

IN MEMORY OF

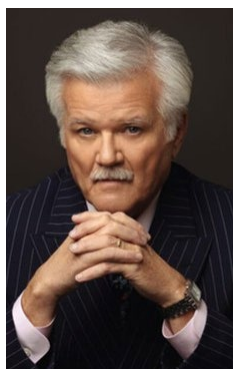
**Dr. Meriwether
Cary Blaydes
& Charles Partin**



NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, November 9, 2026 | **RSVP:** kycivilwarroundtable.org/rsvp

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



Popular and Award-Winning Civil War Historian William C. “Jack” Davis Announces November 2026 Speaking Tour in Three Kentucky Cities

William C. “Jack” Davis will speak at 3 Civil War history events across Kentucky in early November 2026. This will mark what our records indicate is his 12th presentation to the KYCWRT, dating back to his first appearance in January of 1978 (see list below.) He will speak to us on “The Making Of The Confederate Government,” which will be the third and final event of this trip to Kentucky.

He will speak on “The Orphan Brigade” on Saturday and Sunday in Louisville and Richmond – see details below. He spoke to our March 1982 meeting on that topic, and even you were present for that one, you may want to take this opportunity to carpool with one or more friends to Louisville or Richmond to hear him speak on “The Kentucky Confederates Who Couldn’t Go Home!”

Davis is one of America’s most respected historians and has created a legacy of scholarship and narrative focused primarily on the American Civil War.

Davis is a retired professor of history from Virginia Tech and former executive director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. He is the only four-time winner of the prestigious Jefferson Davis Prize for Confederate History. The speaking tour will focus on the complex human dynamics and leadership crises of the era, presenting insights from his lifetime of research.

Acclaimed Television and Media Contributions

Attendees will recognize Davis from his decades of prominent television and documentary work. His media contributions include:

- Civil War Journal – Served as the senior on-camera consultant and commentator for the highly rated 52-episode History Channel and A&E series.
- C-SPAN Networks – Featured in numerous lectures and academic panels detailing different aspects of the Civil War (currently part of 19 different recordings available on the C-SPAN site.)
- Film Consultations – Worked extensively on historical accuracy and screenplays alongside director Ron Maxwell (Gettysburg and Gods and Generals).

Continued on next page...

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Upcoming Events

Each engagement will include his formal presentation and an interactive audience Q&A session, and he will be available to sign his books – feel free to bring your favorites for him to sign, as quantities to purchase will be limited.

Event 1 – Topic: “The Orphan Brigade” at the monthly meeting of the Louisville Civil War Round Table at 6:00 pm on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Big Spring Country Club. Dinner tickets are \$40 and must be paid in advance by Monday, November 2 here: www.LouisvilleCWRT.com/meetings

Event 2 – Topic: “The Orphan Brigade” at the 25th Anniversary of Battlefield Preservation Celebration and Annual Meeting, hosted by the Battle of Richmond Association in Richmond at 5 pm on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at the Lake Buck Lodge on the Blue Grass Army Depot. Tickets are \$25 per person (sponsorships still available) and must be purchased in advance by Monday, November 2 by contacting battleofrichmond1862@yahoo.com or online here: checkout.square.site/merchant/SF6Z3PXZN4N2F/checkout/6BCNFUXEJ7RLQKH7ISJNCGZH

For more information on any of the events, call George Ridings at (859) 661-3289.

50 Years of Presentations by William C. Davis to the KYCWRT:

- **November 2026** – “The Making of the Confederate Government”
- **November 2023** – “John Breckinridge and the Flight of the Confederate Government, the Fall of Richmond, His Escape and His Exile: Preparing A Screenplay”
- **September 2020** – Virtual meeting – “The letters of General Gabriel Wharton and his wife, Nanny Radford”
- **September 2018** – “Loreta Velasquez, the Con Artist and Confederate Impersonator”
- **May 2012** – “The Monstrous Regiment of Women”
- **May 2008** – “Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief: How he Managed his Generals and his Military Establishment During the Civil War”
- **March 2004** – “What Soldiers Ate”
- **September 2001** – “The Last Days of the Confederate Government”
- **May 1994** – “Jefferson Davis as War Leader”
- **May 1984** – William C. Davis, “The Civil War Through the Eyes of the Camera”
- **March 1982** – “The Orphan Brigade”
- **January 1978** – “The Lincoln Conspiracy” ■

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! Well, that September meeting certainly was quite the kick-off of our Season! Here’s the news you need to know for the upcoming meeting:

The meeting is set for Monday, November 9, 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 **Monday, November 2nd, 2026, at noon.** 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. ■

– **Susie**



Pictured above (L to R): Mike Movius, CWRT Congress President; Chris Anderson, VP; Susie Morton, Administrator; George Ridings, Director and Newsletter Editor; Darryl Terry, Treasurer; General U. S. Grant (Curt Fields-CWRT Congress Board Member); and General Robert E. Lee (Thomas Jessee).

KYCWRT Honored with National CWRT Congress Award

At our September meeting, CWRT Congress President Mike Movius presented KYCWRT with one of its three prestigious National Awards. The 2026 Matthew Borowick Marketing Award recognizes a local CWRT for presenting itself to members, enthusiasts, community partners, potential supporters, and others by using a variety of methods and channels. It requires thought, planning, and logistical support.

The mission of the CWRT Congress is to inspire Civil War Round Table leaders to adapt, adopt, and maintain strategies for sustainability. President and Founder Mike Movius began the organization in 2017 to unite Round Tables and their members in sharing best practices, and provides many resources free to organizations and their members and enthusiasts thanks to their sponsors.

Their most popular program is CIVIL WAR FRIDAYS -- online programs featuring historians and speakers. These run most Fridays at 7 pm eastern time, and current schedule is set for the next six months. Anyone can watch at this link at no cost; you just need to register for each program: <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/events/fridays.html>

We encourage and invite our members to enjoy this extra Membership Benefit! Sign up to receive email information about their Friday programs and other special events here:

<https://cwrtcongress.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=4ed2502d26ff277723afd52f5&id=620bc75ef9> ■





September 21 Meeting Recap & Gallery

On September 21, 2026, KYCWRT opened a new chapter with our first meeting at The Signature Club at Lansdowne. Around 125 members and guests filled the room, and the meeting opened up in a special way with the presentation of the CWRT Congress award, which is described in an accompanying article.

We also elected two new Board Members: Wayne Basconi and Laurance VanMeter.

Then, Dr. Curt Fields and Thomas Jessee presented their "Appomattox: The Final 48 Hours" program to an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. Dozens of members and guests stayed around talking with them long after the great program ended. We are excited for our second Signature Club meeting! We hope you join us. ■





Support the KYCWRT with Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Here is a way of supporting KYCWRT and other charities/non-profits important to you without writing a check! The IRS allows IRA owners aged 70½ or older to transfer up to \$111,000 annually directly to eligible non-profits tax-free. These transfers are called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). They offer a powerful, efficient way to fund our mission.

Why Use a QCD?

Tax-Free Giving: Traditional IRA distributions are normally taxed as income. A QCD goes directly from your IRA to KYCWRT, meaning you pay \$0 in taxes on that money.

Satisfies Your RMD: If you are 73 or older, a QCD counts directly toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year.

No Itemization Needed: You receive this tax benefit regardless of whether you take the standard deduction or itemize on your tax return.

The IRS allows IRA owners aged 70½ or older to transfer up to \$111,000 annually directly to eligible non-profits tax-free.

Spousal Benefits: If both you and your spouse have separate IRAs and meet the age requirement, you can each exclude up to \$111,000, for a total of \$222,000 per year.

How It Works: The transaction must be handled directly by your IRA custodian.

If a check or electronic payment is made out to you first, the distribution becomes taxable income. The funds must move directly from your IRA trustee to KY CWRT. You simply tell your adviser or IRA trustee the name and address of the eligible charitable organization and complete their requirements to process your transfer contribution.

If you want to utilize a QCD to lower your 2026 tax burden, do not wait until December. Contact your IRA trustee soon to ensure they process the paperwork before the end-of-year deadline. If you have already completed your 2026 RMD, you can begin coordinating now to plan your 2027 distributions.

Legacy Planning With IRAs and Qualified Plan Accounts

If you name KYCWRT and/or other charitable organizations as a partial beneficiary, those funds are paid tax free, so this may be a more tax-efficient way to leave a legacy gift than from other assets in your estate.

Ready to Learn More?

Speak with your financial advisor or reach out to our team for specific details on routing your distribution to KYCWRT. Contact Susie Morton, Darryl Terry, Chris Anderson, or George Ridings. ■



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RIDINGS' TIDINGS

EDITOR'S REPORT
GEORGE NELSON RIDINGS

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

PART FIVE: A FUTURE PRESIDENT USHERS IN 1862 WITH A FEDERAL VICTORY

The Union victories at Camp Wildcat/Wildcat Mountain and Ivy Mountain in October and November 1861 reversed the Confederate advance into eastern Kentucky, and that Federal momentum continued with actions in the region into early January 1862.

Future President James Garfield had his first engagement in command on January 8. Here is his report as it was published in the Richmond (VA) Daily Dispatch on January 20, 1862:

FEDERAL REPORT OF THE FIGHT AT PRESTONSBURG.
LOUISVILLE, Jan. 14.—The following official documents have just been received at headquarters here:
PAINTSVILLE, Jan. 8, 1861.
Capt. J. B. Fay,
Assistant Adjutant General:
I entered this place yesterday with the Forty-second Ohio regiment, Fourteenth Kentucky regiment, and three hundred of the Second Virginia cavalry. On hearing of my approach the main rebel force left their strongly entrenched camp and fled. I sent my cavalry to the mouth of Jennie Creek, where they attacked and drove the rebel cavalry, which had been left as a vanguard, a distance of five miles, killing three and wounding a considerable number. Marshall's whole army is now flying in utter confusion. He had abandoned and burned a large quantity of stores. We have taken fifteen prisoners. Our loss was two killed and one wounded. I start in pursuit to-morrow morning.
J. A. GARFIELD,
Commanding Brigade.

January 10, 1862: Middle Creek

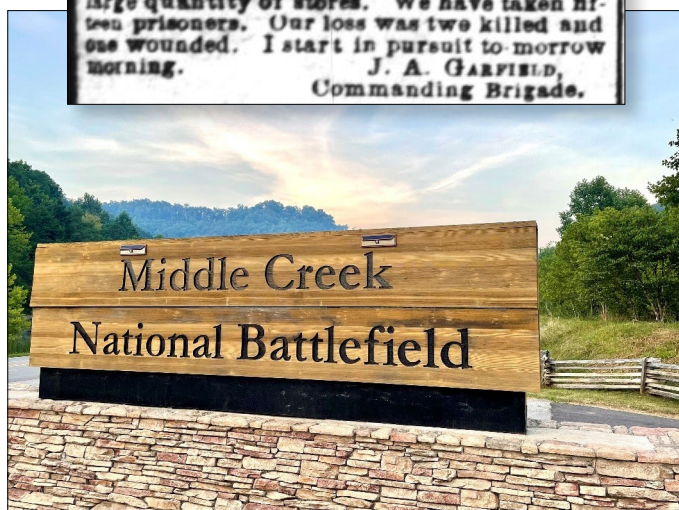
Estimated Casualties: 92 total (US 27; CS 65)

Description: More than a month after Confederate Kentuckian Colonel John Stuart Williams left Kentucky, following the fight at Ivy Mountain, Brigadier General Humphrey Marshall (served in US House before the war and CS Congress late in the war) led another force into southeast Kentucky to continue recruiting activities. From his headquarters in Paintsville, on the Big Sandy River, northwest of Prestonsburg, Marshall recruited volunteers and had a force of more than 2,000 men by early January but could only partially equip them.

Union Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell directed Col. James Garfield to force Marshall to retreat back into Virginia. Leaving Louisa, Garfield took command of the 18th Brigade and began his march south on Paintsville. He compelled the Confederates to abandon Paintsville and retreat to the vicinity of Prestonsburg. Garfield slowly headed south, but swampy areas and numerous streams slowed his movements, and he arrived in the vicinity of Marshall on the 9th.

Heading out at 4:00 am on January 10, Garfield marched a mile south to the mouth of Middle Creek, fought off some Rebel cavalry and turned west to attack Marshall. Marshall had put his men in line of battle west and south of the creek near its forks. Garfield attacked shortly after noon, and the fighting continued for most of the afternoon until Union reinforcements arrived in time to dissuade the Confederates from assailing the Federal left. Instead, the Rebels retired south and were ordered back to Virginia on the 24th.

Garfield's force moved to Prestonsburg after the fight and then retired to Paintsville. Union forces had halted the Confederate 1861 offensive in Kentucky, and Middle Creek demonstrated that their strength had not diminished. This victory, along with Mill Springs a little more than a week later, cemented Union control of eastern Kentucky until

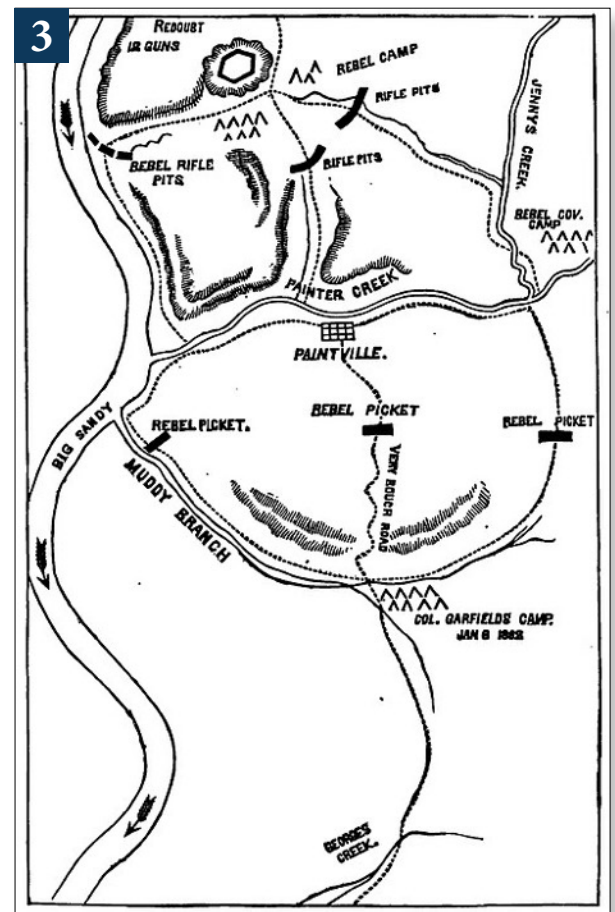


Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg launched his offensive in the summer and fall. Following these two January victories in Kentucky, the Federals carried the war into Tennessee in February.

Result(s): Union victory (indecisive)

Battle summary from the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission website here: web.archive.org/web/20070816042913/http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp/battles/bystate.htm#ky

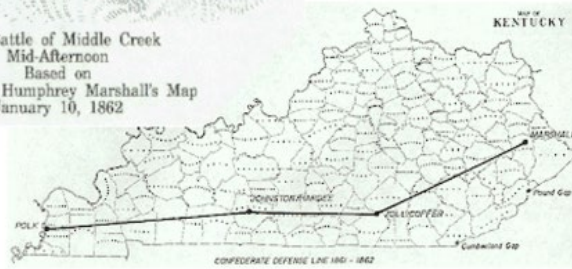
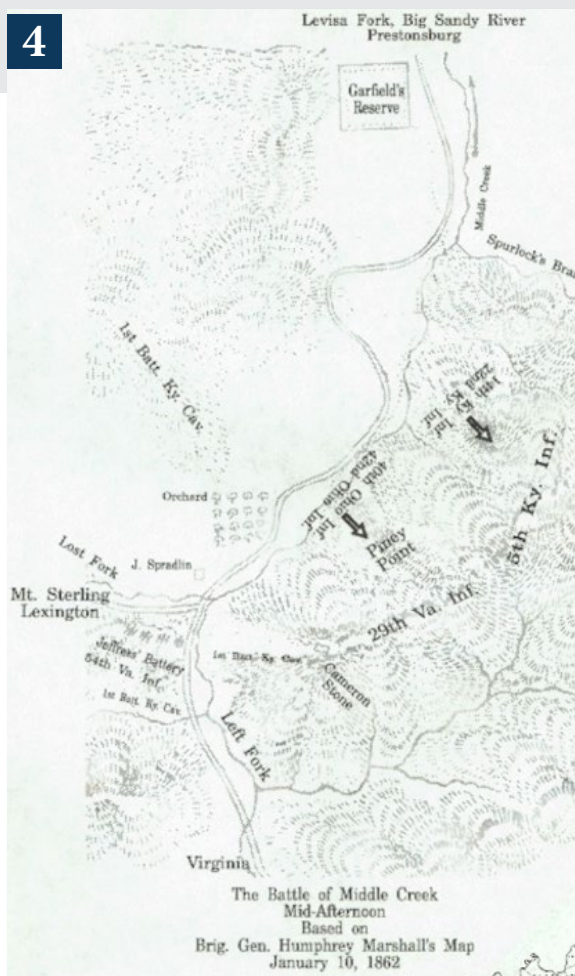
Historical Marker Database page with information on this KHS marker and the others on the battlefield: www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=66935



[1] Casualty information from American Battlefield Trust page on the battle: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/middle-creek>

[2] Map titled "Map of Big Sandy..." is from Iron Brigadier website article containing Garfield's Full OR report: <https://iron-brigadier.com/2019/01/12/future-president-james-a-garfields-report-on-the-battle-of-middle-creek-kentucky/>

[3] Map with no title has this description: "Battle of Middle Creek - map of Paintsville, Kentucky. The map is drawn from the point of view of Garfield arriving at Paintsville. The south is up, West is right" and is from: Stephens, Ann, S. Pictorial History of the War for the Union, 1866, vol. 1, Benjamin W. Hitchcock pub., New York.



SUMTER TO SHILOH CONTINUED

[4] Map from the Middle Creek website, which also contains more details on the battle here: <https://www.middlecreek.org/history/>

Reports of the battle appeared quickly in Northern and Southern newspapers.

The New York Herald published this summary on January 12, 1862...and Kentucky was the focus of one of the six columns on the front page:



IMPORTANT FROM KENTUCKY.

The Rebels Under Humphrey Marshall Refuse to Fight, and Disband.

Destruction of Their Wagons, Tents and Camp Equipage,

&c., &c., &c.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 1, 1861.

From the editor of the late Sandy Hook Valley Advocate, now one of the proprietors of the Louisville Democrat, who arrived here from Sandy Valley yesterday, we learn that the second rebel invasion of Eastern Kentucky has ended in a disgraceful rout. On Monday last Colonel Garfield's forces, including the Forty-second Ohio regiment, the Tenth Kentucky regiment and eighteen hundred cavalry, had proceeded up the Big Sandy to Paintsville, within seven miles of the rebel camp, when they were met by a flag of truce from Humphrey Marshall, asking if matters could not be arranged without a fight.

Col. Garfield immediately replied that he could offer no arrangement, and that they (the rebels) must either fight or surrender unconditionally.

Humphrey Marshall then addressed his men, telling them they had the alternative of surrendering or disbanding, and giving them the choice. They immediately collected and set fire to all their wagons, tents, camp equipage, &c., and then each man was permitted to take care of himself, and the whole force scattered in confusion.

The rebels made no attempt to save anything except their cannon, which they hauled off.

Col. Garfield has despatched his cavalry in pursuit, and they expect to capture the guns, and perhaps pick up many of the flying rebels.

The rebels in Northeastern Kentucky, from the high estimate in which Humphrey Marshall's military abilities were held, had strong hopes of success under his leadership. A sufficient Union force will be left in that region

[5] The column continues with more reports from Kentucky and discusses Confederate General Zollicoffer and his troop dispositions near Mill Spring and Fishing Creek along the Cumberland River near Somerset...his name would be in this and other newspapers again nine days later...more on that in our next issue...Source: www.loc.gov/resource/sn83030313/1862-01-12/ed-1/?sp=1&r=-0.025,-0.015,1.023,0.461,0

[6] This brief report published in the Richmond (VA) Daily Dispatch on January 16, 1862, presented a more favorable result for the Confederates than the facts and history would later verify:

[7] The next day, a more accurate report appeared for Richmond's readers:

[8] Finally, Garfield's report on Middle Creek was also published in the Richmond (VA) Daily Dispatch on January 20, 1862:

Source for the Richmond Daily Dispatch articles is the archive from 1860-1865 held online by the University of Richmond (VA) here: dispatch.richmond.edu/1862/1/16/3/33. This is an EXCELLENT archive and is easily searchable with a word like "Kentucky" or any name – search for "Garfield" finds many entries during the war years.

[9] This was published in *The Ironton (OH) Register*, on February 6, 1862:

Colonel Garfield led his Federal forces against Confederates under Humphrey Marshall again at Pound Gap in March, temporarily clearing eastern Kentucky of Confederate forces.

The American Battlefield Trust page on Garfield summarizes the remainder of his military service during the war thusly:

“Due to his accomplishments, he was promoted to brigadier general and given command of the 20th Brigade in Tennessee. Leading the 20th, Garfield and his men saw action on the second day at Shiloh. Following, he succumbed to camp fever and dysentery, forcing the ambitious officer to take leave to recuperate.

It was then that Garfield's name was brought forth as a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, a race that he won on the Republican ticket. By September 1863, then-Maj. Gen. James Garfield was back in the saddle at Chickamauga where he undertook a bold ride under enemy fire.

After serving as chief of staff for Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, then-commander of the Army of the Cumberland, Garfield resigned from military service in December 1863 to take his seat in Congress — beginning his journey to the White House.” <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/james-garfield>

When Garfield was promoted to major general in 1863, he was 31...making him the youngest Union major general of Volunteers to serve during the war. James Birdseye McPherson was 33 when he became major general in 1862. George Armstrong Custer was 24 when promoted to brevet major general October, 1864, but that was not finalized until war's end in April, 1865.

Additional resources on Middle Creek:

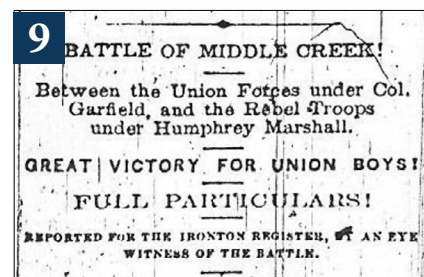
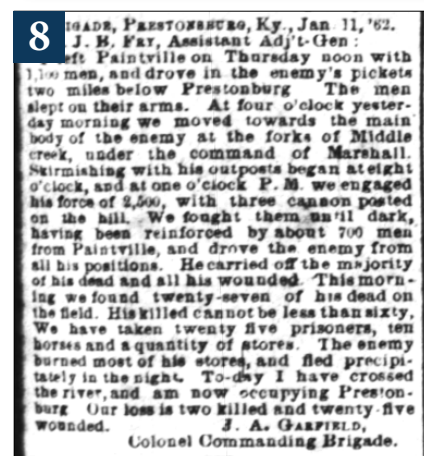
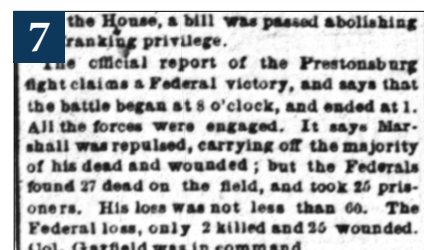
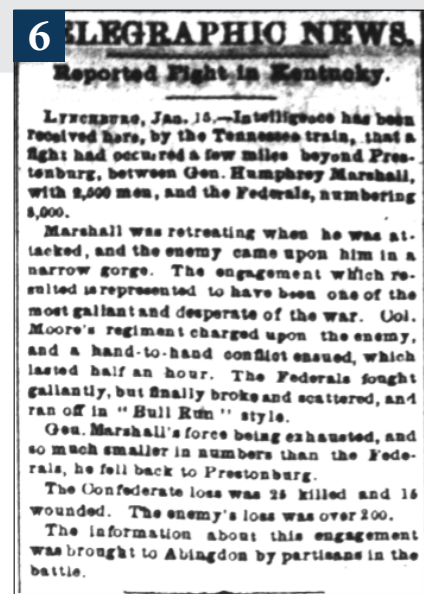
Brief blog article, which lists two of the newspaper articles included above, and Marshall's OR report: <https://eakycivilwar.blogspot.com/2011/01/battle-of-middle-creek-january-10-1862.html>

2 Great pieces from our June 2026 speaker, Derrick Lindow: <https://www.westerntheatercivilwar.com/post/a-confederate-s-experience-at-the-battle-of-middle-creek>

<https://www.westerntheatercivilwar.com/post/general-garfield-and-the-42nd-ohio-at-pound-gap>

Great blog post from Derrick's partner at The Western Theater Civil War, Darryl Smith: <https://www.westerntheatercivilwar.com/post/middle-creek-suggested-books-visitor-s-guide> ■

*Next Issue: The Fight At
Kentucky's Only NPS Battlefield Site*



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