

Mark 2003
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Moore, 33rd
Wisconsin's
First Colonel

Rock County Volunteer
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Rock County Volunteer

The Newsletter of the 33rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

HARD TACK BAKE

A hard tack bake will take place on **Sunday, March 23**, beginning at **Noon**. The bake will be in Baraboo, at the Darrow's Country Market. For those of you who have participated in a bake in past years, we will be in the same location.

The goal of the bake will be to turn 150 lbs of flour into as many crackers as we can make. The crackers will primarily be used at the Port Gibson march, to take place in early May. We were contacted by John Cleaveland requesting that we provide crackers for the event. The 33rd will be paid for our product.

The production of hard tack is now down to a refined system. Many of us are veterans of the process, and it is anticipated that it will take 3-4 hours, only, to make the product, including baking and initial cooling. From the mixing of the dough, to the rolling of the sheets, the cutting out of crackers, and the lining in baking sheets, the whole assembly line can make up 90 lbs of flour in about an hour.

Darrow's Country Market is located on Hwy 33 at the east edge of Baraboo. For those attending, take I-90/94 to Hwy 33 (Exit 106). Travel west to Baraboo, about 13 miles. Upon reaching the city limits, Darrow's is located immediately upon your left (south). Enter the store, go left down the aisle, and the bakery is located on the left. Come into the bakery past the counter, and we will be working in the back.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mark Reitz, mreitz@baraboo.com, or call him at 608 356-3129 (eves). We need about 8-10 people to work. It goes quickly, and is fun in its own way. There will be pieces and shards of crackers to divide and share.

MINUTES OF WINTER MEETING

The winter meeting of the 33rd Wisconsin was held on January 25, 2003, in Newville, Wisconsin. The meeting was well attended, with 20 members and guests.

Mark Reitz gave the financial report. We are in good shape with sufficient company funds to get us through the coming season.

The anticipated revenue generating events were discussed. We have lost the Appleton schools event, as 2002 was the last year for that project. Betsy Urven reported that we are still invited for the Whitewater school event for 2003. Due to budget crunches for the school, remuneration for the event will be different this year, with \$50 being paid for each reenactor, up to a maximum payment of \$500 for the unit.

Expenses for 2003 were discussed. The unit approved a budget of \$250 for LaRue and an additional amount for a port-o-john. The unit had previously allotted funds for the civilians to acquire cooking gear, and this sum has not been expended. The authority to spend the sum was rescinded, and the civilians were invited to bring back to the unit any future requests for the purchase of equipment.

A report of the newsletter was given. In 2002, five full issues were

published. Several members expressed that they would be willing to receive an email only copy of the newsletter. The editor will take the names of those wishing to forego the hard copy in lieu of the email copy only.

The 2002 season was reviewed with thoughts and suggestions on events. In particular, having the North Freedom train stop in LaRue for spectators to get off was discussed as an option for getting more people to view the camps and activities located there.

John Wedeward continues to update and compile the authenticity standards and sources list. Persons needing information on sources should contact John.

Mark Reitz announced that he still has a supply of greenbacks, which were issued at North Freedom as part of the pay call. Denominations are \$1, \$2, \$5, & \$10. Anyone may purchase these bills for \$3.00 for 7 bills.

The proposed 2003 event schedule was discussed and finalized. The events include the following as shown in the table adjacent hereto.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. *Emigail's Roadhouse* was again selected to be the site of the 33rd Wisconsin winter meeting to take place on January 28, 2004.

HARD HEAD MESS MUSTER

The weekend of April 5-6, 2003, the Hard Head Mess will be hosting an event at the Wade House State Historical Site. The event will run 24 hours, from approximately 8:00am Saturday to 8:00am on Sunday.

The scenario is based on the actions of General Philip Sheridan's Division, 20th Army Corps that took place during the first week of March 1863. Under orders from General Rosecrans, Sheridan's division was, supposed to work in conjunction with a reinforced brigade of infantry and cavalry under Col. John Coburn in keeping

2003 33 rd Wisconsin Reenactment Schedule		
DATE	EVENT	POC
Feb 7	Hoard Museum, Fort Atkinson	Bob Braun
March 23 (\$)	Hard tack bake, Baraboo	Mark Reitz
April 5-6	Hard Head Mess muster, Wade Hse.	Dave Gerow
April 25 (\$)	Whitewater School event	Betsy Urven
May 2-4	Port Gibson, Mississippi	Dave Gerow
May 17	Tallman House, Janesville	Bob Braun
May 26	Memorial Day, Fulton Cemetery	Mark Reitz
July 4 (\$)	Wauwatosa July 4 Parade	Jeff Saeger
July 12-13	North Freedom – LaRue	Mark Reitz
August 2-3	Boscobel	Bob Braun
August 9-10	Fort Snelling, Minnesota	John Wedeward
August 30-31	Old World Wisconsin	John Wedeward
September 20	Winona, MN, Victorian Fair	Tad Salyards
October 11-12	Norskedalen, Coon Valley, WI	Dave May
October 17-19	<i>The Advance Guard</i> , AoP, TN	Mark Reitz
Nov 21-23	Lookout Mountain, GA	Dave Gerow

Confederate troops from the general vicinity of Murfreesboro as well as foraging duties. Coburn's forces were overwhelmed by a large contingent of rebel cavalry under General Earl VanDorn; approximately 1,300 of Coburn's troops were captured. Sheridan's troops were unable to force a major action with Van Dorn before the latter retreated across the Duck River. After VanDorn's retreat, Sheridan returned to Murfreesboro.

The Federal forces at this event will be portraying elements of the 24th Wisconsin Regiment, which was in Lytle's Brigade, Sherman's division. The scenario will consist of the Federal forces trying to overtake Van Dorn's troops after the destruction of Coburn's ill-fated command. The Confederate forces at the event will portray troops in the vicinity of the march route, harassing and attempting to slow down the advance. The Federals will also actively engage in foraging, which was a major complaint filed against

Sheridan as a reason why he did not reach Coburn's command before it was destroyed and why Van Dorn escaped. At the event, there may also be remnants of Coburn's forces placed in "no-man's land". These men, cut-off from their parent organizations, will attempt to reach friendly forces before meeting the same fate as their former comrades in arms.

At this event, there will be no "goals" for either side to reach. Rather, the focus will be to re-create what a small portion of this excursion in 1863 might have been like. The event will consist of marching, the use of advance guards and flankers, skirmishing, picket duty day and night, foraging and hopefully a few surprises. There are no plans for a general engagement between opposing forces. First person will be a focal point of this event and will be adhered to for the duration of the event.

If you're looking to experience some authentic re-enacting, a chance to cure the "cabin fever" of early spring, and knock some of the rust off that builds up on our enacting skills over the slow winter months, this invitation only event will be a great opportunity for you. There will be an event fee to cover the cost of rations, and the mess is hoping to raise money for the Port Gibson preservation fund, with proceeds from this event. We are attending the Port Gibson march in early May. Any other preservation donations would be welcome at registration as well.

Please contact Brad Argue at brad_argue@hotmail.com with any further questions

NEW DATE : FORT SNELLING

I want to personally invite the 33rd to our event this August 9-10 at Historic Fort Snelling.

We are doing an invitational, with the focus being the recruit rendezvous of 1864. This function, one of many the Fort served, channeled replacements to existing units in the field. Bill Dalin and his artillery boys (with help from the 2nd Minnesota Battery) will be doing "new recruit training" for a mix of both outside enactors there for the weekend, and for the general public who sign on for a day. Our own boys will be providing cadre for the ad-hoc recruit companies, and for the Veteran Reserve Corps. I would envision your guys pitching in on this, to help provide an authentic framework for other outside participants to drop into.

Below is a formal invitation done by Andy Willenbring who chairs the event committee. Please consider the event, and call or email me with any questions. *All participants must register, with a \$10 registration fee.* However the bulk of this fee will be refunded in cash (current \$1 coins, etc. plus some period script) at a pay call skit on Sunday. Of course we provide the meals, entertainment, housing, etc. Should be a grand event, and a good chance for we old pards to get together for the weekend.

Regards,
Stephen Osman

Historic Fort Snelling, The First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, Co. A, and the Living History Society of Minnesota invite you to participate in one of Fort Snelling's best attended annual events, Civil War Weekend. Come train on the same ground that the original First Minnesota trained on 142 years ago!

The year is 1864. The First Minnesota Battalion has headed back to Virginia to finish the War. News of the debacle at the Battle of the Crater and of Admiral Farragut's success at Mobile Bay is just reaching the frontier state of Minnesota. And hundreds of draftees and volunteers are Learning the business of war at Minnesota's Draft Rendezvous, Fort Snelling.

This year's event is taking place on August 9-10, and is an invitational. We need armed and accoutered men to fill out the ranks of the VRC company present at the fort in 1864, small groups of men from active regiments looking for replacements, or the 1st U.S. Volunteers (galvanized yankees in Union uniforms), and men without arms or accouterments in military or civilian clothing to join up as enlistees and draftees. We also need some men to fill a bed in the hospital as recovering and recovered patients waiting for orders to rejoin their units and prisoners accused or convicted of various crimes. We can always use men to portray civilian contractors to the Army, such as carpenters, blacksmiths, or teamsters. And the LHS will host civilian relatives visiting soldiers and concerned gentlemen and ladies looking after the welfare of the men in uniform or campaigning for the 1864 elections just a few months away.

The weekend's events will include infantry and artillery drills (all powder provided, bring your own caps), 5 meals provided, baseball games, campaign speeches, guard duty, courts martial, personalized tours of the site for participants, and anything else we can think up between now and then. The Fort will be open to the public from 10-8 on Saturday and

from 10-5 on Sunday, but when the Fort is closed the beautifully restored site is ours!

Registration packets will be available soon, and the registration cost is \$10 per person. Please direct any questions you may have to either myself, or to Steve Osman, the Site Manager. We hope to hear from you soon, and to see you in August!

Andrew Willenbring
Sergt., 1st Minn. Vol. Inf'y
Civil War Weekend Committee
Chairman
acwillen@raptor.net
651-687-0681 (Eve)

Thirty-third members planning to attend should contact John Wedeward as soon as possible to confirm your intentions. You will need to send John your \$10 registration fee, or deliver it to him at any of the events prior to Ft. Snelling. While the Fort would like to know sooner as opposed to later how many will attend, you can register through the North Freedom weekend.

**GEN'L JONATHAN B. MOORE
FIRST COLONEL OF THE THIRTY-
THIRD WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS**

BY ROBERT BRAUN
Part II of II

Moore, as conscious of good public relations as were most leaders of his rank and reputation, immediately released his April 24 order to the hometown newspapers. The Grant County Herald carried a reprint in its May 12, 1863 edition.

Colonel Moore conducted his regiment efficiently in action against the Confederates manning defensive positions along the Hall's Ferry Road at Vicksburg Mississippi. Several successful counter-attacks against Confederate sorties, and an important dusk action that captured a new line of Confederate works thrust the Thirty-third Regiment into the First Brigade's limelight. General Lauman eventually ordered half the regiment on duty at all times in the trenches, in recognition of their quality and dependability.

Likewise, Moore capably handled the regiment during the mid-July

actions around Jackson, Mississippi. Tearing up rail lines and maneuvering in the face of determined Confederate defenders, Moore saved his regiment from certain annihilation by obeying General Lauman's orders to scout the Pearl River south of the city. In the meantime, Lauman ordered the remainder of First Brigade to charge the Confederate works—with predictable and disastrous result.

Headquarters ordered the exhausted Thirty-third Wisconsin to garrison duty in Natchez Mississippi, where regimental politics again surfaced during the waning days of October. Colonel Moore, in charge of the Federal post at Natchez, again attempted to position himself for a brigadier general's commission. George Carter, now captain of Company "A," penned a letter to his brother. He thought "Colonel Moore's chances tip top for a Brig[adier General]ship if they are all not full. Genl. Crocker, Lauman, Gresham, [Brigadier General Thomas Kilby] Smith (our new Brig. Commander formerly Col. of the 54th Ohio) have joined in a recommendation to Genl. Grant asking for his promotion. The Col.'s reputation is A No. 1 here, I assure you."

Indeed, an inspection of the regiment at Natchez returned a very favorable result for Moore and his men. On October 14, 1863, Adjutant Alfred H. Fitch released a letter from regimental headquarters to Mr. Cover of the Grant County Herald: "The 'Old Fighting 4th' [Division] has just undergone a minute and rigid examination by Lieut. Col. Strong, Inspector General of the 17th Army Corps. In his report to the Commanding General, Col. Strong stated that he was very much pleased with the Division, and that the 33d Wisconsin, in point of neatness of camp and quarters, condition of arms and accouter-ments, and general appearance was not only the best regiment in the Division but the very best he had ever seen in the country. This is a well-merited compliment to the excellent ability and military discipline of Col. J. B. Moore, of Grant county [sic]. Honor to whom honor is due. ...The 33d is in excellent health and spirits, and never was in better

fighting trim than now." The next day, George Carter mentioned Lieut. Col. Strong's inspection in a letter to his brother Bill: "He gave us great credit. Says we have the cleanest camp and the best quarters of any Regt. in the Corps. This of course can't hurt the Col.'s chances with his rep[utation]."

From Natchez, the Thirty-third embarked on a Vicksburg-bound steamer, and encamped with XVII Corps east of the city at Hebron Plantation. There, friction between Moore and his officers again erupted. On December 3, 1863 Carter proceeded to shed some light on recent events: "There is unfortunately some misunderstanding between Col. Moore and Lt. Col. Lovell, that I cannot account for, other than on ambition and jealous grounds. Of course it is my duty and interest to keep out of any faction or party on the subject. [... It deeply affected the Thirty-third's officers] to see matters so uncomfortable between two excellent officers. The Col. makes the Lt. Col. a mere cipher in the govt. and administration of the Regt. [sic] Col. Moore is Col. and he will be Col. and the Lt. Col. is not the man to be a cipher any where [sic]. Of course I have nothing to say. Military men, as all other men, have their ambitions and jealousies, which in this case is the [illegible] to be lamented as they could by working together mutually help each other greatly. Whereas the Lt. Col.[s] influence for the Col. is dormant, and his influence is not small, Senators Dolittle and Howe being his intimate personal friend[s]. I have said more on the subject than I intended, but I am at it. I might as well say that if the Col. don't succeed we shall undoubtedly lose Lt. Col. Lovell." Indeed, Lovell submitted an application to be assigned to recruiting duty for the regiment the very next day. Brigade headquarters approved Lovell's application on December 6, 1863. Shortly thereafter, Moore himself went home on furlough.

In February 1864, Moore commanded the regiment during the Meridian Expedition. The troops slogged nearly unopposed through hundreds of miles of Mississippi countryside in wintry weather to destroy the vital rail junction at

Meridian. Along the way, Union men tore up track and laid waste to military and support targets in what would become a testing ground for the Sherman's "March to the Sea" some seven months hence. On the return leg of the campaign, General McPherson detached Col. Moore's Thirty-third Wisconsin for a mission to destroy a pontoon bridge across the Pearl River at Madisonville. Along with the destruction of the bridge, Moore wrecked several mills and machinery in the area, which exceeded his orders. As it turned out, General Marcellus Crocker, Moore's immediate superior, covered for him in a subsequent report. It would be the last time Colonel Moore led the Thirty-third Wisconsin in direct field operations as its commanding officer.

Immediately after the Meridian Campaign, headquarters elevated Col. Moore to brigade command, in a division-sized detachment from XVII Corps under General T. K. Smith bound for the Red River country of Louisiana. Aided by able staff officers detached from the Thirty-third Wisconsin like Captain William Warner and Quartermaster John Nichols,



Moore competently directed the brigade throughout the operation. Major Horatio Virgin commanded the Thirty-third Wisc.

William Warner, postwar image (Credit: U. S. Senate Historian)

After the return of the Thirty-third Regiment to Memphis, Colonel Moore assumed temporary division command in "Detachment, XVII Corps," while Colonel Lyman Ward commanded a newly created brigade, and Lovell returned to direct the regiment. Moore stayed in his Memphis headquarters while the Thirty-third Wisconsin participated in General A.J. Smith's July, 1864 campaign against Confederate forces in northern Mississippi, commonly referred to as the "Tupelo Campaign."

In August, Col. Moore took over command of a 1,500-man brigade

(which included Col. Ward's brigade and the Thirty-third Wisconsin) from "Detachment XVII Corps" sent to relieve Federal troops at St. Charles, Arkansas, on the White River. He again had competent officers from the Thirty-third assigned to his staff: Capt. William Warner, Co. "D", as Acting Assist. Adjutant General; Capt. William L. Scott, Co. "F" as Acting Assistant Inspector General, and Lieut. John W. Nichols, Regimental Quartermaster, as Acting Assistant Quartermaster. For several weeks, Moore directed the construction of formidable fortifications in the St. Charles area, to protect Union shipping and supply up the river. Incursions into the region by Confederate troops led by General Sterling Price caused Union commanders at Little Rock and Devall's Bluff no little consternation.

Then, in a strange and uncharacteristic change of nature, Moore began ignoring the orders of superior officers in the district. Maybe he didn't wish to leave the stout works around St. Charles, or perhaps he believed himself still under the direction of General Washburn in Memphis. Whatever the reason, Moore disregarded several directives from superiors at both Little Rock and Devall's Bluff to send his troops from St. Charles to Devall's—each time excusing his actions due to insufficient troops, want of transport, or both. Finally, General Steele in Little Rock peremptorily ordered Moore north to Devall's, using terse language and Moore's position, but not his name, on the telegram. A steamer did arrive at Devall's Bluff...bearing only Captain Warner of Moore's staff!

Warner indicated that Moore would transport his troops once he could do in all in one movement, and not split the command. Headquarters howled and telegraph lines hummed as General Steele again ordered Moore to Devall's Bluff. Moore finally issued the orders for the movement up the White River. In a communication to General Washburn, he confided his concerns: "We abandon this place, which in my opinion should not be done, as the fortifications are quite formidable and should the enemy occupy them the gun-boats would be unable to dislodge them without the

assistance of a land force, and so Steele's communication would be cut off. I have represented these facts to General Andrews and through him to General Steele. I shall not be sorry when the order comes for us to return to your command." Shortly thereafter, Captain William Warner, Moore's vade mecum, resigned his captaincy and accepted promotion to Major of the Forty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry.

Col. Moore directed the movements of his brigade on subsequent marches from Devall's Bluff and Brownsville, Arkansas into Missouri. On October 18, Special Orders No 129 from General A. J. Smith headquarters temporarily attached Moore's brigade to the First Division, XVI Army Corps. Moore eventually set up headquarters in Warrensburg, Missouri.

With the destruction of Sterling Price's forces, Moore and his brigade were reassigned to "Detachment XVII Corps," and Moore himself placed in command of a provisional division in the new organization. In the meantime, General George H. Thomas scoured the West for troops with which to defend Nashville from a certain attack by General John B. Hood's "Army of the Tennessee." Moore, along with the Thirty-third Wisconsin, was caught in Thomas' "dagnet" and ordered to Tennessee. Moore's newly named "Division, XVII Corps" boarded steamers bound for Nashville, as headquarters again assigned his division to General A. J. Smith.

Upon arrival at Nashville, orders once again re-organized the command structure of the western troops. XVI Corps was broken up, and the men assigned with Division, XVII Corps, and the whole known as "Detachment Army of the Tennessee." Moore accepted command of the newly formed Third Division. Lieut. Col. Lovell commanded the Thirty-third Wisconsin, which remained in Moore's division, as part of First Division's First Brigade, led by Col. Lyman Ward.

During General Thomas' attacks on Hood's exposed left on December 15, 1864, Moore's troops spent most of the day in a support role for other brigades and divisions of "Detachment Army of Tennessee." As the afternoon

wore on, Moore spotted the remnants of Manigault's Brigade, a thin line of tattered Confederates barely 800 strong, crouched behind a wall that bordered the Hillsborough Turnpike. Inspiration sparked in Moore's brain and, without pausing to inform his superiors, he personally directed Colonel Ward's brigade to attack. Ward obeyed, and the ensuing raucous charge smashed the Confederate line. Ward's troops breathlessly reported capturing some 600 prisoners and two cannon! Subsequent reports downgraded the victory to 248 prisoners and one cannon captured by the Thirty-third Regiment alone, but the men in later years always claimed the higher figures were closer to the truth. In a strange twist, Moore's division was kept in reserve during the next day's fighting, and therefore missed participating in the general route of Hood's army. Doubtless Moore thought his initiative might at last gain for him the brigadier's star he so earnestly coveted.

But it was not to be. Moore's division pursued the fleeing Army of Tennessee south until the Union men reached Columbia, Tennessee. There, orders halted the chase, and directed Moore, now returned to brigade command, to assemble transportation to place his regiments in winter quarters at Eastport, Mississippi. It became the grimy, mud-spattered task of the Thirty-third Wisconsin to escort the division wagon trains over miles of mired and rutted roads to steamer transports bound for Eastport. By January 15, 1865, the regiment finally disembarked at the winter camp.

On January 17, 1865, the regimental parade of the Thirty-third Wisconsin saw the departure of Lieut. Col. Fed Lovell, who had resigned his position in the Thirty-third in order to accept the Colonelcy of the new Forty-sixth Wisconsin regiment. George Carter's prediction that Lovell would eventually leave the regiment had come to pass. Major Horatio Virgin took charge of the men.

The very same day, General Thomas K. Smith was relieved of duty as division commander, and Col. Moore restored to the top division spot.

With this command came an assignment for Moore to conduct a reconnaissance-in-force to Corinth, Mississippi. Orders indicated the route to take, amounts of food and ordnance for the men, and directions on halts and so forth. The directive also allowed approximately six days to accomplish the reconnaissance.

Moore drove his men mercilessly on the road to and from Corinth. He completed the essential objectives of his orders in slightly more than three days—and earned the scorn of his men. Corporal Andrew Parsons of “F” Company remembered that: “There was more cursing & swearing about it I guess than any other act occasioned before even the officers joined in “Col. Moore commanding the Division was at fault.” All kinds of imprecations and bad wishes were indulged in against him. ...I presume the papers will give him a great puff for accomplishing in three days & a half what he was allowed 6 days to do it in.”

Perhaps it was this ire that caused Moore to seek temporary respite for his military duties. Moore, by his own account, noticed the depleted nature of his regiment. He formally requested “to be ordered to Madison Wis. to make the necessary arrangements to fill up my regiment.” Both Brig. Gen. Thomas Kilby Smith and Maj. Gen. A. J. Smith endorsed Moore’s request. Eventually, Headquarters, Department of the Cumberland issued Special Field Orders No. 21 dated January 24, 1865, which authorized Col. Moore a thirty-day leave of absence.

However, Moore’s leave was probably cut short, as orders directed the division to embark steamers for New Orleans and the coming Spring campaign. While encamped on the Plains of Chalmette, the site of the famed War of 1812 battle, orders recreating XVI Corps arrived—with Colonel Moore directed to retain command of Third Division. Unfortunately, the mischief of his men, including the Thirty-third Regiment, prompted an embarrassing order from General A. J. Smith:

Headquarters, 16th Army Corps
Chalmette, La. Feb. 23, 1865

Col. J. B. Moore
Comdg. 3d Division, 16th Army
Corps

Colonel—

The Maj. Gen. Comdg. directs me to say that he learns with much regret that the pillaging and plundering has been commenced here by your command. The sugar house of Mr. A. W. Walker, a loyal Planter just below your camp was broken open and plundered. this must cease. The Major General Commanding will hold you personally responsible for the acts of your command. Take any means you please to restore order and discipline. Drill your men from morning till night and from night until morning but stop this discharge to your command.

I am Colonel Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant
(signed) J. Hough A. A. G.’

Moore immediately implemented a solution: “In compliance with the instructions contained in the above, there will be five (5) roll calls a day and absentees will be reported by name to these Head Qrs. and will be summarily punished. No soldier will be permitted to pass outside of the camp Guard without a pass approved by his Brigade Commander. A copy of these orders will be read to each Regiment at the first Roll Call after its reception.” Despite the wet and miserable physical conditions in the Chalmette camp, order and discipline was soon restored to the command.

On March 3, word arrived at Chalmette that Col. Moore was to be promoted to brigadier general by brevet for gallantry at Nashville. Confirming orders had not yet arrived, so Moore continued to command at the grade of colonel. By mid-March, the Thirty-third Wisconsin landed at Dauphin Island, in Mobile Bay. There, orders directed Moore to take command of First Brigade, in Third Division, XVI Corps. This brigade included the Thirty-third Wisconsin, directed by newly promoted Lieut. Col. Horatio Virgin. From Dauphin Island, Federal forces under the command of Major-General Edward R. S. Canby

readied for a campaign to capture the important city of Mobile, Alabama.

Canby planned to ferry the bulk of his force to the eastern side of the bay, and assault the main strongpoints protecting the eastern approach to Mobile: Fort Blakely and Spanish Fort. In order to throw off the defenders as to his true intentions, Canby needed a feint on the western shores of Mobile Bay, closer to the city. For this task, he turned to Colonel Moore and First Brigade. Orders directed Moore “to make as much display of his force as he can without neglecting any precautions for security, and by the construction of roads, bridges, &c., convey the impression that his command is only the advance guard of a much larger force.”

On March 18, amid great show and a brief cannonade, Moore’s troops disembarked on an ancient pier and marched north from Cedar Point in the general direction of Mobile. Moore’s regiments made a grand show of it, maneuvering and sounding multiple renditions of “Reveille” and “Tattoo” to continue the illusion of a larger force. Minor scrapes with the enemy fuelled the deception, but the Federals pressed their advance only to the Fowl River Bridge. On March 22, under cover of darkness, Moore’s brigade re-embarked on steamers and rejoined the balance of the Federal Army on the eastern side of Mobile Bay.

By the end of March, the Thirty-third Wisconsin engaged in active siege operations at Spanish Fort. For thirteen days, Moore’s men methodically dug and sniped at their Confederate antagonists in a veritable replay of the Vicksburg siege almost two years previous. On April 8, Lieutenant Daniel Shea of “K” penned a letter to the Racine Weekly Advocate newspaper: “The Colonel, (J. B. Moore) a true soldier, has been entrusted not only with the command of a Brigade, but of a Division. This latter command he has successfully led through four different engagements. He has during most of his time of service, when not leading a division, been commanding a brigade.”

That night, a two-company Federal patrol effected a lodgment in the

Confederate works. Calls for help brought up the Eighth Iowa, of Third Brigade, who, in turn requested reinforcements in order to hold their position. Moore received orders to turn out First Brigade to support Third Brigade's lodgment. Unfortunately, the division commander seemed satisfied with holding onto a scrap of the Confederate works, instead of pressing home a decisive attack. Col. Moore arrived on the field and immediately assessed the situation. He directed two staff officers—Captain George Carter and Caption William Stark—to form First Brigade and order it forward into the Confederate works. Calling to nearby men from Companies "A" and "F", Thirty-third Wisconsin, Moore announced "I will lead you," and personally conducted the two companies forward through a path made in the enemy abatis. The companies captured the Confederate skirmish line entire, then pressed south along the inside of the works, to the ancient earthen work known as "Old Spanish Fort." There, Moore and soldiers from the Thirty-third Wisconsin captured the fort and some twenty-two guns, along with those artillerists that had not escaped the fort over a concealed path that led north to Fort Blakely.

By morning of April 9, stunned Federals held in their possession the entire Spanish Fort line. Private John Wray of "F" noted proudly that Colonel Moore was indeed the first Federal soldier to penetrate the works and lead the charge into the Confederate lines.

With the fall of Spanish Fort, the Thirty-third Wisconsin marched north on April 9, to be held in reserve during an all-out attack on Fort Blakely that evening. The fort surrendered, and the amazing events of April 9 near Mobile were dramatically overshadowed by events in a small country crossroads known as Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

General Robert E. Lee's surrender did not immediately end the Civil War, however. Colonel Moore's brigade marched through Alabama, to take up garrison duty at Montgomery, and later



**Moore's grave monument
(Photo: Robert A. Braun)**

Tuskegee, Alabama. Colonel Moore finally received his long-awaited promotion to brigadier general, with rank from April 7, 1865, for gallantry at Nashville. He was ever after known as "General Moore."

On August 3, 1865, General Moore, accompanied by Captain George Carter, departed Vicksburg on a leave of absence. The Thirty-third Wisconsin was mustered out at Vicksburg a few days later, and the men themselves began the trip home. General Moore was mustered out shortly thereafter. Back home in Muscoda, Wisconsin, General Moore accepted a second brevet dated April 9, 1866, marking the one-year anniversary of his personal heroism at Spanish Fort, Alabama. General Moore ranks as one of the few Civil War officers to be bestowed two brigadier general brevets for personal gallantry.

The war over, General Moore turned to civilian pursuits including land acquisition and engineering projects. Among the latter was a bridge into Muscoda that spanned the Wisconsin River. Completed in the autumn of 1868, the bridge cost some \$24,000 to build. While some farmers complained

about the tolls charged to use the span, historians have credited Moore's bridge with revitalizing Muscoda, and contributing to the future prosperity of what had been a dying community. Moore continued in real estate ventures in and around Muscoda, and maintained an interest in politics and veteran's affairs. Moore was an active member of the "Soldiers and Sailors Association of Grant County," although it is unclear whether he personally attended the gatherings of this veteran's organization.

By the 1880's reversal in economic fortunes forced Moore to sell his Muscoda bridge for \$10,000. By 1886 Moore suffered from insomnia and resulting "nervous diseases," for which he sought treatment in the Muirdale Sanatorium in Wauwatosa. There, on February 8, 1889, Jonathan Baker Moore passed away after a sudden stroke. Interestingly, General Moore's body was transported from Wauwatosa to Lancaster, not Muscoda, for burial in the soil of the county he loved—"Old Grant." His widow Christiana and friends laid him to rest at Hillside Cemetery outside Lancaster, in Lot 199. General Moore's will, drafted in 1859, left his entire estate to his wife Christiana. The Moores had no children.

Long-time associate George B. Carter, then serving as Grant County Judge, personally signed the "Order of Proof of Last Will and Testament" on May 14, 1889. According to probate and estate records, Moore's memorial headstone cost his estate \$90. The records do not elaborate on Christiana's decision to bury General Moore in Lancaster, and not Muscoda.

To the present day, the memory of General Moore is fondly recalled by the people of Muscoda, who credit Moore with the restoration of their community, and with building projects that enhanced the downtown district.

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