

51st OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 21st Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland

A Prelude to Chickamauga

Introduction

This event is not a recreation of any specific event that occurred but instead it is an attempt to recreate the feeling of the unknown as two patrols have been sent out to locate the enemy, determine his strength and map the terrain. For the event, we will have a Confederate patrol consisting of up to three companies of infantry and a Federal patrol consisting of one or possibly two companies of infantry and one detachment of cavalry. Both sides have been given the same task, to locate the enemy and determine his strength and intentions but avoid a general engagement.

For this event, Mess No. 1 will portray the 51st Ohio, who was present for the movements and patrols leading up to the Battle of Chickamauga. The 51st was organized October, 3, 1861, under Colonel Fitzgerald, who having resigned, Colonel Stanley Matthews took command. The 51st went to Kentucky in November, and in February, 1862, moved to Nashville. It operated against Bragg, and was present at Perryville. At Stone River it fought with fearful loss.



PRIVATE ERIC TIPTON

51ST OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY A BIOGRAPHY

Where I Was Born:

Born August 17, 1830 in Springfield, Ohio

Family:

My family moved to Centreville, Ohio, south of Dayton when I was four years old in 1834. My Father Richard is a land speculator and my mother Pamela works at a furniture store on Main Street and Franklin Street in downtown Centreville. They both grew up in Springfield.

My brother Ryan was born in 1832 and is an artist/writer living in Yellow Springs.

My Father's side of the family is mostly located in Kentucky. My cousin Private George Tipton enlisted with the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry and was captured in March 1863. He re-enlisted with the 7th Kentucky Cavalry upon his release and fought with them until the end of the war. My other cousin Private Elijah Hull fights with the 40th Regiment Ohio Infantry Company "C".

My Mother's side of the family still lives in Springfield, Ohio. Their name is Chamberlain. My Great Grandparents (Jensen) came over from Norway and that is where I got the name Eric. My middle name – Arthur comes from my Grandfather on my Mother's side.

Education:

I attended Miami University 1848-1852 and studied education.

Marriage:

I was married July 17, 1859 to Alexandra Avenarius – A Russian Immigrant. We were married at my parent's home in Centreville.

My Wife Alexandra:

Alexandra was born on May 3, 1838 in Moscow. She came to the United States in 1857.

She currently works at one of the hospitals in Cincinnati caring for the wounded and sick.

We lived in Cincinnati when the war broke out. We moved there because of better career opportunities.

Career:

I work with my father. I pursued this career because of the growing Ohio population and the need for land. I also saw the possibility for prosperity because a teacher makes a low salary. When the war broke out, I was working out of our home in Mt. Adams for our family business.

Home

My wife and I live in a row house in Mt. Adams. Mt. Adams is a hill overlooking the Ohio River, downtown Cincinnati and the hills of Kentucky. We chose the location because of the spectacular view and because of the close-knit neighborhood. Our view gives us a very close up perspective of the boundary of slavery.

Mustered in:

I volunteered in 1861 and was trained at Camp Dennison in Cincinnati.

Why Did I Decide to Fight?

My Father was in the military and fought in the Mexican War. He volunteered and served as a Lieutenant. I was too young at the time to volunteer. I was only sixteen and wanted to go to college.

I believe that slavery is wrong. I also am a patriot and I think we should preserve the Union. I admire the South for its stance on the rights of states within the Union, but I feel that the foundation of their argument is rooted in slavery and this in itself is morally wrong. My family is much divided on this issue because of my roots in Kentucky.

51st OHIO

VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 21st Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland

Record of Service

- **Until February, 1862** - Duty at Camp Wickliffe - Larue County, Kentucky
- **February 14-25, 1862** - Expedition down the Ohio River to reinforce General Grant, thence to Nashville, Tennessee.
- **February 25, 1862** - Occupation of Nashville, Tennessee - Provost Duty there until July 9.
- **August 21-September 26, 1862** - Moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee, and joined Nelson's Division. March to Louisville, Kentucky, in pursuit of Bragg.
- **October 1-22, 1862** - Pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky.
- **October 8, 1862** - Battle of Perryville, Kentucky.
- **October 22** - November 7, 1862 – March to Nashville, Tennessee.
- **December 9, 1862** - Dobbins' Ferry, near Lawrence, Tennessee.
- **December 26-30, 1862** - Advance on Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- **December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863** - Battle of Stone's River, Tennessee.
- **Duty at Murfreesboro until June.**
- **June 23 - July 7, 1863** - Middle Tennessee (or Tullahoma) Campaign.
- **Until August 16, 1863** - At McMinnville, Tennessee.
- **August 16-September 22, 1863** - Passage of Cumberland Mountain and Tennessee River and Chickamauga (Georgia) Campaign.

[A Prelude to Chickamauga](#) – Historical Background

The History - Background Information - Time-Frame We Are Portraying - Early Autumn, 1863 – Georgia. As stated above, we won't be doing this precisely, but it will help you with the mindset during the time period.

During the war, in mid-September 1863, General William Rosecrans, commander of the Federal Army of the Cumberland, hoped to consolidate his forces in the vicinity of Lee and Gordon's Mills near the crossing of the Lafayette road over the creek. To protect his men while marching north, Rosecrans sought to cover all the likely crossings south of Lee and Gordon's Mills. Two of these important crossing places were Gower's Ford and Owen's Ford.

The significance of these crossings was such that General Rosecrans ordered General Thomas Crittenden's 21st Federal Army Corps to guard them. General John M. Palmer's division was assigned to this duty. The Federals expected attack from Confederates who were known to be massing in force a short distance to the east in the vicinity of Rock Springs Church and Leet's Tanyard. "[On September 15, [I] started at daylight for Chickamauga Valley," General Palmer reported. "Marched by way of Crawfish Spring, and then up the valley to Gower's, two brigades occupying and covering the crossing at Gower's, and one was posted at Matthew's near Owens' Ford."

"At 8 o'clock, on the morning of the 15th," T. J. Wright, 8th Kentucky Infantry Regiment [Federal], wrote, "the bugles sounded assembly, and put a stop to our cooking and feasting, and at 9 o'clock the Twenty-first Corps was marching on the road to the noted Crawfish Spring, where we halted for one hour and filled our canteens from the fountain that forms the head of West Chickamauga River. Three miles further south we bivouacked near Owens Mill [actually Bird's Mill] ... Companies H and I were detailed from the Eighth [Kentucky Regiment] for picket. We knew the enemy to be near our front, and great vigilance was therefore necessary, no fire or light being allowed at the reserve. But the night passed very quietly except one alarm, caused by Gabberd, Company I, who fired at and badly crippled a cow that he supposed to be a mounted rebel."

On September 16th, General Palmer reported that Colonel "Grose, with two regiments and one section of artillery, crossed the creek and drove a party of the enemy over the hills."

"The night of the 16th," T. J. Wright, 8th Kentucky Infantry, added, "a reconnoitering party from the Eighth and Twenty-first Kentucky of sixteen men and two officers (Captains Wilson and Savage), crossed the river and silently crept through brush and thickets until they came near the enemy's cavalry videttes, two of them standing together. Captain Wilson, of the Eighth, heard them conversing, and crept near enough to hear them debating the probability of General Bragg and Longstreet's combined forces being able to utterly annihilate the Union army under Rosecrans, in case they succeeded in cutting us off from Chattanooga."

"First, Second, and Third Divisions changed their positions from their camps of yesterday:" General George H. Thomas stated concerning the placement of his corps on September 17, "Baird's (First) division, with its right resting at Gower's Ford and extending along Chickamauga Creek to Bird's Mill; Negley's (Second) division, with its right at Bird's Mill and its left connecting with Van Cleve's division at Owens' Ford; Brannan's (Third) division on the right of the First, covering four fords between Gower's Ford and Pond Spring. One brigade of the Fourth Division (Reynolds') thrown out in front of Pond Spring, on the Catlett's Gap road, covering the pass through the mountains. Wilder's brigade detached and ordered to report to department headquarters. The left of McCook's corps closed in; connected with our right near Pond Spring."

On September 17th, General Palmer observed that "early in the morning the enemy's cavalry attacked our pickets at Gower's. After a sharp skirmish, [they] were repulsed with some loss in wounded and 1 prisoner."

Early in the morning of September 17th, around 4:00 p.m., a mounted contingent of the 4th Georgia Cavalry Regiment rode over the pickets of General William B. Hazen's Brigade, posted on the Dry Valley Road near Gower's Ford. General Hazen, with an aide, was personally at the picket post when the attack occurred. "The

attack was so sudden," he wrote, "that the horsemen were upon us, and some passed us and were captured before they could check their horses. The pickets took cover, while I sought the friendly shelter of a field of high corn. The affair was over almost in an instant, with a repulse and a loss to the enemy of one captain and several men."

"Rebs attacked our pickets," Lieutenant William Ross Gilsan, Company D., 6th Ohio Infantry Regiment, stated in his diary. "Their cavalry charged into Gen. Hazen's lines but the Brigade was up standing alarms so they gobbled about one half that come in." Another man in the 6th Ohio Infantry stated that Hazen's pickets were "ridden over by a squad of Rebel cavalry (said to be drunk) who penetrated nearly to brigade headquarters, and were there captured."

"Gen. Hazen came very near being taken this morning," G. W. Hodges, an Ohio infantryman, said in a letter to his friend Marana. "He ventured out with some of his aid[es] beyond our lines & a squad of Rebel Cavalry chased him in (or rather chased them all in) but the general was the one they ware after. Our men took the foremost one of the Rebs after shooting the horse from under him. We killed four or five of their horses. They were so farse [fast] to ketch Hazen that they run him in past our picket."

"Early in the morning of the 18th [actually the 17th]," Samuel Keeran, 124th Ohio Infantry, wrote, "a squad of rebel cavalry attacked our camp, firing a volley into our tents before we had got up. Three shots struck Gen. Hazen's tent. We were not long in getting up and ready for business, but when we got ready there was no enemy to fight, but two of the rebs, more bold than the rest, rode up to the bank of the creek and fired at Gen. Hazen, who was then just outside his tent. The two rebs were just across the creek from him. Immediately there were a hundred muskets raised ready to fire at them, but Gen. Hazen drew his sword, saying 'Don't fire.' He also said he admired bravery where ever he saw it. Those two men were all alone."

The next day, September 18th, brought more prolonged fighting north of Gower's Ford in the vicinity of Owen's Ford and Bird's Mill. Around 9:00 a.m., the Federal pickets along the creek near Owen's Ford noted the enemy advancing in force on the opposite bank. Shortly thereafter Confederate artillery, probably from A. L. Huggin's Tennessee Battery, began firing shells into the camps of Colonel Sidney M. Barnes's Brigade. The shells caused much confusion but no injury in the Federal camps.

Barns had been ordering his men into line of battle when the attack commenced. After completing the maneuver the troops marched 200 yards to the rear, occupying "a commanding position in an open field." To protect his front and flank from the advancing infantry, Colonel Barnes ordered the 26th Pennsylvania Battery to unlimber on a nearby commanding hill.

"The morning of the 18th," wrote T. J. Wright, 8th Kentucky Infantry Regiment [Federal], two men of the Eighth, M. King and A. Logsdon, passed the pickets to go to Owens' Mill [actually Bird's Mill] to exchange some Confederate script for some of the old fellow's black flour. When nearing the stream, King discovered a rebel picket perched on the fence near the mill house. King stepped behind a tree and instantly fired, killing the Johnny. This was like stirring up a hornet's nest. The rebel skirmishers immediately commenced advancing, and opened on our pickets. In a few minutes a rebel battery from a hill near the mill opened on our camp. Artillery was hurried into position. Our pickets were reinforced and held them in check, but their shells played havoc with our coffee pots, frying pans, and a nice lot of beef the boys were jerking. One of the Negro cooks snatched his coffee-pot from the fire and fled at the first shell. We hastily formed and took position behind a slight eminence just in the rear of our bivouac fires. The pickets kept up a lively skirmish for several hours, the artillery from both sides throwing shells lively, theirs principally passing harmlessly over our line."

Two regiments from Barnes Brigade, the 8th Kentucky and 51st Ohio, spent most of the day skirmishing across the creek with the Confederates. The Confederates engaged in this action were probably dismounted cavalymen. John Lindsey dates the skirmish at Owen's Ford as the 18th and involving the 8th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment of Dibrell's Brigade in Armstrong's Division of General Nathan Bedford Forrest's Corps. "Skirmished all day at Owen's Ford," he wrote, and with the aid of Captain A. L. Huggin's [Tennessee] battery were enabled to hold the position taken during the day."

"Just before sundown [on September 18]," General Daniel H. Hill, Confederate Corps Commander, wrote, "our cavalry pickets were driven away at Owen's Ford, some miles above the mill, and the Yankees crossed over a considerable force. I hastened there in person with Daniel W. Adams' brigade, but the Yankees did not advance beyond Childress'. The next morning Adams' brigade was withdrawn to Glass' Mill."

References: Official Records of the War of the Rebellion
Archive and files, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
Raymond Evans, *The Civil War in Walker County*

OHIO INFORMATION

1860 Census Data:

Ohio Population – 2,339,511

The largest American cities list (includes ranking):

7)	Cincinnati, OH.....	161,044
21)	Cleveland, OH.....	43,417
45)	Dayton, OH.....	20,081
49)	Columbus, OH.....	18,554

Money

What cost \$100 in 1850 would cost \$2045.01 in 2001.

Also, if you were to buy exactly the same products in 2001 and 1850, they would cost you \$100 and \$4.89 respectively.

The cost today is approximately twenty times the cost of things then.

Springfield Information:

Notable things have been happening in the Springfield/Clark County area ever since the first Indian fighters and settlers began discovering this region of the country more than two centuries ago.

Prehistoric mound builders were probably the first residents of Clark County. Traces of their structures can still be found in Enon.

George Rogers Clark, for whom the county is named, led a band of Kentuckians, including Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton, into this territory and defeated the Shawnee Indians at the Battle of Piqua on August 8, 1780. One of the tribe was a boy of twelve named Tecumseh who later became a famous Shawnee leader dedicated to fighting white settlers. Born in Clark County, emissary to all the Indians of the Northwestern and Southwestern territories, Tecumseh opposed westward migration in the early 19th century. He led unremitting warfare against white settlement in his land.

A member of the Clark Expedition, John Paul, returned to the area and built a home in 1790. He is believed to be the first white settler to locate in what became Clark County.

The Treaty of Greenville in 1795 between the Indians and General Anthony Wayne, in which the Indians agreed to stop hostile acts toward settlers, generally opened this area for settlement. Indian hostility in Ohio ended with General William Henry Harrison's victory at Tippecanoe in 1811. It began the opening of the Northwest Territory.

One of the County's early settlers was James Demint, who erected a cabin at the confluence of Mad River and Lagonda (Buck) Creek in 1799. It was on his land that a plat on the city was made in 1801 by surveyor, James Dougherty. The same year, Griffith Foos built the first tavern which became a famous stagecoach stop. In 1804, the first post office was recorded for Springfield. Simon Kenton built a gristmill and distillery where the old International Harvester plant now stands.

The 412 square miles that became Clark County were mapped out of parts of Champaign, Greene and Madison Counties in 1817. The first meeting of Clark County Commission was held on April 25, 1818. The 1820 census showed a total population of 9,535. By 1827, the tiny frontier hamlet had become a town and was granted a city charter by the State of Ohio in 1850. "Springfield" was named by Simon Kenton's wife for its many springs and abundant waters.

Several factors contributed to the rapid growth of Springfield and Clark County. The Old National Road was completed through Springfield in 1839, and the railroads of the 1840's provided profitable business to the area. Agriculture, then industry, flourished. By the beginning of the Civil War, the two had joined to help Springfield become one of the world's leading manufacturing of agricultural equipment.

International Harvester Company is noteworthy in this regard. The manufacturer of farm machinery became the leading local industry after a native, William Whitely, invented the combined self-raking reaper and mower in 1856.

Centreville Information

In 1796, during George Washington's last term as president, the first settlers came to Centreville and Washington Township, Ohio. Brothers-in-laws Aaron Nutt, Benjamin Robbins and Benjamin Archer were Revolutionary Wars veterans. They came from Kentucky to survey the area in February 1796, two months before the first settlement in Dayton. The three men drew lots for their land and claimed bounties granted for their service in the war. Within the next few years, their families joined them in this new community.

Another early settler was John Hole, the first doctor in the Miami Valley. He is credited with building the first home in Centreville; as early as 1796, he built a log cabin for his family near Silver Creek, now known as Holes Creek. An elementary school is named for Dr. Hole. He named our county, Montgomery County, after his commanding officer and revolutionary war hero, Brigadier General Richard Montgomery.

Soon after these settlers, other veterans and their families moved here. By 1803, when Ohio became a state, businesses and homes had appeared throughout the village, which was surrounded by farmland. Some of the early businesses were a stone quarry, mills, furniture makers and small stores. They provided goods and services to the farming community.

Benjamin Robbins named the community "Centreville" after his hometown, Centreville, New Jersey, and because it was located between two rivers and central to other communities like Dayton and Lebanon.

Some log houses were soon replaced by stone homes. Limestone was readily available and used in about 100 buildings, about 30 of these homes are still standing. Centreville has the largest collection of early stone houses in the state of Ohio.

The older part of downtown Centreville is located near Main Street and Franklin Street. The rich craftsmanship and detail make them a valuable asset to the Centreville community.

Montgomery County, Ohio Information

Montgomery County was officially formed in 1803, but its history began more than a century earlier. The Miami and Shawnee were the earliest people here before the "Dayton" settlements of the late 1700's. During the latter half of the 18th century, the area which is now Dayton was the site of almost constant warfare between the French and Indians. The 1795 Treaty of Greenville ended warfare with the Native Americans in

this area enabling southwest Ohio settlement patterns to progress north along the Great and Little Miami Rivers.

Judge John Cleves Symmes, a land speculator from New Jersey, initiated much of southwestern Ohio's settlement and in late 1795, he sold Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory, James Wilkinson, Israel Ludlow and New Jersey Congressman Jonathan Dayton the land that became known as the "Dayton Purchase."

This tract included what is now eastern Montgomery and western Greene Counties. A town site was then laid out by a surveying team led by Daniel C. Cooper. On April 1, 1796, settlers arrived at the Dayton town site.

When Symmes later failed to meet his financial obligations to the federal government, the region's 600+ settlers were forced to buy their land again - and at a higher price than they had already paid Symmes. Local benefactor Daniel Cooper saved the struggling community by purchasing many of the preemption rights and selling the land back to the settlers, many of whom could not afford to immediately repurchase.

Despite this early setback, the little village at the convergence of three rivers grew quickly. A population of 383 in 1810 supported five stores, three saddlers' shops, two cut-nail factories, a wagon maker, and six taverns. Twenty years later 2,954 people supported six schools, sixteen dry goods stores, thirty groceries, eight masons, seven doctors, and thirteen lawyers.

Among the young city's early achievements was the Miami-Erie Canal, which reached Dayton from Cincinnati in 1829. The canal fueled tremendous growth and stood as a symbol of Dayton's transformation from small pioneer town to important regional commerce center. Beyond Dayton proper, settlement blossomed as well. By 1841 Harrison, Mad River, and Van Buren Townships had formed and the entire population of Montgomery County stood at just over 30,000.

Cincinnati Information

Losantiville, one of the first permanent European settlements in Ohio, was established on the site of present-day Cincinnati in 1788. It began to attract settlers after 1789, when an army post named Fort Washington was built nearby. In 1790 the community was renamed Cincinnati. The settlement was recognized as a village in 1802 and incorporated as a city in 1819.

Not only was Cincinnati strategically situated to benefit from westward migrations, it also became a major center for north-south commerce, both overland and by water. The Ohio River was a primary route connecting the East with the nation's growing frontier, particularly after steamboat travel began in 1811. The Miami and Erie Canal later tied the city to Great Lakes shipping. It has been aptly remarked that Cincinnati is the "northernmost southern city and the southernmost northern city."

Cincinnati's extensive ties to the South provoked a mixed reaction to the American Civil War (1861-1865). The city was a center of activity by the Copperheads, a name applied to people who for a variety of reasons opposed fighting the war. At the same time, the city was a major point on the Underground Railroad, the informal system to move slaves from the South to freedom in the North.

During and immediately after the Civil War, the economy of the city suffered as trade with the South was disrupted. At the same time, westward traffic began to bypass the city as new railroads made Chicago the region's principal crossroads.

Mt. Adams Information

the entire hill was considered a useless wasteland in the early 19th century. A working-class blue-collar population occupied the hill later, when an incline made it accessible.

Nicholas Longworth - a lawyer and businessman - donated land on the southern section of the hilltop to the Cincinnati Astronomical Society for an observatory. His critics argued that he did so only to enhance the value of his surrounding property.

In the 1840s, when the Cincinnati Observatory's cornerstone was laid, President Adams spoke at the dedication. City council named the hill in his honor. Prior to the president's appearance in Cincinnati, the hill was known as Mount Ida.

Some say Mount Ida's namesake, Ida Martin, was a washerwoman who lived in the hollow of an old sycamore tree on a steep hillside, according to the Cincinnati Historical Society.

During the Civil War, Mount Adams, because of the view, played a role in the city's defense against the Confederacy. Two artillery emplacements were set up - one at the end of Fort View Place and another at the playground and overlook near Playhouse in the Park.

The guns were never fired.

Cincinnati East End Information

The East End has been recognized since the early nineteenth century as the land from the Ohio River to the foot of Mt. Adams. The neighborhood was and still is a combination of many communities: the town of Fulton; the village of Pendleton; the village of Linwood; the village of Columbia (now Columbia Tusculum); and the suburbs of Mt. Tusculum and Undercliff. All of which still maintain a unique sense of identity. Columbia, located approximately one mile north of the Little Miami River the oldest of the communities, was established in November 1788. Plagued by constant flooding the U.S. Army re-thought the idea of locating Fort Washington in the area and built instead in nearby Losantiville, later known as Cincinnati. Making Cincinnati the "dominate community in southwest Ohio." Many residents sought refuge from the flooding by moving to higher ground. However, the major reason for the lack of growth in the Village was the six-mile journey to Cincinnati.

This strip of land located along the Ohio River west of Columbia was closer to Cincinnati, thus attracting many industrial companies and residents. The area became known as the "Eastern Liberties", since it lay outside the corporation line the municipal laws did not apply. After boatyards and lumberyards began to settle in the area, it was incorporated as Fulton Township, named after Robert Fulton the inventor of the steamboat.

The importance of the steamboat increased for river businesses allowing the boat building industry thrived. With the increased popularity by both the residential and industrial worlds Fulton was incorporated as a town in 1832 becoming the home of almost 2,000 residents, four boatyards, two lumber mills and four sawmills. All of which was concentrated in the township's "two and one-half mile long and half mile wide" strip of land.

Labeled as "one of the first towns that Cincinnatians regarded as a suburb", it was not privy to the "undesirable attributes" associated with typical suburban communities. At that time many of the cities outlining areas were left to low-income residents including minorities and immigrants.

Eventually the demand for boats peaked along with the population growth of Fulton. The new development in the area was being done in a new suburb, the village of Pendleton. Like Fulton, Pendleton was depending on the transportation industry for its existence. This time however, it was the railroad and not boats, which would afford the village its industrial salvation. Cincinnati council members were not willing to allow the dirty and dangerous machines into the city limits, forcing the railroad to terminate at a location outside of Cincinnati. Hence the establishment Pendleton. Located along the Ohio River from Delta Avenue to a point east of Foster Street. Pendleton housed the Little Miami Railroad's original depot, rail yards and workshops, making this the first railroad to service Cincinnati. The passengers and freight of the railroad were unloaded in Pendleton and carted by "horse-drawn vehicles into Cincinnati along Eastern Avenue."

Cincinnati eventually constructed a passenger depot inside the city limits but that did not hinder the growth of Pendleton. Instead it increased production by adding “workshops and a large freight depot” stimulating both residential and commercial development.

The subdivision of Linwood, named for the many linden trees in the area, was established when the landowner Israel Wilson divided his farmland located northeast of Columbia. Other subdivisions in the village of Columbia were- Undercliff; where parcels were smaller and sold more quickly to the people who worked for the railroad and factories in the area, and Mt. Tusculum; the lots intended for the well to do and sold much slower.

The city of Cincinnati seeing the potential of these outlining communities quickly annexed them.

Hamilton County, Ohio Information

Early settlers traveled down the Ohio River to the area that is now Hamilton County by flatboat and in 1788 founded Losantiville, which was soon renamed Cincinnati. Hamilton County, named after Alexander Hamilton, was established in 1790. It was the second county to be carved out of the Northwest Territory and antedated Ohio statehood by over 12 years. With approximately 2,000 inhabitants, its boundaries included roughly one eighth of what is now Ohio.

Development of the new county took place mainly in Cincinnati, which soon became a booming river town ("The Queen City of the West") as Ohio River barges and steamboats brought settlers of varied national origins and industrial skills to the area. Settlers soon fanned out from the crowded riverfront area to the surrounding valleys and hilltops forming new towns of individual character, many of which later became part of Cincinnati. In the 1830's, word of the area spread as far as Europe. Subjected to religious conflicts in their homeland, many Germans immigrated, followed in the 1840's by Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine.

OHIO GOVERNMENT

Governors During the Civil War

William Dennison, Jr. (Republican) - 1860 - 1862

William Dennison, Jr., Ohio's twenty-fourth governor and the first to hold office during the Civil War, was born at Cincinnati November 23, 1815. He was descended from a New England family named Carter through his mother, Mary, while his father, William, was a native of New Jersey. The couple migrated from the latter state to Ohio a decade before their son's birth and settled at Cincinnati where the elder Dennison became a successful business man.

As a student at Miami University, the son displayed outstanding ability in the fields of history, government, and literature. Having been graduated at the age of nineteen, Dennison entered the office of Nathaniel G. Pendleton, the father of George H. Pendleton, and began the study of law. In 1840 he was admitted to the bar, whereupon he became a practicing attorney. After a short time, the young lawyer moved to Columbus and married the eldest daughter of William Neil, a well-known promoter of stage transportation. Dennison's popularity grew apace with his legal practice, and by 1848 he had become so prominent that the Whigs of Franklin and Delaware counties elected him to the Ohio Senate. His colleagues in the upper house nearly succeeded in elevating him to the speakership but finally failed after a bitter two-week struggle during which the senate was unable even to organize. Dennison appeared on the political scene at a time when the slavery controversy was rapidly approaching a critical stage. The intensity of the struggle demanded partisanship from everyone in public life-there -was no neutrality on the issue of slavery-and Dennison put himself indelibly on record four years before his election when he opposed the admission of Texas and the extension of slavery. This action delineated the course he was to follow during the next twenty years.

His record as a legislator was founded firmly on Whig doctrines, with the emphasis on antislavery principles. He was especially vocal in advocating abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia and application of the Ordinance of 1787 to all United States territories. Ohio's notorious "Black Laws," however, were the target of his most vigorous onslaughts. These measures imposed upon Negroes discriminatory qualifications for residence and denied them certain rights and privileges. Dennison participated in the campaign to repeal these statutes. Success came in 1849 but only through a political bargain as a result of which the "Black Laws" were repealed and Salmon P. Chase, the prominent opponent of slavery was elected to the United States Senate, while two posts on the state supreme court went to Democrats.

After one term in office Dennison returned to his private practice. For a half dozen years his political activities were subservient to other considerations, although in 1852 he was a presidential elector on the Whig ticket. His attention during this period turned to the spheres of finance and transportation, leading to his selection as president, first of the Exchange Bank of Columbus and then of the Columbus and Xenia Railroad. His interest in railroads continued throughout his life.

Dennison was drawn back into politics in February 1856, when, as one of the first prominent Whigs to become a Republican, he attended the new party's preliminary convention at Pittsburgh and served on the committee on resolutions. In June he acted as chairman of the Ohio delegation to the nominating convention at Philadelphia which chose John C. Fremont as its candidate. Dennison's star continued to ascend, reaching a new height in 1859 with his nomination by acclamation for the governorship. Formidable opposition was provided by Supreme Court Judge Rufus P. Ranney, a man of unquestioned character and integrity. The candidates conducted a constructive campaign during which they engaged in a series of public debates throughout the state. Affairs were further enlivened by the appearance of both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, each of whom addressed audiences in three Ohio cities. The temper of the times was reflected in the outcome, which saw Dennison victorious by a margin of 13,000 votes.

An administration which began auspiciously enough on January 9, 1860, was destined to become one fraught with greater problems than those of any previous governor. Dennison had served little more than half his term when the nation was plunged into civil war. Recognizing that speed was imperative he assumed emergency powers and acted unhesitatingly and decisively-his critics said dictatorially. He virtually commandeered railroads, express companies, and telegraph lines; ignoring the advice of his attorney-general, he used funds with which the state had been reimbursed by the federal government for military expenditures without first turning the money into the treasury; and he dispatched youthful George McClellan to western Virginia with a body of state troops to help drive out the Confederates.

His wisdom and foresight were appreciated by few and condemned by the majority. Despite his victory at the polls, Dennison lacked the confidence of the people once the war began. A courteous and refined gentleman, he was an authority on railroad operation and on banking but totally unequipped to cope with military problems. His faults were exaggerated and many of the blunders made were committed by subordinates. Although as chief executive, Dennison accepted responsibility for all shortcomings, perhaps his only serious personal error was his failure to reorganize his administration immediately. It is doubtful whether any of his predecessors could have met the issues any more successfully.

Dennison's renomination, a virtual certainty before the outbreak of hostilities, became a political impossibility. The party leaders, seeking the cooperation of the War Democrats, chose David Tod as their standard-bearer in the 1861 election. Dennison accepted this turn of events with stoic equanimity. His loyalty to the party did not waver, and Governor Tod constantly called upon him for advice and assistance. Recognition of his contributions came in 1864 when he was named chairman of the Republican national convention. A few months later President Lincoln appointed him postmaster general,

David Tod (Republican) - 1862- 1864

True to its intention of holding a Union party convention in the summer of 1861, the Republican party of Ohio did not issue instructions for the election of delegates... Instead, the call came from a public appeal signed by one hundred prominent Ohioans who represented several shades of political philosophy.

However, the men had at least one thing in common: they all supported the war. David Tod, previously a radical Democrat, not only affixed his name to the call but emerged from the convention as the Union party's nominee for governor.

To the delegates at the convention, as to most Ohioans, Tod was well known. Son of Judge George Tod, he was born in Youngstown on February 21, 1805. David Tod began practicing law in 1827 and five years later was appointed postmaster of Warren. In 1832 he married Maria Smith who became the mother of his seven children.

An ardent Democrat in a stronghold of Western Reserve Whiggery, Tod ran for the Ohio Senate in 1838 and gained election. During his term as a senator he helped secure approval of anti-banking legislation and figured prominently in the passage of a bill to facilitate the return of fugitive slaves to their masters in Kentucky. He also was instrumental in defeating Thomas Morris, antislavery Democrat, for reelection as United States Senator and electing Benjamin Tappan in his place.

Tod did not run for another term; instead, he returned to his law practice. But his party work in the campaigns of 1840 and 1842 earned him the title of "giant of Democracy," and qualified him as an expert Whig "coonskinner." Despite these laurels, he failed to gain victory as the Democratic candidate for governor in two consecutive campaigns. Running on violent anti-bank platforms, Tod lost to Mordecai Bartley in 1844 and William Bebb in 1846. Both defeated him by a slender margin.

In March 1847 President Polk appointed Tod as minister to Brazil, a post in which he served with distinction until 1851. Returning to Youngstown, Tod gave full attention to his growing coal, iron, and railroad interests-interests in which he accumulated a fortune. Throughout the 1850's Tod regarded himself more of a party patriarch than active campaigner; however, through an odd circumstance his district nominated him for congress in 1858. Pressing business affairs allowed him to show but little interest in the campaign and he lost decisively to his Republican opponent, John Hutchins.

Under the gathering war clouds of sectionalism in 1860, Tod served as a delegate to the Democratic national convention at Charleston. After the convention moved to Baltimore and became deadlocked, he succeeded Caleb Cushing as chairman. Tod was instrumental in securing the nomination of Stephen A. Douglas, and later strenuously stumped for his election.

Following Lincoln's election and the outbreak of civil strife, the lifelong Democrat turned his back to his party, made public appeals for political unity, and wholeheartedly supported Lincoln and the war. Thus he was the logical Union party choice for governor. In a listless campaign, in which the war took precedence over politics, Tod overwhelmingly defeated Democrat Hugh J. Jewett by a margin of over 50,000 votes.

During the first few months of his administration Governor Tod faced few duties other than continuing the work of his predecessor, William Dennison. But soon, as the war pressed more directly upon the state, he became occupied with an array of problems. Ohio's troops suffered heavily in the battle of Shiloh in April 1862, and the governor quickly dispatched aid to the wounded. This service he continued throughout his term. Also, Tod established various agencies in the North to meet soldiers' difficulties relative to transportation, pay, sickness, and disability. Recruiting became more trying as patriotism faltered, and Tod's appeals for volunteers changed to orders for drafting. Confederate troops threatened Ohio twice during 1862. But Tod's speedy action for border defense-aided by the famous "Squirrel Hunters"-sealed the state against invasion.

Politically, however, his first year was not successful. General dissatisfaction with the war's progress, political arrests, and the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation contributed to the Union party's defeat in the state elections of 1862. The Democrats captured all state offices at stake and fourteen of the nineteen seats to the national congress. Encouraged by these results, Ohio's Copperheads fanned the flames of the "fire in the rear." Tod had to contend with outbreaks of armed resistance in Holmes and Noble counties, and faced kidnapping and civil suits brought against him by Edson B. Olds, whom Tod had had arrested and imprisoned. Military authorities quelled the civil disturbances; the legal questions never reached trial. More

serious than any of these, however, was the Morgan raid into Ohio. The governor's hurried assemblage of a large number of troops discouraged Confederate attacks on Columbus or any of the prison camps. Although the raid proved to be of little military consequence, Morgan's men did considerable plundering. Tod instructed the county military committees to assess the damage and subsequently the legislature voted funds to individual sufferers.

Tod ardently desired a second term and made an active canvass for it. Union party managers, however, disliked the frequency with which he filled vacancies with old Democratic friends. Furthermore, Tod was rather cool towards emancipation. These considerations robbed him of Union League support and resulted in the nomination of John Brough.

Tod held no other official position, although in June 1864 Lincoln offered him the post of secretary of the treasury. Because of ill health, he declined. He had been troubled for years with strokes of apoplexy.

His administration was characterized by intense patriotism, devotion to duty, administrative ability, and unflagging energy. Ohio was fortunate to have had David Tod as one of its war governors.

John Brough (Democrat) - 1864- 1865

Born on September 17, 1811, at Marietta, the son of an English immigrant and a Pennsylvania mother, John Brough rose on the tide of Jacksonian democracy. Left an orphan at eleven, he apprenticed himself to a printer for his board and room and in the office of the American Friend first smelled the printer's ink which was to bear him into the political arena. The Marietta schools and three years as a part-time student at Ohio University were the extent of his formal schooling. While attending the latter institution, he worked as a reporter on the Athens Mirror.

The Western Republican of Marietta, which he owned from 1831 to 1833, was his first newspaper. Strongly Jacksonian in its editorial accents, it helped to crystallize his political views. In 1833 he and his brother Charles purchased the Ohio Eagle at Lancaster which carried on the Democratic tradition.

In 1835 Brough gained election as clerk of the Ohio Senate by a margin of one vote. While holding this position he was capitol correspondent for his own paper and for the Ohio Statesman. In 1837 the Whigs deposed him, though he continued to have the strong support of Samuel Medway and the Democratic Party. His stand in 1837 paralleled that of the national administration. He denounced the Whig attitude toward banks as a betrayal of the people and a surrender to moneyed interests. As a result he was elected to the general assembly from the Fairfield-Hocking district in 1838 and immediately became chairman of the committee on banks and currency in the house.

Governor Shannon's inaugural address sounded the alarm on the over-issue of bank notes and speculation. Brough's committee immediately offered resolutions in the house which would stabilize the finances of the state. It also requested the auditor to report on conditions in state banks, and asked for power to investigate irregularities in banking practices. Brough himself introduced a bill which would have prohibited the establishment of any national bank, corporation, or agency of the federal government in Ohio which was not incorporated under its laws. He also offered what he felt were constructive solutions to the currency problems. He proposed a broader application of individual liability on the part of directors and stockholders of banks, but his bill failed passage as did his recommendations to outlaw the national bank, usury, and currency speculation. He successfully defeated the Whig scheme to establish state banks with state capital, and expressed the view that banking growth should be in relation to the expansion of trade and commerce.

His firm stand on financial affairs won him the state auditorship in 1839. As auditor he tried to carry out a policy of strong banks, financial honesty and integrity, and hard currency. The effects of the Panic of 1837 were still evident. There was a steadily increasing state debt, which mounted from \$12,500,000 to nearly \$20,000,000 during his auditorship. In spite of this, Brough fought to stay speculation and inflation, to punish dishonesty, to defeat the sentiment for repudiation, and to secure payment of the indebtedness. In all of these he succeeded. The canals were completed and began to produce revenue, banks were saved from

failure by close examination, and taxes were increased five mills per dollar with safety. However, the sweeping victory of the Whigs in 1844 numbered the days of John Brough as auditor.

From the end of his last term as auditor until his election to the governorship, Brough played no direct role in politics. In 1841 he and his brother had bought the Cincinnati Advertiser and renamed it the Enquirer. After his political retirement he was its editor until he became president of the Madison and Indianapolis Railway in 1848.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Brough broke from strictly Democratic politics, though he continued his opposition to the Republican Party. A speech at Marietta on June 10, 1863, again brought him into the political limelight. Backed by William Henry Smith of the Cincinnati Gazette, Brough became the standard-bearer against growing copper-headism, and was elected governor in the fall of that year over Clement L. Vallandigham.

As governor, he pledged his support to the Union and the successful prosecution of the war. He secured the passage of a levy of two mills on the dollar for public support of servicemen's families, and of the right of an additional one and one-half mills to be levied by city and county administrations as they saw fit. He helped to furnish troops for the army, sent the National Guard into federal service for the "good of the nation," brought into effect a fair system of officer promotion among Ohio troops, and provided for inspection of field hospitals and better medical care.

When Salmon P. Chase resigned as secretary of the treasury, Brough was offered the position but declined it. In the election of 1864 he opposed McClellan and the "Peace Democrats" and threw his support to Lincoln, not as a Republican, but as a symbol of union.

In the spring of 1865 Brough announced that because of failing health he would not seek renomination. In August, four months before the expiration of his term of office, he died in Cleveland. Governor Brough was twice married and had seven children.

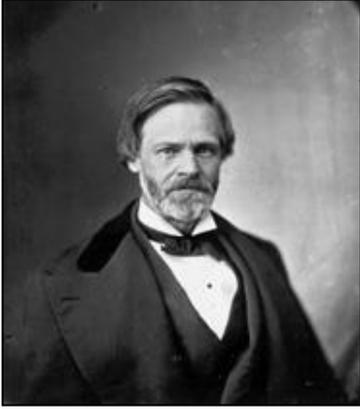
Whatever may be said of Brough's partisanship and his lack of personal dignity, one must assess in his favor the qualities of integrity, perseverance, and public spiritedness. At two of the most trying periods of nineteenth century Ohio history, John Brough worked avidly to bring problems to solution. As newspaperman, state auditor, railway executive, and governor, Brough performed his duties with ability and tireless effort.

OHIO GOVERNMENT **U.S. Senators From Ohio**

Benjamin Franklin Wade (Republican)

(Brother of Edward Wade), a Senator from Ohio; born in Feeding Hills, near Springfield, Hampden County, Mass., October 27, 1800; received his early education from his mother; moved with his parents to Andover, Ohio, in 1821; taught school; studied medicine in Albany, N.Y., 1823-1825; returned to Ohio; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1828 and commenced practice in Jefferson, Ashtabula County, Ohio; prosecuting attorney of Ashtabula County 1835-1837; member, State senate 1837-1838, 1841-1842; judge of the third judicial court of Ohio 1847-1851; elected as a Whig to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy in the term commencing March 4, 1851, caused by the failure of the legislature to elect; reelected as a Republican in 1856 and again in 1863 and served from March 15, 1851 to the present.

John Sherman (Republican)



A Representative and a Senator from Ohio; born in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio, on May 10, 1823; attended the common schools and an academy in Ohio; left school to work as an engineer on canal projects; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1844 and began practice in Mansfield, Ohio; moved to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1853; elected as a Republican to the Thirty-fourth and to the three succeeding Congresses and served from March 4, 1855, to March 21, 1861, when he resigned; chairman, Committee on Ways and Means (Thirty-sixth Congress); elected as a Republican to the United States Senate in 1861 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Salmon P. Chase.