



Occupied Home Front

Read the transcription of selections from Kate Carney's diary to uncover what life was like during the Battle of Murfreesboro, when the Federal troops who had been occupying Murfreesboro were defeated, and then answer the questions below. Note that Kate, a Confederate supporter, was a teenager at the time. Also note that Confederate prisoners were freed after the battle; however, the Confederate troops (mostly cavalry) did not remain in town, and Federal troops re-occupied Murfreesboro a few days later.

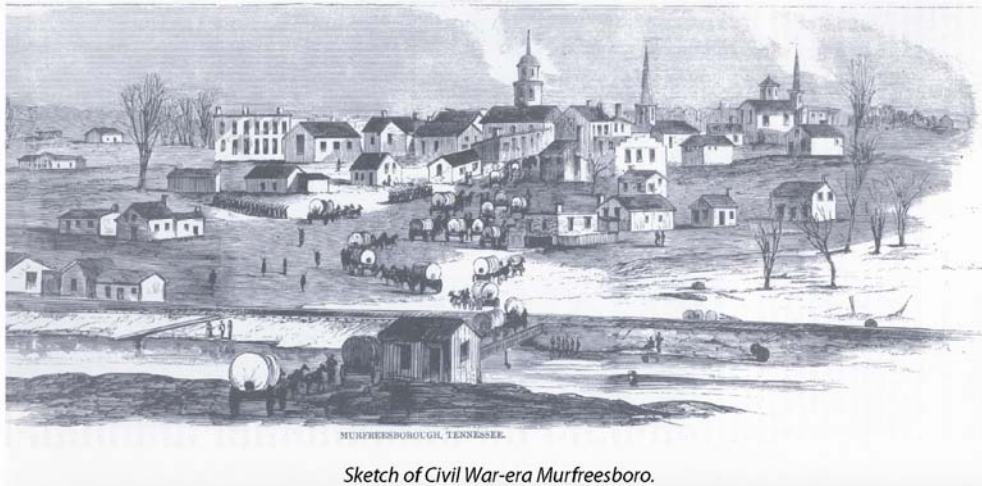
- 1) What was Kate's reaction to the fleeing Union soldiers during the Battle of Murfreesboro on July 13, 1862? Why do you think she reacted this way?
- 2) On which Murfreesboro building did the Confederates focus their attack?
- 3) How many times were the Confederates forced to "fall back" when attacking the Union troops by the river who had cannons and other artillery? What weapons were the Confederates using to attack them, according to Kate?
- 4) When Federal troops re-occupied the town, what were some of the items that they were trying to secure from the local homeowners, like Kate's family?
- 5) What deal did Kate's mother work out with the Union soldiers concerning the horse and buggy? Did the Union troops keep their word?

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Transcription of selections from the Civil War diary of Kate Carney

July 13th 1862

How to begin, I know not. I was aroused early this morning by firing. It has surely been an eventful day. I knew the firing must come from our own brave boys.... The blue coats began to make a bee line through our yard & front yard, asking Pa to protect them, but he told them to push on, & acting on his advice they kept moving. It was amusing to see how frightened they were, although it was such a serious time, I prayed for victory, while I hissed the frightened Yankees on, expecting every minute to received a parting shot from some of them.... Persons dared not venture out on the square.... Our boys, after forming behind some one story buildings, made a bold rush gaining the court house, but many fell ere they reached the door, and although the Yankees had every advantage they were forced to surrender, & our prisoners turned out to seek their families & friends....



In the meanwhile they had attacked the camp down by the river where the battery was stationed, & on the approach of our men threw themselves into a hollow square with their artillery, pointed to resist a determined attack, and as our men had nothing but shot guns they could not get in range & were compelled to fall back three times. But later in the day a flag of truce was sent, & in a few minutes they consulted, surrendered 15,000 men including sick & wounded, including cannons, Camp equipage, which was mostly burnt, & small arms. This is one of the greatest victories of the war considering the number engaged. Gen. Forrest reports 17,000 men consisting of his men & Texas Rangers. (a number were Georgians) With a single piece of artillery besides being the attacking party, I'm sure the hand of Providence guided & directed our boys....

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Kate Carney Diary Transcription, Page 2

*Photograph of occupied
Murfreesboro square, ca. 1863.
Courtesy of the Albert Gore, Sr.,
Research Center, MTSU.*



Friday July 18th 1862

...Most everyone is very much frightened.... The Yankees came in town just before dinner & stopped all traveling, even on the streets. Ma started the servant twice, but they didn't succeed in getting Pa's dinner to him. Ephe came out & said they were searching everybody's house for brooms & guns. Can't imagine what they want with brooms. They are concentrating their troops around the square.... We saw about 12 or 14 coming.... Marched up as if the place belonged to them, rung the bell with quite an air. Said they came to get horses & wagons. Ma said they should not have hers, that she would see Gen. Nelson about it. The officer said very impertinently come on boy's, we will go and see what she has got, & take them. Bettie & I heard them from our window [and] rushed downstairs into the yard, & went to where the horses were & gave them a piece of my mind. Rebuked them for running at Shiloh, Richmond, Bull's Run, &c., &c. he put on quite a bold air first but cooled down considerable before I got through. Bettie then came forward and gave them another cutting speech. Some of the privates enjoyed the way we treated the officer. One told me to ask him about running at Pittsburgh Landing. I really believe that although they were all in Yankee blue, some of them were good Southern men. One said he wished all my brothers might get home safely. That he never intended to kill our boys, if he could help it. They seem to have quite a contempt for that egotistical officer they had with them. They finally said, if we would lend the cart and one horse they would pledge their word it should be brought back. To our surprise it came back in an hour's time, all right. Ma had the buggy gotten up and went after Pa, as they would not let him come out home. They had several citizens arrested. Everybody advised her not to attempt going up in town but she did, saw one of the Officers and got Pa a permit to return home....