A Hoosier in the Heart of Dixie

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Recommended Citation
Available at: https://louis.uah.edu/huntsville-historical-review/vol34/iss1/3

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The Historic Huntsville Depot is easily one of the most important and significant buildings in Huntsville's 200-plus years of history. Built in 1860 as the Eastern Division Headquarters of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, the building, along with associated equipment, became the prized possession of the Union Army when it was captured, and thus all of Huntsville, in April 1862. Captured Confederate soldiers were imprisoned on the third floor, and Union soldiers walked the halls off and on for the next three years.

Civil War graffiti left from soldiers garrisoned in Huntsville or passing through the station during the war is just a part of the lure that attracts tourists and students of history to the Historic Huntsville Museum. Standing out among the many such signatures and illustrations left by soldiers, troopers, and railroad men of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is a drawing of Major Stout, portrayed in his major's uniform. Over the many years of the building's existence, some of the scribblings were painted over and eventually forgotten. After the closing of the depot in 1968, the graffiti was discovered during renovations to turn the depot into a transportation museum. These markings, left for visitors to see today, are found on the walls of the second and third floors of the Historic Huntsville Depot.

We are fortunate to have records available to unlock the mystery of this soldier, and although his service was not marked by any remarkable event, the drawing of Major Stout ensures he will not be forgotten. Although it took nine months to research the thread of his life and death, that time, in retrospect, is but a drop in the bucket of time.

Who Was Major Stout?

The caption on the wall below the crude, yet impressive image of a military officer reads, "Above is a drawing of Federal Officer, Major Stout." The drawing is presumed to have been done by one of his men. Among the first drawings found in the early 1970s, it was at that time, covered by brown paint. Removal of the old paint revealed the drawing.

I have learned that the study of history is the interpretation of new discoveries about our common shared past. Discoveries begin with questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how do these discoveries impact our lives, as well as the lives of the people of that particular era? Who was Major Stout? When and why he was here, and what his impact was on Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley? And finally, what became of him?

After reviewing Dyer's *A Compendium of the War of Rebellion* for Federal regiments in Huntsville at the time of General Mitchel's invasion of April 1862, I searched the National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors on-line index for a Major Stout. I imagined there would be only a few dozen veterans, if that many, by the name of Stout, and that my search would be fairly brief. Upon
entering the NPS site, I discovered an index of Stout Union Veterans that included 792 infantrymen, 212 cavalrymen, 62 artillerymen, and six engineers. Apparently, the name Stout is a prolific surname in the Midwest. Without knowing Stout’s first name, and as the ranks of soldiers are not listed in the NPS general index, I limited my search to regiments from Kentucky and the Midwest.

After hours of unsuccessful National Park Service searches, I decided to revisit Major Stout’s image for additional clues. A closer look revealed another name affiliated with the drawing: James Allen. The penmanship appeared to be similar, and perhaps it was James Allen who drew the illustration. Perhaps he was in the same unit.

An NPS site search for James Allen narrowed the trail considerably. I discovered that Private James Allen of the 13th Indiana Cavalry served under Major Stout of that regiment. Within days of a single phone call to the Indiana State Archives, I received, from the state’s Adjutant General’s Office, records of Private Allen and Major Stout of the 13th Indiana Cavalry. Major Stout was a resident of New Albany, Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville.

Inquiries to the New Albany-Floyd County Library, following a search of their internet site, resulted in the discovery of newspaper articles concerning Major Stout and family. Subsequent visits to the Huntsville-Madison County Library Heritage Room, the Tennessee State Archives, New Albany, Indiana and the Indiana Room of the New Albany-Floyd County Library, resulted in much of the study herein.

**Major Stout**

Major Stout served in three Indiana regiments. He pursued Huntsville native John Hunt Morgan during Morgan’s raid into southern Indiana in 1863 and served garrison duty in Huntsville in 1864.

The 13th Indiana Cavalry Regiment (131st) was authorized by Indiana Governor Morton. Leonidas Stout, age 37, was entered as a major on the field and staff roll of the 13th Indiana Cavalry on 22 April 1864 in New Albany, Indiana. His term of service was for three years. Captain Lehman recorded him on the muster roll of the 13th on 12 May 1864 in Nashville, Tennessee. It was this regiment that brought Major Stout to Huntsville. With the end of the Civil War, he resigned his commission on 16 April 1865.

Leonidas Stout responded enthusiastically to his state’s call to preserve the Union. He was reputed to have been a veteran of the Mexican War and of the Black Hawk War, which, if correct, may have contributed to his placement in the officer corps. When he went to war, Stout left behind a young wife and three daughters between the ages of three and nine.

Leonidas Stout was born in Abingdon, Virginia on 28 February 1827 to David Stout and Levisca Vest, both natives of Abingdon, Virginia.

In 1847, Stout settled in New Albany. He married Dorah Swarens on 18 August 1849. Dorah was the daughter of David and Polly Swarens who immigrated to New Albany from Kentucky in 1832. Just after their marriage, the couple took up residence on Upper Fourth Street, later designated 406 East Fourth Street.
Leonidas and Dorah were the parents of Florence, born in 1853; Dorah Elizabeth, born about 1856; and Harriet, born in May, 1859, all in Indiana. Florence married John B. Graves of Louisville; Dorah married Charles Ellmaker of New Albany; and, Harriet married Samuel H. Hood of New Albany. Son-in-law Charles Ellmaker was wounded at Stones River while serving with the 24th Wisconsin Infantry and imprisoned in Libby Prison in Richmond until his exchange.

The 1850 U.S. Census for New Albany, Indiana listed Leonidas Stout as a 24-year-old carpenter, born in Virginia, with a real estate value of $400. His wife Dorah was listed as age 21. Dorah's parents were listed as: David Swarens, age 66, born in South Carolina with a real estate value of $2,500; his wife Mary, age 60, born in Kentucky; son Jackson, a 27-year-old butcher born in Indiana with real estate valued at $1,000; and Louisa E. Fitzgerald, age 7, who was born in Ohio.

The New Albany City Directory for 1856 and 1857 cited Stout as a grocer, whose residence and business, Stout and Hardin, was located at the northeast corner of Soring and Upper Fourth Street. His father-in-law, David Swarens, also a grocer, lived on the same block. His brother-in-law, Lewis Swarens, yet another grocer, lived between Upper 1st and 2nd Streets. Leonidas' brother, B. F. Stout, was listed as a carpenter living on Upper 1st Street.

Stout apparently abandoned the grocery business for a time. In 1859 and again in 1860, he is listed as a carpenter living in the same location. Although he was serving as a major with the 13th Indiana Cavalry in 1863, the City Directory for 1863-1864 shows him again as a grocer at this same address.

The 1860 census for the 2nd Ward of New Albany, Indiana, lists Leo Stout, age 33, as a carpenter and having a real estate value of $4,000, as well as a value of personal estate worth $1,000. Included in this census were his wife Dorah, age 32, their son, Benjamin Stout, age 30, (a carpenter born in Virginia with a real estate value of $1,800 and a personal estate of $500). In addition, in the household was Hannah Swarens, age 16, born in Indiana.
Sixty-Sixth Infantry

Major Stout began his Civil War experience as a second lieutenant with the 66th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers (Volunteer Militia). A copy of a report from the Adjutant General’s Office, or General Orders No. 56 for July 9, 1862 stated:

Leonidas Stout has been appointed a Second Lieutenant in the 66th Regt. Ind. Vols. to be organized in the 2nd Congressional District of the State in pursuance of General order No. 49 issued at this Office. He is fully empowered to enlist for Said Regiment and when enlisted to muster them into United States service. By order of his Excellency O.P. Morton Governor, Laz Noble, Adj. Genl. Indiana.13

The 66th was raised in Indiana’s Second Congressional District. Lew Wallace, from Crawfordsville, Indiana, who went on to become governor of the New Mexico Territory and author of the novel *Ben Hur*, served as its first colonel. The regiment rendezvoused at Camp Noble, New Albany, where they were put into service 19 August 1862. Stout’s name however, is not found in the official Adjutant General’s roster of the 66th.14

In a letter from Stout’s daughter, Mrs. Samuel (Harriet/Hattie) Hood, to the Hon. S. M. Stockslager on November 19th, 1927, concerning her father’s military service, she wrote that he was commissioned by the Governor of Indiana as 2nd Lieutenant by Colonel J.S. Simison, United States Army Mustering Officer, to recruit men for the 66th and 81st regiments. The two regiments were recruited before he was commissioned Captain of Company A 81st Indiana Infantry regiment on August 13th 1862. He served as Captain until January 29th, 1863, and was appointed Major of the 81st.15

Having accepted a captaincy in the 81st in August 1862, Leonidas Stout was fortunate to have escaped the immediate fate of the 66th, who marched to Lexington, Kentucky to help diffuse “the danger menacing Cincinnati.” At the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky on 30 August, most of the regiment was captured, then paroled and returned to New Albany on 10 September.16

The regiment was refitted at Indianapolis in November, leaving that city on 10 December 1862 to join the First Brigade of Dodge’s division at Corinth, Mississippi. In August 1863, they too came to the Tennessee Valley while participating in Dodge’s expedition into Northern Alabama from 15 April to 2 May 1863 at Rock Cut, Tuscumbia, and Town Creek. Following the Alabama expedition, the regiment saw service in 1864 at Colliersville and Pulaski, Tennessee, fought in the Atlanta Campaign, were part of “Sherman’s Bummers’ March to the Sea” through Georgia, and helped bring the war to a conclusion at the Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina. Finally, they participated in the subsequent surrender of General Joseph Johnston’s army in April 1865.17
Among the papers in the Stout collection of the New Albany, Floyd County Library is Captain Stout’s Roster for Company A of New Albany. Entitled “Volunteer Enlistment, State of Indiana Form of Volunteer Enlistment and Oath,” it contains the alphabetized names of 54 men who were enrolled from 22 July to 27 August 1863. It appears to be a working copy roster rather than the initial enlistment document for several reasons. It is alphabetized and not in random order, the 81st regiment is not specifically mentioned, and all names are written in the same handwriting. A National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors site review of the men of the 81st verifies that the men on Stout’s roster were part of Company A.

On 15 August 1863, Stout was commissioned a captain of Company A, 81st Regiment of Indiana. Later, he was promoted to the rank of major, and on July 7, 1863 he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel of the regiment. He appeared on the regimental muster roll, recorded by Captain Snyder, as a captain leading Company A, and entering the regiment on 12 August 1862 in New Albany. He was described on the regimental muster roll of 29 August 1862 at New Albany, recorded by Lieutenant Morris, as age 35, with grey eyes, black hair, dark complexion, and standing six feet tall. His occupation was given as merchant. He served as captain until 19 January 1863.

On 8 September 1862, Captain Stout listed two deserters from his Company A in the New Albany Daily Ledger. Their ages were given as 18 and 38, and both had taken an alias. The regular government bounty was offered for their arrest and placement in the barracks at Louisville.

Leo Stout received his major’s commission for three years service, given “in the field” at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and authorized by Governor Morton. Stout served in that capacity from 18 January 1863 to 29 April 1863. He was discharged on a certificate of disability. An outline of the regimental camp in Nashville is included in the Stout papers.

The 81st continued south, serving in the Battle of Chickamauga, the Atlanta Campaign, the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and were garrisoned in Huntsville from January to March 1865.

Major Stout’s hunt for John Hunt Morgan

In July 1863, Huntsville native and Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan, the “Thunderbolt of the Confederacy,” led his troopers in an invasion of southern Indiana. On 9 July, Morgan led his artillermen and troopers to victory over local militiamen of the Sixth Indiana Legion in the Battle of Corydon. After pillaging the town (18 miles SW of New Albany), Morgan moved northward en route to Ohio, where he was eventually captured.

Major Stout, at home in New Albany, was on disability, but he responded to the threat to his state. Although attached to the 81st Indiana Infantry, Fred Conway’s work, Corydon, The Forgotten Battle of the Civil War cited Major Leoida (sic) Stout of the 6th Indiana Legion Infantry Company. Also on the roll of the 6th, as
provost marshal, was Colonel John Timberlake of the 81st. Conway related the eyewitness firefight account of Morgan’s crossing the Ohio at Mauckport, Indiana by 1st Lieutenant Strother M. Stockslager of the Mauckport Rifles.23

The Stout Papers include the following accounts of his service regarding the Morgan raid and his service to December 1863:

On July 7th, 1863, Leonidas Stout was appointed and commissioned Lt. Col. in the 81st Regt. (vice Horatio Woodbury resigned) to serve as such during the period for which said regiment was called into the service of the United States and he will be obeyed and respected accordingly.25

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About that time, Genl. Morgan made his raid thro Indiana. Gen. Lew Wallace came to New Albany under orders through Gov. Morton gave me a battalion of mounted troops from the garrison here and ordered me to proceed without delay and form a courier and dispatch line thro’ out the raid of Morgan and communicate with Louisville, Madison, and Cincinnati that they might be able to move the gunboats and forces to blockade his crossing the Ohio River.26

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Henryville [Indiana] July 10th [1863] 4 Oclk. P.M.
Maj. Stout
News from Memphis [Indiana] reliable that 100 Rebels have just croped the Rail Road at slote cut two miles south of Memphis and are going west. A dispatch to Memphis this P.M. says they are fighting at 6 mile island and that our forces have the better of it so far.

J A C McCoy
Henryville

P.S. dispatches sent here to night will receive prompt attention.27

Note: Henryville and Memphis, Indiana are 19 and 18 miles north of New Albany on U.S. 31. John E. McCoy (or John A.G.O. McCoy), Command Sergeant, 13th Indiana Cavalry is found in the NPS Soldiers and Sailors site.

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A copy of the Post Commander
Headquarters New Albany Ind July 10th 1863
Guards pass Major Stout & forces through the lines By order of Thos. W. Fray Maj. Commanding Post.
I proceeded under the above orders and discharged my duty thro’ out the raid and returned about Aug 1st 1863 to New Albany Ind. and applied to Gov. Morton for a permit to recruit enough of Infantry to bring up the 81st to sufficient number that the field officer reappointed could be mustered. He granted me permission and I commenced and raised quite a number and received the following order –
General orders: Authority having been granted by the Secretary of War for the organization of additional Regiments of Cavalry & Infantry in the State the same will be recruited and organized in accordance with general orders issued from this office Sept 21st 1863. 

Leonidas Stout is hereby appointed a Recruiting Officer28

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In December the Governor was urging me to the front with my command. I applied for a Mustering Officer. He sent me W.F. Melbourne, 1st Lieut 15th U.S. Inf. Must’g officer. He reported to me without being prepared to discharge his duty. He informed me that he had applied to the Bank here and could not get the currency on a Twenty thousand dollar Draft that he had on deposit at Cincinnati. I went with him to the State Bank in this city and to impress them favorable to accommodate the mustering officer as I wanted to get to the front. They said they would do the best they could for him, but could not discount a government draft. They were under martial law and accusation of disloyalty and many arrests and would take no responsibility but if the Lieut of the mustering officer with pay $25.00 in cash we will let him have the currency and take the draft on depository of Cincinnati. The mustering officer said he did not have the money and could not muster the men without it. I paid the $25.00 to the Mustering Officer and he gave me a voucher for the same.

Leonidas Stout29

Huntsville Occupation by Major Stout and the 13th Indiana Cavalry

An overview account of the 13th Cavalry is found in the state’s Adjutant General’s report, published in 1866. Field and staff officers included:

Colonel Gilbert M. L. Johnson (Muncie)
Lieutenant Colonels: Wm. Pepper (Rising Sun), Ranna Moore (New Albany)
Majors: Leonidas Stout (New Albany), Hugh Stephens (Muncie), Isaac DeLong (Huntington), John Wheeler (Rome), Joseph Stricker (North Vernon), David Hall (Warren)

The 13th Indiana Cavalry was the last cavalry regiment raised in Indiana. After recruitment (September 1863 to 29 April 1864), the regiment was mustered into service at Indianapolis. On 30 April 1864, the regiment was sent, dismounted with infantry arms, to Nashville for camp of instruction. On 31 May, it was ordered to garrison duty in Huntsville. On 16 October 1864, Colonel Johnson led Companies A, C, D, F, H, and I, and left for Louisville to draw horses and equipment for the entire command. On arriving there, these companies were ordered to Paducah,
under command of Major Moore, to aid in repelling an attack by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. On 1 November, their mission completed, the command returned to Louisville and formed into “the line of march” for Nashville.

At this time, the companies remaining in Huntsville reported to the regimental headquarters. On 30 November 1864, Colonel Johnson led his mounted companies, under orders from General Thomas, to Lavergne, Tennessee to observe the movements of General Hood’s advance on Nashville. Consequent operations of Johnson’s command resulted in action in the battles of Overall’s Creek, Wilson’s Pike, and an additional 12 skirmishes. The command’s losses during these operations, from an aggregate of 325 men, were 65 killed or wounded and two missing.

On 15 and 16 December 1864, Lieutenant Colonel Pepper led dismounted companies B, E, G, K, L, and M into the Battle of Nashville, after which they were joined by the other six companies from Murfreesboro. Upon an exchange of arms and securing an entire remount, the regiment was assigned to the 2nd Brigade (Colonel Johnson commanding), 7th Division of the Cavalry Corps of the Military Division of the Mississippi.

On 11 February 1865, the 13th embarked on transports for New Orleans where the transports were rerouted to Navy Cove, Mobile Bay. Here the regiment reported to General Canby and assisted in operations against the forts and defenses of Mobile.

In addition, the regiment ran a courier line to General Asboth in Florida.

At this time, Colonel Johnson was assigned to the command of the sub-district of northeast Mississippi. In September 1865, for meritorious service, he was promoted to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General. The 13th was mustered out of service in Vicksburg on 18 November 1865, returned to Indianapolis on the 25th with a compliment of 23 officers and 633 men. After a “substantial dinner” at the Soldiers’ Home, they marched to the state house where they were publicly received and welcomed home by Governor Morton.

Major Stout in Huntsville

As mentioned previously, the 13th was sent, without mounts, from Nashville on 31 May 1864 for garrison duty in Huntsville. They were engaged in several skirmishes “with prowling bands of rebel cavalry,” and “held the place against the entire command of the rebel General Buford” on 1 October 1864.

William Powell provided detailed accounts of the regiment’s life in Huntsville in his work *History of the 13th Indiana Cavalry Regiment, 1863-1865*. Powell noted that on 13 June 1863, Colonel Johnson was ordered to command the Huntsville post with Lieutenant Colonel William Pepper assigned commander of the 13th Cavalry.
He noted that Major Stout was acting commander of the regiment on 12 September and 4 November 1864. As such, Major Stout wrote the following order:

Hq 13th Indiana Cavalry Regiment
Huntsville, Ala.
Nov. 4th 1864

Special Order No 69

Sargt. Thomas Riggs, K Company 13th Indiana Cavalry Regiment having disgraced himself and the regiment to which he belongs by having been found guilty of theft is hereby reduced to the ranks. He will be placed in a barrel head in front of the Regimental Headquarters to stand one hour on and one hour off for twelve (12) hours. He will also be worked for nine (9) days at hard labor on fortifications or at other work and kept in close confinement under guard while not at work. It is with feelings of the greatest regret and mortification that the major commdg. is compelled to resort to such punishment but the habit the men are too readily falling into of pilfering and stealing must and shall be stopped.

By Order of Major L. Stout
Commdg 13 Ind. Cav.

Sergeant Riggs deserted on the day of the order.32

Major Stout’s Huntsville experiences are found in two other sources: his account of the Battle of Decatur as well as Huntsville resident Mary Jane Chadick’s Civil War journal.

On 19 October 1864, Mrs. Chadick described him as the “Yankee Major Stout [who] shared with the ladies, [Octavia Otey and her cousin, Eliza] half a squire of paper, two pencils and a penholder each.”33

A hand written note among the Stout Papers relates his account of General Hood’s September-October 1864 attack on Decatur, Alabama before crossing the Tennessee River at Tuscumbia en route to Nashville:

The heavy firing and shelling from either side proceed during the day. At night the commanding officer of Whitesburg, Ala. dressed a soldier in citizen’s clothes and sent him across the river in a skiff with orders for him to move in Hood’s army and to learn his movement and return at the dawn of day under the bluff on opposite bank of Tenn. River, and wave a white handkerchief at the waters edge, and a skiff would be sent for him. He performed his duty and [brought] valuable information that Gen Hood was planting guns below Whitesburg in the cliffs and marching on to Gen. Granger’s command at Decatur, Ala. The Commanding Officer at Whitesburg immediately forwarded dispatch to the headquarters of the Army of the Cumberland through Col. Lyon of the M and D.R.R. defenses. About the time the dispatches were sent,
the gunboat *Gen. Thomas* was coming up from Decatur and landed at Whitesburg. She was commanded by G. Morton.\textsuperscript{34}

From the Huntsville Camp, a letter dated 6 August 1864, in German, was written by John Drexel, a bugler in Company C, 13\textsuperscript{th} Indiana Cavalry. He noted that the regiment “lies near the city on a hill where [there] is a fortress with 8 cannon which can be used over the city and all around the whole region. The city is very beautiful but has gained much damage through the war already....it is very hot here, but yet we have good water, there is a spring here as large and even stronger than the long branch.” The fortress John Drexel described was the Patton Hill earthen fort on McClung Street.

Fifteen members of the regiment died while in Huntsville during a typhoid epidemic. Bugler Drexel wrote of a comrade, “you know him also, he is a handsome big boy, will probably die, since he has an extreme fever. Yesterday he was admitted to the hospital, and last night he jumped from the window 3 stories high since he is sometimes out of his head....he said he had not hurt himself, that can’t be. We all regret his loss since he was an excellent corporal.”\textsuperscript{35}

The attached appendix lists regimental casualties of the 13\textsuperscript{th} Indiana Cavalry.

**Colonel Johnson and Miss Bradley of Huntsville**

Among the Tennessee State Archive’s extensive collection of the General Gilbert Motier Lafayette Johnson papers, which includes Huntsville photographs, is a negative photocopy of an unidentified newspaper article with a tribute by Dr. S. H. Moore, a prominent post-war physician and former captain in the 13\textsuperscript{th} Cavalry, to General G.M.L. Johnson. He wrote the following account of then-Colonel Johnson and Huntsville resident Miss Sue Bradley, daughter of a prominent Unionist, Joseph C. Bradley, who lived in a house located at present-day 405 Franklin Street:

In the spring and summer of 1864, the Thirteenth Indiana was encamped in a grove overlooking the beautiful city of Huntsville, Alabama. The regiment prided itself on its proficiency in drill and especially on the dress parade. Many of the citizens of Huntsville used to drive or ride out evenings to see the Indiana cavalrymen reviewed by their colonel. Among those who came to see the dress parade the officers occasionally observed a young lady of true southern type of beauty. She always came on horseback accompanied by her father, a tall, gray-haired, dignified appearing man. Before long, the officers about headquarters noticed that frequent details of “safe guards” were sent to the residence of the young lady’s father. They also noticed that these guards required much attention and instruction and that the commanding officer did not seem willing to trust these duties to any of his subordinates but preferred to attend them himself. The soldiers who were fortunate enough to be detailed as guards never tired of telling of the kind treatment they received from the
occupants of the mansion they guarded. There soon grew to be a rivalry among the men to ensure assignment on the detail. Later, in the early summer evenings, when headquarters officers were returning from rides across country, they would occasionally meet their commander and the fair occupant of the mansion together. They suspected it was not the guards alone that cause the frequent visits of the colonel to the place.36

**Arrest of Reverend Dr. Ross in Huntsville**

Dr. Moore described another incident which has become well known in the re-telling of Huntsville’s history:

Many of the officers and men of the [13th Ind. Cav.] regiment attended the services at Dr. Ross’ [First Presbyterian] church on Sundays. As a rule, in deference to the Union soldiers, the preacher’s utterances were devoid of anything that would give offense. On one occasion, however, the good man preached a strong rebel sermon – an exhortation that was evidently intended to arouse the animosity of his congregation against the regiment. An officer at once arrested him and took him to headquarters. Colonel Johnson, however, released him but placed him under bonds to preach no more seditious sermons.37

**Marriage of Brig. Gen. Johnson and Miss Sue Bradley**

Gilbert M. L. Johnson entered the army on October 6, 1861 as a first lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment Volunteer Cavalry. In the 1850 census, Lafayette Johnson was listed as age 12, living with his mother, Ann, in Wilmington, Ohio, Clinton County (about 51 miles north of Cincinnati). The census listed Ann, age 39; Josephine, age 15; Lafayette, age 12; and Ann E.; age 9, all born in Ohio. Other members of Dwelling #452 and Family #452 included: Rebecca Rail, age 24; Sarah Allen, age 20; Daniel Gilfillen, age 25; S.L. [?] whose occupation was given as teacher, born in Vermont; Julia Rail, age 7; and Anthony Junkin, age 22, also a teacher.38

Gilbert M. L. Johnson was characterized in Dr. S. H. Moore’s tribute as “tall, Apollo-like in appearance with courage to spare; an ideal cavalry officer; Custerian in his impetuosity and dash on the field, and ever mindful of the welfare of his men.” He noted that when attached to General Thomas’ staff, Colonel Johnson escaped capture while on a dispatch mission, retraced his route, fought to the close of an engagement in progress before returning to Thomas’ headquarters two days later. He was warmly received after having been given up for lost. Dr. Moore recalled many other incidents of Johnson’s bravery in which he “seemed to bear a charmed life.” Several times he narrowly escaped enemy bullets; he was injured as his horse rolled over on him after being shot. The injuries caused his eventual death a few years later.39

At the close of the war, Col. Johnson was promoted for his meritorious service, to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General. After the final mustering-out of the 13th in Indianapolis, he returned to Huntsville on a more joyous mission, sending the following notice to his close friends:
Married on the 26th of June 1865, by Rev. Dr. Ross at the Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Alabama, Gen. Gilbert M. Johnson of Cincinnati (formerly colonel of the Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry), and Miss Sue Bradley, daughter of Joseph C. Bradley, esq.40

The couple was married by Rev. Frederick Ross, the Huntsville minister arrested two years previously by the former colonel’s officers. At the close of the wedding ceremony, Dr. Ross turned to the general and said, “Now I am even with you. When you were in command here, you placed me under bonds to refrain from giving voice to my sentiments. Now I have placed you under bonds that will, if you are faithful and true, hold you for the remainder of your life.” Rev. Dr. Ross buried his animosity to the North and he and the general became warm friends41

After his marriage to Sue Bradley, G. M. L. Johnson, now a citizen of Huntsville, served as postmaster beginning in 1869. However, Gilbert Johnson had never fully recovered from an injury he received during battle at Gallatin, Tennessee in 1862. His horse had been shot from under him and rolled over Johnson, and as a result, his kidney was ruptured.42 His health continued to deteriorate from the injury, and he died on January 9, 1871 before his 33rd birthday. He is buried in Huntsville’s Maple Hill Cemetery in Block 2, Lot 2.

G.M.L. Johnson’s interesting story has not been forgotten. His memory is recalled annually by Huntsville historian Brian Hogan in his portrayal of the general during Huntsville’s Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll held each year in May.

Post Civil War

Major Stout returned to his home in New Albany to spend the remainder of his life in relative economic comfort, but as with many veterans, he suffered some lifetime physical distress. According to the January 1, 1883 List of Pensioners, Leonidas Stout received a military disability pension (Certificate No. 222,380) in the amount of $20.00 per month for chronic diarrhea and lung disease.43 The city directories from 1865 to 1904 list the major’s means of livelihood as: collecting agent (1865-66), dealer in boots and shoes (1868), realtor (1873-74), realtor and grocer (1877-78) real estate and collecting agent (1880-81, 1882-83) realtor (1890-91, 1892-93), realtor, L. Stout & Co. (1895-96, 1897-98). His place of business was located at his residence.44

While New Albany directories for the years 1871-72, 1884-85, 1886, 1888-89, 1901-02, and 1903-04, list occupations of residents, no occupation is given for the major. His pre-war two-story residence of 406 East Fourth Street (formerly 130 Upper Fourth Street) was his home until his death in 1915. Today, the home site is occupied by an automobile dealership lot and a bank. The only 19th century home on the block is located across the street at #419. City insurance maps from 1886 to 1905 show the East Fourth Street Public School at mid-block on Stout’s side of the street.

Post war census accounts add some detail to the Stout family history. The family is not found at this writing in the 1870 census for New Albany or elsewhere.
The census for 1880 listed Major Stout as a real estate agent, age 53. Dorah was 52; daughter Hattie was age 20 and single. His brother-in-law, Jackson Swarens, was a butcher, age 55, single, and resided at the same address.45

The 1900 census indicated Leonidas was a widower and owned a mortgage-free home he shared with daughter, Harriet, and her husband, Sam Hood. She was 41, and Mr. Hood, a traveling grocer salesman, was 46. At this time, they had been married for eight years. In 1910, Leonidas, age 83, was retired. Harriet was 49, and Samuel, age 54, was a traveling coffee salesman.46

In 1900, daughter Florence, Mrs. John B. Graves, lived with her husband (born April 1849) and seven children in Louisville, Kentucky’s 12th Ward. John was a flour merchant and home owner, born in Kentucky. His parents were born in Virginia. They had been married for 27 years, and had suffered the loss of one child. The ages of their children living at home ranged in age from 9 to 26. The eldest son, Charles, was a bookkeeper. Son Wilber, age 20, was a traveling salesman. Florence E., the eldest daughter, was 22. The remaining children were also listed: Vera A., 18; Dorah A., 16; John B., Jr., 13; and, son Shirley, 9. In 1910, their address was West Chestnut Street, located in the 12th Ward of Louisville. John Sr., now age 60, was then a mail agent. Children Charles R., Verna A., and son Shirley, were all single and living with the family.47

Major Leonidas Stout was known as a student of history. He was active in political affairs, and although it has not been verified by this writer, he served one term as Sheriff of Floyd County. His obituary, which appeared in the New Albany Weekly Ledger on February 24, 1915, described Stout as a Democrat and wrote that, “he was active in the promotion of the success of his party, and never lost interest in city and county affairs. He kept informed upon current events to the day of his death. He was a great student of history and was conversant with all the principal events of the United States from the birth of the Republic.”48

Stout was a prominent member of the Taxpayers’ League. In 1904, at the age of 77, he edited a pamphlet, The Public Eye, “devoted to the interest of the city’s taxpayers...to discuss those matters of public importance which come before the city council and county commissioners and everything which concerns the property interests of the city...shall be fair and outspoken in what it has to say...it has no politics and seeks no favors from the city or county.”49 At age 72, he was described as “spry as most men at forty-five...in good health, and carries his age remarkably, being vigorous and active, and a rapid walker.”50

His February 1915 death did not go unmentioned. His lengthy obituary left us much valuable information:

Major Leonidas Stout died suddenly Saturday of a cerebral hemorrhage at his home, 406 East Fourth Street, where he lived for sixty-six years. While Maj. Stout had been in poor health all winter owing to his advanced age, he was able to be about. Shortly before 11 o’clock Saturday, he started upstairs when he reeled and fell backward. Members of the family hastened to his assistance, Dr. J. E. Lawson and Dr. I. P. Arnold, of Louisville, were called. The physicians found...
that Maj. Stout's skull was fractured below the right ear, and that he had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. He died in the afternoon without regaining consciousness.

Maj. Stout was born in Abingdon, Va. February 28, 1827, and would have been 88 years old next Sunday. He came to New Albany in 1847. Two years later he married Miss Dorah Swarens, who died March 19, 1897. Just after his marriage, he settled at 406 East Fourth Street, where he had lived since. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. John Graves of Louisville; Mrs. Dorah Ellmaker, and Mrs. Samuel H. Hood, this city, all of whom were with him when he passed away. He is also survived by four grandsons, Charles and Shirley Graves, of Louisville, and Wilbur and John R. Graves, Jr., of Dallas, Texas.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Maj. Stout recruited and mustered into service two Indiana regiments, the Sixty-sixth and the Eighty-first volunteer Infantry Regiments. On August 15, 1863, he was commissioned a captain of Company A, Eighty-first regiment of Indiana. Later he was promoted to the rank of major, and July 7, 1863 he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel of the Eighty-first regiment, in which capacity he served until the close of the Civil War.

Maj. Stout was a lawyer by profession, but he had not practiced for many years. Several years ago he served one term as Sheriff of Floyd County. A democrat in politics, he was active in the promotion of the success of his party, and never lost interest in city and county affairs. He kept informed upon current events to the day of his death. He was a great student of history and was conversant with all the principal events of the United States from the birth of the Republic.

Funeral services were held at the family residence, 406 East Fourth Street at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.51

The Illustration of Major Stout at the Historic Huntsville Depot

Corporal James Allen is believed to be the artist of Major Stout's sketch on the second-floor wall at the Historic Huntsville Depot. He died on 23 March 1885 at the age of 39 and is buried in grave #1, row #9, lot #1 in the Smith Farm Cemetery, Harrison County, Indiana. James Allen began his service with the 13th Indiana Cavalry as a private in Company D on 27 January 1864. He enlisted in New Albany for three years. His statistics indicated he was 18-years-old with blue eyes and dark hair. He stood 5'10'', had a dark complexion, and was a farmer from Harrison County, Indiana. James Allen was discharged as a corporal on 18 November 1865 at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The 13th muster roll of 9 March 1864 at Kokomo, Indiana listed him as a private in Company G, a native of Louisiana, and his height was given as 5'6.''52

There are many drawings and scribblings on the walls at the Huntsville Depot. Other Indiana men whose names were written on the walls of the Historic
Huntsville Depot are included. Their writings are in quotations marks; extra information about the individual is included in parentheses:

- "W. Gibson" (George W. Gibson, Company I, 48th Indiana Infantry)
- "Col. Norman Eddy, Elkhart, Ind" (48th Indiana Infantry)
- "Will H. Judkins Co. Eng. P, 48th Ind. Inf"
- "Leut. Wm. R. Ellis" (2nd Lieutenant, Company I, 48th Indiana Infantry, Sergeant to 2nd Lieutenant)
- "Geo. Wilson Capt. J Co., 48th Ind"
- "Ed Newton Co. J 48th Ind."
- "Miles Judkins Col. J, 48th Ind"
- "N. Childers, J Co. 9th Ind"
- "Hames T. Parrish Co. G 7th Ind"

The year 2010 will mark the 150th anniversary of the Huntsville Depot. With the passage of the century and a half mark, one can assume there is nothing new to learn from this long ago past. While more information is constantly uncovered and made more easily available, the mysteries of the past will continue to provide more answers to future generations of researchers, historians, and students. Hopefully, the treasure known today as the Historic Huntsville Depot will continue to serve as the three-dimensional reminder that there is much more to come.

Author Ken Carpenter taught history in the Huntsville City Schools for 27 years and was an administrator in the Huntsville City Schools for 3 years before he retired. He has been an adjunct instructor of history at Calhoun Community College for 24 years and is a part-time tour guide with the Historic Huntsville Depot. Mr. Carpenter holds degrees from the University of Montevallo, Alabama A & M, and has completed post graduate studies at the University of Alabama.
Cemetery Records for Stout and Swarens Families

The Stout and Swarens families are buried in the Fairview Cemetery in New Albany, Indiana. A partial list includes:

Elizabeth Stout
Number: 3269B
Age at death: 30
Date of burial: August 11, 1860
Sinex Vault
Coroner: Dr. Sloan

Leonidas Stout
Number: 16039
Age at death: 87
Date of burial: February 22, 1915
Location of grave: grave 2, plot 4, row 12, lot 19,
Block 12, Section 4
Cause of death: Accidental fall
Coroner: Dr. J. E. Lawson

Dorah Ellmaker Stout
Number: 11578
Age at death: 69
Date of burial: March 23, 1897
Cause of death: Bronchitis and Asthma
Coroner: Dr. E. P. Easley

Stout headstone at Fairview Cemetery in New Albany, Indiana
(Courtesy Ken Carpenter)
Chas. Ellmaker
Number: 15234
Age at death: 65
Date of burial: December 26, 1911
Location of grave: plot 4, row 12, lot 19, grave 4
Cause of death: probably cerebral hemorrhage
Coroner: Dr. J. F. Weathers

Jackson H. Swarens
Number: 11389
Age at death: 73 years
Place of birth: Crawford County, Indiana
Date of burial: May 6, 1896
Location of grave: Platt 4, Range 12, Lot 20, Grave 3
Cause of death: La Grippe
Coroner: Dr. John L. Stewart
According to the Indiana Adjutant General's Report, as cited in John Powell's *History of the 13th Indiana Cavalry Regiment, 1863-1865*, 15 men of the 13th fell to typhoid fever in Huntsville during an epidemic in the summer of 1864. Some Federal troops buried in Huntsville were later reinterred in the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Typhoid took the lives of 17 others. The regiment lost 104 to disease (seven died of measles, 24 of chronic diarrhea). Still others, once imprisoned in Cahaba, Alabama's "Castle Morgan," lost their lives on the Mississippi River in the tragic explosion of the *Sultana*.55

Chronic diarrhea was a major killer of men on the march, in the field, and those encamped due to inadequate diet and poor sanitary conditions. Major Stout suffered from this disease for the remainder of his life. He received a disability pension for this condition as well as lung disease.

Bartin, James, Pvt. Co. A. Residence: Warren, Ind. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid Fever, August 8, 1864

Briner, George G., Pvt. Co. F. Residence: Paoli, Ind. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid Fever, August 9, 1864

Canada, James, Pvt. Co. D. Residence: Corydon, Ind. Died at Huntsville of diarrhea, September 14, 1864

Cutler, James M., Corp. Co. L. Residence: Troy, Ind. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, June 11, 1864


Dyer, James W. Corp. Co. L. Residence: New Boston. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, September 13, 1864

Fry, James R., 2nd Lt. Co. I. Residence: Freeport. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, October 16, 1864

Fullhart, Joseph H. Pvt. Co. A. Residence: Mt. Etna. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, August 8, 1864


Martin, William, Pvt. Co. L., Residence: Derby. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, August 10, 1864

Meadows, Christopher, Pvt. Co. L., Residence: New Boston. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, July 12, 1864


Vogle, George, Pvt. Co. L. Residence: New Boston. Died at Huntsville of Typhoid, August 8, 1864


Other Casualties of 13th Indiana (non-Huntsville)


Downs, John, Pvt. Co. G., Residence: Vigo Co. Died at Mobile, Alabama, cause and date not given


Tow, Nicholas, Pvt., Co. G., Residence: Kokomo. Died at Mobile, Alabama of diarrhea, October 5, 1865

Watson, William, Wagoner Co. M. Residence: Jefferson. Captured October 28, 1864, died on Sultana, April 27, 1865


Miscellaneous

Dobbins, William W., Pvt. Co. M. Residence: not given. Deserted at Huntsville (Broke jail) July 1, 1864
END NOTES

2 Ibid.
3 Floyd County Indiana Deaths Book, Ch 23, p. 34.
9 Grooms & Smith New Albany City Directory for 1856-7 (Indianapolis, IN: A. C. Grooms, W. T. Smith, 1856), pp. 141-143.
16 Harriet Hood to Hon. S. M. Stockslager.
17 History of Ohio Fall Cities (66th Regt.), p. 123.
20 "Leonidas Stout," (military records): Indiana State Archives, Indiana Commission on Public Records, Indianapolis, IN.
22 "Leonidas Stout," (military records): Indiana State Archives, Indiana Commission on Public Records, Indianapolis, IN.
26 Harriet Hood to Hon. S. M. Stockslager.
27 Ibid.
28 McCoy to L. Stout, Henryville, IN, 1863, Stout Papers, Indiana Room, New Albany-Floyd Co. Library, New Albany, IN.
29 Harriet Hood to Hon. S. M. Stockslager.
31 Ibid.

34 Whitesburg, AL letter, 1864, Stout Papers, Indiana Room, New Albany-Floyd Co. Library, New Albany, IN.

35 Drexel letter to family, from Huntsville, AL, Aug. 6, 1864 (submitted by descendant Judge F. C. Drexel, Pembroke, GA), Heritage Room, Huntsville-Madison Co. Library.


37 Ibid.

38 *1850 U. S. Federal Census*: Wilmington, OH.


40 Ibid.

41 Ibid.

42 Powell, p. 64.


62 Huntsville Depot Collection, Heritage Room, Huntsville-Madison Co. Library, Huntsville, AL.


64 Powell, p. 64.

65 Powell, pp. 67-98.