

## Organization of the 42nd Indiana Infantry Regiment:

The organization of the 42nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment was completed at the old fairgrounds, termed Camp Vanderburg, in Evansville, Indiana on October 9, 1861. The Colonel was James G. Jones, Evansville's first mayor and Indiana State Attorney General, Lt. Colonel Charles Denby, an Evansville attorney, and Major James M. Shanklin, an 1860 candidate for state legislature on the Democratic ticket.

Company A, the only one composed exclusively of Vanderburg county men, was mustered in on October 9, 1861. Company A was first commanded by Captain William Atcheson. Early in September 1861, two companies, not quite full, were sent to Camp Vanderburg for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment from Spencer county. These men became Company B and Company C. Company B was captained by Cyrus W. Metcalf, and Company C by Alfred Myler. Company C was mustered into three year's service mainly on October 9<sup>th</sup> and Company B on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

About the time these companies left the county, another departed coming from the vicinity of Gentryville. It became Company H of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and was mustered in by squads during the month of October. A few men in each of the above three companies were not from Spencer county. There were men from Dubois county in Company Hand Company C of this regiment. The commissioned offices of Company H during this time were Captain James H. Bryant, a veteran of the Mexican War, First Lieutenant Gideon R. Kellams from Rockport, and Second Lieutenant Adam Haas from Jasper.

In the month of September 1861, two more companies were enlisted in Gibson county; one in Princeton by Nathaniel B. French, and the other in the eastern part of the county by Samuel G. Barrett and William M. Cockrum. The companies became part of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment as the Princeton company was designated Company E and was organized with French as their captain. Company F of this regiment was the other Gibson county company as was captained by Samuel Barrett.

Nearly two full companies were raised in Pike county, but only one was mustered as a company with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Company I. The men were enlisted and allowed to stay home until the company was full and then were taken to

Princeton in carriages by their friends and then by train to Evansville. The company captain was W.T.B McIntire as the company originally consisted of ninety-seven men.

In less than twenty days after James Shanklin's patriotic speech, 118 Daviess county men were recruited for what became Company G of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. They were organized into what became known as "McCarty's Company" as Eli McCarty was the captain. The recruits arrived in Washington, Indiana on September 27, 1861 where they took the westbound O&M train to Vincennes, then the Evansville and Crawfordsville RR transported the troops to Evansville.

In the fall of 1861 the fourth company in Warrick county was organized for actual service in the field. This was to become Company K, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. It was composed of men from the vicinity of Boonville and the northern part of the county. The organization occurred the 12<sup>th</sup> of September with Daniel G. Thompson as the captain. Warrick county also furnished several men in Company D as they were mustered in on October 10, 1861. Company D was also comprised of men from Vanderburg, Spencer, and Daviess county. The first captain was Francis M. Edmonds of Vanderburg county.

Interestingly, after organization, and sometime in September, 1861, Lt. Colonel Charles Denby made an expedition with four companies up Green River to protect the first lock at Calhoun, Kentucky. This excursion occurred prior to the official mustering in of the regiment. As the regiment readied themselves for service in October the organization complete with:

- Company A 98 enlisted men
- Company B 96 enlisted men
- Company C 98 enlisted men
- Company D 97 enlisted men
- Company E 88 enlisted men
- Company F 97 enlisted men
- Company G 98 enlisted men
- Company H 90 enlisted men
- Company I 97 enlisted men
- Company K 92 enlisted men