

SERIES 4, VOLUME 1

VOLUME OVERVIEW

Series 4 consists of two volumes, and Volume 1 covers the *New York Tribune* articles published from January through July 1861. The volume starts out with an article from December 1860, chosen because it discusses whether or not Missouri should have a state convention, an important topic of discussion throughout the months of January and February until the first session opened on February 28. Furthermore, the article includes comments on the impact a civil war will have on Missouri and the institution of slavery.

Alabama Commissioner William Cooper makes a strong secession speech in the hall of the state House of Representatives, which is then followed by a meeting in the Senate Chamber to discuss Cooper's suggestions.

Outgoing Missouri Governor Robert M. Stewart reviews the progress of the Abolition and Republican parties in a message read to the legislature. He denies the right of voluntary secession and says that it would be utterly destructive of every principle on which the national faith is founded if Missouri were to secede. He declares that Missouri occupies a position that should make her voice potent in the councils of the nation, and he believes that Missouri will hold to the Union so long as it is worth the effort to preserve it.

Governor Claiborne F. Jackson's inaugural address is discussed. One of the articles accuses him of justifying secession and notes that his hope of preserving the Union is not by congressional compromises but by amending the Constitution so as to protect slavery in the territories. Another article notes that Jackson opposes coercion and opposes calling a state convention. He (Jackson) states that if those slaves who flee north are returned to their masters, he is willing to stay in the Union.

The *Breckinridge Journal* publishes the names of those who voted for Abraham Lincoln, warning against employing or patronizing them. The *New York Tribune* says that attempts have been made to induce traders and master workmen to discharge the Republicans in their employ. It claims that this bias has spread and increased since secession agitation began. It notes that indictments have been found against publishers of the *Free Democrat*, a Republican newspaper, on account of their connection with an "incendiary" newspaper.¹

Gen. William S. Harney, commander of the Department of the West, condemns soliciting army officers for their political opinions and inducing them to abandon the service of their country by appeals to their love for their native state. Despite this, some question his loyalty, but in a letter to a friend in St. Louis, he declares he will never fight under any flag but the Stars and Stripes. He denies the right of secession and implores his fellow Missourians "not to be seduced by designing men to become the instruments of their mad ambition and plunge the state into revolution."²

A secession meeting, held in the city of Waverly, in Lafayette County, forbids the circulation of the *Missouri Democrat*, a Republican newspaper, and President Lincoln is burned in effigy amid the firing of cannon, cheering, torch lights, and music.

Several articles deal with the Kansas Drought Relief Issue. Judge W. F. M. Arny, general shipping agent for Kansas Relief, writes Harney, asking that he explain his letter to the War Department, which alleges that the donations for Kansas sufferers have gone into the hands of Col. James Montgomery's band of raiders and used to buy arms. Arny insists that "not one pound has been appropriated for any other purpose than the relief of the suffering people of Kansas."³ Harney responds that his report was based on personal observation and the most reliable sources. He further states that he cannot enter a defense of his report, as that would open up a discussion that would raise political questions into the army, which, he explains, should be avoided. Arny criticizes Harney for basing his charges against private parties on rumor. He says

¹ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jan#5).

² See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-May#37).

³ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jan#13).

the charges are false, and that Harney would have known this if he had checked the official reports of the distribution of donations sent to the needy in Kansas.

A large Union meeting, held in St. Louis, presents names as delegates to the state convention, which are unanimously accepted. U.S. Congressman-elect Frank P. Blair, Jr. says he is for the Union, and if he can help it, he “won’t let anybody else go out of it.” He “will vote for no man who is not for the Union without conditions or mental restrictions.”⁴ Early election results of delegates indicate that the Unconditional Union ticket wins by a large margin. The paper makes it clear that election was not about party or persons but about union with conditions vs. union without conditions. Retired Judge Hamilton R. Gamble is elected temporary chairman, and the Convention adopts a report requiring delegates to take an oath supporting the Constitution of the United States and that of Missouri. Commissioner Luther J. Glenn of Georgia appears before the Convention and urges Missouri to join his state in forming a southern confederacy. The Convention, however, declines his offer. Judge James H. Birch, a (unsuccessful) candidate for U.S. senator at this time, makes a strong anti-secession speech. While many agree, asserting that Southerners have no excuse for secession, as the Constitution continues to confer “the blessings intended by its founders,”⁵ others state there is no need for coercion. The Convention decides to forward to President Lincoln the protest of St. Louis against coercion by the federal government. Due to a short blurb in St. Louis papers exposing a secret organization of politicians to force Missouri to secede, Birch offers a resolution to appoint a committee to investigate this alleged conspiracy. One correspondent says that though the Convention is made up of Union men, most have sympathies with the South. He also offers more details on the aforementioned secret society wanting to force Missouri out of the Union. Birch denies the right of secession, but not of revolution, and John B. Henderson exhorts Georgia and other states to desist from revolutionary measures. The Convention recommends federal troops withdraw from southern forts, and delegates are elected to attend the Border States Convention, among whom are Gamble and Henderson. However, a short editorial suggests that any compromise reached at a convention of the Border States will not be accepted by President Lincoln, as neither he or his friends will consent to any surrender “that involves a direct abandonment of principle.”⁶

One correspondent writes that although St. Louis is undoubtedly for the Union, the rest of the state would vote to go with the South. He says, in reference to St. Louis, “We are possessed of some very dangerous elements in the state, and have a governor that would scruple at nothing to get rid of the eastern and northern people.”⁷ A couple of articles indicate that the interest of the Border States is unquestionably northern.

The anti-Republican ticket wins the municipal election by a large majority. The general assembly elects Waldo P. Johnson to succeed U.S. Sen. James S. Green, both described as “conditional or prospective secessionists—extreme southern or states’ rights men.”⁸ The paper suggests that Johnson’s election signals the rise of a new party on the ruins of the old Democratic Party.

After the commencement of the Civil War, Gov. Jackson refuses to send troops to President Lincoln, declaring, in a reply to Sec. of War Simon Cameron’s request for four regiments from Missouri, that “Not one man will the state of Missouri furnish to carry on such an unholy crusade.”⁹ One article reports that several companies of Minute Men, sworn into the service of the state, are armed, and a secession flag floats over their headquarters. Also, many of the police commissioners appointed by Jackson are secessionists, who suppress meetings of Union men.

Capt. Nathaniel Lyon is introduced in this volume and praised. One such article says, “Our Arsenal is well fortified and under the command of a man who will die before the traitors take it. His name is Lyon.”¹⁰

⁴ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jan#15).

⁵ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Mar#6).

⁶ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Mar#22).

⁷ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Feb#3).

⁸ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Apr#2).

⁹ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Apr#3).

¹⁰ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Apr#6).

Another article says that Lyon, in guarding the St. Louis Arsenal, is “not only vigilant and suspicious, but a stern patriot who could not be tampered with.”¹¹ To prevent the artillery stored at the Arsenal from falling into the secessionists’ hands, 21,000 stand of arms are sent from the St. Louis Arsenal to the armory at Springfield, Illinois. Harney has received orders to leave for Washington (having been dismissed from his command).

Despite Jackson’s refusal to provide troops for Lincoln’s army, a large number of men have tendered their services, and most are at the St. Louis Arsenal, under the command of the officers there. By the beginning of May, Lyon has around 5,000 volunteers mustered into service, and on May 7, members of the Union Home Guard are sworn into volunteer service.

Jackson calls for the legislature to convene on the 2nd of May for the purpose of enacting laws and measures necessary for the better organization of the state militia, and to raise money for the defense of the state. He issues orders to the commanding officers to assemble their respective command on the 3rd of May, and to go to encampment for six days. One article suggests that the new camp of militia is probably part of some traitorous scheme.

U.S. Congressman John S. Phelps, who would later fight on the side of the Union, spoke at a large meeting, where he approved Gov. Jackson’s refusal to send troops to aid the federal government. He believes, at this time, that the border states should act as a mediator between the North and South and not take part in the war. He clearly states, though, that secession is unconstitutional, and revolution is acceptable only when the evils are so great that civil war is preferable.

The governor gives a speech to the extra session of the legislature (mentioned above), in which he claims that Lincoln’s call for troops to subdue seceded states is unconstitutional. He justifies the actions of the seceded states but does not recommend immediate secession. Instead, he recommends the appropriation of a sufficient sum of money to place Missouri in a complete state of defense. A report states that the Missouri House of Representatives appears to have passed the joint resolution withholding the school fund for the purpose of arming the state. Several articles express their opposition to the military bill, which is being discussed, as well, in the legislature. Among its provisions is trial by court-martial for anyone speaking disrespectfully of the governor or legislature and the requirement to take the oath of allegiance only to the state of Missouri. Harney, who has been reinstated as commander of the Department of the West, calls the bill an “indirect ordinance of secession,”¹² and declares that the whole power of the federal government will be used if needed to keep Missouri in the Union.

With the passing of the Military Bill, the Missouri State Guard is created, and Sterling Price is appointed its commander. Price and Harney agree upon a plan for the maintenance of peace and avoidance of future conflict between the state and federal governments. One article criticizes the Price-Harney Treaty, describing it as a “hesitating and halfway policy of the administration and its representatives.”¹³ The article argues that the agreement does not specify in terms whether the state troops are to be disbanded and the Militia Bill ignored.

On May 23, Price orders the state troops at Jefferson City to disband, which the men oppose at first. They denounce the governor as a coward and Price as a traitor. Eventually the state forces, all but Jackson’s bodyguard, leave the capital.

A report states that Union men from the counties of Pettis, Henry, Benton, and Morgan have organized seven companies near Cole Camp “and threaten death to every secessionist in the Osage valley.”¹⁴ They have sent Harney a request for arms.

¹¹ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-May#13).

¹² See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-May#33).

¹³ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-May#56).

¹⁴ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jun#3).

Harney has been removed once again as commander of the Department of the West. Lyon, now a general, appoints Col. Frank P. Blair, Jr. commander of the St. Louis Arsenal. (Blair is also still a U.S. congressman.)

Bird's Point, Mississippi County, is occupied by federal forces to strengthen the river blockade, and also, according to one report, because of an expected attack on Cairo, Illinois.

The Planter's House Meeting, held June 11, is discussed in a few articles, several which summarize the results. One correspondent describes Jackson's demands as unreasonable, but optimistically concludes that the governor left the meeting "a wiser" man.¹⁵ However, reports indicate that Jackson sent his State Guards to burn the Gasconade Bridge and cut telegraph wires. He also declares war on the United States in his June 12 proclamation (text included),¹⁶ and as one editorial notes, he can no longer "do the work of a traitor while claiming the rights and immunities of a loyal citizen," due to Lyon and Blair's "open, fearless policy."¹⁷ Jackson and other state officers flee Jefferson City on June 13, and his secessionist State Guard follow, burning bridges behind them. It is reported that Jackson and Price's intent in moving southwest is to obtain arms from Arkansas and invite C.S.A. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch's forces into Missouri. Lyon, with a large federal force, is in pursuit of the governor.

The rebels prepare to resist Lyon at Boonville. Since the telegraph is in the hands of secessionists, it is considered unreliable. Col. Henry Boernstein is placed in command of Cole and adjoining counties (Jefferson City is located in Cole County), and he issues a proclamation notifying the citizens that he is there to preserve the peace.

Lyon issues a proclamation on June 20, declaring that he has disbursed hostile organizations in Boonville and was lenient to the rebels since most were "misguided youths,"¹⁸ but he warns the citizens that the government will not always be lenient to hostile organizations. By the end of June, it is reported that his forces are moving toward Springfield. Information is received from Springfield that Col. Franz Sigel's regiment has headed west to cut off Gov. Jackson.

Jackson calls for a session of the Missouri rump legislature to meet in Sarcoxie (Jasper County) for the purpose of passing a secession ordinance.

Federal troops capture nine men, along with powder kegs and arms, near Chillicothe (Livingston County), thus preventing the destruction of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad bridge.

Leonidas Polk, the Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana, is commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate army, and assigned to the command of lower Mississippi.

With the arrival of U.S. troops at Springfield, it is reported that leading rebels are fleeing the town, while others take the oath of loyalty to the Union.

Gen. Lyon prohibits any further publication of the *State Journal*, and Col. John McNeil, under Lyon's orders, visits the paper's office, removing everything needed for publication, and the paper, itself. McNeil issues a proclamation explaining the reason behind the paper's suppression.

Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont is introduced near the end of this volume, with an article that says he needs to take up his command. He explains that though Lyon, who has been the de facto commander of the Department of the West until Fremont, the official commander, arrives in St. Louis, has taken excellent care of the rebels in the southwest, "throughout the northern part of the state, there are little eruptions of secessionism, here today and there tomorrow."¹⁹ Also a topic of discussion at this time is the second session of the Missouri State Convention. A debate ensues at the Convention on whether it would be in the state's

¹⁵ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jun#17).

¹⁶ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jun#20).

¹⁷ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jun#19).

¹⁸ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jun#37).

¹⁹ See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Jul#42).

best interests to remove Jackson from office. The Convention's Committee of Seven presents a report proposing the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state be vacated, and their vacancies filled by the Convention, the officers so appointed to hold their positions until August 1862, at which time it provides for a special election by the people. The committee also recommends repealing the bills passed in secret session by the state legislature in May 1861. Retired Judge Gamble joins the committee, which is renamed the Committee of Eight. The committee's report, dated July 29, is submitted and discussed, but no final vote is taken, and more discussion is expected to be continued the next day. (Results will be reported in Vol. 2.)

This volume covers the Camp Jackson Affair, the Battle of Boonville, the Cole Camp Massacre, and the Battle of Carthage, each with its own special section, which includes a description of the event and the Annex identifier, where related articles are found. There is also an article reporting on the skirmish between Col. Robert F. Smith, of the 16th Illinois Infantry, and Missouri State Guard Gen. Thomas Harris, which occurred July 9-11 in Monroe.