



## Stones River National Battlefield

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Significant Person's Name: William Lewis Kappel

Unit: 15<sup>th</sup> Inf, USA -

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#### List Contents of Donation Below:

1 - book

CIVIL WAR SERVICE OF JC. KAPPEL AND SONS

CIVIL WAR SERVICE  
OF  
JOHANN CHRISTIAN KAPPEL  
AND SONS,  
CHRISTIAN, WILLIAM, & JOHN  
BY  
LEWIS WILLIAM COPPEL, SR., M.D.



## PREFACE

The cover illustration is a photograph taken by the author of the Memorial Monument to the Regular Troops killed at the Battle of Stone's River. Also, the headstone of William Lewis Kappel, a soldier in the regulars who was killed and buried there. (The author's great uncle.) It is in the National Cemetery beside the battlefield national park.

The information herein contained has been gathered over a period of several years. It is as accurate as I could make it, and I believe all of it to be true. However genealogy is a continuing search, so some changes may be necessary in the years to come.

However, the search has really been enjoyable, and the trips to take the many photographs were pure joy.

Johann Christian Kappel was the author's great grandfather. The changes in the spelling of the name are involved and confusing. Many varieties of K or C, a or o, el or le are found. ( the pp remained constant !) However, Charles F., a son of Johann Christian, and my Grandfather, finalized the spelling for his family during World War I, about the same time that he forbade the speaking of German in his home.

*Lewis W. Coppel, M.D.  
April, 2002*

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## JOHANN CHRISTIAN KAPPEL AND SONS

### Service in the Civil War

Johann Christian Kappel and his three eldest sons (Christian, William Lewis, and John) served in the Union Armies during the Civil War. He was born in Olbronn, Wurttemberg (Germany) on August 12, 1811. When he arrived in Ross County with his bride in the late 1830's he had stopped using Johann, and was known simply as Christian.

On September 19, 1861 he enlisted at Chillicothe, Ohio in the 37th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. E. His enlistment was for a period of three years. He was described as 45 years old (he really was 50), 5 feet 3 & 1/2 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and occupation of farmer. This occurred about one month after his three sons had enlisted in the 15th Regiment Infantry, USA (Regulars).

Shortly after enlisting in Chillicothe, he was sent to Camp Brown<sup>1</sup>. This is in Cleveland, Ohio at the intersection of

<sup>1</sup>CAMP BROWN. Established August 19, 1861, Camp Brown occupied a tract at Park Street and Euclid Avenue. One citation claims that the Civil War encampment consisted of 10 acres of land; another account reports the

present day Euclid Avenue and 46th street.

By October 1, 1861 the unit had over 800 men, so it was sent to Camp Dennison<sup>2</sup>, mustered into service, officered, armed, and equipped.

Operations that fall and early winter centered in the Kanawha River Valley, West Virginia. After several successful ventures, they went

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camp was barely large enough for pitching tents, so a drill and parade ground was established on the corner of Kinsman Street and Case Avenue on 14 acres of flat land corresponding today with Woodland Avenue and East 40th Street. Camp Brown was the home of the 37th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, one of Ohio's "German" units, the majority of its men speaking German. At the end of September, the unit left for Camp Dennison, where it was mustered into service on October 2, 1861. Encyclopedia of Historic Forts, Robert B. Roberts, 1988, p. 637

<sup>2</sup>CAMP DENNISON. The largest Civil War encampment in Ohio, it was established as an induction and training center about 18 miles northeast of Cincinnati near the town of Milford (known also as New Germany) and named for Ohio Governor William Dennison. The stone house of Christian Waldschmidt (1804) on Milford Road served as the camp's headquarters. - ibid. p.639

into winter camp in Clifton. In 1862, they continued in those same areas. The details are in the appended material from "Ohio in the War" <sup>3</sup>

As in any army and any war there are lots of "hurry ups and waits" Finally, on the 10th of September, 1862 there was a significant operation at Fayetteville. Here, Christian was "lost in action" and captured by the Rebels. He was sent to Richmond, Virginia. He was paroled on October 6, 1862, and went to Camp Parole, + Maryland. He left there to rejoin his regiment on December 21, 1862. They were near Gauley Bridge, West Virginia at that time.

In the meantime, the regiment had retreated down the

Kanawha River to the Ohio River and crossed over at Ripley, Ohio. This occurred about the 15th of September, 1862. Almost immediately, they recrossed the river, and bivouacked near Point Pleasant, W. Va.

On the 15th of October, the Regiment again advanced up the Kanawha Valley. On reaching Gauley Bridge, they bivouacked. It was here that Christian rejoined them from Camp Parole. On December 30th, they marched to Camp Piatt <sup>5</sup> and there embarked on steamers for Cincinnati.

The Company Musters during this time list him as present, although when he was discharged, the surgeon stated he had been disabled for the last four months, and unfit for duty sixty days of the last two months. "Age and experience while serving with his regiment have rendered him unfit to perform the duties as a soldier."

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<sup>3</sup> OHIO IN THE WAR , Reid, Whitelaw; 1868, p. 240.

<sup>4</sup> CAMP PAROLE , Maryland. A large installation located about two miles west of Anapolis, Camp Parole was established in late 1862 or early 1863 as a holding facility for Union prisoners of war who had been released to Union authorities by the Confederacy. It was designed to keep these men under military discipline until they were reassigned to other Union units or allowed to return home. The camp also included a hospital complex of five buildings. About 70,000 soldiers passed through Camp Parole, but there were never more than about 8,000 at one time. Encyclopedia of Historic Forts , Robert B. Roberts, 1988, p. 387.

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<sup>5</sup> CAMP PIATT was strategically located along the Kanawha River, the James River, and the Kanawha Turnpike. This camp was also located in the immediate area of the Kanawha salt industry, which was of considerable importance to both the Union and Confederate forces. Grimmer: In search of distant relatives. 2001, Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5; p. What do we know about George so far, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

The regiment proceeded to Louisville, Kentucky on the steamers, and while there on the 12th day of January 1863, Christian was discharged from the service by reason of Surgeon's Certificate of Disability. He was apparently separated from the service in Louisville.

How and when he returned to Chillicothe is not known. However, we do know that he made an affidavit before Probate Judge Thomas Walke on the 31st day of January 1873. This was to support a pension application. This was under the Act of July 14, 1862, and it was given the number 207692. His address at that time was given as 103 Church St., in Chillicothe. Also, his discharge of Jan. 12, 1863 was recorded May 12, 1874 in Ross County, CW Vol. Pg. 301.

We do know of his "death in the canal" on December 17, 1875.

There is a pension application processed by the Adjutant General's Office in Washington, D.C., on March 15, 1878. It was given the number 226212. However this most likely was an application made by his widow, Caroline. Her affidavit in support was made before B.F. Stone, Probate Judge, May 3, 1876.

Appendix I has the following: Photographs of Olbronn, Germany in 1992, the location of Camp Brown today, Camp Dennison today, Gauley Bridge today, steam boat docks at Louisville, Ky. today, an excerpt from Ohio in the War concerning the 37th OVI, sketch of Fayetteville, West Virginia made on September 10, 1862,<sup>6</sup>

Copies from the National Archives of duty rosters, prisoner of war records, Christian's Disability Discharge and 1873 Pension application. Copy from Ross County of the recording of his discharge. Copy of the Official Roster of Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines from the State of Ohio.

Known details of Johann Christian Kappel's life and copies of the Scioto Gazette.

CHRISTIAN KAPPEL  
BORN IN OHIO  
1842

Printed after Appendix I.

WILLIAM LEWIS KAPPEL  
BORN IN OHIO  
1843

Printed after the above.

JOHN KAPPEL  
BORN IN OHIO  
1844

Printed after the above.

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<sup>6</sup> FAYETTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, West Virginia.

# APPENDIX I

## APPENDIX I

### PHOTOGRAPHS

Olbronn, Germany in 1992  
Camp Brown, Cleveland, Ohio in September, 2001  
Camp Dennison, Cincinnati, Ohio in September 2001  
Gauly Bridge, West Virginia in 1995  
Steam boat docks at Louisville, Kentucky in 2001

EXERPT from Ohio in the War about the 37th OVI

DRAWING of Fayetteville, West Virginia on September 10, 1862  
From the FAYETTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, West Virginia

COPIES from the National Archives

Duty Rosters  
Prisoner of War records  
Disability Discharge of Christian Kappel  
Pension Application, February 6, 1873

COPY from Ross County Ohio of the recording of the discharge

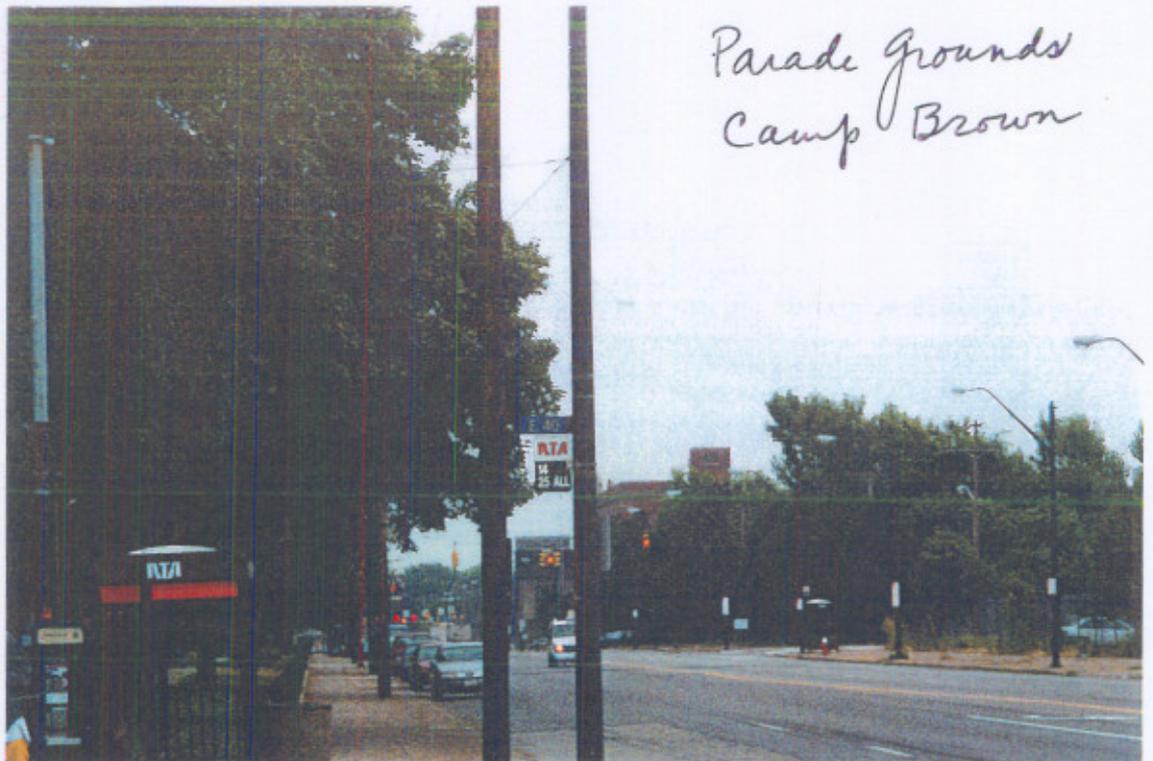
COPY from the State of Ohio Official Roster of Soldiers, Sailors,  
and Marines

DETAILS of Johann Christian Kappel's life, followed by copies of  
the Scioto Gazette of Wednesday December 22, 1875 and  
Wednesday December 29, 1875.



CHURCH, built  
in the early  
1800's











### THIRTY-SEVENTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

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**T**HIS was the third German regiment raised in Ohio, and was recruited principally among the patriotic Germans of Cleveland, Toledo, and Chillicothe. The counties of Auglaize, Franklin, Mahoning, and Tuscarawas furnished a number of the men; Erie, Wyandot, and Mercer also contributed liberally. Its organization was commenced under the second call of President Lincoln for three hundred thousand men, in August, 1861. By the latter part of September seven full companies had reported, and on the 1st of October eight hundred men were enrolled. With this number the regiment was placed in Camp Dennison, and on the 2d of October it was mustered into the service, officered, armed, and equipped.

Colonel E. Siber, an accomplished German officer, who had seen active service in Prussia and Brazil, was selected as the commanding officer of the regiment; L. Von Blessingh, of Toledo, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Charles Ankele, of Cleveland, Major. Its line officers were selected from those who had seen service in the preceding three months' campaign.

The regiment moved, *via* Cincinnati, to a point on the Kanawha River, in West Virginia, where it reported to General Rosecrans, then commanding that department. Shortly after its arrival the regiment was sent up the Kanawha, in company with other forces, to the oil-works at Cannelton, with the view of driving the Rebel General Floyd out of that valley. The National forces moved up the valley, marching along Loup Creek, flanked and forced the Rebels to evacuate Cotton Hill, and pursued them to within seven miles of Raleigh C. H.

On its return from this expedition, the regiment went into winter-quarters at Clifton, where it occupied itself in drilling and perfecting its organization, guarding all the principal points in the vicinity, and occasionally sending out scouting parties in all sections of that part of West Virginia. In January, 1862, it went out on an expedition to Logan C. H., east of Guyandotte River, and eighty miles distant from Clifton. After hard marching and brisk skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry, the place was captured and all war material destroyed. This accomplished, the regiment returned to Clifton, having lost one officer and one man killed.

In March, 1862, the Thirty-Seventh Ohio was added to the Third Provisional Brigade of the Kanawha Division, and ordered to accompany that division on a raid to the southern part of West Virginia, with the view of reaching and destroying, if possible, the Virginia and East Tennessee Railroad, near Wytheville, Virginia. But, after severe and unsuccessful fighting at and near Princeton, on East River, in which the regiment lost one officer and thirteen men killed, two officers and forty-six men wounded, and fourteen men missing, the National forces were compelled to retreat to Flat-Top Mountain, where they remained in bivouac until the 1st of August, 1862. On the 1st of August the regiment marched to Raleigh, garrisoned the place, and scouted the country for a circuit of twenty-five miles. In an expedition to Wyoming C. H., a detachment of the regiment fell into an ambuscade, and were surrounded by the enemy, but cut their way out of the difficulty with the loss of two killed, and one officer and seven men taken prisoners. In the latter part of August the regiment marched in detachments to Fayetteville, Virginia, which place was garrisoned by the Thirty-Seventh and Thirty-Fourth Ohio, and a temporary battery, composed of men from the Thirty-Seventh Ohio, detached on temporary duty.

On the 10th of September two companies of the regiment were sent out on the Princeton Road, and, after reaching a spot one and a half miles from their starting point, they encountered the enemy in heavy force, making it necessary to fall back. Shortly after, the whole force was engaged with the enemy, led by General Loring. The fight lasted from twelve M. until

dark, when Colonel Siber, the commanding officer of the Thirty-Seventh Ohio, being informed that another force of the enemy was threatening the National rear and line of retreat, the retreat was sounded, and at two o'clock in the morning the regiment moved back on the Gauley Road, taking a position on Cotton Hill, and engaging the enemy for an hour with effective results. The retreat was then resumed, and on the 12th of September the National troops crossed the Kanawha River at Camp Piatt, and arrived at Charleston on the next day. The enemy, who had followed at a respectful distance, was here engaged and kept at bay until dark. This stand was necessary in order to cover the retreat of a valuable train of seven hundred wagons, loaded with the entire supplies of all the troops then in the Kanawha Valley.

After a very exhausting march of three days and nights the Ohio River was reached on the 15th, at a point nearly opposite Ripley, Ohio, and the troops crossed over, but almost immediately thereafter re-crossed the river, and went into camp at Point Pleasant. In this unfortunate retreat the Thirty-Seventh Ohio lost two men killed, three wounded, and sixty-two missing, of which latter a large portion were teamsters and train-guard. All the company wagons, camp equipage, and officers' baggage were lost near Fayetteville by a rear attack of the enemy.

On the 15th of October the regiment again advanced up the Kanawha Valley, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel L. Von Blessingh. Gauley Bridge was reached November 20th, where a camp was formed and occupied up to December 30, 1862, on which day the regiment marched to Camp Piatt, and from thence embarked on steamers for Cincinnati. While lying at the wharf there Colonel Siber assumed command of the regiment, and was fortunate enough to procure new Enfield rifles in exchange for the arm then in use.

Proceeding down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the regiment was landed at Napoleon, Arkansas, on the 16th of January, 1862. Here it was, with other regiments, formed into the Third Brigade, Second Division, of the Fifteenth Army Corps. On the 21st of January the troops moved over to Milliken's Bend, nearly opposite Vicksburg, Mississippi, where they were engaged in the construction of the canal which was to isolate Vicksburg from the river, and make it an inland town. A freshet in the Mississippi River compelled the regiment, with the other troops, to seek higher ground for encampment. Young's Point was selected. From Young's Point a number of expeditions were sent to the east side of the Mississippi, and up the Yazoo River, in all of which the Thirty-Seventh Ohio participated.

On the 29th of April, 1862, the regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel L. Von Blessingh, with eight other regiments of the division, embarked on steamers, and were taken up the Yazoo River to Haines's Bluff. This movement was made as a feint to cover the movements of General Grant to the south-east of Vicksburg. The regiment returned to the west side of the Mississippi, and again went into camp at Young's Point, performing guard and fatigue duty until the 13th of May, when it was sent down to Grand Gulf. From that place it marched, with the forces under General Grant, to the rear of Vicksburg, where it was assigned as a portion of the front line of the army investing that place. In the bloody but unsuccessful assaults on the enemy's works, May 19th and 22d, and the subsequent siege of Vicksburg, the regiment lost nineteen killed and seventy-five wounded, including among the wounded, Lieutenant-Colonel L. Von Blessingh. This casualty devolved the command of the regiment upon Major C. Hipp until the 18th of June, when Colonel Siber reported from his leave of absence and resumed command.

After the surrender of Vicksburg the Thirty-Seventh participated in the expedition against Jackson, Mississippi, and on its capture, July 17th, it performed provost-guard duty for some days. On the 23d of July it marched to a camp of rest and reorganization, called Camp Sherman, near Big Black River. It remained in this camp up to the 26th of September, 1863, on which day it marched into Vicksburg and embarked on the steamer Nashville for Memphis, Tennessee. From Memphis the regiment marched to Corinth, Mississippi; thence to Cherokee Station, Alabama, reaching the latter place on the 20th of October and remaining in bivouac until the 26th of the same month.