Visit to the Fort Blakely Battlefield (1865), Blakeley State Park, Mobile, Alabama.

Clive Hollick

Date of visit 23 Nov 2023

Introduction

Battle of Blakeley – the last battle of the American Civil War*

"After the Atlanta and Georgia Campaigns of late 1864, Union commanders looked to wipe out remaining Confederate forces in the deep south, including those defending Mobile, Alabama. In the last week of March, 1865, the Union XVI and XIII corps under Maj. Gen. Edward R. S. Canby moved north along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay toward Confederate defenders at Spanish Fort, arriving there March 27. Brig. Gen. St. John R. Liddell, with about 3,000 men supported by gunboats, held out against the much larger Union force until Spanish Fort fell on April 8, allowing Canby to concentrate 16,000 men for the attack on nearby Fort Blakeley the next day. After a brief fight, Union troops breached the Confederate earthworks compelling the defenders to surrender. Around 5,000 African-American forces played a major role in the successful Union assault. The capture of Fort Blakeley was the last combined-force battle of the war, fought the same day Robert E. Lee surrendered his army at Appomattox."[1]

*Assuming you believe that the war ended on 9 April 1865

1. American Battlefield Trust - Fort Blakeley Battle Facts and Summary | American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org)

The Battlefield in 2023

'The park contains the great majority of the remarkably intact Confederate and Union earthen lines that figured in the siege and battle, making it one of the best-preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation.' [2]

Today much of the battlefield area is covered in woodland which makes photographs less clear and makes it more difficult to interoperate the battlefield.

Note the use of land torpedoes, telegraph line entanglements, 'boy' soldiers, US Colored Troops and naval fire support all on the official last day of the war while Robert E. Lee was surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia.

Left. The location of Mobile, Alabama

[2] *The Assault on Fort Blakeley,* Mike Bunn, p7.

Watch this first

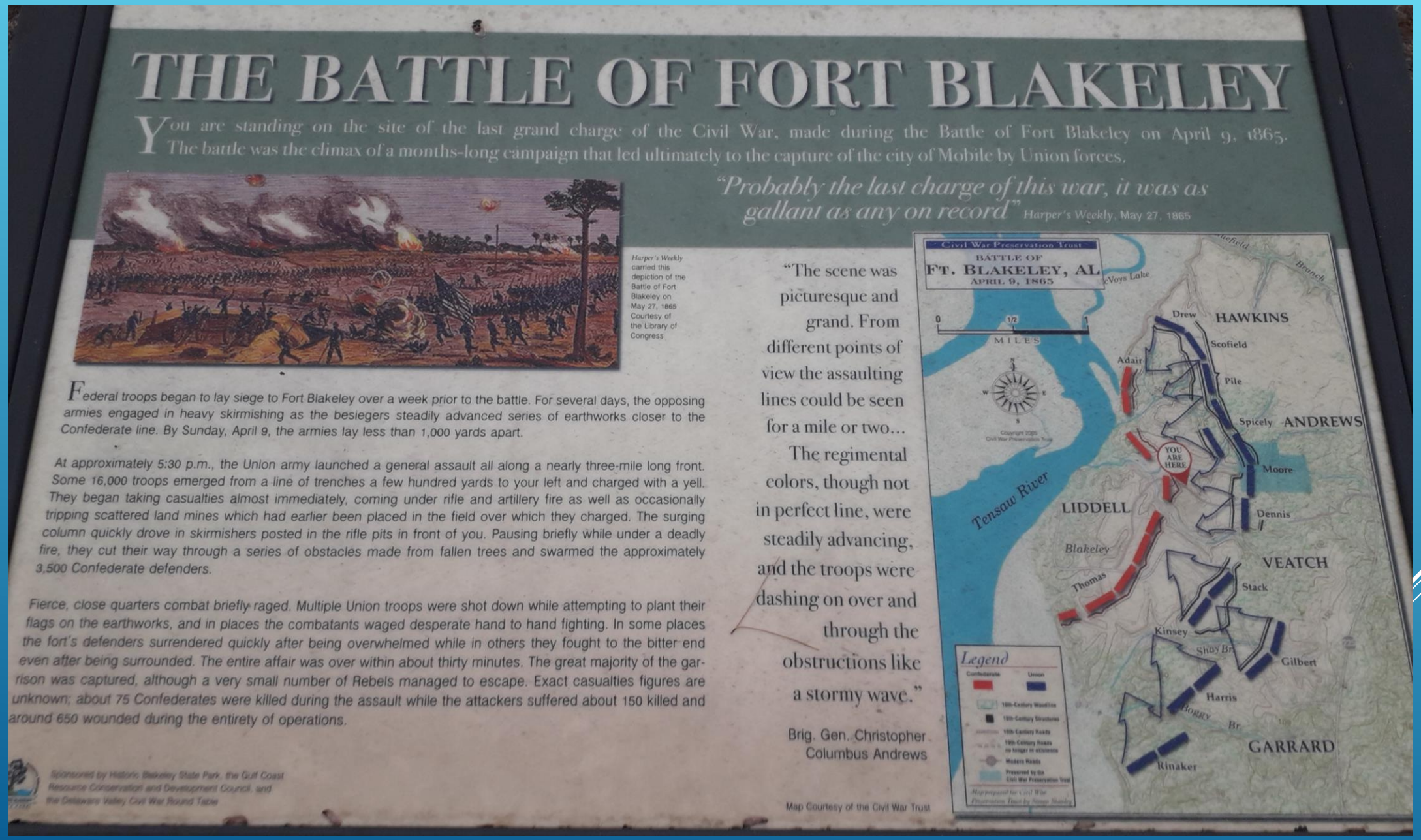
(176) Fort Blakeley: Civil War Battle in a Ghost Town | History Traveler Episode 166 – YouTube

The above video covers much what I personally explored on the day.

I have added further links at the back end of this ppt.

An illustration of the battle of Blakeley as portrayed in *Harper's Weekly* in 1865

The Battle of Fort Blakeley



THE BATTLE OF FORT BLAKELEY

You are standing on the site of the last grand charge of the Civil War, made during the Battle of Fort Blakeley on April 9, 1865. The battle was the climax of a months-long campaign that led ultimately to the capture of the city of Mobile by Union forces.

"Probably the last charge of this war, it was as gallant as any on record" Harper's Weekly, May 27, 1865

Harper's Weekly carried this depiction of the Battle of Fort Blakeley on May 27, 1865 Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Federal troops began to lay siege to Fort Blakeley over a week prior to the battle. For several days, the opposing armies engaged in heavy skirmishing as the besiegers steadily advanced series of earthworks closer to the Confederate line. By Sunday, April 9, the armies lay less than 1,000 yards apart.

At approximately 5:30 p.m., the Union army launched a general assault all along a nearly three-mile long front. Some 16,000 troops emerged from a line of trenches a few hundred yards to your left and charged with a yell. They began taking casualties almost immediately, coming under rifle and artillery fire as well as occasionally tripping scattered land mines which had earlier been placed in the field over which they charged. The surging column quickly drove in skirmishers posted in the rifle pits in front of you. Pausing briefly while under a deadly fire, they cut their way through a series of obstacles made from fallen trees and swarmed the approximately 3,500 Confederate defenders.

Fierce, close quarters combat briefly raged. Multiple Union troops were shot down while attempting to plant their flags on the earthworks, and in places the combatants waged desperate hand to hand fighting. In some places the fort's defenders surrendered quickly after being overwhelmed while in others they fought to the bitter end even after being surrounded. The entire affair was over within about thirty minutes. The great majority of the garrison was captured, although a very small number of Rebels managed to escape. Exact casualties figures are unknown; about 75 Confederates were killed during the assault while the attackers suffered about 150 killed and around 650 wounded during the entirety of operations.

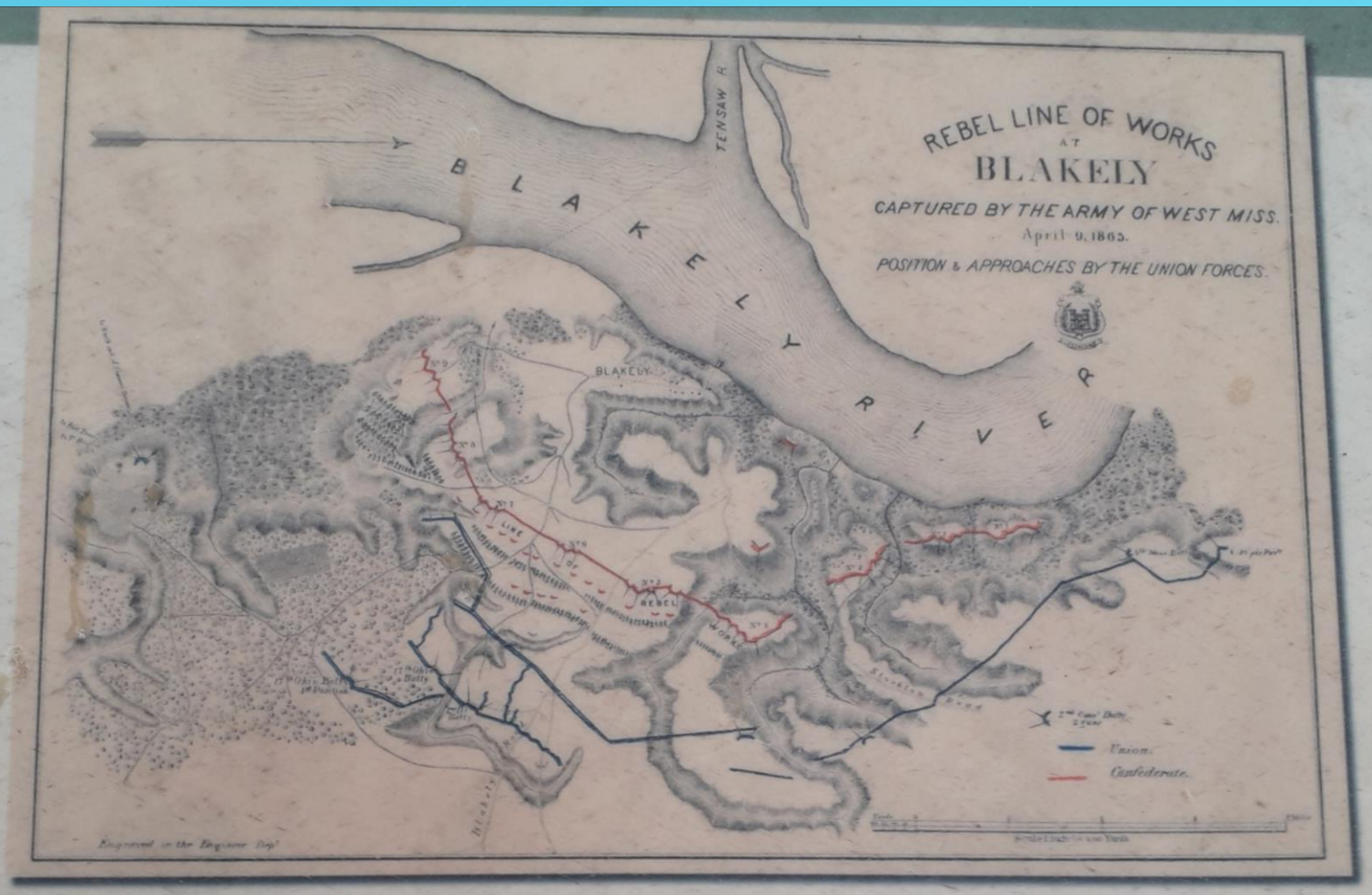
"The scene was picturesque and grand. From different points of view the assaulting lines could be seen for a mile or two... The regimental colors, though not in perfect line, were steadily advancing, and the troops were dashing on over and through the obstructions like a stormy wave."

Brig. Gen. Christopher Columbus Andrews

Map Courtesy of the Civil War Trust

Sponsored by Historic Blakeley State Park, the Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the Delaware Valley Civil War Round Table

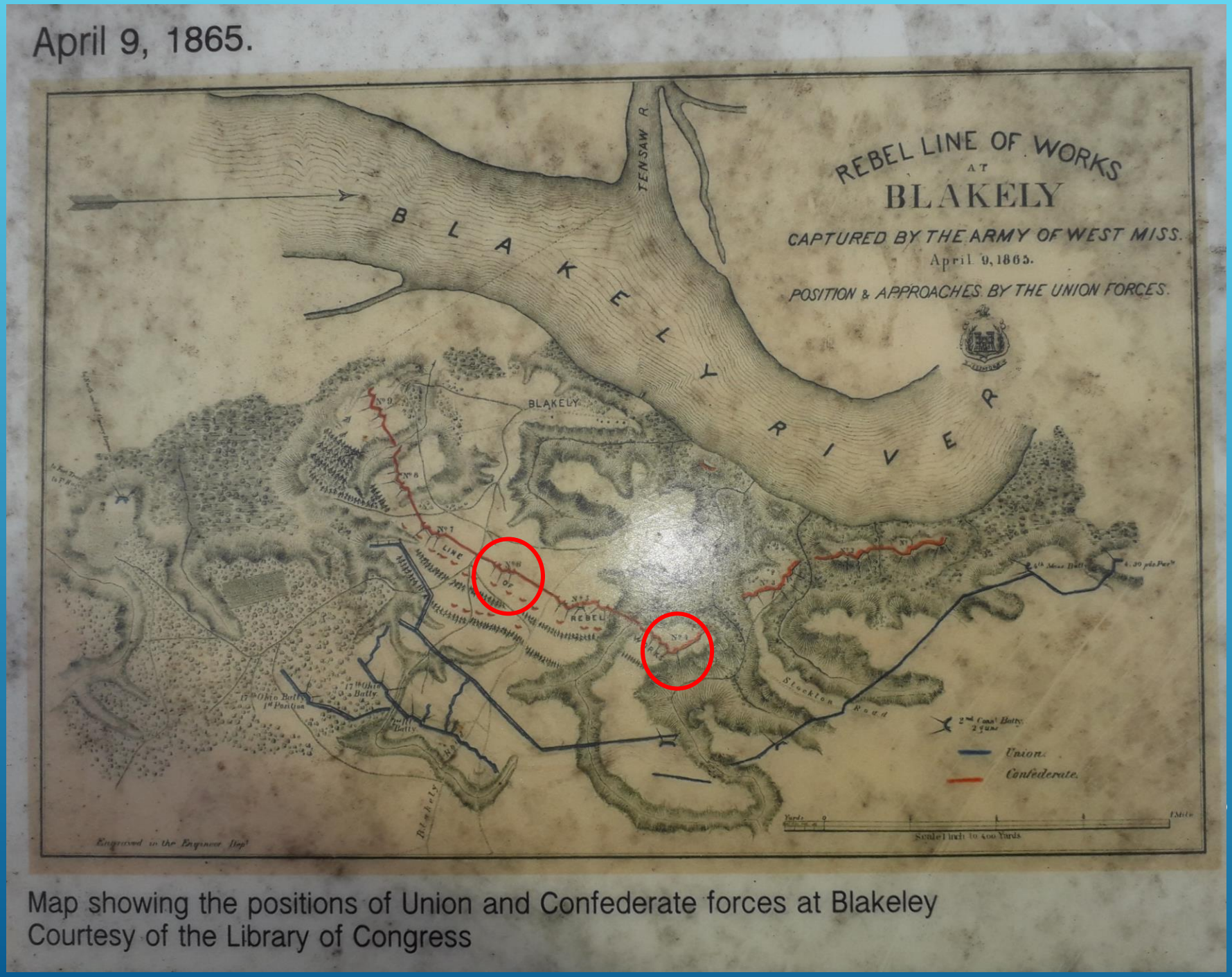
Left. Information board at Redoubt 4.



Confederate troops and impressed African-American laborers had been engaged in the construction of Fort Blakeley for many months prior to the battle here in April of 1865. These men had cleared fields of fire in front of the main line up to a distance of about 800 yards. They had also built two lines of obstructions using tangles of fallen trees, and even had strung telegraph wire between stumps as barriers to approach. To further slow potential attackers, in places defenders had buried dozens of land mines, commonly referred to at the time as "torpedoes.

*Blakeley was frequently misspelled in wartime records and on period maps as "Blakely," and the fort and battle are still often referred to as Blakely in historical literature as well as in many official records of the war.

The siege lines on 9 April 1865 with Confederate lines in red and Union in blue.



Map showing the positions of Union and Confederate forces at Blakeley
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The siege lines on 9 April 1865 with Confederate Redoubts 6 (left)and 4 (right) highlighted in the circles.

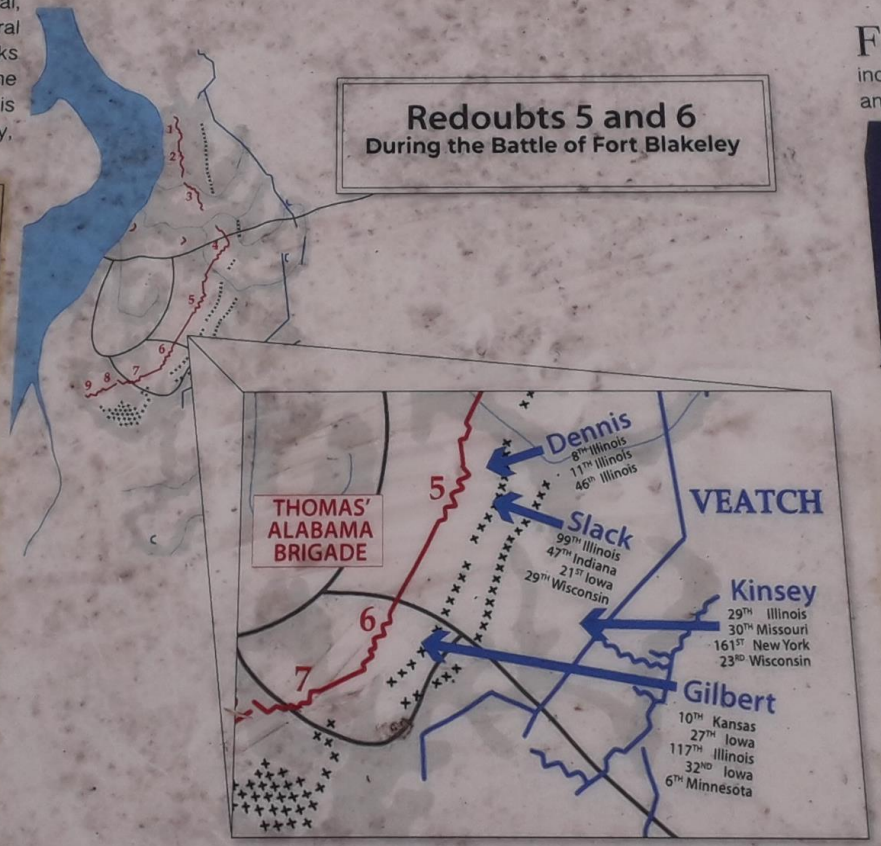
THE FEDERAL LEFT WING DURING THE ASSAULT ON FORT BLAKELEY

"Such a terrific rain of shot, shell, grape, canister and bullets I never saw…telegraph wire was stretched in every conceivable shape; and what was worse, the sand was literally filled with torpedoes…Had a hole made through my cartridge-box, one through my pants, and two through my coat. We fought with bayonets and revolvers after we got into the works. Blue and gray was all mixed together."

Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Hills
10th Kansas Volunteer Infantry

This portion of the Siege Line Trail follows the third, and final, parallel of entrenchments created by the left wing of the Federal Army which laid siege to Fort Blakeley. This line of earthworks was dug under fire by Federal troops using hand tools during the last few days of the nine-day long investment. It was from this line that Union forces launched their attack at 5:30 PM on Sunday, April 9, 1865.

Map showing the positions of Union and Confederate forces at Blakeley
Courtesy of the Library of Congress



Forces positioned along this portion of the Federal line included: 10th Kansas, 27th Iowa, 117th Illinois, 32nd Iowa, and the 6th Minnesota. Under the immediate command of Brigadier General James I. Gilbert, these units formed the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the U.S Army's Sixteenth Corps. From here troops attacked the portion of the Confederate line a few hundred yards to the west, which included Redoubts 6 and 7 (there were a total of nine redoubts spaced along the three-mile-long Confederate line). To the left of these units were positioned regiments from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, and New York, which attacked the extreme right of the Confederate line.

Regimental flag of the 117th Illinois
Courtesy of the Illinois State Military Museum, Springfield

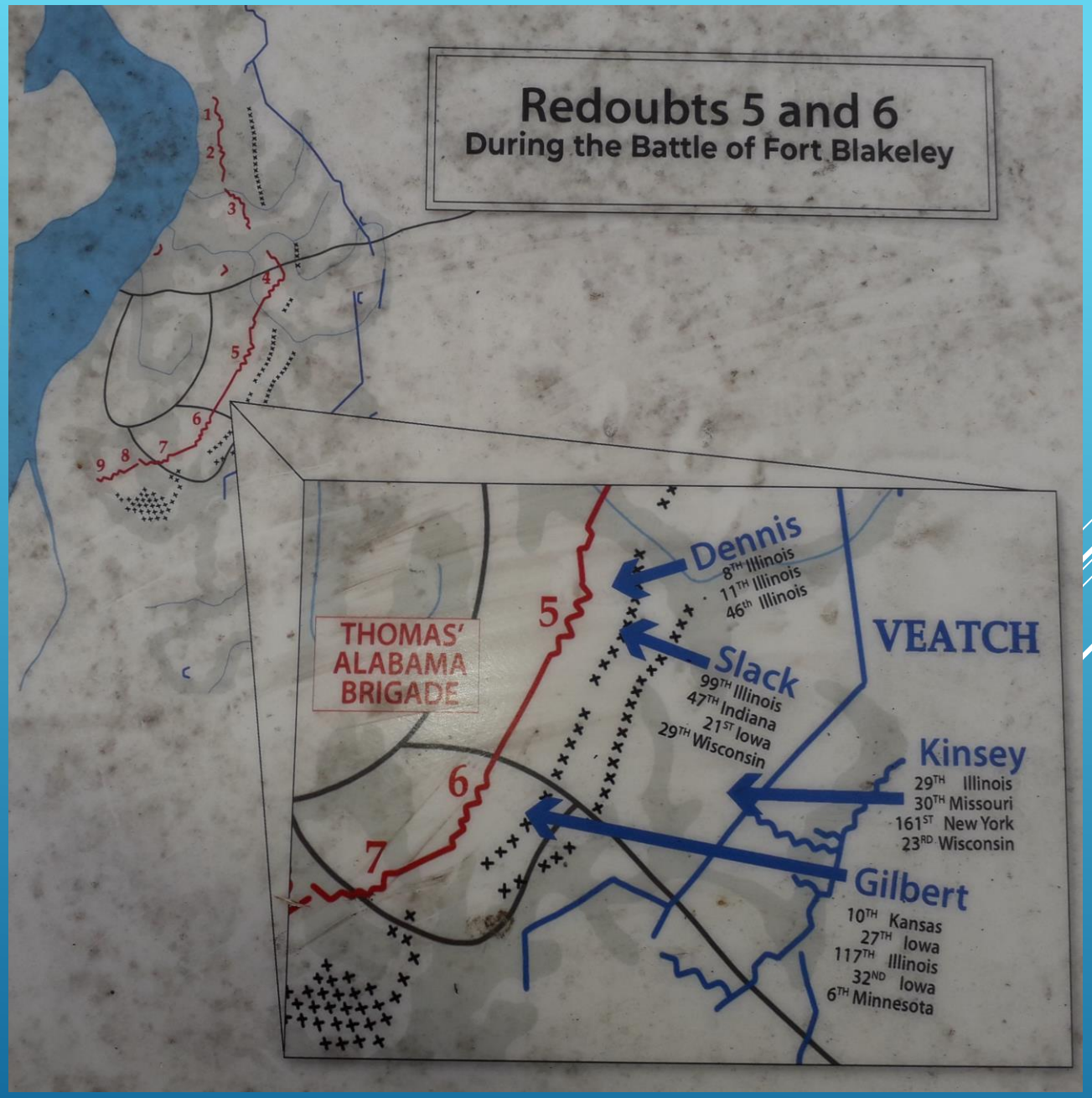
National flag carried by the 27th Iowa. Courtesy of the State History Museum of Iowa

"Charge! Charge! Was the order, as the last ditch was reached. Soon the white flag was waving over their last defenses, and in a few minutes the stars and stripes were floating there on. The last defense of Mobile was ours; the last victory won, just as the sun was sinking in the west."

Colonel John Scott, 32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry

Sponsored by Historic Blakeley State Park and the Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The image above shows some of the Union earthworks constructed as they approached redoubts 5 and 6 (right). The Confederate works are in the direction to the right of the image.



UNION ARTILLERY BATTERIES

Though outnumbering Confederate troops at Blakeley better than four to one, the Union Army had decidedly less artillery than the fort's defenders. By the time of the final assault on the fort on April 9, 1865, about 20 guns were scattered along the Union lines, most of them having been brought up from Spanish Fort. The heaviest concentration of cannon, manned by crews from Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and New York, went into action in this area along the Federal left flank. The three nearby earthen gun emplacements represent some of the best-preserved Union artillery positions on the battlefield.

This sketch of a Union battery in action in Virginia, by Alfred Waud, is useful visualizing the way the batteries here may have looked during the siege of Fort Blakeley.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

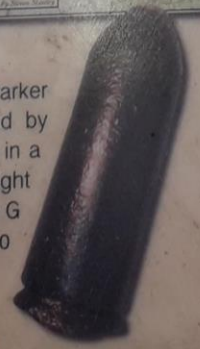
Battery G of the 2nd Illinois Light Artillery

Battery G was armed with four 10-lb. Parrott rifles under the command of Lt. Perry Wilch. The unit fought in the assaults on both Spanish Fort and Fort Blakeley. The battery unlimbered its guns at the emplacement a short distance down the trail to your left just days before the final assault which resulted in Blakeley's capture. On April 8, 1865, alone, the battery's gunners fired over 200 rounds at the Confederate lines.

y of Charles Edward

Parrott Rifle

Parrott Rifles, named after inventor Robert Parker Parrott, were rifled artillery pieces widely used by both armies during the Civil War. Parrotts came in a variety of calibers, each designated by the weight of the projectile fired. The Parrott Rifles of Battery G were capable of firing a shell accurately over 1800 yards.



Ten pound Parrott Rifle shell

17th Ohio Light Artillery

The 17th Ohio Light Artillery also participated in the assaults on both Spanish Fort and Fort Blakeley. From two different positions in this area it pounded the Confederate lines. The earthworks in front of you are the battery's second position; the first is located approximately 400 yards down the trail behind the emplacement.

This image of an Illinois artillery battery, taken at the beginning of the war, shows the types of uniforms and equipment Union gunners may have had at Blakeley.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The unit was armed with three 12-lb. "Napoleon" cannon, commanded by Captain Charles S. Rice. The "Napoleon" cannon was the most popular artillery piece of both Northern and Southern armies during the Civil War. Named after Emperor Napoleon III of France, whose forces used it extensively during the Crimean War (1853-1856), the gun could fire a twelve pound projectile well over 1,250 yards

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Note the 17th Ohio Union light artillery – more on the next slide.

Left the 17th Ohio Union light artillery first siege position now heavily over grown but the earthworks are there.

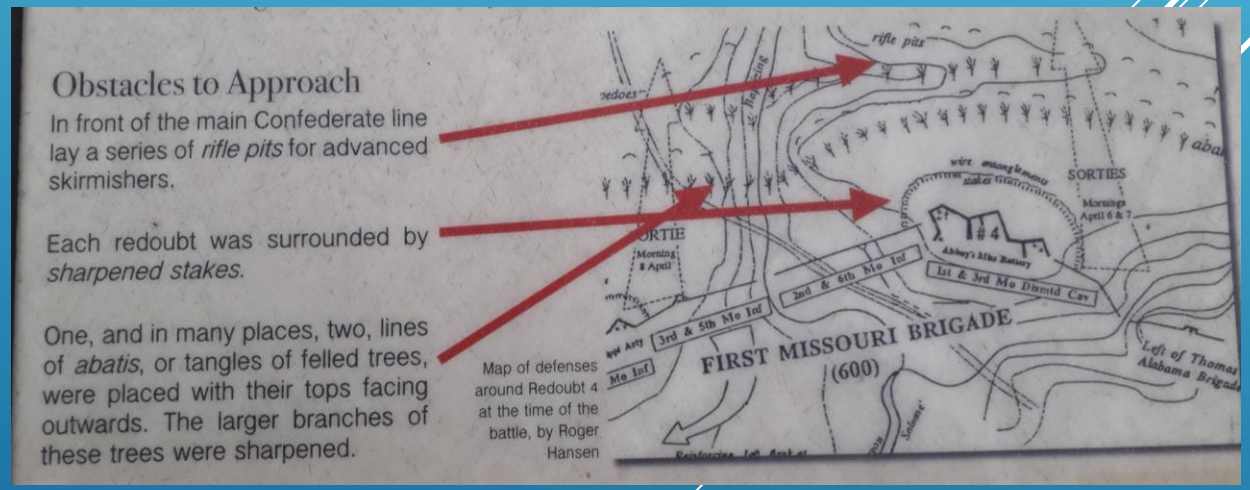
Lower left. As described on the image. I cleared some of the leaves in an attempt to make the trench line clearer in the image.

Garrard's division is noted left – see map right.

Above left the 17th Ohio Union light artillery's second position during the siege as viewed from the direction of the Confederates. Above right and lower left are images from within the same works.

Left 2 images. The skirmish line – forward of the main Confederate line

Left. The Confederate formal positions near Redoubt 6



Above. The Confederate defences. Note the forward rifle pits which I assume is the 'Skirmish line' above

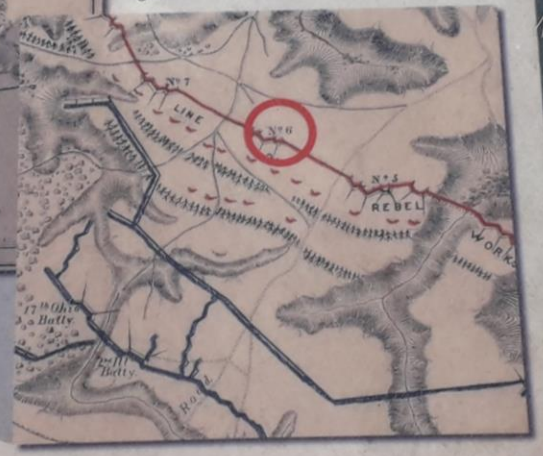
REDOUBT SIX

"Artillery and musketry swept them in the face, and sand-bombs burst from under their feet. At last the ditch was reached...the garrison's infantry poured a galling fire from the loop-holes, and the heavy siege guns rained grape(shot) from the embrasures."

Lt. Col. Charles S. Hills, 10th Kansas Infantry Regiment

Map of the Confederate and Union lines at Blakeley
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The earthworks in front of you are part of "Redoubt Six," one of nine heavily fortified positions along the three mile-long line of Confederate defenses collectively known as Fort Blakeley. Connected to nearby redoubts in the center and right of this line via trenches, Redoubt Six occupied a key position astride the Pensacola Road, one of two primary routes into the town of Blakeley. During the Battle of Fort Blakeley on April 9, 1865, the position was the scene of intense fighting as it came under direct assault by regiments of the Federal 13th and 16th Corps.



Brigadier General James I. Gilbert
From *The Photographic History of the Civil War In Ten Volumes: Volume Ten: Armies and Leaders*

Flag of the 47th Indiana Infantry Regiment, which was positioned a few hundred yards from this spot during the assault on Fort Blakeley.
Courtesy of the Indiana War Memorial Museum

Flag of the 63rd Alabama Infantry Regiment
(originally designated the 2nd Ala. Reserve Reg.)
Courtesy of the Alabama Department
of Archives and History

Troops from the 63rd and 62nd Alabama Infantry Regiments, under the overall command of Brigadier General Bryan Thomas, manned this portion of the Confederate line. The 63rd Infantry defended the portion of the defenses directly in front of you; the 62nd occupied the earthworks further down the line to the left. Both regiments were recently formed units consisting in large part of reserves and conscripts, most of them teenagers with no previous military experience. Artillery support in this sector was supplied by Captain William C. Winston's Tennessee Battery, equipped with Parrott rifles and other guns.

After days of constant, heavy, skirmishing all along the lines, Union forces launche an overall assault on Fort Blakeley at 5:30 PM on Sunday, April 9, 1865. Emergi from trenches a few hundred yards behind you, troops under the immedi command Brigadier General James I. Gilbert charged toward the earthworks run. As they advanced they made their way through multiple lines of obstruct while under intense fire, taking numerous casualties. Within twenty minutes of the attackers had breached the Confederate defenses. Once inside, they down the line and quickly overwhelmed the remaining defenders.

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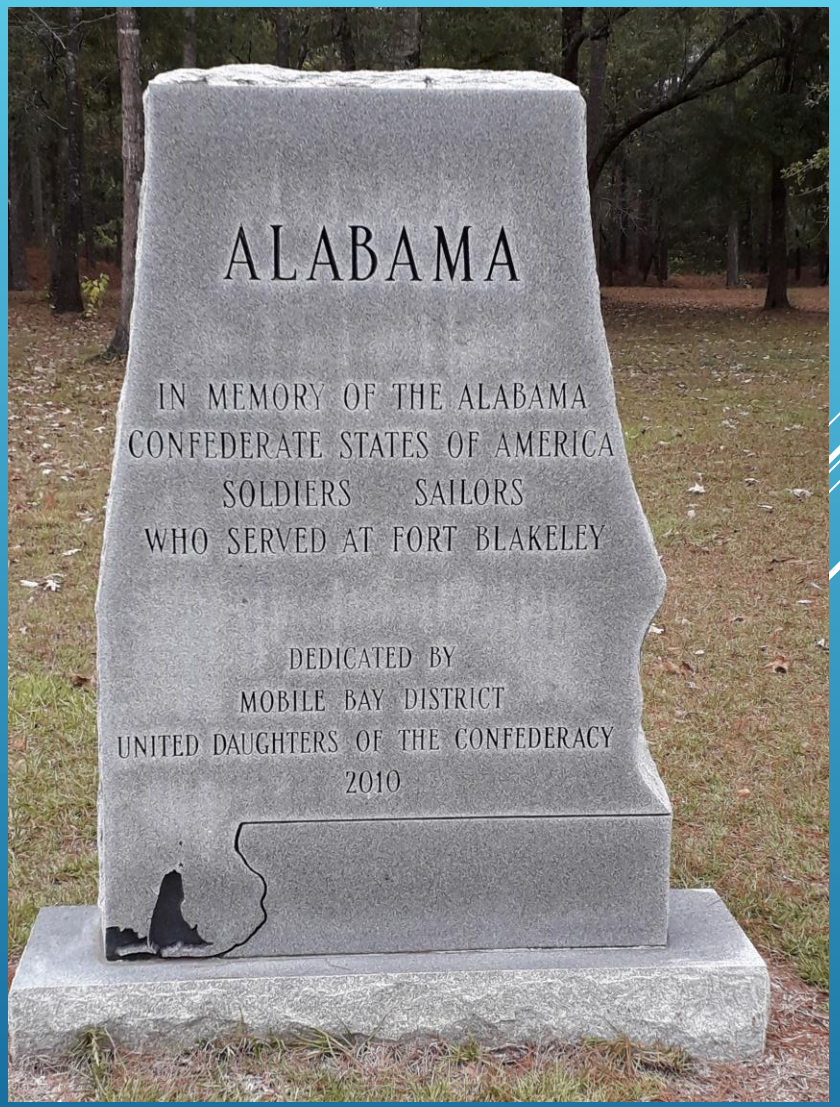
University College of Liberal Arts, the Univers
Alabama Center for Economic Development
Delaware Valley Civil War Roundtable

More on Redoubt 6 to follow.

Above. A Union soldier's view of Redoubt 6 through the trees.

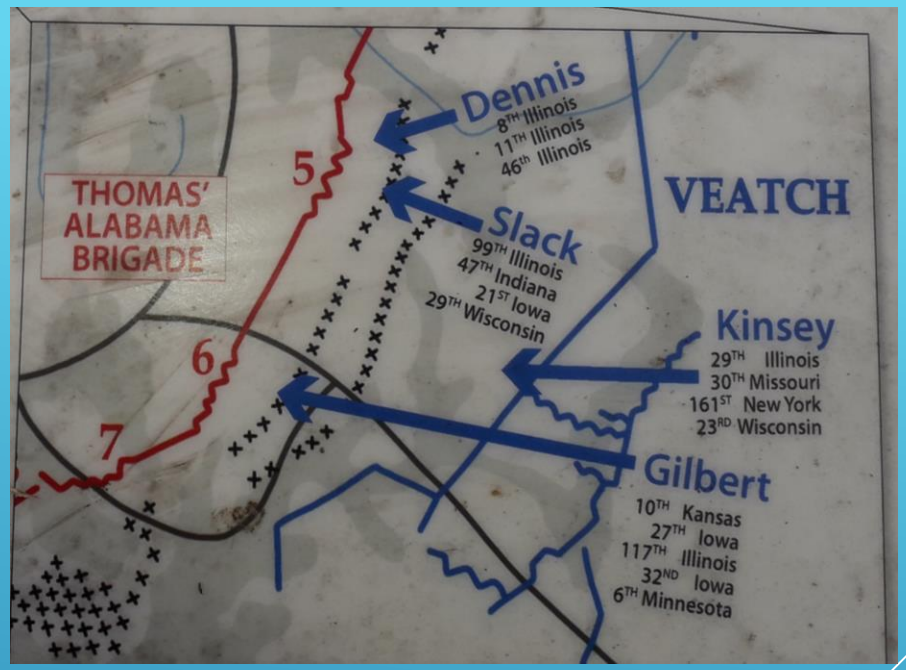


Right. Close to Redoubt 6 is this Confederate war memorial erected in 2010

Above. Redoubt 6's ditch

Above & Right. View from within Redoubt 6 (defended by the 62nd Alabama Infantry, part of the 'Boy Brigade') and over the parapets towards the monument on the previous slide

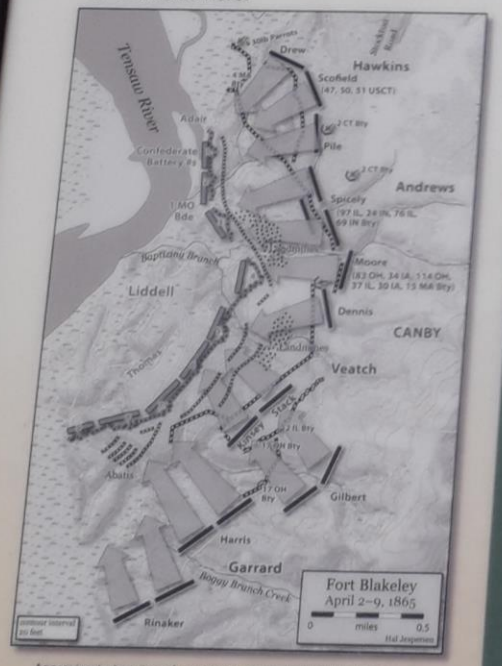
Left. The 32nd Iowa position (under Gilbert) prior to the assault on Redoubt 6 – see map right



Left. A reproduction Napoleon 12 lb in front of Redoubt 6.

LANDMINES
IN THE BATTLE OF FORT BLAKELEY

Included among the several types of obstructions barring enemy approach to Fort Blakeley were hundreds of land mines. Known as "torpedoes" at the time, these devices were designed to be triggered by the footsteps of attacking troops. They caused numerous gruesome injuries during the assault by Union forces on April 9, 1865 and became one of the most controversial and enduring aspects of the battle here.



Approximate location of minefields on the battlefield at Blakeley. From *America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War*, by Kenneth R. Rutherford

"As we got out of the rifle pits the captain of Co. D. struck a torpedo and it blew his leg off below the knee and sent it up in the air about 50 feet high…I had not gone far when a man next to me on my left stepped on a torpedo with his left foot. It blew his left leg off below the knee, his right leg off above the knee and passed up between his head and mine and never touched me…"

First Sergeant W.R. Eddington, 97th Illinois Infantry

Most of the mines on the Blakeley battlefield were made by filling ten, twelve, or twenty-four pound artillery shells with powder and arming them with a pressure-sensitive detonator. They were placed in several scattered fields in front of the three-mile long line of Confederate fortifications. Some had even been placed on the roads leading into Blakeley. Particularly heavy concentrations of mines were located a few hundred yards in front of Redoubts 2, 3 and 4 and Redoubts 5 and 6. Union troops encountered them in some places almost the moment they began their charge against the Rebel line, and according to witnesses they were tripped in multiple locations during and even after the battle. Even though an unknown number had been exposed to the elements and failed to detonate, dozens did, mangling the bodies of their unfortunate victims. Federal officers, outraged at what some viewed as an uncivilized mode of warfare, forced captured Confederates to reveal where remaining minefields lay at the conclusion of the battle.

Landmines such as those used at Blakeley were triggered by a detonator attached to a shell filled with powder. Most detonators consisted of a metal container topped with a thin copper cap. When the cap was crushed by pressure (a footstep), it ignited the primer and lit a short fuse, exploding the gunpowder.

24 pdr Shell Converted to Land Mine

Courtesy of Mike Randall

One of the landmines recovered from the battlefield at Blakeley Private Collection, Courtesy of Getty Images

A detonator from one of the landmines at Blakeley Courtesy of the History Museum of Mobile

The Civil War was the first in history to witness the widespread use of victim-activated mines as integral parts of defensive strategy. This occurred largely through the efforts of Confederate military officials, who believed they needed to employ such devices to help counter the numerical superiority of the Federal forces they faced. At battlefields across the South, landmines were placed to help defend strategic Confederate positions or to delay pursuing Federal troops.

Depiction of the explosion of a landmine during the Civil War, from *Harper's Weekly*

Gabriel Rains Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Among the pioneers of the use of landmines in the Civil War was Brigadier General Gabriel Rains, who served for a time as the Confederacy's Army Torpedo Bureau Director. Rains's designs were used in thousands of mines on several battlefields during the war, including Blakeley.

Sponsored by Historic Blakeley State Park and the Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council.

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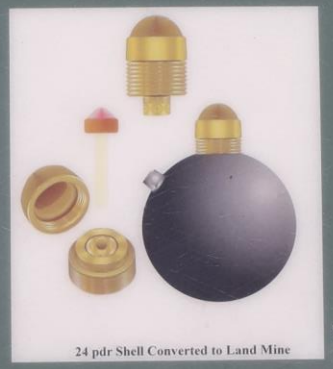

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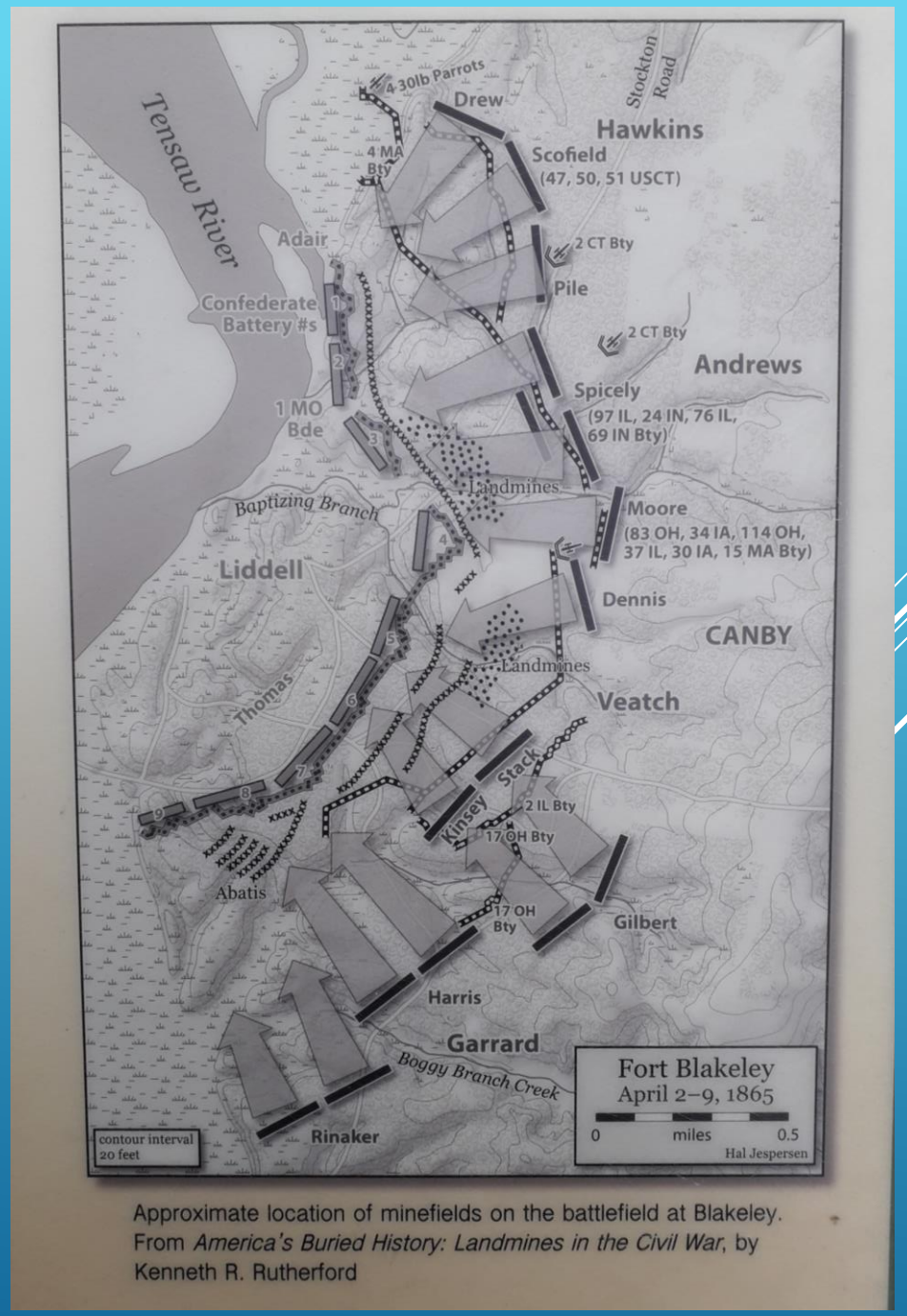
One of the landmines recovered from the battlefield at Blakeley Private Collection, Courtesy of Getty Images

A detonator from one of the landmines at Blakeley Courtesy of the History Museum of Mobile

Land torpedoes left and their locations right (clusters of dots)



Approximate location of minefields on the battlefield at Blakeley. From *America's Buried History: Landmines in the Civil War*, by Kenneth R. Rutherford

CIVIL WAR TRAIL
Battle for Mobile Bay

Stop 9
The Siege and Battle of Fort Blakeley:

"The Last Charge of This War"

About five miles north of Spanish Fort stood Fort Blakeley, which defended the Tensaw River and approaches to Mobile from the east. Constructed under the direction of Major General Dabney H. Maury by Confederate soldiers and slaves pressed into service, Fort Blakeley was a three-mile long series of interconnected earthen fortifications. The outpost received its name from the river community of Blakeley which it surrounded, which by the time of the Civil War was little more than a village but still served as seat of Baldwin County.

Library of Congress

Brig. Gen. St. John R. Liddell

Brig. Gen. St. John R. Liddell commanded the roughly 3,500 men at Blakeley. Included in his command were units under the direction of Brig. Gen. Francis M. Cockrell composed primarily of veteran Missouri and Mississippi troops as well as two regiments of "Alabama Brigade" reserves, comprised of mostly teenage conscripts, under Brig. Gen. Bryan Thomas. The ground in front of Fort Blakeley had been cleared of trees and brush to create clear fields of fire. Further, approach had been rendered more difficult by the placement of two lines of abatis, rows of sharpened stakes, and even telegraph wire strung between stumps. Controversially, Liddell's men had also buried dozens of land mines in their front.

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Brig. Gen. Francis M. Cockrell

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Brig. Gen. Bryan Thomas

Library of Congress

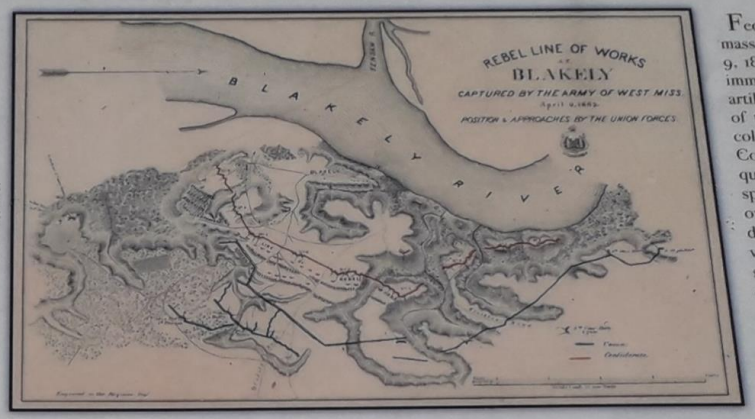
General Frederick Steele

Gen. Frederick Steele arrived at Fort Blakeley from Pensacola on April 1, 1865, and immediately began to lay siege. Federal strength was soon augmented by detachments from Canby's force at Spanish Fort, bringing the total number of attackers to some 16,000. Included in the Union ranks were approximately 5,000 men of the "United States Colored Troops," African-American regiments composed in large part of former slaves and free blacks. Their presence at Blakeley ranks among the heaviest concentrations of African-American soldiers who participated in any battle during the Civil War.

The armies skirmished day and night for more than a week as the besiegers constructed systems of earthworks located progressively closer to the Confederate position. Liddell's men attempted to slow the Federals as they advanced their lines under cover of dark by launching several small sorties and enlisting the aid of Confederate warships, including the CSS *Nashville*, and *Morgan*, in shelling the Union lines from the Tensaw River.

Alabama Department of Archives and History

CSS Nashville



Library of Congress

Federal troops assaulted Blakeley in a mass charge at 5:30 PM on Sunday, April 9, 1865. They began taking casualties immediately, coming under rifle and artillery fire as well as tripping some of the land mines. The surging blue columns nevertheless soon reached the Confederate lines, where fierce, close-quarters combat briefly raged. Despite spirited resistance, the Union attackers overwhelmed the outnumbered rebel defenders and the fighting effectively was over within 30 minutes. While a very small number of Confederates managed to escape, the great majority of the garrison was captured. With the fall of Fort Blakeley, only Batteries Huger and Tracy, located in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, remained between the Union army and Mobile.

"The scene was picturesque and grand. From different points of view the assaulting lines could be seen for a mile or two...The regimental colors, though not in perfect line, were steadily advancing, and the troops were dashing on over and through the obstructions like a stormy wave."

American Battlefield Trust

Brig. Gen. Christopher Columbus Andrews

Library of Congress

"Probably the last charge of this war, it was as gallant as any on record"
- Harpers Weekly, May 27, 1865

Library of Congress

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THE DEFENDERS OF FORT BLAKELEY

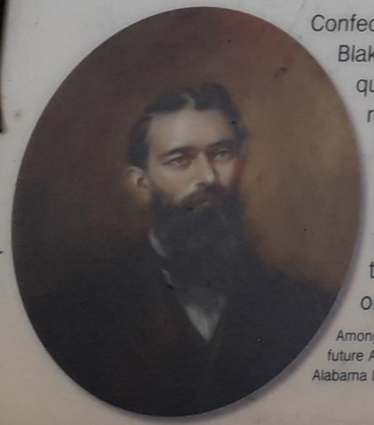
A COMBINATION OF YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE

The Battle of Fort Blakeley involved nearly 20,000 Confederate and Union troops taking part in a week-long siege prior to fighting in the largest charge of the war to take place in Alabama. While the roughly 16,000 Federals participating in the attack were comprised of mostly veteran units which had seen hard fighting on several battlefields during the war, the defenders of Fort Blakeley possessed a wide range of experience in combat. Some had seen action in some of the largest battles in the war's western theater, while others had no prior military service.

The "Boy Brigade" on the Right Flank

About half of the troops defending the three-mile long series of interconnected earthworks at Blakeley were inexperienced teenage conscripts of the 62nd and 63rd Alabama infantries, popularly referred to by some at the time as the "Boy Brigade." They acquired the nickname owing to the fact the great majority of them were in fact teenagers. Still, a few men in their late forties or early fifties who had been too old for previous drafts were included in the ranks of these units. Regardless of their age, for the great majority of the men in the ranks on the right side of the Confederate lines in Redoubts 5-9, the action at Blakeley would be their first taste of combat. Most had been rushed into service in the last months of the war as the Confederate government made a desperate attempt to put every able-bodied man it could into its diminishing armies. The 62nd and 63rd infantries were assisted by a variety of artillery batteries, including Winston's Battery (1st Tennessee Artillery) and Culpepper's Battery (Palmetto Battalion, South Carolina).

Sketch of the area in front of Redoubts 5 and 6 as it appeared in 1866
From *The Campaign of Mobile*



Among the teens of the "Boy Brigade" in the trenches at Blakeley was future Alabama Governor Thomas J. Seay (1886-1890)
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Confederate officers at Blakeley had serious questions about the reliability of the inexperienced troops on the right side of their line in battle. Some feared they would lose order and run if attacked, and officers devoted special attention to encouraging them to stand and fight. To their credit, the "Boy Brigade" fought relatively well under difficult circumstances when attacked by the Federal force which outnumbered them several times over. "Young as they were, they fought like devils," remembered one Federal who attacked the right side of the Rebel line.

Combat Veterans on the Left Flank

About half of the defenders of Fort Blakeley were rugged combat veterans of General Samuel French's Division who had experienced intense fighting throughout the Civil War's western theater. Many were serving their fourth year in Confederate gray, having enlisted early in the war and endured siege and privation at Vicksburg, confronted one of the largest Federal armies to be put into the field in the west at several pitched battles in front of Atlanta, and remained in the field through bitter cold to fight overwhelming numbers on the frosty fields at Nashville. General Francis M. Cockrell commanded these veterans, comprised mostly of Cockrell's own Missouri Brigade and General Claudius Sears' Mississippi Brigade (commanded by Colonel Thomas Adair). This unit has been recognized as one of the most accomplished and reliable of any on either side in the Civil War. Its remnants made their last stand of the war at Blakeley. After their capture, most enlisted men at Blakeley were sent to prison on Ship Island, Mississippi.

Flag of the 1st Missouri Cavalry, Dismounted, Missouri State Museum, Missouri State Parks. Missouri units in addition to the 1st and 3rd Cavalry at Blakeley included the consolidated 1st and 4th, 2nd and 6th, and 3rd and 5th Infantries.

Flag of the 4th Mississippi Infantry, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Infantry and artillery from Alabama and Mississippi units supported the Missouri regiments on the left side of the Confederate line at Blakeley. These included elements of the 4th, 7th, 35th, 36th, 39th, and 46th Mississippi Infantries, Tarrant's Alabama Artillery, and the 1st Alabama Artillery.

Sponsored by Historic Blakeley State Park
and the Order of the Southern Cross

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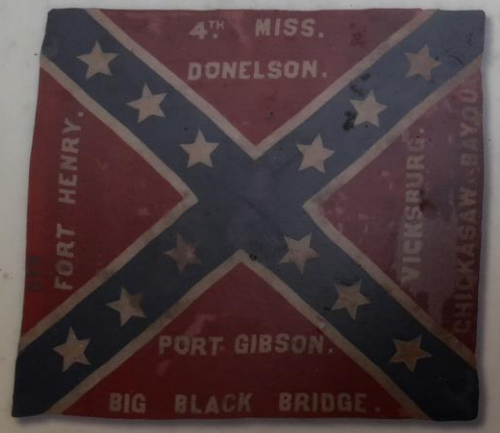

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Sponsored by Historic Blakeley State Park

The "Boy Brigade" on the Right Flank

About half of the troops defending the three-mile long series of interconnected earthworks at Blakeley were inexperienced teenage conscripts of the 62nd and 63rd Alabama infantries, popularly referred to by some at the time as the "Boy Brigade." They acquired the nickname owing to the fact the great majority of them were in fact teenagers. Still, a few men in their late forties or early fifties who had been too old for previous drafts were included in the ranks of these units. Regardless of their age, for the great majority of the men in the ranks on the right side of the Confederate lines in Redoubts 5-9, the action at Blakeley would be their first taste of combat. Most had been rushed into service in the last months of the war as the Confederate government made a desperate attempt to put every able-bodied man it could into its diminishing armies. The 62nd and 63rd infantries were assisted by a variety of artillery batteries, including Winston's Battery (1st Tennessee Artillery) and Culpepper's Battery (Palmetto Battalion, South Carolina).

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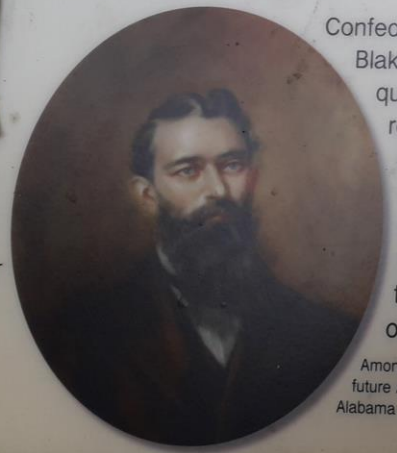

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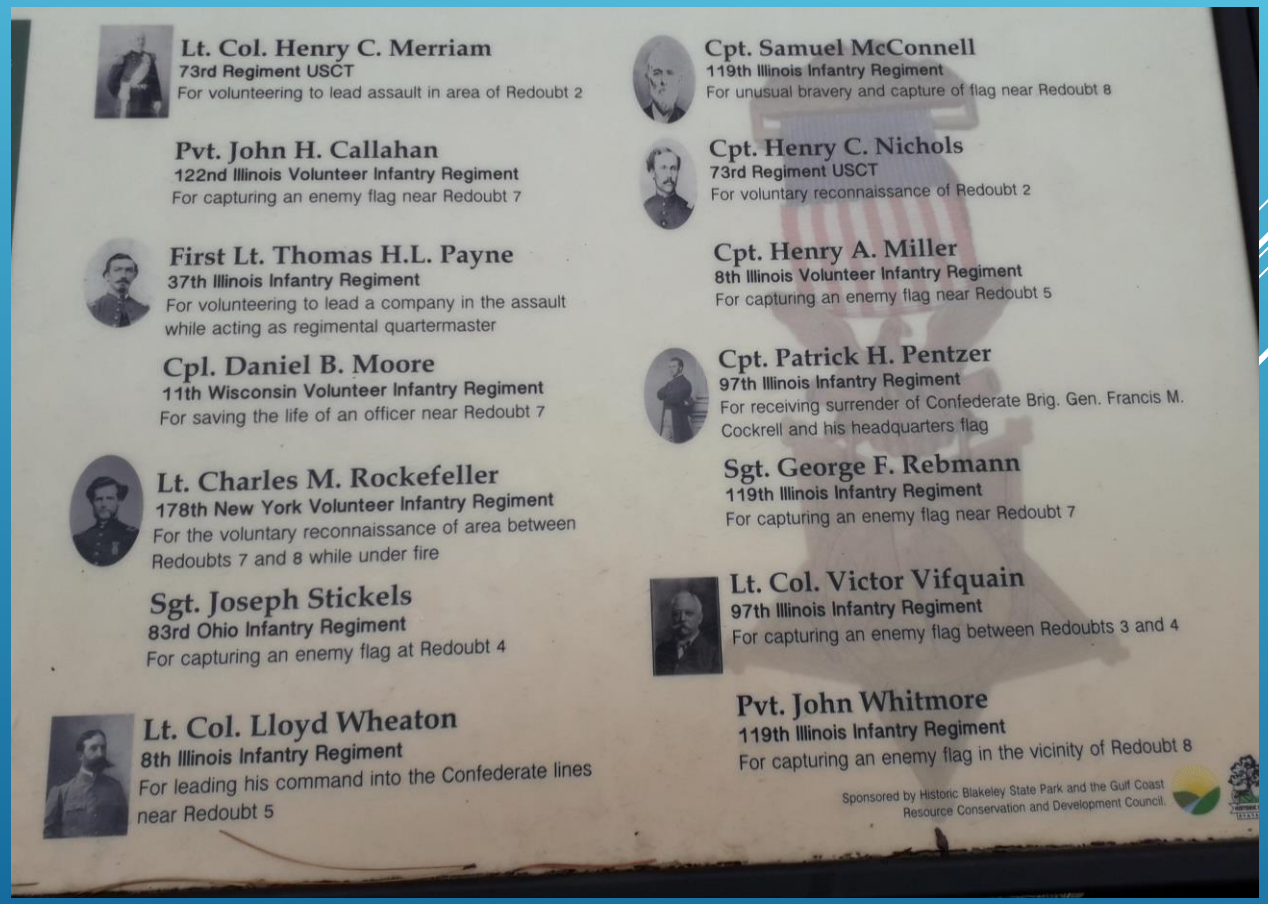
Left. A memorial to the soldiers killed. This is in the 'killing ground' to the front of Redoubt 6

Below. Union heroes of the assault.



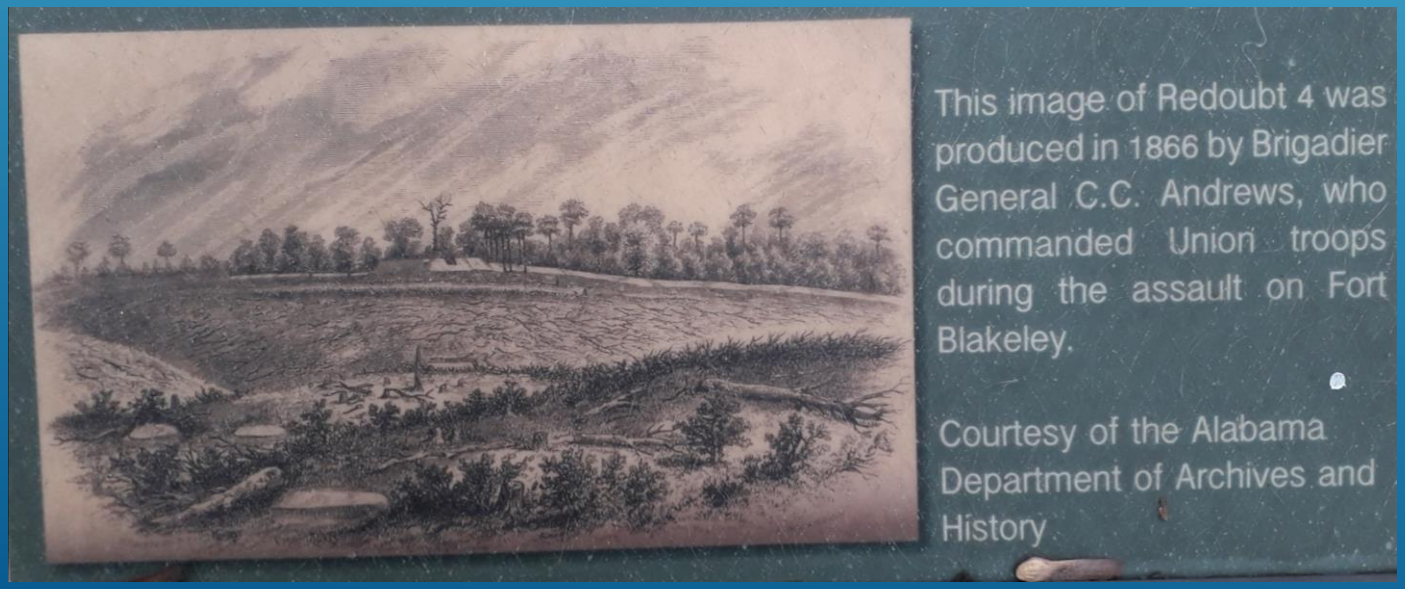
Right. Aerial image of restored Redoubt 4. Image from gulfshores.com

Above 3 images show the restored Redoubt 4 from the front facing towards the Union forces

Right. The sharpened stakes. Looking a bit ‘thin on the ground’ but you get the idea

Above. Within Redoubt 4.

Right. The bomb shelter or magazine

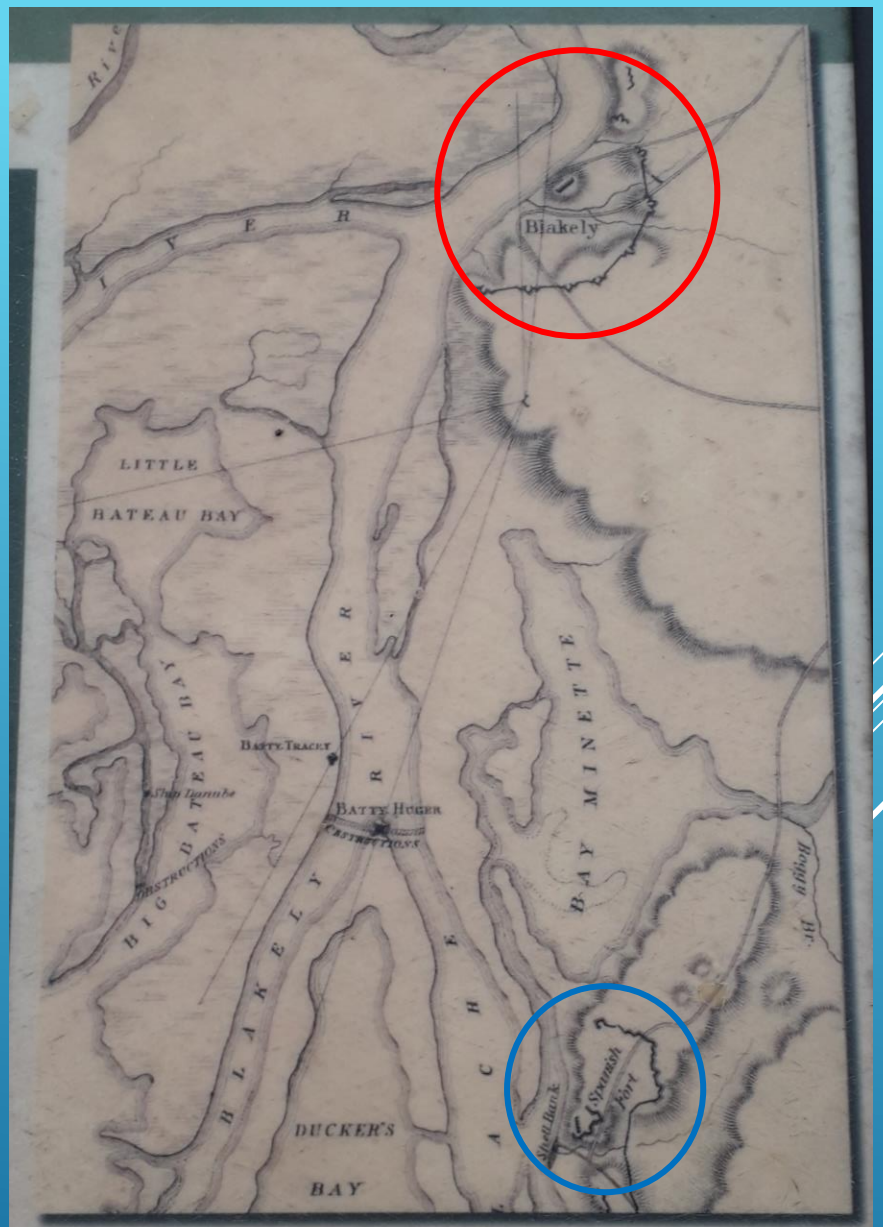


Left. A firing step for the riflemen in Redoubt 4

Right. View from a firing step. There was originally telegraph cable strung out between the tree stumps as a tripping hazard for the attackers.

Above. CSS *Nashville*. It was not just a Confederate army making a last stand at Mobile but some of the last elements the navy too. The side wheel ironclad, CSS *Nashville* and the side wheel gunboat, CSS *Morgan* gave fire support to the Blakeley defenders and saved some soldiers when they eventually broke and fled. The *Nashville,* along with some other craft, did not participate in the Confederate navy's previous defeat at the battle of Mobile Bay, 5 August1864.

Right. Below Blakeley (circled red) was Spanish Fort (circled blue) which was captured on 8 April 1865



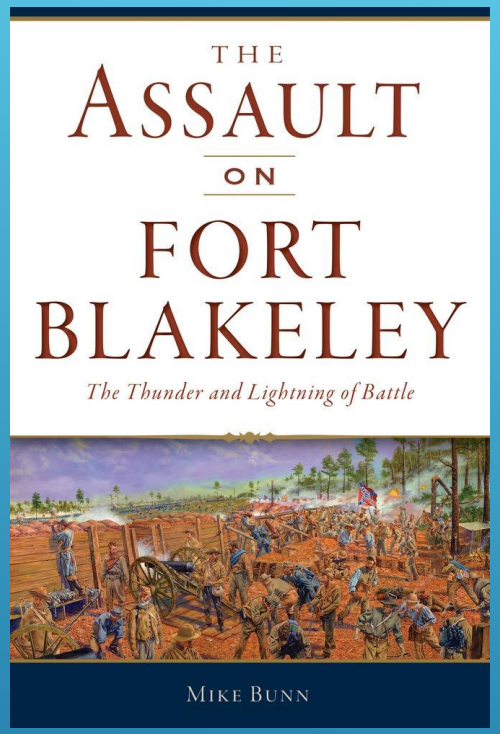
A few miles to the south of Fort Blakeley lay Spanish Fort, which consisted of three linked earthen forts overlooking a series of bluffs along the riverfront. Nearby on islands were two large batteries, named Huger and Tracy.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The End

Confederate resistance collapses:

Spanish Fort falls	8 April 1865
Fort Blakely falls	9 April 1865
Mobile city surrenders	12 April 1865
CSS *Morgan* surrenders	4 May 1865
CSS *Nashville* surrenders	10 May 1865

Further ‘Reading’



(176) Mike Bunn: The Assault on Fort Blakeley - YouTube

Left: The book purchased at the site. The author’s video link relating to this book is above

(176) Tour Stop 6: Preserved Civil War Earthworks at Fort Blakeley - YouTube
The American Battlefield Trust video

Fort Blakeley Battle Facts and Summary | American Battlefield Trust (battlefields.org)
The American Battlefield Trust website

All photographs by CH unless noted otherwise.