

OUR CAMP JOURNAL



Volume 29, Issue 8

"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

March 2026

The 7th Maryland Medals of Honor

By Pvt. Jeff Joyce

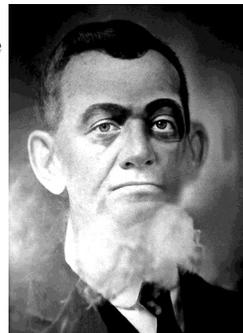
The Medal of Honor (often referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor) is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. The Navy Medal of Honor was authorized in December 1861 and the Army Medal of Honor in July 1862. There have been over 3,500 Medals of Honor awarded, with 1,525 awarded for actions during the Civil War.

The first Medals of Honor were presented to six soldiers (known as the "Andrews' Raiders") on March 25, 1863, by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Private Jacob Parrott, a volunteer from Ohio, became the first Medal of Honor recipient for his participation in the raid on a Confederate railroad in Georgia on April 12, 1862, known as the "Great Locomotive Chase". The locomotive captured in the raid, the "General" is now on display at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, Georgia. The last Civil War Medals of Honor were awarded on July 3, 2024, by President Biden to Privates Philip Shadrach and George Wilson, two "Andrews' Raiders" mistakenly overlooked when the first Medals of Honor were awarded in 1863. March 25 is now commemorated as National Medal of Honor Day.

Two members of the 7th Maryland received the Medal of Honor for their valor during the Civil War.



On May 10, 1865, 1st Lieutenant Jacob Koogle of Company G was awarded the Medal of Honor for capturing a Confederate flag during the April 1, 1865, Battle of Five Forks. Born on December 5, 1841, in Frederick, Maryland, Jacob enlisted in the 7th Maryland as a Private in August 1862 and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in November 1864. After the Civil War Jacob worked as a farmer and in 1871 married Mary Minerva Poffenberger. They had at least six



Jacob Koogle

children. Jacob died in Hagerstown, Maryland, on March 16, 1915, and is buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Myersville, Maryland. In 2018 members of the 7th Maryland participated in a ceremony honoring Jacob sponsored by Antietam Camp Number 3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Jacob Koogle's Medal of Honor citation reads:

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Jacob Koogle, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 1 April 1865, while serving with Company G, 7th Maryland Infantry, in action at Five Forks, Virginia, for capture of battle flag."

The second Medal of Honor was awarded on March 30, 1898, to Brevet Brigadier General Charles Edward Phelps for distinguished gallantry during the May 8, 1864, Battle of Laurel Hill (Spotsylvania). Charles was born on May 1, 1833, in Guilford, Vermont. His family moved to Maryland when he was eight years old. Charles studied at Princeton and Harvard Universities, graduating from Harvard Law School in 1853. Before the Civil War he worked as an attorney and in 1860 was elected to the Baltimore City Council. In 1861 Charles was

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Upcoming Campaigns

2026 Annual Meeting and Event Schedule coming soon!

Marching Through Time, 2006

A look back at the 7th Maryland, 20 years ago....

Military:

Capt. Jay Henson
1st Lt. Rick Boyle
1st Sgt. Steve Bush *
Sgt. Jeff Bush*
Cpl. Patrick Ellis
Cpl. Keith Watts
Cpl. Bryant Boyle
Cpl. David Jahnke

Pvt. Dan Hart
Pvt. Bill Hart

Pvt. Dan Paterson, Jr.
Pvt. Dwight Coleman
Pvt. Matt Piston

Pvt. George Opryszko
Pvt. Charlie Umhau
Pvt. Patrick Morton
Pvt. Steve Giovannini

Pvt. Don Miskey
Pvt. Neil Carmichael
Pvt. Philip Giovannini
Pvt. John Arnold

Pvt. Jimmy Mesnard (Guest Musician)
(* Acting NCO's)

Civilians:

Cheryl Bush
Emma Bush
Jen Coleman
Abby Coleman
Colleen Carmichael
Elise Carmichael
Chrisa Jahnke

The majority of the company arrived on Friday evening, luckily to find a dry spot had already been reserved for them within the camps at Marietta. Upon her arrival, in the then lightly falling rain, Cheryl Bush set about preparing a light evening meal for the hungry troops who awaited her. As the evening progressed, so did the rain. It became heavier, then lighter, stopping, then steady. As much as Mother Nature tried, she failed to put a damper on the spirits of the 7th Marylanders.

Night became morn, and the company awoke to more showers. We made the best of the day by playing many hands of Spades, with "book learning" about drills sprinkled in throughout the day. On Saturday, the spectators were few, only about 125 people bothered to brave the rain and venture into the camps. Whenever the clouds parted, the company coatered up and prepared for drill. The proper method, as called for in Casey's Manual of Rifle and Infantry



Above, Sgt. Jeff Bush, 1st Lt. Rick Boyle and 1st Sgt. Steve Bush tackle a drill problem using Casey's Manual and referencing Hardee's Manual as well. Below, 1st Sgt. Steve Bush handles the Morning Roll Call, as wet, but cheerful soldiers wait in line.



Tactics, of wheeling was practiced, especially from a fixed pivot.

The rain lessened in intensity long

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1st Sgt. Steve Bush and Pvt. Neil Carmichael watch the action at Sunday's free-for-all.

Marching Through Time, 2006



1st Sgt. Guy Beaven is sitting at the table. His presence was sorely missed, in camp, under the dining fly and within the ranks.

The company fell in for evening roll call at about 9:00 PM and after 1st Sgt. Steve Bush called roll, members were allowed to relax...perhaps overly so.

The roll call worked out well, and for events in the coming season Capt. Jay Henson has instituted a daily round of three roll calls. Morning, retreat and tattoo. Times will be set by the Brigade, musicians and the NCO's. A curfew of 10 PM will also be instituted for the remainder of the season.

We were treated to a hearty dinner of chicken stew as prepared by Cheryl Bush and Jen Coleman, served with Sgt. Jeff Bush's most delicious homemade cornbread. During the evening time spent under the dining fly songs were sung and poems were recited and stories told, lending an air of conviviality to the evening. Everyone liked the reading of the poems, as started by Cpl. Patrick Ellis. The lantern-light and spirits warmed us as we enjoyed each others company.

Sunday morning dawned dismal and damp, the weather perhaps, but again *not* the spirits of the 7th Marylanders. The morning commanders meeting found a few, hardy souls willing to participate in the Sunday Free-for-All tactical. The Union army found itself in an unlikely alliance with German forces. We appreciated the firepower.

After receiving several reports of an approaching storm, the company hunkered down for what we thought would be another round of heavy rain. Instead, we were treated to a wondrous



Above, Pvt. Matt Piston performs his best Sultan impression, as below, Pvt. Charlie Umhau became tangled in his blanket while trying to find his brogans.



warm sun and a fresh breeze that set about drying all of the canvas. After a day and a half of rain, it took merely two hours to dry us out.

Sunday afternoon drew many more spectators and we were able to talk and interact with the visitors. James Mesnard and his son Jimmy Mesnard visited our company street. Jimmy had had some practice as a drummer with a Revolutionary War unit, and after being outfitted by our Quartermaster, he joined us for an afternoon of drill and participated in the Pass in Review finale.

Marching Through Time at Marietta Mansion is one of our favorite events. It allows us to catch up on our drills and interact with visitors in the camp. It also allows us to work on our overall impression for the coming year, redefine our goals and improve our overall impression as a company.



During the practice of wheeling from a fixed pivot, 1st Lt. Boyle directs Cpl. Keith Watts to post in the position as 1st Sgt. Steve Bush prepares to cross the company front to post as a guide for the company to dress upon. Both ranks will ultimately be perpendicular to the position in which they are now standing, ending facing the same direction as Cpl. Watts is currently facing.

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enough for the Union and Confederate armies to clash on the field at Marietta. A tentative skirmish at best, but on Saturday, the Union forces prevailed.

Upon return to camp, the members cleaned their weapons and prepared for an evening of down time.

More hands of Spades were played, but not nearly enjoyed as much as when



Jen Coleman and Cheryl Bush spend a few moments of down time underneath the dining fly, waiting for the rains to subside.

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*Civil War Re-enactors;
America's Living Historians.*

7th MD Medals

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commissioned a Major in the Maryland Guard and selected as the Lieutenant Colonel of the 7th Maryland when it was organized in August 1862. In November 1863 he was promoted to Colonel of the 7th Maryland. Wounded and briefly captured during the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, Charles was discharged in September 1864 and soon after elected to Congress. He served in the United States House of Representatives as a Maryland Congressman from 1865 to 1869. Charles married Martha Woodward in 1868 and they had at least six children. He died in Baltimore on December 27, 1908, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Baltimore.



Charles E. Phelps

Charles Phelps' Medal of Honor Citation reads:

"Rode to the head of the assaulting column, then much broken by severe losses and faltering under the close fire of artillery, placed himself conspicuously in front of the troops, and gallantly rallied and led them to within a few feet of the enemy's works, where he was severely wounded and captured."



"The General"

The Southern Museum is home to the *General* locomotive, made famous during the Civil War's Great Locomotive Chase of 1862. The *General* is an American type 4-4-0 locomotive that weighs, when including its tender, approximately 50,300 pounds. The *General* was built in 1855 in Paterson, New Jersey, by Rogers, Ketchum, and Grosvenor for Georgia's Western & Atlantic Railroad (W&A). It cost \$8,850.

The *General* initially served passengers and freight, but during the Civil War, it also moved troops and equipment. At the end of hostilities, the *General* was returned to service running between Atlanta and Chattanooga.

The *General* was retired in the early 1890s in lieu of more powerful modern locomotives. It subsequently traveled to fairs, reunions, and conventions around the country, including the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The *General* moved under its own power for the last time in the 1960s to commemorate the Civil War centennial. In 1972, the *General* returned to Kennesaw, Georgia, where it was placed on permanent display a few hundred yards from where it was stolen in 1862.

