

Civil War Trail
Clark County, Kentucky

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Introduction

In 1860 before war broke out, Clark County had a population of 11,485. About 40 percent were slaves, which was twice the state average. Clark was highly rural and was one of Kentucky's most agriculturally productive counties, ranking third in cattle and especially noted for its Shorthorn breed. Although the town boundaries had been expanded to one square mile in 1831, most of Winchester's 1,142 residents still lived within the bounds of Washington, Highland, Hickman and Water (now Maple) streets. Farms ran up to the edge of these streets and included a number of large estates. Examples on the south side of town include Caroline Wheeler's 462 acres with home on now Burns Avenue (Holly Road); James Ballard's 200 acres with home on now South Maple Street (Samuel M. Taylor House); and Dr. Andrew Hood's 325 acres with home on now French Avenue. Though Kentucky began the war as a neutral state, she soon voted to remain with the Union. Some Clark County families had sons on both sides. The sites below represent but a small fraction of the many stories that could be told about our county's participation in the War Between the States. Each entry includes directions to the site and is followed by suggestions for further reading (available at the Clark County Public Library).

Scott's Raid in Clark County

(John Creed grave, John Owen Graveyard, Muddy Creek Rd. at Pinchem)

Col. John S. Scott's 1st Louisiana Cavalry Brigade mounted a raid into Kentucky in July-August 1863. Their object was to obtain horses and other supplies, while creating a diversion for Gen. John Hunt Morgan's Ohio raid. Scott had just over 1,000 men. He was opposed by the 10th and 14th Kentucky Cavalry along with several other units, all under Union commander Col. William P. Sanders. Scott's raid began with some success at Richmond but ended in near disaster with the separation of his command, loss of all his artillery and 200 casualties. Several skirmishes took place during his retreat through Clark County: on Lexington Road at Old Pine Grove, Asa Barrow's place and the toll house (near the Bypass); in Winchester near William Garner's house (Lexington Avenue near the cemetery), Ballard's Woods (Maple Street at Belmont) and the intersection of Main Street with Broadway; on Irvine Road at Tuttle Hill (just south of where Ky. 89 crosses Upper Howard's Creek); and Vienna.



Aunt Julia and Uncle John Creed

John C. Creed (1827-1917) lived at Pinchem, where he was a blacksmith, wagon maker, furniture maker, farmer, Sunday school superintendent, and a Mason. He also owned and operated several steamboats on the Kentucky and Ohio rivers. During the Civil War, he

was an officer in the Home Guard, which was designated to provide local security and early warning of Confederate incursions. Captain Creed spent much of the war playing hide-and-seek from small rebel bands. Colonel Sanders called on Captain Creed for assistance during Scott's raid. When he was 80 years old, Creed wrote an account of the raid for the local newspaper. John Creed is buried in the John Owen Graveyard near Pinchem.

"Scott's Raid" by Capt. John Creed in the *Winchester Sun-Sentinel*, February 8, 1906; Frank F. Mathias, *Incidents & Experiences in the Life of Thomas W. Parsons*, pp. 132-134, 189; Report of Col. John S. Scott, *War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. 23, Pt. 1*, pp. 839-843.

Civil War Fort at Boonesboro

(Ford Rd., 1.2 miles east of Ky. 627)

In 1863, the federal government constructed a series of forts to cover the Kentucky River crossings. These fortifications were designed by Capt. Thomas B. Brooks, chief engineer of the district of central Kentucky. They were to consist of an earthen embankment with a ditch in front and wooden stockade along the walls. Inside the walls was a wooden blockhouse, and the ditch contained a line of abatis, piles of felled trees with sharpened branches. The area in front was cleared of all obstructions in order to provide a clear field of fire. The fort had at least one field cannon and was likely manned by African-American soldiers. The Union Colored Regiments, formed at Camp Nelson, rotated through the fort for various lengths of time. Two of these units that may have served at the fort—the 12th and 13th U. S. Colored Artillery (Heavy)—included many former Clark County slaves. While the fort did not play an active role in fighting the war, it did deter Confederate raiders from crossing the river via the ford near Boonesboro. The site was purchased by the Clark County Fiscal Court and a trail to the fort opened in 2005.

Charles H. Bogart, "Civil War Fort at Boonesboro," *Kentucky's Civil War, 1861-1865, Vol. IV*, p. 36.

Cluke's Kentucky Raid

(Kentucky Historical Marker, site of Roy Cluke House, Colby Rd., 6 miles west of Winchester)

Roy Stuart Cluke (1824-1863) graduated from a military school in Bardstown, served with distinction in the Mexican War under his cousin, John S. Williams, then settled in Clark County. His home here burned in 1964. After the Confederate invasion of Kentucky in 1862, Cluke raised a regiment from Clark and surrounding counties. His 8th Kentucky Cavalry was placed under John Hunt Morgan's command. The following February, Cluke led a hand-picked brigade on a stunning raid into Central Kentucky. He crossed the Kentucky River at Combs Ferry, where he was engaged in a small skirmish. Cluke then passed through Winchester and had another skirmish, at Stoner Bridge on the road to Mt. Sterling, before continuing on and capturing that town. Driven out a few days later by Col. Benjamin Runkle's 45th Ohio Regiment, Cluke was surrounded near Salyersville but during a sleet and snow storm managed to escape and return to Mt. Sterling. There he took nearly 300 prisoners and seized 220 wagons, 500 mules and 1,000 rifles, before beginning the return trip to Tennessee.



Roy Cluke House on Colby Road

Cluke was captured during Morgan's Ohio Raid in July 1863. He died in a Union prison at Johnson's Island, Ohio, and is buried in the Lexington Cemetery. Cluke's home here burned the same year the historical marker was erected.

Bennett H. Young, *Confederate Wizards of the Saddle*, pp. 171-194; Frank F. Mathias, *Incidents & Experiences in the Life of Thomas W. Parsons*, pp. 120-124, 183-185; John Creed's account of "Cluke's Raid," in Kathryn Owen, *Civil War Days in Clark County*, pp. 7-8.

Samuel Hanson House

(Kentucky Historical Marker, south side of W. Lexington Ave. near Phillips Ct.)

Samuel Hanson (1786-1858) was born in Alexandria, Virginia, studied law and came to Kentucky in 1807, eventually settling in Winchester where he became one of the most able and successful attorneys in the state. His home stood on what was known as Hanson Hill. The site is now occupied by the BellSouth building. Hanson served as commonwealth attorney and was eight years in the Kentucky House of Representatives, nine in the Senate, and two as acting lieutenant governor. His wife Matilda was the daughter of Gen. Richard Hickman. The Hansons had four sons who served in the Civil War. Charles S. was a colonel in the Union army. He fought against John Hunt Morgan at Lebanon, Kentucky, was wounded at Saltville, Virginia, from which he never fully recovered, and died in 1875. Samuel K. was a private in the Union army and died during service in 1862. Isaac S. served as a private in the Confederate army, was captured at Fort Donelson with his brother Roger, and died soon after the war in 1871. Roger W. was in the Confederate army (see below). The Hanson house was razed in 1921 and a new county high school was built on the site.

"Some Bits of Local History," *Winchester Sun*, June 2, 1921; *Clark County Chronicles*, *Winchester Sun*, May 1, 1924.

Gen. John S. Williams

(North side of Rockwell Rd., 1.2 miles west of Van Meter Rd.)

John Stuart Williams (1818-1898) was born in Montgomery County, graduated from Miami University, studied law and went into practice in Bourbon County. He achieved lasting fame during the Mexican War when his company, the Clark Independent Rifles, played a prominent role in the capture of Cerro Gordo. During a later political race, Roger Hanson, his opponent for the legislature, mockingly called him "Cerro Gordo," and Williams adopted the nickname as a badge of honor. He defeated Hanson by six votes in the contentious election. In 1861, Williams organized the 5th Kentucky Infantry, entering the Confederacy at the rank of colonel, and served with Gen. Humphrey Marshall in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. Promoted to brigadier general the following year, his assignments included commanding the Department of Southwestern

Virginia, the Department of Western Virginia, the Army of Tennessee and others. General Williams fought at Abingdon, Saltville, Blue Springs, Henderson's Mill and Atlanta.



Gen. John S. Williams

After the war, he returned to his farm in Clark County. Williams was re-elected for one term to the Kentucky General Assembly and was elected for one term to the U.S. Senate. Williams married Ann Harrison in 1842. He later lived here at "The Pines," the home of her father, Patton D. Harrison.

Brian D. McKnight, *Contested Borderland, The Civil War in Appalachian Kentucky and Virginia*, Kathryn Owen, *Old Homes and Landmarks of Clark County, Kentucky*, p. 36.

John B. Huston's Law Office

(McEldowney Building, Cleveland St.)

John Boyd Huston (1813-1881) was born in Nelson County and came to Clark County after receiving a law degree from Transylvania University. He married Mary J. Allan, daughter of Chilton Allan, and went into practice with William S. Downey. Their office was on the site now occupied by the McEldowney Building. Huston represented Clark County several times in the legislature, was Speaker of the House and a delegate to the Border State Convention in 1861. After the war, he moved to Lexington where he continued his distinguished law career, served on the faculty at Transylvania, and was acknowledged by his peers as one of the giants of his profession. At the time when Lincoln was running for re-election in 1864, Huston came out openly in support of General McClellan, for which Gen. Steven G. Burbridge, Union commander of the District of Kentucky, had him arrested. Governor Bramlette complained directly to the President. He received orders for Huston's release along with the following note from Lincoln: "I can scarcely believe that General John B. Huston has been arrested for no other offense than opposition to my re-election; for if that had been deemed sufficient cause of arrest I should have heard of more than one arrest in Kentucky on election day."

Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky, pp. 296-297; Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky, Vol. 1*, pp. 89, 146, 364; *War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. 39, Pt. 2*, p. 739; George Baber, "John Boyd Huston, Lawyer and Orator," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (1911) 9:53..

Gen. Roger W. Hanson

(Kentucky Historical Marker, south side of W. Lexington Ave. near Phillips Ct.)

Roger Weightman Hanson (1827-1863), son of Samuel and Matilda Hanson, served in the Mexican War under John S. Williams. Shortly after the war, he was wounded in a duel which rendered him a cripple for the rest of his life. Hanson was admitted to the bar and practiced in Winchester for several years. He served two terms in the legislature, representing Clark and Fayette counties. Prior to the Civil War, Hanson was a Union man and spoke out against secession. However, when war broke out, he joined the Confederate army, enlisting as a colonel. The following year, 1862, Hanson was captured at Fort Donelson, exchanged, placed in command of the 4th Kentucky Infantry, a unit of the famed Orphan Brigade, and promoted to brigadier general. In late December, Hanson's unit fought in the Battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where 42,000 Union troops faced 36,000 Confederates. The Orphan Brigade was ordered on a deadly mission to take a Union controlled hill. Hanson personally led the charge. He was hit in the leg by an artillery shell and died from loss of blood on January 2. Roger Hanson is buried in Lexington Cemetery.



Gen. Roger W. Hanson

Ed Porter Thompson, *History of the Orphan Brigade, 1861-65*, pp. 374-380; William C. Davis, *The Orphan Brigade*.

Gen. John Hunt Morgan

(Kentucky Historical Marker, Court St. at the Clark County Courthouse)

John Hunt Morgan (1825-1864) was an officer in the Mexican War and fought in the Battle of Buena Vista. In 1861, he led his volunteer company, the Lexington Rifles, to the Confederate lines and, as captain of a cavalry unit, conducted numerous guerrilla raids behind the lines. After fighting in the Battle of Shiloh, he led his 2d Kentucky Cavalry on a raid into Kentucky in 1862. Mattie Wheeler noted in her diary that on July 19 "John H. Morgan, with a great many of his men, variously estimated at 1,500 to 3,000 passed through Winchester." They were en route to Cynthiana, where the strongest federal resistance was encountered

during Morgan's First Kentucky Raid. His army came through Winchester the next day on the way to Richmond and ultimately out of the state.



Gen. John Hunt Morgan

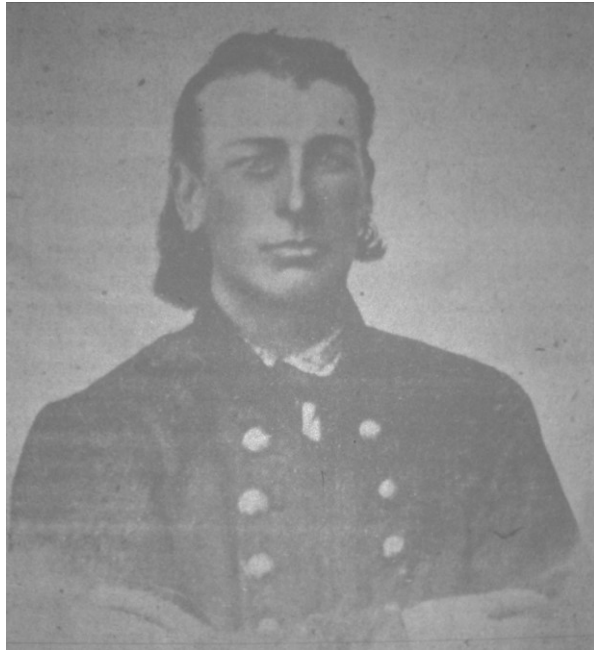
A number of Clark County men were captured and imprisoned during Morgan's Ohio Raid of 1863, including Joseph Croxton, Rodney Haggard, Buford A. Tracy, Newton H. Witherspoon, John S. Van Meter, Dr. Wash Taylor, W. E. Curry and many others. Morgan came through Winchester again on his last Kentucky raid in June 1864. General Morgan, "the Thunderbolt of the Confederacy," was killed at Greeneville, Tennessee, that September. He is buried in the Lexington Cemetery.

Basil W. Duke, A History of Morgan's Cavalry; Dee Alexander Brown, Morgan's Raiders.

Stephen Sharp and the "Battle of Winchester"

(Clark County Courthouse)

Stephen G. Sharp (1843-1923) was born at Indian Old Fields. He joined the Confederate army at age 18, fought in the Battle of Mill Springs, was captured during Morgan's Ohio Raid and escaped, then was with Morgan again on his last Kentucky raid. After the war, Sharp obtained a law degree from Kentucky University, served as Fayette County fire chief, jailer, city attorney, county attorney and county judge. In 1897, President McKinley appointed him U.S. Marshal of the Eastern Federal District of Kentucky with a station at Covington, where Sharp was residing at his death.



Capt. Stephen Sharp

In the fall of 1862, Sharp was furloughed following the Battle of Richmond. While he was visiting his parents in Athens, the Confederates were defeated at Perryville and retreated from Kentucky. Sharp and five other men began to make their way back to their lines, which took them through Winchester on October 21. While riding along what is now Boone Avenue, they captured a Union sentry near the junction with Todd's (now Colby) Road. They told their prisoner they were the advance guard of General Morgan's army and released him so he could report this intelligence to his superior. Capt. William D. Ratliffe, then commanding about 200 men in Winchester, made the decision to abandon the town. Captain Sharp and his men went through "Ballard's Woods," near James Ballard's home on now Maple Street, over to Twomile Road. From there they rode boldly down Main Street to the courthouse, where they ran up a Confederate flag. Sharp ordered the citizens to prepare rations to feed 1,800 troops, then he and his band galloped away out of town.

"Battle of Winchester" by Stephen Sharp and notes by A. C. Quisenberry, *Winchester Sun-Sentinel*, December 7 and 14, 1905.

Dr. Edward O. Guerrant

(217 S. Main)

The Guerrant Mission Clinic and Hospital—now home of the Bluegrass Heritage Museum—opened in 1929 and was named in honor of E. O. Guerrant, MD, DD. Edward Owings Guerrant (1838-1916) was born in Sharpsburg, graduated with honors from Centre College, then returned to Bath County to teach school. Guerrant's sympathies lay with the Southern cause, and he enlisted in 1861. He served as an adjutant under generals Humphrey Marshall, William Preston, John S. Williams and John Hunt Morgan. He was still in active service when word came of Lee's surrender. "We were struck dumb with grief and astonishment," he later wrote. A comrade in arms described Captain Guerrant as "a bright, handsome young man, Chesterfieldian in manner, possessing wondrous fluency of speech." He also had a gifted pen and kept detailed diaries that by war's end amounted to more than half a million words.



Dr. Edward O. Guerrant

After the war, Guerrant obtained a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, followed shortly by a divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary at Hampton-Sidney, Virginia. He spent the next forty years as a physician and missionary to the mountain people of eastern Kentucky, whom he had come to know so well during the war. Dr. Guerrant is buried in Lexington Cemetery.

William C. Davis and Meredith L. Swentor, Bluegrass Confederate, The Headquarters Diary of Edward O. Guerrant.

Home of Mattie Wheeler

(Holly Rood, Burns Ave. and Beckner St.)

Mattie Wheeler (1844-1895) grew up here in the house built for Governor James Clark. She was the daughter of Samuel and Caroline (Mason) Wheeler. It was here, while living with her widowed mother, that Mattie kept a journal during the Civil War. Her brother Lee enlisted with John Hunt Morgan; her three sisters all married Union men. From her journal, we learn that Mattie's sympathies were with the Confederacy. Her diary begins in typical fashion for a sixteen-year-old girl, focusing on family, friends and the parties she attended. She mentioned, with evident distaste, seeing Union troops drilling in "our front pasture," today the area from Burns Avenue over to Boone Avenue. As the conflict continued, her reporting became more serious. She described all the war-related events that touched on Winchester and Clark County and wrote at length about her brother Lee's capture and incarceration at various Union prisons.



Mattie Wheeler

Her journal ends in the fall of 1865 with the description of a fair where she met her future husband, Capt. Leeland Hathaway.

Frances L. S. Dugan, "Journal of Mattie Wheeler, A Blue Grass Belle Reports on the Civil War," *Filson Club History Quarterly* (1955) 29:118.

Leeland Hathaway House

(253 S. Main)

Leeland Hathaway (1834-1909) joined John Hunt Morgan's command and served as captain of a cavalry company. Hathaway was captured during Morgan's Ohio raid and sent to a federal prison. He bribed his way out and escaped to Abbeville, South Carolina. Following Lee's surrender, Captain Hathaway helped Jefferson Davis' family make their way to Florida. President Davis joined them there and all were captured. Hathaway was placed in solitary confinement at Fort McHenry. His family went to Washington and procured his release from President Andrew Johnson.



Capt. Leeland Hathaway

Hathaway met Mattie Wheeler in the fall of 1865 and married her the following year. Hathaway had a successful law practice in Winchester. He also served as a master

commissioner for the county, helped organize a number of Confederate reunions, and maintained an avid interest in foxhunting. Leeland Hathaway's letters, papers and photograph collection are in Special Collections, University of Kentucky Margaret I. King Library. After their marriage, Leeland and Mattie lived in this house on Main Street.

Kathryn Owen, *Civil War Days in Clark County*, p. 64.

Winchester Cemetery

(625 W. Lexington Ave.)

Many veterans of the Civil War, both Union and Confederate, are buried in Winchester Cemetery. Among the Union notables interred here are John B. Huston, Col. Charles S. Hanson, Col. James H. Holloway, Maj. Benjamin F. Buckner, Capt. Daniel T. Buckner, Capt. Henry S. Parrish and Surgeon John A. Mills. Confederate officers include Gen. John S. Williams, Col. Joseph T. Tucker, Col. Joseph H. Croxton, Capt. Leeland Hathaway (and his wife Mattie), Capt. Buford A. Tracy, Capt. Jonathan S. Gay, Capt. David J. Pendleton and Surgeon Charles M. Taylor. A list of Union and Confederate burials was printed in the *Winchester Sun-Sentinel* on June 2, 1904. A longer list of Confederate soldiers buried here was prepared in 1921 by Jennie Catherwood Bean and reprinted in *The Kentucky Explorer* in February 1994. Efforts to identify all the veterans buried here continues. The current roll of known Civil War soldiers, with a map showing the location (Section) of each grave, is available at the cemetery office.



Grave of Pvt. Obediah Tracy

Home of Gen. John Bell Hood

(Kentucky Historical Marker, U.S. 60, 4 miles west of Mt. Sterling)

John Bell Hood (1831-1879) was born in Owingsville, moved here with his family when he was four years old and resided in this house until he entered West Point. He resigned his commission to join the Confederate army. Hood served with the Texas Brigade and fought in most of the signature battles of the eastern theater: Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg where he was wounded, and Chickamauga where he lost a leg. He was defeated in the Battle of Atlanta while commanding the Army of Tennessee. Hood had many ties to Clark County. His great-grandfather, the pioneer settler Andrew Hood, erected Hood's Station northeast of Strode's Station. Andrew's son, Lucas Hood, participated in early campaigns defending the frontier, including the Battle of Fallen Timbers that largely ended Indian incursions into Kentucky. Lucas is buried in the Hood Graveyard on Ecton Road. He

had three sons, Andrew, William and John, who became physicians. John was the father of John Bell Hood.

John P. Dyer, *The Gallant Hood.*

Battle of Richmond

(Kentucky Historical Marker, U.S. 421, 6 miles south of Richmond.)

During the Confederate invasion of Kentucky in the summer of 1862, Gen. Edmund Kirby-Smith encountered a smaller Union force near Richmond commanded by Gen. William “Bull” Nelson. The main battle took place near Mt. Zion Church on August 30. Federal troops were routed and fell back near Richmond where they were cut off by Confederate cavalry, resulting in the capture of most of Nelson’s army. Official records count 5,353 of Nelson’s men killed, wounded or captured versus 600 for Kirby-Smith. Although this was one of the most decisive Confederate victories of the entire war, the invasion ultimately ended in failure at Perryville. The battle was felt in Winchester. Mattie Wheeler wrote in her diary, “We heard the firing of cannon early Saturday morning and heard it until about ten o'clock. Ma called us all in to go to making bandages.”

D. Warren Lambert, *When the Ripe Pears Fall, The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky.*

White Hall

(Kentucky Historical Marker, 7 miles north of Richmond, on Ky. 3055, 2 miles west of U.S. 25.)

White Hall was the home of the noted emancipationist, Cassius Marcellus Clay (1810-1903). Cassius, the son of Kentucky pioneer Green Clay, attended Transylvania and Yale, served in the Mexican War and then entered politics. He was a fearless opponent of slavery and publisher of *The True American* in Lexington, an “abolitionist” newspaper that emphasized the moral, economic and cultural disadvantages of slavery. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he organized a civilian guard for the White House; the “Clay Battalion” provided security until federal regiments took their place. Abraham Lincoln appointed him minister to Russia, where he worked to keep Europe out of the war. The “Lion of White Hall” died at his home at the age of 92.

H. Edward Richardson, *Cassius Marcellus Clay, Firebrand of Freedom.*

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The following Civil War veterans have portraits hanging in the Clark County Courthouse:

Rodney Haggard

Roger W. Hanson

John S. Williams

Two additional veterans have portraits on the mayors’ wall in City Hall:

William A. Attersall

Rice Pendleton Scobee

* * *

There were three Civil War generals born in Clark County who are not mentioned above:

James F. Fagan (1828-1893) moved to Arkansas with his family at age ten. Fagan was a brigadier-general in the Confederate army and fought at Shiloh and other western campaigns.

William Harrow (1825-1901) was born in Winchester but his family moved to Illinois where he became a lawyer. Harrow fought in the Union army at Antietam, Gettysburg and other battles. He was commissioned a brigadier-general and commanded a division at Atlanta.

James W. McMillan (1825-1903) settled in Indiana after the Mexican War. He raised a Union regiment in 1861 and was promoted to brigadier-general the following year. McMillan fought at Winchester and Cedar Creek while serving under Phil Sheridan in West Virginia.

Lowell H. Harrison, "Kentucky-Born Generals in the Civil War," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (1966) 64:129.