

THE PROVO RAID.

Deposition of Vernee Halliday.

On being sworn said, on the night of Sept. 22nd, 1870, I was at Mr. Macdonald's house. I heard a noise in town. I heard, as I supposed, a row near the Co-operative store. I dressed myself and by this time I heard the soldiers at the front of the house. They commenced swearing, and broke in the windows and doors of the house. They entered the house. It was dark. I supposed there were sixteen soldiers, I stayed up stairs with the women and children, who were very much alarmed. I heard the soldiers say they intended to visit Alderman Sheet's house; also Mayor Smoot's and Prest. Young's; and they appeared to be in a hurry to accomplish all they had designed or planned out. I heard five shots fired, all the windows and doors of the lower story of the house were broken, and they also sacked the lower rooms, throwing the bed clothes out of doors.

Richard Breherton.

On being sworn said that about twelve o'clock on the night of Sept. 22d, I was waked up by Mr. Halliday, who informed me that the soldiers had made a raid on the town. I immediately woke up two men who were living with me; we went over the street towards Macdonald's house, and I saw the soldiers break in the windows and doors of Macdonald's and Alderman Sheet's houses. I heard them say they would pull down Sheet's house and hang him, and then would go to Mayor Smoot's and President Young's houses. Upon breaking the windows of Alderman Sheet's house a shot was fired in the direction of Mayor Smoot's, and the soldiers retired and went down west. I found that the Co-operative shoe shop had been broken open, and the window and door were smashed in.

William Bird.

On being sworn said that on the 22nd, while coming down from Mr. Bachman's I heard music at J. W. Cunningham's house. I went over and heard them singing and playing music. After a while, one soldier, whom they call Haws, came on and said that he had been hurt; the soldiers went up stairs and got their guns. There were about fifteen or sixteen guns. They went down the street and brought up Alderman Miller to Cunningham's house; they then went back and took him back. One soldier came back and said they had strung up Alderman Miller by the heels under the shed. I went down the street for the purpose of letting him down if possible, and the soldiers arrested me and took me with them. They gave me Alderman Miller's album. I saw them break in the Co-operative shoe-shop. When at the meeting house I slipped under the fence, and got away. I went down Center street and met Mr. Harrison and others near the Third ward school-house. Myself and A. Penrod went over towards Cunningham's, when the soldiers shot two shots at, but missed me about half a foot; I laid down. The soldiers then started up the street towards Camp. They arrested me at Bachman's store. I met Ezra Oakley, and a soldier going east, near McAulins, he was not a prisoner, but was walking along with the soldier. I afterwards met Mr. Gray, and A. Penrod. Penrod and myself went into Dr. Roberts' store. Mr. Gray went up east. There were about fifteen soldiers in the crowd that took me; they had bayonets on their guns, and one of them punched me in the back with a bayonet, saying I did not walk fast enough. I saw Ezra Oakley about three-fourths of an hour after. I saw him with the soldiers at the Third ward school house. I saw him at Cunningham's after the soldiers had gone. E. Oakley was at Cunningham's from about seven o'clock to eleven o'clock; he drank beer with the soldiers, and was with them about all the time. There seemed to be two of the number who took charge of the crowd that had me in custody, and directed the movements.

John M. Cunningham.

On being sworn said several days previous to this difficulty some of the soldiers came to my house, and one of them, called Jack Minkey, said they wanted to have a party in Provo, and to engage thirty suppers; they tried to hire Cluff's Hall and Bullocks house, but did not succeed; they wanted me to hire Alderman Miller's hall, and said that they could hire. I saw Alderman Miller, but his terms were more than they would give, I told them that they could not get the hall; they engaged the supper at my house on the night of

the affray. While at the supper table a crowd of soldiers came in with their guns, and bayonets and ran up stairs; afterwards I was called out and found that some fifteen soldiers had Alderman Miller in custody, and wanted to prove by me that Miller had rented the hall and afterwards refused. I denied his having done so. They then took Alderman Miller away home again. I told them at this time they must not do this or they would repent it. There were three parties of soldiers, twelve or fifteen in one, and another party of about fifteen who had guns and pistols with them, and some of the third crowd had guns. The man who appeared to be the leader was a sergeant, named McMannan I think. I talked truly saucy to them. After they came back from the affray they swore and threatened considerably and started off to camp. I never heard any threats by any of the soldiers prior to this time. I do not know where the soldiers got their whisky; they took two kegs of beer from the beer wagon. My boy knows where they got the whisky. The soldiers who had guns came about half past nine o'clock. The most of them had pistols. There were about forty or fifty soldiers in all. The first crowd was peaceful until the second crowd came. I apprehended danger at this time, but having spoken to Mr. John, in the morning, requesting that some policemen be around, I thought all would be right. After they left with Alderman Miller I heard several shots fired and a good deal of shouting and hollering. They fired some shots near my house about 1 o'clock in the morning. Henry or Jack Minkey, a drummer, had considerable to say at the time they had Alderman Miller in custody. I would recognize the leader of the crowd. Mr. Minkey engaged the supper. They did not rent my house for a dance, but did dance while the music was playing. The Smith boys played for them while the supper was being got ready.

Joseph A. Thompson.

On being sworn said that on the evening that the riot occurred I was at J. M. Cunningham's house. About 8 o'clock a party of soldiers came for supper, about fifteen of them. Soon afterwards I was invited to go up to the room, where they were assembled; they had three or four musicians, who played three or four tunes. A song was called for. A soldier sang some songs. Mr. F. Bee sang some songs on being called for. Afterwards they proposed a cotillion which was danced. I went down into the lower room. I then went home and came back; I went up stairs and found a keg of beer was being drawn by a soldier. There seemed to be a little confusion; a soldier, whose name I heard was Haws, came in and said Sergeant Waite had been cut up by the Mormons. Mr. Morris, the man that carries the mail between Camp Rawlins and this city, R. Roberts, and myself tried to convince this party that nothing of the kind had transpired or we would have heard of it. I went into the lower room, and my little girl came to me and said the soldiers had Ald. Miller and were going to hang him. I went out to see where he was and what was going on. I saw a little group down the street, below the hotel. I went to that party and was asked to give the countersign; I told them I had none. I went on and they presented a gun to my breast and said I was a prisoner. I said I wanted to speak to Jack Minkey; they held up the gun and I asked what they were doing with Ald. Miller, (there were five of them) and what occasion they had for having him. Minkey said that I told them Ald. Miller said they could have his hall for fifteen dollars. I told him they must be mistaken as I had no such conversation. I asked if they were doing this by authority of their officers, and they said they were running this shebang themselves. I asked who was the leader; they said "Capt. McMahon." They said I could go back, and they started with Ald. Miller, and said I could not go with them. After they had got out of sight I heard a good deal of hollering and shooting, and heard them say, kill the G-d-d son of a b-h." In about five minutes the noise ceased and I didn't know where they had gone. As I returned to Captain Cunningham's two soldiers hailed me; they had guns and demanded the countersign; I said I had none and was an American citizen and did not want to be stopped. I passed up the street, crossed the race on the log, got to the house and found Abraham Durfee. I told him that from the noise I had heard that Ald. Miller was probably injured and left in the street and asked him to go with me. We went around the block. As I passed the Alderman's

house I saw some person among the corn shocks and called to him; it was Ald. Miller. We had a little talk and found he was all right. We went to Captain Cunningham's and loaded a shot gun. Cunningham and myself went out and were hailed again and the countersign demanded. We went back to the house. I afterwards took the gun and started for home. I found a policeman on the corner of Carter's block and stayed talking to him of what had taken place, and remarked that I thought some of the soldiers were in the back yard of Cunningham's. At this time the soldiers ran a wagon across the ditch, which afterwards proved to be the beer wagon, and they went away. I think that one load of beer had been sold to them before this time, as they used it freely—the Philadelphia wagon; but the other man did not sell any beer. I did not hear any of the soldiers say they were going to have any fuss or run the town, at that time or any other previous time. I could not recognize any of the soldiers except Minkey. One party of about eight that came had their guns with them. I think some of them came on foot. There would be about twenty-five or thirty in the house, at one time, but think there were more out in the street.

Correspondence.

St. Louis, Sept. 16th, 1870.

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Brother. In visiting the large business cities of the west I see none with which I am more pleased than St. Louis, the old outfitting point of our people in former years. The late census of St. Louis shows a population of 300,000 souls; its manufacturing interests are fast increasing and it will soon rival Philadelphia and Pittsburg in the extent of its iron and other manufactures.

The famous Mississippi bridge is progressing finely; the middle piers and western abutments are already up to high water mark; a great many men are now employed, and the company expect to complete it before the close of 1871. Two large reservoirs are in course of construction and will be completed in a month, making six in number within the city limits.

I lately visited our old friends L. M. Rumsey & Co., who have materially increased their business; besides their two large establishments on North 2nd St., where they keep a large stock of agricultural implements and manufacture pipe and sheet lead, they now occupy a large house of five stories on Main St., for the sale of pumps, belting, hose, iron and brass goods, etc. You may imagine the extent of their business when I inform you their stock in pumps alone embraces over three hundred different varieties, varying in size from the largest made, to the smallest cistern pump.

Since the construction of the Kansas and Pacific R. R., business men look for a return of the old Utah trade, and they will be likely to get it at no distant day.

I expect to meet our people in the Broadway Hall 1310 on Sunday.

NONNAC.

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Box,	Milne, D. (St. George)
Package,	McCann, H.
Package,	Morse, L. D.
Box,	Reese, J.
Package,	Snedeker, A.
Trunk,	Vincent, Mrs. J.
Box,	Willite, P. G.
Package,	Warwick, J. H.
Box,	Warwick, J. H.
Package,	Willis, W. W. Kanarra

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