



PVT. LUCIUS L. MITCHELL CAMP 4

November 2016

A Message From the Commander

In just a few weeks L. L. Mitchell Camp 4, St. Cloud, Florida will formally begin our 2016-2017 meetings. I hope they will be enjoyable and informative. We have made and will continue to make presentations about the Civil War and the Grand Army of The Republic.

You will have the opportunity to participate in the meetings and other activities that give the Sons a chance to honor the memory of the old Union veterans. If you have some special interest connected with our brotherhood please share it. I think I have come to enjoy all the Camp activities more and more because it gives me a chance to make presentations and write for our Camp Newsletter "The Communicator". I hope you'll give this a try and see if you enjoy it too. See you soon!

Mike Urell, L. L. Mitchell Camp 4 Commander

Commander - To page 9

In this Issue

- Page 1 - Commander's Message
- Page 2 - Battle of Chattanooga
- Page 3 - Amzi D. Harmon Company Report
- Page 4 - Civil War Time Line
- Page 5 - Book Report & Battle of Fredericksburg
- Page 7 - The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall
- Page 8 - 16th Illinois Cavalry Regiment History
- Page 9 - The Angel of Marye's Heights



NEXT CAMP MEETING

SATURDAY November 5, 2016

1 PM

St. Cloud Community Center
716 Indiana Avenue
St. Cloud, FL 34769

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War





BATTLE OF CHATTANOOGA

From November 23 to November 25, 1863, during the American Civil War (1861-65), Union forces routed Confederate troops in Tennessee at the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, known collectively as the Battles for Chattanooga. The victories forced the Confederates back into Georgia, ending the siege of the vital railroad junction of Chattanooga, and paving the way for Union General William Tecumseh Sherman's Atlanta campaign and march to Savannah, Georgia, in 1864.

After the Confederate victory at Chickamauga in northwest Georgia in September 1863, the Union army retreated to the vital railroad junction of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Confederate General Braxton Bragg (1817-76) quickly laid siege to the city, cutting off access to Union supplies. In response, President Abraham Lincoln (1809-65) ordered Major General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85) to Chattanooga. Grant, who arrived in October, soon reformed the city, opening up a desperately needed supply line, and began maneuvers to lift the siege.

The Battle of Chattanooga was launched on November 23 when Grant sent General Thomas (1816-70, who was dubbed the Rock of Chickamauga for standing his ground against the Confederates at the Battle of Chickamauga) to probe the center of the Confederate line. This simple plan turned into a complete victory, when the Yankees captured Orchard Knob and the Rebels retreated higher up Missionary Ridge. On November 24, the Yankees under Major General Joseph Hooker (1814-79) captured Lookout Mountain on the extreme right of the Union lines, and this set the stage for the Battle of Missionary Ridge.

The attack took place in three parts. On the Union left, General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-91) attacked troops under Patrick Cleburne (1828-64) at Tunnel Hill, an extension of Missionary Ridge. In difficult fighting, Cleburne managed to hold the hill. On the other end of the Union lines, Hooker was advancing slowly from Lookout Mountain, and his force had little impact on the battle. It was at the center that the Union achieved its greatest success. The soldiers on both sides received confusing orders. Some Union troops thought they were only supposed to take the rifle pits at the base of the ridge, while others understood that they were to advance to the top. Some of the Confederates heard that they were to hold the pits, while others thought they were to retreat to the top of Missionary Ridge. Furthermore, poor placement of Confederate trenches on the top of the ridge made it difficult to fire at the advancing Union troops without hitting their own men, who were retreating from the rifle pits.

The result was that the attack on the Confederate center turned into a major Union victory. After the center collapsed, the Confederate troops retreated on November 26 and Bragg pulled his troops away from Chattanooga. He resigned shortly thereafter, having lost the confidence of his army.

BATTLES FOR CHATTANOOGA: AFTERMATH

The Union suffered an estimated 5,800 casualties during the Battle of Chattanooga, while the Confederates' casualties numbered around 6,600. Grant missed an opportunity to destroy the Confederate army when he chose not to pursue the retreating Rebels, but Chattanooga was secured. Sherman resumed the attack in the spring after Grant was promoted to general in chief of all Federal forces. Sherman's troops captured Atlanta in early September 1864 and in November embarked on the so-called March to the Sea, which concluded with the occupation of the port of Savannah in late December.



Officers 2016 - 2017

Camp Commander : Michael Urell

SVC: Connie Landry

JVC: Timothy Kiff

*Secretary : Clair D.
"Skip" Whitlam*

*Treasurer : Clair D.
"Skip" Whitlam*

Council 1: Ronnie G. McCracken

Council 2: Roger L. Heiple

Council 3: James G. Ward

Patriotic Instructor : Roger Heiple

Chaplain : Ronnie G. McCracken

*Graves & Memorials : Ron-
nie G. McCracken*

Historian: unseated

*Eagle Scout Coordina-
tor. : Unassigned*

*Signals Officer: Clair
D. "Skip" Whitlam*

JROTC contact: Michael Urell

Guide: Pending

Editor

Steve Williams

swilliams16@cfl.rr.com

Wreaths Across America

Their mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. They also organize a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where we stop along the way to spread a message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

What is Wreaths Across America?

501(c)3 non-profit organization formed in 2007 as an extension of The Arlington Wreath Project, with over 700 participating locations in all 50 states, and 24 national veteran cemeteries on foreign soil.

What began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, decorated by volunteers and laid at the graves of fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery has now become a national organization with over 900 participating locations - all focused on the mission to Remember - Honor - and Teach.

Wreaths Across America™ wreath sponsorships are \$15 per wreath. Funds are collected by each participating group. \$5 of each \$15 will be returned to the registered fundraising group on a 30 day reimbursement cycle.

Our Camp is registered for the Mt Peace Cemetery.



Amzi D. Harmon Company Report to 6 August 2016 Department of Florida Mid-year Conference, St. Cloud

- 7:00 a.m. August 2015: NE'15-SVR breakfast: Captain Ward
- November 2015 Harmon Company awarded the "Unit Citation" by Major General Grimm at the SVR breakfast, Gettysburg Pennsylvania: Private Nay, Captain Ward
- Presentations to Harmon Company members made at a series of SUVCW meetings and events.
- 11:00 a.m. 12 December 2015 dedication of 35 headstones for previously unmarked Union Veterans' graves, in conjunction with "Wreaths Across America" with the American Legion: First Sergeant Linscott, Captain Ward
- 11:30 17 December 2015 C. "Buck" Custer memorial service. Corporal McCracken, Captain Ward
- January SVR reports deadline met
- 15 February 2016 Internal Revenue Service form 990-N filing deadline met
- February 2016 Department of Florida Encampment. By-laws changes reviewed and balloted, including removal of SVR language.
- February 2016 Private Vaughn memorial service
- 15 March 7th Military District reports deadline met
- 19 March 2016 Corporal Urell participated at Education Friday at the Battle of Narcoossee Mill south of Orlando at St. Cloud. Corporals Shaffer and Urell set up tents, display tables, display easels and flags. The Saturday 19 March schedule includes a ladies' tea, officers' call, music by "7 lbs of bacon" string band, weapons and authenticity inspections, a 2pm battle (will the Union prevail?), artillery night fire, and a barn dance. After Sunday reveille, there is 9am colors, 10am church service, 11am officers call, 1pm music and inspections, and a 2pm battle (looks grim for the Union). <battleatnarcoosseemill.com> pertains: Corporals Shaffer and Urell
- 16 April 2016 Amzi D. Harmon Company participated in "Civil War Living History Day" on the north lawn of Rossetter House, Melbourne, Florida. Reconnaissance detected opposing forces on the south lawn. Muskets/rifles were fired; no reported casualties. References include minutes of Camp 4 and 7, and Department of Florida meetings and encampment, <rossetterhousemuseum.org>, "Florida Frontiers: Civil War Living History Day" article published in "Florida Today" April 11, 2016, facebook page, pinterest, twitter, and instagram: Sergeants Shaffer and Urell, Captain Ward
- Lucius L. Mitchell Camp 4 Founding Camp Commander Criswell memorial service: Sergeant Urell, Corporal McCracken
- 10:30 a.m. 19 May 2016 Brevet Corporal Leland Smith funeral: Sergeant Shaffer
- 22 May 2016 Mandarin Museum, Mandarin Cemetery, and Webb Residence observance: Corporal D. Acheson, Privates S. Acheson, Nay, and Schwartz
- 11:30 a.m. 29 May 2016 Battle of Fort Meyer, Cape Coral, Florida: Captain Ward
- 10:00 a.m. 30 May 30 2016 Memorial Day and Decoration Day observance at Mount Peace Cemetery with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, St. Cloud municipal officials, hereditary, youth and other groups: Private Whitlam, Captain Ward
- 31 July 2016 National Treasurer 501(c)3 form deadline met
- 13:00 6 August 2016 report to Department of Florida Mid-year Conference.

8/5/16jw

Civil War Time line

November 1, 1861 - President Lincoln appoints McClellan as general-in-chief of all Union forces after the resignation of the aged Winfield Scott. Lincoln tells McClellan, "...the supreme command of the Army will entail a vast labor upon you." McClellan responds, "I can do it all."



November 8, 1861 - The beginning of an international diplomatic crisis for President Lincoln as two Confederate officials sailing toward England are seized by the U.S. Navy. England, the leading world power, demands their release, threatening war. Lincoln eventually gives in and orders their release in December. "One war at a time," Lincoln remarks.



November 7, 1862 - The president replaces McClellan with Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside as the new Commander of the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln had grown impatient with McClellan's slowness to follow up on the success at Antietam, even telling him, "If you don't want to use the army, I should like to borrow it for a while."

Fredericksburg

December 13, 1862 - Army of the Potomac under Gen. Burnside suffers a costly defeat at Fredericksburg in Virginia with a loss of 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on well entrenched Rebels on Marye's Heights. "We might as well have tried to take hell," a Union soldier remarks. Confederate losses are 5,309.



"It is well that war is so terrible - we should grow too fond of it," states Lee during the fighting.

November 19, 1863 - President Lincoln delivers a two minute Gettysburg Address at a ceremony dedicating the Battlefield as a National Cemetery.

Chattanooga

November 23-25, 1863 - The Rebel siege of Chattanooga ends as Union forces under Grant defeat the siege army of Gen. Braxton Bragg. During the battle, one of the most dramatic moments of the war occurs. Yelling "Chickamauga! Chickamauga!" Union troops avenge their previous defeat at Chickamauga by storming up the face of Missionary Ridge without orders and sweep the Rebels from what had been thought to be an impregnable position. "My God, come and see 'em run!" a Union soldier cries.



November 8, 1864 - Abraham Lincoln is re-elected president, defeating Democrat George B. McClellan. Lincoln carries all but three states with 55 percent of the popular vote and 212 of 233 electoral votes. "I earnestly believe that the consequences of this day's work will be to the lasting advantage, if not the very salvation, of the country," Lincoln tells supporters.

March to the Sea

November 15, 1864 - After destroying Atlanta's warehouses and railroad facilities, Sherman, with 62,000 men begins a March to the Sea. President Lincoln on advice from Grant approved the idea. "I can make Georgia howl!" Sherman boasts.

December 15/16, 1864 - Hood's Rebel Army of 23,000 is crushed at Nashville by 55,000 Federals including Negro troops under Gen. George H. Thomas. The Confederate Army of



Meeting Schedule

Our meeting schedule is six consecutive months between November through April meeting on the first Saturday of every month except in January, then we will meet on the second Saturday. At 1:00 PM.

Community Center - 702 Indiana Ave in St. Cloud.



Tennessee ceases as an effective fighting force.

December 21, 1864 - Sherman reaches Savannah in Georgia leaving behind a 300 mile long path of destruction 60 miles wide all the way from Atlanta. Sherman then telegraphs Lincoln, offering him Savannah as a Christmas present. December 6, 1865 - The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, is finally ratified. Slavery is abolished.



Battle of Fredericksburg History: Marye's Heights

In several ways, Marye's Heights offered the Federals their most promising target. Not only did this sector of Lee's defenses lie closest to the shelter of Fredericksburg, but the ground rose less steeply here than on the surrounding hills.

Nevertheless, Union soldiers had to leave the city, descend into a valley bisected by a water-filled canal ditch, and ascend an open slope of 400 yards to reach the base of the heights. Artillery atop Marye's Heights and nearby elevations would thoroughly blanket the Federal approach. "A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it," boasted one Confederate cannoneer.

Sumner's first assault began at noon and set the pattern for a ghastly series of attacks that continued, one after another, until dark. As soon as the Northerners marched out of Fredericksburg, Longstreet's artillery wreaked havoc on the crisp blue formations. The Unionists then encountered a deadly bottleneck at the canal ditch which was spanned by partially-destroyed bridges at only three places. Once across this obstacle, the attackers established shallow battle lines under cover of a slight bluff that shielded them from Rebel eyes.

Orders then rang out for the final advance. The landscape beyond the canal ditch contained a few buildings and fences, but from the military perspective it provided virtually no protection. Dozens of Southern cannon immediately reopened on the easy targets, and when the Federals traversed about half the remaining distance, sheets of flame spewed forth from the Sunken Road. This rifle fire decimated the Northerners. Survivors found refuge behind a small swale in the ground or retreated back to the canal ditch valley.

Quickly a new Federal brigade burst toward Marye's Heights and the "terrible stone wall," then another, and another, until three entire divisions had hurled themselves at the Confederate bastion. In one hour, the Army of the Potomac lost nearly 3,000 men; but the madness continued.

Although General Cobb suffered a mortal wound early in the action, the Southern line remained firm. Kershaw's Brigade joined North Carolinians in reinforcing Cobb's men in the

The Untold Civil War

One of the first books I ever possessed was a gift of my sister, Jeanne. Its title was "History's 100 Greatest Events." She must of known of my interest in the topic and I still have the book. As I started to write this book review of James Robertson's "The Untold Civil War" it came to me that this book and my sister's gift had a lot in common. They both contained interesting, illustrated short stories about historic events that held my attention and each story stood alone.

James Robertson is an award winning biographer of Stonewall Jackson and a writer or editor of two dozen other books. He was appointed by President John F. Kennedy executive director of the U. S. Civil War Centennial Commission. He is presently an Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech.

Neil Kagan is editor of the book and National Geographic is the publisher. Kagan has edited many illustrated books and found 475 photos, sketches, relics and mementoes that highlight each episode in this fascinating book.

The book is divided into six themes that explore the conflict: The Human Side of War; The Life of Soldiers; Resources, Resolve and Ingenuity; A War of Firsts; Warriors, Poets and Scoundrels; and Aftermath. Most of the 475 illustrations are new to me and if a fair share of the stories are somewhat known by this old Civil War reader, still they are beautifully recounted and I learned much more from them.

Despite the title "The Untold Civil War" the book does provide an overview of the war that informs the reader and I am sure will prompt further reading. The illustrations increase your interest and understanding. The duo that provided the prose and the illustrations complemented each other's excellence. As well as the credits I gave James Robertson as a writer/historian above it is also important to note that he was the voice on National Public Radio for 15 years of a weekly radio show about little-known people and events of the Civil War. The editor of the book, Neil Kagan, showed that he has special talents for finding just the right illustrations that makes the story so much more interesting.

I know that it will be helpful to discuss a few of James Robertson's stories to entice you to read the book. On page 148 there is a story called "Going Home". The illustration is a single picture taken in Richmond, Virginia after the war but before Lincoln was assassinated. Paroled Rebel soldiers, Federal troops and civilians are gathered in the vicinity of the equestrian statue of George Washington in Capitol Square. Robertson's narrative explains that these soldiers returned to civilian lives that included becoming doctors, teachers or other professionals. Yet, when they died their tombstone very often just contained their name, rank and unit. This story had special meaning to me because I had recently visited Arlington Cemetery and had searched section 15 for John McElroy's gravesite. John was an Andersonville survivor, success-

Upcoming Events

National

Remembrance Day Weekend and Parade: November 18-20

Department

Annual Department Encampment February 18th, 2017
St. Cloud Senior Center 3101 17th Street, St. Cloud, Florida
34769, Cypress Room 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Department Officers 2015-2016

Commander: Charles S Reeves, PCC - E-mail reevesoldfarm@msn.com

Senior Vice Commander: James G Ward, PDC - E-mail nacheson1@att.net

Junior Vice Commander: David Palmer, PCC - E-mail Davplm6@aol.com

Secretary: Clair D Whitlam, PDC - E-mail clairwhitlam@gmail.com

Treasurer: Clair D Whitlam, PDC - E-mail clairwhitlam@gmail.com

Councilor #1: Harvey K. Linscott, PDC

Councilor # 2: John M. Vaughn, PDC

Councilor # 3: James G. Ward, PDC



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish – American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of Lucius L Mitchell Camp of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at swilliams16@cfl.rr.com

The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.



Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.ccsutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcity-sutler.com/index.html>

Camp Website

Be sure and visit our NEW Camp Website at <http://www.c4dofsuvcw.org/officers.html>. There is a page with a complete Calendar of Events that is updated regularly. Check back often for news of changes in time or place!

NEWS!! Lincoln's Assassination

Pages 10 & 11 are copies of the *The New York Herald* original pages 1 & 8 to be found in the Library of Congress. This was found while going through my grandfather's archives.

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL

The Grand Army of the Republic was a nationwide organization of Union veterans of the Civil War from 1866 to 1949.

This 46 by 80 foot building, completed in 1914, was built by the G.A.R. Memorial Hall Association and funded by \$8000 worth of stock certificates and other fund-raising. The land had been donated by the Seminole Land Investment Company in 1909. Previously, G.A.R. meetings, special events, and other town civic and social meetings had been held in the “old hall” which was to the rear of the present building. The town had been incorporated in the “old hall” and the first civic officials were elected here.

The Local G.A.R. post was named after Lucius L. Mitchell who was the first veteran-resident to die in St. Cloud and is interred in Mount Peace Cemetery.

E. E. Scranton, the Post Secretary wrote in 1914 that the new G. A.R. building had been erected for memory and in honor of the old boys of the Union Army of '61 -'65 who saved the country for the generations coming after us and saved our glorious flag, the stars and stripes, from dishonor or disgrace in over 2000 battles of that great war. At one time it was one of the largest posts in the country in membership.

M. W. Chessman was the architect/builder. The three primary features of interest are the two panels of inscribed brick flanking the entrance doors which include names of individual soldiers and their regiments, a public auditorium with a stage and historic painted curtain on the first floor and a private assembly room for the G.A.R. on the second floor. Upon its completion military associations as well as community association functions were held in the structure. The Women's Relief Corps, Army and Navy Union, Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans, Chautauqua Association, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, Masons and Eastern Star all regularly met here. Plays, movies and graduations were attended here. In 1940 the Florida G.A.R. held its last encampment at this site. Human mortality had taken its toll. As the author Bruce Catton wrote: “Something deeply and fundamentally American is gone forever.”

The Masons controlled the use of the Hall until 1971 when it was sold to private owners.

This is the final submission.
9/11/'16 M. Urell

Fredericksbur from Page 5

Sunken Road. The Confederates stood four ranks deep, maintaining a ceaseless line of fire while the gray-clad artillerymen fired over their heads.

More Union units tested the impossible. “We came forward as though breasting a storm of rain and sleet, our faces and bodies being only half- turned to the storm, our shoulders shrugged,” remembered one Federal. “Everybody from the smallest drummer boy on up seemed to be shouting to the full extent of his capacity,” recalled another. But each blue wave crested short of the goal. Not a single Union soldier laid his hand on the stone wall.

Lee, from his lofty perch on Telegraph Hill, watched Longstreet's almost casual destruction of Burnside's divisions as Jackson's counterattack repulsed Meade. Turning toward Longstreet, Lee confessed, “It is well that war is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it.”

Burnside ordered Major General Joseph Hooker's Center Grand Division to join the attack in the afternoon, and late in the day, troops from the Fifth Corps moved forward. Brigadier General Andrew A. Humphreys led his division through the human debris of the previous assaults. Some of Humphreys' soldiers shook off well-meaning hands that clutched at them to prevent their advance. Part of one brigade sustained its momentum until it drew within 25 yards of the stone wall. There, it too melted away.

The final Union effort began after sunset. Colonel Rush C. Hawkins' brigade, the fifteenth such Federal unit to charge the Sunken Road that day, enjoyed no more success than its predecessors. Darkness shrouded the battlefield and at last the guns fell silent.

The hideous cries of the wounded, “weird, unearthly, terrible to hear and bear,” echoed through the night. Burnside wrote orders to renew the assaults on December 14, wishing to lead them personally, but his subordinates dissuaded him from this suicidal scheme. On the evening of December 15-16, Burnside skillfully withdrew his army to Stafford Heights, dismantling his bridges behind him. The Fredericksburg Campaign had ended.

Grim arithmetic tells only a part of the Fredericksburg story. Lee suffered 5,300 casualties but inflicted more than twice that many losses on his opponent. Of the 12,600 Federal soldiers killed, wounded, or missing, almost two-thirds fell in front of the stone wall.

Despite winning in the most overwhelming tactical sense, however, the Battle of Fredericksburg proved to be a hollow victory for the Confederates. The limitless resources of the North soon rectified Burnside's losses in manpower and materiel. Lee, on the other hand, found it difficult to replenish either missing soldiers or needed supplies. The Battle of Fredericksburg, although profoundly discouraging to Union soldiers and the Northern populace, made no decisive impact on the war. Instead, it merely postponed the next “On to Richmond” campaign until the spring.



Book Report from Page 5

ful large newspaper editor and owner and founder of the Florida city of St. Cloud where I am a member of the Sons of Union Veterans. On his tombstone were the words JOHN MCELROY PRIVATE SIXTEENTH ILLINOIS CALVARY 1846-1929. On page 124 and 125 there are 3 illustrations of “Old Abe” the eagle mascot of the Eighth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. “Old Abe” had gone off to war with the regiment and was protected by the units color guard. He survived the war and arrived back at the state capital preceded by many embellished stories about his importance in the war effort. His stuffed remains were burned in a fire but he is still remembered in song and story. Other stories of wartime mascots are told in the book.

I enjoy picking the book up to read or reread the stories, marvel at the illustrations and am sometimes moved by some fact in the story to do further reading. Nowadays, one of the beauties of all this is that with Amazon the book is inexpensive and the delivery quick.

Commander Michael Emmet Urell

L. L. Mitchell, Camp 4 St. Cloud, Fl.

Thielman's (16th) Illinois Cavalry Regiment History

This company was organized in Chicago in June 1861, by Captain Christian Thieleman, with Berthold Marshner as 1st, and Mathew Marx as 2nd Lieutenants.

In July the company was ordered to St. Louis, where it was encamped near the fair grounds for about two weeks, then to Paducah, Ky. While at this place a raid was made on a recruiting camp some sixty miles from Paducah, but without results, the camp having been hastily vacated.

In October a detachment was ordered to Smithland, Ky., at the mouth of the Cumberland River, and remained there as its garrison throughout the winter, scouting thoroughly the country toward Forts Donelson and Henry. While the company was thus divided permission was obtained to recruit a second company to be known as Company B, Thieleman's Illinois Cavalry, the first being designated Company A. The larger number of this new company were Kentucky men, a few coming from across the Ohio River from Illinois. The Captain was now promoted Major, commanding squadron. The officers for Company A were Berthold Marshner, Captain; James W. Lavigne, 1st; and I.L.L. Ponds, 2nd Lieutenant; for Company B, Mathew Marx, Captain; Milo Thieleman, 1st and George Hamilton 2nd Lieutenant. The squadron was ordered to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., in March 1862. Arrived one week before the frustrated attempt to drive in, and down in the Tennessee River the sturdy sons of the North. During the battle, April 6 and 7, the squadron did service as orderlies, escorts and “back-stops” for some regiments that showed disposition to move rearward when not so ordered.

Moved with the army, snail-like, to Corinth, Miss., doing picket and vidette duty, and scouting the country toward and beyond Bethel and Purdy. In the latter place the squadron had a lively passage at arms with four companies of confederates, and defeated them. From Corinth to Bolivar (where we were encamped for two months), and from Bolivar to Memphis, where the squadron performed provost duty during the winter of 1862-1863. With Sherman to Young's Point, Milliken's Bend, Grand Gulf, Raymond, Champion Hills, Baker's Creek, Black River and Vicksburg. Just as the squadron rode on the brow of a hill, where the first view of the confederate works was obtained, Lieutenant Lavigne, at the head of the column, received a ball through his lungs and shattering his backbone. It is supposed that he was the first man killed in the rear of Vicksburg.

Next Page



The Battle of Fredericksburg was fought December 11–15, 1862, in and around Fredericksburg, Virginia, between General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by Major General Ambrose Burnside. The Union Army's futile frontal attacks on December 13 against entrenched Confederate defenders on the heights behind the city are remembered as one of the most one-sided battles of the American Civil War, with Union casualties more than three times as heavy as those suffered by the Confederates. A visitor to the battlefield described the battle to U.S. President Abraham Lincoln as a “butchery.”

Burnside's plan was to cross the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg in mid-November and race to the Confederate capital of Richmond before Lee's army could stop him. Bureaucratic delays prevented Burnside from receiving the necessary pontoon bridges in time and Lee moved his army to block the crossings. When the Union army was finally able to build its bridges and cross under fire, urban combat in the city resulted on December 11–12. Union troops prepared to assault Confederate defensive positions south of the city and on a strongly fortified ridge just west of the city known as Marye's Heights.

On December 13, the “grand division” of Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin was able to pierce the first defensive line of Confederate Lieutenant General Stonewall Jackson to the south, but was finally repulsed. Burnside ordered the grand divisions of Maj. Gens. Edwin V. Sumner and Joseph Hooker to make multiple frontal assaults against Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's position on Marye's Heights, all of which were repulsed with heavy losses. On December 15, Burnside withdrew his army, ending another failed Union campaign in the Eastern Theater.

During the siege of Vicksburg the squadron performed escort duty for General W. T. Sherman, orderlies being detailed for various Division and Brigade commanders in the Fifteenth Army Corps.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, accompanied Sherman to Jackson, then to quarters on the Big Black River.

Having prepared for winter quarters, we were unceremoniously ordered up the Mississippi to Memphis, thence overland to Chattanooga.

Sixteen men of this command were with General Sherman at his memorable little fight at Collierville, where he held the 5,000 confederates under General Chalmers in check for eight hours with about six hundred men.

Present at Mission Ridge, and participated in the cavalry pursuit after that engagement.

Then on to Knoxville, where the 5,000 cavalry from Grant's Army compelled Longstreet to raise the siege.

Ordered to winter quarters at Huntsville, Ala.

In February 1864, ten men re-enlisted at Veterans, and about the same time the squadron was consolidated with other companies, and were designated the Sixteenth Illinois Cavalry.



The Angel of Marye's Heights

Richard Rowland Kirkland, known as "The Angel of Marye's Heights", (August 1843 – September 20, 1863) was a Confederate soldier during the American Civil War, noted for his bravery and the story of his humanitarian actions during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

On December 13, 1862, Kirkland's unit had formed at the stone wall at the base of "Marye's Heights" near Fredericksburg, Virginia. In the action that followed, he and his unit inflicted heavy casualties on the Union attackers. On the night of December 13, walking wounded made their way to the field hospital while those who were disabled were forced to remain on the battlefield. The morning of December 14 revealed that over 8,000 Union soldiers had been shot in front of the stone wall at Marye's Heights. Many of those remaining on the battlefield were still alive, but suffering terribly from their wounds and a lack of water.

Soldiers from both sides were forced to listen to the painful cries of the wounded for hours, with neither side daring to venture out for fear of being shot by the enemy. At some point during the day, Kirkland allegedly approached Confederate Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw, also from Kershaw County, South Carolina, and informed him that he wished to help the wounded Union soldiers. By Kershaw's own account, at first he denied the request, but later he relented. However, when Kirkland asked if he could show a white handkerchief, General Kershaw stated he could not do that. Kirkland responded "All right, sir, I'll take my chances."

Kirkland gathered all the canteens he could carry, filled them with water, then ventured out onto the battlefield. He ventured back and forth several times, giving the wounded Union soldiers water, warm clothing, and blankets. Soldiers from both the Union and Confederate armies watched as he performed his task, but no one fired a shot. General Kershaw later stated that he observed Kirkland for more than an hour and a half. At first, it was thought that the Union would open fire, which would result in the Confederacy returning fire, resulting in Kirkland being caught in a crossfire. However, within a very short time, it became obvious to both sides as to what Kirkland was doing, and according to Kershaw cries for water erupted all over the battlefield from wounded soldiers. Kirkland did not stop until he had helped every wounded soldier (Confederate and Federal) on the Confederate end of the battlefield. Sergeant Kirkland's actions remain a legend in Fredericksburg to this day.



Felix de Weldon (US-american): Monument to Richard Kirkland, 1965, Fredericksburg. This sculpture depicts the well known incident in Fredericksburg where a Confederate

soldier, Sergeant Richard R. Kirkland, risked enemy fire to bring water to the injured Union soldiers in front of Marye's Heights.

