

**CW/VFM-34: *Benjamin Henry Grierson***

Benjamin Henry Grierson was born on July 8, 1826 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest son of Robert and Mary (Shepard) Grierson, who had immigrated to the US from Dublin, Ireland. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was living in Illinois.

He was made Colonel of the 6th Illinois Cavalry. In April 1863, he commanded the Illinois Cavalry in Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi, in a maneuver that would become known as Grierson's Raid. He received commendations from both General Grant and President Lincoln and was promoted to rank of Brevet Major General.

Following the Civil War, Grierson was stationed at a number of frontier forts in the southwest. He is known for organizing the 10th Cavalry, the most famous of the African American regiments known as Buffalo soldiers. He died on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1911.

**File Contains**

- Note—"Grierson, Benjamin Henry, 1826-1911. Campaign Song 1860. Presented by Fred Weiser."
- Republican campaign song for the 1860 presidential election. Written by Grierson and distributed by the Meredosia Wide-Awakes. Folder also contains a Xerox copy of the song.

**Keywords:** Union – West – Illinois – 6<sup>th</sup>; Songs/Poems; Army – Cavalry; Soldier – Generals;

**Location:** Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

**See also:** [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)