

	31 March 1844	31 March 45	Increase
Sheep of all sorts	6996	8833	1837
Horned cattle	1921	2436	515
Horses & mules	188	301	113
Swine	136	182	46

In conclusion the agents consider that the present state and prospects of the company warrant them in recommending to the Proprietors that a Dividend at the rate of Five pounds p cent be now declared on the paid up capital of the association, payable on Monday the 26th instant, clear of Property Tax.

Mem. As regards the grain and other crops it may be stated that in 1844 the Pugets Sound Agricultural Company raised

	at Cowlitz Farm		at Nisqually	
Wheat	7000 bushels from	833 sown	220 Bu. from	42 sown.
Oats	3200 " "	300 " "	233 " "	66 " "
Peas	1000 " "	180 " "	450 " "	66 " "
Barley	170 " "	20 " "	36 " "	3 " "
Potatoes			1040 " "	164 " "

General B. L. E. Bonneville

Much interest is being revived in the career of General B. L. E. Bonneville. It has long been the habit of historians to accept Washington Irving's beautiful account of Bonneville's ambitious fur hunting while on a leave of absence from the United States Army. In 1923, Isaac K. Russell published his *Hidden Heroes of the Rockies* in which he sought to tear away screening veils and to reveal other reasons for the expedition. He says, pages 252-253: "The country along this stream [Salmon River] was a favorite wintering ground for these Indians. Captain Bonneville, an army captain, who had one eye for beaver dams and another much sharper eye for the points where good American forts might later have to be planted as centers of the fight for Oregon, went there to winter with them. . . . But like his great friend Captain Stuart, of the British Army, who was hovering around the same locality, posing as a big-game hunter, Captain Bonneville could not talk out loud of his real plans. . . . Stuart and Bonneville, the first of these military figures to invade the mountains behind a 'smoke screen,' so that they need not disclose 'military and hostile intentions,' met often during this time [1832-1833]. And Bonneville never cracked a single smile as Captain Stuart told him of his great

buffalo hunts while trailing Fitzpatrick's men from camp to camp. Stuart likewise listened with a sober face while Bonneville told him soberly of the leave of absence he had obtained in order to trap and trade for beaver in the Spaniard's Land of the Northern Mystery."

Mr. Russell's attack is about to be justified and possibly his thesis will be proved. Captain Bonneville's report has just been discovered and Lewis A. McArthur has obtained photostats of it, which will soon appear in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. There is no question about the value of such material and neighborliness prompts the proffer of congratulations to the Oregon historians over its possession.

Thirty years after the important events hinted at above, Bonneville had become a Colonel and was in command of Benton Barracks, Missouri. His Secretary, A. N. Currier, later served for thirty-three years as Dean of Liberal Arts in Iowa University. His widow, Mrs. C. A. N. Currier, eighty-three years of age, now living in Cleveland, Ohio, has some interesting Civil War documents pertaining to Colonel Bonneville. Copies of those documents have been obtained by Miss Lydia M. McCutchen of the Library Staff, University of Washington. While the events occurred years after the "fight for Oregon" had been won, the documents are here published to help round out the remarkable record of General B. L. E. Bonneville. THE EDITOR.

The Bonneville Documents

Benton Barracks,
July 14, 1862.

To Col. Bonneville, U.S.A.)
Comd'g B. Barracks—)

Colonel:

The Undersigned, Acting Captains of Companies of Paroled Prisoners, beg leave, in behalf of their Companies, to submit a protest against the Order requiring Garrison duty of the Paroled men. You act, Sir, under the orders of your superiors, and we would request that our protest be forwarded, through Gen. Schofield, to the Department of War and the President of the United States,—believing that when our case has been fully laid before the Government, it will be as loth to require such service at our hands as you in your responsible place must be loth to exact that service.

Our case is easily stated. Not hasty to retreat from the battlefield we were captured by the rebels. Our lot was humiliation, privation, sickness, and daily diminution of our numbers. Being wholly in the power of the enemy we believed we had a right, we felt it to be a duty, to give our parole. It required of us to do no act of war against the Confederates till exchanged. And, on our approach to Gen. Mitchell's lines, the rebel Commanding Officer in charge of us at Chattanooga, told us we were expected to take no further part in the war till exchanged, but to quit the army.

And now the statement is to be carried southward by rebels that "those Paroled Prisoners of War are the appointed garrison of Benton Barracks—a chief Camp of Instruction for those forces which are to crush the Rebellion". This is violation of our parole. We feel humiliated. We feel under censure for having given our parole. We cannot call ourselves either soldiers or citizens. It is plain that other United States soldiers would, if taken while garrisoning Benton Barracks, be treated as enemies in arms against the Confederates. And the fact that we *have once* fought the rebels and been paroled by them, would not make us any the less enemies in arms.—The United States express their opinions of the violation of parole, by shooting them.

We were disarmed by the rebels, wholly under their control. We are still prisoners of war, with our boundaries enlarged. And yet we find ourselves again wholly in the power of the U. S. Military Authorities, and arms to be put into our hands. Doubtless they will do with us as they please. And our Comrades in the Union Army, who are fighting the battles of the Republic, will have their opinion of us, and will know that, if themselves ever made prisoners, they can now expect little consideration from their captors.

In view of the foregoing consideration, we do, most respectfully protest, to the President of the United States, our highest Commander, against a service which must destroy our pride as soldiers, and impair our self-respect as men,—it being the violation of an oath. We are "privates" in the "Grand Army of the West". We earnestly request that, either we may be exchanged—made soldiers again—sent back to the Officers and the banners under which we volunteered and fought; or that we be discharged from the military service that we may better serve the country at home. Let this peaceful bearing of arms have an end.

Returning thanks to you, Col. Bonneville, for your prompt attention to our wants since our arrival at these Barracks, we are, Sir,

Very Respectfully,

Your Obed't Servt's.

Amos N. Currier, Act'g Capt. Co. A (231 Iowans)

In behalf of my men

W. F. McCarson	"	"	"	B (121	")
Jesse Jay	"	"	"	C (142 men)
S. H. Johnston	"	"	"	D (170	")
M. Margrave	"	"	"	E (70 Mo. troops))
J. B. Dale	"	"	"	"F" (45 Mo. 21st))
Co. G is at Camp Chase						
John F. Kent	"	"	"	H 68 Illinois)
Hiram Hitchcock	"	"	"	J (67 men Wis.))
Geo. Albertson	"	"	"	"K" (50 Iowans))

Hd Qrs. Camp of Instruction,

Benton Barracks, Mo., July 15, 1862.

The 1st Ills Cavalry, paroled Men, quartered on one face of these Barracks, are at this time being mustered out, while those quartered on the opposite side appear determined by their conduct, to induce their discharge also.

Protest is a term not used by military men; but, as the language of the paper is respectful, it is respectfully forwarded, under the character of a petition.

Respectfully forwarded,

B. L. E. Bonneville,

Col. U.S.A. Comd'g.

To Col. C. W. Marsh,

A. A. Genl.,

St. Louis, Mo.

Hd. Qrs. District of Mo.,

July 15, 1862.

Respectfully forwarded to HdQrs Dept. of the Miss., with request for instructions as to what duty, if any, is consistent with the parole of these men.

J. M. Schofield

Brig. Gen.

Benton Barracks, Mo.,
July 14, 1862.

Amos N. Currier, W. F. McCarson, and others, Commanders, of detachments of paroled men,

A petition in behalf of their men, in which they represent that they are still prisoners of War, though paroled, that they are garrisoning a military Post, by performing the ordinary Garrison Guard, thereby violating their parole, and request that they may be either exchanged, or mustered out of service.

Paroled prisoners of war must do guard, police and fatigue duty in their own Camps.

This is not military duty in the belligerent sense of that word. It is simply for their own order, cleanliness or comfort, and is not in violation of any parole not to bear arms against the enemy till exchanged.

By order Major Gen Halleck
J. C. Kelton
A.A.G.

HdQrs Dept. Miss.
Sheridan, Mo.,
July 19, 62.

(Recd. D.M. July 19, '62)

Head Quarters, Camp of Instruction,
Benton Barracks, near St. Louis, July 13 1862

Sir:

I send you copy of Telegram just recd.

St. Louis, July 13 1862

To Col. Bonneville.

The paroled prisoners are required to do all the ordinary Guard, Police and Fatigue duties of Garrison. Their parole does not forbid this. Have them armed and equipped sufficiently for this service without delay, so that the 23d Mo. may be spared for other Service.

(Signed) J. M. Schofield
Brig. Genl.

By order of
B. L. E. Bonneville,
Col. U. S. A. Comdg.

Geo. A. Day
 Lieut. and P. Adjt.
 To
 A. A. Currier
 Comdg Co. "A"
 Paroled Men

Missouri and Western Telegraph—Clinton, Iowa, July 20th 1862
 To The Paroled Soldiers of Iowa: Every Exertion is being made
 in your behalf.
 N. B. Baker,
 Adjt Genl of Iowa

Missouri and Western Telegraph—Clinton, Iowa 21st 1862
 To The Paroled Soldiers: I have just received from Genl Halleck
 the following dispatch

N. Baker, Adjt Genl of Iowa: Paroled Prisoners are obliged to
 do Guard, Police & Fatigue duty for the proper order of their
 own companies. Those who refuse are Mutineers.
 H. W. Halleck

Head Quarters Paroled Men
 July 22nd 1862

Colonel Bonneville.
 Sir.

Since our release from captivity I have been called
 to a position imposing much labor and many duties rendered ex-
 ceedingly unpleasant by the existing circumstances.

While this seemed a necessity I have striven to do the duty
 assigned me. Happily this necessity no longer exists and I
 would therefore most respectfully ask to be *entirely* relieved from
 my present duties.

I am, Colonel,
 Most respectfully,
 Your obt. Servt.
 Amos N. Currier.

Col. B.L.E. Bonneville, U.S.A.,
 Comdg Post

Benton Bks., Mo.
 July 22d/62

Amos N. Currier,
Actg. Adjt., P.M.,

Represents that his duties have been extremely arduous, and unpleasant, by reason of his position, that while the necessity existed, he strove faithfully to perform them, now that the necessity no longer exists, he begs to be relieved,

This should pass through Officer Comdg P. Mo.—to whom it is referred.

B. L. E. Bonneville,
Col. U.S.A.
Cg.

The resignation of Mr. Currier is accepted and respectfully submitted to Col. B. L. E. Bonneville, U.S.A., Comdg Benton Barracks,

G. K. Warren,
Maj. Comdg. P.P.

Approved—

B.L.E. Bonneville,
Col. U.S.A.,
Comdg.