**THE CIVIL WAR**

1861-1865

**Taken From "Four Years Service In The Southern Army"**

by Joe M. Scott

**Chapter IV page 13 of the manuscript:**

(I am including part of this article because the author mentions Steve Dyer and Robert Wagner.)

"I stepped off the train going North at Tupelo, Mississippi. My command was eight miles East of Tupelo. It was a surprise to my comrades to see me walk into camp for they thought that I had died back in the last skirmish when they had to leave there.

"Our brigade was in charge of General Fifer who was fresh from West Point. He seemed to want to make a display and a desire to show his authority. He gave iron clad orders for the guards to not to allow no one to enter while this was going on. With all the dignity that Bob Wagner, of the first Arkansas Battalion had, he stood guard to General Fifer's headquarters. I don't think I ever saw a man who I thought possessed more courage than Bob Wagner. When he knew he was right, he was not afraid to express himself. Bob had been wounded at the Battle of Pea Ridge and captured but made his escape. Bob knew that Fifers military display had little to do with winning a battle. He became very weary tramping across the front yard of General Fifer's headquarters.

This was July and hot so Bob walked in and took a seat on the front porch. The General came out on the porch and asked what he was doing sitting on the front porch. Asked him his name, Regiment, and where he was from. Bob replied, "My name is Wagner, I belong to the First Arkansas Battalion, I am from Northwest Arkansas and told him he was tired of display."

A few days later the Company that Bob belonged to failed to draw their share of beef so breakfast was eaten without any meat. Mark Wagner, Bob Wagner, and five others told their Captain that they weren't going to drill until they had something to eat. After drill the Captain put these five to extra duty and to do it double quick for an hour. When told to halt when reaching the place where the Captain told them to march, they kept running and was gone for an hour and then walked to the tent of the Captain and gave him their opinion of a man that would conduct himself as he had and that it would be very unsafe for him to lead the company into battle; if he knew what was good for him, he would resign at once, which the Captain did."

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I met Steve Dyer who had been in this raid in Missouri, trying to capture Fayetteville.

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In November there was a move toward Texas. We reached Dallas in Polk County ***[, Arkansas]***. Steve Dyer and I found some corn and begged a man until he gave a few ears, so we ate.

A few days later we struck camp at the mouth of Little River. ***[Little River County, near Texarkana, Arkansas .*** Steve and myself moved toward Lewisville in Lafayette County. One night we stopped to see if we could find a place to sleep. We were refused. I said, "Dyer, we will hunt somewhere else because we are refused."

"Hold on there," said the old lady, "Did you say your name is Dyer?"

"Yes, Ma'am," said Dyer. "Are you any kin to Jimmie Dyer over here." "He is my Uncle," said Steve. "Are his boys in the same army as you are?" "I think so," said Dyer. Steve had told her a big yarn as he had never heard of them before. They took Steve in for the night so I camped beside a log while Steve stayed with his "friends." Next morning Steve didn't know how to leave these people who had been so nice to him, so finely he said, "What do I owe for the night's lodging?" The old lady said, "Well, well, I hardly know about that. Well, as it is you, I will only charge you $50.00 dollars," and she got most of Steve's money.

In the late fall of 1862, Curtis had his mind on Arkansas. Union Valley at Prairie had caused a partial dissolution of Hindsman's army The remnant had retreated to the Arkansas River, opening Western Arkansas for occupation by the Federal Army. Plans were to clear North Arkansas of Confederate troops and take Little Rock by using the rivers of Eastern Arkansas, the Black River, and the Arkansas River.

**February 2, 1863:**

There were skirmishes at Vine Prairie on White Oak River near the mouth of Mulberry River, Arkansas.

In Crawford County the Confederates held the land South of the Arkansas River and the federal troops held the land North of the Arkansas River. Fort Smith, Van Buren, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Fayetteville, Batesville, Helena, and the federals also held the Arkansas River.

1865 was the close of the War and in came the "Carpetbaggers," called that because that was about all they had when they came to Arkansas and tried to take over the Government. They were adventurers from the North who came South after the War.

In 1866 W. H. H. Shibley brought Company G home from the War across the river to Van Buren and took them to the Commissary Depot located at front of Main Street. Each man received one day's ration. Those living in town were asked to give their rations to those living out in the country or in other towns so they could have sufficient food until they reached their own firesides. Some dwelt on Lees Creek, some down at Dyer, some on Big Mulberry, some at Cedarville, some in Stevenson settlement, and some at Figure Five. Out of the list of 150 of the original Company, among those were Steve Dyer, Isaac Pounds, Newman Pounds, and Jake Wells.

**CIVIL WAR DAYS ON THE INDIAN BORDER**

**Soldiers In Need Of Clothing**

At a meeting held at the Courthouse in the city of Van Buren, Crawford County, of the Home guards and citizens of the County, for the purpose of organizing said County, asking Committees in several townships to take measure necessary to secure clothing for the troops of the Confederate army now in defense of our frontier, on this 18 of September 1861.

The president and secretary in discharge of their duty confided to them that we have appointed the following named persons residing in the several Townships in Crawford County. The Committees to call township meetings in aid of the object contemplated:

 Van Buren: A. J. Ward George Austin Michael Lynch

 Jasper: James Woolsey George Matlock

 Lafayette: Harvey Stewart Robert Harper

 Mountain: Thomas Simcoe James Wright

 Sheppard: William Sheppard Elijah Jones

 Cedarville: James Sangster A. J. Willey

 Lees Creek: James Gregg Richard C. Oliver

 Vine Prairie: James Heard George W. Morris

 Richland: Amasa Howell Joseph Winters

**Memorial To Civil War Soldiers**

**1865:**

Among Confederate soldiers present at the dedication of the Memorial to Civil War soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Elk Horn, Prairie Grove, and Oak Hill which today the Monument rests on the Courthouse lawn in Van Buren, Arkansas were: J. T. Willis and S. M. Dyer from the Town of Dyer.

**Wars Of Our Country**

1775-1784 American Revolution

1812-1815 War of 1812

1846-1848 Mexican War

1860-1865 Civil War

1897-1898 Indian War

1898-1902 Spanish American

1917-1918 World War I

1940-1947 World War II 27 June — 31 January ***[???]***

1950-1955 Korean Conflict

1964-1975 Vietnam War