

State of West Virginia.
 Jefferson County.
 S.S.

At the request of George Boone Esq. of the State & County aforesaid, I do hereby certify, as follows, namely: -
That I was ^{St. Col.} ~~substantially~~ in command of the ~~United~~ ^{Virginia} troops of Virginia, on the evening of their approach and attack on the U. States Armory and Guard at Harper Ferry, W. Va. viz: the 18th of April 1861. That I am now a resident citizen of Charlestown, in said County. That on the night of the day above named, while the ~~United~~ ^{Virginia} troops were in motion, marching by the Turnpike ^{on Harper's Ferry,} they were met and halted by ~~McDonnell~~ ^{pieces of a company} ~~then in command~~ of a small body of citizen soldiers of a volunteer company ~~raised in the~~ (Hoyd Rifles) organized among the workmen of the Armory ^{commanded by Geo. Boone at the time} that this occurred about two miles west from the town of Harper Ferry. ~~McDonnell was accompanied by~~ ~~two other officers of his command, and several~~ ~~others~~ - That upon his halting the ~~United~~ troops, and demanding to know, by what authority they were marching their armed forces, into the town a parley was held with him ^{Col. Allen} by Captain Turner Ashby ^{and Col. Allen} the Commander of the ~~United~~ ^{Virginia} troops, which resulted in the declaration on our part to proceed, notwithstanding we were warned by ~~McDonnell~~ ^{the command} that we would be resisted in an attempt to capture the Armory said Armory stores and Arms. That thereupon, the command was given our soldiers

to Load Horn Ball Cartridges, which was done, and in the meantime
the delay was avoided by M. Stance and his associates to
move off, by the Turupike, towards the town - That at a little
distance he was hailed and ordered to return to the Command
which he refused to do, - That this parley and delay, I have no
doubt afforded him time to call in his Picket, and transmit the
information of our strength and purpose, to the Federal Officer in Command
of the Armory, and Armory Guard - That on our approach to the
Foot of the Hill overlooking the Armory Buildings, which was
in a few hours after the Parley with Stance, we found all the
Armory Buildings and Arsenal in flames - That the
loss of the Arm in the Arsenal, said at the time to be about
17 or 19000 Muzzle Rifles, was a most serious loss & deprivation
to the ^{Confederate} ~~Union~~ cause. That on our taking possession of the
place, and retaining it, subsequent to the withdrawal
of Captain Jones, with his Soldiers, I was satisfied that
M. Stance, and his little party, (said to be only sixteen in number)
had performed not only a meritorious action, in behalf of the
U. S. Government: but a most perilous one personally -
That the Sentiments of the Secession population might have
been so directed by their personal enemies, as to have, that
night, culminated in their destruction.

Sworn to, subscribed & acknowledged before me
This day of January 1871.

Dear Sir

I have this written just
as I have intimated it - & will sign with
pleasure. & will also establish the facts
as I remember them & while the war is
over - I have cast aside all feeling on
that score - & will do you all the good &
justice I can - as I do give you credit for

saving the arms - in the rights
mentioned

Yours
G. R. Connel

Wm. G. Lawton