Robert S. Brashear came to the future Perry County in 1841 at the age of 21. He soon established himself as a business man while developing a store, operating a farm with as many as 15 slaves, a post office in 1829, and the Brashear salt works in 1835. The salt works operated until the 1880's with a work force of slaves and local laborers. The salt production for one year was reported to be 7,000 bushels.

Mr. Brashear served as magistrate, postmaster, merchant, sheriff, representative, probate judge, and as trustee in establishing the town of Hazard as well as Brashearsville. As described in one of Kentucky's earliest maps made in 1834, Brashearsville is shown as one of the few known villages in Eastern Kentucky. It was located at the junction of the North Fork of the Kentucky River, Leatherwood and Little Leatherwood Creeks.

Conflict came to the area as a result of the Civil War. As salt was the only way to preserve meat at this time, both Union and Confederate authorities wanted to control the salt works.

The Battle of Leatherwood was fought near the intersection of Leatherwood Creek and the Little Leatherwood Creek, near Brashearsville (now Cornettsville). On Sunday, October 19, 1862, Captain David J. Caudill and Company B of the 10th Kentucky Mounted Rifles, C.S.A., were guarding the salt works. Captain George Morgan with Lt. Claude Jones and a Company of the Harlan County Battalion, U.S.A., came down Leatherwood Creek from Harlan County to attack the Confederates. Morgan and his men, occupying one side of the creek, fired into the unsuspecting Rebels. A fierce fight ensued for several minutes until Captain Caudill was wounded. With their leader wounded, the Rebels retreated to Whitesburg.

Wary of Confederate re-enforcements, Captain Hogg returned to Harlan County. The salt works changed hands several times after this during the war. The general area became Cornettsville in 1904.
We would like to welcome you to the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Leatherwood. We are glad to have you as our guests. Make yourself at home, look around, learn about your ancestors, enjoy the entertainment and step back in time with us for a weekend.

While you’re here please stop by the Brashearsville Post Office, mail a letter and buy your exclusive 2007 Battle of Leatherwood stamp and commemorative pin. Be sure to visit the camps. The re-enactors will be glad to answer your questions about the day to day life of a soldier or what life was like for the women left at home. Visit the sutlers, craft booths and grab a bite to eat or take a ride with the horse and carriage. Across the creek is the making of a living history village including the Brashearsville salt works. Walk the swinging bridge and see how your ancestors may have lived.


Come Saturday evening; enjoy some dancing and fellowship at historic Calvary Campus in Letcher, Kentucky. Our Heritage Ball will be held at 7 o’clock Saturday evening. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the harmonious voices and called dances hosted by Mean Mary and Frank James. Early Sunday morning join us for an inspiring sermon and hear the voices of period music echo through the valley.

And when you hear the sound of cannon or musket fire please join us at the creek or the viewing stands for what promises to be an exciting show down between the Union and Confederate forces. Listen for the thundering hooves of the Calvary and the clanging of swords as the soldiers dodge cannon and infantry musket fire.

Keep in mind the entire weekend is dedicated to past, present and future veterans and soldiers. We are privileged to gather here this weekend and honor our heritage due to the sacrifices that have been made by those who came before us and those who are currently serving our country. We would like to thank all those who make the Battle of Leatherwood possible; without their generosity an event such as this would not be achievable.

Gary Begley  
Chairman, Battle of Leatherwood Re-enactment Committee

Committee Members:  
Gary Begley, Randall Haddix, Anita Noble, Glen Noble, Janet Cumpett, John Perk, Elbert Caudill  
Not Pictured: Willie Cornett, Del Back, John Back,

Special Thanks to:  
City of Hazard, Mayor William D. Gorman  
Perry County Fiscal Court  
Knott County Fiscal Court  
Letcher County Fiscal Court  
Alumni-Calvary College, Letcher, KY  
Hazard Perry County Tourism  
MCIC Leatherwood Blackey Health Clinic  
Dr. Marion Miniard  
Home Lumber Company  
Cornettsville Fire Department  
Perry County Sheriff’s Department  
LKLP Project Youth Advance  
Tammi Gorman  
Rick Baker  
Jimmy Keene  
Sons of Confederate Veterans- Ben Caudill Camp  
East Kentucky Blacksmiths Association  
Sutlers  
Visiting Schools  
ROTC- Perry Central High School  
Cornettsville Post Office  
Tawny Acker-Hogg  
Representative Brandon Smith  
Senator Daniel Mongiardo  
Doug Hedley  
East KY Rental  
Merivether Hall

We would like to thank the re-enactors, without whom this event would not be possible. The time, money and expertise of the re-enactors make this event what it has become. We appreciate and recognize their desire to represent historical events and honor our ancestors by preserving their memory and educating future generations.

Thank you for attending the Battle of Leatherwood event.

Donors to Brashearsville  
Dr. Marion Miniard  
Jeff Pratt  
Franklin & Jimmy Mayhew & Family  
Eli Shepherd  
Elbert Caudill  
Randall Haddix  
Wayne Engle  
Colin Cornett  
Roy Campbell  
Willie Strong  
Peyton Morton  
Manton Ray Cornett  
Earn Watts  
Judy Woods  
Farmer Baker  
The Blue Goose  
Bob Siremore  
Green Campbell Family  
Janet Cornett  
William Watts  
Taylor Roark  
Home Lumber Co.  
John Perk  
Willa Cornett  
Eileen Hamilton  
Jamie Walker  
Anita & Glenn Noble  
Gary Begley
Hazard Rotary Club
Janice Brafford-King, President
Donnie Fields, President Elect
Brenda Nease, Secretary
Rita Pratt, Treasurer

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Meetings are Held Every Wednesday @ Noon, Hazard Ponderosa

The Ben Caudill Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to date have set 946 stones, commemorating Confederate Veterans.

MCINTYRE
GROCERY & VARIETY STORE
Located at Intersection of KY. Rt. #7 & Dykes Branch Road.
Groceries and Miscellaneous Lawn, Garden and Household Items.

LON AND NADEN CAUDILL

Courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. Van Breeding
Perry County Fiscal Court

Judge Executive Denny Ray Noble

Magistrates

Jimmy Darrel Neace District I
Bubby Combs District II
Earl Brashear District III

Welcomes you to Perry County
During the War Between the States, the residents of Letcher County were deeply divided in their sentiments of which side to support, Union or Confederate. No matter else in the South did more brothers fight brothers nor neighbors fight neighbors than in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky and Southwestern Virginia.

In the fall of 1861, more than a thousand men joined the newly formed 5th Kentucky Infantry under the command of Colonel John S. Williams. This regiment was part of the Army of Eastern Kentucky, which was commanded by General Humphrey Marshall. This new Confederate Army consisted of the 1st and 2nd Kentucky Mounted Battalions, 5th Kentucky Infantry, 21st, 29th, and 54th Virginia Infantry, Jefferson Battery and several small, independent cavalry units.

While stationed in Whitesburg in the fall of 1861, an enemy dolluder than the Union army attacked the young Confederate Army. Diseases such as measles, mumps and dysentery began to ravage the Appalachian Rebels. In order to combat this enemy, a military hospital was built in the bottom where the Sandlick Creek emptied into the Kentucky River. Before long, the hospital was full to capacity with sick soldiers. Unfortunately, most records come to Whitesburg to retrieve their southern heroes whose families could not travel east of the hospital. The sympathetic southerner donated burial spots for the unknown soldiers who had been found, the site was grubbed, plowed and sown in grass. Tombstones for known and unknown soldiers were obtained and a monument to honor the soldiers was designed. The request for funds to build it was sent out into the public and was answered by Enterprise Coal, Hall Equipment, Dry Fork Market, Jerry Wells, Dean and Nina Cornett and several other citizens. In an effort to help with the project, Appalachian Monuments built the monument at their cost.

The majority of these men will never be known other than they were from regiments of the 5th Kentucky Infantry, 1st Kentucky Mounted Battalions, 21st, 29th and 54th Virginia Infantry and others, all of them should be considered American Soldiers. I encourage you to learn more about your ancestors and to be proud of all of them, regardless of what side they fought for or what war they were in. Write down their stories and pass them on to your children and relative so that their heritage will always be remembered. Hopefully if we all work together, our children will not have to hunt for their ancestors neglected graves.

Other records that recorded the deaths of dozens of soldiers included the journal of Captain Edward Guerrant (founder of Breeding’s Plumbing and Electric on 45 Hwy #7 North, Isom Kentucky 606-633-5961), the journal of George Mosgrove, 4th Kentucky Cavalry and the Adjutant General Reports of General Humphrey Marshall. Armed with these documents and stories handed down through several generations, members of the Colonel Ben E. Caudill Camp No. 1629 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans began to search for the resting place of the soldiers. With the help of the Letcher County Historical Society and several local residents, the camp was directed to the overgrown section of the Sandlick Cemetery. After two weekends of nonstop labor, tons of brush and trees were removed and hauled away.

New clear of dense foliage, graves and rock markers could be seen in military-type rows. Now satisfied that the final burial spot of dozens of Confederate soldiers had been found, the site was grubbed, plowed and sown in grass. Tombstones for known and unknown soldiers were obtained and a monument to honor the soldiers was designed. The request for funds to build it was sent out into the public and was answered by Enterprise Coal, Hall Equipment, Dry Fork Market, Jerry Wells, Dean and Nina Cornett and several other citizens. In an effort to help with the project, Appalachian Monuments built the monument at their cost.

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Civil War Worship Services

The chaplains of both the Union and the Confederate armies played an important role in the daily life of the civil war soldier. Examinations of one’s religious convictions and beliefs is seldom more profound than when a soldier is preparing to march into battle, while being surrounded by death and human carnage.

Make plans to attend the period worship service to be held on Sunday, October 28, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Re-enactors and visitors are invited to attend the services. Plan to attend this uplifting and interesting religious activity at the Battle of Leatherwood’s 145th Anniversary civil war re-enactment.
BATTLE OF LEATHERWOOD

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& SUPPLY
Air compressors, Backhoes, Bobcats, Compactors, Dozers, Excavators, Forklifts, Manlifts, Porta Potties
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PHARMACY
VERLON BANKS, R. PH.
LEATHERWOOD CLINIC BUILDING
CORNETTSVILLE, KY.
PHONE 476-2593
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* At press time we did not have a list of Federals who participated. We apologize for this.
Robert S. Brashear came to the future Perry County in 1841 at the age of 21. He soon established himself as a business man while developing a store, operating a farm with as many as 15 slaves, a post office in 1829, and the Brashear salt works in 1835. Mr. Brashear served as magistrate, postmaster, merchant, sheriff, representative, probate judge, and as a trustee in establishing the town of Hazard as well as Brashearsville. As described in one of Kentucky’s earliest maps made in 1834, Brashearsville is shown as one of the few known villages in Eastern Kentucky. It was located at the junction of the North Fork of the Kentucky River, Leatherwood and Little Leatherwood Creeks.

Stop by the Brashearsville Post Office on the Battlefield grounds to purchase your commemorative 2007 Brashearsville stamp featuring a photo of Robert S. Brashear. There are a limited number of these stamps available for purchase. You can also purchase an envelope displaying art work drawn by local artist Janet Cornett depicting a rural scene. Also for purchase is a limited edition commemorative lapel pin representing the 145 anniversary of the Battle of Leatherwood.

The ‘Cornettsville Fire & Rescue Department was established in 1985. The first meetings were held in the basement of Mt. Olivet Church until the current station was built.

The fire department began operating with many hopes and dreams. These dreams are a reality today. After hard work and dedication we have our fire station, we have 2 pumper trucks, 2 tanker trucks, 1 rescue truck and 1 medical emergency vehicle. We have volunteer firefighters and EMT’S who are ready 24/7 to help with any medical emergency, auto accidents, search and rescue or any type of help that is needed. We recently had a heli-pad installed behind our fire station to assist with air-medical emergencies.

We proudly serve and protect 2500-3000 people living in our area which is primarily a residential area. Our department is a very rural fire department that is run solely by volunteer members who are dedicated to serving the community.

Our current chief is Stephen Dale Campbell and assistant chief is Carter Hall. The Board of Directors are Debbie Shepherd, Mitchell Gray, Tami Campbell, Jack Collins, Harold Shepherd, Kristopher Hollbrook, Dustin Collins, Anna Collins, Karen Gray and Carter Hall. They all do a fine job with the department.

The Cornettsville Fire and Rescue Department depends on the community’s help to stay active. Without the donations of the community members we would have to close our doors. So, when you see us standing on a road block or having a fundraising event please support our efforts. Who knows, the next home or life we save may be your own.

Our upcoming fundraising events are:

**Haunted House**—October 24-30. Come out and visit with our spooks and let them scare your socks off.

**Battle of Leatherwood**—October 26, 27 & 28. We will have a food booth at this event. We will also be selling chances on a Rossi Black Powder rifle with interchangeable barrels. Chances are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00 and will be given away October 28th.

**4th Annual Duck Race**—October 28. Winning duck owner will win $500.00. Ducks are $5.00 each and are available from any member.

**Christmas Auction**—November 4. Come and get a head start on your Christmas shopping with great bargains.

Beginning November 1st we will take an order for RADA Knives. If someone doesn’t visit you for an order please contact one of our members.

We also have road blocks scheduled every other month so be sure to stop and say Howdy and help support your fire department.

We would like to encourage and invite any interested persons who would like to become a volunteer member of Cornettsville Fire and Rescue Department to come and fill out an application. Our meetings are held every Monday night at 7:00 p.m.
SouthEastern Kentucky Blacksmith’s Association was organized in May 2003 by a group of people interested in keeping the art & craft of blacksmithing alive and well. We expose the art of Blacksmithing to the public by doing Blacksmith demonstrations at festivals and Civil War Re-enactments. For more information call 606-436-6461, or write us at P.O. Box 1803 Hazard, KY 41702.

Joe Lycinda Inc.
8717 KY Hwy 7
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Brashearsville—The Future
The first settlers arrived in this area in the 1790’s. The location of the confluence of the North Fork of the Kentucky River, the Leatherwood Creek and Little Leatherwood Creek took on significance. A working post office was established at Brashearsville in 1829. The Brashear salt works started in the 1830’s and the area became an important trading center for the area. Brashearsville was recognized as a village on one of the first maps of Kentucky published in 1834.

The Brashear Salt Works was one of the first industries in Eastern Kentucky. People came long distances to buy the salt which was produced by slave and local workers. It is written that as much as 7000 bushels of salt were produced in one year. The village and salt works were raided by Union forces in the Battle of Leatherwood in 1862. The Civil War, travel, cultural and political attitudes and the later arrival of the railroad lead to the demise of the village.

In recent years the history of the area and the upheaval of the Civil War and its effect on the region brought renewed interests. The interests in family genealogy, history, and preservation of the Appalachian culture along with the potential of tourism have stimulated thought toward serious preservation.

With the reenactment of the Battle of Leatherwood at its largely undisturbed site there came an added interest in preservation of structures of the period. The site became the property of Perry County in 2005. Since 2005 several log structures have been made available for the restoration of a village to be called Brashearsville at the Civil War site. The village plans include an 1860’s general store, cabins, smokehouse, barn, and blacksmith’s shop along with structures as they become available. The plans also include a bridge from highway 699 to accommodate buses and other vehicles. A working village of the period is the goal. The annual event of the reenactment of the Battle of Leatherwood will be a part of the village. The surrounding acreage can accommodate the expansion of the village, hiking, horse back riding, primitive camping, nature trails, and wildlife observation along with wildlife restoration as lands become available.

Very few places in Eastern Kentucky have the history that this site presents. The location is largely undisturbed, and the area was one of the first to be settled in the 1790’s. There is a need for extensive planning and public funding. Local volunteers have made a great start in moving some local log structures and old buildings to the present location. This movement and restoration requires a great deal of time and funding. The preservation of our history is becoming more important and the future of this project depends on public support. Be a part of history by supporting this project. The story of our ancestors and their struggles are too important to ignore. Brashearsville is preservation at it best. Be a part of this project with your time and support. Our legacy is important to future generations.
A Day in the Life of Johnny Reb

When encamped, Johnny Reb’s day would begin at daybreak when he would have to get up and make camp. A hoe and spade, and he and his mess mates would push their meager rations for breakfast making Confederate coffee. This consisted of frying up what salt pork or fatback they had, mixing each man’s cornmeal ration with water, then pouring it into the hot grease to make sort of a corn meal pancake which would be split up equally. The private soldier was lucky to get this. Often during campaigns he would go three or four days without food, foraging, whether legal or not, was often used to supplement their rations. Sometimes the Confederate soldier got lucky and won a battle or captured some Federal supply wagons. Then they ate the food— their enemies ate which consisted mainly of salt pork and hardtack: The Confederate private was supposed to receive $11 per month in pay from the government, but this was a rare event. It would not be unusual for a unit or individual to go without pay for 4-6 months. If he were in training camp, the order of the day would be drill, drill, and more drill interrupted only for a few days to know last past sunset. If in camp, he would sit in the field or the private soldier may have many details to keep him busy: collecting firewood, making kindling, collecting water, digging sinks (toilets), digging for fortifications and other such menial duties. Often, there would be an inspection or parade for the locals. Although Confederate camps lacked the tenagia that their Union counterparts had, they made due with anything, including captured canvas to make their lot more comfortable. In the evening, after the meal, if there was one, Johnny Reb relaxed with his tobacco and maybe listened to the music provided by his comrades who were musically inclined, or maybe he and other sang songs, Gambling was a favorite pastime as well as “going down the line” if near a big city. He would also spend time reading (or having read to him) letters from home or writing (or having someone write for him) letters to home. They would also talk. The slang and vocabulary of the Civil War soldier is very different from today. But inevitably, it would be his turn to pull picket duty for the camp to ensure quick warning in case the Yankees decided to attack. When not on picket duty, he would sleep as much as he could for who knows how long it will be until the next time he can catch some good shut eye.

* Reprinted from Gettysburg Flyer Oct, 2007

Who Was Billy Yank?

The name “Billy Yank” was used to mean any average, common soldier in the Union Army. His counterpart in the Confederate Army was likewise known as “Johnny Reb.” However, unlike his counterpart in the Confederate Army, Union soldiers were a more diversified group. There were many nationalities, races and occupations.

Many immigrant soldiers were formed into their own regiments such as the Swiss Rifles (15th Missouri); the Garibaldi Lafayette (55th New York); the Garibaldi Guard (39th New York); the Martinez Militia (1st New Mexico); and the Polish Legion (50th New York). But for the most part, the soldiers of these ethnic groups were scattered as individuals throughout units. Within these units they were only a minority.

As much as this diversity of ethnic origin gave color and variety to the army, it also aroused prejudice and friction among the American born soldiers. Some officers complained of assign- ments to units composed of foreigners, mainly because of speech and custom differences. One colonel, for example, had to give commands in different languages. Also, the foreigners’ resistance to prescribed regulations in dress, food and drink caused numerous problems for Union officers. This friction, however, was to subside drastically as the war dragged on and foreigners came to be respected for their soldierly qualities. The Irish regiments, especially were known for their reckless courage in battle, hav- ing received more decorations and casualties than any other regiments in the Union Army. Soon, courage in battle was a sign of one’s rank in the mark of a man, and the sol- diers who proved his bravery was not long disparaged for peculiari- ties of speech or custom.

There were 173,000 black sol- diers in the Union Army during the Civil War. The main use of these men was for cleaning camps, building defenses and garrison duty. In 1864 the War Department issued a directive which forbade the use of black troops for labor purposes, but that order was largely ignored by the status quo. Nevertheless, black soldiers did get into combat and fought as well as their white comrades. They proved them- selves at places such as the Wilderness, Chancellors’ Bend and Fort Wagner, and by helping the North win the war, they also won for themselves equal citizenship.

Even though their battle record was considerably smaller than that of the whites, they had to contend with the discrim- ination which prevailed throughout the war. Blacks were for the most part left to fight their own regiments, and were not allowed to be com- missioned officers. There were 166 black regiments organized during the war. From that, there were fewer than a hundred black officers (exclusive of surgeons and chaplains), and none higher than the rank of captain. Also, until 1864, there was a difference in pay between black and white soldiers. Under the Militia Act of 1862 the pay average of whites was fixed at $10.00 per month, while that of white soldiers was $13.00 per month which is $1.50 per month better.

Yanks also held many different occupations before they enlisted in the Army. Many of us, although not necessarily farmers, are from the rural parts of New York State such as Solon, Horseheads and Bergen. Residing in Rochester, I consider myself a minority who lives in an urban area. Many of the re- emakers who make up cavalry units, cow horses and pretty much have to be from rural ar- eas. Another occupation which seems to be prevalent in modern day Civil War units is teaching. One regemental adjutant, as well as many of the participants from other units are teachers by occupa- tion during the winter months.

So, as can be seen, the soldiers differed in many ways, but they were similar in one aspect. They had to sleep in the same shelters, wear the same clothing and eat the same food, just as common soldiers did for hundreds of years before them.

* Reprinted from Gettysburg Flyer, Oct, 2007
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The 5th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry is a reenactment group of men and their families from Kentucky primarily formed by members of The Sons of Confederate Veterans with direct bloodline to these Confederate heroes. The 5th Kentucky reenactment unit wishes to honor the Confederate soldier in both action and deed. We have members who are both “Mainstream” and “Progressive Campaign” style re-enactors but most importantly we try to Honor the Kentucky Confederate who fought and died during the War Between the States. The 5th Kentucky is a Confederate unit although we do have members who are willing to galvanize and sometimes wear the blue. We are dedicated to preserving the historic deeds and legacy of the brave, ill equipped Kentucky Confederate so future generations will know the sacrifices that they made in defense of the Southern Cause.
The Laurel Home Guard is pleased to report continued growth and progress in promoting Camp Wildcat and in Civil War reenacting in general. This is our 17th year of having a reenactment in Laurel County. The Laurel Home Guard has worked hard in becoming a presence in the promotion, protection and interpretation of Camp Wildcat.

Just this year the Confederate Encampment site (where the reenactment is held) was placed on the National Historic Register. The Laurel Home Guard has been involved in many things within the Laurel County community but also in other Kentucky communities and even some out of state community events. Our involvement is always about promoting living history in an educational, fun, and interpretive manner. We have been involved in reenactments (of course) as well as parades, school presentations, honor guards, funeral processions, etc.

We think it is a worthwhile endeavor to keep our local history alive and remembered. If you think so as well, think about purchasing an Honorary Rank or making a donation to help us keep it open and expanding. It is a tax deductible donation. Please make checks out to Laurel Home Guard and send to: Shirley Lunden, Treasurer, 1200 O’Neal Road, London, KY 40741 www.wildcatreenactment.org.

The Laurel Home Guard is an "umbrella" organization composed of a number of independent re-enactor units. Individual troopers hold membership in their respective independent units and the unit holds membership in the brigade. This is very similar to the actual War structure, in which individual cavalry troopers belonged to their regiments and battalions, and those units in turn comprised the Brigade.

The Kentucky Cavalry Brigade was a brigade of horse soldiers in the famous Confederate Army of Tennessee, in the Cavalry Corps of Gen. Joseph 'Fighting Joe' Wheeler. The name derives from the fact that the unit was primarily Kentuckian in its make-up, and because in the latter part of the war all of the commanders were also Kentuckian. It was often unofficially and informally referred to as "the Kentucky Cavalry Brigade." It had a long and illustrious history in the great conflict, and comported itself with much honor and accomplishment on the field. It was never captured or surrendered in combat, and only voluntarily turned itself in to Federal authorities after discharging its last assigned duty, which was the escort of Confederate president Jefferson Davis as he fled from the collapse of the Southern war effort in the late spring of 1865. During the war its most prominent roles were played in the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga; in the 1864 Atlanta Campaign, and March to the Sea; and the 1865 Carolina’s Campaign, culminating in the last great battle of the war at Bentonville, North Carolina, in which it opened the fight with an advance on Union forces.

Members of the Brigade escorted President Jefferson Davis, slowly dissolving as a unit until only handful remained when Davis surrendered in Georgia. Most were sent home in an effort to not draw attention to the fleeing president as he tried to escape west. They went “home” to a divided Kentucky and ruined homes and fortunes, yet many distinguished themselves as leaders in their communities for decades after the war, the cream always rises to the top.

The Kentucky Cavalry Brigade Partner Organizations of the Battle of Leatherwood

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Reenactment is always the 3rd full weekend of October. Officers of Laurel Home Guard: Joannita Westerfield, President Henry Smith, Vice-President Shirley Lunden, Treasurer Deloris Watts, Secretary Eddie Blevins, Member at Large Gene Gatts, Quarter Master
Civil War Medicine

The state of medical knowledge at the time of the Civil War was extremely primitive. Doctors at the time did not understand infection, and did little to prevent it. It was a time when surgeons were educated as house physicians, and when there was no attempt to maintain sterility during surgery. No antibiotics were available to combat infection, nor wounds could easily become infected, and hence fatal. While the typical soldier was at very high risk of being shot and killed in combat, he faced an even greater risk of dying of disease. Twice as many men died of disease than of gunshot wounds in the Civil War. Dysentery, measles, small pox, pneumonia, and malaria were the soldier's greatest enemy. The overall poor hygiene in camp, the lack of adequate sanitation facilities, the cold and lack of shelter and suitable clothing, the poor quality of food and water, and the crowded condition of the camps made the typical camp a literal breeding ground for disease. Conditions, and resulting disease, were even worse for Civil War prisoners, who were held in the most miserable of conditions.

In order to try and curb these appalling conditions in camp, and the resulting rampant disease, the Sanitary Commission was formed. The Sanitary Commission tried to alleviate the army on proper sanitation techniques to help stem the spread of disease. The sanitary commission report issued in 1864 was widely disseminated, and included many guidelines to improve sanitation and reduce disease.

While soldiers were at risk of disease, they also faced great peril in battle. The Civil War was a very bloody affair. More men were killed in the Civil War than in all previous American Wars Combined. More men died at the Battle of Antietam than any other day in American History. The casualties at Antietam were twice the casualties suffered at D-Day. Part of the reason for these horrific casualty statistics is that the Civil War was the first American War in which Rifled barrels were extensively used. The rifled barrel significantly increased the range at which you could accurately hit a target. Despite this fact, the armies (the Union Army in particular) continued to use Napoleonic battle tactics. These tactics would send large forces of infantry against entrenched opponents. When an entrenched opponent was armed with smoothbore muskets, these Napoleonic tactics could work. The relative inaccuracy of the smoothbore muskets gave the advancing infantry a fair shot at actually reaching the enemy's trenches, and then engaging in hand-to-hand combat. The pinpoint accuracy of the new rifled muskets, however, would allow the entrenched combatants to begin to thin the ranks of the advancing infantry at a very great range, and effectively decimate them before they could reach the trenches. The failure of the commanders to realize this fact, combined with similar advances in artillery, led to untold casualties and carnage in the war.

The huge carnage that resulted from these frontal attacks, combined with a relatively few number of poorly equipped surgeons led to fairly dismal prospects for any soldier unlucky enough to be shot or otherwise injured in battle. Those with serious injuries in the torso would simply die. For those who were shot in an extremity, the options were few, in fact, really one: amputation.

During major engagements the flood of wounded became simply overwhelming. The surgeons could afford to spend precious few minutes with each of the injured. This led to amputation being the treatment of choice for injuries to an appendage. Chloroform was used during the Civil War, when it was available. Use of Chloroform as an anaesthetic greatly reduced the torture and trauma of the procedure. The Chloroform was applied to a cloth and held over the soldier's nose and mouth until the man was unconscious. Due to the enormous number of wounded, the Civil War Surgeons became proficient at performing amputations. In many cases the amputation would be performed in 10 minutes. Surgeons, along with their assistants, would round the clock, ending up with stacks of amputated limbs up to five feet high. The number of wounded needing attention, and the relative lack of water meant that there was no attempt to wash hands or instruments between procedures. This lack of hygiene and sterility did create a large chance of infection. However, it has been estimated that as many as 75% of the amputees did recover.

Dormitory on Calvary Campus.

Calvary Campus
Old Stuart Robinson School

Stuart Robinson School, a Presbyterian mission effort was begun in 1913 by the Rev. Dr. E.O. Guerrant, a medical doctor and evangelist who founded several schools and churches in eastern Kentucky. The school was located in Blackey, Letcher County, Kentucky and named for the Rev. Stuart Robinson, a former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville, who was particularly supportive of such eastern Kentucky mission work. The school opened in February of 1914 with 140 pupils. Students at the school held various labor positions on campus in addition to their academic studies. The original building stood on a hillside overlooking schools and churches in eastern Kentucky. The school was located in Blackey, Letcher County, Kentucky and named for the Rev. Stuart Robinson, a former pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Louisville, who was particularly supportive of such eastern Kentucky mission work. The school opened in February of 1914 with 140 pupils. Students at the school held various labor positions on campus in addition to their academic studies. The original building stood on a hillside overlooking eastern Kentucky. The 25 acre campus features a large educational building with classrooms, lunchrooms, small kitchen and a 300 seat auditorium, a separate dining hall, a dormitory, gymnasium and athletic field. Renovations and expansion of these facilities are currently under way.
Music has long been associated with military tradition going back to Europe in the seventeenth century. Drums, fifes and bugle horns and trumpets conveyed status in European armies. The evolution of this tradition was quite evident during the American, Revolutionary and Civil Wars. The Civil War musician was trained to give command signals to the troops in camp during march and on the battlefield. Long after the war, many veterans were awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of one of their favorite musical memories. The following is a documented observation from when veterans of the 20th Maine attended the 25th reunion at Gettysburg.

A bugler went up to Little Roundtop and sounded the old Dan Butterfield call. Veterans, who had been scattered all over, examining half remembered positions, came hurrying to the hill in answer to the call, many with tears in their eyes. Echoing sharp and clear among the rocks and trees where they had fought, it had awakened the memories they were seeking with a sudden and breath taking sense of reality. The passage, from Pullen’s Twentieth Maine, gives a dramatic sense of the lasting impact that civil war music had on the troops.

Military music encourages enlistments, signaled commands to the troops, entertained and comforted. Music also gave soldiers their final rest when “Taps” was played over their graves. Civil War era music will be featured by Mary and Frank James of Tennessee. They will be playing throughout the grounds during the event and at the Heritage Ball to be held at Calvary Campus/ Stuart Robinson School at Letcher, KY on Saturday, October 27, 2007. The Ball will begin at 7 pm. Visitors and re-enactors are welcome.

Reprinted from Gettysburg Flyer Oct. 2007

WE LIKE THE MOUNTAINS

What is the meaning of the words “WE LIKE THE MOUNTAINS”? It is more than just the beauty of the region. This quote really includes all those things that we take for granted each day. Freedom, family, friends, childhood memories, ancestors, and for sure the beauty of the region are just a few of many items we can list. All these items can be included in, and are part of our MOUNTAIN HERITAGE. Our mountain heritage is why “WE LIKE THE MOUNTAINS”. Let us all make an effort to preserve our mountain heritage.

The Miniard Farm Family
Employees of ICG welcome you to Perry County and the Battle of Leatherwood.

Preserving our history and heritage is priority ONE!
Battle of Leatherwood Regulations

- Any action considered to be unsafe or detrimental to the event will be cause for the offending person and/or unit to be asked to leave.
- Uniforms, weapons and overall impressions will be kept to the era, there will be no self-expression allowed.
- All personnel attending this event will need to be registered whether they field or not.
- Officers Call is at 9:30 a.m. Saturday/Sunday. Units that do not attend will not be allowed on the field that day.
- Persons under 18 years of age will require a parent’s signature to participate. No one under 14 years of age will be allowed to carry weapons on the field. (Loaded or unloaded).
- All participants will be required to present proof of age prior to registering.
- No weapons will be discharged in the camp area…weapons will be cleared in battlefield area.
- Horses are required to have a current coggins and health certificate (if from out-of-state).
- No Stallions allowed. Out of control animals will require the responsible person/unit to leave.
- Horses are not allowed in the company streets, sutler area, or the area around the public areas.
- NO Western furniture will be allowed at the event, only military issued equipment is to be used or displayed.
- Vehicles will be allowed in the camp area to drop off or pickup equipment, during specified hours; but are not allowed to remain in the area.
- The use of bayonets or hand-to-hand will be restricted to designated units.
- No rank above Captain will be allowed on the field unless pre-approved by the Battlefield Coordinator.
- Children must be supervised at all times during the event.
- No ATV’s, Golf carts, or other recreational vehicles on site unless pre-designated for safety and/or the use of staff.
- No non-registered personnel are allowed to handle weapons, ride horses, or participate in the activities during this event.
- Alcohol is forbidden! Please respect the memory of our ancestors.
- There will be a Heritage Ball. No hats, weapons, or spurs will be allowed. All children must be attended by a parent and must be in period dress.
- These rules are set for the safety of all those attending the event and will not be overlooked. Those that do not wish to abide by the rules will be required to leave the site and asked not to return in the future.
- No photographs taken for purpose of selling for profit. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- The Field Commander & Leatherwood Reenactment Committee will make the final decision and is the ultimate authority during this event.
- Hate groups are not welcome to attend!
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The army sutler played a very important role in the life of the civil war soldier. The sutler was a civilian, who by army regulations could be appointed “at the rate of one for every regiment, corps, or separate attachment by the commanding officer by higher approval.” Each regiment was supplied with one of these traders who pitched his white tent near camp and displayed his wares in an enticing manner. The sutler, out of necessity, was both a dry goods dealer and a grocer. Sutlers were important to the troops, but with the high prices they charged, they were not given the considerate they deserved, nor were they perceived as having enhanced status. When one considers the sutlers expense of transporting goods, waste from exposure, potential of disaster to this army unit, risk from being raided or cleaned out by a party of men in the regiment, and the very real possibility of war-related injury or death, the sutler was, no doubt, under appreciated.

Make sure you take time out to stroll through a sutlers tent. Inside the white tents, sutlers in period dress will sell a wide variety of interesting and delectable wares such as guns, hats, tents and accoutrements, period clothing, hard candy, collectibles, books, photographs and more. Don’t miss this opportunity to take a walk through history at the Battle of Leatherwood Civil War Reenactment.
Knott County Fiscal Court

Magistrates Haskel Ritchie, Kirby Hall, Wade Noble, John Short & Judge Executive Randy Thompson

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The Battle of Leatherwood

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Would like to welcome you to the Battle of Leatherwood Civil War Reenactment and historic Brashearsville

Our home is rich in history; join us as we step back in time to learn about life in Perry County in the 1860’s.

Visit Brashearsville and discover how your ancestors may have lived during this time.

Thank you for visiting us and we hope you enjoy your stay
LETCHER COUNTY FISCAL COURT

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