

From B.F. Dawson to Colonel of the Second Kansas Militia

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Topeka, Kan.,

Oct. 14th

Dear Colonel of the "Second Kansas Malitia" from Topeka.

I will give you a report as well as I can recolect it. We were half a mile of the Blue the evening before the battle and camped over night[.] that morning about 9 o'clock we commenced drilling[.] after a short time we discovered two persons coming across a field and beckoned to our men, so we sent four or

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five men to meet them and [*text stricken through*] when within 150 yds. of them, they called a halt, and wanted to know who we were, & then we asked who they were. they claimed to be Jennison's men and turned and rode off. Then we went back and reported to our army. our men sent 150 men across the blue to look for Price's men.

After crossing we called a halt[,] fed our horses and looked for apples. While forageing, the report came that they were firing on our battery. we mounted horses and went back on double quick time, we formed in line within 80 [yds.?] of Prices

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army, then our commanders ordered us to fire. the fight lasted near 3/4 of an hour. So Prices army commenced flanking our forces, we charging across that lane into that locust grove and drove the rebes [rebels] out from behind the fences: they then made a general change & then picked up prisoners.

our captain Huntoon's Co. all scattered, so I fell back to the battery, they were fighting so many rebes [rebs], it was no place for me, so I went back where we formed in line, and saw three taking Mr. Bush of Auburn, I also seen his eye shot out.

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then 3 men came upon me so I asked them if they would treat me as a prisinor of War, they said yes they would. I gave my arms to them, then asked if I had any money[.] I told them I had \$50. they took it from me & took me one-hundred yds. frome there where there were thirty [prisoners? ] & then took us up to a high stone wall around a house and there they left us until 9 o'clock [*text stricken through*] next morning and mind you all this time after we were taken prisinor they continued fighting until next day. the rebs retreated by where we had been fighting. Then they took the prisinors from stone wall and we had to run

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4 or 5 men to keep from generals Curtis; we did not get any thing to eat until we got to Carthage Mo. Then we got a piece of beef[.] The next we got was at [Eutonia?] was crackers from the men that was guarding us. At [Eutonia?] our fources had a hard fight but the rebels got wiped out bad enough I assure you[.]

after the fight was over general Shelby had us parolled & we was left all night in the woods. Next morning we got a large white shirt & went back to our fources, we were a happy [resort?] of fellows and then we got one square meal, some got a little to much for

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their own good. They took the prisinors twelve miles and from some cause there was [some?] wrong. They retreated back to [Eutonia?]. The next day they sent an escort of 50 soldiers back with us, so we was not molested on our road home.

About the supposed trip you speak to Neb. must be a mistake. I have never been to that place[;] it must be some one else. I should of liked to of had a talk with you, but it seems that it is'nt to be. I have been

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in South Topeka when you was there. I looked for you but of no avail. I should of liked to of seen you by talking with you[.] there might have been some thing come to light I have not got[.] So we will have to take it for what it will fetch. We may see one another at the "Anniversary of the [*text stricken through*]" "battle of the Blue[.]"

Yours Truly  
B.F. Dawson.