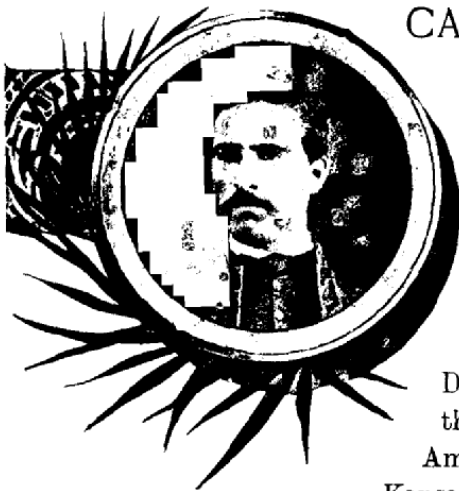


From:

*Deeds of Valor: How America's Civil War
Heroes Won the Congressional Medal of
Honor,*

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Smithmark Books, 2000. pages 450-452



JAMES DUNLAVY.

Private, Co. D, Third Iowa Cav.
Born in Decatur County, Ind.,
Feb. 4, 1844.

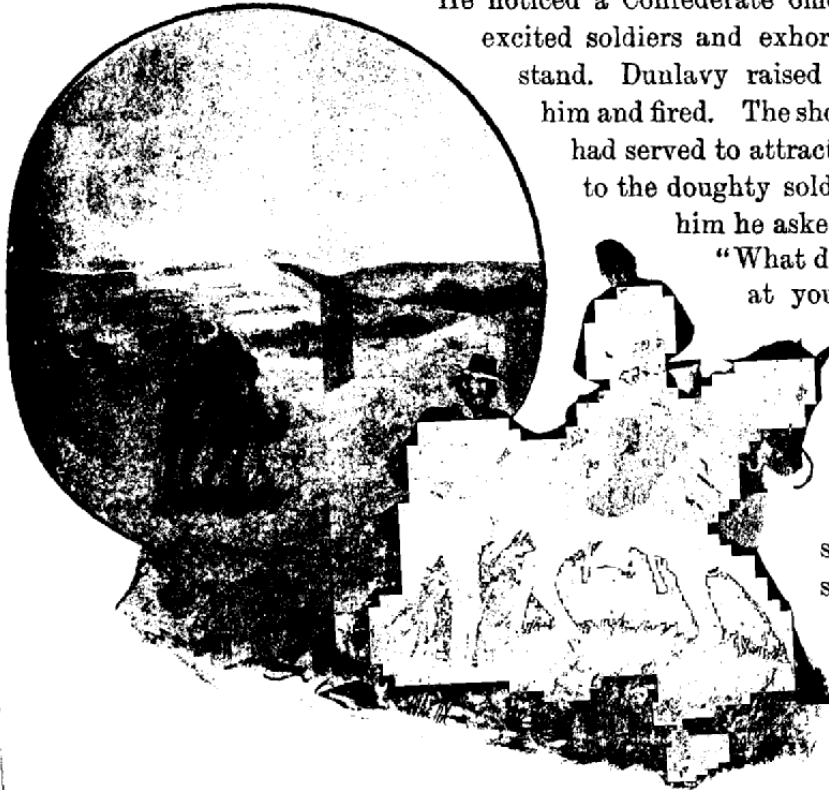
CAPTURE OF GENERAL MARMADUKE

THE capture of a general officer in battle is a noteworthy event, but when the officer is one of prominence the act becomes of great interest, and especially when the capture is made single-handed by a private soldier; thus the capture of Confederate General Marmaduke by Private James Dunlavy, Company D, Third Iowa Cavalry, necessarily takes a high place in the annals of history.

Amid the heavy roar of cannon, on the open plains of Kansas, the two contending forces met to do battle for supremacy at Little Osage Crossing on the morning of the 25th of October, 1864. The Confederate artillery was playing on the Federal forces with fearful effect, but notwithstanding this incessant and terrific fire the Federal infantry never wavered. The safety of the Federals lay in a charge by which the enemy's guns could be captured. The

Early in the spring of 1864 it became known to General Rosecrans, commanding the department of Missouri, that the Confederate General Price intended a great invasion of Missouri, which is historically known as Price's Missouri Expedition (Aug. 29-Dec. 2, 1864), and included skirmishes, engagements and battles in Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. At Little Osage Crossing, Kansas, on the 25th of October, the Federals under General Pleasanton routed the Confederates, capturing 1,000 prisoners, military arms, ammunition, and Generals Marmaduke and Cabell.

movement was begun slowly at first, but increased in velocity until it swept on resistless as an avalanche. The crash of musketry, the scream of shell, the buzzing of canister and ball enthused the dashing cavalry. The charge was successful, the rebels being routed. At this juncture Private James Dunlavy was severely wounded, his arm being shattered by a piece of shell, which also struck his horse, making him wheel suddenly to the rear. Undaunted, the plucky rider headed him in the direction of a brigade which he thought was his own, but which proved to be the enemy.



"HE ASKED FOR A SLOWER TEMPO."

He noticed a Confederate officer riding among the excited soldiers and exhorting them to make a stand. Dunlavy raised his carbine, aimed at him and fired. The shot missed its mark, but had served to attract the officer's attention to the doughty soldier, and dashing up to him he asked in an angry tone :

"What do you mean, shooting at your own officer? Give me that revolver."

"Surrender, or I'll fire!"

To say that the Confederate officer was paralyzed with surprise at finding himself at the mercy of a Union soldier is expressing it mildly.

But he offered no resistance and handed over his revolver. Just then

a comrade ran up to

Dunlavy. "My horse has been shot. Give me that of your prisoner," he said.

Dunlavy made the officer dismount and accommodated his comrade. Then the two started for the rear, Dunlavy on horseback, the prisoner trotting along at double-quick.

The latter was far from relishing the hurried march and soon asked for a slower tempo. "I am very tired and worn out. Have been up all night," he said.

Good naturedly the cavalryman slowed down. The Confederate made still another request.

"Can't you get me a horse? I'd like to ride."

But Dunlavy was not inclined to make further concessions. Why should I give him a horse ? he thought. And his reply to the question was a curt "No."

Again the silence was broken by the prisoner.

"Will you take me to General Pleasanton ?" he said. "I am personally acquainted with him." Becoming more confidential, he added : "Young man, I'll tell you who I am."

He had not quite finished the sentence when Colonel C. W. Blair, of General Curtis' staff, rode up and approached the prisoner.

"I am General Marmaduke," the officer said, addressing the new-comer.

It was now Private Dunlavy's turn to be surprised. He apologized to his distinguished prisoner and with all the politeness at his disposal turned him over to Colonel Blair, who procured a horse for General Marmaduke and brought both prisoner and captor before General Curtis, who complimented Dunlavy and ordered him to the hospital.
