

**About the Author:** Jerry T. Wooten, Ph.D., is the Park Manager for Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville, Tennessee. He served as Park Manager at Johnsonville State Historic Park, as the Director of State Historic Sites for the Tennessee Historical Commission and as Park Historian at the Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier in Petersburg, Virginia. Jerry is a Clarksville, Tennessee, native who obtained his Ph.D. in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University. He has researched, written, and presented programs about the Civil War for most of his professional life, serves on the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association's Board of Directors, and is a frequent speaker at Civil War roundtables, historical organizations, state and national parks, and museums.

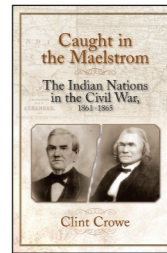
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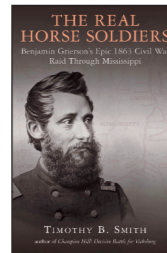


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Jacket image: Jacob F. Coonley, *2nd U.S. Colored Light Artillery Regiment, Battery "A," Johnsonville, Tennessee, 1864.*

Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Advance Praise

“The story of the Union supply base at Johnsonville, Tennessee has flown under the historical radar for 155 years. At last this remarkable facility and the military action there that contributed so significantly to Nathan Bedford Forrest's reputation have found voice through Jerry Wooten's outstanding narrative. Wooten managed Johnsonville State Historic Park for years and brings his vast knowledge and deep research to this engaging narrative. *Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville* deftly fills an important void in the story of the Civil War's Western Theater.”

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“*Johnsonville* is an impressive analysis about a little-known but fascinating story. Wooten offers new insights that explore the massive Federal Tennessee River supply depot so desperately needed to win the war. The complex and rich story about the events that unfolded there has needed a comprehensive examination for more than a century, and Wooten has finally given us one. Wooten explores Johnsonville's primitive beginnings to its complex operations of supplying Sherman's army and its impact on one of the most daring Confederate campaigns of the war. This study will stand as the defining scholarship on Johnsonville for decades to come.”

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The Trace Creek trestle near Denver, Tennessee, on the Nashville and Northwestern R.R. in 1864. *Library of Congress*



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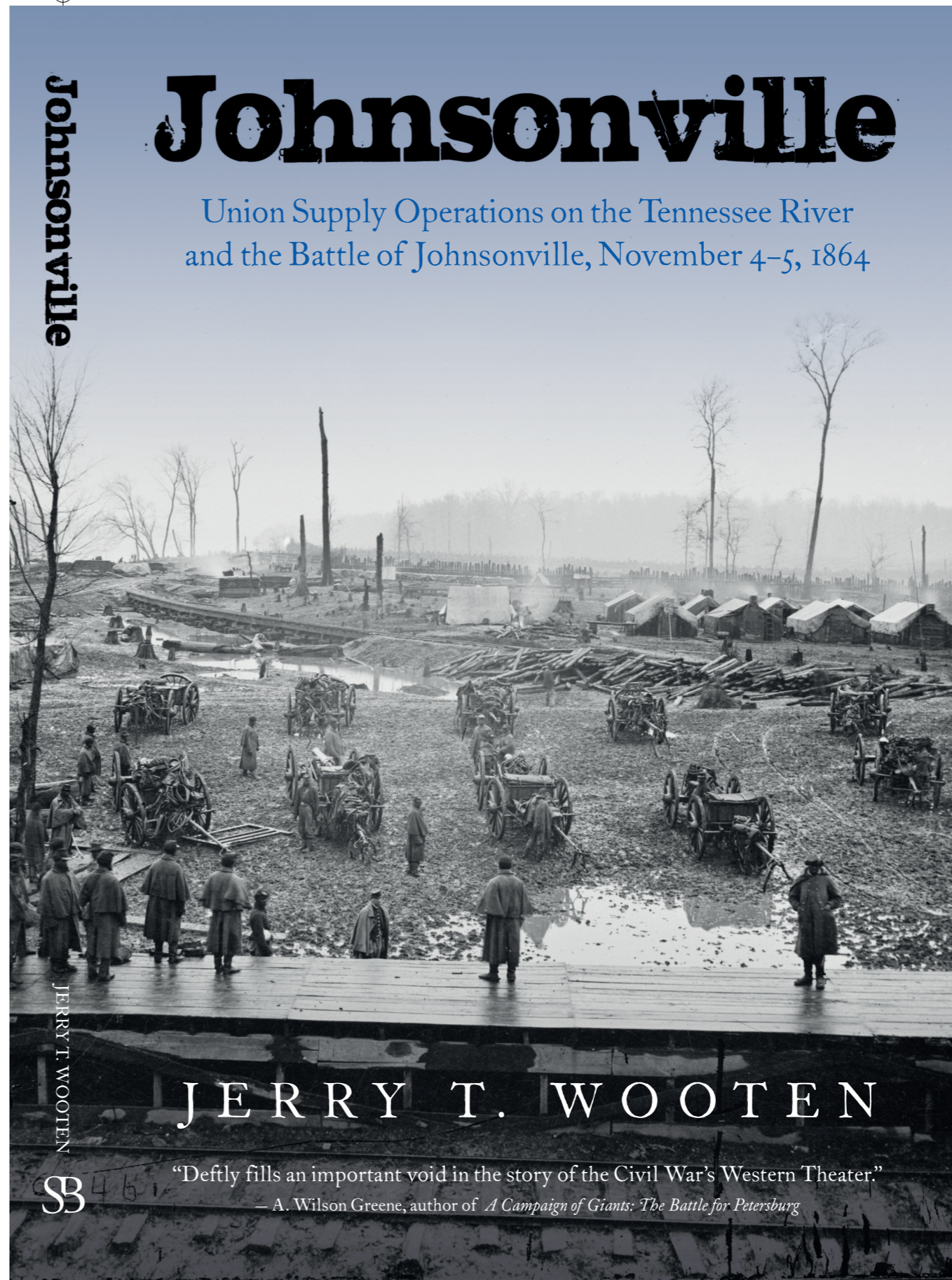
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“*Johnsonville*” doesn't mean much to most students of the Civil War. Its contribution to Union victory in the Western Theater, however, is difficult to overstate, and its history is complex, fascinating, and heretofore mostly untold. *Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4–5, 1864*, by Jerry T. Wooten, Ph.D., remedies that oversight with the first full-length treatment of this subject.

Wooten, a former Park Manager at Johnsonville State Historic Park, unearthed a wealth of new material that sheds light on the creation and strategic role of the Union supply depot, the use of railroads and logistics, and the depot's defense. His study covers the emergence of a civilian town around the depot, and the role all of this played in making possible the Union victories with which we are all familiar.

This sterling monograph also includes the best and most detailed account of the Battle of Johnsonville. The fighting took place on the heels of one of the most audacious campaigns of the war, when Confederate Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest led his cavalry through western Tennessee and Kentucky on a 25-day campaign. On November 4–5, 1864, Forrest's troops attacked the depot and shelled the town, destroying tons of valuable supplies. The complex land-water operation nearly wiped out the Johnsonville supply depot, severely disrupted Gen. George Thomas's army in Nashville, and impeded his operations against John Bell Hood's Confederate army.

Prior works on Johnsonville focus on Forrest's operations, but Wooten's deep original archival research peels back the decades to reveal significantly more on that battle, as well as what life was like in and around the area for both military men and civilians. Civil War students thirst for original deeply researched studies on fresh topics, and that is exactly what *Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4–5, 1864* provides them.

# Johnsonville

Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River  
and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4–5, 1864

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