When Rebels Camped Near AN INTERESTING REMINISCENCE Reynoldsville

orn rebels within two miles of Reynoldsville, that it was maintained three years, that in its defense murder was committed, and that its remains are yet visible to prove the truth of the tale, are historical facts little known to the generation grown up since '65.

In 1860 an old State road existed running from a point north of the Groves farm in the Beechwoods, through Paucoast and over the hills to what is now Wheeler's farm, thence into Reynoldsville. Long since abandoned, its trailing course may still be followed from Pancoast to the Wheeler farm, and along this stretch in the days of the war, dark deeds were done and men lived obeying no law but the dictates of their own wild hearts. There were but few settlers in Reynoldsville then and the dark forest told no tales, hence the quick forgetfulness of this strange chapter of

Shortly after the war broke out between North and South in 1860, there appeared suddenly in Winslow township four strangers whose manner and talk betrayed their southern origin. Regarded with suspicion by the residents, the men associated only with each other and were driven by necessity to erect a shelter and home for themselves. Going off to the north of Reynoldsville, they selected a spot midway between the present farms of R. M. Fugate and David Wheeler, but then a dense wilderness, where a spring of pure, cold water flowed from the ground, they cleared a space almost an acre in extent and built thereon a rude cabin for themselves. Around it, with a thoughtfulness which betokened previous life in more peaceful pursuits, they planted wild apple, plum and other fruit trees and transplanted from the forest many wild grape vines which clambered over their cabin and the

The men were heavily armed and depended for existence mainly on the slaughter of game which abounded in the forest about them. Lumbering was just commencing in the region and occasionally they would work under contractors in the woods. But between them and the local settlers there was little in common and the men guarded their little camp as rigidly as a fort in

over-arching trees.

One day, it is said, a soldier of the Union army, a courier, possibly, or scout, came riding along the road. His approach was immediately detected by

That there was once a camp of South- the Southerne s in the camp and for reasons best known to them rega d a as hostile. Within three rods of their cabin camp a rifle cracked in the forest. The Union soldier was never seen again nor was there any investigation made of his disappearance. Other tales of the kind were once common, which may and may not be founded on fact. It seems that the little band of rebels in a strange lard were Ishmaelites whose hand was against every man and every man's band against them. After the shooting of the soldier one of the Southerners disappeared for a time, three only being seen until the following year, when the fourth reappeared.

Their life in this manner continued until Lee surrendered at Appomatox, when they hastily abandoned their camp and left, according to report, for British Columbia. Hostile apparently to both North and South, they could find no rest within the borders of the Union. Who they were and what their mission here has never been discovered.

To-day the remains of their camp are still visible. A rod below the path of the abandoned road the "rebel spring" still flows and the wild grape vines hang from the gnarled old apple trees planted nearly fifty years ago around the camp of the men whom tradition has branded as deserters from the Southern army.

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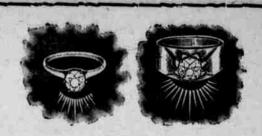
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