

William was thinking as he and the security lead the caravan out of the state capital.

He looked back in time to see the governor lowered his head.

The security aide also saw the governor.

He said to William, "I have never seen him lowered his head as if he is defeated. I know he is under pressure that no governor has been under. He wants to help people but the same folks who have been pocketing the people's money are threatening him, his wife and his children."

William was thinking so hard on why the governor lowered his head, he heard the security aide but what he said did not hit William until down the road.

The words of the security aide entered into William's mind.

William looked at the security aide.

William did a double take at the security aide.

The security aide did a double take on William.

Then both stared at each.

The security aide said to William, "I got a pistol."

William said, "Me too. What did you say back there about the governor was threatened and his family?"

The security aide moved his finger off his trigger.

He said, "Yeah. While you were off holidaying some masked men broke into the governor's mansion looking for him."

William said, "I got back last night and nobody said nothing. Not my father nor mother. I did not suspect anything was wrong. But I was having terrible dreams about the first lady."

William was thinking.

The security aide was still watching William.

William turned and looked at the security aide.

William did a double take.

The security aide watched William.

William said, "How did they get passed your security? Were you at work?"

The security aide looked at William and said, "Am I a suspect?"

William cut his eyes at the security aide.

The security aide watched William.

William said, "Answer me."

The security aide looked at this snooty nose brat telling him to answer him and making him feel as if he is not on the governor's side.

The security aide watched William watching him he finally said, "The governor had just finished one of his all night meetings with all the staff. Your father was locking all the doors and when he stepped into the enclave to lock the meeting room door that's when he turned and saw the five masked men. We think at least one was a woman."

William sat up in his saddle and said, "A woman."

He looked back at the women who joined the caravan.

The driver in the first wagon was William's god father, he leaned forward to hear what William and the security aide were talking about.

William knew when his father said, retired Navy that it was his god father and others were trusted.

William began to sense the danger the governor was in and why he lowered his head. These evil people wanted the governor dead because he wanted to spread the wealth among the people.

The security aide said, "Your father yelled, Intruders. I secured the governor and hit the steps. We saw the intruders running out the door with guns. My men pursued them but lost them a mile on foot. I told my men they have to get in shape."

William said, "Why are you here?"

The security aide said, "Here with the caravan?"

William stared at the security aide.

The security aide said, "Because your father asked the governor to let me come with you to see this project is completed."

William stared at the security aide.

The security aide what his hand on the trigger.

William's god father leaned forward and pulled his pistol out of his boot.

The security aide said, "You better stopped staring at me like that. That old navy man think he shot me."

William looked back the driver and shook his head.

The driver put his pistol back in his boot.

William said to the security aide how did you know he had a pistol?"

The security aide said, "I heard it."

William said, "I did not hear anything."

The security aide said, "That's what being in the Calvary trains you to hear and know the things that are not seen. Not evident."

William said, "Why are you here?"

The security aide looked at William and said, "Are you that dumb boy? The governor has put his life and that of his family on the line for his dreams to come true. As long as they stay in the governor's mansion they will be fine. I got stuff in there no body knows about."

William said, "Tomorrow they have the open searing in and later that night the inauguration ball."

The security aide sucked his teeth.

He told William, "I pray nothing does wrong."

Laura and her sisters were riding in their family wagon. The wagon was loaded with the things they like to eat.

They were behind the supply wagons, but kept their eyes on the security aide and William

The next to the last river of the supply wagon had out fitted his wagon with mirrors.

He kept his eyes on Laura and her sisters.

They were suspicious to him.

William and the caravan reached the first town after midnight.

The herd a shout.

Everyone reached for their guns.

Then a torch light and then another and another. All alongside the hills and cliff.

The mayor pulled his wagon out on the dirt road and waved.

William and the security aide stopped.

The mayor approached and told them the governor sent a telegram for them to light the Caravan out of their great city and send them on their way.

The mayor said, "I am a Christian. I believe in JESUS the Christ. I believe this governor is the answer to many people's prayers. Yall do him good. Be safe."

The supply drivers stepped out of their wagons and walked to the mayor so they could hear.

The security rode up so they could hear.

Many of the people stepped out of the caravan so they could hear. It confirmed what they felt in their hearts that this governor was bringing light to a dark state.

Laura ran to William as she was being watched by many.

She said, "This is one of the cities to be surveyed and another school to be built.

William not trusting no one dismounted his horse and pulled out his orders.

The security aide walked over to William and the mayor.

They looked at the governor's orders.

The security aide and the mayor watched William.

William looked around and saw Laura.

She was nervously looking at William.

The supply driver was watching her.

William said, "Laura. Is that right?"

She smiled and said, "Yes. Where are the land surveyors and the person with the schools?"

Laura whistled and two of her three sisters ran forward.

William said, "Go and get for land surveyors."

Laura ran to get the land surveyors.

William said to the mayor, "Mayor this is a beautiful city and it's much larger than I expected. We may need six land surveyors."

William stepped out and yelled to Laura, "Bring me six land surveyors."

Two more land surveyors stepped forward.

William told Laura, "Get your books and write their information so they can get paid."

The land surveyors and the two teachers smiled.

William said your jobs are temporary. You are charged by the governor to execute your jobs with honesty and trustworthiness. I know the governor has established an Office to map and survey the state."

The city's mayor grinned and rocked in his shoes with his hands in his pocket.

William said, "Do the governor proud and establish a good rapport this outstanding public servant, the mayor, and you maybe recommended to the office the governor has established."

William shook hands of the land surveyors and the teachers.

He introduced them to the mayor.

Laura's sisters ran and got their belongings and stepped aside on the dirt road.

William said, "Laura we have to take care of their hotel and food expenses while they are here. They are not to be a burden on this good city and it's people."

Laura said, "How will I know what to pay?"

William thought as he was looking up at the night sky and he saw the telegram poles.

He said, "The mayor can send a telegram of the bills and food expenses to you. You will send it to the treasurer. Treasurer will send the money for the mayor to pay the hotel and the food expenses."

William turned to the mayor and said, "Sir, is that acceptable to you?"

The mayor said, "How many times are you talking?"

Laura said, "Once a week."

The mayor thought and looked at his wife.

His wife grinned and said, "Yes. We can do it weekly."

She turned and smiled at the people.

The people cheered.

Laura ran to her sisters and they all hugged her.

William said, "Mayor can you send the governor a telegram that his project for your great city has begun? I am sure he wants to hear this great news."

William shook the mayor's hand and mounted his horse.

Laura ran back to her wagon with her sister and pointed backwards to their other sisters and said, "Home is back that way."

While Laura was waving to her sisters when one of the land surveyors walked over and begin to talk to the sisters.

Laura looked and turned all around in her seat to watch her sisters and the young land surveyor.

William rode back a little and said, "Good people. Listen. This town obeyed the governor and showed us light and kindness the next cities and towns may not. Laura get your teacher ready to be dropped off and your land surveyors ready and if the town is not agreeable. I need to leave at least three security men there. They can telegram you Laura their expenses and me what is taking place. "

Laura shook her head and looked at her sister.

Laura began to cry.

Her sister looked at Laura and said, "What's wrong?"

Laura waved her hand to give her a moment.

Laura caught her breath and said, "This is such a historical moment and our parents' girls are in it. They did not live to see this"

Clara looked at Laura and felt in her heart what Laura was saying.

Laura said, "I know this is one of their prayers for us. To grow and experience more of life and live it in adondament."

Laura threw her arms up in the air.

The security men watched her.

She pinched Clara's arm and said, "We are on a mission for the great governor of this state to help the people to be better. We are a part of this history. I hope Sarah and Wendy remember what I told them about the audits.

Clara shrugged her shoulder.

The security men rode back behind the caravan.

The city people began to wave the torches as William and the caravan passed through.

William said to the security aide, "What are they singing?"

The security aide said, "His truth is marching on..."

He drivers of the supply wagon sit straight and proud.

They sniffed and held back tears as they heard the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

They knew they were going into warfare.

Warfare with living men and with evil.

William said to the security aide, "I hope this is not an omen."

The security aide said, "Omen."

He looked at William and said, "Look boy. I guess everybody knew but you, that we are breaking one of hardest evils over man. Poverty. That means fighting against all the evil that holds men in poverty. Ignorance. Fear. No courage. No strength. No vision. We have to be the opposite of that to get any of the governor's projects off."

William looked at the night sky.

They travelled all night until the breaking of the day.

They entered the town and there was no fanfare.

The mayor was standing outside the saloon.

Laura looked at her sister.

Her sister reached down and picked her bible up and her gun from underneath the seat.

William and the security aide walked to the saloon.

William said are you the mayor of this town.

The man snarled at William and said, "Yes."

William held out his hand to shake the mayor's hand.

The mayor did not extend his hand to shake Williams hand.

The security aide watched the mayor and the guns inside the saloon pointed at William.

The drivers from several of the supply wagons stepped down and watched the people of the town.

William said, "Sir, we are here and will remain to do the governor's bidding. Where is your telegram office?"

The mayor said, "Who told you we had one?"

William said, "How did you know we would be here this time this morning?"

William walked off the saloon porch.

The security aide turned sideways with his hand on his gun.

William turned around in the street and saw the telegram's wires.

The security aide thought, "What is he doing?"

The driver of the first supply wagon stepped down and followed William.

One of the armed security men dismounted his horse and walked behind William and the supply driver, who was his father. He had his double pistols showing in plain view.

They found the telegram office.

The security aide stood outside and showed his guns.

The people were beginning to mill about that time of the morning.

The man said, "We are not opened."

William said, "Don't do this man. Get your ass over here and send this telegram to the governor. I will know if it has been sent the way I said. I can read the transcriptions. If you tamper with it you go to jail."

The telegram man looked at the older driver of the supply wagon and then the armed security man on

the porch of his shop.

He said to William, "What is your message?"

Honorable Governor. We have reached the second city. Which is hostile. Please send a military guard troop to protect the workers we will leave here."

The telegram worker swallowed hard and looked at this boy standing before him who was bold and his naivety could get something done.

The older driver of the supply wagon, tapped the counter and said, "Bring their own supplies."

The telegram worker looked at the older man.

William did not shift his eyes from this enemy and said, "You heard him."

The telegram worker said, "You have to tell me."

William said dictate, "Tell the military group to bring their own supplies, because I do not want any of the money of this great state and it's people to lined the pockets of these hellish people and have the military

bring their own telegram machine. And no places to sleep nor eat."

The telegram worker said, "Sir, we have hotels and restaurants."

William hit the telegram desk and, "You send my message now."

The telegram worker looked at the older driver and then back at the angry William.

The security man on the porch looked in the shop.

The telegram worker looked at the security man and immediately sent the telegram.

William said, "I will stand and wait for the governor's response."

While William waited.

The older driver went and stood with his son on the porch.

William did not turn his eyes from the man.

Response immediately came back.

The telegram worker said, as if he was surprised, "A response from the governor."

The older worker walked back in to hear the governor's response.

His son turned his head to hear the response.

William said, "Dumb ass the governor is always up before day and in the telegram office to read all telegrams and send out responses before the workday starts so he knows what to resolve and the



problems that are head.”

The telegram worker said, “I did not know he was so astute. I was told he was not smart.”

William said, “You dumbass. You think he is not smart because he is young. What did he say?”

The telegram worker looked at the older driver and then look back at the door where the armed security man was watching him.

The telegram worker was waiting for the end of the telegram.

He said, “We are not hellish...”

Before the telegram worker could say anything else William cut him off and said, “Don’t you say nothing but give me the transcription from the governor.”

The telegram worker said, “I’m required to read it to you and after I read it I have to give it to you.”

The telegram worker said “Good morning William. A man after my own heart.”

The older driver smiled.

The telegram worker looked at the older man.

He continued to read the governor’s response.

The governor said, “Today will be very busy. Your father is here and I will send him to the commander to deploy five troops. Two for the city you are in and one troop for each remaining town and city you will go.

I will sign their deployment for a year. Look out and see if there are any honorable men and women who can work on a railroad.”

The telegram worker got so excited he started shaking.

The older driver was worried.

William looked at the telegram worker and said very viciously, “Give it now.”

The telegram worker could hardly talk. He handed the telegram to William.

William read the telegram and folded it and put it in his jacket pocket.

The armed security man smiled.

William walked out the telegram shop.

The telegram worker could hardly wait for them to leave before he ran passed them to go and tell the mayor and his cronies.

William yelled and said, “Hey.”

The telegram worker was running so hard passed them he nearly fell.

The older driver said, "Let him go Will. I am troubled by what the governor said."

William said, "So am I. Why would he sign a deployment for a year?"

The older driver said, "Yeah."

The armed security man said, "I don't liked this town. I will stay and make sure the mayor and his cronies won't get any business from the railroad. I hope Uncle William request Danny's troop."

The older driver said, "For what? So you can be out here fighting and embarrassing me?"

The security man looked over at the older man and said, "Well yeah."

The security man walked very fast passed his father and William.

The older man looked around and said a big rock and threw it and hit the telegram man.

He nearly knocked him out.

The older driver ran to the telegram man to help him.

His son turned around and said, "You missed."

Children were on their way to school and saw the hit from the older driver and were very impressed.

They ran to the driver and said. "Teach us how to do that."

The telegram man looked at the older man and walked to the saloon.

The security aide looked at the stumbling man who wandered into the saloon.

The security aide heard the telegram worker tell them the governor's telegram said a railroad for the town.

The men inside were happy and said, "Railroad."

The telegram worker did not mention they were describe as hostile to the governor and five troops of the military was being sent.

The security aide saw his man running.

He saw the older driver hit the telegram worker with a rock. He knew the rock was meant for the telegram worker.

The security aide walked off the porch and caught William and the older driver.

The security aide said, "Excuse me."

To the older driver and watched him walk away.

The older driver began to cuss.

William snickered and turned his head.

The security aide said, "What's going on? The telegram worker ran and told the mayor and his boys the governor was going to build a railroad in this evil town and they have already claimed it as their money."

William pulled out the telegram and gave it to the security aide.

The security aide read the telegram and said, "A year?"

The security looked worried and gave William the telegram back.

He said, "What are you going to do?"

William said, "Everybody and the horses have to rest. We move outside the town and camp today and leave first thing in the morning."

The security man walked with his horse and said to his father, "See you later."

His father said, "Send your mother a telegram that you are here."

Laura and her sister walked to William and the security aide.

William and the security aide stopped talking.

Laura said, "What's your plan?"

William said, "We are going to leave five land surveyors here and the last teacher and four security men. The governor is ending a military troop to be here."

Laura and her sister's mouth flew open.

Laura sister said, "Trouble I can feel it. But I am ready."

William said, "No doctor, no hospital only these gangsters."

The security aide smirked.

The security man looked over at Laura's sister.

Laura said, "Clara take the wagon. You will need most of this stuff. I heard the new settlement is very cold."

William said "I just came back the day before yesterday, it is freezing."

The older man jumped down from the supply wagon and said, "Laura you can put your stuff in this next supply wagon and ride with him."

Laura looked at the older driver and said, "How do you know my name?"

The older driver said, "Because I sit there, (pointing at the first wagon). I heard William you're your

name Dumbass.”

Laura and her sister mouths flew open as if they never been called out of their names.

Laura said, “Why you have to call me out of name. My name is Laura not dumbass.”

The driver she was to ride with said, “Get in this wagon. Dumbass.”

Laura said, “I don’t want to ride with you but with him.”

The next to the last driver said, “No.”

Laura said, “What you have to answer for him?”

The older driver said, “I will shoot you.”

Laura said, “Now you are threatening me?”

She looked at the other drivers and they stared at her.

She realized he would shoot her.

William stared at her.

She knew she could not go to William for anything.

William said leave the last two wagons here with the supplies.

The man said to Laura, “Get out.”

Laura jumped out and got in the next wagon.

Laura’s sister felt bad for her.

Laura said, “Telegram me about everything. I think it goes to the second town and we can ride there once a week to get the telegrams.”

The security aide said, “Who told you to plan that?”

Laura looked at the security aide.

The caravan began to pull out the city.

The mayor runs out the saloon with his boys and stand in the middle of the street.

He held his hand up for them to stop.

William and the caravan stopped.

Laura had pulled the wagon over with the four security aides and the five land surveyors and the two supply wagons.

The mayor said, “I didn’t tell you, you can leave.”

The security aide put his hand on his trigger.

The drivers of the two supply wagons pulled their shot guns from under the seats.

William said, "How dare you get in my path. You have stopped this city from growing."

The mayor walked towards William.

William flew off his horse with his gun already aimed and pointed at the mayor's head.

The mayor looked with get surprised.

William saw, they had planned to kill the governor and the governor knew it. That was what William understood from the governor's message. The governor was building his legacy and William was not going to allow no man in heaven or hell to stop him.

All the mayor's bad boys along with the sheriff stood and pulled out their guns.

William said, "I can have you and fat son hanged right now for threatening the life of the governor and his workers."

The mayor said, "I didn't say nothing."

William said, "You did and we all heard you. You say or do anything to these people I am leaving here. I will come back and hang you and your fat son."

The mayor looked at William and said, "You're no older than my son."

William said, "Shut up. You better get somewhere and stay there and better not try to impede or stop He governor's work. I swear I will kill you and that fat slob. Now step out of our way."

The mayor stepped out the way of the caravan.

William was riding sideway watching the mayor.

The caravan rode passed the mayor.

He stepped out in the street and his bad boys and watched them leave his city.

He turned and looked back at the governor's worker who were left.

The security men moved in front of Laura's sister wagon and the supply wagons.

The land surveyors surrounded the wagons.

The mayor watched them as the group moved to a corner of the city.

The drivers of the supply wagons put their wagons as a perimeter for the group.

Laura's sister Clara jumped out of the wagon and started looking for the schools.

She unhitched her horses and took a loose and got on it with her notebooks strapped to her.

The armed security man said, "What are you doing?"

Clara said, "My job."

He said, "Your job."

She said, "Yeap. I am a school teacher and I am to see what the state's funds have gone to. Make my reports, and send them to Laura."

The security aide said, "Laura has big shoes to fill."

The security aide mounted his horse.

Clara said, "Where are you going?"

The security man said, "With you. I don't want a dead teacher on my conscious."

Clara said, "Dead. You don't mean?"

The security man rode to her and said, "Why do you think the governor got all of this security. He is sending a troop here and they should arrive tomorrow. These people have been stealing the state's money and lining their pockets. If anyone try to stop that hole they will kill them."

One of the supply wagon driver walked over and said, "We can take care of this stuff. Go on and do your jobs. The other three security men are going out with the land surveyors and will be back in a couple of days."

Clara was in shock.

The security aide said "WE don't know where the school is. The mayor's fat son apparently don't go to school. If he did we could follow him.

Clara looked over at the mayor's son and mumbled, "Huh."

The security man looked at her.

She looked around and saw a child running down a backstreet, she pointed and said, "Huh huh."

She pointed and was about to take off.

The security man pulled her horse and said, "You don't want to scare a child. Let's ride casually."

Clara said, "Like we are visitors to this strange and evil town."

She smiled and nodded at the people they saw on the street and peeping out the shop windows.

She turned to the security man and said, "This city really looked ragged. It should not."

The security man said, "Why not?"

Clara said, "Based on the amount of money the state is pouring in here."

The security man and Clara turned their horses down the backstreet and saw the child running to an abandon building.

A bad man stepped out in front of the security man and Clara and caused Clara's horse to be spook.

The security man grabbed Clara's horse and calm it down.

The bad man and his fellows were laughing.

Clara jumped off her horse ad ran full force into the man and knocked him down in the street.

She took her bible out of her bag and begin to beat him over and over and over.

One of his fellows ran towards Clara.

The security man pulled out his gun to shoot him when several women ran across the street to help Clara, especially when they saw her bible.

The bad fellow stepped back when the women begin to push him.

He looked at the security man.

The security man showed the bad fellow his gun pointed directly at him.

The security man was letting the bad fellow know he had all intentions of killing him.

The bad fellow was surprised, because no one ever stood up against them.

Clara beat the bad man nearly unconscious.

The bad man covered his head.

Clara pulled him up from the ground by his collar and spit in his face.

She said, "You are filth and if you and your boys ever cross me again."

She whispered in his ear.

The bad man looked at Clara.

She threw him down on the ground.

Clara spoke to the woman and got on her horse.

The boy who was late for school heard the commotion and turned around and came back to see what Was taking place.

He saw his daddy being beat up by a woman with a bible.

He saw the fight and ran to school.

Clara sat tall in her saddle and passed the other five men.

She stared them down to remember their faces.

The security man said, "How old are you?"

Clara said, "I'm the oldest of the four girls my folks had. Laura is next to me and the two we dropped off at the first city are twins. They are the youngest."

The security man said, "Where did you a school teacher learn to fight like that?"

Clara said, "At Sunday school."

The security man said, "I didn't go to Sunday school."

They laughed and dismounted their horses in the front of a ragged building.

The porch was ragged and you had to know where to step to keep from going down through the porch.

Clara said to the security man, "Follow my steps."

Clara looked at the building and the unkept yard. She peeped around the side from the porch and saw a tree with a swing.

Clara said, "Huh."

The security man said, "You say that a lot."

Clara said, "Really. "

She and the security said, "Huh," at the same time.

He opened the door and they walked into the one room school house.

They looked around the room. They saw busted out windows. Two students to a desk. Ragged floors. No lunch room. Not even an out house.

They saw the little boy standing in the middle of the floor with one hand behind his back and the other hand held out in front and the teacher hitting him hard in his hand with a strap for being late.

Clara said, "Shelia Westbrook, stop. Do not hit that child again. If you do I will have you arrested."

The security man looked at Clara to know how she knew the teacher's name.

Clara walked in the center of the room and touched the crying boy on his head and said, "Go and sit at your desk. Try not to be late tomorrow."

Clara watched the little boy and sit at his desk and held his head and cried.

The security man looked at the little boy and then rolled his eyes at the teacher.

The teacher jumped when she saw the armed security man.

The teacher said, "I am Mrs. Shelia Westbrook."

Clara said, I am Clara King from the governor's office. I am here to inspect your school. I am here to see



if you are up to the codes and to see, where all the money is that the state sent for this school.

Shelia said, "Who is he?"

Clara said, "Protection."

Shelia said, " I am the wife of the mayor."

Clara said, " I know who you are. You were a bully in college and you a bully over children."

Shelia was staring trying to remember Clara.

Clara said, "Bring me a chair."

The security man looked around and found Clara a chair.

Clara did not look at the security man, as he brought the chair.

She said, "Not you. Her."

Shelia was standing and looking at Clara trying to recall her.

The security man was watching Shelia.

Shelia face showed when she remembered Clara.

The security man saw Shelia's face when she remembered Clara.

Shelia ran around the school room screaming and pulling her hair.

Security man had his hand on his gun.

The children were scared and many of the children started crying.

Shelia ran passed the security man.

He opened the door and let Shelia out.

Clara looked to make sure Shelia went out the door.

Clara sat at Shelia's desk and wrote her report.

Clara stood and looked at the children and told them Mrs. Westbrook won't be back.

The security man watched a cool Clara.

He looked around at the children.

The children were poor.

He could hear Shelia running around the school yard.

The children ran to the windows and looked at her.

Clara sat and wrote her report.

She stated the building should be condemn. She stated all the code violations, especially from first grade

students to high schoolers and her son did not attend school but hung out at the saloon with his father, the mayor of the city. Clara stated that Shelia Westbrook did not have a teacher's certificate. Clara stated, "My recommendation is to cease the school to function, build a new school and bring in new teachers, terminate Shelia Westbrook's license and never allow her to be in the school system.

To test her son and determine what grade he should be in.

The students sat and watched Clara all day.

The security man went around back to use the bathroom.

He heard a noise and turned and saw the mayor and his boys riding hard to the school.

Clara was putting up her stack of forms, when the mayor ran into the school house and up to Clara and slapped her.

All the children started screaming.

Clara said, "School is dismissed. The school is closed. You will not be returning to this school.

Clara stood and put her papers in her bag.

She pulled out her gun and put it to the mayor's head.

The little boy walked up to Clara's desk and put his apple on her desk.

He looked at the mayor and walked to the door.

Once he got to the door. He burst out and ran with the other children.

Clara anticipated the mayor's attempt to knock her gun out of her hand.

Clara stepped back quickly and fell to the floor.

When the mayor and the sheriff ran around the ragged desk to grab her.

Clara started shooting.

They did not have time to draw their guns and the mayor's fat boy was walking so he could see.

The mayor grabbed his boy and he and the sheriff ran backwards out of the door.

They shot at Clara, but the two drivers of the supply wagons and the security man surrounded the twelve men and the fat boy. They put their guns and shot guns to their heads.

The men begin to drop their guns.

Clara was still shooting from underneath the desk.

She rolled over on the floor and to shoot until she saw the security man.

The security man had his gun on the twelve men, while the drivers tied them all up including the fat boy.

The mayor yelled, "Untie my son, so he can go home to his mama."

Clara walked out the ragged school with her bag.

She looked at the mayor and slapped him in his face with her gun.

Then she kicked him.

Clara was looking back at the mayor and the sheriff.

The security man said, "Go back to our camp and be careful."

Clara looked at the security man.

She untied her horse and rode off looking back at the mayor and his cronies.

She thought, "Well God, they won't get any more of the state's money. Not to say somebody else won't.

But at least not them."

She heard a woman screaming and looked and saw Shelia running out in the opened field.

The children were still running.

Lara rode to the telegram's office.

The telegram worker looked at her and said, "No women."

Clara pulled out her gun.

The telegram pulled out his gun.

Clara shoot.

The telegram man ducked and turned around and saw where the bullet went.

Clara was out of bullets and quickly loaded her gun and pointed it back to the telegram worker.

She said, "Don't make me shoot you. I swear to God I will shoot to kill."

The telegram worker raised his hands and slowly stood up.

Clara gave him what to send to the next town for Laura and to the governor.

The telegram worker read Clara's telegram and said, "You closed the school? You did not have a right."

Clara flipped the gun in her hand.

The telegram worker looked at her hand in shock and sent the telegrams.

Clara stood until a response came back from the governor's office. Then she sent her recommendations.

The person at the governor's office said, all recommendations will be addressed by the staff the next day because of the inauguration.

Clara said to the telegram worker, "Give me all the transcriptions. So you won't run and lie like you did

earlier.”

The telegram worker rolled his eyes at Clara and handed her the transcriptions.

Clara was walking out the door and turned around and paid for the telegrams.

She waited for her change.

The telegram worker yelled and pointed to his wall and said, “About that?”

Clara aimed and shot another hole in his wall and stood sideways and looked at him.

The telegram worker ducked behind his desk until Clara rode off.

He ran out the door and yelled, “Don’t come back.”

Dusting his hands off like he really beat Clara down and looking at the other people.

He leaned on a pole and crossed his legs like he really did something against Clara.

Clara turned and shot an inch above his head.

The bullet shattered the pole and the telegram worker fainted.

The other people ran.

His son came to the shop and pulled his father inside.

He peeped out the door and saw Clara on her the horse.

The boy waved at Clara and said to his father, That’s Miss Clara.”

He said, “Hey Miss Clara.”

Clara waved back and rode to their campsite.

Clara saw the drivers had set the campsite nicely.

They had stew in the pot.

Clara made her bed under her wagon and threw her blanket over the wagon to protect her stuff and for the blanket to fall to the ground as a covering for her.

She looked at her bruised face from the mayor’s slap.

She thought, “I hit him with my pistol was equal to his slap?”

Clara got fresh water and went behind her wagon and washed her body and was changing into her bedclothes, when she heard “Hello.”

She peeped under her blanket and saw the two women from earlier today.

She said, “Ladies I am changing clothes.”

The ladies said, “We can wait.”

Clara rolled her eyes and finished putting on her bedclothes and dumped her water and walked around her wagon.

She looked for her gun and walked to the women.

The women said, "We want to invite you and the gentlemen (looking around for them) to our church service on Sunday at eleven am."

They heard Shelia Westbrook running passed them screaming.

The women ran off the street into the campsite.

They looked at Clara and said, "Our children said, you said something to her and she has lost her mind. She has been running and screaming all day. They said they sent a telegram to her parents for them to come and get her."

Clara said, "Only JESUS can help her, if she repents."

The women looked at Clara.

Clara said, "Goodnight. Rather good evening."

The women walked away looking back at the direction of the screaming Shelia Westbrook.

One of the women ran back to Clara the other one followed.

She said to Clara, "Can I ask you a question?"

Clara did not say anything, she was used to Church folks with their questions.

The woman leaned over and almost whispered, "What do you think happened here today?"

Clara said, "JESUS"

The two women looked at Clara.

They did not understand what Clara might.

Clara said, "Huh"

They said, "Pardon me/us."

Clara said, "Somebody must have been praying. I walked in on Shelia Westbrook terribly hitting a child."

The two women were shaking their heads in agreement for the beating because the child was late for School

The governor signed a bill making corporal punishment outlawed. A telegram was sent to every city or town that had a school, based on our records they were getting money from the state for a school."

The woman said, "What did you think about our school?"

Clara said, "Mame, you did not have a school."

The woman pointed down the street and said "Yes we did it was right around that corner. You have been there."

Clara said, "JESUS help."

The other woman said, "I know I pray for his help everyday."

Clara said, "Good night ladies."

Clara walked away from them and went behind her wagon.

The women finally left.

Clara was getting the oats together to feed the horses.

The security man rode to the area and tied his horse and helped her feed the horses.

They gave the horses water.

The security man sat on the ground by the fire.

The security man said, "They want to kill those men. I thought they were playing a game of threats. They actually want to set the school on fire with them and the fat boy. I left. It's their decision. The military will be here tomorrow and they can take them to the capital and jailed them until the spring and they can have trials."

They could hear Shelia still screaming in the background

Clara said, "They shot the governor and his wife."

The security man sat on the ground and he finally got up and walked over to a standing Clara and said, "This better be one of your games."

Clara walked to her wagon and pulled out the transcripts from the telegram office.

The security man read it over and over.

He said looked at her and yelled, "How did you get this?"

Clara shrugged her shoulders and said, "I think he was scared?"

He flagged me down and said, "You shot up his shop."

Clara said, "It is a matter of your opinion."

The security man said, "You shot up his shop because they shot the governor and his wife."

Clara began to cry and said, "He was a good man."

The security man began to hit her wagon with his fist.

The telegram worker was about to come across the street to them and ask if she had another telegram. When he saw the security man beating the wagon with his fist, the telegram walked back to his office and locked the doors and went home.

He walked home.

He could smell dinner before he entered into the house.

Neckbone soup.

He walked in the house and everyone were sitting at the dinner table, which was in the center if the living room.

He sat down in his ragged chair and put his napkin in his lap and his wife rough him a piece of bread.

His wife was the lady that was asking Clara what she thought happened today.

Their two children were sitting at the table.

The boy and the little girl that were crying when their teacher lost her mind and ran around the room and then the yard.

The children said, "Miss Clara shut down the school."

The mother bowed her head for the father to say grace.

She had her elbows on the table with pieces of bread in both hands.

The father asked god to bless their food.

The mother did not say anything but still had her eyes closed and her elbows on the table.

She got up from the table and walked out the door and slammed it.

Her husband sat and looked at the door.

The little girl said, "I don't want this soup."

The father still looking at the door said, "It's the only kind of soup your mother made."

The little boy said, "We are poor. We can't eat anything but soup. Right dad?"

The little boy continued, "That's what the governor is talking about. Stop people from being poor."

The little girl said, "Miss Clara had on a pretty dress."

The preacher leaned back in his chair and kept looking at the door.

The little girl said, "Daddy why are you looking at the door/. Mother has left and she is going to find Miss Clara."

The father still looking at the door said, "Why would your mother be looking for Miss Clara?"

The boy said, "Dad b. I told you, Miss Clara closed our school down."

The father said, "Why did she closed your school down?"

The boy and girl looked at each other and walked to their room.

The father said, "Brushed your teeth. I'll come to say your prayers with you."

The children yelled, "Don't."

Their father turned and looked at the children's bedroom door.

He and the mother slept in the living room.

The mother was walking to find Clara.

When she nearly reached Clara, she turned around and walked home.

She sat on the steps all night.

Her husband was asleep in the living room.

The woke the next morning.

He looked on the floor and his wife was not on the floor by him.

He peeped out the door.

She was seated outside on the steps in the dark.

Her husband ran outside and sat next to her.

She said, "You have to do better. You have to become a better person. You talk about being a Christian, but you never talk about JESUS. I sat here all night trying to remember if I have ever heard you speak about JRESUS the Christ. "

She turned and looked at her husband.

He was wrapped in a blanket and sat and yawn.

He had her blanket and did not offer her her blanket.

She looked at him and said, "Mom and dad told me everyday you were the best I could ever do. (He shook his head in agreement and continued to yawn.) I wanted to go to the state university and become a teacher, but mom and dad said, I could not do better until I believe them. Until I believed the lie. I settled for you. Do you know why we only have two children? Because we cannot afford to feed and clothe them. And having sex with you make me sick."

The boy and girl were listening to their mother.

When she said he make her sick, the children said, "Whoa."



The preacher was yawning.

He did not care what she said, they had a perfect marriage with two perfect children.

She was not going to her parents because they all had to sleep in the same bedroom.

She continued, "You stand up in the pulpit every Sunday and preach how great a man the mayor is. You replaced JESUS with the mayor. All so you can get that dollar the mayor gives to you every Sunday so you can go and buy your alcohol and have me and the children eat soup every day. A stranger comes into town and in one day said JESUS answered prayers. She closed the school. Now we parents have to teach our children and keep them busy ourselves. The responsibility is now on us to raise our children. I have to figure who I am and what I can teach my children.

The telegram worker yawned and got up and walked in the house.

The security man holding the telegram said, "I cannot tell them. They will set this whole city on fire."

Clara did not say anything.

The security man said, "You are not saying anything. You want them to hurt these people because the governor and his wife were shot."

Clara turned and went under her wagon and went to sleep.

All through the night she cried and prayed.

She would cry and she would pray.

She sat up in the bed and screamed louder than Shelia, "JESUS help."

The security man jumped up with his gun in his hand.

He realized it was Clara screaming not Shelia.

He was willing to shoot Shelia.

Clara crawled from underneath her wagon and she was shaking from the cold

The security man walked and sat on the ground with her.

They sat for about two hours and then decided to go back to bed.

The security man beat Clara going to sleep.