

# Significant Civil War dates in Louisville History

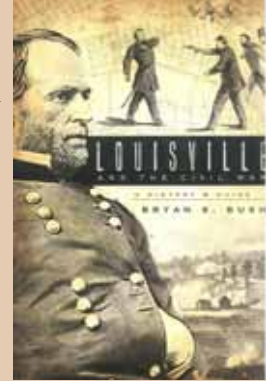


The following Civil War dates were prepared by Bryan S. Bush. Bush has written numerous books on the Civil War in Kentucky, including "Louisville and the Civil War". His website is [www.BryanSBush.com](http://www.BryanSBush.com) and his email address is [Bryan@BryanSBush.com](mailto:Bryan@BryanSBush.com). He also serves on the board of the Louisville Historical League.

This listing was edited by Steve Wisner of the Louisville Historical League.

December 20, 1860 South Carolina secedes from the Union!

**1861**



February 22, 1861 On Washington's birthday, 50,000 citizens gathered at the Jefferson County Courthouse where James Speed (brother of Joshua Fry Speed of Farmington) delivered a patriotic speech. General Simon Bolivar Buckner, who commanded the Kentucky State Guard, did not salute the American flag when it was raised. This signaled a split between residents as to which side the state would side with. Buckner would later serve in the Confederate Army and as Governor of Kentucky.

April 12, 1861 Confederate forces fire on Fort Sumter in the Charleston, South Carolina harbor. The Union commander of Fort Sumter, General Robert Anderson of Louisville, surrenders to Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard.



April 20, 1861: Third Kentucky Battalion departs for New Orleans; Cadets at Male High School began military preparations



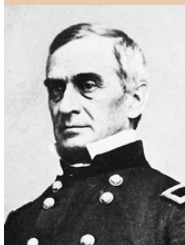
May 4, 1861: Lt. Gen. William 'Bull' Nelson brings shipment of guns to Louisville by order of President Lincoln, and in coordination with Joshua Fry Speed.

May 20, 1861: Kentucky declares neutrality.

August 24, 1861: Gen. Lovell Rousseau and the Louisville Legion enters Louisville from Indiana, and accepts a flag made by Fannie Speed, Joshua's wife.

September 4, 1861-Confederate General Leonidas Polk invades Kentucky and seizes Columbus, Kentucky, breaking Kentucky's neutrality.

September 5, 1861-Union General Ulysses S. Grant enters Kentucky and takes Paducah.



September 6, 1861: General Robert Anderson (a native of Louisville and commander of Union forces during attack on Ft. Sumter) establishes his headquarters in Louisville.

September 7, 1861-The Kentucky State Legislature declares the state with the Union.

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September 23, 1861: Forty-ninth Ohio regiment parades through Louisville streets and stops at the Louisville Hotel (614 West Main Street) where Gen. Anderson's headquarters is housed.



October 6, 1861: Joshua Speed returns from meeting with President Lincoln in Washington D C and states Lincoln will protect the city.

October 8, 1861: Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman takes over command of Louisville from Gen. Anderson

October 21, 1861-The Battle of Camp Wildcat



October 22, 1861: 3,800 Pennsylvania troops arrive and camp near Oakland Racetrack, at Seventh and Hills; newspapers begin to call Gen. Sherman 'insane, crazy, and mad' for his build-up of troops in the city.

November 7, 1861-Battle of Columbus (Kentucky)/Belmont (Missouri)

November 8, 1861-Battle of Ivy Mountain or Ivy Narrows, in Pike County, Kentucky.

November 13, 1861: Gen. Don Carlos Buell takes over command of Louisville from Gen. Sherman

November 24, 1861: 5,000 soldiers from Ohio arrive in Louisville

December 17, 1861-Battle of Rowlett's Station, also known as the First Battle of Munfordville, Kentucky.

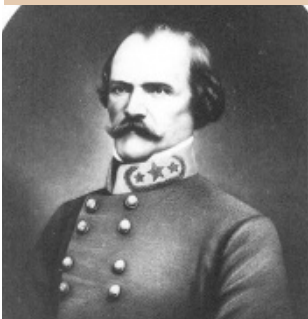
December 27, 1861-Battle of Sacramento, Kentucky, McLean County, Kentucky

## **1862**

January 1, 1862: 80,000 Union troops are based throughout Louisville

January 19, 1862-Battle of Mill Springs or Logan's Crossroads, Pulaski County, Kentucky.

March 1, 1862: Union troops are camped at various locations around Louisville: Institute for the Blind; Preston's Woods; Cave Hill Cemetery; Portland; Fairgrounds; House of Refuge (where U of L campus is now)



April 6, 1862: Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston is killed at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. Gen. Johnston is from Maysville Kentucky, and is related to owner of the Cave Hill Farm, which would become Cave Hill Cemetery. Johnston's father and son are buried in Cave Hill.

June 6, 1862: 930 soldiers had died in Louisville military hospitals since September 1861; Louisville provides a burial plot in Cave Hill Cemetery for each soldier who dies in Kentucky



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June 7, 1862: Union Captain Henry Clay III is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. He is the grandson of Sen. Henry Clay. In 1863, his brother, Thomas, who served as a Confederate Major, was killed in the war and is buried next to him. Their mother was Julia Prather Clay (daughter of Thomas Prather, a prominent Louisville businessman), who was married to Henry Clay, Jr., and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. She died during childbirth to Thomas in 1840.



July 6, 1862, Battle of Uniontown, Union Co., Kentucky

July 17, 1862-Battle of Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky

July 31, 1862: Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg and Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith meet in Chattanooga, Tn., to plot invasion of Kentucky and Louisville. They set as a goal the destruction of the Louisville canal so completely that 'future travelers would hardly know where it was.'

August 23, 1862-Battle of Big Hill, Rockcastle County, Kentucky

August 30, 1862-Battle of Richmond, Kentucky

September 2, 1862: Louisville placed under martial law and all males between ages of 18 and 45 are ordered to begin military drills

September 3, 1862: Confederate army, under command of Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, captures Frankfort. Panic begins in Louisville. Union Generals are headquartered at the Galt House, Second and Main Streets. There were 50,000 Confederate forces in Kentucky and only 30,000 Union forces in Louisville.

September 14-17, 1862-Battle of Munfordville, Hart County, Kentucky

September 19, 1862: Gen Nelson assumes command of the Union forces in Louisville

September 20, 1862: Gen. Nelson instructs women and children to prepare for evacuation from Louisville across Ohio River to Jeffersonville.

September 21, 1862: Louisville schools are closed. Confederates attack railroad bridge over Salt River near Shepherdsville. Union forces repel the attack.

September 22, 1862: Louisville mayor John Delph addresses the residents from the steps of the Jefferson County Courthouse. He asks the men to fight the Confederates. Pontoon bridges were being built across the Ohio River (one near Towhead Island, and the other in Portland).



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September 24, 1862: Union reinforcements begin to arrive in Louisville. Confederate Gen. Bragg heads toward Bardstown.

September 26, 1862: Union Gen. Buell's army arrives in Louisville. Additional Union troops also arrive. Louisville citizens shout 'God bless you' to the soldiers.

September 27, 1862-Battle of Augusta, Bracken County, Kentucky.

September 29, 1862: Union Gen. Jefferson Davis shoots and kills Union Gen. William Nelson after a confrontation in the Galt House. (Due to confusion over the name, Louisvillians thought Confederate President Jefferson Davis had killed Nelson.)



September 30, 1862: Confederate and Union forces skirmish near Middletown



October 1, 1862: Confederate cavalry unit advances to within 3 miles of Louisville

October 2, 1862: 60,000 Union troops march out of Louisville to combat Confederate forces in Kentucky. Union soldiers defeat Confederate outpost near Fern Creek.

October 4, 1862: Union troops advance on Frankfort, and Confederate troops retreat toward Harrodsburg

October 7-8, 1862: Union and Confederates meet at the epic 'Battle of Perryville' in Boyle County

October 10, 1862: All hospitals in Louisville begin to treat wounded from Perryville. Hospitals include: U S Marine Hospital; Crittenden Hospital at Fifteenth and Broadway; and schools became hospitals such as the Fifth Ward School at York and Fifth Streets; along with military hospitals in Jeffersonville and New Albany.

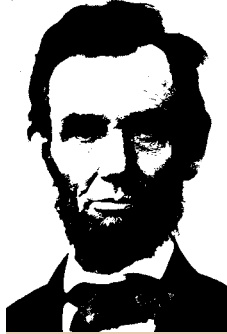


October 13, 1862: Confederate prisoners from the Perryville battle begin to arrive in the city. Between October 1 and December 14, 1862, there are over 3,500 Confederate prisoners held in Louisville.

Funeral services are held for numerous Union soldiers and officers killed at Perryville. The Cathedral of the Assumption and Christ Church Cathedral have many funeral masses and burials are in Cave Hill Cemetery.



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1863

January 1, 1863: President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation which frees the slaves in the Confederate state

March 30, 1863: Battle of Somerset or Dutton's Hill, Pulaski County, Kentucky.

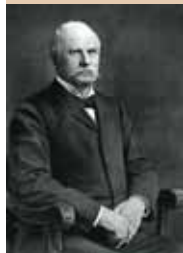
April 5, 1863 William Kaye becomes mayor of Louisville

May 21, 1863: Union soldiers ransack the Louisville fairgrounds.

Union soldiers also damage landscape and gravesites at Cave Hill Cemetery. And, gambling and drinking among the Union soldiers poses major problems for the city.

June 16, 1863-Battle of Triplett's Bridge near Morehead, Rowan County, Kentucky.

July 3, 1863: As a Union cannon battery commander, Andrew Cowan helped defeat Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. After the war, Cowan moved to Louisville and became the lead advocate to build the Olmsted Parks system.



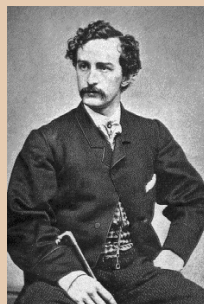
July 4, 1863-Battle of Tebb's Bend, Green River, Taylor County, Kentucky.

July 5, 1863-Battle of Lebanon, Marion County, Kentucky.

July 11, 1863 Confederate forces under the command of William Davis attempt to cross the Ohio River near Twelve Mile Island. Union troops capture most of Davis' soldiers.



1864



January 18—30, 1864: John Wilkes Booth performs at the Woods Theater (Jefferson and Fourth Streets) in Louisville.

February 4, 1864 A major Union military strategy session was held at the Galt House. Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, William Rosecrans, Thomas Crittenden, and many others attended.

February 22, 1864: Cave Hill Cemetery lays cornerstone for soldier monument in the Union section.

March 4, 1864: Saloons, retail liquor stores, and groceries were ordered closed until the owners agreed to stop selling liquor to the Union soldiers.



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March 9, 1864: Legend states that Union Generals Grant and Sherman met at the Galt House to discuss war strategy. However, further research indicates that Grant was in Washington DC on this date and appears he was



not in Louisville at all during 1864. This event probably did not occur as local lore indicates.

March 25-26, 1864-Battle of Fort Anderson, McCracken County.

April 14, 1864-Battle of Half Mountain, Magoffin County, Kentucky



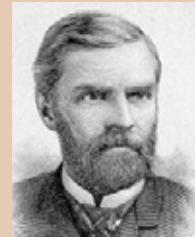
May 13 – 15, 1864: Battle of Resaca, Georgia (near Calhoun, Ga.) Ms. Elizabeth Temms was captured during this conflict for hindering Union troops, and sent to military prison in Louisville, where she died of illness and buried in Cave Hill Cemetery's Confederate section. She is only woman among the 220 Confederate soldiers in this section.

June 9, 1864-Battle of Mount Sterling, Montgomery County, Kentucky

June 12, 1864-Battle of Cynthiana or Keller's bridge

July 1, 1864 Major fire in downtown Louisville guts the block bounded by Main and Water, and Eighth and Ninth Streets

July 22, 1864: Battle of Atlanta. Thomas Speed, cousin to Joshua and James Speed and Captain in the Union Army, served on General Sherman's staff during his 'March to the Sea' campaign. Speed would return to Louisville after the war and is credited with proposing the parks system for the city.



July 27, 1864 Funeral procession held for Union General James McPherson who was killed during Battle of Atlanta. Large crowd turns out for this ceremony.

August 10, 1864 The "Louisville Democrat" newspaper reports on the large population of Confederate prisoners in the Union prisons in Louisville

Eleven forts exist around perimeter of the city to protect it. These forts are:

Fort Elsner, between Frankfort Ave and Brownsboro Road near Bellaire, Vernon, and Emerald Avenues;

Fort Engle at Spring Street and Arlington Avenue;

Ft. Saunders at Cave Hill Cemetery;

Ft Hill / Battery Camp, between Goddard Ave and Barrett and Baxter Streets and St. Louis Cemetery;

Ft Horton at Shelby and Meriwether Streets (where City Waste Management facility currently exists);

Ft. McPherson on Preston bounded by Barbee, Brandeis, Hahn, and Fort Streets;

Ft Philpot at Seventh and Algonquin Parkway;

Ft St. Clair at Sixteenth and Hill Streets;



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Ft Karnasch on Wilson Ave between Twenty-Sixth and Twenty-Eighth Streets;  
Ft Clark at Thirty-Sixth and Magnolia Streets;  
Battery Gallup at Gibson Lane and Forty-Third St  
Ft Southworth on Paddy's Run at the Ohio River (where Morris Forman Waste Treatment Plant is now)



October, 1864: John Breckinridge Castleman, who was a confederate guerilla and rode with John Hunt Morgan, was captured near Sullivan, Indiana. His life was saved with a stay of execution from President Lincoln obtained by a family connection. Castleman lived in Louisville after the war and was prominent in civic affairs, including development of the Olmsted Parks system. A statue of Castleman is in Cherokee Triangle neighborhood.



October 2, 1864-Battle of Saltville, Virginia, near Pound Gap, Kentucky

November 8, 1864 President Abraham Lincoln is re-elected. Lincoln though does not win his native state. Union Gen. George McClellan receives 61,486 votes to Lincoln's 26,592.

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**1865**

January 10, 1865, fire destroys Louisville's Galt House.

March 12, 1865-Notorious guerilla Sue Mundy, aka Jerome Clarke, is captured near Breckinridge County.

March 15, 1865: Jerome Clarke (Sue Mundy) is hung in Louisville near 18<sup>th</sup> and Broadway.



Military Hospitals in Louisville were located at:  
Walnut between Fourth and Fifth  
Brook and Broadway  
Third Street at the Park Barracks  
Fifteenth and Broadway  
Sixth Street between Walnut and Chestnut  
Newburg Road, three miles from city  
Fifteenth and Main  
Fourth and River  
Broadway at L & N depot



April 9, 1865-Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox, Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.

April 13, 1865-Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrenders to Union General William T. Sherman at Durham, North Carolina.



April 14, 1865-President Abraham Lincoln is shot at Ford's theater by John Wilkes Booth.

On this same day, Louisvillian Robert Anderson raises the same American flag that he had removed during the Fort Sumter attack on April 12, 1861.

April 15, 1865 President Lincoln dies of his wounds



April 19, 1865 Louisville holds day of mourning for President Lincoln

April 30, 1865: Lincoln's funeral train arrives in Indianapolis and a delegation from Louisville is there

May 10, 1865 Confederate guerilla William Quantrill is confronted in Spencer County and wounded. He dies twenty three days later in a Louisville hospital.



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July 3, 1865: Gen Sherman made a triumphal return to Louisville and gave a speech to the troops

August 1, 1865: The Union Army of Tennessee ceased to exist

September 24, 1865: All Union troops stationed in Kentucky were sent home

October 12, 1865: President Andrew Johnson abolishes martial law



December 18, 1865-The Kentucky Legislature repealed the Expatriation Act of 1861, which allowed all Kentuckians who had served in the Confederate army to have their full Kentucky citizenship restored without fear of prosecution. The legislature also repealed the law that any person who was a member of the Confederate army was guilty of treason.

February 28, 1866-Kentucky officially declares the war over.

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