



Copy

April 26, 2005

Jim Lewis, Park Ranger
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Dear Jim,

Enclosed are multiple documents I have been able to gather regarding the life (and death) of Orlando Wells Nash, who died December 31, 1862 at the Battle of Stones River. The compelling story of local citizens travelling down to Tennessee to reclaim the body of Orlando W. Nash has been documented by two diaries and a newspaper article. One of the diaries specifically mentions the condition of the body, confirming a positive identification. Crystal Lake Cemetery records also confirm the burial in Crystal Lake on February 3, 1863.

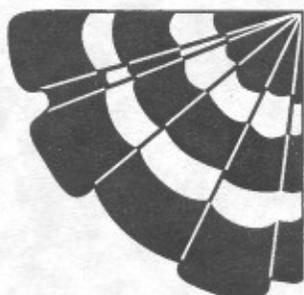
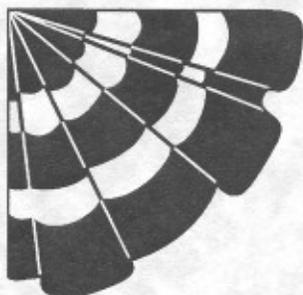
The military records from Washington D.C. indicate that Orlando's personal effects were lost in the engagement. Which leads me to still wonder if his personal items were buried with another body, or perhaps just by themselves in the Stones River National Cemetery. Perhaps we'll never know.

On May, 22, 2005 the Crystal Lake Historical Society will be hosting a Memorial Service dedicating the newly-installed headstone for Civil War soldier, Orlando Wells Nash at the Crystal Lake Cemetery (now known as Lake Avenue Cemetery). I will forward a copy of the program booklet to you after the Memorial Service.

Thank you for your interest in our story of a young man, who lost his life serving our country. I hope to someday visit your Battlefield, and pay my respects to Orlando's "other" grave.

Sincerely,

Diana Kenney, President
Crystal Lake Historical Society



CIVIL WAR
HEADSTONE DEDICATION

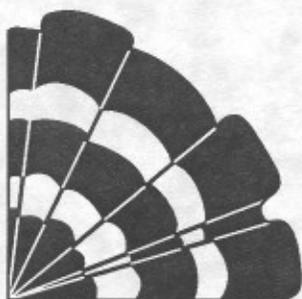
for

Orlando Wells Nash

October 22, 1839 - December 31, 1862

Lake Avenue Cemetery
Crystal Lake, Illinois

Sunday, May 22, 2005
2:00 PM



Service of Dedication

Gathering Words Rev. Arn Schaper

Musical Selection Lucas Ramirez
When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Eulogy Rev. Arn Schaper

Laying of the Wreath Lena Burke

Musical Selection Lucas Ramirez
Battle Hymn of the Republic

Presentation of Flag American Legion

Taps

Benediction Rev. Arn Schaper

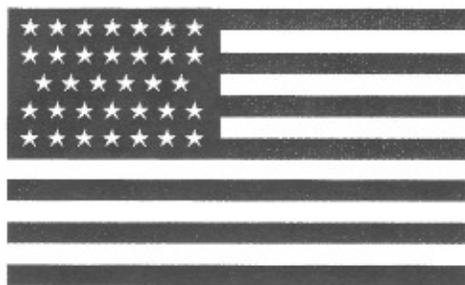
The Evolution of Old Glory

By law, a star is added to the United States of America Flag following the admission of the state or states bringing about these changes. No star is identified with a specific State, and there is no law designating the permanent arrangement of the stars.

The United States 34-Star Flag was adopted with the admission of Kansas as the 34th state in January, 1861.

On February 22, 1861, Abraham Lincoln, the President-elect, went to Philadelphia to attend a flag raising ceremony. The Nation was in a state of crisis. Seven Southern States were preparing to secede from the Union, and threats had been made on Mr. Lincoln's life. Mr. Lincoln raised a large 34 star flag over Independence Hall. Raising the American flag on this day, George Washington's birthday, over the building in which Americans had declared their independence from England, was a courageous act of faith. It was a bold statement that the Union would be preserved.

At no time did the United States Flag lose stars.

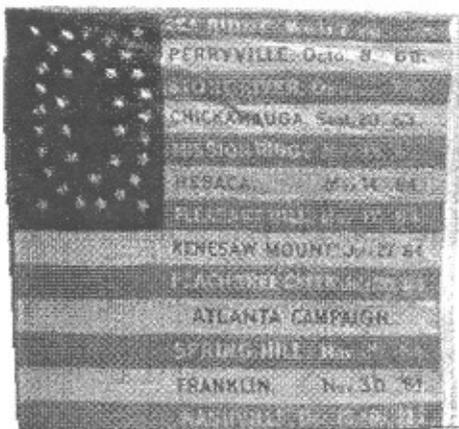


The 34-Star Civil War Flag (1861-1863)



Regiment Flag for the 36th Illinois Infantry

The Regiment Flag for the 36th Illinois Infantry depicts a summary of the major battles fought by the Regiment. These include: Pea Ridge, Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Resaca, Pleasant Hill, Kenesaw Mount, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta Campaign, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville.



Statistics for the 36th Illinois Regiment

204 killed (14.8 %)
739 killed and wounded
12 died in Confederate prisons

Traveled over 10,000 miles by marching, railroad, and boats

Total Casualties at the Battle of Stones River

Federal 9,532
Confederate 9,239

Orlando

Orlando Wells Nash was born October 22, 1839 in Ohio. He was the son of Enos B. and Catherine Keller Nash. The family moved to Illinois in the 1840's, and eventually settled in Crystal Lake, Algonquin Township.

In September, 1861, at the age of 22, Orlando left his family farm and enlisted for a three-year term in the Illinois 36th Infantry Regiment, Company H at the rank of Private. Company H was commonly known as "The Woodstock Rifles." The 36th Infantry Regiment wintered in Missouri, and proceeded into Arkansas to fight at the Battle of Pea Ridge in March, 1862. The Regiment then moved on to Kentucky and was involved in several skirmishes, including the Battle of Perryville. On November 14, 1862, Orlando was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

By December, 1862, the 36th Infantry Regiment had moved to Murfreesboro, TN. And on December 26th became engaged in the Battle of Stones River. On December 31, 1862, Orlando Wells Nash was killed at the Battle of Stones River.

The following excerpt is taken from a letter written on January 10, 1863 by Pvt. John H. Sackett of Hebron, who fought in the same regiment and company as Orlando Nash. Pvt. Sackett recalls and describes the Battle of Stones River: *"You have in all probability before this heard of the great fight at Murfreesborough or Stone's River, 27 miles from Nashville, Tenn. We marched the next day after Christmas and skirmished until Dec. 30 when the fight began in good earnest and there was heavy artillery fighting all day. We gained considerable ground but the next morning the rebs had been reinforced from Chattanooga and they overpowered us and drove us back and ent (sp?) our men up pretty badly. Our men fell back to the heavy cedar timber and there made a stand*

Wells Nash

*and fought until the 2nd of January when they evacuated Murfreesboro and left the place in our hands."*¹

Several weeks after the Battle of Stones River, a small group of local citizens, led by Mr. John Brink, traveled to war-torn Tennessee to claim the bodies of Orlando Nash and Al Bunker (of Ridgefield) and bring them back to McHenry County for burial.

The diary of Wallace P. Benson (of Algonquin) who also served in the 36th Illinois, Company H, has the following notation: "*January 30 (1863) - John Brink and Mr. Bunker called. They had Orlando Nash and Al Bunker's bodies.*"²

"The Woodstock Sentinel" includes a report from the 36th Illinois Regiment. The report is dated January 29, 1863: "*Saturday last, our brigade went out to guard a forage train, in the direction of Shelbyville. The advance companies fired a couple of shots at rebel scouts, but we saw nothing of them. About 11 o'clock it commenced raining, and did not slacken until we reached camp, just after dark. Imagine our surprise when we had just commenced cooking our suppers, when four old familiar faces suddenly appeared among us--viz: George Bunker, of Ridgefield, John Brink, Mr. Ford and Mr. Sherwood, of Algonquin. Our uncomfortable day's work was soon forgotten, for, it is needless to say, every one was highly gratified to grasp the friendly hand of an old neighbor, direct from home. Their stay with us was very short, as they started back Monday. They convey homeward the remains of Alvin Bunker and Orlando Nash, two young men who possessed the entire confidence and respect of all their comrades, and their absence throws a deep gloom over the company. They died as a "soldier loves to die," nobly defending their country's honor.*"³

Orlando Wells Nash (cont.)

One final description is found in the diary of Martha Josephine Buck, who writes: *"Thursday, February 5th. It has been snowing nearly all day, — and I think if we make a great deal of haste about it, we can manage to get a sleighride yet this winter. It can't be possible for it to last a great while. This has been a pretty busy week so far. I feel in my bones that it has. Tuesday the funeral of Orlando Nash took place. The corpse arrived the day before. It had been buried about 3 weeks when Mr. Brink got there. He gave \$90 for a metallic coffin and had the body taken up and brought home. It looked quite natural even after so long a time so those say who saw it. The coffin was not opened at the Church. There was a great crowd there."*⁴

In February, 1863, church services for Orlando Nash were held at the First Congregational Church, and he was laid to rest at the Crystal Lake Cemetery (now known as Lake Avenue Cemetery).

It is unknown if Orlando Nash's grave ever had a headstone; but the new government-issued Civil War era headstone will now mark the final resting place of this Civil War soldier, who died defending the Union.

- ¹ The original copy of Pvt. John H. Sackett's letter is located at the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Library, Springfield, Illinois, Manuscript collection.
- ² Wallace P. Benson's diary is transcribed on Don Purn's website www.oldalgonquin.net
- ³ Woodstock Sentinel, dated February 11, 1863
- ⁴ The original diary of Martha Josephine Buck is owned by her great-grandson, Stanley Jones.

Headstone

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world.

There are certain restrictions to determine eligibility, including (but not limited to) an honorable discharge from service or being killed while on active duty.

There are specific styles of upright marble or granite headstones to mark the graves of Union and Confederate Civil War dead. For Civil War Union markers, a shield is inscribed which encompasses the arched name, then abbreviated military service. The dates of birth and death are inscribed below the shield.

After obtaining Orlando W. Nash's military service record from the State and National Archives, the headstone order was placed through the Woodstock Armory. Because the Lake Avenue Cemetery is not an active cemetery, Zoia Monument Company of Woodstock agreed to accept the headstone and provide installation services.

The Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission provided a 50/50 matching grant to the Crystal Lake Historical Society to fund the cost of headstone installation.

Lake Avenue Cemetery records were used to determine the correct burial location. Linda Stengele, local dowser, verified the location of the unmarked grave with dowsing wires to affirm the presence of a burial at that location.

With Gratitude

The Crystal Lake Historical Society
would like to thank the many individuals and groups
who helped make today possible:

Countryside Flowershop & Nursery

Crystal Lake American Legion Post #171

Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission

Dianne Klemme, Algonquin Township Supervisor

Ladies of the Civil War Roundtable

Lucas Ramirez, violinist

Steve Ramirez, drummer

Rev. Arn Schaper

Linda Stengele, dowser

Tony Zoia, Zoia Monument Company