

The Untold Story: A Journey Through the Glorious History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry 1862-1865

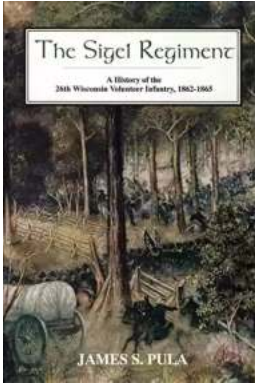
In the annals of the American Civil War, some battle-hardened regiments are often overlooked, overshadowed by the larger and more renowned divisions. One such unit is the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, whose remarkable exploits have remained hidden from the pages of history for far too long. Join us on an extraordinary journey as we delve into the thrilling and often poignant tale of this unsung hero of the Civil War.

From Humble Beginnings...

The 26th Wisconsin was formed on August 19, 1862, in the midst of a nation torn apart by conflict. Brave men from all walks of life answered the call of duty, congregating at Camp Sigel in Milwaukee to be molded into a formidable force. Under the steady guidance of Colonel William W. Robinson, this band of dedicated volunteers quickly transformed into a cohesive and battle-ready regiment.

With banners held high and hearts full of zeal, the 26th set off northeastward to the war-torn South. Triumphant cheers erupted from their fellow citizens as they embarked on a perilous odyssey that would forever etch their names into the tapestry of American history.

The Sigel Regiment: A History of the Twenty-Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865 by James S. Pula(Kindle Edition)



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.6 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 14690 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 514 pages



The Vortex of Chaos: Battles and Triumphs

As the 26th Wisconsin arrived in Tennessee, an air of uncertainty mingled with the scent of gunpowder. The regiment was thrown into the vortex of chaos, thrust into battles that would forever test their mettle.

One of their most remarkable achievements came during the Battle of Stones River in late December 1862. The 26th Wisconsin, along with other brave Union regiments, stood resolute in the face of fierce Confederate aggression. Their discipline, fortitude, and unwavering loyalty proved instrumental in securing a hard-fought victory that sent shockwaves throughout the nation.

Marching forward with renewed confidence, the 26th Wisconsin cemented their legacy at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863. Amidst the fury of Confederate fire, they held the line, their bayonets gleaming defiantly in the sunlight. The name of this valiant regiment was etched forever in the annals of history as heroes who refused to surrender.

The 26th Wisconsin's crowning moment came during the Battle of Missionary Ridge. In a daring uphill charge, they joined forces with their comrades to secure victory against insurmountable odds. With every step forward, they fought not

only for their cause but for the noble principles upon which their great nation stood.

In the Shadow of Battle: Hardships and Sacrifices

While tales of valor often take center stage, the history of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry is incomplete without acknowledging the sacrifices and hardships endured by these brave soldiers. Battling not only against enemy forces but also against disease, hunger, and homesickness, these men fought on despite overwhelming odds.

Throughout their arduous campaign, the 26th Wisconsin maintained steely resolve, marching relentlessly through sweltering heat and freezing cold. Many were wounded or fell victim to the ravages of war, yet their indomitable spirit never wavered.

It is the stories of these ordinary men doing extraordinary deeds that form the lifeblood of the 26th Wisconsin's legacy. They rose above unimaginable challenges, their unwavering determination preserving the very essence of freedom and justice.

The Legacy Lives On

As the final notes of the Civil War symphony played, the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry returned home to a grateful nation. Although their story may have faded from collective memory, their gallantry and sacrifice continue to echo through the ages.

Today, it is our duty to rekindle the flame of remembrance for this valiant regiment. We must pay homage to the 26th Wisconsin and ensure that their memory lives on, enshrined within the annals of American history.

The 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry stands as a testament to the indomitable human spirit, serving as a source of inspiration for generations to come. Let us honor their legacy and forever embed their story in the rich tapestry of our nation's heritage.

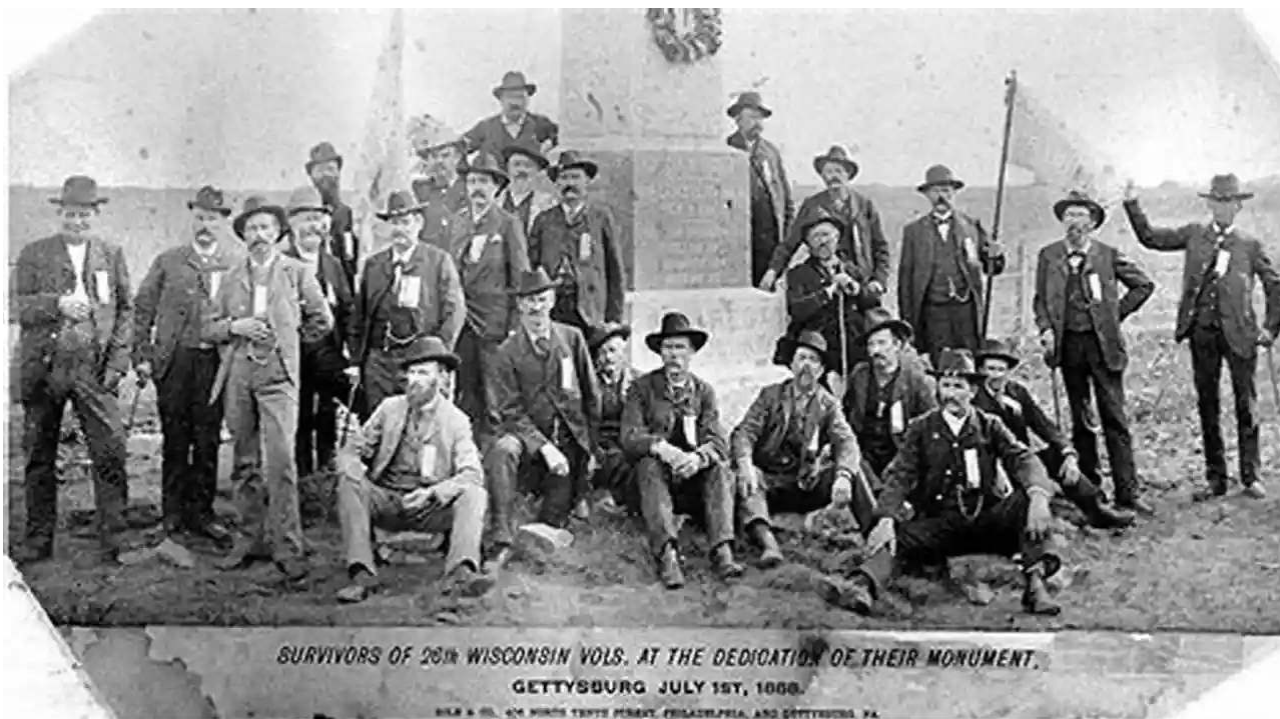
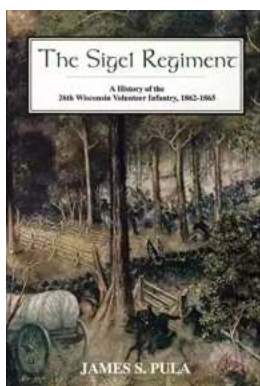


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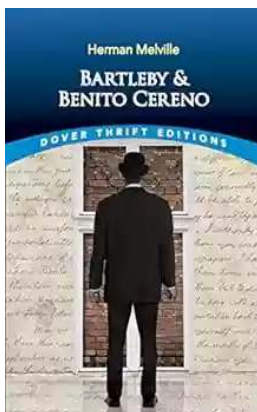
The 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry was quietly mustered into service in Milwaukee on September 17, 1862—the bloodiest day in American history. Composed primarily of German immigrants and Americans of German descent, the 26th fought and bled its way into the record books as one of Fox’s “Fighting 300” regiments. James S. Pula’s *The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteers, 1862-1865*, is the first book to examine this regiment’s storied yet overlooked history.

The 26th’s service spanned three years and three theaters of war. The “Sigel Regiment,” named after German General Franz Sigel, was initially absorbed into the Army of the Potomac, and attached to the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, Howard’s 11th Army Corps. Its bloody battlefield debut took place at Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863, where the Wisconsin soldiers found themselves on the receiving end of one of the most successful surprise attacks in military history. Outnumbered, outflanked, and caught in a crossfire, the battling regiment and its Colonel William Jacobs refused to fall back before the onslaught until twice ordered to do so. Similar ill-luck two months later ensconced the regiment north of Gettysburg, where the Badger State troops, this time under Lt. Col. Hans Boebel, left another 250 men on the field. By the time the 26th Wisconsin shipped out that fall for service in the Western Theater, hardened combat veterans who had seen the worst war has to offer populated its ranks.

Service in Tennessee with the Army of the Cumberland lessened the regiment’s exposure to hard combat only temporarily. Burdened with political strife and facing a cold winter, the Wisconsin men marched and skirmished their way through the fall and early winter campaigns of Chattanooga and Knoxville. The

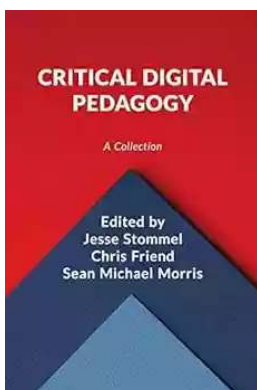
spring of 1864 brought with it another season of bloodshed when General William T. Sherman determined to drive deep into Georgia and capture Atlanta. Fighting now as part of the 20th Corps, the 26th Wisconsin distinguished itself on a number of fields, including Resaca, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, and Peach Tree Creek. The thinning German regiment achieved a special distinction at Peach Tree Creek by capturing the flag of the 33rd Mississippi Infantry. After the fall of Atlanta, the men of the 26th tramped to Savannah on the March to the Sea, and north into the Carolinas, where more hard fighting at Averasboro and Bentonville awaited them. By the end of the war, 1,089 men had served in the 26th's ranks; more than 17% were killed or mortally wounded.

Pula's gracefully written and superbly researched *The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865*, is a distinguished study of a fighting ethnic regiment.



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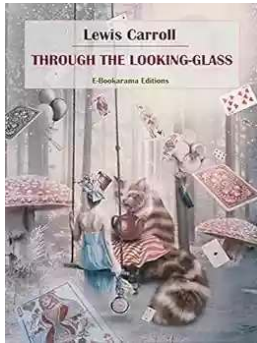
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