

## COMMUNITY

*A Tribute to Charles Mattox - Heaven is a lot like Kentucky***THE VICISSITUDES OF WAR AND MY QUEST TO HONOR AN ORPHAN**

Eighteen hundred and sixty-one:  
There in the echo of Sumter's gun  
Marches the host of the Orphan Brigade.  
Lit by their banners, in hope's best arrayed.

Five thousand strong,  
never legion hath borne  
Might as this bears it  
forth in that morn:

Hastings and Crecy,  
Naseby, Dunbar,

Cowpens and Yorktown,  
Thousand Years' War,

Is writ on their hearts as  
onward afar

They shout to the roar of  
their drums.

Eighteen hundred and  
sixty-two:

Well have they paid to  
the earth its due.

Close up, steady! The  
half are yet here  
and all of the might, for  
the living bear

the dead in their hearts  
over Shiloh's field -

Rich, O God, is thy harvest's yield!

Where faith swings the  
sickle, trust binds the  
sheaves,

to the roll of the surging  
drums.

Eighteen hundred and  
sixty-three:

Barring Sherman's  
march to the sea -  
shorn to a thousand;  
face to the foe

back, ever back, but  
stubborn and slow.

Nineteen hundred  
wounds they take

in that service of Hell,  
yet the hills they shake  
with the roar of their  
charge as onward they go

to the roar of their throb-  
bing drums.

Eighteen hundred and  
sixty-four:

Their banners are tattered,  
and scarce twelve score,

battered and wearied  
and seared and old,

stay by the staves where  
the Orphans hold

firm as a rock when the  
surges break

shield of a land where  
men die for His sake.

For the sake of the  
brothers whom they have  
laid low,

to the roll of their muf-  
fled drums.

Eighteen hundred and  
sixty-five:

The Devil is dead and  
the Lord is alive,  
in the earth that springs  
where the heroes sleep,  
and in love new born  
where the stricken weep.

That legion hath  
marched past the setting  
of sun:

Beaten? Nay, victors:  
the realms they have won  
are the hearts of men  
who forever shall hear  
the throb of their far-off  
drums.

**THE ORPHAN BRI-  
GADE**

By Harvard geology pro-  
fessor and Kentucky na-  
tive Nathaniel S. Shaler.  
Prof. Shaler fought on the  
side of the Union Army  
during the American Civil  
War. Like many Union  
soldiers Shaler came to  
admire and respect his  
dreaded Kentucky Con-  
federate foes that made up

the Orphan Brigade.

Nicholas County native  
and Confederate officer  
of the 4th Regiment, of  
the Orphan Brigade, Lot  
D. Young, used the poem  
as his introduction to his  
book "Reminiscences of a  
soldier of the Orphan Bri-  
gade."

Young dedicated his  
book to "All of those who  
wore the gray, their chil-  
dren, and children's chil-  
dren," and I have been  
drawn deeper and deeper  
into the story of Young's  
life during the American  
Civil War.

Of the 5,000 members,  
in 1861, who began their  
service for the Confederate  
1st Brigade of Kentucky,  
later affectionately named  
the Orphan Brigade, there  
would be scarcely 500 tat-  
tered and torn survivors  
among them at the war's  
conclusion.

Lt. Young was lucky,  
and although he was hor-  
ribly wounded at the Battle  
of Jonesboro on Sept.  
1, 1864. He eventually  
healed after six months,  
and at the conclusion of  
the war, as a prisoner, was  
paroled. He then returned  
to Nicholas County, mar-

ried Belle Davis and be-  
came a prominent farmer  
and respected family man.

The images of the vari-  
ous battlefields over which  
he fought and the hellish  
images he saw never  
dimmed however, and those  
images haunted him  
throughout his life.

The images of Shiloh,  
Murfreesboro, Chickama-  
uga, Missionary Ridge,  
Stone River, Dalton, Dal-  
las, The 100 Days, Atlanta  
and Jonesboro.

Especially Jonesboro.  
The site of his last mili-  
tary engagement where he  
lost his two dearest com-  
panions.

He returned to the scene  
of that horrific battlefield  
48 years after nearly per-  
ishing there, and he wrote

**Charles Column**  
cont. on pg. 5

**CLOSED**

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court will be  
closed on Monday February 16th in  
observance of the Presidents' Day and will  
resume to normal business hours on Tuesday  
February 17th.

**CLOSED**

The Nicholas County Convenience Center  
will be closed on Monday February 16th in  
observance of the Presidents' Day and will  
resume to normal business hours on Tuesday  
February 17th.

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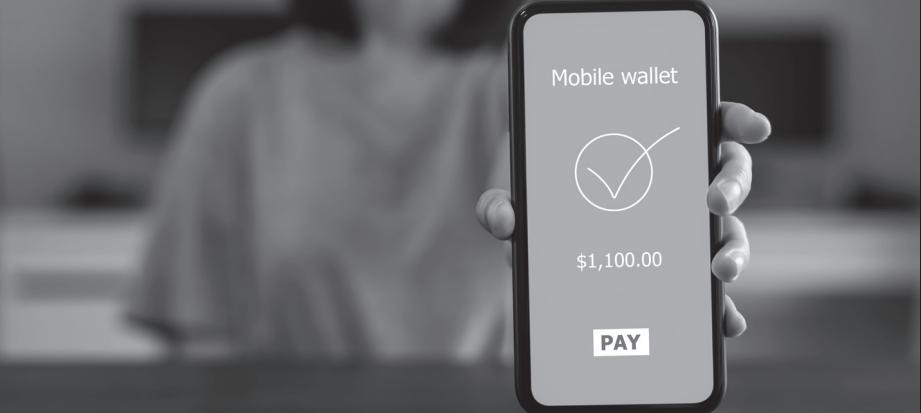
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