Sitting ready for war. Fayetteville 28 April 1861.

President Lincoln's proclamation in 1861, was to our town, like a match thrown into a keg of gunpowder, War was declared at once - not only by the men, but also by the women and children. Those who had been for the Union, seeing that the President had declared war against the seceding States, were willing with them as they were acting within the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and assisted in raising the flag of the Confederate States over the town.

This flag was made by a number of young ladies at the residence of late Dr. H.E. Roper on Hammond St.

The first business of the Cumberland people was to take possession of the U.S. Arsenal of Construction located here and the two volunteer companies and the militia were drilling early and late and getting their arms and ammunition in proper shape. The boys and even the girls (who had (from interested observers) to "Present Arms!"

by tannets, Charge! and all the intricacies of single file, double file etc. For several days before the event the schools were dismissed and the scholars were taken to the Odd Fellows Hall in the old Fayetteville Hotel building to make cartridges. These cartridges were made of a talbot three bucket and powder tied up in paper wrappers cut ready for use. The children were arranged in
of which the center was gray

Three groups, the first button-making the tassels in the paper; tying it with a string, passing it to the best to put in the sleeve. They in turn passing it to a group of large ones who put in a measure of thread, and twisted the paper securely at the end. They worked until midnight Saturday and the Arsenal was taken on Monday.

After that event everyone went to work to get the soldiers ready to go to war. Several of the ladies took their sewing machines to the hotel to assist in making the soldiers' clothes. Everybody came and worked that could, and the building became a hive of industry. Many overcoats were made of enamelled cloth, even tents wereitched up. The Independent Co (The U.S. E) wore tall chargers with red and white plumes, and the Lafayette blue and white, it was decided that all should wear soft black hats with black plumes, so all the ladies gave the feathers from their hats, so general was it that girls were ashamed to be seen with a black plume.

Josephine B. Hoth