

The Sentinel



A Remembrance for Memorial Day

The Flag of 27th. Infantry regiment discovered by Ray Beeker
Davis County Library

The Battle of Franklin

In a moving and often emotionally charged account, guest speaker David Fraley explored the horrors of the Battle of Franklin at the May meeting. David, a former docent and archivist at the Carter House in Franklin, Tennessee, was visiting in Indiana, and we were lucky to get him as our speaker.

David's storytelling style called up the battle images and the personalities that set the scene for one of the Civil War's bloodiest battles.

After the fall of Atlanta, Confederate President's Jefferson Davis replaced Joseph Johnston with John Bell Hood, a general in whom he had a great confidence.

Rather than maneuver around the city, Hood repaired to the North — his great and forlorn scheme was to lure Sherman away from Atlanta, defeat him in detail, and march to relieve Lee in the East.

Having evaded a trap set for him at Spring Hill the defender at Franklin, John McCalister Schofield, decided to hold the city south of Nashville long enough get his supply trains across

the treacherous fords and bridges of the Harpeth River to his North.

General George Day Wagner made a fateful decision to rest two of his brigades one half mile south of the Union main line. From his vantage point at the Carter House, at first he failed to see the massive Confederate advance across two miles of open ground — a charge often likened to Pickett's at Gettysburg.

Emerson Opdyke's reserve brigade now entered the fray, and desperate hand-to-hand fighting went on as Confederates divisions Cleburne and Brown rushed into a gigantic funnel, to the amazement of the watchers on the flanks.

Hood broke off the attack at 9:00 p.m.; but firing was heard as late as 11:00 p.m. That night Schofield withdrew toward Nashville.

The casualties tell a story. The Confederates lost five general officers. Of the 27,939 Federals engaged, there were 2,326 casualties, of whom 1,104 were missing. Of 26,897 Confederates engaged, 6,257 were lost, of whom 702 were missing.

2010 Encampment Date Set

The date for the Fourth Annual Civil War Encampment has been set for Saturday and Sunday, July 31–August 1, on the lawn of the Monroe County History Center, 202 E. 6th St. in Bloomington. This year's event will again feature the 35th Irish, the same group who participated last year with great success. You can see medical and cooking demonstrations, musket firings, Civil War music and games and more all day long. Watch for more information down the road on the Roundtable website or on the History Center website, www.monroehistory.org.

Next Meeting

Legacy Profiles Series Presents

Major General Walter Quintin Gresham, New Albany, Indiana. Colonel, 53rd Indiana and commander of the 4th Division, 17th Army Corps, wounded at Atlanta.

– Bob Willey

No win-no lose – Confederate on mother's side, Union on his father's side & goodness knows how may others . . .

– Randy Stevenson

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