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Martin Reynolds (colored) of El Dorado, was a slave when the war broke out and staid with his master, Wm. Couch, in Platt county, Missouri, fifteen miles from Leavenworth, until October 1863. He was much attached to his master and he staid willingly until he thought he saw a scheme by his mistress to have him run south in the absence of his master. Then he went to Leavenworth and enlisted in the Second Colored Kansas Infantry, afterward the 83 U. S., Col. Crawford commander, and an ex-governor of Kansas. The only expedition he participated in was Steele's cooperation with Banks against Shrevesport, Louisiana. His regiment was in Thayer's division which started from Fort Smith and joined Steele the day before the fight at Little Missouri and from that on fighting occurred some place on the line every day. His second fight was at Poison Spring, the 1st and 2nd Kansas (colored) participated and lost heavily. It was in the battle of Saline Crossing or Jenkins' Ferry where the Kansas 1st and 2nd (colored) showed their fighting qualities. Standing in water from knee to waist deep they repulsed the rebels and charged in turn and took their guns and threw them into the Saline river. The rebels called as they charged, "No quarter to niggers," and they yelled back, "Don't ax no quarter; better wait till we ax fer quarter," they went in to win and they did. They were all big heavy men and when they charged they proved irresistible to three lines of rebels. The writer of this sketch was near by and has never since doubted the courage of colored troops. He was mustered out in October 1865 and has since lived tn Kansas. Reynolds is a good citizen and law-abiding man and is respected by his neighbors

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