

RSVP



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, April 20th, 2026 | **RSVP:** kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp

Social Time: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM | **Address:** 1801 Newtown Pike



Stuart W. Sanders will be speaking about his book *Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence*, which examines a duel fought with Colt Revolving Rifles near Maysville, Kentucky, in 1862 between a Union colonel and a pro-Confederate civilian. Sanders' book examines the secession crisis and how violence changed in Kentucky after the Civil War through the lens of this bloody affair of honor.

Stuart W. Sanders is the author of five books, including *Perryville Under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky's Largest Civil War Battle*; *The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky*; *Maney's Confederate Brigade at the Battle of Perryville*; *Murder on the Ohio Belle*; and *Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence*. Sanders has also contributed multiple chapters to Civil War anthologies and has written dozens of articles and op-eds about Civil War and Kentucky history.

He is the former executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association and has worked in the public history field in Kentucky for three decades. His great-grandfather, the Rev. Robert Stuart Sanders, was one of the first members of the Kentucky Civil War Round Table. ■



PRESIDENT'S REPORT | BILL FARMER, JR.

Members of the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable, greetings from the almost beginning of Spring...Racing in the Bluegrass can't be far behind! The March meeting was a groundbreaking success as our speaker appeared via Zoom marking a first for our group! While we missed having him right there with us, we were able to carry on and enjoy the warmth of our fellowship.

The Speakers Committee continues to do crackerjack work, and our next few speakers and topics will make great presentations. Embassy Suites continues to provide fine meals and with a coffee and dessert station, all appreciate that amenity! The renovations are still underway, but our meeting area has been completed and looks updated and fresh.

Our ranks continue to thin a bit, making it important for you to attend and even more important to bring a guest or two! The younger the better! All officers are open to meeting or speaker thoughts and suggestions. Reach out to any of us. You'll find our contact information in every newsletter or on our website.

Let me encourage you to be with us for our next meeting on Monday, April 20th. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 15th.

Enjoy the beauty that this season in the Bluegrass can be. Many thanks and my best,

Bill Farmer, Jr.

PRESIDENT

Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.
[drawn by an Officer of Major Anderson's Command.]
Harper's Weekly March 23, 1861.

RIDINGS' TIDINGS

EDITOR'S REPORT
GEORGE NELSON RIDINGS



Sumter to Shiloh: Kentucky & Kentuckians During the First Year of War

PART TWO – ACTIONS IN KENTUCKY (APRIL – EARLY OCTOBER, 1861)

Kentucky's central geographical location and status as one of the border slaveholding states that did not formally join the Confederacy meant that it would play an important role in the conflict. The war years saw these differing loyalties divide families and create bloodshed across the state between individuals and small partisan groups, in addition to the formal fighting between the formal military units and organizations that entered Kentucky and that we will highlight over the next few issues.

Our next two speakers, Stuart Sanders and Derrick Lindow, will share aspects of the informal violence and fighting in their programs...be sure to mark your calendars and join us on April 20 and June 1!

The March 2026 article was an overview of Kentucky's diverse factions and the range of views on secession and slavery and Union in the Commonwealth before the election of 1860 and after the fighting began in 1861. The first portion of this continuing series will focus on significant actions across Kentucky and the second portion will focus on significant leaders on both sides with Kentucky connections and their early actions – from Sumter to Shiloh.

All battle summaries are excerpted from the National Park Service Civil War Sites Advisory Commission website here, unless otherwise indicated:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20070816042913/http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/battles/bystate.htm#ky>

Two listings of Kentucky's Civil War battles:
<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/kentucky.htm>

[https://www.carolana.com/NC/Civil War/civil war battles skirmishes kentucky.htm](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Civil%20War/civil_war_battles_skirmishes_kentucky.htm)

APRIL 14, 1861

Federal troops commanded by Kentuckian Robert Anderson left Fort Sumter

165 Years ago this month, the first shots of the Civil War were fired in Charleston, South Carolina. This article from the American Battlefield Trust gives the immediate background and context to what happened at Fort Sumter: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/problem-charleston-harbor>

And here are excerpts of the American Battlefield Trust Summary of the Battle:

“April 12. At 4:30 a.m., a flaming mortar shot arcs into the air and explodes over Fort Sumter. On this signal, Confederate guns from fortifications and floating batteries around Charleston Harbor roar to life. Outmanned, outgunned, undersupplied, and nearly surrounded by enemy batteries,

SUMTER TO SHILOH: PART 2 CONTINUED

Anderson waits until around 7:00 a.m. to respond...for nearly 36 hours the two sides keep up this unequal contest...buildings begin to burn within the fort. With no more resources, Anderson surrenders Fort Sumter to Confederate forces.

April 13. At 2:30 p.m., Maj. Anderson and his men strike their colors and prepare to leave the fort. Sadly, the only casualties at Fort Sumter come during the 100-gun salute, when a round explodes prematurely, killing Pvt. Daniel Hough and mortally wounding another soldier. The attack is over, but the war had just begun.

Following the evacuation of Major Robert Anderson and his Federal garrison on the afternoon of April 14, 1861, Fort Sumter is occupied initially by Confederate troops...(and) the fort remains in Confederate hands for the next four years until all Confederate forces evacuate Charleston on the evening of February 17, 1865.”

Source: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/fort-sumter>

S.S. BALTIC. OFF SANDY HOOK APR. EIGHTEENTH. TEN THIRTY A.M. .VIA
NEW YORK. . HON. S. CAMERON, SECY. WAR. WASHN. HAVING DEFENDED
FORT SUMTER FOR THIRTY FOUR HOURS UNTIL THE QUARTERS WERE EN
TIRELY BURNED THE MAIN GATES DESTROYED BY FIRE. THE GORGE WALLS
SERIOUSLY INJURED. THE MAGAZINE SURROUNDED BY FLAMES AND ITS
DOOR CLOSED FROM THE EFFECTS OF HEAT .FOUR BARRELS AND THREE
CARTRIDGES OF POWDER ONLY BEING AVAILABLE AND NO PROVISIONS
REMAINING BUT PORK. I ACCEPTED TERMS OF EVACUATION OFFERED BY
GENERAL BEAUREGARD BEING ON SAME OFFERED BY HIM ON THE ELEV
ENTH INST. PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES AND MARCHED
OUT OF THE FORT SUNDAY AFTERNOON THE FOURTEENTH INST. WITH
COLORS FLYING AND DRUMS BEATING. BRINGING AWAY COMPANY AND
PRIVATE PROPERTY AND SALUTING MY FLAG WITH FIFTY GUNS. ROBERT
ANDERSON. MAJOR FIRST ARTILLERY. COMMANDING.



Author took all modern photographs,
unless otherwise indicated.



←
Telegram from (Kentuckian) Maj. Robert Anderson to Hon. Simon Cameron, Secretary, announcing his withdrawal from Fort Sumter, April 18, 1861; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917; Record Group 94; National Archives.

AUGUST 6, 1861

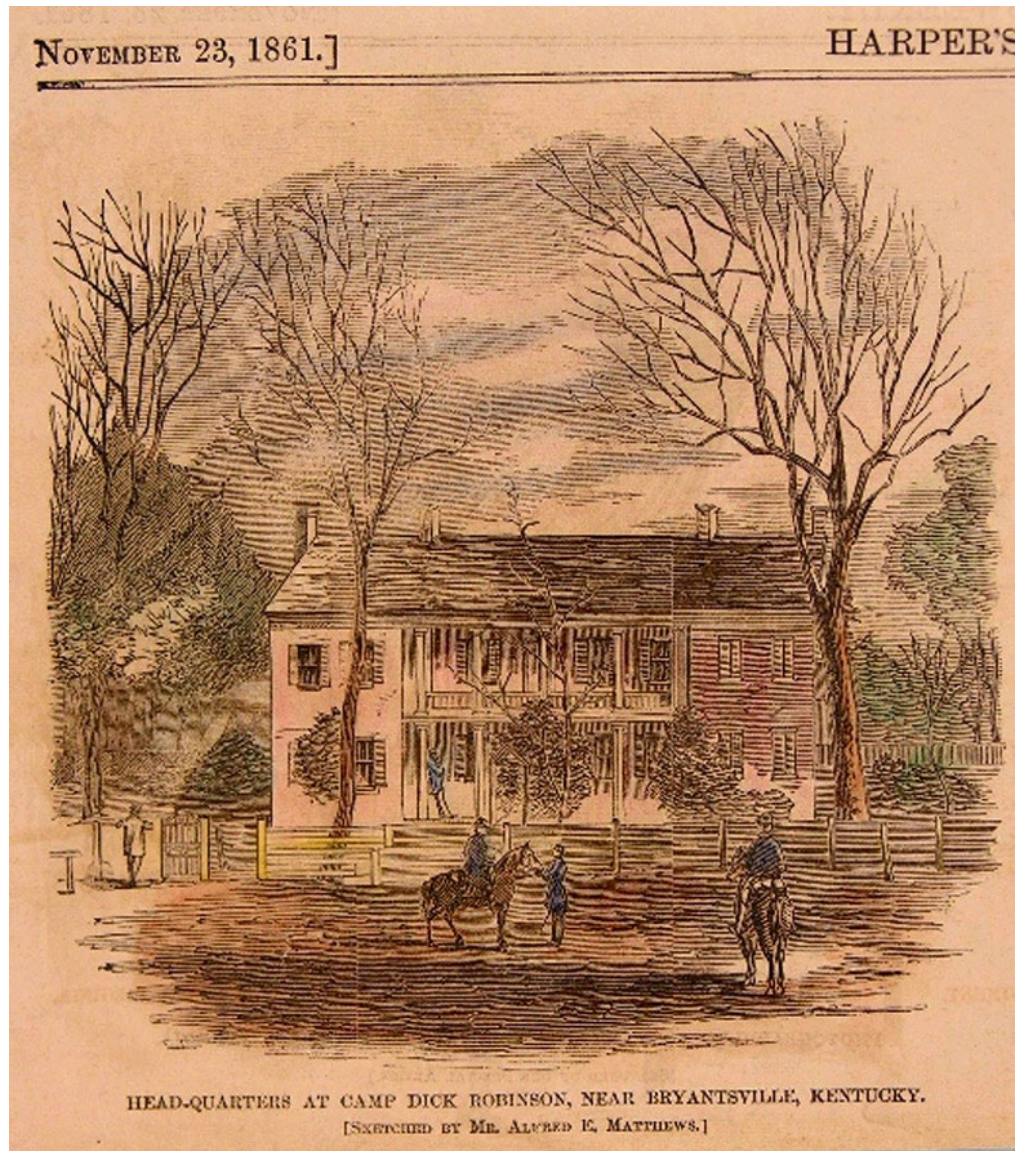
Union recruiting station Camp Dick Robinson opened in Garrard County after Kentucky Congressional elections showed pro-Union results.

“Camp Dick Robinson was a large Union Army organizational and training center located near Lancaster, in Garrard County, Kentucky. The property had been an early 19th-century stagecoach stop called Hoskin’s Crossroads that came into the possession of Captain Richard Robinson in the 1840s. When the Civil War began, Robinson, a staunch Unionist, allowed the Federal government to use his farm as a recruitment station for the Union Army. The camp was established on August 6, 1861, and named Camp Dick Robinson in honor of Captain Robinson.

(Kentuckian) Major General William “Bull” Nelson commissioned (Kentuckians) T. T. Garrard, future governor Thomas Bramlette, and Speed S. Fry as colonels of infantry and W. J. Landrum as a colonel of cavalry and instructed the men to raise Union regiments at the camp. By late August 1861, the colonels had organized the Third, Fourth, and Seventh Kentucky Infantry Regiments, the First Kentucky Cavalry, the First and Second Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and Hewitt’s artillery battery.

In 1861 and 1862, many Union troop maneuvers throughout Kentucky originated at Camp Dick Robinson, including the battles of Camp Wildcat and Mill Springs, and the Cumberland Gap campaign.”

Source: <https://ket.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ket-history-civilwar57/print-head-quarters-at-camp-dick-robinson/>

**SEPTEMBER 3, 1861**

Confederate forces moved into Columbus, Kentucky.

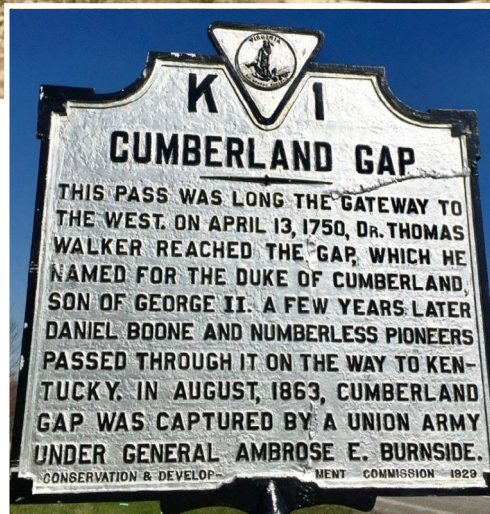
SEPTEMBER 6, 1861

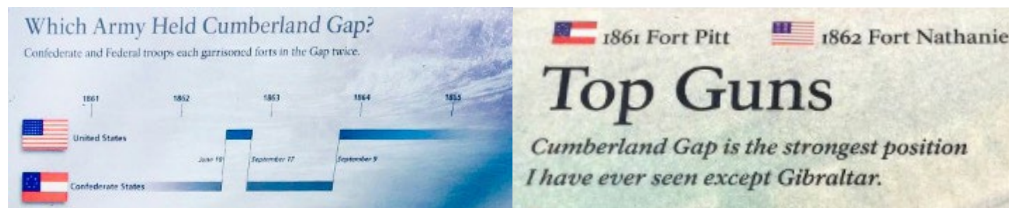
Federal forces moved into Kentucky and occupied the towns where the two rivers that flow from Tennessee into Kentucky enter the Ohio River: Paducah (Tennessee River) and Smithland (Cumberland River.)

SEPTEMBER 14, 1861

Confederate forces moved into Cumberland Gap and held it until June 1862

CUMBERLAND GAP





“[Cumberland Gap] is the roughest place in the world, but we are going to stick the mountain full of cannon to prevent the Lincolnites from crossing.” – Letter of Confederate Soldier, November 1861

SEPTEMBER 18, 1861

Confederate forces occupied Bowling Green.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1861

Fighting at Barbourville (or Barbourville).
 Estimated Casualties: 20 total (US 15; CS 5)
 Result: Confederate victory

Description: Kentucky Union sympathizers trained recruits at Camp Andrew Johnson, in Barbourville, throughout the summer of 1861. Confederate Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer entered Kentucky... (and) on September 18, 1861, he dispatched a force of about 800 men under command of Col. Joel A. Battle to disrupt the training activities at Camp Andrew Johnson. At daylight on the 19th, the force entered Barbourville and found the recruits gone; they had been sent to Camp Dick Robinson. A small home guard force commanded by Kentuckian Capt. Isaac J. Black met the Rebels, and... after dispersing the home guard, the Confederates destroyed the training camp and seized arms found there. This was, for all practical purposes, the first encounter of the war in Kentucky.

Additional reading on the Battle of Barbourville:

CSA Commander Zollicoffer’s Official Record

Report on the battle: https://civilwarnotebook.blogspot.com/2022/04/official-reports-action-at.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

From Historical Marker Database: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=294355>

From Appalachian Historian Blog: <https://appalachian-historian.org/the-battle-of-barbourville-kentuckys-first-clash-of-the-civil-war/>



OCTOBER 10, 1861

Fighting in Barren County.

“Colonel Joseph H. Lewis (Kentuckian) of the 6th KY (CS) Infantry already knew that his men would stand and fight. At least, fourteen of them would. As far back as October 10, 1861, his men shed first blood in Kentucky when the stalwart fourteen, guarding the home of a southern sympathizer in Barren County, fired on a party of Federals, killing one and wounding several more. Thereafter nearly two months passed before another Kentuckian fired his rifle in anger. Breckinridge’s brigade divided its time between training in Bowling Green and occupying Russellville, the Green River crossing, and parts in between.”

– *The Orphan Brigade*, William C. Davis, page 59.

OCTOBER 19, 1861

Harper’s Weekly Article Includes Two Illustrations From and a Map of Kentucky. Source for Map and Text: <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1861/october/kentucky-news.htm>

Source for Two Illustrations: <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collection-features/civil-war-diary/harper-s-weekly-image-gallery>

“THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

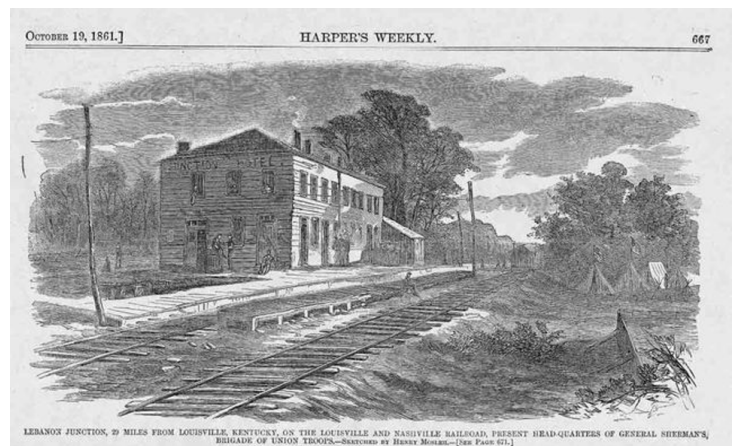
WE continue our series of illustrations of the war in Kentucky with a picture of the ARRIVAL OF THE FORTY-NINTH OHIO AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, on page 668 ; and another of GENERAL SHERMAN’S HEAD-QUARTERS at Lebanon Junction, on the railroad south of Louisville, on page 667: both from sketches by our correspondent, Mr. Henry Mosier.”

“A correspondent of the Tribune thus writes of the camp:

The States of Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois have sent many regiments and parts of regiments to the United States encampment south of this city, on the railroad. I have not been able to preserve any regular estimate of the number, having been absent part of time time. But I can scarcely be far wrong in saying that there are 12,000 to 15,000 men under command of General Sherman, including Home Guards. The force may exceed my estimate.”



Grave of Home Guard (US) Commander Isaac Black in Knox County, KY, image from FindAGrave website: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57887163/isaac_jones-black/photo



“The reception of the Forty-Ninth Ohio at Louisville is thus described in the Louisville Journal:

A detachment of Ohio troops, under the command of Colonel Gibson, passed through the city this morning on their way to the seat of war on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. They paraded our streets, and their appearance was warmly greeted by the Union men and women of Louisville. They paid their compliments to General Anderson at the Louisville Hotel, who appeared on the balcony, and, in a few feeling and eloquent remarks, thanked them for the compliment and welcomed them to Kentucky. He told them that they had come at a time when Kentucky needed their services, and that every true Kentuckian would properly and truly appreciate their motives in coming among us.

The response of Colonel Gibson was most touching. He alluded to the gallant manner in which Kentucky had come to the rescue of the frontiers of Ohio in former days, and said that Ohio designs now to show that she had not forgotten those services, but was here with her blood to protect the constitutional rights of her neighbors.

Both General Anderson and Colonel Gibson were warmly applauded at the conclusion of every sentence. The detachment took up the line of march for the Nashville depot, from which point they embarked for General Sherman's head-quarters.”

“OUR MAP OF KENTUCKY, THE southwestern portion of Kentucky and the western portion of Tennessee (of which we publish a Map on page 662) are mountainous; the middle regions are an elevated table-land, through which the rivers run in deep channels, with high precipitous banks. In Kentucky this table-land breaks abruptly at the head-waters of the Salt River and its tributary forks, which drain the plain westward. to the Ohio River. The rise from this plain to the central table-land is about 200



feet, where the Louisville and Nashville Railroad ascends Muldraugh Hill. At this point is a railroad tunnel 1200 feet in length. The railroad bridge over Rolling Fork was burned by the rebels. The Union forces, however, gained possession of the summit, and now hold this strong natural position, which is the key to the fertile and wealthy region of Northern Kentucky.

The Union and Rebel camps are designated on the Map.”

Next Issue: Fighting Continues in Kentucky...

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