

COMMUNITY

A Tribute to Charles Mattox - Heaven is a lot like Kentucky
THE VICCISITUDES 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 throbbing 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 muffled 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 BRIGADE
By Harvard geology professor and Kentucky native 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 Confederate 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 Brigade."
Young dedicated his book to "All of those who wore the gray, their children, and children's children," 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 tattered and torn survivors among them at the war's conclusion.
Lt. Young was lucky, and although he was horribly 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 became a prominent farmer and respected family man.
The images of the various 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, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Stone River, Dalton, Dallas, The 100 Days, Atlanta and Jonesboro.
Especially Jonesboro. The site of his last military engagement where he lost his two dearest companions.
He returned to the scene of that horrific battlefield 48 years after nearly perishing 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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Carlisle Mercury

Rowan County News

Bath County News-Outlook

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project No. 24-025

City of Mt. Olivet
(Owner)

Separate sealed bids for the purchase and delivery of Grinder Pumps will be received by the City of Mt. Olivet at the office of the City of Mt. Olivet, 54 E. Walnut Street, Mt Olivet, KY 41064 until 11:30 A.M., E.S.T. 2/16/2026, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Bid Documents may be examined at the following:
Buffalo Trace Area Development District, 201 Government Street, Maysville, KY, 41056, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM;
and at the office of the City of Mt. Olivet, 54 E. Walnut Street, Mt Olivet, KY 41064, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Copies are also available for download on Buffalo Trace Area Development District's website at www.btadd.com.

The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract, Section 3, Section 109 and BABA and Title VI and other requirements, if applicable. Minority bidders are encouraged to bid.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

1/12/2026
(Date)

Jennifer Whalen, Mayor, City of Mt. Olivet

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