

# Thomas Turpin Crittenden

By Emil Posey



regiments of Indiana's initial quota, was organized at Camp Morton in Indianapolis. Four days later, on April 29, its officers were sworn in. Commanding them was Colonel Crittenden.

Thomas Turpin Crittenden was born October 16, 1825 in Huntsville, Alabama. Reared in Texas and educated at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, he settled in Missouri where he practiced law until the outbreak of the Mexican War. In that conflict, he served as a second lieutenant with the Missouri volunteers. Five days after the surrender of Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861, he was appointed captain of Company A in the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Eight days later, on April 27, 1861, he was appointed the commanding colonel.



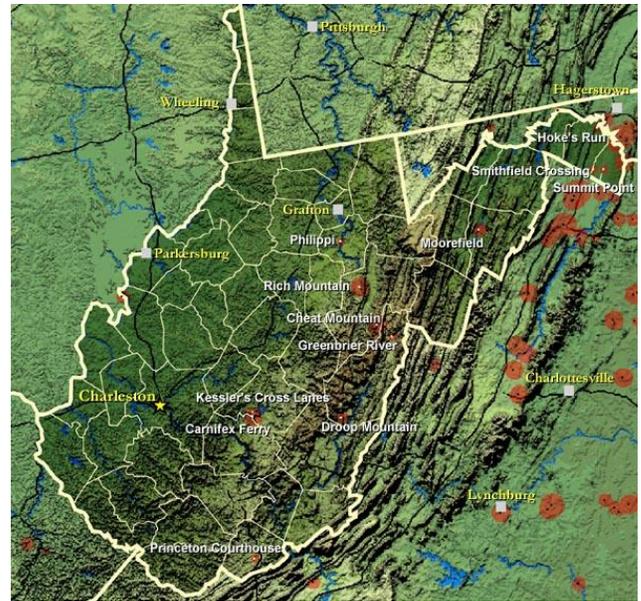
The storm clouds had been forming for months, but no Northern state was really ready for hostilities. True to tradition, when the war came, the brunt of the fight was borne by the national militia rather than the Regular Army, which was too small. Throughout Indiana, as throughout the North, men flooded to enlistment stations. In Indianapolis, the state capital, 500 volunteers showed up the first day. The next day, the number had risen to 1,000 and to 2,400 on the third day. North and South, patriotic fever was running high. On April 25, 1861, the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry, its 782 men rounding out the six 3-month

A casualty of not-so-friendly fire.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry was one of the six 3-month regiments formed in Indiana in response to President Lincoln's first call for 75,000 men. It left Indianapolis on May 30 by way of Cincinnati, Ohio and Parkersburg, Virginia for the scene of conflict in northwestern Virginia, in what was to become West Virginia. The regiments arrived at Webster, Virginia on June 2, joined other Union forces, and marched with them that same night through a drenching rain some 14 miles to an area near Philippi in Barbour County, (West) Virginia where it had its first taste of battle on June 3. (A battle history of

the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry written in 1891 says it was the first Indiana regiment to see battle, but that claim is murky since other Indiana regiments were also involved.) The Battle of Philippi was a limited engagement, often characterized as a skirmish rather than a battle. To those involved, it was a significant action. And while its effects were limited in time and space, it was the first Union victory. (The Battle of Fairfax Court House, fought June 1, considered the first land battle of the war, was truly a skirmish between a small Union Regular Army cavalry force and Virginia militia infantry with inconclusive results.)

The area in which Colonel Crittenden and the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry would operate in this early campaign was important for the lines of communication traversing it, particularly the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad and the turnpikes that crossed it. The terrain was hilly and movement was constricted to valleys. Philippi was important as it sat astride a thoroughfare (the Beverly-Fairmont Turnpike, a gravel road completed in 1852), which included a covered bridge over the Tygart Valley River.



***Map of Civil War sites in West Virginia, courtesy of the National Park Service***

The area now known as West Virginia was referred to in antebellum times as Virginia's Trans-Allegheny region. It presented much greater challenges to transportation than did less rugged portions of the state. However, there was a goal on the western side. There, at and beyond the western edge of the Appalachian plateau, the terrain became less hilly. In addition, navigable waterways like the Kanawha River and the Ohio River led to the Mississippi River, and thence to the Gulf of Mexico.

Construction of the B&O Railroad began in 1811 at Cumberland and the road reached Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia) on the Ohio River in 1818. Just to the south, the state-funded Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike (today Virginia Route 47 and US 250) was constructed to provide a direct route for the settlements of the

Shenandoah Valley to the Ohio River by way of the Tygart Valley and Little Kanawha Rivers. The Staunton and Parkersburg was maintained by fees (tolls) collected at toll houses placed at regular intervals.



**Map of the Monongahela River basin, with the Tygart Valley River highlighted (Wikipedia)**

On May 4, 1861, Robert E. Lee, formerly a colonel in the U.S. Army, but now having resigned his commission and been appointed a major general and commanding the Virginia militia, recognized the importance of this area. He ordered Colonel George Porterfield to organize forces at Grafton in northwest Virginia to hold and protect both the main line and the Parkersburg branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at that location. Colonel Porterfield arrived in the

area on May 14, 1861. He found mixed secessionist and pro-Union sentiment in the area. More importantly, he found that Virginia militia was just being formed in various locales. He organized these disparate companies into the 25th Virginia Infantry, the 31st Virginia Infantry, and the 9th Battalion of Virginia Infantry, and occupied Grafton on May 25. On May 27, he learned that Union regiments under the overall departmental command of Major General George B. McClellan were headed toward Grafton. He decided that his position at Grafton was untenable and on May 28 withdrew his force to Philippi, about 30 miles to the south of Grafton. Also on May 28, McClellan placed the entire Union force in western Virginia, about 3,000 men, under the command of Brigadier General Thomas A. Morris. On May 30, Colonel Kelley occupied Grafton.

Union forces approaching Philippi, totaling about 3,000, were under the overall command of Brig. Gen. Thomas A Morris, commander of Indiana Volunteers, and were organized into two "divisions," one under the Union Colonel Benjamin Franklin Kelley (a Virginian serving in the Union Army) and the other under Indianan Colonel Ebenezer Dumont, comprising Colonel Crittenden's 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry along with Colonel Dumont's 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana and the 14<sup>th</sup> Ohio under Colonel James B. Steedman. Losing the planned element of surprise (Colonel Dumont's advance elements were spotted by local civilians who gave alarm to Confederate forces), the

Union's assault early on the morning of June 3 did not go according to plan, and the Confederate force, some 700-800 recruits under Confederate Colonel George A. Porterfield of Virginia, were able to retire from battlefield with few casualties. Nonetheless, it was a victory for the Union and the Indianans, including Colonel Crittenden and his 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers.

The campaign was not over. Actions were to continue: the Battle of Rich Mountain (July 11) and the Battle of Corrick's Ford on the Cheat River (July 13), which were both Confederate defeats. The 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers was involved, but details are lacking.



**Map of the Monongahela River basin, with the Cheat River highlighted (Wikipedia)**

During this campaign, the Union forces lost 37 killed and 87 wounded versus Confederate losses of 135 killed, 280 wounded, and 1,025 captured. While the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana suffered no killed or wounded, they did participate in a campaign that effectively cleared West Virginia of Confederate forces. Major General George B. McClellan wrote to Indiana Governor O. P. Morton: "Governor, I have directed the three months' regiments from Indiana to move to Indianapolis, there to be mustered out and re-organized for the three years' service. I can not permit them to return to you without again expressing my high appreciation of the distinguished valor and endurance of the Indiana troops, and my hope that but a short time will elapse before I have the pleasure of knowing that they are again ready for the field. Very respectfully..."

Colonel Crittenden and the regiment returned to Indianapolis and were discharged on August 2, thus ending the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry's service. Brigadier General Morris was equally effusive:

"Officers and Soldiers of the Brigade,

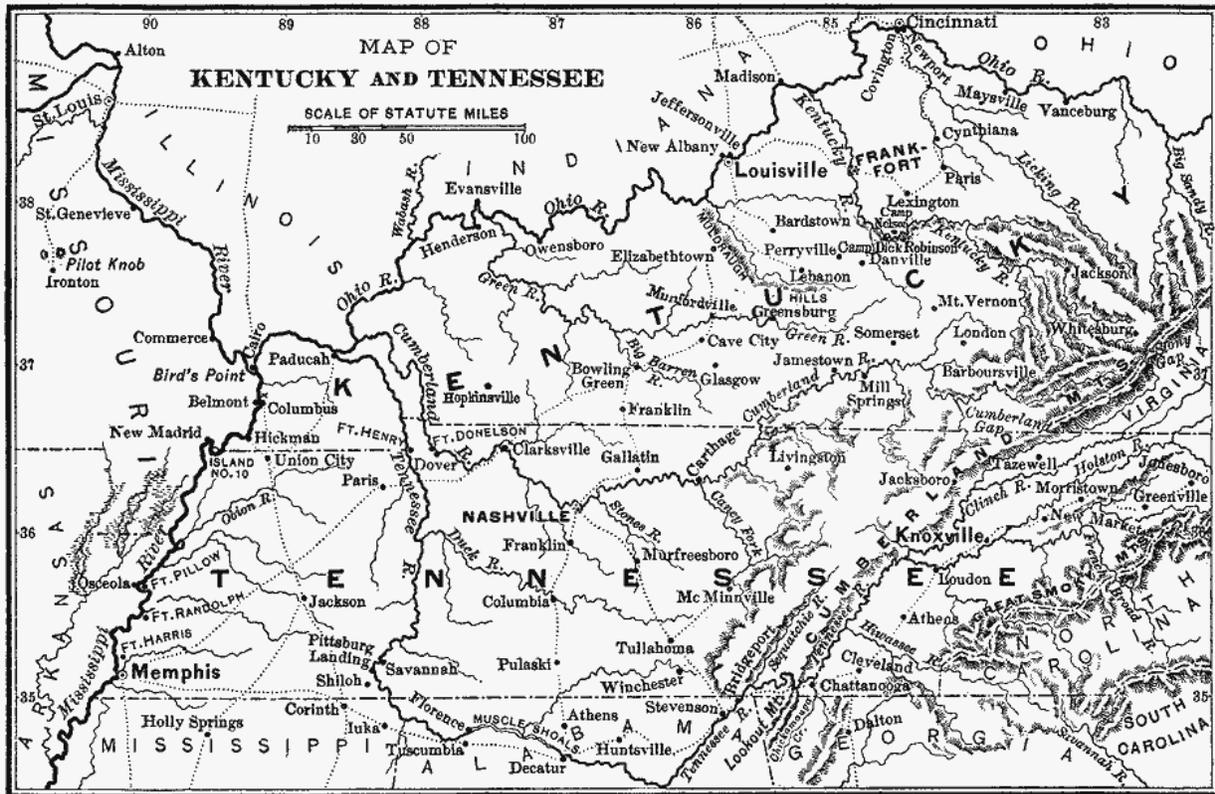
The term of service for this brigade in the Army of the United States having expired, and the relations of officers and soldiers about to be dissolved, the General, in relinquishing his command, deems this a fit occasion to express

his entire approbation of the conduct of the brigade, whether in camp, on the march, or in the field of battle. The General tenders to all his thanks for the soldierly bearing, cheerful performance of every duty, and the patient endurance of the privations and fatigues of campaign life, which all have so constantly exhibited. Called suddenly by the National Executive from the ease and luxuries of home life, to the defense of our Government, the officers and soldiers of this brigade have voluntarily submitted to the privations and restraints of military life; and, with the intelligence of free Americans, have acquired the arts of war as readily as they relinquished their pursuits of peace. They have cheerfully endured the fatigue of long and dreary marches by day and night through rain and storm; they have borne the exhaustion of hunger for the sake of their country. Their labor and suffering were not in vain. The foe they met and vanquished. They scattered traitors from

their secure entrenchments in the gorges of Laurel Hill, stripped of the munitions of war to flee before the vengeance of patriots. Soldiers, you have not returned to the friend whose prayers went with you to the field of strife. They welcome you with pride and exultation. To your State and country acknowledge the value of your labors. May your future career be as your past has been – honorable to yourselves and serviceable to your country!”

Generals McClellan’s and Morris’s words were high praise, but such is understandable for troops having acquitted themselves well in their first taste of the field. The experience and field craft they learned during the course of this campaign would be sorely needed in the months and years ahead.

On September 20, the unit was reorganized at Camp Noble at Madison, Indiana, as the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry for three-years of service with Colonel Crittenden still in command. Lieutenant Colonel Hiram Prather, second in command, and a few other officers reentered service for three years with the new 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry as well. Most of the other officers transferred to other units as the expansion of the Union Army continued apace.



**Map of Kentucky and Tennessee at the time of the American Civil War (historyofwar.org)**

Numbering only about 500 officers and men (the regiment was one company short), Colonel Crittenden immediately moved the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana from Madison to Louisville, Kentucky. Confederate forces under newly commissioned Brigadier General Simon B. Bruckner, a native Kentuckian, had moved into Bowling Green, Kentucky on September 18. (The 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana fancied themselves the first Union troops to enter that border state, and so it was in this particular area, but actually Union Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant was the first into Kentucky, having crossed the Ohio River from Cairo, Illinois to occupy Paducah, Kentucky on September 6.) The regiment moved

about 40 miles south of Louisville to a point near Elizabethtown on September 22. There it was joined by 300 more recruits that had left Madison under Lieutenant Colonel Prather's charge, thus bringing the regiment to full strength.

Union forces concentrated in this area, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry was assigned to Rousseau's Brigade of McCook's Division, part of Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell's army. It was here that the regiment settled into its organization, becoming fully armed and equipped, honed its field craft skills, and began its tactical and maneuver training as all new regiments do.

It was not all drill and hard work, however. On Thanksgiving Day, some 200 ladies arrived by train to treat the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana to a "sumptuous" dinner as a way to

thank the regiment for having protected them from General Bruckner's Rebel forces that had been advancing from the south. After the dinner, the regiment was presented with a flag from the ladies on which was inscribed: "From the ladies of the Sixth Ward, Louisville, Ky., to the Sixth Regiment, Indiana Volunteers."

On December 9, the regiment began a movement along with the rest of the Union force to Munfordsville, Woodsonville, and on towards Bowling Green, which had been the provisional Confederate capital of Kentucky. It wintered along the Green River, north of Bowling Green, until March 1862. It was a cold winter filled with drill, dress parade, and picket duty during the day; euchre, letter writing, and more picket duty evenings and nights. For most of the officers and men, boredom, tedium, and hardship were punctuated by letters and occasional packages from family and friends - always against the backdrop of remembrances of home.

But the winter passed and the war went on. In February after Brigadier General Grant captured Fort Henry, located on the Tennessee River, and Fort Donelson, located on the Cumberland River, thus opening the way south through western Tennessee, General Bruckner's forces vacated Bowling Green and moved to join Confederate General Albert Sydney Johnston's Army of Mississippi that was assembling in the vicinity of Corinth, Mississippi. Now-Major General Grant, who had been promoted after capturing the forts, and his Army of the Tennessee

began a movement south through Tennessee toward Corinth, which was an important rail intersection. Newly-promoted Major General Buell's Army of the Ohio moved southwestward in support of General Grant. A major clash was brewing, and it would happen near Pittsburg Landing on the west bank of the Tennessee River in April 1862, in what would come to be known as the Battle of Shiloh. Colonel Crittenden and the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry would be there.

In March, the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry marched to Nashville. It was a long, tiring march and went into camp near that city. On March 15, the movement resumed, this time towards the Duck River and then on towards Savannah on the east bank of the Tennessee River, just north of Pittsburg Landing. They arrived on the morning of April 7, the second day of the battle. The first day, April 6, had been a close run thing for General Grant's forces, but with reinforcements from General Buell's Army of the Cumberland, which included the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, on the next day, the course of the battle would turn around.



**Shiloh Battlefield and vicinity**  
 (<http://www.sonofthesouth.net>)

Colonel Crittenden and the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry arrived in Savannah about 8:00 p.m. the evening of April 6. By 11:00 p.m., they were aboard steamers headed to Pittsburg Landing. It was raining heavily and by the time they arrived. Union soldiers were in a disorganized mass on the west bank of the river.

“...we could hardly find standing room on the shore...It was simply mud and rain everywhere. I don't think our regiment got one hundred feet from the river's edge where we got off that night and I think I give the experience of every member of the old Sixth when I say that the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> of April,

1862, was the worst night of our entire three years' service...Language fails me when I undertake to describe the terrible sufferings and hardships of that night after we landed, and in giving my own experience I expect that I but voice the sentiment of every member if the regiment. My clothes were wet to the skin, my feet and ankles were blistered, and my legs pained me so badly that to sleep would have been impossible, even had there been any chance for it; but none but the dead could sleep. Standing in the open air in mud ankle deep, and the rain simply coming down in torrents and, to make matters worse, it turned cold; the rapid heavy marching through the day had warmed us to a copious sweat, and in cooling off we passed to the other extreme, and with no possible chance for exercise; and to add to this condition, there was a hospital within thirty steps of us, where the doctors were busy dressing the wounded, extracting balls, and amputating shattered limbs. The groans and

shrieks of the wounded and dying drowned every other noise except the pelting rain.”

As endless as the night seemed to the regiment, it passed all too quickly. Close to 5:00 a.m., Colonel Crittenden finished his conference with the brigade commander, Brigadier General Rousseau, and gave the bugler the order to sound “Fall In!” As soon as it formed, the regiment was moved forward. Other regiments preceded it; still others followed.

General Buell’s three divisions that had crossed the river throughout the night were taking their place in General Grant’s line. They would form the left wing, with their extreme left resting on the Tennessee River: Brigadier General William Nelson’s division (which had crossed the river on the evening of April 6) was on the left next to the river. Brigadier General Thomas L. Crittenden’s (a cousin of our Colonel Crittenden) was in the middle, and Brigadier General Alexander M. McCook’s was on the right. General Rousseau’s 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade was the left-hand brigade in General McCook’s line, joining General Crittenden’s right. Along with the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana, it comprised the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio, 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky, and two battalions of U. S. Regulars.

When night fell on April 6, the Confederate forces had been attacking all day, pushing General Grant’s forces back toward the river, but could go no further. Units were intermixed with little unit cohesion above brigade level, and there was no reserve that Confederate General

P. T. Beauregard, who had taken command after General Johnston was killed earlier that day (about 2:30 p.m.), could call upon. Jubilant, but exhausted Confederate troops occupied abandoned Union camps. They searched for food and other abandoned goods left by retreating Union Troops. They collapsed from exhaustion when they could search no more. That night, General Beauregard slept in General Sherman’s captured tent near Shiloh Church. General Beauregard planned on resuming the offensive the next morning and drive the Union forces into the river. General Grant, however, had plans of his own.

Union forces began their counterattack at dawn, beginning on the Union left. General Nelson began the advance at about 5:00 a.m., but General Buell soon halted him in order to allow the other two divisions to move into the line. They did not resume their advance until about 9:00 a.m. On the other side of the line, General Sherman began his advance shortly after General Nelson moved forward. General Grant’s other divisions received their attack orders by 8:00 a.m., and by 10:00 a.m., Union forces were attacking all along the line. By mid-day, General Beauregard had decided to retreat, issuing the order around 2:30 p.m. The afternoon ended with Union forces back to their original encampments and the Confederates withdrawing relatively unmolested back toward Corinth.

Colonel Crittenden and the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry was involved from the beginning. General Rousseau’s brigade had an advanced position in

the line and repulsed two Confederate charges. They were relieved in the line only when they had to retire to replenish ammunition. They also participated in the advance as the Confederate forces withdrew to General Grant's forces' original camps and beyond.

The battle ended in an important Union victory. Union losses totaled 13,047 (1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded, and 2,885 captured or missing). The 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry's portion of this total: 7 killed, 6 wounded, none captured or missing. No officers were lost.

April 8 was given over to finding suitable campground, taking stock of the living and burying the dead (this extended to beyond those of the regiment), and reflecting on what they had been through. Unfortunately, the rain continued for the better part of two weeks.

General Grant's and General Buell's armies consolidated under Major General Henry Wager Halleck. Near the end of April, the army began a general move toward Corinth. This included the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, but the regiment and Colonel Crittenden parted ways. He was promoted to Brigadier General effective April 28. Shiloh had been a huge battle, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry played a relatively minor, but nonetheless significant, role. Its ranks had "seen the elephant" and acquitted themselves well, as had Colonel Crittenden. Hence, his promotion.

Details on this period of now-Brigadier General Crittenden's career are obscure. The reason for his promotion is presumed to be based on the quality of his

performance as a regimental commander up to this point, particularly in the movement to Pittsburg Landing and his handling of the regiment on the second day of the Battle of Shiloh. There is no record of him having been assigned another command upon his promotion or that he was given any leave of absence, so presumably he was reassigned to a staff position within General Buell's Army of the Ohio.

Following the battle, General Halleck moved his headquarters to Pittsburg Landing and assumed field command of all Union forces in the area: the Army of the Tennessee - with General Grant reassigned to become General Halleck's deputy; General John Pope's Army of the Mississippi, and General Buell's Army of the Ohio. General Halleck redesignated these as "wings" (Right, Center, and Left, respectively). The total force, although estimates vary, was some 100,000-120,000 men, the largest army the Union had yet put into the field under a single commander. General Halleck's plan was to seize Corinth, Mississippi. He was quite cautious, however, and took about four weeks to move the 20 or so miles from the Shiloh battlefield, followed by another month of siege of the city. Nonetheless, this leviathan force, along with depletion of Confederate ranks around Corinth due to illness, prompted General Beauregard to vacate Corinth on May 29 and retire his forces further southward to Tupelo, Mississippi.

At this point, General Halleck broke up the large command -

General Sherman was sent to Memphis, General Grant resumed command of the Army of Tennessee, General Pope was to hold a covering position south of Corinth, and General Buell and his Army of the Ohio was sent east to take Chattanooga. It is this direction that General Crittenden's story takes us.

General Buell's movement toward Chattanooga began on June 10. The move across northeastern Mississippi and into Alabama was easy enough, but it was slow going past Decatur, Alabama. Summer heat and a low Tennessee River forced reliance on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad which, by this time, was not up to the challenge. Confederate guerilla activity in the area contributed to the logistical burdens.

In the meantime, General Beauregard had incurred the deep displeasure of Confederate President Jefferson C. Davis and was replaced by General Braxton Bragg in Tupelo. Prompted by President Davis, General Bragg contemplated a renewed advance northward to retake Corinth, but determined it impractical. Instead, he left a covering force near Tupelo and moved some 35,000 men to Chattanooga, by way of Mobile, Alabama. General Bragg and his men arrived in Chattanooga on July 28, well before the Army of the Ohio. Beaten to his goal, General Buell spread his forces across northern Alabama and central Tennessee in preparation for his next move. As part of this positioning, General Crittenden was ordered to Murfreesboro, Tennessee to become

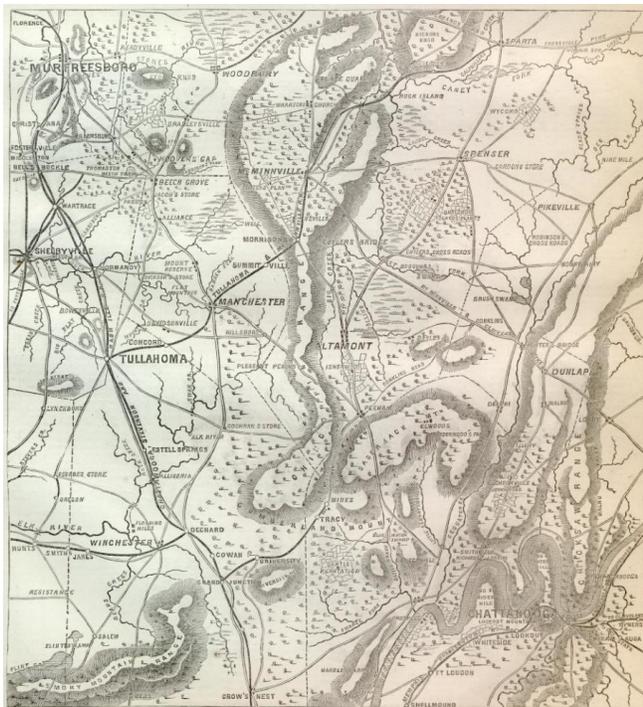
its garrison commander. The stage was now set for the climax of his all too brief military career.

Enter Confederate Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest, who became the instrument of General Crittenden's downfall. We must back up a bit, though, since this was not the first time Colonel Forrest was on the same battlefield as Colonel Crittenden. Back on April 8, the day after the Battle of Shiloh, Union forces under General Sherman, with two infantry brigades and some accompanying cavalry, moved down the road to Corinth and attempted to harass and reconnoiter the withdrawing Confederate forces. Colonel Forrest was charged with covering the withdrawal. In a bold move, Colonel Forrest engaged General Sherman in what became known as the Battle at Fallen Timbers (due to the large number of downed trees on the field). In typical Forrest style, he led his 300-strong cavalry force in an attack on the 77<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry. The Union pickets caved in and a melee ensued. As more Union forces joined the fray, Colonel Forrest's men began to pull back, leaving him exposed. He wasn't aware of this until he found himself in the midst of Union infantrymen, all of whom seemed most intent on doing him great bodily harm. He fought his way out, but not without being severely wounded at pointblank range.

The wound was survivable, and Colonel Forrest was sent to Memphis to recuperate. He rejoined his men in June. By that time the Battle of Corinth had occurred and Union General Buell was headed

east. Colonel Forrest was relieved of his cavalry command and on June 11, with a small, handpicked escort, was sent to Chattanooga to organize a cavalry brigade. It consisted of the 8<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry (popularly known as Terry's Texas Rangers; Colonel John A. Wharton), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Cavalry (Colonel J. K. Lawton), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Cavalry Battalion (Lieutenant Colonel James J. Morrison).

They were mostly green troops, but his officers and NCOs trained



***Map of that part of Tennessee through which Colonel Forrest moved from Chattanooga to Murfreesboro***

them up quickly, and on July 9 he led them out of Chattanooga on a raid into middle Tennessee. He moved through McMinnville, Tennessee on July 11 and arrived near Murfreesboro in the early morning of July 13 with a force totaling about 1,400 men.

Coincidentally, General Crittenden arrived that day, as well.

Murfreesboro was an important Union supply depot on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad. On March 8, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Army of the Ohio, was organized there under Colonel William Duffield. It consisted of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota Infantry under Colonel Henry C. Lester; the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry under Colonel John G. Parkhurst; a cavalry command that included the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron of the 4<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry, and two sections of Battery B, Kentucky Light Artillery. On May 9, Colonel Lester assumed command. On June 26, he divided his command into three separate camps in and about town: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota and the artillery battery were about 1½ miles north of town on the east side of Stones River; five companies of the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan and Kentucky cavalry squadron were about ¾ mile east of town on Liberty Pike; one company of the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan held the court house; three companies of the 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan had been sent to Tullahoma (and thus were out of the action), and the remaining troops occupied the center of town. Colonel Duffield returned on July 11. With him was General Crittenden.

The next day, July 12, Colonel Duffield resumed command of the brigade and General Crittenden assumed command of the post. Absent the three Michigan companies, he had about 1,700 men. This was more than the 1,400 available to Colonel Forrest, but they were scattered and not

mutually supporting. The extent to which he familiarized himself with the situation is not known, but in the event he either had too little time to assess the deployments and routine or to make changes, or he did not make good use of the time he had. For example, the Union cavalry patrolled the area roads during the day, but returned to camp at dusk each day. More problematic, the unit commanders were quarrelsome, which reduced their ability and inclination to cooperate with each other.

Colonel Forrest knew of the garrison and general dispositions in Murfreesboro from his scouts. When he arrived at around 4:30 a.m. on July 13, he immediately attacked. He split his command into three groups, and the action that followed essentially was three separate actions. The 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan fought well, but surrendered about 11:30 a.m. when no support was forthcoming. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Minnesota also fought well, repulsing three Confederate charges, but they finally succumbed at about 3:30 p.m. Sometime during the day (presumably in the morning), General Crittenden was captured. With less than 24 hours in command, he and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Brigade were added to Colonel Forrest's victory roll. Colonel Forrest's command captured something over 1,200 Union prisoners, four cannon, 600 horses and mules, and large quantities of weapons and stores. They also tore up railroad track in the area and destroyed Union supplies that they could not take along with them.

This incident – General Crittenden's 15 minutes of fame – virtually ended his career. General Buell remarked, "Few more disgraceful examples of neglect of duty and lack of good conduct can be found in the history of wars." It was strong criticism from a man with General Buell's reputation. He was relieved of command on October 24 following the Battle of Perryville for dilatory tactics, i.e., for following the Confederate withdrawal too slowly.

It isn't clear whether General Crittenden was sent to a Confederate military prison or if he was paroled. In any event, he was released and returned to service in October 1862.

Details after his return to duty are sparse. Early in 1863, he was given command of a brigade (possibly 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, XX Corps, Army of the Cumberland), but resigned in May. He moved to Washington, D.C., in 1868 and, in 1885, he moved to San Diego where he was a real estate developer. He died while on a vacation trip at East Gloucester, Maine, September 5, 1905, and was buried with full military honors in Section 7, Grave 8274, of Arlington National Cemetery. His wife, Elizabeth Baldwin Crittenden was buried with him after her death two years later.

And so we have Thomas Turpin Crittenden. He did not make a big impact in the historical record of the Civil War. Still, he was a competent regimental commander that organized a solid infantry regiment, led them in their baptism of field life in (West) Virginia in the first months of the war, reorganized them into a

regiment ready to serve a much longer term, subsequently moved them as part of the Army of the Ohio into Kentucky, thence to Savannah, Tennessee and the Battle of Shiloh, followed by a ponderous campaign in northern Mississippi, and then on to Murfreesboro, Tennessee and his date with destiny. It was in Murfreesboro that his career ended due to what may very well have been nothing more than frustration and

lashing out on the part of his senior commander whose own career prospects were dimming. In an abrupt turn of events, General Crittenden's career was unfairly cut short by some not-so-friendly fire. Such are the vicissitudes of war.



The Narrative can be found in the TVCWRT book published in 2012 titled, *North Alabama Civil War Generals; 13 Wore Gray, the Rest Blue*. Complements of the TVCWRT.