



April 2018

## *License Plate Discovers Sunset Battle at “Morning Sun”*



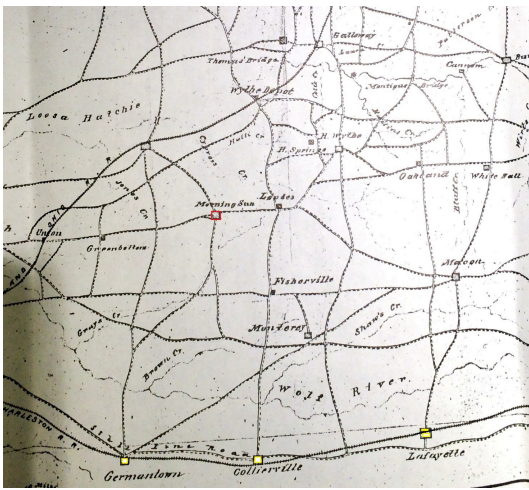
Overlooking the Morning Sun Church Cemetery and Unknown Soldier Graves from the June 30th 1862 Battle of Morning Sun, Lakeland, Tennessee.

***Don't know where Morning Sun, TN is? Neither did Gen'l. Sherman until his wagon train was almost wiped out by Confederate cavalry. This Battlefield Preservation supporter visited the site and added a close-up of the Unknown Soldier graves, believed to be Confederate. The battle date as inscribed on the headstones is in error, showing June 6, 1862. The battle was fought on the roads in front of the church. Reportedly bullets were found in the nearby trees for many years.***

On June 30, 1862, 200 Confederate cavalry (*Porter's Partisans and Faulkner's Kentucky Rangers, later assigned to Forrest*) attacked a Federal wagon train in the vicinity of Morning Sun Cumberland Presbyterian Church near Lakeland, TN. About 240 federals (*57<sup>th</sup> Ohio Vol. Infantry*) guarded the 67 wagons which were enroute to Memphis, filled with foodstuffs foraged by General Sherman's division. Casualties included Confederate: 13 dead and 12 wounded and Federal: 3 dead and 8 missing, including the wagon master.

Boyhood eyewitness to the battle, Dr. Charlie Davis in 1900 told about the battle, “The Yankees had posted a strong advance guard in front of the train and a strong rear guard and our men attacked from the front and right rear, making a lot of ruckus...suddenly another group of boys charged down whooping and hollering into the center of the train...mules and wagons stampeded every which way, overturning wagons, breaking loose, and thundering off. Our men destroyed about two dozen wagons before being driven off. I saw a score of Yankee dead and wounded and a bunch of our men too, before the fight was over. It was quite a sight.”

While the raid was short in duration with few casualties, it was part of the Confederate cavalry's constant raids which disrupted and delayed Federal preparations for their advance on Vicksburg.



*Depicted on this 1864 map, the Morning Sun battle site is located about 6 miles from present day Lakeland, along US Highway 64.*

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You can purchase the license plate at your County Clerk's office for \$36.00 plus your regular registration fees. Proceeds from the sale of the plate will help protect and interpret important battlefields in Tennessee. For more information, visit: [tcwpa.org/license-plate](http://tcwpa.org/license-plate)



