

**OFFICIAL REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONDUCT OF FEDERAL TROOPS IN
WESTERN LOUISIANA IN THE INVASIONS OF 1863 AND 1864**



[Southern Historical Society](#)

This is a little bit of a read. It will take you a couple of minutes at least, but if you want to know WHY the Sons and Daughters of the Confederate South will never forget, then this is necessary information. Read this before worship or after but as you worship, be sure to thank the Living God for that Confederate DNA in your body...

"But this destroying spirit...spared neither rich nor poor-it fell on all alike-on the small farmers of the prairies, as on their more opulent neighbors of the bayous. The quiet and unostentatious manners of these

inhabitants, their frugal and industrious habits, and their unaggressive disposition, which they derive, as they do their language, from their ancestors, the persecuted refugees from their northern Acadia-should have secured for them at least, immunity from the ravages of war; but, on the contrary, it only seemed to invite the aggression of the Federal soldiers. They fell upon them with the virulence which animates ignoble minds against the weak, the defenceless (sic) and those whose language cannot offer the poor shield of expostulation, and deprived them, as we have before stated, of even their food and clothing.

It would be supposed that the most refined malignity could go no farther; but God, as if to show the deep depravity of man, when released from the restraint of His law, has permitted this army to sound the depth of human corruption. From the evidence before us, they spread abroad among the citizens a virus, as sure in its effects as the handful of ashes thrown out by Moses before Pharaoh, which brought boils upon the people of Egypt, though its consequences were more terrific. This followed the course of the blood, attacked the finger nails, the toe nails, the joints, the bones, and threw out upon the surface of the body the foulest ulcers.

This charge is so grave, even against those who have proved themselves, as we have seen, so utterly depraved, that we would hesitate to give it place here, were it not supported by such respectable and concurrent testimony.

When the enemy was encamped at New Iberia, the small-pox broke out in virulent form among the troops; and as they were constantly making excursions into the country for foraging and other purposes, the inhabitants of the farms, plantations, and neighboring villages were exposed to taking the disease. They became seriously alarmed; there was no vaccine matter in the country, and their position precluded the possibility of obtaining it outside of the Federal lines. Their physicians, of necessity, sent to the Federal surgeons for it; and they were supplied with a virus which was used upon infants, children, feeble women and strong men with the same results: its results spread with the rapidity of fire. Had this been in some isolated cases, or had the same effect followed among the soldiers who were vaccinated, we might charitably conclude that the result in the country was from an accidental cause. But while no complaint came from the soldiers, at least no general complaint, the country was filled with cases of this kind, the cause not coming from one source, but from many, and all from the same fountain head-the Federal camp.

Dr. Sabatier, a physician of extensive practice at St. Martinsville, says: " In December, 1863, when the small-pox broke out among the Federal troops, then occupying New Iberia, it was impossible in our vicinity to procure the smallest portion of vaccine matter. Exposed as we were to the contagion of the disease, by the constant raids made by the Federalists in our town, I used my best exertions to procure some vaccine from the Federal physicians in New Iberia, and through one of my confreres succeeded in getting a few points loaded with vaccine, which I immediately inoculated to my own children. The disastrous effects of the poison were as quick as fire. A few days after the operation, one of my poor little baby's arms was horribly swollen and inflamed, and on the second day appeared a pustule which had nothing of the appearance of vaccine. Three days after, the pustule opened, letting out a little quantity of greenish matter, and to that succeeded a terrible ulcer, which kept growing larger and larger, until it came to the size of a dollar. New pustules formed around the ulcer, and followed the same course. I cannot describe the sufferings of the poor little thing. The disease lasted more than six months; the child lost all its finger and toe nails.

The lymphatic glands of the neck and groin formed abscesses which had to be opened, and it was only after a regular course of mercurial treatment that I succeeded in curing the poor child. The description of this case is nothing to be compared with the hundreds of others whom I have been called upon to treat."

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