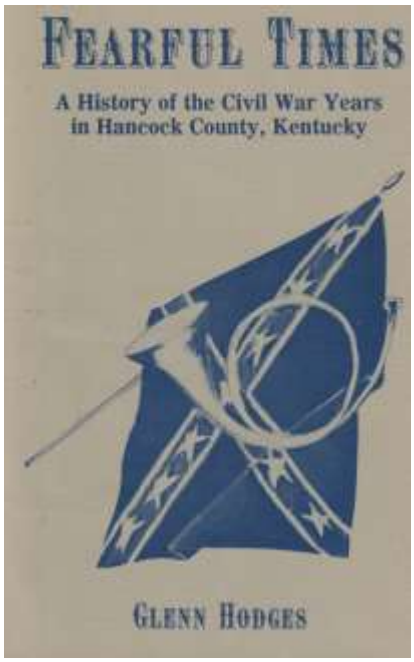
The Civil War in Hancock County

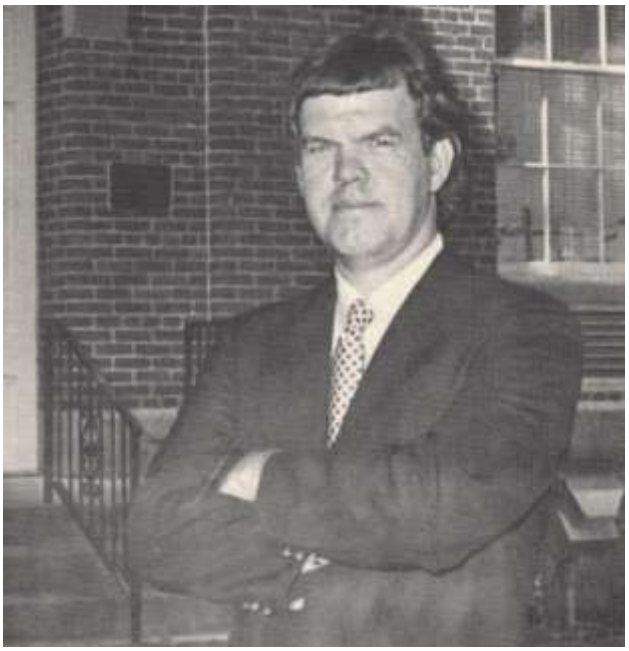
By Jerry Long

Table of Contents:

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 14 August 1986:

Hancock's Civil War story in Hodges' book





Glenn Hodges (1943-2015)

The first history ever written about events in Hancock County during the American Civil War has been published by the Hancock County Historical Society and will be available to the public this week.

Historical Society President Horace Temple announced that the history can be ordered by mail from the Historical Society in Hawesville and will be on sale at the Society's booth at the Hancock County Fair today through Saturday.

The 90-page booklet, titled Fearful Times: A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County, was written by Glenn Hodges, secretary of the Historical Society. It contains a reconstruction of events in Hancock County and the Green River region during the Civil War as they were reported by eyewitnesses and correspondents of newspapers in Cannelton and Evansville, Ind., and Owensboro and Louisville, Ky.

Produced in cooperation with Donn Wimmer, editor-publisher of The Hancock Clarion, the history includes four pages of photographs, and an index with more than 200 names of participants in the events covered, a majority of whom resided in Hancock County.

According to Hodges, the booklet reveals how Hancock Countians were violently split by the politics of the war, tolerated Union Army occupation, endured the social upheaval caused by the Federal government's enlistment of slaves, and survived the daily danger of being attacked and robbed by guerrillas.

Portions of the history include:

A detailed account of the murder of Thomas Hale at the hands of nightriders near Weberstown in 1863.

Memories of life in Hawesville during wartime provided by Anna Hawes, who as a child witnessed the shelling of the town by Union artillery and gunboats.

The exploits of Maj. Walker Taylor who, before coming to western Kentucky in 1864, had been a daring scout and secret service agent for the Confederate Army, and had schemed in 1862 to kidnap President Abraham Lincoln.

The history is climaxed by an examination of the final days and death of Bill Davison, the notorious Confederate guerrilla captain from Hawesville who was responsible for burning the Daviess County courthouse at Owensboro in January 1865.

Hodges has been secretary of the Historical Society and editor of its quarterly newsletter since April 1982. He is also chairman of the Society's historic site marker committee. He was a staff writer for seven years at the Messenger-Inquirer in Owensboro, is a former U.S. Navy journalist and has served as a public information officer in Kentucky state government. Though a native of' Daviess County, Hodges' family roots go deep into Hancock County. He is a descendant of the pioneer Lewis and Greathouse families who settled in the Lewisport area in the early 1800s. His parents, Stanley Hodges and the late Helen Hatfield Hodges, both grew up in the River Road and New Chapel Church communities northeast of Lewisport.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 14 April 2002, p.3E:

Torn Apart By War: The Civil War drove wedge of fear and distrust between Cannelton, Hawesville

By Glenn Hodges

It was 141 years ago this past week that the Civil War began with the bombardment of Fort Sumter, S.C. Four years later, during the same April week, the war ended. Messenger-Inquirer history columnist Glenn Hodges takes a look at how the great conflict changed two neighboring Ohio River towns, Cannelton and Hawesville.

The residents of Cannelton, Ind., and Hawesville today are a half mile apart geographically - separated by a river, connected by a bridge. But the gap is much wider than that. When you ask people of the towns, they say there's just not much social interchange between the two communities. And they admit they don't think much about it.

"On a personal basis, we can work real easy together," said Charles King, mayor of Hawesville. "But as communities, there's no rapport. If you had a catastrophe, the two towns would probably come together. But since the building of the bridge years ago, there hasn't been anything to do that."

Residents of Cannelton agree that the two towns aren't as close as they could be. "It's the times we live in; they're different," said Andrea Keller, a billing clerk in the Cannelton utilities office. "People are different. Cultures have changed. But I think people would still come to the rescue of their neighbors. If they needed me, I would be there."

Almost a century and a half ago, when the nation was younger and times were more uncertain and menacing, the two towns were more aware of their relationship. They had a keener sense of community. Linked then by only a ferry and steamboat traffic, they shared the thriving commerce of the river, local industry and their coal mines.

Their greatest fear was the threat of impending civil war and the upheaval it could bring. For many months before the first shots of the war were fired in 1861, it was clear that the harmonious personal and commercial relations prized by the people of the two towns were in serious jeopardy.

In 1860, Hawesville, the seat of justice of Hancock County, was a lively coal mining town with a population of 1,128, situated on the rocky south shore of the Ohio River. Cannelton was the largest town in Perry County and had nearly the same number of residents as Hawesville. It was the site of cotton, coal mining, brick, pottery, timber and stone-making industries that had thrived during the antebellum period. The structure of the old cotton mill in Cannelton, which began production in 1851, remains there today.

The people of Cannelton, many of whom were born in Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas, regarded Perry County as part of the South and had warm feelings for the people of Hancock County and Kentucky. They sympathized with their Southern neighbors politically, feeling that the federal government was forcing secession. They hoped some compromise could be reached to prevent war and preserve the Union, but not interfere with the institution of slavery in Kentucky or the other Southern states. They foresaw the problems that Kentucky's agricultural economy would suffer if its primary labor force were eliminated. Moreover, they realized what war would do to the commercial and industrial interests of Cannelton, which were dependent on Southern markets and raw products.

During the U.S. presidential campaign of 1860, many residents of Perry and Hancock counties shared the viewpoint of Jacob Maynard, editor of the Cannelton Reporter.

Maynard, a writer of stirring force and brilliance whose editorials were copied in other larger newspapers throughout the nation, believed the election of Abraham Lincoln would drive the South out of the Union and make civil war inevitable.

"We believe God still watches over Washington and will preserve it," wrote Maynard, a Democrat who supported Stephen Douglas, one of the four candidates in the presidential race.

"Abraham Lincoln may lead this young child of nations up the rugged steps of fanaticism and build the altar upon which to sacrifice it in the face of heaven and the world," Maynard said. "He may, in the frenzy of the irrepressible conflict, aim the fatal blow, but God who has watched over us will palsy the arm and turn aside the blow and save our happy land from the horrors of servile war."

But Maynard's worst fears came to pass. Lincoln won the election and became chief executive of a dividing country. But not before Perry and Hancock counties had registered their disapproval.

In Perry County, where he had worked as a youth in the town of Troy, the Republican Lincoln defeated Douglas by just 79 votes but lost in Cannelton by a 314-215 margin.

In Hancock County, Lincoln received only three of the 892 votes cast. John Breckinridge of Kentucky, the Southern Democrat Party nominee and former vice president of the United States in the James Buchanan administration, won a 427-397 victory over Constitutional Unionist candidate John Bell of Tennessee.

On Nov. 8, 1860, two days after the election, editor Maynard predicted a Lincoln presidency would cause a national financial crisis that would reduce the demand for Cannelton cotton sheeting and cripple the other industries of the Indiana port.

"If a political war is declared on the South, no shrewd man will seek a home along the border, when all probability is that this war will become a civil war," he declared. "It is fraught with disaster and the only hope is that Abraham Lincoln will at once free himself from the

miserable fanaticism of his party and the blow about to fall upon this nation. But we confess it is hoping against hope."

Lincoln's election, followed six weeks later by South Carolina's secession ordinance, created a tinder box situation in both Perry and Hancock counties.

On Jan. 1, 1861, representatives of each township and political party in Perry County met at Mozart Hall in Cannelton and approved resolutions pledging their loyalty to the Union and the people of the border states. They then called for the dividing line between North and South to be drawn north of Perry County.

The mood of the assembly was aptly captured in a Maynard editorial written on Jan. 3:

"We have been told that the Southern feeling would expend itself in bluster and brag, that it meant nothing and all would subside. We have never believed it. We have warned our readers against this delusion. Terrible times are upon us - fearful times. A mighty nation is going to pieces and if we would not be involved in calamities beggaring description, let us take manly ground and place Indiana in a position where wild flames of fanaticism cannot engulf us. The Ohio River must never be the boundary between contending nations. We have always lived upon terms of friendship with our Kentucky neighbors.

"Kentucky by no act of her own has ever shown any spirit but that of the right. Perry County has ever been true to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and if the time should ever come to trace on the map of our country the new boundaries of new republics, the Ohio River cannot be one of those boundaries - never! The line must go north of us and the farther north, the better."

Perry County's attitude toward the South changed after secession forces fired on Fort Sumter at Charleston, S.C., on April 12, 1861, and war was declared. But the leaders of Cannelton and Hawesville still clung to hope that friendship between the two river towns could be maintained.

On April 30, Charles Mason, Ebenezer Wilber, James Burkett, Joseph Sulzer and David Richards of Cannelton met in Hawesville with six representatives of the Kentucky town - Samuel McAdams, William Mason, William Sterett, Nestor Davison, Joseph W. Hughes and James R. Jennings.

In their conference they produced a joint resolution vowing to maintain the towns' "amicable, peaceful" relationship, despite the war.

But the great conflict was a force too powerful to resist. In the first weeks of the war there were rumors that Hawesville stores had refused service to customers from Cannelton. Although most residents of both towns still exchanged business trips by ferrying across the river, they quickly realized that their relationship had changed. Already the war had driven a wedge of fear and distrust between them. A parting of the ways was unavoidable.

Public feeling against the Confederacy increased in Perry County. The state government of Indiana stood strongly beside the federal administration and the Union cause, and the Ohio River, whether the Southern sympathizers in Perry County liked it or not, was the border between Indiana and a still-neutral Kentucky.

Cannelton rapidly became a recruiting center and campsite for the U.S. Army in southern Indiana and an industrial supplier for the Union war effort. And while a minority of Union loyalists lived in Hawesville, the town was controlled by a strong, well-connected coalition of political and business leaders that sided fervently with the South. They built Hawesville into a citadel of Confederate sympathy, and the town became a magnet for controversy and trouble for the balance of the four long years of war.

Each day of suffering brought on by the war drove the residents of both towns farther apart.

During the last year of the conflict, the residents of the Indiana town remained on constant alert for the threat of Confederate guerrillas fording the low waters of the Ohio River and attacking Cannelton or other Indiana towns downstream.

The people of Hawesville endured the frequent occupations of their town by U.S. troops, a shelling by a federal gunboat and occasional cannon fire from the Indiana Legion, the Union home guard in Cannelton.

When the report finally arrived that Lee's Army had surrendered in Virginia on April 9, 1865, and the fighting elsewhere had ended, there were great celebrations in Cannelton. Homes and public buildings were draped with the Stars and Stripes. The citizens burned bonfires, bands played and cannons fired victory salutes as the Indiana people rejoiced. In Hawesville, the reaction was more low-key, but the news of the war's end was welcomed by the Kentuckians who had grown so tired of the days of anxiety, sudden raids and news of deaths. The "fearful times" that Cannelton editor Maynard had predicted seemed to be over.

A week later, as hopes for a peaceful future were beginning to emerge, the news of Lincoln's assassination stunned both communities, and a new wave of vengeful outrage swept down over Kentucky from the states of the North. Citizens of Hawesville and Cannelton tried to cope with this last great death of the war as they came together to mourn the president at memorial services in both towns. There was a brief, vain attempt to heal the wounds.

But as many years passed, the division remained. The once strong bond between the two towns would be difficult to restore. The war had taken a terrible toll.

Kentucky Explorer, Jackson, KY, Vol. 13, No. 9, March 1999, pp.48-51:

Hancock County Was Hotbed For Guerrilla Action During Civil War

Southern Sympathizer, Bill Davison, Caused Much Trouble For Pro-Union Citizens In And Around Hawesville

By Oswald G. Jett

William Hardin Davison, born November 8, 1839, in the Ohio River town of Hawesville, on the east side of town in a steeply-roofed cottage, saw the light of day on the corner of Clay and Water Streets. (according to an 1885 article of the newspaper, *The Plain Dealer*.) He grew up to be an ex-Union soldier from a star-crossed Hancock County family, who began his military career as a brave Union captain and ended it as a feared, ruthless, and dangerous guerrilla in his native county.

His birthplace was across Water Street from the future L. & N. railroad track that skirted the Ohio River. Davison was the son of Dr. Hardin Aurelius Davison and wife Jane Starke Dupuy, both descendants or relatives of notable settlers of Kentucky, including the famed Captain "Indian Bill" Hardin, the founder of Fort Hardin (Hardinsburg) in Breckinridge County. The youth was said to be a good student, and he was a school teacher by the time the war began.

On the high, steep bluff that backs the river town there, projects a large flat rock known as Lovers Leap, which affords a splendid view of the river. Without doubt, young Bill Davison would climb to this natural platform to watch the numerous steamboats and barges that plied the stream.

By this time, Captain John Crammond (father of the more famous infamous Quantrill Ra Captain William D. Crammond, who built steamer packets in Hawesville) was operating the K. &

I. Ferry that chugged its are across the river to and from the dock of Cannelton, Indiana. It was a colorful ferry boat, but young Davison was also fascinated by the hustling scene of gaily painted, large steamers and by the loading and unloading activities at the wharf, not only of passengers, but of barrels, bales, boxes, and baskets of farm produce.

The barges were principally loaded with tons upon tons of coal, some of regular bituminous mined at Hawesville, but mostly of a particular type of bright-burning coal called cannel coal (derived from candle coal). It was mined both by English operators near the Breckinridge County line and across the river. The town of Cannelton got its name from this popular type of coal. The owner of these mines was the American Cannel Coal Company.

Later, young Davison would admire the impressive gunboats of the Federal Navy. The first one reported in the newspapers was the *Conestoga*, which anchored between Cannelton and Hawesville on September 27, 1861, to investigate a disturbance reported to Cannelton authorities by foreign-born coal miners of Hawesville. By this time Davison had volunteered into the Union Army.

The excitement created by the scared miners was soon quelled by the gunboat's commander, who announced that he considered the residents of Hawesville mainly lawful citizens, although he thought that the town might warrant an occasional show of force.

As much as any other section of the nation, Hancock County was a region of mixed allegiance to the Civil War participants. In no nook of the county could a family feel secure and at peace. Recently, a book written by historian Glenn Hodges called *Fearful Times*, describes the awful confusion of the era, with pervading distrusts, fears, hatreds, family breakups, raids, fights, ambushes, robberies, burnings, shootings, hangings, and murders prevalent in all communities.

Both Union and Confederate forces raided Hancock and adjacent counties. Rebel raiders were looking mostly for guns, food, and horses, but recruited as well. Their problem was they often alienated their own sympathizers, both merchants and farmers, by robbing and mistreating them. An example was the anger created when a respected Union Democrat leader, Thomas Hale, was murdered at his front door, three miles northeast of Pellville, by a guerrilla near midnight of July 4, 1863. More disgust resulted from the blasting of the Reverdy coal mines at Hawesville in July of 1864.

Union raiders looked for the Confederate raiders, also recruited, setting up a recruiting station called Camp Anderson at the crossroads near the Dukes Church, eight miles southeast of Hawesville. In general, southern troops were armed only with the old-fashioned squirrel rifles they had carried to the army from home, and they searched for, double-barreled shot guns, Colt revolvers, and the Henry repeating rifles that gave the Union troops an advantage. As for shooting accuracy, the rural soldiers of the South, with years of hunting experience, were never at a disadvantage with the enemy except when greatly outnumbered.

When Bill Davison joined the Union Army (the 17th Kentucky Infantry) in early 1861, he was one of the leaders of the local Union Democrat party, composed mostly of slave holders who continued to support the Union. There were many of these farmers in the south end of Hancock County. Davison was soon promoted to captain and saw much action in serving the Union, including the bloody battle of Shiloh. But after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in January, 1863, both he and most of the Union Democrats denounced the freeing of the slaves as being unconstitutional. They switched to the Confederate cause and Davison resigned from the Union Army.

For about a year he remained a civilian, although making it clear that he hated Negroes and was disgusted with the Union. He raised a company of men in the summer of 1864 and joined the Confederate Partisan Rangers (a polite term for guerrillas).

Several groups of guerrillas raided, robbed, and murdered in Hancock County, and it was often unclear which band was guilty of an outrage. The largest guerrilla group was led by nationally famed Marcellus Jerome Clarke, better known as Sue Munday. Born in Franklin, Kentucky, he was officially a Confederate Captain of Artillery, and a scout for General John Hunt Morgan. His feminine nickname stemmed from his slight stature and his habit of wearing his hair long. He was suspected of being female even before a Louisville reporter gave him the name of a local prostitute.

Clarke turned to guerrilla action after Morgan's death in September 1864. It so happened that Bill Davison ended his ignoble career with the Clarke-Munday guerrilla band. Other raiding groups were led by burly Captain Isaac Colter, of Washington County, and the guerrilla band of Jake Bennett, who concentrated his attacks in Owensboro and Lewisport.

Davison's group of rebels was usually much smaller than Munday's but on one occasion, Davison's force was said to consist of three-hundred men, which he led into Owensboro to burn the Daviess County Court House. He had heard that the building was being used to house Union Negro troops.

By the summer of 1864, Federal authorities were convinced that "secessionists" were in the majority in Hancock County, and the result was increased watchfulness and harassment toward Hawesville. In mid-summer the Cannelton newspaper reported that the federal steamer, *Science No. 2,* landed at Hawesville to take on coal, while at the same time loading around thirty Negroes while their indignant owners collected at the wharf. Inevitably, shots were fired by both the slaveholders and the ship's guards, and continued until the steamer was out of reach downstream. The engineer, pilot, and a passenger were slightly wounded. One man on shore was severely wounded, and another man had a finger shattered by a pistol ball.

The noisy commotion, plus the rumor that eighty rebels were approaching Hawesville, resulted in the gunboat *Springfield* anchoring at Cannelton to give Hawesville a dose of artillery. On June 26, the boat's six howitzers poured 24-pound shells onto the town, as residents sought safety in coal mines and the stone-walled Catholic church at the west end of town. In spite of the implied carnage, no one was wounded or killed, and little property damage was reported. It was apparent that the Union commander meant only to discourage guerilla activity, rather than destroy the town.

Yet, other gunboats, and the *Springfield* itself, later lobbed shells into the town, and on occasion cannon fire erupted from the Indiana shore. Evidence of one bombardment was visible until 1923, when the building on the corner of Jefferson and Water Streets was torn down to make room for the large concrete block addition to the tobacco warehouse. The upper part of the structure was still scarred by a gaping hole. Federals had suspected the tall building was occupied by rebel sharp-shooters.

Another concern of Union steamers was an ancient Confederate cannon set up on the high bill overlooking Hawesville, which was said to "fire hot and heavy" on passing federal steamers.

On July 15, 1864, the federal 56th Kentucky Mounted Infantry arrived in Hawesville to arrest four suspected troublemakers of the town, including the plantation owner, Robert Costain Beauchamp.

Kentucky, of course, was the scene of many skirmishes and battles between the North and South, including the major battle at Perryville. Large armies always cause losses and hardships for

the civilian population, but a battle is not necessary to attract thieves and murderers to out-of-the-way places during a war. But towns offered the most loot, so raids of galloping, yelling, and shooting guerrillas, as well as forays by regular troops continued to plague the Hawesville and Lewisport residents.

It was obvious that the Southern troops of the regular army (mostly from Morgan's cavalry) were generally more orderly and respectful than guerrillas. But on June 22, 1864, General Morgan's men, a party of one-hundred and fifty, robbed stores in Hawesville, including that of Stephen Powers, a strong Southern rights supporter.

A Union draft order in July, 1864, caused much alarm among Hancock County citizens, and resulted in volunteers for both armies, as well as recruits for guerrilla raiders. Others sought to buy substitutes for military service. On Oct. 7, 1864, about sixty Confederate cavalrymen sent by General Nathan Bedford Forrest, to recruit in Lewisport, seemed to be more interested in robbing than in recruiting.

Bill Davison's guerrillas were increasing their activity in the region, killing and hanging uncooperative farmers, and terrorizing women and children as they whooped and yelled from their racing mounts, firing into the air with Colt revolvers and pistols.

Newspaper reports. and rumors confuse the dates of some guerrilla actions, but it is logical that the comparatively large force of Davison's and Colter's combined raiders (said to be three-hundred men) that burned the court houses at Hartford and Owensboro, preceded the much smaller band that captured the steamer *Morning Star* on December 23, 1864. About fifty guerrillas boarded the vessel at the Lewisport wharf. Besides robbing passengers, they killed at least three ex-Union soldiers, going home after discharge. Reports differed on whether Davison or Colter was the culprit in this outrage. Both Colter and Davison hated the black servants and drove them from the boat.

Fearing reprisals from Union troops in Owensboro, the guerrillas partially disbanded, but sixteen remained to move the stolen steamer upriver to Hawesville. However, according to some records, the two guerrilla leaders, with about eighty men, returned to Owensboro on January 7, 1865, to rob stores and residents; a brazen performance if they had burned the court house a few days previously. Later in the month they raided Cloverport and Hardinsburg in Breckinridge County.

They returned to Hancock County to camp southwest of Hawesville in what was known as the Tywhoppity bottoms of Blackford Creek. Within a week their small force was threatened by some forty federal troops out of Owensboro. Abandoning their equipment, blankets, guns, and ammunition the guerrillas separated to lose their pursuers. Ten days later, the band regrouped on the farm of Captain John W. Cannon. (Captain Cannon was the famed pilot of the steamboat Robert E. Lee, that in 1870, beat the steamer Natchez in a race from New Orleans to St. Louis.)

After the guerrilla force of Clarke (Sue Munday) was repulsed by Kentucky Union troops under Colonel Buckley on January 29, 1865, the group left Nelson County and rode westward. By this time, it was apparent to everyone that the South had lost the war, but this only caused the rebel guerrillas to increase their violence, spurred on by rage and their hatred of blacks and the Union army. Davison's anger had resulted in the burning of the Daviess County court house, which he had heard housed Union Negro troops.

On February 4, the guerrilla leader Colter was killed near Bloomfield and Davison's band disbanded to escape their pursuers from Owensboro. In the meantime, Munday's group rode through Meade County, passed the future site of Fort Knox, bypassed Hardinsburg in Breckinridge County, and hit the Owensboro road. After traveling all night they camped by daylight, in a shanty near the Hancock County line.

Warned by a courier from Knottsville in Daviess County of the raiders' approach, one-hundred Union troops advanced up the road from Owensboro and drove the guerrilla force back toward Cloverport in Breckinridge County, apparently riding along the present Highway 144 that runs through Knottsville, Pellvile, and Patesville.

At this time, having no band, Bill Davison headed toward Patesville to join Munday's retreating group, which was leaving Pellville on February 24, after robbing farmers and merchants. About six miles to the northeast, at Arrington's Corner near Patesville, Davison met them just in time to protect an old friend, Minor E. Pate.

The guerrillas had meant to seek revenge for the recent abuse of Hawesville's well known slave holder, Robert C. Beauchamp, by kidnapping or killing Patesville's Minor Pate, and burning his house. Davison talked them out of the action; then told them of a place of safety about five miles from Cloverport, a ride of only an hour or so.

In this episode, Bill Davison, the ruthless guerrilla leader, showed he was not altogether without compassion or conscience. In the meantime, the pursuing Federal troops on the trail of both Davison and Munday seemingly made an unlikely return to Owensboro without avenging the burning of the court houses. They left the rebels to contend only with a small group of Home Guards.

Officially under the command of a Captain John Clark, but with only eight men of the Pellville-Patesville area, led by Silas Taylor and Charles Hale, the Guards planned a trap for the guerrillas and awaited reinforcements. On March 3, 1865, as Captain Clark arrived with seven more guards, the Home Guards (armed with carbines - .44 cal. Ballard repeaters) ambushed the guerrilla force from a thickly wooded spot near the Breckinridge County line, just east of Patesville. During the short and furious shooting action both Billy Magruder and Bill Davison were severely wounded.

Magruder recovered, and later wrote an account of his experiences, claiming to be the leader Jerome Clarke himself, alias Sue Munday. The real Sue Munday escaped unhurt but was captured by Union troops on March 12. He was hanged on March 15, 1865. Magruder wound up being hanged on Oct. 20, 1865.

Bill Davison, according to a *Hancock County Clarion* profile reported by reporter Glenn Hodges, managed to ride several miles from the ambush before he fainted from loss of blood. Within a day or two he was found by two of his cousins and carried to their home. Lacking proper medical attention, the young raider died on March 7, 1865. This defeat of the raiders marked the end of guerrilla action in the Civil War.

Charles Hale, the man who was given credit for fatally wounding Bill Davison, was the brother of the Thomas Hale murdered by a raider on July 4, 1863. Some called it poetic justice. The imposter, Henry C. Magruder, native of Lebanon, Kentucky, in writing his memoirs as Sue Munday, described the expert training given his Confederate cavalry company at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

He claimed the Southern cavalry troops were so adept at riding they could pick up a dollar from the ground while riding at a full gallop. Another exploit they learned was to spring from a running horse and vault back into the saddle without lessening the speed of the horse. Aside from his bragging, it was no secret that the Confederate riders were superior troops, and moreover, were led by shrewd leaders such as Forrest and Stuart, who brought a successful conclusion to more than one important battle.

Incidentally, one great advantage of the regular Confederate forces was the famous "rebel yell," described as a wild, piercing cry, or a succession of shrill yelps, that created instant panic

among enemy soldiers. In contrast, the Union battle cry was a deep, resounding and continuous hurrah. The soldiers of the regular Confederate army were guilty of robbing civilians too, but it was due to absolute necessity, not as acts of terrorism.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 7 May 1996, p1D:

Southern Soldier's Final Battle: Confederate captain who led raids during Civil War was fatally wounded in his native Hancock County

By Glenn Hodges

William Hardin "Bill" Davison (1839-1865)

By late February 1865, time was running out for Bill Davison, the 25-year-old Confederate captain from Hawesville whose men had burned the Daviess County courthouse in January.

Guerrilla warfare had been raging out of control in Kentucky for a year, and the War Department in Washington wanted law and order restored in the state at all costs.

Guerrilla-marauders like Davison were being tracked relentlessly and shot on sight by state troops and the best civilian gunmen the state could hire.

By that time, Davison was on his own. Ike Coulter, Davison's partner in robbing the steamboat Morning Star at Lewisport and burning the courthouse at Owensboro, had been killed on Feb. 4 in a shootout with Union scouts near Bloomfield.

Davison soon teamed up with two other young guerrillas on the run. Marcellus Jerome Clarke (better known to the newspaper-reading public then as Sue Mundy) and Henry Magruder had led a dozen men into the Green River region on their way to Confederate headquarters in Paris, Tenn.

Mundy, 20, and Magruder, 21, were first reported in southern Hancock County in the last two weeks of February. Their gang robbed James Snider's store in Pellville and raided the nearby farm of Peter Purcell.

That same week, Mundy and Magruder's men stopped in Knottsville to shoe their horses. They were recognized and Union troops in Owensboro were notified. Thinking any escape route

to the west was blocked, Mundy and Magruder rode back into Hancock County and were joined by Davison, who had found a safe place for them to stay.

On Feb. 24, Magruder, Mundy, Davison and the other guerrillas stopped at Minor E. Pate's house on the Hardinsburg Road west of Patesville. The elderly Pate had been a strong Unionist throughout the war, and Mundy and Magruder wanted to burn his house in retaliation for harsh treatment the Union Army had been giving Southern sympathizers in Hancock County. But Davison, who knew Pate, talked them out of it.

Leaving Pate's place, Davison and the Magruder-Mundy gang rode east for about a mile when they spotted three members of the Union Home Guard. Silas Taylor, Charles Hale and William Sinnett were out scouting the road for a militia company led by Capt. John Clark.

When Taylor, Hale and Sinnett realized the riders coming toward them were Rebels, they opened fire with repeating rifles and the guerrillas charged them. Sinnett rode off to alert Capt. Clark, while Taylor and Hale dismounted and took cover in the woods.

Magruder later said he saw Davison firing his revolvers at close range as he chased one of the Home Guard troopers through the trees. The militiaman, later identified as Hale, fired two rounds that hit Davison in the arm and lower chest.

Outnumbered, Hale and Taylor were forced to retreat into a cabin where, using the added firepower the repeaters provided, they held off the guerrillas for more than a half-hour.

Mundy and Magruder's gang broke off the fight and rode toward Cloverport, leaving Davison behind. On the way, the guerrillas were bushwhacked by another Home Guard party and Magruder was wounded.

While the rest of their men went to Nelson County, Magruder and Mundy managed to get to Webster, a community 10 miles east of Hardinsburg, where they found a doctor to treat Magruder. They were hiding in a barn near the doctor's house when a Union Army unit, tipped off by an informer, surrounded and captured them March 12, 1865.

The two guerrillas were taken to the federal army prison in Louisville. Mundy was hanged there on March 15, and Magruder went to the gallows in October.

While Mundy and Magruder were running, most of Hancock County had heard that Davison had been wounded in the fight near Pate's house. Egged on by a rumor that there was a $5,000 reward on Davison's head, Home Guard units and other civilians began an intense search for him from the river to the hills in the south part of the county.

Despite his severe wounds, Davison rode north toward Jeffrey's Cliff, trying to reach the house of his uncle, Thomas Newman. Too weak to go any farther, he sought refuge in the woods.

Two days later he was found by his teen-age cousins, Eliza and Sarah Newman, who came upon his horse grazing.

Davison was treated at the Newmans' home for a few days until the Home Guard learned of his location, and then he was carried deep into the woods to an old cabin.

Meanwhile in Hawesville, Davison's mother, Jane Dupuy Davison, learned that her son had been shot.

"Every night after my son was wounded, strange parties of men came to my house at all hours to see if he was there," she told a newspaperman later. "Sometimes they made blood-curdling threats against me to give them satisfaction.

"About a week after he had been wounded, a coarse unfamiliar voice awakened me," she said. "I thought as usual it was a party of men wanting to. kill my son for the price on his head. I knew that they would burn the house if I did not give them an answer and I invited them in."

One of the men told Mrs. Davison that he knew where Bill was being hidden and said he had come to get a bed to help him rest.

Mrs. Davison first thought it was a ruse to reveal Bill's hiding place. "But I did not know where he was, although I wanted to know more earnestly than his worst enemy," she said. "I gave the man a bed and rode from Hawesville behind him for eight miles. (The man) was faithful and took me to my suffering child."

Mrs. Davison, the Newmans and Dr. William Stapp remained with Capt. Davison until he died on March 7. Afterward, Davison's body was buried near the cabin.

Davison's death remained a mystery until March 20, when Bill's uncle, Nestor Davison, informed Union Major Cyrus Wilson at Hawesville that Davison had died. Wilson, who had captured Magruder and Mundy a week earlier, was leading the search for Davison.

Nestor said he would prove to Wilson that Davison was dead by bringing the body of the now-famous guerrilla to Hawesville for examination and burial. But Jane Davison intervened, fearing her son's body might be desecrated in some way if brought to town.

Mrs. Davison convinced Wilson of Bill's death by swearing in writing that she had been present when her son died. She got Dr. Stapp to do likewise. Mrs. Davison was regarded as a woman of "estimable" character, and that satisfied Union Army officials, who ended the search.

Later that week, the Cannelton, newspaper praised Charles Hale as a hero for killing Davison. Ironically, Hale was the younger brother of Thomas Hale, a member of the Hancock County Home Guard killed by Confederate nightriders in April 1863. Charles could have said that his killing Davison was fitting retribution for his brother's murder. But Hale did not relish what he had done in merely defending himself and never spoke much afterward of his fight with Davison.

After the war. Hale went to Arkansas and Missouri and lived the life of a frontiersman and hunter. He returned to Hancock County in the early 1900s. When he died Jan. 8, 1907, at the age of 74, the Owensboro newspaper printed his obituary on the front page, still acclaiming him as the man who had slain Bill Davison.

For years after the war, Bill Davison's gravesite in the woods south of Jeffrey's Cliff remained a secret known only by a few. In the 1880s, Davison's remains were exhumed, transported to Hawesville and buried in the town graveyard. His gravestone remains there today. The only other traces left of the young Confederate guerrilla are found in the history books.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 16 April 1996, p1D:

A War Within The State: More than just a war between the states, the Civil War also divided neighbors

By Glenn Hodges

By 1863, the great struggle between the North and South in the Civil War had become a revolution of the politicians, not of the people. The word on the street was that the great armed conflict was "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight."

Kentuckians were tired of it and realized there would be no quick end to the horrendous bloodshed. They also were sick of the Union Army troops who occupied the state and were arresting a steady stream of civilians for even implying support for the Southern cause.

It seemed that the political pressure building in Hancock County early in 1863 could only lead to violence, and no one was surprised when Thomas Hale was killed and Amos Corley wounded in a raid by nightriders in the southern part of the county.

The fuse to the powder keg had burned since the opening rounds of the 1863 campaign for governor in February. Two Hawesville men, lawyer George Williams and state Rep. William P.D. Bush, had been in the middle of the political fight and would lock horns with the Union Army.

At that time in Frankfort, the Unionists, who upheld slavery but opposed secession, enjoyed a big majority in the legislature and controlled state government. But a disguised remnant of the old State Rights Party was still around. These secessionist Southern Rights men had disposed of their old party name, and were now calling themselves "Democrats." Though still virtually powerless, they had seized a promising strategic position from the political unrest in Kentucky and offered a haven for thousands of Unionists who couldn't tolerate the Lincoln administration and military rule. They hoped the just-enacted Emancipation Proclamation, which Kentuckians widely opposed, would stampede even more disenchanted Unionists to their ranks.

The Unionists in the legislature were not fooled and considered the new "Democrats" just a bunch of Rebels trying to take Kentucky out of the Union any way they could.

Bush and Williams were among 200 "Democrat" delegates who converged on Frankfort on Feb. 17, 1863, to try to nominate their candidates for the August election. The Unionists in the state House of Representatives refused to let them use the legislature hall as a meeting place, and the "Democrats" rented a Frankfort theater. They were calling their convention to order the next day when a unit of Ohio infantry arrived outside, surrounded the site and entered the building.

John Hunt Morgan's Confederate cavalry had been operating south of Frankfort at that time, and the Union regiment's commander was convinced that the "Democrats" were all Rebel politicians bent on a takeover of the state government with Morgan's help. He ordered the civilian delegates to go home.

Bush and Williams were outraged by the Yankee colonel's action, but went along with his wishes at the point of a bayonet. The two Hawesville men led the protest of this unprecedented intrusion into a political assembly by the U.S. military and went back home fuming.

Before the convention, Bush and especially Williams had left no doubt in the minds of Unionist opponents in Hancock County about their position on the war. They were part of a strong coalition of Hawesville men who had refuted Kentucky's neutrality from the outset and wanted their state to join the Confederacy.

Hancock County Unionists, led by a handful of local Union Army officers and many residents of the south part of the county, were bitter enemies of men such as Williams and Bush. The ongoing turmoil over the state election, local disputes and the Union Army's continuous involvement in civilian affairs tightened the screws of animosity between the two county political factions.

The county was in the midst of its own civil war: the Hawesville secessionists in the north part of Hancock pitted against Unionists in the south.

The violence began in the hours before midnight, Saturday, April 4, 1863, when nearly 30 men rode onto the farm of William L. Bruner, 8 miles south of Hawesville. Bruner was not at home, and Corley, his hired hand, came out of the house to see what the riders wanted. Corley was shot in the chest (but would survive) as the gunmen rode away.

Within the hour, the same men went to Hale's house (now the site of South Hancock County Elementary School).

Hale's wife Lizzie was still awake and shouted to her husband when she heard the riders come into the yard. The 51-year-old Hale went to the window and called out to the men, but they didn't identify themselves. He saw that they were all armed and went to the adjoining room to awaken his son, David. Both Hales grabbed their rifles and returned to the front of the house.

As soon as the elder Hale opened the door to face the intruders, he was shot in the head and leg and died instantly.

Hale and Corley were the first civilian casualties in Hancock County during the Civil War.

The raid on the Bruner farm and the killing of Hale triggered a wave of anger and protest among the people of southern Hancock County. Bruner and Hale were thought to have been targets because each had been involved in the Union Democrat movement in the county.

The Union newspaper in Louisville pointed the finger at the Hawesville secessionists as the perpetrators of Hale's murder. "Hancock County has had a Rebel representative for the last two years (Bush) and the leading Rebels will countenance and uphold anything that tends to the extermination of the Union party in Hancock County. A more perfect reign of terror does not exist in the state than in Hancock County."

On the Tuesday night after the raids on the Bruner and Hale farms, 100 men from southern Hancock County and upper Ohio County armed themselves and rode to Hawesville. They went to Williams' house and the homes of four other Hawesville secessionists, demanding the Southern men each pay Hale's widow $1,000.

The secessionists refused to pay and the incident produced no violence, but the opposing sides in Hancock County were driven even further apart in the following weeks.

The Home Guard, composed of Union men, retaliated against the county Rebels, once confiscating the shotguns and pistols of a group of Southern sympathizers living up the river east of Hawesville. In another incident, they exchanged gunfire with two men at Sandy Creek near Skillman Bottom.

In the face of Union pressure, George Williams would not remain silent and paid the price. He was arrested May 1, 1863, and put in a Union Army prison in Louisville for a speech supporting the Confederate Army. Though he was released soon afterward, Williams continued to speak out for the Confederacy, and in 1864, was forced to go to Canada rather than be imprisoned again. He remained there for the rest of the war.

<u>Messenger-Inquirer</u>, Owensboro, KY, 27 February 1996, p1D:

A Battle All Their Own: They fought for a country that was not their own. They fought for rights that were not their own. They fought a battle all their own

By Glenn Hodges

After their Civil War victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863, Union generals saw the opportunity to force the Confederacy to its knees and sent many of their western-based troops to planned assaults on Atlanta and Richmond, Va.

Soon, so many Federal soldiers were pulled out of Kentucky that the state became one of the Union's most weakly defended territories.

In a last-ditch attempt to sustain the Confederate effort for a few more months, Gen. John Hunt Morgan was ordered to establish a second war front in the West and recruit new men in Kentucky for the Rebel army's thinning ranks.

At that point, the Union command decided to replace its white troops Kentucky with African American soldiers. The enrollment of black men for military service in Kentucky began in February 1864, and by March was underway on a large scale. In April, provost marshals were ordered to enlist both free blacks and slaves, assemble them in Louisville and transport them out of state for training. Slave owners who were loyal to the Union were supposed to be paid up to $300 for their slaves.

It was soon evident that the plight of the black soldier in Kentucky would be grim.

The new, much-dreaded recruiting policy drew complaints from all over the state. Even the staunchest Union men were violently opposed to it, charging it was unconstitutional and a trick to extend the Emancipation Proclamation to Kentucky, a loyal state. (The Proclamation freeing the slaves in 1863 applied only to the 11 states of the Confederacy.)

Soldiers who had fought for Kentucky in previous wars protested that putting blacks into uniform degraded the honor of serving in the military. Farmers feared that the loss of their chief labor source would seriously damage the state's agricultural economy. Many Kentuckians believed arming slaves would give them ideas of freedom, and Unionists in the state envisioned fighting blacks as well as secessionists before the war was over.

To allay Kentuckians' fears and anger, President Lincoln told Gov. Thomas Bramlette that slaves would not be enlisted in any county of the state that furnished its required quota of white soldiers to the Federal war effort. But by June 1864, Kentucky failed to meet its quotas and the War Department in Washington began recruiting blacks vigorously. Reception camps for black recruits were set up at Paducah, Owensboro, Bowling Green, Lebanon, Louisville, Covington, Camp Nelson and Louisa.

As soon as the African American recruiting effort began in earnest, the trouble started. White owners found it hard to get the compensation they had been promised for their slaves. It also was reported that the Union Army was using strong-arm tactics to impress blacks into the service and that recruiters from other states were using bounties to entice slaves away from their owners.

In some cases, black soldiers were beaten, stabbed and murdered by angry whites. A Louisville newspaper reported that children of that town showed their hatred for the black troops by shouting insults and pelting them with rocks.

The white population of Hancock and Daviess counties considered the recruiting of African American troops as a slap in the face. The whites' subsequent actions exposed the racial prejudice and resentment that existed there and increased the tension that the war had ingrained in people's lives.

An incident occurred on Sunday, June 19, 1864, that galvanized local whites' attitudes toward the black Union troops.

A Federal recruiter, E.N. Powers, assembled a group of 28 black men at Hawesville and was waiting to transport them by steamboat to Owensboro that morning. As the boat took on coal at the city wharf boat, curious townspeople started to gather on the riverbank.

Among them was Robert Costain Beauchamp, a 64-year-old farmer and politician from Hancock County, who was concerned that some of his slaves might try to enlist.

Beauchamp was talking with Dr. Timothy Holmes on Water Street about a block above the river embarkation point as the men were assembling at the water's edge. About an hour had passed when Powers came up the bank and told Beauchamp that none of his slaves was among the group.

But soon after Powers walked away, one of Beauchamp's slaves walked by, heading in the direction of the black recruits who had started to board the boat.

"Beauchamp called to his slave several times, telling him to stop," Dr. Holmes said later. "But the Negro seemed disinclined to obey. Beauchamp caught him by the lapel of his coat when the Negro drew a large knife. I believe he would have killed his master if I had not caught his arm and prevented him from using the knife."

Beauchamp was later said to have fired his pistol at the slave after the man tried to board the steamboat, and several men on the riverbank also opened fire. In the next chaotic minutes, the area near the wharf boat crackled with the sound of pistol and rifle shots as the guards on the boat exchanged gunfire with the men on the shore. The steamboat pulled away from the Kentucky riverbank to get out of range.

During the shooting spree, Capt. Charles Delaney of Union County, supposedly in Hawesville on a recruiting mission for the Confederates, was wounded critically in the back and died later. Another man on the riverbank was wounded but survived. The pilot, engineer and a passenger on the steamboat were wounded slightly.

The black recruits arrived in Owensboro that evening and were marched to the Daviess County courthouse where other Union troops were staying. They were turned away by the colonel in charge who would not permit them to be lodged in the courthouse. The black men had to endure the humiliation of sleeping overnight in the city jail. They were finally enrolled as Federal soldiers the next day.

The people of Hawesville would not get much of a respite from the threat of violence in their town, and the Union Army would be back soon to find the instigators of the gun battle.

Many of the black soldiers went on to serve the Union with distinction in the local area, but were a favorite target for Confederate guerrillas for the rest of the war.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 9 January 1996, p1D:

A Civil War Childhood: The Civil War – as seen through the eyes of a child in Hawesville – was a time of excitement, fear and fun

By Glenn Hodges

Growing up in Hawesville during the Civil War was scary, exciting and sometimes even fun for little Anna Hawes.

She lived on Water Street along the riverfront with her father, Charles Hawes, mother Annah Allen Taylor, and her two brothers and a sister.

Anna's interview with the Hancock Clarion in 1936 provided a rare eyewitness account of Civil War times in Hawesville.

Her first memory of the war occurred early in the conflict. The Hawes family were strong secessionists, and several of Anna's uncles were soldiers in the Confederate Army or members of the rebel secret service. Hawesville was a stronghold for Confederate activity throughout the war,

and the town's residents, including the Hawes family, were always under the suspicion of federal authorities.

Union soldiers began stopping in the Hancock County town to investigate purported rebel actions. Once a boatload of "bluecoats" landed at the river in front of the Hawes house, saw the well in the front yard and jumped the fence to get a cool drink.

"My brother John, who was sitting on the gatepost, began to sing 'Hurrah for Jeff Davis,' and the soldiers ordered him to stop," Anna remembered. "He thought it was fun and went on until they threatened him, and Ellen, our colored nurse, took us into the house. We saw plenty of them after that."

Anna's uncles were among the Confederate soldiers in town during those times.

Maj. Walker Taylor often visited the Hawes home with his brother Sam, their nephews Manleus and Hancock Taylor, Sam and Nat McLean and several other Confederate soldiers Anna did not know.

They usually arrived unexpectedly, Anna said. "We - just the family - would eat supper in the evening, but in the morning there would be three or four of them who had come from somewhere in the night. Sometimes they would stay in the house all day, leaving as they came, at night."

When the Union Home Guard or regular federal army units heard reports of these visits, the Hawes house was put under surveillance.

"Union men came and guarded the house every night to see if any Southern soldiers came. You could hear them walking and talking outside."

Anna was 8 years old in July 1864 when the war tension reached its peak in Hancock County.

Roving bands of rebel guerrillas were swarming along the river between Louisville and Paducah, the water level of the river was very low and panic seized Unionists in Indiana who anticipated a guerrilla invasion.

President Lincoln invoked martial law in Kentucky, and Union military leaders in the state responded with some other strong measures to combat the guerrilla threat. Steamboats were warned not to land on the Kentucky side of the Ohio at any point downstream from Cannelton, except where there was a Union military force. All ferries were suspended, and people crossing the river were required to show passes or be arrested.

Federal gunboats patrolled the river between New Albany and Cannelton to enforce the orders.

The war of nerves reached an explosive stage when guerrillas blasted the entrances of the Hawesville coal mine supplying Union steamboats. The Indiana Legion, watching for guerrillas, posted pickets along the Indiana shore from the east to west borders of Perry County.

Hawesville came under the fire from cannon on the Cannelton shore, and on July 24, 1864, the Union gunboat Springfield shelled the town.

Anna Hawes said Hawesville residents hid in the remaining coal mines during the bombardments.

"As I recall, two houses belonging to Union men on the hill below the town cemetery were struck. In one house, a shell went through the roof and hit a kitchen safe and the dishes were broken when the safe fell to the floor. The people were at church when it happened." By that time in the war, Anna's family had moved to a house on the bluff called Lover's Leap above Hawesville.

She said she often watched the Union artillerymen across the river in Indiana.

"I used to stand and see them put balls into their cannons. But I would put my hands over my face when I saw the flash. The shells would shake the house but never struck it. They fell on the ground, the coal house and outbuildings but never exploded. Their orders were that if a horse was seen at the fence, our house was to be blown to pieces."

One of the Hawes' neighbors was once an innocent target of the Yankee gunners.

"One morning Miss Hester Holmes rode up to our house on her horse and got off, leaving her riding skirt on the fence. She had on a red dress and before reaching the door, a shell came came flying across the river toward her, but she was not hurt." One night when a gunboat fired on the Hawes home, the family was urged to move down to a neighbor's house on the riverfront.

Anna's father was reluctant, but when several shells burst too close and jarred the house, he evacuated the family. Anna said their servant Joe carried her. Her father took 6-month-old Minnie. Their nurse Ellen and neighbor Samuel McAdams carried her little brothers, 2-year-old Sam and 5-year-old John.

The small party of adults and children moved cautiously without lanterns through downtown Hawesville.

"They were afraid to carry a light on account of the shells dropping around us. We children thought it was great fun to get to go visiting at night, and I have remembered it all these years."

Life was a pressure cooker for civilians in Hawesville for the rest of the war, tolerating injustices from both Union forces and Confederate guerrillas. But there were no reported casualties among them and everyone apparently lived to tell of their experiences.

Anna Hawes moved to Cincinnati after she reached adulthood but never married. She became a nurse at the College Hill Methodist Home for the Aged.

She had a stroke in 1922 and was an invalid for the last 15 years of her life. Though paralyzed on her left side, she was still able to write. She devoted much of her time to recording family history and corresponding with old friends in Hawesville. She died Dec. 2, 1937, in Cincinnati.

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 7 June 1984:

So It's Been Told column – Footnotes to Hancock County history

Guerillas carried out raids in Hancock County during Civil War

By Glenn Hodges

For almost three years, the Civil War was a distant conflict to the people of Hawesville, Lewisport and the other outlying hamlets of Hancock County. They sent their sons off to fight and die for both causes like so many other Kentuckians and read of the fighting in the battle reports and casualty lists that came weekly on the river mailboats. They tolerated the pressures and humiliations of martial law imposed in Kentucky by federal government in 1863, and the slave holders among them were forced to swallow their outrage later as the Union Army began enlisting their Negroes into military service.

their first real taste of the violence of war did not come until 1864, when swarming bands of Confederate guerrillas infested the Green River region of western Kentucky and became a daily threat to lives and property.

These butternut-clad irregulars were mostly stragglers and deserters left behind by armies that invaded Kentucky. Some who operated in Daviess, Hancock, Ohio and Breckinridge counties were true rebels who took orders from the Confederate command and attacked only military targets. But many others were common thieves and cutthroats who answered to no one and preyed upon Federal soldiers and Southern Rights of civilians alike.

The weekly newspapers at Owensboro and Cannelton, Ind., reported numerous incidents in 1864 and 1865 in which guerrillas robbed, killed and terrorized the people of Hancock County.

One of the first occurred in early February, 1864, when a Lewisport man was stopped by marauders on the old Lewisport-Hawesville Road and ordered to give up his valuables. "But he refused, and by a little strategy and rapid maneuvering, succeeded in breaking away from them and escaped," the Cannelton paper noted.

While it was the home for many Southern sympathizers the county seat of Hawesville was plundered in June, 1864, by a force of 150 men claiming to be part of John Hunt Morgan's Confederate Cavalry (So It's Been Told, Feb. 16, 1984) and was so infiltrated by guerrillas that summer the federal authorities stationed the Union gunboat Springfield at Cannelton to protect the Indiana port.

The Owensboro Monitor reported July 10 that guerrillas that week tried to stop the federal mail steamer, John T. McCombs, at Lewisport. But the riverboat captain, whose vessel had been boarded by Morgan's raiders at Brandenburg in 1863, managed to elude capture.

On July 16, a company of rebel guerrillas attended a Lewisport barbecue and recruited 26 men from the crowd. The Union draft implemented that year in Kentucky was proving counter-productive, the Cannelton paper said in a report of the incident. "At no time has recruiting for the Confederates been more brisk than now. General (Nathan B.) Forrest (the rebel cavalryman) is expected to enter Kentucky soon when these roving partisans will join him. It is becoming more apparent daily that the course pursued in Kentucky by the administration has tended greatly to help the secession cause."

Within the week there was an unsubstantiated report of a clash between 20 guerrillas and an equal number of Union soldiers near Lewisport.

After raiding Owensboro on August 27, 1864, a guerrilla gang led by Capt. Jacob Bennett rode upriver and swept through Lewisport, yelling and firing their revolvers at people in the village streets. A man named Teasley was shot and killed as he tried to escape the raiders by crossing the river, the Owensboro Monitor reported.

In October, rumors were rampant about a formidable force of guerrillas preparing to cross the river at or near Hawesville. Often, reports of such large troop sizes were exaggerated, and gave Cannelton Editor Henry Wales the opportunity to inject some comic relief into the tense lives of his panicky readers: "An old woman from Hancock County, who crossed the river Tuesday, said she saw six hundred guerrillas pass her house last week but it is known she wears spectacles that are powerfully magnifying."

However, rumors soon bore truth, as guerrillas again invaded the Hawesville area in early December, and used some of their most heinous tactics of the war in the region. Most of these raiders were new recruits, armed only with old squirrel rifles and fowling pieces. During their foray, they learned that two (unidentified) male civilians living near Hawesville had double-barrel shotguns and Henry repeating rifles at their homes. When the guerrillas arrived at their doorstep, the men refused to tell the rebels where they had hidden their weapons and were dragged to the nearest tree and hanged.

Reporting the incidents on Dec. 10, 1864, a new Cannelton Editor Joseph Snow said, "The two obstinate gentlemen who preferred their guns to life were suspended until they grew black in the face, and then (lowered) to be asked if they had changed their minds. They did not flinch and were put up to dangle in the air a while longer."

Snow added that he could not determine whether the hanged men had survived their ordeal. But in one instance, he said, the wife of one of them reportedly gave the guerrillas the guns they demanded, and when they had gone, she cut down her husband.

"They were very plucky but not very politic," Snow mused about these Hancock Countians who had refused to yield their weapons willingly. "We don't know whether to admire their temper or censure their foolhardiness, but everybody must allow they do not belong to a week-kneed gentry."

In February, 1865, the infamous guerrillas Sue Munday and Henry Magruder led what was destined to be their last raid, through southern Hancock County. After stopping at Knottsville in Daviess County, Mundy and Magruder's gang of 12 men rode across the county line and first struck Pellville, robbing James Snider's dry goods store of $315 and stealing two horses from Peter Purcell. On Feb. 24, they went to the Patesville area, and threatened to burn the home of a prominent citizen, Minor E. Pate.

Riding away from Pate's place, the guerrillas were attacked by Silas Taylor, Charles Hale and William Sinnett, part of a State Guard unit from the Pellville area. The outnumbered civilian soldiers, armed with carbines, fought fiercely against the raiders for almost an hour, the Cannelton newspaper reported. One guerrilla was shot in the right arm and dropped his revolver and overcoat as he disappeared from the smoky skirmish.

Learning that a large federal force was surrounding them, the Mundy-Magruder gang fled from the fight with civilians. Magruder also was severely wounded, and another of his men, Jim Jones of Daviess County, was killed later in an ambush before the guerrillas finally fought their way out of the trap and into Breckinridge County.

While most of the gang headed to their homebase in Nelson County, Mundy and Henry Metcalfe, an Ohio County guerrilla, took Magruder to a doctor living near Webster, a community ten miles east of Hardinsburg. The three rebels stayed in a barn near the doctor's house while Magruder's wound was treated. But a local informant told the Union Army where they were hiding, and all three were captured there on March 12, 1865. Mundy was hanged at Louisville three days later at the age of 20, Metcalfe was imprisoned, and the 21-year-old Magruder was also hanged in October.

Another notorious guerrilla riding with Mundy and Magruder in their Hancock County raid was Hawesville native, William Davison. His exploits and death will be profiled in this column next week.

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Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 23 February 1984:

So It's Been Told column – Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster

There is a book in the Hancock County: Library "Famous Kentucky Trails and Tragedies" by L.F. Johnson, and in it is a chapter called "The Execution of Sue Mundy". In this chapter the

author recounts a shoot-out some of Guerilla Leader Mundy's men had with the Home Guard in Hancock County during the War Between the States. The author says, "During the Civil War there was no other state in the Union so evenly divided in sentiment between, the North and South as Kentucky." And no doubt this was even more so with families living along the Ohio River who owned slaves and could literally look across at Federally held territory every waking minute. It should be said too that a lot of folks on the Indiana side near the border had mixed emotions about the whole thing.

This border state condition was made to order for the bands of guerillas that sprang up robbing and looting in the name of whichever side was convenient for the moment. Hancock County, by and large, was spared any major damage except for the brief encounters with Quantrill's Band and Sue Mundy's men. Sue Mundy's (this was a nick name given him for his youthful and handsome appearance) real name was Marcellus Jerome Clark, and the author says that the fracas in Hancock County lead to his capture. He was later hanged in Louisville.

But here is what the author said about this "Battle of Hancock County": "On January 29, 1865 there was a skirmish of Col. Buckley's Fifty-Fourth Kentucky (Federal) and Mundy's guerillas in which Mundy's men were "repulsed". On March 3 there was a battle between 8 Home Guards and Billy Magruder's band (Mundy's men) in Hancock County, and one of Mundy's men named Jim Jones was killed and Magruder was desperately wounded and carried away by his men". "The wounding of Magruder," adds the author, "lead to the capture of Mundy. "But he does not explain how. This chapter alone is worth checking this book out and reading it.

These were not the only shots fired in Hancock County during the Civil War. Perhaps there were a lot fired that have gone unrecorded too. Mr. Michael Rutherford, Route 1 Box 196, Tell City, Ind. 47586 sends along some excerpts from the "Cannelton Reporter" from 1864. The first one is dated May 28, 1864. This one may or may not have been related to the war, and Mr. Rutherford says the print is so dim that the name "Late" might be "Lake."

"A personal encounter took place between Mr. Newman and Mr. Late, both of Hancock County, Ky. on Wednesday night last, in which the latter was shot through the back and died the next morning. Mr. Newman was arrested and confined to the Hawesville Jail to await trial. We learn the difficulty arose about pay for some work performed by Mr. Newman for the deceased."

The one above might not have had anything to do with the war, but the one below from the June 25, 1864 issue of the "Cannelton Reporter" gets right to the issue:

"On Sunday last the steamer Science No. 2 landed at Hawesville to take on board twenty or thirty negroes who had been recruited in Hancock County; the boat lay at the landing several minutes coaling, during which time many citizens collected on the wharfboat, many of which entirely ignorant before, were surprised at seeing their own negroes going on board, and undertook to compel them to return. As the boat rounded from the wharf several shots were fired by the crowd at the boat, and was returned by the guard, then general firing commenced and continued until the boat was out of reach. The engineer, pilot, and one passenger on the boat were slightly wounded, and one man on shore severely wounded, and the finger of another shattered by a pistol ball."

And a further clip from the same issue above talks about how the appearance of Morgan's Raiders, marching back to the Confederate side created "a state of war" and almost mass hysteria:

"On Wednesday morning our town was thrown into a state of excitement by the arrival, on the opposite side of the river, of about 150 guerrillas. Col. Fournier immediately ordered out the artillery and placed it on the river bank, and sent couriers up and down the river with orders to different Captains to put out guards. In an incredible short time this part of the county was in a defensive condition. The guerrillas proved to be four companies of Morgan's Cavalry, who were

making their way to the Confederacy via Green River, taking the Ohio River counties in their route. After taking clothing, boots and shoes from several stores they moved out of Hawesville, some three miles where they encamped until noon and then left for parts unknown - - - They took from the store of Mr. Rial several hundred dollars worth of clothing, and smaller amounts from other stores. From a laboring man they took nearly $600 in specie and greenbacks. They also took from Mr. Stephen Powers a fine horse valued at over two hundred dollars. They were joined by 50 or 60 young men, citizens of Hancock County."

Mr. Rutherford adds that there was no mention of the reported bombardment of Hawesville by the "Springfield" on July 25, 1864. But the "Springfield" was around for in the "Cannelton Reporter" dated August 13, 1864 this item appeared:

"On the gunboat "Springfield" a party was given by the officers on Thursday evening, many young folks from our town attended."

That sounded more like a "society note."

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY
75th Anniversary Edition, 13 June 1968:

The Civil War: County Men Responded To Call

By John Watson Blackburn (1914-1985)

The different opinions that so divided the great State of Kentucky during the Civil War period extended of course to Hancock County. Many of the boys went into the Southern Army of Jefferson Davis but many others followed the other native Kentucky leader, Abe Lincoln, and followed the cause of the Union Army.

Many of the Hancock County boys who fought with the Confederate Army were members of the First Kentucky Brigade of Infantry, or as it was much better known, the "Orphan Brigade."

The units that made up this famous brigade first began to assemble at Russellville, under General Simon Bolivar Buckner, but the final assembly took place at Bowling Green. General Albert Sidney Johnston was the officer commanding all the Confederate forces at Bowling Green.

The first battle in which the Orphans took part was at Donelson, Tennessee, when General U. S. Grant stormed and captured the fort there. The only unit of the Orphan Brigade, though, that was at Donelson was the Second Regiment, and, so far as this writer, knows, no Hancock County boys were in the Second. The regiment was captured with the surrender of the fort.

The loss of Fort Donelson to the Union forces made it necessary for Johnston to retire from Kentucky. He took his force to the area of Corinth, Mississippi. The Union forces under Grant

gathered at Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee River and thirty miles from Corinth, and the stage was set for the great Battle of Shiloh. Many Hancock County boys were in this fight.

The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Regiments of the Orphan Brigade were in the Battle of Shiloh, on Aril. 6th and 7th, 1862. The carnage of this fight between Americans was terrible. Up to the time of its occurrence it was the largest battle, ever fought on the American continent. Some of our historians insist that this is still true. There were more American boys killed in the two days' fighting in the Battle of Shiloh than had been killed in all our wars together up to that time.

Phillip Dix was killed on the second day of the fighting, Monday, April 7, 1862. He was a member of Company K of the Fourth Regiment.

Ed Newman was killed on the first day of the battle, Sunday, April 6th. Ed was a soldier in Company C of the Ninth Regiment. Both Dix and Newman were from Hancock County.

Wounded at Shiloh was Henry L. Vickers. Others suffering wounds were John J. Williams and Samuel W. Boutcher.

Vickers was hurt during the second day of the fight. He was never able to fight again and was discharged and sent home. Vickers was a member of Company C of the Ninth Regiment. Most of the boys in this company were from Ohio and Muhlenberg counties and the presence of Vickers has been a mystery to this writer for a long time. Another Vickers, George, was with the same group when they were going to Russellville and George was killed in an accidental discharge of a gun. The accident in sight of where the great TVA plant at Paradise now stands. It is the opinion of this writer that both these boys were from Hancock County and that they were working at Paradise when the war came.

Both Williams and Boutcher were in Company G of the Ninth. At the time of the Battle of Shiloh, Williams was a Second Sergeant, having been raised to that rank on October 8, 1861. He was to rise rapidly and we shall hear more of him later.

We shall also hear more of Samuel Boutcher. He was one of the best soldiers in the Orphan Brigade.

Vickers, Williams and Boutcher were all Hancock County boys.

Captured by Union soldiers at Shiloh was Joseph Biggs. Joe, as he was called in the army, was later exchanged and rejoined the company the following September. He was in all the remaining battles of the Orphans and served in Company K of the Fourth Regiment

Also of Company K of the Fourth, and also captured at Shiloh, was Lewis Holmes.

On the first day of the fighting at Shiloh the Confederates achieved remarkable success but they had a loss that could never be replaced. Their beloved leader, General Johnston, was killed. General G. T. P. Beauregard, second ranking Confederate officer on the field, assumed command. During the night of April 6th, General Don Carlos Buell, with his added thousands of fresh Federal troops, arrived on the scene. The next day the gray clad "Rebels" were repulsed and they retreated to ward Corinth.

The Orphan Brigade performed the important and dangerous duty of protecting the rear of the retreating Confederates.

It is possible that W. T. Matthews, a Hancock County boy, should be added to the list of casualties at Shiloh. He died of disease sometime in April of 1862 but the place and exact date of his death is unknown. It could very well be that he died because of exposure as this was the fate of many boys on both sides.

The Civil War has often been called the war of "Brother Against Brother". This term is most appropriate. There were many instances of brothers entering opposite armies and many cases

even of fathers and sons going in different directions. Close friends doing so was even more common.

In the Battle of Shiloh, as in many other battles, there are found Hancock County boys on each side. Not only can this situation be found in relation to boys in the same county; it is just as true in relation to the towns and communities. Hawesville and Lewisport were both very small towns during the Civil War and it is to be expected that most of the boys in town knew the other boys.

Samuel Kennady Cox and William Cox were both born in Hawesville, the sons of Samuel K. and Caroline (Davidson) Cox. The elder Samuel was a worker on a steamboat plying the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He died in Lewisport a year before the outbreak of the Civil War.

The younger Samuel K. became the better known of the brothers. He went to work, at the age of fifteen, in a store in Hawesville, and he also worked for a year on a boat. Sam went to Hartford the year his father died and secured a position as Deputy County Court Clerk of Ohio County. Later he held the same position in the Butler County Court at Morgantown.

Sam, in September of 1861, entered the Union Army and became a member of the Seventeenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. He rose from Private to Captain and was a Lieutenant during the Battle of Shiloh. He directly opposed the Orphan Brigade here and in later fights.

The Cox family was in sympathy with the cause of the South and the grandchildren later asked Sam why he had chosen the North. "I was just looking for adventure," he said, "and it didn't matter which side I was on."

After the war, Sam Lox was a leading businessman in Hartford and Ohio County. He was, among other, enterprises, in the banking business and was Chief Cashier of the Ohio County Bank when that institution was robbed in January of 1902. The story of the robbery is one of Ohio County's classics. Sam also was one of those chosen on the committee for the planning of the great Chickamauga National Park. The old soldier died in Hartford in 1924, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

This writer knows little about William Cox, but, the brothers are an example of the tragic situation that came about when brothers went into opposite sides in war.

Brothers may sometimes take opposite stands but they remain still the same in the hearts of mothers. Sam, during the war, began to feel that his family had forsaken him because of his stand in the war. A letter from his mother and one from his sister, both written in Hawesville, are typical of the letters that must have come from many mothers and sisters facing the same situation. The letter from the sister is reassuring enough, but when Sam received the letter from his good mother he surely must have better understood the love of mothers. It is not likely that he fully understood at that time, but then, who could ever fully understand the heart of a mother who gives her sons to battle? In particular when they go to different sides of. the conflict?

Serving in the Regiment with Cox, and facing the Orphans at Shiloh, was William B. Keown. William lies in the Hawesville Cemetery and served in Company B of the Seventeenth Regiment.

With the troops of General BueIl, when they arrived at Pittsburg Landing on the night after the first day's fighting at Shiloh, was the Third Kentucky Cavalry Regiment. In this unit are to be found some boys from Hancock. County.

George W. Dean was one of them. Dean is buried not far from William Keown, in the same cemetery. He was in Company D.

Another Third Cavalry veteran lies here too. He is John Gillians, Company E.

The Twenty-Sixth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry was another of the units that served with Buell during the Battle of Shiloh. In this unit was John Newton. John, who served with Company D, was born October 4, 1839 and died on February 5, 1921. He gave the land on which the Newton Springs Baptist Church stands and he is buried in the cemetery near the, church.

The Orphans, after serving as the rear guard for the Confederate forces alter Shiloh, retired to Corinth, Mississippi, and stayed in that area during May and June of 1862.

The next move was to Vicksburg, Mississippi and their task there was to assist General Earl Van Dorn in his effort to resist the siege of Grant on the fort at Vicksburg. This was during the summer of 1862 and this siege is not to be confused with that of the following year which resulted in the surrender of the fort. While at Vicksburg, the Orphans were not in a large battle but were in several small skirmishes. These usually were the result of the meeting of opposing patrols. The soldiers insisted though, and rightly so, that these so-called skirmishes were big battles to the soldiers involved.

Eli H. Lawson, of Hawesville, was with the Ninth Regiment of the Orphans, Company C, at Vicksburg. Eli was hit by a piece of shell and he suffered a badly mangled thigh. The piece of metal, a part of one of the great many shells thrown by Grant's batteries at Vicksburg, weighed four and quarter pounds and it is amazing that Lawson was not killed instantly. The wound did not kill Eli. He had almost recovered when he was stricken by illness which brought about his death in a short time. The place of burial of Eli Lawson is not known to this writer but it is likely in the National Cemetery at .Vicksburg.

While the Orphans were at Vicksburg they were joined by another boy from Hancock County. Terry Howard enlisted in part of a unit that was on detached service at Tupelo, Miss., and joined the Orphans, on June, 10, 1862. Terry was already a veteran soldier for he had served in the First Kentucky Infantry, CSA, in Virginia. He fought in later battles with the Orphan Brigade but about September 10,1863, he was missed. . His comrades thought that he had been killed by a shell but his was never proven for sure. He was not heard of again. Terry H served with the Orphans in Company K of the Fourth Regiment.

The Orphans were ordered to move southward to Baton Rouge, La., and to attack the Federals at that place' The move from Vicksburg began on July 27th and the fight took place on August 5th. The city fell to the attacking. Confederates, but they almost lost their leader, General Ben Hardin Helm. Helm is remembered for many good reasons but not the least of these is the fact that he as a brother-in-law to Abraham Lincoln. The young General was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga and is now buried at Elizabethtown, Ky.

Many casualties were suffered in the fighting at Baton Rouge that August 5, 1862, but this writer knows of no Hancock County boys among them.

After the fighting at Baton Rouge, the Orphans moved to Jackson, Miss., arriving there on the night of August 22, 1862.

It was while they were at Jackson that A. J. Hayden, a Hancock County boy serving in Company G of the Ninth Regiment died of disease.

During the latter part of August the Orphans received word that they were to join General Braxton Bragg in his campaign into Kentucky. The hearts of the boys danced with joy, They were going to Kentucky. They might even get to visit the folks at home. But alas they were due for disappointment reach Kentucky.

They did start though and during the journey north and east they were joined by the Second Regiment. This unit was the one that had been captured the February before at Fort Donelson and they had now been exchanged.

The Orphans, on October 16, 1862, camped at Maynardsville, Tenn. This was near Cumberland Gap and the gateway to their native state. The next day they began the move toward the gap but were stopped. by messengers that reported the defeat of Bragg at, Perryville and of his retreat from Kentucky. This was terrible news but the boys of the Orphan Brigade were made of stern material. Instead of giving in to their unhappiness over the news, they held a dress parade.

This late October afternoon dress parade was a beautiful and a tearful sight, and it proves again the character of these Kentucky boys. The Second Regiment, on the right of the road, made the bugle call at the usual hour, and formed in sight of the Fourth, Sixth and Ninth, Regiments, who in turn had formed on the right of the Second. The silence that prevailed in the ranks then was not the silence of restraint - it was the silence of stern manhood, bowed down by bitter disappointment. No one chose to even whisper, but they were erect, steady, almost perfect in formation, and handled their arms with a promptness and precision that seemed to speak a manly determination that nothing could conquer them. The burden of. every tune from the Regimental Bands was "home" and to say that tears found their way down many a bronzed cheek is but to say that soldiers are not always provided with hearts of stone.

This was the Orphan Brigade of the Confederate Army and among the bronzed, tear-stained cheeks that day were those of Hancock County boys. The next morning the boys turned those cheeks back toward Knoxville and on the day following were back where they had camped a week before.

On October 25, 1862, they were at Murfreesboro, Tenn. They were in this area for the remainder of the year and they took part in the great Battle of Stone's River on December 31, 1862 and January 1st and 2nd of 1863.

Early in December General John Hunt Morgan, who was operating in the vicinity of Murfreesboro, decided to make a raid on a Federal garrison at Hartsville,. Tenn., thirty miles from Murfreesboro. Morgan had only cavalry but he needed some infantry for this raid and he borrowed some of the Orphans for the mission. The actual fight took place on December 7. 1862, and some Hancock County boys were involved.

Some of the Hancock boys who went with Morgan to Hartsville have been mentioned earlier and among them were John J. Williams and Samuel W. Boutcher. Others will be mentioned later. So far as the writer knows there were no casualties among the boys of Hancock County.

This lack of knowledge of Hancock County casualties is also true of the Battle of Stone's River even though many of them were in the fight. The Confederate losses were. terrible.

Before the end of 1862, though, there was some loss among the Hancock Countians. Somewhere along the way Nehemiah Hayden was discharged on account of disability from illness but later in the war he saw service again. This time in a cavalry unit. Also sometime during the year Thomas Lindsay died at Jacksport, Ark.

After the Battle of Stone's River a part of the Orphan Brigade went to Manchester, Tenn., and part of it to Tullahoma, Term. They stayed in these locations until the following May.

In these months the boys did mostly routine camp work and picket duty but they were in several small clashes with Federal soldiers. In one of these fights W. Lockett, a Hancock County soldier, was. captured by the Federals. Lockett had been in some of the earlier fights and was still to be in more because he was exchanged and rejoined his company. Lockett was a member of Company G of the Ninth Regiment and his capture took place at McMinnville, Tenn., while he-was on picket duty.

It is not known which Federal unit captured Lockett but it could well have been the Twenty-first Kentucky Infantry. This unit was facing the Orphans at McMinnville when Lockett was

captured and Oscar F. Slaughter was a member of Company H of the Twenty-first. Oscar lies now in a small plot beside the road between the communities of Patesville and Dukes.

On May 25, 1863, the Orphans again packed their belongings and moved southward. This time they returned to Jackson, Miss., and they were assigned as a part of a mission being formed to go to the aid of General John C. Pemberton, the Confederate defender now at Vicksburg. Grant was besieging Vicksburg again and Pemberton was in trouble. The Orphans seemed to be in no hurry and were in Jackson a full month before moving toward the besieged city.

The March of fourteen miles on that first day out from Jackson was a most trying one. The day was hot, very near suffocating in fact, and the roads were dry. Dust rose in clouds and the water supply was much short of the needs. Many of the boys fell out of formation, victims of sunstroke, and many of them died.

The distressed boys did not get to Vicksburg. They received information that Pemberton had surrendered the fort to Grant. At the same time came news of the great Battle of Gettysburg, In far away Pennsylvania, and those who were thinking clearly could see the end of the Confederacy., Yet, they marched on and they fought on. Such was the Orphan soldier.

The boys returned to Jackson and on the morning of July 9, 1863 they were attacked by a group of Federals. More than two hundred Union soldiers were killed but the. Confederate losses were light. Immediately after this fight the Confederates moved fifty miles to Morton, Miss., They well knew that additional Union soldiers would be on the way to Jackson.

After Morton, the next move of the Orphans was to an assignment with General Bragg at Chattanooga, Tenn. On the eighteenth day of September of that 1863, they found themselves camped near a small stream with an odd sounding name. At least it seemed odd to the Hancock County boys and they would forever remember it. The name was Chickamauga.

The great Battle of Chickamauga was fought on September 19th and 20th, 1863, and it left thousands of dead on both sides.

Although Hancock County boys fought here, on both sides, the writer knows of none who were killed here. Most likely there were some.

There were some who suffered wounds. E. E. Napier, a Hawesville boy, was one of these. Napier had been in all the battles up to Chickamauga and was to be in more. His wound at Chickamauga was not serious and he was back in battle again two months later. Napier was a member of Company K of the Fourth Regiment.

Two boys who had been wounded at Shiloh were again hurt in the fighting at Chickamauga. These were John J. Williams and Samuel W. Boutcher.

George M. Williams was wounded at Chickamauga. George was a Corporal in Company G of the Ninth Regiment. He had been in all the battles of his regiment up to Chickamauga but he was to be in no more. He was never able to report for duty and died, at Newman, Ga., the following summer.

J. W. Burnett, of Hawesville, was wounded two times during the Battle of Chickamauga but he did not leave the field. During the early part of the war Burnett was with the Army of Virginia, ,CSA, but worked as a civilian. He was a teamster for General John B. McGruder until December of 1861. He then returned to his native state and joined the Orphan Brigade at Bowling Green, becoming a member of Company C of the Ninth Regiment. Burnett was in all the remaining battles of his company and was still with it when the surrender was made in May of 1865.

One of the musicians, or buglers, of Company C of the Ninth as J. W. Evans, a Hawesville boy. Evans, because of his. duty as bugler, was not expected to take part in battles in the capacity

of combat soldier, but he often would go onto the field for e purpose of aiding wounded men. It was during such a mission, during the Chickamauga fighting, that he was painfully wounded.

W. F. Holcomb was from Hancock County. He also was in Company C of the Ninth and he seemed to have the misfortune of losing fingers. In the Battle of Chickamauga he lost a finger but he had already lost one in an earlier fight, likely Shiloh. Holcomb first as in the Confederate Cavalry.

The Orphan Brigade, including the Hancock County boys, was in the well known Battle of Mission Ridge, on Lookout Mountain, but this writer has no knowledge of casualties among the Hancock County boys.

After the Battle of Mission Ridge, which took place in November of 1863, there was little fighting for several months. The Confederates gathered in the area of Dalton, Ga., while the Union forces remained in and around Chattanooga.

In May of 1864 General William Sherman began the move southward from Chattanooga that was to become known in history as "The March To The Sea." The first major objective of Sherman was the capture of Atlanta.

Names like Gettysburg, Shiloh, Richmond, Chickamauga, Bull Run and many others are well known but other names, of very great importance, to the boys of the armies, are not so well remembered. Names like Resaca, New Hope, Catoosa Springs, Utoy Creek and others were remembered by the Hancock County soldiers because they fought at these places. One boy said later: "They may talk about the big battles, but any battle is big to the fellow getting shot at."

It is something like a hundred miles from Chattanooga to Atlanta but the boys of the Orphan Brigade traveled many more miles getting there. They were constantly changing positions to the right or left as the relentless force of Sherman’s armies forced them backward toward Atlanta.

The campaign lasted from May to September and along the way many of the boys were left, most of them in nameless graves.

Hancock County furnished David Osborne to both the Confederate Army and the Confederate Navy. David was first in the Orphan Brigade, company K of the Fourth Regiment, and fought in all the battles his company was engaged in until his transfer to the navy in April of 1864. He saw very little of Sherman of course. After the war David Osborne was on his way to his home in Hancock County, when he was stricken by illness, in or near Nashville, Tenn., and died.

It has been mentioned that E. E. Napier was wounded at Chickamauga. At a place called Intrenchment Creek, near Atlanta, he was again hurt.

General Sherman found the Confederates strongly entrenched on the heights of Kennesaw Mountain, and he decided to make an attack. He was driven back but his soldiers captured a Lewisport boy there. He was G. W. O'Bannon G. W. had been in all the battles before Kennesaw, but his soldiering was now over. He was in a Northern prison camp until the end of the war. O'Bannon was in Company K of the Fourth Regiment.

Also captured at Kennesaw was N. M. Stowers. Stowers was from Lewisport and was a friend of G. W. O'Bannon, fighting in the same company. Stowers also was detained in prison until the war's end.

Samuel Boutcher suffered wounds at both Shiloh and Chickamauga but at Resaca, early in Sherman's campaign, Samuel was hit for the third time. At Jonesboro, in the latter days of the Atlanta Campaign, he was killed.

At Intrenchment Creek John J. Williams suffered his third battle wound of the war. Williams was with his unit until March of 1865 and then was ordered to Kentucky to attempt to recruit men for his company. He was performing this duty when the war ended.

W. Lockett and J. S. Newman were both killed at Jonesboro. Lockett had been captured at McMinnville, Tenn., the summer before. Newman was a member of Company G of the Ninth Regiment and was near Lockett when this unfortunate soldier was captured at McMinnville.

There were Hancock County boys with the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry at Jonesboro and these Union soldiers of the Twelfth fought against the Orphans.

The Twelfth Cavalry was organized in the Owensboro area and contained several boys from Hancock County. This regiment was a part of the armies of General Sherman in the drive from Chattanooga to Atlanta and it faced the Orphans on several occasions. In the regiment were G. J. Babbett and Lindrey Aldridge, both of Company D.

Babbett is buried, in an abandoned cemetery, along the Fordsville-Easton Road, and about a mile from Easton in Hancock County. Aldridge is in the Hawesville Cemetery.

In a small cemetery in Hancock County, not far from the Newton Springs Baptist Church, lies Henry D. Wells, Company D of the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry. Wells died on December 3, 1892. This, cemetery is far from any road and only one of the many graves is marked. This one is that of the old horse soldier.

During the summer of 1864 G. W. Napier, who was a member of Company G of the Ninth Regiment, died at Catoosa Springs, Ga.

Andrew J. Connor, Hancock County, was in Company K of the Fourth. He was in his first action against the enemy during the Battle of Stone's River but took part all the remaining engagements of his company.

In the company with Conner were James Kincaid and Shedrach Nichols. James was a Hawesville boy and fought in all the battles of Company K. Nichols was from Hancock County and he, too, was in all the fights of the fighting Company K.

A Hawesville boy, W. W. Badger, was assigned a very important role in the latter part of the Orphan Brigade actions. When it became apparent that the Confederates were in serious trouble and that surrender might become necessary at any time, Badger was assigned to, the detail of taking care of all regimental baggage and important papers. Badger was First Sergeant In Company G of the Ninth and he was in every battle of the Orphan Brigade.

J. W. Lawson of Hawesville, was a member of the same company as his fellow townsman, Badger, but Lawson was in poor health most of the time and saw only one major battle. This was Stone's River.

John C. Lindsay was also in Company G of the Ninth but he, too, was in only one big fight. This was Stone's River. Lindsay was a Hancock County boy.

One of the best known names in the history of Hancock County is that of Edward T. Gregory, even though he was not a native. Ed, as he was called, was born at Cloverport on March 31, 1841 and did not locate in Hancock County until after the Civil War.

Ed was a member of Company G of the Ninth Regiment and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was in all the fights of his company and was an outstanding soldier.

Gregory was in the tobacco business in Lewisport for many years and was most successful. He died on July 16, 1905 and is buried in the Lewisport Cemetery.

Martin V. Dyer and William Dyer were brothers and were born at Locust Hill in Breckinridge County. Both boys enlisted in the Confederate service and both were members of the Orphan Brigade, serving in Company G the Ninth Regiment. William was killed during the Battle of Shiloh but Martin survived the war an located in Lewisport. During the war he served as a teamster and was wounded at Chickamauga. Dyer worked at Lewisport as a blacksmith and

"handyman" in general. He died on July 11, 1909 and is buried at Lewisport. Ray Dyer, well known citizen of Breckinridge County, is a great-nephew of Martin and William Dyer.

Some of the Hancock Count boys thought it would be better fight on horses than on foot and we find many of these in the First Kentucky Cavalry of the Confederate Army. Company D of this regiment was recruited mostly in Hancock and Mead counties.

The First Kentucky Cavalry was closely associated with the Orphan Brigade all during the war and they were in many battles together. After the war, in a convention of veterans of the Orphan Brigade at Elizabethtown, a resolution was passed that stated the First Cavalry veterans were to be "Adopted Orphans" and after this most of their conventions were held jointly.

General Ben Hardin Helm was the first Regimental Commander of the First Cavalry but at the time of his death at Chickamauga was with the Orphan Brigade.

Dr. Charles T. Noel was a native of Hancock County but he spent most of his short life at Masonville in Daviess County. He went there to engage in the practice of medicine and was one of the most progressive citizens of the area The Doctor was active in Freemasonry and in the work of the church. He organized a group of people at Masonville into a congregation, built a church and was its leader for a long time. The Sugar Grove Baptist Church still is active and is a memorial to this good man.

Dr. Noel organized Company C of the First Cavalry and was its first Captain and Commanding Officer. Later his company, along with Company K, was reorganized into Company A but this took place after the death of Noel. The Doctor was mortally wounded at Hewey's Bluff, Ala., on May 6, 1862, and died two days later. This writer has no knowledge as to whether Noel was returned Kentucky, and assumes that he lies in the soil of Alabama.

William Murray Brown was First Lieutenant in Company D and In the spring of 1862 was promoted to Captain. He was from Hancock County and died in 1891.

The First Sergeant of this company was Thomas Estes. He was captured at Swoeden's Cove but later rejoined the regiment.

William T. Ellis was a native of Daviess County but he enlisted in the First Cavalry with the Hancock County group. He had a lifelong and close friendship with Hancock County. Ellis was born on July 24, 1845 and was fifteen years old when he became a soldier. Before the war ended he was promoted to Second Sergeant.

Ellis is one of the most distinguished men in Daviess County history, and indeed the history of Kentucky itself. After the war he returned to Owensboro and practiced law. He graduated in law at Harvard University and in 1870 was elected, the first of two times, to the office of County Attorney. He was a Presidential Elector in 1876 and was three times elected to represent the Second District of Kentucky in the National Congress, refusing to be a candidate for a fourth term.

In the army, Ellis proved a valuable soldier. To his country he proved to be of great value as well.

Peter Loyal of Hancock County, was in several battles with the First Cavalry but he was captured and later killed while in prison. The writer knows nothing of the circumstances of his killing.

Some of. the soldiers of Company D later served in other companies of the First Cavalry. Among these were Samuel G. Hughes and Preston Lindsay.

Hughes began his career in the horse soldier unit as a Second Sergeant but he was promoted through the ranks to Captain. He served well as a leader on cavalry patrols into enemy lines. Hughes died in Hancock County about the year 1895.

Lindsay also progressed through the ranks. He was a Fourth Sergeant but became a First Lieutenant. Preston was severely wounded in the shoulder during a fight at Murfreesboro, Tenn., on July 13, 1863 and was captured near Fairfield, Tenn., the same month.

Some of the others who were transferred to Company G were Thomas D. Ireland, Samuel Bates, John A. Blackford, S. Raymond Colbert, Leonard T. Pinson and Thomas Touget.

Ireland served in still another company. He began his service in the First Cavalry as a First Sergeant but requested that he be demoted to Second Sergeant. On September 2, 1862 he became a Captain in Company C. Ireland was wounded near Manchester, Tenn., on June 27, 1863 but he was able to return to duty.

Bates was captured at Bardstown in September of 1862, but later was exchanged and served the remainder of the war.

Blackford w a s captured at Beech Grove, Tenn., but later he, too, was exchanged and returned to duty.

Colbert was captured somewhere in Kentucky, likely at Bardstown.

Pinson served throughout the war but Touget was left behind, because of serious illness, while the regiment was in Tennessee. He was not heard from again and his fate is unknown to this writer. There were others from Hancock County in the First Cavalry. George Emmick died at Glasgow, Ky. James Mayfield was with the regiment during the entire war. David Harrison became a member of Company A and was captured at Charleston, Tenn., on December 28, 1863. Samuel Patterson transferred to Company F and was captured at Harrison, Tenn., on November 20, 1863. Charles May was captured on two occasions. He was one of those who transferred to Company F. Charles was first captured in June of 1863 and the second time was at Pulaski, Tenn., on October 20, 1863.

Some of the boys in. Company G of the First Cavalry were David McCune, James R. Erskine and J. W. Rutledge. McCune was wounded in a fight at Cassville, Ga., in 1864.

There were, of course, Hancock County boys in the Confederate Army who were members of neither the Orphan Brigade or the First Cavalry. Two of these were: the Beauchamp brothers.

David Beauchamp was born in Hancock County on January 26, 1835. He became a successful farmer and stock raiser and enlisted, in June of 1864, serving of course only one year. During this year in Company E of the Seventh Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry he was in several battles and he was wounded very soon after entering service. David was in a hospital in Virginia for six months but went back to his regiment and surrendered with it at the close of the war.

Alexander Beauchamp was also a horse soldier but he served in the Third Kentucky Cavalry. After the war he too was a successful farmer and stock raiser.

The units the Beauchamp boys were in were Confederate and both of them lived near Hawesville in the years after the war.

A soldier in the Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry of the Southern Army was Robert E. Duncan. Robert was born in Daviess County; but after the war lived in Hancock. He became a student of law but did not apply for admission to the bar. He served four terms as County Court Clerk of Hancock County and was elected also to the office of County Judge. This position caused him always to be known as "Judge." Judge Duncan was a Mason and was active in the Methodist Church.

Charles G. Norman served for a time in the Confederate Army. He was a native of Henderson County, where he was born on July 15, 1842, and he did not come to Hancock County until1878. By that time he had become a Doctor of Medicine and he came to Hancock County to practice his profession. Doctor Norman served for a time in the capacity of County Physician of

Hancock County and also was a member of the Kentucky State Board of Health. The Doctor was never married.

J. H. Parker did not come to Hancock County until very late in life but he became well known and was a good and useful citizen. Parker was an historian and a lawyer but in Hancock County he worked only as a farmer. During the Civil War, Parker's father organized a regiment for Confederate service and was forced to flee to Texas. The son, J. H., was the Captain of the company his father organized.

Reuben Cottrell Lambert served in Company A of the Fourth Regiment of Kentucky Volunteers, Confederate States Army. The writer does not know of any particular connection that Lambert had with Hancock County but he is buried at Gatewood, in a small family plot, known as "The Lambert Burial Ground," beside the local grocery store. Reuben died on March 4, 1865, at the age of twenty-two.

J. C. Robb did not come to Hancock County until two years after the Civil War was over but he was to become one of the most progressive men in the county. Robb was born in Franklin County, Ky., and during the war served both in the Orphan Brigade and in the Fifth Kentucky Infantry of the Confederate Army. Robb lived three miles northeast of Hawesville and was a leading farmer and stock raiser.

Some of the other Civil War veterans who are buried at Hawesville are G. C. Westerfield, Company H of the Thirty-fifth Kentucky Mounted Infantry, Union Army; Milton Hicks, Company G of the Fifty-third Indiana Infantry, Union Army; P. T. Baysinger, Company D of the Sixty-fifth Indiana Infantry, Union Army; and John Buck, who served in the Thirty-second Kentucky Infantry, Union Army.

This writer does not know where he is buried, but Albert C. Howe was a Hancock soldier in the Union Army. He served in Company H of the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry.

Howe was horn at Hanover, Ind., on October 9, 1835 but was brought to Lewisport, when the family settled there, in 1841. Howe was like most boys of his time and began, very early in life, to work on a farm but left this to work in a store in Lewisport. For a while he operated a saddle and harness shop in Grandview, but returned to Lewisport and opened his own grocery store. He was appointed to the office of Postmaster of Lewisport in 1876 and he served as a town trustee several terms. Albert Howe was a member or the Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge and was active in both.

Most of Howe's army career was spent in Tennessee and he was taken prisoner by Confederate soldiers, on October 20, 1863 and remained in prison until the following May. Part of his time in prison was spent at the famous Belle Island prison at Richmond, Va.

Solomon Barker was in the Union Army but this writer has not found what unit he served in. It is believed that he went across the river, from his home in Hancock County, and joined an Indiana unit. Barker is buried in the cemetery adjacent to the West Point Baptist Church, near Roseville. A grandson, Jess Barker of Fordsville, is a friend to this writer.

At Lewisport is Corporal Thomas Cox. Thomas served in Company C of the Fifty-second Kentucky Infantry, Union Army.

John W. Blackburn was born in the coal fields of Wales, British Isles, in 1845 and was brought by his parents to the coal fields of Western Kentucky when he was two years old. The elder Blackburn had heard of the riches of the coal fields in the New World. When young John was ready to earn his own way in the world he went to Victoria Mines in Hancock County and was there when the Civil War began. He was fifteen years old and had no idea what the war was about, but because he realized his new country was in danger, he crossed the Ohio River at

Hawesville and enlisted in the first unit that would take him. This was the Twenty-sixth Indiana Infantry and John became a member of Company F. He served well throughout the war.

When the war was over Blackburn went back to Render Mines, later to be called McHenry, and married the daughter of one of the men who had come to America with the Blackburns. John Blackburn became the father of Walter Blackburn, who became the father of this writer. "Grandpa" Blackburn died in 1908, six years before this writer was born, but something of the love of history must have passed down. It was said of Blackburn that he could not be trusted to go to the coal company commisary for groceries because he too often spent the family food money for books. This was at a time, too, when grocery money was in short supply. The old soldier always loved Hancock County and its people, and one of his brothers, Robert, married Molly Shore, a Hancock County girl. Blackburn is buried at Render Cemetery, at McHenry, Ky.

One of the strange oddities of the Civil War was the fact that many of the men changed sides, fighting first on one side and the other.

A Hancock County boy did this and he is one of the best remembered of those who took part in the Civil War. It must be admitted that in some circles he is not remembered with love.

William H. Davidson was the son of Dr. H. A. Davidson, a physician of Hawesville, and the future soldier was born in Hawesville.

William was first in the Union: Army and was a Captain, in command of a company, during the battles of Donelson and Shiloh. He then resigned his commission and became a Captain.in the Confederate Army. On the records of the Union Army his name is spelled "Davison" and in the Southern Army records it is "Davidson."

Davidson (or Davison) was the leader of the Confederate troops that burned the courthouse in Owensboro and a "History of Daviess County", published about 1875, does not speak well of him. Perhaps this is to be understood; yet the burning of courthouses and other buildings was done by regular Confederate soldiers and for a reason, It was the practice of Confederate forces, whenever they could, to burn buildings that had been used for the housing of Negro troops. The courthouse at Owensboro had been so used.

About a week after the affair at Owensboro, William was cornered near Hawesville, by Federal troops sent out for the purpose, and killed. The Davidson family did not bring the body in for several days because of a fear of retaliation by Union soldiers. This writer has not determined the burial place of Captain Davidson but thinks he is in the Hawesville Cemetery, in an unmarked grave in the family plot.

The boys of Hancock County, from both sides of the Civil War, are gone. For them the roar of cannon has been stilled and they shall hear of war no more.

They are gone but they are a part of the great heritage of Hancock County. They are a part of the heritage of America and America is better because they lived.

Their sons, and their grandsons, and their great-grandsons, and even in some cases their great-greats, have followed them into America's wars. They are doing o even now and it is because of his that America is still a free and a proud nation.

Some say the Civil War has ended but this is not so. The great American Civil War will never end and it is not right that it should. Each generation is entitled to a retelling of the story.

Some say that the soldiers of the Civil War are forgotten but this is not so either. They will never be forgotten. Each generation will bring forth its Bruce Cattons and its Glenn Tuckers and its Ezra J. Warners and new light will be brought. Each generation also will bring forth its unknown hobbyist who will seek out the graves of those who have been lost for a time and bring these boys again to the attention of the world. He will seek out the cemeteries long forgotten, and standing

alone in the deep woods, or in some desolate field far from the roads and the maddening strife and passing crowds, he will breathe a prayer and say "Here is one who was a soldier in the Civil War. This is indeed holy ground."

They are gone but they are remembered. They live on in the hearts of all who thrill to the deeds of brave men, and they will continue to live on in the lives of those who fight that America might remain free.

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY,
75th Anniversary Edition, 13 June 1968:

Hawesville Was Shelled By Gunboat "Springfield" In 1864

Though Hancock County never knew the horrors of actual warfare it suffered no less painfully during the War Between the States. Brothers, sons and fathers chose their separate ways – the Union Army or the Army of the Confederacy – according to the individual's political and moral convictions. Hancock County's sympathies, if not officially, at least physically, lay with the southern cause, while her closest neighbor and friend, Cannelton, Ind., was strongly Union.

No measure was left untried in an effort to preserve the warm relationship the two communities had heretofore enjoyed. At one point, early in the conflict, a committee of prominent citizens from Hawesville and Cannelton organized a meeting to produce a proposal in the event the end of the war brought a division of the country. It was their joint fear that should such a division occur the natural boundary would be the Ohio River. To avoid separation the committee recommended in the strongest possible language that the boundary should run either north or south of the Ohio River. Despite their apparent conf1icting loyalties sensible men were able to maintain their loyal friendships.

By virtue of its geographic location and divided loyalties, Hancock County, particularly Hawesville, became the victim of border hostilities. Without the protection of any regular contingent, Union or Confederate, many families suffered from the frequent insidious forays of the plundering guerrillas.

The animosity of these irregular squads was directed primarily against Cannelton, since Perry and Cannelton were the center of industry in south central Indiana. Cannelton was also frequently the scene of heavy Union troop encampments.

During the summer of 1864, raids had increased in Hawesville. The government ordered the gunboat Springfield, captained by Edmond Morgan, to detach itself to the port at Cannelton for that community's protection. The ironclad boat with cannon protruding from its sides, was a formidable spectacle of war.

Acting on information that there was a sizable irregular squad moving on Hawesville, Captain Morgan commanded his boat into action. Early on Monday, July 25, 1864, the gunboat opened fire on Hawesville. With fascinated horror the citizens of Cannelton watched the shells explode over Hawesville, and her citizens retreat to the hoped-for safety inside the stone walls of the Catholic Church on the west end of town. Many scurried to the safety of the mines.

There had been no time to warn the residents, but by personal supervision of the firing, Captain Morgan inflicted only slight material damage and no casualties. He immediately offered to reimburse, personally, any non-hostile citizen who incurred loss.

The bombardment had produced its desired effect for the guerrillas withdrew. —L. C.

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Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 11 September 1936:

CIVIL WAR STORIES

Editor's Note:—The following stories, describing instances in Hawesville during the Civil War days, have been written by Miss Anna Hawes, of Cincinnati, formerly of Hawesville. Miss Hawes, who is entering her eighty-second year, has arranged the stories as she remembers them.

It was very common for people to flock to the mines when the Union soldiers were shelling Hawesville, but my mother would never go. One night, how ever, a gunboat stopped in the river and began to shell the town. Mr. McAdams came and begged my father and mother to bring the children down to his house (now known as the Crammond house.)

After several shells, which shook the house, we started. Joe (our colored boy, over six feet tall) carried me; Father carried the baby, Minnie (afterwards Mrs. A. W. Vickers) Ellen, the colored nurse, carried brother Sam, and Mr. McAdams carried brother John. They were afraid to carry a light on account of the shells dropping around us. We thought it great fun to get to go visiting at night and I have remembered it all these years.

As I recall, not a person in Hawesville was ever struck in these frequent bombardments, but two houses, both belonging to Union men, under the hill where the cemetery now is were struck. In one house, a shell went through and struck a kitchen safe and all the dishes were broken as the safe fell to t floor. The people were at church when it happened and were not hurt.

Early in the 60's we moved to a house on River street, a house on the corner owned by Mr. Sam McAdams. It was while we lived there the War began.

The first Blue-Coats I ever saw came down the river on a boat and landed in front of our house. A lot of the soldiers, who were on their way South, saw our well and jumped the fence to get a cool drink. John, my brother, who was on his favorite seat, one of the gate posts, began to sing "Hurrah for Jeff Davis." They ordered him to stop. He thought it was fun and went on until they threatened to kill him, and Ellen, the colored nurse, took us in the house. We saw plenty of them after that.

One night, a man, John Martin, a merchant, came waking Father to tell him, a company of Southern soldiers were up in the country. They were tired from marching and there had been no rain for a long time. On coming to a creek with water in it they had gone in to have a bath. When they came out their clothes had been stolen. Someone had been sent by them to town for food and clothing. A woman had been sewing at our house, preparing clothes for the family and for the colored folks, so the shirts an drawers that had been made for Father and the colored men were sent as well as the boiled ham, pies and cakes that were to be used the next day (Sunday) by the family.

Early in 1864 we moved up on what is called Lover's Leap hill. The house burned down in 1934, at that time owned by Mr. Henderson Williams' folks. It was here the Yankees shelled, placing cannon on the banks of the Ohio in Cannelton and facing our house. The shells would shake the house, but none ever struck it. They fell in ground, coal house and out buildings, but never exploded. I used to stand and watch them putting halls in their cannons, but put my hands

over my face when I saw the flash come. Orders were if a horse was seen at the fence the house was to be blown to pieces.

Father's cousins and uncles did not come often as they lived in Daviess county, where so many relatives lived. My brother Sam was very ill during the war and had to be stayed with during the night. Union men came and guarded the house every night to see if any Southern soldiers came. You could hear them walking and talking outside.

One morning, Miss Heater Holmes, sister of Mrs. Phronia Allen, rode up on her horse and got off, leaving her riding skirt on the fence. She had on a red dress and before reaching the door a shell came flying across the river toward her, but she was not injured.

Christmas Eve 1864, while be preparations were being made for the next day, a gun boat came down the river and began to shell the town. Father sent word to Mother that people were leaving their houses and going into the coal mines for safety and would she take us and go. She said no, she would stay where she belonged.

While the shelling was still going on, Cousin Manleus Taylor and another man, who were coming to town on the back road, (road was back of the Hawley house and the Hawes house, now the County Home), were in great danger. A shell dropped so close to them they were covered by dirt. It had been snowing and the snow was to melting, so they were muddy, but were not injured.

Mrs. Newman. (Josephine McAdams) and her husband got in one coal mine and the colored nurse with the baby, Manley (brother of George Newman), got in another. The next day Mr. McAdams and his family had Christmas dinner with us as they had been in mines most of the day.

I do not see, even now, how the "boys," as I heard Father and Mother call them, were so often at our house in their Army clothes. They were Mother's folks, two brothers, Major Walker Taylor and Captain Sam Taylor; her nephews, Hancock and Manleus Taylor, John and Nat McLean, also many who were not related to us. We would eat supper, just the family, but in the morning there would be 3 or 4 of them who had come from somewhere in the night. Sometimes they would stay in the house all day, leaving as they came, at night. I wondered about it but when I asked questions, all I would hear was, "This is war times."

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 12 July 1935:

Looking Backward Twenty-five Years Ago: Bill Davison The War Terror of Western Kentucky

(Originally published in May 1910)

During the rebellion Hancock county was almost entirely cut off from communication with the outside world and many incidents which occurred in this county in those dark days have never reached the press, therefore, they may be interesting to the old soldier, as well as those who saw the light since the surrender at Appotomax.

Captain Bill Davison, who figured conspicuously in this part of the world as a guerilla chieftain, was born in Hawesville, Ky., in the year 1838. He was a son of Dr. Hardin Davison, who, together with Thomas Withrow and several others, assassinated Thos. St. Claire Lowe in the Hawesville jail, where he had sought refuge from the hands of an infuriated mob, which sought to take Lowe's life because he did not favor the candidacy of Colonel Cicero Maxwell who at that time aspired to the honor of Commonwealth's Attorney in the Fourth Judicial District of Kentucky.

Dr. Davison, some years after the mob in which he figured so conspicuously, desiring to put an end to his own existence and also to take with him to eternity some of his enemies, exploded a tin bombshell, which he carried in a basket under his cloak, in the rear of C. B. Duncan's store in Hawesville. now occupied by Mr. S. Rosenblatt, where several of his enemies were assembled. The explosion of this bomb, while it tore out the whole side of the brick structure, proved fatal to no one except Davison, A few evenings previous to the suicide and attempted murder which occurred in the store, as I related above. Dr. Davison repaired to the Methodist church, where a worship was in progress. He afterwards confessed that his mission at church was to explode the shell but the presence of his wife in the congregation prevented his murderous intention.

"Bi1l" Davison, as he was called, was a brother of N. D. Davison, who was brutally murdered by an Owensboro policeman in 1872. He was also a brother of James Davison, who was killed by the accidental discharge of a shot gun in his own hands. In the cemetery on the beautiful hillside which overlooks the historic little city of Hawesville, are four mounds in which sleep Dr. Davison and his three sons, William, James and Nathaniel, each of whom met death in a violent manner.

Bill Davison, subject of this sketch, went into the Federal army in 1861 as Captain of a brave command. He proved to be an active and valuable officer. The faded gray never fronted a braver man. He remained in the Federal ranks until the Proclamation of Emancipation was issued. He then. Resigned. He had said before he had enlisted in the Federal army that if he found they were fighting for the freedom of the slaves, he would resign his commission and forever be an enemy of the North and to the Negro. And he was as good as his word. He returned to his Kentucky home and mustered a squad of desperate men, who in obedience to his orders, donned the gray jackets and ornamented their waists with heavy dragoon pistols. They were terrors to the Home Guards in blue, and the name of Bill Davison fell upon their ears as a terrible death warning.

About the latter part of October, 1865, Davison was joined by Captain Isaac Colter, of Nelson county, the most desperate man that ever sprung a trigger. The record of Jesse James, the bandit king, for bloody deeds is not compared with that of Colter. Upon meeting a man in blue, or one of the African race, he invariably introduced himself by a shot from his revolver, in order to see how gracefully or how awkwardly his victim would fall.

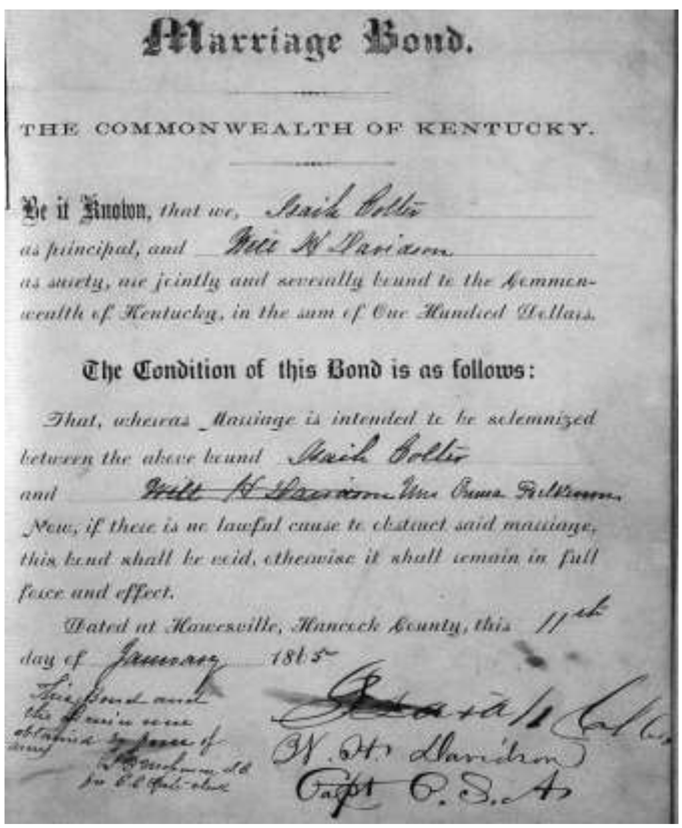
Ten and twenty-five cent pieces in those days were commonly called "Lincoln Skins." If an unfortunate Negro came in contact with Colter's revolver he would sever the Negroes' ears from his head and place them in his pocketbook, as we do our ten-dollar notes.

In the early part of December of the same year, he murdered a colored boy, six miles east of Hawesville and after securing that part of the Negro's anatomy he so much coveted, he rode into Lewisport, accompanied by the famous Bill Davison. They dismounted in front of the most genteel saloon in the place and summoned a colored man to watch their steeds. They entered and called for old Bourbon straight. The bartender supplied them with the desired brand, and after indulging freely, Colter sked the bartender if "Lincoln Skins" were legal tender. When answered in the affirmative, he immediately placed the eats of the murdered man upon the counter. They passed quietly from the saloon to the pavement, where the inoffensive man was attending their horses. Colter expressed a desire to renumerate the darkey for his services . The latter declined to accept a compensation, whereupon Colter drew a revolver saying: "Take this for your services." A sharp report rang upon the air, and the unfortunate colored man's brains were blown out.

Later in the day, the Louisville and Henderson mail packet, "Morning Star," was captured by Davison, Colter and their men at Lewisport, Ky., while bound for Louisville. After securing their horses on deck, Colter spied a Federal soldier, whom he approached at once and asked if he

had a discharge. The soldier replied that he was going home on a furlough. Cotter once more drew his bloody revolver, saying: "I will give you a genuine discharge," and another victim was added to his long list. After the murder on deck the two desperadoes repaired to the cabin of the steamer, where they found six Federal soldiers, whom they ruthlessly murdered and robbed of their overcoats. Colter did not neglect the express and the United States mail. The valuables of all the passengers were taken into his custody for safe keeping. He next proceeded to the pilot house where he relieved Milo Tunstal, the veteran pilot, of a handsome gold watch and chain. When the steamer arrived at Hawesville wharf the desperadoes abandoned her. As the clatter of their horses hoofs sounded upon the frozen levee the Queen of Night shone out in splendor upon the bosom of the grand old Ohio. The Federal bluecoats taken from the bodies of the murdered soldiers were discovered by Major Walker Taylor, who was in command of a Confederate squad in the town at that time. He immediately turned his little band in line of battel, thinking that the approaching horsemen were Federals. Taylor's men were in the act of discharging a deadly fire when they recognized the voice of Captain Bill Davison as he gave his well-known command "Ride up, my hyenas." Soon after the capture of the steamer Morning Star, Colter became infatuated with Mrs. Emma Ferguson [sic, should be Fulkerson], who at that time was visiting relatives in Hancock county. Mrs. Ferguson's husband, was an officer on a gun boat in the Federal service. Colter compelled her to marry him notwithstanding the fact that she had no divorce. Beneath the marriage bond, now on file in the Hancock county clerk's office can be found the following quaint inscription:

"This license was obtained by force of arms. J. D. Messmore. Deputy Clerk."



Marriage Bond.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

Be it Known, that we, Isaiah Colter as principal, and Will H. Davison as surety, are jointly and severally bound to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the sum of One Hundred Dollars.

The Condition of this Bond is as follows:

That, whereas Marriage is intended to be solemnized between the above bound Isaiah Colter and ~~Will H Davison~~ Mrs Emma Fulkerson

Now, if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said marriage, this bond shall be void, otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect.

Dated at Hawesville, Hancock County, this 11th day of January 1865

W. H. Davison
Capt C. S. A.

This graphic was not included in the original article

A few days after this most peculiar marriage. Colter became tired of his wife and sent her to her parents, whose abode was in a place unknown to Colter's best friends.

Colter remained in Hancock and surrounding counties until January 1865, and in the absence of Capt. Davison, whom feared, he possessed himself of property belonging to the Southern sympathizers and continued the use of colored people as targets for his never erring revolvers, in that month he went to Salt river, not as a defeated candidate goes, but to dip his hands in the gore of some enemies who were there. He was alone. When he reached the eastern part of Meade county he was surrounded by party of home guards. They were too many for him, and the desperate Colter took refuge in a barn, at which place he was completely riddled with bullets, but not until he had killed ten of their number. Colter was a magnificent specimen of manhood, being 6 feet and 5 inches in height, and a face as handsome and intelligent as one would wish to see.

Captain Davison was desperately in love with a Miss Griffin of Hartford, Ky. Miss Griffin was a noted belle of her time, and it is said was engaged to Capt. Davison, but his untimely death prevented their marriage. During one of his visits to her, she presented him with a small revolver and a queer brass box, in which to carry his percussion caps. He carried this pistol and box in all of his escapades, and always referred to the box as his "Guiding Star." It was taken from his bosom after his death, which was a peculiarly sad one.

In December 1864, followed by a few chosen men he went to Lewisport to kill some Home Guards who had made themselves obnoxious in that town. The courthouse was home guard headquarters and Davison stationed his men about the public square. to see that no one should escape while he sent one of his men to fire the building. He did his work rapidly and well and the courthouse was soon enveloped in flames. The Home Guards had been too sharp for Davison however for not one was to be found and he was disappointed in that he could not get an opportunity to take the lives of a company of men whom he g utterly despised and whom he had gone twenty miles to slay.

In 1863-4 Capt. Davison, while reconnoitering near Simpsonville, Ky., with forty two men, every one of whom he called a hyena., else he could not have been In Bill Davison's command, met a party seventy five colored soldiers. In less than forty minutes every colored man had been killed and Davison and his "hyenas" as he termed his men were speeding over the dark and bloody grounds on horses which were best that it was possible to obtain.

On the same trip he overtook a party of seventeen Negroes near Yelvington, Ky., and again as many dark men fell in front of the deadly fire of the "Hyenas."

Aside from Bill Davison's dark deeds, it was a pleasure to call him a friend. In Kentucky his friends were legion, and with him the word meant more than it does with most men. He could not do enough for his friends, and on more than one occasion did he imperil his life for the ones he loved to call his friends. Davison was a handsome man, not tall, but broad shouldered and otherwise splendidly made. His beardless face was as smooth as a woman's and his coal black eyes flashed like those of a panther. His hair was a dark as a raven's wing, and dropped over his shoulders. His command was law with his men, and his general appearance thrilled one with romance.

Not much more can be said of him until he received his death wound, which occurred in February 1865, about twelve miles from Hawesville, while on the road to Nelson county, accompanied only a noted guerilla by the name of McGruder and the celebrated leader of the guerillas, Sue Munday.

These three desperate men were enroute to Nelson county, Kentucky for some purpose not disclosed, but it was generally believed that their mission was to take charge of a larger force than

all of them had directed ever before and terror __ the entire state. But if this __ intention they were totally deprived of deriving and benefit from it, for when they had arrived at a point twenty miles south of the Ohio river, the three desperate leaders of all the guerillas, were ambushed by a party of fifteen Home Guards in command of Capt. Charles Hale, who had been born and brought up in the same town with Davison.

At the first fire from the Union Home Guards, who were secreted behind trees in a thick wood. Sue Munday and McGruder put spurs to their horses and deserted their leader, who for fifteen minutes in the midst of steady fire, took chance shots at enemies, behind trees, but without effect. Hale was armed with a heavy .44 caliber repeating Ballard rifle, but he knew to show himself from behind the corner meant certain death, so in a manner probably fair in war, but entirely unnatural to any Kentuckian, he reached the muzzle of his rifle around the trunk of a tree and shot Davison through his hip and prepared his gun instantly for another shot. Davison was armed with a pair of Colts revolvers, weighing four pounds and a half each, using a .50 caliber ball. He knew that he was severely wounded and that to have any chance to escape he must kill Hale, the leader. He began to press Hale closely, the latter dodging from one tree to another and his men firing continuously at Davison. At last Hale saw his opportunity and, firing rapidly, he shot Davison thru the right arm, the ball passing on through his breast and lodging in his back.

(Continued Next Week)

<u>Hancock Clarion</u>, Hawesville, KY, 19 July 1935:

Looking Backward Twenty-five Years Ago: Bill Davison The War Terror of Western Kentucky" (part 2)

(Continued from last week)

Davison's arm dropped harmlessly to his side and taking the bridle in his teeth, he turned his galloping horse in the direction of the Ohio river, firing over his left shoulder at his enemies.

Not a man in that half an hour's unmatched fight save Davison was injured. Mortally wounded, he galloped about three miles in the direction as above stated and almost crazed by his suffering, he took refuge in a thick clump of bushes in a lonely wood miles away from any habitation and without a ministering hand or a glass of water prayed for his enemies to surround and to kill him.

In two days his cousins, the Misses Newman, having heard he was mortally wounded, had found and went to his relief. They were led to his whereabouts by the neighing of his hungry horse. The coming of these two young ladies must have been to the suffering Davison what the dewdrops are to the flowers. He was taken to the home of the Newman's, but wasn't allowed to remain, but a few days. The Union army had fixed a price of $5,000 upon his capture, dead or alive, and the country was full of Home Guards, who, of course, were anxious for the reward.

A deserter from the Union army named Pemberton had erected a rude hut in the very mist of the wildest forest in Hancock county. In this he would secrete himself when soldiers were near, and he was safe; to find the cabin one must almost walk over it. One dark night, soon after Davison was shot, a party of Home Guards were in the act of surrounding the home of the Newman's to get Davison's head. But he was too sharp for them. As badly wounded as he was, he ordered a horse, and, accompanied by some friends, set out for the Pemberton cabin, and lingered for two weeks when death came.

His good old mother, who resided at Council Grove, Kansas, where she moved from Kentucky many years ago, to be near her two remaining sons, but who died about ten years ago,

knew that her oldest son was mortally wounded, but did not know where he was or who his friends were with him to allay, as best they could, his suffering.

"Every night after my son was wounded," said the good old lady, "strange parties of men came to my house at all hours to see if he was there, or if I knew where he was. Sometimes they would make blood-curdling threats against me give them the satisfaction, they would enter the house and search it minutely and one dark night," continued Mrs. Davison, "about a week after he had been wounded, a coarse, unfamiliar voice awaken me. I thought, as usual that it was a party of men who wished to kill my son in order to get the price which was placed on his head. I knew they would burn the house if I did not give them an answer and I invited them in. I was surprised when only one man came in out of the darkness and told me that he had come to get a bed for William, to rest on, and that I must go with him. I thought at first that it was a ruse to get me to divulge his hiding place. But, I did not know where he was, although I wished to know more earnestly than did his meanest enemy. I gave the man a bed, and rode behind him for about 8 miles. He was faithful and he took me to my suffering child."

Mrs. Davison was truly a good old lady and it greatly troubled her to hear her son harshly spoken of. She rarely over spoke of him. She remained at his side in the lonely forest, administering to his wants as only a mother can, for one week, when death in peaceful slumber, came to relieve the body that had fought it so long and hard.

Davison's two cousins, the: Misses Newman, and several other of his friends remained with him to the last.

When his death drew near his breathing which was terrible, caused the shattered bones in his breast to grate harshly together, until the awful noise could be heard over the cabin. As his death came and his broken bones clashed together he gnashed his teeth in oaths against the North and the men who had sent him to his long home.

The grave of this strange man was, of course, as much of a secret as his living abode, because the Union wanted his head and the soldier would have been paid as much for handsome face severed from its body as they would had they captured him alive and placed him safely behind prison bars. But his friends were determined. Nine stalwart, sad men, among whom were C. N. Buchanan, Geo. Sapp and H.C. Wilson, buried him. In the darkest part of the night they sadly bore his remains in a rude box and interred all that was left of the guerilla chieftain in a spot not far from the cabin, as desolate as where Mose's sleeps on Nebo's lonely mountain.

Here he was left to rest until two or three decades ago when his remains were taken to the place of his birth and placed near the graves of his father and two brothers, all of whom died unnatural deaths.

(The End.)

<u>Owensboro Messenger</u>, Owensboro, KY, 31 July 1904, p.2:

HOW HAWESVILLE WAS BOMBARDED

Interesting Bit of History Not Recorded in the Records of the Civil War Concerning Hancock County's Capital

Cannelton. July 30. – "Boom! Boom!" The stunning crash of artillery broke the lazy silence of a warm July morning In this quiet Indiana village of Cannelton.

Forty years ago it was, to be sure, but the echoes resounded and then died away far among forest-crowned hills, overlooking the beautiful Ohio, whose rippling current still flows just as placidly as it did on Monday, July 25, 1864, perhaps the single instance when naval cannon was discharged in defense of Hoosier soil.

The brief engagement wherein Capt. Edward Morgan, of the Federal gunboat Springfield (No. 22 In the western flotilla), trained his batteries against the Kentucky town of Hawesville, is not recorded in any histories of the war between the States, nor is it commemorated elsewhere than in the bound files of a local newspaper and among the recollections of older citizens on each side of the river.

No bitterness hangs around the bloodless conflict after the lapse of two-score years, and the strained relations which existed between the two communities even before the outbreak of hostilities in 1861 were due, possibly as much to local business jealousy as to actual sectionalism.

Cannelton promptly filled her quota of soldiers in the Indiana regiments, but the majority of Hawesville's volunteers participated in that guerilla skirmishing which was confined to the border states, rather than among the regularly-enlisted troops of the Confederacy. A frequent threat among certain fierce Kentuckians was "We'll come over and burn your cotton mill for you." Hence Cannelton's Home Guards were early organized by Col. Charles H. Mason, holding commission from Gov. Morton.

Once, in the summer of ‘63, when Gen. John Morgan, with his train of picturesque followers, swept like a dazzling meteor across Southern Indiana, the Home Guards spent a sleepless night watching upon their arms. Tidings of Morgan's northward raid had come by "grapevine telegraph," and it was feared that he would make Cannelton his point of attack for invading the North. But the next news was that Morgan with his army had crossed into Harrison county, at Brandenburg, further up the river, and were marching upon Corydon, leaving Cannelton and Perry county safely to the west of their dangerous path.

A twelve-month later found even more of Cannelton's eligible men at the front, and the increased boldness of strangling guerrillas in coming to Hawesville produced a feeling of anxiety which called for additional security beyond the Home Guards, although the gray-coated cavalry had strictly remained on the south bank of the Ohio. Admiral Porter therefore stationed the gunboat "Springfield" at Cannelton, so the citizens slept in sweet tranquility without fear of Hawesville.

No crossing of the river was permitted without a pass, but rumors of a secret plot among sundry doughty Southerners reached Capt. Morgan's ears, the conspirators' plan, as revealed, being to make a swift dash over to Cannelton, set fire to the cotton mill, and regain safety In Kentucky. The residents of Hawesville, be it said to their credit, were not in cordial sympathy with any scheme of wholesale destruction.

Narrating the actual circumstances of the bombardment, the Cannelton Reporter of July 30, 1864, says:

"Last Monday morning was made memorable by the shelling of Hawesville. About 10 O'clock rapid firing called our citizens to the river bank. The sight was wholly new; we hope it may never have a parallel. A shell would burst over a house, driving out half a dozen inmates; a strong current of women and children was settling to the lower part of the town; a goodly number were hastening behind the thick walls of the stone church for protection; many, as they were reminded of safe retreat in the coal mine, fled hither and looked not behind.

"While Hawesville thus sought the protection of distance and stone walls and caves of earth, all Cannelton, with open mouth, witnessed the exhibition. Shelling a town was a rare show,

indeed, and there were the finest facilities for observation, abundant shells and not a whit of danger. About twenty shells were thrown and it was over.

"Capt. Morgan had information of guerrillas entering Hawesville. With great caution be sent a few shells into the town, which did no damage to person and none of consequence to property. He had no opportunity to give warning to the citizens to leave, but by personal superintendence of every fuse fired saw that no danger should be incurred by the inhabitants of the place. His offer to remunerate anyone from his private purse to the full extent of the damage they might have undergone is a good pledge of the careful discharge of his duty."

Thus ended the naval action of the Ohio, from which both Indiana and Kentucky may be said to have emerged with flying colors, since neither flag was furled in defeat.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 22 December 1901, p.9:

War-Time Memories

Recollections of the Shelling of Hawesville in the 60's

Everybody loves to read things that they haven't read before, and while on that line we will say a few things that happened during the dark days of the civil war. The quarantine against the Hoosier towns is responsible for this paragraph. There was a gunboat stationed opposite this town, in war times and the boat's' name was "Number 22." Morgan was the name of the captain of this boat and he was a mean man, according to all accounts. He was not a polite man, because he instructed his men to fire on Hawesville, regardless of whom he slaughtered. Twenty-eight shells were fired into Hawesville in one day. Mayor Stephen Powers says that his residence, where he lived then and lives now, was shot dozens of time with musket balls. The house where A. Lincoln lives now had a twelve-pound shell shot through it. The house where Esq. Aldridge now lives almost wrecked a shell. Several shells have been found in the past few years, that were handed to us by Hoosier parties, and which never exploded, but that is not our fault, and it certainly was not the fault of the people who fired them. They did their and they were in the service of the government of the United States. These unkindly acts have never been forgotten by the older people, of Hawesville and while they have no malice, they do not propose to have a loathsome disease thrust upon them. This brings to the front the fact of one trip of the famous Bill Davison, who was here with his company. The merciless Morgan persisted in shelling the town about every time he took a drink. Davison proposed to cross the river above town and kill everybody in Cannelton and burn all the houses. He could have done so and would have done so had not Major Powers, Dr. Davison, Sam McAdams, Wash McAdams, Nestor Davison and other influential men, who convinced him that it was dangerous to do it. They were afraid that the lives of all the people in town would pay the penalty at the hands of Morgan and others, later. – Hawesville Plaindealer.

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 27 November 1889, p.1:

CELEBRATED MEN

Hawesville the Birthplace of a Famous and a Notorious Man.

Jesse D. Bright and the Unfortunate Letter That Caused His Expulsion From the U.S. Senate.

Bill Davison, the Notorious Guerrilla, and the Various
Crimes He Committed in This Locality During the War.
The Reward Offered For His Body

[Hawesville Letter to Pine Bluff (Ark.)]

Hawesville, Kentucky, is a town of about 1,000 situated on the Ohio river. It was once a great mining town, and during the war and the prosperity of steamboats, it was a great coaling station. During those days it was no unfamiliar scene to see from ten to twenty steamboats coaling here at one time. The town in beautifully situated. It is surrounded by fertile valleys and picturesque hills, and is one of the prettiest towns on the Ohio river. It is the county seat of Hancock county and the chief commercial city in the county. It has also produced some famous and notorious men in the past. Of the former is Jesse D. Bright, the statesman, and of the latter is Bill Davison, the guerilla…

BILL DAVISON, THE GUERRILLA,

who was born in Hawesville, in 1838. In 1861, Captain Davison entered the Federal army with a brave command, but when Lincoln issued his proclamation of emancipation he was forever after the enemy of the blue coat and the negro. He returned to his home and organized a desperate band of guerrillas who were a terror to the Home Guards and other Federal companies in this part of Kentucky. About 1865, Davison was joined by Capt. Colter, a most desperate character who shot and murdered every negro that came within range of gun shot. Davison called his men "My Hyenas, and they were to the Federals in these parts what Francis Marion and his men were to the British in South Carolina during the Revolutionary war. In 1863 and 1864, while Capt. Davison was reconnoitering near Simpsonville, Ky., with forty-two men, they met a party of seventy-five negro soldiers, and in less than forty minutes every negro bad been killed and Davison and his "Hyenas" were making way for other parts. On the same trip the "Hyenas" overtook a party of seventeen negroes near Yelvington, and again the colored man fell a victim to the guerrilla. In December 1864, Davison and his men went to Owensboro to kill a gang of Home Guards, who had made themselves obnoxious in that city. Their headquarters were in the court-house, and the public square was soon surrounded by Davison and his men, but the guards had been apprised of Davison's coming, and, like the birds, they bad flown. It was but a few minutes, however, until the court-house was enveloped in flames. One of the most daring acts of Davison and his men was the capture of the steamer Morning Star, one the Louisville and Henderson mail packets, at Lewisport, Ky., in the latter part of 1865. Between Lewisport and Hawesville the Morning Star, on board of which were the guerrillas met a Federal gun boat. The "Hyenas" were in close quarters. One of Davison's men, who is now a prominent citizen of Arkansas, was sent up to the pilot house. Leveling hi pistol at the pilot he told him that should the slightest signal be given the gun-boat, that he would be a dead man. The gun-boat passed on down the river and Capt. Colter then begun the slaughter of the Federals on board the Morning Star, seven of whom fell victims to bis marksmanship. When the boat arrived at Hawesville, Davison, Colter and their comrades abandoned the steamer.

In February 1865, Capt. Davison, Bill McGruder and the celebrated leader of guerrillas, Sue Munday, were en route to Nelson County, Ky., for the purpose, it is said, of taking command of a body of men with which to terrorize the entire State of Kentucky. But about twenty miles

south of here the three most desperate guerrillas the world ever saw were ambushed by the Home Guards, and at the first shot McGruder and Sue Munday put their spurs to horses and made good their escape. The brave Davison "stood his ground' until he received a dangerous wound in his right arm and breast, when he took the bridle reins between his teeth and galloped off. Alone and wounded he took to the bushes and lay for two days without either food or drink. The neighing of his hungry horse brought friends to his relief, but be shortly afterwards died and was buried in the woods. At that time there was a reward of $5,000 offered for his body – dead er alive, and his burial place was known only to a few friends, who never disclosed it until several years after the war. His remains were subsequently interred in the cemetery on a beautiful hill top overlooking the majestic Ohio river and the historic little city of Hawesville.

Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, Thursday, 16 April 1863, p.2:

Murders by Rebels in Kentucky

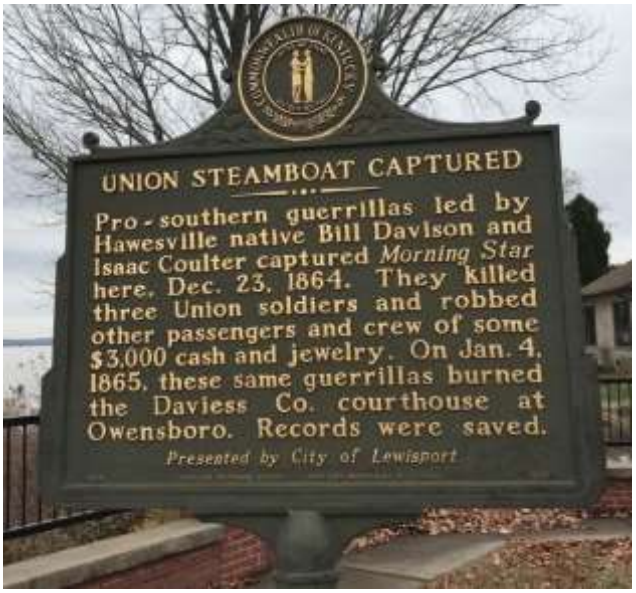
An Owensboro correspondent of the Louisville *Journal* says that a gang of twenty five or thirty outlaws, a part of them deserters from the rebel army, have been wandering about Ohio and Hancock counties, Kentucky, committing all kinds of outrages. On Saturday week they made their appearance in Ohio county, in open daylight, and captured and parolled a Home Guard captain, taking his overcoat and horse, and then left to serve others in the same way. Toward evening they crossed into Hancock county and after swearing and ___ and misusing Union men, robbing them of their arms and making various threats, they came to the house of Wm. L. Bruner, a worthy and good Union man, an honest farmer and a peaceable citizen, about ten o'clock at night, and called him out. Mr. Bruner not being at home, a young man by the name of Amos Corly, who was working for Mr. Bruner, came to the door, where upon, as he opened the door, they shot him, the ball taking effect in his left breast, ranging around his ribs, seriously, though it is hoped not mortally wounding him.

Then they proceeded to the house of Thomas Hale, another prominent Union man, surrounding it. Mrs. Hale had not yet gone to bed, and hearing them walking around the house, she awoke her husband, who repaired to a window and called to know what was wanted, and receiving no reply, went to the door, opened it, and the first thing that met his sight was a gun presented at his breast. Closing the door, he went to an adjoining room and aroused his son, and together they returned to the door with their guns, and the instant Mr. Hale opened the door a Minie ball pierced his brain, entering at the temple and passing diagonally through his head, killing him almost instantly, while another passed through his thigh, breaking it. He never spoke after he was shot. Joe and Thos. Harrison of Hancock, and Lindsay Roads of Daviess, and others, were recognized among the murderers. They have been harbored by the Southern sympathizers in these counties for the last three months. A more perfect reign of terror does not exist in the State than in Hancock county.

Hancock has had a rebel representative for the last two years, and the leading rebels of that county are men of wealth; and a more vindictive, tyrannical set of men, is not to be found. They will countenance and uphold anything that tends to the extermination of the Union party in that county.

Excitement At Hawesville

The Cannelton (opposite Hawesville) *Reporter* is informed that on Tuesday night of last week about one hundred armed men, supposed to be from the back part of Hancock and Ohio counties, Kentucky, arrived in the neighborhood of Hawesville, and sent a deputation into the town, who, calling upon G. W. McAdams, George W. Williams, Robert Beauchamp, William Sterritt, and John Martin, demanded that each of them pay, within twenty days, the sum of one thousand dollars for the benefit of the willow of Mr. Hale, who was shot by some persons believed to be rebel sympathizers on last Saturday night. What this movement will result in it is difficult to determine. Nothing pleasant, we fear. If this demand has been made without authority from the military commander of the district, he should see that no outbreak grows out of it, and have a sufficient number of troops near Hawesville to preserve the peace.



Kentucky State Historical Markers in Hancock County, KY. The "Captain William Davison" memorial was erected in 2002 in the town of Hawesville – at the intersection of U.S. 60 and Jennings Street, on the right when traveling north on U.S. 60. The "Union Steamboat Captured" memorial was erected in 1984 in the town of Lewisport – in the riverfront park at the end of 4th Street.

See also the following accounts of Civil War events in Hancock County:

Thomas Hale shot and killed at home, Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 7 April 1863 p.3 and 8 April 1863, p.1.

"Assassinations and Outrages by Rebels" [Thomas Hale], Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 10 April 1863 p.3 and 22 April 1863, p.1.

"Murders by Rebels in Kentucky" and "Excitement At Hawesville" [Thomas Hale], Daily Journal, Evansville, IN,16 April 1863, p.2 and 25 April 1863, p.2.

"Hawesville Items", Cannelton Reporter, Cannelton, IN, 8 May 1863, p.1.

"Escape of Captain Davison", Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, 12 October 1864, p.2.

Captain Davidson makes appearance, Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, 19 October 1864, p.3.

"Correspondence From Hawesville", Cannelton Reporter, Cannelton, IN, 2 March 1865, p.2 & 3.

"Davidson and Magruder Killed"), Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, 3 March 1865, p.2 and 4 March 1865 p2.

"Davison and Magruder's Guerillas", Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, 7 March 1865 p.2.

The Death of Bill Davidson, Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 7 March 1865, p.2 and 23 March 1865, p.3.

"Affairs at Hawesville, Ky.", Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, 10 March 1865, p.2.

"Capture of Noted Guerrillas", Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, 14 March 1865, p.1.

"Swift Retribution", Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, 18 March 1865, p.2.

"Bill Davidson Dead", Cannelton Reporter, Cannelton, IN, 23 March 1865, p.2.

"Bill Davidson's Body", Cannelton Reporter, Cannelton, IN, 30 March 1865, p.2 and 6 April 1865, p.3.

"Bill Davidson's Body", Daily Journal, Evansville, IN, 8 April 1865, p.1.

"A Fake Story: Isiah Colter Did Not Force the Wife of Another to Marry Him", Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 24 July 1898, p.2.

"Story of Burning The Court House", Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 30 October 1904, p.1B.

"Man Who Shot Bill Davdison: Charles Hale Passes At Hawesville, And Remembered as Man Who Killed Noted Guerilla", Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 8 January 1907 p.1.

"Charles Hale Dead: Was Slayer of Noted Guerilla Bill Davidson", Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 9 January 1907 p.1.

"Col. John H. Nave Saw Famous Duel – Tells of Interesting Experiences During Civil War" [Encounter with Bill Davison], Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 27 February 1910, p.1B.

"Kentucky War Story: Col. W. S. Sterrett Writes About Noted Guerilla", Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, 20 May 1910, p.7.

"Incident of War Is Recalled By Death of Capt. Morgan – Bombarded the Town of Hawesville In July 1863 – Married To Cannelton Girl", Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 22 February 1911, p.2

"Story of Civil War Raid Here Is Disclosed", Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 20 November 1958.

Gray Jackets With Blue Collars, John W. Blackburn, The Embry Newspapers, Inc., Beaver Dam, KY, 1963, 104 pages.

A Hundred Miles A Hundred Heartbreaks, John Blackburn, Nicholstone Book Bindery, 1972, 294 pages.

Footnotes to Hancock County history: "The Guerrilla Bill Davison – Hawesville's Native Son", Glenn Hodges, So It's Been Told column, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 14 June 1984.

Fearful Times: A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County, Kentucky, Glenn Hodges, Progress Printing Co., Owensboro, KY, 1986, 89 pages.

Footnotes to Hancock County history: Orphan Brigade, Jack Foster, So It's Been Told column, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 16 January 1986, 30 January 1986, 6 February 1986 & 13 February 1986.

"Bill Davison's Owensboro Raid ", Glenn Hodges, Daviess County Historical Quarterly, Daviess County Historical Society, Owensboro, KY, April 1986, Volume IV, 37-43.

Footnotes to Hancock County history: "Fearful Times", Glenn Hodges, So It's Been Told column, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 18 February 1988.

Footnotes to Hancock County history: "More Fearful Times,", Glenn Hodges, So It's Been Told column, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 25 February 1988.

"Kentucky guerillas led Courthouse burning" [William Davison], Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 3 February 1992, 1C.

"Rebel guerilla stormed western Kentucky" [William Clarke Quantrill], Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 November 1992, 1C.

"Honor and Villainy: Two Confederate leaders in western Kentucky used drastically different tactics in Civil War" [Capt. Bill Davison, Maj. Walker Taylor], Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 26 December 1995, p1D.

"Gravesite of notorious Confederate soldier Bill Davison cleared", Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 6 November 1997, p.1.

"Forgotten Raid: Rebel guerillas attacked Owensboro in 1864 with a vengeance", Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 29 September 2002, 3E.

"Hale – Moorman Cemetery, Hancock County, KY", Jerry Long, Hancock County, KY – Cemeteries section, West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy (Website), 2021, 25 pages.

"Henry Smith Midkiff (1831-1910): Confederate Guerilla Escapes the Gallows", Jerry Long, Biographies section, West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy (Website), 2022, 10 pages.

Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer

The grave of Bill Davison stands in the Hawesville cemetery. The Confederate soldier commanded guerrillas who burned the Daviess County Courthouse in 1865.

On left: grave of William Davison in the Hawesville Cemetery.
On right: Kesner Gibson (1921-2005) of Hawesville, KY holding rifle that Charles Hale shot Bill Davison with.