



## “Squirrel Hunters” (1862)

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

### Introduction

In September 1862, Confederate Brigadier General Henry Heth was sent north to threaten the seventh largest city in the nation at that time: Cincinnati, Ohio. With this knowledge in hand, martial law was declared and the call for volunteer minute men, or militia, was put forth by Governor David Tod to come to the defense of the Queen City. 15,000 men signed up to defend Cincinnati in a matter of days. Many of these men were just farmers, carried their own personal weapons, and had little or no military training. The Confederate Army chose to pull back, and the Squirrel Hunters were given proper military discharge paperwork and thanked for their service the following year.

### Important Dates

- September 1862: A call for volunteer militia men is issued.
- September 5, 1862: Governor David Tod proclaims that volunteers are no longer needed.
- September 12, 1862: Confederate forces retreat south to Lexington, Kentucky.
- 1863: The Ohio legislature approves funds to print special military discharge certificates.
- 1908: The Ohio General Assembly passes a resolution to give the Squirrel Hunters a pension of \$13 a month.

### Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an “all” word search), proximity or as phrases: squirrel hunter, militia, volunteer, Cincinnati, defense, Governor David Tod.
- Limit your search to just the years 1862-1863 for news as it happened. You can widen the year span for reunion news or retrospectives.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

### Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- [“To Arms! To Arms!”](#) *Cleveland Morning Leader* (Cleveland, OH), September 11, 1862, Image 1, col. 1.
- [“From the 103<sup>rd</sup>—The Defense of Cincinnati”](#) *Cleveland Morning Leader* (Cleveland, OH), September 13, 1862, Image 2, col. 3.
- [“Squirrel Hunters”](#) *Weekly Lancaster Gazette* (Lancaster, OH), September 18, 1862, Image 3, col. 1.
- [“The Squirrel-Hunters”](#) *Weekly Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), March, 11, 1863, Image 3, col. 2.
- [“A Little Reminder of Some Stirring Times”](#) *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), November 25, 1901, Image 3, col. 2-3.
- [“Some Queer Soldiers”](#) *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), February 26, 1904, Image 6, col. 3.
- [“A reunion of the ‘squirrel hunters’”](#) *News-Herald* (Hillsboro, OH), March 9, 1905, Image 5, col. 2.
- [“Squirrel Hunters Will Get \\$13”](#) *Marion Daily Mirror* (Marion, OH), July 2, 1908, Image 1, col. 5.