Judge Advocate General's Office Secretary of War I have the honor to transmit for your consideration, the accompanying depositions of: Corporal William Fittenger, Gold 2. Regt thield Private Sacob Parret, Go. G. 33 Regt Chie Vels. Finale Robert Buffum, be. H. 21: Regt. Che. Vels Corporal William Reddick Go. B. 33. Regt the Volst Private William Bensinger be & 21th Regt Chie Vels. laxon at this office on the 24th inst in compliance with your written instructions; from which the following facts will appear: These noncommissioned officers and privates belonged to an expedition, set on foot in april 1862, at the suggestion of Mer. J. J. Undrews, a citizen of Kentucky, who led it, and under the authority and derection of General ( Me Mitchell, the object of which was to distry the communications on the Georgia State Rail Road between Allanta and Chattanorga. The mode of operation proposed was to reach. a point on the road, where they could seize an engine and train of ears, and then dashback in the direction of Chattancega, culting

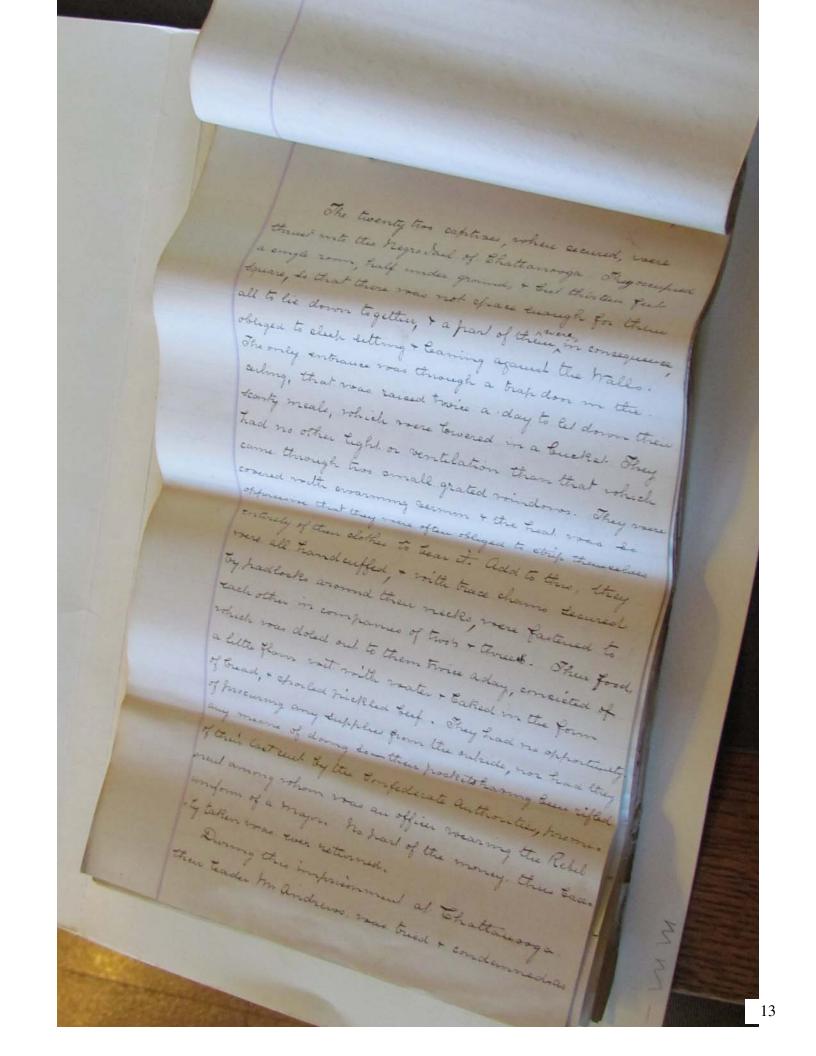
the teligraph wires, and burning the bridges behind them, as they advanced, until they reached their own lines. The expedition co of twenty four men, who, with the exception of its leader Mr andrews Xauother citizen of Kentucky - who acted on the occasion as the substitute of a soldier had been selected from the diff. went companies for their Known courage and discretion. They were informed that the movem ent was to be a secret one, and they doubtless comprehended something of its pevils, but they knew nothing of its precise direction or object. They however, voluntarily engaged in it, and made their way, in parties of two and three, in citizens dress, and carrying only their side arms, to Chattanooga, the point of rendezvous agreed upon, where twenty two out of the twenty four, arrived safely. Here they took passage, without attracting observation, for Marietta, which they reached at 12 oblock on the night of the 11th april. The following merning they took the cars back again in the direction of Chattanorga, and at a place called Fig Shants while the engineer and passengers were breakfasting, they detached the engine and three ben cars from the train, and started at full speed for Chattanaga. They were now upon the field of the penteus operations proposed by the expedition but sudd

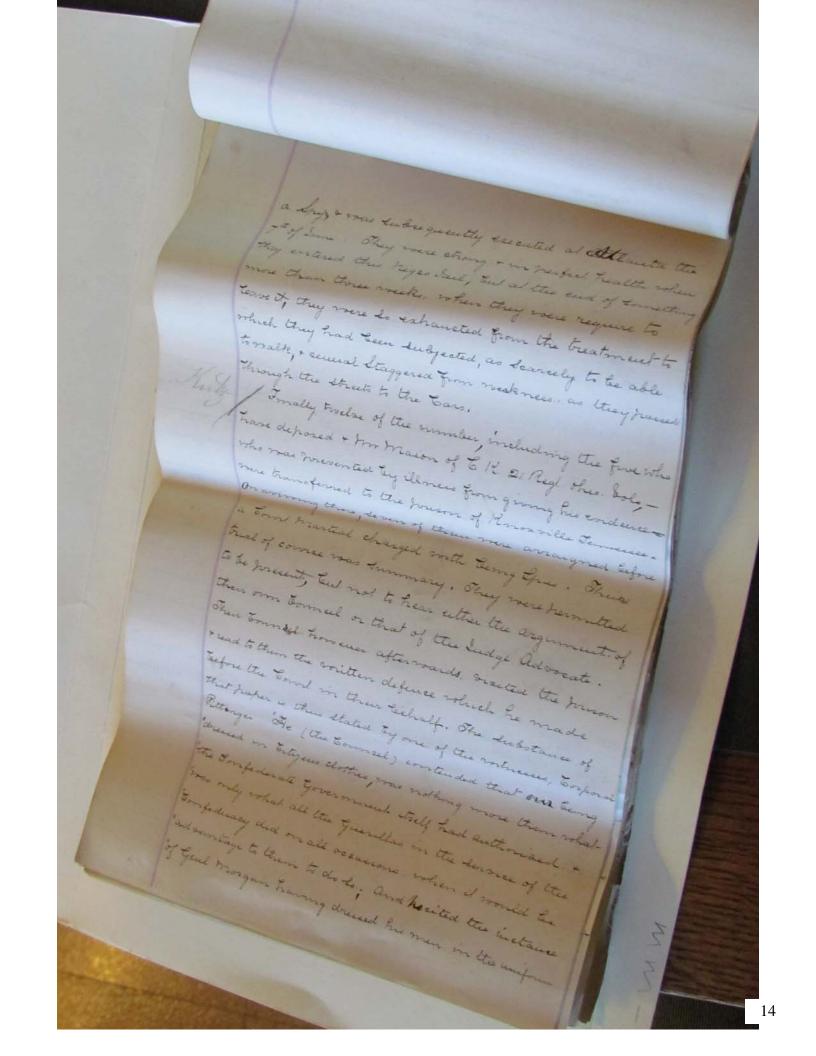
ent encountered unforessen obstibles. Hearden In the schedule of the road of which Mr Andrews had possessed himself, they should have met but a single train on that day, whereas they met three, two of them being engaged on extraordinary service. More than an hour was lost, in waiting to allow these trains to pass, which enabled their pursuers to press closely when them. They remend rails, three out obstructions on the road, and cut the wires from time to time, and attained when in motion a speed of sixty miles an hour, but the time lost could not be regained after having run about 100 miles, they found their supply of wood, water and oil enhousted, while the rebel engine which had been chasing them. was in sight. Under these circumstances, they had nealternative, but to abandon their cars, and fly to the woods, which they did, under the direction of Mr Undrews, each one endeavering to save himself as best he might. The expedition their facled, from causes which reflected neither when the genius by which it was planned nor upon the intrepedity and discretion of those engaged in conducting it. But for the accident of meeting the extra trainswhich could not have been anticipated the movement would have been a complete success, and the whole aspect of the War in

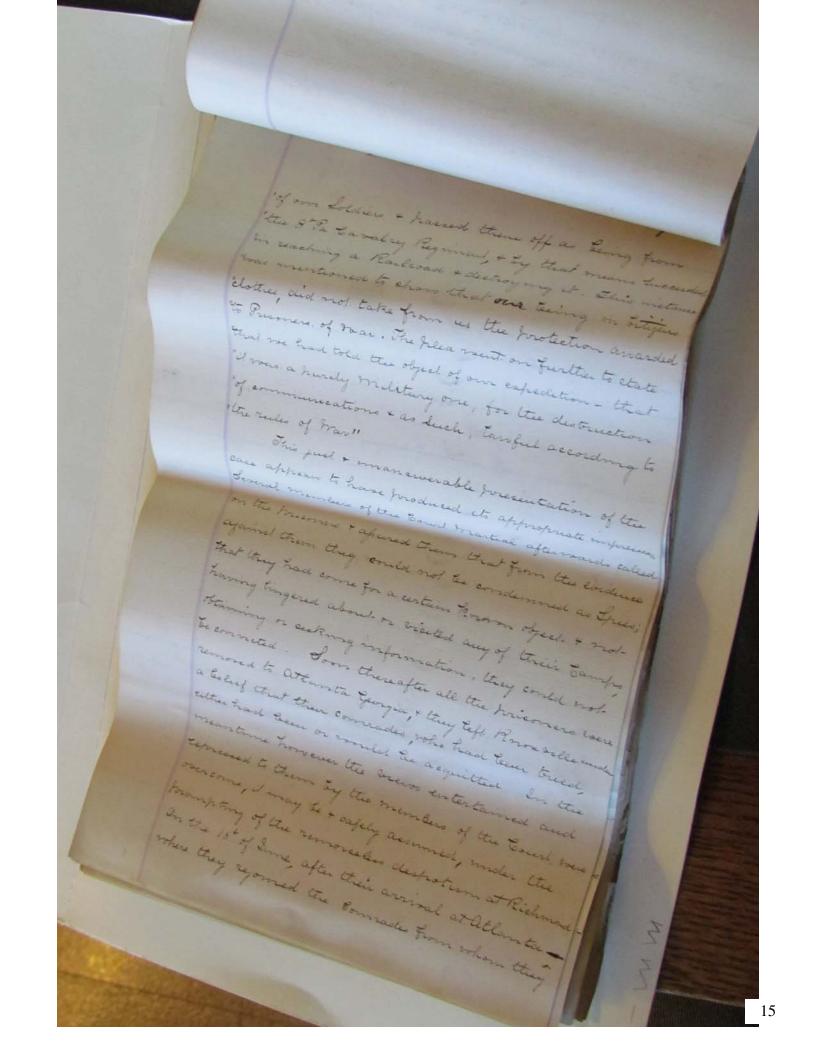
the south and senthwest would have been once changed. The expedition itself in the daring of its conception, had the wilder fa somance, while in the gigantic and over whelming results, which it sought and was likely to accomplish, it was absolutely sublime. The estimate of its character entertained in the south will be found fully expressed in an editorial from the Southern benfederacy. a preminent rebel Sournal - under date of the 13 " Upril, and which is appended to and adopted as a part of Mr Wittenger's deposition. The Editor says: "The mind and heart shrink back appalled at the bare cent emplation of the auful consequences which would have fellowed the success of this one act. "The doubt if the victory of Manassas or Cerinth were worth as much to us as the prestration of this grand coupe clat. It is not by any means certain that the connibelation of Beauregards whole army at beginth would be se fatal a blow the us as would have been the burning of the bridges at that time by these men? Se sem as those comprains the expedition had life the cars, and dispersed themselves in the woods, the population of the country around. hand out in their persuit employing for his purpose the dego which are trained to

to hunt down the fugitive slaves of the south. The whole twenty her were captured. Amen freeal chart Ford & to it, 33 That this tels when arrested, he, was without any form of trial, taken possession of by a military Hier, and four soldiers who stripped him, bent him over a stone, and while two fistels were held over his head, a lieutenant in rebel uniform inflicted, with a raw hide upwards of a hundred lashes on his bare back. This was dene in the presence of an infurialed crowd who clamened for his blood, and actually bone ight a rope with which to hang him. The object of this finlinged securging was to farce this young man to confess to them the objects of the expedition and the names of his commands ispecially that of the engineer who had men the train. Their purpose was no doubt not ent to take the life of the latter, if identified, but he de se with every circumstance of humili ation and tartier which they could devise. Three lines in the forgress gother harstle flegging it was suspended and illr Barret. was asked if he would not confess; but stante and firmly to the last he refused all disclar and it was not till his termenters were way of their hutal west, that the task of Julitaing their victim, was abandoned as

hopeless. This youth is an orphan without father a mother, and without any of the achanlage of education Seen often the relation brokerit, though but eighteen years of age. he left his trade, and threw himself into the ranks of our armies as a volunteer, and now though still suffering from the outrages comm itted on his person in the south, he is on his way to rejoin his regiment, seeming to love his country only the more for all that he has endured in its defence. His subdued and modest manner while narrating the fart he had berne in this expedition. Showed him to be wholly inconsecous of having done and thing were then perform his simple duty as a seldier. Such sparten fortitude and such fidelity to the trust of friendship and to the inspirations of featrictism, descrive an enduring record in the archives of the gonomment, and will find one, dam sure, in the hearts of a legal people. of their last each by the confederate authorities, brown mend among rotion was an officer meaning the Robel notom of a major. ho hard of the money there same During the inferiormed at Ehattawaya their teader I'm andrews were tried & condern

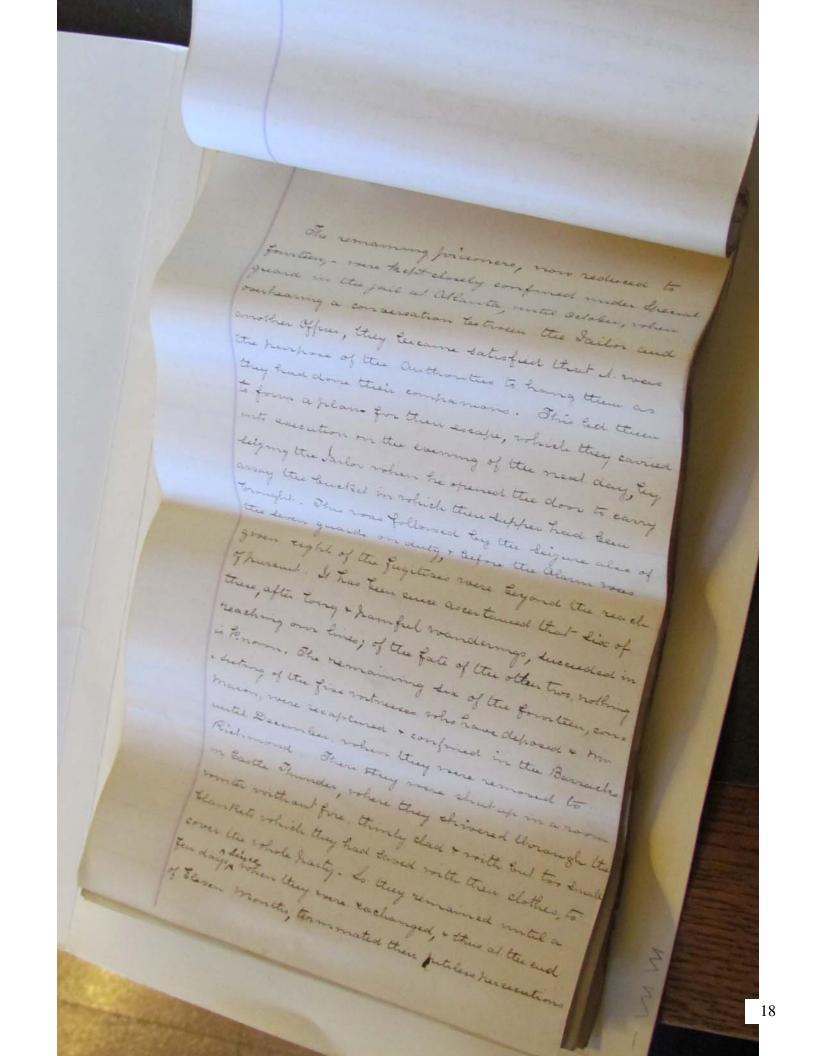






had been deparaled at Thatta norga-their to time for governanation were told to lead their friends favernell "amol to les quela about to. They were at once tred a carried out to execution. among the Leven, was primate Lamuel Robinson 60 g 33rd ofus Este, who was to ell to walke The mas, however, himomed like the real, & in this condition, was dragged from the floor on which he was lying to the Scaffold. In an hour or more + Earnaby tocord, which had accompa was emply the tragedy had been consummated On that evening a the following mount The priconers Earned from the Provost marchal & quard, that their commades had died as all true Loldier of the Republic Should die, in the presence of its Enemies. among the resolving incidents which they mentioned in connection mutte the Emparally Saulchery was the fall of Two of the wieter From the Eneaking of the ropegater they had Rear for Sometime auchemoled. On their Genny restried to consciononces, they begged for an home in which 5 Jonay . to prepare for death, End the mes refuse Tung the ropes were readjusted a the execution among those who then hered

vous Private alfred Wilson to E 21st olice bols the mas a muchanic from omcumate, who sums, in the exercise of his trade, Each much through the States Bouth & Courth . had a greatness of Loud, which intensely Lympas three with our Struggle for trational Eife, and was in that dark home filled with joyans com trong of our final trumple, Though Lurramoled They a dearting crowd impatient for his facular, he did not heretate while standing under the spellows to make them a brief adobres. The told that though they were all arrang he has hostile feelings to ward the Low them heaple Lehening that not they but their leader mere rec possede for the rebellion; that he was no Try as charged, but a Soldier regularly delailed for military duty; that he said clid not regret to Jet to die for his Country, End only regretted the marmer of his cleater, & he added for their admonition, that they would get be the time, when the old Umon would be restored, and when to its glag would war over them aga and with these voords, the brane men died. The sike the commander, calmaly med the ignorman down of a felow - but trappely if nominion for for them, only to far as the martyra of the hatrest the can be degraded by the and ruffians + tractors. 17



in the horizons of the Southenpersecutions tegame continued, amid endeginties + duffering had , to of atrocities on the track of their brailton for, which illustrate for more faithfully than a Immon language could express I, the demaniae Spiral of a revoll- every though of whose lefe is a crime against the very race to which we belong John Obedient Servant Ludge advocate of weed 19

depositions of Corporal William Pettinger Co. G. 2d Reg. Opio Private Robert Buffum, Co. H. 38d Reg. White Corporal William Reddick, Co. B. 38d Reg. " whenter and Private Irm Bensinger, Co. G. 21st Reg. " Judge Advocate General of the in the city of Washington, On the 24th of March, 1863, Before M. Callan, Justice of the Paper United compliance with the Secretary of War.

Corporal William Pettinger was duly more the military service? I am a Corporal in Co. G. Lecond regt. 2. - Will you state whether you belonged to the bear of my mitted out in the spring of 1862 by Gen C. M. Mitchell, for operations in the Hate of Georgia? Oleane state the character of that expedition, the unwhen of men engaged in it, its ofe. Mitchell and Mrs of flamed between Gen, government him at the severet service of the government. hun Andrews asker for a detail the brigade then commanded by Col, regiments of whether 24 men, only 22 ments of the Georgia the lines. The special of the lines of the communications and Chattaning a tracked the communications on the sections of the sect and Chattemorga, by huming the bridges, and a train of cash, at a place where there

could be no other engine and train of can to puroue us, and to new whead, cutting lived. Gen mitchell at that time was moving on Huntarille, and it was suffered that he until be there as soon as we could reach there. we started in citizens clother; we were ordered to dress in citizens clothes, amed with ride and in Equado of three or four, to meet at the fraction white meet at that military frace there most prickets or afforition in the meet at there has prickets or afforition in the many there are nothing but camps on large motion, for new reamity in war comments of the country. From Chattanorya he proceeds there on the night of the 11th of amired amired Chattanorya hack again from marietta towards while the papengers, the engineer and conductor he detached the engineer and conductor he detached the engineer and instruction, for new reamity in that teation here at treatfast, we engineer and consumer the box cars from the detached the engine and that the train and thated. There bus he care from the train and started. There beader of the expedition, had a schedule we had a schedule the had 22

but me train to pape, who station but distance from where we explored the transfer efter that we intended to may the Unfortunately however, that morning for the expedition, front time, two other additional trains had been put on the road, making three that and at considerable intervals, we were obliged 4. towait at one station for twenty-five nimetes; and at the second we had to wait; and we were also delayed waiting for the third third the third the from behind; and we had no time to accomplish the object of the expedition. We attempted to delay the pursuit by taking up that the rails; but they had prethought enough were within from pain, we proceeded until we chattenwage when he got out of more miles and the pursuing train was a close and more, more, and we had not time a take in any, more, and we therefore abandoned the trine, Cur leader, him Andrews told no. conselves if we could. We were immediately

whole population. The dogs that they supleyed to hunt their negroes, and puroued us. Lone of our party were taken that day, and some on the next day; two were not taken until three weeks afterwards, but all were finally captured. The party consisted of twenty M. of. Foldiers, one citizen of Kentraky, who was on a 2. If another soldier and her. Andrews, our leader.

All was a citizen in the employed in the secret terrice of the gerenament improper the told he stated that he had visited Fort Donelson before it was captured. We were all 22 fins, taken to the fail, or valler the negre in a hower apartment or dungern of the ground, about thirteen feel there ground, being only about thirteen feel typere, and with triple over eighteen windows in affirite with triple over eighteen in ches in drameter than the triple over eighteen in ches in drameter than the triple over of harry the best the triple of tr with triple rours of bars. The wentilation there

of the Black Hole of Calcutta there any this does when the first of our parts were toller there were other, min mere Same room. As others of our party were mined there in this taken and brought there, some of these himson were taken ont, until finally there were were blaced in brown I were barty. We were placed in brons; were handcuffed, and chained two and two with chaines. e chained two and woo were were think there were two parties of three coupled two. The trap door of the building, the only marks which were willing, the only meals, which were lowered to us in a bucket by a rope, twice a day. Own fare was nerry able to walk; although before, we had all weeks; and when we came out at the end of that time we were searcely able to well Some actually staggered along as their marched otherwo was tried before a Court martial souther was not swith, his repersion, Less sulince was not announced until we had

there. After we hat been conf Challenoga, and they transferred us fouth until ther found that Gen, mitchell did not intend to advance on Chattanova, when they brought us back. Por this time we had been port moder the charge of a captain, who interceded forms and procured no some little better quarters. We were allowed to recupy an when stone of the fail, a room of the fame instead of two. We smained there a few days of do not remember exactly how long, when twelve of us were taken to Knoxville, and the rémainder were kept in Chattanorea, d'unas. me of those who were sent to Knoxville. Thorthy after we had fine to knowille Mr. otherwood dentence was read in more accordance with that he was executed at the same of June, At Known tille some of our boys were put on trial trial cocupied, but a very short time. All the were allowed the privilese of employing of coursel. When our men Lemanded the 26

the Judge the plea of our our dhanded that privilese, and they refused him and said ther would not allow it - which, of course, amounted to a refusal for all Our lawyer, however, visited us, and read his plea to us. I suppose that it was the same which he read in Court; in which he contended that our being drefsed in citizens was nothing more than what the compet was only what all the guerillas in the tonice was only what all the guerillas in the source
it would be confederacy did on all occasions when
when the cited the instance of Gens Morrages
solliers, and paped them in the uniform of our
means oneceded in regiment, and from
thestroying it, this instance was ching a vailored and
they that our being drefted in citizens clother they that our being dreford in citizens clothes to state that we had told the plea went on further whealther that we had told the object of our further one, In the destruction of communication and as such, lawful a certaing to the rules

of war, what rophy the Juffe Aboverte to this he never had any means of their Court martial, however, visited us and told us that from the evidence against us we could not be convicted as spice; that is, we came for a certain, Known object, did not irout in their camps at any place, did not remain about them or seek to obtain any information of them and therefore we could not be convicted as spies Q., Thorthy afterwards, their transferred us twelve to chettanooga had been previously taken. After has been tried. If was at that time cutively unexpected to us, although at first it would not have been. Lentence of seath was read out any time for were immediately tied, with guick about it, and their here allowed their tied, with you about it, and their the were their; quick about it, and then there were taken quick about it, and then ther were later from the prison, and we could see them carely window in a wagon excerted by them. That evening to carely like air returned without them. That evening capt. Foreters, the asked

- his how our companion had met He told us, like have men. The new we conversed with the great who was quer us - with one in particular, who described the seeme of the execution, where he was present. He told no of the speech that one of those men, named wilson, from my regiment had made on the scaffold, and also told no that two of the heaviest men had broken the ropes when they were hanging, and fell to the found they afterwards revived and asked and they requested for an hour he prepare for death and to pray before the prepare and as soon as the whoen he present them and as soon as the ropes were adjusted, they were compelled to as cend the scaffeld again.

The grand told me that has wilson had were all in the wrong had told their would yet restored, and the flag from country would be restored, and the flag of own country would no had feeling towards the fourth would be fouthern people ho had feelings woman me somme their leading taken. He also said that although he had condemned as a spy, he was none, but was

a regularly detribed soldier, and died to hun out of the charge yourt tour - the supported the manner of his besti. That is the love all expected to share the Jame fate as our companions, be remained there confined very closely in the city fail. A special guard was on the 18th of June, until in October, we were all lifteen of us, left in the fame from the time of the excention from all the time a room not much former than the time a room not much were all the time a sorm not much larger than this the Judge Advocate Generals this fronteen surviving members of the expedition, and a Captain Force a federal officer to Kinoxielle with us and confined in the securest part of the hulding, the securest part of the hulding, the from companions in this expedition, here in the confidence of the secure of the secure of the field and the front companions in this expedition, here is the confederate authorities? I state all won to Confederate authorities? State all you them on the subject either from your own that

A. - That occurred before I was myself after leaving the train. Mr. Parot hinself gave me a complete name tive of the transaction were all taken after a time. In addition to his statement, I heard the statement of his companion, the man taken with him, and one of those subsequently executed, who told me substantially the same story that his Parret did - that him Parnt received over one hundred lashes to make him confeso the object of the expedition, the name of his companions and the trans - all furlish he refused to do of was said by the confederales that this flogging and whipped him - that was the expression ther used. Afterwards when we were going to medion, at the time when we were taken away from Chattaninga, a Confederate officer stopped and spoke & her. Parnt in my heaving and told him that he admired his courage and hardihood in repromy to confess under the was sorry that they had besten him so swerely on October, Cel. Lee, who was then

Broot marshal, having taken the place Jones Bornt Marshal, came to us aus the last he had received a letter from the faculting of war of the Confederacy, ingriring why we had not all been executed. Col Lee told is that he had replied that he was per smally unacquainted with the affair, but he repposed it was probable that there were some mitigating circumstances in our cases, and had refined to the Court martial which tried the after that the failer was overheard talking with an effect of the guard and tilling have along from the he suffered that the execute from the he suffered that the Learten to be provided it and we betermined to about he had been had been that the heart we had been to be the execute to the profible of the arrival to the executing of the next had the had had mer suffer the heart that the had had mer suffer when they are the heart that the had had mer suffer when they others, for those circumstances. One or his bays space the door to take out the Tracket in which and held him brought, we seized the juilor from in which other were confined, ment down stains and sized the friend there were as water, and eight of in mounted in pather of he fore the alaba has given. The this him captured, from the same win and his other the next tray of was one

of those captured on the same evening, this After that, they removed us to the harracks un, where we were better treated - more windly treated - then we had ever been before that, We remained there until December, when we were sent to Richmond. We were first token to the Libby Prison, and told that we were to be exchanged. They sent a very light guard along with us, trusting to our belief that we would be exchanged; and so believing, we went along quietly and made no attempt to we were taken to the Litty Prison and Rept the comminal prison, Castle Thunder, Here we were portint a little room up stain, of which we remained during the months of December and there January without any fire and with a very all our blankets from us when we left ettwhich we had managed to secrete when we left ettthe barracks. This was the only covering the first was the many of the secrete when we had managed to secrete when we he had during those this months for all other clothing at that hime meants out

however, they wanted that roome, with a of other rooms on the same floor, for hospital furprises, and transferred us to a large root tour stains on the fround floor, which was assigned to min prisoners, Here we enjoyed more liberty than we had before, and remained until a special exchange was made They attempted to exchange us as citizens, leaving our names on the citizen list from Eastle Thunder, although we had our names marked as soldiers, and our companies and regiments were down on the prison books, and specifications given to the executed, it was admitted that they were med and soldiers, and their companies and regiments Were the men engaged in that expedition Muder what circumstances did they botunteer? Gen. mitchell ifound an order to the lots of the three this requirements in sells brigade, have a man detriled from each companyfor the captain of each company to release a They were than tent to the Colonels querters,

they were wanted to dreps in attent and obey the orders of her, Andrews. expedition was not explained to no then, be were told that we were to obey his whe treud orders, and to go with him on a secret expedition. The object of the expedition was explained to us that night by him Andrews, who apembled us together about a mile from Shelbyville, after it got dark, and there gave us the main outlines - that we were to go into Georgia, to marietta, to make our way there as well as we could, and there to seize a train, and he would be with us all the time after reaching there, to direct us how to proceed, The leading object of the expedition was to cut the communications a disting the bridges? Yes sir; the capture of the engine and train has placed by the Confederate authorities upon the importance of this expedition, had it been the state of Georgia at least seized the train on the 19th of 1862. We have to dated spril 15, 1862. We have be dated of pril 15, 1862. We of the train on the 19th of their, and

the paper was printed three days after before they had beened the full particular artièle, The witness their produced the paper and read from the article referred to. How came you in popeloion of that paper? it and laid it down, and I took it and have carried it secreted about my person ever worm condition of would refer to the entire by the importance attacked to the expedition as I deopy of the article referred to be hereto appended, as a portion of this deposition. I willow, who made the address upon the respond he belowed and from what company and Refinent of this he came. Tomo ne cama.

The was a member of lo. B. of the Leend airised in Cincinnati a long time. He had Jom there. He was a shoemaken by trade,

a man between 30 and 35 years had travelled a great deal over the him States, working at his trade. He said had a family of the children; his wife was not living. of all your commades who were executed, with the companies and refinents to which they be-A. There was George D. Wilson, Co, B, 2d this Infantry; Marion Rofo, Co. A. 2d Ohio Infanting, the Sergeant major of the regiment; Perry G. Fhadrack, Co. K. 2d Ohio. Samuel Roberton, Co. G. 38d Ohir. Januar roman, Co. & 33d This. John Scott ber F. 2/st This. and J.J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky also, William Campbell was on a visit to our refinent at the time this detail was made. The captain of one of our companies asked him the would go in the place of one of the Foldiers, mestined about him that he was a soldier in refard to the origin of this xearet expedition - by whom it was planned, and when?

a man between 30 and 35 years of had travelled a great deaf over the no had a family of two children, his wife was not living. Will your please pive, it you can, the names of all your communes who were executed, with the companies and refinents to which there he-A. There was George & Wilson, Co, B, 2d this Infautry; marion Rofo, Co. A. 2d Ohis Infanting, the Sergeant major of the regiment; perry 9. Thadrack, Co. 12. 2d Ohio. Samuel Roberson, Ce, G; 33d Ohis.

John Scott Ce, G; 33d Ohis.

William Campbell, a citizen of Kentucky, and J.J. Andrews, a citizen of Kenticky also, William Campbell was on a visit to our refinent at the time this detail was made. The coptain of one of our companies asked from the would go in the place of one of the toldiers me he great from that he was a soldier. in refard to the origin of this secret expedition - 17 whom it was planned, and when?

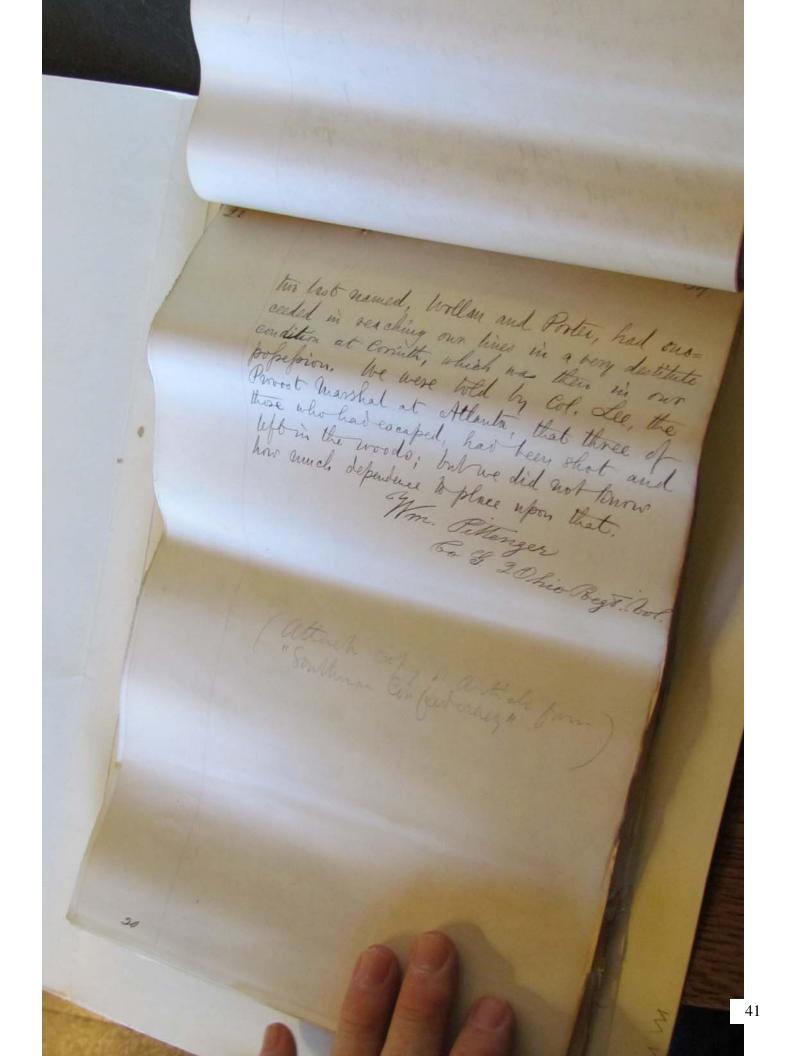
Andrew tild me Wat he himself, in his in to the South had noticed that this thing be accomplished, and that it would be of neet tenefit to us. He had proposed it to gen. Buell, who did not give him much accouragement; afterwards, he proposed it to gen. mitchell, who gave him more encouragement from the 2d this Regiment, which he had been with emolerable, and attempt to execute the plen. The men were given him, and he for the trans way that we did, to the capitals whom him there, the formed that to me the train for them was not there, on account of having been prefeed to run reinforce ments to Benergard at Cointh. For the reson the wine attiful to give up the plan and for quiette back as paraufore to Chattonorga, and Mr. Andrews then told Gen. mitchell that from all he had seem in that experition, he will one sidered the thing cary of a complishment, and what for a larger detail of 24 men from the have home arginary solected to that there of he we population of a failure the second time

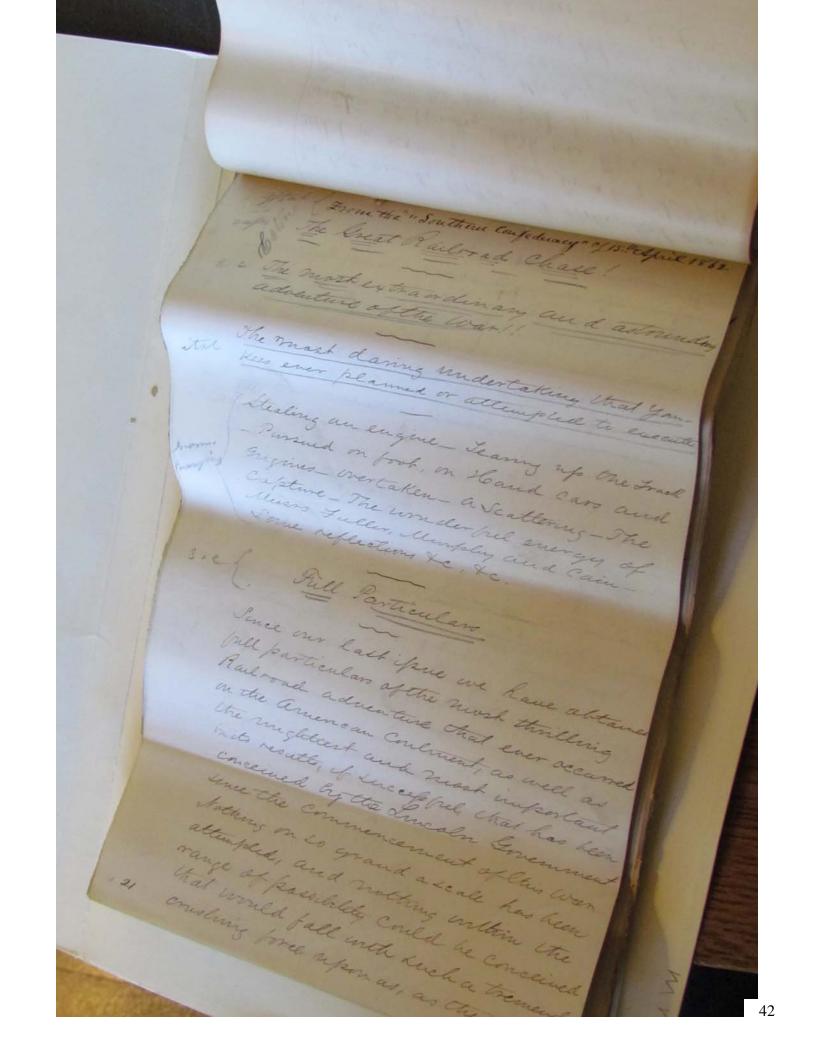
Ala the first. There were consequently Jour men is our parts who could run expluses me herever, did so on that expedition. Rone second; entirely new men were selected the a will you if you can give the names of the members of that expedition, in addition to these Apolan of in this testimony - that is a day the army mason, and the seven who were exe A. - They are as Jollows. - Wilson Hught the E. E. 21st shis. Mark Wood, Gordey Con H. 38d ohis.

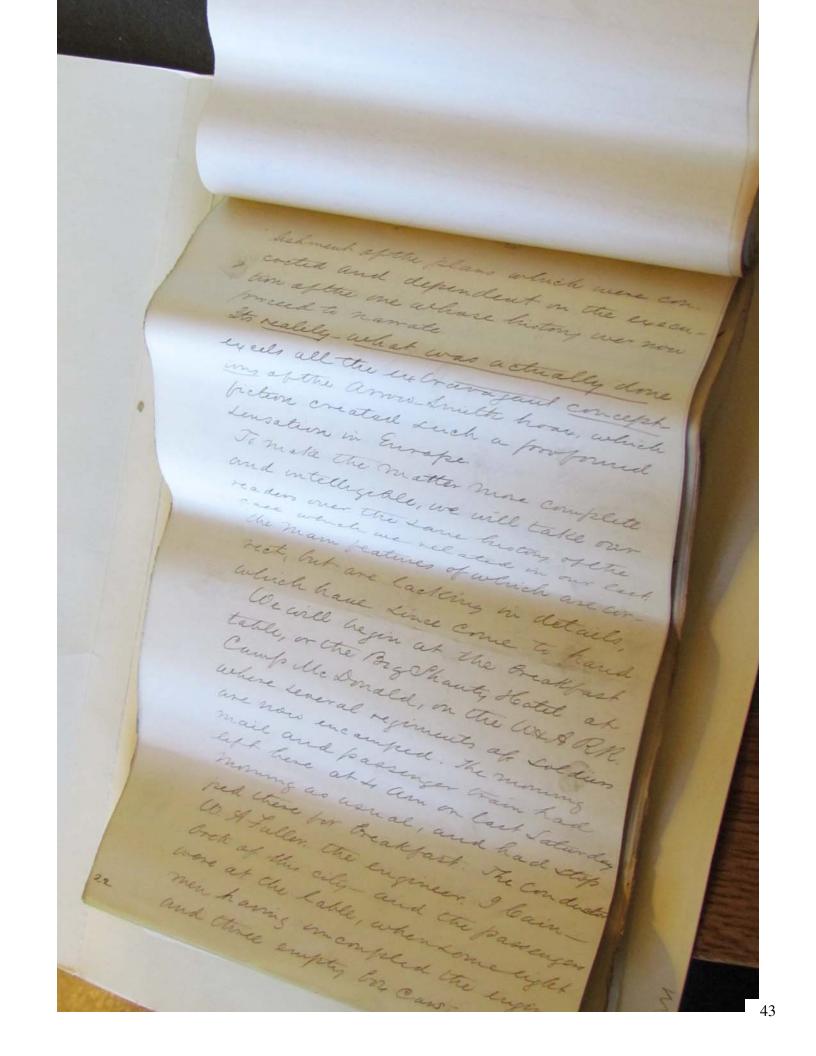
Afred Wilson, of the Lame Co. and Refinent. This was the only histories where two men were then from the make histories where we men were and John the Jame Company.

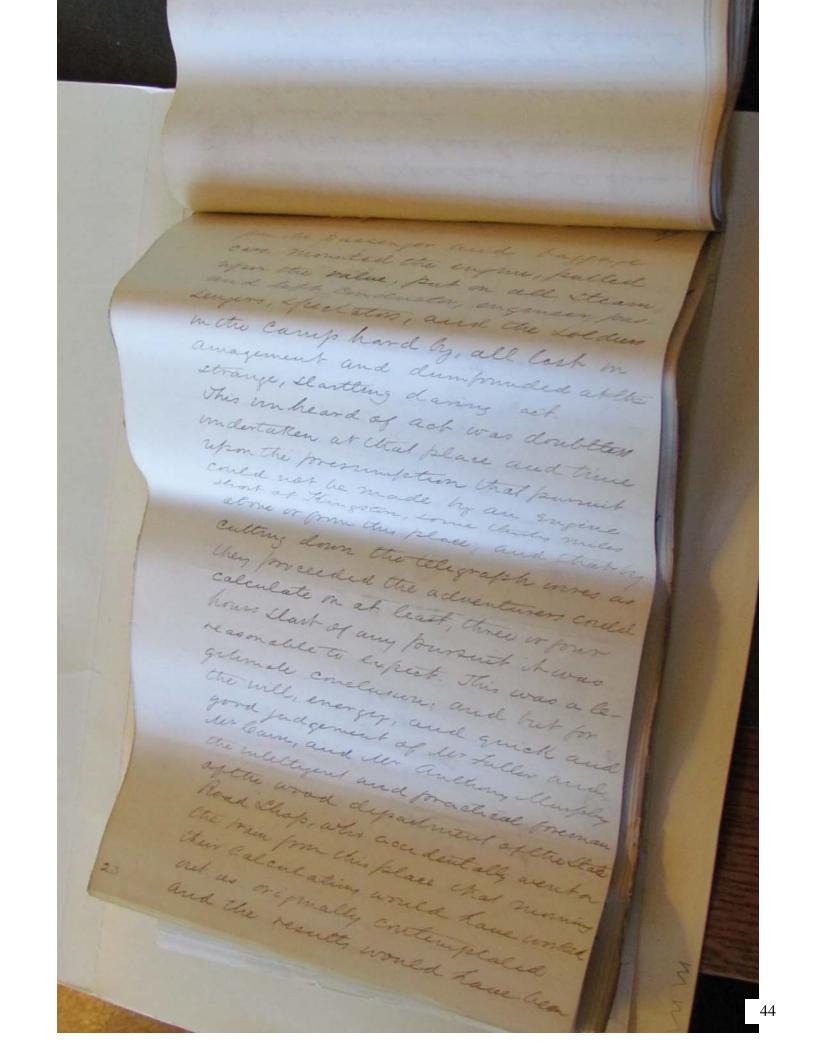
and John the Vollan, Co. of 83 d ohio.

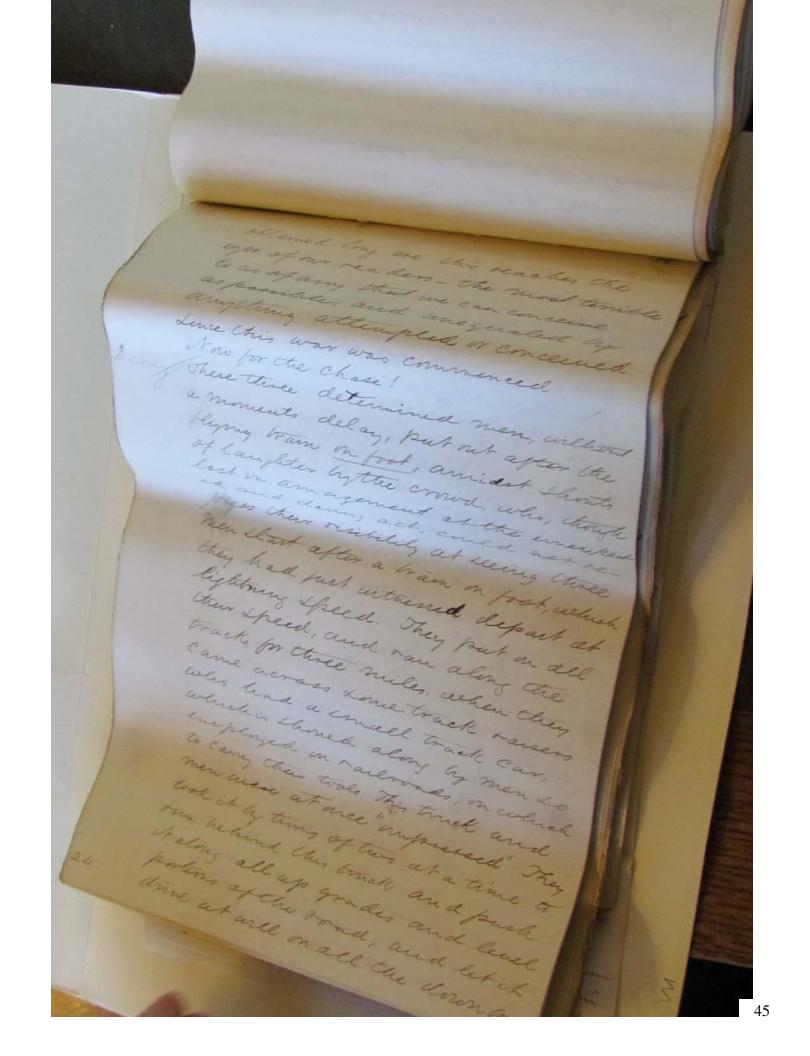
These eight that I have full named were and were not retaken in making their every were and were not retaken at the fust named were The who receded in manny was reception in a Confederate time that we extract the summercial stating that the

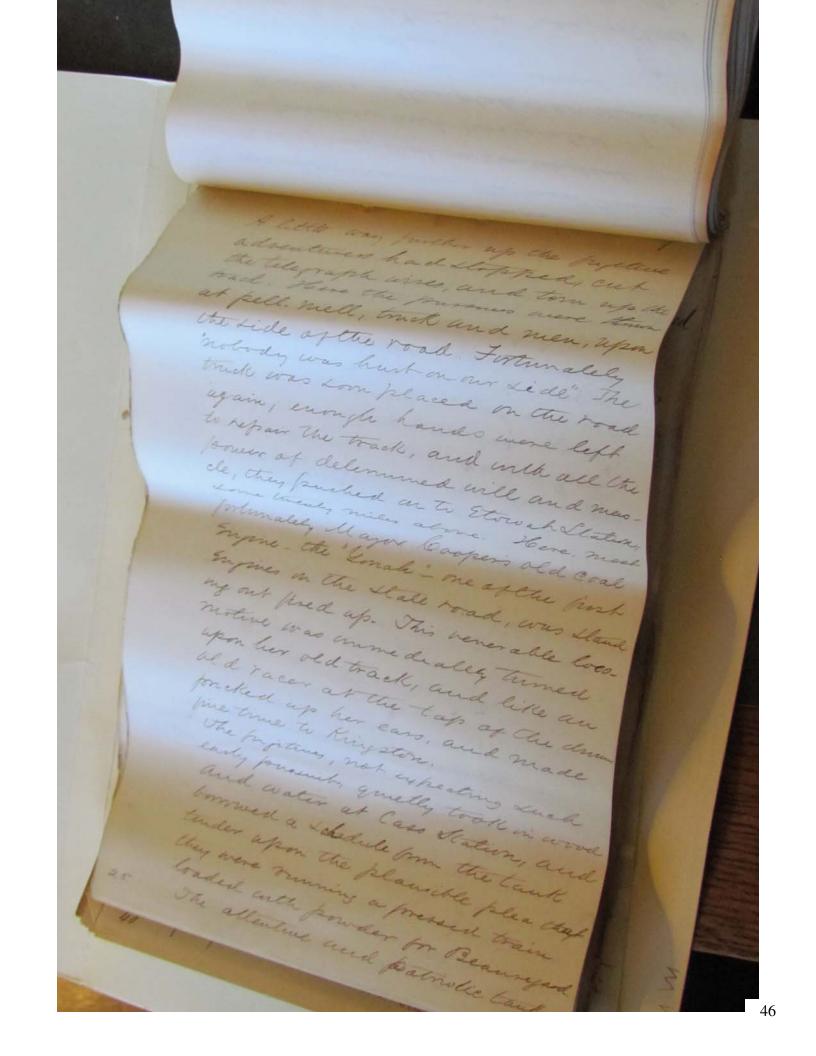


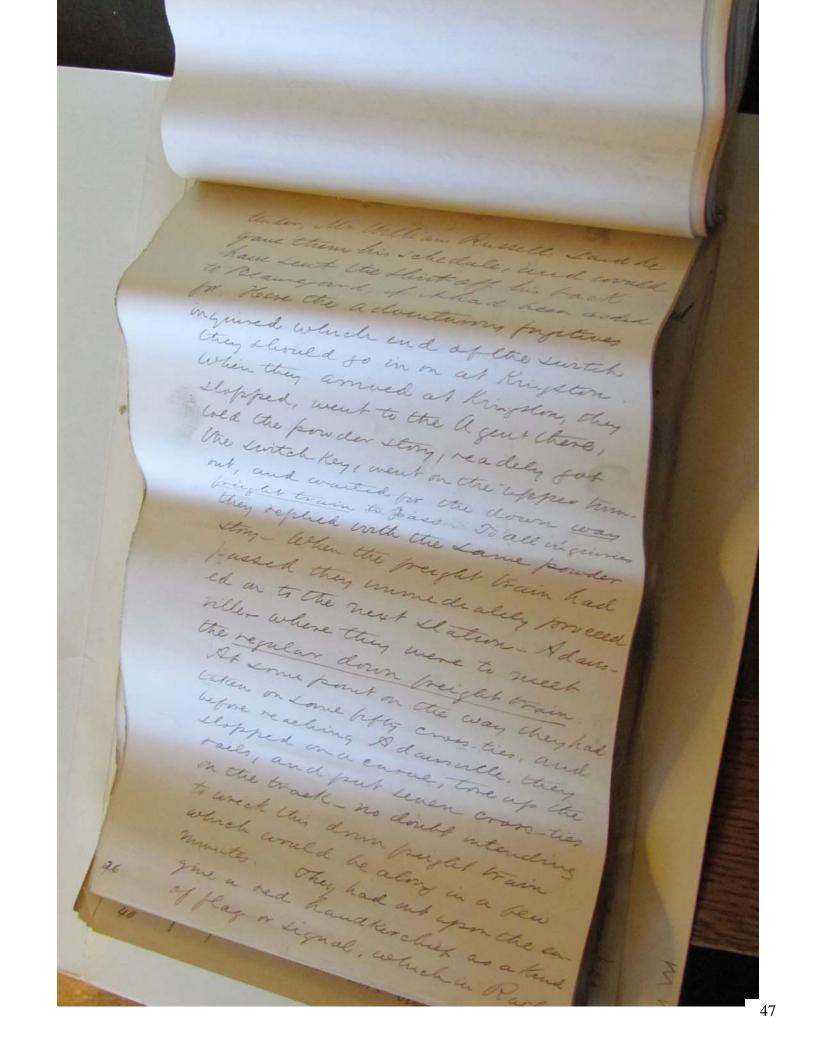


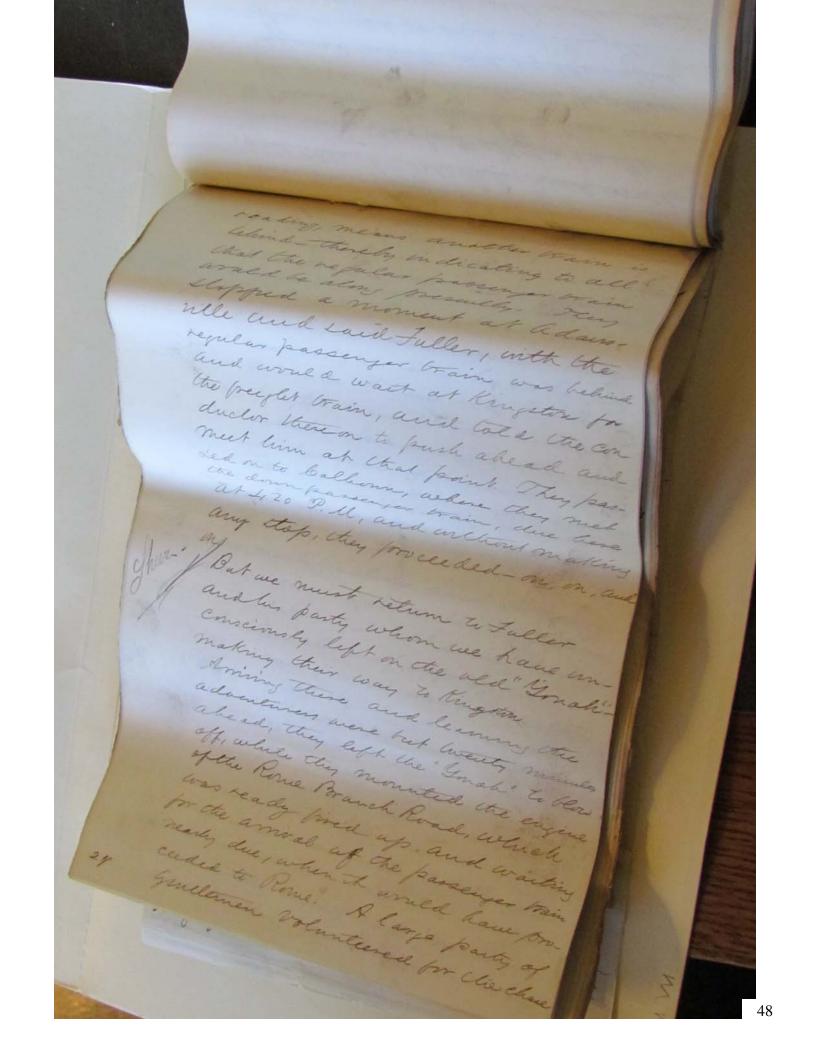


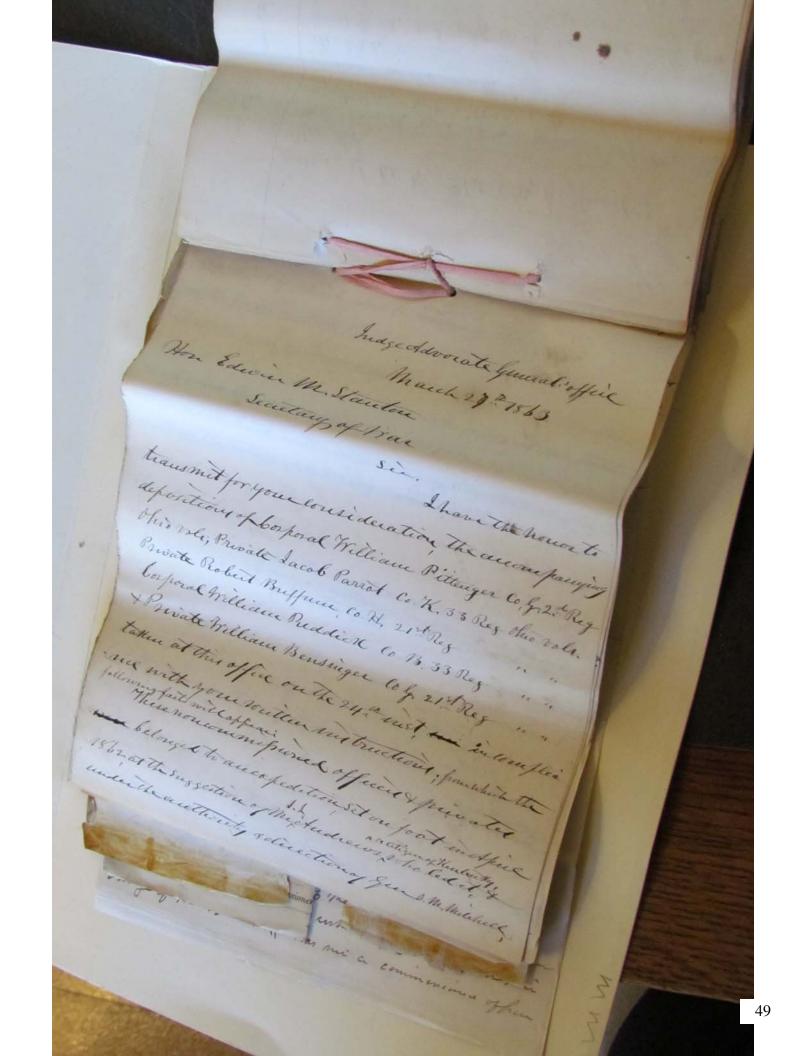


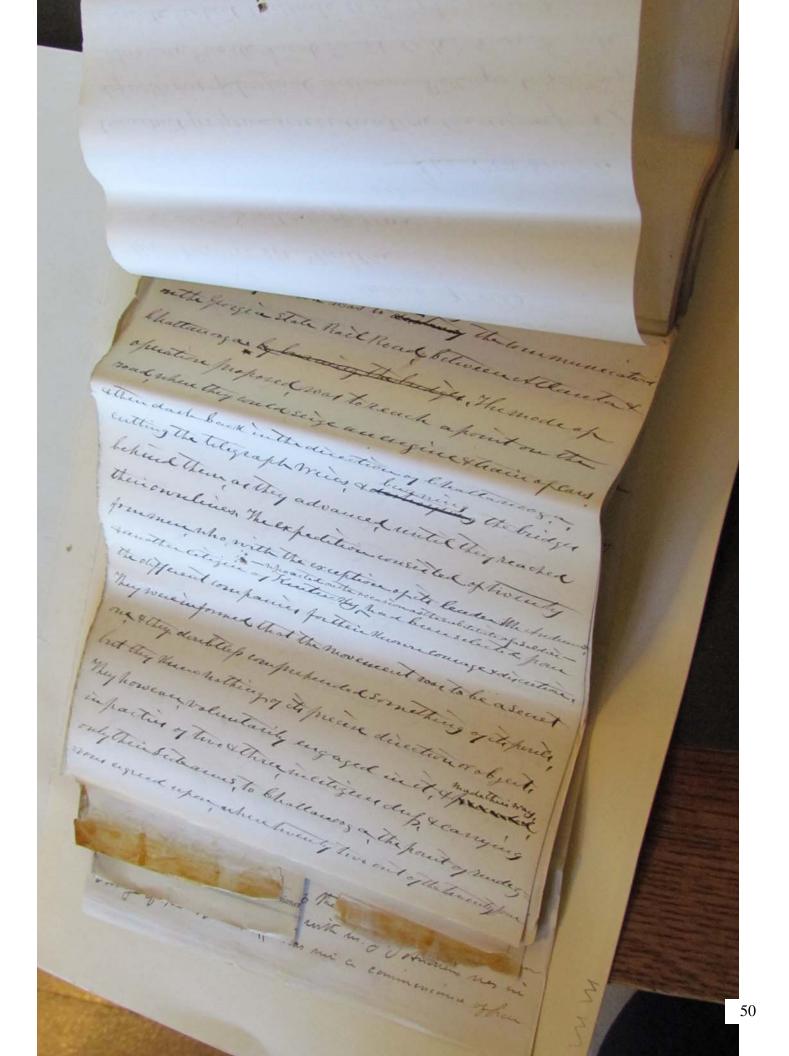


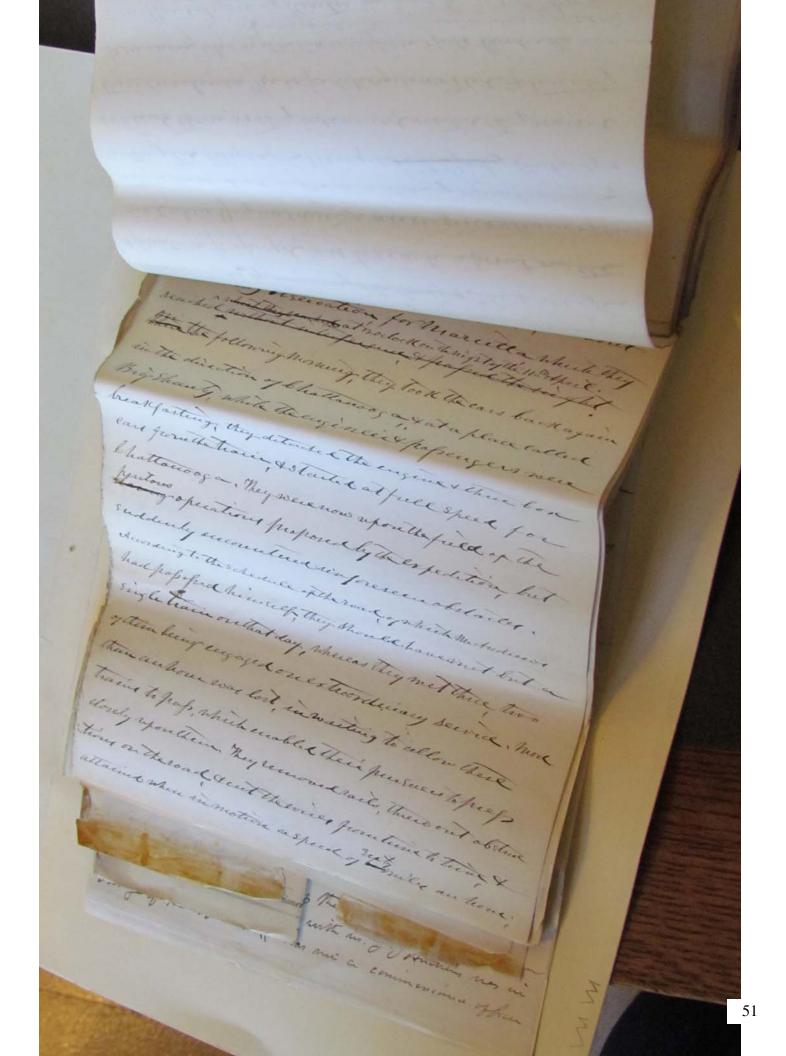


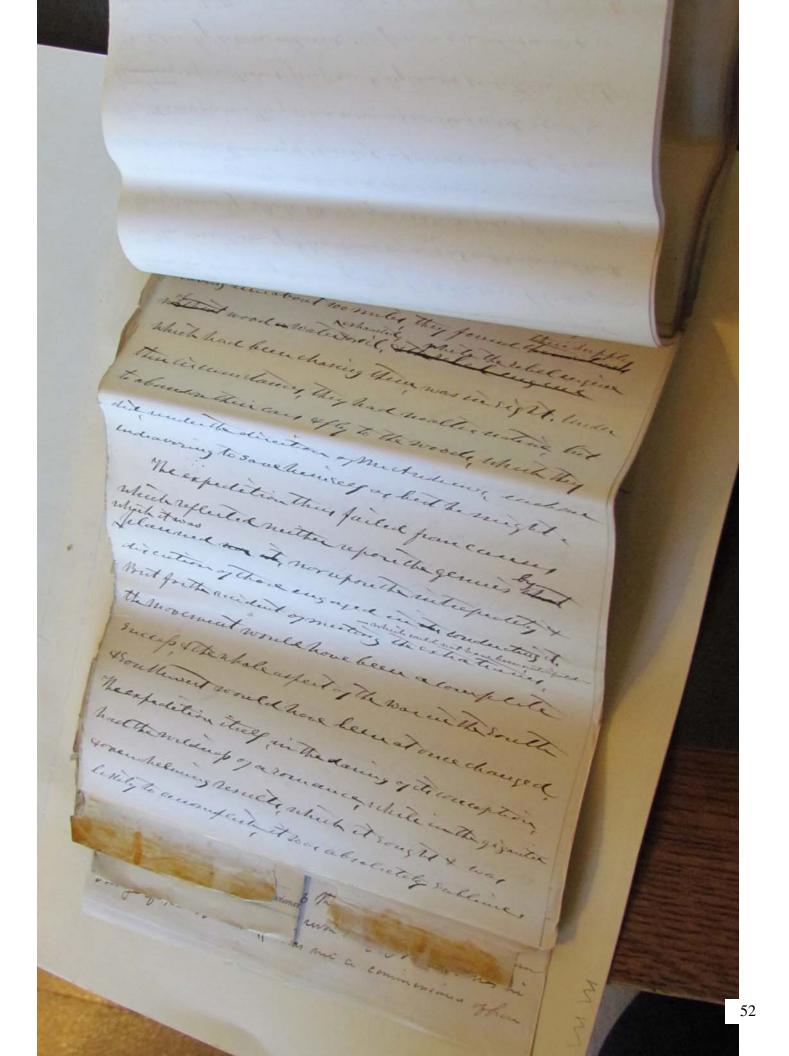


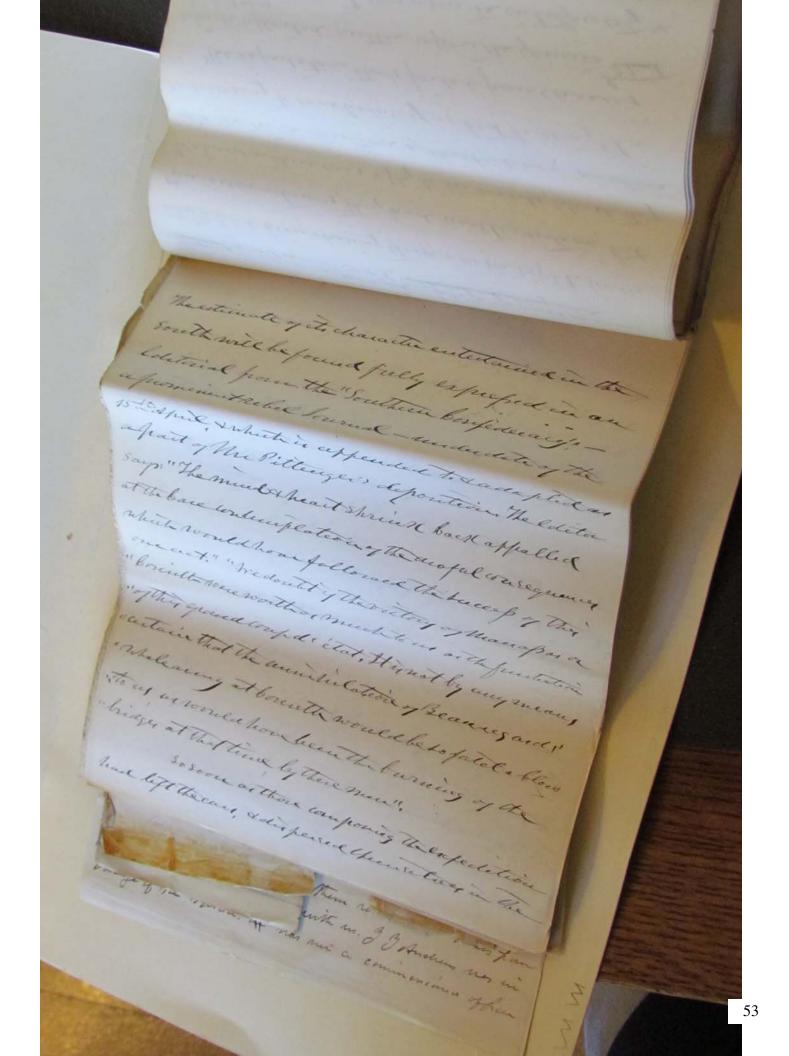


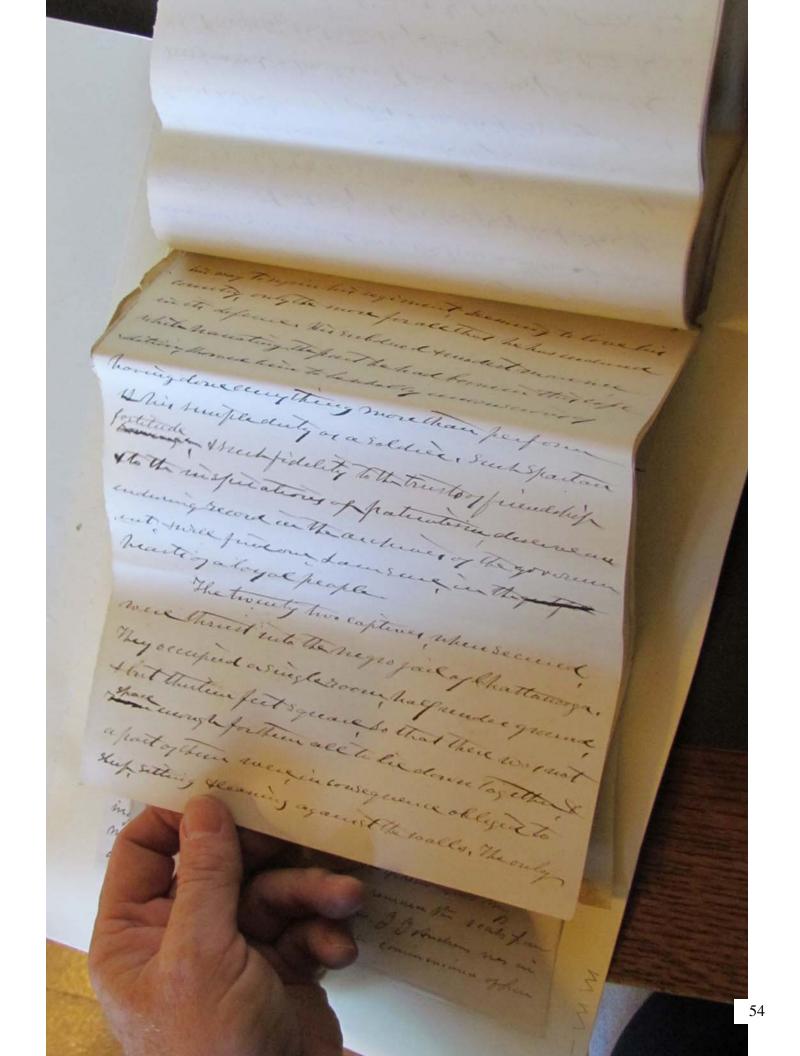


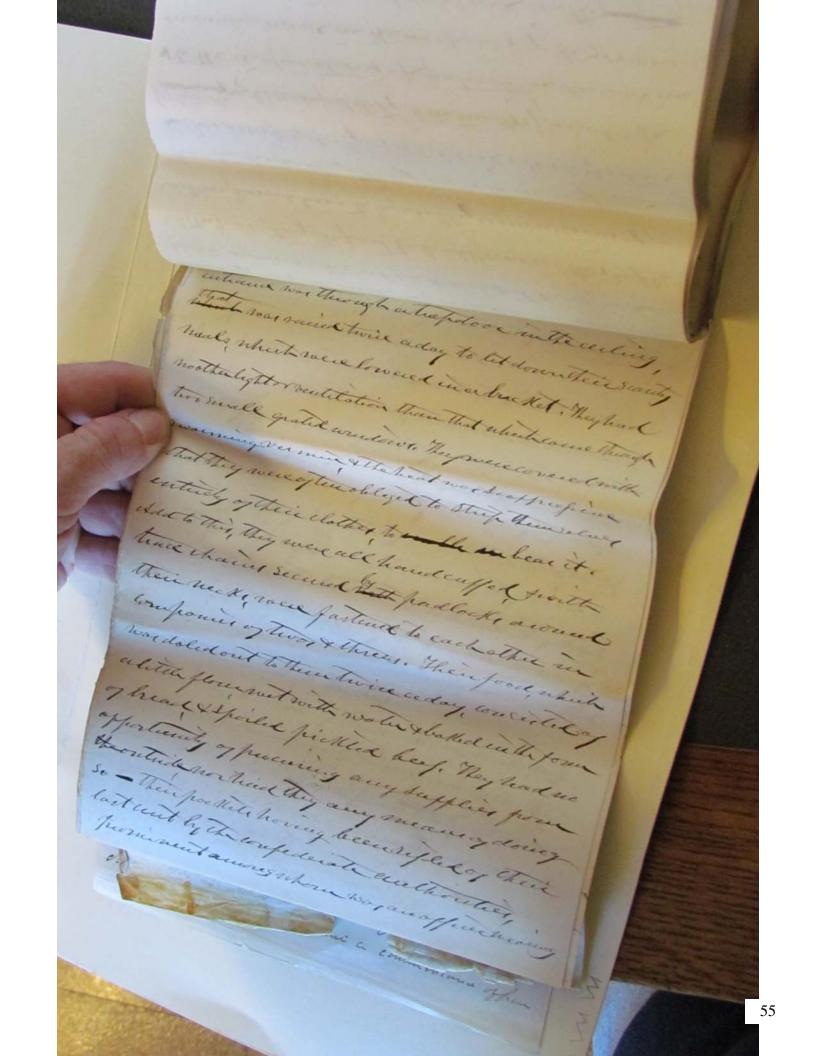


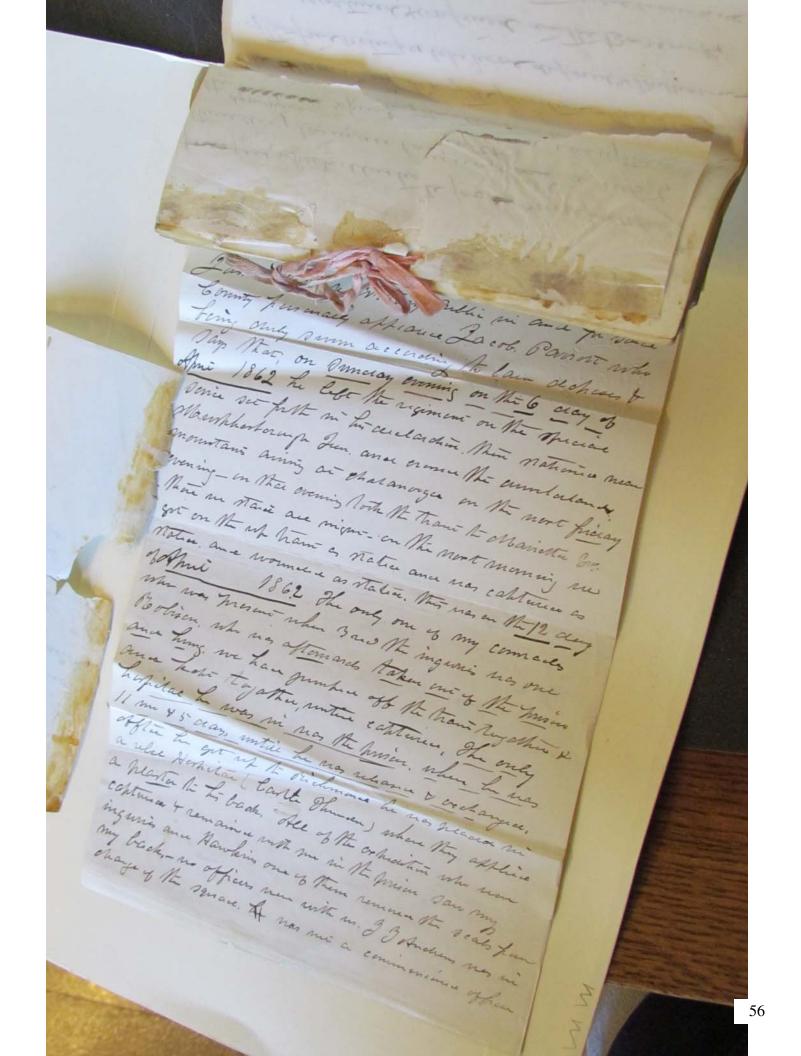


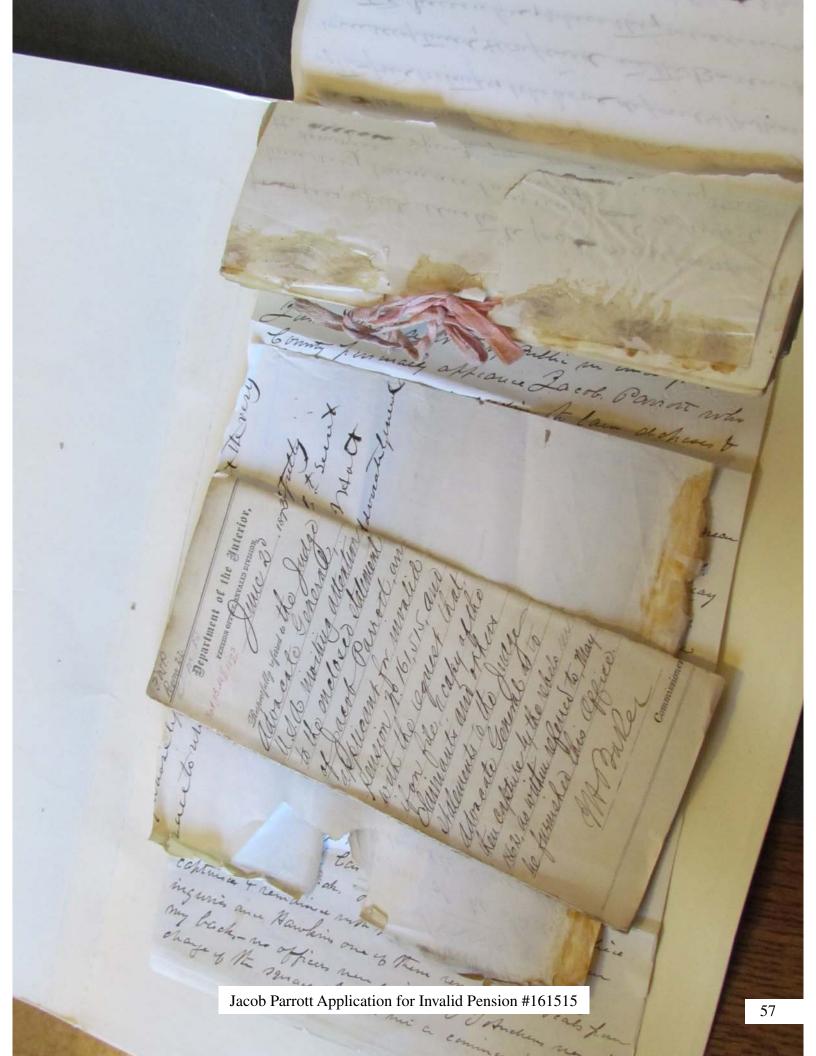




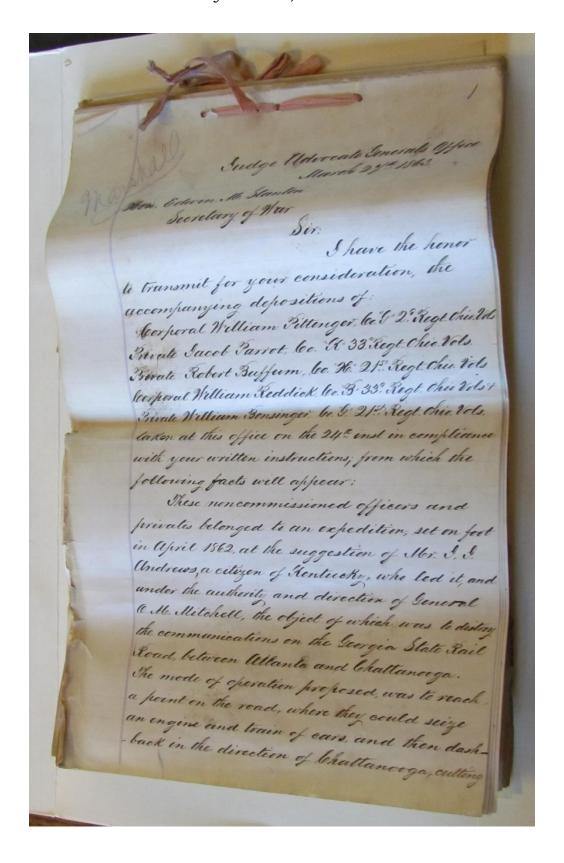








# The Deposition of the Andrews Raiders Judge Advocate General's Office March 24, 1863 For Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton



## Judge Advocate General's Office March 24th 1863

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton
Secretary of War

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit for your consideration, the accompanying depositions of:

Corporal William Pittenger, Co. "G" 2.d Regt. Ohio. Vols

Private Jacob Parrot, Co. "K" 33. d Regt. Ohio. Vols.

Private Robert Buffum, Co. "H." 21.st Regt. Ohio. Vols

Corporal William Reddick Co. "B" 33.d Regt. Ohio. Vols. +

Private William Bensinger Co. "G." 21.st Regt. Ohio. Vols. taken at this office on the 24th inst in compliance with your written instructions; from which the following facts will appear:

These noncommissioned officers and privates belonged to an expedition, set on foot in April 1862, at the suggestion of Mr. J. J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky, who led it, and under authority and direction of General O. M. Mitchell, the object of which was to destroy the communications on the Georgia State Rail Road, between Atlanta and Chattanooga. The mode of operation proposed, was to reach a point on the road, where they could seize an engine and train of cars, and then dash-back in the direction of Chattanooga, cutting

the telegraph wires, and burning the bridges behind them, as they advanced, until they reached their own lines. The expedition consisted of 24 men, who, with the exception of its leader Mr Andrews, another citizen of Kentucky who acted on the occasion as the substitute of

- who acted on the occasion as the substitute of a soldier-had been selected from the diff= =erent companies for their known courage and discretion. They were informed that the movem= =ent was to be a secret one, and they doubtless comprehended something of its perils, but they knew nothing of its precise direction or object. They however, voluntarily engaged in it, and made their way, in parties of two and three, in citizens dress, and carrying only their side arms, to Chattanooga, the point of rendezvous agreed upon, where twenty two out of the twenty four, arrived safely. Here they took passage, without attracting observation, for Marietta, which they reached at 12 oClock on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> April. The following morning, they took the cars back again in the direction of Chattanooga, and at a place called Big Shanty, while the engineer and passengers were breakfasting, they detached the engine and three box cars from the train, and started at full speed for Chattanooga. They were now upon the field of the perilous operations proposed by the expedition, but sudd-

-enly encountered unforeseen obsticles. According to the schedule of the road, of which Mr. Andrews had possessed himself, they should, have met but a single train on that day, whereas they met three, two of them being engaged on extraordinary service. More than an hour was lost, in waiting to allow these trains to pass, which enabled their pursuer to press closely upon them. They removed rails, threw out obstructions on the road, and cut wires from time to time, and attained when in motion a speed of sixty miles an hour; but the time lost could not be regained after having run about 100 miles, they found their supply of wood, water and oil exhausted, while the rebel engine which had been chasing them was in sight. Under these circumstances, they had no alternative, but to abandon their cars, and fly to the woods, which they did, under the direction of Mr Andrews, each one endeavoring to save himself as best he might.

The expedition thus failed, from causes which reflected neither upon the genius by which it was planned, nor upon the intrepidity and discretion of those engaged in conducting it. But for the accident of meeting the extra trains-which could not have been anticipated-the movement would have been a complete success, and the whole aspect of the war in

the south and southwest would have been at once changed. The expedition itself, in the daring of it conception, had the wildness of a romance, while in the gigantic and over= =whelming results, which it sought and was likely to accomplish, it was absolutely sublime.

The estimate of its character entertained in the south will be found expressed in an editorial from the "Southern Confederacy." -a prominent rebel Journal - under date of the 15<sup>th</sup> April, and which is appended to and adopted as part of Mr Pittenger's deposition. The Editor says: "The mind and heart shrank back appalled at the bare comt= =emplation of the awful consequences which would have followed the success of this one act." "We doubt if the victory of Manassas or "Corinth were worth as much to us as the frustration "of this grand coup d' e'tat. It is not by any means "certain that the annihilation of Beauregard's "whole army at Corinth would be so fatal a blow "to us as would have been the burning of the "bridges at that time, by these men."

So soon as those composing the expedition had left the cars, and dispersed themselves in the woods, the population of the country around, turned out in their pursuit, employing for this purpose dogs which are trained to

to hunt down the fugitive slaves of the south. The whole twenty two were captured. Among them was Private Jacob Parrot of Co. "K" 33 Regt. Ohio Vols. When arrested, he, was without any form of trial, taken possession of by a military officer, and four soldiers, who stripped him, bent him over a stone, and while two pistols were held over his head, a lieutenant in rebel uniform, inflicted, with a raw hide, upwards of a hundred lashes on his bare back. This was done in the presence of an infuriated crowd who clamored for his blood, and actually brou-=ght a rope with which to hang him. The object of this prolonged scourging was to force this young man to confess to them the objects of the expedition and the names of his comradesespecially that of the engineer who had run the train. Their purpose was no doubt, not only to take the life of the latter, if identified, but to do so every circumstance of humili= =ation and torture which they could devise. Three times, in the progress of this horrible Flogging, it was suspended and Mr. Parrot, was asked, if he would not confess; but steadily and firmly to the last, he refused all disclos--ures, and it was not till his tormentors were weary of their brutal work, that the task of subduing their victim, was abandoned as

hopeless. This youth is an orphan, without father or mother, and without any of the advantages of education. Soon after the rebellion broke out, though but eighteen years of age, he left his trade, and threw himself into the ranks of our armies, as a volunteer, and now, though still suffering from the outrages comm= =itted on his person in the south, he is on his way, to rejoin his regiment, seeming to love his country, only the more for all that he has endured in its defence. His subdued and modest manner, while narrating the part he had borne in this expedition, showed him to be wholly unconscious of having done any thing more than perform his simple duty as a soldier. Such Spartan fortitude, and such fidelity to the trust of friendship and to the inspirations of patriotism, deserve an enduring record in the archives of the government, and will find one, I am sure, in the heart of a loyal people.

The twenty two captives, when secured, were thrust into the Negro Jail of Chattanooga. They occupied a single room, half underground, + but thirteen feet square, so that there was not space enough for them all to lie down together, + a part of them were in consequence, obliged to sleep sitting + leaning against the walls. The only entrance was through a trap door in the ceiling, that was raised twice a day to let down their scanty meals, which were lowered in a bucket. They had no other light or ventilation than that which came through two small grated windows. They were covered with swarming vermin + the heat was so oppressive that they were often obliged to strip themselves entirely of their clothes to bear it. Add to this, they were all handcuffed, + with trace chains secured by padlocks around their necks, were fastened to each other in companies of two's and threes. Their food, which was doled out to them twice a day, consisted of a little flour wet with water + baked in the form of bread, + spoiled pickled beef. They had no opportunity of procuring any supplies from the outside, nor had they any means of doing so - their pockets having been rifled of their last cent by the Confederate Authorities, promi= =nent among whom was an officer wearing the Rebel uniform of a Major. No part of the money, thus base= =ly taken was ever returned.

During this imprisonment at Chattanooga their Leader Mr Andrews, was tried + condemned as

a Spy + was subsequently executed at Atlanta the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. They were strong + in perfect health when they entered this Negro Jail, but at the end of something more than three weeks, when they were require to leave it, they were so exhausted from the treatment to which they had been subjected, as scarcely to be able to walk, + several staggered from weakness as they passed through the streets to the cars.

Finally twelve of the number, including the five who have deposed + Mr Mason of C. K. 21. Regt. Ohio. Vols, who was prevented by illness from giving his evidence – were transferred to the prison of Knoxville Tennessee. On arriving there, seven of them were arraigned before a Court Martial charged with being Spies. Their trial of course was summary. They were permitted to be present, but not to hear either the argument of their own counsel or that of the Judge Advocate. Their Counsel however afterwards, visited the prison + read to them the written defence which he made before the Court in their behalf. The substance of that paper is thus stated by one of the witnesses, Corporal Pittenger "He (the Counsel) contended that our being "dressed in citizen clothes, was nothing more than what-"the Confederate Government itself had authorized + "was only what all the guerillas in the service of the "Confederacy did in all occasions, when it would be "Advantage to them to do so. And he cited the instance "of Genl. Morgan having dressed his men in the uniform

"of our Soldiers + passed them off as being from
"the 8th Pa. Calvary Regiment, + by that means succeeded
"in reaching a Railroad + destroying it. This instance
"was mentioned to show that our being in citizens
"clothes, did not take from us the protection awarded
"to prisoners of war. The plea went on further to state
"that we had told the object of our expedition - that
"it was a purely Military one, for the destruction
"of communications + as such, lawful according to
"the rules of War"

This just + unanswerable presentation of the case appears to have produced its appropriate impression. Several members of the Court Martial afterwards called on the prisoners + assured them that from the evidence against them that they could not be condemned as Spies; that they had come for a certain know object + not having lingered about or visited any of their camps obtaining or seeking information, they could not be convicted. Soon thereafter all the prisoners were removed to Atlanta Georgia, + they left Knoxville under a belief that their comrades, who had been tried, either had been or would be acquitted In the mean time however the news entertained and expressed to them by the members of the Court, were overcome, it may be + safely assumed, under the prompting of the remorseless despotism at Richmond. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, after their arrival at Atlanta where they rejoined the comrades from whom they

had been separated at Chattanooga - their prison door was opened + the death sentences of the seven, who had been tried at Knoxville, were read to them. They were told to bid their friends farewell "and to be quick about it". They were at once tied and carried out to execution. Among the seven was Private Samuel Robinson Co. G 33<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Vols., who was too ill to walk. He was, however, prisoned like the rest, + in this condition, was dragged from the floor on which he was lying, to the scaffold. In an hour or more the Calvary escort, which had accompanied them, was seen returning with the cart, but the cartwas empty – the tragedy had been consummated.

On that evening + the following morning, the prisoners learned from the Provost Marshall + Guard, that their comrades had died as all true Soldiers of the Republic should die, in the presence of its enemies. Among the revolting incidents which they mentioned in connection with this cowardly butchery, was the fall of two of the victims from the breaking of the ropes, after they had been for some time suspended. On their being restored to consciousness, they begged for an hour in which to pray + to prepare for death, but this was refused them: the ropes were readjusted + the execution at once proceeded.

Among those who thus perished

was Private Alfred Wilson Co. "C" 21st Ohio Vols. He was a mechanic from Cincinnati, who, it seems, in the exercise of his trade, had traveled much through the states North + South + who had greatness of soul, which intensely sympa= =thised with our struggle for National Life, and was in that dark hour filled with joyous convic= tions of our final triumph. Though surrounded by a scowling crowed impatient for his sacrifice, he did not hesitate while standing under the gallows to make them a brief address. He told them that though they were all wrong, he had no hostile feeling toward the southern people-. Believing that not they but their leaders were res= -ponsible for the rebellion; that he was no Spy as charged, but only a soldier regularly detailed for military duty; that he did not regret to die for his country, but only regretted the manner of his death; + he added for their admonition, that they would yet see the time, when the old Union would be restored, and when its flag would wave over them again. And with these words, the brave man died. He, like his comrades, calmly met the ignominious doom of a felon - but happily, ignominious for him and for them, only so far as the Martyrdom of the patriot the hero can be degraded by the hands of ruffians + traitors.

The remaining prisoners, now reduced to fourteen, - were kept closely confined under special guard in the jail at Atlanta, until October, when over hearing a conversation between the jailer and another officer, they became satisfied that it was the purpose of the authorities to hang them as they had done their companions. This led them to form a plan for escape, which they carried into execution on the evening of the next day, by seizing the jailer when he opened the door to carry away the bucket in which their supper had been brought. This was followed by the seizure also of the seven guards on duty, + before the alarm was given eight of the fugitives were beyond the reach of pursuit. It has been since ascertained that six of these, after long + painful wanderings, succeeded in reaching our lines; of the fate of the other two, nothing is known. The remaining six of the fourteen, con= =sisting of the five witnesses who have deposed + Mr Mason, were recaptured + confined in the barracks until December, when they were removed to Richmond. There they were shut up in a room in Castle Thunder, where they shivered through the winter without fire, thinly clad + with but two small blankets which they had saved with their clothes, to cover the whole party. So they remained until a few days since when they were exchanged, + thus at thee end

of Eleven Months, terminated their pitiless persecutions

in the prisons of the South -- persecutions begins and continued, amid indignities + suffering on their part, + of atrocities on the part of their traitorous foes, which illustrates far more faithfully than any human language could express it, the demoniac spirit of a revolt every throb of whose life is a crime against the very race to which we belong

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

J M Holt

Judge Advocate General

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton
Secretary of War

## **Testimony**

### **Depositions** of

Corporal William Pittenger, Co. G, 2d Reg.	Ohio \	olunteers/
Private Jacob Parrot, Co. K, 33d Reg.	"	"
Private Robert Buffum, Co. H, 21st Reg.	cc .	"
Corporal William Reddick, Co. B, 33d Reg.	u	"
and Private Wm. Bensinger, Co. G, 21st Reg.	u	u

Taken at the Office of the

Judge Advocate General of the Army

In the City of Washington,

On the 24th of March, 1863,

Before N. Callan Justice of the Peace

In Compliance with the Written Instructions of the Secretary of the War.

#### Pittenger

Corporal William Pittenger was duly sworn and examined as follows-

By Judge Advocate General.

- Q. will you state what position you hold in the military service?
- A. I am a corporal in Co. G., second regiment, Ohio Volunteers.
- Q. Will you state whether you belonged to the expedition fitted out in the spring of 1862 by Gen. O. M. Mitchell for operations in the State of Georgia?
- A. I did.
- Q. Please state the character of that expedition, the number of men engaged in it, its ope= rations, and the final result.
- A.- The expedition was planned between Gen.

  Mitchell and Mr. J. J. Andrews, a citizen of
  Kentucky, then in the "Secret Service" of the
  government. Mr Andrews asked for a detail
  of 24 men from the three Ohio regiments of
  the brigade then commanded by Col, afterward General
  Sills. Of these 24 men only 22 succeeded
  in getting through the lines. The object of the
  expedition was to destroy the communications on
  the Georgia State Railroad between Atlanta
  and Chattanooga by burning the bridges.
  For this purpose we intended to seize an engine
  and a train of cars, at a place where there

could be no other engine and train of cars to pursue us, and to run ahead, cutting the telegraph wires, and burning the bridges behind us, if possible until we should reach our own lines. Gen Mitchell at that time was moving on Huntsville, and it was supposed that he would be there as soon as we could reach there. We started in citizen's clothes; we were ordered to dress in citizen's clothes armed with side arms only, and we were to pass through the lines in squads of three or four, to meet at Chattanooga. We met no pickets or opposition of any kind on the way, there being no large military force there - nothing but camps of instruction, for new recruits in that section of the country. From Chattanooga we proceeded to Marietta, Georgia, by rail, and arrived there on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> of April at midnight. On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> we took passage back from Marietta towards Chattanooga, and at a place called Big Shanty, while the passengers, the engineer and conductor were at breakfast, we detached the engine and three box cars from the engine and started. There was no engine there to pursue us, but we were pursued by a hand car. Mr. Andrews, the leader of the expedition, had a schedule of the road; and according to that schedule we had

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but one train to pass at a station but a short distance from where we captured the train; and after that we intended to run the train through at full speed, and accomplish the object of the expedition. Unfortunately, however, that morning for the first time, two other additional trains had been put on the road, making three that we had to meet and pass instead of one, and at considerable intervals. We were obliged to wait at one station for twenty-five minutes; and at the second we had to wait; and we were also delayed waiting for the third train. By this means we lost so much time that those pursuing came nearby up with us from behind; and we had no time to accomplish the object of the expedition. We attempted to delay the pursuit by taking up the rails; but they had forethought enough to take a party of workmen with them to lay the rails again. We proceeded until we were within some fifteen or eighteen miles of Chattanooga, when we got out of wood and water, and the pursuing train was so close behind us that we had not time to take in any more, and we therefore abandoned the train. Our leader, Mr. Andrews, told us to take to the woods and disperse, and save ourselves if we could. We were immediately

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pursued by the whole population. There was great excitement, and all the planters and people of the neighborhood, turned out with the dogs that they employed to hunt their negroes, and pursued us. Some of our party were taken that day, and some on the next day; two were not taken until three week afterwards, but all were finally captured. The party consisted of twenty U. S. soldiers, one citizen of Kentucky, who was on a visit to our regiment, and went in the place of another soldier, and Mr. Andrews, our leader.

Q - Who was Mr. Andrews?

A – He was the citizen in the employ of the government. He had been employed in the secret service of the government. He told me about several of his expeditions; among others, he stated that he had visited Fort Donelson before it was captured. We were all, 22 of us, taken to the jail, or rather the negro prison in Chattanooga, and confined there in a lower apartment or dungeon of the building, only thirteen feet square, and about the same height, and partly under ground, having only two windows on opposite sides, not over eighteen inches in diameter, with triple rows of bars. The ventilation there was so imperfect, that it reminded me more

of the black hole of Calcutta than anything else. When the first of our party were taken there to the jail, there were others, Union men of Tennessee, who were confined there in this same room. As others of our party were taken and brought there, some of these Union men were taken out, until finally there were none there but the 22 of our party. We were placed in irons; were hand cuffed, and chained twos and twos with chains. I think there were two parties of three coupled together, but the remainder were coupled in twos. The trap door in the building, the only entrance, was raised only to let down our meals, which were lowered to us in a bucket by a rope, twice a day. Our fare was very scanty, and we were reduced so as to be scarcely able to walk; although before, we had all been well, hearty, strong men. We were confined there, I think, for a little over three weeks: and when we came out at the end of that time we were scarcely able to walk; some actually staggered along as they marched to the cars. While we were there, Mr. Andrews was tried before a Court Martial, under the orders, I believe, of Gen. Leadbetter, or those of Kirby Smith, his superior. His sentence was not announced until we had

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left there. After we had been confined there about three weeks, and Gen. Mitchel advanced to Bridgeport, producing a great panic in Chattanooga; and they transferred us South to Madison in Georgia. We remained there until they found that Gen. Mitchell did not intend to advance on Chattanooga, when they brought us back. By this time we had been put under the charge of a Captain, who in= terceded for us and procured us some little better quarters. We were allowed to occupy an upper story of the jail, a room of the same size, but having larger windows, and three instead of two. We remained there a few days I do not remember exactly how long, when twelve of us were taken to Knoxville, and the remainder were kept in Chattanooga. I was one of those who were sent to Knoxville. Shortly after we had gone to Knoxville, Mr. Andrews' sentence was read to him, and in accordance with that he was executed at Atlanta Ga. on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. At Knox= ville some of our boys were put on trial as spies. Only seven were tried, and the trial occupied but a very short time. Although we were allowed the privilege of employing coun= sel, yet we were not allowed to hear the pleas of counsel. When our men demanded the

privilege of learning the plea of our counsel, and of the Judge Advocate against us, they refused it. The first one who was tried demanded that privilege, and they refused him and said they would not allow it – which, of course, amounted to refusal for all. Our lawyer, however, visited us, and read his plea to us. I suppose that it was the same in which he read in Court; in which he contended that our being dressed in citizen's clothes was nothing more than what the Confederate government itself had authorized, and was only what all the guerillas in the service of the Confederacy had done on all occasions where it would be of advantage of them to do so. And he cited the instance of Gen. Morgan having dressed his men in the uniform of our soldiers, and passed them off as being from the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa cavalry regiment, and by that succeeded in reaching a railroad and destroying it. This instance was mentioned to show that our being dressed in citizen's clothes did not take from us the protection accorded to prisoners of war. The plea went on further to state that we had told the object of our expedition - that it was a purely military one, for the destruction of communication, and as such Lawful according to the rules

of war. What reply the Judge Advocate made to this, we never had any means of knowing, as we were not allowed to hear it. Members of the Court Martial, however, visited us and told us that from the evidence against us we could not be convicted as spies; that is, we came for a certain, known object, did not visit in their camps at any place, did not remain about them or seek to obtain any information of them, and therefore we could not be convicted as spies. Shortly afterwards, they transferred us twelve to Atlanta, Ga. where those who had remained in Chattanooga had been previously taken. After remaining there for a short time, an order came for the execution of our seven comrades who had been tried. It was at that time entirely unexpected to us, although at first it would not have been. Sentence of death was read to them, and they were immediately tied, without any time for preparation being allowed them; they were told to bid us farewell and to be quick about it, and then they were taken out of the prison, and we could see them from the window, in a wagon escorted by cavalry. In the course of something like an hour or so, the cavalry returned without them. That evening, Captain Forakers, the Provost Marshall, called upon us. We asked

him how our companies had met their fate. He told us like brave men. The next day we conversed with the guard who was guarding us – with one in particular, who described the scene of the execution, where he was present. He told us of the speech that one of those men, named Wilson, from my regiment, had made on the scaffold, and also told us that two of the heaviest men had broken the ropes when they were hanging, and fell to the ground. They afterwards revived and asked for a drink of water, which was given to them; and they requested for an hour to prepare for death and to pray before they were again hung up. That was refused them, and as soon as the ropes were adjusted, they were compelled to ascend the scaffold again. The guard told me that Mr Wilson had spoken very calmly had told them that they were all in the wrong, that they would yet see the time when the old Union would yet be restored, and the flag of our country would wave over all that country – that he had no bad feelings toward the Southern people, but considered that it was only their leaders who were to blame for the course they had taken. He also said that although he was condemned as a spy, he was none, but was

a regularly detailed soldier and died perfectly innocent of the charge against him – that he did not regret to die for his country, but only regretted the manner of his death. That is the substance of it, as far as I can recollect.

We all expected to share the same fate as our companions.

We remained there confined very closely in the city jail. A special guard was placed over us from + before the time of the execution on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, until in October. We were all, fifteen of us, kept in the same room all the time – a room not much larger than this [the Judge Advocates General's Office.] I said there were fifteen of us – the fourteen surviving members of the expedition, and a Captain Frye, a federal officer of east Tennessee, who had been sent from Knoxville with us and confined in the same room with us, as they considered it the securest part of the building.

Q. – What knowledge, if any, have you, of one of your companions in the expedition, Mr. Parrot, having been seized and scourged by the Confederate authorities? State all you know on the subject, either from your own knowledge, or from his statements, or from the statements of Confederate officers. A -That occurred before I was myself captured after leaving the train. Mr. Parrot himself gave me a complete narrative of the transaction as soon as we reached Chattanooga, where we were all taken after a time. In addition to his statement, I heard the statement of his companion, the man taken with him, and one of those subsequently executed, who told me substantially the same story that Mr. Parrot did – that Mr. Parrot received over one hundred lashes to make him confess the object of the expedition, the names of his companions, and particularly name of the engineer who ran the train – all of which he refused to do. It was said by the Confederates that this flogging was inflicted by a mob, that "they took him and whipped him" - that was the expression they used. Afterwards, when we were going to Madison, at the time when they were taken away from Chattanooga, a Confederate officer called upon us at a station where the cars stopped, and spoke to Mr. Parrot in my hearing and told him that he admired his courage and hardihood in refusing to confess under the flogging he had received, and also stated that he was sorry that they had beaten him so severely.

In October, Col. Lee, who was their

Provost Marshal, having taken the place of the former Provost Marshal, came to us and told us that he had received a letter from the Secretary of War of the Confederacy, inquiring why we had not been executed. Col. Lee told us that he had replied that he was personally unacquainted with the affair, but he supposed it were probable that there were some mitigating circumstances in our own cases, and had referred to the Court Martial which tried the others, for those circumstances. One or two days after that, the jailer was overheard talking with an officer of the guard, and telling him that the remainder of our party were to be executed also. From this we supposed that the Secretary of War had ordered it, and we determined to escape if possible. On the evening of the next day, after we had had our supper, when they opened the door to take out the buckets in which our supper was brought, we seized the jailor and held him, opened another room of the prison in which others were confined, went downstairs and seized the guard – there were seven of the guard – and then attempted to make our escape; and eight of us succeeded in getting off before the alarm was given. The others were captured, four on the same evening and two others the next day. I was one

of those capture on the same evening, shortly after that, they removed us to the barracks in town, where we were better treated – more kindly treated – than we had ever been before that. We remained there until December, when we were sent to Richmond. We were first taken to Libby Prison, and told that we were to be exchanged. They sent a very light guard along with us, trusting to our belief that we would be exchanged; and so believing, - we went along quietly and made no attempt to escape, which we could easily have done. We were taken to the Libby Prison and kept there about an hour, and then transferred to the criminal prison, Castle Thunder. Here we were put in a little room upstairs, of which three sides were only weather boarded; and there we remained during the months of December and January, without any fire and with a very scanty supply of clothing, as they had taken all our blankets from us when we left Atlanta, with the exception of two small ones which we had managed to secret when we left the barracks. This was the only covering we had during those two months, for all six of us there. We were very destitute of other clothing at that time – nearly out of it, in fact. About the first of February,

however, they wanted that room with a number of other rooms on the same floor, for hospital purposes, and transferred us to a large room down stairs on the ground floor, which was assigned to union prisoners. Here we enjoyed more liberty than we had before, and remained until a special exchange was made. They finally exchanged us as citizens, leaving our names on the citizens list from Castle Thunder, although we had our names marked as soldiers, and our companies and regiments were down on the prison books, and in the charges and specifications given to the seven of our comrades who were tried and executed, it was admitted that they were soldiers, and their companies and regiments were named.

- Q Were the men engaged in that expedition detailed by the officers, or did they volunteer?
   Under what circumstances did they enter upon that expedition?
- A Gen. Mitchell issued an order to the Cols. of the three Ohio regiments in Sill's Brigade.

  To have a man detailed from each company for the captain of each company to select a reliable man of his company for this purpose.

  They were then sent to the Colonel's quarters, and told what they were wanted to do -

that they were wanted to dress in citizen clothes and obey the orders of Mr. Andrews. The expedition was not explained to us then, but we were told that we were to obey Mr. Andrews' orders, and to go with him on a secret expedition. The object of the expedition was explained to us that night by Mr. Andrews, who assembled us together about a mile from Shelbyville, after it got dark, and there gave us the main outlines – that we were to go into Georgia, to Marietta, - to make our way there as well as we could, and there to seize a train, and he would be with us all the time after reaching there, to direct us how to proceed.

- Q. The leading object of the expedition was to cut the communications + to destroy the bridges?
- A. Yes sir; the capture of the engine and train was merely a means to that end.
  - Q. Have you any evidence of the estimate which was placed by Confederate authorities upon the importance of this expedition, had it been successful?
  - A. I have a paper here now, one of the most influential in the State of Georgia, at least, called the "Southern Confederacy." The copy which I have is dated April 15, 1862. We seized the train on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, and

this paper was printed three days after, and before they learned the full particulars of the capture. I will read a portion of that article.

[The witness produced the paper and read From the article referred to.]

- Q. How came you in possession of that paper?
- A. The officer of the guard in charge of us had it and laid it down, and I took it and have carried it secreted about my person ever since, which accounts for its soiled and worn condition. I would refer to the entire article as the best answer to your question as to the importance attached to the expedition by the Confederate authorities.

  [A copy of the article referred to is hereto.]

[A copy of the article referred to is hereto appended, as a portion of this deposition.]

- Q. Were you personally acquainted with Mr.
  Wilson, who made the address upon the scaffold before his execution?
- A. Yes sir.
- Q. Will you state to what Company and Regiment he belonged, and from what part of the State of Ohio he came.
- A. He was a member of Co. B, of the Second Ohio Regiment – my regiment. He had resided in Cincinnati a long time, and came from there. He was a shoemaker by trade,

a man between 30 and 35 years of age, and had travelled a great deal over the United States, working at his trade. He said he had a family of two children; his wife was not living.

- Q. Will you please give, if you can, the names of all your comrades that were executed, with the companies and regiments to which they belonged.
- A. There was George D. Wilson, Co, B, 2d Ohio Infantry;
  Marion Ross, Co. A, 2d Ohio Infantry,
  the Sergeant Major of the regiment;
  Perry G. Shadrack, Co. K, 2d Ohio.
  Samuel Roberson, Co. G, 33d Ohio.
  Samuel Slavens, Co. D, 33d Ohio.
  John Scott Co. F, 21st Ohio.
  William Campbell, a citizen of Kentucky,
  and J. J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky also,
  and our leader.

William Campbell was on a visit to our regiment at the time this detail was made.

The captain of one of our companies asked him if he would go in the place of one of the soldiers, and he agreed to do so. We always said, when questioned about him, that he was a soldier.

Q. Will you state what you know, if anything, in regard to the origin of this secret expeditionby whom it was planned, and when?

Α. I do not know of my own knowledge, but Mr. Andrews told me that he himself, in his visits to the South had noticed that this thing could be accomplished, and that it would be of great benefit to us. He had proposed it to Gen. Buell; who did not give him much encouragement; afterwards he proposed it to Gen. Mitchell, who gave him more encouragement, and gave him permission to take eight men from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Regiment, which he had been with considerable, and attempt to execute the plan. The men were given him and he proceeded in the same way that we did, to Atlanta; but on arriving there, they found that the engineer whom Mr Andrews had engaged to run the train for them was not there, on account of having been pressed to run reinforcements to Beauregard at Corinth. For this reason they were obliged to give up the plan and go quietly back as passengers to Chattanooga, and their return through the country to our camp. Mr. Andrews then told Gen. Mitchell that from all he had seen in that expedition, he still considered the thing easy of accomplishment, and asked for a larger detail of 24 men from the three regiments, which he obtained. He asked to have some engineers selected, so that there should be no possibility of a failure the second time

like the first. There were consequently four men in our party, who could run engines; only one however did so on that expedition. None of those on the first expedition went on the second; entirely new men were selected the second time.

Q \_\_\_\_\_ Will you, if you can, give the names of the members of that expedition, in addition to those spoken of in this testimony -- that is to say, the witnesses who are to depose here, together with a Mr Mason, and the seven who were executed.

A. \_\_\_ They are as follows; --

William Knight, Co E. 21st Ohio

William H. Brown, Co. J " "

Daniel A. Dorsey, Co. H, 33d Ohio.

Mark Wood, Co. C, 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio

Alfred Wilson of the same Co. and Regiment.

This is the only instance where two men were taken of the same Company.

Martin J. Hawkins, Co. A, 33d Ohio.

John Wollam, Co. C. " "

and John R. Porter, Co. G 21st Ohio.

These eight that I have just named were those who succeeded in making their escape, and were not retaken at the time that we were. We saw in a Confederate paper and extract from the "Cincinnati Commercial", stating that the

two last named, Wollam and Porter, had suc=
ceeded in reaching own lines in a very destitute
condition at Corinth, which was then in our
possession. We were told by Col. Lee, the
Provost Marshal at Atlanta, that three of
those who had escaped, had been shot and
left in the woods; but we did not know
how much dependence to place upon that.

Wm. Pittenger

Co H 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Regt. Vol.

(Attach Copy of Article from "Southern Confederacy")