

*Centerpiece Exhibition of the  
Ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers Monument*

August 20, 2008 at 10:30am  
Hartford State Armory  
360 Broad Street  
Hartford, Connecticut

*Program*

Welcome	George Ripley <i>Chair, Militia Heritage Committee</i>
Honor Guard Units	Knights of Columbus Civil War Re-enactors, Connecticut Regiments
“Connecticut’s 9th”	Performed by Thomas Callinan <i>State Troubadour Emeritus</i>
Remarks	Karen Senich <i>Executive Director, Commission on Culture &amp; Tourism, State Historic Preservation Officer</i>  Robert Larkin <i>Chair, Ninth Regiment Monument Committee</i>  Stacy Mathieu <i>Connecticut Monument Etching Artist</i>
Introduction of Governor Rell	Karen Senich <i>Executive Director, Commission on Culture &amp; Tourism, State Historic Preservation Officer</i>
Remarks and Unveiling	M. Jodi Rell <i>Governor, State of Connecticut</i>
“Williams Canal”	Performed by Thomas Callinan
Conclusion	

## *History of the Ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers*

In November of 1861, the Ninth (officially known as Connecticut's Irish Regiment) left New Haven with 845 men bound for General Benjamin Butler's New England Brigade and Ship Island, Mississippi. The regiment was one of the first to capture Confederate colors at Pass Christian, Mississippi and selected to march through the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana shortly after its surrender as an "object lesson to a belligerent populace".

In the first assault on Vicksburg, Mississippi, the Gibraltar of the South, the Ninth, with troops from four other states, was attached to General Williams' command. Without adequate men to affect a siege, they were put to work with slaves from nearby plantations digging "Williams' Canal" through a narrow hairpin turn in the Mississippi River. This was intended to allow Union ships to bypass the guns at Vicksburg and leave it militarily unimportant while securing unfettered control of the Mississippi River. Inadequate supplies and medicine, summer heat and swamp-like conditions resulted in disease (malaria, dysentery, heat stroke) and lingering death for many. During a short four month span that began with their arrival opposite Vicksburg, 150 men of the Ninth died.

Although the canal attempt was abandoned, the regiment distinguished itself two weeks later at the battle of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where it was praised by General Butler, "Connecticut, represented by the sons of the ever green shamrock, fought as their brothers did at Boyne Waters." After assignments in defense of New Orleans, the Ninth were later involved in the war in operations outside of Richmond, Virginia and in further engagements in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley at Winchester, Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill under General Sheridan.

A few weeks before the end of the war in 1865, while on garrison duty in Savannah, Georgia, the Ninth decided to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with a parade. A local Irish military group, the Jasper Greens, stepped forward and loaned them their Irish green flag complete with harp and shamrocks. "The friendly act was much appreciated."

In May of 1865, the Ninth was sent to Hilton Head, South Carolina where it was mustered out. Approximately 250 men of the Ninth died during the war.

### *Major Sponsors of the Monument*

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