County on the Tennessee River and Camp Beauregard in southwest Graves County. By mid-October, 1861, more than 5,000 troops from seven Confederate states were in training at the latter place, but their combat skills were never tested. Scouting parties of Union Cavalry from Paducah twice approached the encampment, but their missions were for reconaissance only and no attacks were delivered.

The battle waged by Camp Beauregard's soldiers, instead, was against disease, a mysterious malady that virtually destroyed the camp during the severe winter of 1861-1862. Few soldiers survived the epidemic and mass burials were not uncommon. A handsome monument erected on the spot in 1920 tells of the sacrifice there of soldiers "who were denied the glory of heroic service in battle".

As General Polk directed the establishment of Camp Beauregard from Columbus, his adversary in Cairo, General Grant, had set up two outposts not far downriver from that Union headquarters sites, Fort Jefferson and Camp Holt, were situated on the Mississippi in Ballard County.

When the Yankees arrived in that far west county, many of Ballard's sons had already been mustered into Rebel service and sent to Bowling Green, a key Confederate command post. Among these was a youth who had left his Lovelaceville home to enlist in the 3rd Kentucky, and in mid-October, 1861, Private W.H. Woodard took his "pen in hand" to relate his army life impressions to his friends back home. He wrote that;

We are all at Bowling Green, Ky., we have been here for some time, we left Camp Boone on the 15th of September. I am in a bad condition here, I have neither cloths (sic.) or money and the weather is getting cold. I am here about 250 miles from home and not a coat on my back. They say when Col. Tilghman comes back that we will get our money and clothing . . . I can tell you, this soldiering business is a very hard life. We are now expecting to be in battle before very long and I do wish they would fight it out and be done with it so we could get to come home. There is about fifteen thousand Southerners around Bowling Green and if they would just go at it, we could whip them out in a little time.

Back in the Purchase, 1861 ended and 1862 began with a series of diversionary movements, reconaissance expeditions, marches and counter-marches by both Blue and Gray, from their Cairo-Paducah and Columbus headquarters. Strongly fortified Rebels at Columbus used the terrain, artillery emplacements and a huge river-blocking chain to good advantage in resisting Yankee assaults. Combat experience was provided these Columbus-based soldiers, however, when several units crossed the Mississippi to attack a Union encampment at Belmont, Missouri. This "baptism of fire" for many men in both armies led to the withdrawal of Union forces from the Belmont site.

Northern strategy in early 1862 targeted Forts Henry and Donelson rather than Columbus; however, while Grant formulated plans for the coming strike on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, he maintained pressure on the Columbus fortification by feints against Polk's forces in the "Gibraltar of the West."

By mid-February, 1862, Grant was prepared to begin his offensive. In a brief campaign, his land-and-naval tactics reduced the Rebel forts and the waterways into the Tennessee and Cumberland Valleys were open to invasion. This Confederate collapse resulted in the evacuation of Rebel positions in south central

and western Kentucky, a withdrawal that ended organized Confederate occupation of Kentucky's most Confederate section. With this departure, Union control became complete.

The Federal District of Western Kentucky, headquartered at Paducah, was administered by a succession of officers until the end of the war. Some, as General C.F. Smith and General Solomon Meredith, dealt with the residents fairly and even generously; others, particularly the above-mentioned General E.A. Paine, aroused deep hostility throughout the District.

An extremely troublesome problem arose in western Kentucky (as in many other areas) after 1862, and continued to some degree until Appomattox. This was guerrilla warfare, and it brought great tragedy to many innocent victims on the home front. Capitalizing on the instability and insecurity that existed everywhere, these bands roamed the countryside attacking defenseless civilians almost at will. Plunder rather than principle guided their actions. Raids by these outlaws took their toll in burned or sacked homes, stolen or wantonly destroyed property, bodily injuries and - not infrequently - death.

While neither government officially condoned guerrilla activity, it is true that both Washington and Richmond took actions during the latter war years that seemed to legitimize guerrilla tactics.

In a communication to Confederate Secretary of War John Breckinridge in early 1865, General Forrest (whose command now included many Purchase soldiers) condemned the government's policy of sending independent units far behind enemy lines - as in west Kentucky and Tennessee - to recruit troops. So long as they can remain at home, Forrest wrote, the recruits were willing to stand fast; but when orders come for them to move south, they

have deserted and attached themselves to roving bands of guerrillas, jayhawkers and plunderers . . . the authority given to would-be colonels and by them delegated to would-be captains and lieutenants, have created squads of men who are dodging from pillar to post, preying upon the people, robbing them of their horses and other property to the manifest injury to the country and our cause. . . they report to nobody, they never organize, and are responsible to no one and exist by plunder and robbery.

On the other hand, some Federal quasi-military units that had been formed to curb guerrilla raiders followed these patterns themselves. This behavior embarrassed the Union government, inasmuch as some stringent Union military policies aimed at ending guerrilla threats seemed based on the assumption that the words "guerrilla" and "Rebel" were interchangeable.

At any rate, Kentucky's military ruler, General Stephen Burbridge, declared in September, 1864, that he had been

...pained to hear that in various portions of this command squads of Federal soldiers and companies were styling themselves "State Guards", "Home Guards" "Independent Companies" are roving over the country committing outrages on peaceable citizens, seizing without authority their horses and other property, insulting and otherwise maltreating them. . . that anyone armed in the cause of the Union and law should engage in robbing and plundering defenseless citizens is humiliating in the extreme.

The targets of guerrilla attackers often suggested the side with which they were allied. In Graves County, for example, bushwhackers dragged a prominent Unionist, J.B. Happy, from his home and murdered him before the horrified gaze of his family. In another Graves County incident, a guerrilla band raided the home of a Confederate soldier, William Cargill. After hanging the soldier's father and leaving him for dead, the raiders

went further down the road east of Mayfield with Bill Cargill, a sick soldier home on furlough whom they had taken from his bed and shot him. They then threatened death to anyone who moved him.

January, 1864, newspapers in Chicago carried accounts from Cairo of a military expedition in south Graves County aimed at curbing guerrilla warfare in that section. One article stated that

It appears that the citizens of Mayfield, Ky., and the surrounding country are nearly all of them strongly secesh and they have been in the habit of secreting guerrillas and bushwhackers. Hence, scouting parties of the 58th Illinois were sent out daily a distance of eighteen or twenty miles from Mayfield with orders to arrest and bring in all suspicious characters. Some forty or fifty rebel guerrillas, robbers, thieves and murderers have been sent to Columbus as a result of these reconnoissances.

Owensboro's Unionist newspaper, the Monitor, printed in February, 1864, the guerrilla activity had reached alarming proportions in Marshall County - by no means a Union stronghold. This article reported, in part, that

Guerrillas are committing depredations on Union men in Marshall County. They traverse the county in small squads, numbering from five to forty, robbing and plundering when-

ever they can find property of value and unprotected. They have stolen the best horses in the county belonging to Union men...their number is increasing...they rely on the aid and encouragement of their rebel friends who give them shelter and information.

Guerrilla operations in Fulton County also caused concern to Union officers in that part of the District in 1864, when a detachment of Federal troops set out to capture one Joseph Malady, described as a "notorious guerrilla". The search proved fruitless, but as the Yanks began their return to their Island Number Ten garrison, they were ambushed by an estimated 75 to 125 guerrillas. These "irregulars" had infested the vicinity of the M&O Railroad south of Columbus and had interfered with Union shipping by river and rail. All this led the Union commander at Columbus, General Alexander Asboth, to order that all families living nearest the scene of a guerrilla action be arrested and held hostage until the raiders had been captured.

Semantics aside, the fact is inescapable that guerrilla warfare, whether overtly or covertly aided by one government or the other - or by neither - became one of the conflict's most devastating chapters in the Purchase.

When Confederate prisoner of war J.R. Hurt learned of guerrilla activity in his Graves County neighborhood, he wrote to his mother from Fort Delaware in May, 1864:

I am sorry to hear that our country is infested with robbers and thieves. Please state, in your next letter, the names of those two robbers that went to Pa's and done (sic.) the mischief, if you know them. I may meet them hereafter.

Despite all efforts to control or end guerrilla fighting, it remained a real threat until the end of the War.

The troop movement that stirred the greatest excitement in the Purchase during Easter week, 1864, was not a guerrilla gang seeking loot, however. Instead, it was a homecoming for the Kentucky Brigade under General Forrest, as these veterans found themselves on native soil for the first time after nearly three years of combat in distant places. Now, the mounted infantrymen of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Regiments moved swiftly from west Tennessee to Mayfield, where the army bivouaced on March 24. For relatives, friends, and neighbors of the troops, the sight of the gray-clad horsemen produced unrestrained joy.

After a several-hours' battle on March 25 in Paducah, Forrest re-traced his route to Mayfield where he again pitched camp. Here he granted brief furloughs to his west Kentuckians, who departed immediately for long-awaited reunions.

Nearly two weeks later, a part of Forrest's command under General Abe Buford returned to Paducah to capture more horses, mules and supplies that had been stockpiled there by the Federals. In neither raid, however, was the Union Fort Anderson reduced by the charging Confederates. But Forrest had not seen the last of west Kentucky - and the Purchase had not seen the last of "old Bedford".

When "that devil Forrest" (as General William Sherman called him) returned a final time to the area in October, 1864, he directed perhaps the most unusual of all tactical operations of the War. Here, the cavalry general turned admiral, and a fairly successful one. Occupying the site of old Fort Heiman in southeast Calloway County, Forrest placed his guns on ridges above the Tennessee River and proceeded to open fire on Union transports moving supplies up the river, bound ultimately for Sherman's army in Georgia. The steamer Mazeppa provided the first target on October 29: within the following seven days, Rebel guns at Heiman and at Johnsonville (in Tennessee, not far away) had destroyed or disabled four gunboats, 14 steamers, 20 barges and had captured vast amounts of supplies ranging from bread to blankets to brass howitzers, having a total value of more than six million dollars. Certainly, the "Forrest Navy" - as the captured enemy vessels were labeled - provided an unusual scene at Fort Heiman, and at Johnsonville and Paris Landing a little distance upriver. The campaign ended in early November, and Confederates withdrew from the area for the final time.

Meanwhile, the Rebel activity stirred General Solomon Meredith, Union Commander at Paducah, to a frenzy of activity. Obsessed with the thought of another Forrest attack on Paducah or Mayfield, he frantically called upon every commander he could reach seeking reinforcements. His fears were unfounded, however, as Forrest's men - mounted again - were on their way south.

As the "Forrest threat" disappeared, though, other problems surfaced to trouble the Federal command in the Purchase. By mid-1864, guerrillas swarmed everywhere...with the active assistance of local Rebels, so the Yankees claimed. Trade rules that were to halt shipments of goods from the Purchase to the Confederacy were freely violated. According to the Union League in Paducah, "rebels are reaping all the advantages of trade". In addition, the rebellious west Kentuckians had refused to reform or recant and remained as secessionist as ever. Despite the election of Unionist Lucian Anderson (a friend of Lincoln's) of Mayfield to the Congress in 1863, the vast majority of Purchase voters- if and when they could ALL vote without military interference would almost certainly reject Mr. Lincoln again. This they did in November, 1864, although large numbers of potential Democrat voters were then in Confederate military service.

Perhaps one explanation of the anti-Unionist sentiment expressed in the Presidential election was the violent behavior of General Eleazer A. Paine, who

assumed command of the Western Kentucky District in July, 1864. Angry and frustrated by their apparent failure to overcome "rebel thought and action", area Unionist leaders pleaded with Washington to assign Paine to the Paducah garrison. Then, they confidently predicted, the "secret Southern sympathizers and traitors would receive their just due". The Union League petition was heard, and on July 19, 1864, General Paine returned to Paducah for the third time. He immediately began what Collins' History of Kentucky described as a "fifty-one days' reign of violence, terror, rapine, extortion and military murder".

The officer who directed the "Reign of Terror" in Western Kentucky was born in Ohio in 1815, was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1839, and spent a brief period of duty in Florida. He soon thereafter resigned his commission and returned to Ohio to practice law. Later, Paine moved to Illinois, where he combined his legal practice with politics and was elected to a term in the Illinois Legislature in the 1850s. Upon the outbreak of war, Paine organized the Ninth Illinois Volunteer Regiment and became its Colonel. Two months later, he was promoted to Brigadier-General.

On his first tour of duty in Paducah (in November, 1861), Paine received a strong reprimand from his superior, General C.F. Smith who, referring to a Paine-led march into Ballard County, wrote:

...reports of the most painful character have reached the Commanding General in regard to the conduct of troops recently marched to Milburn under command of Brigadier General E.A. Paine... the imputations are of the most discreditable, most disgraceful, character to them as soldiers or citizens. In returning, several regiments straggled home in parties without semblance of military array, a mere armed mob... property of citizens wantonly destroyed and... robbery by violence committed.

General Paine was later assigned to command the garrison at Gallatin, Tennessee. Here, his administration led to an exchange of messages between two superior officers, Generals Grant and Thomas. Grant inquired of Thomas:

Can you not order General Paine to the command of a Brigade at the front? He is entirely unfit to command a post... if nothing better can be done, I advise you send a staff officer to investigate fully and report on his administration.

To this request, Thomas' reply was immediate:

I do not think it advisable for General Paine to come to front... his rank will entitle him to a Division, and if not placed

in command according to rank, I should have constant trouble with him.

Western Kentucky was evidently considered a suitable assignment for a General whose presence was not believed to be vital for victory. So, the General returned a second time to Paducah. During this tenure, Paine concluded that the source of many problems in the region lay with its Jewish population, which he believed had sheltered "rebels and guerrillas". He convinced General Grant of this view, with the result being the deportation of thirty Jewish families from the city to Cincinnati. Following vigorous protests to President Lincoln, Grant's deportation order was revoked, the exiles returned, and Paine's influence was considerably diminished. Not long afterward, he received another assignment.

Such was the background of the officer who arrived in west Kentucky for a third time in July, 1864, determined to "seek vengeance for all the blasted hopes of the Federals in west Kentucky", according to Prof. Merton Coulter in his Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky.

The punishment-prone General began his third west Kentucky tour by levying a special tax of \$100,000 on the District, nominally to benefit families of the region's Federal soldiers. For some reason, General Paine felt that McCracken County should provide even more revenue; therefore he assessed its citizens an additional \$95,000 above and beyond the "widows and orphans tax". Property of those failing to pay was confiscated. Paine also imposed a payment of \$10 on every hogshead of tobacco and a 25% ad valorem duty on all cotton shipped from the District by anyone "not an unconditional Union man".

The General interfered with banking practices by requiring military clearance of all checks presented for cashing, and the subsequent payment of fifty cents for each check approved. Nor did Paine's own soldiers escape his greedy hand: an extra postage charge of 10¢ to 50¢ per letter was made on soldiers' mail leaving Paducah.

Only those persons who had been approved by the District Commander were permitted to conduct individual business, and such permits were granted in an arbitrary manner. The General seized rents on all property not owned by "unconditional Union men". He ordered private homes in Paducah and Mayfield searched, and did not hesitate to take personal belongings of those he suspected of Rebel sympathy.

Just how strongly the taxpayer and/or property owner loved the Union was a judgement that only the General made. Many who suffered commercial and financial loss were anti-Paine more than they were anti-Union. In fact, later investigation revealed that "some of the most loyal were assessed large sums...some of the heaviest losers in Rebel depredations were among those most heavily taxed".

These were some examples of Paine's assaults against property far worse were those occasions when, by his order, crimes against persons were committed. Deportation and death abounded in mid-1864. Reminiscent of his earlier efforts to exile Paducah Jews, Paine had been in charge in west Kentucky for less than a month when twenty three prominent Purchase residents had been banished to Canada by his decree. Upon their arrest and deportation, their property was taken and their goods seized by the military.

General Paine's speech was no less harsh than his actions. Later investigation disclosed that his "usage of gentlemen was brutal in the extreme" and that he delighted in threatening both men and women by shouting, "You are a ___ scoundrel; I'll dig a hole and shoot you and put you in it!" Such warnings were not to be taken lightly, as records show that an estimated forty-three victims fell before firing squads during the fifty-one day "reign of terror". In some cases - five in Mayfield alone - executions were carried out without hearing or trial.

In the Union garrison at Columbus, Paine's fellow officer, General Henry Prince, viewed the former's actions with undisguised contempt. In a letter to General Grant dated August 16, Prince denounced Paine's policy by charging that it

...propagates a new reign of terror by means of soldiers and hired assassins and unsettles every nook of society... I beg leave to add my protest against them in the name of God and of all my countrymen who respect the rights of mankind.

About midway in his tour, General Paine ordered the construction of deep trenchworks around the courthouse in Mayfield. Excavation was done by a conscript labor force, almost all of whom were known or suspected Rebel sympathizers. Closely guarded by garrison troops, the drafted laborers were compelled to perform hard manual work removing dirt to fortify the courthouse, now used as command post and troop barracks for the Illinois regiment stationed there. Several sworn statements later described the trenches as sufficiently wide to accommodate a team of oxen.

In an article published many years later in the Mayfield Messenger, this phase of Paine's punishment program was recalled, as follows:

Pioneer citizens, relating stories of the War Between the States, vividly recall when Mayfield citizens were forced at the point of bayonets to build breastworks around the court square for the invading soldiers. It was during the occupation of Mayfield by General E.A. Paine, Yankee general cordially hated by the civilian populace under his jurisdiction. . . during Mayfield's memorable ordeal, the citizens,

young and old, were conscripted to dig the ditches... horses, mules and oxen and machinery, wagons and tools were taken from the people and used in the construction.

According to one survivor of the labor force, Robert Wright of Mayfield, some wealthy farmers purchased exemption from work by paying \$50 to \$300 into the "Yankee Treasury". Neither age nor physical condition released one from the work, however. Mr. Wright was 16 years of age when he was brought from his home near Clear Springs (Graves County) and put to work.

Such a state of affairs could not last indefinitely, even in war time. The administration of the brutal General ended when an investigating group of Union officers appointed by General Burgridge arrived in Paducah to examine all aspects of Paine's regime. At this point, the General fled to Illinois, and the inquiry proceeded without him. Sufficient evidence was soon collected to justify the finding that the "administration of...Warren Hastings may be safely challenged to show parallel to the fifty-one days of terror...of General Paine's authority". The General and seven associates were charged with a lengthy list of infamous deeds. A few days after the investigation's completion, Purchase residents heard joyful news Paine had been relieved of command! After a further probe by the United States Senate a few months later, the General was directed to stand trial in military court on a number of counts including "the malfeasance of office, extortion, and oppression and murder". The results of the court martial, however, were deeply disappointing to many in the Purchase. Not until November, 1865, did they learn that many of the most serious charges had been dismissed, while mild reprimands constituted the "punishment" in other cases.

Whatever the court believed about the defendant and his case, it is certain that many Purchase citizens agreed heartily with the Rebel soldier whose toast to the General proclaimed

There is a land of pure delight
Where saints immortal reign,
A land prepared for black and white,
But not for General Paine.

Upon General Paine's departure from Paducah, his command was assumed by General Solomon Meredith, the antithesis of Paine in every respect. He emptied the jails in Paducah and Mayfield of political prisoners (fifty-one were confined at that time in the latter place); he abandoned the "courthouse fort" at Mayfield and had his troops to erect a barricade in the west part of that town; and, most importantly, he put an immediate stop to theft, conscript labor and executions.

Although guerrilla bands remained active throughout the Purchase, and General Forrest would make his last trip to Fort Heiman in October, the tempo

of the war in the Purchase was gradually slowing. By Christmas week, 1864, the region had become relatively quiet, its main contact with the conflict now coming mostly from soldiers' letters - and the dread casualty lists from Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas.

In one such late 1864 letter, Confederate infantryman George Whitt Hurt, writing to his Graves County family from the Georgia front, observed that in his Orphan Brigade command that

Some have poured out blood as precious and free as any
Brigade in the Army, and now our ranks are decimated...
When this regiment left Camp Boone it numbered over
1000 men. Now we have less than 100. Remember that
when the Second Regiment of the Kentucky Brigade
marches to battle, her colors will ever unfurl to the breeze
and will never be lowered only in peace or death.

But in only a few months, the "decimated ranks" of Confederates everywhere would bring surrender. And as units from the Purchase were demobilized, their survivors drifted home to west Kentucky, both those who had worn the Gray and those who had chosen the Blue.

The Civil War had exposed the people of the Jackson Purchase to experiences unlike those of any earlier generation. The political crises of 1861, the destruction left by guerrilla raiders, the brutally oppressive "reign of terror" under Paine, the economic reverse of the war years . . . all these had constituted their trials. Worst of all, hundreds of young men did not return to the region to which they might have contributed so much.

With all its tragedy, however, the Civil War proved a bitter and costly "growing pain" for the Purchase no less than for the Nation. For in its suffering, new strength was found and in its sacrifice, new maturity was gained.

After all, Eliza's storm had finally ended, and days of recovery lay ahead.