

# UNION PROVOST MARSHALL PAPERS

Transcribed by Lisa Ready James

*On October 17, 1862, Henry Wieberg, a Dutchman from Rich Fountain, was taken by a group of Rebel Guerillas and was brutally murdered at a location identified as 'close to or about the county line between the counties of Maries and Osage.*

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Lt. Col. Bruns,

Dear Sir, herewith I send you the petition of Josephine Wieberg, widow of Henry Wieberg, who was murdered by the Rebels who crossed at Portland and came through our county. Also, the testimony in regard to the facts of his murder. You will confer a great favor on myself, and also on the widow, by laying the same before the commander of the Central Division (I believe according to Order No. 3 – dated June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1862 St. Louis MO, the commander of the Central Division is the proper officer to notify the county board and get him to make an order to our county board to make an assessment according to the provisions of said Order – Callaway County furnished the men (to do the deed), and Osage County Rebels piloted them through. Therefore, I believe under that order, that both Callaway and Osage Counties should each foot the bill. Mrs. Wieberg is very poor with four helpless children – and the way in which Wieberg was murdered (as you will see from the papers herewith enclosed) makes it a case which should not be overlooked or passed by the authorities. Hoping that you will give this matter your attention if possible. I have the honor to be your obt. Servt.

Capt. D. Hopkins

P.S. Col., that man Bartly which was released by (??)Zeneby, on the other side of the river was among the men which passed through our county. D. H.

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State of Missouri

County of Osage

Capt. Fritz Wieberg being duly sworn according to law makes oath and says: I am a brother of Henry Wieberg deceased. I reside about three quarters of a mile from my brother Henry Wieberg. Henry Wieberg was a member of my Company "I" Enrolled Militia of Osage County, Mo. My brother Henry Wieberg was taken prisoner by a band of Rebels on the seventeenth day of this month. I did not see him while the Rebels had him prisoner. I found my brother Henry Wieberg dead within about 50 yards from the road where the Rebels passed along. The Rebels took all his clothes, down to his socks. His head was cut off and hanging in a tree close to the body when found – he was found on the twenty first day of Oct., four days after he was taken. He was found about five miles from his own house. He was found in Osage County, MO. Had my brother brought home and buried in the Rich Fountain burying ground.

F. Wieberg Capt.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1862.

David Hopkins

Justice of the Peace, State of Missouri

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County of Osage

Antone Shanks(?) Hauk(?) being duly sworn according to law makes oath and says: I reside in Osage County about three miles from Henry Wieberg's. I know Henry Wieberg. He was a member in Capt Wieberg's Company 'I' Enrolled Militia of Osage Co., Mo. I saw Henry Wieberg on the ground where he was found. His head was cut off from his body – and was otherwise abused and mangled. He was found about five miles from his own house. His body was found some fifty yards from the road. It was on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Oct, 1862 that I saw him dead.





Antone (?)Daufs(?)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1862.

David Hopkins, Justice of the Peace  
State of Missouri

County of Osage

Thomas A. Wilson being duly sworn according to law makes oath and says: I reside in Osage County. I live three miles from Henry Wieberg's. I last saw Henry Wieberg on the Friday the seventeenth day of this month, October. When I last saw Henry Wieberg he was a prisoner in the hands of a band of Rebels passing through Osage County, and at the time I saw him prisoner in the hands of the Rebels he was about four miles from his own house. When I saw Henry Wieberg he was in the rear of the company. I rode past him toward the front of the company to get a saddle the Rebels had taken from me. I thought they were state militia, they said they were. I went from where I first caught up with the band about two miles and a half or three miles, when I returned and passed their rear again. Henry Wieberg was not among them as I could see when I passed back by the Rebels. They were chilled and they sent two men as a guard with me for some distance. I do not know what it was done for.

Thomas A. Wilson

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In the matter of the murder of Henry Wieberg, a loyal citizen of Osage County, Missouri, residing near Rich Fountain in said County.

To the Commander of the Central Military Division

Your Petitioner

Josephine Wieberg, the wife and now the widow of the said Henry Wieberg, deceased, says that she is the widow of the said Henry Wieberg and that her said husband was murdered by a band of Rebels while passing through Osage County, Mo having crossed the Missouri River, as she understands at a point at or near Portland in Callaway County, Mo. Said band of Rebels took her said husband Henry Wieberg, prisoner on the seventeenth day of Oct. 1862 and after taking him some five miles, murdered him by cutting off his head and maliciously mutilating his body. Your petitioner would further represent that she is the mother of four children by the said Henry Wieberg, the oldest of which is four years old. Which by the murder and loss of her said husband she is rendered dependant for support for herself and children. She therefore prays of you that she may have the benefit of Order No 3 from Headquarters St. Louis by Brigadier General Schofield ordering an assessment to be made in such cases – and that you will order the county board to make an assessment according to said order aforesaid for the support and comfort of said widow and orphans of the aforesaid.

Josephine Wieberg, widow of the said Henry Wieberg makes oath and says that the matters and things as stated in the foregoing petition are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and beliefs.

Josephine Wieberg

Subscribed and sworn to by me on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of Oct, 1862.

David Hopkins. J.O.P.

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HeadQuarters Osage County Mo

Post of Linn MO Dec 4 1862

Personally appeared before Josephine Wieberg a loyal citizen of Osage County Missouri and made oath that on or about the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1862 her husband Henry Wieberg a loyal citizen of Osage County, Missouri and late a member of Company 'I' of the loyal militia of said Osage County was brutally murdered close to or about the county line between the counties of Maries and Osage Missouri by a band of Rebel

(Continued on next page)



Guerillas in all something near 200 strong who had been fitted out by the Rebels and Rebel Sympathizers of Callaway County Missouri and from thence came through the counties aforesaid.

That by General Order No 3 June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862 of Brig General Schofield she would be entitled to recover of the Rebels and Rebel Sympathizers the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5000) and she asks the same be levied and collected of that class of outlaws in Callaway County who alone are responsible for the inhuman conduct aforesaid.

Signed Josephine Wieberg

Josephine Wieberg makes oath and says the matters and facts above stated she believes to be true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this Dec 4 1862.

Signed L. Zevely(?) Colonel Commdg.

Head Quarters Central District

Jefferson City, Dec 5 1862

J. Rainsford, Major & Asst. Adg. General MSM

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Copy of an Order to collect for Josephine Wieberg - \$2500

Head Quarters Central District of Missouri

Jefferson City Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 1862

To the county board of Maries County

You will proceed to assess and collect from Rebels and Rebel Sympathizers in Maries County the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500) and pay the same to Josephine Wieberg and make a full report to these headquarters.

By order of Brig General Loan

James Rainsford, Major & Asst. Adg General  
MSM

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 62

I certify this above copy of the original as sent to me.

V. G. Latham Capt & Pres of Board of Com

Of Maries Co, Mo



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Head Quarters Maries Co. Mo , Post Vienna Dec 29<sup>th</sup>, 62

General Loan

Kind Sir

I hope you will excuse me for not forwarding the copy of the Wieberg order by last weeks mail. I was unable to write myself and the clerk who assists me in the office I had sent on a scout after 3 Rebels that I heard of a passing near Vienna. The boys returned with them just at mail time and the clerk hadn't time to copy the order for that mail. Those 3 devils above mentioned stated that they left Pokahuntas (*sic.*) on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant we caught them on the 23<sup>rd</sup> instant. They was all very well mounted and well armed. Each with good revolvers and plenty of powder and shot and caps and one was going to Callaway Co one to Monroe Co one to Skiler Co, they all said they belonged to Porter. I didn't give them any trial but sent them to Kelley with the charges pre-filed against them. I also send you some claims for approval. I wish to ascertain whether they are right as to form or not as I have no form to draw from. I will send up others as soon as possible. I will go to some post and procure up my own just as soon as I get able to ride; haven't been on a horse for one month. The courses(?) has had five times since, had to send my men home. They have stole lots of horses and burned one dwelling; they came to my stable about three weeks ago and taken three good geldings. If the officers of my military district don't give us a better chance we are a kind(?) people. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov I received orders from General Warmouth to turn over to the owners the guns that I had taken



from the people about that time or shortly after Governor Gamble sent me guns, belts & coats up and sent to my address at Vienna. The same day that they was (*sic*) brought to me Gen Warmouth made an order for me to turn over these guns to the post at Kelley. This is one order I have failed to respond to and I expect to continue to fail until I hear from Governor Gamble if he says turn them over then I'll do it. I have give the people their guns most of them Rebels and now if I give up these guns my men would be disarmed and in the midst of an armed enemy.

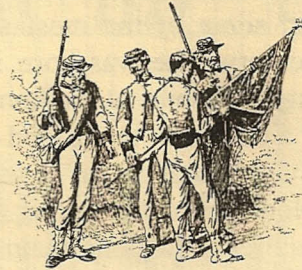
Excuse my teadous (*sic*) and bad writing.

I am respectfully your obedient servant

V. G. Latham Capt

Com Co A EMM Vienna MO

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Transcriber's note:

*One can only imagine the pain and suffering Henry endured. I would like to think his death was swift and merciful and the beheading and other mutilations occurred **after** he was dead. This account certainly brings meaning to the statement that living in Missouri during the Civil War is comparable to living in Iraq today.*

*I doubt these men purposefully went looking for Henry and probably didn't know him from Adam. They had recently been released north of here in Callaway County and were passing through on their way south. If he hadn't managed to stumble into their path that day, they probably would have kept on going. Henry was in the wrong place at the wrong time.*

*But why would men commit such atrocious acts on someone who had never done anything to them? Because he was a Dutchman and Dutchmen notoriously sided with the Union. Almost all, if not all, of the inhabitants in the Rich Fountain area were from Germany or Prussia, thus Dutchmen, and Henry's murder would have struck fear deep into the heart and soul of every person for miles around. The message was loud and clear – "Dutchy, stay out of our way or your head or your wife's head can easily join this one." Yes, poor Henry was made the example.*

*While this account will cause shivers up and down the spine if you let it, 150 years after the fact, this recording also reveals a hidden historical impact that we experience and feel very strongly today. The Civil War was very expensive and in order to finance it, the federal government imposed taxes for the first time – and it has been doing it ever since.*

*Did you notice the early form of an attempt at a welfare program by giving the widow and her children financial support? Osage county doesn't want to foot the entire bill for letting Henry get killed within its borders and indicates Callaway should be responsible for half. We don't actually see a flat out refusal from Callaway to pay, but that's what happened and that is why all of a sudden Henry was killed almost in Maries County, maybe right at the county line\*\*, so therefore the load is shifted to Maries County and Callaway is off the hook. Callaway probably housed people much more important and influential than Maries County. Then we see Latham explaining all the reasons or giving excuses why payment cannot be made. Maries County had little or no money and it struggles financially to this day.*

*Notice the money is to come from Rebels and Rebel Sympathizers in Maries County. Probably not a single soul in Maries County had anything to do with Henry's murder and did not know about it until after the fact. Yet, those labeled as being Confederate are the same as being blamed for the act itself and are expected to pay for it.*

*I have not found proof either way if Josephine received any of the \$5000 or not. I would be shocked to discover she actually did receive the full amount.*

*\*\*Does anyone have any idea where Henry was murdered? Or anything to add to the story? Maybe a traditional story passed through the generations. We'd love to hear from you.*

*Lisa James*

#### **Old Time Vocabulary:**

**Chilled** – spooked, suspicious, paranoid. As in "They were suspicious of me and sent two men as guards..."