Research notes on the 9th Regiment (Jennings) 3rd Brigade 1st Division Indiana Legion

Volume 1

(Revision 2)

The Home Guard Of Jennings County 1861-1865

By Richard S. Apsley

Researched and compiled by members of the recreated Vernon Greys Company "A" 9TH Regiment Indiana Legion

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Dedication

To Nancy, in memory of:

Private Caleb L. Whitmore. He enlisted in the "Freedom Guards, Company C, 9th Regiment (Jennings) Indiana Legion in June 1862. Caleb was with the Freedom Guards for the pursuit of Morgan in July, 1863, and mustered out of the company afterwards to join the regular forces.

Private Whitmore enlisted in Company H, 8th Regiment Indiana Cavalry on Sept. 28, 1863, mustering out on July 20, 1865.

We are certain he made his Uncle and namesake Sergeant Caleb Whitmore of the 6th Indiana Volunteer Infantry very proud.

These notes are also dedicated to all Indiana Legion researchers, reenactors, and students who share this 21st century mission of recognizing and documenting the duties, missions, and sacrifices of the Indiana Legion soldiers in detail.

Without your combined efforts, this fascinating era in our state's history would remain minimized and forgotten. Thank You!

In Jennings County, let us rally around the flag of liberty once again, and:



"Remember the 9th!"

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The recreated "Vernon Greys" on the battle line

Preface

"Fascinating!" "Wow!" "Awesome!"....Nancy was looking at me as if I had consumed a bit too much Brown County wine.

I remember gazing into the sky at the annual Vernon Sassafras Days in 2010, John P. Etters book **"The Indiana Legion – A Civil War Militia"** on my lap, literally shouting with excitement as I browsed the text, and being totally "blown away" at the numerous references to the 9th Regiment (Jennings) Indiana Legion. The 9th Regiment Indiana Legion? What is this? Who were these guys? We just had to know more!

As we reviewed and studied the text the excitement grew, and we became immersed in the most enjoyable, albeit frustrating research we have ever been involved with. We knew help was necessary, and some of the members of the "Vernon Greys Militia" were just as eager to know the facts and detailed history of our Regiment.

Captain Mike Ochs and Sergeant Terry Furgason of the recreated Company A "Vernon Greys" were the first to take steps to gather original documents, letters, muster sheets, and information so the confusion left by the undated second-source and incomplete records we currently had in hand could be eliminated. Mike and Terry traveled to Indianapolis, and discovered a box containing over 1'000 original <u>dated</u> documents covering the service of the 9th Regiment (Jennings). They, as I, believe that all this time-stamped information <u>must be shared</u> at little or no cost to the researcher and student.

Thank You Mike and Terry!

We could not travel to Indianapolis once or twice a week to do our research. There had to be a better way. We contacted Sheila Kell at the Jennings County Public Library, and she made arrangements to have the documents organized and photographed. These documents were then placed on microfilm, and this fascinating chapter in our county and state history is now easily accessed by any and all citizens at no cost and minimal travel time.

Thank You, Sheila!

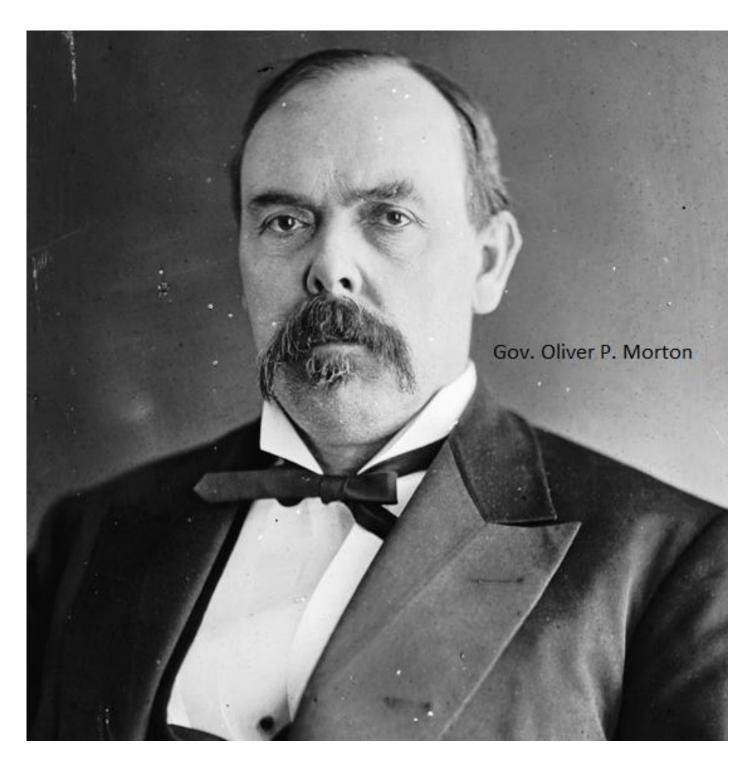
This has all been a Team effort, and I could not ask for a better group of people to work with. We hope these efforts will assist other Indiana Legion researchers, students, and reenactors with their studies.

Enjoy! R.S.A.

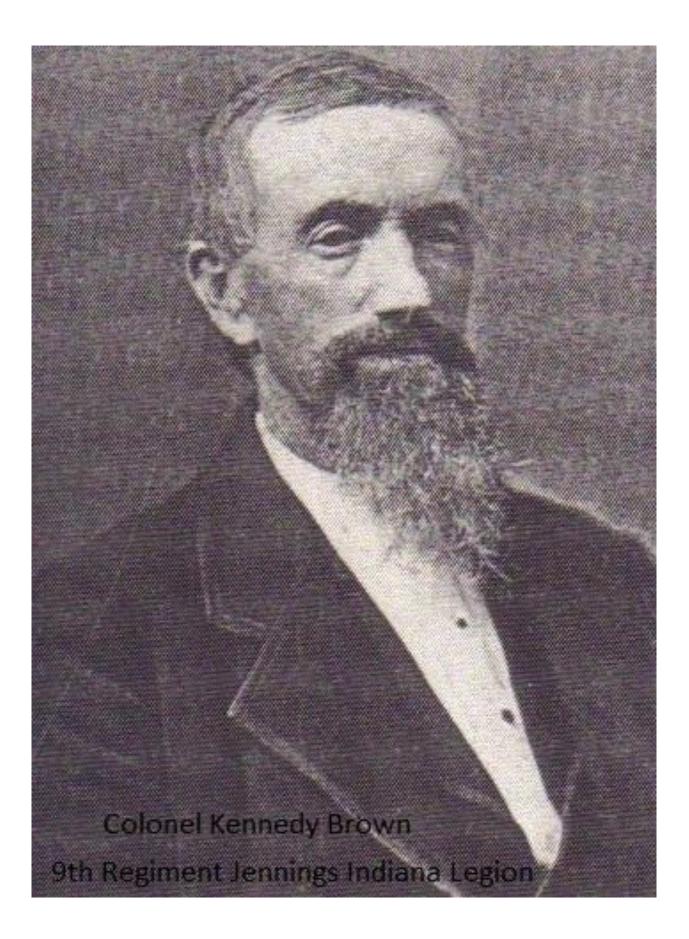
Important notes for the Indiana Legion student and researcher:

- A very critical aspect when researching the 9th Regiment is to know that there were <u>Two</u> 9th Regiments in the Indiana Legion. Sometime early in 1861 the Jennings County Regiment was miss-numbered. The December 19, 1862 report from Colonel Brown and The Report of the Adjutant General of Indiana both note this. It can become confusing at times, but here is the trick: Colonel Kennedy Brown is the commander of the 9th Regiment (Jennings County) Third Brigade and Colonel Samuel Serring is the commander of the 9th Regiment (Jefferson County) Third Brigade. Also, do not repeat the mistakes I made by getting hung-up by the Indiana Legion Divisions. The first and second divisions did not form until 1864. From late 1862 until July 1864, the Indiana Legion structure was being drastically altered. All the reports up to July 1864 note only the Brigade and Regiment of the commander.
- 2) Beware of and avoid any and all printed research papers that are not time stamped, especially if you are trying to time-line the 9th Regiment (Jennings) musters and deployments. One MUST find and record the date of the document and/or correspondence, and one must even be aware of the time of day to understand where our Regiment was, especially during the chaos and confusion of Morgan's Raid. Be very cautious, and always try to coordinate the reports of all Commanders involved. Also, be prepared for discrepancies and difference of opinions between the reports.
- 3) <u>Please share your research</u>! We are all coming into this from different angles and for different reasons. We should openly share and educate at every opportunity. We live in the 21st Century good friends and gentle hearts, and cyber-space is our friend. I can expand these notes anytime, and alter them when documents are discovered, or when any text requires correction and/or clarity. We are especially eager to discover and copy any private letters and photographs of Jennings County Indiana Legion soldiers. <u>Please stay connected, and let's help each other</u>.

Thank You! Nancy and Rick Apsley



Indiana Governor Oliver H.P. Morton



ORGANIZATION OF THE INDIANA LEGION

Commander-In-Chief

Governor Oliver P. Morton

General-In-Chief

Major General John Love from Sept. 10, 1861 to January 1, 1863

First Military Division

Major General John L. Mansfield from July 30, 1864 to November 1, 1865 This Division was composed of the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Brigades

Second Military Division

Major General James Hughes, commissioned August 1, 1864

This Division was composed of the First, Second, Seventh, and Eighth Brigades

First Brigade – Second Division

Brigadier General Andrew Lewis commissioned June 7, 1861; resigned

Brigadier General James E. Blythe commissioned November 1, 1861; deceased

This Brigade was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Posey, Vanderburg, Warrick, Gibson, Spencer,

Dubois, Pike, Knox, Davies, Martin, Greene, and Sullivan.

Second Brigade – Second Division

Brigadier General James Hughes commissioned July 1, 1863; promoted

Brigadier General Henry Jordan commissioned August 9, 1864

This Brigade was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Perry, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Clarke,

Scott, Washington, Jackson, Brown, Lawrence, Orange, Monroe, and Owen

Third Brigade – First Division

Brigadier General John L. Mansfield from September 10, 1861 to July 30, 1864

This Brigade was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Jefferson, Switzerland, Jennings,

Bartholomew, Morgan, Hendricks, Marion, Johnson, Hamilton, and Boone

Fourth Brigade – First Division

Brigadier General Alexander C. Downey commissioned November 1, 1861

This Brigade was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Ohio, Dearborn, Ripley, Decatur, Franklin,

Union, Fayette, Rush, and Shelby

Fifth Brigade – First Division

No General Officer commissioned for this Brigade

It was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Wayne, Hancock, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Madison,

Jay, Blackford, and Grant

Sixth Brigade – First Division

No General Officer commissioned for this Brigade

It was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Howard, Wabash, Miami, Case, Clinton, Carrol, Fulton,

and Tipton

Seventh Brigade – Second Division

No General Officer commissioned for this Brigade

It was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Vigo, Clay, Putnam, Parke, Vermillion, Fountain, Warren,

Benton, Tippecanoe, and Montgomery

Eighth Brigade – Second Division

No General Officer commissioned for this Brigade

It was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of White, Jasper, Palaski, Marshall, Newton, St. Joseph,

Laporte, Starke, Porter, and Lake

Ninth Brigade – First Division

No General Officer commissioned for this Brigade

It was composed of the organized Militia in the Counties of Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, Whitley, Adams, and Elkhart

Chapter 1: "Form Ranks! "

On May 11, 1861, Indiana Legislators passed "*The Act for the Regulation and Organization of the Indiana Militia*". This act called for the formation of both *sedentary militia* and *active militia*. The *sedentary militia* were the non-uniformed Militia, later called "Minutemen", being all able-bodied males qualified to bear arms who would muster during emergencies. The *active militia* being the uniformed "Indiana Legion", organized as a *single army corp*.

Beginning immediately, Governor Oliver P. Morton as Commander in Chief of the Indiana Legion along with his able staff diligently coordinated the formation of the Indiana Legion volunteers into divisions, brigades, regiments, battalions, and companies. To clarify, four companies form a battalion, three battalions form a regiment, three regiments comprise a brigade, and three brigades total one division. This configuration was allowed to be modified at the discretion of Governor Morton. As an example, during "Morgan's Raid" in July 1863, our Regiment was temporarily under command of Brigadier General James Hughes of the <u>2nd</u> <u>Brigade</u>, the 9th being a Regiment within Brigadier General John L. Mansfield's 3rd Brigade.

The First and Second Divisions of the Indiana Legion were not organized until July of 1864. Brigadier General John L. Mansfield of the Third Brigade will be promoted to Major General of the First Division, and Brigadier General James Hughes of the Second Brigade will be promoted to Major General of the Second Division.

Companies of uniformed Indiana Legion Volunteers formed in almost every county state-wide. Some counties raised a sufficient amount of companies and battalions to form a Regiment.

Our enthusiastic and patriotic citizens answered Governor Morton's call and organized companies in many towns throughout Jennings County, placing themselves under the command of the company elected and state-assigned officers of the Third Brigade, Ninth Regiment (Jennings) of the Indiana Legion. The Third Brigade will become part of the First Division in July of 1864.

Vernon, Indiana is handsomely cradled along the winding waters of the Muscatatuck River, the bustling town hosting all 9th Regiment battalion musters during the war. Vernon would prove to be a good defensive position and rally point for the Indiana Legion in July of 1863, and was an ideal location for company drill and Regiment musters since the first Jennings County militia was formed in 1817. Just a short 25 mile trip southeast of Vernon is Madison on the Ohio River, Indiana's shared border with Kentucky.

Vernon's strategic benefits during the Civil War also had much to do with its location just 2 miles south and east of the important crossing of the Indianapolis and Madison railroad and Ohio and Mississippi railroad in North Vernon. North Vernon was also referred to as Tripton in some reports during this time.

During The Great Emergency of 1863 ("Morgan's Raid") the 9th Regiment and other Legion troops would be transported by rail as far west as Mitchell, then hauled back east through their hometowns to Sunman and VanWeddens Station in a frantic attempt to cut-off and engage "Morgan's Raiders".

In June of 1864 the Regiment would "ride the cars" southward to Madison, joining with the Jefferson County Indiana Legion for border defense and possible transportation to Louisville, Kentucky.

Once formed under Indiana State Militia Law, the companies followed requirements to elect one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, one First Sergeant, four Sergeants, four Corporals, and a Company Clerk. The company had to contain a minimum of 32 privates, but no more than 100.

The 9th Regiment (Jennings) was ordered into service many times during the American Civil War, primarily to assist in defending the southern border from any and all hazards. The typical home guard duties of protecting railroad bridges, federal and state facilities, border patrol and defense, and other duties necessary for the state's security proved just a small portion of the Indiana Legion's actions during the war.

To prepare for these tasks the Regiment needed to drill and practice with the tools of the soldier. Colonel George W. Malick, Lt. Colonel James H. Vawter, and Major Kennedy Brown ordered all companies in the 9th to drill at least once a month. The companies were required to form their battalions and muster as a complete regiment for coordinated battalion drill at least three times each year.

The 9th Regiment (Jennings) was partially armed and organized by the end of September 1861 when our Regiment was called upon by Governor Morton to help deter the Confederate actions in Owen County, Kentucky.

Brigadier General John L. Mansfield commanding the Third Brigade Indiana Legion reported: (September 1861) "When Rebel camps had been established in Owen County, Kentucky, the troops of the Ninth and Tenth, together with our loyal citizens under command of the officers of the Legion, performed serious guard duty along our border."

Our first deployment on Indiana soil being successful, one can perceive that all was well within the ranks of the 9th Regiment. Our Regiment had proved they are organized and properly trained for deployment, but arms were still in short supply, and many recruits joined the Ninth only to be disappointed with the condition and quantity of State supplied arms necessary for monthly drill and live-round training.

The difficulty of procuring arms and field equipment during 1861 resulted in some regimental officers, Company officers, and volunteers resigning. Fortunately, only a small percentage of the Legion companies in Jennings County that formed in 1861 ceased to exist by the spring of 1862.

Some companies disbanded because most or all the men desired to join the regular forces. For example, the *Jennings Rifle Guard* that formed in early 1861, the famous Hagerman Tripp as elected Captain, only lasted a few weeks before they joined the 6^{th} Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

At a meeting of the Vernings Rifle Thand The perfore of decting officers, held the purpose of electing the Capland, centenants. The following were cheren as eard Theen Callano. Cagaman Vientenant - Josiah He Andrews Vientenant - George W. Kendrick Ecculement - Vaucel J. C The, The undersigned Chairman Scorelay of the Dompany Cer albert to be tteel, Janual & McKuhan Chair ma

The election results of officers for the "Jennings Rifle Guard" in 1861.

Captain John Meek of the Weston Guards resigned his commission on August 29, 1861 noting: "There are only about 20 members left in said company and they are desirous of attaching themselves to neighboring companies and will not drill as an organized Company – the remainder of the company being in the service of the United States."

The 9th Regiment was a magnificent training opportunity for future volunteers to the United States regular forces.

As Captain David Moffat of the *Freedom Guards* penned in 1863: *"Indeed our little company has been a Patriotic military training school for the army"* The majority of 9th Regiment companies that formed in 1861 remained until 1865, and dutifully refined their soldiering skills and marksmanship at monthly Company musters, and whenever Battalion musters were called for the entire Regiment in Vernon.

After the resignation of Lt. Colonel James H. Vawter in September of 1861, Colonel George W. Malick would rely more and more on Major Kennedy Brown, considered to be a very able and competent officer by the rank and file of the Ninth, to keep our Regiment organized and the men strong of purpose during the spring of 1862. Kennedy Brown's previous position as elected Captain of the Scipio Guards from May 1861 until his promotion to Major on July 23, 1861 cemented his fine reputation among the troops.

The companies of the 9th Regiment not yet armed by June of 1862 will soon be carrying proper weapons of the soldier in service to the United States.

Colonel Malick resigned on June 16, 1862, and Major Brown was promoted from Major to Colonel in September 1862 soon after the Ninth's successful duty at Camp Morton.

From July 17 through August 26, 1862, our Regiment was deployed for Federal duty in Indianapolis. According to *the <u>Adjutant Generals Report Volume No. 8</u>*, 650 men promptly responded:

"This Regiment was composed of Companies of Militiamen belonging to the 9th Regiment Indiana Legion from Jennings County, who volunteered in July, 1862, under a special call of the President of the United States, for thirty days, to guard Rebel prisoners of war at Camp Morton, Indianapolis.

No appointments of Field and Staff officers were made for the Regiment during this special service, but Major Kennedy Brown, (afterwards Colonel 9th Legion) was in immediate command - Colonel D.G. Rose, 54th Regiment Indiana (three months) Volunteers, being in command of the Military Prison."

The Regiment consisted of ten companies for this duty: Capt. Solon B. Cowell's Vernon Greys (Company A - Vernon) Capt. James Craig's Bigger Guards (Company B - San Jacinto) Capt. David W. Moffatt's Freedom Guards (Company C - Vernon) Capt. Lewis F. Brougher's Butlerville Guards (Company D - Butlerville) Capt. Manlove G. Butler's Scipio Guards (Company E - Scipio) Capt. John S. Adam's Mount Zion Guards (Company F - Slate) Capt. James Tobias' Marion Guards (Company K - Cana) Capt. Calvin W. Dixon's Paris Guards (Company I - Paris) Capt. John Evin Wilson's Cana Cadets (Company M - Cana) Capt. Levin W. Hudson's Jennings Rangers (Company L - Slate)

Following the Regiment's duty at Camp Morton on August 26th, the *Scipio Guards* under command of Captain Manlove G. Butler reenlisted for four weeks extended duty to escort exchanged Confederate prisoners down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Vicksburg. According to the 1862 reports, three Jennings County soldiers are noted as casualties - two to disease and one reportedly pushed overboard by angry Confederate prisoners. Research to date has not revealed the names of these men. The *Scipio Guards* returned home on September 26, 1862.

ROSTER OF OF CAPTAIN MANLOVE G. BUTLER'S COMPANY-"SCIPIO GUARDS."

RE-ENLISTED FOR THIRTY DAYS,

NAME AND RANK.	Residence.	Date of Muster, 1862.	REMARKS.				
Captain.	a. 1. 1.		N				
butter, Mantove G	. Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26,'62.				
First Lieutenant. Draper, Joseph F	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26,'62.				
Second Lieutenant, Soper, Solomon R	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26,'62.				
First Sergeant.	100 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00						
Fish, Henry C	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
Sergeants. Mongrief Gideon	Sciplo	Ane 26	Mustered out Sent 26 162				
Smith, David B	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26,'62,				
Mayfield, Isaac	Scipio	Ang, 26	Mustered out Sent. 26, 162.				
Amick, Marion	Scipie	Aug, 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
Corporals.		presso rate					
Mahaffa, John	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
Dattimore, Dabiel L	Scipio	Aug. 20	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
Sseso, Frank	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62, Mustered out Sept, 28, 62.				
Privates.							
Artz, John	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62. Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
trown, John M	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62,				
Bryant, James	Sciplo	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
Japp, Samuel	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62,				
Sope, Carvin.	Scipio	Aug. 20	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62, Mustered out Sept. 20, '62				
DaReular Jonathan	Scipio	Aug. 20	Mustered out Sept. 20, 02. Mustered out Sent 96 109				
Fox. John	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 25, '62,				
Fennimore, Stephen	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
Friffith, Roderick W	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26,'62.				
Friffith, Leonard C	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62, Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
leason, Orlando	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
			Mustered out Sept. 26, '62, Mustered out Sept. 26, 62,				
Jugar Samuel W	Scipio	Aug. 20	Mustered out Sept. 20, 62.				
Iousekeeper, Jesse C	Scipio	Ang. 26	Mustered out Sent. 26, '62.				
ceeth, Columbus	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62,				
Juderson, Henry	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
amson, William	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
layfield, Alexander	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62, Mustered out Sept. 26, 62,				
they would be the	States	A sum Off	Manager d and Chapter and the				
Surisez John	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62, Mustered out Sept. 26, 62,				
ceelv, Crus	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
Seely, Thaddeus	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
Neel, William	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
tichardson, Ira	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
achardson, John	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 52,				
trentrason, rateonoren,	1721 172 17 17 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	an anger and exercise	Mustered out Sept. 25,'62. Mustered out Sept. 26,'62.				
Colins, Madison.	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
immons, Norman	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
tradley, John	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, '62.				
ann Honry	Seinio	Ang 96	Mustared out Sent 26 262				
Vinslow, William	Scipio	Ang. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62, Mustered out Sept. 26, 62, Mustered out Sept. 26, 62,				
Vilkerson, William N	Scipio	Aug. 26	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62.				
Van, Andrew	Serpio	Aug. 20	Mustered out Sept. 26, 62, Mustered out Sept. 26, '62,				
anson, Amoroseanona.	- hoursen	augi élanni	austeren out cept, 20, 02,				

The roster of the "Scipio Guards". These Jennings County soldiers escorted exchanged Confederate prisoners of war from Camp Morton (Indianapolis) to Vicksburg in 1862.

The soldiers of the 9th are performing their duties well, and the regiment is quickly gaining a reputation for excellence. Kennedy Brown reported that during an alarm in late 1862:

"In less than eighteen hours after I received the order, my command was massed at Vernon, ready to go wherever called or needed." The 9th Regiment (Jennings) Report of December 19, 1862 lists "some six or seven companies" as being fully armed according to Colonel Brown, and continues "The Regiment now numbers over seven hundred men and officers."

The various types of arms and ammunition in use by the Indiana Legion proved to be a logistical nightmare for Quartermaster General Lazarus Noble. Our Regiment alone possessed weapons in three different calibers at one point, some arms requiring "ball" ammunition and others requiring "minié bullets" in various calibers.

In September 1862 Company B, the "Bigger Guards", then sported **"31 French rifle muskets"** at their fall muster. These "rifle muskets" fired .69 caliber minié balls.

In October 1862 as listed on the 9th Regiment battalion muster sheets, Company K, the "Marion Guards", possessed **"51 French rifle muskets"** also requiring minié balls, and the "Bigger Guards" now armed themselves with **"66 altered to percussion muskets, caliber .69 inches"**, the latter requiring a round ball.

Company I, the "Paris Guards", drilled with "60 Austrian rifle muskets, caliber .54 inches". Company E, the "Scipio Guards", carried arms similar to the "Paris Guards" with "50 Austrian rifle muskets".

Each company also followed requirements to design and supply their own uniforms. Most companies allowed thirty days for any new recruits to uniform themselves under company guidelines.

Captain James Vawter, who preceded Solon Cowell as Captain of the *Vernon Greys* and then becoming Lt. Colonel of the 9th, described the *Vernon Greys* uniform to Governor Morton as:

"A grey coat cut coatee style trimmed with black, similar in all respects to the City Greys of Indianapolis. A grey pair of pants with a black stripe running down the outer seam of the pantaloons. A blue cap - army style."

It confuses many that some Union Militia would wear a grey uniform. History books and Hollywood alike have forced the American Civil War to be defined as a conflict of "blue against grey" for over a century. In fact, many Union militias, National Guard, and reserve troops wore grey throughout the conflict, most notably regiments and certainly individual companies formed in New York, Pennsylvania, and of course Indiana. It is also interesting to note that most all Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiments formed in 1861 were first issued grey uniforms.

The Saluda Guards, 9th Regiment (Jefferson County), mustered in uniforms as described by Captain D.T. Monroe:

"The company has decided that our uniforms will consist of a cap, roundabout, and pantaloons, of a steel mixed gray color, the pants bearing a stripe down the side, and the roundabouts without other trimmings than the eagle buttons."

of his Excellency - The Govener - the lington adopted by the "Coars" . As ours is the first company imported organized Uniform adopted by the "Thenen Gregs" Submitted for the approval of his Excellency Oleves P. Martin Goog Mirain under the new law in the County I toust that it will meet the affordal of etw Govenor. Includy that you will comply with the lisher of the Company & Sesignate Saturday The IN wish as the day of the clechow day at I grey lead and contre Style Inimmed with black - 21/2 O'Cloch - and the gentlemen named as limitar in all respects to the City Greye of minainpeties 2/2 O'clock - and the gentlemen named in the persons to conduct the electric Agrey pair of pante with a black stripe numing I remain Respir Snes the outer reams of the poutalone. Your Och Such When Cap - army style. James N. Valles Late Capt of "Umon "regs"

"Late" Captain of the Vernon Greys James Vawter's 1861 letter to Governor Morton describing the Vernon Greys uniform.

Within the Indiana Legion, 26 companies were designated as "Greys" sporting uniforms similar to those described, with other companies throughout the Legion also sporting uniforms in dark blue, green, light blue, and of course the flamboyant Zouave uniform in a myriad of exotic designs and brilliant colors.

The non-uniformed sedentary militia, or "*Minutemen*", who frequented the ranks of the Legion should not be confused with those uniformed Volunteers in the active Indiana Legion companies. The "*Minutemen*" of the Indiana Legion were usually not uniformed, although they were issued state arms and equipment as the need would arise for them to form ranks. These "*Minutemen*" comprised a large percentage of the Indiana Legion forces during The Great Emergency of 1863 ("Morgan's Raid).

On March 23, 1863, the Quartermaster General collected all the state arms in Jennings County, presumably for cataloging and inspection. This left our Regiment without arms from March 23 until July 9th, 1863, but the active companies still drilled monthly. In fact, the Regiment held a Battalion drill near the Sullivan Road just outside of Vernon on April 13, 1863, with each company muster report stating "no arms".

The Regiment boasted over 500 men at the April muster, and in a few months these soldiers will be tested once again. In 1863, the war will be fought on Indiana soil, and more Hoosier blood will be necessary to defend the State and the Union.

This time, an invasion by Confederate Cavaliers will require the entire Indiana Legion to be mobilized.



The recreated "Vernon Greys" pay their respects at the grave of Private Thomas Patrick, Vernon Greys Company "A" 9th Regiment Indiana Legion. (Ebeneezer Methodist Church Cemetery, Jennings County)

Chapter 2: The Great Emergency of 1863

From Wednesday, July 8 through Monday July 13, 1863, Confederate General John Hunt Morgan and approximately 3,000 mounted Confederate soldiers rode their way through Southern Indiana, spreading havoc throughout the entire region.

The 9th Regiment (Jennings) Command documented as active nine days *"for defending the State during the raid by the Rebel forces under General John Morgan"*:

Colonel Kennedy Brown Lt. Colonel Calvin R. Dixon Major Levin Hudson Quartermaster James Passmore Adjutant S.W. Story Surgeon S.H. Green Sergeant Major Peter Bradshaw

Over 500 men at arms formed the fourteen companies documented as active during this emergency:

Captain Solon B. Cowell's Vernon Greys (Company A) Captain James R. Craig's **Bigger Guards** (Company B) Captain James T. Spaulding's **Freedom Guards** (Company C) Captain Lewis F. Brougher's **Butlerville Guards** (Company D) Captain Manlove G. Butler's Scipio Guards (Company E) Captain John S. Adams' Mount Zion Guard (Company F) Captain Joshua H. Shepherd's Graham Guards (Company G) Captain Joseph E. Smith's Queensville Guards (Company H) Captain James H. Wilson's **Paris Guards** (Company I) Captain James Tobias Marion Guards (Company K) Captain George W. Adam's **Jennings Rangers** (Company L) Captain John E. Wilson's Cana Cadets (Company M) Captain Leonard Ennis' Minutemen (Officially becoming the Morton Guards in August 1863) Captain A.W. Boyd's Butlerville Minutemen (*Captain Boyd nine days, his men five to nine days*)

Summary of Accounts In the 5 Security (Required In for services in defending the Fiste during the an. by the Robot prices under General John Morgan, shewing the an Company and Regemental Officer NABES. Amt Due Each John & Willow Conf 31260 . Lonard Cours 40003 - ch. h. Right 120 % polen & obdame 208530 21200 A Romanna Manlow, Ghatter 246 11 In che lami er my Janus St Bilem . Jolon 18 Can 14500 Janas Deting and e Spacelings 410408 15 Acredy I From 1820 16 Colmin . C Dism 6100 12 Levi Mudan 118 9 7.20 1.385 93

Summary account listing the Regiment and Company officers in command of the 9th Regiment Jennings during Morgan's Raid.

On Thursday, July 9, 1863 Colonel Kennedy Brown urgently reacted to the alarm and made arrangements to re-arm and re-supply the 9th Regiment (Jennings) Indiana Legion "at the double-quick". Colonel Brown sent a telegram early on July 9th and requested 600 muskets and 20,000 rounds of ammunition and rations for the Regiment.

The Adjutant General quickly complied, and the Regiment received 600 French rifle muskets caliber .69, cartridge boxes, cartridge box belts with plates, cap pouches, waist belts and plates, bayonets and scabbards, and tools and equipment to maintain these stands of arms at 8:00pm the same day. Colonel Brown was probably dismayed at the amount of ammunition received. Only 7,000 rounds of minié bullets arrived. - A scant 14 rounds per man! (NOTE: This stand of arms will remain in the Regiment and Company armories until September 1865. Ammunition was rarely reported in short supply hereafter.)

STATE OF INDIANA. Adjutant General's Office. ndianapolis.

The order from Adjutant General Lazarus Noble to supply arms to the 9th Regiment Jennings on July 9, 1863.

On Friday, July 10, 1863, the 9th was ordered to Seymour and placed under the command of Brigadier General James Hughes, 2nd Brigade Indiana Legion. He and Brigadier General Wilcox were reacting to the differing reports on Morgan, and there was indeed much confusion for days as to how to deploy the Legion and Minutemen. It was not uncommon to combine different Regiments and Brigades in times of emergency.

This force left Seymour by rail for Mitchell, Indiana, where it was supposed Morgan would attack and capture the important railroad junctions at that place. These forces would be sent back to Seymour on Saturday, July 11, and then on to North Vernon later on Sunday July 12, 1863.

Confusing and misleading reports about Morgan and the direction taken by his forces flooded the Governor's office. Some telegraphed reports stated that Morgan was attempting to escape the Legion forces by way of Madison, causing great anxiety amongst the citizens of Jefferson and Jennings Counties

ed he	two infantry companies were form- are on Friday, and armed. And at
Bron	nstown and Ewing two horse com.
panie	es were also formed. In the mean-
time	a pretty heavy force of regular
troop	s were concentrated here. Trains
were	also constantly passing with hasti-
ly m	ustered and equipped troops from
point	s east of this on the O. & M. rail- Col. Kennedy Brown, of Jennings
way.	Col. Kennedy Brown, of Jennings
coun	ty, raised in about twenty-four
hour	s, some six hundred men, and pass-
ed he	ere with them on Friday for Mitch-
el, w	here Gen. James Hughes was con-
centr	ating the militia. Gen. Hughes
with	most of his force was removed to
Vern	on in time to assist in its . defence.
A	rebel scout was caught in New
Farm	ington two miles south of this
place	on Saturday morning. He was iring the way to Columbus. On told by some women that he
enqui	iring the way to Columbus. On
being	told by some women that he
could	n't pass the pickets he turned his
borse	and fled in true Morgan style
Bato	old Sam McBride, late of the 39th
who	has hunted rebels till he knows
them	by instinct, perceiving the flying
lugit	ve, made chase upon an old tacky
and	with an old gun that wouldn't
stand	cocked, he brought the " insolent
inrad	er" to a halt. Sam was assisted
by a	couple of his neighbors. The
priso	ner was brought in, but made no
At	3 o'clock to-day our advices are
Lant I	the rebels were shelled by boats
Detay	ee Aurora and Rising Sun, and
coat t	hey met a force on the I. & C. rail-
road	which they couldn't compete with,
anu t	hat they are falling back upon the
same	route they advanced upon, and
are w	ithin two and a half miles of Os. or in the neighborhood of Ver-
good,	

A portion of the July 17, 1863 Seymour Times that includes a reference to the 9th Regiment.

Smith Vawter, who later joined the Vernon Greys on July 11th as a private, wired Governor Morton directly on Friday, July 10th, 1863:

"Our Legion has been ordered away. Can people here do anything to prevent his escape?"

The reply from Governor Morton said simply to organize and prepare. Our citizens went immediately into action, armed themselves with any weapons available, and formed numerous scouting parties to search the countryside for any sign of Morgan and his Raiders. They did not need to search far. Morgan placed almost 400 skirmishers around Vernon to mask the movements of his main body on the Richland Road, about one mile south of Vernon.

Being described in the report of General Mansfield as "some troops from Jennings County", or as also described by General Love in his report as "the armed citizens of Jennings County", about 100 citizen soldiers armed with their own squirrel rifles, shotguns, and pistols hastily organized and prepared defenses on the hills and bluffs surrounding Vernon. These Jennings County men joined with the forces of Colonel Hugh Williams and a contingent of 178 men and officers belonging to his 11th Regiment Indiana Legion. Colonel Williams had senior command of all the forces assembled in Vernon on July 11th until General Love arrived.

This small command also included three menacing pieces of artillery under Captain Miller, which assuredly boosted the moral of all the loyal Union men involved. They are all confident in their ability to at least delay Morgan and his Raiders at Vernon until more Legion reinforcements can arrive.



Federal artillery reenactors in action at Vernon.

In epic fashion, and truly being one of the most notable occurrences during this emergency, this tiny combined force twice refused to surrender the town of Vernon on July 11th, 1863.

General John Love of the Indiana Legion leading 1,000 Indiana Legion "Minute Men", Indiana Infantry, and Michigan infantry marched into Vernon on July 11th, 1863 at approximately 5:00 p.m.

General Love and his command staff found Colonel Hugh Williams of the 11th Indiana Legion and his officers in parlay with one of General John Morgan's aides who was under the protection of a flag of truce. The aide was demanding, for the second time, that the defenders of Old Vernon surrender the town.

General Love then countered by demanding that Morgan and his men surrender their force, and that he would *"treat him as a prisoner of war"*, and then asked for two hours to evacuate the women and children before any attack commenced.

The aide gave General Love fifteen minutes. General Love reported "*The women and children* were hurried out of town, and disposition made to defend to the last".

It seemed a vicious fight was imminent, but only one encounter was reported by General Love at North Vernon:

"From reports brought me, and the firing in the rear towards North Vernon, I supposed Morgan intended to march round the town, take North Vernon, and so cut us off. The firing turned out to be a skirmish between some of our men and a detachment of Morgan s men, sent to damage the O & M. R. R. track to the west of North Vernon. Morgan's detachment reached the O & M. R. R., but did no damage beyond such as was repaired in two hours."

Morgan finally turned his forces south, having neither the desire, endurance, nor enough supplies to engage such a large Union force so well deployed on good ground.

Trying desperately to escape Indiana by riding south to Madison and crossing the Ohio River there, General Morgan and his Raiders will soon run into yet another large, angry hornets' nest overflowing with eager Indiana Legion cold steel and minié balls.

Colonel Sam Serring, 9th Regiment (Jefferson) Indiana Legion, describes the forces that gathered in Madison to repulse the Raiders:

"..... the Legion from Johnson and Bartholomew counties arrived, numbering some 400 men. Early next morning we were further re-enforced by a regiment of the Legion from Switzerland County, numbering 500 men, also, one section of artillery from the same county thus furnishing us a force of about 2,000 men, Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery."

This combined force made sure the Confederate Cavaliers could not safely enter Madison nor cross the Ohio River into Kentucky.

Colonel Sam Serring continues in his report from Madison:

"Until late in the afternoon, we were much annoyed by uncertain and contradictory reports from our scouts in front.

Morgan's forces were reported on every road leading in this direction, and until late in the afternoon we were not advised that his main column was moving to the north of us, and thus threatening to enter the city from the north side. Ascertaining that his whole force had gone in this direction, at 12 o clock Saturday night, we got our force into column and marched in the direction of North Madison, distant 6 miles.

The night being exceedingly dark, we did not reach that point until daylight Sunday morning. Soon after arriving at this point, our scouts came in and reported Morgan's forces again on the roads leading to North Madison.

Our troops were immediately thrown into line of battle, and every preparation made to give them a warm reception.

Later in the day it was ascertained that the enemy was moving in the direction of Versailles, Ripley County, but fearing that he might suddenly change his direction, our troops were kept in line, resting on their arms, until Monday morning, when learning that the enemy was moving east, we went into camp at North Madison...."

Brigadier General Hughes held our 9th Regiment (Jennings) in Seymour with his main body. With rumors circulating through the ranks that Morgan's men had burned and looted homes in Jennings County, Colonel Kennedy Brown wired Governor Morton directly on Saturday, July 11, 1863:

"General Wilcox order for General Hughes to proceed to Columbus to guard bridges is causing great dissatisfaction in my command. We have 500 Jennings County men with us that believe Morgan is ravaging their homes. Do have General Wilcox to withdraw the order and allow General Hughes to march for North Vernon."

Almost a day would pass before General Hughes would receive orders from Brigadier General Wilcox to transport our Regiment to North Vernon. One can only imagine the anxiety, angst, and worry amongst Colonel Brown's command.

As the Legion forces were drawing their lines of battle at Vernon and north of Madison, Raider scouts reported the prickly situation to their General. The weary Morgan's Raiders are then forced to turn northeast, frantically seeking another escape from the Indiana Legion.

It would take hours for the long Confederate column to redirect at Dupont towards the State of Ohio, their southern passage now effectively blocked by a very strong Legion presence, but the cavaliers still found enough time to steal civilian property and pillage the town of anything edible.

Confederate scouts continually probed the Legion forces who were in line of battle north of Madison in order to confuse the Union commanders and to mask the eastern retreat of the Rebel main column.

Counter to that, the rear guard of Morgan's column will be constantly hounded by the mounted Union forces of General Hobson's Provisional Cavalry, who were just a few hours behind the Confederate invasion force, riding hard cross-country out of Paris.

Morgan's rear guard will also be attacked by a small, aggressive patrol of Jennings County men riding southeast out of Vernon towards Dupont.

At 1:00am on Sunday, July 12, 1863 General Love ordered Captain A.W. Boyd and 20 mounted citizen soldiers of the *Butlerville Minute Men* to scout towards Dupont and ascertain the position of Morgan. These men of the 9th Regiment (Jennings) returned to Vernon at 8:00am on July 12 with Confederate prisoners and valuable information of the condition and whereabouts of the confederate forces.

Captain Boyd made a brief but detailed report of this mission on his Company Muster-Out Roll:

"By Permission of Gen. Love at Vernon I took 20 of my Cavalrymen when Morgan began his Retreat from that place and after pursuing him some 8 miles and in the mean time I sent 8 men back as messengers to Gen. Love asking for Reinforcements But kept advancing until I came up with the enemys Regard and whitch I attacked and captured (16) men whitch I turned over to Gen. Love.

My men all furnished themselves with sutch armes as they could get until we captured those (16) with all there armes and accoterments.

I captured in all some 50 Head of Horses 100 muskets and 20 revolvers and sundrys.

I pursued on in to Ohio and then returned."

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Muster-Out Roll for the "Butlerville Minutemen" (Morgan's Raid July 1863). Note the report by Captain Boyd on the lower right.

General John Love made special note of this critical mission in his official report to Governor Morton:

"At 1:00 o'clock at night, the Recorder of Jennings County, Thos. Riley, Esq., who was taken prisoner in the morning, made his way into town, and gave me information that Morgan had marched towards Dupont. I sent all the mounted men I could raise ... about twenty ... under Capt. Boyd, to follow him. Our Scouts followed to within two miles of Dupont, returning about 8:00 o'clock in the morning with twenty prisoners, their horses, arms and equipments."

At about 9:00am on Sunday, July 12, General Lew Wallace arrived in Vernon with additional forces and took command.

General Hughes' brigade at Seymour, which included the now disgruntled 500 man force of our 9th Regiment (Jennings), finally received orders to return to North Vernon on the morning of Sunday July 12, 1863. They arrived back that evening after a long march from Seymour to a scene more akin to Bunker (Breeds) Hill in 1775 rather that the quiet and tranquil vision of hearth and home etched into their memories

Brigadier General Wilcox sent a dispatch to General Lew Wallace at North Vernon:

"Indianapolis, July 12, 1863

General Wallace, North Vernon:

Dispatch received. General Hughes was about leaving Seymour for North Vernon this Morning. Must be there at this time. Please direct him to keep his mounted men well out, and communicate with me constantly and as readily as possible. If Morgan has gone to Madison, even with his whole force, you will have enough troops without Hughes at Madison. Please order Hughes to keep his infantry ready to move on the cars at either Seymour or North Vernon and send out all the mounted force he has or can collect. Both harass Morgan and bring in information. Will you please communicate as repeatedly as possible with me concerning the whereabouts of Morgan from time to time. Shall hold troops here ready to take the cars to Lawrenceburg, and boats are now waiting there to transport the troops along the river above Madison. Boyle will look out for him should he attempt to cross below Madison. Let us bag the scoundrels without fail.

O.B. Willcox Brigadier General"

General Lew Wallace was extremely adamant to press all the mounted troops from Seymour and surrounding communities in action to keep the pressure on Morgan's column. He sent numerous dispatches requesting mounted troops. The few companies of Cavalry within the Indiana Legion was very troubling to the General. He would later remark in his report to Governor Morton:

"It is very much regretted that the Legion consists so entirely of infantry. Two or three regiments of cavalry would have stopped Morgan before he passed into Ohio. I respectfully suggest attention to the organization of that arm of the service."



General Lew Wallace

The 102nd, 103rd, 112th, 113th, and 114th Regiments of Indiana Legion *"Minutemen"* reported being stationed in North Vernon on Monday, July 13th 1863, fully armed and equipped to pursue Morgan's Raiders.

Colonel Hiram F. Baxter's 112th Regiment and Colonel George W. Burge's 113th Regiment were put under Brigadier General Hughes' direct command, our 9th Regiment already being with General Hughes brigade since July 10. This now strongly reinforced brigade was loaded into boxcars and were ordered to Osgood.

The 102nd Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin M. Gregory and the 103rd Regiment commanded by Colonel Shuler proved to be an extremely valuable asset to the forces gathering at Vernon, as both Regiments provided companies of men to mount horses and pursue, harass, and attack Morgan wherever possible. Colonel Shuler will be given command of this cavalry detachment by General Lew Wallace.

General Wallace would not waste one moment deploying these mounted men, reporting:

"While at Vernon I issued an order for the collection, by impressment, of all the horses within three miles of the place.

So industrially did Col. Shuler, to whom the business was entrusted, work, that by 3 o'clock he had one hundred and sixty horses. These were mounted by detail from his Regiment and Col. Gregory's. The command of the detachment was given Col. Shuler, and he at once started in pursuit, with orders to follow Morgan vigorously, never leaving his trail while in Indiana.

The Colonel, I am glad to say, outstripped Gen. Hobson's cavalry, and overtook the enemy at Harrison, where he reports having quite a skirmish."

The other Minutemen Regiments would remain with General Wallace at Vernon as security there until Wallace's entire command was called up for support of General Hughes' Brigade.

With the Indiana Legion massed and equipped to engage them, Morgan and his Raiders fled towards Ohio. By late afternoon on July 13, 1863, General Hughes and his Brigade were now at Osgood, where he wired General Lew Wallace:

"Osgood, July 13, 1863

General Wallace, Vernon:

Troops from Cincinnati in Morgan's front fighting him. Hobson in rear, near river. Myself, Mullen, and others a long line in his rear, but need artillery, and etc. Come with your whole force. I send back my trains for you. Use them and turn them over to me again. Land at Osgood.

Hughes, Brigadier General"

The infantry again proved to be less than adequate for pursuing mounted troops, and by Tuesday July 14, General Wallace and his forces arrived in Osgood where General Hughes' Brigade was already starting their march towards Sunman's station. Wallace then wired General Willcox:

"July 14, 1863 General Willcox, Indianapolis:

I beg you will let me get wagons to put my men in. Sticking to railroad lines will never enable us to catch Morgan. I have here Hughes brigade and Love's and the battery, all in excellent condition, and about 4'500 effective. By tomorrow morning I will have wagon transportation for the whole, and will make sixty miles in fifteen hours. Say the word and let me go on.

Lew Wallace, Major General"

Brigadier General Willcox replied: *"Morgan is already across Little Miami and beyond. Can't say the word."*

General Wallace would later report to Governor Morton:

"On the 14th, I marched to Sunman's station, on the Indianapolis and Lawrenceburgh Railroad, a few miles beyond Milan, joining General Hughes. His command, added to mine made a force of about fifty-five hundred strong, amply sufficient to have flogged the enemy in an open field fight."

The Legion Cavalry detachments deployed by Wallace and Hughes did remain in contact with the enemy, and would harass the Confederate Raiders constantly, even into Ohio.

Once forced out of Indiana and into the Buckeye State, the infamous "Morgan's Raid" will end in failure for the Confederate Cavalier, with he and a large portion of his command imprisoned or killed.

The Raider's never seemed to lose heart, and skirmishes would erupt constantly throughout Ohio along his route. As if to illustrate the Raider's strength of purpose, a battle was waged at Buffington Island on the Pennsylvania/Ohio border on July 19, 1863, six days after he entered Ohio. General John Hunt Morgan was captured near West Point, Ohio on Sunday July 26, 1863, thus ending the longest Confederate raid of the Civil War.

Morgan did manage to later escape his prison cell, and in less than one year he will once again be raiding and pillaging Kentucky, and threatening to do the same on Indiana soil.

Although never having the opportunity to engage Morgan's column as a full Regiment in a standing fight, our 9th Regiment was always ready for action, and there was now little doubt that if that opportunity had presented itself, our Indiana Legion would be prepared and eager to stand and deliver hot lead and cold steel.

As for the brave citizen soldiers who formed with Colonel Williams at Vernon, one need only to review the reports of those Union commanders who witnessed the event. The reports of Indiana Legion General John Love and Colonel Hugh Williams stated high regard for the **"armed citizens of Jennings County"**, and contained equally high praise for the behavior of the non-combatants of Vernon during the infamous Morgan's Raid.

General Love remarks that "no people could have behaved better than did the citizens of Vernon, and particularly would I speak of the women and children. When they found it was necessary for them to leave, temporarily, their homes, not an exciting sound or act escaped them, and all moved out calmly. It should be to us all a source of congratulation at the alacrity and earnestness with which our citizens, to a man, sprang to arms, and vied with each other who should be foremost and render the most service." The entire 9th Regiment (Jennings) returned home on July 17, 1863. 1864 would also prove to be less than peaceful.



The recreated Company A "Vernon Greys" at the Vernon Cemetery.



Captain A.W. Boyd (portrayed by the Author) of the "Butlerville Minutemen" proudly displaying two revolvers taken from captured Confederate Cavaliers after attacking Morgan's column north of Dupont on July 12, 1863.

Chapter 3: The Emergency of June 1864

On June 9, 1864, General John Morgan once again raided northern Kentucky and postured to invade Indiana soil to revenge his failed attempt at glory just eleven months prior.

Our Regiment once again answered a call into service to defend our borders. On June 11th, 1864 the 9th Regiment (Jennings) gathered in Vernon in pursuance of orders to deploy in Madison with their fellow citizen soldiers of the 9th Regiment (Jefferson) Indiana Legion.

The mission of this combined force numbering near 1,500 men at arms was to defend the Madison area and to be ready and equipped for possible transport to Jeffersonville and Louisville if needed to engage the Confederate forces threatening those cities.

The eleven companies of the 9th Regiment (Jennings) who participated in this mission are:

Captain Solon B. Cowell's Vernon Greys (Company A) Captain James Craig's Bigger Guards (Company B) Captain James T. Spaulding's Freedom Guards (Company C) Captain Luther Davis' Butlerville Guards (Company D) Captain Manlove G. Butler's Scipio Guards (Company E) Captain Allen W. Lett's Mount Zion Guards (Company F) Captain Joseph B. Smith's Queensville Guards (Company H) Captain James H. Wilson's Paris Guards (Company I) Captain William Stewart's Marion Guards (Company K) Captain George W. Adams' Jennings Rangers (Company L) Captain William F. Carpenter's Wolf Creek Scouts (formed in August 1863)

This emergency turned out to be a false alarm with but a few skirmishes in Kentucky and Southeast Indiana, so both Regiments received orders to cease operations, resulting in our Regiment returning home on June 14, 1864 with no incidents reported.

Colonel Kennedy Brown of our 9th Regiment (Jennings) gave a brief account of this deployment by simply writing "*on duty in Madison four days*".

Fortunately, Colonel Sam Serring of our sister Regiment in Jefferson County reports in more detail: (June 9, 1864) "On that day I received an order from Gov. Morton, to immediately assemble my command and hold them subject to further orders. The companies of my command promptly responded to the call, and on the 12th day of June, I was directed to secure transportation by the river and be in readiness to embark my command for Jeffersonville. Boats were secured and we remained here under these orders until June 15th, 1864, when by order of the Governor, the command was dismissed and sent to their homes. During this service it was found necessary to guard closely the border along the front of our county, in

consequence of the presence of a Confederate force in Trimble and Henry counties, Kentucky."

A show of force seemed all that was necessary to keep the confederate forces in check and our borders secure. Our Regiment adds another successful mission to its now long list of achievements.



Memorial stones, such as this one for Sgt. Detlinger of the "Vernon Greys", are erected for 9th Indiana Legion Veterans in cemeteries throughout Jennings County. "Remember the 9th!"

Chapter 4: A Standing Security against Invasion and Depredation

In the spring and summer months of the year 1861, the eligible citizens in Jennings County were busily forming their Indiana Legion companies in every town, and the Officers of the 9th Regiment (Jennings) Indiana Legion were pleased to inspect and review between 400 and 700 civilian soldiers at each Battalion Muster.

Other good citizens of Jennings County eagerly mustered into Indiana Volunteer Regiments by the wagonload every day.

Accusations and rumors seemed to start immediately that some within the ranks of our own 9th Regiment might not have the best interests of the Union in mind.

United States history illustrates time and time again that differences of opinion coupled with politics will always enter any situation that involves Militia, especially at the command level.

In September 1861, a group of Regiment and Company officers in the Ninth Regiment voiced concern that Colonel George W. Malick, the Ninth Regiment senior commander in 1861 and early 1862, would not allow our Regiment to be deployed in Kentucky if needed, and penned letters to the Governor in protest.

Lt. Colonel James H. Vawter resigned his commission on September 26, 1861, and is sufficiently blunt with his reasoning. He writes in his letter of resignation to Governor Morton:

"I found it impossible to amicably get along with our Colonel.....I do not charge that Colonel Malick is not willing to defend his Country, but I do say the Col. Malick did throw cold water on the movement to go to Kentucky – informing the men that it was a matter of choice whether they would go to Ky. Or not – that such of language has the effect of discouraging any effort to take the men to Kentucky."

Due to our close proximity to the border with Kentucky, most Officers of the Ninth would eagerly cross the Ohio River and engage the Confederates, just as other Indiana Legion Regiments have already done and many more would be ordered to do over the next four years.

This perceived sign of command weakness, coupled with the difficulty of procuring arms and equipment, unfortunately resulted in a few Regiment officers, Company officers, and volunteers resigning throughout 1861 and 1862.

The next segment of this chapter requires us to delve into the volatile politics within Jennings County during the war.

The Republicans in 1861 are characterized as being staunchly in support of the recent decision by President Lincoln to raise volunteer troops and invade Virginia to engage the secessionists, and most supported preserving the Union "at any hazard". In contrast, a small percentage of Republicans still held on the false hope that the hostilities would end quickly, that cooler heads would prevail, and the two crisis issues of slavery and State's Rights could be solved without further bloodshed.

The Democrats of the time were also splintered into two factions. One faction was characterized as "Treasonous Rebels", "Butternuts", and "dangerous Copperheads"; most of these men being political extremists interested in organizing and arming Confederate sympathizers within Indiana. The other faction desperately labored to convince the Republican majority to pursue a more peaceful and diplomatic way to deal with the Secessionists, and supported preserving the Union using the negotiation table rather than the battlefield.

Two years later in 1863, when all hopes of peace lay shattered and only a vision of total war remained, the accusations reached fever pitch.

Throughout the war, an unknown number of Jennings County citizens were forming with groups such as the "Knights of the Gold Circle" ("KGC") and "The Sons of Liberty"; extremist and oftentimes violent organizations sympathetic to the Confederate States of America.

A single letter written directly to Governor Morton in March of 1863 would have a chilling effect on Jennings County's own Colonel Kennedy Brown and the entire 9th Regiment:

"Retreat, Jackson County, Ind. March the 2nd, 1863 Governor O.P. Morton Dear Sir,

While we have traitors among us I believe that the interest of the State as well as our Nation requires that you be informed who they are. We have many of them all calling themselves Democrats (do not understand me to call all Democrats traitors) but I desire to call your attention to one James* E. Wilson of Jennings County, Who is Captain in the Indiana Legion, he is also Chairman of an Organization to oppose the Government in the prosecution of the war. My brother William N. McDonald was at one of these meetings, he informed me that Capt. Wilson declared the object of the meeting to be "To protect deserters and to use our influence to affect a compromise with the South". I am personally acquainted with James* E. Wilson and many of his men. There are a few true men in his Company, but I regard most of them as Disloyal. I will assure you that Captain J.E. Wilson will not do to trust.

Respectfully Yours, John McDonald" (2)

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The letter to Governor Morton from John McDonald.

These scathing accusations seemed to cause an uproar in Indianapolis. The Adjutant General had all state arms in Jennings County collected on March 23, 1863. Was it then simply coincidence that this collection of arms occurred so soon after the Governor received the correspondence from John McDonald, or did John McDonald's accusations persuade the Governor to completely disarm the Ninth?

Perhaps this effort was simply to collect and inspect the state arms and provide an opportunity for the state to procure better and more standardized weapons for the regiment? More evidence is needed to opine further on this matter.

Regardless, the Ninth Regiment would not be deterred by these disheartening occurrences. On April 13th, 1863, armed only with enthusiasm, 500 men and officers of the Ninth Regiment mustered for Battalion drill. The Regiment muster rolls, which included Captain Wilson and the *Cana Cadets*, were sent to Governor Morton and Adjutant General Noble, and this "Grand Encampment" in Vernon seemed to quell any fears in Indianapolis that the Ninth Regiment was infiltrated by traitors.

The Regiment was re-armed on July 9, 1863 with 600 .69" caliber French rifled muskets. The rifled muskets were issued so the Ninth could properly defend the State during the Great Emergency of 1863 ("Morgan's Raid").

When the Regiment was ordered to Vernon for the distribution of arms and equipment on July 9, 1863, Captain J.E. Wilson and the Cana Cadets were tardy in reporting to Colonel Brown, and only 1/3rd of the Cana Cadets mustered for duty. In fact, none of the Cana Cadets reported in Vernon as ordered, but arrived much later in Seymour on July 10, 1863, where the 9th was waiting for transport to Mitchell.

Colonel Brown was furious. Could John and William McDonald be correct? Where was the rest of the *Cana Cadets*? The other companies of the Ninth reported to Colonel Brown complete and ready for action, with the Regiment boasting 500 loyal men at arms.

The Regiment was ordered back to Seymour from Mitchell on July 11, and then from Seymour to Vernon on July 12 to prepare for the pursuit of Morgan, joining the combined forces of Generals Hughes, Wallace, and Love numbering near 5'000 men. The 9th was then ordered to Osgood, and were marched overland and stationed at Sunman on July 13. At the conclusion of this Great Emergency, the 9th Regiment finally returned home to Vernon on July 17, 1863, and the individual companies resumed their normal Legion duties and drill...normal duty and drill, that is, unless you happen to be a *Cana Cadet*.

An angrily penned letter from Colonel Brown to the Adjutant General on August 20, 1863 would result in Captain Wilson's rank being removed, and the entire company of *Cana Cadets* to disband:

"Vernon, Ind Aug 20th, 63

Gen. Noble Sir,

I herwith charge Captain John E. Wilson of disobedience of Orders in not assembling his Company and coming to Vernon as ordered when Morgan first invaded this state on about the 9th of July 1863.

Also of expressing disloyal sentiments in saying that he had helped the government the last time he intended to.

Should said John E. Wilson want arms, ammunition, or anything pertaining to an outfit for the Company do not allow his requisition to be filled. Yours,

Kennedy Brown, Colonel 9th" (2)

smin. Ond Aug. is. I hermith att John & Willson disolectioner n not astembelesis his compos in ming the Vernica at and first Invaded This State when a isc or aling - The 11/19 distant deni mente alle quierment in daying to time he ever intender the last Willsen want ams Avula Auid aunitions or anighting chartening to an du most alband milit for this company I to be fillace the requipition to be filled unil Tennady Obenn ledont, 930

Colonel Brown's letter to Adjutant General Noble.

Captain J.E. Wilson certainly could not stand for his reputation to be tarnished in such a manner, especially since he and the Cana Cadets have served the Regiment and the State so enthusiastically since July of 1861.

In typical military fashion, The Adjutant General sent a dispatch to Captain Wilson with the contents of Colonel Brown's accusations, and was allowed to officially reply and provide his comments prior to any official charges being forwarded to General Mansfield of the Third Brigade Indiana Legion.

Captain Wilson defended himself in a lengthy reply penned to the Adjutant General on September 1, 1863:

"Cana Jennings Co In Sept 1st 1863 Mr. Laz Noble adjutant general

Dear Sir yours of the 21st at hand and I hasten to answer the same as to the charges pressed against me by Col. Brown they are totally unfounded as to the first specification in his charge I have this to say on the 9th of July last I received a notice requesting me to muster my command and report myself and company to Vernon this evening by 8 o'clock PM if possible I told the courier that my company was so scattered that it was impossible and requested him to state to Brown and he said he would and so I mounted my horse immediately and started to notify the company it was about noon when I received the notice I rode that evening and the greater part of that night and the next day I was at Seymour sending to Columbus and Madora after some of the boys Col. Brown came then and I _______ the Col. And asked him what I should do go to Vernon and get the guns or take the cars and follow on to Mitchell to this the Col. Made no answer but turned on his heal and left me

_______stating that he had guns a lot ______for me but the citizens would take them and follow I pushed on got my company together and reported to my Legion commander of the post at Seymour and was there armed and put to work to placing picket and guard duty and on the 11th I think it was Col. Brown and the Regiment returned to Seymour and the facts was then stated to him and his answer was there was no transportation and we remained at Seymour until his change by the commander of the post and if a man is accountable for not doing a thing that is impossible for him to do then I am accountable and not otherwise I am

As to the second item in the bill I have this much to say I never had any conversation with Col. Brown relative to our present National trouble at any time and would like the Colonel to designate the time and place nor did I exercise the language as stated that I had helped the government the last time I intended to but to the reverse I have on all occasions stated that I was willing to give all I possessed and that is not much and to get our present National troubles through with and begin the _____ a new if by so doing it could be accomplished and that time and money was nothing to be compared to the loss of our government.

Yours J.E. Wilson Capt. Cana Cadets "(2)

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Page 2 of Captain Wilson's letter to Adjutant General Noble.

Wilson's defense fell on deaf ears. The Cana Cadets ceased then to exist as an organized Company in the Indiana Legion.

It is interesting to note that there were no more known accusations of treason or disloyalty within the 9th penned to the Governor, and the Regiment's performance can be accurately summed up by The Adjutant General report at the end of the conflict in 1865:

"The Regiment was a very good one, and on all occasions exhibited a commendable readiness to obey any call that might be made." (1)

Also in contrast to the aforementioned political conflict, a letter penned by Captain David Moffat to his Freedom Guards upon his resignation in August 1863, one month after The Great Emergency of 1863, illustrates the feelings of brotherhood and strength of purpose within other companies of the 9th Regiment:

"Freedom Guards,

Being removed from Jennings County, and it being to your interest to have a captain with you, I have sent to the Governor through Col. Brown, my resignation of the office of Captain, which I have held in the company since its organization.

The occasion calls for a few words from me: It is over two years ago since you conferred upon me the highest honor in your exclusive gift. Unexpectedly to myself and against my own wishes you unanimously elected me. With diffident hesitancy I accepted what I did then, have ever since esteemed an honor, - not because it was a captaincy, for that ordinarily amounts to very little, but because it was the captaincy of the Freedom Guards.

As to the manner in which I have discharged my official duty it becomes me to say little. I have tried to do my duty in the government of the company. I determined from the very first to aim to control more by moral than by military power;- not to depend on the power officially in my hands, but on the reason and honor of the members of the company. I said to myself, "I know the Freedom Guards. They are intelligent true and honorable men. Show any one his duty and he will do it cheerfully. They don't need a commander so much as one to regulate and superintend the company affairs." I was not deceived, true and honorable, I have found you to be. Mistakes doubtless I have sometimes made but today I can say upon looking back over the period of my official relation with you, that I do not remember an act of mine whose motive I could wish to change. I am not conscious of a single act of mine, as your captain which did not spring from a sense of duty to the service, to the company, or to the individual members. To a military officer within these three departments, lies his duty to his God.

During all the time of my official connection with you, harmony as perfect and entire as ever falls to the lot of erring mortals has reigned among us and now at parting with you, I can say from the heart that I regard you all as personal friends, and that my love and esteem for you are not clouded by a single grudge or grievance. Why should it be so? Every day that I have been with you has only given you a renewed opportunity which you have invariably used to add to the weight of my obligation to love, honor and esteem you. To the Lieutenants, whose constant cordial and generous manifestation of friendship I can never forget. I have nothing new to give for they have always had my highest esteem and unshaken confidence.

To the non-commissioned officer, Sergeants and Corporals, for their able and efficient service, and prompt and cheerful attention to orders, I offer my sincerest thanks.

Freedom Guards, Officers and Privates, to you all for the noble generous and ever indulgent manner in which you have individually and collectively treated me as your Captain, I can make no return except the offering of the sincere tribute of a heart which shall cherish your memory, with the warmest affection, and esteem, while it continues to beat. Here I would stop and suppress one of the biggest thoughts in my mind, but I cannot. The memory of the noble dead claims a place here. The dust of some of them sleeps near you. The blood of others who have gone out from us, has been offered a willing sacrifice on the altar of our common country. Holier blood has never dyed a battle field of the Union, than that which former Freedom Guards have shed. Nobler hearts and purer spirits have not gone forth to battle, than those who went out from among us. Peace be the ashes of the dead, and honor to the memory of the living. For I cannot but remember too those who still stand on the field of action for liberty and Union. Indeed our little company has been a Patriotic military training school for the army. And when I think what has made our numbers so few, I feel proud that they are so few. Your own service, brother soldiers, you do not put it in comparison with that of those who have gone into the Federal army, yet it has been useful, timely and upon your part self sacrificing. And auspicious as this hour in the history of the war is, your country may yet have need of you. The prospect is bright and cheering. The armies of the Union are everywhere victorious but let us not think the war is over. Think not the danger is over. Preserve you organization, perfect your drill, learn to shoot to a hairs bredth; trust in God and the justice of our cause: and remember if you are called on to fight, I want to have a gun and be with you. I say the war is not over. I would hope the worst is over, but it is best to be prepared for any emergency. And let the war be long or short, ultimate victory is sure. That the principles for which we are fighting shall prevail, I have no shadow of a doubt. God reigns, and truth and right shall triumph, and triumph as they always have done, in the past, through suffering.

The blood of this war is a fountain of purification, and our country shall yet come up from it, regenerated, redeemed, more lovely, and more loved than ever before.

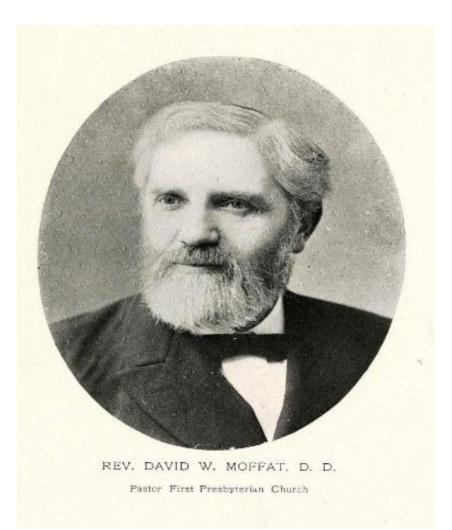
Let every patriot do his duty, and no danger of the result.

Let us have no armistice or truce with traitors in arms.

Let not the patriotic lives which have been sacrificed in this war, be sacrificed in vain. Let us conquer a peace that shall be righteous, pure, and enduring, as right and purity.

Let nothing rotten be wrapped up in it. Let us not throw a vail over the course of the war, and say peace. Such a peace would be but a delusion, disastrous in its results. When this war commenced I was opposed to the idea of the Government interfering with slavery. I wished to see the Union restored without reference to slavery, one way or the other, I looked to peaceful means to do away with that curse of our country. But the logic of events has convinced me as it has thousands of others, that the only permanent peace we can obtain, is that which shall have no cause of war, wrapped up in it. My faith is that we shall have such a peace, and that when our country comes up from this baptism of blood, her skirts dripping with the crimson life tide of her brave and patriotic sons, she shall come up purified from the foulest blot that has heretofore stained her robes of Liberty.

But I have detained you too long. Again I beg you to accept my sincerest love and highest esteem. And with the most ardent good wishes for your welfare as individual friends, and as a company, I bid you my beloved fellow soldiers, a most affectionate farewell. D.W. Moffat"



Chapter Notes:

*Captain JOHN E. Wilson (Cana Cadets) is documented many times on the 1861-1863 Regiment muster sheets and AG reports, and "James E. Wilson" is perceived to be an error by Mr. Jackson. The personal acquaintance claim by Mr. Jackson might then be construed as exaggerated (?). It is interesting to note that Second Lieutenant / First Lieutenant / Captain James H. Wilson (Paris Guards) is also documented many times in the Regimental Muster Sheets July 17 1861 through 1865.

The Wilson family were numerous within the Paris and Cana communities, and many served within the ranks of the 9th Indiana Legion.

(1) Terrell, William Henry Harrison. Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana (Volumes 1 through 8). Indianapolis: A.H. Connor [etc.] State Printer, 1865. Web.

(2) Jennings County Indiana Legion Papers, Indiana State Archives, Commission on Public Records, Indianapolis. Print. NOTE: Now contained within two volumes of microfilm at the Jennings County Public Library

The Moffat letter and photograph is Courtesy of the Jennings County Public Library

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