

July 21, 1864

Operations of the Guerrillas Platte City Captured and Burnt By Federal Troops One Half the Town Destroyed Several Men Burned to Death Battle at Camden Point.

From the St. Joseph Herald, July 16.

From passengers who arrived last night from below, we learn Platte City was almost destroyed yesterday morning by the Federal troops. Not over half the houses were left standing. The Methodist Church, a fine building, the Sentinel printing office, and the three-story brick block in which it was located, together with many business and dwelling-houses are all in ashes. Thus has vengeance, swift and dire, been visited upon a people who not only basely and cowardly surrendered themselves to THORNTON's thieves and murderers, but who also welcomed the villains with every demonstration of affection and delight.

The town was a nest-hole of treason. Not over a half dozen Union families residing there. Desolation and destruction have swept over it, and if the report brought us be true, the work has been most thoroughly performed. While we fear the few Union men of the place have been caused to suffer in property, and perhaps in life, we have not the slightest sympathy with the rebels.

It was rumored in Weston when the train left, that JESSE MORIN had been burned in his own house, that CLINT COCKERELL had joined the guerrillas and been killed in a skirmish, and Mr. F.A. Cox, the venerable editor of the Sentinel, was killed. The two former were regarded as secession sympathizers, while the latter was a sound, honest, true Union man. One passenger informed us that he had heard Mr. Cox was sick at his home, and had not been disturbed. We hope the latter story is true, for we should mourn the loss of so pure and good a man.

The report was also brought into Weston that the troops were going south toward Parkville, from Platte City, and that they had declared their intention of showing no quarter to any rebel who should fall into their hands.

The following is the account given of the fight at Camden Point by Lieut. CHILD, of Capt. CLAGGETT's company, who was an eye-witness and participant in the affair:

About 2 o'clock P.M., Wednesday, a command composed of the Second Colorado, Fifteenth Kansas, Ninth M.S.M., and several detachments of E.M.M., numbering 500 men, with one piece of artillery, all under command of Col. FORD, of the Second Colorado, took up the line of march from Weston in the direction of Camden Point. When about two miles from that place, the advance guard of eighteen men were fired upon by guerrilla pickets, who then fled, closely followed by our men, who chased them