

Boonville Daily News  
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## The story of a raid on the town is told through a 'Letter from 1863'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was submitted by Mrs. Gladys Morrow. It was written on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1863, by Mary Rosalie Barron to her son Walter Barron. Mr. Barron was the grandfather of Ruth Brandes of Boonville. Mr. Barron married Virginia Hurt. Mrs. Morrow's mother was Josephine Hurt. The meaning of the word "sechs" is not known. One theory is that it was an abbreviation of "secessionist". The letter describes an historical event. Many of the last names will be familiar to area residents.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1863

Dear Walter:

I got yours of the 15th of Sept. and would have answered it, only we were expecting you everyday to meet the paymaster. I suppose he knew the sech army was in motion and thought

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'Also the town news . . . It would take a sheet of paper larger than a newspaper to tell all the plunder done in the neighborhood.'

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better to keep the greenbacks in a safe place till the storm was over. Your father wrote to you after he received the letter sent by Mr. Koontz and told you how the contents were disposed of. Now since we have our own wheat ground, do not be sending cash. The outlay is very small.

When you are furloughed, come home the way Koontz came. The expense of a few dollars is nothing compared with the loss of your horse, which would be likely if you came the other way.

I have Mr. Robinson's papers confirming his agreement with you. The mule was delivered to him. His son was here since I began this. He is safe in jail himself to keep from being mobbed for some services to the sechs they say he did last Sunday. Koontz will tell you all about it.

Also the town news. It would take a sheet of

paper larger than a newspaper to tell all the plunder done in this neighborhood. Through God's goodness we escaped. They passed by in full gallop. This is the only place they did not take something from. They made no distinction between Union and Sechs. . . cleared the farms of horses and mules, mares, fat cows, etc., and the houses of blankets, clothing, saddles, etc.

Sam Cochran was taken prisoner but when they retreated Monday morning he got home. The Sombarts suffered most from them. They took 8 horses and many things of value and a little black boy of Ben's. Julius and Henry Crowdy went after them as far as Lamine to try to find the boy but could not.

- We know who was the captain of one company and I believe it was his men took all the money Byler had. Sam Winders lost 2 fine horses.

There are now 2 companies of Guitar's men guarding the town. The troops have not yet returned from the 'pursuit'. Reports say the Sechs went toward Lexington.

I am glad you are in Macon City. Take care of your health above all things. Mary wrote several letters to you but someone would relate you would be in Boonville that day so she would light the stove with them to get your supper. If you do not come we will write often enough, never fear. One of the letters your father wrote you missed and one that you mentioned having sent never arrived.

Sombarts did not lose much from their store, only flour and bacon. He had a huge stock of whiskey but the Sech colonel was afraid his men would get drunk if he let them take it.

'Tis folly for the Radicals to be wasting their health making speeches about Emancipation gradual or immediate. The negro will go when it answers him, in spite of all the laws that can be made. When Robinson's men who had hired to Sombart gathered the money they had earned in the harvest, they ran off. And after them, Jim and Dan in the same week.

Must close and remain dear Walter

Yours

M.R. Barron