

NEW MEETING LOCATION

The Signature Club
of Lansdowne

3256 Lansdowne Dr,
Lexington, KY 40502



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, September 21st, 2026 | **RSVP:** kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp

Social Time: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM | **Address:** 3256 Lansdowne Dr



Appomattox: The Last 48 Hours

Join us in September for this acclaimed and popular program featuring renowned Living Historians Dr. Curt Fields and Thomas Jessee.

As long-time portrayers of Generals Grant and Lee, they have presented nationwide separately and together for many years, and they participated in the official 150th and 160th Anniversary ceremonies at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. They also appear daily in the Park's official visitor center film.

Their full biographies are available on our website, along with links to their joint C-SPAN programs and to Curt's November 2024 KYCWRT program (also filmed for and presented on C-SPAN!)

Bring one or more guests! You won't want to miss this excellent and insightful presentation!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT | BILL FARMER, JR.

Fellow Roundtable Members: Another great KY Civil War Roundtable newsletter. Here's to hyping our September 21st meeting! First off and most important we will be at The Signature Club. Our meeting will be upstairs with an excellent buffet provided by Dupree Catering. I say come early and enjoy some fellowship with members and guests.

Second, the best calling card any Roundtable can have is its programming. Our Speakers Committee is first rate, and the proof will be the program they have lined up for our September meeting. General Grant and General Lee will be with us. It's going to be a special presentation. If

you've ever thought of bringing a guest (or two), this is the perfect time to host and impress.

We have a great Roundtable, and new guests and members are essential to our future. I know there will be room in The Cellar Bar & Grille downstairs before and after our dinner presentation. Let's gather and celebrate another Season of the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable.

Many thanks, and my best,

Bill Farmer, Jr.

PRESIDENT





TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY

We are off to another exciting season with your Kentucky Civil War Roundtable. Compliments to the program team, who have scheduled a can't miss series for the upcoming season. The programs remain top notch and with a new location that should allow growth in new ways.

We still have the 3-tiered membership options, and we ask everyone to consider the importance of your contribution

to the future of this organization. Invoices will be sent out soon and the dues structure is unchanged from previous years. Your Board continues to look for ways to enhance the meetings and to maintain a positive fiscal position. We thank you for your previous giving and here's to a great kickoff for the new season.



SECRETARY'S REPORT | BILL SWINFORD, JR.

I trust everyone has had a good summer. Last month I attended my first Sons of Confederate Veterans National Convention, which was held in town at Marriott Griffin Gate. Anne and I hosted the Executive Director of the SCV and the outgoing President at our home for cocktails. On Saturday I presented the SCV the Camp Flag for Philip Preston Johnston Camp #56, which I displayed at the June 2026 KCWRT meeting (see picture.) It is on permanent loan to the National Confederate Museum operated by the SCV in Columbia, Tennessee. (Also attached are images of the Johnston Kentucky Historical Marker here in Fayette County at 640 Johnston Road, between Paris Pike and Bryan Station Road at an entrance to Gentry Farms.) A future issue will have a feature on Johnston. Follow this link for more on Johnston: www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=202881

At the September 2026 meeting, we will elect new members to the KCWRT Board. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone who is, please bring the name to the attention of an Officer (our email addresses are in this newsletter) before the September 21st meeting or when you check in at the meeting. We have five (5) vacancies to fill.



ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON

Hello Members! I hope you all are enjoying a wonderful summer! Here's the news you need to know for the upcoming meeting:

The meeting is set for Monday, September 21st, 2026, to be held at **The Signature Club located at 3256 Lansdowne Dr, Lexington, KY 40502**. RSVP to me via text, email, phone call or website before **Wednesday, September 16th, 2026, at 4 PM**. You will find my contact information in this Newsletter.

As I wrote in a previous email, the meal cost is now \$40 and will be catered by Dupree Catering. The meal is not mandatory for the meeting. We expect high attendance at this meeting and in order to ensure there will be enough seating for everyone I need you to RSVP regardless of whether you are having the meal. Please be considerate

of your fellow members and RSVP. When you RSVP via email or text, let me know how you want to pay for your meal...online, with a credit card on file or check. Credit card payments will now include a 3.5% convenience fee. This includes dues, meals and guest fees. Guest fees will be \$25 for all non-members unless you are a first time attendee.

Remember a vegetarian option is available as well. Just let me know your preference when you RSVP. When you RSVP, you need to pay for your meal at that time. Please be considerate and follow this procedure so that I don't have to spend time reaching out to you to remind you to pay days before the event.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.





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

PART FOUR: THE FINAL FIGHTING OF 1861 IN KENTUCKY

The Union victories at Camp Wildcat/Wildcat Mountain and Ivy Mountain in October and November 1861 bolstered the morale of Unionist Kentuckians. However, these successes did not signal the end of fighting in the Commonwealth. A few smaller-scale engagements took place in December, setting the stage for the larger battles that happened across Kentucky in 1862. All modern images were taken by author unless otherwise noted.

December 5, 1861

Whippoorwill Creek Bridge

“While ‘Old Joe’ Lewis inflicted the first casualties, it was ‘Uncle Tom’ Hunt’s 5th KY (CS) that felt the first pain of battle, modest though it was. Hunt occupied Russellville early in November, and on December 1 retired to Bowling Green, leaving a detail of thirteen behind to guard the crossing of the Louisville & Memphis Railroad at Whippoorwill Bridge. On December 5, a body of about ninety Home Guards approached, intent upon destroying the bridge. Its defenders made a gallant stand until surrounded, when they surrendered, but not before George Campbell and Hatch Jupin were killed, and Joe Wilson severely wounded. Ironically, theirs was the only blood that the Kentucky Brigade would ever shed on its native soil. The remaining Kentuckians were taken as prisoners, not to be released for nearly a year.”

– From *The Orphan Brigade*, William C. Davis, page 60. Davis will be our November 2026 meeting speaker!

December 16, 1861

To the People of Southeastern Kentucky, A Proclamation by Felix Zollicoffer – Confederate General and TN Congressman issued a letter –

He concluded his message as follows: “The honor of your wives and daughters, your past renown, and the fair name of your posterity, forbid that you should strike for Lincoln

and the abolition of Slavery against those struggling for the rights and independence of your kindred race. Strike with us for independence and the preservation of your property, and those Northern invaders of your soil will soon be driven across the Ohio.”

– F.K. ZOLLICOFFER, Brig.-Gen.

The full message is here: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/people-southeastern-kentucky>

December 17, 1861

Rowlette’s Station or Woodsonville or Green River – “The First Battle for The Bridge”

Estimated Casualties: 131 total (US 40; CS 91)

Description: After Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell took command of the Department of the Ohio in early November, he attempted to consolidate control by organizing and sending troops into the field. He ordered Brig. Gen. Alexander McDowell McCook, commanding the 2nd Division, to Nolin, Kentucky. In the meantime, the Confederates had established a defensive line along the Green River near Munfordville. McCook launched a movement towards the enemy lines on December 10, which the Rebels countered by partially destroying the Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge over the Green River. As a result, the Union sent two companies of the 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment across the river to prevent a surprise and began constructing a pontoon bridge for the passage of trains and artillery. When the bridge was completed on December 17, four more of the 32nd Indiana companies crossed the river. The combined force advanced to a hill south of Woodsonville where, in the afternoon, they spotted enemy troops in the woods fronting them. Two companies advanced toward the enemy in the woods, which fell back until Confederate cavalry attacked. A general engagement ensued as eight Yankee companies fought a much larger Confederate force. Fearing that the enemy might roll up his right flank, (Prussian) Col. August Willich, com-

manding the regiment, ordered a withdrawal to a stronger position in the rear. Knowing of McCook's approach, the Rebels also withdrew from the field. Although the results of the battle were indecisive, Union troops did occupy the area and insured the movement of their men and supplies on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad.

Result(s): Indecisive

This First Battle For The Bridge (the Second was Munfordville, in September 1862) was a small action, but the earliest known Civil War monument that still exists today was created by one of the combatants.

This excellent map was commissioned by Darryl Smith (one of the Principals of The Western Theater In The Civil War) and was created by Edward Alexander.

You can find it in Darryl's two great articles on the battle, which I recommend for learning more about the battle and the men of the 32nd Indiana:

<https://www.westerntheatercivilwar.com/post/the-battle-of-rowlett-s-station>

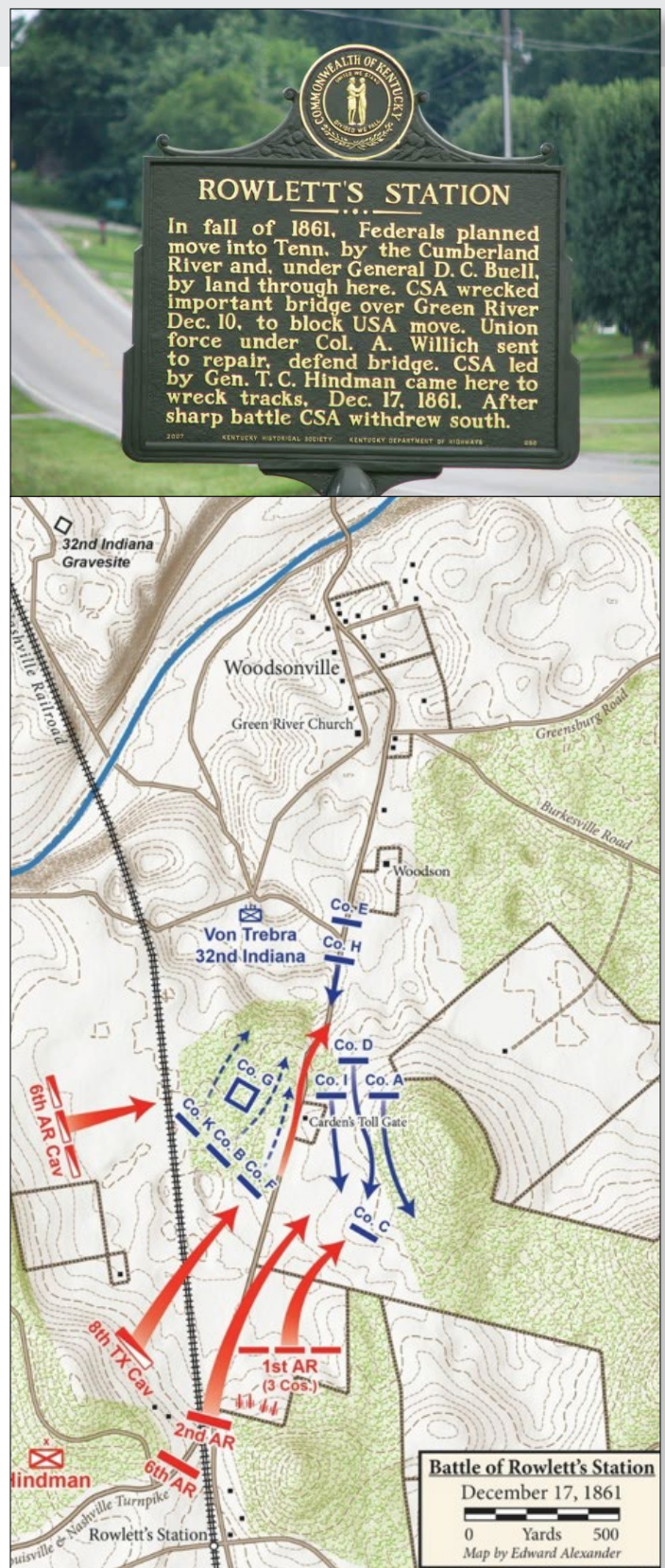
<https://www.westerntheatercivilwar.com/post/the-cincinnati-company-thirty-second-indiana-volunteer-infantry-regiment-at-rowlett-s-station>

The Oldest Existing Civil War Monument – Here In Kentucky

The following information about the monument comes from a very good and in-depth Veterans Administration (National Cemetery Administration) post on the battle and this important monument, as well as the National Cemetery system and more, titled "History of the 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument." The next few paragraphs are excerpts from that article:

"August Bloedner was born in 1827 at Altenburg in the Duchy of Saxe-Altenburg (currently the state of Thuringia), Germany...Bloedner came to the United States in 1849 and may have lived in New York City for a time, before settling in Cincinnati...Bloedner enlisted in the Union Army on August 24, 1861, in Indianapolis for three years as a private, and was assigned to the 32nd Indiana Infantry Regiment.

After the Battle of Rowlett's Station, Bloedner and the 32nd Indiana Infantry bivouacked near Munfordville for approximately two months. During this time, Bloedner carved the 32nd Indiana Monument, and it was installed on the battlefield in late January 1862, marking the remains of those who fell. A fence was installed around the burial site and the monument.



The 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument is carved from St. Genevieve limestone, probably a local outcrop...the monument is inscribed in a fraktur-like script in German with a brief description of the battle, and the names, birth dates, and birthplaces of those who fell. The translated inscription reads:

Here lie men of the 32nd First German Indiana Regiment sacrificed for the free Institutions of the Republic of the United States of North America.

They fell on 17 Dec. 1861, in an Encounter at Rowlett Station, in which 1 Regiment of Texas Rangers, 2 Regiments of Infantry, and 6 Rebel Cannons, in all over 3000 Men, were defeated by 500 German Soldiers.

- Lieut. Max Sachs, born 6 Oct. 1826 in Fraustadt, Prussia
- Rich Wehe, born 28 March 1832 in Leipzig
- Fried. Schumacher, born 14 Jan. 1834 in Harvenfeld, Hannover
- Henry Lohse, born 28 March 1835 in (unreadable)
- Charles Knab, born 6 Feb. 1843 in Münchberg, Bavaria
- John Fellermann, born 12 Jan. 1842 in Menzen, Hannover
- Wm. Staabs, born 16 May 1820 in Coblenz, Prussia
- Gari Kieffer, born 18 Feb. 1817 in Henriville, France
- Christoph Reuter, born 1 Jan. 1818 in Markstedt, Bavaria
- Ernst Schiemann, born 26 Feb. 1826 in Steindorfel, Saxony
- Theodore Schmidt, born 8 Feb. 1839 in Hemkirchen, Hessen-Kassel
- Daniel Schmidt, born 12 March 1834, in Grabowa, Prussia
- George Burkhardt, born 14 Jan. 1844 in Keiselbach, Saxony

Of the 13 names inscribed on the monument, the remains of 11 were buried locally and marked by the 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument. The remains of the other two soldiers were sent to private cemeteries in Cincinnati for burial. Pvt. Max Sachs was buried in Adath Israel Cemetery (now part of Price Hill Cemetery), and Pvt. Theodore Schmidt was buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

In 1867, the remains of the 11 were reinterred at Cave Hill National Cemetery

When the monument was moved to Cave Hill National Cemetery, it was installed on a base of Bedford limestone, with an English inscription that reads: "In memory of the first victims of the 32nd Reg. Indiana Vol. who fell at the Battle of Rowlett's Station, December 17, 1861." At this time, a German inscription was carved above the frieze, reading: "Brought here from Fort Willich, Munfordville, KY and reinterred on 6 June 1867."

<https://www.cem.va.gov/history/Bloedner-Monument.asp>

Preserving the Monument

"August Bloedner carved the monument from St. Genevieve limestone, a type of Indiana limestone that is soft, porous, and no longer used for sculpture or building purposes. By the 1950s, the monument was beginning

to spall. By the early 2000s, approximately 50 percent of the inscription was lost. To preserve what was left of the monument, on December 17, 2008 (the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Rowlett's Station), the National Cemetery Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, removed it to an indoor storage facility at the University of Louisville, where it received professional conservation.

On August 18, 2010, NCA moved the 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument to its new home at the Frazier History Museum, in downtown Louisville.



Replacement Monument Installed at Cave Hill National Cemetery

To continue to honor the soldiers from the 32nd Indiana Infantry buried in Cave Hill National Cemetery, NCA commissioned a new, successor monument to be installed in the location of the original.

Front of successor 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument in Cave Hill National Cemetery, 2011. (Image from VA Cemetery Article quoted here)

NCA dedicated the new successor monument on December 16, 2011, almost 150 years to the day of the Battle of Rowlett's Station. Decedents of the 32nd Indiana Infantry laid a wreath on the monument to honor their ancestors."

The Historical Marker Database pages on the monument in Cave Hill National Cemetery and on the 32nd Indiana are here:

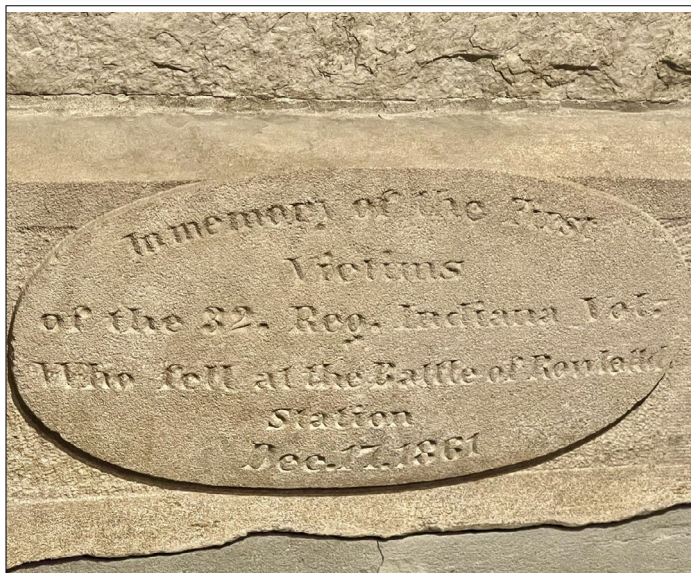
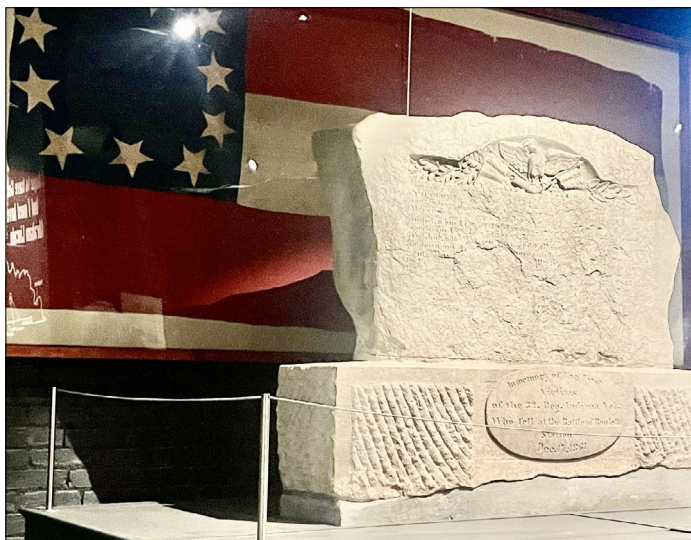
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=245364>

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=29483>

The original monument is preserved and on display in the Frazier History Museum in downtown Louisville, as shown here in recent photos taken by the author.

Here are two Links to Frazier Museum pages on the Monument and other Civil War artifacts in their collection:

<https://www.fraziermuseum.org/civil-war-collections>
<https://www.fraziermuseum.org/exhibitions/common-wealth-divided-we-fall>



Confederate First National Flag, 1861

Possibly the headquarter flag of Kentucky General Gustavus Smith
 Frazier Kentucky History Museum Collection

General Gustavus Smith of Kentucky used this Confederate First National Flag during the Civil War. Born in 1821, Smith became a confederate general by 1861. This flag was handmade in Kentucky and accompanied the General during the campaign at Seven Pines, Virginia.

Note On Oldest Civil War Monuments

The Bloedner Monument was placed before the Hazen Brigade Monument at Stones River, which is acknowledged as the earliest Civil War monument in existence still in the original location. The Bartow Monument at Manassas was installed in 1861, but the monument is lost, marked today by a round stone believed to have been the original base of that monument.



Modern Monument at Rowlett's Station

Seen here is one of two Texas Historical Commission Civil War Markers in Kentucky. This one was installed in 2008, and the other is at Richmond, placed in 2009.

There are currently a total of 20 Texas Civil War Markers marking locations of significant Civil War actions involving Texans. Source: <https://thc.texas.gov/learn/military-history/texas-civil-war>

The Historical Marker Database entry for the Texas Monument (you can read the inscription on both sides at this link) and for Terry's Texas Rangers:

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=250166>

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=250221>

Namesake of Terry's Texas Rangers was a Kentuckian

Because he was born (and died) in Kentucky, a future article will feature more on him, but here is a brief biographical summary of the man for whom Terry's Texas Rangers was named, from the Texas Historical Association:

"Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Terry, organizer and first commander of the Eighth Texas Cavalry (Terry's Texas

Rangers) in the Civil War, was born on February 18, 1821, in Russellville, Kentucky, the son of Joseph R. and Sarah D. (Smith) Terry and the older brother of David Smith Terry. His grandfathers, Nathaniel Terry and David Smith, had been officers in the Revolutionary War, and the latter also served under Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812. While Terry was still a child his parents moved to Mississippi and separated...

On August 12, 1861, Terry and (Thomas) Lubbock issued a call for volunteers that was answered by 1,170 men. The rangers were sworn into service in September... (and were) diverted to Nashville and then later ordered to Bowling Green, Kentucky. Terry was killed in the first battle fought by the rangers near Woodsonville, Kentucky, on December 17, 1861... Terry County was later named in his honor."

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/terry-benjamin-franklin>

Here are links for more on Terry and the Rangers:

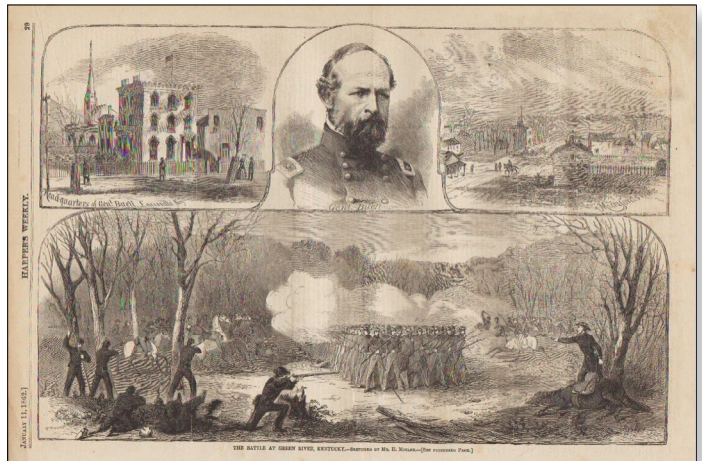
- <http://www.firstbullrun.co.uk/Potomac/Fourth%20Brigade/texas-rangers.html>
- https://txarchives.org/utcah/finding_aids/05567.xml
- <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6839175/benjamin-franklin-terry>
- <https://thereconstructionera.com/terrys-rangers-monument-in-austin-texas/>
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/30234772.pdf>
- <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/48103/48103-h/48103-h.htm>
- <https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/terrys-texas-rangers/>
- <https://warriorsofthelonestar.blogspot.com/2012/12/new-terrys-texas-rangers-exhibit.html>
- Terry's grave marker in HMDB : <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=73487>



Flag of Terry's Texas Rangers in Collections of Chicago History Museum
Public Domain: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=92830595>

From Emerging Civil War article on the battle:

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2021/12/17/battle-of-rowlett-station-ky/>



This image shows the Federals in Square formation – from Harper's Weekly, January 11, 1862: <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collection-features/civil-war-diary/harper-s-weekly-image-gallery>



Colonel Willich Meets Captured Texas Rangers by Adolph Metzner 1861



From "Campaigns of the Civil War in the West" by A.B. Adlerman, ca. 1910, showing the location of the Battle of Rowlett's Station. (Library of Congress). Map source: the VA article with the Bloedner Monument information.

December 28, 1861: Sacramento

BG Thomas L. Crittenden (US) reports that Maj. Murray of Jackson's Regiment was surprised by Rebel Cavalry under Col. Nathan B. Forrest (TN).

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeMoments/moments11RS/web/legislative%20moment%2013.pdf>

Great article by our June 2026 speaker Derrick Lindow about the Battle of Sacramento with many contemporary newspaper reports and images:

<https://www.westerntheatercivilwar.com/post/unrivaled-since-the-days-of-bull-run>

Links for more information on Sacramento:

- [https://kids.kiddle.co/Battle_of_Sacramento_\(Kentucky\)](https://kids.kiddle.co/Battle_of_Sacramento_(Kentucky))
- <https://www.mcleancounty.ky.gov/tourism/page/battle-sacramento-civil-war-driving-tour>
- <https://www.mcleancounty.ky.gov/tourism/page/battles-civil-war>
- <https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/621>
- <https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/20>

Information on nearby Camp Calhoun:

- <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=124525>

presented by the

KentuckyHistoricalSociety



Discovering Together Kentucky's Civil War History

Kentucky's Civil War: Battle of Sacramento



Historical Marker #523 commemorates the Battle of Sacramento in McLean County.

On Dec. 28, 1861, nearly 300 Confederate cavalry led by Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked about 200 Union horsemen near Sacramento. The battle was Forrest's first substantial victory and began his career as the Confederate "Wizard of the Saddle."

The Southerners were scouting near the town when a local teenage girl warned them that Union troops were nearby. Ready for a fight, Forrest advanced and attacked the 3rd Kentucky Union Cavalry.

Forrest grabbed a rifle and fired the first shot of the battle. A sharp skirmish erupted, and the Union horsemen were chased toward Sacramento. Forrest later called the running fight "a promiscuous saber slaughter" that left "their bleeding and wounded strewn along the whole route."

Confederate Brig. Gen. Charles Clark called it "one of the most brilliant and successful cavalry engagements which the present war has witnessed." Several dozen Union and Confederate troops were killed and wounded, and the battle foreshadowed Forrest's career as an able cavalry commander.

Photo: Confederate cavalryman Nathan Bedford Forrest had his first significant victory at the Battle of Sacramento, Ky. From the collections of the Kentucky Historical Society.

Next Issue: Fighting Escalates Across the Commonwealth in January 1862

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