

8-29-1862; Richland County Observer; Richland Center, Wisconsin

Sedalia, August 20. <—Advices from the west are to the effect that the rebel force under Coffee, Quantrell, Oochrell and others, which were lately menacing Lexington, are in full retreat southward. They are 4,000 strong, and have the two spiked cannon captured from Maj. Foster at Lone Jack on Friday last.

Col. Fitz Henry Warren, of the First Iowa Cavalry, and Brigadier General Blunt, of the Kansas forces are in hot pursuit, with 3,800 men and fourteen pieces of artillery.

Yesterday, Col. Warren was ten miles north of Johnstown, Bates Co., and Gen. Blunt twelve miles south-west of him—both moving very rapidly.

The rebels were only one hour ahead of Warren's cavalry; there is every prospect that they will be overtaken and captured or badly whipped, at the crossing of the Osage River.

As soon as Col. Houston, commander at Lexington, heard of the defeat of Major Foster at Lone Jack, he made energetic preparations for the defence of that city; the old fortifications were extended to the river to enable the troops to get water, and all the adjacent buildings which might serve for sharpshooters, blown up. Col. Houston also ordered all hemp in town to be burned to prevent the rebels from using it as breastworks. The warehouses and hemp thus burned, were probably worth \$200,000. The hemp and factory of McGrew alone, were valued at \$75,000, on which was an insurance of \$23,000. The city is now entirely secure against attack.