

Pvt. John W. Gans, 1st Kentucky Light Artillery, Battery A, USA

- 1842 March 11: Johann Wilhelm Gans was born in Prussia.
- 1850 By 1850, Johann had immigrated to America and was going by John. The 1850 US Federal Census enumerated in Jefferson County, KY near Louisville listed eight year old John Gans in the household of his father George. His father was listed as 55 and employed as a laborer.
- 1860 The US Federal Census enumerated in Jefferson County, KY listed John Gans as an eighteen year old carpenter.
- 1861 July 3: John W. Gans enlisted into the Federal army in Camp Joe Holt which was in Jeffersonville, Indiana directly across from Louisville, KY. He was mustered into Battery A, Kentucky Light Artillery as a private for a period of three years. His age was listed as twenty years old. Complexion: Light, Eyes: Hazel, Hair: Dark.
- 1862 October 21: Private John W. Gans went absent without leave from his unit near Campbellsville, KY.
- 1863 April 27: Pvt. John Gans was apprehended while AWOL and court martialed shortly thereafter.
- June 11: General Court Martial found Pvt. John W. Gans guilty of desertion and sentenced to eight months hard labor at half pay in Murfreesboro, TN. He was also ordered to forfeit all pay owed him during this time.
- 1864 February 14: Re-enlisted as a veteran in Battery A, 1st Kentucky Light Artillery.
- May 29: Pvt. John Gans brought before General Court Martial on the charges of violating the 50th Article of War and conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline. He was found guilty of both charges and this time sentenced to do thirty days fatigue duty with a ball and chain. In a later explanation, the charges stemmed from Pvt. Gans shirking his guard duty in Nashville, Tennessee in May 1864. He was arrested for that offense and while in custody, escaped from the sentinel tasked with watching him. He was recaptured later that day.
- November 30: Battery A, Kentucky Light Artillery arrived in Franklin around midday as part of the 4th Corps artillery in John Schofield's army. They were placed on the main defensive line as close to the Columbia Pike as one can get on the eastern side. The artillerymen cut embrasures into the earthworks and soon had their 3-inch rifle artillery pieces jutting out. As the Confederate army under Gen. John B. Hood attacked, these guns went to work shelling the enemy at long range. An advance force of US troops were shoved back into the main line and the 1st KY was placed near the gap in the lines near the road. As terrified infantrymen scurried in, the 1st KY boys opened up and inflicted

serious, sometimes point blank casualties on the attackers. Pvt. John W. Gans was killed in action during this battle.

G. | Battery A. | Ky.
John W. Gans
Pvt., Indpt. Battery A, Kentucky L. Art'y.
Appears on Returns as follows:
Nov. 1862 Absent without leave.
Jan. 1863 Deserted at Campbellsville Ky. Oct. 21/62
May 1863 Gain. Apl. 27/63
Louisville. Apprehended from desertion Apl. 27/63
Absent in confinement in Murfreesboro Tenn.
June 1863 to Jan 1864 Absent in confinement at hard labor on fortifications at Murfreesboro Tenn since June 11/63 by sentence of G.C.M. for 8 months
Feb. 1864 Gain. Feb. 12/64 Nashville Tenn. Reenlisted as Vet. Vol. Disch'd. on reenlistmt.
Feb. + Mar. 1864 Absent on furlough for 34 days since Feb. 24/64
Vet Vol.