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CAPTAIN SMITH'S REMINISCENCES.

Ex-Sheriff Leslie Smith, of Boonville, contributes the following correspondence to a recent number of the St. Louis Republic:

"In your paper of this date I find reference to the red leggery of Maj. Preston B. Plumb, and that witnesses were plenty on the Missouri side of the line to prove his record. In the fall of 1863, in October or November of that year, a detachment of Kansas red-legs, commanded by this Kansas Senator, made a raid into Jackson and Lafayette counties. As they approached the little town of Wellington, in the latter county, a scout of ten or twelve red-legs preceded the command by about forty minutes. Dressed as bushwhackers they pumped some of the citizens, and upon information thus received put eight or ten of the citizens under arrest. Old Howell Lewis, over seventy years old, was taken out just back of the school house and hung until almost dead, then taken down and questioned as to what he knew about bushwhackers. Poor old man! He knew nothing and could tell nothing. In this dying condition he was kept all night, his neck and throat so swollen that he could not talk or eat. When the command left next morning, the poor old man was started out for Kansas, but being unable to travel he was shot and left beside the road about one-half mile from the town, and was not found until his body had been mutilated by hogs.

Then there was Kipp Stoveall, as good a soul as ever lived, but in mind rather weak. He was also one of the prisoners, and had made some indiscreet remark about bushwhackers, while being questioned by this bushwhacker scout. Major Plumb was camped just east of the town in the bottom, 300 or 400 yards from the business part of the village. Stoveall, Wm. Chanslar, two Smith boys, and several others that I can not call to mind at this time, were under guard at Plumb's tent. Just after dark four or five men were ordered to take Stoveall out and shoot him. They started up the hill toward the town, and when about 75 or 100 yards from this Major's tent, ordered Stoveall to run, and they commenced firing. I shall never forget that poor fellow's agonizing shrieks and cry as he fell pierced by a dozen balls from red-leg guns. Neither of these men had ever taken up arms against the government.

"Now, Mr. Editor, this is the first time in my life that I have ever written a communication to an editor of any newspaper for publication for future reference—just as the editor may see fit to use it—and I will be responsible for the statements and facts here set out."