Sterling Price’s 1864 Army of Missouri was divided into three divisions, commanded respectively by Confederate Generals Joseph J. Shelby, James Eagan and John Sappington Marmaduke. Marmaduke’s division encountered Union troops at Pilot Knob, Missouri, on September 27, 1864. Price’s columns moved north by various routes, including present-day Missouri Highway 47. The entire force camped at and near Union from October 1-3, 1864.

OCTOBER 1, 1864

The City of Union was founded in 1835. It was the second county seat of Franklin County, replacing New Port, which served the county from the time it separated from St. Louis County in 1818. In 1859, John T. Viv made the brick building that stands before you, which they attacked on October 7. Moving north, Marmaduke’s men attacked Washington on October 22, 1861, after a heated debate at the old courthouse at Main and Church Streets, the county elected a pro-union delegate to a state-wide convention to consider the question of Missouri’s secession. Delegates to the state convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession on March 19, 1861, and the crisis in Missouri seemed to subside. Nevertheless, pressure was building in St. Louis. On April 20, 1861, just eight days after the firing on Fort Sumter, the city. On April 20, 1861, just eight days after the firing on Fort Sumter, the city. The Battle at Vitt’s Mill began when elements of Price’s Army arrived on the road from St. Clair on the afternoon of October 1. Colonel Robert Lawther’s 10th Missouri Cavalry (CSA) found the courthouse a short distance to the east, and quickly cut the St. Louis Road, north and east of here. Confederate cannoneers rained shot on the position from heights south of town. Many of the Mill’s defenders escaped after their commander, Capt. Henry Detmer, gave the order “Everybody for himself.” The number of Union casualties (killed, wounded or captured) at Vitt’s Mill has been the subject of dispute, but Confederate reports claimed as many as 100 in all. After the fight, the Confederates used Vitt’s Mill to grind flour.

Confederates occupied Union for several days, and Price’s forces consolidated here from St. Clair and from Pacific, where a brigade of cavalry destroyed railroad facilities on October 1. They moved west in two wings towards Jefferson City, which they attacked on October 3.

OCTOBER 2, 1864

Confederate Generals Joseph J. Shelby, James Eagan and John Sappington Marmaduke, Price’s forces were in two wings towards Jeff erson City, which they attacked on October 3.

OCTOBER 3, 1864

Moving north, Marmaduke’s men attacked Washington on October 22, 1861, after a heated debate at the old courthouse at Main and Church Streets, the county elected a pro-union delegate to a state-wide convention to consider the question of Missouri’s secession. Delegates to the state convention voted overwhelmingly in favor of secession on March 19, 1861, and the crisis in Missouri seemed to subside. Nevertheless, pressure was building in St. Louis. On April 20, 1861, just eight days after the firing on Fort Sumter, the city. The Battle at Vitt’s Mill began when elements of Price’s Army arrived on the road from St. Clair on the afternoon of October 1. Colonel Robert Lawther’s 10th Missouri Cavalry (CSA) found the courthouse a short distance to the east, and quickly cut the St. Louis Road, north and east of here. Confederate cannoneers rained shot on the position from heights south of town. Many of the Mill’s defenders escaped after their commander, Capt. Henry Detmer, gave the order “Everybody for himself.” The number of Union casualties (killed, wounded or captured) at Vitt’s Mill has been the subject of dispute, but Confederate reports claimed as many as 100 in all. After the fight, the Confederates used Vitt’s Mill to grind flour.

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