

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY NOVEMBER 18



Colonel John Francis Hamtramck of Shepherdstown, who commanded a Virginia regiment in the Mexican War

On November 18, 1846, Virginia Governor William Smith issued a proclamation calling for the formation of a regiment for service in the Mexican War.

CSO: SS.8.22, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Ms79-21)

1. According to the letter, the armistice between *this* commanding U.S. general (namesake of a Putnam County community as well as the inspiration for the high school's mascot) and the commander of the Mexican Army, General Santa Anna, had been terminated, making peace seemingly in the "far distance."
2. According to Brigadier General Irvin McDowell, without *these* two intangibles, neither officers nor men could have confidence in each other.

Think Critically: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo set a border between Texas and Mexico, and ceded California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, most of Arizona and Colorado, and parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming to the United States. How would the addition of new western territories inflame sectional tensions in the build-up to the Civil War? Summarize the Wilmot Proviso and Compromise of 1850. Describe how John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry caused the inflammation of sectional tensions prior to the Civil War.

Head Quarters Buena Vista
September 29th 1847.

Since the termination of the Armistice, entered into between General Scott and General Santa Anna, the Capital of Mexico has been taken by our Gallant Army. Santa Anna with the remains of his army, reported to be Eight Thousand strong has fallen back to Queretaro, and it is said, he may, with the Mexican Congress, retire upon San Luis, Potosi. From every indication, Peace is far in the distance. This should admonish all who have come to Mexico to do honor to their Country, that no time is to be lost in preparing for coming events. No confidence can be placed in Officers or men, who are not well instructed in their duties, and willing to submit to the restraints of discipline.

Without discipline and instruction they can have no confidence in each other. It is therefore that the attention of Commandants of Companies, Battalions, Regiments, Corps and Brigades, is called to the orders issued on the subjects of Drills and Guards. These will be rigidly enforced.

Resignations of Officers will be forwarded for approval, but no leaves of absence or furloughs will be granted.

Such Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates who are incapable of performing their duty from sickness or other cause, will either be sent to the General Hospital in Saltillo or discharged upon the recommendation of a Medical Board.

The Commanding General announces to his Division that the traitor and deserter Reilly (Riley) and Sixteen others,

deserters, were recently taken by our troops at Cherubusco, and hanged. The head of Riley was severed from his body and exhibited on a pole to the surrounding populace.

The Deserters, Lieutenants Gilbert and Blackwell and Nineteen Privates of the Texan Rangers, were deprived of their horses at Monclova and afterwards, as reported, were killed

Two Artillery deserters, and four Volunteers, deserters, were killed near San Jose, forty miles from Saltillo.

By Command of Brig. Genl. Wool

Irwin M^c Dowell

a. a. g.

Official

G. A. Porterfield

a, a, a. g.