

Savas Beatie

Independent, scholarly, and a bit old fashioned

A History of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry and Cavalry in the Civil War

Michael J. Martin

Michael J. Martin's *A History of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry and Cavalry in the Civil War* is a deeply researched and vividly written study of an unheralded Federal combat regiment. Few of the thousands of regiments raised to fight the American Civil War experienced the remarkably diverse history of this little-known organization.

The Wisconsin "Badgers" began the war as foot soldiers in the summer of 1861 as the 4th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After service in Maryland guarding railroads, the men sailed to the Gulf of Mexico to join Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's expedition to capture New Orleans, arguably the South's most important city. From August 1862 to July 1863, the 4th Wisconsin participated as infantry or mounted infantry in a series of bloody battles in Louisiana, including Baton Rouge, Fort Bisland, the siege of Port Hudson, and Clinton. With a desperate need for mounted troops, the Badgers were officially changed to cavalry in September 1863. The Badgers were now the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. As troopers, they took part in four mounted expeditions across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, serving under such notable generals as Albert Lee, John Davidson, and Benjamin Grierson.

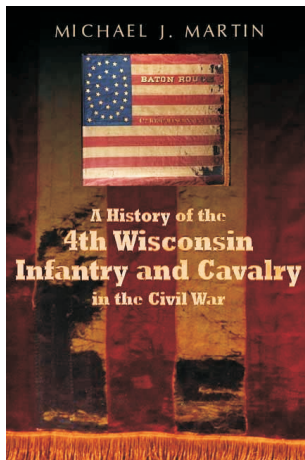
The Confederate armies surrendered in the spring of 1865, but the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry joined Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt's cavalry division that July on its ride from Louisiana into Texas, where the regiment was broken up and deployed in various outposts along the Rio Grande River. On May 28, 1866, Wisconsin's last regiment of Civil War volunteers was finally mustered out at Brownsville, Texas. Unfortunately, many of the men would not be going home: 431 had lost their lives to enemy bullets and disease.

Eight years in the making, Martin's regimental history is based upon scores of previously unused soldier and civilian diaries, letters, reports, contemporary newspapers, and reminiscences. It also includes dozens of previously unpublished soldier photos, and a complete regimental roster. Rounding out this study is a Foreword by Lance J. Herdegen, an award-winning historian and the leading scholar of Wisconsin's role in the Civil War. *A History of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry and Cavalry in the Civil War* is a must-have addition for every serious Civil War reader.

About the Author: A descendant of a Civil War soldier who was wounded in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, Michael James Martin grew up in Mequon, Wisconsin, and received both an MS and a Ph.D. in Animal science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is the author of several published articles on the Civil War. This is his first book.

Michael Martin's study fills a void in Wisconsin Civil War scholarship. A History of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry and Cavalry in the Civil War is what regimental histories are all about."

-- Lance J. Herdegen, author of In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg



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Specifications

August 1, 2006

ISBN 1-932714-18-9

ISBN: 1-932714-13-18-9; 52 photos, 8 maps, notes, appendices, biblio., index. Cloth, d.j., 584 pages. \$34.95

Foreword by noted Civil War author and historian Lance Herdegen

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Please include \$4.50 for the first book, and \$2.00 each thereafter.



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