

# Members of the Orphan Brigade From Hancock County, KY



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 16 January 1986:**

So It's Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster

The drums of war were beating on many fronts all over the United States in 1856. Abolitionist groups, antislavery organizations, and churches were bank-rolling books, tracts, and newspapers to promote their own point of view. Among the books published in 1856 was a song book called "The Harp of Freedom" by Miller, Orton, and Mulligan of 25 Park Row, New York with other offices in Rochester and Boston. The preface of the book makes no bones about the purpose referring to "the great struggle" between Freedom and Slavery. The author waxes eloquent saying that "music" has always been the "handmaiden of Liberty." He further likens the struggle to that for freedom from England in 1776. Among the songs in this 250 page book "arranged as solos, duets (his spelling), trios, and quartettes (again hi spelling) is one reproduced here called "Uncle Tom's Religion." Another sad and sobering song is printed at the end of "History of the Orphan Brigade 1861-65" by Ed Porter Thompson called "Oh, Lay Me Away with the Boys in Gray" written by Capt. Jno. H. Weller and Wm. R. McQuown. It is a melancholy ending for this book that chronicles the miseries and the joys of "The Orphan .Brigade" - - a brigade that many Hancock County men and boys fought and died serving. A few of them will be listed below.

"J.C. Robb, Franklin County, was elected second lieutenant, October 12, 1862. He fought at Hartsville, Stone River, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca, and Dallas. From Dallas to Atlanta; at Intrenchment Creek and Jonesboro, and in minor engagements. He was wounded at Chicamauga. After the war he located in Hawesville, Kentucky where he died in 1895." (In Hancock County Mr. Robb married Julia Ann Beauchamp and they are the grandparents of Rose Pell Henderson, Lewisport). Mr. Robb fought in company K, fifth regiment.

In Company G, ninth regiment is found the name of John J. Williams: "Hawesville, was appointed second sergeant October 8, 1861, was elected second lieutenant on April 25, 1862, was promoted to first lieutenant February 8, 1863 and to captain September 20, 1863. Fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Stone River, Jackson, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca, Pine Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, Jonesboro, and in the mounted engagements up to March 1865 when he was ordered into Kentucky recruiting service and was there engaged when the war closed. He was wounded at Shiloh, Chicamauga, and Intrenchment Creek."

From the same company and regiment: "J.W. Burnett, Hawesville, went to the Army of Virginia, May 1861 with Capt. (later Major) Jack Thompson, but was not sworn into service, and

drove a team for Gen. Magruder until December 1861. He then came to Bowling Green and joined this company and fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Hartsville, Stone River, Jackson, and Chicamauga was twice wounded at the latter place, but did not leave the field; fought also at Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, and Resaca; from Resaca to Atlanta, at Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, both days at Jonesboro, and in the mounted engagements." And another from the same company and regiment:

"Samuel W. Boutcher, Hancock County, fought at Shiloh, and he was wounded there, fought also in most of the other engagements up to Jonesboro. He was wounded at Chicamauga, Resaca, and Jonesboro, at the latter place, we believe mortally."

And still another from the same company and regiment: "W.W. Badger, Hawesville, was appointed fifth sergeant, September 30, 1861 and was promoted to first sergeant September 20, 1863. Fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Jackson, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, and Resaca, from Resaca to Atlanta, at Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, both days at Jonesboro, and in the mounted engagements, till about a month prior to the close, when he was detailed to take charge of the regimental papers and baggage at Washington, Georgia."

Same company and regiment: "Nehemiah Hayden, Hancock County, was discharged on account of disease, October 1862, but was afterwards joined a cavalry unit and served with it during the war." "W.F. Holcomb, Hancock County was transferred from a cavalry command November 1861 and fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and various other engagements. In one of the earlier ones he lost a finger, and again at Chicamauga, he lost another."

It is hoped that the descendants of these Civil War men and boys from Hancock County will supply more details of their service and their life in Hancock County following the war. Perhaps enough material can be assembled for Mr. Glenn Hodges to write a sequel to his book about Hancock County's involvement in the War Between the States. More of the men from this county in the Orphan Brigade in the next column.

Have you memories, pictures, or documents of days gone by in Hancock County that you will share? Write Hancock County Historical Society, County Administration Building, Hawesville, Kentucky 42348 or call me at 295-6637.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 30 January 1986:**

So It's Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster

Mr. Kesner Gibson, life member of the Hancock County Historical Society, (see picture) said that his wife, the former Mariam Ashworth, obtained the Kentucky long rifle from her late Uncle Albert Mickel. An examination of the gun shows what is believed to be the maker's name etched in the metal atop the barrel: T. HIND. The stock is made of walnut and most of the hardware is brass. The owner added a bit of decor by imbedding a metal heart and a five-pointed star in the stock. Also on the wood are two carved crosses (looks like they might have been made by the sharp point of a pocket knife.) Could they be sort of like the notches on a gun. stock a la Wyatt Earp? The wooden ram rod appears to be original equipment. Maybe a reader can add to the history of this sort of gun.



Picture on left – Mr. Kesner Gibson holds a Kentucky long rifle. Stories passed down have it that Mr. Fred Hale [note by Jerry Long – this was Thomas Hale, who was killed in 1863] owned this rifle when Jim Hunt Morgan's men raided this area in 1862-63, and that Morgan's men killed Mr. Hale. Mr. Hale lived on Hartford Road at the time (now Route 69). Picture on right – Details of workmanship. Kesner Gibson's Kentucky Long Rifle has a polished walnut stock, set off by mostly brass hardware. The powder burned through a tiny orifice into the chamber in ignite the charge. The owner could not explain why the gun has two triggers.

Now for a continuation of the excerpts from Ed Porter Thompson's book "Orphan Brigade 1861-65". The notations are just as they appeared:

Company G, Ninth Regiment - "J.W. Evans, Hancock County, was on the regimental musicians staff, but sometimes on the field with the infirmary corps, and was painfully wounded at Chicamauga while on that duty/

"A.J. Hayden, Hawesville, fought at Shiloh and died of disease at Jackson, Mississippi in 1862."

"J.W. Lawson, Hawesville, was generally unfitted by ill-health for duty in the ranks, but fought at Stone River and the mounted engagements."

"John C. Lindsey, Hancock County, fought at Stone River."

"Thomas Lindsey, Hancock County, died of disease at Jacks Port, Arkansas, 1862."

"W. Lockett, Hancock County, fought in some of the earlier battles, but the specific ones are not remembered; one was the McMinnville Guard, March and April 1863, and he was captured there, but rejoined the company after having been exchanged. He fought at Chicamauga, Mission

Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca to Atlanta, at Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, and at Jonesboro at which latter place he was killed September 1864."

"J.S. Newman, Hancock County, was in nearly all the battles of the infantry, was one of the McMinnville Guard, March and April, 1863, and was killed in the battle of Jonesboro."

"Ed Newman, Hawesville, was killed in the battle of Shiloh."

"G. W. Napier, Hawesville, was in some of the earlier engagements and died of disease at Catoosa Springs, Georgia."

"Geo. W. Williams, Hancock County, was one of the corporals of the company, and fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and in other engagements up to Chicamauga where he was wounded and disabled for further duty in the ranks. He afterwards died of disease at Newman, Georgia."

From Company H-Ninth Regiment here are the names of a couple of men from foreign soil; wonder if the news of their fate ever got back home?

"John Gatton, Ireland, was in nearly every engagement of his company up to Chicamauga, where he was killed."

"Julius Herr, Germany, "old soldier of fortune", wounded at Chicamauga and died from the effects at Atlanta."

From Company D-Ninth Regiment (this is all the information the book gave about these men - - all from Hancock County.

"George Emmick, died of disease at Glasgow, Kentucky."

"Allen Estes, wounded in the shoulder at Jug Tavern."

"Eli Dorsey, Ben F. DeJarnette, Raymond Colbert, John A. Blackford, Samuel Estes, Leonard T. Pinson, Thomas D. Ireland,"

"Ben Johnson, died at home some years after the war."

"Preston Lindsay, Fourth Sergeant, wounded in shoulder at Murfreesboro July 13, 1862, but returned to the regiment."

"Samuel G. Hughes, Second Sergeant was promoted to lieutenant, and later to captain, died at home about 1895."

"Thomas Estes, First Sergeant, captured at Sweeden's Cove, but afterwards returned to his regiment."

"William Murray Brown, First Sergeant, was promoted to captain after Capt. W.F. Hawes was transferred (does not give Capt. Hawes home.)"

More from this book about Hancock County men and boys who fought with the "Orphan Brigade" in next week's column. Have you memories, pictures, or documents about days gone by in Hancock County that you will share? Write Hancock County Historical Society, County Administration Building, Hawesville, Ky. 42348 or call me at 295-6637.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 6 February 1986:**

So It's Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster

A brief pause in the reporting of Hancock County men and boys who served with the "Orphan Brigade" in the Civil War to note the "Oath of Allegiance" surrendered Confederates in

the military had to sign before being allowed to return home. Horace Greely Smith, Lewisport, surrendered at Atlanta, Georgia on May 7, 1865. He had served with John Hunt Morgan.

(Confederate.)

S 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Ky  
Horace G. Smith  
Pvt. 3 Regt Ky Cav.

Name appears as signature to an

**Oath of Allegiance**

to the United States, subscribed and sworn to  
before Wm. H. Bracken, 1st Lieut. & Asst. Pro.  
Mar. Genl., Dept. Cumb., at Nashville, Tenn.,  
May 14, 1865.

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Place of residence Hancock Co Ky  
Complexion fair; hair light  
Eyes blue; height 6 ft. 2 in.  
Surrendered at Atlanta, Ga.  
Date May 7, 1865.  
Subscribed to oath May 14, 1865.  
Remarks:

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Indorsement shows: "Roll of Prisoners of war, who Vol-  
untarily surrendered themselves, took the Oath of Allegiance,  
and were allowed to return to their homes."

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Hd. Qrs. Prov. Mar. Gen'l, Dept. of the Cumb'd,  
Nashville, Tenn.; Roll. No. 588; sheet 15

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R. W. Bess

(665) Copyist

After surrendering at the end of the Civil War, federate Soldiers could sign an "Oath of Allegiance" and return to their homes. Here is one signed by Hancock County's Horace G. Smith, Pvt. 3 Regiment Ky. Cav. Pvt. Smith's middle name was Greely, and Horace Temple's grandfather. Mr.

Temple obtained this document by writing to National Archives Trust Fund, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, D.C. 20408.

A few names of those who fought with the "Orphan Brigade" might be repeated. One listing shows only "Second Organization," and a theory is that what with deaths due to battle or disease the regiments had to be reorganized to maintain battle-ready strength. The record continues:

"George W. Tripplett, Owensboro, was afterwards a quartermaster, and even later a Confederate Congressman and died about 20 years after the war."

"John H. Hancock (home listed only as Kentucky but he deserves a listing here), "the original shooter," a very old man, and a very deliberate fighter, aiming to make every shot effective, was in every engagement of the command to the close. Had served in the Mexican War." He would have been a good man to keep at your side in battle!

"Samuel G. Hughes, Hancock County, Second Lieutenant, much on scout duty."

"Lindsey Preston, Hancock County, Third Lieutenant, was wounded severely at Murfreesboro, Tennessee July 13, 1862, captured near Fairfield, Tennessee in July, 1863,"

"David Harrison, Hancock County."

"William Hall, Hancock County."

"Peter Loyal, Hancock County, in all the engagements until captured. Killed in prison."

"James Mayfield, Hancock County, served throughout the war."

"Frank Reid, Hancock County."

"John Stark, Hancock County."

(No hometown listed but listen): "J.W. "Chap" Stowers, killed by bushwackers."

"Thomas Touget, Hancock County."

"Samuel Patterson, Hancock County, captured November 20, 1863 at Harrison, Tennessee."

"Charles May, Hancock County, captured June 1863, escaped, but again captured at Pulaski, Tennessee October 20, 1863."

"Thomas D. Ireland, Hancock County, First Sergeant was promoted to Second Sergeant, was returned to ranks at own request. Wounded at Manchester June 27, 1863, but recovered and returned to duty."

"David McCune, Hancock County, Second Sergeant wounded near Cassville, Georgia 1864."

"Peter Loyal, Hancock County, captured at Beech Grove July 1862, exchanged at Harrison, Tennessee, again captured November 20, 1863. Killed at Rock Island prison by a guard."

The following are listed only as serving from Hancock County:

James R. Erskine, L.T. Pinson, J.W. Rutledge.

"Thomas Touget was left sick in Tennessee in August 1862 and was never heard from."

"Henry L. Vickers, Hawesville, fought at Shiloh, wounded April 7, 1862, discharged soon afterwards being disabled by the effects of the wounds."

These men from Ireland seemed to be a colorful lot. Here is what is said about two of them: "Pat Fitzgerald, Ireland, was Company K's "astronomical character." He fought in at least a dozen battles, and when General Johnston's surrender was announced, the refused to report for parole and "started for Texas." Bartholomew Sullivan, Ireland, Cork County, after fighting in several battles drowned in the Alabama River after accidentally falling overboard from the steamer "R.B. Toney" between Mobile and Montgomery."

"Andrew Conner, Hancock County fought at Stone River, Jackson, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, and Dallas; from Dallas to Atlanta, Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, both days at Jonesboro, Arkansas, and in the mounted engagements."

"Terry Holland, Hancock County, enlisted at Tupelo, Mississippi, June 10, 1862, fought at Baton Rouge, Stone River, and Jackson. He was missed about September 10, 1863, and is supposed to have been killed by a shell from a battery then firing and he was heard from no more."

"Lewis Holmes, Hancock County, fought at Shiloh captured there."

"James Kincaid, Hawesville, fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Stone River, Jackson, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca and Dallas; from Dallas to Atlanta, Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, both days at Jonesboro and in the mounted engagements."

One more column ought to record all the Hancock County men and boys listed in the "Orphan Brigade 1861-65". Have you memories, pictures, or documents of days past in Hancock County you will share? Write to Hancock County Historical Society, County Administration Building, Hawesville, Kentucky 42348 or call me at 295-6637.



### **Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 13 February 1986:**

So It's Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster

Some have commented on the many soldiers who died of disease in the Civil War. Historians have confirmed that more died of disease than from battle-related injuries. The roll call of Hancock County men and boys who served in the Orphan Brigade as reported in Ed Porter Thompson's book "History of the Orphan Brigade-1861-65" continues.

Here are some from Company A, Fourth Regiment:

"E.E. Napier, Hawesville, fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Stone River, Jackson, and Chicamauga wounded at the latter. Also fought at Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca to Dallas, Dallas to Atlanta, at Peachtree and Intrenchment Creek, again wounded there."

"Shadrach Nichols, Hancock County, fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Stone River, Jackson, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca, and Dallas. Also from Dallas to Atlanta, at Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, both days at Jonesboro and in mounted engagements."

"G.W. O'Bannon, Lewisport, fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Stone River, Jackson, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, captured at latter place and detained in prison until close of war."

"David Osborne, Hancock County, fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Route, Stone River, Jackson, Chicamauga, and Mission Ridge. Was transferred to Navy April 1864 and was in party that boarded and captured the "Waterwitch". Died at Nashville of disease having started home."

"N.M. Stowers, Lewisport, fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Stone River, Jackson, Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Gap, Resaca and Dallas; Dallas to Atlanta, at Peachtree, Intrenchment and Utoy Creeks, and at Jonesboro, served remainder of war with dismounted detachment."

"W.T. Matthews, Hancock County, died of disease April 1862."

It is hard to believe that the surviving Hancock Countians, who served in so many battles, did not leave records, pictures, family stories, and perhaps relics and artifacts. Perhaps more can be added to these listed from other sources as time goes on.

In closing a word about the book by Ed Porter Thompson "History of the Orphan Brigade 1861-1865" . . . it was reissued in 1898 with as much information as could be found from survivors and records. The introduction was written by Wm. C. Davis, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania and he said in part:

"No brigade in this "Grand Army of the West" ever achieved quite the distinction, quite the record of the First Brigade (Orphan Brigade)."

He continues, "Born of tragedy, reared in fire and blood, nurtured on heartbreak, loneliness, and death's relentless march, these men from the Blue Grass suffered incredible hardship yet bore it with spirit and elan rare in an army in any war."

Here is an example of what the writer is talking about: In May 7, 1864 the Brigade was 1,140 strong marching out of Dalton, Georgia. By September 1864 it had a total of 1,860 cases of death and/or hospitalization, so that only 50 came out UNWOUNDED, and only 240 reported for duty on September 1, 1864. When the brigade was formed in 1861 it had 5,000 strong - - yet when surrender came fewer than 300 remained to take the parole.

In the final chapter the author said: "The men of the Orphan Brigade were welcomed home - - people in general received them with generous warmth. The first legislature to convene in 1865 passed a sweeping parole for all the soldiers who fought with the Confederates." The author concludes with the statement that the returning soldiers went "vigorously to work."

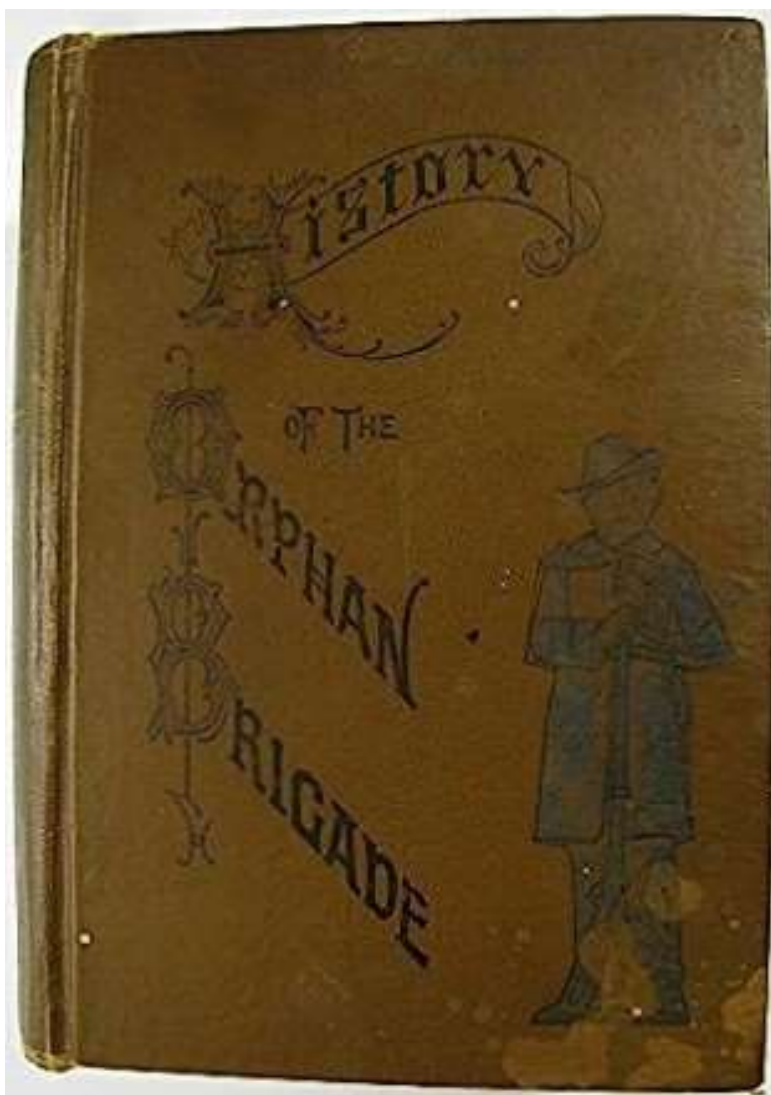
Readers who have a Kentucky library card can request a copy of Ed Porter Thompson's "History of the Orphan Brigade 1861-1865" from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, 300 Coffee Tree Road, Box 537, Frankfort, Ky. 40602-0537, but the request must be submitted through your local library.

Have you memories, documents, or pictures of men and boys from Hancock County that served in the Civil War that you will share? Write Hancock County Historical Society, County Administration Building, Hawesville, Kentucky 42348 or call me at 295-6637.





Artist Charles Rodgers did his version of what a Confederate Soldier looked like. Many were too young according to the rules, but it was not uncommon to have teenagers in the fighting ranks. There are many stories of 12 year old drummerboys - - - some of them documented.



Cover of "History of the Orphan Brigade, 1861-65",  
by Ed Porter Thompson, 1898



## Hancock County, KY Gravestones



William W. Badger (1817-1888)  
Hawesville Cemetery



Samuel W. Boutcher (1838-1891)  
Holland Cemetery



Benjamin Franklin DeJarnette  
(1841-1925) Hawesville Cemetery



Edward Gregory (1841-1905)  
Lewisport Cemetery



William H. Hall (1843-1918)  
Union Baptist Church



Samuel Goslee Hughes (1838-1888)  
Ayres Cemetery



Thomas D. Ireland (1837-1907)  
Hawesville Cemetery



John Wesley Lawson (1837-1924)  
Hawesville Cemetery



James Mayfield (1840-1907)  
Union Baptist Church



Frank Reid (1839-1926)  
Union Baptist Church



Horace Greely Smith (1845-1921)  
Smith Cemetery



One-half of the Confederate Statue at new home in  
Owensboro, KY's Potter's Field - 17 October 2022