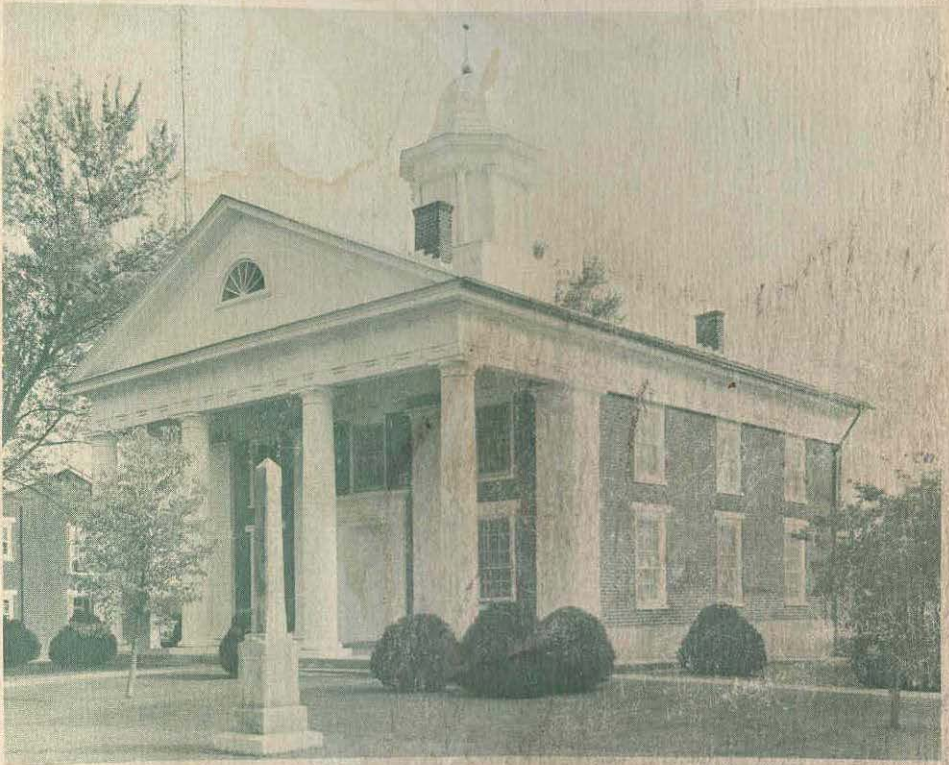


Greene County

MAGAZINE

The Patrol of 1864



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THE PATROL OF 1864*

By Woodie B. Parrott

Toward the later years of the Civil War, the Confederate States Army encountered serious problems in providing its troops with the bare necessities of food, clothing, and relief from constant exposure to the elements. Such physical hardships increased the cases of desertion and straggling within the ranks of the South's army, and, of course, other soldiers defected for sympathy with the Union cause.

Whatever their individual motivations, desertion was a formidable problem. The issue was addressed by the Virginia General Assembly on October 27, 1863, and as a result of the new legislation, a patrol was established in Greene County on October 12, 1864, charged with "... arresting deserters under the Act of Assembly"[1] Apparently fearing that the slaves might join arms with the Union troops, the patrol was also given authority to police the black population in the county.

Considering the fact that the Greene County Court named sixty-six men to this patrol, one might speculate that there may have been a large number of deserters in the county, possibly taking refuge in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Regrettably, we have no way today of knowing how many such deserters were in the area at that time.

Following is a complete list of the men of Greene County appointed by the Greene County Court on October 12, 1864, to track down deserting soldiers taking refuge in Greene County. [2]

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THE PATROL OF 1864

✓ James F. Offield,
Commanding Officer

✓ B. A. McMullan,
Lieutenant

✓ William F. Plunkett,
Lieutenant

✓ P. H. Miller,
Lieutenant

M. F. Finks,
Lieutenant

✓ John Jarrell
✓ Hinkle Jarrell
G. F. Henshaw
R. F. Page
✓ T. J. D. Eddins
John G. Dulaney
J. P. Sims
J. T. Peregory
✓ Pemberton Jarrell
✓ R. B. Deane
James Beazley
Wertz Taylor
Abram Taylor
✓ George L. Teel
Richard Dawson
James Harris
✓ May Burton
Abram Yowell
Henry Yowell
M. Buckner
G. J. Stephens
J. W. Pafer[?]
✓ James Lucas
John C. Sims
✓ John W. Crow
✓ R. S. Dulaney
Dr. E. S. Hunter
Dr. G. B. Jennings
✓ F. C. Twyman
John Cox

✓ Amanson Wood
✓ T. J. Chapman
Nelson Shiflett
Gordon Morris
✓ John Douglas
George E. Blakey
William Cox
✓ James Elliott
✓ George A. Gentry
✓ Thomas Garth
✓ D. Powell
✓ George W. Mitchell
✓ J. G. E. D. Davis
E. Th. Durrett
✓ Bezaleel B. Parrott
✓ J. S. Walker
J. Sheler
✓ Downing Smith
✓ Jeremiah Deane
✓ M. P. Mayer
✓ J. R. Mundy
✓ Dr. Thomas M. Shearman
Richard Runkle
✓ John Gentry
✓ Thornton Mooney
Jeremiah Taylor
James Taylor
Washington White
George Nichol

REFERENCES

- [1] Order of Greene County, Virginia, Court dated October 12, 1864 recorded in the Minutes of said court's records.
- [2] Ibid.