



In Fraternity,
Charity and
Loyalty

Lest We Forget

A publication of the Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp, #443, and dedicated to the memory of those who fought to preserve the Union, 1861-1865

Volume 1, Issue 1

Oct. 28, 2021



The 9th Illinois at Shiloh,
Tennessee, on April 6,
1862. Despite taking heavy
casualties they held General
Grant's left flank.

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From the Editor

First chartered in 1884 as a camp of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp, #443 is one of 10 camps in the Department of Illinois. The camp was chartered as part of the SUVCW in 1996. However, it is the only representation for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) in southern Illinois that has a population of more than one million people.

Like the camp itself, a Hecker Camp newsletter is not new. However, *Lest We Forget* is a new vision, and an effort to continue the tradition of providing camp members, as well as others interested in maintaining our history, news about the SUVCW, our treasured American history, as well as what we can all do to help preserve and honor the memories of the Americans, like those pictured above, who sacrificed to preserve our Union so many years ago. This newsletter is only one of several media forms available to you to receive news and information about the order, its members, our preservation efforts and how to join.

The SUVCW is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of heroes who fought and worked to save the Union. In 1881 the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) to carry on its traditions and memory long after the GAR had ceased to exist. It became the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in name in 1925.

Today, the SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the GAR, first founded in 1866. More about the organization's history is [here](#). The Hecker Camp history is [here](#). With this initial issue, we hope you are intrigued and encouraged to share this newsletter with anyone you feel may have an interest. It is also free to subscribe. Just email lestweforget1861@outlook.com.

Trivia #1

What was the approximate population of the United States at the beginning of the Civil War?

- a. 18.5 million
- b. 31.5 million
- c. 9 million
- d. 21 million

Want the answer? Find the second trivia question.



Lest We Forget is a publication of the Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). It is the only SUVCW Camp south of Springfield, Illinois, covering the "Little Egypt" part of the state.

For more information about the camp and how to become a member, please visit the Website at:

<http://www.heckercamp443.us/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ColFriedrichKHecker-Campsuvcw/about/?ref=page_internal

You may also send a message to heckerinfo@charter.net.

More about the SUVCW is here: www.suvcw.org

Camp Commander: Brother David Wildermuth

Sr. Vice Commander: Brother Russel Schleicher

Jr. Vice Commander: Brother John Stanton

Secretary: Brother Justin Ottolini

Treasurer: Brother Richard Piper

Editor: Brother Gerald Sonnenberg

For submissions or to subscribe to the newsletter, email:

lestweforget1861@outlook.com.

On the cover: *Plenty of Fighting Today - The 9th Illinois at Shiloh* by Keith Rocco. This image was cropped to fit the cover and is a public domain depiction of the 9th Illinois at Shiloh, Tennessee, on April 6, 1862 during the Battle of Shiloh. See the whole image on page 11.

Commander's Corner



*By Dave Wildermuth
Camp Commander*

Brethren of Hecker Camp, greetings from your commander. My hopes and prayers are that you and your family are all healthy. I'd like to welcome back our camp newsletter, and welcome aboard Gerald Sonnenberg as the new editor.

Yes, it has been a few years since our last newsletter was published and thanks to all the great work Brother Bob Morhman had done on that award winning newsletter. Now, with a new remake and online access to submit articles and news about our members, we can have better communication within our camp. Please fill-out your profile forms and submit

articles to share.

During the last two years, we have seen a lot of changes in our lives with this COVID-19 pandemic. For our brother's safety I cancelled several meetings and events for our camp. We have also seen the loss of three of our Camp Brothers.

Lewis Haines of Troy, Illinois — I never met Lewis, but he had a long service in the Air Force and served two tours during the Vietnam War, as well as in the Air National Guard until his retirement in 1988 as a lieutenant colonel. After retirement, he flew as a commercial pilot. He had a passion for the breeding and training of horses. He passed away on March 13.

William Jacobus of Belleville, Illinois — Bill served in the Army during the Korean War as a staff sergeant. Fortunately, I did get to meet Bill. He would always want to carry the national colors at the Belleville Memorial Day Parade. One year the temperature was extremely high, so Camp Commander (CC) Garry Ladd decided to follow with a backup vehicle just in case. Myself, Past Camp Commander (PCC) Russell Schleicher and Bill served as color guard. About ¾ the way in the parade, Russell and I, both with bad knees,



Lewis Haines

were ready to fall out. All it took was to look at Bill smiling away with pride carrying our Nation's colors, to keep us going all the way to the end.

At the time, Bill was over 80-years old. He was hard of hearing and could not drive as time went on, so a few of us would see that he got to our camp barbecue and banquet. One more shared memory of Bill is at a dedication held at Messinger Cemetery in Swansea, Illinois. We were there to dedicate a memorial to several Civil War and World War I Veterans, as well as one Black Hawk War Veteran buried there. He didn't own a uniform, but PCC Ladd gave him a kepi hat and PCC Zelinske fitted him with a Great Coat to wear. Both of us didn't have rifles, so PCC Zelinske also furnished them to us. We were practicing for honor guard when PCC Zelinske decided to change our direction to the left instead of the right. Bill was on the far right of the line with me next to him. We turned to the right and marched off opposite the others. Oh well, I still don't know my right from left. He passed away on March 18.

Robert Koerber of Freeburg, Illinois — Bob served in the military, but it's unknown when he served and in what Branch. He served as fire chief of Freeburg and was a member of the Freeburg Historical Society. He served as Camp Guard for



Bob Koerber

Bill Jacobus (center) at a past Belleville Memorial Day parade.



Continued on page 4 ...



Elections, allied organizations, Missouri at 200 part of 2021 national encampment

By Gerald Sonnenberg, Editor

ST. LOUIS - The annual gathering of Brothers of the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) took place in St. Louis, Missouri Aug. 5-8 to handle business and elect new officers of the order. More than 168 members from across the nation attended the event that was hosted by the SUVCW's Department of Missouri.



Not only was this the 140th National Encampment, it was also an opportunity to celebrate the coming together of allied organizations. The 2021 Allied Order of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) included the Sons of Veterans Reserve; the 139th meeting of the Women's Relief Corps;

the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; and the 135th meeting of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW.

The encampment included business meetings and elections of new officers.

Continued on page 5 ...

Commander's Corner continued ...

several years. One fun memory of him was at every dinner that our camp had he was there to make sure we served on time and had plenty of cookies afterward. I try to make well-being check phone calls. Bob would have trouble getting his email, so come meeting night, I would try to call him to remind him. Unfortunately, I was unable to check on him to remind him about our upcoming meeting, just before he passed July 22.

Camp Projects

Fairview Heights Plaque — Plaque is delivered, and they have refurbished and installed it (story on page 6). Dedication is scheduled for Oct. 30 at 10 a.m.

Worden Project — Forms are filled out by the family. We just need to have the cemetery sign off, then I will send to VA. We are requesting a medallion for one grave, and a replacement stone for the other

grave. I will be asking for volunteers to set a new stone when it arrives. We will be looking to dedicate both sometime next Spring. More details to come later.

Highland Project — This project is on hold for now.

Walnut Hill Monument Restoration Project — Committee is working on a proposal. Hopefully, next year we can get the fundraising going.

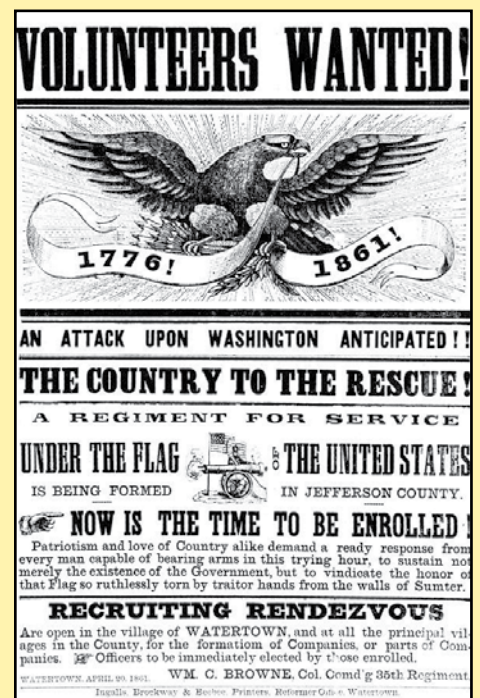


2022 Officer Elections

During this November's meeting, we will be electing our new officers.

2021 Camp Banquet

The banquet is scheduled for Nov. 13 at Creehan's in Belleville. Invites will be sent.



Welcome to our New Camp

Members Over the Last Two Years

Kerry Koen, Boca Raton, Florida; Gerald Sonnenberg, Belleville, Illinois; Jacob Rose, Highland, Illinois; Robert Herzog, Pomona, Illinois; William Bishop, Litchfield Park, Arizona; Ron Lakin, Freeburg, Illinois.



(Left) Jeffrey D. Kennedy, SUVCW Oklahoma department commander, stands at attention during a short break of the SUVCW Business Meeting Aug. 7. Kennedy is the descendant of a Great, great grandfather who served with the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War and Native Americans of the Chickasaw and Muscogee (Creek) nations who arrived in Oklahoma Territory via the Trail of Tears. (Above) Members of the Illinois Department pose during a business meeting break. Included are Hecker Camp members Gerald Sonnenberg (second from left) and Dave Wildermuth (third from left). (Top left to right) The SUVCW Illinois display and color guard.

Encampment continued ...

The newly elected include Commander-in-Chief Michael A. Paquette, PDC; Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Bruce D. Frail, PDC; Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Peter J. Hritsko, Jr.; National Secretary Jonathan C. Davis, PDC; National Treasurer D. Michael Beard, PDC; and National Quartermaster James L. Lyon. Elected to the Council of Administration were Joseph S. Hall, Jr., PDC; Shane Milburn, PDC; Harry W. Reineke IV, PDC; Kevin L.

Martin, PDC; Kevin P. Tucker, PDC; Brian C. Pierson, PCinC; Council of Administration (Non-Voting) *Banner* Editor James B. Pahl, PCinC, banner@suvcw.org; National Signals Officer Tim McCoy; and National Headquarters Executive Director David W. Demmy, Sr.

Attendees also had the opportunity to take tours and enjoy what the St. Louis area has to offer as 2021 is also the 200th anniversary of the State of Missouri. Attendees toured the

Missouri Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks; the Daniel and Morgan Boone Home in Defiance, Missouri and the Montelle Winery in Augusta, Missouri, as well as other locations.

In a letter from Gary Scheel, Department of Missouri commander, he said, "Your presence at this encampment has brought honor to those proud Veterans in the Grand Army of the Republic and our ancestors who served during the American Civil War."

Old marker sees new life in Fairview Heights

By Dave Wildermuth
Camp Commander

A few years back, past Hecker Camp Historian Jon Stacy came across this marker in Greenwood Cemetery, Fairview Heights, Illinois, off Old Lincoln Trail. The marker was at the bottom portion of the cemetery in a flood plain, with several large trees around it. Damage occurred to this sandstone-style marker from tree branches falling on it. After talking to the cemetery owner and performing some research, it is unknown when or by whom this marker was placed.

Having no plaque on it, the National S.U.V.C.W. Monument Committee believes this was a section marker. The marker has several markings and emblems: one each for the Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish American War Veterans, and the American Legion. This marker is thought to have been placed after World War I in the section called the "soldiers plot," which consists of only a few graves.

Greenwood Cemetery was founded in 1901 with several Civil War Veterans buried throughout. The City of Fairview Heights did not incorporate until 1969. Instead, this region

was made up of several small communities along the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) railroad and Old Vincennes Trail, but mostly farm land and a prairie called "Ridge Prairie." Cemeteries like this one were located on the Bluffs above the Mississippi River bottom to protect them from being in a flood plain.

To protect it from further damage, the owners of the cemetery and City of Fairview Heights were asked if it could be moved to the Veterans Memorial at City Hall. All agreed, and research began to see what the cost would be to remove, refurbish, relocate and properly mark it as a monument. The total



(Photo left) The monument reads, "Dedicated to all military Veterans from the area who served during the American Civil War and Spanish American War."



(Above and left) The newly refurbished marker is lifted from a truck and placed in its permanent spot. (Photos by Dave Wildermuth)

cost would be nearly \$1,000, and our camp committed to covering the cost, with assistance from the Department of Illinois Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) for the cost of the plaque. This marker was removed July 23 and taken to Lager Monument in Breese, Illinois for refurbishment and plaque mounting.

On Thursday, Sept. 30, the "monument" was relocated to its new location in front of the City of Fairview Heights City Hall on the Veterans Plaza area. Previously, the only Veteran Memorials located there only went as far back as WWI. This new monument will be dedicated to Veterans of the American Civil War and Spanish American War who were born, lived, died and are buried in the area of modern day Fairview Heights.

Col. Friedrich K. Hecker Camp #443, SUVCW, plans to dedicate this new monument into a memorial Saturday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m.

Thanks go out to the Brothers of Hecker Camp, Greenwood Cemetery Owners, City of Fairview Heights, Lager Monument and The Department of Illinois SUVCW.

Around the Community

Remembering U.S. Grant

On July 24 at the U.S. Grant National Historic Site at Whitehaven in St. Louis, Missouri, members of the 17th Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company G reenactment group, and others gathered for a Death Day Observance of former President and Union General Ulysses S. Grant. It was hosted by the National Parks Service, U.S. Grant Camp #68, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Missouri and Julia Dent Grant Tent #16 Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The honor guard was led by Greg Zelinske, PCC of Hecker Camp #443 Dept. of Illinois, who also serves as captain of the 17th Missouri, (pictured far right). (Photo by Dave Wildermuth)



Trivia #2

The answer to Trivia #1 is 31.5 million.

Next question:

What was the approximate white population of the states that seceded?

- a. 9 million
- b. 3 million
- c. 18.5 million
- d. 5.5 million

Want the answer? Find the third trivia question.



Belleville Museum Day

Hecker Camp #443 members (in uniform, left to right) John Stanton, Dave Wildermuth and Richard Piper, participate in Belleville Museum day at the Gustave Koerner House. Koerner helped organize an infantry unit, served on the staff of General John Fremont and advised Illinois Governor Richard Yates during the war. (Courtesy photo)

Historic preservation key to membership

By Gerald Sonnenberg, Editor

My name is Gerald Sonnenberg, and I was born in Enid, Oklahoma in 1963. For most of my life, I have felt a tremendous pride about being an Okie, as well as my family heritage. I have a liberal arts degree in general history, and over the last few years, and with the advent of ancestry websites, this interest has become a minor obsession. My ongoing journey helped me decide to join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) a little over one year ago.

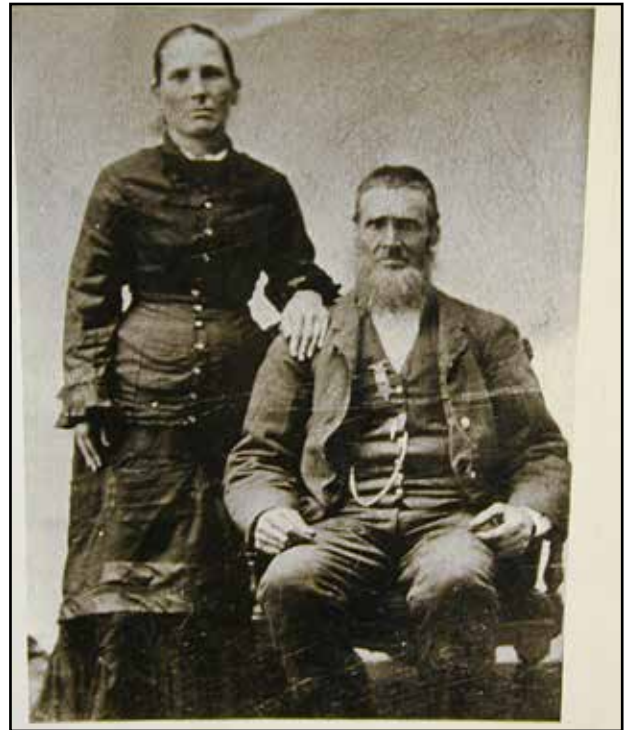
I've always been told I'm, essentially, an American mutt, and I'm proud of it. My research helped confirm my mother's percentages pretty closely with a DNA sample. I'm 30% German, 30% Norwegian, 30% Swedish and Danish with the rest a mix of English, Irish, Scottish, Dutch and Czech.

My father's grandparents emigrated to the U.S. in the 1890s from Germany and Norway. However, my mother's side provided the connection to the American Civil War and more. So far, I have been able to connect more than 750 relatives on both sides through 13 generations of mostly farmers and laborers. On my mother's side, my 9th great grandfather, Stephen Hopkins, arrived on the Mayflower in 1620. It is from him, and through his daughter Deborah and through succeeding gen-

erations to my 3rd great grandmother Sarah Jane Morton, that my civil war ancestor came to be.

Grandma Sarah married Henry Livingston, a wagon maker, whose own immediate ancestors are still a mystery. They settled in Pennsylvania and had six children. My great great grandfather David Ralston Livingston was born in 1831 in the western Pennsylvania town of Blairsville, and he is Henry and Sarah's youngest son. David enlisted in 1862 into the 102nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI) and was mustered in at Mansfield Ohio. He served until the end of the war, and I don't know much about his service other than the lengthy list of places the 102nd was stationed. He also had two older brothers and a nephew enlist into the reorganized, 3-year 60th OVI Regiment at Gallipolis, Ohio in 1864. One of the brothers, James, was part of the original 60th OVI when it was a 1-year regiment and surrendered to Confederates at Harpers Ferry, Virginia in 1862, and was then paroled. After enlisting in the reformed 60th OVI, he died from injuries later that year on board the U.S.S. Connecticut after being wounded in the leg outside Petersburg, Virginia, and after undergoing an amputation up to his hip. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

My connection to the Civil War is clear, but why join the SUVCW? Great, great grandpa David was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). But deeper than that, my wife and I were assigned to Scott AFB, Illinois in 1995 along with our three sons, and we have both since retired from the military with 20 and 31 years respectively. Having spent more than half

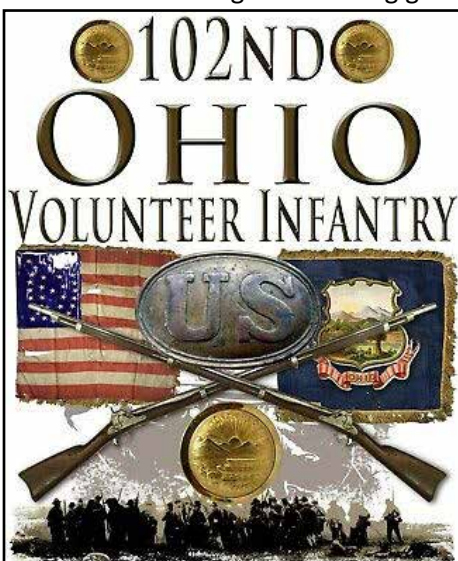


(Pictured left to right) Sarah and David Livingston in Cashion, Oklahoma in the late 1800s. Note David's GAR medal on his right lapel. (Courtesy photo)

my life in the military and now working for the Department of Veterans Affairs, along with my love of history and this nation, it seems natural to want to do something to help preserve, not only my family's legacy, but that of the United States. Historical preservation is my biggest reason for joining the SUVCW.

My promise to support and defend the Constitution didn't end with my retirement from the Air Force. I made a lifetime commitment. In the military I served for four years as an Air Force security policeman, then 23 years as a journalist and editor. My last specialty was as a historian for four years. I'm donating my skills to this camp and the Order to do what I can to help this camp and organization endure in a time when many misguided countrymen want to destroy our history instead of learning from it.

Though I never met him, I hope that with each contribution I make, as well as the times I wear the uniform, I make my grandpa David proud.



If these walls could talk;

Touring the Battle of Franklin Battlefield

The Battle of Franklin by the Numbers

Forces engaged:
30,000 Union and
33,000 Confederate

Casualties
2,326 Union
6,252 Confederate

By Gerald Sonnenberg, Editor

During a recent vacation to Florida, we stopped at the Carter Farm and House in Franklin, Tennessee. This was my second trip to the site which sat in the center of one of the largest battles of the Civil War. Nov. 30 will mark the 157th anniversary of this clash between the Union Army of the Ohio and the Confederate Army of Tennessee.

It's a beautiful area of gently rolling farm land. At the time of the battle, the farm lay on the outskirts of the town and was the backdrop for the center of the Union defensive line. The rebels approached from the south.

One of the things that struck me most was the human toll of men who fought, as well as on the Carter family itself. Sixteen relatives (mostly children) huddled in the cellar of the home during the length of the battle. Hand-to-hand fighting occurred in the yard among the structures that stand

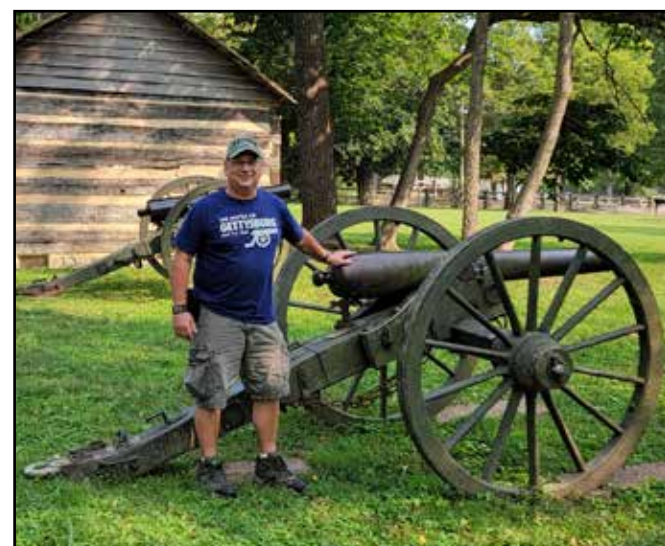


(Pictured top) The south-facing wall of the farm office is littered with the bullet holes from Confederates during the assault. (above) The farm office (white) sits next to the brick smokehouse, while the back porch of the Carter family home is to the right. Approximately 1,100 bullet holes and impacts cover the two structures. (Photos by Gerald Sonnenberg)

to this day. Then there was the loss of Confederate Captain Tod Carter. Shot nine times during the Rebel assault, he succumbed to his wounds two days

later in the parlor of his own home in the presence of his parents and other

Continued on page 10 ...



(Photo, top left) A view from the back porch of the Carter house looking west. The yard was the scene of fierce hand-to-hand fighting after rebels temporarily breached the Union line. In view (left to right) is the smokehouse, a slave cabin that was moved to the property in recent years, and the summer kitchen. (Photo, top right) bullet holes still scar the south-facing wall on the porch. (Photo, left) A view of the home, summer kitchen and yard. The Union defensive line is to the right. (Photo, above) The author next to artillery pieces representing Union artillery at their positions during the battle pointing toward the Confederate assault from the south. (Photos by Denise Sonnenberg)

family. Finally, the bullet holes in the south-facing walls of the farm office and smokehouse, as well as the home itself, display the ferocity of the Confederate assault.

What led to the battle was an effort by Confederate General John Bell Hood and his 33,000-man army to divert Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's attention, after the fall of Atlanta on Sept. 2, 1864 to Union forces, by threatening his supply base at Nashville. Sherman, instead, dispatched Maj. Gen. John Schofield's Army of the Ohio, 30,000 strong, to protect Nashville, while the rest of Sherman's army left their supply line behind and marched toward Savannah, Georgia beginning infamous march to the sea.

Twenty-five thousand Union soldiers under Maj. Gen. George Thomas were entrenched in Nashville. If Schofield could reach them before Hood, he would command a numerical advantage on the battlefield. Hood's hopes for a successful campaign rested on defeating Schofield before the two forces joined.

After a missed opportunity at the Battle of Spring Hill on Nov. 29, Hood pursued Schofield to Franklin, where the Confederate general led an assault on Nov. 30.

The scale of the Confederate charge at Franklin rivaled that of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, but the Confederate attack was larger and covered more distance at Franklin. The action

resulted in a disastrous defeat for the South in manpower, and Hood failed to prevent the Union army from advancing to Nashville.

This Union victory devastated the Army of Tennessee, and the charge of 20,000 Confederates toward the waiting Union troops resulted in the loss of more than 6,000 Confederates, along with six generals and many other top commanders. The fighting force of the South's Army of Tennessee was severely diminished, but Hood continued to chase Union General Schofield to Nashville.

Please feel free to submit your own travel photos of historic places to lestweforget@outlook.com.



Complete image from the cover:

Plenty of Fighting Today - *The 9th Illinois at Shiloh* by Keith Rocco. This image is a depiction of the 9th Illinois at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, on April 6, 1862. The regiment was originally organized in 1809. In 1861, the 9th Illinois Infantry responded immediately to the call of President Lincoln, who served as a company commander in the regiment during the Black Hawk War. Many of those who mustered in were German immigrants.

The 9th was at Shiloh when the Confederate Army of the Mississippi struck at dawn. Some Union regiments fled in panic as Major General U.S. Grant ordered his division commanders to hold at all costs.

Sent to reinforce the Union left, the 9th was told, "There is going to be plenty of fighting today; there must be no cowards." South of the Peach

Orchard, the regiment was ordered to a tree-choked ravine, and found themselves in a race with Confederates for the same natural barrier. The 9th got there first. Confederate commander Albert Sidney Johnston remarked on the Illinois regiment's "stubborn stand" as the 9th Arkansas and 29th Tennessee joined the fight. Finally, renewed attacks collapsed the 12th and 15th Illinois on the 9th's flanks, and with their dead and wounded thick on the ground, the regiment had to withdraw.

The 9th suffered 103 killed and 258 wounded on Shiloh's first day; one of the highest totals of the entire Civil War. Their 90-minute stand helped save Grant's left and prepared the way for the great Union counterattack the next day. The proud heritage of the 9th Illinois is carried on today by the 130th Infantry Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard.

Trivia #3

The answer to question #2 is 5.5 million.

What was the approximate black population in the seceded states?

- a. 3.5 million
- b. 800,000
- c. 1.2 million
- d. 6 million

The answer is 3.5 million

Thank you to Brother Greg Zelinski, PCC for the trivia questions.

