

copied from report of Mr. Ellerbrook, in connection with case of  
Alfred Swinn, Privt. Co. 54<sup>th</sup> Ills. furnished 2<sup>d</sup> And. March 29, 79.

D. D. Dir.  
J. A. S.  
3. 28. 79.

Ld. Quors. 54<sup>th</sup> Ills. Vet. Supty.  
Hickory Station, Ark. Feby. 26, 65.

Hon. Joseph A. Barrett,  
Commissioner of Pensions  
Washington, D. C.

(Extract)

Sir:

I have the honor to state that Major  
Shubal York, Surgeon, and Privts. Oliver Saller,  
John Keer, Alfred Swinn, and James Goodrich, all  
of my Regt. were killed under the following cir-  
cumstances, at Charleston, Ills. on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of  
March 1864:

The Regt. was in Ills. on Veteran Furlough for  
thirty days dated Mattoon, Ills. Feby. 27, 64, at which  
place it was ordered to rendezvous at the expiration  
thereof. On the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March about 3 O'Clock  
P.M. while at Charleston, Ills. 12 miles east of Mattoon  
waiting the arrival of the evening train to proceed  
to Camp, these men with some fifteen or twenty  
others being without arms and scattered over the  
square around the Court House. (Court having com-  
menced its session that day) and without any  
apparent provocation on their part, were attacked  
by a body of Citizens from the remote portion of  
Coles County and from adjoining Counties, and the  
men above named ~~was~~ killed almost instantly.

(over)

The citizens attacking were armed with Shotguns, Rifles and Revolvers, and some of them had boasted before they came to town, as I afterwards learned, that they were going up to kill soldiers. They were part of an organization raised to resist the Authority of the Government in relation to a draft, and as they stated, to protect the Democratic Party. They had been drilling in Companies for some months, and were formed into Companies, Regiments and Brigades, with officers answering to those prescribed by the Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Army of the United States, for like numbers of men in service. The attack was sudden and unexpected, many of the men being in the Court Room, watching the progress of business. Two hundred shots must have been fired in a moment, and then, they (the murderers) were formed in squadron, mounted and left the town. On the arrival of my Regt. from Mahoon in about one hour I pursued them, capturing several who were forwarded to Lt. Col. Oaker, at Springfield, Ills. Saller was killed by the first shot, Major York as he was leaving the Court House, was shot in the back. The others were assisting the wounded when shot.

I <sup>was</sup> present during the affray, being slightly wounded while struggling with a man who was trying to shoot me, and know the facts to be as above stated.

x . . . x . . . x . . . x . . . x

(Sigsd.) G. W. Mitchell  
Colonel Comdg.