

Dear Conrad,

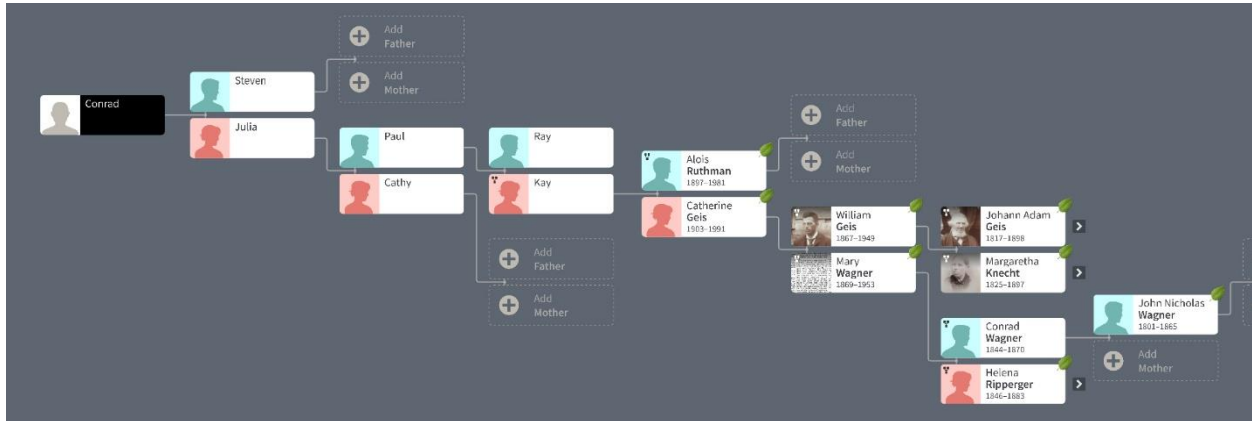
Last week, Lynn and I had the pleasure of meeting you for the first time. You are a beautiful child with a great name. I wanted you to know about your 4th Great Grandfather who shares your name.

Love, Tom, Lynn, and Tommy Hensler

August 2020



Conrad Wagner was born in 1844 and fought for the Union in the Civil War.



Let's start with Conrad's father, Nicholas Wagner. John Nicholas Wagner was born in 1801 in the area around Alsace France and Baden Germany. Per the 1860 Census, one year before the Civil War, they were living in the Franklin County region of Indiana. Nicholas was 59 and a farmer. Conrad was 16 and a farm laborer. There were 5 children in the family, with 4 born in France and the last one born in Indiana.

Nicholas Wagner	59	m	Farmer	1	1000	300	France
Mary Eri	38	f					"
Francis	22	m	Laborer	1			"
Mary	20	f					"
Jacob	19	m	Laborer	1			"
Conrad	16	m	"	1			"
Mattis	13	f					Indiana

It appears that Conrad arrived in America on July 26, 1855 when he was 11 years old. He was on the ship named ADMIRAL which left from Bremen Germany and arrived in Baltimore Maryland. All 4 of these people named Wagner were headed to Indiana according to this ship manifest listing.

H. Heinrich Wagner	25	male	Farmer				Indiana
M. Catharina	53	female					"
C. Conrad	11	male					"
J. Johannes	8						"

Conrad and his brother Frank (Francis) joined the Indiana 83rd Regiment Infantry on August 18, 1862. And they both made it all the way to the Washington DC victory parades in June 1865. It is truly unbelievable how this 83rd regiment seemed to be in so many of the important battles with leadership from Sherman and Grant. This group was formed in Lawrenceburg Indiana and promptly order to Memphis Tennessee. Conrad and Frank were with the 83rd for three years with General William Tecumseh Sherman. He marched on foot 3500 miles, traveled by water 2100 miles, and traveled by train 1100 miles. This adds to a grand total of 6700 miles over three years. During three years with

General Sherman, this group was under fire for at least 200 days. (source is page 99, History of the Eighty-Third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry; For Three Years with Sherman written in 1865).

354		EIGHTY-THIRD REGIMENT INFANTRY		
NAME AND RANK.	Residence.	Date of Muster, 1862.	REMARKS.	
Perry, William.....	Batesville.....	Oct. 7.....	Mustered out June 3, '65, as Corporal.	
Bask, Franklin.....	Napoleon.....	Aug. 28.....	Mustered out June 3, '65.	
Roll, Richard E.....	Indianapolis	" " " ".....	" " " ".....	
Rynolds, Lyman B.....	Brookville.....	Aug. 23.....	Died at Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 24, '62	
Rardon, Moses.....	Springfield.....	Oct. 12.....	Discharged Dec. 25, '63.	
Smith, Daniel K.....	Sim's Corner.....	Aug. 15.....	Died at Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 21, '62.	
Stech, William.....	Shultz Corner.....	Aug. 11.....	Mustered out June 3, '65.	
Stech, Andrew.....	Shuman's.....	Oct. 15.....	Discharged Dec. 25, '62.	
Stofert, John.....	Batesville.....	Aug. 21.....	Mustered out June 3, '65.	
Schwangler, Philip.....	Brookville.....	Aug. 27.....	Discharged Oct. 29, '64.	
Slawer, Frank.....	Oldenburg.....	Aug. 26.....	Mustered out June 3, '65, as Corporal.	
Shultz, Charles.....	Lawsensburg.....	Oct. 3.....	Died at St. Louis, Mo., March 30, '63.	
Selinger, Philip.....	Indianapolis	" " " ".....	Transferred to Co. '65, Nov. 6, '62.	
Thacker, John C.....	Batesville.....	Oct. 7.....	Mustered out May 19, '65.	
Van Kirk, Jacob.....	Ballstown.....	Oct. 7.....	Transfd to V. B. C.; mustered out July 8, '65.	
Woodruff, Lewis W.....	Cedar Grove.....	Aug. 16.....	Discharged Feb. 17, '65.	
Wagner, Frank M.....	South Gate.....	Aug. 21.....	Discharged Jan. 31, '63.	
Wagner, Conrad.....	St. Peter.....	Aug. 18.....	Mustered out May 31, '65.	
Wilhelm, George.....	Brookville.....	Aug. 21.....	Mustered out June 3, '65.	
Weber, Anthony.....	Springfield.....	Aug. 25.....	Transferred to V. B. C., Sept. 7, '63.	
Waxman, Frederick.....	Batesville.....	Aug. 22.....	Mustered out June 3, '65, as Corporal.	
Webb, Anthony.....	St. Peter.....	Aug. 25.....	Died at Young's Point, La., April 18, '63.	
Wilson, Robert, Sr.....	Napoleon.....	Sept. 1.....	Died at Memphis, Tenn., March 31, '63.	
Wilson, Robert, Jr.....	Napoleon.....	Sept. 1.....	Died at Milliken's Bend, La., March 2, '63.	
Yager, Casper.....	Versailles.....	Aug. 15.....	Discharged Jan. 31, '63.	

- Yazoo Pass Expedition
- Battle of Chickasaw Bayou
- Battle of Arkansas Post
- Battle of Champion Hill
- Siege of Vicksburg, May 19 & May 22 assaults
- Chattanooga Campaign
- Battle of Missionary Ridge
- Atlanta Campaign
- Battle of Resaca
- Battle of Dallas
- Battle of New Hope Church
- Battle of Allatoona
- Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
- Battle of Atlanta
- Siege of Atlanta
- Battle of Jonesboro
- Battle of Lovejoy's Station
- Sherman's March to the Sea
- Carolinas Campaign
- Battle of Bentonville

The **Yazoo Pass expedition** was a joint operation of General Grant's Army of the Tennessee and Rear Admiral David Porter's Mississippi River Squadron in the Vicksburg Campaign. Grant's objective was to get his troops into a flanking position against the Rebel defenders. The expedition was an effort to bypass the Confederate defenses on the bluffs near the city by using the backwaters of the Mississippi Delta as a route from the Mississippi to the Yazoo River. Once on the Yazoo, the Army would be able to cross the river unopposed and thus achieve their goal. The operation would require a deep penetration into enemy territory that was dominated by water, so cooperation between the two services was necessary. The Army was led by Brigadier General Leonard Ross. Naval commander was Lieutenant Commander Watson Smith, who was in extremely poor health; his health was an important factor in the ultimate failure of the expedition.

The expedition began on February 3, 1863 with the breaching of a Mississippi River levee, allowing water to flow from the river into a former channel that connected with the Yazoo River through a series of other waterways. The attacking fleet passed through the cut into Moon Lake, through the Yazoo Pass to the Coldwater River, and then into the Tallahatchie, which combines with the Yalobusha to form the Yazoo River, which met the Mississippi a short distance above Vicksburg. From the start, the expedition was delayed by natural obstacles that were more serious than the perfunctory Confederate resistance, so forward motion was as little as ten miles a day. Because progress was so slow, the Confederate Army under Lieutenant General John Pemberton was able to set up a fort and block passage of the Federal fleet near the town of Greenwood, Mississippi. The Federal fleet did not approach the fort until March 11; then, the ironclad gunboats of the fleet were repulsed in a series of gunfire exchanges on three separate days. Because of the nature of the ground, much of which was under water, the Army troops present could not contribute significantly to the battle.

Following the third repulse on March 16, Lieutenant Commander Smith's health failed him completely, and he turned command over to Lieutenant Commander James P. Foster. Foster and Ross decided to withdraw to the Mississippi. They were temporarily persuaded to try again when they met reinforcements for the Army, but they resumed their retreat when the new army commander, Brigadier General Issac Quinby saw the futility of further attacks. The entire force had returned by April 12, and the expedition was over.

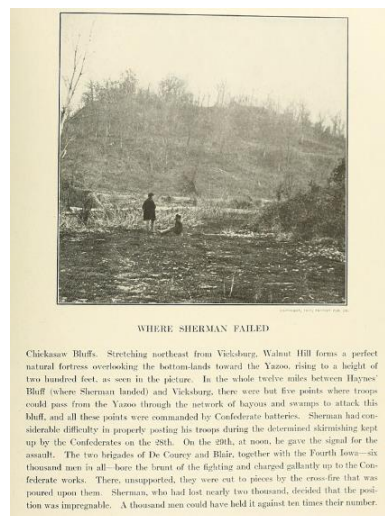
Frank and Conrad Wagner wrote many letters back to the family in Indiana. Their letters were written in German (on left). These were translated to English recently (on right).

1. Vom Cannal bis Vicksburg	From the canal to Vicksburg
2. sind es 7 Meill. Das ist ein	it is 7 miles. It is a
3. harter Ding fir sie dan haben	hard blow for them because now
4. wir den Fluß auf bis nach	we control the river all the way
5. Orlins. Wir haben es schon so	to New Orleans. We already have it (the canal
6. weit das Wasser schon stark	wide enough that there is a strong current of
7. durch lauft. Ich denke das	water through it. I think that it will be
8. es in kurzer Zeit fahrbar	navigable in a short time.
9. ist. Unden ist es gescubert.	It has been cleaned out below.
10. Diese Regement ist	This regiment has a
11. 300 Man stark die	strength of only 300 men who
12. brauchbar sind. Vielle sind	are fit to fight.
13. gestorben. man verschollen	Many have died. Some missing.
14. Die andere sind alle krank.	The rest are all sick.
15. Doch noch kein deiner ist gestorben.	But none of yours has died.
16. Wir sind noch alle gesund und munder.	We are all still in good health and cheerful.
17. Ihr habt mir von Geld (kamen?)	You have written me about receiving money.
18. geschrieben. Ich habe Euch schon	I have already
19. ----- geschickt aber wir haben	sent you----- but
20. nie? zeit wir das heim geschickt haben	since we sent that home we have not
21. noch kein send geschen und bekommen.	seen or received one cent.

This letter makes sense once you realize what the soldiers were doing around Vicksburg. On June 27 1862, Grant ordered the Union Soldiers to dig a canal to try to make the Mississippi River bypass the guns around Vicksburg. This project may have worked if the Mississippi River didn't flood and mess up their canal plans. Conditions were terrible in these swampy areas and many soldiers became ill as his letter describes. It was also common for the pay master to not know where the soldiers were at any given time. Therefore, pay was sporadic as he describes in the last few lines.

The **Battle of Chickasaw Bayou**, also called the **Battle of Walnut Hills**, fought December 26–29, 1862, was the opening engagement of the Vicksburg Campaign. Confederate forces under John Pemberton repulsed an advance by Union Major General Sherman that was intended to lead to the capture of Vicksburg MS.

On December 26, three Union divisions under Sherman disembarked at Johnson's Plantation on the Yazoo River to approach the Vicksburg defenses from the northeast while a fourth landed farther upstream on December 27. On December 27, the Federals pushed their lines forward through the swamps toward the Walnut Hills, which were strongly defended. On December 28, several futile attempts were made to get around these defenses. On December 29, Sherman ordered a frontal assault, which was repulsed with heavy casualties, and then withdrew. This Confederate victory frustrated Maj. General Ulysses S. Grant's attempts to take Vicksburg by a direct approach.



The **Battle of Arkansas Post** (also known as **Battle of Fort Hindman**) was fought from January 9 until 11, 1863, near the mouth of the Arkansas at Arkansas Post. Although a Union victory, it did not move them any closer to Vicksburg.



Liebe Eltern Ich
will Euch zu wissen
thun das wir wieder
bei eine Schlacht gewesen
sind. Wir sind den -----
Arkansas Reber ungefer
50 Meilen hinauf am
Samstag den 10 sind wir
(wieder) angeland da haben
wir die ganze Nacht
auf -----

musten. der Boden war
naß und kald die Kanonen
Boote wahren an der linke
Seite. Das Kannonen Feuer wahr
so furch(tb)ar das schwerste
Gewiter hete nicht fur(cht)barer
könen sein. Eine Kugel
kam gefloen bei mir und
dem Conrad und Meik
Jakop forbei 3 Schrit hinter.

--- das in den Bohten
Briefe wahren fir Euch.
Wir sind alle gesund.
Ich hoffe das Ihr es
auch seid.
So will ich mein
Schreiben schliesen
und Euch alle griesen.
Schreibe -- mir bald
und schicket mir
eine Zeidung wenn Ihr
könt.

Frank Wagner
Co. K 83 Regt Ind
Vols. Memphis, Tenn

Dear Parents, I
want to let you know
that we again
have been in battle.
We went up the
Arkansas River about
50 miles. On
Saturday, the 10th, we
were back on land. There
we had to ---- the whole night.

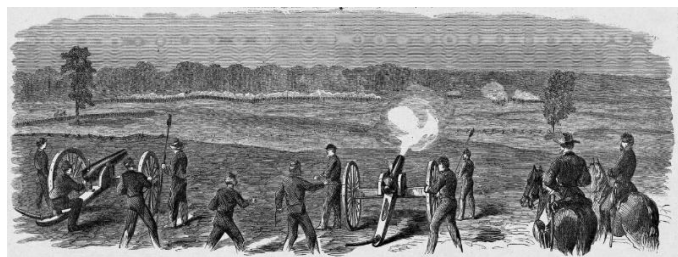
The ground was
wet and cold. The gunboats
were to the left
side. The cannon fire
was so fierce that
a thunderstorm could
not have been moreso. A bullet
flew by me and
Conrad and Mike
Jacob about 3 paces behind us.

--that in the boats
(there) were letters for you.
We are all well.
I hope that you
are too.
So I will close my
letter
and greet you all.
Write to me soon
and send me
a newspaper if you
can.

Frank Wagner
Co. K 83 Regt. Indiana
Volunteers, Memphis

A letter from Frank Wagner on Saturday January 10, 1863

On May 16, 1863, The **Battle of Champion Hill**, was the pivotal battle in the Vicksburg Campaign. Grant's army pursued the retreating Confederate army under John Pemberton and defeated it twenty miles to the east of Vicksburg. This led to the ultimate Siege of Vicksburg and surrender. The battle is also known as **Baker's Creek**.



The **siege of Vicksburg** (May 18 – July 4, 1863) was the final major military action in the Vicksburg campaign. Grant's army crossed the Mississippi River and drove the Confederate army into the defensive lines surrounding the fortress city of Vicksburg.

Vicksburg was the last major stronghold on the Mississippi River; therefore, capturing it completed the second part of the Northern strategy, the Anaconda Plan. When two major assaults against the Confederate fortifications, on May 19 and 22, were repulsed with heavy casualties, Grant decided to besiege the city beginning on May 25. After holding out for more than forty days, with their supplies nearly gone, the garrison surrendered on July 4. The successful ending significantly degraded the ability of the Confederacy to maintain its war effort. This action, combined with the surrender of the down-river Port Hudson to Maj. Gen. Nathaniel on July 9, yielded command of the Mississippi River to the Union forces, who would hold it for the rest of the conflict.

The Confederate surrender on July 4, 1863, is sometimes considered the turning point of the war, when combined with Lee's defeat at Gettysburg the previous day. It split the Confederacy in two for the rest of the war.

Camp near Vicksburg June 17, 1863

Dear Parents: I have not received a letter from Jacob in a long time. I heard that there was a great battle at (Sandorr?) and he could have been shot. In regard to us we are still in good health but Mike is not quite well. We are lying not quite 200 yards from the rebels. They are in a fortification and are still waiting for Johnson, who is also supposed (to attack) our rear and for them (he) will soon have been away from the action for too long and who also wont come. Every evening they ask us if Johnson isn't here yet. We are very busy undermining their fortification. We have dug approaches up to the redoubt. We also have trenches which are only 50 yards from them where sharpshooters are. We also have a shooter forward. Along our line the cannons are placed at 10 paces from each other. They are mainly 12 and 30 pounders. The 30 pounders are 11 feet long. the 12 pounders 6 feet long then again the 10 pounder is 7 feet long. The 30 pounders shoot an explosive round 4 3/4 inches in diameter and 13 inches long. The 6 footers shoot only round balls and bombs. The pickets keep up a heavy fire at one another. We cannot leave our emplacement at all--the bullets fly too thick. during the day there is heavy fire. At night they talk to one another. Day before yesterday I was also out on picket. I fired only 100 rounds. The rebels

shoot only one to 2 shots a day whereas our batteries are always firing. Soon they will be satisfied. We are so close in behind the city that we can also see them. It is beautiful in the evening when the shells from the rear quarter come this way and pass 300 to 500 feet high and then explode. One sees them coming like a light. The night is all full of fiery trails as the shells approach. It looks great because they are not shooting at us but rather at the rebels. One evening as a shell came one of us shouted he should lie down. Rebel inside. I am going into my hole. For every one has a fully dug out hole into which he can go. One of us asked them how things were by them and he answered, Very good for we get gunpowder from your bombs which did not explode. From Arkansas Post yet. I forgot to write that. An Irishman was wounded in both legs. Then he said, I prayed to God that he should keep my body healthy but I didn't think about my damned leg. I will bring this writing to a close and greet all, brother and sister. I am Frank Wagner, Co. K, 83 Regt. Ind. Vols. Memphis, Tennessee.

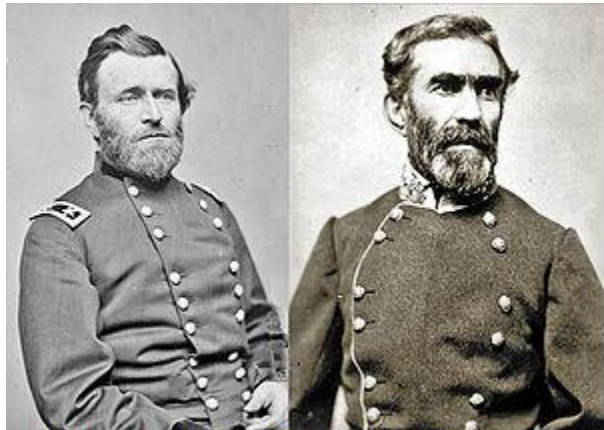


The **Chattanooga campaign** was a series of maneuvers and battles in October and November 1863. Following the defeat of William Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland at the Battle of Chickamauga in September, the Confederate Army of Tennessee under Braxton Bragg besieged Rosecrans and his men by occupying key high terrain around Chattanooga, TN. Grant was given command of Union forces in the West. Significant reinforcements also began to arrive with him in Chattanooga from Mississippi and the Eastern Theater. On October 18, Grant removed Rosecrans from command of the Army of the Cumberland and replaced him with Major General George Henry Thomas.

After the opening of a supply line (the "Cracker Line") to feed the starving men and animals in Chattanooga, a force under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker fought off a Confederate counterattack at the Battle of Wauhatchie on October 28–29, 1863. On November 23, the Army of the Cumberland advanced from the fortifications around Chattanooga to seize the strategic high ground at Orchard Knob while elements of the Union Army under Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman maneuvered to launch a surprise attack against Bragg's right flank on Missionary Ridge. On November 24, Sherman's men crossed the Tennessee River in the morning and then advanced to occupy high ground at the northern end of Missionary Ridge in the afternoon. The same day, a mixed force of almost three divisions under Maj. Gen. Hooker defeated the Confederates in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. The next day they began a movement toward Bragg's left flank at Rossville.

On November 25, Sherman's attack on Bragg's right flank made little progress. Hoping to distract Bragg's attention, Grant ordered Thomas's army to advance in the center and take the Confederate positions at the base of Missionary Ridge. The untenability of these newly captured entrenchments caused Thomas's men to surge to the top of Missionary Ridge, routing the Army of Tennessee, which retreated to Dalton, Georgia, successfully fighting off the Union pursuit at the Battle of

Ringgold Gap. Bragg's defeat eliminated the last significant Confederate control of Tennessee and opened the door to an invasion of the Deep South, leading to Sherman's Atlanta Campaign of 1864.



Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Gen. Braxton Bragg, commanding generals of the Chattanooga campaign

The **Battle of Missionary Ridge** was fought on November 25, 1863. In the morning, elements of the Union army commanded by Maj. General Sherman attempted to capture the northern end of Missionary Ridge, Tunnel Hill, but were stopped by fierce resistance from the Confederate divisions. In the afternoon, Grant was concerned that Bragg was reinforcing his right flank at Sherman's expense. He ordered the Army of the Cumberland to move forward and seize the Confederate line of rifle pits on the valley floor and to stop there to await further orders. The Union soldiers moved forward and quickly pushed the Confederates from the first line of rifle pits but were then subjected to a punishing fire from the Confederate lines up the ridge.

At this point, the Union soldiers continued the attack against the remaining lines, seeking refuge near the crest of the ridge (the top line of rifle pits were sited on the actual crest rather than the military crest of the ridge, leaving blind spots). This second advance was taken up by the commanders on the spot, but also by some of the soldiers who, on their own, sought shelter from the fire further up the slope. The Union advance was disorganized but effective; overwhelming and scattering what ought to have been, as General Grant himself believed, an impregnable Confederate line. In combination with an advance from the southern end of the ridge by divisions under Maj. Gen. Hooker, the Union Army routed Bragg's army.



The **Atlanta campaign** was a series of battles fought around Atlanta during the summer of 1864. Sherman invaded Georgia from the vicinity of Chattanooga beginning in May 1864, opposed by Confederate general Joseph Johnston.

Johnston's Army of Tennessee withdrew toward Atlanta in the face of successive flanking maneuvers by Sherman's group of armies. In July, the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, replaced Johnston with the more aggressive General John Bell Hood, who began challenging the Union Army in a series of costly frontal assaults. Hood's army was eventually besieged in Atlanta and the city fell on September 2, setting the stage for Sherman's March to the Sea.



Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and his staff in the trenches outside of Atlanta

The **Battle of Resaca** was waged in both Gordon and Whitfield counties in Georgia, May 13–15, 1864. It ended inconclusively with the Confederate Army retreating. The engagement was fought between the Sherman (Union) and Joseph Johnston (Confederates)



Battle of Resaca, by Kurz and Allison, 1889.

The **Battle of Dallas** (Georgia) occurred between May 26 and June 4, 1864. Includes the battle of New Hope Church and the battle of Pickett's Mill.

On May 24, Maj. Gen. Sherman, in overall command of the Union forces in Georgia, learned that his Confederate counterpart, Gen. Joseph Johnson was forming a defensive line along the south side of Pumpkin Vine Creek. After a series of engagements, Johnston's army fell back from the vicinity of Cassville-Kingston, first to Allatoona Pass and then to the Dallas area and entrenched. Sherman's army tested the Rebel line while entrenching themselves. The Battle of Dallas occurred on May 28 when Hardee's Corps probed the Union defensive line, held by Logan's Army of the Tennessee corps, to exploit any weakness or possible withdrawal. Fighting ensued at two different points, but the Rebels were repulsed, suffering high casualties.

Sherman continued looking for a way around Johnston's line, and, on June 1, his cavalry occupied Allatoona Pass, which had a railroad and would allow his men and supplies to reach him by train.

Sherman abandoned his lines at Dallas on June 5 and moved toward the rail line at Allatoona Pass, forcing Johnston to follow soon afterwards.



General Logan at the Battle of Dallas, May 1864

The **Battle of New Hope Church** was fought May 25–26, 1864. The battle was a result of an attempt by Sherman to outmaneuver Johnston.

After Johnston retreated to Allatoona Pass on May 19–20, Sherman decided that he would most likely pay dearly for attacking Johnston there, so he determined to move around Johnston's left flank and steal a march toward Dallas. Johnston anticipated Sherman's move and shifted his army into Sherman's path, centering a new line at New Hope Church. Sherman mistakenly surmised that Johnston had a token force and ordered Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker to attack. Advancing with his three divisions in parallel routes, Hooker pushed the Confederate skirmishers back for three miles, before coming to Johnston's main line.

Difficult terrain prevented Hooker from coordinating his corps' attacks effectively, causing his men to suffer severe casualties, especially from canister and shrapnel. On May 26, both sides entrenched, and skirmishing continued throughout the day. At the end of the battle, Confederate Captain Samuel T. Foster reported that 703 Union soldiers had been killed, as well as 350 taken prisoner. The next day, the Union troops concentrated their efforts in the area towards the northern end of the Confederate line, resulting in the Battle of Pickett's Mill.

waren die Rebellen fort. Wir
in Chatahoochie Fluß. Den
Rebellen. Den 8ten sind wir

er diesseits des Fluß stark ver=
haben wir Schantzen gemacht.

Rebellen über den Fluß. Den 11
haben wir werden Ruh bekommen

Den 12 sind wir am Abend auf
Marietta. Wir marschten die ganze
Tag mit Freuden den wir
haben. Auch hier wurde kein Halt
gemacht den andern ganzen Tag und
den 13ten bei Roswell, ein Städtchen
am Fluß liegt. Den andern Tag den
wir den Fluß und machten Schantzen
den 16. Den 17 sind wir von da fort.
Wir die Atlanta und Augusta
bei Stone Mountain. Den 19 kamen
wir. Den 20 sind wir in Schlachtlinie
auf 1 1/2 Meil von Atlanta. Unser
auf Vorposten. Den 21 Abend

Den 22 Morgens waren die Rebellen
abgefallen. Wir rückten vor bis
zu den verlassenen Schanzen. An 10 Uhr
erhielt die Brigade den Order 2 Meilen zurück
zum Spital zu ziehen. Jetzt werden wir hier
auf dem Weg (et) werden. Dort angekommen
wurden wir aus dem Wald
auf 10 Fuß ein Man gestellt.
In der Ordnung ging es schon 1 Meile
weiter. Es war ein Brigadier die Decatur
Brigade wurden von den Rebellen

Im Eil und heuften Holz auf
zu legen. Da dachten wir wenn wir
in der Lage wären. Am Abend kam
eine Verstärkung zu uns aber
wurden wir nicht den sie wurden von der

The rebels were gone on the morning of July 5.
We marched toward the Chattahoochee River.
The 6th and 7th we lay still. The 8th we pressed
forward up to the enemy where he was strongly
entrenched on this side of the river. On the 9th
we entrenched. The rebels crossed the river on
the night of the 10th. The 11th we went back. We
believed that we would be given a rest but that
was not so. On the evening of the 12th we
marched toward Marietta. We marched all night
long. But we did it with joy for we believed we
would remain there. But here, also, no halt was
made. We marched all the next day and in the
evening of the 13th we came to Roswell, a little
town lying on the Chattahoochee. The next day,
the 14th, we went across the river and entrenched
and stayed there the 15th and 16th. We left there
the 17th.

On the 18th we reached the Atlanta and Augusta
Railroad that is right at Stone Mountain. We
arrived at Decatur on the 19th. On the 20th we
advanced in battle line formation to within 1 1/2
miles of Atlanta. Our regiment had to be the
outposts. We were relieved on the evening of the
21st. The rebels fell back 200 yards on the
morning of the 22nd. We advanced to the
trenches that had been vacated by the enemy. At
10 o'clock our regiment received orders to go
back 2 miles to where the hospital is. Here we
were to be used as hospital guards. Once we got
there it was a different picture. We were in line
in the woods--a man placed every 10 feet.
We had barely put the line in order when things
started happening then a mile to the left of us. It
was a brigade that was occupying Decatur. They
were being attacked by the rebels.
We ran in all haste and piled up wood in order to
protect ourselves. Then we thought to ourselves--
if we were only with our brigade. In the evening
another brigade came to reinforce us but the
rebels did not come for they were

July 1864

ick geschlagen. Wir machten	beaten back by the brigade in Decatur. During the night we dug trenches.
23 gingen wir zu unser	The 23 rd we returned to our brigade. When we got there it was a horrible sight to see. While we believed ourselves to be in danger where we were the rebels had attacked our division and the First Division and beat them back in wild destruction, taking their cannon. However they were beaten back again by our people and they were so ---- that the ground was covered.
hes schauerlich aus Ihr glaubten wo wir waren ser Division und die hlugen sie zu rick und ng an namen der Kanonen unser Leute wieder zurick den so ge----elt das der blieben 1200 Gefangene (-- 33 und --- Regiment).	1200 prisoners remained in our hands. (33 and Regiment)
24sten haben wir eingefangen en 25 kamen wir bei Mariata wir wieder zurick zu der	On the 24 th we escorted the prisoners to Marietta. We arrived at Marietta on the 25 th . We returned to the brigade on the 26 th . We fell back on the 27 th . The 15 th , 16 th , and 17 th Corps fell back and began a flanking movement on the right of our army.
ck. Das 15te, 16te und 17	On the morning of the 25 th the line was formed and thrust forward about 4 miles going through the woods. Here the rebels attacked the 2 nd Division again. The rebels were beaten back with great loss.
ine Flanken Bewegung ec. Den 25 Morgens wurde orgeschohen etwa 4 Meilen Hir grif der Feind die Die Rebellen wurden ck geschlagen.	I myself was not there because I could not complete the march. We did not lose many people. The rebels fell back the night of the 29 th . On the 30 th we advanced and entrenched. Not much took place here until the 3 rd of August. August 3 rd the sharpshooter line had to be taken. Which we also did. We were overtaken by the rebels and forced back. That night it had to be ventured again. Now K Co. was also in on it. We took it again. I and 2 men from the 31 st Ohio Regiment captured 3 rebels.
ei den ich konte den Marsch doren nicht vill Leute. k gefalen. Den 29 Nachts den ind haben schanzen gemacht. just nicht vill vorgefallen.	On the 4 th , 5 th and 6 th there was fighting only at the outposts. The 7 th there was bombardment on both sides.
arfschuß Linge genommen r wurden von den Rebellen es wieder gewagt werden.	The 8 th and 9 th there was heavy fighting at the outposts. The 10 th we dug trenches 100 yards nearer and occupied them.
Wir namen die wieder. Ich	Every day here hard fighting took place at the outposts.
Dheio Regiment namen war nur Vorposten Gefecht. iden Seiden bumbartirt. Den ten Gefecht. Den 10ten	During the night of the 26 th the whole army left the rebels and marched (a while?) on the way they came to the Atlanta and Montgomery Railroad.
er gemacht und sind	
1 Gefecht statt. Den 26	
die Rebellen und marschirt men an der Atlanta und	

The **Battle of Allatoona**, also known as the **Battle of Allatoona Pass**, was fought October 5, 1864, in Bartow County Georgia.



Battle of Allatoona Pass, 1897 illustration

The **Battle of Kennesaw Mountain** was fought on June 27, 1864. It was the most significant frontal assault launched by Sherman against Johnston, ending in a tactical defeat for the Union forces. Strategically, however, the battle failed to deliver the result that the Confederacy desperately needed—namely a halt to Sherman's advance on Atlanta.

Sherman's 1864 campaign against Atlanta was initially characterized by a series of flanking maneuvers against Johnston, each of which compelled the Confederate army to withdraw from heavily fortified positions with minimal casualties on either side. After two months and 70 miles (110 km) of such maneuvering, Sherman's path was blocked by imposing fortifications on Kennesaw Mountain near Marietta, and the Union general chose to change his tactics and ordered a large-scale frontal assault on June 27, 1864.

In March 1864, Ulysses Grant was promoted to lieutenant general and named general in chief of the Union Army. He devised a strategy of multiple, simultaneous offensives against the Confederacy, hoping to prevent any of the rebel armies from reinforcing the others.

Both Grant and Sherman initially had objectives to engage with and destroy the two principal armies of the Confederacy, relegating the capture of important enemy cities to a secondary, supporting role. This was a strategy that President Lincoln had emphasized throughout the war, but Grant was the first general who actively cooperated with it. As their campaigns progressed, however, the political importance of the cities of Richmond and Atlanta began to dominate their strategy. By 1864, Atlanta was a critical target. The city of 20,000 was founded at the intersection of four important railroad lines that supplied the Confederacy and was a military manufacturing arsenal. Atlanta's nickname of "Gate City of the South" was apt—its capture would open virtually the entire Deep South to Union conquest. Grant's orders to Sherman were to "move against Johnston's Army, to break it up and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their War resources."



The **Battle of Atlanta** was a battle on July 22, 1864, just southeast of Atlanta. Continuing their summer campaign to seize the important rail and supply center of Atlanta, Sherman's forces overwhelmed and defeated Confederate forces defending the city under John Bell Hood. Union Major General James McPherson was killed during the battle. Despite the implication of finality in its name, the battle occurred midway through the campaign, and the city did not fall until September 2, 1864, after a Union siege and various attempts to seize railroads and supply lines leading to Atlanta. After taking the city, Sherman's troops headed towards Savannah with the March of the Sea.

The fall of Atlanta was especially noteworthy for its political ramifications. In the 1864 election, former Union general George McClellan (Democrat) ran against President Lincoln on a peace platform calling for a truce with the Confederacy. The capture of Atlanta and Hood's burning of military facilities as he evacuated were extensively covered by Northern newspapers, significantly boosting Northern morale, and Lincoln was re-elected by a significant margin.



Battle of Atlanta, by Kurz and Allison (1888)

The **Battle of Jonesboro** was fought August 31–September 1, 1864. Two Union armies led by Sherman maneuvered to draw the Army of Tennessee (led by John Bell Hood) away from their defenses at Atlanta.

Although Hood's army was not destroyed, the city of Atlanta was abandoned and then occupied by Union troops. The fall of Atlanta also had far-reaching political as well as military effects on the course of the war.



Ruins of Rolling Mill and cars destroyed by rebels on evacuation of Atlanta, Ga.

The **Battle of Lovejoy's Station** was fought on August 20, 1864 near Lovejoy Georgia. The two sides had arrived at a stalemate, with Union forces circling Atlanta and Confederate forces staying behind their fortifications.

Sherman's March to the Sea (also known as the **Savannah Campaign** or simply **Sherman's March**) was a conducted through Georgia from November 15 until December 21, 1864. The campaign began with Sherman's troops leaving Atlanta on November 15 and ended with the capture of the port of Savannah on December 21. His forces followed a scorched earth policy, destroying

military targets as well as industry, infrastructure, and civilian property, disrupting the Confederacy's economy and transportation networks. The operation broke the back of the Confederacy and helped lead to its eventual surrender. Sherman's decision to operate deep within enemy territory and without supply lines is considered to be one of the major campaigns of the war, and is considered by some historians to be an early example of modern total war.



The **Campaign of the Carolinas** (January 1 – April 26, 1865), also known as the **Carolinas Campaign**, was the final campaign. Sherman left Savannah on 1st of January and moved through the Carolinas to link up with Union forces in Virginia. The defeat of Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston's army at the Battle of Bentonville led to an unconditional surrender and an end to the Civil War.

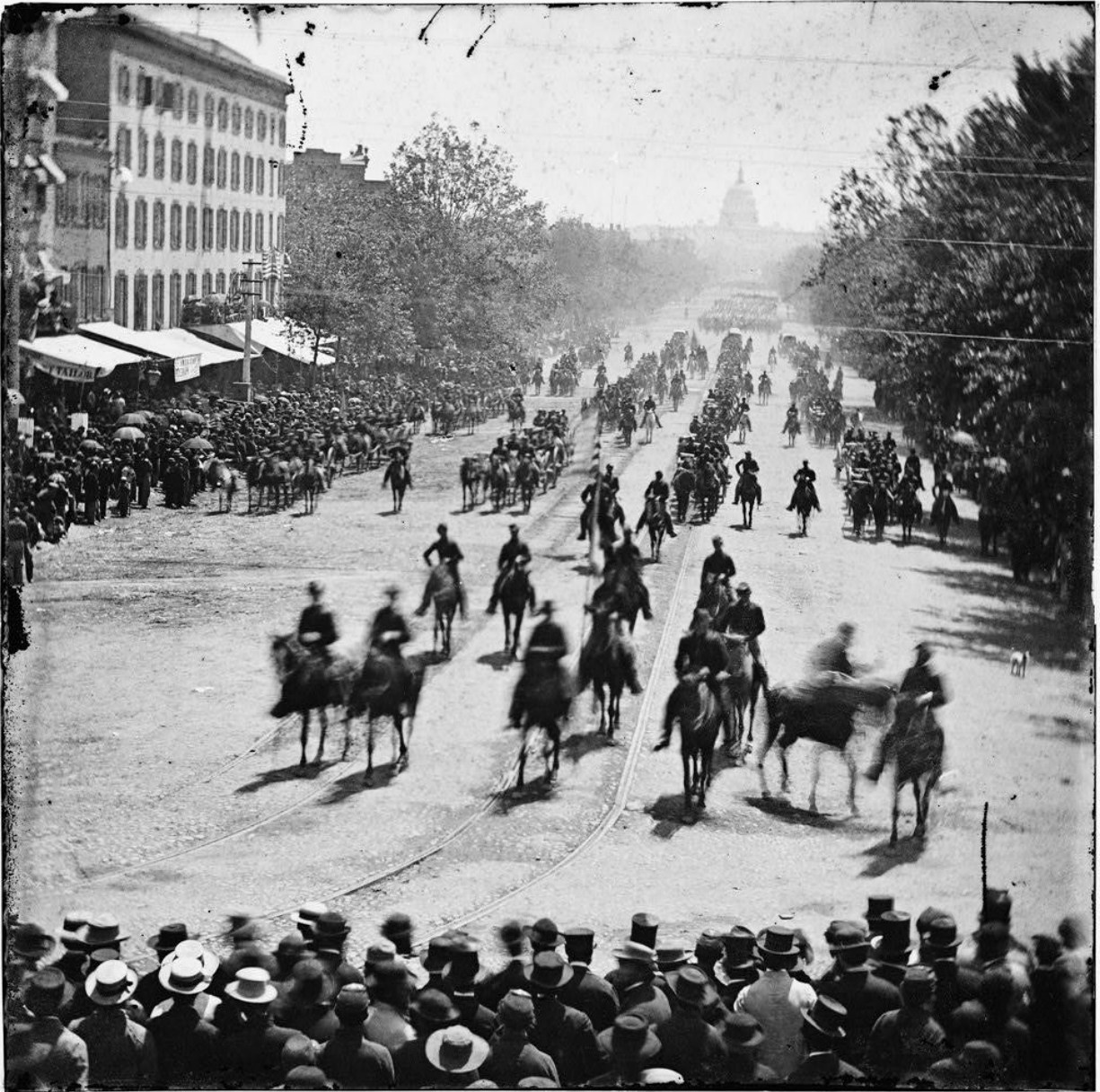


The Burning of Columbia, South Carolina, on February 17, 1865, as depicted in *Harper's Weekly*

The **Battle of Bentonville** (March 19 – 21, 1865) was the last battle between the armies of Sherman and Johnston. As a result of the overwhelming Union strength and the heavy casualties his army

suffered in the battle, Johnston surrendered to Sherman little more than a month later at Bennett Place, near Durham Station. Coupled with Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender to Grant on April 9, Johnston's surrender represented the effective end of the war.

The **Grand Review of the Armies** was a military procession and celebration in Washington DC on May 23–24, 1865, following the close of the Civil War. (1861–1865). Union Army, including the 83rd Indiana group paraded through the streets of the capital to receive accolades from the crowds and reviewing politicians, officials, and prominent citizens, including Andrew Johnson who was now the president after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.



Grand Review of the Armies. Capital Dome in the distance. Heading down Pennsylvania Ave towards the White House. May 23-24, 1865 at the conclusion of Civil War.

In the year 1863

(keep this till I come home)

On September 27 we left Camp Scherman [Sherman] and got to Vicksburg [Mississippi] on the 28th. Then we took steamboat and arrived in Memphis [Tennessee] on October 5. We stayed there till the 8th of October. Then we boarded a train (the Memphis & Carlton Road [Memphis & Charleston Road]) and arrived the same day in Moscow [Tennessee]. On the 10th we again took the train to Lekren [Tenn.?], which is fifty miles from Memphis. On the 15th we went on foot to Corinth [Miss.]. The following morning we went farther, arriving on the 20th at Iuka [Miss.] and Chereky [Cherokee, Alabama]. There we engaged in combat with the division of Osterhaus. On the 26th of October we drove the enemy back into Tuscumbia, Alabama. We then returned to Chereky [Cherokee, Ala.]. On the 29th we went out to do some foraging. But the rebels chased us away, and we had to return to camp. On the 31st of October we left the railroad and came to the Tennessee River. On November 2 we crossed the river by boat, getting as far as Waterloo [Ala.]. From there on to Florens [Florence,] Alabama, Pullasky [Pulaski, Tenn.], Fayetteville [Tenn.], New Marget [New Market, Ala.], and Maysville [Ala.]. On the 16th we went through Stevenson [Ala.]. On the 17th we arrived at Bridgeport [Ala.] and on the 20th at Mt. Lookout [Tenn.], crossing the river [there?]. Then came the order, on the 21st, to cross the river three or four miles above the city of Chattanooga [Tenn.]. This was postponed until two o'clock the morning of the 24th. We landed with luck on the other side, captured Pickut's [General Pickett?] rebels, and went up the first mountain. We beat back the rebels so that they had to leave Missiour Hill [Missionary Ridge?] under fierce pursuit. On the 28th, 29th, and 30th we built a bridge at Fort Schelly, and remained there till December 13. Then we returned to Bridgeport by way of Chattanooga, where we set up winter quarters, remaining there until December 26. Then we proceeded again through Stevenson [Ala.] as far as Bellefonten [?], where we stayed a few days. I was

there, and Diebel and Peter Huber too, and one or two men from each company. That was on December 31. We slept in a barn and it was very cold. On the 1st of January Franz Miller, Peter Huber, and I went out and butchered three hogs. From Bellefonten we went to Larkinsville, Alabama, which is also along the Memphis Charlston Railroad [Memphis & Charleston R.R.]. Conrad and I had to serve guard duty about five miles from our regiment. On February 7 we again returned to the regiment. On February 11 we began marching again, since the order was to come to Stevenson. When we arrived there, we had to continue to Bridgeport, Chattanooga, and Cleveland, Tenn. On March 5 we came back to Larkinsville, where we are to this very day amid eleven inches of snow, March 21 and 22, 1864.

All this Conrad Wagner and I went through in the fall campaign, from September, 1863, to March 22, 1864.

ick geschlagen. Wir machten
 i 23 gingen wir zu unser
 h es schauerlich aus
 thr glaubten wo wir waren
 ser Division und die
 hlugen sie zu rick und
 ng an namen der Kanonen
 i unser Leute wieder zurick
 den so ge----cht das der
 ; blieben 1200 Gefangene
 (- 33 und --- Regiment).
 24sten haben wir eingefangen
 en 25 kamen wir bei Mariata
 wir wieder zurick zu der

 ck. Das 15te, 16te und 17

 ine Flanken Bewegung
 ee. Den 25 Morgens wurde
 orgeschoben etwa 4 Meilen
 Hir grif der Feind die
 Die Rebellen wurden
 ck geschlagen.
 ei den ich konte den Marsch
 loren nicht vill Leute.
 k gefallen. Den 29 Nachts den
 nd haben schanzen gemacht.
 ust nicht vill vorgefallen.

 arfschüß Linge genommen

 r wurden von den Rebellen

 es wieder gewagt werden.

 Wir namen die wieder. Ich

 Dheio Regiment namen
 war nur Vorposten Gefecht.
 iden Seiden bumbartirt. Den
 ten Gefecht. Den 10ten

 ier gemacht und sind

 n Gefecht statt. Den 26

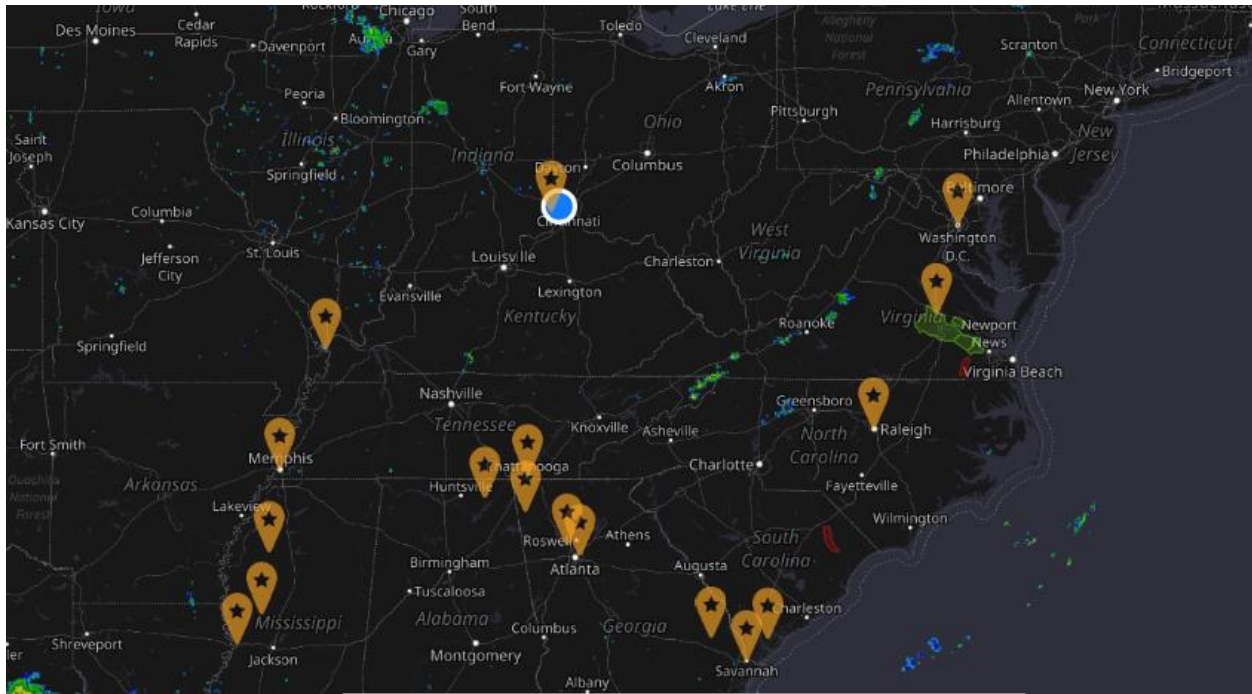
 die Rebellen und marschirt
 imen an der Atlanta und

beaten back by the brigade in Decatur.
 During the night we dug trenches.
 The 23rd we returned to our brigade. When we
 got there it was a horrible sight to see. While
 we believed ourselves to be in danger where we
 were the rebels had attacked our division and
 the First Division and beat them back in wild
 destruction, taking their cannon. However they
 were beaten back again by our people and they
 were so ---- that the ground was covered.

 1200 prisoners remained in our hands.
 (33 and Regiment)
 On the 24th we escorted the prisoners to
 Marietta.
 We arrived at Marietta on the 25th. We
 returned to the brigade on the 26th. We fell
 back on the 27th. The 15th, 16th, and 17th Corps
 fell back and began a flanking movement on
 the right of our army.
 On the morning of the 25th the line was
 formed and thrust forward about 4 miles going
 through the woods. Here the rebels attacked
 the 2nd Division again. The rebels were beaten
 back with great loss.
 I myself was not there because I could not
 complete the march. We did not lose many
 people. The rebels fell back the night of the
 29th. On the 30th we advanced and entrenched.
 Not much took place here until the 3rd of
 August. August 3rd the sharpshooter line had to
 be taken. Which we also did. We were
 overtaken by the rebels and forced back. That
 night it had to be ventured again. Now K Co.
 was also in on it. We took it again. 1 and 2
 men from the 31st Ohio Regiment captured 3
 rebels.

 On the 4th, 5th and 6th there was fighting only
 at the outposts. The 7th there was bombardment
 on both sides.
 The 8th and 9th there was heavy fighting at
 the outposts. The 10th we dug trenches 100
 yards nearer and occupied them.
 Every day here hard fighting took place at
 the outposts.
 During the night of the 26th the whole army
 left the rebels and marched (a while?) on the
 way they came to the Atlanta and Montgomery
 Railroad.

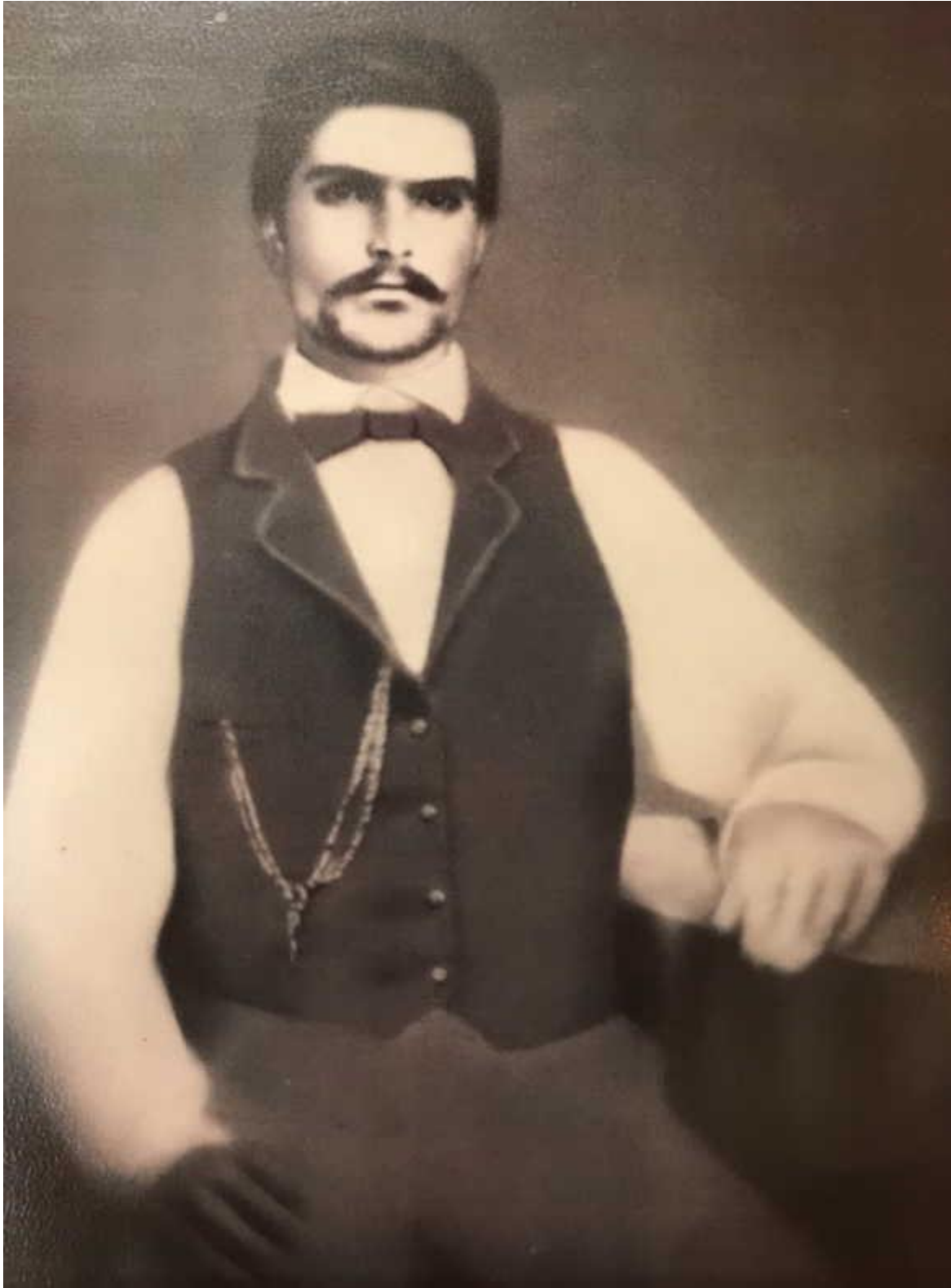
This map shows the places that Conrad Wagner fought over his three years with General Sherman. Starts in Lawrenceburg, to Cairo to Memphis to Vicksburg to Alabama to Chattanooga to Atlanta to Savannah through the Carolinas to Richmond to Washington DC and then back to Indiana.



Dates and Locations taken from the book “History of the 83rd Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for Three Years with Sherman”.

Date	Location	Page No.
1862		
August	83 rd organized by Col. Benj. Spooner in Lawrenceburg Indiana	5
Nov 7	Left Lawrenceburg camp heading to the war	10
Nov 9	Arrived Cairo Illinois by rail	12
Nov 10	Memphis	12
Nov 26	Tallahatchie March	15
Dec 10	Return march to Memphis	17
Dec 20	60 steamers and gunboats took troops down the Mississippi to Vicksburg	17
Dec 26	Yazoo River	18
Dec 28	Chickasaw Bayou, a disaster for the Union troops	19
1863		
Jan 1	Returned to the boats on the Yazoo	20
Jan 9	Up White River, through a swamp, into the Arkansas River	20
Jan 11	Old Arkansas Post	20
Jan 21	Trying to dig a canal so Union boats could pass by fort on Vicksburg MS hills, from Jan through May was time of great hardship and sickness	22
Apr 29	Ascended Yazoo to Hains' Bluff	29
May 16	Battle of Champion Hill	30
July 4	Vicksburg MS surrender	33`
Oct 26	Tuscumbia Alabama	36
Nov 25	Battle of Chattanooga (Lookout Mountain)	
1864		

Jan 1	Forage train sent out into the Country to find food	41
Jan 7	Moved to Larkinsville Alabama to set up winter quarters	41
May 13	Battle of Resaca, and Sherman pursued retreating enemy on May 16	49
May 26	Battle of Dallas Georgia	51
June 6	Kennesaw Mountain Georgia battles for 3 weeks	52
July 28	Atlanta battles, fired 34,300 rounds in 4 hours	55
Aug 30	Jonesboro	56
Sep 2	Lovejoy Station	56
Nov 15	Started long march from Atlanta to Savannah (Sherman's March to the Sea)	61
1865		
Jan 9	Moved into city of Savannah (evacuated)	67
Jan 15	Passed by Hilton Head and arrived at Beaufort SC	69
Feb 20	Proceeded northward with entire Sherman army	76
Apr 10	Move to Raleigh to attack Johnson's forces	81
Apr 14	Johnson's army surrendered to Sherman's army	82
Apr 27	In Raleigh, the entire army was reviewed by Gen U.S. Grant	82
May 1	30 guns fired to salute President Lincoln, then troops moved to Richmond Virginia	83
May 13	Passed through Richmond Virginia	85
May 24	Grand Review of Troops and celebrations in Washington DC	87
Jun 2	Mustered Out, and furnished transportation home to Indiana	88
Jun 5	In Washington DC, got onboard 46 box cars without seats to return to Indiana	157
Jun 9	To Parkersburg WV, then got on board the Rose Hite (nicest cleanest steam ship) to move then down the beautiful Ohio River	159
Jun 10	Celebration in Lawrenceburg	161
	At start in 1862, the 83 rd Indiana had 980 men in total. They returned in 1865 with 372 men in total.	



Conrad Wagner fought in Civil War from 1862 through 1865. He returned to Indiana and married Helena Rippberger on November 26, 1867. They had a first child who died as an infant in 1868. Then

Mary Wagner was born in 1869. Conrad died the next year in 1870. Helena remarried after Conrad died (Helena Dierckhuesieng)

Marriage

26 NOV 1867 • Franklin, Indiana



Conrad Wagner
(1844-1870)



Helena Ripperger

BIRTH 11 DEC 1846 • Indiana

DEATH 28 FEB 1883 • Saint Peter, Franklin County, Indiana, USA



Spouse & Children



Conrad Wagner
1844-1870



Mary Magdalena Wagner
1869-1953



Maria Rosa Wagner
-1868

This is a document showing Helena (the widow of Conrad) applying for his Civil War pension. Shows he was in Company K of the 83rd Indiana Infantry. And the second is a request for a headstone.

NAME OF SOLDIER: Wagner, Conrad (2-35)				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: Widow, Dierckhuesieng, Helena Minor,				
SERVICE: K 83 Inda Inf.				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
1881 Dec 29	Invalid, Widow, Minor,	285, 777		
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS: 2/23				

Wagner, Conrad
 Pvt. Co. K, Regt. 83rd
 Ind. Inf.
 Cemetery Village
 City or Town St Peter
 County and State Franklin, Ind.
 Grave
 died Feb. 15th 1870.
 Headstone supplied _____ 18____
 by D. W. Whitney
 Contract dated Nov 29th 1878.
 Headstone applied for _____



Catherine Geis Edit
(first on left in front row)

1st row: Catherine, William, Mary (Sr Mary Georgette, SC), Mary, Cecil (Sr Cecil Mariam SC) 2nd row: Rose, Bertha, Harry, Robert, Bernard, Clara 3rd row: Bill (Wm Jr), Albert, Florentine, Carl, Francis, Joe

Tom_Hensler originally shared this on 17 Jan 2012

Linked To

- [Catherine Geis](#)
- [William John Geis](#)
- [Mary Magdalena Wagner](#)

+ Add

Saved by (10 of 30)

Comments

PS: Conrad, in the seventh grade, you will likely have to participate in a History Fair. The above information may give you a head start. Love, Uncle Tom