

**Book Notice: *Kentucky Soldiers and Their Regiments in the Civil War Abstracted from the Pages of Contemporary Newspapers***

Written by Dan Reigle for the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*, Vol. XIV (2010), No. 3.

Five volumes, each covering one year of the 1861-1865 period. Steven L. Wright. Utica KY: McDowell Publications. Copyright by author, 2009. (Ordering information is at the end of this notice.)

Thanks to Don Rightmyer, editor of *Kentucky Ancestors*, for making us aware of this new resource. In the Winter 2010 issue of *Kentucky Ancestors*, Don used the word “monumental” to describe this newly-published set of books, stating that they make “a tremendous contribution to the published history of the experiences of Kentucky men during the Civil War.” I agree, having used the books immediately after receiving them to annotate Darrell Helton’s submission of documents on the engagements at Cotton Hill, south of Charleston WV in November 1861. We all know the unique value of newspaper research in our Civil War research and our genealogical research, and we also know how painfully difficult it can be to locate relevant newspapers and then to find in them the information we need. Mr. Wright has done a lot of heavy lifting for us.

His objective was clearly stated in the Preface to the first volume: “This work is not about the big battles, although there is generally enough reference information to find the reports and narratives peppered through various issues of the newspapers from their correspondents. I have attempted to provide an adequate amount of abstracted information to allow researchers to follow up on their own interests, or simply to see a simplified version of events as they happened. Every effort has been made to provide accurate information. Unfortunately, it was not practical to enter every name available, but hopefully entries contain adequate information for further research.” Further, in the Preface to Volume III, “Most of these abstracts are paraphrased, and generally there is more to the story in many of these articles than space permitted and should be further pursued by the serious researcher.”

To best provide perspective on the coverage and amount of information included in these books, the following table summarizes the newspapers used for each volume, the pages of text abstracted, and the pages devoted to the index.

	Vol I, 1861	Vol II, 1862	Vol III, 1863	Vol IV, 1864	Vol V, 1865
Newspapers:					
<i>Frankfort Daily Commonwealth</i>	Yes	Yes			
<i>Frankfort Daily Yeoman</i>		Yes			Yes
<i>Frankfort Tri-Weekly/Daily Kentucky Yeoman</i>	Yes				
<i>Frankfort Tri-Weekly Commonwealth</i>		Yes			
<i>Frankfort Tri-Weekly Yeoman</i>		Yes			
<i>Louisville Daily Courier</i>	1 issue				
<i>Louisville Daily Democrat</i>		1 issue	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Louisville Daily Journal</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Louisville Daily Union Press</i>				Yes	
<i>Maysville Dollar Weekly Bulletin/Weekly Bulletin/Bulletin</i>		Yes	Yes	Yes	
<i>Paris Western Citizen</i>		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Atlanta (GA) Southern Confederacy</i>			Yes	Yes	
<i>Nashville (TN) Daily Press</i>			Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Nashville (TN) Daily Times &amp; True Union</i>				Yes	Yes
<i>Nashville (TN) Daily Union</i>			Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Chattanooga (TN) Daily Gazette</i>				Yes	
Text pages	146	211	267	336	251
Index pages	28	35	38	39	34

Mr. Wright has put a great deal of effort into creating an excellent index in each volume that is detailed enough to be

both important and useful. For example, there are 37 entries in 1862 alone for the prominent Kentuckian and Union General Lovell **Rousseau**, a major commander at Shiloh, Perryville, and Stones River, and one for Mrs. **Rousseau** on board a steamer with the Sanitary Committee on 23 May headed for Pittsburg Landing TN in the aftermath of the Battle at Shiloh. This entry is among 17 index entries for Pittsburg Landing and 33 for Shiloh.

Of course, there were many interactions and interconnections between Ohio and Kentucky, including family, political, and commercial connections, as well as the military connections as Ohioans served in Kentucky units and Kentuckians in Ohio units, and as Kentucky and Ohio units served together in brigades and divisions. These volumes will help research on such subjects. For example, during the early formation of the military forces in Kentucky and Ohio at the beginning of the war, many enlistments in the 2nd Kentucky Infantry occurred at Pendleton OH, the site of Camp Clay along the Ohio River on the eastern edge of the Cincinnati city limits. Twelve 1861 index entries detail events at Camp Clay, such as: “June 6 [1861]—There are men enough at Camp Clay to form two Kentucky regiments for the three years’ enlistment. Col. **Woodruff** will take command of the 2nd Kentucky Infantry, with Lt. Col. G. W. **Neff**, and probably James **Holt**, of Covington, major. One of the finest and best drilled companies in Camp Clay is the Woodruff Guards, from Louisville, commanded by Capt. **Sedgewick**.” (*Louisville Daily Journal*.)

This will be a valuable resource to Civil War genealogists, regardless of whether their subjects served in units designated as Kentucky or Ohio units. Most every unit in the western theater traveled through Kentucky, traveled down or up the Ohio River, and/or fought in the major battles in or near Kentucky. I would hope that this set of books is soon on the reference shelves of every library in both states, and in the hands of or readily accessible to serious individual researchers of any units with any connection to Kentucky, Ohio, western Virginia, Indiana, and Illinois.

The books are priced individually (\$25, \$29, \$35, \$42, and \$33 per volume, respectively) or by the complete set at \$140, a \$24 discount. Shipping and taxes are included in these prices. Orders can be mailed to Steven L. Wright, 105 Livingood Lane, Hodgenville KY 42748. Questions can also be addressed by email to <[shirlene105@comcast.net](mailto:shirlene105@comcast.net)>.

