

R. S. Griffithe, N. W. Spicer, and J. A. Harvey testimonies

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These testimonies, collected by the National Kansas Committee, record the experiences of three settlers during the turbulent times of Bleeding Kansas. The testimonies focus on each settler's involvement in free-state activities, and their interaction with Missouri border ruffians. Griffithe and Spicer both served in the free-state militia, and Harvey, who had commanded an emigrant train from Chicago, was the commander of a free-state company.

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R. S. Griffith, N. W. Spicer, and J. A. Harvey testimonies

^{change in}
a ~~little~~ ^{change in} our condition. In my opinion, Leavenworth
could at one time have been easily taken. All that it required, was a
little enterprise. If we had failed we could have lost no more
than we did lose, we would have got credit at least for mak-
-ing an effort to have accomplished something even if we had failed
in its accomplishment. At the time that expedition was planned
there were but about 20 soldiers in the Fort & scarcely any of the
enemy's force in town as nearly all were scattered about the
Territory intending to concentrate at Leavenworth.

After my return from Hickory point I was advised to leave the
Territory. But as I had watched the effect produced by other
Locals in the war leaving for trivial reasons I made up my
mind to stay let the consequences be what they might
& take care of my mind & spirit in the war till it ended.

I reasoned, that as I had done nothing for which I was ashamed
& for which I was guilty as a criminal I would not condemn
myself by trying to escape without being accused. I came to
Kansas to procure me a farm & to assist in the troubles pre-
-existing at the time I entered into the project. & I am
still resolved not to leave the Territory until I assist in
accomplishing my mission. May again at 29. I have a wife
& one child who reside in Chicago. I am worth about \$3000, but
it is principally in lot, house hold goods. My term just
expired for serving two months in a company of Militia. I served in the
capacity of 1st Lieutenant. I have omitted dates in the above account
which I will now append. The war company of Campsault of about 600
left Camp Leavenworth south of Leavenworth Aug. 1st. Leaving
the Leavenworth Kansas line. Aug 5th Col. John Aug 10th Barrain's 1st
attended Aug 1st. Burning of Fort Blue Aug 10th Shannon made
a speech in Lawrence Aug 10th. Capt. Shombur died Aug 10th.
Hart Aug 20th to bring arms from Topeka. Marched to Dodge City
at evening. Sept 1st.

