

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

November 2014

Lockhart, Texas

Sacking of Lawrence, Kansas 1856

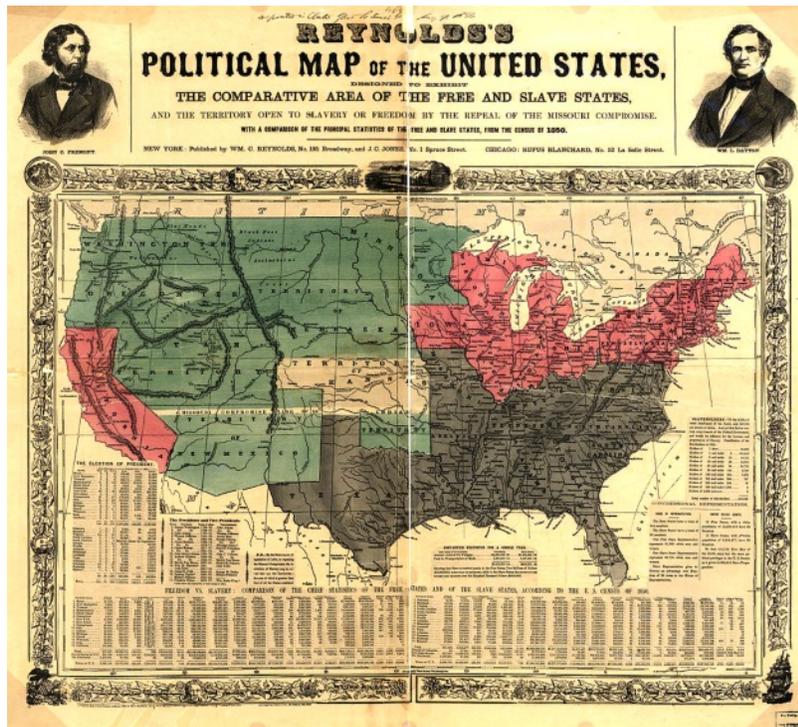
by Long Juan

Introduction. The “Sacking of Lawrence” occurred on May 21, 1856, when pro-slavery activists attacked and ransacked the town of Lawrence, Kansas. The incident was one of many in a guerrilla war involving anti-slavery “Free-Staters” and pro-slavery “Border Ruffians.” This border war took place in the Territory of Kansas and its neighboring State of Missouri.

Background. In 1854, Congress effectively repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which had maintained

the balance of power between slave and free states for more than 30 years. The 1854

Missouri crossed into Kansas in an effort to ensure that the Kansas Territory would enter the Union as a slave state. At the same time, the town of Lawrence, near the Kansas-Missouri border, was founded by anti-slavery settlers from New England. Lawrence was named for Amos Lawrence, a New England financier who provided financial aid to anti-slavery farmers and settlers throughout the Kansas Territory. The New England abolitionists went further than simple monetary aid. They shipped boxes of



Kansas-Nebraska Act established the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. It also specified that any future new state's status as free or slave would be determined by popular vote of its white male residents. Immediately Border Ruffians from the neighboring slave state of

Sharps rifles to the anti-slavery settlers. These rifles were called “Beechers Rifles,” because of a remark by Henry Ward Beecher, an anti-slavery preacher, that “a rifle might be a more powerful moral agent on the Kansas plains than a Bible.” Notably, not all anti-slavery

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Plum Creek Shooting Society Officers

President - **Dragon Hill Dave**

David Donaldson
Austin, TX 512-626-8189
dhdonald@mindspring.com

Vice President - **Joe Darter**

Tom Morris
Seguin, TX 210-464-3969
darterjoe@yahoo.com

Secretary &

Editor, **Agarita Gazette - Long Juan**

John Soule
Austin, TX 512-750-3923
jsoule@scottdoug.com

Treasurer - **True Blue Cachoo**

Nancy Forage
Austin, TX 512-775-0699

Territorial Governor - **Jake Paladin**

J.P. Forage
Austin, TX 512-970-4990
jforage@austin.rr.com

Range Marshal - **Delta Raider**

Chuck Leshikar
Lockhart, TX 512-227-1389
chuck@agaritaranch.com

Range Deputy - **Lightning McQueen**

Jesus Segura
Fentress, TX 512-749-6895
vwbug66@gmail.com

Safety Marshal - **Artiman**

Jay Davis
Lockhart, TX 512-762-7175
rebeljaybird1962@att.net

Stage Marshal - **P.T.**

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President's Word:

We had 52 shooters join us on a clear, crisp, and sunny morning for our November match. We had 6 new shooters, all on my posse.

After the first stage, we had them whipped into shape - counting, picking brass, and making jokes with the rest of us. They included **Smoke Jensen**, his son **Kidd James** and **New Guy**. These three

were all brought and mentored by **John K. Wren**, who was a busy guy wrangling all these newbies, but he did a great job. We also had **Six Wire** (a veteran of EOT but only as an observer) and **OE Deadly Daniel** (who was so disappointed when he found out we were only shooting 6 stages—he was ready for more fun).

Lightning McQueen brought and mentored **Utah Mike**, who persevered through some equipment issues and shot well. We are eager to see all of you come and shoot with us again. We also enjoyed having at least four shooters who have not been to the Agarita recently. Welcome back to **Scheutzum Phast**, **Artie Fly**, **Sterling Sage** and **Pedernales Drifter**. Our clean shooters were **Dusty Mines**, **Frank Longshot**, **Jarhead Jake**, **Kickshot**, **Long Juan**, **Show Me** and **T Bone Paul**. Our top ten from top to bottom were **Kickshot**, **Skyhawk Hans**, **Dutch Van Horn** (separated by less than a second), **Bison Jim**, **Frank Longshot**, **Shotgun Jim**, **Dragon Hill Dave**, **Lincoln Drifter**, **Cowboy Small**, and **Rusty Shackelford**. A big thanks to **Lefty Leo**, **Artiman**, **Delta Raider** and others who were in charge of and/or prepared our excellent Thanksgiving lunch. Remember our December match will be a Christmas Party. We will shoot Wild Bunch in the morning and cowboy in the afternoon, followed by festivities in the Pavilion. It's time to sign up for the Battle of Plum Creek—the SASS Texas State Championship April 30-May 3. Get your application and fees in by February 1 to qualify for a \$10 discount. Til next month—See ya' at the Agarita!



SASS Regulator & PCSS President
Dragon Hill Dave

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Dragon Hill Dave



Last month I asked the question, “Who knows the name of the actor and the film in which the Remington “advantage” was demonstrated?” The “advantage” was the ability to reload simply by switching already-loaded cylinders, something one could not easily do with a



Colt. Only three readers correctly identified the actor and the film – **Clint Eastwood as Preacher in *Pale Rider***. Hereby mentioned in the dispatches

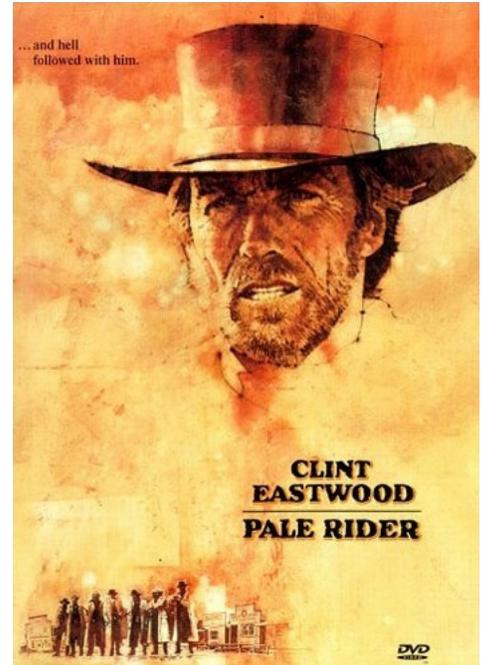
Stories from Jake (Paladin that is):

are **Nichols Creek**, **Hairtrigger Hayes** and **Lincoln Drifter**.

Pale Rider was a 1985 western produced and directed by Clint Eastwood, who also starred in the lead role. The title is a reference to the ***Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse***. The rider of a pale horse is **Death**. The film takes place sometime in the 1880s. Thugs working for a big-time miner destroy the camp of some struggling miners panning for gold and shoot a young



girl’s dog. As the girl buries her dog and prays for a miracle, a stranger (Eastwood) heads to the nearby town on horseback. When one of the struggling miners goes to town for supplies, he is rescued by the stranger from a beating by the same thugs. The miner invites the stranger to his home. After cleaning up, the stranger appears wearing a clerical collar and is thereafter called **Preacher**. As the film progresses to conclusion, **Preacher** prevails in a great gunfight and kills the big-time miner. Preacher carried a Remington 1858 New Army cartridge-

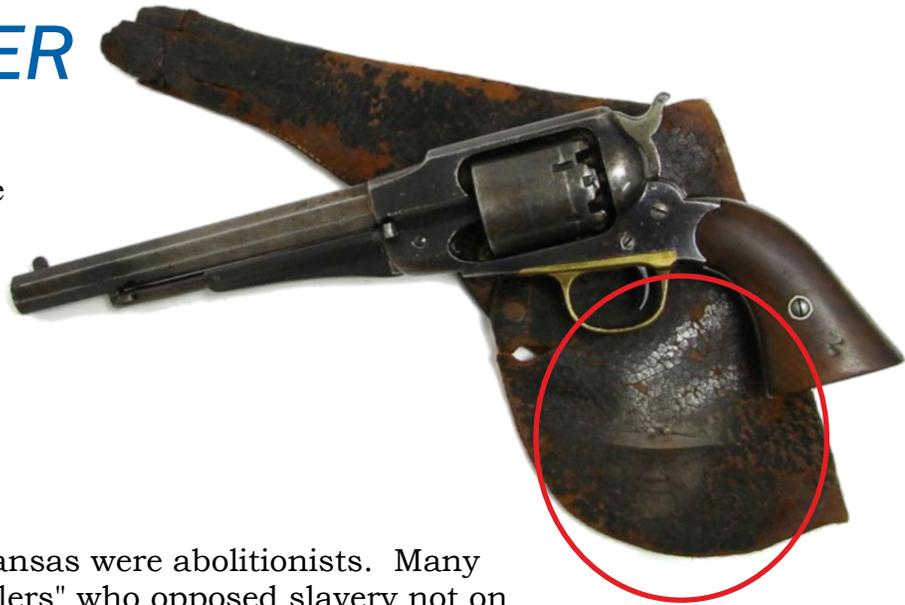


conversion as his primary sidearm in the film. He also carried several pre-loaded cylinders to use like modern speed loaders – the Remington advantage. Preacher also carried a Remington 1858 Pocket .31 caliber conversion as his backup.



FIND DELTA RAIDER

Hereby mentioned in the dispatches for finding Delta Raider last month (red circle on the right) are **Boon Doggle, El Sabre, Sole Proprietor, Lincoln Drifter, Hairtrigger Hayes, Preacher Man Lee, Sheriff Robert Love and Shooting Iron Miller**. I tried to make it little easier this month to see if more readers would find him.



Sacking of Lawrence *continued from page 1*



Henry Ward Beecher

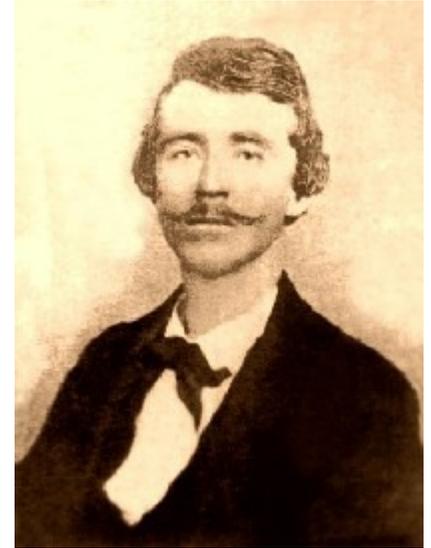
migrants to Kansas were abolitionists. Many were "Free Soilers" who opposed slavery not on moral grounds, but because the plantation system supported by slavery hindered their ability to establish their own small farms.

Events Leading to the Sacking. By May 1856, pro-slavery elements gained control of the Kansas territorial government and pursued a campaign of intimidation and arrest of anti-slavery advocates. In response, a "Free-State" legislature was set up in Lawrence to oppose the official pro-slavery territorial government. The Free State Hotel in Lawrence was even built as a fort to protect the Free State legislators. Warrants were quickly issued by the territorial government for arrest of the Free State legislators.

The Sacking. On May 21, 1856, a "posse" of more than 800 Border Ruffians gathered around Lawrence to execute the warrants. When the posse descended on Lawrence, the residents did not resist. The posse, however, wreaked mayhem and destruction. Two newspaper offices were sacked, the presses were destroyed and type was thrown in the nearby Kaw (now Kansas) River. The posse burned and looted homes and shops. As a final message to the abolitionists, they fired their cannon at the **FREE STATE HOTEL**. The first shot, from just across Massachusetts Avenue, missed. About 50 more shots were fired, with little effect on the solid walls of the "fort." The posse then attempted to blow up the hotel. Several kegs of gunpowder were exploded inside, with no significant damage to the walls. Finally, the posse set fire to the hotel. By early evening, it was a roofless, smoldering ruin. Because there was no resistance, there was only one fatality, a slavery proponent killed by falling stonework. Lawrence, nevertheless, was the first casualty in the Civil War that would be declared officially five years later.



Postscript – the Lawrence Massacre. In 1863, when emotions from the Civil War were at an all-time high, Lawrence was again the target of attack, this time by Quantrill's Raiders. The “Lawrence Massacre,” also known as Quantrill's Raid, targeted Lawrence because of the town's reputation as a center for Jayhawkers and Redlegs, which were free-state militia and vigilante groups known for attacking and destroying farms and plantations in Missouri's pro-slavery western counties.



William Quantrill

Before the raid, which was not sanctioned by the Confederate Army, Quantrill ordered his men to kill “every man big enough to carry a gun.” The surprise attack by 400 guerrillas began early. The raiders ripped men and boys from their beds and shot them in the streets of Lawrence. Nearly 200 were killed. Quantrill and his men also burned buildings and looted banks and stores. The Eldridge Hotel, on the site of the former Free State Hotel, was destroyed.

Aftermath. The raid shocked and enraged the rest of the nation. The *New York Times* said of the massacre: “It is a calamity of the most heartrending kind – an atrocity of unspeakable character.” The reaction of Southern newspapers was mixed. Some supported the raid; others were outraged because it was an attack on civilians.

For many, the Civil War was a struggle between North and South; however for the residents of Lawrence, Kansas, the Civil War was a struggle of East and West. In 1856, when John Brown killed five pro-slavery supporters in Kansas, the Kansas-Missouri border became a center of turmoil.

to wreak havoc, only Kansas. Not until of August 21, 1863 on had the raids reached Slaughtering buildings, Quantrill left Goodrich relates this dramatic and



Jayhawkers crossed into Missouri to be countered by raids into William Quantrill staged his raid the sleeping town of Lawrence such a fevered pitch. townspeople and burning behind a near-barren wasteland. story of Quantrill and his raid in a spellbinding manner. For the

residents of Kansas and Missouri, these border wars were their own private hell; there was no gallantry or honor for these participants. From a review of the book, “*Bloody Dawn*,” by Thomas Goodrich

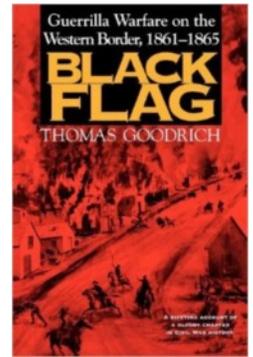
From the review of another book by Goodrich:

With most histories it is easy to take sides in hindsight, or to proclaim who was right or wrong. Not so with the border war, where there were no heroes, no shining hour of courage, no happy ending to years of suffering. Both sides lost the battle as the border war raged. This is American History in its darkest time as lawlessness ruled, as the eyes of a nation were riveted on "big" battles to the east.

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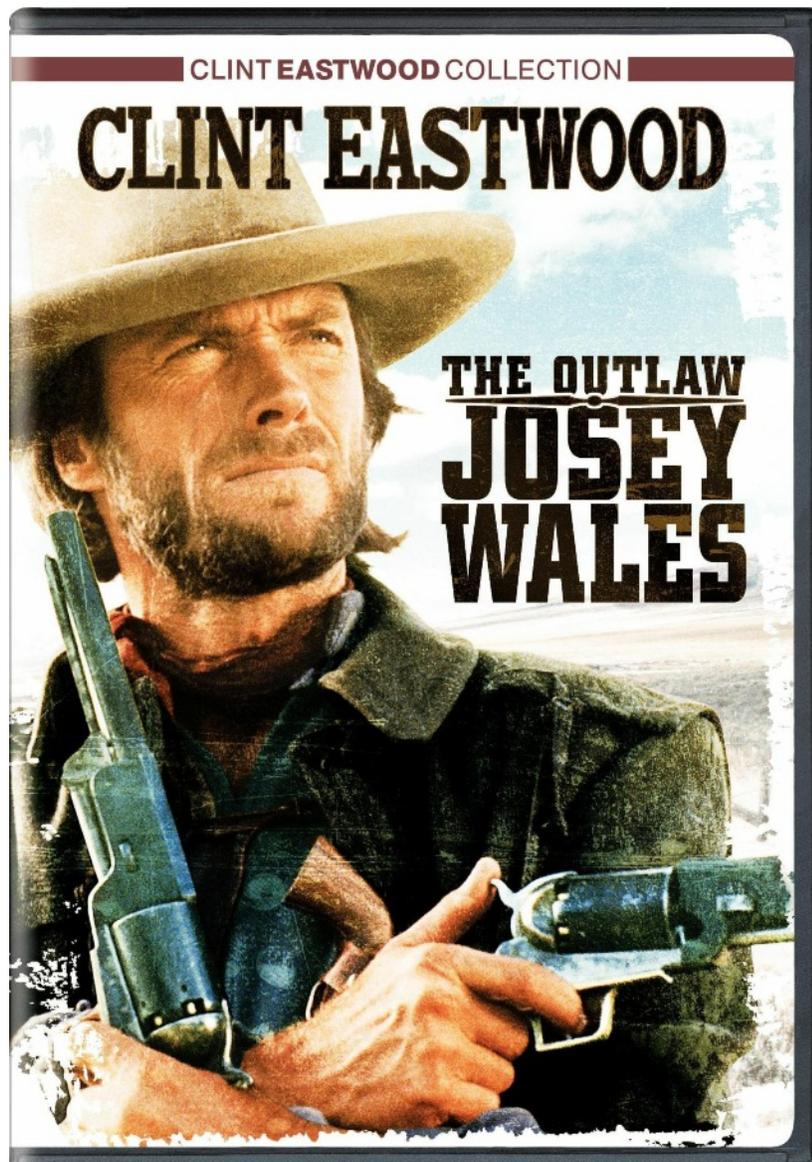
Each side committed atrocities, which were used as justification for the atrocities committed by the other side.

Black Flag: Guerrilla Warfare on the Western Border, 1861-1865: A Riveting Account of a Bloody Chapter in the Civil War



Conclusion. There is much to learn from studying the Border Wars, of which the Sacking of Lawrence was an early skirmish and the Lawrence Massacre may have been near the last.

Editor's Note: For more of the story, the September 1861 sacking of Osceola, Missouri by Kansas Jayhawkers is told in the 1976 Clint Eastwood movie "The Outlaw Josey Wales." The 1999 movie "Ride With the Devil," featuring Tobey Maguire, tells of the Lawrence raid from the Missouri perspective.



For a special mention in the dispatches, what are Josey Wales' firearms above?



Long Juan

Dragon Hill Dave pretty much said it all this month. I just want to add my thanks to everyone who helps put on our monthly matches each month. Thanks to **Lightning McQueen, P.T., Phanton, Joe Darter, Delta Raider, Agarita Annie, Jake Paladin, Nueces Slim, Lefty Leo, Lucky Nickel** and everyone I left out for all you do to make the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* and the *Agarita Ranch* such a great place to shoot and have fun. Watch next month for a story about Old Tascosa and the Big Fight.

November Match Photos

Thanks to Dutch Van Horn, Six Goin' South, Lincoln Drifter, Sterling Sage, Boon Doggle and Dragon Hill Dave for contributing photos again this month. See more of the Photos page of the Plum Creek website.

www.pccss.org



Kidd James, Smoke Jensen & New Guy



Jarhead Jake - a recruiting poster pose if ever I have seen one.



Scheutzum Phast showing that gunfighter style while Jake Jones runs the timer



Six Goin' South always gets a good photo of her posse - Posse 4 this time



Sterling Sage (back in the saddle) has heard just about enough from Long Juan (right)



Long Juan shouting out those stage instructions to Posse 1

Not sure he knows which end of the barrel (horse) is the correct end!



Lucky Nickel



It was good to have Artie Fly back shooting with us again - and shooting the Holy Black no less.



Don't ask, don't tell.
Lincoln Drifter and Dodge
City Mike



Dragon Hill Dave pickin' poop and Cowboy Small pickin' brass. Thanks



Great hat Nueces Ranger

Dragon Hill Dave and Artiman at the shooters' meeting and safety briefing.

Bronco Birnbaum takes dead aim



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	105	FP	33	66
	125	RNFP	35	70
	125	FP	35	70
	130	RNFP	36	72
	158	RNFP	39	77
	158	FP	39	77
	158	SWC	39	77
.380	100	RNFP	33	65
.38-55	245	RNFP	59	117
.41	215	SWC	49	98
.44	180	RNFP	41	81
	240	SWC	52	104
.44-40	200	RNFP	45	90
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	46	92
	180	RNFP	41	81
	200	RNFP	45	90
	250	RNFP	53	106
9MM	124	RN	35	70
	125	CN	35	70
40 S&W	180	FP	41	81
.45ACP	200	SWC	45	90
	200	RN	45	90
	230	RN	51	101
45-70	405	FPT	111	222

*Price increase because of higher cost of lead. Sorry for any inconvenience.