



The Texas Union Herald



Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
Department of Texas
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume ii Number 12 December 2017

Rattling Sabres

by
Glen E. Zook

Although it really doesn't have anything to do with the Civil War, I mentioned, last month, about preparing for the contest, for antique / vintage equipment, that was going to be held at the annual national convention held by the Vintage Radio & Phonograph Society in late November. For 2017, and for at least the next 2-years, this convention has been moved from Mesquite, Texas, to Plano, Texas. There were 18 different categories this year and I entered equipment in 8 of those categories. The competition was intense this year and there were some rare, as well as well restored, units entered into the competition.

Not to brag, well, not that much, my equipment won 2-each 1st place and 3-each 2nd place ribbons. Of course, I hoped for more awards but, what I did receive, was not a bad showing. Awards in 62.5% of the categories in which entries were made and 25% of the 1st place awards in the competitions entered.

For those Camp members who missed my presentation on the United States Army Camel Corps, I have written an article about that experiment. The article appears elsewhere in this issue of the Texas **Union Herald**.

Of course, December brings Christmas, and other holidays including Hanukkah, to be celebrated. I can only imagine how those, on both sides, really felt at this time of year. It would have been bad enough for those soldiers who came from the cities. However, most of the forces, on both sides, came from the rural areas of both the North and South. During Victorian times, most of the population had never been more than 50-miles from home and a significant portion had never been more than 25-miles from home. Being absent from their families, during the holiday season, would present a definite strain on their well being.

Then, there was the living in tents especially when the weather was bad. Being from LaPorte, Indiana, the snow capital of the State of Indiana, cold weather did not used to bother me that much. However, my lodging was usually inside of a warm building. In the Boy Scouts, every winter there was an event called the "Klondike Derby" that was almost when there was at least a foot of snow on the ground and often 2-feet, or more. Living in a tent for a couple of days was not pleasant and I can just imagine being in a tent for weeks at a time! Even in better weather, the conditions could make one want a more permanent lodging in a very short period of time.

It is not hard to see why disease, and not combat, was the most common cause of death. Sanitation, in those tent cities, was often difficult to maintain. In fact, there were

often problems in the hospitals and diseases were spread to others that were patients for other reasons.

My primary Civil War ancestor, Private William James Stump, Company I, 128th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was wounded at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain (northern Georgia) and was sent to General Hospital Chattanooga. At the hospital, he caught Typhoid fever and then died from that disease. Had he remained with his unit, he might have survived the war.

This year, for Christmas, my wife, and I, are going to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, to visit our youngest daughter and her family. Although born in California, my wife was raised, from age 3, in Atlanta and still has quite a few relatives, besides our daughter, in the Atlanta area. All 3 of our daughters were born in Dallas and were educated in the Plano Independent School District. After graduating from high school, this daughter was employed by Nortel and "took to" a particular computer program that was used when field measurements were made for wireless telephone systems. After the job was done in the Dallas area, the next project was in the Atlanta area and she was made an offer that she could not refuse to go to Atlanta. There, she met her husband and has lived there for more than 20-years.

My daughter lives just a few miles from the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park and that area is a favorite place for her, and her children, to visit. They often hike the trails around the park. It is certainly possible that they hike near the exact spot where their 3rd / 4th great grandfather was wounded! I like to visit the park whenever we are visiting the area.

Before she recently moved, this daughter's house literally was next to a local reserved area on which one of the minor skirmishes of the Battle of Atlanta occurred. Her street name was for one of the Confederate officers who was involved in that particular skirmish.

It is time for Camp members to consider who they want to nominate for the 2018 officer corps. Frankly, it is the time for anyone who wants to become an officer to make their presence known. There is always a need for "new blood" and this is the time to make such known.

For everyone else, to steal a line from a famous Christmas poem: Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

The Texas **Union Herald** is published monthly by the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**. For official business, including editorial and article submission, the mailing address is as follows:

Glen E. Zook
The Texas **Union Herald**
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: (972) 231-3987
(972) 231-5011

Articles, news items, features, and the like are welcomed for publication in **The Texas Union Herald**. Deadline is normally the 1st of the month of the cover date of publication. Submissions may be handwritten, typewritten, or submitted in any of the popular computer formats (Microsoft Word, Open Office, Word Perfect, and ASCII). Please contact the editor for details.

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Articles Needed!

If the members of the **Colonel E.E. Ellsworth Camp #18** do not want to be inundated with articles that were chosen by the editor (what he wants to see in the newsletter) then they need to start inputting items for inclusion in **The Texas Union Herald**. Tidbits about the Civil War, stories, articles, current news items, photographs, even commentaries are most welcome.

Don't worry if you are not an accomplished author. Get the idea onto paper (computer, etc.) and get it to the editor. He really can edit (rewrite, etc.) and you'll be surprised at just how well you can write!

If you have E-Mail capabilities, you can either include the information in the body of the message or put it in either Word format or ACSII ("txt") format. If, for some reason, you cannot do either, contact the editor to see if your particular word processor format can be handled.

If "hard" copy, make sure the copy is legible (can be read by someone else!). Typewritten, computer printed, even in Crayon on "Big Chief" tablet is acceptable. Just get the information in!

Even small (1 or 2 paragraphs) material, or photographs, can be used. That makes editing and publishing the newsletter easier since "fill" material is available for those little areas that seem to happen whenever an article is included in the publication.

Mailing Address:

Editor
Texas **Union Herald**
410 Lawndale Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080

E-Mail: texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net

Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18 Camp Officers

Commander	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
SVC	Rick Erder rerder@verizon.net
JVC	Paul Ridenour paulridenour@tx.rr.com
Secretary	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Treasurer	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Chaplain	Larry Johnson
Patriotic Instructor	Drake Peddie dmpeddie@aol.com
Graves Registration	Open
Historian	Don Gates d_gates@verizon.net
Civil War Memorials	Open
Eagle Scout Coordinator	John Schneider schneider1@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Glen E. Zook gezook@sbcglobal.net texasunionherald@sbcglobal.net



The Drummer Boy of Shiloh

Submitted by

Colonel Donald E. Darby

Past Commander in Chief

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The City of Newark, Licking County, Ohio, takes pride in her reputation of having supplied the youngest and smallest recruit to the Union Army. His full name was John Winston Clem, but the family spelled the name Klem and Clem. While many stories have been told of Johnnie this story as related by his sister Lizzie Clem Adams:

It being Sunday, May 24, 1864, and the great rebellion in progress. Johnnie said at the dinner table "Father, I'd like might well to be a drummer boy. Can't I go into the Union army?"

"Tut what nonsense, boy!", replied father; "you are not ten years old."

Yet when he had disappeared it is strange we had no thoughts that he had gone into the service.

When dinner was over Johnnie took charge of us. I being seven years old and out brother, Lewis, five year, and we started for Francis de Sales Sunday school. As it was early he left us at the church door, saying, "I will go take a swim and be back in time." He was a fine swimmer. That was the last time we saw him for two years.

The distress of our father and step-mother at Johnnie's way beyond measure. Our own mother had met with a shocking death the year before; had been run over by a yard engine as she was crossing the track to avoid another train. No own mother could be more kind to us than our step-mother. Father, thinking Johnnie must have drown, had the water drawn from the head of the canal. Mother traveled hither and yon to find him. It was all in vain. Several weeks elapsed when we heard of him as having been in Mount Vernon; and then two years nothing more was heard and we mourned him as dead, not even dreaming that he could be in the army, he was so very small, nothing but a child.

It seems he went up on the train to Mount Vernon and appeared next day at the house of Mrs. Dennis Cochrane, an old neighbor of ours. He told her that his father had sent him there to peddle vegetables, which were to come up from Newark. None arriving, Mrs. Cochrane surmised the truth and at the end of the week, fearful he would escape, fastened him a dog chain and put him in charge of a Newark railroad conductor to deliver to his home, which he could readily do as it was near the depot. On his arrival here he worked on the sympathies of the conductor to let him go free, saying his father would whip him dreadfully if he was delivered to him. This father wouldn't have done – he would have been but too glad to have got him.

The train carried him to Columbus, where he enlisted as a drummer boy in the 24th Ohio. Finding an uncle in that organization he left it and went as a drummer boy in the 22nd Michigan. He was an expert drummer, and being a bright, cheery child, soon made his way into the affections of officers and soldiers.

He was in many battles: at Shiloh, Perrysville, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Nashville, Kennesaw, and others in which the army of of the Cumberland was engaged. He was at one time taken

prisoner down in Georgia. The rebels stripped him of everything, his clothes, his shoes, his little gun – an ordinary musket. I suppose, cut short, and his little cap. He said he did not care about anything but his cap. He did want so save that, and it hurt him solely to part with it, for it had three bullet holes through it.

When he was exchanged as a prisoner he came home for a week. He was wasted to a skeleton. He had been starved almost to death. I was but a little thing then, but I shall never forget his dreadful corpse-like aspect when the carriage, which brought him, stopped at our door. He seem like as if he was done up in a mass of rags. There were no soldier clothes small enough to fit him, and he was so small and wan and not much larger than a babe, about thirty inches high and couldn't have weighed over sixty pounds.

He returned to the army and served on the staff of General Thomas until the close of the war. After it he studied at Wst Point, but could not regularly enter as a cadet on account of his diminutive size. General Gran, however, commissioned him as a Lieutenant. He is now (1886) Captain of the 24th U.S. Infantry, and is stationed at Fort McHenry, Md. He is still small: height only five feet, and weight, 105 pounds. He married, May 24, 1875, Annita, daughter of the late General H. French, U.S.A. Like her husband, she is under size, short and delicate; can't weight over seventy pounds. They have had six children, only one of whom is living.

I have told you of the dreadful death of our mother, run over by a yard engine. My brother, Louis, five years old on that noted Sunday, also came to a shocking end. I think my father will never get over mourning for him. He grew to be very tall, full six feet, but of slender frame and feeble health. He was off West on a furlough for his health when he went with Custer, as a guest, on his last ill-fated expedition, and and was with the others massacred by the Sioux, under Sitting Bull, in the battle of Little Big Horn, in Montana, June 25, 1876.

To this narrative the following information is added: When he joined the 22nd Michigan, being too young to be mustered in, he went with the regiment as a volunteer, until at length he was beating the long roll in front of Shiloh. His drum wads smashed by a piece of shell, which occurrence won him the appellation of "Johnie Shiloh", as a title of distinction for his bravery. He was afterwards regularly mustered in and served as a marker, and with his little musket so served on the battlefield of Chattanooga. At the close of that bloody day, the brigade in which he was partly surrounded by rebels and was retreating, when he, being unable to fall back as fast as the rest of the line, was singled out by a rebel colonel, who rode up to him with the summons, scoundrel, "Halt! Surrender you _____ little Yankee!" By the way of order Johnnie halted, brought his piece to the position of charge bayonet, thus throwing the colonel off his guard. In another moment the piece cocked, fired, and the colonel fell dead from his horse. Simultaneously with this the regiment was fired into when Johnnie fell as though he had been shot, and laid there until darkness closed in, when he arose and made his way toward Chattanooga fater the rest of the army. A few days later he was taken prisoner with others whilst detailed to bring up the supply trains from Bridgeport.

When he returned to service, General Thomas was in command of the army of the Cumberland. He received him with the warmest enthusiasm, made him an orderly

sergeant and attached him to his staff. At Chickamauga he was struck with a fragment of a shell in the hip, and at Atlanta, while he was in the act of delivering a dispatch from General Thomas to General Logan, when a ball struck his pony obliquely near the top of his head, killing him and wounding his fearless little atom of a rider in the right ear.

For his heroic conduct he was made a sergeant by Rosecrans, who placed him upon the Roll of Honor, and attached him to the headquarters of the army of the Cumberland, while a daughter of Chief Justice Chase presented him with a silver medal inscribed, "Sergeant Johnnie Clem, Twenty-second Michigan Volunteer Infantry, from N.M.C." which he worthily wears as a priceless badge of honor with his Grand Army medal. Now (1890) Captain Clem is holding the important positions of Depot Quartermaster, Depot Commissary, Ordnance, Columbus, Ohio.



Major Crossman

The United States Army Camel Corps

by
Glen E. Zook

As promised, I am transferring my presentation on the U.S. Army Camel Corps from the verbal into a written medium.

The original idea for a camel corps was first presented in 1836 when the idea was a the suggestion by Army Lt. George H. Crossman, assisted by E. H. Miller, that was submitted a report to Army headquarters: *"For strength in carrying burdens, for patient endurance of labor, and privation of food, water & rest, and in some respects speed also, the camel and dromedary (as the Arabian camel is called) are unrivaled among animals. The ordinary loads for camels are from seven to nine hundred pounds each, and with these they can travel from thirty to forty miles a day, for many days in succession. They will go without water, and with but little food, for six or eight days, or it is said even longer. Their feet are alike well suited for traversing grassy or sandy plains, or rough, rocky hills and paths, and they require no shoeing..."*

Unfortunately, this report was ignored!

But, the idea was not forgotten by Crossman.

Then, in 1847, then now Major Crossman met Major Henry C. Lane of the Quartermaster Department who submitted a plan to the War Department. This report caught the attention of Senator Jefferson Davis of Mississippi who was the chairman of the Senate Committee On Military Affairs. Davis tried, for several years, to get approval for the plan but failed.



Major Wayne

Then, in 1853, Davis was appointed Secretary of War and in 1854, in his annual report to Congress Davis stated:

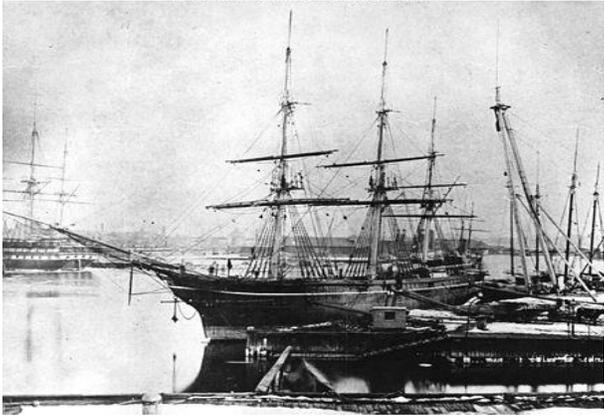
".... Department of the Pacific the means of transportation have, in some instances, been improved, and it is hoped further developments and improvements will still diminish this large item of our army expenditure. In this connection, ... I again invite attention to the advantages to be anticipated from the use of camels and dromedaries for military and other purposes, and for reasons set forth in my last annual report, recommend that an appropriation be made to introduce a small number of the several varieties of this animal, to test their adaptation to our country..."

On 3 March 1855, Congress passed the Shield Amendment to the Appropriations Bill stating:
"And be it further enacted, that the sum of \$30,000 be, and the same is hereby appropriated under the direction of the War Department in the purchase and importation of camels and dromedaries to be employed for military purposes."

In May 1855, Davis appointed Major Wayne to head the expedition to acquire camels and the U.S. Navy Ship "Supply", under the command of Lt. David Dixon Porter,

was refitted to include stalls, special hatches, hoists, etc., to handle the camels safely during the long voyage.

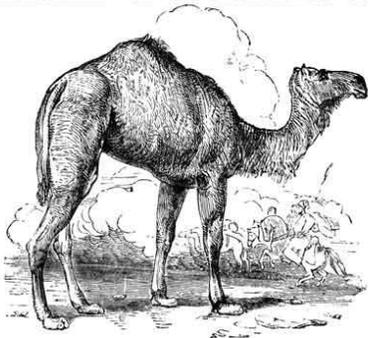
Photo No. NR&L(O) 21480 USS Supply after the Civil War



In June, Wayne went to London and Paris to interview military men who had experience with camels and to visit zoos to get information on caring for the animals. Porter went to the Mediterranean to deliver supplies to the U.S. Navy squadron based there. For the remainder of the year, Porter, Wayne, and Mr. Gwynne Harris Heap, Porter's brother-in-law, who had been the U.S. Consul in Tunis, scoured the countries surrounding the Mediterranean to acquire camels.

On 15 February 1856, with a total of 33 camels they headed home and on 14 May, the "Supply" landed at Indianola, Texas. On the voyage, one male camel died, 6 calves were born but only 2 survived. Thus, 34 camels were available.

THE CAMELS ARE COMING!



SEE THE U.S. CAMEL CORPS!

In the time between 4 and 18 June, the Camel Herd was moved to San Antonio where Wayne planned on establishing a breeding operation. This did not meet with the approval of Davis who wanted to prove the military use of the camels. Davis also sent Porter back to acquire more camels. On the 26th to 27th August: Wayne moved the camel herd about 60-miles northwest of San Antonio to Camp Verde where he constructed corrals, and other facilities, like those in Egypt and Turkey. Camp Verde would be the home of the Camel Corps for many years.



Later, in 1856, although those who were in charge of the Camel Corps wanted to expand the number of camels through breeding, etc., before starting operations, Davis wanted to prove the abilities of the camels as pack animals and so forth. Therefore, such caravan operations commenced. The first trials were to carry supplies from San Antonio to Camp Verde about 60-miles. The camels were able to carry supplies faster than horses and even during a driving rain storm that made the roads impassible for several days for wagons and horses!

The use of the camels was gradually extended westward first as use for scouting and surveying the Big Bend area of Texas and well into New Mexico. Camels were excellent for this purpose and, as an added benefit, most Indians were afraid of the camels and would not get anywhere near them let alone attack those handling the camels.

Another thing was the fact that camels would eat just about anything including Texas Mountain Cedar and creosote bush, plants that horses and mules would not even go near, let alone eat!

One of the main uses, of camels, was carrying freight from Tucson to Los Angeles. Regular trips were made carrying things like salt, corn, grain, and mail. Also, they became a popular mode of transportation for human beings. Camels could easily carry 300-pounds of freight and often even more at speeds of 4-miles per hour or faster and did not require anywhere near as many rest stops as horses. In addition, scouting expeditions were made along the Sierra Nevada Mountains and throughout the deserts of the southwest.

Camels became a regular mode of transportation in California after a German, named Otto Esche imported around 40 from Mongolia. In addition, after Jefferson Davis left his post as Secretary of War, his successor, John Floyd, ordered an additional 1000 camels to be bought and outfitted.

Then, came the Civil War! On 28 February 1861 Confederate forces took over Camp Verde where a significant number of camels were based. With war clouds hanging over the East, no one knew what to do with the animals. Some were used to give rides to children, some were sold to the circus, some became mascots of, especially, Confederate units, some were slaughtered and jerky made from the meat, and most were just "turned loose".

There was an attempt to utilize the camels for Union efforts and a plan for such was submitted, to the new

Union Secretary of War, Edward Stanton, by Edward Beale, a retired Naval officer who was a long time proponent of the use of camels. Stanton never made a reply!

After the war, with the coming of the railroads, any practical use of camels for transportation ended. However, there were hundreds of camels that had just been "turned loose" to roam the southwest. Eventually, those camels wandered as north as Canada and deep into the Baja California and even as far east as Arkansas. The last confirmed sighting of a feral camel in the United States was in 1941. However, unconfirmed reports were made well into the 1950s and even into the 1960s.

There has been proposed that camels were not suited to the American southwest. Things like rocky soil and other things caused the animals pain. This is absolutely false! Camels had no problems with the various terrain found in this country.

Now, there is a basis that camels can be quite a handful including being bad tempered, spitting, biting, and so forth. Horses and mules did not like being near the camels and many of the soldiers assigned to the camel corps were definitely unhappy. However, when properly handled, camels were no more problematic than mules and, in most situations, easier to handle. Arab handlers were originally brought with the camels to teach the American troops in the proper handling methods.

There are numerous artifacts, as well as monuments, that are present as reminders of the United States Camel Corps.



In addition, there are a number of monuments around the southwest that are in honor of the Camel Corps.

The forms this education takes on are camel treks, historic reenactments and programs at schools, libraries, museums, and historical sites. Other business endeavors include featuring our camels as part of faith-based or cultural events as well as TV/Film production.

At the heart of it all, though, is education. Whether it's the perpetuation of the unique role camels played in settling Western America, utilizing the camels as a classroom for environmental/social studies or trekking over the very ground explored during the US Army Camel Experiment of the 1850's, the driving goal of Texas Camel Corps is to share our camels in one of a kind settings that the public will enjoy and remember.



November Meeting

The December 2017 meeting of the
Colonel E. E. Ellsworth Camp #18
SUVCW

Will be held on

Tuesday 19 December 2017

At the

Heritage Farmstead Museum, Plano, TX.

December Birthdays



George B. McClellan
3 December 1826



George Armstrong Custer
5 December 1839



Joseph K. F. Mansfield
22 December 1803



John White Geary
30 December 1819



George Meade
31 December 1815

Last Will & Testament James J. Andrews

Compliments of
Colonel Donald E. Darby
Past Commander in Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

(Spelling, etc., are of the original)

Chattanooga, Tennessee
June 5th, 62

D. S. McGavic, Esq.
Flemingsburg, Ky.

Dear Sir:

You will doubtless be surprised to hear from me from this place & more surprised to hear that I am to be executed on the 7th

First: For attempting to capture and run a train of cars from the Western and Atlantic R.R. to Huntsville, Alabama for the youse of General Mitchell. I had a party of twenty one detailed men from the 2, 21 & 33 Ohio Regiments with me. We succeeded in getting possession of the train and traveled with it some eighty or eighty-five miles when on account of one extra train being on the road, we were compelled to abandon the train, the party scattering and trying to make out way back on foot, the whole party however, were captured. I was taken on the 14th day of April. I am satisfied that I could very easily have gotten away had they not put a pack of Doggs on my trail, it was impossible to elude them, I was tried by Court Marshall and Rec'd my sentence on the last day of May, Inst. One week fore the time set for my examination.

On Monday morning the 2nd I made a attempt to escape I succeeded in getting out of prison and ran by the guard, they shot at me but not hitting em, the whole country was immediately swarmed with soldiers. I succeeded in eluding them until Tuesday about two o'clock, when I was recaptured and will be executed on Saturday.

The sentence seems a hard one for the crime proven against me, but I suppose the court that tride me thought otherwise, I have now calmly submitted to my fate and have been earnestly engaged in preparing to meet my God in place and I have found that piece of mind and tranquility of sole that even astonishes myself.

I never supposed it possible that a man could feel so entire a change under simelar circumstances. How I would like to have one hours chatt with you, but this I shall never have in this life but hope and prey we may meet in Heaven where the troubles and trials of this life never enter what the fate of the balance of the party will be, I am unable to say, but I hope they will not share the fate of their leader, it they even return some tow or three of them cill call on you and the rest of the friends and I haope you will receive them kindly, they are noble fellows and will give you a full history of the affair.

Please acquaint my friends of my fate. I shall try to wright to same tow or three more before my execution. Tell J. B. Jackson should there be any claims that I neglected to settle to pay them and keep the horse. I don't think there

are any but there may be; in regard to other matters, do exactly as Instructed before I left I have rec'd.no letter from Flemingsburg, since I left, I wrote several but never rec'd. any answers.

Please reat this letter to Mrs. Eckles and tell her that I have thought of her kindness many times and that I hope we may meet in Heaven where we shall enjoy the presence of the Lord forever. Give my kindest regards to Mr. Eckles also. According to the source of nature it will not be long until we shall meet in that happy country. Blessed thoughts.

Remember me also the the young ladies of Flemingsburg, especially to Miss. Kate Wallingford and Miss. Nannie Baxter. Hoping we may meet in that better country. I bid you along and last farwell.

J.J. Andrews

Chattanooga Tenn.

June 5th-62

D. S. McGavic, Esq. J.B. Jackson, Mrs. Sarah Eckles,
Flemingsburg Fleming County, Ky.

You will find one trunk and one black valuce, the valuce has my name in read letters on the end the other had my name on a paper pasted on the end, these are at the City Hotel, Nashville in care of the old poiter on third floor, these with contents, I present to you; Mr. Hawkins. You will find at the Louisville Hotel a large Ladies trunk no mark on it and is entirely empty, please tae it to Mr. Lindsdy's near Mill Creek Church on the Maysville and Flemingsburg pike and request him to present it to Miss. Elizabeth J. Layton for me and much oblige.

J. J. Andrews

State of Kentucky.
County of Fleming.

I, John R. Perkins, Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a truce and correct copy of the Will of Jas. J. Andrews, deceased, as of record in Will Book "L", page 334, Fleming County Clerk's office.

Witness my hand and official seal this the 24th day of July, 1939.

(signed) John R. Perkins Clerk
Fleming County Corty, Ky.

(Seal)