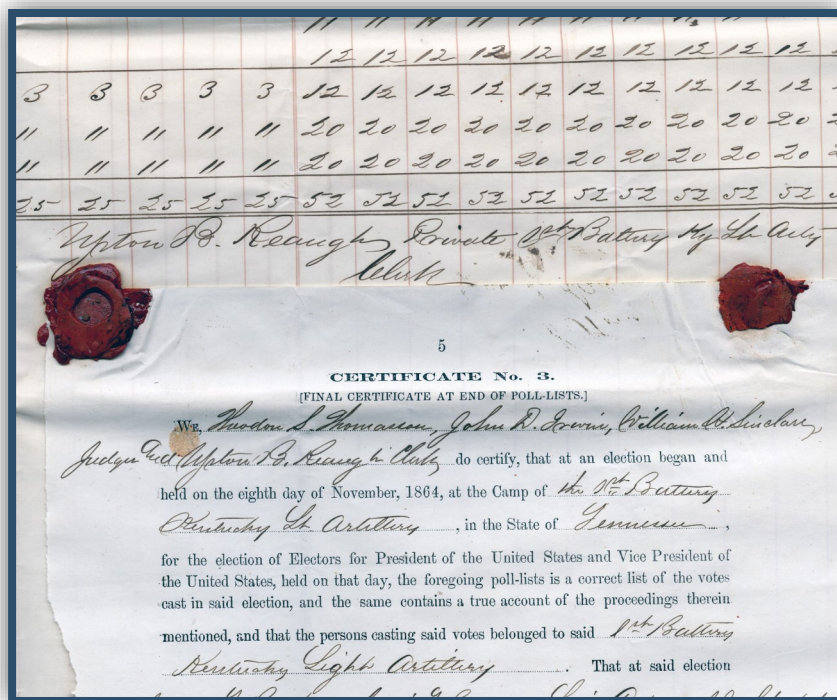


The Civil War Governors' Kentucky



Unpublished, as yet, document from Civil War Governors of Kentucky.

Legislators allow soldiers to vote in field

Absentee voting is common now, but until 1864, there was no provision for Kentucky men to cast their vote except in person and on Election Day.

With an important presidential contest on the line, the legislature authorized Kentucky soldiers to vote in their camps on Election Day in November 1864. Officers received poll books, instructions and wax seals similar to those county courts received. “Viva voce” elections were the law then; each voter verbally announced his selections, which were recorded in poll books and mailed in to Frankfort.

Battery A, 1st Kentucky Light Artillery held its election outside Nashville (*see image*). Soldiers from 16 counties voted overwhelmingly for Gen. George B. McClellan, but Abraham Lincoln won the election.