



**Captain Thomas Sword's House**  
Fort Scott National Historic Site



**Marmaton Makes Waves**  
On north Highway 69, the Marmaton River reaches near crest level - October 3, 1986.

## High Water Saves Fort Scott From Total Destruction In 1861

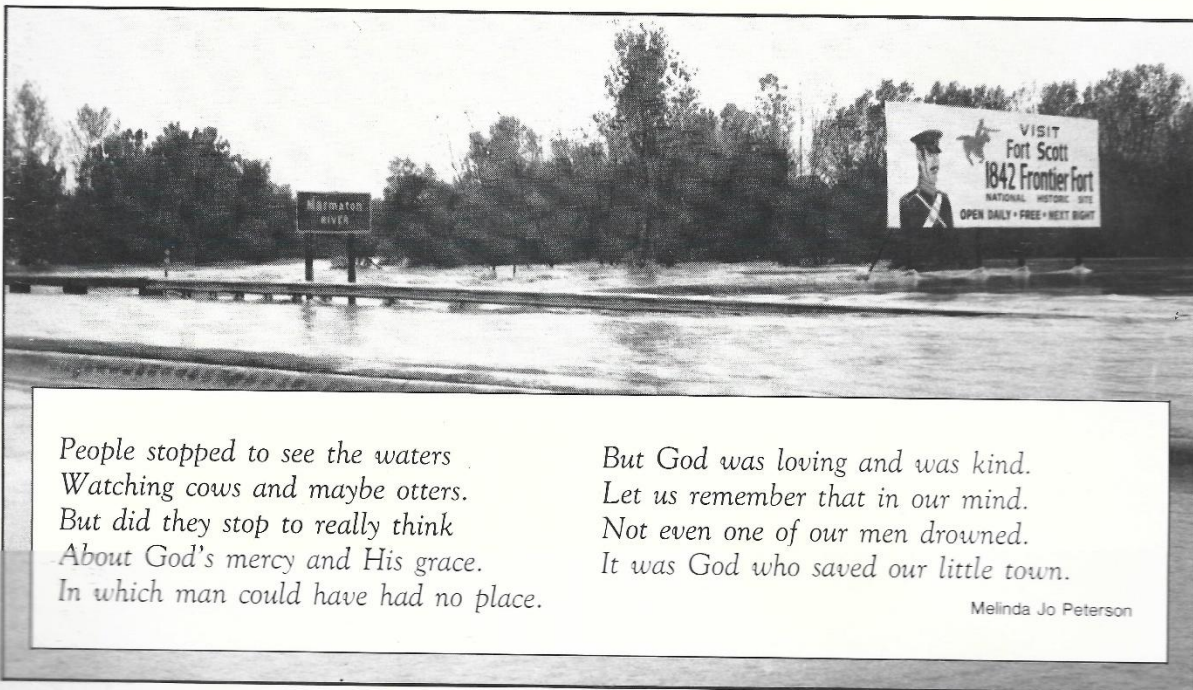
During the first week of September in 1861, four nights of rain raised the level of the Drywood River in Missouri and discouraged Confederate Major Sterling Price from ordering an attack on Fort Scott. If the confederates had attacked Fort Scott, the Federal Cavalry was ordered to burn the evacuated city to prevent it from being captured by the enemy.

Arnold W. Schofield  
Historian

## Rain Storm Protects Fort Scott

*"On the 1st of September General Raines with his division approached within twelve miles of Fort Scott, on the south east, and a scouting party came within two miles of town and captured a corral full of mules, and drove in Lane's pickets. A force of 500 cavalry with one 12 pound howitzer, was sent out the next day... The entire force waited on the crest of the hill until night for the expected attack of General Raines. About dark a raging thunderstorm-which follows after all great battles-came up and the boys, concluding that it would affect the rebels just as it did them, returned to town and sought shelter in camp. ...The torch was ready to be applied to every building in town of the first appearance of the rebel troops... But they did not appear. General Raines was at that moment making a forced march on Lexington, Missouri, by an order that day received from General Price, and Fort Scott thus escaped utter annihilation."*

Robley's History of Bourbon County  
Pages 169-171



*People stopped to see the waters  
Watching cows and maybe otters.  
But did they stop to really think  
About God's mercy and His grace.  
In which man could have had no place.*

*But God was loving and was kind.  
Let us remember that in our mind.  
Not even one of our men drowned.  
It was God who saved our little town.*

Melinda Jo Peterson