

unknown friends, who pressed all kinds of good offices upon me. In the evening the Attorney General, State Treasurer and others, called, and I had a large levee.

COPY OF WILL OF GOV. A. H. REEDER, REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE DIARY, AS MADE MAY 22, 1856.

I, Andrew H. Reeder, being in danger of being murdered by a set of vile ruffians and outlaws, who are outside of all the restraints of law, order, decency, and all social obligations, and who are below the savage in all the virtues of civilization, and who will probably kill me for opinion's sake, and in furtherance of that scheme for which already a number of lives have been sacrificed, to wit, the making of Kansas a slave State by violence and force of arms, do, in view of my death, which may happen to-day or to-morrow, make this last will and testament:

I declare my domicile to be in the borough of Easton, State of Pennsylvania, where I request this will to be proven.

I give and bequeath to my dear son, George Marchand, my gold watch, which has been in the family for three generations, and which I hope he will keep and transmit.

To my dearly loved and cherished wife, Amelia, I give, devise and bequeath all my estate, real, personal, and mixed, after payment of my debts, in fee simple forever.

My reason for this is that I know she will use it for the good of the children, as I would myself, and will share with them to the last dollar; and because, as there are many debts to pay and real estate to sell, it will be troublesome to deal with minors.

I appoint my friends Geo. W. Housel, C. F. Randolph and Henry Green, all of Easton, the executors of this last will and testament, and empower them to sell and convey at public or private sale any of my real or personal estate for payment of debts and expenses.

For the sake of my dear wife and children, I regret to leave my estate in its present scattered and shattered condition. The reasons are obvious, but I shall not stop to speak of them.

Witness my hand and seal, this 22d day of May, 1856, at Kansas City, Mo.

A. H. REEDER.

STATEMENT OF HON. GEORGE C. BRACKETT.

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, JANUARY 19, 1886.

On the morning of May 22, 1856, and after witnessing the raid made on Lawrence the day before by Sheriff Jones's posse, led by Col. Titus, in company with Owen A. Bassett I started for Leavenworth en route to my former home in Iowa, for the purpose of enlisting volunteers to march to Topeka to assist in protecting the Free-State Legislature, which was to assemble in that city on July 4 following.

We reached Leavenworth and took up quarters at the same house with the United States Commission, which was investigating the recent Territorial election of a Delegate to Congress from Kansas, intending to take the first steamer bound for St. Louis on the next day.

During the evening an attaché of the commission, Mr. G. G. Fogg, of New Hampshire, intimated to us that the Commission desired us to lay over at Leavenworth until a certain steamer returned from up the river; also that he probably would accompany us, and might need our services. The character of service was not made known at that time.

On the forenoon of the 23d of May, in company with Mr. Fogg, we left Leavenworth on the steamer J. M. Converse, bound for St. Louis. When a short distance below Kansas City the steamer landed, ostensibly for the purpose of taking on wood, but the small amount, not to exceed a cord, brought on board, seemed surprising to observers.

While standing against the guards of the cabin deck watching the boat hands at work, I noticed a lone person come down the bank dressed in the guise of a wood-chopper. As he stepped upon the plank leading to the boat, I remarked that I guessed the captain had stopped to take on that tramp. He looked up, when I was reminded by his features of some one whom I had met, but who it was I could not recall to mind.

The steamer soon after pulled out, and nothing unusual occurred until we had reached a point just below St. Charles, Mo., late in the afternoon, I think about 4 o'clock. The steamer remained tied up here, with apparently no object, and no satisfactory explanation was given by either the captain or clerk of the boat, and which caused considerable comment among the impatient passengers. Night came on, and with it a violent rain storm, and still the boat remained there. Just after the supper table was cleared away, Mr. Fogg quietly intimated that there was a matter of great import connected with our trip, and that he wished to make me acquainted with the captain of the boat, and, to avoid any suspicion, that it was best to enter my state-room, remaining there until he should return with the captain. I immediately notified Mr. Bassett, and together we returned to our room. Shortly after, Mr. Fogg and the captain came in, and informed us that Governor Reeder was on board; that he wished to use our room for the purpose of changing his clothes, preparatory to leaving the boat, which he would do at that point, and cross from there to the Mississippi river, a distance of about 12 miles. That it further was his desire that Mr. Bassett and myself should accompany him. The captain then left us, saying that he would send the porter with the trunk to the back door of the state-room, and instruct him to rap on his reaching it. Soon after a rap was given, and on opening the door the porter set in a trunk, and following came Governor Reeder, whom I quickly recognized as the person coming aboard at the wood yard below Kansas City. After a hearty hand-shaking, the Governor divested himself of his disguise, and prepared for his departure, which was delayed several hours by the storm. Furthermore, it was suspected that emissaries of the Border Ruffians were on board; and I was detailed to watch certain persons in the gentlemen's cabin, by which I learned that the suspicions were well grounded. This occasioned further delay, and until all

persons in the cabin had retired. About 11 o'clock the captain informed us that the way was clear, when it was decided that we should leave the boat singly, and under instruction, proceed to a log cabin a short distance back from the river, where we would find a trail, which led directly across to the Mississippi river.

Well armed, and provided with umbrellas, we made the shore, soon found the log cabin and trail referred to, and started on our adventurous trip through an unknown and heavily-timbered country.

The night was intensely dark and the storm continued until near morning, and it was only by repeated flashes of lightning that we were able to keep our way. I locked arms with the Governor, (remarking, "Let the blind lead the blind;" that I hoped there was no ditch ahead into which we would fall,) because he held an umbrella and I had none. In this way, by the aid of lightning, we led the way without much trouble, until, when out about two miles, I should judge, I caught the noise of rushing water, and halted our little party until a flash of lightning disclosed a land-slide of about twenty feet in depth and not more than ten feet in our front, and across which our path led. This narrow escape made us very cautious, and we did not move until another flash of lightning enabled us to make our course around the chasm to the left, and another flash led us back to the trail on the other side. With this exception the trip was made quite easily, and we reached the Mississippi river a little before sunrise, the storm having passed and sky cleared up. We found the river very much swollen and about a mile wide at this place. On the opposite side was a farm-house, and along the banks could be seen what we thought were several skiffs and a rowing ferryboat. We commenced signaling for relief, and after nearly an hour had the pleasure of seeing two men jump into a skiff and start up the river, hugging the bank for about a quarter of a mile, and then heading across the river. During our waiting we whiled away the time with our revolvers, cutting the stems of the leaves of a large cottonwood growing on the banks of the river, the Governor proving himself an adept in the use of such weapons.

Having safely crossed the river, and standing on freedom's soil, the Governor remarked, "For the first time since leaving Lawrence, I feel easy and safe." Having breakfasted at the farm-house, the Governor hired a conveyance to the nearest railway station, and with a heartfelt hand-shaking and farewell, he left us for Chicago, and we on the first steamer for St. Louis.

This was the last time we were in company, yet corresponded at times as late as the winter of 1859; and seldom was a letter received from him that did not contain some allusion to the eventful trip from the Missouri to the Mississippi river.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, 1886.