

# Jackson Purchase Confederate Troops In The Civil War

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During the Civil War, the Jackson Purchase region was overwhelmingly Southern in sentiment while, for the most part, the rest of Kentucky remained loyal to the Union. In fact, the Purchase was the only region in the state where the vast majority of the people favored secession. Because of its Southern sympathy, the region, which during the Civil War encompassed Ballard, Calloway, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall and McCracken counties, became known as the "South Carolina of Kentucky."<sup>1</sup>

The intense Southernism of the Jackson Purchase was shown most clearly in the number of volunteers the region furnished to the Confederate Army. The Purchase gave up more men to the Confederate Army and fewer men to the Federal Army than any other part of Kentucky. Approximately 5,500 Confederate volunteers were raised in the seven counties as opposed to only 650 Federals.<sup>2</sup>

About 850 Confederate soldiers and 124 Federal soldiers were recruited in Ballard County. From Calloway County, 900 men served in the Confederate Army, but forty-seven men fought for the Federal Army. Fulton County sent approximately 450 Confederate soldiers and one Federal soldier to the War. Nearly 1,400 men volunteered for the Confederate Army from Graves County while 156 chose the Federal Army. Six hundred Hickman countians wore the Confederate grey but only eleven donned the Federal blue. In Marshall County, about 400 volunteers left for the Confederate side and 221 enlisted in the Federal ranks. Finally, 900 McCracken countians joined the Confederate Army and eighty-eight went with the Federal Army.<sup>3</sup>

Aside from the Jackson Purchase, only seven other Kentucky counties gave up considerably more Confederate than Union soldiers. About 2,100 Confederate and 608 Federal volunteers were enrolled in Livingston, Trigg, Union and Webster counties of western Kentucky while nearly 1,600 Confederates and 352 Federals were sworn in from Scott and Owen counties in the Bluegrass region. Logan County, in the tobacco rich Pennyroyal region, furnished about 1,000 Confederates and 408 Federals.<sup>4</sup> The remaining ninety-six counties of Kentucky gave approximately 20,000 soldiers to the Confederate Army and almost 60,000 soldiers to the Federal Army.<sup>5</sup>

The first Confederate soldiers were recruited in the Jackson Purchase shortly after the firing on Fort Sumter in mid-April 1861. On April 22 Confederate Secretary of War Leroy Pope Walker asked Kentucky Governor Beriah Magoffin to send an infantry regiment to Harper's Ferry, Virginia.<sup>6</sup> But Magoffin, on April 15, had refused a call from President Lincoln for four Kentucky regiments and he likewise refused Walker's request. Nevertheless, about 1,000 Kentuckians, including 228 men from the Purchase, responded to the Confederate Secretary of

their own. In mid-May, these men arrived at Harper's Ferry, were organized into ten infantry companies and mustered into service as the First Kentucky Infantry Regiment.<sup>7</sup>

The Purchase soldiers were raised by Edward Crossland, a former state representative, in Fulton and Hickman counties and by C. C. Bowman in Calloway County. Crossland's 124 men, the "Alexander Guards," became company "E" and Bowman's 104 men became company "F."<sup>8</sup>

At Moscow, Kentucky, Crossland's men were presented a Confederate flag by a Miss Nannie Wilson on behalf of the women of Fulton County. Evidently Miss Wilson was a genuine Southern belle, as one of those present wrote:

"I have often been dazzled by the blaze of beauty, but never before beheld such perfect loveliness. All the harmony of form and of soul was personified in this fair creature with sweet patriotic lips, whose color mocks the rose. Rich, ripe, and teeming with the dews of bliss."<sup>9</sup>

After delivering a patriotic speech, Crossland received the flag.<sup>10</sup> Such was the way men sometimes marched off to war in 1861.

In May and June, Confederate recruiting in the Jackson Purchase gained momentum. Four companies, numbering about 400 men, were organized.

Drew A. Outlaw and a band of Hickman countians went to Union City, Tennessee, and enlisted as company "K" of the Twelfth Tennessee Infantry Regiment. However, soon after the battle of Shiloh, Outlaw and his men were transferred to the Third Kentucky Infantry Regiment.<sup>11</sup>

A company raised in McCracken County and southern Illinois by Thorndike Brooks and H. B. Cunningham was sworn in at Union City as company "G" of the Fifteenth Tennessee Infantry Regiment. During the Civil War, the Fifteenth Tennessee fought in nearly every significant battle in the western theater, including Belmont, Shiloh, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and the Atlanta Campaign. The regiment laid down its arms at Greensboro, North Carolina, on May 1, 1865, as part of General Joseph E. Johnston's army.<sup>12</sup>

Henry Clay King of Memphis, but formerly of Paducah, raised a company in his native McCracken County. These men, known as the "Pillow Guards Number Two" entered service as company "K" of the Twenty-first Tennessee Infantry Regiment. However, in September 1861, on the order of General Leonidas Polk, the company was detached, and along with three other companies recruited in the Jackson Purchase, became King's cavalry battalion.<sup>13</sup>

The "Magoffin Guards," raised in Fulton County and southern Illinois by Frank Marberry, were assigned to the Fifth Tennessee Infantry as company "L." The Fifth Infantry, organized at Paris, Tennessee, also fought in most of the western battles and surrendered at Greensboro with Johnston's army.<sup>14</sup>

In July 1861 approximately 2,200 volunteers left the Purchase for the Confederate Army. Colonel Lloyd Tilghman of Paducah led his 500 man battalion of Kentucky State Guards (state militia) to Camp Boone near Clarksville, Tennessee. Tilghman, a West Point graduate and Mexican War veteran, had resigned his Federal commission to recruit for the Confederate Army and his men eagerly enlisted.<sup>15</sup>

At Camp Boone, the main enlistment point for Confederate volunteers from throughout Kentucky, the Guardsmen were joined by a large body of Purchase recruits and formed into nine infantry companies. To them was added a Lyon County artillery company commanded by Captain, and later General, Hylan B. Lyon. Like Tilghman, Lyon was a West Pointer and State Guard officer. In addition, he was the grandson of Revolutionary War hero and Kentucky Congressman Matthew Lyon.

These ten western Kentucky companies became the Third Kentucky Infantry Regiment. However, Lyon's company soon was detached and organized as an independent artillery battery. But Lyon passed the command of his battery to Robert Cobb and then joined Congressman Henry C. Burnett of Trigg County in raising the Eighth Kentucky Infantry Regiment. Cobb's battery became one of the most celebrated artillery units in the Army of Tennessee.

Tilghman was elected colonel of the Third Kentucky, but in October 1861 he was promoted to brigadier-general and placed in command of Fort Henry, an important Confederate defensive position on the Tennessee River. At this time, Albert P. Thompson, a prominent Paducah lawyer, became colonel of the regiment.<sup>16</sup>

The Third Kentucky fought in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, and Baton Rouge; in 1864 the regiment was mounted and put under the command of the Confederate "Wizard of the Saddle," General Nathan Bedford Forrest. In June 1864 the Third Kentucky participated in the battle of Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi, Forrest's greatest triumph, and fought on with him to the end of the war.

Company "A" of the Third Kentucky was recruited in Marshall County and company "B," "The Lovelaceville Rifles," was formed of men from Ballard, Graves and McCracken Counties. Companies "C" and "D" comprised McCracken countians, while Graves countians made up company "E." At first, Lyon's battery formed company "F." Despite its organization as an independent command in 1861, the battery was not replaced by an infantry company until the spring of 1864. At that time, the second company "F" was formed from a group of 88 Ballard County recruits. The men of company "G" came from Marshall County and company "H" was recruited in Calloway County. A band of Fulton countians made up company "I" while company "K" (in keeping with military custom there was no company "J" in a Civil War infantry regiment on either side) was raised in McCracken County.<sup>17</sup>

While the Third Kentucky was being formed up, James Moss and his "Columbus Rifles" showed up at Camp Boone and Lewis Slayden arrived with a group of Graves County volunteers. Moss' 180 Ballard

and Hickman countians became company "A" of the Second Kentucky Infantry Regiment and Slayden's 146 men formed company "D" of the same regiment.<sup>18</sup> In February 1862 the Second Kentucky was captured at the battle of Fort Donelson and, in 1863, the regiment was exchanged for Federal prisoners of war. The Second fought with the Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga, Chattanooga and in the Atlanta campaign. In 1865, after serving for a time as mounted infantry, the men of the Second Kentucky surrendered in Georgia.<sup>19</sup>

Also in July 1861, William Lindsey and a party of Fulton and Hickman countians crossed into Tennessee and enlisted as company "F" of the Twenty-second Tennessee Infantry Regiment. But in May 1862, Lindsey and his men were transferred to the Third Kentucky as company "M."<sup>20</sup>

In September 1861 Camp Henry C. Burnett was laid out in Hickman County as a recruiting point for Confederate volunteers. There the Seventh Kentucky Infantry Regiment, numbering approximately 1,200 men, was raised by Charles Wickliffe, a former state representative from Ballard County and W. D. Lannom, a former state representative from Hickman County.

The Seventh Kentucky fought at Shiloh, Baton Rouge, and Corinth and in 1864, along with the Third Kentucky, was mounted and assigned to Forrest's cavalry. It remained with Forrest until the close of the war.<sup>21</sup>

Company "A" of the Seventh Kentucky contained men mostly from Fulton and Graves County. Company "B" was raised in Hickman County while Ballard County contributed company "C." Marshall and Calloway countians made up company "D" and Graves countians company "E." Company "F" was also from Ballard County while company "G" was raised in Calloway County. A party of Graves County men mustered in as company "H" and a group of men from Fulton County enrolled as company "I." A band of men from Desha County, Arkansas, was added to the Seventh Kentucky as company "K." However, the Razorbacks soon were assigned to the Thirteenth Arkansas Infantry and were replaced by C. P. Ray's Ballard County company. Ray and his men had enlisted in the First Mississippi Valley Infantry Regiment.<sup>22</sup>

Throughout the fall of 1861, the Jackson Purchase continued to furnish volunteers for the Confederate Army. R. H. Fristoe and a band of 117 Graves countians became company "C" of the Eighth Kentucky Infantry Regiment.<sup>23</sup> The Eighth Kentucky was captured at Fort Donelson and was exchanged the next year. Then, in 1864, the regiment, along with the Third and Seventh Kentucky, was mounted and put under Forrest. And like the Third and Seventh regiments, the Eighth Kentucky fought with the celebrated cavalry general for the remainder of the war.<sup>24</sup>

Also in September 1861, Camp P. G. T. Beauregard, named for the Confederate hero of Fort Sumter, was constructed near Feliciana, in south Graves County. The camp served as a recruiting station and was also a sort of halfway point between the strong Confederate positions

at Columbus on the Mississippi River and Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers.

At Camp Beauregard, three companies, recruited in Calloway, Graves and McCracken Counties, were added to Henry Clay King's company to form King's cavalry battalion. In April 1862 this 450 man battalion, also known as "King's Hell Hounds," was organized with four Tennessee companies and two Alabama companies and designated the First Confederate Cavalry Regiment. The regiment, sometimes referred to as the Twelfth Confederate Cavalry, was assigned to General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry and fought at Perryville, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and in the Atlanta campaign. Then, in August 1864, the First Confederate Cavalry was detached and placed on special duty with General John Bell Hood on his disastrous invasion of Tennessee. Finally, the regiment fell under Forrest's command and surrendered with him at Gainesville, Alabama, in May 1865.<sup>25</sup>

In October and November 1861, three other Purchase companies enlisted in the Confederate Army in Tennessee. On October 18 at Union City, about 100 Calloway County men were sworn in as company "C" of the Thirty-third Tennessee Infantry Regiment. The Thirty-third Tennessee fought at Shiloh, Perryville, Stone's River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, in the Atlanta campaign, and in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. Finally, it surrendered in North Carolina with Johnston's army.<sup>26</sup>

On November 4, about fifty men, recruited by J. N. Bolen in Calloway County, mustered in as Bolen's Independent Cavalry Company at Fort Henry. However, Bolen's small command was captured at Fort Donelson along with the Confederate garrison. In September 1862 the company was exchanged in Mississippi and spent the next year on unattached service near Jackson and Meridian. For a time in 1863, Bolen's company acted as General Johnston's escort. After 1863, the records of the small Calloway County cavalry company are incomplete. However, according to sources in the National Archives, the company was stationed at Demopolis, Alabama, in 1864 and during the year some of its members enlisted in the Third Kentucky.<sup>27</sup> More than likely, the company disbanded at some time in 1864 and its members joined other Confederate organizations.

At about the same time that Bolen raised his company, J. F. Melton raised a company of similar size also in Calloway County. This company, which mustered in primarily at Fort Henry, was designated Melton's Independent Cavalry Company and, like Bolen and his men, met capture at Fort Donelson. But Melton, who had fought at Bull Run as a second lieutenant in the Ninth Alabama Infantry, twice escaped from Federal prisons and returned to Kentucky. In the spring of 1863, he recruited company "G" of the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry. Melton was elected captain of the company, but in September 1864, he resigned from the Army to become a Confederate Secret Service agent in Kentucky.<sup>28</sup>

Confederate recruiting in the Jackson Purchase did not end with the Union occupation of the region in early 1862. In the spring of

1863, W. W. Faulkner gathered 750 Purchase volunteers and organized them with a number of west Tennesseans to form the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry Regiment.<sup>29</sup>

Company "A" of the Twelfth Kentucky was raised in Calloway, Fulton and Graves Counties while company "B" contained men from the same counties and from Obion, Madison and Weakley Counties in Tennessee. Company "C" included men from Graves, Obion, Madison and Weakley Counties. Volunteers from Ballard, Hickman and McCracken Counties and from several west Tennessee counties formed company "D." Ballard, Graves, Hickman, Marshall, Obion and Weakley County men made up company "E" and company "F" was recruited in Henry County, Tennessee. Company "G" comprised volunteers from Calloway and Fulton Counties while men from Fulton, Graves, Henry, Hickman, and Marshall Counties made up company "H." Company "I" was raised in Fulton County and company "K" was recruited primarily in west Tennessee. However, company "K" did contain a small number of men from Kentucky and Missouri.<sup>30</sup>

In 1863, the Jackson Purchase also furnished two other Confederate mounted commands. Some time in the early summer, thirty-three men under a Captain Nelson of Marshall County enlisted in Colonel William Hollis' Eleventh Kentucky Cavalry Regiment. However, in July, the regiment was severely beaten in an engagement with the Thirty-fifth United States Cavalry. Hollis was killed and the Eleventh Kentucky was broken up. Most of the surviving men of the regiment enlisted in other commands.<sup>31</sup>

In October, Captain Thomas Henderson of New Orleans organized 107 men from western Kentucky and western Tennessee into a cavalry company known as the Henderson Scouts. The company was assigned to General Forrest and served under him until the war ended.<sup>32</sup>

To the end of the Civil War, Purchase men continued to slip through the Federal lines to join the Confederate Army. Still others stayed behind and organized themselves into roving guerrilla bands which ambushed small parties of Federal soldiers, cut telegraph wires, burned bridges, tore up railroad tracks and engaged in other such forms of partisan warfare. Much of the success of these mounted will-o-the-wisps could be attributed to sympathetic Purchase citizens who oftentimes furnished them with food and shelter.

Thus, the Jackson Purchase region, unlike the rest of Kentucky, met the Civil War with unbridled Southernism which manifested itself most clearly in the number of soldiers, all volunteers, the region sent to the Confederate Army.<sup>33</sup> The region was indeed the "South Carolina of Kentucky."



1. J. H. Battle, G. C. Kniffen and W. H. Perrin, **Kentucky: A History of the State** (Louisville: F. A. Battey and Co., 1885), p. 7. The Purchase region now contains eight counties as, in 1886, Carlisle County was formed from the southern part of Ballard County.
2. "Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, January 1, 1864," **Kentucky Legislative Documents, 1863** (Frankfort: John H. Harney, State Printer, 1866); J. Tandy Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General of Kentucky, Confederate Volunteers, War 1861-1865** (Frankfort: The State Journal Co., 1915), Vols. I and II; D. W. Lindsley, **Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky** (Federal troops) (Frankfort: John H. Harney, Public Printer, 1866), Vols. I and II; "Response of the Adjutant General of Kentucky to a Resolution of Inquiry in Regard to Federal Enrollments in the State, Made to the House of Representatives, Wednesday, March 1, 1865," **Kentucky Documents, 1864**; Stanley F. Horn, **Tennesseans in the Civil War** (Nashville: The Tennessee Civil War Centennial Commission, 1964), Parts 1 and 2; John Berrien Lindsley, **Military Annals of Tennessee, Confederate** (Nashville: J. M. Lindsley and Co., 1886); Battle, Perrin and Kniffen, **Kentucky**; Henry George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky, C.S.A.** (Louisville: C. T. Dearing Press, 1911); A. C. Quisenberry, "Kentucky Union Troops in the Civil War," **The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society XVIII** (September, 1920), pp. 13-18; Edwin Rennolds, **A History of the Henry County Commands Which Served in the Confederate Army** (Jacksonville, Fla.: Sun Publishing Co., 1904); Ed Porter Thompson, **History of the Orphan Brigade** (Louisville: S. N. Thompson, 1898).
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*; Edward Coffman, **The Story of Logan County** (Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1962), p. 203.
5. *Ibid.*
6. **The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies**, 70 Vols. in 128 (Washington, D. C.: War Department, 1880-1902), Series IV, Vol. I, pp. 231-232.
7. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, p. 35.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 14-22.
9. **The Louisville Daily Courier**, April 29, 1861.
10. *Ibid.*
11. Horn, **Tennesseans**, Part I, pp. 198-199.
12. *Ibid.*, pp. 205-208; Lindsley, **Annals**, p. 332.
13. *Ibid.*, p. 219.
14. *Ibid.*, pp. 184-186; Lindsley, **Annals**, p. 332; Rennolds, **Henry County Commands**, pp. 174-178.
15. Lewis and Richard Collins, **History of Kentucky** (Covington: Collins and Co., 1882), Vol. I, p. 98.
16. George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky**, p. 19.
17. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. I, pp. 84-143; George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky**; Battle, Perrin and Kniffen, **Kentucky**, pp. 19, 32-34, 42, 55-57, 69-70, 81-85, 102, 107.
18. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. I, pp. 40-42, 54-57.
19. For a history of the Second Kentucky see Thompson, **History of the Orphan Brigade**.
20. Horn, **Tennesseans**, Part I, pp. 220-222.
21. George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky**.
22. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. I, pp. 332-375; George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky**; Battle, Perrin and Kniffen, **Kentucky**, pp. 19, 32-34, 42, 55-57, 69-70, 81-85, 102, 107.
23. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. I, pp. 384-388.
24. George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky**.
25. Horn, **Tennesseans**, Vol. I, pp. 46-47; **Official Records**, Ser. 1, Vol. III, p. 712. The **Official Records** list King's battalion as containing 351 men. But according to a scrapbook kept by Mrs. Lizzie Fuller of Graves County, this total represents only the three companies that were added to King's original company. The scrapbook is housed in the Graves County Public Library in Mayfield, Kentucky.
26. Horn, **Tennesseans**, Part I, pp. 244-246.
27. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. I, p. 328; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Kentucky. National Archives Microfilm Publication No. 319, National Archives, Washington, D. C.
28. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. II, pp. 126-127, 328-330.
29. *Ibid.*, pp. 98-142; George, **History of the 3d, 7th, 8th and 12th Kentucky**.
30. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. II, pp. 98-142; Lindsley, **Annals**, p. 775.
31. Ellis, **Report of the Adjutant General**, Vol. II, pp. 74-75, 432-433.
32. Joseph Dent Clark Papers, Confederate Collection, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tenn.
33. It is interesting to note that the west Tennessee counties sent about the same proportion of soldiers into the Confederate and Federal Armies as the Kentucky portion of the Jackson Purchase. According to Lindsley's **Annals**, Horn's **Tennesseans** and J. P. Brownlow, **Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Tennessee of the Military Forces of the State from 1861 to 1866** (Nashville: S. C. Mercer, State Printer, 1866), these counties furnished approximately 34,500 Confederate soldiers and about 3,700 Federal soldiers.