



The Civil War Gazette

April 12, 1862

Edition 215

Shiloh: A Costly Battle

By Joseph Johnson

On April 6, General Grant was at Shiloh training his troops and waiting for the arrival of General Buell when Confederate generals Johnston and Beauregard made a surprise attack. A two-day battle began.

On the first day, the rebel army had some success pushing the Union army back. There was a lot of fighting around the Shiloh church and many soldiers died on both sides. However, Union soldiers finally held a line at the river. General Buell arrived during the night with reinforcements, which helped the Union side. Our local boys Jeremiah Washburn and Bradley Smith were killed in the first day of fighting. Reb General Johnston died from a leg wound.

During the second day of the battle, more Union soldiers arrived to help in the fight. Both sides fought hard but the Union side had more men and pushed the Confederate army back. Confederate General Beauregard ordered his men to retreat. The Union army could claim a victory but both sides lost many brave men.

Confederate dead or missing 13,000

Union dead or missing 10,500

A Soldier's Letter Before Battle



<http://www.ioweb.com/civilwar/>

*Dear Mother and family,
We have moved to another camp but I can not give our location in case our letters fall into Johnny hands. Camp life is very hard. We are awakened at 5 o'clock by the reveille, drill a lot, and man the picket for long hours. We have to forage for food and the hard tack is full of bugs. I miss your home cooking and can smell it in my mind as I pain in hunger at night.*

In the morning, we expect to have a big battle. We can see the Johnny's in the distance. All the boys are writing home and telling the others what should be done in case he should fall to let the loved ones at home know what became of him.

I am trying to do my duty but am growing weary of this war. Many of the boys have family fighting for the rebs. It is not easy for them.

*Your loving son,
Jonathan Creighton*

Conflict at Shiloh May Mean a Change in the War

By Katie Amaral

Before the Battle of Shiloh, the Confederate army lost Fort Henry and Fort Donelson and withdrew into Tennessee. The rebels wanted to have a big victory after those two losses. During the battle, they lost General Johnston who died from his battle wounds. The rebel army did not get their victory and both sides lost more soldiers than any other battle before that.

The Union was able to push the Confederates back to the Mississippi and split the rebel army.

Former Slave Fredrick Douglas Tells the Horrors of Slavery



<http://www.brightmoments.com/blackhistory/nfdougla.html>

Douglas grew up as a slave and ate from a trough as a child like a pig. As a child, he had only a shirt to wear and did not have a bed or blankets for sleeping. On cold nights, the children huddled together to stay warm. Douglas was separated from his mother when a baby and never saw her after he turned seven years old. He and the other slaves were beaten if they did not obey the

master quickly enough. The masters made the slaves work long hours and did not feed them well. They were also sold away from their families because they were property to be owned by somebody else. Now Douglas pleads with President Lincoln to form regiments of black soldiers to fight for the emancipation of their enslaved brothers and sisters.

A Mother's Plee for Her Son



<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean>

Mrs. Margaret Hill has not had word from her son Jeb in over six months. She fears the worst and that he has been lost in battle or froze in the Union camps during the winter. Her last letter from him told of the freezing weather and lack of food. Many of the boys had discarded their warm cloths because they could not carry the weight of their packs. Anyone having knowledge of his whereabouts please help the family.

Rebel Army Foraged from Tennessee Farmers

By: Johnny Longstreet

Reb forces retreating after the Battle of Shiloh looted nearby farms as they ran for the hills in retreat. In response, the farmers joined forces to chase the rebs to the Mississippi.