

## **Loyalty Statement of Andrew R. French** **Transcribed by Muriel Brewer**

On this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of October 1868 personally appeared before me—a Notary Public written for the County of Johnson—Andrew R. French who being sworn according to law testifies that on the day of the battle of Boonville, Mo early in the late war when Gen. Lyon moved on to the rebel forces located in Boonville under command of Gen Sterling Price and Gov. Claib Jackson. I and a man by the name of Hastings came in the field of my father J. R. French at work. Early in the morning we heard the cannon beginning the battle at Boonville and my father J. R. French came out into the field and told us to quit work. He then said as he had said before that if the battle went averse to Gen. Lyon he, being a Union man would have to leave the county and state. Arrangements were made by my father, this man Hastings who was also a strictly union man that in case Lyon should be defeated they should leave at once. They considered it unsafe to remain if Gen Price should be victor in said battle. If Price was defeated they intended to remain at home and risk their lives with their families and friends. Father then desired that Hastings and I should get on our horses and go as near Boonville as possible so that we could soon learn the fate of the battle, which we were to report at once to him. Learning the result of the battle we returned—Hastings returned to fathers and I to Pisgah to assist in quelling a reported negro rising Father was then and at all times to my certain knowledge a strictly Union man. Had he had seen enough to know that in case the army under Lyon was defeated at Boonville his life and property would be unsafe. And on account of his Union sentiments he had prior to that time received information from rabid secessionists that his presence was obnoxious to them and that he and all the Yankees must leave the state. From the very beginning of the war Father stoutly oppose the action of the south and declare his sympathies wholly with the union and federal cause. And the report and he ever sympathized with the rebellion is false and untrue. He at all time warmly espoused the cause of those for the union and never failed to denounce secession in my presence to whomever or whenever he may have been talking.

Andrew R. French

Sworn and subscribed before me this day and year above mentioned.  
whereof witness my hand and seal

In testimony

Andrew J. Buchanan

Notary Public