

James Pond Collection

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material

Material in English

Abstract

This autobiographical collection of Medal of Honor winner, Major James B. Pond, consists of 23 chapters that reflect upon his life experiences as a journalist and soldier with the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Use Restrictions

None.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical note:

(Please Note: The following biographical information on Major James Pond was taken from the June 21st, 2001, Volume 4, Number 5 issue of "North and South". Major James Burton Pond was born in New York in 1838. His family was passionately abolitionist in their feelings. After moving to Wisconsin in his youth in the Ante-Bellum period, and continuing with that tradition of reform passion, both his father and he quickly became active in Underground Railroad activities by helping run away slaves escape to Canada. Not particularly enjoying the hard work of farm life, James became an apprenticed as a "typesetter" at local Wisconsin newspaper. During this time he became interested in traveling to places like Kansas where the fires of abolitionist activities raged. It was also during this time that he took employment as a staff member of the Lawrence, Kansas "Herald of Freedom", an abolitionist newspaper. At eighteen he joined up with John Brown "in the

fight against the extension of slavery into the new territory in his opposition to the passage of "The Kansas-Nebraska Act" (1854). Young Pond left Kansas after Brown's forces were defeated at Osawatomie, Kansas in 1856. Continuing his travels before returning to Wisconsin, he soon joined the new "Wide Awake" Party, becoming the editor of the "Republican Markesan Journal." One of his goals as editor was to let his readers know without question where he stood politically and morally on the issues of the day. He wrote, "...should the rebels succeed in this struggle, slavery will be planted on every inch of ground that is now occupied as homes "of the free". Pond himself helped to raise a volunteer company which later became known as "Company C, 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry". Throughout the war he served in the regiment eventually distinguishing himself, and became promoted to the rank of Major. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism at "The Battle of Baxter Springs" (Kansas) on October 6, 1863. The Union garrison at Fort Blair had had been attacked by Lieutenant William C. Quantrille's raiders. While being separated from the fort, Lieutenant Pond "rallied portions of the 3rd Wisconsin and 2nd Kansas Colored Volunteers by personally manning a mountain howitzer. This action credited him with driving away the raiders and saving the garrison in addition to the men serving serving under his command.

Following the battle at Baxter Springs, Pond corresponded with the "Janesville (Wis.) Gazette" in which "he praised the exceptional fighting qualities of the men of the 2nd Kansas Colored Infantry."

After the Civil War Pond returned to his pre-war journalist roots and wrote down the recollections of his war service in the "Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Indian Country". He toured the country organizing and promoting the lectures of 19th-20th Century Notables as Mark Twain, Henry Ward Beecher, Winston Churchill, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Stanley, and Booker T. Washington. In 1900 Pond authored a book on his touring experiences and careers, entitled "Eccentricities of Genius".

In June, 1903, an infected ulcer forced doctors to amputate Pond's right leg. He died from blood poisoning in his Jersey City, New Jersey home on June 21st, and is buried in the Woodland Cemetery, Bronx, New York.

COLLECTION OVERVIEW:

The narrative following serves to highlight the main ideas(thoughts, reflections, and feelings) expressed by Major James Ponds of his life experiences in twenty three autobiographical chapters.

COLLECTION LIST:

Doc. #1(Chapter 1) of 23: "My Family Life and Early Years"

Noteworthy: James Pond opens up Chapter 1 by explaining his New England ancestry that began in Connecticut and that his father in his youth 'was apprenticed a blacksmith' in Prospect, Connecticut. Not satisfied with that occupation his father took on a variety of occupations moving on to the state of New York where he later married and settled into the "retail dry goods and grocery business."

Pond remembers most his youthful days sharing a home with "Aunt Eleanor Smith. It was during this time that he lived with a black man named Bill Prime, whom he spent much time with and was "his only pleasant reflection."

In 1842 the family moved to Hector, New York, renting a farm near his grand father. It was during this time that Pond recalled his first experience in chewing tobacco being given some by his grandfather. As prophesied by those family members present that Pond would get sick from the experience, he promptly did.

Pond recalls delightful winter experiences with his siblings, Celia and Homer, especially going sleigh riding, and then the birth of a third brother, Lewis Philip, and also with his brothers surviving the measles.

Life there on Bodle farm as Pond relates "germinated" his memory as he experienced the hard physical work of farm life, including the sensory experience of making maple sugar from scratch in the late winter which at 4 years of age he never forgot.

Then came the spring plowing with Pond asking always asking his father many life questions.

"The horses were my idols", stated Plow especially "when John Bodle used the team." His favorite daily activity was riding one of the horses to the barn just before the call to supper.

He recalls the harrowing,seed sowing, planting the corn "and making the garden under mother's supervision."

As he reflected on the long passage of the summers of his youth, Pond fondly remembered that "farming had its wonderful interest for me." He enjoyed "the milking of cows, the dog-churn, and Old Bull, the dog who trod the churn, and slept under it, etc." "Climbing the tree" and "tasting" the first fresh fruit and the variety of all the berries and orchard fruits were wonderful. Just the activity of mowing the hay and smelling the new mowed

hay and “cradling the wheat” were indelible pleasant memories of his youthful adventure living and working on the family farm.

Doc.# 2 (Chapter 2) of 23: “Father Gets the Illinois Fever”
We move from Hector to Illinois

Noteworthy: At the age of four (in the autumn of 1843) young Pond recalls a visit from “Uncle Lancaster Davidson and his wife, my mother's younger sister” who came to say goodbye before their move to Illinois. Pond's father had just bought a farm in Illinois after “land looking” there, and they were moving right away. But before the family moved, a long winter was spent at the Bodle home. That winter was extra long but the women busied themselves in the crafts of the loom, spinning wheel, etc. and evenings filled family and friends socializing as they completed their community knitting work. Pond explains that the subject of Illinois remained in the men's discussions, the place “where Uncle Lancaster had gone.” Planning and packing for the move to Illinois was an arduous task, and all the family regardless of age contributed to the effort. Pond recalled his father mentioning the waiting for the Great Lakes to thaw so that navigation would finally open up allowing them to get to their destination. Riding in the overloaded carriage was uncomfortable, even painful in his legs and arms, and Pond recalls his crying that interrupted grown up conversation. He remembers his family gathered “the first time into a church”, surrounded by men and women who were there for the purpose of saying goodbye after hearing the sermon and taking communion. It bothered young Pond who was anxious to leave and be on their new journey, not understanding all the hand shaking and crying by those present. That was in 1843. Many years later (in 1888) Pond recalls as he drove by Ithaca Mechlinburg, New York, seeing again that old church and remembering the earlier experience he ran into old John Bodle. Bodle took the time to show him the graves of his grandfather and grandmother and “a number of my mother's relatives”. Pond recalled seeing his grandfather's red house and barn, and “the old apple trees in the last stages of life.” He noted “the Bodle log house was then being torn down, and I was just in time to get a last look at the old logs”.

Doc. #3 (Chapter 3) of 23: "Hector to Illinois"

Noteworthy: Major Pond begins this chapter describing his impressions of their final preparations of loading three wagons of household goods in leaving Hector for Ithaca, New York. Remembering his first sight of "beautiful Cayuga Lake" he recalls the seldom seen tearful experience of those relatives parting, particularly his mother and father. Next follows his canal boat experience on the Erie and then the long voyage on the propeller driven "Republic". After several stops they made their final destination landing at Southport, Wisconsin (now Kenosha). Once ashore the family was met by Uncle Lancaster Davidson and his wagon team. After hiring a second team to transport the personal possessions the family arrived at their uncle's new home in Libertyville, Illinois. Two families now living in a one room log home brought with it a team of great family illnesses beginning with Aunt Phoebe and then mother too with fever and chills. "Boneset Tea" was the medicinal drink of which all partook. It was very bitter and disagreeable. The time of their Illinois emigration to their new home came too late for James' father to buy land for a farm that first summer, so he worked as a blacksmith in nearby Libertyville village. James recalls that at that period "we were very poor", sickness abounded as "father was unable to work half the time." "Boneset Tea" continued to popularly remain as the best medicine around for their sicknesses as the family and other relatives continued to struggle to put food on the table. Finally with a new spring James father was finally able to rent 10 acres of land while splitting rails part time. During this time the family moved again, east near the wooded shores of Lake Michigan. The experience of living near a large wooded area provided the family with new sources of food including venison, wild ducks, and squirrels, etc. "in great abundance". Young James recalls his first enjoyable experience of eating the hind quarters of a deer. While his father hunted, his mother "managed her garden" with seeds for corn, beans, cucumbers, peas, and tomatoes, that were called "Love apples." The following year "father rented a farm on the Prairie in the township of Brooklyn, Lake County about five miles west of Little Fort (Waukegan, Illinois). This farm was much bigger (80 acres), and the family had to move quickly so the fall plowing could be done. Pond records that his mother particularly had gone through many trials in these moves since leaving New York where she once lived in a "delightful home". Distressing to her was the always constant ongoing illnesses to cope with, no

church, fewer or no neighbors between them and Libertyville to befriend or visit, the tireless household duties and the raising of children.

The next move “was another log house, but a good one, one story and half high, built of hewn logs.” This new house was built by a prosperous farmer, “Mr. Green, who rented the home and land to James father. Though the neighbors nearby all owned their property and were better off, he noted his mother's warmth and kindnesses to others in the community afforded them many visitors. As the community prospered and grew, a call went out for a minister “and arrangements were made for a new church home there.” James family's culture was not expanding as now his siblings were meeting and making friends with other children who attended school and were “church goers”.

During this same time James reports that “Father began to utilize me” in doing even more chores including the carrying of water for some distances from the spring. It was this particular chore that got James in some serious trouble with his father for enlisting his younger brother Homer to help him carry the buckets.

On one occasion Homer accidentally fell into the spring that nearly caused a tragedy. James recalls his father's yells and the dispensing of punishment after cutting “willow switches”, stinging James back and legs. He never forgot that experience. Another example of his father's displeasure came when James failed to guide the horses' reins during the plowing season enabling for “unnecessary things” to be pulled from the soil. Though James feared this mistake would lead to another whipping, he was surprised that his father corrected him in a gentler and calmer way.

James chores increased with the managing of father's cows but with the added benefit of riding “Doll”, the family horse, more frequently. Though during the planting and harvesting seasons, James would spend 6 long hours on the horse, complaining of the leg pain it brought him.

James concludes his third chapter mentioning that where they lived (geographically) was a common thoroughfare for “thousands of emigrants” who “passed their way to take up new homes in Wisconsin.” He describes the heavily traveled road with the characteristic signs of travel, “clouds of dust”, and many wagons with “entire families with all their earthly possessions.” And behind them followed all of their animals of every kind. He records the common conversations upon meeting these emigrant strangers included the greetings, “Where are you from?”, and , “Where are you going?” This experience of meeting strangers enabled James family to make additional income by selling milk, butter, and “garden stuff” or “anything we could spare.” Interestingly when the strangers gave their answers as to where they hailed

from, they would often use the "nicknames" best known about their states such as "Empire State", "Keystone State", "Wolverines", and "Hoosiers", etc.

Pond acknowledges in his ending paragraph the commonality of character of the majority of these travelers as having a "fair education, industry, frugality," and whose families would raise their sons with those patriotic values who would one day "be ready to leave home and loved ones to ...rescue their imperiled country" (The Civil War).

Doc.#4 (Chapter 4) of 23: "The Land looker"

Noteworthy: James Pond distinctly points out as he opens this chapter that "that an occupant of the road" beyond the title of emigrant was also "the Land Looker". By locating a vacant quarter section of land, this 19th century "squatter" was allowed by law to build his shelter, hold it for a year, and return back to it with his family. The process of those men who had little money to buy land and family living somewhere else became a common site for the Pond family in all seasons of the year. At "Green's Tavern" owned by James father's employer, these men would gather on their way to and from to get their families, to share their stories and other experiences. Pond and his entire family took advantage of these opportunities not only to be entertained by these strangers but also received a kind of cultural education for themselves.

In pride James recalls that all of his father's hard work allowed them to have a "fair ...sumptuous living" as compared with their first years in the west, with the added social benefits of good friends and neighbors, and schools to attend.

As time passed James father became engaged beyond his farming duties to advising these pioneers on the necessary steps to settling the land while at the same time journeying to a town called "Alto" (Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin) to inquire about property and a log house there. After borrowing money from his sister in Connecticut (Mrs. Harriet Terry) to hold the land, and after seeing it, he returned home to fetch his family and possessions for the move. Mr. Green had wanted and hoped that father would stay and farm his land for another two years, but this opportunity to move on and finally own his own 10 acres proved to good to pass by. In March, 1847 after hiring a neighbor "who had a horse and team" (William Warner) the Pond family started out on a 150 mile trek laden with their possessions. This process followed the final tearful goodbyes of a grateful Pastor and his church

members as they acknowledged their immediate loss of a such a well serving family. His father, brother Homer and James followed the loaded wagon driving the livestock. Pond “cites” the “discouragement” in driving hogs who collectively seemed to have to have their own minds as to which direction to take other than the defined trail that lay ahead of them. One continuous challenge facing Pond's family was the task of finding secure places for the livestock to stay the night, stating that “roadside barns”, “corner of fences”, even “under trees” became their beds. Also Pond reflects, “we were seldom camped by ourselves”, which was often due to animals or people getting unavoidably sick on the trail and slowing the progress of their pace. The excitement of new land and starting over in a new home kept collective moral high. Reminiscent of Lewis and Clark's descriptions of the Louisiana Territory, on a smaller scale young Pond describes the beauty of the southern Wisconsin prairies, and the passage of the occasional discovery of a village, busy with its sounds of local home industries, and noting places for emigrants to stop and refresh or make purchases. At a certain “Elk Horn Tavern” Pond remembers that a man approached his father, inviting him to start a blacksmith business there and even offered to send him to Milwaukee to purchase tools with no financial obligation or risk on his part. His father replied after being told how lucrative his wages would be in a short time, that he had purchased land already and had plans for his family to settle and work the land. Pond concludes this chapter remembering a stop at a tavern at Whitewater, Wisconsin and staying the night. All in all young Pond remembers the enjoyment he had with his father and brother Homer in “sitting at the long tavern table” and being served breakfast and supper.

Doc. #5 (Chapter 5) of 23: “En route to Alto, Wisconsin...The City of Watertown”

Noteworthy: James Pond opens this chapter by describing that “the mayor of the city of Watertown who was an acquaintance of Father's”. The mayor, a wheelwright named “Miltimore” and his father toured a nearby dam which would be the site of a new mill for the town. The mill would be a mainstay for Watertown's economy for many years until large factories were built and the mill and dam would become “only a memory of the pioneers.” The importance of the Watertown community lay in both its geographical position from Milwaukee in connecting it to remote territorial points. The Rock River proved a selling point for developing industries like a brewery, and good opportunities for settlers to find employment.

“Meeting the first band of Indians” was their experience upon coming to the settlement of Fort Atkinson. Seeing them all on ponies proved a frightening experience for both Homer and James and they cried. Young Pond remembered the Chief “putting his hand to his mouth, saying “bread”, and “father gave him a loaf”.

Their next destination that came was “Rolling Prairie”, “a green wavy sheet of land in every direction.” Pond remarks that Wisconsin rolling prairies were excellent pasture land for cattle while being bordered by thick forests of oak, and that his father's claim matched such a description. “After 5 days of lonesome travel”, with “the road becoming less and less distinct, we reached the summit of one of the highest prairie elevations” ...”seeing in the distance on what seemed another hill, a lone house.” They were almost to their new home in Alto. But their “mirage” was just another tavern-”Knight's Tavern.”

Reaching the Tavern at 5 P.M. (a two-storied frame house), they were greeted by the tavern keeper's wife, Mrs. Knight who “congratulated father on his safe arrival.” Mrs. Knight was glad to be getting “the prospect of a good neighbor”.

To James Pond this framed tavern seemed cold and dismal, and the siblings begged their father to push on the additional 5 miles to reach their new homestead. Father complied. As they left, the tired livestock “bellowed” and the pigs protested further moving by “lying down”, due to their exhaustion of the long journey. But all the family members cheered and coaxed the animals to move on. Only three miles more of “heavy prairie” . Finally reuniting with their mother and allowing their animals to graze in segments, the family finally reached their home at ten o'clock. Pond describes their new home as being “twelve by fourteen square, with a hewn log floor, one door and one window with only four panes of glass eight by ten, and a slab door with wooden hinges and latch opened with a latch string.” “Mother and sister Celia had been there over a week.”

The excitement of sleeping in the new home that first night (in a strange new place), the boys after climbing the garret ladder were allowed to rest “undisturbed”. Early the next day father had to travel to nearby “Sleeper's Spring” to fetch water as no water existed on his claim.

The Pond family adjustment to their new Wisconsin home setting was full of excitement and adventure in both getting familiar with the geographics of the local region and make friends surrounding neighbor's families. Here James Pond inventories the names, professions, and personalities of new acquaintances. Truly a sense of community abounded as seasons changed and neighbors were

always ready to lend a hand at the sign of an individual or family's challenge or situation. As Pond records, "Adjoining neighbors called and offered every assistance in their power towards contributing to our comfort." Such generous volunteerism from surrounding citizens included James' father's wish to "smooth the rough floor" of their home. Interestingly young James points out a value he learned from his father regarding a son's labor. His father mentioned a son that did not live at home but was instead working off a debt of his father's (to a Mr. Wicks) until the debt was honorably paid. As Pond recalls upon hearing this piece of economic culture, he remarks, "I wondered if my father would sell me out to somebody, and I live away from my Mother."

With so many new families settling in the area with an abundance of children, the local and immediate topic for community discussion became the need for having a school house. There some 12 children qualified in age to be attending primary school. Majority vote enabled the passage of a school and Miss Brisbane would be the first teacher. "The school was to begin on Monday in Mr. Boardman's shanty and the men and schoolers were all to meet at the school house at eight o'clock, an hour before school time and put the house in order."

A trail or road had to be made "in the direction of the Boardman's", and father helped in the process with his ax in all the labors.

James Pond describes the school house as "a long shanty six logs high, with holes for a window and a door", equipped with "4 puncheon benches" (carved out from logs). Subjects taught included "Cobb's spelling book", "Dayball's Arithmetic", "Parley's geography", and "one or two McGuffey's Readers". The school day opened with a prayer by a Mr. Wilbur.

"The twelve scholars were all there"... and a parental head of each family was present. Young Pond admits that he simply didn't know or remember how much he learned there. But he does remember getting into some "mischief" that kept him "in disfavor".

Hours following the school day included "hunting up the cows" and driving them home to be milked. With pride Pond's knowledge grew about learning everything about the surrounding countryside. As the seasons changed toward colder temperatures, looking for stray cattle became uncomfortable and difficult. Pond also took note of the local wildlife (their sounds and tracks) including wolves,

lynx, bear, and wild cats, etc. Some of his scariest moments came when looking for stray livestock and darkness fell early and he lost his bearings on getting back to the trail that would take him home for dinner. He remarks after once such traumatic experience, "I had got home without the slightest knowledge of where I was." "I had not even seen a footpath or a road, or recognized anything until Mother spoke." "All the people in the settlement had been looking for me all morning." "It was not until darkness drove people home that the news of my having found myself became known."

In that first year Pond discusses the activities of the summer season where "two acres of cabbages, onions, beets, carrots, and five acres of corn" were planted along with the continuous splitting of rails and repairing or making new fences. Often young James was sent to fetch the mail at nearby Waupun (11 miles distant) with postage often due. It became a regular weekly trip, and he remembers the gathering around by family members to hear the reading of the "New York Weekly Tribune", that Pond describes as "a member of the family". This reading of the paper became a weekly Sunday afternoon activity that followed attending church. Also of course was time that same afternoon "to play out of doors" which was always looked forward to."

Still, living on the prairie in all of its seasons was a hard life "where poverty seemed insurmountable." This called for families with many children to always be resourceful in creating new/more ways to earn income. Farming was always risky with always unpredictable weather, and

Pond records that "from 1847-1854, we lived on that farm in Alto."

Pages 10-14 of this chapter draw upon the family's successive years of farming, illustrating that no growing season was ever the same, with each producing its own climatic and economic challenges. Nothing was simple, whether it was adapting to too much rain, rusting and rotting wheat, too much heat or living or constantly living off of one grown vegetable-potatoes.

The disintegrating agricultural economy meant often foregoing of the most basic necessities for the children like shoes. James Pond recalls that their neighbors were as poor as they were. Hard times meant that new skills always had to be learned to survive, and risks had to be taken in accepting unaccustomed and uncomfortable stresses of different labor. As always the family farm had to be maintained with the daily necessary chores. Then there were "days of rejoicing" "when father came home with flour ground from about six bushels of wheat, a pair of shoes for Homer and myself..." For a little while they would not be dining on "frozen turnips."

Pond takes time to remember in this chapter the talents of his parents. Mother was such a great cook and baker and made the most of family menu planning when father brought home fresh meat. Her “spinning wheel, wool card, and knitting were constantly going”, reflects young Pond. Mother adapted herself in successfully braiding straw into hats for a family income and became very good at it. Young James remembered that a neighbor, Mr. Carter, would let mother cut straw from his field for the hat material. This was all done in mother's spare time and was quite a process.

Poignantly James Pond describes one family Fourth of July Celebration, the year of 1848. The day before James had been accused of stealing into a neighbor's cellar (Mr. Eli Farnham's) and eating some of his raw turnips as a prank. James responded to his father's probing question as to whether he was guilty of the deed, and when he admitted he told a lie, James expected his father's whip as his punishment.

Holidays of any kind meant family and neighbors uniting together in celebration. There seemed to be a greater and more cheerful willingness on the part of children to do the daily required chores. Maybe it was the thought of eating lots of good and different food, and children getting to play for long periods of time with other children they did not see very often. Many were coming from as far away as 15 miles, and the Independence Day Celebration was well planned with activities for all ages. Traditionally on this holiday a copy of “The Declaration of Independence” was brought out and read aloud to all present in remembrance of its meaning and those who became Patriots.

James Pond and his brother Homer collectively did not really understand “what all this was about.”

There was much preparation to be done before the actual day arrived. James and Homer's chores included hoeing the corn, going into Waupun for eggs and sugar so that mother could do her baking. The field where the festivities were to be held and the place where all would gathered had to be mowed flat too.

Pond ends this chapter by telling his father that he would volunteer and stay behind at home (missing the festivities) “to watch the fields so the cattle would not get into eating the precious corn. His father told him...”I was a good boy.”

In return for doing this, James would not have to hoe 6 rows the following day.

Doc. #6 (Chapter 6) of 23: “White Settlers of the Mid West” (Alto, Wisconsin, 1847-1848)
By C. Adelle Bennett

Noteworthy: This chapter is devoted to the relationships the Pond family had in living with and knowing Native-American peoples of the Alto, Wisconsin area.

Bennett describes the process in which the U.S. Government purchased Indian Territory for white settlement, enticing and appeasing the local tribes “with gifts and money from eastern U.S. Advance agents.” Not all of the tribes were on board with this sale. White settlers became nervous to the point in this politically uncomfortable environment with their Indian neighbors “to share part of their harvests and coveted gifts of jewelry and bright cloth from the east.”

Discussed was the background of the white “lead rush” of the 1820s in Wisconsin and the Indian reaction resulting in “The Red Bird Uprising”. Those tribes settling on timberlands (the Menominees) where lead had been discovered “was the tribe with whom the Pond family had negotiations.” It was fortunate for the Ponds that the Menominees were friendly in allowing them to hunt in their woods, grow food, gather berries, and gather swamp grains of wild rice along the rivers. Bennett states that the family experience of finding a little crying papoose along the trail and how the family took her to the nearest village. They met the villagers who were now overjoyed with the recovery as well as the distraught mother whose deep mourning turned to joy and a lasting friendship with the Pond family. This friendly relationship continued on for years to come between the Menominee's and the Ponds in the sharing of harvests and gift exchanges. The Ponds also became benefactors of the Indian knowledge in knowing “where to find wild rice and Indian corn and where and how to plant them” as well as “the best places to fish and hunt.”

The final portions of this chapter Bennett illustrates two particular “incidents” involving Menominee children. Both involved dangerous situations and their positive outcomes further strengthened friendships between the Ponds and their Native American neighbors.

Doc. #7 (Chapter 7) of 23: “Establishing Churches in Alto” by Major James Pond

Noteworthy: The introduction discusses when the first church services were held in Alto in “ a double log shanty of David Wood's”. An enthusiastic

Methodist Society” organized the founding and Pond writes that his “Mother entered into the spirit of these meetings and became as one of the Society as one possibly could and not be a member.” These revivalist meetings were generally very well attended offering the characteristic challenge of try to locate a place to sit when entering. The meetings themselves were charismatic in nature (full of high and dramatic emotion) with the spiritual goal of not only saving souls but always looking to gain new members. Pond relates the experience of his becoming a member and the pride his mother showed in the ceremony reminding him to “never forget” his promise to her to “commit an act that would mislead my brothers and sisters from the path righteousness”.

In 1848 the First Congregational Church of Alto was organized and here again Pond's mother “was chiefly instrumental” in “establishing this Society.” Pond's mother and father (upon hearing of an available Congregationalist minister available to teach and preach in the nearby village of Springvale) helped to secure the services of “Mr. Lamb” to give religious services at the Talcott School house.

Pond describes the “Sabbath Dedication” morning of May, 1848 beginning with a physical description of the new preacher as he rode with the family to the dedication. After arriving and entering the school house, it was mother who had the honor of introducing “Mr. Lamb” to his new congregation. Additional tables and chairs were brought and set outside under the trees for the historic gathering while a Mr. Talcott “a former choir leader in the east, ..had brought singing books and organized a choir of his own brothers and sisters.” “Mr. Clinton ... announced that Sunday School would take place one hour after the close of service.”

In the remainder of this chapter James Pond recalls that he was not particularly attentive to listening to the sermons and following the other details of the service, but that “Mr. Lamb's Sunday School was simple and instructive.” One gets the impression that mid 19th Century Sunday services and Sunday School sessions were conducted in a strict and very formal way, and pioneer children had to listen to the difficult topics presented in an adult fashion, while they remained quiet and respectful. Mr. Lamb's first session of Sunday School became an explanation of how his parents had emigrated to the United States, describing “the richness and beauty of the country” and “the great importance of attaining Christian knowledge” so that children would mature “to become useful men and women.”

The final account in this chapter was the background on “the first death in the neighborhood, Mrs. Eli Farnham in 1847. The event prompted the question and decision of where the burial should take place. A solution that six neighbors came forward all willing to give four acres of ground for a grave yard” and the rest of the details in founding the cemetery were harmoniously worked out by those in attendance.

Major Pond finishes this chapter in his recollection of visiting the cemetery and “seeing the gravestones there the names of nearly all the people that I knew when I was a boy, and many strangers.” This happened in 1890. He noted that the cemetery now “contained upwards of one hundred graves. He ends by noting architectural changes and additions, the new clothing styles being observed, and recognizes the traditional strength of the continued making a living off the land and the ongoing hard working character of the region's inhabitants.

Doc. #8 (Chapter 8) of 23: “The First Money I Ever Earned”/”Smallpox Hits Home”

Noteworthy: Major Pond begins his discussion recalling his summer chores in 1848, which included chopping wood, and driving a borrowed team to break ground for planting. Particularly challenging was the driving of different yoked cattle that had issues in pulling and plowing next to unfamiliar cows. Fetching water for the animals and himself to keep them cool and constant hunger with the hard summer work under an intense sun was always tiring and made the labors of each day into some very long hours. James was conveniently “borrowed out” for service to help a variety of neighbors including Mr. Sexton and Mr. Crow. Along with that came the unpredictable manner in which young James would get his pay for his work. He recalls “being handed 5 coppers, one a large Canadian cent” and running home at a tired pace to show his father and mother the money he had earned for the day. He states, “I think I saw father justly moved for once.” In another example, young James wanted a knife he had seen instead of getting paid sixpence and had tried to barter for it and still receive fourpence too. The knife he remembers receiving but less money. Pond chooses to remark on a variety of individuals he remembered from his settlement days including “the Crow” brothers who “became the laughing stock of the settlement” by abandoning their claim, and the Patrick Cahill family

Young James remembers that the Cahill daughters were among the most beautiful he had ever seen and recalls that on many Sunday afternoons, horses “were hitched” to the Cahill property as young men would come from miles around to call on the beautiful young women. Even Pond himself had difficulty sleeping nights over the beauty of one of the girls, remarking that years later as a grandmother, she still looked young and beautiful.

In another account Pond relates the time the Cahill family moved into the Craw log home and that Mrs. Cahill contracted small pox, and that his mother came to visit her. After the doctor finally arrived, Pond 's mother had also been exposed to the illness and the family would have to put on a diet of “Indian meal and molasses which they lived on for 2 months. Due to the illnesses the family garden had to be destroyed. The small pox crisis passed as Mrs. Cahill survived and the children survived, though Pond remembers, “The mother, and two oldest daughters, and eldest son, were frightfully disfigured, their faces and hands as red as a poppy”, “and the young ladies were so beautiful, that this misfortune did not spoil their attractiveness.” “Theirs were the first weddings in the country “, “and the all made good matches.”

By the time the small pox had subsided, the harvest season had ended and not a life was lost from “the scourge”.

Major Pond concludes this chapter by discussing the arrival of a young minister, Rev. Mr. Clinton who helped the community in a celebration of Thanksgiving with other nearby Pastors who were Methodists. This celebration service as Pond puts it, “did world's of good” renewing acquaintances of previously quarantined community members. Pond noted that “everybody had a religion” whether they be “Baptists, Congregationalists, or Presbyterians.” He remarks that the Catholic Cahills were the most active in the rejoicings and that this one event of the small pox incident brought out the best in caring and cooperation among the village residents.

Doc. #9 (Chapter 9) of 23: “We Loose The Farm”

Noteworthy: James Pond opens this chapter in relating to the time he was working for Mr. McLaury in the spring of 1850, when his task was to manage McLaury's steers and plow ten acres of ground. Young James responsibilities included plowing and caring for McLaury's cattle. When a steer would not

eat from the feed box which James failed to mention to the farmer, and noting that the particular steer began to drink for some 15 minutes at the creek (which was extremely unusual cattle behavior) and that the animal had swelled up, Pond felt personally responsible for the steer's death. Mr. McLaury explained that he could not give James "any money" for his work but offered him two geese to take with him if he could catch them.

Upon his journey returning home he met up with an immigrant family who traded a gun for the two geese. What had been a difficult start to this day for James reversed course for him as he remembered, "No boy in that settlement had ever owned a gun before." Once home James had to explain to his mother and siblings the details of his experience, the death of the McLaury's steer, and how he became the proud owner of that gun. The artifact was placed by his mother at the middle of the top of James' bed, and as time rolled on James remembered that he became quite a good hunter of the prairie chicken with it.

The balance of this chapter's narrative highlights the sad event of losing their home or as James Pond puts it, the "varied experience of privation, poverty, sorrow, and gladness" when in 1853 "we were forced to abandon our farm and move to Fond du Lac." As was before when money was tight, James' father would work at a variety of jobs to earn money in support of his family. Crop failure and serious family illnesses and other maladies had forced upon the family a most challenging and critical economic situation. The family badly needed medicine so that mother's health would improve and father needed the cash to make medicinal purchases. Contracting his services and experience of driving oxen for a man named Omsted who granted him a small amount of cash and a "chattel mortgage" (monetary advance for six months at 12 per cent interest) father was able to buy the needed medicine for mother. All spring and summer of 1853 father worked Omsted's farm (alluding "to the money he must earn in some way or loose his team").

That specific time that brought about the Pond's loss of the farm came in the fall of 1853 when James and his father "were hauling in the corn with the oxen and wagon and stacking it near the barn yard." At that instant a constable named Mr. Taylor presented father with a legal paper. It was to collect the twelve dollars (with interest) that father owed Mr. Omsted.

The constable stated that James' father had until the following day to make the payment in full (by 12 P.M.) or the team would be taken from them.

The next day James father took the cattle heading 6 miles to see if he could borrow the money from a Mr. Herman Harwood. This was only after James mother had convinced James father to at least give it a try to get a loan.

While father was gone with the team, Mr. Olmstead, the creditor, and Mr. Taylor, the constable, arrived and wanted to know where father and the team were to be found. While James mother said that she didn't know but assured both men that they would get their money, the two men became very angry and threatened to have father arrested upon his return.

While James' father failed in securing a loan from Mr. Harwood, Omsted and the constable returned the following day "in a white rage", "their wrath and profanity knew no bounds", as James recalled. That second day and night the Pond family had not heard from their father, and when Pond and Harwood returned on the third day with money in hand, Olmstead refused to take the money, insisting instead now on "having the oxen or ninety dollars." Very soon Mr. Olmsted had brought a lawsuit against father and the trial, held in Dodge County "brought together everybody in the settlement." James reported that all through this difficult time his mother "never lost hope" always believing that "God would provide."

It was late November now and "cold doing chores barefooted on the frozen ground." James and Homer cut wood and did other chores to help their mother while father was in Fon du Lac looking for work.

Then a letter from father arrived with a five dollar bill, and with it a promise that more money would be on its way. Young James Pond helped his family by going to Ripon to get much needed flour for mother "while Mr. Farnham killed a pig for us." "We had tea, salt, and pepper, and everything except an abundance of wood." James remembers, "I could not cut it fast enough".

With Christmas came the return of father and a package of leather from Fond du Lac to make boots for the family. A friendly and generous man named Sam Hewitt who was a shoemaker by trade, made brothers Homer and James their first pair of shoes! This loving effort allowed the boys to go to the Talcott School House "two and a half miles southwest".

Chapter 9 ends as James recalls that "Father stayed home until after New Years, and then started out again" with the hopes of buying another team in time for the plowing season. But "father was taken down with jaundice and had a very long pull."

Doc. #10 (Chapter Ten) of 23: “Last Days in Alto” by Major James B. Pond

Noteworthy: The Pond family's last days in Alto, Wisconsin came in the Spring of 1852. Along with a “string of misfortunes”, babies still arrived “almost annually”, now leaving the family with 10 children to feed/clothe. In spite of the many setbacks, some families like “Uncle David Wood's” prospered. Pond describes the practice of “raising”, an activity in which the local community of farmers generously labored once notified. He describes the different titles of the laborers, “the mechanic” the “master mechanic”, and the lifting and building teams, each man with his own designated task and responsibility. The wives played their roles too in the planning and making of on-site meals (that served as breaks for the laborers) and kept the children busy with activities.

James Pond reflects on a particular raising (“Geo. A. Russell's barn in 1850”) describing the very hot weather with no shade, and the fact that the community supper had to wait “until the hot sun went down”. Young James who seemed unnoticed at the large table and showing an addiction to brown sugar, took the liberty (when no one was looking or paying attention to him) to dump “most of the sugar” into his coffee, “stirring it until it was fairly thick, and drank it to the dregs.”

In a following description of their third Thanksgiving in Alto (1850), Pond gives a sad and bleak description of this holiday with “father away from home in Illinois” trying to find work to keep his family going. Money had become so scarce that the day's fare consisted of dining on “the last” of their frozen turnips. The family cow had not the proper feed and had “dried up”. The Pond children were so weak from lack of food, they could hardly do their chores. Still James' mother remained optimistic in her faith and prayers that father would return and better times would come soon.

Straying from the house and all of its daily predictable situations, young James one morning ran into the local schoolmaster, Mr. Saile (who found him on school property.) It was Mr. Saile in befriending James and his mother that offered financial assistance to them while father was away. The schoolmaster proposed that young James go with him to Fairwater, a few miles away where a new store had been built. Young James describes this experience in arriving at the new store with Mr. Saile and seeing the merchandise piled high on the shelves. Out of Mr. Saile and the store keeper's generosity, they returned home with bundles “loaded into my arms” of “crackers, flour, and dried codfish”. As James put it, “Mother's prayers had been answered”.

“Settlers' who had sufficient labor and facilities for developing land, prospered”.
“The shanties and log huts gradually gave way to very comfortable log cabins..”

James shows great sadness here that in spite of prospering times for a few neighbors, his father could not produce the means to make a living in Alto for his large family. Father's team and cows were sacrificed to meet his growing debts, with the only financial hope of finding employment in Fond du Lac (twenty miles away).

Their farm was abandoned in May, 1850. The family left for Fond Du Lac amidst the tearful goodbyes of dear neighbor's and friends. Upon leaving with his family young James was hired out to work for a “Mr. Sleeper”, who told him “that you will learn a lesson from this.” James continued helping his family doing a variety of farm chores (mowing, hoeing, and plowing) on Sleeper's ever growing farm. James describes this as a most difficult time period in his life, working far from home, away from his mother and family members, and constantly depressed by homesickness and an uncomfortable and strange living environment. His depression led to James' not eating. This resulted in his failure to perform doing his chores for Mr. Sleeper and Mr. Sleeper's anger and disappointment with him, so James determined to leave his employer.

James Pond plotted his time of escape from Sleeper's farm, and hitched a wagon ride from “Ike Marsh” until they reached a station and tavern where James rested and was fed. Not long after they reached the outskirts of Fond Du Lac, and young James noted “the new plank road through the main street” his father had described. Soon he located “Father's house” next to “White's Foundry”. Though James had been barefooted and dirty for sometime the feel of the city's sidewalks “seemed so clean”. His self guided tour down main street welcomed him to a large 3 story building filled with much machine noise. The sounds made him curious as to what industry this might be. Then he could see the large printing presses being fed by white paper. His loitering caught the attention of a shouting employee who seemed gruff and unfriendly but took young James to see the editor. After young James identified who he was, and the editor recognizing the Pond name as one of his subscribers, James was given the position of an apprentice with his first years earnings of twenty-five dollars. Training for him was difficult and learning also meant making easy mistakes at his new position but he worked hard. There were times he got hurt on the job and became frightened. In one instance when James

had accidentally broken a printing form, the foreman, Mr. Swineford, fired him on the spot. Upon coming onto this situation, the editor, Mr. Royal Buck, who had helped James get his first position, defended James while Swineford left the office in great disgust.

James describes invitation to the Buck home and being served a dinner in a formal and uncomfortably elegant style that made him feel out of place and a world he did not know existed. He recalled his first experience using a napkin all the while wondering its uses as well as the sight of the unfamiliar water tumbler. Mr. and Mrs. Buck treated James with great warmth and respect. The Buck home was also where all the printers boarded.

Being given permission to go to his new home to see his mother and family, James describes the frame dwelling with familiar family furnishings as well as a new center table. He describes the new residence as “a palace” unlike anything his mother and siblings had been accustomed to for eight years.

There was plenty of room now for the little children to play, though they showed signs of homesickness. Father and the older siblings were away working as James and his mother visited all night long. Among the topics of discussion were his mother's observation of being covered in printer's ink and James presentation to her that he wanted to make a career of being a “printer's devil.” In “My first Sunday in Fond du Lac” James mentions his new found enjoyment of the sounds of 3 church bells and an organ, “such heavenly music I had never before”.

Young James excitement about that worship service and experiencing new and pleasing sensory images, carried over with him through his enthusiasm in opening up the door to the printing presses the following day and his delight in doing a good job in cleaning the offices. His good work ethic allowed James to be asked to participate in voting his choice for foreman.

In his final paragraphs in this chapter, Pond recalls the names of prominent men listed as possible candidates for the job and what became of their futures.

Walker Rouse, wounded at the First Battle of Bull Run, was promoted to Sargent only to be killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. A co-worker named Chapel, described by Pond as a “shiftless kind of printer”, had later organized a theatrical company, and deserted late in the war, while “Jim Pond” returned to Massachusetts.

In conclusion Pond historically reminisces that Fond du Lac “was a new city” and though the printing business continued to prosper, for James Pond, seven months of work as a printer's apprentice, apparently convinced him

that he could go out on his own and start his own enterprise. And so he left for the Town of Berlin to start his own newspaper called “The Courant”.

Doc. #11 (Chapter 11) of 23: “On My Own” By Major James Pond

Noteworthy: James Pond discovers upon encountering the settlement of Berlin, Wisconsin, and the “Currant” office, that he meets up with his “late enemy” Swineford, who gruffly hires him to do hand press work. James, invited to the proprietor's home for dinner (Mr. Terry), finds “the house and living style” very different from the Buck family. Pond's living quarters became the printing office itself where he would sleep and keep to his personal time. It didn't take long for James to observe that Swineford and Terry did not see eye to eye on many things which led to James accepting the foremanship from Mr. Terry (now James had seen Swineford leave twice under similar situations). Pond was convinced at this point that he had found his life's work as a printer, and wrote his mother about it. James had introduced his father to Mr. Terry, and arrangements were made between them for the young apprentice to take a steamer “bound for Oshkosh”.

James discovered the town of Oshkosh had 2 newspapers, and carrying a letter of recommendation from Mr. Buck (for his good work at the now defunct “Fountain City Herald”) he applied for work at the “Oshkosh Democrat”. He recalls working at the printing business for two years while” the proprietor changed several times.” with James recalling the exact order of succession.

Pond next discusses the economic development of Oshkosh in 1854, describing it as a geographical “jumping- off place” for those who wanted to become loggers or paper mill workers, etc. It became a “Mecca” for young enterprising men who he described as often “rough and reckless”. One could equate these same social characteristics with Western mining towns and the constant difficulties of keeping the peace and enforcing local laws. Town bullies and logging gangs left law abiding citizens always on edge. In this section Pond relates an incident of violence directed at a man named Finney who had written articles for “The Democrat” deriding outraging and lawless behavior. “Finney's Reward” for his editorial actions was to have been beaten senseless by a town bully. After

receiving medical treatment Finney and Pond spent a harrowing night at their printing stations with makeshift printing tools in hand to defend themselves and protect the printing establishment. That one night together in stress and fear made Mr. Charles Finney (as James Pond recalls) “my dearest friend ever afterward” and ended his days living on a ranch in California.

James Pond relates the part he played as printer of a court case of mob violence in the charge of local ruffians and a man named Worden who had used a heated poker on one of his victims. Both Finney and Swineford played major roles in the outcome of the trial in the sentencing of Worden who was the first example of “The Oshkosh Rioters”. Worden's “accomplices and many others” would share similar fates.

Pond describes his time in the Oshkosh community discussing his printing work duties, the money he made, and life in general for enterprising young emigrants willing to work hard for a day's wages. He paints the picture of the Fox River north woods economy as place where fortunes could be made and refers to those men who succeeded as “Lumber Princes”. Pond specifically mentions Phileas Sawyer, a U.S. Senator, who worked on pension reform for Civil War Veterans, and Gabriel Bouck, a retired Civil War Brigadier General, who always had interesting stories to tell and such an interesting personality and way of delivering those stories, that his style and mannerisms were often copied by many young lawyers of the community.

James Pond concludes this chapter relating his association with Gabriel Bouck “who has since held nearly every office in the gift of his city and State”.. “up until 1870”. Pond would later in life find himself revisiting Oshkosh, talking with “old timers” who could possibly remember what ever became of the much admired gentleman and veteran.

Doc. # 12 (Chapter 12 of 23): “On the Road, to Madison”, by Major James Pond

Noteworthy: A popular theme and connection that James Pond admits throughout his writings is his romance for adventure (to see new places and experience doing different things). For him it is his enrichment and curiosity about not only what his life would become, but what also the processes and events of others living their lives as well. Pond is continually challenged by experiencing the unknown and seemingly taking pride and victory in overcoming his challenges.

Chapter 12 opens in “the Autumn of 1855” as Pond is reading an advertisement in “The Wisconsin State Journal” for “steady employment” with “Atwood & Rublee” in distant Madison, Wisconsin.

Despite his printing tenure at “Finney and Felker” and a promise from the proprietors to advance his wages if he stays, Pond is lured once again by the adventure of working for someone new and at a place he has never lived before. His train coach adventure to Fond du Lac affords him the opportunity to see his parents and siblings (whom he has not seen for 2 years). Their brief meeting illustrated parental pride with his accomplishments of being so well dressed and of independent means.

Pond passes the time aboard his train bound for Madison by “counting the telegraph poles” and studying the operations of the uniformed conductor while noting “his calls” of the various nearby communities and pitching to passengers the availability of food and other sundries to be purchased. His connecting train was made in Milwaukee, a city he had never visited, that held much wonder for him. James did what he could “to explore the wonders of the brick city”, that included visiting the Milwaukee “Sentinel office” and seeing for the first time the operation of a steam cylinder press.

The conclusion of his Milwaukee to Madison train trip brought him to the Wisconsin capital city late evening, and Pond recorded in his memory the wonder of seeing the first rows of gas lighting over the bridge. A similar occurrence was encountered as Pond entered his rented room at “The American House” As his room porter gave him instructions as to how to light the gas lamp, Pond's wonderment, curiosity, and fear of a gas explosion (he had heard about that caused many fires) motivated him to turn the gas key off and extinguish his light. His failure to relight the gas jet while wishing to go to the lobby and make the report, caused James Pond to prepare for his night's rest in the dark still with the fear of a gas explosion on his mind.

The “Journal” office (soon to be his next employer) was just across the street. Upon entering Pond was introduced to Mr. Rublee and the composition and printing foreman of “The Wisconsin Farmer,” a Mr. Richardson. James new assignment would be “to set the advertisements and work off the cover on a small hand press.” In all of these introductory employer acquaintance meetings, Pond recalls, “I had never been called Mr. Pond before.” “Here I discovered, realized, and I believe appreciated, that I was no longer a boy.” I had now “stepped into the ranks of men, looked upon and treated by all whom I met as one of their equal.” James soon found that he made friendships

at his new place of employment easily here, and learned he could save even more of his wages by “sleeping in his office” as the compositor, J. Wyrick had been doing. His new position consisted of both “setting the ads for the “Farmer” ..”and working five thousand covers, two trays at a time, on a small hand press for twenty five cents a token, the union price. In addition, his hard work earned Pond recognition in the positive presentation of his name for trade union membership.

With young James sleeping regularly in the print office and the disappearance of his partner Wyrick around the time of a jewelry store burglary, quickly led the local authorities to accuse him of the theft. Throughout this negative experience James Pond's good moral character had shown through and he was exonerated from the accusation of the theft. A gang of robbers up the Wolf River had now been caught for the theft and James more than ever wished to be back living and working with the friends and acquaintances he had made in Oshkosh.

Doc. #13 (Chapter 15) of 23: “Memories of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry” by Major James Pond (Please note that Chapters 13 and 14 are missing from this collection). We have now advanced seven years in James Pond's life to April, 1862. It is clear that Pond's good character and leadership model have caught the attention of his commanding officers in the Third Wisconsin Cavalry. As we open this chapter James Pond is now a Second Lieutenant.

Noteworthy: Lieutenant James Pond opens with a commentary on his participation of a Parade Review of his regiment which he deemed “a magnificent spectacle.” His commanding officer, Colonel William Bouchers ordered 2nd Lieutenant Pond and “a detail” of 50 men were to escort the Treasurer of Indian Affairs, Thomas Carney, to the Sac and Fox trading post on the Marais des Cygnes River, Kansas, assisting “in the payment of annuities to the Sac and Fox Indians”, and then returning to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In usual fashion of his great detail Lt. James Pond describes his first assigned mission. The first days march for his men (who were “unaccustomed to ride” and “walked ahead of their horses the last 10-12 miles”). In addition Lt. Pond had been given an additional assignment of protecting a Mr. Thomas Carney who was expected to be the next Kansas governor. Carney had been carrying with him a large sum of money (“over \$100,000 in the valise under his buggy seat), and now James was made responsible for its security as well.

Day 2 came with the “crossing of the famous Santa Fe Trail nicknamed, “the greatest overland thoroughfare on the continent”. In the late afternoon the company had

passed many “comfortable looking homes” that seemed uninhabited. Mr. Carney explained to Lieutenant Pond that “a half a million” was what the US Government had spent to build the homes and reservationize the Sac and Fox who continued to sleep in tepees while letting “their ponies and cattle occupy the houses”

Nearing the trading post and upon crossing a river a miscalculation was made on the river's depth, and Mr. Carney's wagon sank and the cushions quickly filled up with water. Now the packages of green backs had to be opened up and their contents dried. All the dollars were now spread out on the ground allowing for the prairie sun to do its work. It was a strange sight and including the curious gazing of 600 Indians as the 50 cavalrymen did their work.

The next day the Indians were paid their annuity in greenbacks with each member of both tribes entitled to \$85, from young to old. Each of the chiefs drew huge sums of money because all members of their families were counted. Lieutenant Pond mentions that with the money being paid out, every Indian was “allowed to trade a year's annuity (\$85) in advance.”

Pond explains that there was a certain order of protocol followed in conducting the payments to the tribes. Business was conducted at a long table at which sat the Treasurer of Indian affairs, other dignitaries and the tribal interpreters. The chiefs were called first to make their marks and their families too were recognized. The whole affair lasted from 7 A.M. to 2 P.M.

After this business concluded it was Pond's job to escort the partners, Fuller and Carney, to the agency to pay the Indians. Yet through all of this Pond the money still ended up with Fuller and Carney (the government) agent, and “not one Indian had received a cent.”

Pond records his evening experience witnessing an Indian pow wow. He noted the beauty of the squaws so brightly decorated, and found the Sue and Fox Indians were among “the handsomest specimens” he ever saw. They had returned from hunting and living on buffalo all year. Pond couldn't get over the beauty of their buffalo horses and ponies. Pond ended up purchasing a mare in exchange for his 2 colt revolvers. During this particular time Pond reports that his regiment “was rapidly becoming proficient in mounted drill at Fort Leavenworth.”

Pond discusses his return to Lawrence, Kansas and in conversation with Mr. Carney had been filled in about all of the changes that had taken place there since 1856. As he continued on his second days march, he found that his buffalo mare “attracted a good deal of attention and adoration.

Pond's next mission were his orders to escort Major J.C. Grainer and Surveyor General Clark “with \$1,500,000 in gold and U.S. Demand notes, to Santa Fe,

New Mexico.” He would be in charge over “100 good men”. Pond goes on to explain the interview process and the possible squabbling of lower ranking officers in accepting these duties. In completing this assignment, Pond's challenges became quickly apparent in that some of the men reporting to him (both regulars and non-commissioned officers) were “already drunk and so boisterous that it was impossible to make my commands understood.” His report to the Major included many among the ranks who were non-compliant and disorderly, having difficulty in maintaining even a straight and orderly line. The Colonel too was informed of the deplorable conditions of the soldiers, and ordering his subordinate officers to tell them of his anger, he announced that “matter would entirely be investigated”. All this meant that Lieutenant Pond would be further delayed in his mission, now having to wait again for a better group of hand-picked men needed for the mission. By the time the new men were picked and supplied, it was 4 P.M. “when we moved out of Leavenworth, making a 10 mile march to Wilson' Creek, where we went into camp for the night.”

In his journal Pond describes the beauty of The Great American Desert over the Santa Fe Trail. Pond refers to it as “the greatest thoroughfare on the continent through countless herds of Buffalo, passing and meeting Mexican trains of prairie schooners” occupying the road for over 600 miles. Further he records that different tribes tepees were so numerous and wide, they “almost covered the banks of the Arkansas River from Great Bend to Pawnee Fork (40 miles).”

With so much treasure to guard and only 100 cavalry soldiers “to guard it through' apparent danger”, all were constantly kept on high alert. The Indians were friendly hoping they would soon be enjoying a wagon of presents sent by the government's Indian commission, but this was not to be for our wagons only carried the necessary supplies for our mission.

By August, Pond had returned to Fort Leavenworth with all of his assigned men intact. The 50 day ride had journeyed some 900 miles and miraculously no soldier became ill or was lost. Upon his return Lieutenant Pond had learned that Fort Scott now became his new headquarters, largely because patrol and provost duties along the Kansas and Missouri borders. After such long periods of seeing no military action in terms of fighting, when the order came in early June to prepare for action, one lieutenant was so frightened about it, he accidentally put a self inflicted bullet through his left hand.

Second Lieutenant James Pond's exemplary duties as both a soldier and leader in carrying out his missions and other assignments did not go unnoticed, and he was shortly thereafter promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant (upon receiving

“a large official package from the Executive Officer at Madison, Wisconsin, later that summer.”

At this point First Lieutenant James Pond discusses the character of one of some of the officers he has had to work including a man named “Ehle”. He described him as an “affidavit man”, “unprincipled”, and greatly despised by soldiers under his command. Ehle like himself had a servant named “Ike” who cooked for him and had a “sweetheart in the refugee camp at Fort Scott, who told was from the same plantation where he was raised.”

The balance of this chapter describes what happened to Ike, how he persuaded Lieutenant Ehle's lady to leave him, and later become Captain Pond's servant. Pond's servant was then accused of murder by slitting a man's throat, put in irons and sent to prison.

In the final paragraphs Captain Pond describes where he was when President Lincoln was assassinated. In May, 1865, Pond was ordered with his battalion to report to Fort Leavenworth, “to accompany an expedition across the plains, up the Smokey Hill route, with a view to finding a practical route to Denver between the Platte and Arkansas Rivers.” With this discussion Pond follows up with what happened to what became of Ike's life Pond states, “Soon the old colored man appeared in the parlor, and as his eye caught mine and he collapsed, crawling on his hands and knees to where I sat, he explained: “De Good Lord has answered my only prayer that I ever prayed, dat I might set these old eyes on my dear master once more.”

Doc. #14 (Chapter 17) of 23: “On the Frontier of Kansas and Missouri, Arkansas and the Indian Country” By Major James Pond

Noteworthy Major Pond begins this chapter in the “autumn of 1862” explaining his reassignment back to the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry after his return from his New Mexico Territory expedition. He was now stationed 20 miles north of Fort Scott at Fort Lincoln, Kansas. After orders from the forts commander Colonel Barstow, the entire camp (including all regimental and company wagons) left on October morning, in 1862. There were 1200 mounted men and this would be Colonel Barstow's first experience in the field.

This new enemy came with new and dangerous fighting tactics. These “roaming bands of bushwackers” or “Home Guards” “wanted no better fun than lying in the brush, and firing at our column of soldiers marching in close order.”

Special advance scouts were needed to discover the enemy, men who were very

familiar with every piece of the country and who had been veterans of border skirmishes. The Scouts lead approach in discovering the enemy waiting in the brush meant a very different riding and scouting formation than Pond had ever seen. Shots whistling from the brush could periodically be heard and a number of horses and mules were killed from the firing.

Another common tactic used by the enemy was to come upon us quickly from heavily wooded areas and use their screams to frighten us.

Major Pond takes time out here to give a physical and psychological description of a scout's character profile in meeting "Captain Tough" who led the scouts.

In addition to capturing and guarding enemy prisoners, the Captain also had his men raid nearby villages. Pond recalls Tough's fearlessness and confidence.

In an early afternoon council with these scouts, Colonel Barstow had learned that a band of 50 "Home Guard" enemy were encamped near Montevallo, Missouri. Captain Tough's group was given the assignment of finding and engaging this bunch, and Pond had requested to ride along with the group.

The reply was, "Why, my man, do you know that is a great danger where you are going: you are liable to get shot." --"You'd better remain and stand guard over your colonel and staff." But Pond won his argument to go and having a "pretty reliable horse" and hearing the warning from Captain Tough, "he was not good if I got into a tight place". Before leaving Tough examined all the equipment and even checked the saddling of the horses, making sure that the slightest detail of equipment preparation was paid attention to.

Once all was approved they crossed the prairie to Montevallo. Some of the group split up while the rest rode to within a half a mile of Captain Ryan's home (the enemy's commander) where they met a young woman on foot asking for directions to Captain Ryan's home. Captain Tough quelled the young woman's fears by telling her that he was a fellow confederate officer. Tough quickly learned that "Ryan's in camp."

Approaching the home Captain Tough continued with his masquerade telling Mrs. Ryan that he was "Confederate Major Johnson of Colonel Coffin's Brigade" and giving her the scenario that "the Federals are coming from Kansas" and a big fight was expected in the morning. Convincing Mrs. Ryan that his horse was in bad shape, Captain Tough took "Old Buck" from her shed, swapping his horse, and immediately headed for Captain Ryan's camp.

Using a strong southern accent Captain Tough and his men were able to

get through the picket line, met Captain Ryan and convinced him that General Coffin needed to see him at once. After Ryan mounted his horse and rode away with Captain Tough and his men, he was apprehended saying, "I am captured by a brave man". "I give up."

Captain Ryan willingly became the guide to "Miner's Farm". Captain Tough's revolver was held on the captured Confederate officer the entire time.

In the last section of this chapter Pond discusses personal outcomes in what became of those he had served with in the Civil War. The war incident of Captain Tough capturing Confederate Captain Ryan led to a strong bond of friendship between the two men. Their interests in owning and breed mares kept their friendship strong. Pond recalls from a flashback to 1865 that Barstow had been commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel while "the rest of the staff was composed of solid men." "Field experience soon brought to the front the soldiers and others walked away."

The account of what became of Colonel Barstow who later became a Wisconsin Governor and good friend of Major Pond ends with Pond learning of Barstow's "death in abject woe" in Leavenworth, Kansas, after he was robbed by a "notorious tough", Pete Farley.

Doc.#15 (Chapter 18) of 23: "The Mayfield Family" by Major James Pond

Noteworthy: Major Pond takes time in this chapter to discuss a social history of a prominent family that lived near Montevallo, Missouri, and decidedly favored and were active in the Southern Cause. The two Mayfield brothers were deeply involved in Confederate activities, more likely as information and supply runners, and without a doubt had killed many a Union soldier.

It is not surprising therefore that they were shot and killed upon their discovery by Tough and his men who were also able to take precious needed horses and other equipment.

It is here that Major Pond goes back to a time before the Hayfield killings to happier period when "my soldiers often had dances at their house and the Mayfield girls had taken part in them." "There had been many a good time there, for there never was a command of a hundred men that couldn't produce one or two fiddles."

“The Mayfield sisters were the belles of the community and they managed to captivate every officer and soldier they met.” But once the war came their direction and their home was burnt, they were forced to relocate and we never heard the last word of there whereabouts.

During this time Pond was a lieutenant and recalls the beauty of Montevallo and the abundance of ripened fruit orchards and “hogs so fat they could barely waddle.”

A few weeks after the Mayfield girls' hasty departure, Lieutenant Pond one day was recognized by one of them. Upon their meeting Pond advised the unforgettably beautiful young woman, “You surely will be captured if you don't hurry.” “Just then three men came charging out of the woods towards a point between me and my command.” “I charged about for my command, passing within pistol range of them. “They did not fire as they were bent on capturing me without alarming my men, but I fired my revolvers which attracted my soldiers, and then the three emptied their revolvers on me, but their poor aim and poorer ammunition saved me.” “It was one of the liveliest short rides I ever made.” “If I had delayed a moment longer, I should have been captured and they never would have spared me.” “I reached my command and then we made a charge into the woods, which of course was fruitless.”

“Miss Mayfield and her sister were living in this house by themselves and I persuaded them then and there to leave and go to Fort Scott, to pass over the lines and stop their fighting, as their brothers had been killed.”

“A few days later they came in, both riding on the same animal.” “They stopped at my headquarters and I gave them protection, as there were a number of lady refugees about the camp.” “But they were the notorious Mayfield girls, and the poor Missourians who lived in the country knew all about them and would like to take their heart's blood.”

“I afterward heard that one of them had married and was living in Illinois. This girl had saved my life and I knew it.” “She said that she did it because I had been kind to them at Montevallo.” “When the militia had come in there and tried to plunder them, I had protected them and they didn't want to see me killed.”

Doc.#16 (Chapter 19) of 23: "Baxter Springs, Kansas (October 6, 1863)
By Major James B. Pond

Noteworthy: Major Pond opens this chapter describing his experience while a First Lieutenant of being attacked by William Quantril and 650 of his raiders in Baxter Springs, Kansas. The incident occurred while his men were taking their dinner from "woods east of the camp." This attack was a total surprise and greatly unexpected, and Pond mentions that when the shooting started, he was in his tent some 200 yards west of camp. The Lieutenant ordered his men "to get the howitzer" that was located on the north side of the entrenchment. The noise of Confederate yells and musket fire "nearly drowned every other noise", stated Pond. Union return fire had caused the enemy to fall back but not without taking prisoners including our Illinois Regiment, Major Henning. Henning informed Lieutenant Pond "that General Blunt was close by", and Pond called for the cavalry to go to his rescue. Sadly instead of meeting General Blunt, Pond's men discovered the massacre of Union bodies (stripped of clothing, burned and "left upon the ground") and the enemy holding a defensive line position on the prairie. A flag of truce appeared around 2 P.M. with George Todd presenting a demand for surrender of the camp. When that was refused Todd "demanded the name of Colonel Quantrill, of the First Regiment, First Brigade, Army of the South and exchange of prisoners." Pond's answered that no prisoners were taken though several of the enemy had in fact been wounded (including 12 privates and a Adjutant- General (Major Curtis), and that approximately 50 rebel soldiers had been killed as well. Lieutenant Pond guaranteed that he would care for the enemy wounded while also seeing they were paroled once they were fit enough to leave. Promises were additionally made that no harm would come to Major Curtis or his men. Truth be told Union Major Curtis and all his men were already dead. Lieutenant Pond records his losses as "six killed and ten wounded of Company C, Third Wisconsin Cavalry" while "Lieutenant R.E. Cook of the Second Kansas ("Colored"), express rider John Fry, and one Negro were killed." Casualties of General Blunt's forces included 80 men killed and six or seven wounded. Pond noted that "most killed were shot through the head" which proved they had been taken prisoners first. Also killed were Lieutenant Farr, Judge Advocate, Henry Peltage, and the entire brigade band."

In conclusion Lieutenant Pond official report, cites those men “who performed notable “acts” under his command including, Sargent McKenzie “who exchanged 11 shots with a rebel officer” killing the officer's horse first, then killing the officer. killing the rebel. Another character standout was Sergeant R.W. Smith who stayed cool and focused “executing his orders to the letter” as well as Sergeant R. Chestnut of Company D, Third Wisconsin Cavalry, “who commanded nobly” as did “the darkies that fought like devils.” Pond ends by states that he will give further commentary of his experience of those events at a later time.

“Respectfully, your obedient servant,

James B. Pond

First Lieutenant, Co. C., Third Wis. Cavalry

Commanding Post, Fort Blair, Kansas “

Doc. #17 (Chapter 20) of 23: “Battle Field Reports on Baxter Springs, Kansas”

Noteworthy: (Reader's Kindly Note): The following reports by officers in command will only list the officer's name, his headquarters, and the date of the report. Those these reports refer directly to the actions of Lieutenant James B. Pond, they do not contain any literary contribution by him).

Report of Major General James G. Blunt
U.S. Army
Headquarters District of the Frontier
Fort Scott, Kansas
October 10, 1867

Report of Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Blair
Fourteenth Kansas Cavalry
Headquarters
Fort Scott, Kansas
October 15, 1863

Report of Major Benjamin D. Henning
Third Wisconsin Cavalry
Baxter Springs
Cherokee Nation
October 7, 1863

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Doc. #18 (Chapter 21) of 23: "The Battle of Mine Creek", Missouri (Spring/Fall, 1864)
(The Search for General Price) by Major James B. Pond

Noteworthy: Major Pond begins this chapter explaining that his battalion was assigned attachment to Colonel C.R. Jennison's 15th Kansas Cavalry. While Confederate raider William Quantrill had developed the reputation of being "The Terror of Kansas", Colonel Jennison in kind became his counterpart with a similar reputation in Missouri. True to this reputation of terror, Jennison "killed every man he found on the east side of the border, burned every home, drove off all the stock and left devastation and wretchedness all along his path."
Pond's brigade orders were to start north from southern Kansas and "intercept" Confederate General Price near Lexington, Missouri and to rendezvous with General Curtis's Army. A large scouting party had been sent ahead to "ascertain the whereabouts of Price, while Major Pond was asked to make his headquarters in the same home used as headquarters of General Blunt.
A major point that James Pond makes in this chapter is the description of constant foraging by enemy soldiers including "the finding quantities of "good things" like preserves in cellars while pillaging smoke houses for hams, bacons, and catching chickens. Another recollection for Pond was the advancing of Confederate General Price and the union brigade under "heavy fire" that caused the men no time to enjoy a meal. The Price raid lasted 3 days.
In the final paragraphs of this chapter is a description of "The Battle of Mine Creek". On the south side of the creek and high in elevation was encamped General Price's 20,000 men. Union General Pleasanton on a distant hill was behind several Kansas brigades, "and beyond them thousands of Kansas militia." "On the left and in

the extreme front were Pleasanton's veterans." "As far as the eye could reachwere the glittering arms of mounted men awaiting orders for the charge." The battlefield was " a level prairie for miles"....."with just enough elevation south to command a view as far as the eye could distinguish..". Major Pond explains that he "was the Field Officer of the Day, carrying orders from the commanding general to different brigade commanders." The signal to charge came as the sun was coming up. Pond states, "What a sight!" "The vast living plain charging at full speed!" "Price put his ablest generals in command of his rear guard, while he pressed on south." "Generals Marmaduke and Cable made a gallant fight but could not stand the terrible pressure that our hardy, well-armed men gave them." " We fairly rode over them." "In a very few moments that plain was a field of carnage, and groans was ascending in all directions from the wounded and dying." "Pleasanton's cavalry captured Marmaduke's and Cable's entire brigades." "Such a roundup of poor, tired, over-fought, starved humanity is seldom seen, especially in civilized nations." "That morning over six thousand prisoners were captured, and most of them while on the run." "I saw a large group gathering in the prairie at some distance, and, as Field Officer of the Day, hurried to see what it was all about." "I saw that a fine looking man on a big bay horse was the center of attention." "Recognizing my insignia of office, he beckoned me to him." "I got through the crowd to where he and several other officers were grouped." "He said to me,... "Officer of the Day, I am General of the Confederate Army and demand to be treated as a prisoner of war." "What General do I have the honor of meeting?", I asked." "I am General Marmaduke", he said, and then he introduced me to General Cable of Texas."

Doc. # 19 (Chapter 22) of 23: "Senator James H. Lane" by Major James B. Pond

Noteworthy: Pond begins his treatise on Senator Lane describing him as "one of the most infamous and corrupt men that ever lived" in Kansas, because "he controlled the patronage of his state", having an interest in every public state office. During America's Reconstruction Period (1865-1877) when "President Andrew Johnson had turned traitor""Lane had gone with Johnson."

When Lane returned to Kansas after President Johnson's Impeachment Trial, by that time he had become so infamous from his devious politically controlling activities, that no citizen bothered to welcome him upon his return.

Lane unable to get any cooperation for a meeting with anyone who knew him and worked with him in the past, secured a afternoon carriage appointment with one Captain Insley. Together in a buggy they rode on an afternoon to a government reservation near Insley's near Leavenworth.

Lane asked Insley to “stop the carriage for a moment”, and as Lane got out and walked a few steps he said, “Good bye Captain”, and put a pistol bullet through his brain. Pond states in his final entry of the chapter, “I give him credit for that one sensible act.”

Doc. #20 (Chapter 23, Part A) of 23: “John Brown and John Henri Kagi”
By Major James B. Pond

Noteworthy: Major Pond cites and credits Mr. Richard J. Hinton and his recollections for his sources of information for his final two entries in his last chapter. Pond introduces Hinton as a “prisoner by U.S. Troops” who escaped from the Tecumseh (Shawnee County), Kansas jail. “He “resisted so -called Kansas laws made by Missourians for the purpose of forcing slavery by bloodshed on the territory.” Pond quotes here from Hinton's recollections of John Henry Kagi stating, “My friend had been pardoned by Governor Geary, so he was free to come and go.” When Kagi went into a courthouse to attend to some business”.., he found Kagi bludgeoned and staggering on the steps” and “aiming at a figure running around one of the pillars.” Hinton states that “the blood was streaming from his head”. The man who bludgeoned Kagi, attempted to shoot him but this time hit United States Judge Rush Elmore (who was angry with Kagi's newspaper review of him). Elmore was injured in the groin while Kagi suffered for a time for the blow on the head he received. Shortly there after Kagi joined John Brown and left Kansas.

Colonel Hinton commented that Kagi defended his actions with Brown at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, “as both ethical, unselfish,..and prompted by a lofty ideal without passion, having no fire or flame of personal wrong or desire to avenge.”

Major Pond concludes his final chapter comparing his life with Kagi's in that both men for a time were newspaper correspondents and both abolitionists. His final recollection in being with Kagi was a walk they took together in Ossawatimie, Kansas, on a June day in 1858. By then events political issues in Kansas over slavery had become bloody and inflamed. Radical participating abolitionists like John Brown and those who followed his ideas and actions probably knew they would succeed or be killed in trying to free the slaves. For those who signed up, donned uniforms, and had their pictures taken for the last time, little did many know or even imagine the tragic sacrifices each would make, and how their lives and the lives of those they loved and left behind would be forever changed. Major James Pond ends his final chapter reflecting on Kagi's heroic life (who represented and embodied so many others he got to know, and serve with) by stating.....

“In all the varied and somewhat startling experiences of my life, I cherish the memory of those words and the spirit, which animated them as illustrating the simplest, purest, and noblest of heroism. Kagi was an embodied hero, young, handsome, a well-read lawyer, a first class newspaperman, scholar, linguist, stenographer, orator, and fighter. He fell for a lofty idea, and unknown, too in this twenty-seventh year, leaving only a memory of brilliant possibility among a few Kansas associates. By ancestry a Huguenot, by birth a Virginian, by conviction an abolitionist, he deliberately went to his early death,-- and a felon, too, in the eyes of the law,-- on the day after John Brown's night attack upon Harper's Ferry, October 17, 1859. I know no man in that little handful of more heroic mold or more worthy of being remembered.”
