

THE  
UNION REGIMENTS  
OF KENTUCKY.

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*Published Under the Auspices of the Union Soldiers  
and Sailors Monument Association.*

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**The Regimental Histories and Sketch of Military Campaigns,  
By CAPT. THOS. SPEED.**

**Political Conditions During the War,  
By COL. R. M. KELLY.**

**Biographical Sketches,  
By MAJ. ALFRED PIRTLE.**

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## PREFACE.

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In the year 1866, the report of the adjutant-general of Kentucky was published. Gen. D. W. Lindsey, the adjutant-general, had served as colonel of the 22d Ky. Infantry. His service in the field, and also in the work of organizing troops in Kentucky, gave him a wide acquaintance with the regiments of his own state, and enabled him to make some general mention of each one in connection with the publication of the roster of officers and men.

It was not practicable then to make a complete history of the regiments. A few of them are mentioned in a manner somewhat complete, but most of them have only a few lines to tell the story of their services. The plan of the book was such as to require it to be in two unusually large volumes, and both on account of bulkiness and expense it could in no sense be a popular work. While the matter in it is invaluable, it has never served the purpose of a book which the soldiers might be possessed of, and in which they could trace the services of themselves and their comrades of the different regiments.

A popular work of this sort has been contemplated a number of years. It was hoped that it would be accomplished by the Federal Historical Society of Kentucky fifteen years ago, but it was not.

At that time Col. John Mason Brown, the president of that society, said in an address:

There has as yet been no history of the Kentucky troops prepared beyond the adjutant-general's report of muster rolls. Even the larger facts pertinent to Kentucky regiments are difficult of ascertainment for want of written memorial. It is scarcely possible to say in what corps or campaigns our several regiments participated, for to trace them through the mass of official reports is impossible to the general reader, and no special account has been prepared.

Since that time the Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association of Kentucky has been organized at Louisville, having for its object the erection of a monument. This association has, under its auspices, had this volume prepared, which is issued in the hope and belief that it will fill a want which has been seriously felt ever since the close of the war.

The injustice to the Union troops of Kentucky by historians who have written general histories of Kentucky since the war makes the need for true and adequate ac-

counts painfully apparent. In none of these histories are the facts stated which show the marked prominence of these troops in the campaigns of the West, the proof of which abundantly appears in the official records. Shaler's History of Kentucky (Commonwealth series), which is most widely circulated, is unjust both negatively and positively. Not only does it fail in the manner stated, but it is unfair in what it does say. For instance in the mention of Gen. J. T. Boyle. This officer was an honored Kentuckian, who held a high position in the esteem of his countrymen before and after the war. At the beginning of the conflict he proved his military qualities by calling to the field a brigade of volunteers, and leading his brigade with the highest credit at Shiloh. On account of his character and known ability he was placed in command of the District of Kentucky, and in the discharge of the important and delicate duties of the position he was noted for his fairness, justice and moderation. Yet he is most harshly and unjustly censured by Shaler. The spirit of Shaler's book is shown by the emphasis he gives to Morgan's Confederate Cavalry, and the little heed it takes of the fact that Kentucky's Union Cavalry regiments protected the state against Morgan, neutralizing his efforts, and at last capturing him.

The small account that Shaler takes of Kentucky's splendid contingent of Union troops in the field and at the front battling for the Union with the great armies under the lead of many of the noblest men of the state, while he dwells with delight on the exploits of Morgan, is the natural result of his spirit as an historian.

Collins in his history collected facts mingled with errors, and the whole is pervaded with a manifest aversion to the Union cause. The reader would conclude from Collins that Kentucky was held in the Union by despotic force, although the truth was (as is shown even by his own book) that voters of Kentucky rejected secession and stood for the Union by a great majority, and it is also a fact shown by the records that the soldier spirit of Kentucky was by far most strongly manifested on behalf of the Union.

Smith's history, like the others, purports to be a general history of Kentucky, yet instead of being impartial gives a purely partisan view of the war period.

It is not the purpose of this volume to present a general history of Kentucky in the war, nor will it bring to view any of the asperities, and controversies of that period. It is a history of the regiments furnished by Kentucky in the struggle for the maintenance of our

**National Union.** The accounts given are intended to present the facts concerning the organization and career of these regiments. It is regretted that they can not be more extended. It would be a pleasure to make greater personal mention, and give details and incidents, but the detailed story of a single regiment would fill a volume, and the present purpose is to devote one volume to more than seventy organizations. It is believed, however, that these sketches will contain enough to make them interesting and valuable. They will show when and where and by whom the regiments were recruited and organized, where they went, in what campaigns they served, and in what battles they fought. The accounts, though brief, are comprehensive, and perhaps better than if longer and more detailed, from the fact that being short they will be read.

When it is considered that such accounts have not been hitherto prepared, and that these have been made up from the most scattered sources of information, including the mention made in the official records of the war, which number more than a hundred volumes, it is believed that the work here presented will be appreciated.

In this connection, and in order that the writer of these sketches may be introduced to those with whom he has not personal acquaintance, he will here publish the following letter written by the commanding officer of the regiment with which he served, the 12th Ky. Veteran Infantry:

Somerset, Ky., Jan. 18, 1897.

Dear Capt. Speed: I am glad to know that you are engaged upon a history of the Kentucky regiments. They sprang to the country's defense promptly and made a fine record, no proper account of them has ever been made. I am sure you will do it well. You know the history of the 12th Infantry. I will not in this short letter undertake to mention personally the officers, many of whom deserve special notice, but I feel it my duty to speak of your valuable services during the time you were with the regiment. You will doubtless remember that you and I were the only field officers present with the regiment for many months, and during this period of time you were doing double service, your duties being arduous and often very dangerous. While you were with the regiment your general services to it were of the very best and brought it up to the highest merit, in discipline and service to the country; for this service the regiment and the country at large owes you a debt of gratitude. I, on behalf of the regiment, tender to you my sincere thanks for the interest you have taken in getting up a history of the Kentucky regiments, knowing that you will do justice to officers and men.

Truly yours,

L. H. ROUSSEAU.

The writer takes pleasure also in publishing the following letter from Gen. Lew. Wallace:

Crawfordsville, Ind., June 5, 1897.

Dear Capt. Speed: Having learned while in Louisville a few days ago that you are preparing a history of the Union regiments of Ken-

tucky, I want to express my hope that you will certainly carry your design into execution, and at an early day.

But little has been written about the Kentucky Union troops and in consequence little is known about them. As I was neighbor to your state I had opportunity to know the important service they rendered. Gov. Morton, of Indiana, felt the great importance of protecting his state by keeping the war across the river. I was cognizant of the use of the Kentucky regiments in defending the cause of the Union both on Kentucky soil and farther south. Having served in Kentucky, I knew many of the gallant officers of that state, as well as her devoted Union men. They did a great work in the cause, and it should long ago have been commemorated in a proper volume.

Your friend, most truly,

LEW. WALLACE.

The following extract from a letter to the writer from Justice John M. Harlan shows the desirability of this work:

It is a good thing for the Kentucky Union soldiers that you have taken in hand the work of preparing a history of the regiments which were organized in our state to support the Union cause. The country at large has never properly understood what was accomplished by the Union men of the border states.

The writer has also received letters urging the completion of the undertaking, from Gen. J. M. Shackelford, Gen. E. H. Hobson, Gen. D. W. Lindsey, and many others.

In the nature of the case it is not possible, in this volume, to do full justice to the officers and men as suggested by Col. Rousseau. It must be agreed by all that the stand they took, both political and military, was beset with difficulties. Yet they were true to the old flag, with an enthusiasm that brushed aside all difficulties. The record they made in the war was peculiarly excellent, as will be seen from the accounts of the several regiments.

The names of the general officers and the officers of regiments show that the Kentucky Union troops were led by many of the best known Kentuckians of that day. The Crittendens, Nelsons, Andersons, Wards, Boones, Frys, Jacksons, Rousseaus, Green Clay Smith, Popes, Hobsons, Boyles, McDowells, Marshalls, Hawkins, Woods, Landrums, Starlings, Buckners, Bristows, Metcalfs, Breathitts, Murrays, Harlans, Shackelfords, Bufords, Garrards, Dudleys, Lindseys, Bruces, Monroes, Prices, Wolfords, Taylors, Mundys, Grigsbys, Fairleighs, Nicholas, Jouetts, Griders, Haggards, Gallups, Croxtons, Whitakers, Breckinridges, Craddock, Bramlettes, Jacobs, Adams, Bullitt, Hanson, Watkins, McHenry, Faulkner, and many times as many more whose names will appear in this work.

The men who enlisted under such leaders were native-born Kentuckians, from every section of the state, the blue grass, the barrens, the mountains, the counties along

the Ohio, and those along Green river, from the southern tier of counties, and the west end. They were the young voters of the state who had voted for the Union at several elections, and who were willing to take up arms for the cause for which they voted.

It is not intended to enlarge on this theme in this place. The political conditions will be presented in a chapter by Col. R. M. Kelly.

In another chapter, biographical sketches of officers holding commissions directly from Washington, and who were not immediately identified with any particular regiment, will be given by Maj. Alfred Pirtle.

The Kentucky regiments served with the armies in the West, and a sketch of the campaigns in which they participated has been prepared.

Information concerning the regiments has been obtained from two main sources, the adjutant-general's report and the records of the war published by Congress. The former has been mentioned; the rosters have been copied from it. The records of the war contain the official reports—Federal and Confederate—of regimental, brigade, division, corps, and army commanders. Also official correspondence. For accurate information nothing can equal this great publication.

The regimental accounts here presented are not based on the lively fancy of individuals seeking to glorify their particular commands. The career of each regiment has been obtained from official data. The writer, however, has been aided by any and all facts obtainable, and here wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Gens. D. W. Lindsey, S. W. Price, E. H. Hobson, W. E. Woodruff, Cols. R. M. Kelly, R. T. Jacob, John H. Ward, Elijah Watts, S. P. Love, H. M. Buckley, W. E. Hobson, I. B. Nall, John Treanor, A. Y. Johnson, Wm. R. Milward, John S. Hurt, Marc Mundy; Maj. W. P. McDowell; Capts. W. H. Mundy, S. D. Brown, M. C. Hutchins, John Speed, John W. Neville, John Baker, Sam McKee; Surgeons S. B. Littlepage, Geo. W. Griffith, J. F. Kimbley.