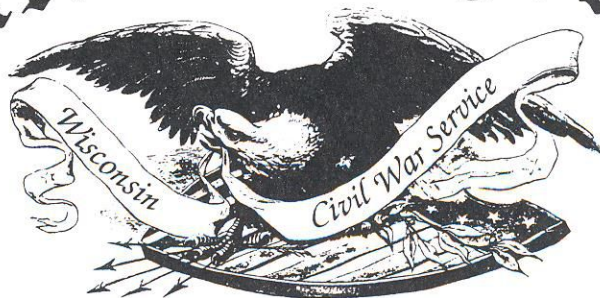


# Certificate of Service



**George F Wait**

**The Official Record: ENTERED SERVICE AUGUST 21, 1862. ENLISTED INTO COMPANY D THIRTY-SECOND WISCONSIN INFANTRY FROM OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN. MUSTERED OUT OF SERVICE JUNE 12, 1865.**

#### ENGAGEMENTS

MOSCOW, TN  
LA FAYETTE, TN  
MARION, MS  
COURTLAND ROAD, AL  
COURTLAND, AL  
COURTLAND, AL  
SIEGE OF ATLANTA, GA

JONESBORO, GA  
LOVEJOY'S STATION, GA  
LITTLE OGEECHEE RIVER, GA  
HARRISON'S FIELD, GA  
SIEGE OF SAVANNAH, GA  
RIVER'S BRIDGE, SC  
BINNAKER'S BRIDGE, SC

ORANGEBURG, SC  
CHERAW, SC  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC  
BENTONVILLE, NC

**Thirtysecond Infantry.** The Thirtysecond Infantry was organized at Camp Bragg, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and mustered into the service of the United States on September 25, 1862. It left the State on October 30 proceeding to Memphis, TN, and was assigned to General Sherman's command then engaged in operations in southwestern Tennessee and northern Mississippi, and the contemplated advance on Vicksburg. About January, 1863, the regiment returned to Memphis and was assigned to patrol and provost duty in that territory and in the vicinity of Grand Junction. In February, 1864, the Thirtysecond moved to Vicksburg, MS, and was assigned to the forces under Gen. Sherman and participated in the Meredian Expedition into northern Mississippi, February 3 to March 6, 1864. On returning it was employed in guard and provost duty at various points in western Tennessee, and on expeditions into northern Alabama. Early in August it moved from Decatur, AL to Georgia, joining General Sherman's army near Atlanta, GA, on the 7 day of August, 1864, and continued with these forces until the final surrender of the Confederates under Johnston April 26, 1865, near Raleigh, North Carolina. The Thirtysecond thus took part in the conclusion of the Atlanta Campaign, participating in many minor actions and were frequently under fire during the Siege of Atlanta, which was followed by the battle of Jonesborough August 31-Sept. 1, and Lovejoy's Station Sept. 2-5, 1864. Leaving Atlanta November 15 it took part in the Savannah and Carolina Campaigns, participating in many skirmishes with the enemy and in the battle of Bentonville, NC, March 19 and 20, 1865. Thereafter it marched to Washington, D.C. with the army, and took part in the Grand Review. It was mustered out of the service of the United States June 12, 1865 and returned to Milwaukee where it was disbanded.

Atlanta, Geo. Nov 13th 1864

Came off guard this morning had inspection at 2 oc. then went to shoe-making tapt 2 pairs of boots made 1.75

Nov. 14th

Commenced cobeling before daylight. Then tapt 10 pairs of boots and shoes made 6.75 Worked untill 8 oc had orders to be ready ~~et~~ to move at daylight.

Nov. 15th

Started at sunrise on the road all day and got only 15 miles. Atlanta all in flames when we left, could see the light all knight. Camp at 2 oc. in the morning.

Nov. 16th

Am all ready for another start dont know as we shall go untill after ~~noon~~ noon. One oc. not started yet troops and waggons passing all the time since daylight. Heard artillery fireing since yesterday at the front (ocasionly) started at 2 oc. have come about 2 miles have stopped for something dont know what bad place in the read that is the reason. 8 oc. have not camp yet am writing by the light of a ginhouse that is burning 50 rods from here. It is a bully good light but is rather expensive for the rebs but then I can afford it. Got to camp at 2 oc very tired came about 15 or 20 miles.

Morning 17th

Are all ready for another start have come 1 mile are waiting for the train to get strung out on the road is quite warm this morning. Got to camp at sundown very tired and footsore. Came about 20 miles today. Our regt was train guard today got my knapsack on a waggon part of the day.

Nov. 18th

Hard bread all gone had to eat sweet potatoes for breackfast feet very sore. Got my blankets on the waggon again today Am marching towards Macon. Have got started have come  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and halted. Noon. Have been marching like the very dead all the forenoon Have got to the Ocmulzic river. There is a large cotton factory and grist mill here and lots of pretty girls. Sh~~ould~~ould like to stop here a few days but cant Am laying a pontoon across the river. Seven islands is the name of this place. Evening. Are on the east side of the river

~~helping~~

helping waggons up a long steep hill is raining & very dark. Past through Jackson butts county this forenoon. Got to camp at 8 oc. tired and wet. Had considerable rain today came 2 miles from the river to camp got lots of sorgum molasses is not very good.

Nov. 19th

Had some rain through the knight. Camped in a cain field Slept betweene two rows got wet some. Drew rations last knight. Got 8 crackers for 5 days Came through Monticello today came 15 miles camped.

Nov. 20th

Was on picket last knight Had fresh pork and sweet potatoes for breckfast rained some through the knight is still raining some, expect to get to Macon or near there today. Have come over some of the worst roads today that we have found yet Have halted for dinner Came through Hilsburrough today Got to camp just before dark plenty of pork and potatoes for supper.

Nov 21st

Rained all knight got drouded out about 4 oc. in the morning. Went to frying pork and potatoes raining like hell all the time. Started at 9 oc. have come 5 or 6 miles is raining yet and cold. One oclock. have halted it is not very pleasant siting here in the mud and rain Shall friz if they dont start soon Had to cut open one of my boots to give my toes more room now the mud gets in. dam the luck no chance to patch it. Got to camp at dark have had to dry my clothes get supper and build a bunk. Now am ready to get to bed one boot off Has rained most of the day cleard off just at knight. Is pretty cool now. Are camped in the thick fien woods is very comfortable.

Nov 22d

Had a very cold knight. Slept good lots of the boys thrown away their overcoats and blankets I keep mine yet Have come about 7 miles march with my overcoat on today. Dont come to Macon yet guess we are not going there after all. Have got to Gordon half way betweene Macon & Milledgeville so shall not got to either place. Heard heavy fireing towards Macon today is very cold for this country.

Nov 23d

Had a very cold knight Got to bed at 8 oc. had to get up and go burn railroad. was gone 2 hours. Have been lying here all day has been very pleasant today. Just at knight went out 3 miles and burnt more rail

railroad. came back through a swamp was very dark and plenty of mud is 9 oc. now am just ready to go to bed. Is quite cool not near as cold as it was last knight Have heard no fireing today.

Nov. 24th

Had a rather cool knight but got along very comfortable Drums beat at 6 oc. this morning are all ready for another start Smoke so thick we can hardly breath Have come 2 miles Got on the wrong road are waiting fore those ahead to get back on the other road. Heard this morning that Macon was taken. Have heard no fireing in that direction since day before yesterday. Noon. Have halted again are distroying the railraad as we go along. Is very pleasant & warm Drew rations again last knight Got to camp at sundown Have a good campground. Kiled a nide fat hog today so have lots of pork to coock. Have come 8 miles today have been guarding pontoon train since noon. Have eat supper am ready to go to bed now Have to start at 3 oc. in the morning Got a kettle on full of pork for tomorrow.

Nov 25th

Had a good knights rest Pleanty of pork and pottoes for supper & breckfast Got started before sunrise, I am detailed to drive cattle today We take all the cattle we can find & drive them along to eat Have had a hard days work. Came about 15 miles am very tired. ~~The~~ regt has gone on with the platoon train Cant drive cattle in dark so ha had to camp has been pleasant today.

Nov. 26th

Started at sunrise. Some of the 25th indiana gegt relieved us just as we got started So we came on & overtook the regt Have got to the Oconee river Got the bridge down about noon to corps cross here. Got very tired yesterday have come 7 miles this morning Expect to wait here all day. Sundown. Have orders to march in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Got to go 7 miles to knight Dont feele mutch like it eather but that makes no diference have got to go. Have got to camp Came ~~tw~~ 2 miles insted of 7 Have a kettle of pork on boiling am ready to go to bed now Heard today that our forces did not go to Macon Had a fight with the rebs 12 miles from there.

Nov 27th

Morning Are up & ready for another start. Had a good knights rest is not daylight yet. Is quite warm Have come 5 miles as though the very dead was after us. Is very pleasant and warm Sun about 2 hours high Halted again Are about 10 miles from the river Are campt in a grave Some prospect of staying all knight Is not noon yet.

Nov. 28th

Had another good nights rest Is quite warm this morning think it will rain before long Are about half way between Atlanta & Savannah I should think by the tracks of the map are in a very sandy country The timber is mostly fine Some oak but not much We find good molasses along here made of sugar cane. Find large vats of it on some plantations. Destroy all we dont want looks rough but this is rough business Have come 4 or 5 miles Is very pleasant marching I feele first rate roads are good wish I could always feele as well as I do this morning The men all seeme to stand the march first rate so far. There is talk of the rebs making a stand at the next river Dont think it will amount to much If they do we have to many men for them to stop us long. We have to march about 4 miles every morning before we get out of the smoke It all seemes to lay on the ground There is about a million of camp fires every knight & amongst them all a goodeal of smoke. The country seemes to be well supplied with everything. We have large droves of cattle along that we have picked up They raise any~~a~~ amount of sweet pottoes. I dont like them very well but they are better than nothing to lengthen out our hard tack Have got to camp came near 20 miles today Did not get any pork today Have got 2 geese boiling for tomorrow.

Nov. 29th

It is very warm this morning Think we shall have rain before knight Are within 8 miles of the Ogeechee river. That is as far as we shall get today Are waiting for the pontoon train to pass. Hope we shall have an easeyer march than we did yesterday. Have come about 4 miles. Are marching very moderate Is near noon. ~~Have-come-about-4~~ Is very warm and pleasant To warm for comfort. The wind breezes up now so it is cooler. Will take all day to get to the river at this rate I just saw Gen. awer he wares good clothes otherways he looks the same as any other man Heard today that Augusta was taken by our calvery & our ~~prisoners~~ prisoners released. The inhabitants say that Savannah is in our possession was taken by the fleet Hope it is so. 2 oc. They say it is 10 miles yet to the river was only 8 this morning have come 8 now guess we are on the wrong road. Have a nice fat hog on our mule for supper when we get to camp. Each company are aloud 1 pack mule Is ~~grew~~ growing cooler. Will take all day to get through. Have got to camp is after dark Have eat supper got the pork on boiling been to the creck & washed now will go to bed. Have come 10 or 12 miles today I should think Had to stop a goodeal for the pioneers tofix the roads

They ware very bad in some places They say it is 4 miles to the river yet We came nearly parolell with it most of the way today. Is about 10 oc. now.

Nov 30th

All ready for another start/ Is very warm and pleasant. Expect to cross the river today. The sun is just up Have a good junk of pork in my for dinner. Have come about 5 miles are near the river I think Have come through some very bad swamps this morning. Is very comfortable marching today a good breeze is blowing now Crossed the river after dark.

Dec. 1st

Find ourselves across the Ogeechee river this morning Crost after dark last night The fog so thick you could cut it with a knkfe Could not see a good fire 10 rods lots of men go lost going 20 rods from camp after water. They was running around all knight enquireing for their regts. Are in 90 miles of Savannah I dont feele very well this morning Have eat to mutch fresh pork. Have left camp marched out on the railraad are tearing it up & burning it in good style. Havedistroyed it all the way from Atlanta. I dont feele well doday so am not at work. It is 95 miles to Savannah by railroad Worked on the road untill dark then came 3 miles to camp Have a good camp ground

Dec 2nd

Had a good knights rest. Started at sunrise have come about 8 miles are holted now for dinner. Is quite warm today dont expect to go only 2 miles further today. Have come through the best country today that we have have seen on the whole march. Plantations are lagge & any amount of forage on them Lots of the nigs all the he (male) ones have been run off I expect. Have got to Millen Station 53 miles from Augusta & 79 from Savannah. The road branches here & goes to Augusta. This is quite an important railroad point. There is no rebs here but they have not been gone long by the looks Have had a very pleasant march today Have come about 11 miles. Are having very pleasant weather for marching Have lots of work to do here to distroy all of the tracks but have a lar large lot of hands to do it. Done no work on the road today.

Dec 3d

Find ourselves all rite this morning. Had a good knights rest Is after daylight & nothing said about marching. Dont know but we have got to work on the railroad again today. Is quite warm loocks some like rain. Are in the fine country yet. Smoke very thick cant see more than 20 rods

Have some boiled chickens for dinner today hard tack all gone draw again today. Here this morning that a good many of our foragers were captured yesterday. There is an order for all foragers to report at brigade Headquarters. Expect they will have to go in large squads to protect themselves. They say we are agoing to move only 5 miles a day and distroy everything as we go Here is whre they use to keep alot of our prisoners I saw the buildings they ware kept in. Think they will make a good fire. There are 3 of them side by died There are some fortifcations ~~and~~ the Jonnies threw up a few shovels full of dirt & piled a few railroad ties but it seemes they did not stop to see how they would work Dont think they fired a single shot from them. Our forces are marching out along the railroad a regt at a time Can here them pounding and the iron rattleing as far as we can here both ways. I think railroad stock on the Ga Central is on the fall We pile the ties then lay the iron acrosst them then burn the ties when the rails are hot in the middle 3 men get hold of each end & bend them as mutch as we can but a few of them can ever be used again. If this this move dont hurt the jonnies ~~and~~ any damage then I shall be mistaken I think they will have to own up tht we have hurt them some this time. Have not lost but one man from our regt as I know of since we started. Have come 8 miles today. Got to camp just at dark are at Tarburrough Station. Came through thick pine timber some of the way today. Heard that Gen Hunter was near Savannah with 90 days rations for Shermans army Havent got the---- to knight Drew rations to knight so shall have hard tack and coffee for supper. Is pleasant and warm.

Dec. 4th

Noon. Have come 6 miles have burnt one mile of railroad Coooked & eat our dinner Pretty good forenoons work Boiled our potatoes by the same fire that burnt the railroad. Is a very level country through here Are 65 miles from Savannah now. Shall probily go 5 or 6 miles further today. Dont here anything of the Jonnies Dont hardly think we shall be with them mutch. Have come about 10 miles since noon Got to camp a little after dark I am tired and sleepy so eill go to bed.

Dec 5th

Was rather cool last night. Are all up & ready for another start Shall be way behind today So shall be late into camp. If there is any rebs betweene here and Savannah we shall find them ina day or two Hardly think we shall find ~~any~~ of any acount.

Is very pleasant and warm this morning have come 5 or 6 miles Here that the Jonnies are about one mile ahead. We have formed a line of battle and sent out skirmishers. The Skirmishers found nothing so we have come across the creek. The rebs had 2 very good lines of works but left them without firing a shot at us. I here they fired on our cavelery I did ~~not~~ not here them It must have been earley this morning have come one mile from the creek and camp for the night is about 3 oc. have come 9 miles today Are only 45 miles from Savannah. The Jonnies had 6 or 7 miles of works Dont see why they did not make a stand Is as warm as Summer to warm to lay in the sun & sleep Have to get in the shad 8 oc. Have picked 2 geese & got them boiling am covered with feathers and ~~greese~~ greece Dont care anything about that as long as I feele well that is the main point on a march Got lots of forage today molasses shugar geese pr pork & beef. Here nothing from the Jonnies since we camp.

Dec 6th

All well this morning have eat breckfast knapsacks are all packed but no orders to move. Dont think we shall go fast today 3 oc. are here yet Shall not move to knight dont think Have made \$2.00 today shaving. A part of our company are out forageing today have a team with them are forageing for the regt. I am at the picket post now come after watter is 1 mile from camp. We have very poor watter for the last 3 days Have only 1 canteen & 6 quart pail to fetch watter for 5 of us. I lost my canteen in a swamp the other knight looking for watter Well it is dark have eat supper Had sweet pottoes beef steak & coffee Have only 1 hard tack left for 2 days Shall have to go in on sweet pottoes pretty heavy for the next few days Got 2 more geese today. Well Pethina what do you think of my travels it is a tedious job to sit on a log & copy it so I will send this & see how you like it It is not half of it but I am tired writing Will sent the rest some other time So goodby for the present  
yours as ever G F Wait



Dec 7th 1864

8 oclock Are all ready for another start Start at 9 oc. is quite warm had some rain last night. Sprinkles some this morning but dont think it will rain much today. I here that the Jonnies are 12 miles ahead of us & are agoing to stop our going any further. We shall see when we get there how that will be One oclock. Have come 3 or 4 miles Have had considerable rain this morning. Are marching very slow for some reason. Sundown the rebs have fell the road full of trees that is the reason we have not come more that 6 or 7 miles in all day. Expect we shall be bothered all the rest of the way Will have to be on the move all night. 12 oc. Have finley got to camp came through 5 miles of swamp after dark. The most road we have found on this march-----

Dec. 8th

Got up before daylight hurried and get breckfast of sweet potatoes & beef Did not have to start early so lay down again & had another nap Slept untill the sun got up then had to get up was to hot to sleep in the sun. Is about 10 oc. now have not started yet Shall be behind ~~ev-~~ everything today There is a pen full of mules close by they are old worn out A lot of men are nocking them in head with a big nigger bar D-md if it dont look rough to nearly kill them drawing waggons & then nock the poor bruits in head with an old hoe 2oc. Have marched like the very devil since half past 11 oc. We are not in sight of the railroad so have to guess the distance. We are within a little less than 50 miles of Savannah now. Is very warm today the wind begins to blow fresh so it is getting a little cooler. 4 oc. Are at Marlow Station 26 miles from Savannah Have any amount of darkeys along. They have come in thick and faster for the last few days Some of them almost white It looks tuff to see the little fellows trudge along Some of them not more than 3 years old Some of them have a horse & waggon but most of them have to foot it. Have halted dont know but we shall have to tar up the road Our regt is rear guard of the corps today. They say here that the jonnies are leaving Savannah. So we shant have any fight if that is so. This is a very pretty place some nice looking buildings here is the best looking place I have seen on the rout. Can here heavy ~~at~~ artillery somewhere near Savannah. dont know but we shall have ~~fa~~ fight yet Is 8 oc are waiting for the train to move ahead. Expect

the road is full of trees a bridge burnt or some ~~thin~~-other devilty.  
Got to camp at 12 oc.

Dec. 9th

Are up & ready for another move on Savannah Orders to have our arms in good condition Heard some Artillery through the knight. Shall find the Jonnies to day if there is any on our rout atall. I dont expect to see any but may be mistakes Drew rations last knight. 1 oclock Are mardhing in line of battle have been for the last hour. Skirmishing is lively cannon fireing ocasionally & a hell of a time generaly. Can here artillery away to the rite guess the Jonnies are busy today. Have come another mile some skirmishing and now and then a shell. Our company are deployed now on the skirmish line. Have halted guess we are agoing to stay here all knight by the action Have marched in line of battle about 6 miles to day through woods swamp mud & briars am wet to my knees. 2 or 3 cannon shot went over heads rather carless at one time We wore all very manerly & and bowed to them. One struck our division quartermaster in the breast kiled him instantly Have got to stay here all knight with no fire Shall have no potatoes or meat to knight. Well they have moved us about a dozen times and have got us now near camp so we shall get some coffee for supper. Guess the jonnies have left left have not heard from for the last hour. Ware only  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles form Savannah if the jonnies dont fight like the very devil we shall get there tomorrow. 3 of our regt ware wounded today (so there) The reb~~x~~ burried some torpedoes in the road one of them exploded and wounded 3 of the 1st cavelery One very bad the others slightly Can here heavy guns off on our right now the 14th & 15 corps are off there some place.

Dec. 10th

Started at 8 oc. have come  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles have formed in line of battle. The jonnies have sent us their compliments two or 3 times are very quiet now are 5 miles from the city. Expect we shall have to march in line of battle the rest of the way unless the jonnies breake it Dont know but we shall have a fight yet. Have moved to the right 2 miles Have just crosst the canall had to waid, our guns have just opened on the jonnies. Expect we shall have a lively time before knight. I just saw one reb ~~ta~~ that was captured he said they told him there was 50,000 men in Savannah. Think they lied to him dont believe they have 15000. There is considerable fireing on the skirmish line. We are laying on the bank

of the canell waitig for something They have just brawt in a nigger. The poor devil is so scairt that he can hardly speak. Cannons are booming lively hell will be to pay soon The skirmishline sounds like a big spider of popcorn. Is not mutch fun for them that are on it. Have been laying here 4 hours is nearly dark guess we are agoing to stay here all knight. have got only 10 feet of room out of watter. Canall on one side & swamp on the other The rebs cut the levy to flod the swamp so we could not march through Dont know whether we shall have to or not dont think the watter will make any difference about it. Can here very heavy guns in front of us think they are on the gunboats. They keep throwing shell at us ocasionly None have come very near us today They make the trees fly as though they ware straws. Is trying hard to rain am afraid it will make it out before morning. I have got only one quarter of a hardtack left. Dont expect to draw any for 2 days. Shall get pretty hungry by that time Havent had any chance to forage anything for the last 2 days.

Dec 11

Layd in the swamp last knight rained all knight is raining yet there is heavy artillery fireing this morning we expect to move from here soon. Suppose we shall advance on another line of works that was thrown up last knight. All our guns are in position this morning I think by the way they roar the fireing is all on our rite yet. Expect they will open on the left soon. Not mutch fireing on the skirmishline. 11 oc. Are laying here yet. The fireing continues about the same since daylight. Well here we are going around to the rite sometime today. Has cleared off So we can dry our blankets Got them soaking wet last knight. I got drouded out about 3 oc. & had to get up. Havent got anything to eat but beef and popcorn & not mutch of that. Dont here anything what is going on so cant tell whether there is anything being done or not. 2 oc. Are still laying here I here that our division is going to fort Pulaski after rations. Dont know whether it is so or not hardly think there is.

Dec. 12th morning

Moved last knight 4 miles to the rear. Our corps is moving around to the right of the line I saw Crās Hill & Ed Fretinsburg last knight. Shook hands with them on the run. Is very cold since last knight. March with my overcoat on today. Have had no hard tack for 2 days. Expect we are going to open communications with the transports in the Ogeechee River or at the mouth of the Savannah River Are marching South now.

Is clear & pleasant but very cold Have nothing to eat but popcorn and beef. Can here the firing now on the line we left last night. Hope to here from home as soon as we get to the river. One of our company was struck by a spent ball yesterday Did not hurt him much Mud holes all froze over this morning got to camp a little after dark. Have not come more than 6 or 7 miles today. The 15 corps is ahead of & both corps are most to mitch on our road Dont get any forage of any account Have to live on fresh beef Got a few sweet potatoes today eat them raw Expect to get to the boats tomorrow then we shall get rations.

Dec 13th

Find ourselves all rite this morning Have started out come 1 mile & halted Stact armes Are at the crossing of 2 roads. Troops & waggons are moveing in all directions. Cant see what it all means Can here some skirmish firing on our left Heard no artillery yet this morning Evening 9 oc. Have been on a foraging expidision we came out on the Gulf railroad about 15 miles have not made out much yet Are campd for the night. Start back in the morning we have no communications with the fleets got acrosst the river but there was no boats there Have plenty of meat & potoes to night

Dec 14th

Started back to camp at 8 oc. Have come 4 miles met another train of waggons coming out after forage Are waiting for them to pass Are about 12 miles from camp now I should think Have got back to where we eat our dinner yesterday 6 miles from camp Fort Mc Alister was taken yesterday Have not heard the particulars yet That is the fort that cut us off from our rations so I hope we shall get them soon

Dec 15th

Got back to camp at 7 oc. very tired. Made some corn coffee fried some mutton eat it & went to bed Layed with my head down hill Did not sleep much Have heard some firing this morning is quite lively now Fort McAlister was taken the 13th at 5 oc. 1 division took it in 15 minutes with the loss of 15 men kiled & wounded but lost some after it was taken by the torpedoes that the rebs had burried in side the fort They took 250 men with the fort Everytime a torpedoe exploded our men would fire on the prisioners the kiled about 50 of them that way Have been down & washed me all over got a nigger to wash my shirt so I feel like a new man. is just a month today since we left Atlanta Have

not changed my shirt only once We expect to get rations today from the fleet is very pleasant & warm this morning. Are clearing off a camp ground think we ~~sh~~ shall stay here a few days & rest Hope the mail will come soon Have heard nothing from it yet

Dec. 16th

Have been running my barber shop this forenoon made about 2.50 Expected to rest this afternoon but the order has come to fall in with everything pact for a march. Evening 9 oc. Have come down to the Ogeechee River 5 miles from camp Have camped for the knight Expect to cross in the morning and tear up the Gulf railroad The boats have come up here with the mail. We have not got it yet but they say it is here heard shall get it in the morning. We dont get any rations yet. Drew coffe & salt to knight have had no hard tack for 5 or 6 days had popcorn & coffe for supper. Was never so hard up for grub as now 12 oc. The mail has come 4 letter for me one from Ohio the others from home Have been off about a mile after rails to make a light to read them by.

Dec. 17th

No rations this morning Had 3 ears of corn for 5 of us for breackfast Not a damd thing to eat today unless we are lucky enough to find a hog or something else. I expect we are going out in the country to find something to eat. Shall have to go 20 miles before we shall find anything This is the 7 or 8 day since we have had anything only coffe 7 salt a few bones of a beef creture that they had to kill to save its life I dont think they try to get rations, but keep saying we shall we will draw hard tack tomorrow I dont believe there is a damd thing to eat within 20 miles of us boats came up with the mail last knight Why in hell did they not fetch rations if there is any store ships at the cost Some son of a seacoak is to blame for it dont know who I never saw poorer prospects of living am about half starved now have got 30 dollars in my pocket Dont do me any good could not get a hard tack for the whole of it. We are like a lot of old mules turned out to starve. There is no use of grumbling but it is damd tuff business Was glad to here from home but it was damd hungry news No chance to write home suppose they think I am dead. Well I shall be if I dont get something to eat sometime within the next 10 days. Noon have been on the raod ever since daylight & have not come more than a mile & half The road from the river runs about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles through a rice swamp from

from the river & is jamed full of wagons artillery horses & mules is so narrow that they can hardley pass ( they are going and coming) & are so dandly mixt that I dont know as they will ever get out so we can cross Sundown Have campt for the knight not a thing to eat yet have had nothing but popcorn since yesterday noon Will have to go 5 miles further before we get anything They say our rations will come from the river with the teams to knight I am afraid they will not come or if they do they will bring no rations Am tired and Hungary with a bad headache Some of the boys are out trying to fine something to eat hope they will find something. The country around here has been stript of everything all around here. We are about 30 miles south of Savannah

Dec 18

Have got started again We found pleanty of potatoes last knight after a while. Kiled ll head of cattle for the regt Dont know where they got them Had more than we wanted. It is always the way either a feast or a famine with a soldier I eat so mutch last knight that I can hardly walk today. Was afraid I should be sick today but I shall come out all rite I guess

Dec 19th

Had a very hard ~~time~~ days march yesterday came 20 miles was was very hot. My feet are all covered with sores & blisters was so warm last knight that we did not kneed any blankets over us is very warm this morning. The robins are sining as gayley as though it was spring Are tearing & burning the Gulf railroad to day. we are about 45 miles from Savannah now We find pleanty of forage of everything but bread I begin to want bread very mutch Hope we shall get some when we get backton to the river Had rice and honey for supper last knight got lots of honey yesterday There's any amount of rice here they raise more rice than anything else in this country 4 oc. our regt has torne up  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of track today some companies are not down with their jobs yet we have <sup>just</sup> finished ours. we are  $38\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Savannah by the railroad Waurthourville is the name of the station here. Our camp is 3 miles from here we shall stay in the same place we did last knight my hands are very sore

Dec. 20th

Got back to camp at dark. Had some chickens & potatoes for supper. Have got 2 guinna hens for our supper dinner & a pail full of sweet

potatoes. Is not very high living but is the best we can do at present. We are about 50 miles from our old camp the way we have to go. Is only 40 by the railroad. This is the 12th day since we have drawn any hardtack. Got only one days rations then I havent anything in the shape of bread since then. Shant get any for 2 days more if we do then. Expect we shall be 2 or 3 days getting rations after we get where they are Hope I shall get a chance to write home when we get back to the river again.

Dec 21st

Gto to camp last knight sun  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour high was quite warm had some rain. Got 8 quarts of rice last knight are carrying it into camp. have come 8 miles. Have come to the bad road again. Am waiting for the trains to wallow through. This is the flatest country I ever saw. Is very swampy covered mostly with pine timber. We found pleanty of hardtack Where we campt last knight that was sent out to us. We drew 32 to a man They are N Y make & are very good. We got a small ration of shugar & coffe So we have pleanty to eat now Have got 10 miles farther to go to day Expect it will take all day for it is very bad raads the most of the way Well here we are going a rod at a time after the waggons through the marsh are most to the river is 5 miles from the river to camp Heard to day that Savannah was taken

Dec 22d

Moved our camp 2 miles to day Are campt in an open field is very cold & windy Our estimate of clothing was sent in to day Had to go on picket at 3 oc. Wrote a few lines home to day.

Dec 23d

Had a very cold knight Did not sleep mutch My ears are cold siting here by the fire Are waiting for our rations to come from camp was drew there last knight Noon everything is quiet. Can here a heavy report every little while. Think they are ~~w~~xploding torpedoes in the river so they can get up to the citty with the fleet Heard to day that Richmond was taken & they are fireing big guns on that account

Dec 24th

Are all packed up for another move. I here we are going into town on cuity Hope it is so Is pleasant but very cold Froze quite hard last knight. Had another mail last knight got one letter from home dated Nov 25th 5 oc. We came 13 miles to day came through the citty

or a part of it the town is full of troops so we had to come out 3 miles to find a camp ground I here that our Division is agoing to stop here a few days & then go into the citty Hope it is so for I am tired of being around. Have layen still all of one day since we left Atlanta. Morning

Morning Dec 25th

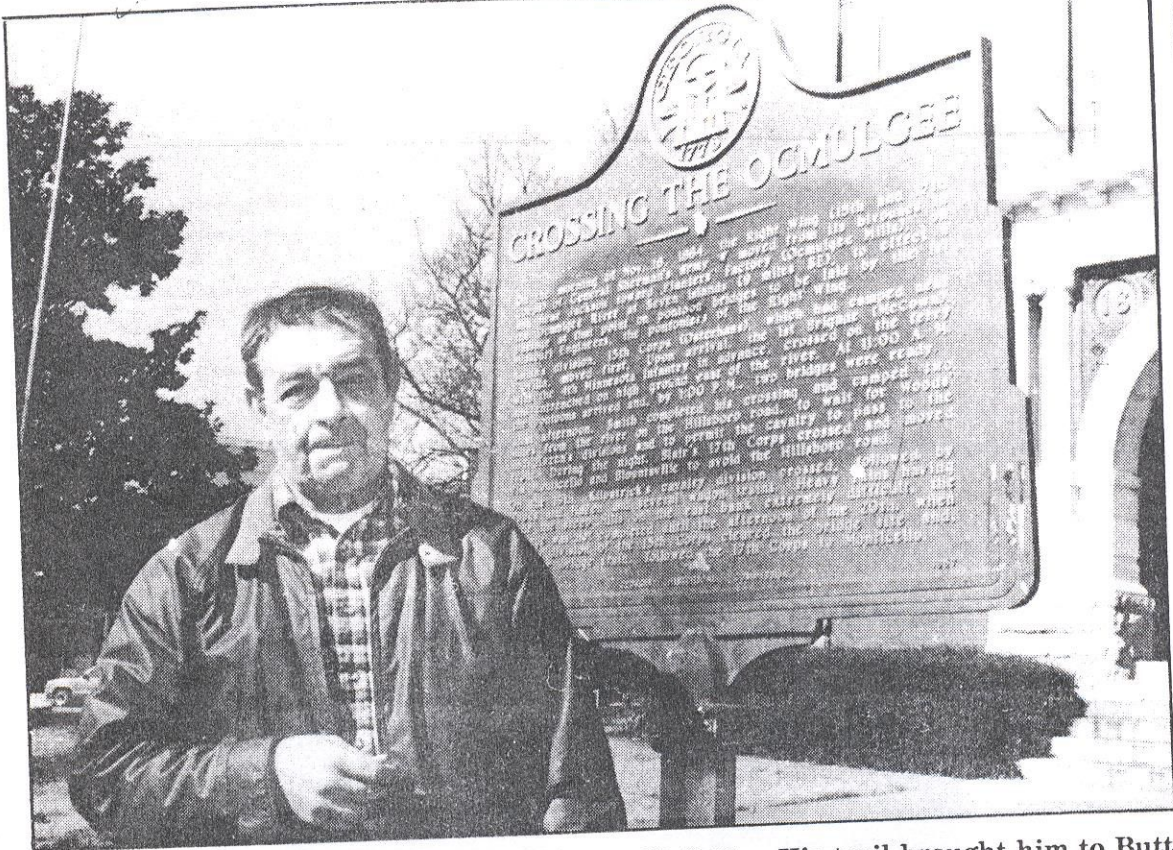
Find ourselves all well this morning but rather cross for we cant draw any rations Got a little rice this morning but no hardtack or coffe or shugar The boys are all mad because we are so hard up for rations Did not say a word on the march but now when we are where there should be pleanty we get nothing or next to it I dont know as any one is to blame but I think some one must be or we should have pleanty by this time Shall try & write a letter home today Have nothin to write on or sit on but the ground (Finished Thank God)

Now Pethina if you read all of this mess you will do better than I can I have done as well as I could under the circumstances. There is lots of mistakes that you will have to skip & say nothing about it, To day is the 31st of Dec is cold & windy I get a letter from you last knight Dated the 5 of Dec was glad to here from you again. You say Alice sickes her thumb yet Cant you laugh her out of it Think I could if I was there I am tired of writing so will mail this So good by for this time Write often

yours as ever

G. F. Wait





Jerry Wait of Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin has been following in his great great grandfather's footsteps taken through the south with Gen. Sherman during the

Civil War. His trail brought him to Butts County last week where his ancestor crossed the Ocmulgee.

## Wait is walking in ancestor's footsteps

By Susan Jones

"On the morning of November 18, 1864, the Right Wing (15th and 17th Corps) of General Sherman's army moved from its bivouacs in and near Jackson toward Planters Ferry on the Ocmulgee River at Seven Islands.

"...During the night, the 17th Corp crossed and moved via Monticello and Blountville to avoid Hillsboro Road." (Followed to Monticello by the 15th Corp.)

So reads a historical marker on the grounds of the Butts County Courthouse.

Jerry Wait, of Land 'O Lakes, Wisconsin on the Michigan side, is tracing his great great grandfather's footsteps while with the 17th Corp, as depicted in a diary kept during the Civil War. The diary, handwritten by George F. Wait 131 years ago, was sent to his wife, Pethina.

George had two generations of eight children. Jerry obtained the historical document from the youngest, then in his 80s, of the second generation. He had it preserved and stores it in a bank vault but made a type-written copy that he is using to physically follow his ancestor's march from Atlanta to Savannah with Sherman during the Civil War.

oc. not started yet troops and waggons passing all the time since daylight. Heard artillery firing since yesterday at the front (ocasionally) start at 2 oc. have come about 2 miles have stopped for something don't know what bad place in the road that is the reason.

8 oc. have not camped yet am writing by the light of a gin-house that is burning 50 rods from here. It is a bully good light but is rather expensive for the rebs but then I can afford it.

"Nov. 17. Are all ready for another start have come 1 mile are waiting for the train to get strung out on the road is quite warm this morning. Got to camp at sundown very tired and foot sore. Came about 20 miles today.

The mentioned camp was located on Yellow River Creek in Butts County.

"Nov. 18. Hard bread all gone had to eat sweet potatoes for breakfast feet very sore. Am marching towards Macon. Have got started have come 1/2 mile and halted. Noon.

Have been marching like the very dead all the forenoon. Have got to the Ocmulgee River. There is a large cotton factory and grist mill here and lots of pretty girls.

Wait is referring to Planters

"Had considerable rain today came 2 miles from the river to camp got lots of sor-gum molasses is not very good.

"Nov. 19. Had some rain through the night. Camped in a cain field. Slept between two rows got wet some. Drew rations last night. Got 8 crackers for 5 days.

"Came through Monticello today came 15 miles camped."

Butts County tax assessor Wayne King assisted Mr. Wait in his desire to visit Butts County sites mentioned in the diary by contacting local property owners.

The journal continues to describe the 17th Corp's journey through Georgia, describing the burning of railroads, "...are tearing it up and burning it in good style, have destroyed it all the way from Atlanta;" and the theft of livestock and foraging of plantations, "Gots lots of forage today molasses, shugar, geese, pork and beef. Here nothing from the Jonnies.

"They say we are agoing to move only 5 miles a day and distroy everything as we go.

"The country seems to be well supplied with everything. We have large drove of cattle along that we have picked up. They raise any amount of sweet potatoes."

The soldier summarizes

ancestor's march from Atlanta to Savannah with Sherman during the Civil War.

Mr. Wait's quest brought him to Butts County Tuesday. The diary began in Atlanta on Nov. 13, 1964 and continues (sic): 1864

"Nov. 15th. Started at sunrise on the road all day and got only 15 miles. Atlanta all in flames when we left, could see the light all night. Camped at 2 oc. in the morning very tired.

"Nov. 16th. Am all ready for another start don't know as we

factory and grist mill here and lots of pretty girls.

Wait is referring to Planters Ferry on Seven Islands between Flovilla and Cork.

"Should like to stop here a few days but cant. Am laying a pontoon across the river. Seven Islands is the name of this place.

"Evening. Are on the east side of the river helping wag-gons up a long steep hill is raining and very dark.

"Past through Jackson Butts

along that we have  
They raise any amount of sweet potatoes."

The soldier summarizes Sherman's march with the comment, "Distroy all we dont want looks rough but this is rough business."

Mr. Wait said when he arrives in a community mentioned in his great grandfather's journal, he either visits the courthouse for information or strikes up a conversation with an elderly