

## SERIES 1, VOLUME 4 VOLUME OVERVIEW

At the start of June, covered in the current volume (Vol. 4 of Series 1), a letter to the editors of the *Missouri Democrat* issues a warning: “thirty days will not pass over our heads after [Missouri State Guard Gen. James S.] Rains gets his secessionists armed before you will hear of war in southwest Missouri.”<sup>1</sup> The warning was prophetic. In less than two weeks, Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson would declare war. No longer would Missouri speak of “armed neutrality,” a common theme in the previous month.

There are accusations at this time that government money is going to rebel causes and reports that the Confederate flag has been seen flying near Gov. Jackson’s residence. Missouri State Guard Gen. Rains, one of Jackson’s appointees, is accused of having his men “bear allegiance to Missouri alone” and swear “not to bear allegiance to the Union.”<sup>2</sup> Missouri State Guard Maj. Gen. Sterling Price addresses the commanders of the military districts in a letter dated June 5, and alleges that he and Gov. Jackson desire “that the people of Missouri should exercise the right to choose their own position in any contest which might be forced upon them.”<sup>3</sup> He also enjoins the commanders “to see that all citizens, of whatever opinions in politics or religion, be protected in their persons and property.” One correspondent describes the letter as “entirely unsatisfactory to any Union man.” He says, “it contains too much claptrap, meaning one thing and doing another.”<sup>4</sup>

Jackson, himself, is reported to have fled the capital, along with members of his secessionist government. A letter to the editors addresses this escape, asking Jackson if he is guilty of violating his oath of office and if he or any of his government who have fled with him have committed treason. “Do you suppose that either of you will be arrested for a crime you have never committed?...Will not the very act of your leaving be apparent evidence of your guilt?”<sup>5</sup>

A regular correspondent to the *Democrat*, who calls himself “Union,” addresses Sterling Price and accuses him of representing himself falsely at the time of the Convention three months earlier. “After taking upon yourself, as a member and president of the State Convention, a solemn oath to support the Constitution of the United States, you are found marshalling an army under the unconstitutional military law, which compels all who act under it to swear allegiance to the isolated state of Missouri.”<sup>6</sup> In a separate article, the same “Union” compares the condition of the craft *Fox Jackson* with that of its namesake, the governor. He notes that “to extract the rotten planks would be to destroy the entire secession craft and crew, for the whole posse are now in a state of decay...fit only for the hands of the scavenger.”<sup>7</sup> He accuses Gov. Jackson of long years of pretended fidelity to the loyal people of Missouri, “just to now plunge the people “headlong into the quagmires of revolution.” In another one of “Union’s” letters to the paper, he questions why, if the Price-Harney Agreement of May 21 (covered in the previous volume) promises peace to the people of Missouri, are recent events indicating a move toward war. He asks, “in view of passing events at headquarters of the State Guard, the question now is, if peace is meant, why such extraordinary and long-continued warlike preparations? Why do in the dark, and in the most secret manner possible, things which have peace for their object?”<sup>8</sup> Another article, a reprint from the Chicago *Tribune*, points out that hundreds of loyal citizens have been driven from Missouri since the Price-Harney Agreement, and this despite Jackson’s “talks of his affording protection to citizens of Missouri without regard to political creeds.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#7).

<sup>2</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#21).

<sup>3</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#18.2).

<sup>4</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#27).

<sup>5</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#28).

<sup>6</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#34).

<sup>7</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#42).

<sup>8</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#45).

<sup>9</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#61.1).

Several articles are pleas for law and order to be enforced in Missouri. They ask that the rebels be taught a lesson, “that treason is dangerous, that to incite insurrection or levy war against the United States is punishable by *death*.”<sup>10</sup>

On June 11, 1861, Lyon (at this time in command of the Department of the West), accompanied by U.S. Congressman Col. Frank Blair, Jr. and Maj. Horace A. Conant, met Gov. Jackson, accompanied by Price and Thomas L. Snead (Jackson’s private secretary), at the Planter’s House to discuss, if possible, a peaceful solution to Missouri’s troubles. The negotiations, however, failed. Jackson and Price made it clear they wanted the U.S. troops to leave the state and not enter it, and in return, he would disband his own troops. Lyon made it clear that the U.S. troops would not leave. He explained that if the government withdrew its forces entirely, there were those who would take advantage, and secret and subtle measures would be taken to provide arms and create organizations which could provide a formidable opposition to the federal government. With their points of view so widely apart, it was decided to conclude the meeting. Lyon wanted to publish each of their views in the newspapers, but even in this, they disagreed. This volume includes a biography of Gen. Lyon, as well as a special insert, the latter which focuses on Lyon as representing “a new kind of professional soldier,” whose loyalty was exclusively to the federal government.<sup>11</sup>

The day after the Planter’s House meeting, Jackson delivered his proclamation, calling the state militia “to the number of fifty thousand into the active service of the state for the purpose of repelling said invasion...,”<sup>12</sup> the word “invasion” referring to that from the federal government. In this declaration of war, Jackson says, “it is equally my duty to advise you that your first allegiance is due to your own state, and that you are under no obligation whatever to obey the unconstitutional edicts of the military despotism which has enthroned itself at Washington, or to submit to the infamous and degrading sway of its minions in this state.”<sup>13</sup> Several articles in this volume are opinion pieces dealing with Jackson’s proclamation.

Jackson has the Gasconade Bridge destroyed. Price orders to “destroy every bridge between this and the Gasconade River.”<sup>14</sup> Union citizens leave by droves from the interior of the state, particularly from the southwest part of the state, but also from Jefferson City. Steamers, according to reports, are being detained and searched, traitors arrested, and some released upon taking an oath of loyalty to the Union.

Responding to the failure of the Planter’s House meeting and Jackson’s war proclamation, troops leave the St. Louis Arsenal to protect regions of Missouri. Cavalry head for St. Joseph to help organize a Home Guard, and a detachment of troops leave Fort Leavenworth for Lexington. U.S. troops arrive in Kansas City to organize a Home Guard there, and other troops proceed to Hannibal, where it is reported “every secession flag that floated over the city”<sup>15</sup> disappeared. Companies are mustered and equipped for service at the St. Louis Arsenal, and more troops leave the Arsenal under Cols. Henry Boernstein (to Hermann), Benjamin G. Brown (to protect the two bridges of the North Missouri Railroad above St. Charles) and Samuel R. Curtis (to St. Joseph).

Lyon takes possession of the capital “quietly,” with no one hurt. He and his men are enthusiastically received by the loyal citizens of the city. In the meantime, Gov. Jackson has moved from Boonville toward Arkansas. Lyon issues a proclamation, which is in response to Jackson’s war declaration, and he appeals for help from the loyal Union citizens of the state.

Several articles attack the *Democrat*’s rival, the *Missouri Republican*, and its editor, Nathaniel Paschall, particularly regarding the issue of the Military Bill, which the *Republican* now condemns as unconstitutional but originally supported. An editorial accuses the *Republican* of covering up Jackson’s treasonable acts, specifically mentioning the damage to the Gasconade Bridge, which the *Democrat* says “savors of an attempt to...make

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<sup>10</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#44).

<sup>11</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD--Jun#46.1).

<sup>12</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#56).

<sup>13</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun-Annex-13)

<sup>14</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#55).

<sup>15</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#61.3).

light of the treasonable acts of the aforesaid traitor.”<sup>16</sup> An editorial addresses a comment by the *Republican*, in which it explains that it gives offense to both Unionists and secessionists because they do not hold to extreme views and hold the “golden medium.” The *Democrat’s* editorial responds that the reason their rival is denounced by both sides is simply “because it betrays both.”<sup>17</sup> The subject of treason is mentioned in many articles in this volume, quite often linking Gov. Jackson with the label.

Joseph W. Tucker, editor of the *State Journal*, Gov. Jackson’s mouthpiece, is accused of treason and arrested. Testimony of witnesses for the case against Tucker, are reported for the first and second days of the trial (in separate articles). The *State Journal* is accused of libel after publishing a piece alleging that a member of the Republican Party had announced to them that the Home Guard would be turned loose to murder sympathizers of the state, whether men, women, or children. Other articles accuse the *Journal* of more false reports, and still another accuses it of urging secessionists forward to rebellion.

This volume includes an article which gives a brief timeline of events regarding the pursuit of Gov. Jackson, as well as a map illustrating Jackson’s flight. It also covers the Battle of Boonville and the Cole Camp Massacre, each with its own special section describing the event and listing all related articles. Also included is a detailed description of the Seventh Street shooting of June 17, with the testimonies of eyewitnesses and the names of those killed and wounded.

A couple of articles, letters to the editors, suggest that a convention be called to immediately remove Jackson and his legislature from office. An editorial points out that the secessionists originally proposed the Convention Bill, but now that a new session is considered to meet in July, they argue that it has no authority to put Gov. Jackson out of office. The editorial stresses, however, that the “Convention can do *anything* not forbidden by the Constitution and treaties of the United States.”<sup>18</sup> (The Convention’s second session does meet at the end of July and is successful in its goal. See Volumes 5 and 6 of this series.)

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<sup>16</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#64).

<sup>17</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#69.2).

<sup>18</sup> See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jun#140).