

### Army Intelligence.

#### Interesting account of the capture of Major Gaines' command—Adventurous Escape of Dan Henrie, &c.

The subjoined letter from the theatre of war, sent to us by a respected correspondent, gives the most graphic and thrilling account of the scenes it describes we have yet met with. The description of the hair-breadth escapes and imminent dangers encountered and overcome by the enterprising spirit of Henrie, fully verifies the adage that truth is stranger than fiction.—Washington Union.

SALTILLO, (Capital of Coahuila, Mexico) }  
February 1, 1847.

To the Editor of the Union:

The last letter I wrote you, was dated the 16th of December, Gen. Wool, with the centre division of the army of Mexico, was then encamped before the city of Parras, 115 miles N. of W. from Saltillo. The following day he received, by express, a letter from Gen. Worth, who, with his brigade was then occupying this city, stating that, from the best information he could receive, the Mexican forces contemplated an attack upon him, which, if made, would take place in a few days; and he desired Gen. Wool to join him with all his troops, as soon as possible. The centre division took up its line of march that very afternoon, and, in four days, had taken post 20 miles in advance of Gen. Worth, on the great highway near San Luis Potosi, and at a strong pass near Agua Nueva.

The intelligence Gen. Worth had received proved to be incorrect; but still it was deemed advisable that Gen. Wool's whole force should remain within supporting distance of Saltillo, rather than retreat its steps towards Parras. Soon after, the main body of the troops encamped at La Encarnacion, an easily defended pass 12 miles south of Saltillo—while the cavalry was posted in the advanced positions of Patos on the Durango road; San Juan de la Yaguera, on that leading to Zacatecas; and at Agua Nueva, Gen. Wool's first position. Gen. Worth still occupied Saltillo, and portions of Indiana and Kentucky troops were thrown into the passes to the northward of the town. The whole were commanded by Major Gen. W. O. Butler, who arrived at Saltillo from Monterey just before Gen. Wool arrived from Parras. Our spies contrived by some apparently regular system, to give us an alarm of the advance of the enemy every Friday from that before Christmas up to the present moment. About the 14th ult., it was reported that 18,000 Mexicans were on the road, and within a few leagues of our foremost position. At that time a battle was confidently expected to take place on Friday, the 15th; but, like all the other alarms, this, too, subsided, and, for two or three days again, everything was quiet. However, it was ordered that the principal roads leading from San Luis Potosi should be reconnoitered for some distance by our mounted troops—and Major Gaines, Capt. Cassius M. Clay, and Lieut. Davidson, of Col. Humphrey Marshall's regiment of Kentucky cavalry; Major Borland, and Capt. Danley, of the Arkansas mounted gunnery, and eighty men selected from their several regiments, were detailed for that service—one party under Major Borland to proceed directly down the San Luis road from Agua Nueva—the other under Major Gaines to take the Palomas Pass, and making a large detour to the left, to fall into the Potosi trace near Estaque de la Vaca—half-way from Agua Nueva to Encarnacion, and a bout 70 miles from Saltillo. The two commands performed this service without meeting with any force, and united at the Estaque de la Vaca, and from thence marched together to Encarnacion, thirty miles nearer San Luis Potosi. Major Gaines being the senior officer present with the two detachments, became their commander when united. On the 21st instant the whole party pushed on to Solado, where the Major expected he should find a Mexican piquet which he hoped to capture. It was his desire, therefore to reach that place in the night in order to surprise whatever of the enemy might be there; but after proceeding three leagues in advance of Encarnacion he ascertained at a rancho that from the great distance, it would be impossible to do so, and he changed his determination, and fell back again to Encarnacion; being likewise urged to the latter course by a terrible storm of rain which then set in.

After his return to Encarnacion, he put all his troops in the hacienda, barricaded the doors and windows, and placed large stones on the parapet wall immediately above, to be thrown down upon the heads of any party who should attempt to force them. Eighteen men were then detailed for guard, six sentinels at a time being on duty at the various points on the top of, and about the hacienda.

The night wore away without anything having transpired to disturb the little garrison until 2 o'clock on the morning of the 22d, when one of the sentinels stated he thought he had heard the clanking of arms. All the officers immediately got up, and searched in every direction about the place, but could find nothing which could have occasioned the alarm, except the rude machinery and jingling chains of two wells, from which water was procured for the supply of the estate. This machinery was kept in motion night and day by a number of mules; and all the officers and even the sentinel himself, at length became satisfied that its noise was what he had mistaken for that of arms, when quiet was again restored, and all retired again, but the six men on post.

When daylight appeared, to the astonishment of the whole party, the hacienda was entirely surrounded by the cavalry of the enemy, and distant on every side from a half to three quarters of a mile. A consultation was immediately had upon the best course to be pursued under these unhappy circumstances, and all at first determined to defend their position to the last, and in the mean time to send some man to force, if possible, his way through the enemy to alarm our troops at Saltillo, that they might come to the rescue. A Mr. Dan D. Henrie, who was with Major Gaines as an interpreter, and who, as one of the Mier prisoners, had been taken to the castle of Perote, and escaped from there with General Green, was the man selected for this service. He immediately prepared his horse for the occasion, but before everything was ready for his departure, Major Gaines called to him from the top of the hacienda to stop, as a white flag was coming in from the enemy, and he wished Henrie to come up there and interpret for him. The flag was borne by a subaltern, accompanied by three men one of whom was his interpreter. After it had approached within speaking distance, it was halted, when the interpreter who was with it, said to Major Gaines that he was surrounded by 3,000 regular Mexican cavalry, under the command of Gen. Minon, who desired that there should be no sacrifice of life, and who wished Major Gaines to come and hold a parley with him to arrange some terms of capitulation, promising, at the same time, an officer of equal rank to remain with the Americans as a hostage during the absence of their commander. Major Gaines went to the place where Gen. Minon was, taking with him Mr. Henrie as his interpreter. The general and his interpreter alone were present at the interview, the other officers being at a distance and beyond ear-shot. General Minon then told the major that he was surrounded by a force over 3,000 strong—that the troops were all in sight, and he could count them, if he pleased.—That if he would surrender, his whole force should be treated as prisoners of war, for which he pledged the honor of his nation and his own—at the same time saying, if his promise was not kept, he would resign his commission. He also said that the officers should be allowed to retain their horses, and the major his arms. That Mr. Henrie, who had already been recognized as one of the Mier prisoners—should be regarded as a prisoner of war, also, and that the Mexican who had been forced to act as the Major's guide, should have a fair trial. Major Gaines then returned to the hacienda and made known to his officers the proposals of the general, and they unanimously agreed to accept them—their hope of a successful resistance being at that time when they were informed by the major of the true numbers of their opponents, and the strength of their positions on the various roads. The Americans then marched out and surrendered their arms—the Mexicans gathering well in around them, the meanwhile. No sooner had this been done—than the man who had acted as Major Gaines' guide was allowed five minutes to confess himself to a priest—when a party of men shot him on the spot.

One hundred and fifty were then detailed as a guard to the Americans—all of whom were dismounted but the officers—and their horses and horse equipage taken possession of by the enemy. The whole remained at Encarnacion the 22d. During that day many of the officers of the Mexican army took from our soldiers their blankets, and whatever else they desired—throwing them a dollar or so, as payment for what they thus obtained.—On the morning of the 23d, the prisoners took up their line of march for San Luis Potosi. During that day several circumstances transpired, which led our officers to believe that the Mexicans intended to shoot Mr. Henrie, and all of them urged upon him the necessity of escaping if possible. Major Gaines gave him his thorough-bred mare and his two pistols, which still remained in the holsters on the saddle—and told him to make a dash through the guard the first good opportunity that should present itself for so doing. Mr. Henrie had been allowed to retain his own horse—while the major mounted at the same time Henrie mounted the mare—and the exchange was not noticed by the Mexicans, or its purpose suspected. Just as the day's march was nearly completed, Mr. Henrie slackened his pace and kept falling back of the prisoners, pretending at the same time to be adjusting their files, until he had got nearly to the rear of the column, when, in an instant, he struck spur to the flanks of his noble animal, and, quick as thought, he broke through the few sentinels still remaining behind; before they could recover their surprise, was nearly out of gun shot upon the road back. A party followed him as closely as possible. He had to pass three ranches before he arrived near Encarnacion again from each of which a fresh party of rancheros joined in the pursuit. From the last, a few men took a nearer road across the mountains, and gave the intelligence of Henrie's escape to Gen. Minon, who immediately covered every road in the valley with parties of men to take him as he came around. Henrie knew nothing of this near road, or of the men who had gone upon it, and before he even suspected his approach to Encarnacion was in danger of discovery, he found himself in the very midst of the parties who had been stationed to intercept him. Through them he had to run a gauntlet for miles—no sooner clearing one, and getting out of reach of its fire, than another commenced upon him. When he arrived near the Estaque de la Vaca, he had left his pursuers far

behind, and supposed he had no further difficulties to encounter for the rest of the way in; but before he had passed the Estaque de la Vaca, he met several mounted piquets of the enemy apparently on their return from near Agua Nueva. They discovered him, and at once endeavored to cut him off. In order to get clear from them, he was obliged to take a trail at almost right angles from the road and leading away to the southeast—the Mexican piquets after him in hot pursuit. He continued in that direction, as he supposed, all of forty miles, when he struck into a large valley, where the poor animal who had borne him through all these perils gave out, and he was obliged to pursue his way on foot. The piquets had been dropped out of hearing long before he reached the valley, and he now felt comparatively safe from them, having but little to fear, except the danger of starving, or perishing for want of water, before he should be able to get in. For a long while he wandered around this valley, endeavoring to find some outlet, but was unable to do so, and at last was obliged to come back upon the same trace by which he had entered it, to the Estaque de la Vaca, when he struck the main road again; and on the 29th instant, at day break, met our piquets six miles in advance of Agua Nueva, where he was furnished with a horse, and on that day came into this city. For the whole time, from the evening of the 23d until his arrival at Agua Nueva on the 29th, he had not tasted one drop of water or a mouthful of food, except a solitary rat, which he had the good fortune to kill while wandering about the valley, a part of which he had still with him when he fell in with our troops.

I have given you the particulars of Major Gaines' capture and of Henrie's escape, as he reported them to me; and so far as I can judge from a knowledge of a part of the facts, I believe they are correct.

Since writing the foregoing, Col. Humphrey Marshall has been at my quarters, and from him I learned of the capture of still another of our reconnoitering parties by Gen. Minon's command.

At the time of Major Gaines' departure on the duty before alluded to, a large portion of the Kentucky cavalry lay encamped at the Palomas pass, ten miles east of Saltillo. After time enough had elapsed for the return of Major Gaines, and finding he did not come back, Lieut. Col. Fields detached another command of one captain, one subaltern, two sergeants, three corporals, and eleven privates, to search for him. This party took the same road the major had at first marched upon. After proceeding 30 miles, it arrived at a small hacienda called San Antonio, just at night. This it surrounded before any of the inmates had escaped. Capt. Heady who was in command of the party, determined that none of the people residing at the hacienda should leave until after he should himself start the following morning, fearing they would convey intelligence to the enemy. During the evening, but before dark, the Mexicans got up a little bull fight for the amusement of the troops; and, taking advantage of a time when the animal was outside of the line of sentinels, one of its pursuers managed to escape.—He, no doubt, carried information to the enemy, for during the night the hacienda was surrounded by 1,500 troops, and every man of Capt. Heady's command was captured.

I believe they were captured on the night of the 27th instant. So you perceive the enemy are coming in around us full as near as is at all comfortable or pleasant.—Col. Marshall arrived here the 30th of January from Monterey, and gave me some of the particulars of the dreadful murder of Lieut. John A. Richey, of the 5th regiment United States infantry, who had been for the last few weeks on duty with one of the companies of the 1st dragoons, recently stationed in this city.

Upon the 9th of January certain despatches from Gen. Scott for Gen. Taylor arrived at Monterey, and it was necessary they should be forwarded at once. It was not then known whether Gen. Taylor was at Victoria, or had gone further down toward Tampico; but Col. Marshall volunteered, with one hundred of his regiment, to find the general and deliver the despatches to him, wherever he might be. His offer was accepted; and on that day he started for Victoria. Upon the 11th of January, while upon the road, he received a note from Lieut. Richey requesting that he (Col. M.) would halt at Morelos, until he could come up with him; at the same time stating that he had in his possession a mail supposed to contain letters and papers of great importance, which were destined for the army at Victoria. Colonel Marshall did halt as Mr. Richey desired, and during the course of the next day he came up, having as an escort a party of 10 of the 1st dragoons. He delivered into Col. Marshall's care the mail, but never said a word of his having still in his possession any despatches from Gen. Butler for Gen. Taylor, although he knew Col. Marshall himself was bearer of very important ones from Gen. Scott. Col. Marshall inquired of Mr. Richey if he intended to proceed still further onward, or return, and he replied he would go on as his road was to Matamoros—his company being under orders for Tampico, for which place it had started from Saltillo on the 7th of January, and was then on the road to Camargo with Gen. Worth's brigade.—Mr. Richey then travelled with Col. Marshall's command for two days, living with him at his tent. On their way from Linares to Villa Grande, Captain Thomas F. Marshall's horse gave out, and the command was halted for a while. Col. Marshall and Capt. Marshall proceeding to a

hacienda a few hundred yards from the road to purchase another. While going thither, Col. M. says he saw Mr. Richey taking his party around a point of Chaparral, as he supposed, to have his horses grazed; but it afterwards appeared, that instead of stopping, he went directly on to Villa Grande, to which place he had reason to believe Col. M. intended to march that night. Col. M. however, after having proceeded to within five miles of that place, halted and encamped. The next morning he moved on, and, on entering the village, was informed by the sergeant of Mr. Richey's party that the lieutenant had been missing ever since the night before. That when he arrived at Villa Grande, he had stopped with his men at the house of a Mexican named Antonio Sanchez, situated upon the Plaza of the town, where he had announced that Col. M. with his command would be up that night. That after he had eaten his supper, he had walked out with an Englishman named McGill, and had not been heard from or seen again.

Col. Marshall immediately directed inquiries as to the stopping place of this man McGill, and found it to have been in a little *xacal*, or hut, situated in the suburbs of the town, full half a mile from the plaza; and upon inquiring of the proprietor of it, where the Englishman had gone, was told he had left the night before at 12 o'clock; that, previous to his going away, he had expressed apprehensions for his safety—seemed greatly agitated, and instead of going to Linares, where his journey lay, and upon the road to which Col. M. was encamped, he had gone in an entirely different direction towards Fresno. Col. Marshall's suspicions were at once aroused against Mr. Richey, as being in some way concerned with the sudden disappearance of Mr. Richey, particularly when he learned that an *arriero* had informed one of his men that he had seen McGill and another white man enter the *xacal* together; and from which he had not seen them depart, although he had encamped near by for the whole night. Col. M. now imagined that Mr. Richey must have been murdered, and that McGill and the owner of the *xacal* were in some way participants in causing his death; and as a means of getting the truth out of the latter, he determined to hang him up. This he did do. Before he was dead, however, he was taken down and again questioned, but still denied all knowledge of what had become of Mr. Richey—at the same time alleging he had never even seen him. Col. M. then determined to take him as a prisoner to Victoria, in order that Gen. Taylor himself might decide upon the case. He also arrested the first Alcalde of Villa Grande, and took him along likewise. He told the second alcalde that if upon his return McGill was found, the first should be released.—Col. M. then went on. He found General Taylor at Victoria, who, in a few days, returned to Monterey. When the general arrived at Villa Grande, he ascertained that Mr. Richey had been murdered as Colonel Marshall had supposed—his body having been found at some distance from the town. An American, named Dr. Thompson, a resident of Hidalgo, was present when it was discovered. It appeared from an examination of the remains, that the murderers had at first *lassoed* Mr. Richey, and had then galloped away to this spot, dragging his body over the earth, and tearing it in the most shocking manner; that they then stabbed him twice in the back, stripped off of which he was the bearer; and then, not being satisfied with what they had at ready done, mutilated his remains most barbarously. Dr. Thompson had the body brought to town, and gave it a christian burial. Gen. Taylor immediately instituted the most diligent search for the murderers. McGill had been taken by the second alcalde, and brought back; but strange as it might seem, upon being examined by the general, was believed not to have been guilty, and allowed to go again. At length, by the confessions of some of the inhabitants, it appeared that a plot had been formed by fifteen Mexicans to cut off Mr. Richey and all his party. But that after he was murdered, the rest of the plan fell through, and the murderers scattered in different directions. Some of them General Taylor was able to secure, and from those he learned the names of the rest. He then gave the authorities of Villa Grande six weeks in which to arrest the others—assuming them, as I have understood, that if they were not found and delivered up by that time he would cause the town to be levelled to the earth. As a further inducement, he offered five hundred dollars to any person or persons who should take them, and two hundred dollars for the despatches. He is understood to have said that he considered their loss equal to that of a battle—as they contained the whole plan of the campaign—the attack on Vera Cruz and all—and have no doubt gone direct to Santa Anna.

The general brought the prisoners whom he arrested there, to Monterey, where they are still in confinement. I have given you these particulars, also as I received them from Col. Marshall; and as he was upon the ground, you can depend upon them as being correct.

Lieut. Richey belonged to the gallant 4th infantry, and was with it in the glorious battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and subsequently, when that regiment stood under such a shower of iron and lead at Monterey, when those brave officers, Hoskens, Graham, and Woods were cut down, he was there in the thickest of the fight acquiring himself most manfully.—He was afterwards promoted to the 5th infantry, and then assigned to duty with the 1st dragoons, as before stated. He was

beloved by all his brother officers, and his melancholy fate deeply deplored.

General Taylor, with two batteries of artillery, Brevet Lieut. Col. May's squadron 2d dragoons, and one regiment of Mississippi foot volunteers, will probably arrive here to-day from Monterey. General Butler has been ordered to that city, and Gen. Taylor will, it is said, make Saltillo his headquarters. General Wool and Gen. Lane are now here. After Gen. Taylor's arrival, we shall have four batteries of artillery, consisting of eighteen brass pieces of various caliber, one squadron of 1st regiment dragoons, the Kentucky cavalry, the Arkansas mounted gunnery, two regiments of Illinois, two of Indiana, one of Kentucky, and one of Mississippi volunteers, besides a company of Texans, &c. There can be but little doubt but active movements of great importance will soon commence in this quarter, for no one questions the belief that large forces of the enemy are continually hovering about us. The inhabitants have nearly all left this city, and some of the priests likewise have gone.—Our best men are disposed to believe that a storm is brewing and will soon break upon us. But of all that I will give you the particulars as they transpire. I have written this letter in much haste; but you may be able to glean from it something that may interest our many friends at home.

I am, my dear sir, very truly yours

**TAKE NOTICE.**  
LETTERS of Administration having been granted to us on the estate of George Shaffer, late of Brady township, Clearfield county, dec'd., all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the said dec'd. are requested to make known the same without delay, and all persons indebted are requested to come forward and make payment.  
JACOB SHAFER,  
GEO. SHAFER,  
Administrators.  
Brady tp 17th Feb. 1847.

**BRANDRETH PILLS.**  
JUST received a fresh supply of Brandreth's justly celebrated pills with directions for use. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by E. & W. F. IRWIN, who are the only authorized agents in the borough of Clearfield.  
Nov. 27, 1846.

**NOTICE.**  
LETTERS of Administration having been granted to the subscriber on the Estate of Lewis W. Smith, late of the borough of Clearfield, dec'd., all persons having claims or demands against the estate are requested to make the same known to me without delay, and all persons owing the said estate are required to come forward and make settlement in like manner.  
FERDINAND P. HURXTHAL,  
Administrator.  
Clearfield, 22d Feb. 1847.

**THIS WAY!**  
JUST received and for sale by the subscriber at his "old stand" in the borough of Clearfield, a general assortment of  
**Fall & Winter Goods,**  
consisting in part of  
**DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,**  
**HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE,**  
**HATS & CAPS, BOOTS & Shoes,**  
**BONNETS, Books & Stationary**  
**UMBRELLAS, DRUGS,**  
**COTTON YARN, GLASS,**  
**CARPET do. Looking Glasses,**  
**Confectionary, Tobacco & Cigars,**  
**TINWARE, Oils, Paints, &c.**  
All of which he will sell as cheap for cash or COUNTRY PRODUCE as they can be had in town. The public are respectfully invited to call, examine his stock, and judge for themselves.  
RICHARD SHAW.  
Nov. 17, 1846.

**NEW GOODS.**  
E. & W. F. IRWIN  
HAVE just received their winter's stock of goods consisting in part of  
**DRY GOODS**  
Of every variety and description, **GROCERIES, Hardware, Drugs and Medicines, Queensware, Hats, Caps, Bonnets, Boots and Shoes, Carpeting, Clocks, Baskets, Umbrellas, Tobacco, Cigars, Snuff, Sugar, Looking Glasses, Salt, Nails, Brooms, Gum Overshoes, Books and Stationary, Cooking Stoves, Tin Plate and Coal Stoves, &c.**  
All of which they wish to dispose of at as low prices as can possibly be afforded, especially when CASH is in the question.  
The highest price given for **GRAIN, PORK, BUTTER, EGGS, RAGS, TIMOTHY, FLAX and CLOVER SEED, SHINGLES & LUMBER** of all kinds, **FURS, &c. &c.**

**NOTICE.**  
IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Letters of Administration have been granted to the subscribers on the Estate of Adam Wheeler, late of Jay township, Elk county, dec'd.—therefore, all persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment to the subscribers, and those having demands will present them duly authenticated for settlement.  
JOHN M'CRACKEN,  
ISAAC D. PASCO,  
Administrators.  
Caledonia, Jan. 16, 1847.