

ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

Illinois Civil War Detail Report

Name GILMORE, EVANGELIST J
Rank 1SGT
Company B
Unit 96 IL US INF

Personal Characteristics

Residence AVON, LAKE CO, IL
Age 27
Height 5' 8 1/2
Hair BROWN
Eyes GRAY
Complexion FAIR
Marital Status MARRIED
Occupation FARMER
Nativity DARIEN, GENESEE CO, NY

Service Record

Joined When AUG 9, 1862
Joined Where AVON, IL
Joined By Whom SALISBURY
Period 3 YRS
Muster In SEP 5, 1862
Muster In Where ROCKFORD, IL
Muster In By Whom
Muster Out
Muster Out Where
Muster Out By Whom
Remarks PROMOTED 1LT & CAPTAIN

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ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

Illinois Civil War Detail Report

Name GILMORE, EVANGELIST J
Rank CPT
Company B
Unit 96 IL US INF

Personal Characteristics

Residence

Age 28

Height

Hair

Eyes

Complexion

Marital Status

Occupation

Nativity

Service Record

Joined When FEB 28, 1864

Joined Where BLUE SPRINGS, TN

Joined By Whom GOV OF ILL

Period 3 YRS

Muster In MAR 12, 1864

Muster In Where BLUE SPRINGS, TN

Muster In By Whom

Muster Out

Muster Out Where

Muster Out By Whom

Remarks DIED OF WOUNDS PVTD IN ACTION JUN 24, 1865 1864

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Forward

This is the story of the life (and death) of Evangelist J. Gillmore, my great-grandfather. He spent the last two years of his life fighting for the Union cause in the Civil War. I have used several sources of information in writing this work. (1) The research that was done by Carol Memler Bennett on the early history of the Gillmore family. (2) The letters written by Evangelist J. Gillmore to his wife Elisabeth, for which I owe a great debt of gratitude to my Great Grandmother, Elisabeth (Rowling) Gillmore (Lib), who kept most of the letters that Evangelist (Vange) sent to her, my grandparents, Fred and Anna Gillmore and my Aunt Lena (Gillmore) Edquist, for without their foresight, the letters might have been destroyed many years ago. (3) A very sincere thank you must also go to the writers of the book, "The History of the 96th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry". This book was published in 1887 by the Historical Society of the Regiment, and the writers had all fought with the "96th". The book is an almost day by day account of the activities of the Regiment. The Historical Society of the Regiment was made up of the following: Charles W. Earle, Charles A. Partridge, Edward A. Blodgett, Henry H. Gage, Edwin Drury and M. Understock, Jr. It was edited by Charles A. Partridge. This book, along with Vange's letters, were an invaluable aid in the writing of this work, and indeed, it could not have been written without them.

Some parts of the letters were either faded or missing. I have indicated these parts with -----. The letters contained some references to certain individuals that was not very flattering. I have edited these names out. The letters were mostly very well written and I have used Vange's own words and spelling when reproducing the letters. When I was working from the book, I attempted to read a few sentences and then put the thoughts into my own words. Some of the time, however, I found myself using the words of the authors. It was so well written that I found that I could not improve upon it. Any time the writers of the mid 1800s used the term "ult" in connection with a date, they meant "of last month". Any time they use the term "inst", they meant "of this month". If they were writing in February and said "the 15th ult", they would mean January 15. If they said "the 15th inst", they would mean February 15th.

This is sort of a biography of Evangelist, but will be of interest to anyone who had an ancestor in the "96th".

As you will quickly determine as you read this work, I am not an experienced writer, but became so interested in the Civil War, and my Great Grandfathers part in it, that I decided to try and put this all together.

Russell D. Gillmore

CHAPTER 1

On April 4th of 1858, the Reverend James Kapple married Evangelist J. Gillmore and Elisabeth Rowling. We believe the wedding took place at the home of the bride's mother who lived at the corner of Rollins Road and what would later be called Highway 83 in Avon Township, Lake County, Illinois.

Evangelist J. Gillmore (Vange) was born on May 8, 1835 in Darien, Genesee County, New York, the first child of Benjamin Parker Gillmore and Mariam Saviah (Harper) Gillmore. He spent the first year of his life in Genesee County, but then his parents decided that it was time to move on west. Benjamin and his little family moved to the area of Girard, Erie County, Pennsylvania. This was on Lake Erie, just east of the Ohio state line. During the time they were in Pennsylvania, "Vange" would gain two sisters and a brother: Elizabeth Jane was born on May 14, 1837, Maria was born on July 19, 1839 and Myron was born on September 27, 1841. Benjamin was a farmer, but I am not sure if he owned a farm in Pennsylvania or not. In 1842 or 1843 the stories of land further west drew Benjamin and his growing family to Lake County, Illinois where there was still land available from the government. They settled on a 120 acre parcel in Avon Township. He built a log house and worked the 120 acres along with a 40 about a mile away. On the 17th of September 1844 their fifth child, a son, Dwight L. Gillmore was born in Avon Township. 1844 seemed to be the first time that the government sold land in Lake County, Illinois to the settlers. In 1846 Benjamin purchased the 160 acres of land, that he had worked and improved, for \$1.25 per acre. He must have paid \$200. for the 160 acres. In 1848 he purchased another 40 acres for the same price. Benjamin and Marian had two more children: George Albert on November 13, 1848 and Frank Benjamin on June 1, 1853.

Elisabeth Rowling (Lib) was born February 20, 1836 in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York, the daughter of Joseph Gill Rowling, Sr. and Delia Hannah (Caswell) Rowling. She was the second child of Joe and Delia, as a son, Joseph Gill Rowling, Jr. had been born on December 8, 1833. Joe Jr. and Elisabeth were followed by: Charles J. on January 18, 1838, Edwin C. on August 12, 1840, Mary on December 22, 1842 and John N. on May 21, 1845 (Mary died on September 26, 1844. All of these children were born in either Onondaga or Madison County, New York. Soon after John was born, the family moved to Solon Mills, McHenry County, Illinois and Joe, Sr. got a job working at a flouring mill at that place. On January 3, 1847, Joe, Sr. was killed in a river accident (or died because of it) at the mill. He was only 39 years old. This left Delia with five children and no husband. On October 20, 1847 Delia married her second husband, Emet Edwards, and on September 16, 1848 they had a daughter, Delia Amelia Edwards. Emet then died on November 13, 1850 in a threshing machine accident, and their second daughter, Luella Jane Edwards was born on May 27, 1851. We believe that Delia and all of her children were living on the Edwards family farm at the corner of Rollins Road and Highway 83 in Avon Township, Lake County, Illinois. It was here, we believe, that "Vange" and "Lib" were married on April 4, 1858.

Vange was the second of the Gillmore family to marry as his sister Elizabeth had married Boughton Ball in January of 1858.

Vange and Lib started their married life living on the 120 acre farm that his father had purchased from the government in 1846. Benjamin had purchased a farm on Rollins Road, on the south edge of Fourth Lake and he and the rest of his family had moved there. Vange

was a farmer, but also a teacher. It is said that he could see his home from the school. One day he looked out of the school house window and could see Indians at the door of his house. He went home immediately to check on his family, but found that the Indians wanted only food. There were roving bands of Indians around in those days. They were not hostile, just hungry.

On October 31, 1859, Vange and Lib had their first child, a son, Fred Rowling Gillmore. He was probably born on the 120 acre farm that belonged to his grandfather, as that is where we believe they lived at that time. On April 11, 1861, Vange purchased 80 acres in section 24 of Avon Township from John Gage and he and his little family moved there to live and to work that land. I believe that this land deal was what we would call a "Land Contract" today. On December 16, 1861, while they lived on the 80, they had their second child, also a son, Fremont. On May 7, 1862, however, Fremont died.

CHAPTER 2

The Civil War was now in progress and everywhere there was a call for volunteers for the Union Army. During July and August of 1862, there were many public meetings in Lake County with prominent citizens beseeching young men to enlist in what would become "The 96th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry." Each prominent citizen would come right to each individual prospect and talk to him, sometimes right out in the farmer's field. Patriotism was a very strong motivator, so after much soul searching, it was decided that Vange would enlist. He did enlist on August 9, 1862. There were no trained officers or non-coms to train them, so they would choose their own officers. He was promised that he would be First Sergeant of a Company. The pay would be a little better than a Private's pay, and he had a family to consider. His brother Myron also enlisted in the same company. It was late July and the crops were nearly ready for harvest. They were told, however, that they could have a few weeks before going to camp to complete their harvest and get their affairs in order. It must have been hard for them all to leave, not knowing if they would ever get back to their home and family again. Some would not get home. It must have been especially hard for Vange, as he had a young wife and a three year old son that really needed him. They also had just lost their son Fremont in May, and by the time that he was to leave for camp, they knew that Lib was to have another child the next April. Sacrifices had to be made by some, however, for the good of the country as a whole.

The 96th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry was composed of 4 companies from Lake County and 6 companies from Jo Daviess County. These were not adjoining counties in Illinois. They were in fact widely separated, one being in the north east corner of the state and one being in the north west corner. At that time however they were both in the same congressional district. Neither could get the full 10 companies required to form a regiment but neither could join with an adjoining county without conceding the major part of the Field & Staff assignments. Another thing that should be noted is the fact that E.B. Washburne, of Galena and H.W. Blodgett, of Waukegan were very close personal and political friends. Mr. Washburne was a Representative in Congress and Mr. Blodgett was a State Senator. This union of the two counties would prove very successful and the organization of the "96th" went very well. Someone was heard to remark that "it was a marriage of Miss Issippi and L. Michigan, Esq."

At the time of their enlistment, the Lake county men joined what was then called the "Haines Light Guards", but by the time they were mustered into Federal service, they were called the "96th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry."

The Federal Government gave a bounty of \$100. to each man that enlisted (payable \$25. at enlistment and the balance at the end of his enlistment). The various counties also paid from \$40. to \$60. bounty. This was some encouragement to the young family men to enlist as it would provide a fund of ready money for their family. I think, however, that it is fair to say that the recruitment drive would have been just as successful without the bounties, as the spirit of patriotism in the land was so great.

On Wednesday, September 3, 1862, the 6 companies from Jo Daviess County embarked by train for Rockford, Illinois. When they arrived, they were marched out of town about 1 1/2 miles to Camp Fuller, where new barracks had just been completed for them. On Friday, September 5, 1862, the 4 companies from Lake County left from Chicago, and also

arrived at Camp Fuller. Each county's contingent spent the next few days sizing each other up and found that each was pleased with what they saw in the other. It seems that there was an unusual proportion of very tall men in the "96th". They made an impressive sight when they were drawn up in line on the parade grounds.

Heavy rains had occurred the week before their arrival so the ground was very very muddy with a lot of standing water. One of the barracks was surrounded by standing water and the water even came into the barracks and covered the lower bunks. The officers soon acquired some Sibley tent from supply. This was a short term solution to the problem. The next day some trenches were dug and the water drained away, making the barracks livable again. Late in the day the whole Regiment was marched out to the parade grounds where, after an inspection, they were "mustered in" to the Union Army. During the inspection process, anyone that was not 18 years old was dismissed and allowed to go home. When they were sworn in, the men of the "96th" swore to serve their country for "three years, unless sooner discharged". It was an impressive spectacle, and one not soon forgotten by all who participated in it.

The following is an Sept. 6, 1862 letter written by Vange to Lib. This is the first of many such letters that I will be interspersing throughout this work.

'62

"Camp Fuller (Rockford) Sept. 6th"

"Dear Wife."

"I am well & am very anxious to hear from you.

"We left Waukegan yesterday morning at 7 O'clock and arrived in Chicago about 9 O'clock & were switched off on the N.W'n. R.R. & and arrived in Rockford about 2 O'clock & marched directly to this camp which is about 3/4 mi from town. The commanding officer here ordered the quartermaster of the 95 regiment to give us rations & showed us our barracks which are in the center of a low building (erected of rough boards & scantting) probably 25 rods long. It is made quite substantial & would be good enough to hold prisoners.

"Our bunks or berths are three deep on each side & each berth is capable of holding 2 persons.

"We were allowed to look about a few minutes & then I went with the Capt. to draw rations for the boys but all we could get was soft bread & Syrup, but the boys were glad to get even that as they had not had anything hardly to eat (except a few who bought it at the stations) since breakfast and as soon as we got it swallowed we were ordered out with the Jo Davies Co. boys to be mustered into the 96th Regt. so were marched out west about half a mile on a beautiful green & formed in a square inside a larger square formed by 3,000 other men who are also quartered here.

"For supper we had hard bread (crackers) only. Last night Capt. & Whitney went down town with the other officers of our regiment (except Trumbull who got left in Chicago) to elect the regimental officers so I was left in charge of the Co. so I detailed some men to guard our doors, & crawled in to my bunk and rolled myself in my shawl. Our straw is rather damp & some are rather hoarse this morning. This morning I drew the rations & we got some fresh beef crackers coffee & sugar. We are getting our plates knives forks cups fry pans & kettles so we will be well rigged by tomorrow.

"We are in a beautiful young grove but it has rained so much yesterday & last night it is quite muddy but I think will not last long as it is very sandy here.

Yours. as ever."

"Vange"

"Kiss Freddy for me & write often. I shall write again tomorrow or next day again. I must close for Whitney is waiting for the letter."

"V-----"

In the evening of the first day at camp the officers met to complete the organization of the regiment. It had been conceded from the first that Jo Daviess County would choose the Colonel and Major of the regiment from their ranks, and Lake County would choose the Lieutenant Colonel. Thomas E. Champion from Warren (Jo Daviess County) was made Colonel, John C. Smith from Galena, Jo Daviess County, Major and Isaac L. Clarke from Waukegan, Lake County, Lieutenant Colonel. The letters A, B, C, etc. were placed on separate slips of paper, and the Captain of each company drew one. Since Captain Hicks' Company had been in camp for several weeks, it was conceded to them that they would be Co. A. The rest drew their slips of paper, and Capt. David Sañisbury drew the letter B. His Company would thereafter be known as Co. B. True to their word at the time he was recruited, Vange was made First Sergeant. This made him the top ranking Non-Com in Co. B. From that time forward, whenever the Regiment was drawn up in a line of battle, the companies from left to right would be: B, G, K, E, H, C, I, D, F, A. Co. A was always on the right and Co. B was always on the left. The Lake Co. Companies were B, C, D, and G.

The first night in camp was a trying one. Each company was assigned a large room with about 50 double bunks. The line officers of each Co. had a small room attached to the larger room for sleeping and using as an office. The rough boards that formed the bunks, were covered only by a blanket with a little straw. The new soldiers found this arrangement to be not as comfortable as the mattresses and feather beds that they were used to at home. All through the night the boards creaked as the soldiers tossed and turned. With about 100 men in the room, there was an almost constant creaking all night. With the creaking of the bunks, men snoring, a very persistent rain all night and unaccustomed noises of the camp, it made for a very difficult first night.

Saturday, Sept. 6, found the new soldiers waking to a very very soggy, almost flooded camp. After reveille and roll call, and being provided with soap and towels, the men soon found their way to the river (Rock River) to wash their hands and faces. The bank of the river was soon lined with men taking care of their morning toilet. The morning was occupied in making tables and chairs for future meals, drawing stores from the Quarter-Master and acquiring eating utensils. About an hour and a half of the afternoon was spent in company drill. All but the officers were still in their civilian clothes.

Sunday, Sept. 7, and many of the men were permitted to go to Rockford to attend church services. In a few of the Company quarters sermons were given in the afternoon and prayer meetings were held in the evening. There was still the usual work that had to be performed. Rations had to be issued and wood provided. In the afternoon each Company was marched to Headquarters and each man was paid \$13. It had been agreed at enlistment that each man would be paid one month in advance.

Monday, Sept. 8, found the men in the usual camp routine and some were chosen from each Company to police the grounds. Company and Squad drills were also the order of the day. In the evening the officers attended a school so that they might "learn to be officers." Few of them had had any military experience.

Tuesday, Sept. 9, was taken up with guard duty and their first dress parade which was rather awkward, but quite creditable. 200 army blankets were also issued to those most needing them. There were many visitors in camp on Wednesday and a picnic was planned but it rained almost all day. A few of the visitors thought it would be nice to

spend the night in camp, but most went to a hotel in town for the second night. A nice soft bed was better than the soft side of a pine board. On Friday, and for several weekends thereafter, some of the officers and men were given a furlough and allowed to go home. Vange was not one of the lucky ones, however.

1862
"Camp Fuller Sept. 12th"

"Dear Wife & Child."

"I believe it was Saturday when I wrote you & this is the first time since then I find time to write a full letter. I commenced a letter two or three days ago but was interrupted so much I had to back out. I find I have bought the elephant, in taking this office but it will not be so hard after a little. We have drawn our pay for the month of Aug.. My pay was \$15.10. I did not draw any more than the privates till after I was appointed Orderly which was the 22nd ult.

"I sent you \$10. by Lient. Whitney and presume you have got it before now as I expect him back today. Myron sent \$10. to father and Carl sent \$10. to his wife all of which I expect Whitney left with you. The commissioned officers did not draw any pay so it comes pretty hard on them there being so much expense now on the start. I dreamed of seeing you & Fred. last night. & thought you said you had been well ever since I left. (& just as though it had been months) and also thought that you was quite fleshy. I have looked at your pictures every day since I got them. I staid at Grays the night after I left you & the next night with Dr. Wheeler. We have got some Camp kettles & mess pans; tin plates knives forks & cups for all. We have drawn some blankets but not enough for all. We have fresh beef & pork Soft bread & cracks every day just in proportions as we wish, & Sugar Syrup Beans Rice Coffee Tea Etc. every 3 ds. We draw no pepper so we pass the hat to get money for it.

"We hire C. Whitney & I. Barrus for cooks and detail 2 men every week to assist them. We each pay them 2 shillings per. mo. so they each are making about \$25. per. mo. I settled up with Kirk & mills but am owing Wm. Dodge \$4 or 5 yet. If I draw more soon I would like to have you pay up the small debts as soon as you can conveniently. My love to all."

"Yours Affectionately."

"Vange"

The reference above to "2 shillings" is equal to about 25 cents.

There was at this time some trouble in camp with "Sutlers." Sutlers were men who stayed near the camp with their wares and offered for sale such things as liquor, tobacco, etc. They were not connected with the military in any way, but traded for their own account (They served the same purpose as did the P.X. in later wars). The sutlers would give counterfeit money as change in their transactions or would issue checks which they later refused to honor. The soldiers became very angry and threats were made against the sutlers, and against their property. If not for the intervention of the officers, the sutler's tents would have gone up in smoke.

The 96th had now received their arms. They were issued Enfield rifled muskets, which were very good weapons for that time. Many regiments had to put up with old Austrian or Belgian muskets and the 96th was considered fortunate to get the new Enfields. Some of the guns needed to have their sights filed down and the locks adjusted. They were fortunate, however, to have a practical gunsmith in their ranks in the person of Sergeant George H. Burnett of Co. B. He was detailed to that work and in a few weeks had all the guns in very good condition.

On September 20th each member of the 96th received the following items of clothing from the Quarter-Master. Each soldier was issued: a dark blue dress coat, sky blue pants, woolen shirts and socks, cotton drawers and felt hats. Typical of any army, the clothing did not all fit very well, but with some swapping of garments and some adjustments by those in the command who were tailors, they were soon all reasonably clothed. On the 22nd, light blue overcoats were issued. On Tuesday, the 23rd the regiment was marched to Rockford to escort a number of visitors from Lake and Jo Daviess counties to the camp for a picnic. We thought that perhaps Elisabeth Gillmore was among the visitors, but probably not because of the following letter which was written on the 23rd.

"Camp Fuller Sept. 23d"

"Dear Wife"

"I have not recd. but two letters from you since I came here and this is my fifth letter I have written you.

"I feel somewhat discouraged about writing when I write more than two to your one. The Dr. though says you did not get the letter I sent by him for he forgot to carry it with him when he went to see you. He brought it back with him and gave it to me last night. We have got our guns & equipment and nearly all our clothes. I intend to get my picture taken soon.

"We expect our bounty or a part of it soon. I shall try to come home as soon as I possibly can unless you come here. Lient. Whitney said I might go home with him next Saturday if I wished & I shall if I can but I have my doubts about his being allowed to go.

"You had better come soon if you come at all for I think we shall be ordered to Minnesota before a great while. Jas. ---- got a pass to go down town yesterday & got drunk so he was put in the guard house for 24 hours. He is the only one of our Co. that has been put in yet. I guess I give as good satisfaction as the orderlys generally do but they have a hard time of it. I have had to throw the labor on the other sergeants during the past week on account of my having a bad cold. I have not got my coat from Waukegan yet.

"Our clothing is pretty good. We have hats instead of caps. The hats are high crown but when trimmed with the feather, eagle, letter (B) bugle & the 96 they look pretty well. We are allowed some brass plates for the shoulders to carry our guns on but they are so heavy we talk of signing a protest against them.

"Our overcoats & pants are of a sky blue, dress coats, dark blue. shirts gray (& short.) drawers white (cotton flannel) Our stockings are very good & are of a gray color.

Our Col. (Thos. E. Champion) thinks our Co. is about right & they do appear the best on the field of any in our regiment. I had a letter from mother last night. You must kiss Fred for me & talk with him about me or he may forget he has a pa.

"It seems as though I had been away a long time. Three of the boys wives from Wauconda are here now. They spend most of the day time here. Norman Pratt's wife is in the room here now. I shall write to Andrew & father soon."

"Yours Affectionately"

"E.J. Gillmore"

"Mrs Elisabeth Gillmore"

We know that Vange did not get home, and we are not sure if Elizabeth got to see him at Rockford or not. The "bounty" referred to was \$25. for each man, that the Federal Government paid. I believe Lake County also paid them \$40. each. The State of Illinois may have paid them something also. "Andrew" is Andrew McKinney, Vange's sister Maria's husband.

On the 26th they received their knapsacks and now had a place to keep the little personal things that they had brought from home. The 96th escorted the 74th Illinois to the railroad on the 28th. They were headed for Louisville and the war.

On the 29th the regiment received their haversacks and canteens which completed their outfits. There was also a large party of visitors in camp from Lake County. (These visitors may have included Elisabeth and Fred, as there were very few letters from Vange in October. My Aunt Lena (Gillmore) Edquist says that she remembers a story that her father (Fred) told about going with his mother to a place where they went into a big tent, and a man in uniform came and scooped him up in his arms and gave him a big hug. Fred would have only been about three years old at that time, and not expected to remember a lot about the trip. If they did come to see Vange that day, it was the last time they saw him).

September 30, being the last day of the month, the First Sergeants of each company were called upon to submit their monthly reports. This would be Vange's first monthly report. Some of the men had been granted furloughs each week, but on October 1, the Commander of the 96th received word that the command be made ready to move to the front. He sent word to the newspapers in Lake and Jo Daviess counties that all men on furlough report at once.

Early October was a busy time for the 96th. Preparations to move must be made. On October 7th the paymaster came and gave the soldiers \$25. of their Federal bonus, and they were told that they were going to Louisville, Kentucky. The following day, however, the destination was changed to Cincinnati, Ohio. There was a personal encounter in Rockford one evening between several men from the 96th and some members of the 92nd Illinois. This was renewed several times on later occasions when the two units met in Kentucky. Later, the differences were resolved and the two units became the best of friends.

CHAPTER 3

The time spent at Camp Fuller was remembered with good feelings and it was all the more difficult to leave because they knew that from then on, the war was to be fought in earnest.

This is the bottom third of a one page letter written by Vange to Lib, probably in October of 1862. On top is the bottom of the front page and on the bottom is the bottom of the back page.

"a verbal bargain. I have considerable confidence in you, & Edwin, who will study up some way to turn things without sacrificing much. I did not give you the names of the sick ones in quarters they are O. Whitcom A. Castle M. Cleveland Wm. Bottom & H Weatherly".

"to rain. We learn that the soldiers at Rockford were so disgusted with the Barracks that they have burned them all up. A detachment of 13 of our men are out to fort Mitchel 3 miles distant guarding the Fort."

"Adieu!"

"Your Vange"

This is the only letter (or part of a letter) that we find for the month of October 1862 (probably about October 11). Edwin was Elisabeth's brother, Edwin Rowling.

At about 9 A.M. on October 8, 1862, the 96th marched to the depot of the Chicago & North-Western Railroad in Rockford. A drenching rain was falling and their departure was delayed until about 11 o'clock. It required two trains to carry the 96th to their destination. They reached Chicago about 5 P.M. and were greeted by many friends of the 96th, who had been advised of their coming. The soldiers had a few hours in Chicago to buy whatever they needed to complete their outfit. The two trains were consolidated into one with three engines at the front. There were 18 coaches and 4 or 5 baggage cars for mess chests, officer's horses etc. It was a slow trip. Lafayette, Indiana was reached at about 8 the next morning, and Indianapolis at noon. At 11 P.M. on October 9, 1862, they got to Cincinnati. Few of the men had had any sleep since they left Rockford. They had to set side by side on the hard coach seats with no chance to lie down the previous night and if anyone tried to sleep, all sorts of pranks were perpetrated to keep them awake. Their arrival at Cincinnati was apparently unannounced as there was no one to meet them or tell them where to go. The whole unit disembarked from the train and many of them stretched themselves out on the sidewalk. After a delay they were marched to headquarters where the officers met with General Gordon Granger who was then in charge there. General Granger provided a guide for them and they soon found that the guide was the father of their own Major J.C. Smith. He was at that time a member of the Second Kentucky, and on duty with Granger. He stayed with the 96th for several hours.

They marched to the Ohio River which borders Cincinnati, and saw ahead of them a long pontoon bridge over the river. They were ordered to break step and proceed across. This was the first such structure that most of the 96th had seen and it was rather a frightening experience. The river was very wide and needless to say they were happy when they got across. The contrast was very easily seen because when they looked back over the river, Cincinnati was well lighted, but there was not a light to be seen in any of the Kentucky towns. They were now in Kentucky and although Kentucky was considered neutral, the 96th felt that they were now in Dixie, so even though it was very late and they were very tired, they made the night air ring with shouts for the Union and for the Stars and Stripes. They passed through Covington, crossed the Licking River, through Newport and about three miles further. Here they stopped in a field and made camp for the night. It was about 4 A.M. and the sun was about to rise on October 10, 1862. Adjutant Blodgett of the 96th, who had served about a year with the 37th Illinois, heard a remark from one of the tired soldiers and in response said, "Boys, you are just beginning to die for your country".

They were ordered to stack their arms and then broke ranks. Each of the tired soldiers found a piece of soft ground, and with only a light blanket over them and the stars above them, slept the sound sleep of the very tired. In 2 hours, however, the drums rolled and they were aroused for roll call. The cooks tried to scrub the dust of the road from the cooking utensils, found water at a well in a tavern yard, and managed to prepare a breakfast of coffee, hardtack and bacon. 6 man wedge tents were provided for the enlisted men and a few wall tents for the officers. The next problem was getting the tents up. Very few of the men had ever erected tents before. They began to laugh at each others attempts at "tent building," and soon the whole camp was rocked with laughter. The tents did get up, however, and although some were not quite proper, they served the purpose and it was a lesson well learned for the future as tent erection soon became a science, requiring only 10 minutes from the time they came off the

wagon at a new camp sight until they were all properly in place and occupied.

Vange and Myron Gillmore were now in Kentucky, but perhaps this is a good time to see what is happening back at home in Lake County. Their father, Benjamin Parker Gillmore, had been very ill, and on the morning of October 11, 1862, he died at his home in Avon Township of Typhoid Fever. His funeral was held and he was buried at Avon Centre Cemetery. It was probably many days before Vange and Myron received word of their fathers death as it would be very hard to get word to men out in the field in those days. The only ones of Benjamin's children that were at home in Lake county at the time of his death were probably George and Frank, although Dwight could have also been there. Elisabeth was proceeding with her pregnancy and Fred was growing and learning.

Back in Kentucky, the temporary camp was named "Camp Champion" after the commanding officer of the 96th who was earning the respect of his command. There were rebels still operating in this area, and there were many rifle pits with accompanying earth-works and forts. These were occupied by detachments from the 13th Regulars, which as it turned out, the 96th was to replace. The men of the 96th were very interested in the fortifications, and took every opportunity to examine them. The Rebels were making a desperate effort to push the Union troops back over the Ohio River, in fact on the very day that the 96th left Rockford, the battle of Perryville was fought. This was only about 100 miles from where they were. Rebel General Kirby Smith had but a short time ago made an advance to within a few miles of the present location of the 96th. A great deal of money had been expended on the fortifications in this area. Beechwood battery alone cost about \$200,000 (a considerable sum in those days).

As was stated earlier, the 96th had a large number of tall men. The next morning after their arrival, they assembled and picked out the tallest of the tall. These men then entered a local tavern, who's sleepy bartender was not even aware that a new unit had arrived. As they entered his establishment, some having to duck as they came through the door, the bartender looked up in astonishment and said with a tremble in his voice, "Where did you-uns all come from?" He was told that they were from northern Illinois. "Be the whole regiment as tall as you-uns?" He was told that this was just a fair sampling of the regiment, and that the troops from Wisconsin and Minnesota were even taller. It was also suggested that if he sympathized with the Confederacy, he might do well to inform Jeff Davis of what the rebels might expect when these regiments of giants got into the battle. It is said that he even forgot to collect for the drinks consumed.

During the day, the men that didn't have duty, visited the forts and batteries and walked among the vineyards which were plentiful in the area. They also visited the local cemetery and entertained themselves by reading the quaint inscriptions on the stones. Security around the camp was tightened as they were now close to the enemy. The 96th was now assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division, Army of Kentucky. Col. P.T. Swayne, of the 99th Ohio was placed in command of the Brigade. The other regiments in the brigade were the 92nd Illinois, the 115th Illinois and the 14th Kentucky.

On October 11, a large detail was sent to Cincinnati for mules and wagons. Most of the mules were only three years old and were not broken. They had never seen a harness or wagon or been very close to other mules. It was an exciting, and somewhat dangerous time, but by mixing in a few "experienced" mules in each team, the trip was made

and camp was reached by nightfall. Both the men and the mules were glad that trip was over. Several of the companies were sent to duty at various forts and installations in the area. 50 men from Co. B were sent to Fort Mitchell.

Typhoid fever was very prevalent at that time and during this time, several of the regiment died of this disease. The 96th would not lose any men in battle during their stay in Kentucky, but disease would take several members of the command.

About this time some of the troops that had been forced to retreat from Cumberland Gap arrived in the area and went into camp near the 96th. They were a tired, ragged and foot sore bunch of men as they had made a very long and rapid march.

A fine fat hog was discovered missing by a loyal farmer in the area. Some of the members of Co. C had decided that their menu needed a little change to vary the monotony of army chow. There was hog bristles and the odor of fresh pork in the company area. This put suspicion on the whole company. The hog was worth \$30., so the officers quietly paid the farmer. They learned a lesson from this incident however. Never try to burn or bury hog bristles, but rather leave them in the area of another company.

About October 18th a detail was sent out to cut wood. They came upon a roadside booth where they could buy beer and cider. Some of them did partake of the beverages. That night two of the men became very sick. Only the diligent work of the camp doctors saved their lives. It was discovered that these two were the only ones that had had the cider. It was assumed that it was a rebel that had opened the stand and poisoned the cider. A scouting party was sent out but the man was nowhere to be found. He never was found. He probably headed south as soon as the deed was done.

On October 20th Companies A, E, F, G, and H were ordered to guard a wagon train of over 100 wagons. The wagons were taking food and supplies to the troops in the area of Falmouth, Kentucky. On October 22nd Companies B, C, D, I and K were ordered to headquarters in Covington and were assigned to barracks which had just been vacated by the 33rd Indiana. Here they stayed until the 29th. During their stay at Covington Barracks they were visited by Mr. Jesse Grant of Cincinnati and young Fred Grant of Galena. They were the father and son of General U.S. Grant. Fred was in Cincinnati visiting his grandfather. They knew several members of the Jo Daviess contingent of the regiment. Fred came along the first time. He rode up to the grounds on his pony. He was asked by the guard for his pass. He said he had none. The Sergeant of the guard was called. He happened to be Sergeant Thomas J. Smith, of Galena. He recognized the boy and said "Why that's General Grant's son, and he needs no pass. Let him in." He was a very quiet and modest boy, but somewhat of a hero to the soldiers because of his famous father.

At 8 A.M. on October 20th, when Companies A, E, F, G, and H set out for Falmouth with the wagons under Lt. Col. Clarke, they had three days rations, 40 round of ammunition, a heavy musket and all of their gear. This was the first time that they had to make such a long march with full equipment. They traveled over the Alexandria Turnpike and went about 11 miles the first day. The road was "macadamized" so it was excellent as far as the wagons were concerned. It was hard on the feet of the men however, so by the time they made camp that night there were many sore and lame soldiers. They camped that night at the fair grounds at Alexandria. The next day a march of about 15 miles was made. There were a few empty wagons in the column so the knapsacks of the soldiers were loaded. This, along with the fact that

part of the road was dirt and not macadam, made for an easier march. The next day the terrain became very hilly and the men had to "chain" the wheels of the wagons to keep the wagons from getting away from them when there was a long down hill stretch. During the next few days they passed through Falmouth, Cynthiana, Paris (where there was a strong Union sentiment) and then Lexington. Here the five companies stayed to await the other five companies of the regiment.

You will recall that we left companies B, C, D, I and K, under Col. Champion, in very comfortable quarters at Covington. This included Vange and Myron. On October 29, 1862, at a little before nine A.M. they started for Lexington to join the rest of the command. The change of diet and mode of life had taken its toll on the men and 5 or 6 from each company were left behind in local hospitals. At about 3:30 P.M. they arrived at the Fair Grounds near Florence where they stopped for the night. On October 30, they started about 7 A.M. and marched through Walton and stopped near Crittenden at a little past 5:00 P.M., having come about 16 miles. The days march was through fine country with many fine plantations along the way. Many of the people along the way came out waving Old Glory and cheering. At other places they stood sullenly and silently without being able to voice their true feelings. At these latter places, it was interesting to watch the negroes. They would stay behind buildings so that their masters could not see them, and wave their hats, dance and otherwise show their joy without making a sound. This days march was quite severe and there were many sore feet in camp that night.

October 31, saw them on the road at 8:00 A.M. They passed through Crittenden then Dry Ridge and camped at Williamsburg, making about 12 miles. The further south they got the more it became apparent that there were 5 or 6 women to each man at the various homes along the way. The south was short of manpower and it was starting to show. Just as it was getting dark, two "Bushwhackers" were captured and sent under guard to the Provost Marshall at Williamsburg. These two were probably confederate soldiers under Morgan's command. The regular army food was giving out, but by the next morning there appeared a good supply of "fresh" meat, and a few "Secesh" rail fences were burned to cook it with.

On November 1, they were on the road at 7:00 A.M., traveled 17 miles and camped near Jones' Tavern. That evening two deserters from the rebel army came in to camp and asked to enlist in the Union Army. They were allowed to join but many in the command felt it was a mistake. Later events proved, however, that it was a correct decision, as they fought well for the Union cause.

The next morning they started at 7 A.M. and marched as far as Eagle Creek (6 miles). They left Covington with only 5 days supply of food, and their regular army rations were about exhausted. The Quarter-Master, however, purchased beef, wheat and corn in the area, and a mill in the area was set in motion by some of the men. By evening 400 pounds of flour and 400 pounds of corn meal had been ground out and distributed among the men. The steam whistle at the mill was sounded repeatedly and soon a group of negroes were around watching the proceedings. The army at that time was under strict orders to return negro slaves to their owners when asked for them. If they did not return them they could find themselves in litigation over the situation. Nearly all of the officers of the 96th were very much against slavery, and any negro that sought protection from the 96th, got it. Col. Champion was a lawyer and always handled the matter in such a manner that no litigation was ever brought against any man in the command. Whenever the command went into camp, a camp guard was

set up. This was as much to keep citizens out as to keep the soldiers in. Many times citizens would demand to see the Colonel, but if it was suspected that they were negro hunting, they were turned away. A few negroes followed the command from Eagle Creek, most being employed as cooks for the officers.

On November 2nd, it was learned that the plantation of a Confederate Major was near by. That evening, Lt. Montgomery of Co. D along with 40 men decided to make a foraging expedition on the plantation. Most of the soldiers deployed about the buildings while the Lieutenant and several men with muskets knocked on the front door. Some ladies came to the door and said that there were no men in the house. About that time, however, a man appeared at the head of the stairs asking what was the matter. The Lieutenant asked him to come to the door, which he did after some time. He was told that they were camped at Eagle Creek and in need of a few bushels of potatoes. If he was loyal to the Union cause, he would be paid for whatever was taken. He pretended that there were no potatoes on the place. A negro that came with them knew that there were several "pits" of potatoes buried around the buildings. The Lieutenant asked the man to remove his hat, raise his right hand and repeat the oath of allegiance, which he did. The oath was given very slowly and deliberately and included several passages from the Declaration of Independence, Webster's orations and any other prose that the Lieutenant could call to mind. This was to give the boys time to do their work. Soon a terrible racket came from the chicken coop. The man asked that they not be allowed to take the chickens. The Lieutenant left the man under guard and went to the coop, and in a loud voice told the men to stop and stated that they had come for potatoes and not poultry. At the same time he grabbed a sack and in a low voice told the men to hand him chickens and turkeys which he crammed into the sack. He left the sack with his men and went back and told the citizens that they had better stay in the house that night. The man was told that having taken the oath of allegiance, if he would come to the camp the next morning with several other citizens that could testify to his loyalty, he could get his pay for the potatoes. He did not come for his pay and it was learned later that they were notorious secessionists. After visiting the potato field, the men returned to camp. A soldier in Co. C claimed that that company gained 30 chickens, 10 turkeys, a lot of ducks, 4 bushels of potatoes, a churn full of syrup and 20 quarts of honey. As the other 4 companies had as many men in the foraging group as did Co. C, it can be assumed that they all did as well.

The negro that was the pilot on the evening mentioned above was James Joyce. He stayed with the regiment until Nashville, then went back to Lake Co. with Lt. Partridge and stayed until he died in 1875.

On November 3, they were up early, fired off their guns by volley and marched 14 miles, camping on Elkhorn Creek about 2:00 P.M. They had come through the beautiful Blue Grass region that day. Several negroes had been following the group, and at Georgetown several citizens tried to stop them, but failed.

November 4th saw them on the road by 6:00 A.M. and they covered the 10 miles to Lexington by 11:00 A.M. The other five companies came out to meet Col. Champion's command and escorted it in to camp. The regiment was once again together as a unit. For many days thereafter they compared experiences that they had had during the two weeks they were apart. There had been considerable irregularity with the mail up to that time, but here at Lexington the accumulated letters were received and distributed, to the satisfaction of all concerned. The regiment would stay here until November 13.

There were no letters from Vange to Lib between October 11 and November 5. This is part of a letter written by Vange to Lib.

"Nov. 5th"

"Does Lib look as she used to. & what do you think of her Capitola. I think you beat me on dreams for you are one ahead of me now. Don't you wish the last one would come to pass? We had a little rain last night and a cold one it was too.

We suffer considerable from cold & I hope we will be moved into some good barracks whe we can have stove though we intend to fix an arrangement for warming us in the tents. Wm. -----'s wife asks him why he don't get sick & come home and have a good time like H. -----
" Pretty Good.

"I here that J. ---- is married: is it so? I fear we shall have some trouble about father's estate & ---- writes me that ma think I am perfection and thinks that she will try to have the boys take more than the girls but that can't be so. I will have my part if I can get it but will not take more than mine.

I commenced this yesterday morning but have to end it this morning (thursday) because we had so much to do & so few to do it. The Boys have been speculating considerable lately as to who would be Capt. & 1st Lie'nt, for they think those two we now have will never be able to stand the hardships we are enduring. I feel confident if anyone is promoted I will stand a good chance even for the Captaincy but I wish to be nothing higher than a lieutenant. There is too much responsibility resting on a Capt. to suit me. We are getting potatoes again but have to pay 30 cts per bu. Well I have written over considerable paper & I guess you will be glad when you have got it read for it will be a task. Give my respects to all our folks & friends. I intend to write some more letters today if I can find time."

"Yours as ever"

"Evangelist"

The first sentence is confusing until you realize that the "Lib" he speaks of is his sister Elizabeth Ball, who was visiting Lake County with her daughter "Capitola", who was about 3 1/2 years old. Their home was in Oskaloosa, Kansas.

pate in the battle of Nashville; at m. o. of Regiment was transferred to the 21st Illinois; accompanied that command to Texas, and was finally m. o. at Springfield, Ill., in October, 1865. Is a carpenter and builder at Waukegan, Ill.

Erastus T. Cleveland.—Age 18; born in Columbia County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was nearly always with Regiment; was wounded in left ankle at Rocky Face Ridge, and at Kenesaw Mountain was wounded in left hand, causing amputation of one finger; m. o. with Regiment. Is running a hotel and livery at Sutherland, O'Brien County, Iowa.

John H. Cruver.—Age 19; born in Chicago, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863, in the right elbow; an operation was performed on his arm at Chattanooga in September, 1863, and another at the Marine Hospital, Chicago, in 1864; and another in 1866; after being discharged, the entire elbow joint was taken out and five inches of the bone from the elbow up; the arm is now stiff; was compelled to carry his arm in a sling for nearly three years; was discharged from Hospital at Camp Butler, Springfield, Ill., in September, 1863. Was Bailiff in the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1866 and 1867, and a letter carrier in Chicago for some years; is now a manufacturer of knit goods at 27 West Lake Street, Chicago, Ill.

Peter Cosman.—Age 23; born in Prussia; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was for some time detailed with the First Kentucky Artillery; m. o. with Regiment. Is farming at Muscatine, Iowa.

William Curi.—Age 42; born in England; farmer; enlisted from Avon; fractured a leg while loading the boat at Louisville, and was permanently disabled; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, Nov. 27, 1863. Resides at Sandago, Stafford County, Kan.

Alfred Collins.—Age 18; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; died at Danville, Ky., Jan. 28, 1863.

Lafayette Collins.—Age 28; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; deserted Feb. 1, 1863.

George J. Cooper.—Age 18; born in Illinois; farmer; enlisted from Avon; died in hospital at Louisville, Ky., Nov. 18, 1863.

Alfred S. Castle.—Age 21; born in Michigan; farmer; enlisted from Ella; detailed in Pioneer Corps, April 7, 1863, and transferred to First U. S. Veteran Engineers, July 27, 1864. Is Chief Engineer of the Fire Department at Redding, Shasta County, Cal. Was injured in the back while at work on the railroad bridge at Franklin, Tenn., from the effects of which he is still lame.

William S. Clark.—Age 20; born in Greene, Chenango County, N. Y.; clerk; enlisted from Wauconda as musician, and served as drummer; discharged for disability at Danville, Ky., Jan. 21, 1863. Is a teacher of penmanship and business forms, and resides at Barrington, Ill.

John Cashman.—Age 30; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was wounded in the foot at Chickamauga, and disabled for active service; m. o. July 11, 1863.

Elijah C. Carpenter.—Age 23; born in Morristown, N. Y.; blacksmith; enlisted from Avon; was sick most of the time during the first year; returned to his home in Lake County, Ill., on furlough, and it was thought would never be able to join his Company; but, partly recovering his health, he joined the Regiment in time to take part in the battle of Lookout Mountain and the engagements of the Atlanta campaign; while watching a game of checkers a ball struck a pole in the shade above, and glancing, it struck him in the side, knocking him down, and putting an end to the game; was in the battle of Nashville, and after his return to the Company was always one of Company B's best men; m. o. with the Regiment. Is a good citizen and a successful blacksmith at McHenry, Ill.

John H. Crosby.—Age 20; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant). On entering camp was taken sick with measles and sent to hospital, where he remained five months; was discharged April 3, 1863. Enlisted in 140th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Sept. 3, 1864; was chosen Sergeant; promoted to Second Lieutenant, Sept. 29, 1864, and m. o. July 8, 1865. Died at Waeeler's Ranch, Sac County, Iowa, Oct. 30, 1873.

Henry Dombaki.—Age 30; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Avon. Participated with the Regiment in the battles of Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain, and in the latter battle was slightly wounded in the right cheek. Was with the Regimental Pioneers from March, 1864, until the close of the war, but always at the front. Had a remarkable career, in that he was never disabled or sick to an extent that unfitted him for active duty. Mustered out with Regiment. Is a prosperous farmer at Hainesville, Lake County, Ill.

William S. Dunbar.—Age 36; born in Ohio; farmer; enlisted from the town of Goodale (now Grant). Having been a teamster on the plains before the war, he was of special service in lassoing and hitching up the mules, as described on page 47 of this work, and was detailed in the wagon train as teamster much of the time during his term of service; m. o. with Regiment. Was last heard from at Faribault, Minn.

Carlisle Druze.—Age 23; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from the township of Warren. While on the skirmish line confronting Pine Mountain, Ga., June 13, 1864, and under the fire of the enemy, a heavy pine tree became uprooted and fell partially upon him, causing his instant death.

Emery Dart.—Age 34; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda. Missing at battle of Chickamauga, and undoubtedly killed outright, as he was in the thickest of the fight, and was not seen after a brief retrograde movement of the Regiment at a time when many fell.

disposition; never absent from Regiment, except for a few months when detailed to guard and drive cattle; was m. o. with Regiment. Though 67 years of age, is one of the "boys" of Wauconda, Ill.

Nelson Huson.—Age 19; born in Yates County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; detailed as Drummer, remained with Company two years and four months, when he was taken sick and sent to hospital, and died at Columbia, Tenn., Jan. 4, 1865.

George E. Hendee.—Age 21; born in Alleghany County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Rocky Face Ridge, and at the former engagement was struck by a bullet, but not seriously hurt; was detailed in a hospital at Nashville, Tenn., in May, 1864, and at the close of the war was Assistant Steward; discharged at Nashville, June 4, 1865. Is farming and keeping a summer resort at Round Lake, Lake County, Illinois. Postoffice address, Hainesville, Ill.

Herman Hougstrat.—Age 18; born in Germany; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant); was never excused from duty; was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and the engagements of the Atlanta Campaign until Resaca was reached, when he was killed in action, May 14, 1864.

Hiram Hollister.—Age 30; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; died of disease at Lexington, Ky., Nov. 25, 1862,—the first man to die from the Company.

Herman W. Hall.—Age 18; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 10, 1864, joining the Regiment in time to participate in the battle of Nashville; at m. o. of Regiment was transferred to Company G, 21st Illinois; finally m. o. at Victoria, Tex., Oct. 10, 1865. Was Postmaster at Arlington, Wis., from 1872 to 1876. Is now a builder and resides at Fox Lake, Ill.

Alonzo Harris.—Age 18; born in Massachusetts; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was in hospital at m. o. of Regiment; discharged near the close of the war. Resides at Palatine, Ill.

Oliver C. Kingsland.—Age 65; born in Lishon, St. Lawrence County, N. Y.; ship blacksmith; enlisted from Wauconda; was in the battle of Chickamauga, where he had his haversack and rubber blanket pierced by bullets, was detailed in the Quarter Master's Department as Regimental Wagonmaker by Lieut. Col. Smith; m. o. with Regiment. Is running a repair shop at Camp Douglas, Wis.

William Kimball.—Age 17; born in Elgin, Ill.; tinner; enlisted from Wauconda; was a good soldier, and never absent from the Regiment during its first year's service; was killed at Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863.

James H. Litwiler.—Age 20; born in Pennsylvania; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Rocky Face Ridge, and was killed at Resaca, Ga., May 14, 1864.

Ami Lovejoy.—Age 23; born in Cleveland, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 10, 1864, and joined the Company in time to participate in the battle of Nashville; at the m. o. of the Regiment was transferred to the 21st Illinois, and went with that command to Texas; was finally m. o. Oct. 10, 1865. Is a novelty salesman at West Union, Iowa. Was a brother of John Lovejoy, of the same Company.

William J. Lindsay.—Age 29; born in Pennsylvania; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 10, 1864, and was in the battle of Nashville; at m. o. of the Regiment was transferred to the 21st Illinois, and sent to Texas; m. o. Oct. 10, 1865.

Henry Montgomery.—Age 18; born in Cleveland, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; at the battle of Resaca, May 14, 1864, had a ball pass through his coat, and at Atlanta was struck by a spent ball; served with credit as Division Teamster or in ranks during the three-years service; m. o. with Regiment. Is a police officer at Austin, Tex.

John T. Morrill.—Age 23; born in Vermont; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; was with the Regiment, except for a few days, until Brentwood was reached, when, being prostrated by rheumatism and so disabled as to render him unfit for field duty, he was detailed as Assistant Engineer at No. 2 Hospital on College Hill, Nashville; was subsequently transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, and finally discharged for disability May 23, 1864. Is a painter at Hainesville, Ill.

James H. McMillen.—Age 23; born in Jefferson County, New York; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; was detailed on gunboat "Newsboy," on the Cumberland River, and served there until the close of the war; m. o. at Nashville, Tenn., June 24, 1863. Is farming near Hainesville, Ill.

Malcolm McMillen.—Age 21; born in Jefferson County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; participated in numerous engagements and had bullets pass through his clothing, but escaped wounds; was detailed with supply train for a time; m. o. with Regiment. Is pursuing the occupation of a stone mason at Kill Creek, Kan.

Cornelius McCusker.—Age 23; born in New York City; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and in the engagements of the Atlanta Campaign, and at Franklin and Nashville; had a ball through hat, and had his cap shot off from a canteen string at Lookout Mountain; m. o. with Regiment. Is a policeman at Oshkosh, Wis.

James E. Millard.—Age 22; born in Bewington, Vt.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; absent, sick, at m. o. of Regiment. Resides in Chicago, Ill.

James Marble.—Age 26; born in Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant); m. o. with Regiment.

William Monahan.—Age 29; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was 6 feet 4½ inches in height and of powerful

franco; was an excellent soldier, and almost constantly with the command; m. o. with the Regiment. Died at his home in Lake County, Ill., a few years since, from consumption.

William Marble.—Age 27; born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio; blacksmith; enlisted from Wauconda; had his head beat shot off at Chickamauga, and, though troubled much with chronic rheumatism, remained with his command most of the time, and was m. o. with Regiment. Has worked at his trade most of the time since the war, and is comfortably located at Wauconda, Ill.

John T. Mitchell.—Age 16; born in Illinois; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 19, 1864; joining the Company in time to participate in the battle of Nashville, Dec. 15 and 16; at m. o. of Regiment was transferred to Company G, 21st Illinois; went with that command to Texas, and was finally m. o. at Victoria, Tex., Oct. 10, 1865. Is farming at Gay, Iowa, Kansas.

Stanislaw Mattax.—Age 33; born in Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant), Oct. 19, 1864; came to camp in December, 1864; was in battle of Nashville, Tenn.; at m. o. of Regiment was transferred to the 21st Illinois, and sent to Texas; was m. o. Oct. 19, 1864. Is at Hotchkiss, Delta County, Col.

Edwin Potter.—Age 17; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was absent from the Regiment because of sickness more or less in the first year and a half of its service, but, returning, participated in all of its engagements following Resaca, and was frequently commended for his courage; m. o. with the Regiment. Is farming at Gurnee, Lake County, Illinois.

John J. Price.—Age 20; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; was taken ill early in his term of service, and removed to hospital at Quincy, Ill., where he died April 11, 1863. He had two brothers in the service, in Company I, 15th Illinois.

Thomas Potter.—Age 24; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was always on hand and ready for duty during the first year's service, and was killed at Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863.

Norman O. Pratt.—Age 21; born in Stamford, Va.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was detailed, and in November, 1864, was transferred to the Signal Corps; was captured near Kingston, Ga., in 1864, and for a long time a prisoner of war. Returned home broken in health, and died at his home in Wauconda, Ill., May 19, 1883.

George Rik.—Age 18; born in England; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant). Died in field hospital at Danville, Ky., January 24, 1863.

Esau Rich.—Age 22; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was killed at the battle of Lookout Mountain, Nov. 24, 1863.

William F. Skinner.—Age 23; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; deserted Jan. 29, 1863.

Walker E. Stone.—Age 20; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 19, 1864, joining the Company in time to participate in the battle of Nashville; was transferred to Company G, 21st Illinois, June 9, 1865, and finally m. o. at Victoria, Tex., Oct. 10, 1865.

George W. Turner.—Age 26; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; failing to obtain a furlough to go home on business that seemed imperative, he absented himself without leave, in February, 1865, but returned voluntarily in about one month; he was sentenced to make up his lost time, and thus came within the order requiring those whose terms of service did not expire until after October 1, 1865, to be transferred; he was therefore assigned to Company G, 21st Illinois, and went with them to Texas, being finally m. o. at Victoria, Oct. 10, 1865. Resides in the Goswewonawo district of the Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory. Postoffice address, Coffeyville, Kansas.

William Wallace Tower.—Age 19; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from the township of Goodale (now Grant); at Chickamauga he received a severe flesh wound in the right leg below the knee, which disabled him for nearly eight months, a part of which time was spent on furlough with his friends in Lake County; returning to the command in the summer of 1864, he participated in several of the engagements of that memorable battle summer, and always with commendable bravery; in the demonstration on the enemy's lines in front of Atlanta, Aug. 19, he was mortally wounded, being shot in the neck, while close to the Rebel skirmish pits. Two of his comrades, John and Charles McCusker, lying close to the ground, drew him back, a foot or two at a time, to a place of safety, whence he was carried to a field hospital; when the army swung around Atlanta he was placed in an ambulance, the location being to take him to Marietta, but he was too low to endure the trip, and died on the way, August 25, 1864.

Valentine Travis.—Age 20; born in Harrisburg, Pa.; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; at the battle of Lookout Mountain was slightly wounded in the foot and leg, and was also struck in the arm by a spent ball; was almost constantly with the Regiment, and conspicuous for his bravery; m. o. with Regiment. Is farming in Fremont, Lake County, Ill.

John Washburn.—Age 19; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was killed in the charge on the Rebel works at the battle of Nashville, Dec. 15, 1863.

Oscar E. Whitecomb.—Age 27; born in Massachusetts; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda, as Wagoner, and served in that capacity continuously until the close of the war. Is now a commission merchant in Chicago, being a member of the firm of Bond & Whitecomb, doing business at No. 131 South Water Street.

Nile Wykoop.—Age 19; born in Wankegan, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was with the Regiment at Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, in nearly or quite all the battles of the Atlanta Campaign, and at Nashville; m. o. with the Regiment; was one of Company B's best soldiers, and is one of Wauconda's best citizens.

Thomas E. Wells.—Age 23; born in Kingsbury, N. Y.; blacksmith; enlisted from Wauconda; was taken sick while the Regiment was at Franklin, Tenn., in June, 1863; sent to hospital at Nashville, Tenn.; transferred to V. R. C.; subsequently doing guard duty at Louisville, Ky., Camp Denison, Ohio, and Camp Chase, Ohio, until May, 1864, when sent to Washington, D. C., doing guard duty at the War Department until discharged; promoted to Corporal in 1864; mustered out June 29, 1865. Has been a machinist, and is a partner in the Iron and Brass Works at Sandy Hill, N. Y.

Volney Washburn.—Age 19; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 10, 1864; joined the Regiment in time to take part in the battle of Nashville, Dec. 15 and 16, 1864; at m. o. of Regiment was transferred to Company G, 2d Ill. Inf., accompanying that command to Texas, and being finally m. o. at Springfield, Ill., in October, 1865. Is a miner at West Union, Iowa.

Hiram Weatherly.—Age 24; born in Genesee County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; promoted to Principal Musician, July 1, 1863; discharged for disability, Feb. 6, 1865.

David Wells.—Age 24; born in Cass County, Mo.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was in every engagement until Kencaw Mountain was reached, June 20, 1864, when he was wounded in the left hand and arm, causing the loss of a finger and the disabling of the hand to quite an extent; at the battle of Lookout Mountain a bullet passed through his hat, and others through his clothing; discharged for wounds at Mound City, Ill., Oct. 20, 1864. Is keeping a hotel at Burlington, Coffey County, Kansas.

George W. Winfield.—Age 23; born in Mansfield, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was at Chickamauga, Buzzard Roost, and other engagements, and at the battle of Nashville had bullets pass through his coat and his cap box; was in hospital five months in 1864; m. o. with Regiment. Is a teamster in Chicago, Ill.

Thomas Winfield.—Age 19; born in Mansfield, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; discharged for disability, Sept. 2, 1863, afterward enlisting in some other command. Resides at Mansfield, Ohio.

James Young.—Age 49; born in Scotland; farmer; enlisted from Avon; contracted lung disease and was discharged for disability, June 16, 1863. Died in the township of Warren, March 15, 1885.

CHAPTER XLIII.

COMPANY G.

BY CHARLES A. PARTRIDGE.

The Fourth Company.—Can Lake County Fill It?—The Affirmative Answer—Officers Chosen—Temporary Rendezvous at Wankegan—Sword Presentations—Off for Rockford—Chosen as Color Company—A Promise to be Prompt—Sent to Fort Shaler—Recruits from Rebeldom—Quartered in a Church—School-day Experiences Received—Terrible Losses at Chickamauga—Almost Blotted Out—Subsequent Casualties—Some Statistics.

When enlistments were resumed during the summer of 1862, it was expected that perhaps two full companies could be recruited in Lake County. Few were so sanguine as to expect more. But by the 7th or 8th of August there were enough for the two companies, and strong hopes that the third could be raised. On the 11th the third, being nearly full, was organized, and there were some muster rolls still out to which a few names had been signed. John K. Pollock, Esq., a prominent farmer living near Millburn, in the township of Antioch, was securing quite a list. William M. Loughlin, of Lako Forest, and Harrison Huntington, of Ela, immediately began active work. A roll in Wankegan was also circulated. Leading men in the county asked each other the question as to whether these several squads of men might not be got together and a start made toward a fourth company. Very few believed that the company could be filled, even to the minimum number, but all agreed that an effort should be made looking to this result. By the 15th it was apparent that one company, to the command of which Isaac L. Clarke had been chosen, would have more than the maximum number, and he consented to the withdrawal of any squad of men who were willing to go into the new company. After

The following article was found on microfilm at the Waukegan Public Library, in the Saturday, July 2, 1864 issue of the "Waukegan Weekly Gazette".

* * * * *

CASUALTIES OF THE 96th ILLINOIS REGIMENT

Again we are called upon to chronicle a long list of casualties in the Lake County companies of the gallant 96th Illinois Regiment which occurred on the 20th of June, when General Sherman carried the enemy's works in front of Kenesaw Mountain. From Myron Gillmore, of Co. B, who arrived here on Thursday of this week conveying home the body of his brother, Capt. E.J. Gillmore, we learn the following particulars of the affair and the casualties to the Lake County companies so far as he was acquainted with them.

On the evening of the 20th a charge was made on the enemy's works in front. The 96th gained a position, and held it, though three times desperately charged upon during the night, but at large sacrifice. Mr. Gillmore reports the following casualties.

Col. Champion, wounded under left eye, but not severely.

Lt. Col. Smith, wounded severely in left shoulder.

Capt. E.J. Gillmore, Co. B, mortally wounded and died on the evening of the 23rd.

Capt. James, Co. G, wounded in left shoulder, severely.

Sergt. W. Whitmore, Co. B, killed instantly - shot through pit of the stomach.

Erastus Cleveland (son of J.M. Cleveland) Co. B, wounded in hand.

David Wells, Co. B, wounded twice in hand and arm.

Oskine Ferrand, Co. B, wounded in hand.

Dennis Shupe and James L. Knox, Co. G, killed

Christopher Boettcher, Co. G, mortally wounded.

Orderly Sergt. Saml. B. Payne, Co. C, seriously wounded (our informant saw him in the train the 25th, going to Chattanooga.

Corp. Henry Barnum, Co. C, shot through face, ball passed through both cheeks knocking teeth out on one side.

Corp. Walter Drew, Co. G, lost an arm.

Louis Brochin, recently enrolled in Co. D, killed.

Sergt. Michael Devlin, Co. D, taken prisoner.

Mr Gillmore states that the losses in the other companies are not so large as in the Lake County companies. He believes that he gives the full extent of casualties to our noble boys, and we sincerely trust that he has. We learn from him that Surgeon Evans has written us the full details of all those in the Regiment, which should have reached us ere this, but has failed to do so.

P.S. Through a letter received by Robert Douglass, of this city, from his son, we have the following additional:

Philip R. Clauson, Co. D, killed.

Charles Spaulding, Co. D, wounded through leg, above knee.

Dominick Burke, Co. D, wounded in face by a spent ball.

(The four Lake County companies were B, C, D and G. Jo Daviess County had the other six companies in the 96th Regiment).

EPILOGUE

I will not write further about the war, as any good history book will furnish particulars of the rest of the Atlanta Campaign. I would recommend the book, "The History of the 96th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry" as an excellent source of information about any individuals from Lake or Jo Daviess Counties, Illinois who may have been in that Regiment. As I have stated in my introduction, I have used that work and the letters of Vange Gillmore to provide information for this work.

Please permit me to share some thoughts at this time. Evangelist J. Gillmore was my great grandfather, and Elisabeth (Rowling) Gillmore was my great grandmother. It was exactly 126 years after Vange was mortally wounded that I was describing the Battle of Kenesaw Mountain (June 20, 1990.) Elisabeth would marry a second time on January 10, 1867, but this marriage ended in divorce about two years later. She then took the Gillmore name back again. She would buy a farm in Avon Township and raise Fred and Nellie with the help of her brothers and Vange's brother George. Fred married Anna Gullidge on December 1, 1881 and they raised 10 children and lost 2 more in infancy. Nellie married Eugene Hawkins on March 19, 1882 and they had a large family. On August 15, 1882, Elisabeth died at her home in Avon Township, Lake County, Ill., at the age of 46. In less than four weeks she would have had her first grandchild. She must have loved her first love, Vange, a great deal. She also must have had a very hard life after Vange was gone.

Russell D. Gillmore

Letter from Surgeon Evans of the 90th Illinois Regiment.

New Market, State Hospital,
June 22, 1864.

Friend Cox — I enclose I send you a list of casualties of our Lake county boys in the late fight, which was a pretty severe one for our regiment, wounding per Out, and Lieut Col severely. Capt James is severely wounded in the shoulder, recovery doubtful. Capt. O. Moore will not live till evening. He braved the going home with his body. Our wounded men do not recover from their wounds as well as they did after the Chickamauga fight. The long marches they have made during the campaign tell upon them, and that all of our severely wounded cases prove fatal. — They show really — and comparative power — that they fight like devils. We are driving the enemy slowly before us every day, and I think we will spend the 4th of July in Atlanta. We have to fight hard for every inch of ground we take now days, and some times we pay pretty dearly for it. The way our regiment got so badly used, the enemy made four charges within five hours to retake some breastworks we had driven them from, and were repulsed every time.

Our wounded are all sent back to day to Chattanooga. Yours,
H. EVANS.

List of casualties to the staff officers, and members of the Lake county companies, in the 90th Illinois volunteer regiment, during the engagements of the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of June 1864:

- C. H. CHAMBERLAIN, wounded in left eye severely.
- L. C. C. SMITH, wounded in left shoulder, severely.

COMPANY A.

- Capt. EVANGELIST J. GILMORE, wounded in head and thigh, mortally. [since died.]
 - Sergt. William Whitmore, killed.
 - Privt. Oscar Ferrand, wounded in left hand.
 - Privt. Erastus T. Cleveland, wounded in head.
 - Privt. David Wells, wounded in hand.
- COMPANY C.
- Privt. Samuel D. Payne, mortally wounded in chest.
 - Corp. Henry C. Barnum, wounded severely in face.
 - Privt. William H. Ehlers, captured by the enemy.

Lake County's Heroic Dead.

From the relatives and friends of several of the members of Lake county companies, recently killed in Georgia, we have obtained the following data, which will be of interest to our community who honor the memory of the noble men who have sacrificed their lives in behalf of their country — that we may regard in veneration of freedom:

Capt. EVANGELIST JAMES GILMORE, was 24 years of age, on the 23d of May last, the eldest son of the late R. P. Gilmore, of Adon, this county. He removed here 21 years ago with his parents, from Girard, Erie Co., Pa. He enlisted in Co. B, 66th Regiment, at the time it was raised, and was made 1st Sergeant, and by merited promotion became Captain. He has two brothers in the army, one Myron, in the company he commanded, and the other in a Kansas regiment. He leaves a wife (daughter of Joseph Rowling, Esq.) and two children, one boy, since he entered the service. He was an honest, upright man, prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties, made an excellent officer, and was beloved by all who had his acquaintance, both in and out of the service. He was wounded in the recent attack on Kennesaw Mountain, on the evening of the 20th, and died on the 23d.

Letter from Surgeon Evans of the 96th Illinois
Regiment

Near Marietta Field Hospital }
June 22d 1864 }

Friend Cory, - Inclosed I send you a list of casualties of our Lake county boys in the late fight, which was a pretty severe one for our regiment, wounding our Col. and Lieut. Col. severely, Capt. James is severely wounded in the shoulder, recovery doubtful, Capt. Gilmore will not live till morning; his brother is going home with his body. Our wounded men do not recover from their wounds as well as they did after the Chickamauga fight. The long marches they have made during the campaign tell upon them, and most all of our severely wounded cases prove fatal - They don't rally - no recuperative power - "But they fight like devils." We are driving the enemy slowly before us every day, and I think we will spend the 4th of July in Atlanta. We have to fight hard for every inch of ground we take now days, and some times we pay pretty dearly for it. The way our regiment got so badly used, the enemy made four charges within five hours to retake some breastworks we had driven

them from, and were repulsed every time.

Our wounded are all sent back to-day to
Chattanooga.

Yours,
M. Evans

List of casualties to staff officers, and members
of the Lake County companies, in the 96th Illinois
volunteer regiment, during the engagements of
the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of June 1864;

... ..

Company B

Capt. Evangelist J. Gilmore, wounded in
the head and thigh, mortally, (since died)

... ..

Lake County's Heroic Dead

From the relatives and friends of several of
the members of Lake County companies, recently
killed in Georgia, we have obtained the following
data, which will be of interest to our community
who honor the memory of the noble men
who have sacrificed their lives on behalf
of their country - that we may remain a
nation of freemen:

(cont'd. next sheet)

On the 3rd inst, a most important railroad consolidation was effected, by which the Chicago and Northwest and the Galena and Chicago, Railway were merged into one company, by a vote of the directors and stockholders of both corporations. The consolidation takes the name of THE CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY. Hon. WILLIAM B. CONYER, who may now justly be styled the railway King of this country, is President of the new company, and GEO. L. DEXTER, Esq., the popular Superintendent of the old Northwesters, is retained to preside over the running and working details of the new line, in the same capacity. This new and gigantic operation places the Northwestern Railway Company at the head of the grand systems of railroad corporations on this continent, it being by far the largest under one management. We think the new arrangement will prove a great public good, especially so far as taking the management of the old Galena Road out of the hands of narrow minded men, and placing it under the control of those who know how to pursue a liberal policy with the people from whom it derives its business and support.— The capital of the consolidated company is \$2,5613,000. The total length of the line now established is 637 miles number of locomotives, 115 (Number of cars 2,500).

From a circular issued by the President and Superintendent of the Northwestern R. Co., we learn that the following officers have been elected:

- W. B. Ogden, President.
- Petry H. Smith, Vice President.
- George L. Donley, General Superintendent.
- William H. Ferry, Acting Director of the Galena Division.
- George P. Lee, Treasurer.
- Henry Tucker, Assistant Treasurer.
- James H. Young, Secretary.
- Wm. M. Larrabee, Assistant Secretary.
- E. B. Talcott, Chief Engineer.

The Railway will hereafter be divided into and operated as four divisions, designated as follows:

- That portion between Chicago and Fulton, and Chicago and Freeport, including the Fox River Valley and Beloit and Madison Line, will form and be known as the Galena Division.
- That portion between Clinton and Nevada, (a) will form the Iowa Division.
- That portion between Chicago and Fort Howard will form the Wisconsin Division.
- That portion between Kenosha and Rockford will form the Kenosha Division.

The following officers have been elected:

- E. H. Williams to be Superintendent and J. C. Oault Assistant Superintendent of the Galena Division.
- E. B. Howe Superintendent of the Iowa Division.
- T. F. Strong and A. A. Howell Assistant Superintendents of the Wisconsin Division.
- C. H. Spafford, Superintendent of Kenosha Division.
- Charles Tappan, General Freight Agent.
- Edwin P. Custer, Acting General Ticket Agent.
- Benjamin F. Patrick, General Passenger Agent.

We learn that the earnings of the new company are rapidly increasing, with encouraging prospects of a good development in the

Record of Illinois Congressmen.

The following Illinois Congressmen voted against the amendment of the Constitution prohibiting slavery. All copperheads: James C. Allen, Wm. J. Allen, John E. Eden, Charles M. Harris, Wm. K. Merrick, James C. Robinson, Lewis W. Ross, John T. Stuart.

The following Illinois members of Congress voted for the amendment—all Unionists: Isaac N. Arnold, John F. Farnsworth, Edward O. Ingalls, Jesse O. Norton, Elihu B. Washburne.

Anthony L. Knapp, of this State did not vote. He, too, is a copperhead.

From the 96th Regiment

In THE FIELD YOUR MISTRESS, W. OF }
 ARROWOOD, Ga., June 13th, 1864 }

KERRON GAZETTE: Dear Sir:—I herewith send you the list of casualties in my Company since leaving Blue Spring, Tenn. on the 3rd ult., and desire you will give it a place in the columns of your every welcome paper.

In a skirmish at Rocky Face Ridge, Ga., May 9th, private Fred. Heald was killed; Corporal Warren E. Towers received a flesh wound in the right arm, and private Erasmus T. Cleveland, was slightly wounded in right ankle. At the battle of Resaca, May 14th, private James H. Linnell and Herman Hoogstraat were killed. To-day, June 13th, a sad accident befell one of our number. While in the discharge of his duty as picket, private Carlisle T. Bruce, youngest son of Alexander Bruce, sen. of Warren, was killed by the sudden falling of a decayed tree, which crashed his left side and broke his legs, thus causing almost instant death.

The above named were all true, and faithful soldiers, who were ever ready and willing to do their duty, and the company deeply mourns their loss.

E. J. GRIMMOND, Captain
 Co., G, 96th Ill. Vol.

P.S. The enemy has again made a stand but, of course, will soon have to retreat, as General Sherman seeks to flank them out of any position they can take here. The recent sales which have been quite heavy will retard operations somewhat.

WAR MATTERS.

Our last week's summary of news closed, leaving Gen. Grant and his forces safely across the James river and marching for Petersburg, which place has also been closely invested by our troops, who have carried some of the outer works and taken a position which completely commands the city, our guns having a range of about 1,200 yards. On Monday Morning last, Gen. Birney, occupying the nearest position, opened his batteries on the place and for five hours kept up a constant bombardment, which rendered the doomed city of Petersburg anything but an agreeable place of residence for a time. Some buildings were burned, ther-

Sec. 2. It shall be unlawful for any banker, broker, or other person to make any purchase or sale of any gold coin or bullion or of any foreign exchange, or any postage for any such purchase or sale, at any other place than the ordinary place of business of either the seller or purchaser, except or third and occupied by him individually or by a partnership of which he is a member.

Sec. 3. All contracts made in violation of this act shall be absolutely void.

Sec. 4. Any person who shall violate any provision of this act shall be held guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, be fined in any sum not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or be imprisoned for a period not less than three months nor longer than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court, and shall likewise be subjected to a penalty of \$5,000 for each offence.

Sec. 5. The penalty imposed by the fourth section of this act may be recovered by any holder at law (agency, court of competent jurisdiction), which action may be brought in the name of the United States of America by any person who will sue for and pay the other half for the person bringing such action; and the necessary and satisfaction of a judgment in any such action shall be a bar to the institution of any fine for the same loss in any prosecution instituted to the recovery of such judgment, but shall not be a bar to the institution of punishment by law imprisonment as provided by said 4th section.

Sec. 6. All acts and parts of acts in consistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

The \$300 Clause.

The Chicago Journal of Wednesday last gives the following as the probable cause of the failure to repeal the \$300 clause by Congress:

The effect to repeal the \$300 commutation clause of the conscription act has failed in Congress. Inasmuch as the Government has thus far received all the money it has needed, could not with effect at this time, and has much as the people have ever provided for, readiness to respond to the Government when ever it wishes additional men, it is urged by Senators and Representatives that the hard ship among the people that would follow the repeal of the clause in question, especially when by the nation's necessities; and that furthermore, in case of a future draft being necessary, the Government has the power to repeat the drawings as often as it chooses, and that the successful numbers are secured; and that to secure those in this way would be preferable to a repeal of the commutation clause, which, being repealed, would result none but the rich to purchase substitutes, or secure personal exemption from military service. This is the ground upon which the proposed repeal was opposed. The reader may judge for himself as to its reasonableness.

THE CIRCUIT COURT.

The following is the disposition of cases on the People's Docket at the term of Court which closed last week.

The people vs Malachuk, Indict for selling liquor without licence, stricken from docket.

The people vs Halcigle, malicious mischief, same order.

People vs Hyrnes, burglary, same order.

People vs White, murder. Continued.

People vs Hyrnes, burglary and larceny same order.

People vs Melody, burglary; same order.

Saturday, June 28, 1907

The Waukegan Weekly Gazette.

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Waukegan Weekly Gazette

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1864.

Official Paper of the City and County.

Club Rates for this Gazette.

Table with 2 columns: Quantity (One copy, one year; Six months; Three copies one year) and Price (\$1.00, \$0.75, \$2.25).

CLOSING AND ARRIVAL OF TRAINS

Post Office Waukegan, May 21st, 1864.

Hereafter, until further notice, mails will close and arrive at this office as follows: Letters and newspapers... Close at 11:00 A. M. and 11:00 P. M.

POST-OFFICE HOURS.

The Post Office in this city will, until further notice, be open at 7 o'clock A. M., and close at 1 1/2 o'clock P. M.

Chicago and Milwaukee H. R. Time

Table with 2 columns: Train type (First Passenger, Second Passenger, Night Accommodation) and Time (5:30 A. M., 11:30 A. M., 10:15 P. M.).

Dr. A. S. Gear, having dissolved his connection with the Drug business in Waukegan, would offer his professional services as Physician and Surgeon to the people of this community.

Post Office, Closed on the 4th. The Post Office in this city will be closed on Monday next, July 4th at 1 o'clock P. M. and remain closed during the recess of the day.

Who wants a Piano or Melodeon? I can make a savings of \$25 to any person who wishes to buy a new Piano or Melodeon, and they can have a selection out of one of the largest Piano Establishments in Chicago.

Casualties of the 26th Illinois Regiment.

And here we called upon the chronic long list of casualties in Lake County companies of the gallant 26th Illinois Regiment, which occurred on the 20th of June, when Gen. Sherman carried the enemy's works in front of Kenosaw Mountain, from Myron Gilman, of Co. H, who arrived here on Thursday of this week, conveying home the body of his brother, Capt. E. J. Gilman, who fell in the following particulars of the affair and casualties to Lake County companies so far as he was acquainted with them.

On the evening of the 20th a charge was made on the enemy's works in front of the 20th position, and held it, though the time desperately charged upon during the night, but at large sacrifice. Mr. Gilman reports the following casualties: Col. Cameron, wounded in the eye, but not severely; Lt. Col. Smith, wounded severely in left shoulder; Capt. H. J. Gilmore, Co. H, mortally wounded and died on evening of the 21st; Capt. James, Co. G, wounded in left shoulder, severely.

Bergt. W. Whitmore, Co. H, killed instantly - shot through pit of the stomach; Erasinus Cleveland (son of J. M. Cleveland) Co. B, wounded in hand; David Wells, Co. H, wounded twice in hand and arm; Oskis Ferrand, Co. E, wounded in hand; Dennis Shupe and James H. Kays, Co. G, killed; Christopher Boettcher, Co. O, mortally wounded; Gustav Bergt. Saml. B. Patten, Co. L, severely wounded (our informant saw him in the front the 25th, going to Chattanooga); Corp. Henry Barnum, Co. U, shot through neck, ball passed through both cheeks, knicker and neck cut on one side; Corp. Walter Drew, Co. C, lost an arm; Louis Hochan, Co. D, recently killed; Corp. D. killed; Bergt. Michael Devitt, Co. D, taken prisoner.

Mr. Gilmore states that the lists in the other companies are not so long as in the Lake County companies. He believes that he gives the full extent of casualties in our regt. We learn from him that Surgeon Keary has written us the full details of all losses in the regiment, which should have been forwarded, but he has failed to do so.

J. E. - Through a letter received by Robert Dubuc, of this city, from his son, we have the following additional: Henry H. Clanson, Co. J, killed; Oliver McQuillan, Co. L, wounded through eye above the knee; Lemuel Burke, Co. D, wounded in neck by a spearball.

The American Conflict.

This valuable work, by H. Greely, the first volume of which is now out, will be delivered to subscribers soon. When the work was first announced to the public it was designed to make each volume 500 pages, but as the work progressed it was found desirable to further increase the size of the volumes to 648 pages, thus giving an unusually enhanced value without any additional cost to the subscriber. In preparing the first volume, Mr. Greely has traversed a widely different field from that occupied by other historians of the Rebellion, thereby giving the work a value that can be claimed by no other history of our glorious contest for National existence, either in its scope, general plan, or accuracy of detail. The least claim it makes has produced the attention, presents to us a feature of its history, to be overlooked, or summarily disposed of; and the thorough manner in which that part of the struggle has been treated by the author in Vol. I. of the "American Conflict" will insure for the work a permanent value when other and more superficial histories are laid aside and forgotten.

The peculiar value of the work, however, will by no means be confined to the practical history of the struggle. The plan adopted is to enable the public to prepare the principal part of the history of the War for the Union after its close - Volume I. ending with the commencement of 1862 - thus securing a firmer system, which beyond any more general accuracy in statement of facts, than could possibly have been obtained at the time, even the preceding volumes of several earlier histories of the war, bringing the record down to a much later date were issued. This Volume also contains from fifty to one hundred per cent more matter than the first volume of any of the popular works on the Rebellion that have preceded it, while the author's clear and forcible style of delineating the movements of armies, the strife and carnage of battle, illustrated by numerous maps and diagrams, will possess a deep and thrilling interest, as a permanent record of this ever memorable struggle between liberty and oppression, on fields hallowed by the blood of our noble soldiers and brothers.

Signs of Rain.

We have had our anticipations elevated by the big black clouds by the cloudy days of the past week, and have held them, by actual count, with fifteen drops of rain. At the present writing (Wednesday noon) there is a prospect that we will be visited with a shower, but our hopes may be crushed by re-creation.

What day should I have chosen for my wedding? We want matrimony. With any degree of certainties what is going to be our fall? It is Thursday morning brought as a brick shower, but the rain fell too fast to do much good. It is Thursday night brought us the right kind of a rain, and the indications are that we shall have more of the same sort.

Saturday, July 2, 1964

The Waukegan Weekly Gazette.

FROM BURNHAM'S ARMY.

Operations from the 21st to the 23d of June—List of Casualties, Etc.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

State of Kentucky, Louisville, Ga., June 23.

In the brief communication which I attempted to forward you yesterday, I spoke of General Schofield's projected crossing of Noso's Creek, and illustrated that it was doubtful whether he had really crossed that stream or not. I hear again this morning that he certainly has, but as a branch of the creek runs parallel to the main stream, about half a mile west of the latter, on the line of the Debas and Marietta road, I am somewhat inclined to suspect that it is the branch which General Burnham has crossed.

I also told you of the advance of Major General D. S. Stanley's division on the evening of the 20th, a movement really intended as a support to General Schofield. The campaign preceding this movement was, without question, one of the most fearful I ever witnessed.

All our lines commenced to advance the rebels maintained the silence of the grave, and such was the shower of deadly missiles hurled upon the top and around the sides of the mountain, that it really seemed as if no living thing could remain upon it.

Suddenly, as Whitaker's and Crife's brigades were moving gallantly to the attack, and sturdy Groves was awaiting to see where he might be needed, the rebels opened fire from five different points. Two enormous guns were, on the very summit of Kearsaw; two batteries, not far apart, were on a low hill on the right of the mountain, and still further to the right was another battery, which we could not see. The scene was not truly grand. Thunder answered thunder. More than sixty pieces of cannon were exploding in quick succession. The air shrieked continually as if tortured by the flying missiles. The trees of the forest trembled as if lust for life, and the very earth shook beneath the reverberations.

Although, however, all the rebel guns, save the battery upon the right, were silenced; and the clangor of the musketry told how fiercely Whitaker and Kirby were forging their way, and how sternly they were resisted. I have already informed you that Whitaker took the ground he was designed to take, and held it against all opposition; while Kirby, being exposed in an open field to a heavy and unintermitted shower of musket balls, was compelled to relinquish the position he had taken, and fall back to the line whence he started.

After nightfall, the enemy made what persistent and determined efforts to drive Whitaker from his advanced position; but the gallant Kentuckian held it against all their attempts, repelling no less than seven distinct charges upon his lines. In these charges the enemy must have suffered very severely.

Although the rebels finally despaired of being able to retake the ground they had lost, the opposing lines were so near each other that the firing continued without a moment's intermission during the entire night.

The next morning (21st June) the campaigning was resumed on both sides; and glory mistle again met glory in battle, as each whirled onward with ferocious energy to its work of death.

About one in the afternoon it was determined to occupy again the ground which Kirby had taken the day before, but was unable to hold.

On the left, the 51st Ohio advanced as a picket line, closely supported by the 90th Ohio and part of the 101st. On the right, the 15th Ohio and the 49th, both belonging to Colonel Gibson's brigade of Wood's division, (the brigade commanded to day by Colonel Noyes, 25th Illinois, advanced with great spirit upon the enemy, and, in a shorter time than it takes to write this, hurled him from the hill. The victorious regiments immediately commenced throwing up works; the rebels were so stricken that they made no attempt to retake the position. General Howard advanced his whole corps to correspond with Stanley's advance. The rebel skirmishers everywhere retired from their outworks; and thus had we gained by the excellent management of Generals Howard, Stanley, Wood, Whitaker, and their subordinates, and by the valor of their troops, a most important advantage.

Captain Stevens, of the 51st Ohio, was killed, as was also Major Danley, of the 35th Indiana. Colonel Champion, of the 96th Illinois, Lieutenant Colonel Smith, same regiment, and Colonel Price, of the 21st Kentucky, were wounded.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

State of Kentucky, Louisville, Ga., June 23.

The corps on the right and left advanced again yesterday, and the center maintained its threatening position around and upon the base of the Kearsaw Mountain, in the path of a very heavy artillery fire from the numerous rebel batteries there, to which our guns returned something more than an indirect reply. Our center is very close to the heavy rebel works on the mountain, and any further progress there must be achieved by rapid assaults; for, though the fire of our batteries is very destructive, it cannot, unaided, compel an

evacuation. The movements of the wings, especially the corps of Hooker and Schullard on the right (which is now just three miles from Marietta, and following their way east rapidly) support the speedy accomplishment of Sherman's design of following the mountain south of the Chatahoochee river without any great sacrifice of life. As our various corps converge towards Kearsaw, room to the right or to the left must be yielded in order to get all our troops into position. Ground has been yielded to the right exclusively, and every day the right wing extends further to the south. Our extreme right is now south of the latitude of Marietta, and it is the current belief that it will now be speedily strengthened until it is irresistible—that is, the rebels must withdraw or many troops from Kearsaw to oppose it, which they will prefer to retreat.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

We can form some idea of the success attending the movements of Sherman in front of Atlanta by the constant streams of rebel prisoners to the rear. Every train from the South brings a number of gray-uniformed men to our city. They are not only pushed forward, and many are set prisoners with overflowing water-pails. Such success, which is the result of a great part of the plan of General Joe Johnston's army, is concentrated for the destruction of the strength of the South, and is daily proving a great advantage to the daily arrivals of Confederate prisoners to the South, must realize that in all its glaring plights. The rebels are waning, and the rebel army of the South is gradually growing weaker by day.

We are not over cautious in our speculations. No army can maintain a long campaign without being harassed by hardships in the evening. We are not over-cautious in our work, however, and we know that the ranks of the rebels are becoming rapidly diminished. The strength of the center is growing weaker. The train of supplies from this city, which is in excess of the daily necessities of the army, is being sent to the rear, and the rebel army is being cut off from its supplies. The rebels are in a very bad way, and the only question is how long they will last. The total is nearly thousands.

Saturday July 9, 1864

ADVANCED PRICES.

"Necessity will compel us after August 15th to advance our Subscription, Advertisements and Job Work at least fifty per cent. Paper, Material, Labor and Expenses are going to the clouds. All individuals to this office can be paid at old prices up to August 15th. New Subscriptions will be \$3 in advance; if the Times is not wanted at these rates, the Proprietors prefer winding it up. Subscriptions before August 15th will be two dollars in hand after that time three.—*McGregor's (Colum) Times.*"

Many other papers throughout the country we observe are advancing their subscription rates. This they are driven to by sheer necessity,—not by a spirit of avariciousness. Weekly Journals could barely live comfortably at \$1.50 a year before the era of high prices. Now, when everything has advanced two or three prices, it is a marvel to those who know anything of the newspaper business, how weekly journals can live at \$3 per year. The fact is they do not live, they simply exist. They rub through from month to month by the hardest kind of digging, hating to raise their prices and enrage the loss of some of their subscribers who have ever been friends, and trusting that something will "turn up" in the way of increased subscriptions, advertising or job work, or fall in prices to carry them along. But these hopes don't save them; sooner or later they have to surrender, or increase their rates. There are some who are disposed to grumble at even the present very low price of the **GAZETTE**. Let them think a moment. Suppose the price of our journal had been advanced with the price of cotton, which enters so largely into the composition of newspapers (the rates of subscription would now be standard of \$2 per year, about \$12 per year; had it increased with the price of groceries, the rate would be at least \$6 per year instead of \$3; nor would such a price be really exorbitant; if advanced with the price of farm produce, which certainly is no more than fair, for it is generally conceded that no two classes of labor are poorer paid than the farmer and the printer, the price of the **GAZETTE** would now be \$3 per year, and that it really should be, and would then pay us a hundred per cent. less than any farm in this country, worth the money invested in our office. The farmer has the advantage of us, for his products must be had, and he commands at least a living price for them, while we can be dispensed with, and therefore we must live at starvation prices or "go up," unless a divine sense of right between man and man prompts friends to come to our relief.

When we advanced the price of the **GAZETTE** fifty cents per year, a few of our subscribers dropped off, but the mass stuck by us, and cheerfully paid the increased price, and some even said they were willing to pay more, believing that we should at least advance our rates, as everything else had doubled in price. Of course there were large-hearted men. Outside business has enabled us to continue the paper, undiminished in

price to be no bar to the lover of his word in this form, who, esteeming it as one of the luxuries, will have his slight any way notwithstanding its bustle getting.

To those who have a tip-top class, such as will actually make the mouth water, we would say, go to the "People's Drug Store" and enquire of Fred or Capt. Vanderburgh for those so highly recommended by the **Gazette** man, and if you are not satisfied that we have put you upon the right track, then we will acknowledge that we are no judge of what's good, that's all.

OBITUARY.

DEATH OF CAPT. J. S. MILLMORE.

"In the course of human events" painful duties devolve upon us, and grievous realities are to be met and overcome; and not least among them is the shrouding the departure of our patriotic dead. And while other hearts are bleeding, and other homes are desolate, we strive to mourn the loss and record the death of Capt. **J. S. MILLMORE**, of Co. B, with Reg. Ill. Vol., who died June 23rd from wounds received in battle on the 20th, at Kanawha Mountain. Through the suffering energy and perseverance of his brother his remains were brought home, and on the 2nd of July his funeral had attended by the Rev. F. H. Clearland, who, from his being dead, yet speaks to "hark in profound attention the vast crowd gathered to pay the last and tribute to, and view the negro troops of our hall dear not long departed, and as if the cold clay the kindred of the dead something deep nestled in sorrow; and as the tears down their sad faces burned at thought of him who once had been their star, the sympathies caught the woe, and from their folded eyes the thinking drops fell by the honored dead.

Capt. **MILLMORE** was born May 8th, 1825, in the town of Dutton, Genesee county, N. Y., and while yet an infant was moved to Ulgard, Erie county, Pa., from thence in 1843 to Avon, Lake county, Ill., where he had lived respected and loved by all, a dutiful son, a kind and affectionate husband and father, till at his country's call he left the enjoyment of home for the hardships of the camp, and the dangers of battle. He has fallen nobly at his post. The country has lost a good soldier and a brave soldier. His comrades will miss him in the camp and field; "We shall miss, but we shall miss him." Around the domestic circle "there will be one vacant chair." And why, the inquiry naturally arises, was a life so useful and promising taken? Would not some one—a dog upon the heels of life—satisfy the thirst for blood? Let us ask, why was the best, the best of the best, the "best without spot or blemish" selected for the sacrifice? And then, why in the "fullness of time" would only the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world satisfy the demands of justice? It will only the best blood of our nation wash out the "evil footsteps' pollution." It flows a free will offering, and will continue to be laid upon the country's altar till there will dawn a brighter morning for the low words of the dying patriot:

"Tell to them the story, another,
When I sleep beneath the sod,
How I die to save our country,
All for love of her and God."

will echo through the corridors of time, stimulating to greater heroism and more self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of liberty and the rights of man.

Age, July 12th, 1864. A FRIEND.

WILLIAM McCLURE.

Wm. McClure, a member of Co. C, 10th Regiment, who was taken prisoner after the battle of Chickasaw, in company with Lewis, Earl and others, died in hospital at Annapolis on the 26th of May, 1864, after being paroled from the rebel prison, where, like hundreds of others, he was literally starved to death.

Special Notices.



Having been called upon to examine the Sarsaparilla or Pills for the above, which has been given to me by the Proprietor, I take pleasure in stating to the public, that they are composed entirely of articles that may well be known to the medical profession as possessing properties purely tonic, and the combination is well calculated, and especially adapted to that class of diseases, being for a disordered condition of the bowels, indigestion, of general debasement of the liver, or various in the numerous districts of the West and South. They contain a larger proportion of tonic ingredients than any other Bitters that have been subjected to me for analytical examination. I speak for them a wide area of popularity and cordially commend them to the public use.

Very respectfully,
C. W. Crown, Analytical Chemist.
No. 17 CLEVELAND & VANDERBUSH,
CHICAGO, ILL.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY!

Bryan's Patent Life Water

Are suffering in the cure of Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Influenza, Whooping Cough, Infantile Convulsions, and all diseases of the Lungs. They have no taste of medicine, and any child will take them. Thousands have been restored to health that had before despaired. Breathe easy in the midst of a fever. A single dose follows to the system. Ask for Bryan's Patent Life Water—the original and only genuine is stamped "Bryan's." Bitters kind are offered for sale. Twenty-five cents a box. Sold by all druggists generally.

Wm. H. Houghton, Sole Proprietor, 27 Cortland Street, New York. For sale by
No. 17 CLEVELAND & VANDERBUSH, CHICAGO, ILL.

HOWARD ASSOCIATION, Philadelphia

Has discovered the New and reliable treatment in the cure of the Howard Association—sent by mail, in sealed letter or envelope, free of charge. Address Dr. J. W. H. HOUGHTON, Howard Association, No. 27 South Ninth St., Philadelphia, Pa. 1864

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY!

DR. JAMES CLARK'S

Celebrated Female Pills!

PREPARED BY ROYAL PATENT.



Prepared from a Prescription of Sir J. Clarke
Dr. D. Physician Extraordinary to the Queen.

THIS well known medicine is so infallible that a cure and safety is secured by its use in all cases of Constipation, to married ladies it is peculiarly suited. It will in a short time bring on the monthly period with regularity.

In all cases of Retention of Menstrual Discharge, Pain in the Back and Limbs, Fatigue, or slight debility, Regulation of the Heart, Hysteria, and White Discharge Pills will effect a cure when all other means have failed; and although a powerful remedy, it contains no opium, or any other substance hurtful to the constitution.

Full directions in the pamphlet attend each package, which should be carefully perused.

For full particulars, get a pamphlet free of the agent.

No. 17 CLEVELAND & VANDERBUSH, CHICAGO, ILL.

Ayer's Cathartic Pills.

IMPORTANT TO FEMALES

Saturday, July 23, 1864

The Winnebago Weekly Gazette

CHAPTER XLII.

COMPANY B.

BY GEORGE WAIT.

How the Company was Recruited—The Organization at Hainesville—Three Times Sworn In—Incidents in the Early Days—Man Afraid of His Knapack—Fort Mitchell—Promotions—Anti-Battle Losses—Casualties at Chickamauga—Subsequent Losses—"Gus" Bollenback's Capture and Escape—Company Statistics—A Proud Record—The Complete Roster.

DURING the spring and early summer of 1862, although opposing armies were in the field and at the seat of war, the rank-and-file were over-taxed with duty and the General's commanding put to their wits' end to know just what to do. Farther to the north, and more remote from those accompanying scenes of carnage and bloodshed, comparative quiet seemed to reign, and a hope that the worst was past seemed to pervade every neighborhood and fireside. But what a change soon passed over the country! Fresh disasters to our armies set the wires in motion, bearing to the extreme portions of the North the call of our "Father Abraham" for 300,000, and shortly afterward for 500,000 more, making in round numbers 800,000 men. In obedience to these calls, I. L. Clarke, Esq., of Waukegan, and Dr. David Salisbury, of Hainesville, started out in July to recruit and organize a Company, believing that, with the united efforts of the people, Lake County could raise her quota of that mighty host, and that, too, without a draft. In every town and village the sound of the mustering drum was heard. Patriotic men left the store, the workshop and the farm, eager to place their names upon the rolls, believing the time had come when the preservation of the Union depended upon the united efforts of the people of the North.

Hardly had Messrs. Clarke and Salisbury made the effort to recruit one Company, ere they found they had upon their

rolls names enough to make nearly two, and so by mutual consent they parted. About twenty men who had signed a roll in the village of Wauconda joined Dr. Saulsbury, and a Company was organized at Hainesville, Ill., on Saturday, August 10, with David Saulsbury as Captain, Rollin H. Trumbull, of Wauconda, as First Lieutenant, and Allen B. Whitney, of Avon, as Second Lieutenant, with a total of one hundred men, varying in age, with a few exceptions, from seventeen to thirty-five, and in appearance and power of endurance equal to the heroes of the 15th and 37th Regiments, or, in fact, to the men of any other organization that had previously left Lake County. When formed in line, as they were upon one or two occasions, they gave the little village of Hainesville quite a military appearance.

Shortly after the organization of the Company, and after awards had been presented to the officers by the patriotic citizens of Avon and Wauconda, the Company was disbanded for a time, the men being allowed to return to their homes, gather up their effects and provide for the future of their families (such of them as had families), as best they could, previous to entering camp, September 1. As the men, or boys as most of them were, were about to start for Waukegan, en route for Rockford, Ill., where they were to enter camp, who can describe the feelings of father and mother, of brother and sister, of wife and children, as they parted with their loved ones,—many of them never to meet again this side of the River of Death! The writer remembers one instance where friends gathered around a young man who, when a lad of four or five years, was left an orphan, and, without so much as a brother or sister, had made the journey of life to manhood alone, a neighboring farmer took him by the hand, and, when he could trust his voice to speak, he said: "If the time ever comes, in the future, that you need money, a home, or a friend, come or send to me."

September 3 found the members of the Company all together again in Waukegan. The Company was formed on the Court House Square, and again sworn into the service, although it had previously been sworn in, at Hainesville, by

Esquire Marvin. During the Company's brief stay in Waukegan some of the men were quartered at the Sherman House, some at the Waukegan House, and others at the City Hotel. The morning of September 5 found the men taking leave of the friends who had remained in town to see them off. Then, tendering their thanks to the patriotic ladies of Waukegan, who had presented each member of the Company with a nicely arranged pin and needle cushion, the Company marched down to the depot, and, with the other three Companies from Lake County, was soon on board the train. Hardly had the train got under motion over the up-grade, when it came to a station, then called Rockland, where there was standing what was, no doubt, a truly loyal and patriotic citizen, waving his handkerchief. Hanging upon his arm was a basket containing a nice roast of beef. A white-haired youth of Company B, believing that, to be good soldier, one should begin early and learn easy, slipped his foot through the handle of the basket, and, as the boys used to say, "took it in." This was the first indulgence in what afterward became a prominent feature of the War, namely, foraging.

The train made but a short stop at Chicago, and was soon moving on its way, a few hours' run bringing it to Rockford, where the four Companies disembarked and marched through the city to Camp Fuller. When the men were ordered to break ranks, each one made a rush for the barracks to secure a bunk; the next thing in order being refreshments. Hardly had the fires been kindled, and the dinner,—or supper, as it might be called,—got under way, when the order was given to fall in, and Company B, with the other Companies, marched out and was mustered in as a Regiment. This being the third time Company B had been sworn into the service, the mustering officer no doubt thought it would do, so the men were marched back to camp to finish the meal already cooking. The coffee was again warmed up, the meat given another turn in the skillets, and when the men were gathered around that rude table which contained meat, soft bread and molasses, the expression upon each one's countenance seemed to say,—

"I am not dining at mother's table, but at Uncle Sam's Hotel."

After finishing their meal the men took a stroll around camp for a short time previous to entering the barracks, where they spent the evening in singing songs and telling stories, and if any gloomy thoughts were entertained of home, they were not expressed, but each one seemed to do his part to pass off the first evening in camp as pleasantly as possible. When the hour for retiring came, most of the boys had their first experience in making up beds,—which consisted of straw without a tick, pillows without a feather, and the soft side of a pine board for a mattress,—that would not let them sleep long enough to have any sweet dreams of home without waking them up and causing them to turn over. The next morning the men came out of their quarters seemingly refreshed, and ready for any duty that might be assigned them.

Captain Saulsbury, the previous evening, having drawn the second letter in the list, the Company was ever after known as Company B. The list of non-commissioned officers was announced, as follows: Sergeants, E. J. Gillmore, Morris S. Hill, George H. Barnett, Orskine Ferrand and Henry Annis; Corporals, Ambrose A. Bungs, George Wait, William D. Whitmore, John D. Fulson, Daniel Osman, Samuel H. Lindsay, Arthur Cook and Willard Whitney. The men were arranged in the Company according to size or height, and the commissioned and non-commissioned officers assigned to their places. The Company daily went out for Company drill, usually under command of Lieut. O. S. Johnston, of Waukegan, who had seen service in the 51st Illinois, and was a good drill-master. When the Regiment went out for battalion drill Company B took its place upon the left of the Regiment, next to Company G, a position that ever afterward, when on the march, the order being right in front, gave it the rear, and if left in front, the advance of the Regiment. Few things of interest transpired while the Regiment was in camp at Rockford. The drawing of arms and accoutrements was a matter of curiosity as well as interest. The men looked with equal curiosity upon the knapsack, in which they were to carry their

During the first year, and previous to the battle of Chickamauga, the losses of the Company were twenty-seven, as follows: Captain David Salsbury and Lieutenant Trumbull, resigned; Morris S. Hill, William Bottom, William S. Clark, Hiram Boegner, John H. Crosby, George H. Day, Whitman O. Fisher and James Young were discharged; James Brown, James Bottom, Alfred Collins, Elenzer Graves, Hiram W. Hollister, James O'Connell, John J. Price and George Rix died; Corporal John D. Fulsom and Privates William S. Skinner and Lafayette Collins deserted; Isaac Barrus and Alfred Castle were detached, and J. W. Devoc was transferred.

The survivors of Company B, like those of many other organizations, will never forget the terrible battle of Chickamauga and the tempest of shot and shell of the enemy passing through their ranks, like a whirlwind of death, leaving upon the field to die many of their bravest and best men, while others were borne to the rear, many of them crippled and maimed for life. The Company went into the battle with less than forty men. Of these, four were killed or left dying upon the field, nine were wounded, one was taken prisoner, and nearly one-half of the remainder had their clothing pierced by bullets. After reaching the right, the Regiment had hardly halted and come to a front, when Charles N. Fox was struck in the breast by a ball and instantly killed. When the Regiment had advanced up the hill a few rods, Thomas Potter was shot in the bowels. He returned to within a few feet of where Charles Fox fell, and lay down and died. When the line had fallen back and re-formed, it was found that William Kimball was missing, having doubtless been killed, although no one saw him fall. The Regiment had advanced a second time but a short distance, when Emery Dart was missed, and is supposed to have been killed outright. In the first charge John H. Cruver was wounded in the right elbow so severely that he afterward suffered three operations, having portions of the elbow and five inches of the bone above taken out, and being compelled to carry his arm in a sling three years. Henry Annis was wounded in the left leg, below the knee, and also received a scalp wound. Corporal Hamilton C. Whitney was

shot in the side, the ball passing through and coming out the other side. When taken from the field eight days later, under a flag of truce, his wound was filled with maggots. John Cashman received a severe wound in the foot, and never afterward rejoined the Company. Sergeant William D. Whitney more was wounded severely in the shoulder. Caleb Whitney slightly in the heel, William W. Tower severely in the right leg below the knee, and Charles McCusker in the shoulder. Near evening First Sergeant Ambrose A. Bangs received a slight scalp wound. Soon afterward he and Arthur Cook, both of whom had remained too long at the front, differed as to the direction the Regiment had taken in a retrograde movement, each taking his own way; Cook quickly rejoined his comrades, and Bangs soon found himself in the enemy's lines and a prisoner. The total loss to the Company in killed, wounded and missing at Chickamauga was fourteen.

When the Regiment was drawn up in line at the foot of Lookout Mountain on the morning of November 24, 1863, a thoughtful expression was upon the face of every man, when Charles McCusker stepped out in front, and, facing the Company, said: "Well, boys, it is a hard fight that no one gets through to tell the story!" The spell was broken, the order given to advance, and soon all were on the move. When the Regiment was swinging around the point of the mountain, near the white house, Esau Rich was killed, and James Litchler and Valentine Trout were slightly wounded. A singular circumstance happened during this battle. While Valentine Trout and Gustavus Kollenback were passing a plug of tobacco from one to the other, it was struck by a ball, leaving a portion in each of their hands.

From the battle of Lookout Mountain to the opening of the Atlanta campaign, few things of importance transpired in Company B. The Company took part in the Dalton reconnaissance, but without loss. The service the men had seen in the past gave them a foretaste of what the future had in store for them, and, to say the least, nearly every man was a hero, ready to stand by his comrades in battle and by the flag of his country at any hazard. In the sharp engagement that

clothing and everything pertaining to the comfort of the outer man; the haversack, in which they were to carry their food to strengthen the inner man; the canteen, from which they were to slake their thirst; the cartridge-box, in which they were to carry their supply of ammunition; and their gun, with which they were to help whip into subjection those who dared to raise their arm against the Constitution and the Flag of our country.

An incident occurred when the outfit was drawn that brought a smile upon the faces of all. George Rix, of Company B, after pucking his knapsack with his personal effects, and strapping his overcoat and blanket upon the top, found it to be a healthy looking object and a burden not easily borne. Being full of pluck and nerve, he placed it upon his back and made secure the fastenings; then, straightening up, he looked at his shadow to see what kind of an appearance he made; then looking over his shoulder, and acting as if scared at the object he saw, he went prancing around the camp like a wild colt loose upon the prairie, with a rider strapped to his back. Little did his comrades think then that within four short months, through the deep muds of Kentucky, keeping step to the sound of the muffled drum, they would be following him to his last resting place.

October 8 found the Regiment under orders for Cincinnati, and the members of Company B hurrying to their place on the left of the Regiment. The command of Colonel Champion was repeated by the Captains along the line,—"Fight, face!" "Forward, march!"—and the NINETY-SIXTH was marched to the city, boarded the train, and was soon on its way to the front. While the Regiment was in barracks at Covington, Ky., a portion of the Company, under command of Sergeant Ambrose A. Bangs, was detailed to guard Fort Mitchell. When the Regiment started for Lexington, Ky., Company B was one of the five Companies under Colonel Champion, marching *via* Williamstown and Georgetown. When Lexington was nearly reached the Regiment came to a halt, and the men of Company B, tired of their long march, stood leaning upon their guns. Dighton Granger, a lad of

twenty years, with no matrimonial prospects, so far as any one knew, gave his knapsack a nudge, and, turning to his fellow-mate, said: "My! we will help put down this Rebellion, but if there is ever another war, our children will have to go to the front."

At Harrodsburg Company B received notice of the death of Hiram W. Hollister, at Lexington, November 25, his being the first death in the Company. While at Danville the Company received notice of the resignation of First Lieutenant Rollin H. Turnbull, who had been sent to hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon the receipt of this notice Allen B. Whitney was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant, and an election was called to choose a Second Lieutenant. The election was an interesting though friendly one, and resulted in a tie between Corporals John D. Fulsom and George Wait, and, consequently, no choice was made. A few days later the Company officers, to make good a promise given by them at the organization of the Company, when it was thought Captain Salisbury would be made a member of the Medical Staff, sent the name of First Sergeant E. J. Gillmore to Governor Yates, and requested that he be promoted to Second Lieutenant, which was done.

Company B was detailed, December 29, 1862, to guard the Hickman Bridge across the Kentucky River, on the Lexington and Danville pike, but rejoined the Regiment January 3, 1863. After the return of the Regiment to Danville from the Lebanon march, through a torrent of rain, nearly one-half of the men in the Company were sick, three of the number,—George Rix, James Brown and Alfred Collins,—dying within a short period. During the last day's march from Danville to Louisville, William S. Skinner deserted; and while ascending the Cumberland River by transport, Corporal John D. Fulsom and Lafayette Collins deserted. While the Regiment was in camp at Nashville, Tenn., Captain David Saulsbury resigned, and Allen B. Whitney was promoted from First Lieutenant to Captain, E. J. Gillmore from Second to First Lieutenant, and George H. Burnett from First Sergeant to Second Lieutenant.

shattered in his hands by a Rebel bullet; was m. o. with Regiment. Is a prosperous farmer in Avon. Postoffice address, Hainesville, Ill.

Corporal Jerome Burnett.—Age 20; born in Lyons, Wayne County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; promoted to Corporal. Was with the Regiment in nearly every battle and skirmish, but escaped wounds; m. o. with Regiment. His sluce held several township offices. Is a brother of Capt. G. H. Burnett. Is a prosperous farmer and influential citizen at Lake Villa, Lake County, Ill.

Corporal Warren E. Powers.—Age 25; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; promoted to Corporal; at Rocky Face Ridge, May 9, 1864, was severely wounded in right arm, but rejoined the Regiment in a few weeks, and participated in several subsequent engagements; at the battle of Nashville had his haversack strap cut by a ball; m. o. with Regiment; is a good citizen and a prosperous farmer at Wauconda, Ill.

Corporal John McCusker.—Age 20; born in New York City; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; promoted to Corporal; was in nearly every engagement, and was severely wounded in the foot at the battle of Nashville, Dec. 16, 1864, and never rejoined the command, but was discharged from hospital at the close of the war; was especially commended for bravery by his commanding officers. Is a farmer at Wauconda, Ill.

Corporal Caleb Whitney.—Age 27; born in Seneca County, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from the town of Warren; promoted to Corporal; m. o. with Regiment; died in Kansas, a few years since.

Corporal Major H. Cleveland.—Age 20; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; promoted to Corporal; participated in every engagement, and was once slightly wounded in the foot; m. o. with Regiment. Is a prosperous farmer and trusted township official at Garnett, Anderson County, Kansas.

Isaac Butterfield.—Age 38; born in New York; carpenter; enlisted from Avon; was never absent from Regiment, except for thirty days on furlough, and participated in numerous battles and skirmishes, but escaped wounds. Is at work at his trade as a carpenter in Waukegan, Illinois.

George A. Bangs.—Age 20; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and the engagements of the Atlanta campaign; was struck by spent ball at Chickamauga, and also at Dallas; sustained a partial sunstroke near Dalton, Ga., in May, 1864, but continued with the Company until some time during its last year's service, when he was detailed as Orderly at Corps Headquarters; was Orderly for Gen. Wood at the battle of Nashville; m. o. with Regiment. Is a broker and lumber dealer at Wynore, Nebraska.

James Brown.—Age 44; born in Genesee, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; died at Danville, Ky., Jan. 25, 1863.

Harrison I. Bangs.—Age 21; born in Wauconda, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was with the Regiment in every battle and skirmish, but escaped wounds; never reported to the Surgeon; was m. o. with Regiment. Is a blacksmith, and also runs a feed mill at Malberry Grove, Kansas.

James A. Beck.—Age 18; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was with the Regiment all of the time during its three years' service; had a ball through hat at Chickamauga; one through both trousers legs at Reuben, and at the same time (May 14, 1864) a ball struck his gun while he was putting on a cap; escaped wounds, and was m. o. with Regiment. Is a successful farmer at Gurnee, Lake County, Ill.

George Barth.—Age 18; born in Germany; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; was in every engagement with the Regiment, and had a ball through his coat on the right shoulder at Kearsaw Mountain; m. o. with Regiment. Is in business as a merchant at Crawford, Cook County, Ill.

Isaac A. Barrus.—Age 33; born in New York; carpenter and joiner; enlisted from the town of Goodale (now Grant); detailed in Pioneer Corps, April 7, 1863, and transferred to First U. S. Veteran Engineers, July 29, 1864, serving with that organization until the close of the war, and having command of his Company for a time. Is a contractor and builder at Volo, Ill.

William Bottom.—Age 29; born in Cambridge, England; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; taken sick soon after entering service, and discharged April 6, 1863. Present postoffice address, Hainesville, Pottawatomie County, Kansas.

Fred Brainerd.—Age 22; born in Gill, Mass.; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; killed at Rocky Face Ridge, Ga., May 9, 1864.

James Bottom.—Age 22; born in England; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; died at Estell Springs, Tenn., Aug. 23, 1863.

Henry Boogar.—Age 35; born in Germany; farmer; enlisted from the township of Cuba; discharged for disability, at Nashville, Tenn., May 12, 1863. Was a soldier in Switzerland from 1843 to 1853, and was in four heavy engagements in 1848. Is farming at Orchard, Iowa.

Gustavus Bollenback.—Age 19; born in France; farmer; enlisted from Fremont; was with the Company nearly all the time during his three years' service, and though looked upon as one of the "boys" of the Company, was also called one of its best soldiers; had a ball pass through his pants leg at Chickamauga, and was captured near Hantsville, Ala., Feb. 1, 1865, but made his escape twelve days later. When speaking of a battle after it was over, he would frequently say: "Boys, didn't we give them a wolley down the walley?" Mustered out with Regiment. Is a farmer near Paulina, O'Brien County, Iowa.

Myron A. Bryant.—Age 32; born in New York; blacksmith; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 19, 1861; joined the Regiment in time to partici-

Corporal at the organization of the Company; promoted to Sergeant; then to First Sergeant; commissioned Second Lieutenant in June, 1865. Was never absent from the command for more than a few hours, except once on furlough, and participated in every engagement except the night fight at Kewaw Mountain, June 29, 1864, at which time he was ill and went to the rear, but rejoined the command next morning. Was never wounded, but had his clothing penetrated by bullets at Chickamauga. Was Acting First Sergeant during all of the time that Sergeant Bangs was a prisoner. Commanded the Company at the battle of Nashville, Dec. 15 and 16, 1864, and during the subsequent march to Huntsville, Ala., receiving special commendation from the commander of the Regiment at the close of the campaign; m. o. with Regiment. Has been a prominent and influential citizen ever since the war; was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Lake County for several years; was elected to the Legislature in 1880; resides on a farm in the township of Grant. Postoffice address, Volo, Ill.

Sergeant Morris S. Hill.—Age 29; born in New York; merchant; enlisted from Wauconda; appointed Second Sergeant at the organization of the Company; promoted to Commissary Sergeant at the organization of the Regiment. Resides at Wauconda, Ill. (See Roster of Field and Staff.)

Sergeant Orskine Ferrand.—Age 21; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; appointed Sergeant at organization of Company; accidentally wounded in left hand at Kewaw Mountain, Ga.; wounded in left hand at Nashville, Tenn.; m. o. June 8, 1865. Is proprietor of a hotel at Fayette.

Sergeant Henry Annis.—Age 31; born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was wounded in leg and on the head at Chickamauga, but was not long absent from the Regiment; had bullets through clothing and accoutrements in other engagements; m. o. with Regiment. Is a veterinary surgeon at Columbus, Wis.

Sergeant William D. Whitmore.—Age 20; born in Seneca County, Ohio; farmer and teacher; enlisted from Avon; appointed Third Corporal at the organization of the Company; promoted to Sergeant; at Chickamauga was severely wounded in the shoulder, but recovered and rejoined the command in about four months; at the battle of Kewaw Mountain, Ga., June 29, 1864, was killed in the attempt to make the breastworks from which the left of the Brigade had been driven. A favorite in the Company and Regiment, his death was a source of great sorrow to his friends and associates.

Sergeant Samuel H. Lindsay.—Age 31; born in Pennsylvania; farmer; enlisted from Avon; appointed Fifth Corporal at organization of the Company; promoted to Sergeant; m. o. with Regiment.

Sergeant Arthur Cook.—Age 25; born in Vermont; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; appointed Sixth Corporal at the organization of the

Company; promoted to Sergeant. Was never absent from the Regiment, participating in every engagement, and was one of the favorites of the Company; m. o. with Regiment. Is a large farmer and stock-grower, and a leading citizen at Wauconda, Ill. Has several times been elected Township Assessor and Collector.

Sergeant Willard Whitney.—Age 31; born in Seneca County, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from the township of Warren; appointed Seventh Corporal at the organization of the Company; promoted to Sergeant; participated in numerous engagements, but escaped wounds; m. o. with Regiment. Is understood to be in Indian Territory.

Sergeant Daniel Osman.—Age 26; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; appointed Eighth Corporal at the organization of the Company; served as Color Corporal for several months; was promoted to Sergeant in February, 1863; participated in almost every skirmish and battle in which the Regiment was engaged, but escaped wounds; was always conspicuous for his cool courage; m. o. with Regiment. Is a farmer at Tenhassen, Minnesota.

Corporal John D. Fulson.—Age 35; born in Jefferson County, N. Y.; sailor; enlisted from the town of Cuba; appointed Fourth Corporal at the organization of the Company; deserted Feb. 7, 1863.

Corporal James O'Connell.—Age 22; born in New York; blacksmith; enlisted from Avon; promoted to Corporal; was taken with typhoid fever while the Regiment was at Wartrace, Tenn., and sent to hospital at Nashville, Tenn., where he died Aug. 24, 1863.

Corporal Hamilton C. Whitney.—Age 25; born in Michigan; farmer; enlisted from the township of Warren; promoted to Corporal, and served with Color Guard; at Chickamauga was desperately wounded in the left side, the bullet passing through and coming out on the opposite side, completely disabling him; he was reported as killed at the time, and there was both surprise and rejoicing when he was brought inside the lines eight days later, having been paroled. During the time that he lay inside the enemy's lines his wound became maggoty, and he suffered exceedingly. The wound so thoroughly disabled him as to unfit him for duty and cause his discharge from hospital at Chicago, Ill., July 28, 1864. Is a resident of Templeton, San Louis Obispo County, Cal.

Corporal Charles McCusker.—Age 21; born in New York City; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; promoted to Corporal, and served as Color Corporal; participated in nearly every skirmish and battle in which the command was engaged, but escaped wounds; m. o. with Regiment. Is supposed to be residing in California or Washington Territory.

Corporal Orville P. Barton.—Age 24; born in Geauga County, Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Avon; promoted to Corporal in February, 1863; participated in all of the battles of the Atlanta campaign and the engagements at Franklin and Nashville, and on the Atlanta line had his gun

Owen Dady.—Age 18; born in Lake County, Ill.; blacksmith; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 10, 1864, joining the Regiment in time to participate in the battles of Franklin and Nashville; at m. o. of Regiment was transferred to Company G, 23d Illinois, and finally discharged in Texas, Oct. 10, 1867. Is at Chamberlain, Dakota.

George H. Day.—Age 22; born in McHenry, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from the township of Warren; discharged for disability Jan. 21, 1863. Is an engineer, and resides at Wabasha, Minn.

Isaac W. DeVee.—Age 20; born in Orange, Steuben County, N. Y.; medical student with Dr. Salisbury; enlisted from Avon. While in camp at Rockford, Ill., from exposure, had inflammatory rheumatism; followed Regiment to Cincinnati, and subsequently to Louisville, Ky.; was sent to Barracks No. 4, and detailed as hospital steward. Was exchanged and ordered discharged from service, but asking permission to remain was transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, 68th Company, 2d Battalion, July 22, 1863, and at the close of war was at officers' general hospital, Louisville, Ky., as Acting Hospital Steward. Was discharged from service at Louisville, Ky., July 3, 1865. Is a physician and surgeon at Wausau, Wisconsin.

Alfred Edwards.—Age 21; born in Warren, Herkimer County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Avon. Was with the Regiment most of the time until he lost his speech; recovered a long time after returning home, when he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps May 4, 1864; discharged near the close of the war. Died at his home in Avon, Ill., July 22, 1879.

Whitman O. Fisher.—Age 23; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Avon; taken sick with measles early in his service, and sent to hospital at Covington, Ky.; rejoining the Regiment he took cold, and was again sent to hospital, and finally discharged March 23, 1863. Resides at Hainesville, Ill.

William J. Fuller.—Age 23; born in Hume, Allegheny County, N. Y.; farmer; enlisted from Avon; detailed in 9th Ohio Battery, Feb. 22, 1863, where he served until August, 1863, when he was detailed in 18th Ohio Battery, where he served as cannonier at Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. Returned to Regiment at the opening of the Atlanta campaign, taking part in every skirmish or battle in which the Regiment was engaged, but escaped wounds; m. o. with Regiment. Is farming near Hainesville, Ill.

Charles N. Fox.—Age 19; born in Ohio; farmer; enlisted from Avon; was always with Regiment during its first year's service. Was killed at Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863, being the first man killed in action from Company B.

Dighton Granger.—Age 19; born in Lake County, Ill.; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant); was detailed with ordnance train a portion of the time, but participated with the Regiment in the battles of

Lookout Mountain, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, and in numerous minor engagements; was never absent or off duty because of sickness during his entire term of service; at one of the engagements near Kennesaw Mountain drove his team with a load of ammunition out to a battery when the fight was raging in all its fury. The Captain of the Battery, not thinking it safe to unload ammunition at such a time, ordered him back over the brow of the hill. Mustered out with Regiment. Has held the office of Assessor and Collector, and for many years has been a Justice of the Peace for the town of Grant. Postoffice address, Volo, Lake County, Illinois.

Elthu Gray.—Age 30; born in New York; farmer; enlisted from Goodale (now Grant); went with Regiment to Covington, Ky.; had measles, and was taken to marine hospital; rejoined the Regiment at Harrodsburg, but never fully recovered his health. Was on detached service most of the time at Brigade Headquarters until just before the battle of Lookout Mountain, when he returned to Company and participated in the battle; was with the Regiment on the Atlanta campaign, and while driving team in November, 1864, was taken prisoner at Spring Hill, Tenn., Nov. 29, 1864, but while the enemy were burning the train made his escape. Mustered out with Regiment. Is a resident of Granite Falls, Minn.

Myron Gillmore.—Age 29; born in Pennsylvania; farmer; enlisted from Avon; had a ball pass through his caudex and cartridge box at Chickamauga; was in the battle of Lookout Mountain, and was with the Regiment most of the time on the Atlanta campaign. Was sent back to his home in Lake County with the remains of his brother, Captain E. J. Gillmore, and shortly after returning to Regiment was wounded in the leg in front of Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 3, 1864, partially disabling him for life. Was discharged because of this wound Jan. 3, 1865, at Chicago, Ill. Has held the office of Sheriff of Barton County, Kansas, two terms, and is a farmer and real estate dealer at Great Bend, Kansas.

Eleazer Graves.—Age 29; born in Williamstown, Orange County, Vermont; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda. Died from disease at Martreesboro, Tenn., July 14, 1864.

Joel Gove.—Age 17; born in Jay County, Ind.; farmer; enlisted from Avon, Oct. 10, 1861; joining the Company in time to participate in the battle of Nashville, Dec. 15 and 16, and was slightly wounded in the left hand; remained with the Regiment until its m. o. when he was transferred to the 21st Illinois, and went with that command to Texas; was finally m. o. at Victoria, Tex., Oct. 10, 1865; enlisted in the Regular Army, Nov. 19, 1865; had a narrow escape in a storm at sea, and saw severe service on the plains; was at Fort Steele, Wyoming, the last year of his service. Is now a laborer, and resides at Bullock, Jay County, Indiana.

Frank Garland.—Age 41; born in Ireland; farmer; enlisted from Wauconda; was one of the oldest men in the Company; was of a lively

Sunday, May 15th found the two Armies still facing each other along the rugged hills and narrow valleys near Resaca. General Sherman had started pushing his right wing down the Oostenaula River on Saturday, and continued on Sunday. He succeeded in laying two pontoon bridges not far from Calhoun in such a position as to threaten Johnson's rear. On the left there was some shifting of position but no general movement on the part of the Fourth Corps. The firing continued through Saturday night and increased in volume with the daylight. Artillery was fired by each side upon the other. During the morning hours the three divisions of the twentieth Corps were moved to a position in the rear of the Fourth Corps. The 96th left its works and moved to the front. They stopped in line of battle just to the right of the Dalton to Resaca Road. Just to their rear were massed two Brigades of General Butterfields Division of the Twentieth Corps. To these soldiers were read several dispatches telling of the advantage gained by the Army of the Potomac. It was thought that this was done to cheer them for the difficult task ahead, because at shortly after 1:00 P.M. they were ordered forward for an attack. One Brigade moved diagonally across the road and passed through, or over the 96th. Another Brigade moved up a little to the left. The 96th found that their position of support was not a very comfortable one, as heavy Artillery fire was being brought down on them. They could see the advancing troops ahead of them until they broke into the trees and brush. Very soon extremely heavy firing was heard and it soon became a continuous roar, which echoed from hill to hill. Soon the musket balls were falling on the 96th from the battle ahead of them. Wounded men started to come back from the battle ahead, some hobbling by themselves and some being carried by stretcher bearers. All the 96th had to do was to wait, but even that was fraught with danger, as the balls were falling around them all the time. The shooting diminished a bit, but then they heard a series of Rebel yells again. The charge had only partially succeeded. The men fell back at several points, but then rallied a little and again went forward. Further over the ridge a terrible thing happened. Changing directions slightly, one column moved so as to come up partly behind another. The woods was full of smoke and they could not plainly see. As the bullets were coming from the front, they fired back, but at their friends. Only a partial volley was fired, but it was enough as several from each unit fell from the "friendly" bullets. The effect was to demoralize both Brigades somewhat, and make complete success impossible. A portion of one Brigade crawled up to the Rebel works and started to use their gun butts as weapons. Some used their bayonets. The results of the charge was not all that was hoped for. The Rebels still held a continuous line around Resaca, but there were substantial gains of territory. The firing was continuous until darkness quieted the battlefield somewhat. At one point in the battle, General Hooker and his staff rode to the center of the Regiment and calmly watched the battle. Several of his staff were wounded but the General sat and watched without showing any fear. The 96th only had two men wounded in the days activities.

At dusk the 96th moved to a position on a high ridge that had been prepared during the afternoon by a detail under Lt. Earle. Soon thereafter all became quiet. It was as if by mutual consent, each side stopped firing. But when some members of the command built fires behind the lines, they were fired upon. They soon put the fires out and spent the night in darkness. At one time during the night they were called out when someone heard some brush move ahead of them, and they thought that perhaps a night assault was possible. This proved

to be a false alarm, however, as they were retreating under cover of darkness. By morning all were gone.

Monday, May 16th found the enemy position at Resaca deserted. General Johnson had decided that with the Federal troops having crossed the river below on pontoon bridges, his best course of action was to fall back to a safer position. He also felt that as he fell back, he was gaining troop strength, for he had less towns and bridges to protect. He also felt that as he moved south he would pick up new conscripts who would be interested in protecting their home territory. It would also be assumed that Sherman would loose troops for the battle field as he would have to leave a force at every town or bridge that he captured. Johnson also knew that many of the Union soldiers had enlisted in 1861 for three years. That time was now up and he expected that with their retirement, there would be a considerable reduction in the Union troop strength. Sherman only had one railroad over which he could get supplies. Johnson expected to soon cut that railroad and isolate Sherman from his base of supply.

When it was determined that the enemy was gone, the members of the 96th went forth to search for their own dead or wounded that had been left on the field for two days. Some of the dead were found and a burial party under Lt. Burnett of Co. B buried them. This sad duty took two days and they were assisted by details from other commands. From some of the Rebels that had been left behind and captured they learned that Rose, Lewen and Ayers had been captured unharmed.

At 8:00 A.M. the details of the pursuit of the enemy had been laid out and they started in pursuit. The 96th went over the ground that had been the battlefield of the day before. They found many interesting scenes. The Rebel works were indeed strong. They consisted of two lines of heavy fortifications, one several rods to the rear of the first.

The Fourth Corps led the way to Resaca. The fourteenth Corps followed. The twentieth and twenty-third Corps crossed the river at the left, and General McPherson's forces at Lays Ferry, at the right. When the 96th arrived at Resaca, they spent several hours repairing a bridge that had been partially destroyed. While they were working on the bridge, a scout rode past them and enquired for the 96th. He reported that three of their men were wounded and captured in the battle of two days before and were in a building in town. Lt. Col. Smith, along with a few men, rode to the building and soon returned with Thomas J. Smith of Co. I, Richard Spencer of Co. F, and Lewis Miller of Co. G. They were stopped with the Regiment for a short time and then taken to town, where they were left in hospitals that were just being established. Smith and Miller did not survive long, but Spencer recovered after several months. The Rebels had taken their watches and blankets, but they said that several of the ladies in whose house they had been left had taken very good care of them, even though their sympathies were with the south.

The Rebels left a large amount of corn meal and some muskets when they left. On the whole, however, their retreat was well organized for the speed of the movement. Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon the Fourth Corps crossed the Oostenaula River and marched southward on a road nearly parallel to the railroad, and camped for the night not far from Calhoun.

On Tuesday, May 17th, reveille sounded at 3:00 A.M. and after breakfast they started their march. They shortly passed Calhoun. The First Division (including the 96th) was marching in column of companies, with flags waving and drums beating. The Second Division had the advance. There had been skirmishing all day but by afternoon it became more intense. The First Division moved up to support the Second under heavy artillery fire, and as night fell they were all

engaged in heavy fighting. The enemy was behind a heavy line of trenches. They made no move to dislodge them that day as it was getting dark. Although there were many casualties that day, the 96th was fortunate in having none. They built up a heavy line of defense that night. They worked well into the night. There were a few houses in their front that had housed Rebel snipers during the day, but as night came they were burned by the Federal troops, the various fires lighting up the night sky. The Rebels were in a strong position, but as General McPherson was pressing on their left flank and General Schofield on their right, they again withdrew under cover of darkness. On May 18th they were again up early and orders were again received to pursue the enemy. They moved forward with skirmishers out ahead. The enemy harassed them to the best of their ability. The First Division was in the rear and made a slow march all day. By late afternoon, however, they were hurried up passed the others and went into bivouac very near the enemy at about 8:00 P.M. There was some skirmishing as they moved forward, but nothing serious happened. Some Southern Newspapers were found in the homes as they moved forward. Some editorials were critical of General Johnson for pulling back, but some thought his plans were all right. The officers on both sides thought that there would be a heavy battle near Cassville. General Sherman was headed toward this town. All lay down to rest that night with the thought that tomorrow would be a decisive day in the war.

CHAPTER 32

On the 19th they were on the move by sunrise. General Sherman directed that the enemy be pushed at all points, and pushed to do battle north of the Etowah River if possible. The 96th was in the lead of a column which marched along the line of the railroad. A half hour after the start the Rebels were encountered. One Company after another was sent into the skirmish line until most of the command was deployed. At Kingston, which was the junction of the Rome branch of the main line of the Railroad from Chattanooga, the Rebels opened up on the advancing troops with artillery. The skirmishers however kept up the advance and soon were threatening to flank them. At this point, the Artillery moved back. Skirmishing was very severe and even approached what would be called a battle. They were ordered to stay near the railroad, so the line swung to the left and moved rapidly forward. The Rebels stopped at every road and ridge and compelled the 96th to keep up a heavy fire constantly. Bullets cut through the line but the men of the 96th responded with valor. Sometimes running and firing very rapidly toward the enemy, and sometimes flanking them out of position. The enemy was behind every tree fence and rock and had to be driven out. It was a hot day and some of the command suffered greatly from the heat. All of a sudden, the Rebel firing almost stopped. At first the command was greatly relieved, but then, off in the distance they could see a great sea of gray uniforms heading their way. There was at least a full Corps in sight, all marching toward the Federal lines. The great battle was about to begin.

There was a heavy line of skirmishers in front of the Rebels. Mounted officers were leading them into battle, and other groups of horsemen showed where the generals and their staffs were located. Batteries of artillery along the line separated each Brigade. It was a magnificent view that was seen by the 96th. It was as if the Rebels were out on the parade field, their movement was so precise. They stood for a moment as if entranced. The gray line was a long way off, but a charge would bring them to the Federal position very quickly. General Stanley watched for a short time through his field glasses and then rode quickly back to form the Division in line. The skirmishers were ordered to move forward to a fence in their front and there construct a barricade with the fence rails. They did so, and soon had a rough barricade which would give a little protection from the terrible onslaught which must soon come. When the Rebels got to within a mile of the Union troops, they also halted and commenced building a barricade of rails. General Stanley and a few officers were standing at the edge of the timber in plain view on the enemy. A Rebel Battery soon unlimbered and took dead aim on the General and his staff. The General soon withdrew from that position. A Federal Battery soon answered and forced the Rebel Battery to withdraw. The skirmishers were soon ordered to raise their sights and fire at the enemy, but the distance was too great to do much good. The entire Fourth Corps was now in line and several Batteries of Artillery opened up on the Rebels. Once in a while an artillery shell would seem to pass through the Rebel ranks. Soon the Rebel front line fell back to a secondary line. The Skirmishers (including the 96th) were ordered to advance, but upon leaving their rail fortifications, were fired upon by Rebels who had been lying in a field a short distance in front of the skirmishers. Their fire was returned and for a short time there was a lively chase.

By this time the several Corps of General Sherman's Army were joined and a forward movement was ordered. The Rebels retreated into the timber from whence they had come. At 4:00 P.M. the fourth Corps pushed out in the center, the Twentieth Corps at the left and the Fourteenth Corps at the right. Farther to the rear on the right and left were General McPherson's and General Schofield's forces. There was heavy fighting until dark. By this time the Union forces had reached Cassville.

When they reached Cassville, there was a large white house at the edge of the Village. The Rebels had been very hard to move at this point, so the skirmishers charged the house. The Rebels stayed too long, so quite a few were taken prisoner. As they moved past the house and through the garden, Corporal Gage saw a movement of a hat from behind a wall. He thought it must be a Rebel, and he wanted to give him an even chance, so he jumped behind a tree and yelled, "Come in out of the wet". As he did so, an old black man jumped up and implored him, "For de lub of de Lawd, don't shoot. I aint got nuffen agin you'uns!" Of course the Corporal didn't shoot him, but many times afterward he felt like shooting some of his companions when they would ask him if he had captured anyone since Cassville. The black man said that the owner of the house had two sons in the Rebel Army and that one was a Colonel. It seems that the Colonel had just left the house that morning. As soon as the skirmishers halted, a few returned to the abandoned house and helped themselves to some food that had been left behind. They had all been short of rations for some time and the acquisition of such things as meat, tobacco, flour, corn meal, cake, jelly, honey and maple syrup was appreciated.

About a mile southeast of Cassville on a high ridge, was the main line of General Johnson's troops. They were behind works that had been very stoutly made. On their right, however, Federal cannon had found the range and were making the occupants of the Rebel position very uneasy. General Johnson had just received reinforcements from Mississippi and it was felt that he was in pretty good shape. At the same time General Sherman's Army had been weakened. He had sent a Division to Rome and detachments had been left at bridges and towns along the way. He also had lost thousands of troops because of fatigue and sickness. On the whole the coming battle looked very favorable for the Rebels. However, Generals Johnson, Polk and Hood seemed to have a difference of opinion about their line of fortifications on the ridge. So while the Federal troops were hard at work fortifying their position, the Rebels were once again falling back to the Allatoona hills, south of the Etowah River.

On May 20th the Federal forces were in line early, but the "Johnnies" were gone. General Sherman decided that now was a good time for a three day halt. The troops had been on an active campaign for two weeks and could use the rest. The men took the opportunity to bathe, wash their clothes and just plain sleep. When they had gotten enough sleep, they took the opportunity to investigate the abandoned town of Cassville. One day when Lt. Col. Smith was in town, he saw some of the men dressed in Odd Fellows uniforms. He called them to him and asked them to return the trophies to their rightful place. He then went with them to the lodge hall and they put things right. It seems that Col. Smith belonged to that fraternity and he did not want the local lodge to suffer, even though the local members were of southern sympathy.

Near the camp of the 96th was a Seminary that had a large library. There was no one in attendance at the library but the men of the command helped themselves to whatever book they wanted to read. It was a strange sight to see hundreds of men in uniform sitting at the desks, or outside leaning against a tree, reading books about science or books of fiction. They were hungry for such an opportunity, and they did enjoy it greatly.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday seemed to go by very rapidly. The railroad was repaired by Saturday and the trains came with a large amount of rations. On Sunday, four days rations were issued to each man and twenty days rations for each man was loaded on the wagons. They knew what this meant. It meant that the Generals had a long march planned for them, and they would be going away from the railroad. On Sunday religious services were held and very well attended. Some of the speeches offered by the soldiers were very eloquent, and some were very simple, praying for peace in the land.

CHAPTER 33

Twenty years before the war, General Sherman, who was then only a Lieutenant, came to Marietta Georgia along with an Inspector General on an official tour. He had therefore become somewhat familiar with the region of Kenesaw Mountain and Allatoona and remembered them as very well adapted for defensive operations. Because of this he planned no direct assault on Allatoona. Fortunately, however, as soon as they had reached Cassville, the Cavalry had by rapid movement gained possession of some wagon bridges across the Etowah River. Sherman then decided to cross on these bridges and move toward Marietta and the Chattahoochie River. He hoped to accomplish this before the enemy discovered his plan. General Johnson, however, was watching for just such a plan and he gave up his fortifications in front of Allatoona and moved his forces between the Union forces and Marietta. This prevented Sherman from flanking Kenesaw Mountain.

On May 23rd the Union forces moved to the right towards the bridges recently captured from the Rebels, and crossed the Etowah. As the fourth Corps had been directed to move at the rear of the other troops, the 96th spent the morning in camp. A general order had been issued that all men wear shoes in good repair. If their shoes were worn, they were to draw new ones from supply. This could mean only one thing, that a long march was anticipated. The 96th started at noon and crossed the Etowah River at Gillem's Bridge near the village of Etowah. The day was hot and good water was scarce, so they were very tired when they went into camp at about 10:00 P.M. On the 24th, they were up at 3:00 A.M. and marching by 6:00 A.M. The march was slow as those in front were required to go slow to avoid an ambush. In the early part of the day the land passed over was level and well cultivated. Later in the day it became more hilly. A final halt was made late that evening on a spur of the Allatoona Ridge, not far from Burnt Hickory. There was a terrible thunder storm raging about the time they stopped and it continued for some time during the night. They spent an uncomfortable night, but they got their shelter tents up, wrapped their blankets around themselves and were soon asleep. The next morning the sky was clear.

The next day they started at 10:00 A.M. and marched by obscure roads. The Twentieth Corps, which was on their left found the enemy in considerable strength, but pushed forward trying to reach the main wagon road leading from Dallas to Allatoona. There was a severe battle and reinforcements were called for. Part of the Fourth Corps which had been marching directly toward Dallas, was ordered to assist the Twentieth Corps. On their advance, the 96th met many wounded heading for the rear. They reached the area of the battle about dark, but were moved from place to place until after 9:00 P.M. On the 26th there was a lot of musket fire and a lot of cannonading through the entire day. The first Division of the Fourth Corps was held in reserve all day. They were moved from right to left and back again, and were under arms the whole day. Night brought orders to still stay under arms. The men were able to lay down and rest some, but always had their guns with them. There was firing all night, but the Regiment was not called out.

On Friday, May 27th, the First Division was ordered to move left and relieve General Wood's Division and the 96th took their place in the front line very early. Wood's Division moved left and tried to get upon the right flank of the enemy. A heavy battle followed and Union losses were heavy. On the way, Rebel skirmishers evidently caught sight of the 96th moving in a column, and sent quite a volley at them. The 96th was assigned a position near the left center of the Union line. As soon as they were in position, a detail from the 96th

moved to the front as skirmishers and were under very heavy fire. They all had orders to fire at anything that moved. Each man had sixty rounds of ammunition, but soon extra had to be issued to those on the skirmish line. With all the heavy firing that day, only two men in the Regiment were wounded, Corp. James Murrie in the foot and Oscar Rector in the arm. Both were from Co. C. During the day the men in the main line used the few shovels they had, and dug trenches throwing the dirt out to the front. The dirt at the front soon formed an embankment of from two to four feet wide. The trenches soon reached such a depth that a man could stand upright in them. They had heavy head logs that they could fire under and have protection for their heads. (Was this the beginning of trench warfare as in later conflicts?) At night they would pound sharpened sticks in the ground in front of their trench at different angles. This made a treacherous barrier for the enemy to cross during an attack on their position. (Was this the first barb wire entanglement?)

This line of fortifications was known as the Dallas Line. They were on the brow of a hill, and it was necessary to have a sharp angle in the line in order to control the ground in their front. The main lines of the two armies were about half a mile apart, but their skirmish lines were much closer. Toward evening on the 27th the Rebels opened fire with artillery and musket. The Artillery came down hard on the exposed position of the 96th. This continued for about an hour. The rain of iron was terrible. The exploding of shells were almost constant, but none made a direct hit on the fortifications. The Union Batteries now opened up on the Rebel lines. The men clutched their guns and crouched as low as they could. They fully expected that this was only a prelude to a massive infantry charge. No charge came on that portion of the line however and by nightfall the firing lessened a bit. As soon as the Artillery fire quit, the men were put to work making the embankment wider. They worked in shifts all through the night, one third digging, one third standing to arms and one third sleeping. The Artillery on both sides fired intermittently and there was constant skirmish fire all night. The fire of the skirmishers increased several times during the night and each time the entire main line was called out, but when it was discovered to be a false alarm, they quickly went back to sleep.

Early on the 28th the Rebel Artillery again opened up on the area where the 96th was located. For an hour or two the iron again rained down upon them, but with little damage except to their nerves. A heavy line of Rebel reinforcements was seen advancing toward Dallas during the day. This made them all the more certain that there would be a night attack. At night there was little sleep. The Skirmishers were told to advance their line a little at a time and dig new pits. The main line was kept alert just in case the enemy was made aware of the advance. Sunday, May 29th was a beautiful day overhead, but near Dallas and New Hope Church, the only music heard was heavy musket and artillery fire. The firing increased during the evening but an ominous quiet settled over the line at dark. At 10:00 P.M. the intensity grew again and there was a terrible night fight to the right of the 96th, but the Rebels were driven back with very heavy losses. Again the 96th was kept awake and alert all night, expecting an attack in their sector. May 30th was more of the same. The Rebels opened up on the 96th again with artillery, but they hugged the ground and felt quite secure in their fortifications. The skirmishers had little rest, however, as they kept up a heavy fire all day. On the 31st it was the same situation, except the Rebels had an additional Battery on their side. In the morning they opened up with three Batteries on the "Angle" line that was the position of the 96th. Companies A and F were at one time almost buried when a shell struck their own

embankment and threw a lot of dirt over them. A solid shot struck the embankment and penetrated through it and hit a log that three men from Co. A were leaning up against. The log shattered and bruised the men, but not severely. June 1st, 2nd and 3rd were about the same as the previous days. The position of the Regiment was unchanged. The skirmishing on each side was perhaps a little less severe. The skirmishers even talked to each other at night. They even ventured into the land in between and swapped such things as newspapers and coffee for tobacco. The weather was rainy and the clothing of the men, from the constant contact with the red clay soil, came to look a great deal like that of their enemy. Their rations were running out and there was no opportunity to forage because they were kept busy all the time. On the 3rd, General Stanley ordered the skirmishers to fall back to the main line in hopes of making the Rebels think they were withdrawing. The Rebels did not fall into the trap however.

While the 96th and other troops near the left center of the line had been hugging their works so closely that they failed to notice that other portions of the Army were on the move. When Sherman had found that Johnson had anticipated his move and had placed his Army between Sherman and Marietta, Sherman tried to move his troops from right to left, attempting to pass the Rebel right and break it back. This was not successful. He then tried to reach out toward the railroad in the vicinity of Ackworth.

Very early on Saturday, June 4th, the movement to the left had proceeded so far that the 96th was ordered to leave its works. They marched about half a mile to the left and stopped. The men were told that they could put up their tents, which was a privilege they had not had for many days. During the day there was a lot of skirmishing in the vicinity, so the 96th was kept on alert all day for an anticipated enemy assault, but nothing serious occurred. On Sunday, June 5th, the Regiment was in line at 3:00 A.M. but shortly thereafter they learned that the enemy had again left their works and had moved to their rear and right during the night. The skirmish line was advanced and soon came in contact with a light line of Rebels. They didn't push them, but went into trenches where they could watch them. This was the tenth day that they had been constantly under arms. The wounded, who had occupied tents just to the rear of the Army, were now moved to hospitals in Ackworth. This was a very difficult move as the wounded were so severely bruised.

Monday, June 6th brought an early reveille to the 96th and they were issued three days rations and told to make them last four. At sunrise they were marching toward the left. A halt was made at 1:00 P.M. at Ackworth. It was a hot sultry day and many of the men fell by the wayside during the march. When they arrived, they were told to clean up the camps and take a brief rest. Their rations were short, so there was considerable foraging. Those caught were required to carry a rail at headquarters. The men felt outraged and threatened to take revenge. They felt that since they were in enemy territory they had a right to "the spoils of war". The threats of the men brought the speedy release of the foragers however.

CHAPTER 34

June 7th, 8th and 9th were in the main rest days. A rest that was greatly needed. Since they left Blue Springs, the casualties of the 96th totalled 80, of which 13 were deaths. Besides these there were over a hundred that were out of action because of sickness or over exertion. The Regiment could only muster a few over 200 men at this time. General Sherman had lost more men than he had gained when the two Divisions arrived from the west, while Johnson had gained men through reinforcements. Johnson's men were more acclimated to the territory and the weather. They also had negroes to construct their fortifications for them. The railroad bridge across the Etowah was quickly repaired and trains brought supplies up and took wounded back to Chattanooga, or further north. The men cleaned up their clothing and equipment as best they could and boiled their clothing to rid them of the vermin. Thousands of letters were sent and received during this time, and newspapers from the north were read until literally worn out. The talk in camp centered around who would be elected President, although they would not be able to vote.

He speaks in the following letter of the letter he wrote on the 5th. but there is no such letter in the collection. He also speaks toward the end of the letter about George and Frank farming at home. These are his two youngest brothers. His youngest brother, Frank, was only six years older than his son Fred.

"Camp 3 miles west of Allatoona"
"June 7, 1864"

"Dear Wife"

"We were told that - - - - - at 10 A.M. so of course I write you again although I wrote the 5th. Yesterday my company ----- from the skirmish line at ----- at sunrise so our whole Corps marched eastward to this place and were told we would ----- hearty hoorah and ----- out our camp and put up our forge tents in proper military order. We are in the woods so we are shaded from the scorching sun. Our appearance here is not much unlike that at a camp meeting I went down to a little creek and had a thorough washing last evening so today I feel first rate. Myron too is well. We have not got any mail in a good while but will probably get it before leaving here. There are a good many troops in front of us so I presume as we have had the "front" so much of late we are permitted to lay in the rear awhile now. O! We hear the car whistle at Alatoona and the boys are churning in all directions as far as we can hear. "It seems well" and sounds like civilization and gives us hope that we will soon have enough to eat. Oh! I wish you was here to take a view of this army. There are probably 20,000 men within 2 miles of me and I can hear preaching praying singing, swearing, officers giving various commands, mules braying cattle looing, horses neighing, men chopping, trees falling, bugles, fifes, and drums without end, and then we can see men engaging themselves so differently some are reading, some writing, some playing cards while others are building arbors and policing their grounds about their tents My and I have put our two pieces of tent together and have got rigged up pretty well and while he is hunting "graybacks" I am setting cross legged on a log writing on my knee. Lt. ----- is in with his brother ----- down in the Co. I presume he thinks I ought to invite him in with me but Libbie I have waited on him as long as I am going to. Of course if we go into camp where we are apt to remain long he will come in again but when we do I shall have to pretty much all the policing about the tent and the bringing of water etc. He don't take much pains in keeping himself nor things about him very clean and then again he is not much help to me as he has not much business tact about him."

"I got the Chattanooga Gazette of the fourth which states that Grant had got to the Pominky river so I presume the siege of Richmond is begun by this time. Grant seems to be the man for us. Wouldn't it be funny if Richmond and Atlanta should fall into our hands on the 4th of next July? Well Geo. how do you and Frank make farming go now? I hear you are pretty faithful and I am glad of it for we need faithful boys at home as well as faithful men in the army. I can imagine pretty well how Frank and Fred look playing along the road to and from school & how little Nellie looks trudging around after her Ma. How I would like to dandle the little darling on my knees but I shall have to wait until this cruel war is over I suppose." "My love to all."

"Truly Your Vange"

"To Elisabeth"

After the three day rest following the severe experience of New Hope Church and Dallas, General Sherman ordered the troops forward again on June 10th. They left the Ackworth area that morning. General McPherson was on the left, General Thomas in the center and General Schofield on the right. The Fourth Corps went directly toward Pine Mountain and kept to the right of Big Shanty and the railroad. Bread, coffee, salt and salt meats had been brought up by wagon, and cattle were driven along with the troops. Men were detailed to herd the cattle behind the troops during the day and bring them up to the troops at night. There was little grass in the region, but the cattle did quite well on the grain fields in the region. However, it was hot and rainy at the time and the flies were bad enough to keep the cattle in poor condition before it was their turn for slaughter. Soldiers were detailed to slaughter and cut up the meat every second or third day. There was very little in the vegetable line for the troops and it seemed they were constantly hungry. Much of the time they were issued three days rations and told to make them last four or even five days. The Rebel Cavalry had been active and had tore up bridges and portions of the railroad. This made supplying the troops all the harder. They became very frugal and even saved the tails of the slaughtered animals which were skinned out. The meat of the tails and all of the bones were boiled up for soup. The Fourth Corps did some foraging, but most of the supplies in the area had been used up by the Rebels.

On the 10th the day was rainy, the roads obscure and the country was broken and timbered. The 96th furnished flankers or skirmishers, but encountered no serious trouble. When the halt was made for the day, the Rebel tents were in full view only about two miles away. Their lines were well fortified and extended from Brush Mountain, across Pine Mountain, past Gilgal Church to Lost Mountain, extending about ten miles. The weather continued rainy and the movement of supply wagons and Artillery was very difficult. When these pieces got mired in the mud, it was up to the infantry to get them out. They had to cut new roads through the timber and in some cases conduroy the low ground with logs.

The 96th occupied the same ground that they stopped on on the 10th for several days. They built great fortifications even though they were even farther from the enemy than they were at New Hope Church. A portion of the Regiment was sent to reconnoiter the front on the 11th. They advanced a long distance and had a severe skirmish, but suffered no casualties. On the 12th there was severe fighting to the left, and an attack was expected. The men slept with their clothes and shoes on and with their guns at their side, but had their tents up to protect them from the terrible storm. The 13th was a day of heavy Artillery fire from the Federal troops. During the day a large dead tree which was located on the skirmish line just simply fell over during a heavy rain storm, its roots being pulled right out of the wet ground. It fell across a log that some of the skirmishers were setting on. It fell on Carlisle Druse, of Co. B and his bayonet was driven through his body causing almost instant death. This young man was a favorite among the Regiment and his death was sadder because of the circumstances.

The morning of the 14th was clear, but cool. This was quite a surprise to the troops who expected warmer weather in June in the "sunny south". The first sound that they heard that morning was heavy Artillery fire. They soon learned that it was their own guns firing at the Rebel lines. The whole day must have been very unpleasant for the enemy as the Federal guns kept it up all day. General Sherman came riding past the Regiment and ordered the 5th Indiana Artillery to open fire on Pine Mountain. A group of Rebel officers were

reconnoitering the lines at the time and a well placed shot caused them to scatter. In a few moments, a signal officer, who had learned to read the Rebel signals, reported that no less a person than Bishop Polk, who was at that time a Lieutenant General in the Confederate Army, had been struck by an unexploded shell and instantly killed.

There was heavy fighting at several places along the line that day and at one point the 96th along with other units were caused to move to the left and were about to make a heavy charge. It was deemed unwise, however as the Rebels were found to be heavily fortified at that point. The lines of the Twentieth Corps along with those of General McPherson, were crowded forward and some gains were made in position. The locomotive was heard at Big Shanty, and it was evident that the Etowah had been bridged. When that whistle was heard, a cheer was heard for many miles along the front. Perhaps supplies could be brought up now.

On the 15th a general advance was ordered at daylight with the intention of pushing through at any weak spot. It was soon found that the enemy had once again retreated at night. The Regiment went forward over the position that the enemy had just held, and advanced about two miles over very difficult ground. Toward night the entire Fourth Corps was massed to the left of Pine Mountain, and they expected an assault. An advance was made and the Second Division captured the enemy's front line of works. On the 16th, the Fourth Corps lay very near the enemy position and were heavily shelled all day. During the very heavy exchange of Artillery fire, Captain Simonson, of the 5th Indiana Battery and Chief of Artillery for their Division, was killed. Toward evening they built heavy breastwork, it being obvious that the enemy was heavily fortified in their front. On the 17th there was another advance across the center of the Rebel line and they advanced across the lines abandoned by the enemy. The Rebels resisted severely, but at dark they withdrew across Mud Creek, and the Army again fortified their position. After dark the Regiment moved to the front line and relieved the 3rd Wisconsin. The rains were heavy and because they were so close to the enemy, they could build no fires. It was a very uncomfortable night with no tents erected and no clothing or equipment removed.

CHAPTER 35

The fading of the ink made much of the top 2/3 of page one, including the date, impossible to read. We feel it was written about June 17, 1864. This was his last letter.

"-----miles S of ----- Ga."
(about)"June 17 of 1864"

"Dear Libbie"

"-----except that ----- is complaining of -----and is now back with -----, he was up here to see me and to get his mail last night ----- will be able to get ----- ere long. We have been advancing a little again-----and as our battery was throwing shells over us one burst directly over our line and wounded four of our own men. Geo. Philips & I were setting together on the reserve when a piece of shell tore George's side pocket out but did not hurt him much. Our chief of Artillery was killed by a sharp-shooter yesterday. News has just come that the Johnnies are retreating again and probably we will occupy Marietta in a day or two. Last night I received your letter of the 6th inst. so I can give you credit of writing twice a week. Keep doing so & write as much oftener as you can send to the office. On the 13th Carlisle Druce was killed by the falling of a decayed tree which crushed in his left side, broke his legs causing instant death: the tree had become water soaked and heavy by the recent rains and fell on Carlisle as he was laying partially asleep at the reserve picket post."

"General attention has been sounded and we will move in a few minutes. I hear considerable firing on our left so I guess the Johnnie's are not all gone yet. There is a mountain (Lone or Lost Mt I suppose) about 3 miles in front of us & I guess we will find the enemy there yet, but we are able to flank the enemy out of any position they can get here. I dont think we will meet with any great resistance so as to engage all of our forces at once until we get to the Chattahoochee then I expect we will have some hot work. We are having hot work enough here for me. I see men shot almost every day. O! Libbie this war is an awful thing Yesterday I saw a mans leg torn all to pieces and he will probably die as most all who have legs amputated now do die. The weather just now is quite cool and good for the wounded. Libbie, tell Mrs. Leitwiler the best way she can get James' body is to apply to W.R. Cosnolin's Government Undertaker Nashville Tenn. who will furnish a metallic coffin get his body and send it home. By doing so he can be got for \$100. less than to send a civilian for him, besides it is very doubtful about a civilian getting here at all. The probable cost of getting his body home will be about \$150. or \$160. None but metallic coffins are allowed to be transported now from the front. If we don't move within half an hour I will answer Mrs Leitwiler's letter which I received 2 days ago, but you had better see her as I may not have time to write more. Enclosed I send you some more photographs for your Album. You wish to know if you can have a new bonnet. & I answer yes. If I take you the 4th I not only want you to behave pretty as you say you will but I want you to look pretty too. We used to dress according to our means let us continue to do so now. We fall in now so Good Bye Kiss the little darlings for"

"Vange"

"I got the \$10 you sent"

Saturday, June 18th, they found that the enemy had again withdrawn, and the Regiment continued their advance. They moved all day, but sometimes sideways rather than forward. The first division was in reserve until evening, when it moved to the front. The 96th was ordered to take the skirmish line just after dark, which it did under heavy fire. There was some uncertainty during this move, as the troops that they relieved had moved back before they got there. Two men from Co. D went to check out the situation. They saw the outline of an earth works and heard voices. When they looked over the earth works, they were met by Rebel muskets. They had no option but to surrender. They spent a long imprisonment in a Rebel prison. The other men could hear what had happened to Sergeant Devlin and Albert Barney, and reported the facts to the officers. The two lines were only a few yards apart, but as strange as it seems there was no firing that night. It was a very anxious night for the troops, however. General Thomas ordered that an advance be made in the morning if the Rebels were still holding this line.

Sunday, June 19th, they found that the Rebels had again moved back. The skirmishers of the 96th had moved forward and occupied the Rebel position and captured a few prisoners before the sun had come up. These skirmishers were soon withdrawn and the Division was soon moving to the left and front, going toward Marietta. The enemy was found near Wallace's house and fighting became very spirited in the front. The 21st Kentucky had the front at this time. The main line was on the edge of some timber. The skirmishers tried to cross an open field in front of the line, but had to withdraw, as the Rebel position was very strong. The Rebels were attempting to tear up a bridge across a little stream, known as Nose's Creek. Word was received and the 96th, who was in reserve, advanced rapidly across the field and forced the enemy back into the woods. They crossed the Creek, wading through knee deep mud and water. When they got to the other side, they formed a semi-circle just beyond. They picked two men from each Company and under Lt. Dawson of Co. F, they advanced. They were now confronting the foothills of Little Kenesaw Mountain. The sides of the hill was heavily wooded and they had no idea what was ahead of them. Darkness was now falling and they advanced slowly. It seems that there was a Rebel behind every bush, and several of the 96th were captured. They fell back a few rods just as darkness fell. They quickly put up some fortifications as they were sure that the Rebels would try to push them back the next morning.

June 20, 1864, was a very memorable day in the history of the 96th (and also for the Gillmore family). They had had no sleep for two days and at dawn they were ready to repel the expected Rebel attack. The attack never came, however, but there was very heavy firing all through the day. The skirmish line with the help of Co. D in support was ordered to advance with the hope of taking the higher ground at their front, but the enemy had too much fire power, and they fell back. There was heavy fighting to their right and left all day long. The Division Commander and the Brigade Commander worked their way on foot behind the 96th and tried to learn the position and strength of the force in their front, and also the nature of the terrain. A reconnaissance was sent forward. They crawled to within a few rods of the Rebel Skirmish pits. They found the pits very close together and full of men. They then returned and made their report. Several from Co. D. were killed or wounded during this time.

The skirmish officers reported the enemy position and a charge was planned at Brigade headquarters. The 21st Kentucky was ordered to pile their knapsacks, take positions in front of the 96th and lay down until ordered to charge. The 51st Ohio which was to move in support, was directed to lay down in the rear of the 96th. At the same time

similar preparations were made by other troops in front of Bald Knob. Col. Price, the commander of the 21st Kentucky, was making preparations for the advance, and was about to inquire about the direction he was to take to keep his line parallel to the Rebels when the bugle sounded the charge. Lt. Earle, of Co. D of the 96th, volunteered to guide his right, as he had been over that ground earlier. The advance had hardly begun when Col. Price fell, severely wounded. This did not stop the Kentuckians however, as they dashed up and over the Rebel skirmishers and captured many of them. The 51st Ohio moved immediately to the captured line and were soon supported by other units. In their enthusiasm, part of the 21st Kentucky charged past the Rebel skirmish line and across a ravine toward the ridge beyond where the Rebel main line was located. This further advance was not anticipated by the Union commanders, however, and their further charge would prove disastrous. Many of the brave Kentuckians were killed or wounded. They were recalled and sent to a safe position in the rear. About this time, about 60 or 80 Rebel prisoners were brought back under guard. Most of them were from the 7th Kentucky and as they passed to the rear, they were talking and asking questions of their captors. One member of the 96th asked one of the guards, "You seem to know some of those fellows." They replied, "Know them, Yes every one of them. I used to play football with them in Lexington. Got my own brother here." "You didn't get me until I gave you 200 rounds of cartridges today, anyhow!" was the reply from the captor's brother. This was a civil war - neighbor against neighbor and brother against brother.

The troops in the front line immediately began to construct a line of works, using the materials captured from the Rebel skirmish pits. The defense was almost complete, when the skirmishers ahead warned them that the Rebels were coming. They dropped their axes and shovels and grabbed their guns. With a yell, the enemy came but not in such numbers as to be successful, and soon they were falling back. When word came that the Rebels were to make an attack, Col. Champion, of the 96th ordered his troops forward and they helped send the first charge back. The 35th Indiana moved up on the left and at the point of the Rebel assault there were two lines to greet them. Soon the Rebels charged again with a determination that did credit to their bravery. The guns of the men in the rear were loaded and passed to the men in the front and a withering fire was poured upon the advancing Rebels. The dense underbrush in front was mowed down as if a scythe was used. The Rebels came across the ravine and up the slope, almost to the Union works, but by that time their ranks had been thinned and broken that they again retreated. It was now getting very dark and it was hard to tell friend from foe. A third charge was now made by the Rebels. This time they tried to deceive the Union troops. They turned around and backed toward the Union lines while firing blank rounds at their own lines. They would shout at the Federal troops not to fire at their own friends. The deception worked for a short time, but their plan was soon discovered and they were driven back a third time. The Rebels felt that the ground lost to their enemy was critical and seemed determined to retake it at all cost. They made a fourth charge right in front of the 96th but the withering fire soon sent them back again. Col. Champion was severely wounded in the face during this bloody fighting, and was taken to the rear. Lt. Col. Smith took charge of the Regiment and fearing that his right flank might be turned, moved the Regiment to the right of the 51st Ohio and spreading the line from the 51st to Noses Creek. As soon as the new position was established, Col. Smith went to the front to reconnoiter their position. A moment later a bullet tore through his shoulder and he was carried to the rear. Major Hicks was

temporarily absent because of sickness, so Captain Pollock of Co. C. took over command of the Regiment. He asked for and received assistance from Captain Rowan of Co. F. The two Captains looked along the line and determined where more defenses were needed. The Rebels were not yet satisfied, and were preparing for their fifth charge. This time they hit the Union line a little farther to their Right. They moved silently until they got near the breastwork of their enemy. They then charged upon the 35th Indiana, killing their Commander, Major Pufficy, and shooting or bayoneting many of the men. The 35th abandoned their position, some of them being captured and some running back into the timber. Major Marshall of the 51st Ohio immediately called for the 96th to retake the position. Upon consultation, however, it was agreed that their position was too important to be abandoned, so Captain Pollock ordered the three left companies - B, G, and K to move left and fill the gap left when the 35th fell back. They moved in the rear of the line and before they were aware of where they were, they were fired upon by the Rebels, who were just behind the breastwork. Several fell in the first volley, some ran back for shelter and a few held their ground loading and firing as fast as they could. A few used their bayonets. At this time the 40th Ohio came up and soon retook the works, but not without considerable losses to themselves, and to the enemy.

CHAPTER 36

There were terrible losses in the three left Companies of the 96th in this encounter. Captain E.J. Gillmore, of Co. B was mortally wounded. He was wounded three times, one shot penetrated his skull, another his body and a third passed through his thigh. He never regained consciousness and died three days later, on June 23, 1864.

The three companies returned to the Regiment as soon as they, along with the 40th Ohio, had re-taken the works in their front. The 21st and 22nd of June they were still under heavy fire from the enemy, but no territory was taken by either Army. Rations were short and it rained continually, day and night. After dark on the 22nd the Regiment, along with the rest of the Brigade moved to the rear and right, marching nearly all night. They relieved a portion of the Twentieth Corps at Culp's Farm.

After many days of hard fighting and severe losses, Sherman's troops did push the Rebels back and slowly continued their march toward Atlanta. The historian of the 40th Ohio declared that the night fight for Kanesaw was the most severe that they had ever been in, except perhaps for Chickamauga. Many of the companies of the 96th could only muster 9 or 10 men after that battle. The whole Regiment had trouble mustering much more than a company of men.

In due time, after he had escorted Vange's body home, Myron Gillmore returned to the Regiment. On Wednesday, August 3rd, while on the skirmish line, Myron was severely wounded in the left leg and saw no further service. He was discharged from the service in Chicago in January of 1865 and had a bad leg for the rest of his life.

* * * * *

Vange was only 29 years old when he died in the Federal Army Hospital at Big Shanty, Georgia on June 23, 1864. His brother Myron was by his side until he died, and Myron went with the body back to Lake County, Illinois, where he arrived on June 30, 1864. Vange wanted very badly to come home and see his family. He also knew that leaving them to go back to the battle would be very hard. In one of his last letters he expresses a feeling of doubt of ever seeing his little daughter, Nellie. In his last letter (June 17, 1864) he tells Elisabeth "If I take you the 4th -----". He was evidently planning to get a leave and be home to celebrate with his family on July 4th. It is ironic that he was indeed home on the 4th, but in a metallic coffin, and instead of a celebration, his family had the sad duty to attend the funeral of their husband and father and bury him at Avon Centre Cemetery on July 3rd. I believe that his letters are very descriptive of a good, moral, family man and the times that he was living (and dying) in. I can't help but wonder what a man like this might have been able to add to our family, and indeed to our whole society, had he had a chance to live a full life.

The following article was found on microfilm at the Waukegan Public Library, in the Saturday, June 25th, 1864 issue of "The Waukegan Weekly Gazette". It was written by Captain Evangelist J. Gillmore on June 13, 1864. Before the article was printed, Captain Gillmore was dead.

"FROM THE 96th REGIMENT"

"In The Field Four Miles S.W. of Ackworth, Ga. June 13, 1864"

"EDITOR GAZETTE: Dear Sir: I herewith send you the list of casualties in my Company since leaving Blue Springs, Tenn. on the 3rd ult, and desire you will give it a place in your very welcome paper."

"In a skirmish at Rocky Face Ridge, Ga., May 9th, Private Fred Brainerd was killed; Corporal Warren E. Towers received a flesh wound in the right arm, and Private Erastus T. Cleveland was slightly wounded in right ankle. At the battle of Resaca, May 14th, Private James Litwiller and Herman Hoogstraat were killed. To-day, June 13th, a sad accident befell one of our number. While in the discharge of his duty as picket, Private Carlisle Druce, youngest son of Alexander Druce, sen., of Warren, was killed by the sudden falling of a decayed tree, which crushed his left side and broke his legs, thus causing almost instant death."

"The above named were all true and faithful soldiers, who were ever ready and willing to do their duty, and the Company deeply mourns their loss."

"E.J. Gillmore, Captain"

"Co., B, 96th Ill. Vols"

"P.S. The enemy has again made a stand but, of course, will soon have to retreat, as General Sherman is able to flank them out of any position they can take here. The recent rains which have been quite heavy will retard operations somewhat."

"E.J.G."

The following was from "The Waukegan Weekly Gazette" of Saturday
July 23, 1864.

"OBITUARY"

"Death of Capt. E.J. Gillmore"

"In the course of human events," painful duties devolve upon us; stern and grievous realities are to be met and overcome; and not least among them is the chronicling the departure of our patriotic dead. And while other hearts are bleeding, and other homes are desolate, we have to mourn the loss and record the death of Capt. Evangelist J. Gillmore, of Co. B 96th Reg. Ill. Vols., who died June 23rd, from wounds received in battle on the 20th, at Kenesaw Mountain. Through the untiring energy and perseverance of his brother his remains were brought home, and on the 3rd of July his funeral was attended by the Rev. F.B. Cleveland, who from "He being dead, yet speaketh" held in profound attention the vast crowd gathered to pay the last sad tribute to, and view the narrow house of one held dear not long departed, and as o'er the cold clay the kindred of the dead man hung, deep bathed in sorrow; and as the tears adown their sad faces burned at thought of him who once had been their staff, the sympathetic caught the woe, and from their flooded eyes the thickening drops fell by the honored dead."

"Capt. Gillmore was born May 8th 1835, in the town of Darien, Genesee county, N.Y., and while yet an infant was moved to Girard, Erie county, Pa.; from thence in 1843 to Avon, Lake county, Ill., where he had lived respected and loved by all, a dutiful son, a kind and affectionate husband and father, till at his country's call he left the endearments of home for the hardships of the camp and the carnage of the battle. He has fallen nobly at his post. The country has lost a good officer and a brave soldier. His comrades will miss him in the camp and field. "We shall meet, but we shall miss him." Around the domestic circle "there will be one vacant chair." And why, the inquiry naturally arises, was a life so useful and promising taken? Would not some one - a clog upon the wheels of time - satisfy the thirst for blood? Let me ask, why was the first, the best of the flock, the "lamb without spot or blemish" selected for the sacrifice? And then, why in the "fullness of time, would only the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" satisfy the demands of justice? So will only the best blood of our nation wash out this "foul footstep's pollution." It flows a free will offering, and will continue to be laid upon the country's altar till "there will dawn a brighter morning" for the last low words of the dying patriot."

"Tell to them the story mother,
When I sleep beneath the sod,
How I died to save our country,
All for love to her and God,"

will echo along the corridors of time, stimulating to greater heroism, and more self sacrificing devotion to the cause of liberty and the rights of men."

"Avon, July 12th 1864"

"A Friend"

Sunday, May 15th found the two Armies still facing each other along the rugged hills and narrow valleys near Resaca. General Sherman had started pushing his right wing down the Oostenaula River on Saturday, and continued on Sunday. He succeeded in laying two pontoon bridges not far from Calhoun in such a position as to threaten Johnson's rear. On the left there was some shifting of position but no general movement on the part of the Fourth Corps. The firing continued through Saturday night and increased in volume with the daylight. Artillery was fired by each side upon the other. During the morning hours the three divisions of the twentieth Corps were moved to a position in the rear of the Fourth Corps. The 96th left its works and moved to the front. They stopped in line of battle just to the right of the Dalton to Resaca Road. Just to their rear were massed two Brigades of General Butterfields Division of the Twentieth Corps. To these soldiers were read several dispatches telling of the advantage gained by the Army of the Potomac. It was thought that this was done to cheer them for the difficult task ahead, because at shortly after 1:00 P.M. they were ordered forward for an attack. One Brigade moved diagonally across the road and passed through, or over the 96th. Another Brigade moved up a little to the left. The 96th found that their position of support was not a very comfortable one, as heavy Artillery fire was being brought down on them. They could see the advancing troops ahead of them until they broke into the trees and brush. Very soon extremely heavy firing was heard and it soon became a continuous roar, which echoed from hill to hill. Soon the musket balls were falling on the 96th from the battle ahead of them. Wounded men started to come back from the battle ahead, some hobbling by themselves and some being carried by stretcher bearers. All the 96th had to do was to wait, but even that was fraught with danger, as the balls were falling around them all the time. The shooting diminished a bit, but then they heard a series of Rebel yells again. The charge had only partially succeeded. The men fell back at several points, but then rallied a little and again went forward. Further over the ridge a terrible thing happened. Changing directions slightly, one column moved so as to come up partly behind another. The woods was full of smoke and they could not plainly see. As the bullets were coming from the front, they fired back, but at their friends. Only a partial volley was fired, but it was enough as several from each unit fell from the "friendly" bullets. The effect was to demoralize both Brigades somewhat, and make complete success impossible. A portion of one Brigade crawled up to the Rebel works and started to use their gun butts as weapons. Some used their bayonets. The results of the charge was not all that was hoped for. The Rebels still held a continuous line around Resaca, but there were substantial gains of territory. The firing was continuous until darkness quieted the battlefield somewhat. At one point in the battle, General Hooker and his staff rode to the center of the Regiment and calmly watched the battle. Several of his staff were wounded but the General sat and watched without showing any fear. The 96th only had two men wounded in the days activities.

At dusk the 96th moved to a position on a high ridge that had been prepared during the afternoon by a detail under Lt. Earle. Soon thereafter all became quiet. It was as if by mutual consent, each side stopped firing. But when some members of the command built fires behind the lines, they were fired upon. They soon put the fires out and spent the night in darkness. At one time during the night they were called out when someone heard some brush move ahead of them, and they thought that perhaps a night assault was possible. This proved

to be a false alarm, however, as they were retreating under cover of darkness. By morning all were gone.

Monday, May 16th found the enemy position at Resaca deserted. General Johnson had decided that with the Federal troops having crossed the river below on pontoon bridges, his best course of action was to fall back to a safer position. He also felt that as he fell back, he was gaining troop strength, for he had less towns and bridges to protect. He also felt that as he moved south he would pick up new conscripts who would be interested in protecting their home territory. It would also be assumed that Sherman would loose troops for the battle field as he would have to leave a force at every town or bridge that he captured. Johnson also knew that many of the Union soldiers had enlisted in 1861 for three years. That time was now up and he expected that with their retirement, there would be a considerable reduction in the Union troop strength. Sherman only had one railroad over which he could get supplies. Johnson expected to soon cut that railroad and isolate Sherman from his base of supply.

When it was determined that the enemy was gone, the members of the 96th went forth to search for their own dead or wounded that had been left on the field for two days. Some of the dead were found and a burial party under Lt. Burnett of Co. B buried them. This sad duty took two days and they were assisted by details from other commands. From some of the Rebels that had been left behind and captured they learned that Rose, Lewen and Ayers had been captured unharmed.

At 8:00 A.M. the details of the pursuit of the enemy had been laid out and they started in pursuit. The 96th went over the ground that had been the battlefield of the day before. They found many interesting scenes. The Rebel works were indeed strong. They consisted of two lines of heavy fortifications, one several rods to the rear of the first.

The Fourth Corps led the way to Resaca. The fourteenth Corps followed. The twentieth and twenty-third Corps crossed the river at the left, and General McPherson's forces at Lays Ferry, at the right. When the 96th arrived at Resaca, they spent several hours repairing a bridge that had been partially destroyed. While they were working on the bridge, a scout rode past them and enquired for the 96th. He reported that three of their men were wounded and captured in the battle of two days before and were in a building in town. Lt. Col. Smith, along with a few men, rode to the building and soon returned with Thomas J. Smith of Co. I, Richard Spencer of Co. F, and Lewis Miller of Co. G. They were stopped with the Regiment for a short time and then taken to town, where they were left in hospitals that were just being established. Smith and Miller did not survive long, but Spencer recovered after several months. The Rebels had taken their watches and blankets, but they said that several of the ladies in whose house they had been left had taken very good care of them, even though their sympathies were with the south.

The Rebels left a large amount of corn meal and some muskets when they left. On the whole, however, their retreat was well organized for the speed of the movement. Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon the Fourth Corps crossed the Oostenaule River and marched southward on a road nearly parallel to the railroad, and camped for the night not far from Calhoun.

On Tuesday, May 17th, reveille sounded at 3:00 A.M. and after breakfast they started their march. They shortly passed Calhoun. The First Division (including the 96th) was marching in column of companies, with flags waving and drums beating. The Second Division had the advance. There had been skirmishing all day but by afternoon it became more intense. The First Division moved up to support the Second under heavy artillery fire, and as night fell they were all

engaged in heavy fighting. The enemy was behind a heavy line of trenches. They made no move to dislodge them that day as it was getting dark. Although there were many casualties that day, the 96th was fortunate in having none. They built up a heavy line of defense that night. They worked well into the night. There were a few houses in their front that had housed Rebel snipers during the day, but as night came they were burned by the Federal troops, the various fires lighting up the night sky. The Rebels were in a strong position, but as General McPherson was pressing on their left flank and General Schofield on their right, they again withdrew under cover of darkness. On May 18th they were again up early and orders were again received to pursue the enemy. They moved forward with skirmishers out ahead. The enemy harassed them to the best of their ability. The First Division was in the rear and made a slow march all day. By late afternoon, however, they were hurried up passed the others and went into bivouac very near the enemy at about 8:00 P.M. There was some skirmishing as they moved forward, but nothing serious happened. Some Southern Newspapers were found in the homes as they moved forward. Some editorials were critical of General Johnson for pulling back, but some thought his plans were all right. The officers on both sides thought that there would be a heavy battle near Cassville. General Sherman was headed toward this town. All lay down to rest that night with the thought that tomorrow would be a decisive day in the war.

CHAPTER 32

On the 19th they were on the move by sunrise. General Sherman directed that the enemy be pushed at all points, and pushed to do battle north of the Etowah River if possible. The 96th was in the lead of a column which marched along the line of the railroad. A half hour after the start the Rebels were encountered. One Company after another was sent into the skirmish line until most of the command was deployed. At Kingston, which was the junction of the Rome branch of the main line of the Railroad from Chattanooga, the Rebels opened up on the advancing troops with artillery. The skirmishers however kept up the advance and soon were threatening to flank them. At this point, the Artillery moved back. Skirmishing was very severe and even approached what would be called a battle. They were ordered to stay near the railroad, so the line swung to the left and moved rapidly forward. The Rebels stopped at every road and ridge and compelled the 96th to keep up a heavy fire constantly. Bullets cut through the line but the men of the 96th responded with valor. Sometimes running and firing very rapidly toward the enemy, and sometimes flanking them out of position. The enemy was behind every tree fence and rock and had to be driven out. It was a hot day and some of the command suffered greatly from the heat. All of a sudden, the Rebel firing almost stopped. At first the command was greatly relieved, but then, off in the distance they could see a great sea of gray uniforms heading their way. There was at least a full Corps in sight, all marching toward the Federal lines. The great battle was about to begin.

There was a heavy line of skirmishers in front of the Rebels. Mounted officers were leading them into battle, and other groups of horsemen showed where the generals and their staffs were located. Batteries of artillery along the line separated each Brigade. It was a magnificent view that was seen by the 96th. It was as if the Rebels were out on the parade field, their movement was so precise. They stood for a moment as if entranced. The gray line was a long way off, but a charge would bring them to the Federal position very quickly. General Stanley watched for a short time through his field glasses and then rode quickly back to form the Division in line. The skirmishers were ordered to move forward to a fence in their front and there construct a barricade with the fence rails. They did so, and soon had a rough barricade which would give a little protection from the terrible onslaught which must soon come. When the Rebels got to within a mile of the Union troops, they also halted and commenced building a barricade of rails. General Stanley and a few officers were standing at the edge of the timber in plain view on the enemy. A Rebel Battery soon unlimbered and took dead aim on the General and his staff. The General soon withdrew from that position. A Federal Battery soon answered and forced the Rebel Battery to withdraw. The skirmishers were soon ordered to raise their sights and fire at the enemy, but the distance was too great to do much good. The entire Fourth Corps was now in line and several Batteries of Artillery opened up on the Rebels. Once in a while an artillery shell would seem to pass through the Rebel ranks. Soon the Rebel front line fell back to a secondary line. The Skirmishers (including the 96th) were ordered to advance, but upon leaving their rail fortifications, were fired upon by Rebels who had been lying in a field a short distance in front of the skirmishers. Their fire was returned and for a short time there was a lively chase.

By this time the several Corps of General Sherman's Army were joined and a forward movement was ordered. The Rebels retreated into the timber from whence they had come. At 4:00 P.M. the fourth Corps pushed out in the center, the Twentieth Corps at the left and the Fourteenth Corps at the right. Farther to the rear on the right and left were General McPherson's and General Schofield's forces. There was heavy fighting until dark. By this time the Union forces had reached Cassville.

When they reached Cassville, there was a large white house at the edge of the Village. The Rebels had been very hard to move at this point, so the skirmishers charged the house. The Rebels stayed too long, so quite a few were taken prisoner. As they moved past the house and through the garden, Corporal Gage saw a movement of a hat from behind a wall. He thought it must be a Rebel, and he wanted to give him an even chance, so he jumped behind a tree and yelled, "Come in out of the wet". As he did so, an old black man jumped up and implored him, "For de lub of de Lawd, don't shoot. I aint got nuffen agin you'uns!" Of course the Corporal didn't shoot him, but many times afterward he felt like shooting some of his companions when they would ask him if he had captured anyone since Cassville. The black man said that the owner of the house had two sons in the Rebel Army and that one was a Colonel. It seems that the Colonel had just left the house that morning. As soon as the skirmishers halted, a few returned to the abandoned house and helped themselves to some food that had been left behind. They had all been short of rations for some time and the acquisition of such things as meat, tobacco, flour, corn meal, cake, jelly, honey and maple syrup was appreciated.

About a mile southeast of Cassville on a high ridge, was the main line of General Johnson's troops. They were behind works that had been very stoutly made. On their right, however, Federal cannon had found the range and were making the occupants of the Rebel position very uneasy. General Johnson had just received reinforcements from Mississippi and it was felt that he was in pretty good shape. At the same time General Sherman's Army had been weakened. He had sent a Division to Rome and detachments had been left at bridges and towns along the way. He also had lost thousands of troops because of fatigue and sickness. On the whole the coming battle looked very favorable for the Rebels. However, Generals Johnson, Polk and Hood seemed to have a difference of opinion about their line of fortifications on the ridge. So while the Federal troops were hard at work fortifying their position, the Rebels were once again falling back to the Allatoona hills, south of the Etowah River.

On May 20th the Federal forces were in line early, but the "Johnnies" were gone. General Sherman decided that now was a good time for a three day halt. The troops had been on an active campaign for two weeks and could use the rest. The men took the opportunity to bathe, wash their clothes and just plain sleep. When they had gotten enough sleep, they took the opportunity to investigate the abandoned town of Cassville. One day when Lt. Col. Smith was in town, he saw some of the men dressed in Odd Fellows uniforms. He called them to him and asked them to return the trophies to their rightful place. He then went with them to the lodge hall and they put things right. It seems that Col. Smith belonged to that fraternity and he did not want the local lodge to suffer, even though the local members were of southern sympathy.

Near the camp of the 96th was a Seminary that had a large library. There was no one in attendance at the library but the men of the command helped themselves to whatever book they wanted to read. It was a strange sight to see hundreds of men in uniform sitting at the desks, or outside leaning against a tree, reading books about science or books of fiction. They were hungry for such an opportunity, and they did enjoy it greatly.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday seemed to go by very rapidly. The railroad was repaired by Saturday and the trains came with a large amount of rations. On Sunday, four days rations were issued to each man and twenty days rations for each man was loaded on the wagons. They knew what this meant. It meant that the Generals had a long march planned for them, and they would be going away from the railroad. On Sunday religious services were held and very well attended. Some of the speeches offered by the soldiers were very eloquent, and some were very simple, praying for peace in the land.

CHAPTER 33

Twenty years before the war, General Sherman, who was then only a Lieutenant, came to Marietta Georgia along with an Inspector General on an official tour. He had therefore become somewhat familiar with the region of Kenesaw Mountain and Allatoona and remembered them as very well adapted for defensive operations. Because of this he planned no direct assault on Allatoona. Fortunately, however, as soon as they had reached Cassville, the Cavalry had by rapid movement gained possession of some wagon bridges across the Etowah River. Sherman then decided to cross on these bridges and move toward Marietta and the Chattahoochee River. He hoped to accomplish this before the enemy discovered his plan. General Johnson, however, was watching for just such a plan and he gave up his fortifications in front of Allatoona and moved his forces between the Union forces and Marietta. This prevented Sherman from flanking Kenesaw Mountain.

On May 23rd the Union forces moved to the right towards the bridges recently captured from the Rebels, and crossed the Etowah. As the fourth Corps had been directed to move at the rear of the other troops, the 96th spent the morning in camp. A general order had been issued that all men wear shoes in good repair. If their shoes were worn, they were to draw new ones from supply. This could mean only one thing, that a long march was anticipated. The 96th started at noon and crossed the Etowah River at Gillem's Bridge near the village of Etowah. The day was hot and good water was scarce, so they were very tired when they went into camp at about 10:00 P.M. On the 24th, they were up at 3:00 A.M. and marching by 6:00 A.M. The march was slow as those in front were required to go slow to avoid an ambush. In the early part of the day the land passed over was level and well cultivated. Later in the day it became more hilly. A final halt was made late that evening on a spur of the Allatoona Ridge, not far from Burnt Hickory. There was a terrible thunder storm raging about the time they stopped and it continued for some time during the night. They spent an uncomfortable night, but they got their shelter tents up, wrapped their blankets around themselves and were soon asleep. The next morning the sky was clear.

The next day they started at 10:00 A.M. and marched by obscure roads. The Twentieth Corps, which was on their left found the enemy in considerable strength, but pushed forward trying to reach the main wagon road leading from Dallas to Allatoona. There was a severe battle and reinforcements were called for. Part of the Fourth Corps which had been marching directly toward Dallas, was ordered to assist the Twentieth Corps. On their advance, the 96th met many wounded heading for the rear. They reached the area of the battle about dark, but were moved from place to place until after 9:00 P.M. On the 26th there was a lot of musket fire and a lot of cannonading through the entire day. The first Division of the Fourth Corps was held in reserve all day. They were moved from right to left and back again, and were under arms the whole day. Night brought orders to still stay under arms. The men were able to lay down and rest some, but always had their guns with them. There was firing all night, but the Regiment was not called out.

On Friday, May 27th, the First Division was ordered to move left and relieve General Wood's Division and the 96th took their place in the front line very early. Wood's Division moved left and tried to get upon the right flank of the enemy. A heavy battle followed and Union losses were heavy. On the way, Rebel skirmishers evidently caught sight of the 96th moving in a column, and sent quite a volley at them. The 96th was assigned a position near the left center of the Union line. As soon as they were in position, a detail from the 96th

moved to the front as skirmishers and were under very heavy fire. They all had orders to fire at anything that moved. Each man had sixty rounds of ammunition, but soon extra had to be issued to those on the skirmish line. With all the heavy firing that day, only two men in the Regiment were wounded, Corp. James Murrie in the foot and Oscar Rector in the arm. Both were from Co. C. During the day the men in the main line used the few shovels they had, and dug trenches throwing the dirt out to the front. The dirt at the front soon formed an embankment of from two to four feet wide. The trenches soon reached such a depth that a man could stand upright in them. They had heavy head logs that they could fire under and have protection for their heads. (Was this the beginning of trench warfare as in later conflicts?) At night they would pound sharpened sticks in the ground in front of their trench at different angles. This made a treacherous barrier for the enemy to cross during an attack on their position. (Was this the first barb wire entanglement?)

This line of fortifications was known as the Dallas Line. They were on the brow of a hill, and it was necessary to have a sharp angle in the line in order to control the ground in their front. The main lines of the two armies were about half a mile apart, but their skirmish lines were much closer. Toward evening on the 27th the Rebels opened fire with artillery and musket. The Artillery came down hard on the exposed position of the 96th. This continued for about an hour. The rain of iron was terrible. The exploding of shells were almost constant, but none made a direct hit on the fortifications. The Union Batteries now opened up on the Rebel lines. The men clutched their guns and crouched as low as they could. They fully expected that this was only a prelude to a massive infantry charge. No charge came on that portion of the line however and by nightfall the firing lessened a bit. As soon as the Artillery fire quit, the men were put to work making the embankment wider. They worked in shifts all through the night, one third digging, one third standing to arms and one third sleeping. The Artillery on both sides fired intermittently and there was constant skirmish fire all night. The fire of the skirmishers increased several times during the night and each time the entire main line was called out, but when it was discovered to be a false alarm, they quickly went back to sleep.

Early on the 28th the Rebel Artillery again opened up on the area where the 96th was located. For an hour or two the iron again rained down upon them, but with little damage except to their nerves. A heavy line of Rebel reinforcements was seen advancing toward Dallas during the day. This made them all the more certain that there would be a night attack. At night there was little sleep. The Skirmishers were told to advance their line a little at a time and dig new pits. The main line was kept alert just in case the enemy was made aware of the advance. Sunday, May 29th was a beautiful day overhead, but near Dallas and New Hope Church, the only music heard was heavy musket and artillery fire. The firing increased during the evening but an ominous quiet settled over the line at dark. At 10:00 P.M. the intensity grew again and there was a terrible night fight to the right of the 96th, but the Rebels were driven back with very heavy losses. Again the 96th was kept awake and alert all night, expecting an attack in their sector. May 30th was more of the same. The Rebels opened up on the 96th again with artillery, but they hugged the ground and felt quite secure in their fortifications. The skirmishers had little rest, however, as they kept up a heavy fire all day. On the 31st it was the same situation, except the Rebels had an additional Battery on their side. In the morning they opened up with three Batteries on the "Angle" line that was the position of the 96th. Companies A and F were at one time almost buried when a shell struck their own

embankment and threw a lot of dirt over them. A solid shot struck the embankment and penetrated through it and hit a log that three men from Co. A were leaning up against. The log shattered and bruised the men, but not severely. June 1st, 2nd and 3rd were about the same as the previous days. The position of the Regiment was unchanged. The skirmishing on each side was perhaps a little less severe. The skirmishers even talked to each other at night. They even ventured into the land in between and swapped such things as newspapers and coffee for tobacco. The weather was rainy and the clothing of the men, from the constant contact with the red clay soil, came to look a great deal like that of their enemy. Their rations were running out and there was no opportunity to forage because they were kept busy all the time. On the 3rd, General Stanley ordered the skirmishers to fall back to the main line in hopes of making the Rebels think they were withdrawing. The Rebels did not fall into the trap however.

While the 96th and other troops near the left center of the line had been hugging their works so closely that they failed to notice that other portions of the Army were on the move. When Sherman had found that Johnson had anticipated his move and had placed his Army between Sherman and Marietta, Sherman tried to move his troops from right to left, attempting to pass the Rebel right and break it back. This was not successful. He then tried to reach out toward the railroad in the vicinity of Ackworth.

Very early on Saturday, June 4th, the movement to the left had proceeded so far that the 96th was ordered to leave its works. They marched about half a mile to the left and stopped. The men were told that they could put up their tents, which was a privilege they had not had for many days. During the day there was a lot of skirmishing in the vicinity, so the 96th was kept on alert all day for an anticipated enemy assault, but nothing serious occurred. On Sunday, June 5th, the Regiment was in line at 3:00 A.M. but shortly thereafter they learned that the enemy had again left their works and had moved to their rear and right during the night. The skirmish line was advanced and soon came in contact with a light line of Rebels. They didn't push them, but went into trenches where they could watch them. This was the tenth day that they had been constantly under arms. The wounded, who had occupied tents just to the rear of the Army, were now moved to hospitals in Ackworth. This was a very difficult move as the wounded were so severely bruised.

Monday, June 6th brought an early reveille to the 96th and they were issued three days rations and told to make them last four. At sunrise they were marching toward the left. A halt was made at 1:00 P.M. at Ackworth. It was a hot sultry day and many of the men fell by the wayside during the march. When they arrived, they were told to clean up the camps and take a brief rest. Their rations were short, so there was considerable foraging. Those caught were required to carry a rail at headquarters. The men felt outraged and threatened to take revenge. They felt that since they were in enemy territory they had a right to "the spoils of war". The threats of the men brought the speedy release of the foragers however.

CHAPTER 34

June 7th, 8th and 9th were in the main rest days. A rest that was greatly needed. Since they left Blue Springs, the casualties of the 96th totalled 80, of which 13 were deaths. Besides these there were over a hundred that were out of action because of sickness or over exertion. The Regiment could only muster a few over 200 men at this time. General Sherman had lost more men than he had gained when the two Divisions arrived from the west, while Johnson had gained men through reinforcements. Johnson's men were more acclimated to the territory and the weather. They also had negroes to construct their fortifications for them. The railroad bridge across the Etowah was quickly repaired and trains brought supplies up and took wounded back to Chattanooga, or further north. The men cleaned up their clothing and equipment as best they could and boiled their clothing to rid them of the vermin. Thousands of letters were sent and received during this time, and newspapers from the north were read until literally worn out. The talk in camp centered around who would be elected President, although they would not be able to vote.

He speaks in the following letter of the letter he wrote on the 5th. but there is no such letter in the collection. He also speaks toward the end of the letter about George and Frank farming at home. These are his two youngest brothers. His youngest brother, Frank, was only six years older than his son Fred.

"Camp 3 miles west of Allatoona"
"June 7, 1864"

"Dear Wife"

"We were told that - - - - - at 10 A.M. so of course I write you again although I wrote the 5th. Yesterday my company ----- from the skirmish line at ----- at sunrise so our whole Corps marched eastward to this place and were told we would ----- hearty hoorah and ----- out our camp and put up our forge tents in proper military order. We are in the woods so we are shaded from the scorching sun. Our appearance here is not much unlike that at a camp meeting I went down to a little creek and had a thorough washing last evening so today I feel first rate. Myron too is well. We have not got any mail in a good while but will probably get it before leaving here. There are a good many troops in front of us so I presume as we have had the "front" so much of late we are permitted to lay in the rear awhile now. O! We hear the car whistle at Alatoona and the boys are churning in all directions as far as we can hear. "It seems well" and sounds like civilization and gives us hope that we will soon have enough to eat. Oh! I wish you was here to take a view of this army. There are probably 20,000 men within 2 miles of me and I can hear preaching praying singing, swearing, officers giving various commands, mules braying cattle looing, horses neighing, men chopping, trees falling, bugles, fifes, and drums without end, and then we can see men engaging themselves so differently some are reading, some writing, some playing cards while others are building arbors and policing their grounds about their tents My and I have put our two pieces of tent together and have got rigged up pretty well and while he is hunting "graybacks" I am setting cross legged on a log writing on my knee. Lt. ----- is in with his brother ----- down in the Co. I presume he thinks I ought to invite him in with me but Libbie I have waited on him as long as I am going to. Of course if we go into camp where we are apt to remain long he will come in again but when we do I shall have to pretty much all the policing about the tent and the bringing of water etc. He don't take much pains in keeping himself nor things about him very clean and then again he is not much help to me as he has not much business tact about him."

"I got the Chattanooga Gazette of the fourth which states that Grant had got to the Pominky river so I presume the siege of Richmond is begun by this time. Grant seems to be the man for us. Wouldn't it be funny if Richmond and Atlanta should fall into our hands on the 4th of next July? Well Geo. how do you and Frank make farming go now? I hear you are pretty faithful and I am glad of it for we need faithful boys at home as well as faithful men in the army. I can imagine pretty well how Frank and Fred look playing along the road to and from school & how little Nellie looks trudging around after her Ma. How I would like to dandle the little darling on my knees but I shall have to wait until this cruel war is over I suppose." "My love to all."

"Truly Your Vange"

"To Elisabeth"

After the three day rest following the severe experience of New Hope Church and Dallas, General Sherman ordered the troops forward again on June 10th. They left the Ackworth area that morning. General McPherson was on the left, General Thomas in the center and General Schofield on the right. The Fourth Corps went directly toward Pine Mountain and kept to the right of Big Shanty and the railroad. Bread, coffee, salt and salt meats had been brought up by wagon, and cattle were driven along with the troops. Men were detailed to herd the cattle behind the troops during the day and bring them up to the troops at night. There was little grass in the region, but the cattle did quite well on the grain fields in the region. However, it was hot and rainy at the time and the flies were bad enough to keep the cattle in poor condition before it was their turn for slaughter. Soldiers were detailed to slaughter and cut up the meat every second or third day. There was very little in the vegetable line for the troops and it seemed they were constantly hungry. Much of the time they were issued three days rations and told to make them last four or even five days. The Rebel Cavalry had been active and had tore up bridges and portions of the railroad. This made supplying the troops all the harder. They became very frugal and even saved the tails of the slaughtered animals which were skinned out. The meat of the tails and all of the bones were boiled up for soup. The Fourth Corps did some foraging, but most of the supplies in the area had been used up by the Rebels.

On the 10th the day was rainy, the roads obscure and the country was broken and timbered. The 96th furnished flankers or skirmishers, but encountered no serious trouble. When the halt was made for the day, the Rebel tents were in full view only about two miles away. Their lines were well fortified and extended from Brush Mountain, across Pine Mountain, past Gilgal Church to Lost Mountain, extending about ten miles. The weather continued rainy and the movement of supply wagons and Artillery was very difficult. When these pieces got mired in the mud, it was up to the infantry to get them out. They had to cut new roads through the timber and in some cases conduroy the low ground with logs.

The 96th occupied the same ground that they stopped on on the 10th for several days. They built great fortifications even though they were even farther from the enemy than they were at New Hope Church. A portion of the Regiment was sent to reconnoiter the front on the 11th. They advanced a long distance and had a severe skirmish, but suffered no casualties. On the 12th there was severe fighting to the left, and an attack was expected. The men slept with their clothes and shoes on and with their guns at their side, but had their tents up to protect them from the terrible storm. The 13th was a day of heavy Artillery fire from the Federal troops. During the day a large dead tree which was located on the skirmish line just simply fell over during a heavy rain storm, its roots being pulled right out of the wet ground. It fell across a log that some of the skirmishers were setting on. It fell on Carlisle Druse, of Co. B and his bayonet was driven through his body causing almost instant death. This young man was a favorite among the Regiment and his death was sadder because of the circumstances.

The morning of the 14th was clear, but cool. This was quite a surprise to the troops who expected warmer weather in June in the "sunny south". The first sound that they heard that morning was heavy Artillery fire. They soon learned that it was their own guns firing at the Rebel lines. The whole day must have been very unpleasant for the enemy as the Federal guns kept it up all day. General Sherman came riding past the Regiment and ordered the 5th Indiana Artillery to open fire on Pine Mountain. A group of Rebel officers were

reconnoitering the lines at the time and a well placed shot caused them to scatter. In a few moments, a signal officer, who had learned to read the Rebel signals, reported that no less a person than Bishop Polk, who was at that time a Lieutenant General in the Confederate Army, had been struck by an unexploded shell and instantly killed.

There was heavy fighting at several places along the line that day and at one point the 96th along with other units were caused to move to the left and were about to make a heavy charge. It was deemed unwise, however as the Rebels were found to be heavily fortified at that point. The lines of the Twentieth Corps along with those of General McPherson, were crowded forward and some gains were made in position. The locomotive was heard at Big Shanty, and it was evident that the Etowah had been bridged. When that whistle was heard, a cheer was heard for many miles along the front. Perhaps supplies could be brought up now.

On the 15th a general advance was ordered at daylight with the intention of pushing through at any weak spot. It was soon found that the enemy had once again retreated at night. The Regiment went forward over the position that the enemy had just held, and advanced about two miles over very difficult ground. Toward night the entire Fourth Corps was massed to the left of Pine Mountain, and they expected an assault. An advance was made and the Second Division captured the enemy's front line of works. On the 16th, the Fourth Corps lay very near the enemy position and were heavily shelled all day. During the very heavy exchange of Artillery fire, Captain Simonson, of the 5th Indiana Battery and Chief of Artillery for their Division, was killed. Toward evening they built heavy breastwork, it being obvious that the enemy was heavily fortified in their front. On the 17th there was another advance across the center of the Rebel line and they advanced across the lines abandoned by the enemy. The Rebels resisted severely, but at dark they withdrew across Mud Creek, and the Army again fortified their position. After dark the Regiment moved to the front line and relieved the 3rd Wisconsin. The rains were heavy and because they were so close to the enemy, they could build no fires. It was a very uncomfortable night with no tents erected and no clothing or equipment removed.

CHAPTER 35

The fading of the ink made much of the top 2/3 of page one, including the date, impossible to read. We feel it was written about June 17, 1864. This was his last letter.

"-----miles S of ----- Ga."
(about)"June 17 of 1864"

"Dear Libbie"

"-----except that ----- is complaining of -----and is now back with -----, he was up here to see me and to get his mail last night ----- will be able to get ----- ere long. We have been advancing a little again-----and as our battery was throwing shells over us one burst directly over our line and wounded four of our own men. Geo. Philips & I were setting together on the reserve when a piece of shell tore George's side pocket out but did not hurt him much. Our chief of Artillery was killed by a sharp-shooter yesterday. News has just come that the Johnnies are retreating again and probably we will occupy Marietta in a day or two. Last night I received your letter of the 6th inst. so I can give you credit of writing twice a week. Keep doing so & write as much oftener as you can send to the office. On the 13th Carlisle Druce was killed by the falling of a decayed tree which crushed in his left side, broke his legs causing instant death: the tree had become water soaked and heavy by the recent rains and fell on Carlisle as he was laying partially asleep at the reserve picket post."

"General attention has been sounded and we will move in a few minutes. I hear considerable firing on our left so I guess the Johnnie's are not all gone yet. There is a mountain (Lone or Lost Mt I suppose) about 3 miles in front of us & I guess we will find the enemy there yet, but we are able to flank the enemy out of any position they can get here. I dont think we will meet with any great resistance so as to engage all of our forces at once until we get to the Chattahoochee then I expect we will have some hot work. We are having hot work enough here for me. I see men shot almost every day. O! Libbie this war is an awful thing Yesterday I saw a mans leg torn all to pieces and he will probably die as most all who have legs amputated now do die. The weather just now is quite cool and good for the wounded. Libbie, tell Mrs. Leitwiler the best way she can get James' body is to apply to W.R. Cosnolin's Government Undertaker Nashville Tenn. who will furnish a metallic coffin get his body and send it home. By doing so he can be got for \$100. less than to send a civilian for him, besides it is very doubtful about a civilian getting here at all. The probable cost of getting his body home will be about \$150. or \$160. None but metallic coffins are allowed to be transported now from the front. If we don't move within half an hour I will answer Mrs Leitwiler's letter which I received 2 days ago, but you had better see her as I may not have time to write more. Enclosed I send you some more photographs for your Album. You wish to know if you can have a new bonnet. & I answer yes. If I take you the 4th I not only want you to behave pretty as you say you will but I want you to look pretty too. We used to dress according to our means let us continue to do so now. We fall in now so Good Bye Kiss the little darlings for"

"Vange"

"I got the \$10 you sent"

Saturday, June 18th, they found that the enemy had again withdrawn, and the Regiment continued their advance. They moved all day, but sometimes sideways rather than forward. The first division was in reserve until evening, when it moved to the front. The 96th was ordered to take the skirmish line just after dark, which it did under heavy fire. There was some uncertainty during this move, as the troops that they relieved had moved back before they got there. Two men from Co. D went to check out the situation. They saw the outline of an earth works and heard voices. When they looked over the earth works, they were met by Rebel muskets. They had no option but to surrender. They spent a long imprisonment in a Rebel prison. The other men could hear what had happened to Sergeant Devlin and Albert Barney, and reported the facts to the officers. The two lines were only a few yards apart, but as strange as it seems there was no firing that night. It was a very anxious night for the troops, however. General Thomas ordered that an advance be made in the morning if the Rebels were still holding this line.

Sunday, June 19th, they found that the Rebels had again moved back. The skirmishers of the 96th had moved forward and occupied the Rebel position and captured a few prisoners before the sun had come up. These skirmishers were soon withdrawn and the Division was soon moving to the left and front, going toward Marietta. The enemy was found near Wallace's house and fighting became very spirited in the front. The 21st Kentucky had the front at this time. The main line was on the edge of some timber. The skirmishers tried to cross an open field in front of the line, but had to withdraw, as the Rebel position was very strong. The Rebels were attempting to tear up a bridge across a little stream, known as Nose's Creek. Word was received and the 96th, who was in reserve, advanced rapidly across the field and forced the enemy back into the woods. They crossed the Creek, wading through knee deep mud and water. When they got to the other side, they formed a semi-circle just beyond. They picked two men from each Company and under Lt. Dawson of Co. F, they advanced. They were now confronting the foothills of Little Kenesaw Mountain. The sides of the hill was heavily wooded and they had no idea what was ahead of them. Darkness was now falling and they advanced slowly. It seems that there was a Rebel behind every bush, and several of the 96th were captured. They fell back a few rods just as darkness fell. They quickly put up some fortifications as they were sure that the Rebels would try to push them back the next morning.

June 20, 1864, was a very memorable day in the history of the 96th (and also for the Gillmore family). They had had no sleep for two days and at dawn they were ready to repel the expected Rebel attack. The attack never came, however, but there was very heavy firing all through the day. The skirmish line with the help of Co. D in support was ordered to advance with the hope of taking the higher ground at their front, but the enemy had too much fire power, and they fell back. There was heavy fighting to their right and left all day long. The Division Commander and the Brigade Commander worked their way on foot behind the 96th and tried to learn the position and strength of the force in their front, and also the nature of the terrain. A reconnaissance was sent forward. They crawled to within a few rods of the Rebel Skirmish pits. They found the pits very close together and full of men. They then returned and made their report. Several from Co. D. were killed or wounded during this time.

The skirmish officers reported the enemy position and a charge was planned at Brigade headquarters. The 21st Kentucky was ordered to pile their knapsacks, take positions in front of the 96th and lay down until ordered to charge. The 51st Ohio which was to move in support, was directed to lay down in the rear of the 96th. At the same time

similar preparations were made by other troops in front of Bald Knob. Col. Price, the commander of the 21st Kentucky, was making preparations for the advance, and was about to inquire about the direction he was to take to keep his line parallel to the Rebels when the bugle sounded the charge. Lt. Earle, of Co. D of the 96th, volunteered to guide his right, as he had been over that ground earlier. The advance had hardly begun when Col. Price fell, severely wounded. This did not stop the Kentuckians however, as they dashed up and over the Rebel skirmishers and captured many of them. The 51st Ohio moved immediately to the captured line and were soon supported by other units. In their enthusiasm, part of the 21st Kentucky charged past the Rebel skirmish line and across a ravine toward the ridge beyond where the Rebel main line was located. This further advance was not anticipated by the Union commanders, however, and their further charge would prove disastrous. Many of the brave Kentuckians were killed or wounded. They were recalled and sent to a safe position in the rear. About this time, about 60 or 80 Rebel prisoners were brought back under guard. Most of them were from the 7th Kentucky and as they passed to the rear, they were talking and asking questions of their captors. One member of the 96th asked one of the guards, "You seem to know some of those fellows." They replied, "Know them, Yes every one of them. I used to play football with them in Lexington. Got my own brother here." "You didn't get me until I gave you 200 rounds of cartridges today, anyhow!" was the reply from the captor's brother. This was a civil war - neighbor against neighbor and brother against brother.

The troops in the front line immediately began to construct a line of works, using the materials captured from the Rebel skirmish pits. The defense was almost complete, when the skirmishers ahead warned them that the Rebels were coming. They dropped their axes and shovels and grabbed their guns. With a yell, the enemy came but not in such numbers as to be successful, and soon they were falling back. When word came that the Rebels were to make an attack, Col. Champion, of the 96th ordered his troops forward and they helped send the first charge back. The 35th Indiana moved up on the left and at the point of the Rebel assault there were two lines to greet them. Soon the Rebels charged again with a determination that did credit to their bravery. The guns of the men in the rear were loaded and passed to the men in the front and a withering fire was poured upon the advancing Rebels. The dense underbrush in front was mowed down as if a scythe was used. The Rebels came across the ravine and up the slope, almost to the Union works, but by that time their ranks had been thinned and broken that they again retreated. It was now getting very dark and it was hard to tell friend from foe. A third charge was now made by the Rebels. This time they tried to deceive the Union troops. They turned around and backed toward the Union lines while firing blank rounds at their own lines. They would shout at the Federal troops not to fire at their own friends. The deception worked for a short time, but their plan was soon discovered and they were driven back a third time. The Rebels felt that the ground lost to their enemy was critical and seemed determined to retake it at all cost. They made a fourth charge right in front of the 96th but the withering fire soon sent them back again. Col. Champion was severely wounded in the face during this bloody fighting, and was taken to the rear. Lt. Col. Smith took charge of the Regiment and fearing that his right flank might be turned, moved the Regiment to the right of the 51st Ohio and spreading the line from the 51st to Noses Creek. As soon as the new position was established, Col. Smith went to the front to reconnoiter their position. A moment later a bullet tore through his shoulder and he was carried to the rear. Major Hicks was

temporarily absent because of sickness, so Captain Pollock of Co. C. took over command of the Regiment. He asked for and received assistance from Captain Rowan of Co. F. The two Captains looked along the line and determined where more defenses were needed. The Rebels were not yet satisfied, and were preparing for their fifth charge. This time they hit the Union line a little farther to their Right. They moved silently until they got near the breastwork of their enemy. They then charged upon the 35th Indiana, killing their Commander, Major Pufficy, and shooting or bayoneting many of the men. The 35th abandoned their position, some of them being captured and some running back into the timber. Major Marshall of the 51st Ohio immediately called for the 96th to retake the position. Upon consultation, however, it was agreed that their position was too important to be abandoned, so Captain Pollock ordered the three left companies - B, G, and K to move left and fill the gap left when the 35th fell back. They moved in the rear of the line and before they were aware of where they were, they were fired upon by the Rebels, who were just behind the breastwork. Several fell in the first volley, some ran back for shelter and a few held their ground loading and firing as fast as they could. A few used their bayonets. At this time the 40th Ohio came up and soon retook the works, but not without considerable losses to themselves, and to the enemy.

CHAPTER 36

There were terrible losses in the three left Companies of the 96th in this encounter. Captain E.J. Gillmore, of Co. B was mortally wounded. He was wounded three times, one shot penetrated his skull, another his body and a third passed through his thigh. He never regained consciousness and died three days later, on June 23, 1864.

The three companies returned to the Regiment as soon as they, along with the 40th Ohio, had re-taken the works in their front. The 21st and 22nd of June they were still under heavy fire from the enemy, but no territory was taken by either Army. Rations were short and it rained continually, day and night. After dark on the 22nd the Regiment, along with the rest of the Brigade moved to the rear and right, marching nearly all night. They relieved a portion of the Twentieth Corps at Culp's Farm.

After many days of hard fighting and severe losses, Sherman's troops did push the Rebels back and slowly continued their march toward Atlanta. The historian of the 40th Ohio declared that the night fight for Kanesaw was the most severe that they had ever been in, except perhaps for Chickamauga. Many of the companies of the 96th could only muster 9 or 10 men after that battle. The whole Regiment had trouble mustering much more than a company of men.

In due time, after he had escorted Vange's body home, Myron Gillmore returned to the Regiment. On Wednesday, August 3rd, while on the skirmish line, Myron was severely wounded in the left leg and saw no further service. He was discharged from the service in Chicago in January of 1865 and had a bad leg for the rest of his life.

* * * * *

Vange was only 29 years old when he died in the Federal Army Hospital at Big Shanty, Georgia on June 23, 1864. His brother Myron was by his side until he died, and Myron went with the body back to Lake County, Illinois, where he arrived on June 30, 1864. Vange wanted very badly to come home and see his family. He also knew that leaving them to go back to the battle would be very hard. In one of his last letters he expresses a feeling of doubt of ever seeing his little daughter, Nellie. In his last letter (June 17, 1864) he tells Elisabeth "If I take you the 4th -----". He was evidently planning to get a leave and be home to celebrate with his family on July 4th. It is ironic that he was indeed home on the 4th, but in a metallic coffin, and instead of a celebration, his family had the sad duty to attend the funeral of their husband and father and bury him at Avon Centre Cemetery on July 3rd. I believe that his letters are very descriptive of a good, moral, family man and the times that he was living (and dying) in. I can't help but wonder what a man like this might have been able to add to our family, and indeed to our whole society, had he had a chance to live a full life.

The following article was found on microfilm at the Waukegan Public Library, in the Saturday, June 25th, 1864 issue of "The Waukegan Weekly Gazette". It was written by Captain Evangelist J. Gillmore on June 13, 1864. Before the article was printed, Captain Gillmore was dead.

"FROM THE 96th REGIMENT"

"In The Field Four Miles S.W. of Ackworth, Ga. June 13, 1864"

"EDITOR GAZETTE: Dear Sir: I herewith send you the list of casualties in my Company since leaving Blue Springs, Tenn. on the 3rd ult, and desire you will give it a place in your very welcome paper."

"In a skirmish at Rocky Face Ridge, Ga., May 9th, Private Fred Brainerd was killed; Corporal Warren E. Towers received a flesh wound in the right arm, and Private Erastus T. Cleveland was slightly wounded in right ankle. At the battle of Resaca, May 14th, Private James Litwiller and Herman Hoogstraat were killed. To-day, June 13th, a sad accident befell one of our number. While in the discharge of his duty as picket, Private Carlisle Druce, youngest son of Alexander Druce, sen., of Warren, was killed by the sudden falling of a decayed tree, which crushed his left side and broke his legs, thus causing almost instant death."

"The above named were all true and faithful soldiers, who were ever ready and willing to do their duty, and the Company deeply mourns their loss."

"E.J. Gillmore, Captain"

"Co., B, 96th Ill. Vols"

"P.S. The enemy has again made a stand but, of course, will soon have to retreat, as General Sherman is able to flank them out of any position they can take here. The recent rains which have been quite heavy will retard operations somewhat."

"E.J.G."

The following was from "The Waukegan Weekly Gazette" of Saturday
July 23, 1864.

"OBITUARY"

"Death of Capt. E.J. Gillmore"

"In the course of human events," painful duties devolve upon us; stern and grievous realities are to be met and overcome; and not least among them is the chronicling the departure of our patriotic dead. And while other hearts are bleeding, and other homes are desolate, we have to mourn the loss and record the death of Capt. Evangelist J. Gillmore, of Co. B 96th Reg. Ill. Vols., who died June 23rd, from wounds received in battle on the 20th, at Kenesaw Mountain. Through the untiring energy and perseverance of his brother his remains were brought home, and on the 3rd of July his funeral was attended by the Rev. F.B. Cleveland, who from "He being dead, yet speaketh" held in profound attention the vast crowd gathered to pay the last sad tribute to, and view the narrow house of one held dear not long departed, and as o'er the cold clay the kindred of the dead man hung, deep bathed in sorrow; and as the tears adown their sad faces burned at thought of him who once had been their staff, the sympathetic caught the woe, and from their flooded eyes the thickening drops fell by the honored dead."

"Capt. Gillmore was born May 8th 1835, in the town of Darien, Genesee county, N.Y., and while yet an infant was moved to Girard, Erie county, Pa.; from thence in 1843 to Avon, Lake county, Ill., where he had lived respected and loved by all, a dutiful son, a kind and affectionate husband and father, till at his country's call he left the endearments of home for the hardships of the camp and the carnage of the battle. He has fallen nobly at his post. The country has lost a good officer and a brave soldier. His comrades will miss him in the camp and field. "We shall meet, but we shall miss him." Around the domestic circle "there will be one vacant chair." And why, the inquiry naturally arises, was a life so useful and promising taken? Would not some one - a clog upon the wheels of time - satisfy the thirst for blood? Let me ask, why was the first, the best of the flock, the "lamb without spot or blemish" selected for the sacrifice? And then, why in the "fullness of time, would only the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" satisfy the demands of justice? So will only the best blood of our nation wash out this "foul footstep's pollution." It flows a free will offering, and will continue to be laid upon the country's altar till "there will dawn a brighter morning" for the last low words of the dying patriot."

"Tell to them the story mother,
When I sleep beneath the sod,
How I died to save our country,
All for love to her and God,"

will echo along the corridors of time, stimulating to greater heroism, and more self sacrificing devotion to the cause of liberty and the rights of men."

"Avon, July 12th 1864"

"A Friend"

Smallpox had been a factor in the army for some weeks and anyone who could not show a proper scar, was given a vaccination. General Gordon Granger was relieved of command of the fourth Corps and replaced by Major-General Howard. This met with the approval of the men, as General Granger became less popular after his unnecessary punishment of the men for trivial offences. General Howard did away with Sunday inspections and reviews and said that Sunday duties should be as light as was consistent with safety and cleanliness.

This letter was written on pre-printed stationary. Everything down to the body of the letter, except what is underlined, was on the stationary itself.

"BATTLES PARTICIPATED IN BY THE NINTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS V"

"CHICKAMUGA, GA., SEPT. 20, 1863"

"LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN"
"NOVEMBER 25, 1863"

"HEAD QUARTERS,"

"Co. B, 96th Reg. Illinois V.I."
"Camp near Cleveland Tenn. Apr. 15, 1864"

"Dear Libby"

"I see by your last letter that you have already begun to look for me although I have given you no encouragement to think I would be home before the 1st of May"

"The order came here the 9th that no furloughs nor Leaves of Absence would be granted until the absentees were reduced to 5 per. cent, so no commissioned officer can get a Leave until all are here.. Barron's furlough & mine were returned yesterday - they were not disapproved but returned because over 5 percent. of Com. Officers were absent and over 5 per. cent of the Enlisted men were absent. (All but Com. Officers are called enlisted men) I had considerable hopes I was "all right on the grace question" even after the order came as my papers must have got to Thomas about that time. but he returned all that came to him after the 8th. My application was a good one and would have brought me a leave had not Gen. Thomas issued such an order. The Col. put on a good endorsement stating I was worthy of it etc. I would try again if there was any chance but there is no opening - no chance until all absentees return.. The probability is after we have had another fight we will get Leaves again Gen. Grant was always good about that. and he will probably instruct Thomas to permit as many of us absent as he can without endangering his command My application was approved by the Col, Gen Whittaker, Gen. Stanley & Gen Granger Had I been four days sooner in sending in my application it would have been approved by Gen. Thomas too. I could not have sent in my papers sooner.- I had to wait until Maj. Hicks returned I had them already and forwarded them the ((-----)) the Quarter Masters

papers returned. (I believe I wrote you that the Q.M. had made application and that I came next after him - his papers were disapproved and returned the same time the Maj. got back. So my dear Gal you must not censure me for negligence on my part."

"My application was at Head Qrs within 15 minutes after the Major's arrival. I was a little ashamed for being so fast but I was having a vision of my wife and babies before me and I couldn't delay the matter. Libbie I hope you are not much disappointed but I am sure you will be some. Freddie too I suppose had reckoned a good deal on seeing his pa. I should have enjoyed a visit highly with you but I submit and make the best of it. I know I have done the best I could in trying to get home."

"Sometimes I think I don't care much To go home and let my woman sleep with her head on my breast and trot my little darlings on my knee for a ((-----)) should hate to leave them again so badly. I could do it if I set about it although it is easier to go into battle than to part from our loved ones. I hope I can soon come home and stay with you."

"Hoping the Kind Providence will preserve your health, and give you strength to meet the trials which beset your path, I am yours as ever"

"Vance"

"Libbie"

On April 23rd the 96th joined the rest of the Brigade at Blue Springs. Lt. Col. Smith was called to Chattanooga to serve on a board examining citizens complaints against the government for property destroyed by the army. For a few days the command of the Regiment was in the hands of Major Hicks. Then on April 28th Col. Champion was relieved of duty as Post Commander and assumed command. The camp at Blue Springs was not as nice as they were used to at Cleveland, but they knew that they would be there but a short time. For several weeks now requests for furlough were coming back disapproved by General Thomas. The "veterans" that had been home on furlough for 30 days were returning. Some of these men brought back many new recruits and the reunited and strengthened Army now had about 100,000 men. There was no question that they would be moving forward soon. All extra equipment was sent to the rear in preparation for an advance. They had been on the defensive up until now, but now they would be the attacking force. The enemy had a very formidable force in their front, and it would not be easy.

This letter is on the same type of stationary with the same heading as the previous letter (BATTLES PARTICIPATED IN etc.)

"camp at Blue Springs Tenn April 27th 1864"

"My Dear Wife"

"We moved back here on the 23rd and will probably remain here a week or two. I have the head ache a little today owing to my sleeping so hard last night making up for sleep lost while on picket the night before. We have awful strict orders and a good many of them ((---)) on picket. Three or four officers are now under arrest in the Brig. for incompetence and negligence. While on duty one has got to be very strict. We have probably a dozen officers in the Brig. under arrest for one thing or another. Some for refusing to obey orders, some for drunkenness some for cowardliness exhibited in battle some for absence without leave, etc. etc."

"I have never been under arrest yet but there are but few that can say so. I expect it will be my turn soon"

"I hope however if charges are ever preferred against me I shall be able to defeat them. Last evening I heard a good sermon. Do you hear any preaching now days? I received yours of the 18th yesterday and was glad to learn you were well."

"I have fears of hearing that some of you are sick. I have fears that I may never see Nellie, but I know you are careful of the children and I trust we will all meet again and enjoy many years of happiness. I had a letter from Maria. yesterday also, they were moving them into A---'s cousins house; the letter was dated the 20th."

"Yesterday and today thus far the weather has been very warm. Isn't there danger of the old house tumbling down on you? I hope you will enjoy yourself there this summer. I think you are rather hard to mitten me when it is 20 months since I have slept with a woman; when I have been so true to you all that time too. Wy, I have not even had any thing to say to a woman except in the way of duty when on guard or when purchasing eggs or vegetables or something of that sort. You wish to know what kind of women these are down here but I cant tell you only by what I have heard others say."

"I believe we have some real nice and virtuous ladies here, but there are a great many unvirtuous ones also"

"I have not attended any parties yet but have thought I would like to go once at least. The officers had a very good party at Cleveland last week. There are one or two families in Cleveland that used to live in Waukegan. Col. Champion comes back to the regiment today. Col. Smith is ordered to Chattanooga to be president of a board of claims. Maj. Hicks has been commanding the Regt the last week. Capt. Pollock is the ranking Capt. and takes command in the absence of his superiors."

"Today I went over to the picture Gallery and had my negatives taken for Photographs which I will be able to get by Friday.. Lt. Burnett and Sergt. Osman had theirs taken also. I will send you Lt. Richardson's picture which is very good.. Lt. is a very good looking man but is not very well liked, he is too rough to suit me. Lt. Burnett has charge of the Pioneers in the place of Lt. Havins so I am all alone and when I am gone Sergt. Wait has to command the Company."

"If Fred has no slate it would be a good plan to get him a small one and let him make pictures all he will. Set him copies of figures and printed letters. When children learn in that way it don't tax their minds at all."

"The impressions their little minds have at his age have great effect on their future life."

"I well remember of things that happened when I was his age. Orders have just come to be ready for a reconnoissance tomorrow night and to take three days rations and have it last five days. No tents or valises. will be taken. The probability is that we will try to take Dalton. The rebels are in heavy force here now and we may have some heavy fighting to do."

"Good Bye,"

"Vange"

"Our Corps will not be the attacking body, I think we will move up near so as to reinforce the Corps on our right if necessary so dont borrow trouble I shall write you again immediate after our return O! how I would like to see you and the children again but Libbie! the parting would be so hard"

"Hug and Kiss the little darlings for me."

"Yours forever"

"Vange"

"Elizabeth"

CHAPTER 29

On May 1st the Brigade was called out and formed a hollow square. In the center was a small group of men, two of which were evidently prisoners. Not Rebel Prisoners, but deserters from the Union Army. One of the deserters had his head shaved in front of the whole Brigade. The sentences of the other one was read and they were required to parade around with signs on their backs with the words "deserter" on them. While they marched, the band played the "Rogue's March". There was no danger that the veterans that had been through the campaigns at Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain or Missionary Ridge would think about desertion, but there were many new recruits in the ranks that had not seen action. This was to be a lesson to them. One of the two men that was sentenced for desertion later redeemed himself in the estimation of his companions by his bravery and was killed at Kenesaw Mountain.

There had been no organized "Ambulance Corps" up until this time, but now they selected men from each Regiment to be stretcher bearers. They were given canvas stretchers and taught a little about care of the battlefield wounded.

The Armies of the Union were now getting ready for the big push. General Grant had taken personal command of the troops in Virginia and had given command of the Military Division of the Mississippi to General W.T. Sherman. Sherman had the Army of the Cumberland near the Northern Georgia border. The 60,000 man Army of the Cumberland consisted of the Fourth, the Fourteenth and the Twentieth Corps and were under the command of General George Thomas. The Army of the Tennessee under General J.B. McPherson, made up of portions of the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Corps, was moving from the west and was composed of about 24,000 men. The Army of the Ohio which was made up of the Twenty-third Corps under General John M. Schofield and having about 13,500 men was coming from Knoxville. Very large supplies of food and ammunition were being stock piled in the area and all waited very confidently for the order to move forward.

The troops of this very large army stretched for miles. The Army of the Cumberland became the center of the line. On May 3rd the 96th, along with other troops, moved out from Blue Springs and headed for Red Clay on the Georgia border. They traveled about 12 miles. Because of the return of some of the injured and the recruiting of some new members, the 96th numbered over 400 men at this time. On the 4th they started at sunrise but because they were in the rear of a large number of supply wagons, and also because the Rebels had felled a large number of trees in the road to slow them, they could not travel very fast, and only went about 10 miles. It was an exceedingly hot day. There was no fighting, but Rebels could be seen in front of them all day. That night they took their place in the long line of battle. Their position was near Catoosa Springs. The next day they waited. The Rebels made a move on the very left of the line of battle and forced them back a little. On the 6th the 96th was detailed as picket reserve. By night all of Sherman's troops were in position for the move on Dalton and General Johnson's forces. The Federal forces had greater numbers than the Rebels, but Dalton was heavily fortified and the Rebels had much shorter lines of communication than did the Union. The Federals were also in territory where most of the citizens were Rebel scouts or spys and would report on their every movement and perhaps even try to sabotage their efforts. These factors would make the coming battle a little more even.

On May 7th the Army moved forward in very heavy force. They were up at 3:30 A.M. and on the march before sunrise. Skirmishing started very soon, the first shots being fired at about sunrise. The Rebels fell back and their camp fires from the night before were still burning as the Federal troops advanced. At a little after 9:00 A.M. a brief halt was made and a line-of-battle was formed at the top of a ridge. The 96th had been in the second line, but now took the front line on the right of the Brigade, and began to advance. There was much concern as they left the timber and moved through an open field toward the line of heavy Rebel rifle pits. They thought that they would soon be hit by a heavy volley of rifle fire from short range. This did not happen however because as they got closer they found that the enemy had pulled back toward Dalton, leaving their heavily defended pits behind. The Generals rode to the front and the 96th was the first to cross over into the pits. The command immediately began using the pits and setting up their breast works facing south. The weather was hot but shortly the work was done.

On the 8th they were up by 3:00 A.M. and by 8:00 A.M. they were moving toward the valley between Tunnel Hill and Rocky Face Ridge. The latter was properly named as a sheer rock face lay before the Army of the Cumberland. They halted here and their Division did not advance further that day. They could see a gorge through the ridge, through which the railroad passed and behind which was Dalton and General Johnson's headquarters. Along the ridge and through the gorge was the Rebel line of defense. The narrow pass through the Ridge was known as Buzzards Roost Gap, and it became apparent that it would not be an easy task to drive the enemy from this place.

The 96th was ordered into the Gap. They were deployed, Company by Company until all but Company K, who was out of ammunition, were advancing toward the Gap. Major Hicks had immediate command of the advancing line and heavy firing started as soon as they started their move forward. Their mission was to probe the Rebel defenses and to push their skirmishers back to the main line of defense. They wanted the Rebels to believe that the main attack was to be through Buzzards Roost Gap, while the main Federal forces moved right with the intention of going through Snake Creek Gap which was 12 miles south. When the main army got through Snake Creek Gap they would try to gain a foothold on the railroad between Dalton and Resaca. The fighting on the front where the 96th was, was very intense, but the diversion was in good hands and they advanced steadily, right up to the fortifications in front of them. The works in their front was crowded with men and they faced very vicious firing. They sought cover behind trees, rocks and embankments and kept up a very rapid fire against the Rebel fortifications. They stopped just short of the defensive position. The air was full of lead and smoke. Any further advance would require a charge against superior numbers and a well fortified position. This was not necessary as they were keeping a large force occupied, which was what they were asked to do. For the time being the Rebels seemed disoriented. They had dammed a creek so that much of the low ground was flooded and not usable for an advance. This proved to be of no value to the enemy, however, as at that very time General McPherson was threatening Resaca with a large force. General Sherman's plans were being carried out very well at this point, but unfortunately the drive on the right was not pushed, and the opportunity for a decisive battle was lost.

The afternoon was wearing away and casualties were heavy. General Stanley, the Division Commander came up and saw that the 96th, who was the only Regiment on this front, was running low on ammunition. He ordered the 84th Illinois to come up and help, but there was a delay and at about this time the Rebels decided to push

out from their position to check the size of the force in their front. With ammunition low and the enemy pushing out from their flanks, the 96th watched as the sun slowly set. They were in a position of extreme peril. It seemed that the sun would never go down. Dark finally came and the 84th finally came up and worked their way through the lines of the 96th. Soon the Rebels started a charge and Col. Champion ordered "Fix Bayonets!" The 84th was able to hold them to a very slight advance and the front settled down to an exchange of skirmish fire. At this time the 96th marched back to the valley where they had left their knapsacks, picked them up and moved to the right rear and bivouacked for what was left of the night. They were exhausted. They had been clutching their muskets from before daylight until 9:00 P.M. They were dirty and their faces were powder-grimed. Water was scarce and there was no food except what hardtack they could munch on the skirmish line. Each man had fired anywhere from 40 to 100 rounds. Besides the wounded that were carried to the rear, there were many wounded that refused to go to the rear. They wanted to stay and help. The 96th was the only Regiment of the Fourth Corps of the First Division that saw action that day. A Brigade of the Second Division and part of the Second Division of the twentieth Corps also saw action as part of the diversion. The diversion was successful as they deceived the Rebels into thinking that the main attack was to be in the area of Buzzards Roost Gap. General Stanley was very profuse in his praise of the 96th for their bravery and determination. All in all, the 9th of May, 1864 was a day to be remembered by everyone in the 96th.

On the 10th of May the rest of the troops were called early, but the word was passed that the 96th could sleep longer. This was highly appreciated. It was not long, however, before they were up also. Their position in the valley was highly exposed and the Rebel Artillery soon found them. In the afternoon the entire Brigade carried out an orderly but hurried retreat into the woods to their rear. They partially fortified their new line and as night fell the 96th slept the sleep of the weary, even though it rained very hard.

The rain still fell on the 11th and it was also unseasonably cold. They stayed in position until about 8:00 P.M., when, under cover of darkness, they moved about 3 miles to the right front. The guide didn't seem to know where he was going so they marched and halted and countermarched for hours. It was midnight when they were allowed to settled down to rest for a short time. Heavy details were sent to the picket lines that night. They had relieved a portion of the Fourteenth Corps, who then moved south.

On Thursday May 12th, there was heavy details sent to construct breast works for their defense. From the 9th to the 12th all of the infantry forces except the Fourth Corps (including the 96th) had been concentrating on the right. General Sherman was very disappointed that a vigorous attack was not made at that point as early as the 10th or the 12th, thereby forcing General Johnson to abandon the railroad and either march eastward or come out and fight in the open fields. This movement did, however compel the enemy to abandon his strong position at Dalton. At midnight on the 12th they observed lights moving about on the ridge and soon thereafter it was evident that they had left.

On the 13th, the Union skirmishers moved forward and occupied the abandon ridge. Soon afterwards the main part of the Fourth Corps moved through Buzzard Roost Gap. The Rebel position there was one of great strength and it was a wonder that they did not fight longer and harder to keep it. At Dalton a brief halt was made and the men visited the stores in town that had been abandoned by there owners. There was not much left of an eatable nature and they did not want to

be burdened with dry goods. They found a few newspapers from the day before which gave glowing accounts of Rebel victories and Union defeats. They said that Sherman's troops had made five attempts to take their position, but all had been driven back with heavy losses. These were not true accounts, but were an attempt to bolster up the moral of the people of the south. The march was continued until dusk with skirmishers in front. They camped near an old mill 8 miles south of Dalton and not far from Tilt. They built some fortifications and some shots were exchanged during the evening. Most of the Rebels were concentrating at Resaca, however, and tomorrow would bring another eventful day in the History of the 96th.

CHAPTER 30

Saturday May 14, 1864, was the opening day in a battle for Resaca for the Fourth Corps, including the 96th. They were on the move at 6:00 A.M. Early observation established the fact that the Rebels in heavy strength were close by. Stoneman's Cavalry led the way. At one point they dismounted and with every fourth man holding the horses of his companions, they advanced on foot. The infantry soon caught up and passed the dismounted cavalry. They had been marching in columns, but now the columns moved to the left and right taking their place in the line of battle on both sides of the road. They paused and the officers of the various commands met to discuss strategy. 2 or 3 men from each Company took the canteens of their companions and worked their way to a creek or stream and filled the canteens. The fourth Corps was on the left of the whole Army and the 96th was on the left of the Corps (Co. B would have been on the very left edge of the whole Army). The 96th, along with the rest of the front line, moved a short distance to the edge of an open field that was about a quarter of a mile in width. Skirmishers were thrown out into the field while the rest of the line built fortifications. It took most of the morning to move everyone into position and connect up with the 23rd Corps on their right. During this period it was quiet on the left but there was a good deal of fighting on the right as they tried to develop the enemy's position and strength.

At a little past 2:00 P.M. they were ordered forward with Companies A and B as skirmishers. Beyond the open field was a wooded ridge. As they advanced they were fired upon from the ridge but it was not serious enough to stop the advance. As the skirmishers reached the ridge they were fired upon very heavily, indicating that the enemy was in heavy strength just beyond. At this time it was noted that Company B, on the left was much closer to the enemy than Co. A. Captain Vincent, who was the ranking officer in the line, had not noted this difference in closeness to the enemy. He kept calling, "Forward on the left" over and over again. Captain Gillmore repeated the order to his men and most gallantly did they respond. They charged and only halted when the main works of the Rebels were in plain view and a volley from the enemy told them that to go further would be folly. During this charge, Herman Hoogstraat of Co. B was killed, but the man that shot him soon met the same fate, as "Mack" McMillen's rifle avenged his friend. The dead Rebel was found later as they advanced. As soon as it was determined that the left was as far as it could go, the right was swung around to conform with the Rebel front line.

They now confronted a field a half a mile wide, with small hills and valleys. They could see fresh clay where the enemy had made their fortifications. The fortifications were teeming with Rebel men and guns. General Whittaker ordered the 96th, along with two other Regiments, to pile their knapsacks and fix bayonets and be ready to charge across that open field into a hail of lead. The men looked at each other in disbelief. How could anyone be expected to do that. Even Col. Champion, who was always careful of criticizing his superiors, quietly spoke his disapproval to those about him, but he added that if the order was given, that all should comply. Whittaker seemed to be in great glee at the thought of the victory he felt was near, but his life was not on the line. Just before the order was given, however, the Division Commander rode up. He quickly saw the situation as a hopeless endeavor and said no. He could see that the enemy had several batteries of artillery, although silent now, ready to lay down a heavy converging fire on every acre of that open field. The men silently agreed with the Division Commander's decision. They

had hurled themselves ahead many times during the last several months at General Whittaker's command, but this time his orders would be countermanded by another in higher authority. The officers conferred, and another Brigade was moved into the woods at the left, and shortly thereafter the 96th and two other Regiments silently moved to the rear, across an obscure road, and through an irregular depression to where the other Brigade was in position. Co. B was sent to the left and front, and spread out, to report any movement of the enemy that they might discover. When the Regiment stopped in line, they were at right angles to their former line and practically isolated from any other troops. Neither the Regimental officers or the men knew why they were thus deployed, but General Stanley was extremely worried as he watched the 96th carry out their assigned tasks. His scouts had informed him that the Rebels were planning one of their famous massive assaults on their enemy's flank, and the 96th was on the left flank. The skirmishers to the immediate front of the Regiment soon became aware of the enemy's plans, however. As they stopped and looked over a low rail fence, they could see a sight that could have been grand, if it were not so terrible.

The Rebel Stevenson's Division was just emerging from the timber and was forming its lines in plane view. They were in two lines, their colors flying, their officers mounted and they had cavalry in the rear and on both flanks. Their skirmishers advanced followed by the main line. Captain James reported what he saw and was ordered to move his men back to the main line. They were by this time firing at the enemy, however, and not all got the word. A few were over run by the enemy. The enemy's movement was such that they hit the Brigade on their right first and with fearful force. They had been throwing up a barricade of rails when they were hit. They grabbed their rifles and tried to defend themselves but when they discovered that their flank had been passed by the enemy, they broke for the rear. The 96th could see little of what was going on on their right, but they could hear. The Rebel yells got louder. The line of blue was being rolled back from left to right. Their wait was not long, for soon they could hear the advancing troops at their front. They had a lot of brush in front of them. The voice of Col. Champion rang out: "Steady, men! Hold your fire until I give the word!" As the brush began to weave to and fro, almost in their faces, he gave the command: "Fire!" A terrible volley of destructive fire poured into the oncoming lines, and a great windrow of dead was afterwards found at that point. The Regiment halted and turned back the enemy. They had no thought of retreating, but it was soon discovered that both of their flanks were being passed at a rapid rate. Col. Champion gave the order to retreat, but it was not heard by some. They were, however, experienced soldiers by this time and their instinct told them that to stay was foolish. They were to form up on their fortifications in the rear. The Regiment was in confusion and there was no hope of any order. This was the first and last time in their history that the 96th was in utter confusion. It now became a race between the men in Blue and the men in Gray to see which could get to the open field first. The Regiment went through the woods, which slowed them slightly, but also slowed their pursuers and gave the Regiment some protection. Most of them followed a depression or a gully as they went to the rear. As they came toward their own breast work they found that Simonson's 5th Indiana Battery had just arrived. The enemy was still advancing, but not quite as fast as before, probably to reform that portion of their line that had been decimated by the volley from the 96th. When they saw the battery, the infantry moved right and left to give them a good field of fire. As soon as this was done, Captain Simonson gave the word to fire, and all six of his pieces began to work over the timber that the

enemy was just coming out of. The officers were shouting and asking the men of whatever command they were from to form up on the right and left of the artillery. This was somewhat successful, and a mixed line of defense was formed. This was not a line of Regiments, but a line of Union soldiers drawn up under the stars and stripes.

It was marvelous to see how fast the artillery was fired. They did great damage to the enemy. Afterwards, Rebel prisoners refused to believe that there was only one battery firing at them. The six guns used five wagon loads of ammunition in just one half hour. A staff officer came up and begged the scattered infantrymen to hold the line for half an hour. He said a division of the Twentieth Corps was coming up at a double quick to help. They were close at hand. The promise was reassuring, but not needed, as most were ready to stand by the Artillery at all cost. The Rebels had now left the woods and were advancing silently. They thought that they could capture the Artillery by stealth. They were so quiet that some of the Federal forces thought they were friends, and wouldn't fire at them. "Why don't you return our fire?" they called to them. "We don't care anything about you, we are after that Battery!" was shouted back. "If you want the Battery, come and get it!" was the reply, and the firing grew more fierce and deadly from both the infantry and the Artillery. The enemy was only a few rods away when a Brigade of Hooker's forces came up at the double quick. They moved admirably into the line on both sides of the Battery and commenced to drive the Rebels back. The 96th was firing at the enemy from short range, but when the Rebels started their retreat under pressure from the new Brigade, many of the boys of the 96th formed up in the front line and pursued the Rebels rapidly back to the woods. As darkness was fast approaching, they didn't chase them into the woods. The ranks of the Rebels were shattered. Their rout was even more complete than the most exposed of the Union forces. Most of their dead and wounded were left on the field. Many were captured and much of their equipment was left on the field. The word was passed for the soldiers of the 96th, who had advanced with Hooker's forces, to meet back at the Battery, and from there go to the breast works, where their officers were gathering the command. As they gathered there was many a friendly hand-shake as comrades greeted those whom they feared were killed or captured. There was also much inquiry about those who had not yet returned. The 96th moved to a position in the main line of battle behind some heavy breastwork, and bivouacked long after dark. All through the night men from the Regiment came straggling in. All through the night men from other commands passed along the line inquiring, "What Regiment?"

There were many stories told of experiences during the Battle and the retreat. First Sergeant Joseph Leekley of Co. F, Corporal William B. Lewen and Orange M. Ayers of Co. C, took a slightly wrong direction during the retreat, and when they emerged on a road were captured. Leekley and Orange died in prison and Lewen reached home only after the war.

"Dear Wife."

"Capt. did not go Monday as was expected - so I will write a little more though he can tell you all much better than I can write it. Capt. Blodgett, Dr. Evans, H. Lindsay and three recruits for Co. D. have come and I have got the likenesses of Fred and Nellie, and am well pleased with them. What a big fat baby you have though, it surprises me a good deal. I would have liked Fred's picture better, had it been taken standing, it would have given me a little better idea of him, but am glad to get it as it is; I can see a change in him, he looks as though he was very slim, is he? He does not look healthy but photographs are not healthy looking pictures I think, but I like them the best of any kind. Lib! send me your photograph as soon as you can. Take pains and have a good one."

"I got a bottle of painkiller and a bottle of Trasks Ointment, so did Myron and My got some stationary also. Capt. has a box at Nashville so he is a little unlucky, but he has authorized me to sell such as we dont want. It snowed a little last night but it is not very cold. High comes back feeling first rate and seems glad to get back. Well Capt. and E. Malogne of Waukegan start for the Depot in a few minutes so I will not have time to write more. I have not had any letters from you since the 3rd inst. (dated the 3rd.)"

"Good Bye."

"Vange"

"Lib."

"I have just been looking at the pictures again and Freds looks all right to me this morning - he looks fat instead of poor. ha! ha!"

The weather became pleasant and mild, so on January 25th orders were received to be ready to move the next morning. The health of the Regiment had been very good and some of the sick and wounded again joined them. They left their winter camp about 9:00 A.M. on the 26th and many of them looked back with regret at leaving. It had been a good home for about two months. The rest of the Brigade was at Shellmound, so the 96th and the 40th Ohio only marched about 2 miles until they reached that place. Here they camped on the banks of the Tennessee River. Lt. Col. Smith was in command of the Regiment as Col. Champion was still in Illinois. General Whittaker had gone to Kentucky to take his seat in the State Legislature of that state, so Col. J.H. Moore of the 115th Illinois was in temporary command of the Brigade.

On Wednesday, January 27th, 1864, the march was resumed at about noon. The Wagons left earlier that morning, and because they had to travel through "The Narrows", the infantry let them go ahead. The Narrows was a terrible road for both teams and wagons to travel, so it was no use for the men to follow closely. The 28th was a leisurely march, and the camp was reached at 3:00 P.M. at the foot of their old friend, Lookout Mountain, who beckoned them to come and visit. On the morning of the 29th, the invitation was accepted, and they headed up the mountain. The easy march over the nose of Lookout was in striking contrast to the previous encounter two months before. The engineers and pioneers had built a fine wide road of Macadam which zig-zaged up to the top and down again. They camped that night at the foot of Missionary Ridge, where they found much evidence of the battle which had occurred there in November. On the 30th they crossed the Ridge, halting at noon on the summit. Here they could see the strength of the Rebel stronghold and admired again the Union forces that had taken it. It began to rain while they were on the Ridge, but the march continued to Tynen Station, which was nine miles from Chattanooga. Here they made camp for the night. It was still raining on Sunday January 31st and the command stayed in camp.

On February 3rd, they again broke camp and marched 6 or 8 miles to Doltawah, where they made camp. This was to be a permanent camp, so care was taken to make themselves comfortable. Guard duty was heavy as there was Rebel Cavalry in the area. Their "permanent camp" was not to be, however, as on the 5th they left it and marched toward Cleveland. At this point, Col. Champion returned from his leave of absents and again assumed command of the Regiment.

On Saturday, February 6th, they marched 4 miles in a rainstorm and camped that night at Blue Springs. They were not far from the railroad that ran between Cleveland and Dalton which connected the Chattanooga & Knoxville with the Chattanooga & Atlanta railroad. The next day they spent fixing up their camp. There was at this time considerable concern over raids by Rebel Cavalry. It seems that the men who had joined in 1861 had served more than the 2 years that they had enlisted for. Most reenlisted, but when they did so, they were granted a furlough. They were said to be "veteranized". As strange as it may seem, almost all of the veterans reenlisted at the call of President Lincoln, even though they knew that it meant many more long marches, more short rations and very difficult living conditions. They also were aware that the next battle could be their last. Still most Regiments boasted 100% reenlistment for three years. They did, however, get a 30 day furlough to go home. It was at this time that many were home on furlough which made the Army quite weak. The Rebels had found out about this weakness and it was expected that they would take advantage of it. Because of this the troops that were left were kept ready to move at a moments notice.

"Camp Nowhere (but said to be four miles from Cleveland, Tenn.

"Feb. 6th 1864"

"Dear Wife"

"Our Brig. left Tyner at 12 O'clock on the 3rd inst. and marched to Gol-da-wah another R R station where we remained until the 5th when we moved again in this direction along the R.R. 7 or 8 miles where we camped last night, and we have marched about the same distance again today."

"You see we are on no forced march this time - are marching decently for once. We have a good many laborers here from Penn. and N.Y. repairing the R.R. and the cars come up to us almost every night so in two or three days they will run to Cleveland which the citizens here say is nearly as large as Chattanooga. We find a good many Union people here and they are truly glad to have us yankees come. A good many men have been in our lines, for from 3 to 6 months and have come along with us to their homes. I could count a dozen within 3 miles of here who returned to their families today. There is no sham about east Tenn. being Union. A good many men have left their families to the mercies of the enemy and enlisted in our army. The 4th & 5th Tenn. Regts. have a good many from here."

"The rebs burned the house of a Union family only two miles from here yesterday. Our pickets fired into a squad of their Cavalry night before last which made them wheel and skedaddle on the double quick. A citizen who was returning to his home here said to me yesterday "O! you-uns don't know how we-uns suffer. Longstreet's men would dress in Union clothes and come in our houses and tell how the rebels had abused them when they had them prisoners etc. and make them believe they were Union and had just escaped from the rebs etc. etc. and as soon as they learned we were Union they would rob us of our horses, cattle and nearly every thing. O! we-uns has seen a heap O. trouble"

"We have eggs occasionally and potatoes too and tonight we have a chicken cooking. The weather has been good til today we had a slow drizzling rain which was very disagreeable although it didn't wet us much."

"Sunday Feb 7th 9 O'clock A.M. We have had no orders yet to move today but I presume we will move a few miles although it is rumored that we'll stop here and fortify."

"I am getting along first rate with the company - the boys will do anything for me. I have been unwell for the last three days but am better now. Our chicken we had for breakfast did me good. If we stop here I will try and get another. Lib I guess we better not fret much about buying the lake farm. If matters can remain as they are let them, until I get home. If the other heirs have a might to force matters let them."

"Monday Feb. 8th We have not yet moved. Our Wall tent & mess chest came up to Cleveland on the cars and the teams were sent up and got them together with a good deal of other stuff for the regiment. 4 or 5 of the boys got express boxes that have been on the road a good while. A good many things have been taken out of them. Capt's. box hasnt come yet."

"I expected to get a letter from you yesterday, sure, and if I did I wanted room to write a little and that's why I didn't finish and send this off yesterday"

"Dr. Pierce's wife is here with him now. Tell Cap the Dr. has a very pretty woman and the boys all like her; they didn't think much of the Col's wife - she had too much fire and made herself too conspicuous. I rather think the boys would like my woman so Lib you better come down ha! ha! Guess as how you would find one boy that would like you."
"Good Morning." "Vange"

The "Cap" he speaks of above is Bouton Ball, his brother-in-law.

- - - - -

On Monday February 8th the 96th was ordered to scout the country towards Dalton. They left their camp at Blue Springs at about 4:00 P.M., marched about 8 miles and went into Bivouac. The next morning they went about 4 miles further, to within two miles of the Rebel Lines, then returned to their camp at Blue Springs. There were no organized Rebel forces encountered but it was evident that they were not far away. The 96th remained in camp until the 12th, when they along with the 84th Indiana and a Battery were sent on another scout to Red Clay, on the Georgia Line. They halted for dinner at the very spot that Rebels had had breakfast. That afternoon they marched back to Blue Springs. On the 14th, Companies A, F, D, E, and K went out again and traveled over the same ground. The troops now were busy throwing up entrenchments at Blue Springs. Tuesday, February 16th found the paymaster in camp. He issued greenbacks to the troops. There was then a two day rainstorm, followed by a severe cold spell.

"Blue Springs Tenn."
"February, 17th 1864."

"I have received your letter of the 8th inst. and it did me the most good of any I ever received from you. We are doing very heavy guard duty and considerable scouting. Deserters from the rebel army are coming in very fast; last Saturday when I was on picket 125 came in: there is scarcely a day passes but some come."

"It is said that over 100 is the average number that reach Chattanooga daily. and about the same number at Knoxville. It does not seem as though the Confederate army could last long at that rate, I dont believe they conscript fast enough to keep their number good.

One division of rebs. has come up to within a few miles of us three times but for some reason they turned back again. A few days ago we went out to Red Clay 7 miles from here and the rebs were there only half an hour before we got there. We had orders to go only to Red Clay or we might have gone on and had a little fight with them again. I believe we shall have an early campaign this season: in fact it seems to have commenced already. We are expecting to move every day again. John E. Smith's division the one Billy Tuttle is in arrived at Cleveland today I learn, so I presume we shall see Billy again in a few days. We got paid yesterday up to Jan. 1st. My wages were \$221. and war tax left me with \$214.95. I made out allotment rolls again and sent to Steele. I sent you only \$100. this time for I don't expect we'll be paid for four months again. I might get sick or wounded and need a little money so thought it best to save a little this time. I sold Myron my old watch for \$5.00 and bought me another for \$20.00 so now I have a good time piece."

"Our potatoes and soft bread have played out again but we have beans, pickles, sour-croust & hominy so we make out to live yet. We are not as hard up as we were at Chattanooga for there we didn't have "hard tack" enough. We have another little fireplace again and it comes very good as it is pretty cold just now. I have been drawing clothing for the men today and helping Capt. Blodgett make out his ordinance returns, etc. I have made out my returns for Jan. and sent them to Washington; I ought to have made them out the 1st inst. but we were on the march so I could not. Three of our officers are under arrest for drunkenness vis Capt. ---- Capt. ----- and Lt. -----, Capt. ---- got to fooling with his sword and broke it. Ed Malone has just got back from Waukegan tonight but I have not had a chance to converse with him yet. I got a letter from Capt. day before yesterday Orville Barron is pretty well now. It is getting so cold I can't write so will go to bed and finish this in the morning."

"Well, it is thursday morning and pretty cold. I dreamed last night of dancing with you - thought you was on hand like a "thousand brick" 150,000 I mean and I enjoyed it hugely."

"You reprimand me slightly for letting ---- read your letters and I don't blame you if he made you think he had seen all; but he never saw any that contained privacy, Vange aint so big a fool as to do that. I told ---- about what I wrote you about, ---- giving you two dollars, and showed him what you wrote me, but that was nothing against you - nothing you need feel ashamed of. No I believe I know my "biz" better than to expose my wife to ridicule. I am getting along first rate with my men. Most of the officers and men call me Capt. but my commission has not come yet."

"My respects to all the good folks."

"Vange"

"Lib."

"P.S. You need not tell any one about those officers being drunk or they'll think I am a tattler."

" V-----"

"I send .20 cts. new currency to Fred, twenty to Nellie and fifty to you. Please be sure and mention the receipt of the money I send to Steele as soon as you get it. If you wish you can send an order for it. Mention the receipt of what is in this also Capt. Blodgett's photograph."

The mention of the phrase about a "thousand brick", must again have a meaning to only the two of them.

Blue Springs Tenn.
February, 17th 1864

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 have commenced already. We are expecting to move
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 Tuttle is in arrived at Cleveland today I learn; so
 I presume we shall see Billy again in a few days.
 We got paid yesterday up to Jan. 1st. My wages were \$226
 and was tax out left me \$214, 98. I made out ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~rolls~~
 rolls again and sent to Steele I sent you only \$100.
 This time for I don't expect will be paid for four months
 again. I might get sick or wounded and need a
 little money so thought it best to send enough this
 time. I sold ~~my~~ ^{my} old watch for \$5⁰⁰ and bought
 one another for \$20⁰⁰, so now I have a good time piece.
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for dumbbells via Capt. Ross Capt. Pierce and
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I told ^{what} what I wrote you about, Kelsey giving you two
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pose my wife to ridicule. I am getting along first
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call me Capt. but my commission has not come yet.
My respects to all the good folks.

Vange

P.S. You need not tell any one about those officers
being drunk or that I think I am a scabbler.

I send 20 cts. new currency to Fred, twenty to Millie
and fifty to you. Please be sure and mention the
receipt of the money I send to Stute as soon as you get
it. If you wish you can send an order for it.
Mention the receipt of what is in this also Capt Blodgett's
photographs

The next action was on February 20th, when Companies B, C, G, H, and I went out on a scout. They went out about 13 miles and returned the same night. Sunday, the 21st was a very disagreeable day, with heavy snow. They were ordered to be ready to leave the next morning and were issued three days rations. The next day they were told to make the three days rations last four days. They started about 9:00 A.M. on the 22nd and marched in a round about way to Red Clay Station. At the same time the 14th Corps moved to Ringgold. It was at this time that General Sherman was on his famous Meridian expedition, and the movement of these four divisions of the Army of the Cumberland was a diversion in Sherman's favor. It was learned that General Johnson, who had relieved General Bragg as commander of the Rebel forces in Northern Georgia, had sent two divisions from Dalton to reinforce General Polk near Meridian. It was the purpose of General Thomas to either take Dalton, or at least compel Johnson to recall his two divisions. On Tuesday, the 23rd, the 96th was fixing up their camp, when they were again ordered to march. They started about 2:00 P.M., marched about 15 miles and camped about 9:00 P.M. The next day there were many rumors in camp. The Rebels were supposed to be close at hand and partly in their rear, while the Federal forces were scattered. The Brigade, under the command of Col. Champion, left their advanced position and retraced their steps. They started about 10:00 A.M. and marched about three miles to Lee's Cross-roads, where they stopped for awhile. Then, with other portions of the division, they started for Tunnel Hill, which was about four miles away. The 14th Corps was engaging the enemy at that place, but when the column reached Tunnel Hill, the Rebels fled. The Brigade then marched back to Lee's Cross-roads where they camped for the night. On the 25th, they were up by 2:00 A.M. and on the road by 4:00 A.M. They crossed a long ridge then turned south toward Dalton. They passed General Bairds Division and other Union troops and as soon as the Army was complete, they pushed forward. The lines began their movement about 9:00 A.M. and moved very rapidly for a mile or more. Soon their skirmishers were exchanging fire with Rebels. They still advanced rapidly as the Rebels were pushed back. As they reached a point near the Rebel main line, they stopped. Not only was there rapid firing between each side for the next ten hours, there was also an exchange of words between the two forces. The Rebels would call out, "Chickamauga!" or "Here's your Dalton! Come and take it!" The Union troops would reply, "Here's your Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge". This all went on while they were steadily firing at each other. The Federal soldiers in the front line could lay on the ground just behind a ridge and be somewhat protected, but after 10 hours in that position, it became very tiring. They threw up some breastwork toward evening, but it was not to be used. At 11:00 P.M. that night, it was determined that they would not try to take Dalton with the forces then under Thomas' command. They marched back about 10 miles and bivouacked about 4:00 A.M. at Lee's House. Two brothers from Co. A were asleep behind a log when they left Dalton, and no one notified them of the movement. They slept until morning when Rebel Cavalry found them and captured them. One of them died in prison camp and the other escaped, having endured many terrible experiences.

On Friday, February 26th, the Brigade to which the 96th was attached started for Tunnel Hill about noon. They formed in line at about the same place that they were the day before. At about 9:00 A.M., they again started back. This time the officers ordered them to kindle fires along the road to make the Rebels think they were going into camp. The march was rapid and they didn't stop until 1:00 A.M. when Chickamauga Creek was reached. They had traveled about 8 miles. They stayed in camp until the next afternoon, when they moved again to within two miles of Goltawah. They had traveled about 10 miles and it was after dark when they stopped. The Rebels followed closely. There was considerable skirmishing on their left, across Chickamauga Creek, as they were near the Ringgold Road. On the 28th they marched about 10 miles to Blue Springs and occupied their old camp ground. They arrived about noon and the Rebels did not follow. They had been out one full week and had traveled 100 miles, much of this being night travel. They were happy to again be in camp and have an opportunity to rest. The 29th was a very disagreeable day with heavy rain all day. Most of the men were allowed to stay under cover for the day. At this time a number of men returned to their units from hospitals, most of them with the scars of previous battles.

March 1, 1864, saw the 96th leaving Blue Springs at about 9:00 A.M.. They marched about 4 miles to the vicinity of Cleveland, where they went into camp near the railroad track. This was a very fortunate move for the 96th as they camped on the grounds where the 84th Illinois had wintered. The grounds were in exceptional shape, and they only had to clean up a bit. Most units burned their camps when they left so as not to leave it for the enemy, but the 96th was very pleased that their comrades from Illinois did not. All they had to do was put their shelter tents on the buildings for roofs. They would stay here until April 23rd. Some of the men received 20 day furloughs at this time. It was generally the men with families that got the leaves. Captain Gillmore did not go home. A heavy line of rifle pits were dug around their camp for protection. There arrived at this time quite a number of recruits for the 96th, most coming from Lake and Jo Daviess counties. General Whittaker returned from Kentucky and resumed command of the Brigade and Col. Champion, who had been temporary commander, was made Post commander at Cleveland. In this position he had to see to the needs of the loyal citizens in the area, many of whom had suffered greatly at the hands of the Rebels.

Drilling was resumed after an absence of about 2 months. The 22nd of March was a memorable day in the history of the 96th, for on that day there was a heavy snow which covered the ground to a depth of nearly a foot. It was a very severe day for those units in the field, but the 96th rather enjoyed it. Quite a snowball fight was had, and some of the officers even improvised a sleigh.

Several reading clubs were formed about this time and members had access to books, magazines and newspapers from Chicago, New York and Cincinnati. There was ample time for reading and all were kept informed about the affairs of the country and the world.

This is a long 4 page letter from Vange to Lib. The top section of page 1 has been torn off, and since page 2 is on the back of page 1, there is a corresponding section of page 2 also missing. From the contents of the letter we assume it was written in early March of 1864. Perhaps the torn off part is an attempt by someone to censor the letter, as he does tell a lot about where they are and the battles they have been in. This letter agrees with the description above.*

"near Ringgold -----"

"the morning of the 2-----"

"half a mile of Triune ----- (which by the way we had not yet taken) and remained there about 6 hours when we retreated about 3 miles and camped. Feb. 25th Reveille 2 A.M. Division marched at 3 A.M. about three miles east through a Gap into another valley thence seven miles south toward Dalton where we were joined by Baird's Div. and attacked the rebels who seemed to be in heavy force there. When skirmishing first commenced I was ordered to throw out my Co. on the left flank as skirmishers but the rebs. fell back some and I was ordered to take my Co. back to the Regt. when the Div. advanced in three lines of battle through the woods skirmishers being thrown out from the front line of battle; we were in the second line; we advanced very rapidly until we were nearly exhausted when a halt was given and we lay down. The bullets flew pretty thick and fast over and about our heads as we were advancing, and after we halted; only three of the Regt. were wounded and one killed. After we had halted and"

-----this is the point that the top part of page 2 is missing.

"-----rebels-----"

"us, and -----it so they-----at 11 O'clock I was relieved by a -----and all the Div. except three Cos. of the 40th commen----- and were soon followed by the three companies of the 40th; yes we went back that night 10 miles arriving at 3 O'clock where we camped the night previous. Feb. 26th Reveille at 7 Our Brig. moved at 1 O'clock to Tunnel Hill or within half a mile of it and stacked arms, in open ground, and sit down by them, and showed ourselves all we could. I suppose there was "policy" in it; "there is policy in war" you know. Well, at 9 at night we retreated to about a mile of Ringgold where we arrived and camped at 2, so you see we, did a good deal of our marching at night. Feb. 27th The rebel cavalry came up close to our picket line and two regiments went out to the front about a mile and lay in ambush and the Gen. (Gen. Cruft) Brig. Gen. of our third Brig. is commanding the Div. during Stanly's absence) sent out a few teams on a road where they were exposed to the enemy and their cavalry dashed in to destroy the train and the regmts. laying in ambush slipped in their rear and at the same time our batteries opened fire on the Rebel reserve to keep them ((back)) and we gobbled 70 of their cavalry. We retreated towards Blue Springs about 10 miles and camped for the night, learned that Bairds Div. suffered considerable on the 25th; he was on our right that day. and two other divisions still on the right of him. We heard considerable firing on our right the 25th but supposed they were only keeping up a heavy skirmish the same as we did in front; but it seems there was some pretty hard fighting. Our Div. went out to help feel of the rebel force which we did and I guess Gen. Thomas concluded they were pretty strong. We have a pretty heavy force at Ringgold yet and I suppose they move out every day as if to attack Dalton in order to keep the Rebs. from reinforcing Mobile as we expect a battle there soon."

"Longstreet has retreated from Knoxville and I guess has reinforced Dalton and sent some troops to Mobile and no doubt would have sent a good many had we not made the feint we did. We got back to our camp the 28th but our tents were missing. citizens and soldiers from Cleveland had taken them. I have got track of my tent and I guess I'll get it again. I would make a wedge tent of it if I got it as I think I could get one of them carried.. After being in camp awhile Lt. Blowney and some of the boys came from Cleveland where they had been staying nearly a week waiting for us to return. Lt. said he saw you - that you looked healthy young and fresh - said it in a way I rather thought he admired you and I don't blame him if he did, on the contrary he showed good sense. Lt. and I are a good deal alike in many things; we are nearly of the same temperament.. Well after a short conversation he opened his trunk and gave me the letters you sent by him and the same day I recd. one by mail from you, one from Maria and one from Whitney We also recd. our commissions."

"Feb. 29. Made out my Muster-out Rolls as 1st Lt. and Muster-in rolls as Capt. made out most of Burnett's also as he is on picket, made out a Co. Muster and Pay Roll for Jan. & Feb.; in the afternoon got mustered as Captain & Burnett as 1st Lt. so now I draw \$130. per month. Boney Whitcomb's furlough came all right and he and Furgeson of Waukegan started for home. Major Hicks also went home."

"March 1st today we were ordered to be ready to march at 8 A.M. and many were the questions asked as to where we were going but not even the Col. knew. Well we packed up although it was raining and were soon on the move and what was our surprise was to be turned in here close by Cleveland where some regt. had been and built real nice little houses each of which has a good brick chimney, so the 96th is lucky for once. The boys are so well pleased they know not how to act or what to say. I commenced writing you this morning and just got to work as the order come to move Our Brig is all broke up for the present. one Regt. gone back to Chattanooga the 40th 15 miles north 115 Ill about 3 miles off 84th Ind. where we were and in fact no two of our regts of the brigade are together any where now. One Div. of Shermans men or part of a Div. but they left for Ala. today so we may stop here some times, I hope so at least. Cleveland is as large as Chattanooga. I hope Nellie is well ere this, Lt. says he didn't see her."

"I am getting along hugely with my men. I never saw the boys so contented since they have been in the service as they are now. The men and Officers all call me Captain though frequently Lt. but they are sure to correct themselves. I never saw everything----- Fred would have another sister or brother if I should come home. Don't laugh now!"

"Vange"

"Avon March 17. 1864"

"Dear husband"

"As I have got done working and a little time I will improve it by writing you the boys or one of them will go to town tomorrow if it keeps pleasant so I must have a letter ready to send off I received yours of the 1st monday when I returned from Underwoods, a good long letter, the one I have been looking for some time on account the one about selling the farm I wish I had got it sooner then I should have done different then what I have Gage said I could sign the article so I did and he said he would have to hold your notes. so I left it in that way he still holds his notes of yours. I did worry considerable about it but Lem and some others we have signed that agreement to them and if they fail to make those payments and you should make them then they forfeit the place of course. I have 2 notes against --- Whitney one against H.C. Whitney the one that bought the farm of 100. one against John Gillmore of \$66 due the first of April. then they are to pay me \$30.43 cents between this and the first of June. The Peppards folks have not moved yet I think they act rather mean for Whitneys are in a hurry to move so they can fix the fence. they say A. Druse has been and took all of those boards off the fence I have paid him all up have paid him \$7. since you went away I paid him for the boards and all I suppose and Mrs Whitney knew it or they will have a fuss. There comes little Nell. she walks all round she is well again. O I hope you will come home and see her this spring if I knew the war would end this fall I would not care you so much but if you should have to stay your time out I would rather you would come this spring Ma is quite miserable yet not able to do much John has concluded to have me live down in the log house and he live with me. I would rather be my own boss awhile we can have a garden and we can live and do as I am a mind to I presume it will seem lonesome but I can get along I dread the nights most. Vange. I like your plan first rate. If I had only got your letter a few weeks sooner I could have made some different arrangements our colt is not fit to sell now she is so poor she seems to feel well but still keeps poor she has enough to eat. but if there is no prospects of you getting home another fall I will sell her I would like to have two cows and my sheep I guess I could get \$5 a head for my sheep quick if I would sell them. I have let mother have \$250 she says she will raise it between this and fall she was so anxious to get it I let her have it before I got your letter it is probably safe enough she owns all the personal property now. and Drury I lent him \$115 he will pay it soon I expect. Ed would like to hire enough to pay an \$80 note that he has run some time and they are afraid they will have trouble if they do not tend it-it they have done so much for me I feel as though I ought to accomodate them the boys have been good to me and always would be I think it will be safe enough I will not let it for any length of time then as fast as I get what is due me I will invest as you wish me to. Fred & Nellie have just been having a real play spell Nellie laughs just as hearty I wish you could hear her. Fred is now spinning his top we had a letter from Charlie thursday night he is in -- the company he has all but about a dozen enlisted the Regt is come home all that has reenlisted Charlie think he will wate until he serves his three years before he enlists again

A hard letter to read. She does not use a lot of punctuation. There is no close to the letter. I don't know if there was more to the letter or if she just didn't sign off. "Charlie" is her Brother Chas. Rowling who was in Co. C, 37th Ill. Infantry, serving in Missouri.

This is the first part of a letter (both sides of one page) from Vange to Lib. There is evidently at least one more page, both sides missing.

"Camp near Cleveland Tenn."

"March 23rd 1864."

"Dear Tother Half"

"I have finally received your letter the one you wrote at Frees. The mail does not come very regular now. We are all usually well. Baron is getting tough"

"I was on Picket night before last and we had a rough time for it commenced snowing at 1 O'clock and has been snowing most of the time since. This morning however the weather is clear again and the prospect is fair for us to lose our snow which is about six inches deep. Messers. Townsend, Napper and another man whose name I do not retain have been here to see the 96th and left for home last evening: they were the committee sent by Jo Daviess Co. to present Grant with the \$2000 sword. They met the Gen in Nashville a few days ago. One of these gentlemen has been over the world a good deal has seen a good many regiments drill both in this and the old countries but says the 96th can beat any other regiment he ever saw; he complimented us very highly: doubtless he will publish a puff for us when he gets home. We have Brig. Inspection today at one o'clock. I presume Geo. Wait has called on you ere this if he has found time to do so. Have you got notes for what you have loaned to Drury, mother and for what Edwin owes you? If not please get them immediately and see that they have the stamps required by the Revenue Laws. I want you to be particular about such things, not because I am afraid any of these persons will cheat us out of any-thing but it is the way I like to do business. I am always willing to give my note for the use of money, and I want others to secure me the same."

"I was sorry when I first learned that -----"

"Cleveland Tenn.,"
"April 1st 1864."

"Dear Girl"

"I have the honor to report myself and Company in usual health, and acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 17th & 21st ult. We have had a good deal of rain for the past few days and the other night our old shelter tents proved but a feeble resistance to a driving storm."

"The rain came through the tents so that we soon found our blankets completely wet through and streams running under and all about us I got up and crept to a dry corner of the shanty and remained there during the storm but Lt. covered all up and staid in bed and got completely wet through."

"After the storm we wrung out our blankets - made up our bed and crawled in again; it was quite chilly at first but we soon got warm and slept soundly until morning: Although it seemed hard to get into a wet bed we didnt suffer as we have hundreds of other times. But soldiering you know is nothing to what it is "to have children". I sent by Geo. Fergeson when he went home and got me a leather valise which cost me \$11.24/100 so now I have something to keep my things in as well as the rest of the officers."

" It looks like rain again & I must stop writing & take off the old tents and put some new ones on & see if they will make a better cover to the shanty."

"Well I have got a good cover to our wigwam now and anticipate a good nights rest even if it does storm. Lt. is on picket and I'll have to sleep alone tonight unless you'll be kind enough to come over and sleep with me: Will you? Ahem - What did you say? eh? there, you laughed, but blast it all, you didn't say anything. Every thing has been quiet about here for some time"

"The veterans are coming back now and bringing a good many recruits so our army here is increasing pretty fast I have made out O. Barron's papers for a furlough and sent them forward Boney has got back all right Capt. Whitney writes me he is pretty lonesome."

"Capt. Rose of Co. K has got discharged, so now we have but three of the original Cpts. who are Cpts. now. They played out pretty quick I think Myron's papers didn't come yet."

"There is to be a Military ball down town next monday night but guess I will put off dancing a while yet although I would like first rate to attend a good civil party. The trouble here is the girls would be asking me for tobacco and as I don't carry the article I expect I wouldn't be very popular among them. Nearly all the women here chew tobacco and if a man should take a chew in the presence of a lady and not offer her some she would feel insulted. The girl I left behind me don't use tobacco. I'll wait & go home and dance with her, - she and I are old "chums" and talk some of going in business when the war is over; we did do business a while but we had a pretty small capital then and it was during hard times."

"Then Fred talks of me a good deal and was pleased with the idea that I might be home to see him soon, was he." If I should be lucky enough to get home I would like to meet him alone somewhere and see if he would know me." "Good Night."

"Lib"

"Your "Feller"
"Vange"

Cleveland Tenn.
April 1st 1864

Dear Girl

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a good night rest even if it does
rain. It is on picket and I'll
have to sleep alone to night unless
you'd be kind enough to come over
and sleep with me. Will you? Ah yes
What did you say eh? there you lau-
ghed but blast it all, you don't say
any thing. Every thing has been
quiet about here for some time

The veterans are coming back now
and are bringing a good many
recruits so our army here is
increasing pretty fast. I have
made out O Barone's papers for
a furlough and sent them forward
Boney has got back all right.
Capt. Whitney writes me he is
pretty lonesome.
Capt. Ross of Co. K has got dischar-
ged. so now we have but three of the

original Capt. who are Capt. now

They played out pretty quiet I think
Myson's papers don't come up

There is to be a military part
down town next Monday night but
you I will shut off tomorrow a while
yet at home. I would like to
go to attend a school but

The trouble here is the girls would
be asking me for tobacco and
as I don't carry the article I expect
I wouldn't be very popular among
them. Nearly all the women here
use tobacco and if a man should
take a chew in the presence of a lady
and not offer her a share she would
feel insulted. They don't use
and don't use tobacco. I'll wait & go
home and dance with her. She's a
old friend. and talk some of going
in business together when the war is
on we would do business together &
while just now had a public small
capital then and it was during hard

We think that this is part of one very long letter or two shorter letters. The pages fold together perfectly which makes us feel they are probably pages 5 through 8, and 13 through 15 in a very long letter finished Oct. 5, 1863.

"Potomac Armies are coming to our assistance so we can have the final struggle here or some place further north - have it this fall. I don't want to soldier it another winter. We have been on half rations of late but by digging over old potato patches thus getting a few potatoes and parching corn we have managed to get along.. My boots didn't prove to be very good for wear - I have had them tapped twice and now the uppers are giving out. Have King make me another pair the same size and put on thicker soles and steel plates if he can get them. - tell him I am apt to run my right boot heel out or over to the right and that I wear the toes out a great deal faster on the inside. they will probably cost \$8 or \$9 and you will have to make arrangements about paying him. I shall be very short of money before we get paid again. Capt. sent home for \$20. Get the boots made so you can send them as soon as I get where it will be safe to do so. Well Libby I am thankful to get out of battle without being hurt - it is a wonder to me so many did escape but it was in the woods so not as good aim was taken as would have been in open ground. but a perfect ((lot)) of lead was flying continually and it was awful to see the boys falling about us. I would have been in the second charge had not the Capt. asked me to wait for him but if it has saved my life I don't feel so bad about it."

"I am afraid however some will try to make out that we tried to get out of it. If we get in another battle I shall not go back to rally the men again but shall stick to my place even if but one man stays with me though in fact I could do more good gathering the men as I did and bring them to the Capt. to form again. but one thinks something of his honor or what others say."

"The boys know I did what I could to stop them. and in one ravine where I thought they would try to form again I drew my sword and stopped quite a squad, Capt Allen one of the Staff was there wounded in the arm and said "Thats right Lieutenant stop any one no matter whether they belong to your Co. Regt. or not but just then a shell burst near us and he mounted his horse and off he went and the squad I had succeeded in stopping broke by me, I could not keep them alone Whitney thought the regt. would not make a second charge or he probably would have gone on up when I caught up with my squad. The weather is very dry and we suffer a good deal from cold at night. Many of us have no blankets. I left mine on the battlefield. but Butterfield had a blanket & I have borrowed a rubber so we have got along pretty well. I ((-----)) for an over-coat so I will soon be all right again."

"If you could color the overcoat I sent home I presume you could sell it pretty well. I expect they do not allow citizens to wear Soldiers cloths there, do they?"

The following is the second group of pages or the second letter.

"counted all the land (except mothers) at \$16. per acre I would be satisfied at that wouldn't you? That would bring the Lake farm at \$1,328."

" I wish you would find out all about how the land is to be sold etc. and write me all about it."

" Perhaps I will write to Drury for a little information but you can write too. so I will be sure to learn all the "crooks and turns". Do not give any one a bit of encouragement as to getting our place for less than \$1,500. If we find we can surely get the lake farm at the above figure then it may do to come down a hundred. but otherwise I think not. I rather sell than to buy so as to get into debt any more."

"Oct. 5th. This is a very cold day. I wish I had an under shirt and pr. of drawers. I have not even got a blanket with me. I left mine on the battlefield and those we left at Bridgeport have all been "gobbled" with a train that was coming through. Our mess chest was not loaded so our books papers likenesses sashes etc. etc. are safe yet I expect. Blodgett was with the train but got away, he starts for home tomorrow & I will send this as far as W---- by him."

"I am informed that the letters we have written since the fight have all been detained at Nashville so you may get this as soon as you get those. The rebs sent in to have us remove our sick and wounded from C----- as they would shell the town today and they are true to their word as they have already commenced & we are ordered to be ready to move at a moments notice. I expect some shells will be dropping in here pretty quick but perhaps they dont mistrust we are here. Well wife I have written over considerable paper but I have not said much after all. Our wounded boys have all been sent home. was not that good. The cannons are roaring pretty well now. Kiss Fred and Nellie for me. O! How I would like to see the little darlings Mother seems to think Nellie is pretty handsome & smart."

"That was indeed cunning in her pretending to cry."

"Yours Truly"

" Vance"

"Lib."

The battle he speaks of in the first part of the letter was, of course, the "Battle of Chickamauga (Sept. 19th and 20th 1863). He speaks of the fact that their mail was held at Nashville. Perhaps that, and the terrible battle at Chickamauga, is why there were no letters during the month of Sept. 1863. When you read the first paragraph of the part dated "Oct. 5th" we have to assume that the incident happened during the blockade of the Union forces at Chattanooga, referred to previously.

"Camp Clark Oct. 16th .763"

"Dear Wife"

"As I forgot to mention one thing in regards to my boots I have sent for, I thought it best to write a little in Myron's letter in regard to them and sending a box also. I want my boots made a little larger than the others as it is coming wet weather or winter.. and I want them to be high topped or long legged "Officer fashion"
Ahem! I am not particular whether King puts steel plates on the bottoms or uses steel headed nails, just which he thinks is best. We do not wear the uppers much here. I had my boots tapped twice this summer and now the uppers are cracking badly so they do not prove to be very serviceable. If you have got them made already send them along but if not tell him immediately as I shall need them as soon as I can get them."

"A good many of the boys are sending to him for boots and he will doubtless have all he can do - therefore don't delay and as soon as you get them you can make up a small box of articles with mother and have it addressed to"

"Lieut. E. J. Gillmore
Co.. B. 96th Regt. Ill. Vol. Inftry.
1st Brig. 1st Div. R. C.
Stevenson Ala."

"I like these army shirts pretty well but they are not long enough - if you can send me a pair of red n blue woolen ones army stile with pockets each side I would like these

1 pr. Suspenders - long ones
1 pr. Buckskin Gloves with long wristlets
1 Cotton handkerchief, 1 pr. mittens
Cheese, currents & wine.

Don't send a large box, they don't come good. Capt. Whitney is trying to resign but I do not know as I will be promoted. We will not be allowed but 2 commissioned officers now our Co. being too small to allow more I do not know as we will be put in an other Div. or not now. there is considerable objection to it. so we remain in the Reserve Corps yet. It is thought by many that we will have an other fight ere long."

"I am now commanding Co. D. (Blodgetts Company) as all their officers are absent"

"We are enjoying pretty Good health but I have been exposed so much of late I am troubled with the rheumatism some. I learn that E. Blatherwick has gone home on a furlough. He said nothing about it when I saw. The last letter I got of you was dated the 24th Sept."

"Vange"

This note was written on 2 sides of a small sheet of paper. When he ran out of room to write on the second side, he turned back to the first side and finished it by writing at a 90 degree angle to what he first wrote.

By early October, General Hooker, of the Army of the Potomac arrived at Nashville by train, bringing with him the 11th and 12th Corps. He did not immediately come to their assistance, as he had no supply wagons. He did, however, protect their supply route from Nashville to Bridgeport.

Around the middle of October, there was a reorganization of the Army around Nashville. President Lincoln established the Military Division of the Mississippi and placed General U.S. Grant in charge. Until his arrival at Chattanooga, General Thomas assumed command. When Grant arrived, General Rosecrans was replaced by General Thomas.

For some time General Smith and his men had been building a fleet of pontoon boats. On the morning of October 27th, 1,300 picked men under the command of General Hazen, left Chattanooga at 3:00 A.M. on these pontoon boats. They were to float down the river under cover of darkness, glide past the Rebel pickets, capture their post at Brown's Ferry, and bridge the Tennessee River at that point with their boats, and hold the position until other troops could cross over and attack. The boats kept close to the bank, and all went well. By daybreak the first boats reached Browns Ferry and seized the position, capturing or dispersing the Rebels. By 10:00 A.M. the pontoon bridge was stretched from bank to bank. The Rebel Artillery soon drew a bead on the pontoon bridge and they were answered by Federal Artillery at Moccasin Point. The Rebels soon found that it was difficult to hit a line of boats a mile away and only a foot or so out of the water. They did not disrupt the bridge.

On the 27th, the 96th left their camp and camped that evening near the eastern end of the bridge. On the 28th they crossed over and joined up with Hooker's forces who were advancing on Lookout Valley. The enemy resisted Hooker's advance with much vigor at first, with heavy shelling on the head of the column from Lookout. At 1:00 A.M. on the 29th, the enemy made a desperate assault on Geary's Division. This seemed to call for the 96th to move to the fight at sunrise. As they moved toward the western base of Lookout, it became evident that Hooker did not need their help. The reinforcing column sought the protection behind a range of hills. On the 30th they recrossed the river and went back to their camp at Moccasin Point.

The movement across the river opened up a whole new source of food. The corn on that side of the river had been harvested, so there were cribs full of the golden grain. They began to load their knapsacks with it, and soon many of the cribs were empty. Corn was king. They ate it from the cob, and they parched it. When the Rebel artillery saw that the corn was so important to the Federal troops, they shelled them as they were taking the corn. The movement across the river also opened up the supply routes again and supplies could again flow to the whole Army by wagon and by way of the river. On the 31st the 96th left Moccasin Point and headed for Bridgeport. The famine had not yet been lifted when they left, so they were not issued the usual three days of rations usual when beginning a march. They didn't care, however, as they knew that food would be plentiful where they were going, and it was a poor soldier that could not exist on a little hardtack and of course they still had corn. The opening of the "Cracker Line", as the supply line was called, meant abundant food and ammunition to the rest of the Army still at Chattanooga. They arrived at Shell Mound on the afternoon of the second day. King Corn was then dethroned and they drew full rations for the first time in many days.

Shell Mound was known for the large mound of shells found on the bank of the Tennessee River. Also in the area was Nickajack Cave. This furnished nitre for gun powder for the Rebels until The Union advance put them out of business. The cave has a large hall about 300 feet by 500 feet and 30 or 40 feet high at the entrance. Beyond this it narrows and winds through the mountain for a great distance. To the left of the cave is Nickajack Cove. It cuts its way into the mountain, narrows quickly, then ends against the side of a mountain about three miles further. It was at this point, about half way up on the east slope of the left hand mountain that the 96th went into their winter quarters. Here they had an abundance of wood and water. The 96th and the 40th Ohio were the only ones occupying this place. The other Regiments in the Brigade were camped near Shell Mound. Each Company set about building a "house" for the winter. They did not have very good lines and an architect would have cringed at the sight of most of them, but they were comfortable and cozy, and each had a fireplace and beds along the walls.

"Shell Mound
Nov. 4th 1863."

"Dear Wife."

"The last letter I recd. from you was dated the 14th ult. but I presume you have written me several. I am well, and Myron is as hearty as a man need be. We went out to see the enemy on the 29th ult. and had some shells thrown at us from the very top of Lookout Mountain but it killed but one man of the 101 Ill. who happened to be with us and wounded two of Co. D. of our Regt."

"I was not commanding the company that day - had been transferred to my own company as Capt. was not able to. I expect it was intended we should charge on the enemy at the foot of the mountain but we were ordered back to camp the next day. We were then living on quarter rations. Well on the 31st we mustered for pay, that was Fred's birthday; I thought of it and thought of where I was one year before.

Nov. 1st We packed up what few duds we had, and commenced march for this place but did not get very far that day as the pontoon bridge had been damaged by some drift wood the rebs had thrown in the river so we had to wait to have it repaired. We recd. a dispatch from Gen. Geary stating we were in great danger of being attacked that night so we fixed bayonets and rested on our arms."

"Nov. 2nd Commenced march at day light and marched very rapidly; got at this place at sunset so we are now within 6 or 7 miles of Bridgeport again."

"Nov. 3rd We moved up in a valley between two mountains and camped on both sides and immediately commenced throwing up breastworks."

"Today I am on picket about 3/4 mi. from camp on the mountain side"

"I think I wrote you when at Rossville about passing a very large cave when we were going through here - one where saltpeter was manufactured pretty extensively."

"This is a pretty large cave sure. It is said that 4 men went into it a few days ago and have not yet returned. I understand it has been explored 3 miles and is reported to be very rough and hilly in there. I do not know but I am now over a portion of it. I think if the cave is as large as they tell for this is properly named Shell Mound."

"There are nine regiments now in our brigade and all here together camped on the sides of these two mountains. The river is about 3 miles from us and the railroad is between us and that and a station out here too, so as soon as the bridge is built across the Tenn. we will see the old locomotives coming through here. Yesterday we drew full rations of Hard bread & bacon and half of Sugar, salt, & coffee. When we were at Chattanooga it was not uncommon to see two shillings paid for an ear of corn."

"Soon after I came here this morning. I told the boys, that "two of them must not take some good knives and go up the road and get some fresh meat" but they did, the rascals; and brought back a pretty good mutton; Yes Corp. Drew & J. Blodgett went and got enough to last us today sure. I noticed I got all the liver and got the best part of one of the hind quarters to cook for my supper & breakfast."

"O! don't you wish you had some good mutton?"

"I don't think there has been a night for the last two months that I have not dreamed of seeing father alive & well. I have dreamed a good many times of late of going home and visiting at mothers."

There is no close or signature on this letter but it sounds as if he were finished. There is some writing over the last line but we can't make it out. He mentions that an ear of corn went for as much as two shillings. This would be 25 cents.

3

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throwing up breastworks.

Today I am on picket about 1/2 mi
from camp on the mountain side

I think I wrote you when at
Rafsville of passing a very large
cave when we were going through
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2

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~~cave~~ a few days ago and have not
yet returned. I understand it had
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as they tell for this is properly
named Shell Ground.

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our brigade and all here together
camped on the sides of these two

mountains). The river is about three miles
from us and the railroad is between us and
the tract and a station out here too, so as
soon as the bridge is built across the
River we will see the old locomotive com-
ing through here. Yesterday we drew
full rations of hard bread & bacon and
half of Sugar, salt, & coffee.

~~When we were at Laramie~~ It was not
uncommon to see two shillings offered
for an ear of corn.

Soon after I came here this morning I told
the boys that two of them must not take
some good knives and go on up the the
road and get some fresh meat but they
did, the rascals, and brought back a pretty good
mutton. See look Drew & J. Bledget
and got enough to last us ~~for a week~~

I noticed I got all the liver I could eat and
got the best part of one of the head quarters
to cook for my supper & breakfast.

O! dont you wish you had some good mutton?

I dont think there had been a night
for the last two months that I have
not dreamed of seeing father alive & well
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Nov. 4th 1863.

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I was not commanding the company that day, - had been transferred to my own company as Capt. we were not able to. I expect it was intended we should charge on the enemy at the foot of the Mountain but we

were ordered back to camp the next day. We were then living on quarter rations. Well, on the 21st we mustered for pay, that was Fred's birth day; I thought of it and thought where I was one year before.

Nov. 1st We packed up what few duds we had, and commenced march for this place but did not get very far that day as the pontoon bridge had been damaged by some drift wood the river had thrown in the river ^{so we had to not to have it repaired}. We recd. a dispatch from Gen. Leary stating we were in great danger of being attacked ^{that night} so we fixed bayonets and rested on our arms ~~that night~~.

Nov. 2nd Commenced march at daylight and marched very rapidly; got at this place at sunset. so we are now within 6 or 7 miles of Bridgeport again.

Nov. 3rd We moved up in a valley between two mountains and camped on both

There was still another task to perform before the winter. On November 19th they drew rations for 6 days and were ordered to be ready to move. Sherman's troops were passing by the Cove on their way to Chattanooga, and it looked as if Grant was ready for a big push. The column of the 96th was not as long as it once was as it filed out on the road. Where once there had been in excess of 400 men, there was now less than 250. The recent battle and the battlefield conditions had thinned their ranks considerably. The 96th was now part of the Fourth Corps under General Granger. The old Reserve Corps had been assimilated by the various other Corps after the terrible losses of the recent battle. General Charles Cruft was the Division commander and General Whittaker was the Brigade commander. Colonel Champion was in command of the 96th and Captain George Hicks of Co. A had been promoted to Major and was with the command. Major Smith was promoted to Lt. Col., taking the place of Lt. Col. Clarke, who lost his life at Chickamauga. Col. Smith was still attached to the headquarters staff, however. There were also other changes within the various Companies.

They left the Cove on the 23rd, leaving their "houses" standing, for they fully expected to return. As they faced the mountain on the morning of the 24th, it was misting and foggy. Not a good day to fight they thought. The mist and fog, however, would be a help to them and a hindrance to the enemy. They all felt that something serious was about to happen and they fell silent. Col. Champion addressed them, saying, "Boys, I have a few words to say to you. Before night I expect we will have to climb the side of yonder mountain. You all know that at Chickamauga the 96th covered itself with glory, and I hope that to-day we shall do nothing that will lessen the fair fame of the Regiment. I expect every man to do his duty; I shall try to do mine." With these few words, the advance commenced.

They were familiar with Lookout Mountain because they had been able to study it and all of the Rebel emplacements while they were at Moccasin Point. The plan of battle was as follows. General Hooker would make a direct attack on the Rebel position. Under cover of this attack and the friendly fog, a flanking force would cross Lookout Creek, scale the side of the mountain, advance in line-of-battle along the side of the mountain with their right resting on the palisades, and strike the enemy's flank and rear. This flanking force consisted of General Geary's Division and Whittaker's Brigade (the 96th).

They marched up Lookout Valley under cover of the fog, but before crossing Lookout Creek, they stopped and took off their knapsacks and any other gear that was not needed. All that was permitted was the man, his gun and something to put in it. The officers even had to leave their horses behind. Lookout Creek was running high with water, so the 96th clambered across an old dam. They reached the right bank at about 8:00 A.M. There was no Rebel resistance to their advance, but the terrain was treacherous. They formed their line-of-battle with the line stretching way back down the mountain. At first their advance was unnoticed. They were in fact in a somewhat protected position because the Rebel Artillery on the top could not lower their guns far enough to put them in a line of fire. The Rebel sharpshooters also could do no more than hit the rocks above them. They lay quietly for a time while the enemy's attention was focused on the frontal assault. At this time the Union Artillery in Lookout Valley and at Moccasin Point entered the battle with a very heavy shelling of the top of the mountain. This was answered by the Rebel guns. Skirmishers now met the advance of the 96th, and it soon became a heavy fire but it did not slow them. A Rebel soldier ran toward their line with his hands raised in surrender. The soldiers of the 96th saw this as a sign that the enemy felt that all was lost. They clambered over the rocks, driving the enemy before them. When they reached the enemy's main works, they found that they were constructed to ward off a frontal assault, and were of no value to protect them from the flank. At this point the men needed no command to advance. They could see that they had a very distinct advantage and with the memory of Chickamauga and the companions they lost still fresh in their minds, a force two or three times as great could not have stopped them. Their charge was like an avalanche. The enemy abandoned their works and fell back along the side of the mountain. The clouds were still very thick, and for a time the Federal troops became disoriented and didn't know which way they were to go. This problem was offset, however, by the fact that the enemy further up the mountain could not see to fire at them. This battle was to be known as "The Battle above the Clouds", but it was in reality, the battle in the clouds.

By noon the Federal line was swinging around Point Lookout with the Right side of the 96th as the pivot and the left swinging around the side of the mountain toward Chattanooga. From this point on the Confederacy began to decline. The clouds began to clear, and the spectators in Chattanooga could see, without any dispatches from the front, how the battle was going.

Before 2:00 P.M. they had reached the eastern side of the mountain and driving the enemy toward Summertown Road. As they changed over the nose of the mountain, the 40th Ohio in their eagerness to advance, actually got in the rear of the retreating Rebels. They were in danger of being crushed by superior Rebel forces. The long uphill grind was now over and from here on it was all down hill. Col. Champion saw the danger to the 40th and gave

orders for a "left wheel". The men obeyed without question, and soon were tumbling down the hill after the enemy. They were stopped by a rude fence and immediately commenced to pour a destructive fire into the enemy's ranks. The Rebels were used to bullets and shells but to see a Regiment of men tumbling down from the summit was more than they could tolerate, and they retired. When the 40th saw what was happening, they stopped their retreat and again commenced their rapid advance and captured a section of artillery and a number of prisoners. The 96th then resumed their position at the extreme right of the whole Army and advanced again.

Their lines were now plainly visible to the Army of the Cumberland which was in Chattanooga Valley. They could see the flash of guns and the glint of steel against the dark background of the mountain. There was no severe fighting on the mountain after 2:00 P.M. The Rebels position was reinforced by General Jackson's Division who had been moved from the upper part of the mountain. They made a very determined stand south of Craven House where they could still control Summertown Road, which they would need in case of a further retreat. By this time the ammunition of the Federal troops was nearly exhausted and so were the troops. They would push no further that day. Later reinforcements from the Chattanooga side of the mountain arrived with fresh ammunition but no further advance was attempted. A skirmish was kept up all night by both sides with an escalation of activity by the Rebels between 9 and 10 P.M. The Rebels withdrew during the night so silently that the Federals didn't know that the mountain was their's until later the next day.

The losses of the 96th were minor. This was due to the fog and also since they were so close to the action, most of the danger passed over them. The only death was Esau Rich of Co. B. If it had not been for the lingering fog, the mountain would have been red with the blood of the Federal troops, and indeed the mountain may not have been taken. The Union Jack was placed on the peak, to the cheers of not only the troops that took the mountain, but the troops still in the valley. To the 96th and the 8th Kentucky belonged the privilege of occupying the mountain while the rest of the Brigade went with Hooker to Rossville Gap to prepare to storm Missionary Ridge. While they were there, they could see three states, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. From here the 96th could watch the battle for Missionary Ridge as it unfolded. The gallant charge of the Federal forces took the Ridge and there was no doubt now that Chattanooga and all around it, was Union territory and the Rebel cause had suffered greatly.

The 96th stayed on Lookout for about a week. The weather was getting cold, but the Rebels had left equipment and food when they left, so they did not suffer too much. They longed for the shelter of their "homes" at Nickajack Cove. Early in December they marched off the mountain and headed for their winter quarters at Nickajack. Here they were sheltered from the winter storms by the Cove itself and also by their "houses".

"OFFICE OF CHAS. R. STEELE, BANKER"

"WAUKEGAN, ILL. NOV. 30th 1863"

"Lieut E. J. Gillmore"

"Shell Mound Ga."

"Dear Sir"

"Your favor of the 19th inst. is received and the Allotment Rolls came to hand to day. I have sent the drafts to New York and directed the Green Backs to be returned by Express as the U.S. notes bear from 1/2 to 1% prem over common currency now and exchange on new york vary plenty. I have commenced paying the consignees and will pay all the smaller amounts as fast as called for, my charges to be retained will be only what I pay for the express charges which is only about \$2. per Thousand on the whole, to be retained from the larger amounts. My best regards for all the boys."

"Yours respy."

"Chas. R. Steele"

"I have advised Lieut. Blowney of receipt of his remittance"

This is a letter from the Waukegan banker that handled all of their allotments when the men in Companies B. C. D. and G. wanted to send money home.

"Dear Wife"

"I have received your letter of the 26th ult. and am glad to learn I have a Christmas dinner coming. I think the butter cheese wine fruit-cake etc. will get here about the 25th so I think I may call it my Christmas dinner. Lib you need not send any more at present. Some kinds of clothing I can get cheaper here than you can there. All government clothing comes cheap - at cost."

"Fancy shirts and boots is what we need most"

"A team was sent to Stevenson this morning to get express goods. so we will probably get our box about next wednesday. O! do you hear any thing this time about my "running" during this last battle? I hear ----- has it now that Capt. and I didn't even go near the fight and that all but him run. He says the shoulder straps are waiting for him I think we will have ----- reduced; the Col. says he will reduce him if we say so. but don't say any-thing to any-one about it. Capt. remarked to me when he returned that "I had got back the good name the folks at home had said I had dishonored." I told him I did not know what report they would get up at home but I presumed something worse if possible than before. he said he guessed I was all right this time. I have recd. notice from Steele that he had received the draft and Allotment Rolls I had sent him so the money I sent, you have now got no doubt."

"Yesterday we had a Brigade Review again. Gen. Whittaker is elected to the Legislature of Ky. so he will not be with us for some time again. Col. Barnes of the 8th Ky. Regt. being the ranking Col. will now take command of the Brig. during Whittaker's absence. -----'s papers have come back disapproved Ha! Ha! He has got to get a statement from Washington of his accounts there. but he says he feels better so he will not try it again right away. Many have resigned without getting a statement from W----- but they cant get their pay due them until they do. Hooker it seems gets the credit for taking Lookout Mountain but I guess Whittaker will have the matter righted. When you see Em Burnside again ask her in what Brig. and Div. her man is in. Is he Fife Major? I would like to see him for I think from what I have heard of him that he is a man I would like. Lt. Blowney of Waukegan - one of my best friends has applied for a furlough and if he gets one I will try for one too. Capt. James comes back looking quite healthy."

"I hope Nellie is well ere this - probably her cutting teeth is what makes her sick. A little drum was found on Lookout and I tried to get it to send to Fred but I could not buy it. It had the "Lone star of Texas on one side, and the rebel flag on the other wouldn't it have been a nice trophy to send home. Did Fred get the buckeyes I sent by mail?"

"-----'s wife has strained her eyes looking for him for the last few days.. She writes she felt like embracing every soldier she saw How does Riches folks seem to feel about Esaw? James Litwiler's wounds didn't amount to much Carlisle Druse is with us yet and all right. I will see that Carlisle gets the picture Militta sends. I recd. a letter from Haines a short time ago; he is giving attention to my claim for back pay. I have a rebel sword - an old one I would like to send home. I think it has been an Adjutant General's sword. Geo. Bangs found it and gave it to me. Lib! I don't think there will be any more fighting here until spring They ought to whip them soundly at Richmond now and if we can hold what ground we now have the war must soon play out. It looks so don't it? My cold is getting loose. so I will soon be entirely well again. Kiss the babies good for their

pa. I thought I would be able to write over this whole sheet but
can't this time. Go and see H. Lindsay if you can and give him my
respects; ask him if he need. a letter from me just before he started
home."

"Your Old Man"

"Vange"

"Lib."

- - - - -

"Nick O Jack Cove Ga.
"Dec. 25th-Christmas-1863."

"Dear Frow"

"It is rather late in the day to wish you a Merry Christmas but as you will get this about New Years Day I will get the start of you by wishing you and the little ones a Happy New Year - Libby! I am thankful that a kind providence has spared me another year and I am grateful to Him for the good health of my family; it is He who is our true friend and will remain so "through evil report and good report", He is not transient like the friends of this world; he is indeed, immutable."

"I am very healthy and am having the easiest times I have had since I can remember; soon I'll have enough to do again though At the end of this month Muster and Payrolis, Ordinance Returns Clothing Returns Monthly Returns etc. etc. will have to be made out. I suppose it would interest you to know what we had for dinner today Well. we had first rate dinner. Wheat bread, fried cakes, baked beef, and mashed potatoes. We have soft bread most all the time but only occasionally get beef and potatoes. We have some first rate beans on hand, just such ones as I raised, they are very mealy, and "Old Ike" or "Mr. Butterfield" knows how to cook pretty well - he used to cook on board a vessel; if he had the articles I think he would get up as good a meal as any-body. I think we are fortunate in getting him in our mess for good cooking has very much to do with our health. I have recd. your letter of the 17th inst. I wrote you in my last that we had probably better sell for \$1200. but not a cent less. It must be you have not got all my letters as you do not refer to them much."

"We have not got our box of things yet but I think we will surely have it in a few days now as the Q.M. has gone to Nashville to get all Express matters etc. The R.R. bridge across the Tenn. is completed so the trains run through to here and beyond no-- The weather is pleasant like Oct. weather in Ill. Col. Smith (late Major) has built him a pretty nice shanty and expects his wife and children here soon. they have been at Nashville a good while, the children had the small pox there and one of them died. The Col. was Provost Marshall at Murfreesboro, when he sent for his family, and expected to stay there but soon was ordered to the front so he was in a bad fix; instead of going to house keeping as intended. he has been paying \$12. to \$15. per week for board at N----- but if he gets his family up here he will be all right. as long as we stay here."

"Last night I saw Harpers Weekly and the picture of the soldier home on furlough made me feel homesick. I wish you would ---- this weeks number and preserve it. The picture of Lookout Mt. is first-rate. It shows our Regt. and 51st O. very plainly advancing down toward the white house; we were on the right farthest up the Mt. next to the cliff I passed just to the right of the house and about 30 rods beyond there Esau -----"

"Since I have stopped hard work my breast is filling up so I really think I am getting better looking. I make a better military appearance at least. I wish you to take a good deal pains with Fred's breast have him throw back his arms and take ----- as he can as often as you think of it. When he gets up in the morning is a good time - have him pound his breast with his fist etc. perhaps he will soon get in the habit so he will do it of his own accord. Good large lungs are worth a great deal to any one as they generally insure good health."

"Have I ever sent home Capt. Pollock's photograph? I think I have but I have another and will send this also."

"Quite a number officers and men have asked me for my photograph but I never had a chance since I was promoted to have any taken."

"My weight is only 171 lbs. ha! ha!"

"Good Night"

"Vange"

"Lib"

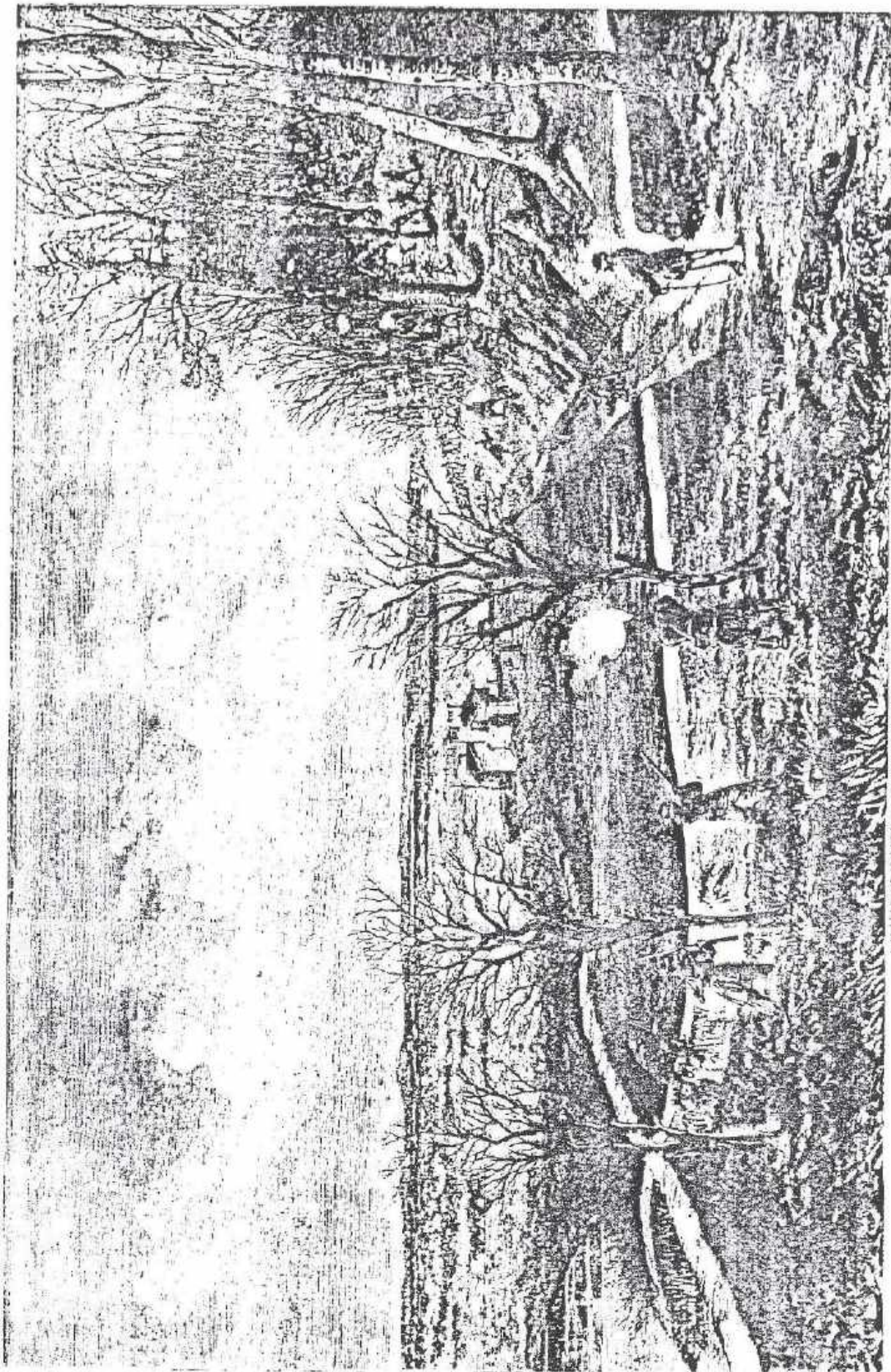
"----- begins to talk of leaving of swearing and playing cards entirely. If he could be kept away from his gang he would soon become a pretty good man."

this was a hard letter to read as he evidently had more to say than he had paper to write it on. He wrote all around the edges and even some was written over another of the pages of the letter at a 90 degree angle.

*We believe the picture on the following page is the picture that Vange refers to in this Dec. 25, 1863 letter. We have a book, "Harpers Pictorial History of the Civil War". It is a large book with many pictures and maps. It is a nearly day by day account of the war, taken from the Harpers Weekly, which was the national newspaper of the time. There is an unfinished sentence in Vange's letter which says "I passed just to the right of the house, and about 30 rods beyond there Esau --". We know that Pvt. Esau Rich, age 22 from Avon Township, was killed at Lookout Mountain on Nov. 24, 1863. He was in Vange's Company B.

There were cameras at the time of the Civil War, but there was no way to reproduce a picture once it was taken. Therefore when a battlefield picture was taken and developed, an artist had to reproduce it and then it was transferred to a wood cut for reproduction in the publication.*

On January 8th 1864, Captain Whitney of Co. B resigned and Lt. E.J. Gillmore was promoted to Captain and Commanding officer of Co. B. After Lookout Mountain, Col. Champion took a leave of absence and went back to his home in Illinois where he spent several weeks. Some of the other line officers and enlisted men also got furloughs and went home for a time. Vange Gillmore was not one of these however.



A WINTER SCENE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE GREAT REBELLION. BY EDWARD F. MASON.

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"Dear Wife"

"Today I received yours of the 3rd inst. was surprised to learn that Wm. Tuttle was up there. Capt. received a letter from H. Lindsay who writes that Mrs. ----- was going to apply for a divorce. It is a little strange you don't get my letters more regularly. I have been thinking pretty seriously of late of getting a furlough or rather a "leave of absence" as it is called when officers speak of it. Lt. Blowney is going to apply again as soon as some of the absent officers return & perhaps I will apply then too, but dont reckon too much on it so you will be disappointed as Whitney's wife was. We hear of a good many freezing to death up there this winter, well a few have froze to death even here on the cars between Bridgeport and Nashville. It was very cold here the 1st and 2nd of this month. Then Billy thought My looked like a skeleton. "I can't see it" He looks bigger & weighs as much as I do which is 181 lbs. ha! ha! Yes, I stepped on the scales today with my sword and revolver on I weighed 183 1/2 lbs. O! I am considerable of a boy now days. My breast is filling up first rate since I stopped hard work."

"I have written you to sell our place for \$1,200. and if you could we would then try to buy the lake farm. Lib I want your photograph; if you dont like the one you have, get another."

"We expect to be paid again about the 20th but may not. Last sunday Capt. James, Fife Major H. Weatherly, sergt. Wait, M. Douglass & I went and explored the cave some. We didn't go in more than half a mile but traveled around so much we got very tired; the cave branches off in every direction and is very large. We crossed a stream in there large enough for a canal boat to go up in. We crossed on a bridge - a temporary concern. We found nothing particularly interesting still it satisfied our curiosity somewhat. We probably would have gone in farther but our candles got so low it would not have been safe."

"I think I shall employ a guide if I visit it again. Perhaps after peace is restored I will bring you down here to see some of these sights. Does Fred drum any now?"

"The Major's wife is ----- but I never have had an introduction to her yet. O! yes I was introduced to her at Covington I had forgotten. I guess the Major or rather Col. (he was a Major) has a good wife - she was good about seeing to our boys in the hospitals at Nashville - she has a pretty form but her features are not handsome. We are all in good spirits. are constantly hearing of successful Cavalry raids etc. etc. Tomorrow I go on picket again. Guess I will dream of you tonight I feel as though I should. Wouldn't I enjoy a Leave of absence though."

"Good Night"

"Vange to Lib."

"Wartrace Tenn. Aug. 9/63."

"Dear Wife"

"I just came off Picket and am quite sleepy but as I can not get to sleep I will see if I can write. My head aches some so excuse me if my composition is not the best. One year ago today I "enlisted". One year ago the 4th inst. we had a hurricane in northern Ill. Eleven Months ago the 5th inst. we were mustered into the 96th Regt. I expect we shall soon be enlisting again as "Veteran Volunteers". What do you think of it up there! We consider it a very good thing for the soldiers but they are afraid of it some yet. E. Potter is some better but J. O'Connell is quite unwell and we fear will not live long. J. Bottom is getting better also. The weather is quite warm and light showers frequent. O! here comes the mail - two letters for me one from you of Aug 2nd and one from mother and Frank. My also has two letters. Well! your letter has cured my head ache but perhaps I can't write any better after all. You have got you a beauro and I am glad of it. We certainly did need it but I always thought & felt as though the melodion ought to get it for us. You have sold the harness too.- guess you will get all our personal property sold after awhile only give you a little time."

"How does My write now? He thinks I will get whipped by some of the boys when we get home Ha! Ha! "A big thing that". I would not be afraid to bet that My has more said against him than is said against me after all the fuss. The boys certainly are good to my face and my word for it the boys will all say when they get home and think the thing over "that" I have asked nothing more of them than what I should. We have orders to drill two hours each day but I tell the boys "if they will take pains and execute each movement briskly and correctly as possible I will let them rest more than enough to make it up. By taking such a course the company will improve in drill. If one or two lazy ones fall behind the rest and don't take pains at all and spoil the appearance of the whole Co. Why! of course I just make them come to time. Any thing wrong about that? It is too bad that a few should spoil the appearance of the company & thereby give reason for the General's issuing orders to drill-so much. The willing ones are the sufferers. Of course when I reprimand the men they are mad at the time and tell the boys what they will do when we get home. but the next day its "Leit. won't you have an apple"? "or a peach"! or something of the sort to make up. You know something about the boys we have in our company - they have a good deal of "gass" What surprises me is that I can manage them as well as I do! Capt. Taylor who came in as 1st Lt. was not liked by his company at all. The Co. even went so far as to sign a petition to have him resign and he thought he would tender his resignation on that account but as soon as his superiors found out about it they told him to stick to his post.- that they would not grant his resignation on account of the Co. being prejudice against him."

This letter is evidently incomplete. At least there is no signature, or closing. There is no more room on the 4 handwritten pages.

CHAPTER 15

On the 5th of August orders were received by Gen. Rosecrans to commence an advance. The General had been dragging his feet, saying that he needed more cavalry, the railroad completed, more troops for a diversion on his flanks and a better accumulation of supplies near the front. Even after the order to advance was received, he continued to drag his feet. He received no forces for the diversion, so he sent part of his cavalry to protect the railroad and guard the line of the Tennessee River from Whitesburg to Bridgeport. After a delay, Gen. Burnside moved into East Tennessee, but was able to hold only a small portion of the Rebel forces.

On August 16th, the Army of the Cumberland commenced their move. The main body which had been in the area of Dechard and Winchester, climbed the Cumberland Mountains and was soon looking for the enemy, whose main forces were near Chattanooga. The Rebel General Bragg felt secure in his position, with numerous mountain ranges and the mighty Tennessee River to protect his rear and flanks. He felt so secure that he promised the Rebel authorities that with a few reinforcements, he could soon go on the offensive and take the state of Tennessee back. Little did he know that he would soon be maneuvered out of his "secure" position without much of a contest.

Rosecrans sent a large force of cavalry and infantry into the Sequatchie valley as if to make a crossing of the river in the vicinity of Chattanooga and make a direct assault on the city. This bold and aggressive move convinced Bragg that the whole Union army was at that point and would seriously try to take Chattanooga. Bragg then sent his whole force to protect Chattanooga. In the meantime most of the Union forces were being moved, by various routes, to the area of Stevenson and Bridgeport. Here there were long pontoon trains waiting for them. On September 4th, they placed the pontoons and bridging across the river and crossed without opposition. They headed for the railroads back of the city. It was several days before Bragg was aware of the fact that the main Union forces were not heading for the city itself, but for the communications behind the city. All of this time the diversionary forces were doing their jobs very well. There were three columns of Union forces across the river and moving from Stevenson and Bridgeport; one under Gen. Crittenden, moving directly toward Chattanooga as if to cross the point of Lookout Mountain; a second column under Gen. Thomas, going over the mountain to the right and penetrating nearly to La Fayette (the 96th was in Thomas' column); a third column under Gen. McCook went further to the right and reached Valley Head, with a portion of the column getting as far as Alpine. Early on September 8th, the Rebels evacuated Chattanooga. They headed south and Rosecrans evidently felt that Bragg would not stop to fight until he reached a natural defense line, so he vigorously sent his troops after them with the intentions of striking his flank and battering his army before a fortification could be reached. This was not to be, however, as Rosecrans found, almost too late, that Bragg's army had been reinforced and had turned themselves to face the Union Army and was fighting hard, not only prepared to defend itself, but with intentions of taking the offensive.

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This is the last part of a letter from Vange to Lib, probably written at or near Wartrace, Tenn. A date on the last page is "Thursday Aug. 30, 1863.

"encouragingly as possible to James Eleazer Graves - one of our boys died at Murfreesboro the 13th inst. - sad news to his mother, sister and intended. Eleazer was one of the best fellows I ever became acquainted with; he has been sick a good deal and we have tried to get him discharged but the doctors would not recommend it. I have visited him often when he was in hospitals at Covington Danville and Franklin. and he always thought he "was going to get better in a few days" A fellow by the name of Huntington of Co. C died here in hospital night before last (of chronich diarrhea, (I think): He will be sent home tomorrow in a metallic coffin; his mother visited him at Danville Ky. last winter."

"James Bottom is quite sick just now"

" A man by the name of Sells of Co. D. but from our town is not expected to live long but the Dr. got orders today to send all men home that would not be fit for duty very soon and as Sells is very homesick the idea of going home may revive him up so he can go."

"I understand _____ is about there again. How does he carry sail?"

"I guess you would think I was about "spoiled" if I was to do as _____ did at Rockford Chicago and Cincinnati as he confessed to me for I had to use instruments on him to rid him of certain diseases some of the women gave him. I expect a good many men demoralize themselves at Nashville but out here in the field there is not much chance unless they stoop to wenches. but I guess there is not much danger of that. As for myself I don't have much desire for sexual intercourse & don't know as you will own me any more. as I am not a man now unless I have such desires. Will you own or reject me? Let me know before I come home."

"Last night it was very cold but today quite warm. The men are generally pretty healthy now since we have got water from the spring we are now using from. We give two of the boys passes every day to go out to purchase vegetables & poultry. so the men have had pretty much all they wish of such articles. Chicken broth I think has kept me from the hospital. Officers have to pay \$1.05 per day at hospitals now. therefore I am doubly anxious to keep out of them. As long as I can stay in camp the doctors here will prescribe for me gratis. I have been taking Blue Pills to regulate my liver and Opium Camphor & Quinine for the diarrhea. have eaten but a very little for two weeks. I have no diarhea today but am weak. We are handy to a creek so we can bathe every day if we wish."

"Thursday Aug. 30, 1863"

"It is raining quite hard so I presume we will have to march again. "Rosy" was here yesterday and said it was our turn to go to the front now. so I presume we will be down in Alabama ere long. I have not heard any thing of E. Blotherwick in a long time but expect he is out to the front. further."

" Kiss the babies for me and tell them about their pa! How he is coming home one of these days etc. etc. I aint as mad as I was a little while ago. ha! ha!"

"E.J. Gillmore"

"Mrs. E. J. Gillmore"

While the movement towards Chattanooga was taking place, the 96th had a less conspicuous part to play. At first they were guarding the lines of communications, over which the large amount of supplies needed to sustain the attack would flow. On August 12th the Regiment was ordered to move. They marched 5 miles and went into bivouac. The next morning they were up and ready to march at daylight. During the day they crossed and recrossed an unbridged stream several times, and reached Tullahoma by 10:00 A.M., having travelled about 9 miles. Here they stopped until about 2:00 P.M. when they started again, traveling 8 or 9 miles and stopping for the night on the banks of the Elk River near Estill Springs. They stayed at this location from August 13th until September 7th. The weather was hot and the flies abundant. About one third of the Regiment were on picket duty all of the time. At one time a large number of men were sent to Tullahoma to guard a wagon train, at another time another group was sent to Stevenson for the same purpose. About this time the weather, which had been very hot, turned cool. At night it was almost cold. On the 23rd, the camp was moved a short distance to the bank of the river. There was a negro regiment being formed in the area, being made up of former slaves. A number of the Non-coms from the 96th were sent to Stevenson Alabama for testing to see if they were qualified to be officers. Soon thereafter 4 or 5 commissions were received in camp and these new officers were assigned to the negro units. At one point a scouting party was sent out to investigate the rumor that a Rebel regiment was being organized in a neighboring county. It was not proven, however, and at one house there was a number of older women. One of them, wearing a dress and a high sunbonnet and carrying a child, said she must get home. The Lieutenant in charge ordered one of the soldiers to hold her horse for her while another held the child. When she was safely in the saddle, the child was returned to her and she was on her way. It was later learned that it was a man that they helped. The Lieutenant never heard the last of that.

September 5th was the first anniversary of the muster-in of the Regiment. Co. A had a grand dinner to celebrate, but the other companies celebrated less formally. That night the sutler's cash receipts were larger, however.

On September 6th there were again rumors of an advance, and all who were not able to march were sent back to Tullahoma by train. There were many sick because of the recent hard duty, and a number of those that had gone to hospitals earlier, had died.

On Monday, September 7th, the day before the Union occupied Chattanooga, the 96th was ordered to advance to the front. They were out on the drill field when assembly sounded, so they came in, broke camp and started south. In the distance was the Cumberland Mountains, and they headed straight for them. They therefore knew that it would be a long hard climb. Dechard was passed during the day and about dark they made camp at Cowen Station. It had been a very hot day. Several other regiments joined them, having come up from the rear. The next morning they were up at 2:00 A.M. and on the road by 4:00 A.M., immediately starting to climb the mountain. They crossed over the tunnel, past Tantalion and made camp near Anderson. The maps said they had come 15 miles, but all who made the march were sure it was more like 20. They were all very tired that night. The next morning they were up at 2:30 A.M. and headed south on the wagon road by 4:00 A.M. At noon they made camp about a mile from Stevenson. It was hot, dry and very dusty. They were covered with so much dust that you could not recognize your closest friend or tell the difference between the officers and the enlisted men. Water was scarce and the men were nearly choking on the dust. At one point they came upon a spring, and the men flocked to it as a herd of thirsty cows might. They pushed and shoved each other to get a taste of the precious fluid. Most had never seen mountains before, so in spite of the tortuous march they seemed to enjoy the view.

On September 10, they started at 6:00 A.M. for Bridgeport and arrived about 1:00 P.M. Here they would camp for the night. About half a mile from where they stopped could be seen the Tennessee River. Their guns had hardly been stacked and the knapsacks unslung, when every man in every Regiment in the column was headed for the river. Soon they had stripped all of their cloths off and were washing off the dust and dirt of the long marches. It was quite a sight to see 2,000 to 3,000 nude men frolicking in the refreshing water. Half an hour later they were all back in camp enjoying their dinner, after which they were permitted to rest. The 11th they spent quietly in camp. There was an island in the middle of the river on which was the remains of the piers of a railroad bridge that had been destroyed by the Rebels before they retreated southward a few days before.

On Saturday, September 12, they started at 7:00 A.M. and crossed the river, going into camp on the southern bank. They were given assurance that they would stay here for a time, so they cleaned up and outfitted the camp to make it more comfortable. There were straight pine poles in abundance in the area, so they were put to good use in the construction of bunks. After several hours of hard work they were told that they were headed for the front immediately, and that they should send their extra baggage back to Stevenson. All equipment including tents, mess chests, knapsacks and blankets were loaded and escorted back to Stevenson by Capt. Pollock of Co. C. Those that were unfit to march were again sent back with him. A few from the rear

were sent up to take their place, keeping the number of the regiment up to nearly 500 men.

Between 6:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. on September 13th the column filed out in the direction of Chattanooga. The 96th was near the rear of the column and there were several hundred wagons ahead of them loaded with 12 days rations and a lot of ammunition for the command. Because of this their progress was very slow. They passed Shellmound and stopped for awhile near Nick-a-Jack Cave from the depth of which flowed the cooling waters of a large spring. The Rebels had obtained a lot of Saltpetre from the cave and used it for making gunpowder. The scenery was great as the afternoon changed to evening and Sand Mountain and Lookout Mountain loomed up as if they were close at hand. Whiteside was reached as the sun set, and the tired troops went into bivouac, having traveled about 15 miles that day. They slept soundly but not long, for at 11:00 P.M. they were aroused and ordered to continue the march. That night trip over a very rugged mountain road was one that was well remembered by all. Great boulders on the road and frequent rock outcroppings made the path uneven. Some were unable to go on and fell by the way. Some fell to the rear of the column but managed to keep with the column. Some actually fell asleep while walking and dropped their muskets, which could be heard clattering down the mountain. Shoes wore through and many of the rocks bore traces of blood from their feet. They could see the ever present dim outline of Lookout Mountain constantly ahead of them. At dawn their spirits seemed to raise with the sun. They stopped, and fires were lit and soon they were partaking of hot coffee and hard-tack. Some of the stragglers came up and took their places again. Again the march was continued. They had stopped at the base of Lookout, but now it had to be climbed. They followed a rough wagon road, but it made it no easier. It took them all morning to get to the top. There they found a beautiful scene. Chattanooga was in the distance, the Broad Tennessee River looked like a silver ribbon winding in and out of the timber along it's banks and in the distance was Missionary Ridge, which looked close enough that a rifle shot would carry to it. Beyond that were the main armies of both sides, gathering for the first major struggle in this area. Many of the men who were taking part in this terrible forced march, would halt forever in the territory they were now surveying. They didn't know it then, but in a brief two months they would pass this way again in the flame and smoke of battle.

The halt on Lookout was short and they were soon headed for Missionary Ridge. They supposed they would head directly for Chattanooga, but the line of march took them southeast, leaving the city on the left. Camp was made a little before noon at Rossville Gap. All through the afternoon and well into the evening stragglers kept coming into camp. The march was difficult because of the terrain, but also because they had to stay behind the slow army wagons the whole way. They spent much of the time just standing in line, not moving forward at all.

CHAPTER 17

The 96th was soon to learn what they were made of. They had heard the sounds of battle and been involved in skirmishes, but never had they been in a serious battle. That was all about to change, however, as Chickamauga was less than a week away.

Chickamauga, a name that was remembered by all who took part in this tremendous battle, whether they be Union or Rebel. It was fought over miles of territory and thousands of acres. It was fought over two full days, not counting the preliminary skirmishes. The territory was heavily wooded, which didn't allow the Generals on either side to know what was really going on. Divisions, brigades and sometimes even Regiments, became separated and sometimes seemed to be fighting engagements that were wholly their own.

General Bragg had withdrawn his Rebel forces 25 or 30 miles to the area of La Fayette. At which point he made another plea for reinforcements. The reinforcements were sent. Two divisions were sent from Mississippi, General Buckner's command from East Tennessee, General Longstreet's elite Corps from Virginia and several thousand of the Georgia Militia. These forces plus Bragg's initial forces constituted a force much larger than General Rosecrans' command. Rosecrans had decided to chase Bragg, supposing that he would retreat toward Rome. He soon discovered, however, that Bragg had no thought of retreating further, and instead was assembling his forces between La Fayette and Lee & Gordon's Mills. Before they became aware of the Rebel's commitment to make a stand, Crittenden's Corps, who after crossing Lookout, had advanced through Chattanooga and driven the Rebels out of Ringgold. His cavalry kept advancing, going beyond Tunnel Hill. He suddenly became aware that he was to the rear of the right wing of the Rebels' main body, and in much danger. They soon withdrew to Ringgold. When moving towards La Fayette, they met heavy opposition and had to move to the right towards Lee & Gordon's Mills. A patrol sent out from there toward La Fayette, found two Corps of the enemy under General Polk, heading for Crittenden's position. The scouting party put up a noisy resistance and the rebels soon were advancing to the rear, supposing the Union forces in that area were stronger than they really were. Within a day or two a portion of the Reserve Corps had moved up to Rossville, and were in position to support Crittenden.

At this same time, General Thomas' Corps, which was the center column, tried to pass through Dug Gap, but found a sizeable enemy force there. They withdrew without any serious encounter to a position more easily defended. He had a lively skirmish at McLemore's Cove, but was able to fall back without a major battle.

General Mc Cook had also discovered that the enemy was prepared for battle. He began to move left in order to consolidate his force with the rest of Rosecrans' forces. It was a difficult move, over rough terrain and they were further encumbered by their wagons and artillery. Since the Rebels had control of the roads, they had to move overland, and since the move was mostly at night, they built fires along the route taken to light the path and show the way for those behind. General Bragg had it within his power at any time to attack any one of the three corps with his whole army. This would have been disastrous to not only the Corps attacked, but the whole of Rosecrans' command. History does in fact tell us that Bragg did give orders to make the attack, but each time the Union forces made a subtle move, and the commanders of the Rebel forces backed away from an encounter. The battle that was to come was desperate enough when

the Union forces were united, what would it have been if they had not been together. Bragg had lost a chance for a decisive victory.

Bragg moved next closer to Chattanooga in order to be closer to his reinforcements, which were still coming up. Again there was a delay in taking advantage of the situation, and the attack was delayed from Thursday until Saturday. In the mean time the Union forces were making ready their defenses, and also, the dust that had made their recent march so hard, now was to their advantage. Because of the dust, they knew exactly where the Rebel forces were, and what they were planning. They could then make their plans accordingly. The Union moved a considerable distance to the left. This was done very cautiously and was a very difficult move. Many of them didn't get in position on Friday, and so had to move all night. They therefore didn't get into position until the morning of the battle and had to meet the enemy without any sleep the night before.

The Union forces were now assembled along the west bank of Chickamauga Creek, stretching from Lee & Gordon's Mills to Reed's Bridge, a distance of about 5 miles. A portion of McCook's forces were even farther to the right, making about 12 miles between the extreme right and left of their forces. All bridges and fords over Chickamauga Creek were guarded by cavalry, with infantry support. Missionary Ridge lay three or four miles to their rear. There were only two roads over Missionary Ridge that supply wagons and artillery could be brought over. One led through Rossville Gap and the other through McFarland's Gap.

It has now been explained where the main forces of each army were and how they got there, so let us now go back and see what the 96th was doing. We previously left them at Rossville. They were in the First Brigade of the First Division of The Reserve Corps, commanded By General Gordon Granger. Their Brigade Commander was General Walter Whittaker. General Granger had issued orders that there be no foraging by his command. His guards caught a few foragers outside the picket lines and he ordered their arrest and had them tied up by the thumbs outside his headquarters. There was an immediate uproar in camp and Captain Hicks of Co. A and several other officers of the 96th walked to the line and demanded the immediate release of their men. A crowd of soldiers gathered and officers of the other regiments also demanded the release of their men. General Granger made terrible profane threats but a murmur ran through the crowd, and he realized that he could not misuse intelligent volunteers, especially with a major engagement about to take place. He crept away to his tent damning everyone. Soon thereafter General Steedman, the Commander of the Division, ordered all released and quiet was restored.

The Union officers realized that the Rebels had a considerably larger force ahead of them than was their force. They called up every unit from the rear that they could for support, but it didn't compare with the large number of regiments that had responded to the Rebel Commander's call. The Union troops rested in camp from September 14th to the 17th. They all realized that a terrible battle was coming.

On Thursday, September 17th, the 2nd Brigade and the 22nd Michigan and the 89th Ohio, Under General Steedman, left Rossville at 3:00 A.M. and went 12 or 14 miles out on the Ringgold Road. This put them on a rise that allowed them to see large clouds of dust which came from large forces of the enemy on the march and in bivouac. The temptation to give them a surprise was too great, so they unlimbered a section of artillery and commenced a brisk shelling of the enemy positions. This was soon responded to. The clouds of dust, some moving right and some moving left indicated that the enemy was about

to surround them, so as their mission was to reconnoiter, they soon withdrew back to near Greysville, and went into bivouac. That night the enemy opened up on them with a gun which was placed near their picket line. They quickly put out their fires and were ready for an attack, but it never came. The next morning they marched back to Rossville, where General Steedman immediately told General Rosecrans that General Longstreet's Corps had arrived from Virginia to reinforce the enemy. He also said that the enemy was concentrated near the left of the main Union force. Rosecrans then decided to move his forces left. Whittaker and McCook's brigades were sent out on a reconnaissance (the 96th was with Whittaker). A few of the sick and those who had worn their shoes out were left in camp. About 30 men from the 96th were sent to guard a wagon train that morning and were not relieved for three days, which was after the battle. Co. A was on picket duty on the side of Missionary Ridge, so did not go with the column. The 96th led the column, being right behind General Whittaker and his Staff. Strict orders had been issued that all guns be unloaded in camp. No one had issued orders to load as the march began, so there was not a loaded gun in the column. They went out through Rossville Gap and took the right hand or La Fayette road. After they had gone a mile or two, they halted, and there was a brief consultation at the front. They were then countermarched and took instead the Ringgold Road. This was the road that Steedman had returned on a few hours before. McCook's Brigade stayed on the LaFayette road. Whittaker's Brigade moved forward at a good swinging gait, talking merrily and not anticipating any danger. Two or three miles up the road a soldier was sent to a private home where he spoke with a very agitated woman. She kept saying "There's going to be a battle", "there's going to be a battle". She also said that "a critterback Company" had followed Steedman back yesterday and turned back at her house. The soldier reported what he had heard and word was sent to General Whittaker. No attention was paid to the information, however, and the rapid march continued. It should be pointed out here that they were marching without the benefit of any advance guard whatsoever. This was not good procedure at all.

Whittaker's Brigade had lost some time when they countermarched and changed roads. They were to have marched to Red House Bridge before stopping, but at 5:00 P.M. they were at McAfee's Church on the Little Chickamauga (better known as Spring Creek). The mounted officers rode into the creek and allowed their horses to drink. The men broke ranks and started looking for a way to cross the creek without getting their feet wet. Some found a tree that had fallen across the creek. They started to cross on the tree when a shot rang out which nearly hit the General in the head. The men all found shelter, and the order was given to "Deploy a company as skirmishers". Col. Champion shouted to load at will. There was a short delay because of the absence of Co. A. They were the ones usually called upon as skirmishers. Companies D and F were deployed. Captain Blodgett's Co. D moved to cross the road. The first man to attempt to cross was Corporal Elisha Haggart. As soon as he came out of the bushes, he fell, his brain pierced by a ball. Five minutes later Captain Blodgett took a bullet in the shoulder. The wound was painful, but he did not go back right away. The 40th Ohio moved to the left and assumed a line parallel to the 96th. They too sent out two companies as skirmishers. The fire of the enemy was quickly replied to and the skirmishers moved gallantly forward for about half a mile, followed by the rest of the two regiments. The 18th Ohio Artillery, which was with the Brigade, unlimbered their guns and

commenced firing. That was soon answered by Rebel Artillery. Night was coming on now rather quickly, so the advance was halted and the men lay in line all night. They were so close to the enemy that they had to be extra cautious of a night attack, and quiet was necessary. The weather in this area should have been nice on a September night, but for the two nights of this battle there was a record cold snap. The men had no blankets so between the cold and the fact that they had to rest on their arms, it was a night not soon forgotten. No fires were permitted so they could not even have a warm cup of coffee to warm themselves. Some were found with their bayonet between their teeth to keep their teeth from chattering and alerting the enemy. There was no movement by either side that night and the only consolation the Union troops had was the fact that the Rebels were probably suffering as much as they were.

As soon as daylight came, the order was passed to move to the road. Never was there such a quiet movement of men. Not a rattle of a canteen or bayonet was heard as the men crawled toward the road. When the road was reached, they formed up and marched back a mile or two to the vicinity of McAfee's Church where fires were lit and coffee was prepared. After breakfast they formed a new line of defense on a ridge to the left of the road. Here they would stay for 24 hours. The 96th was not threatened in this position except for the exploding shells overhead and the occasional overshot bullet from the fighting in the vicinity. The other Regiments in their area did have some brisk fighting to keep their positions. Early in the day Co. A came up from Rossville and took their position in the line.

While the day was not uneventful where the 96th was, on the left side of the line, the right side of the line saw a terrible conflict. As night fell, the troops could not find out what was happening on the other end of the line. Those that had come up from Rossville said that there were a lot of wounded headed to the rear through that place. They also said that the valley was filled with wagons headed for Chattanooga.

General Rosecrans had assumed that the Chickamauga would form a sizable barrier for the enemy and so would be a good defensive position. He therefore had all of the bridges and fords guarded very heavily. However, the cavalry guarding Reed's bridge faced a severe charge from the Rebels and had to fall back. The enemy soon swarmed over and fanned out. Col. McCook thought that the enemy force that had crossed was only one Brigade, but on Saturday morning when General Brannan attempted to move his Division to recapture the bridge, he found a much greater force of Rebels than had been reported, they being outnumbered by quite a margin. As they were moving toward the bridge, the Rebels were commencing an attack. The two advancing forces met with terrible consequences. Gen. Bragg had ordered that his troops start at the right of his lines, each division attacking and if stiff resistance was met, to keep sliding to the left until a weak spot was found. They found such a point, but later in the day and farther to the south than anticipated. It was soon determined that Bragg wanted to break back the Union Left, so troops were brought from the right center to shore up the lines. The union lost a little ground and abandoned a few pieces of artillery, but not without terrible losses to the enemy. General Rosecrans ordered a portion of General McCook's Corps to shore up the weakened center. The Rebels found more than one weak place, but the reserve units moved up from the rear and kept the loss of ground at a minimum. As it became dark on Saturday evening, the Federal forces had lost some ground, but the line was still pretty well in tact. The losses of men was severe on

both sides however. When the Rebel commanders met that evening, they were pretty well discouraged. Their superior forces had not accomplished much that day and some were ready to give up the fight. Every Regiment of the Union 14th, 20th and 21st Corps had seen severe action that day and their losses were heavy, but all had maintained their organization, and all were ready for the conflict that they knew tomorrow would bring.

CHAPTER 18

The 96th was on the extreme left of this mighty army. They were somewhat disappointed on that Saturday night that they had not had a more prominent part in the days activities. They did not know, as the men on the right did, that the conflict was only well begun. The night was again cold, but they could have fires and coffee. They had a large picket force that night, and the pickets could not be relieved because of the closeness of the enemy. The men on picket suffered much that night. The rest made beds of leaves or branches and a dozen or so would lay down close together all facing the same way. The command would be "by the right flank spoon". Soon some small fires were kindled in a ravine behind them, and as the outside of the "spoon" got cold they would go to the fires for warmth. Soon most were setting by the fires, dozing. They were up and had their breakfast before daylight and were ready for whatever the new day had in store for them. A few had been made sick by the two nights of exposure and were sent back to Rossville. At the same time a few others came up to fill in. The 96th had 419 officers and men in line that morning. General Steedman and his staff came riding up, and soon attracted some fire from Rebel positions. From the shots fired he deducted that the enemy at that point must be a light one, only being a party of observation. General Granger joined him and as they talked, they could hear the sounds of a terrible battle to the south. Granger said "Steedman, they are pushing our forces; we are needed badly over there, and are not needed here". Steedman replied, "I can't order you to go; you are ordered here by the General commanding the army". "I know we are needed over there, and if satisfied there is no considerable force in our front I'll take the responsibility and go". Later clouds of dust off to the southeast indicated that the enemy had left the Ringgold Road and was pushing toward the main army. Granger said, "Do you see that cloud of dust? That shows where they are." Steedman said, "Yes, they are going where the fight is the thickest, and I'll go too." "It's a fearful thing, General, to disregard orders, abandon a position in the face of the enemy", said Granger. Steedman replied, "I know it is, but everything has changed since we were ordered here. I'll take the responsibility and go." At this time orderlies and staff officers were sent to the right to ask that the command be relieved of the duty of guarding wagons when there was no enemy present. William Perry of Co. I was one of the orderlies. As he and a companion were riding toward General Rosecrans position, they rounded a sudden turn in the road, and found the road full of Rebel infantry. The two men tried to gallop right through the Rebels. Perry made it, but his companion was killed and Perry's horse was wounded.

The lines were advanced a good half a mile toward the battle. No resistance was met. They moved back to a defense line and waited. Would the command to advance never come? Would the battle be fought to its close and the reserve Corps not be called upon? At this time the final conversation between Granger and Steedman took place, and the order was passed along the line to advance. At a little past 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 20th, the Corps began to move. Again the 96th was given the lead of the 10 regiments of infantry and 2 batteries of artillery. The three right Companies alternating as skirmishers in the front of the whole column. There were occasional meadows and corn fields, but the greater part of the country was heavy timber. They traveled quite rapidly, first over a wooded road and then they took to the fields until they reached the LaFayette Road. They stayed with that road until enemy cavalry was seen, at which time they again took to the fields. They now moved in a more compact

formation so as to be able to better resist an enemy cavalry attack. The sounds of battle grew louder and abandoned equipment was seen. An occasional straggler or wounded man was seen. They told of the terrific battle they had taken part in. They moved to the right and found large units of enemy cavalry between them and the main Union forces. The two brigades formed a hollow square and moved forward with Rebel cavalry hanging on their front and flanks. A hospital which had been used by Union troops was reached, but it had recently been captured by Rebels. They had left a few soldiers to guard it, but they were soon captured and sent to the rear under guard. Passing to the right of the hospital, they continued through some thick brush. They then came to an open field across which they passed at a double-quick. A Rebel battery galloped onto the field only three or four hundred yards away and unlimbered their gun. Section after section of artillery joined them, and soon the air was full of iron and the ground was furrowed and full of holes. It was strange that there were only a few casualties. Through it all the 96th and those regiments behind them kept advancing without flinching. The commanders knew that they were needed farther ahead. The field was liberally covered with the sights and sounds of battle. After crossing the open field they bore further west and succeeded in passing the Rebel right without serious opposition.

They had traveled for a full two hours, much of the time at a double-quick. They had succeeded in reaching and passing General Thomas' lines. They halted at the Snodgrass farm, where General Thomas had his headquarters. Here they rested for a very short time. Their arrival was most timely. The continuous shifting of troops to the left on Saturday had somewhat mixed the various units up but the territory lost was very minor. Rosecrans ordered a large part of his command to move to the right to help Thomas. Just as they were moving to the right, Bragg's troops made a very brisk assault on their position. This forced a portion of the command to retreat in disorder with a severe loss of men and equipment. They were forced across Missionary Ridge to the Rossville Road and then back to Chattanooga. This completely cut the Union forces in half. At this point General Thomas did not realize it, but he was the only Corps Commander still in the field. Longstreet and his troops were happy with their success and pushed their advantage for awhile, but he did not want to pass the Union right until he reorganized his troops. He halted and formed his troops in several strong lines of battle, and also conferred with General Bragg and took in charge many pieces of captured Union cannon and other equipment. He then tried to take advantage of his superior force of numbers and made a direct assault on the Union lines. After several of these assaults were repulsed he changed his tactics. A show of fighting was kept up along the ridge where the Federal troops were posted while Longstreet's main army moved north. They hoped to move behind Thomas' forces, surround and capture them. The cartridge boxes of Thomas' soldiers were near empty and some unauthorized person had ordered the wagons with ammunition to the rear. The situation was very critical. Longstreet was swinging the last gate shut on Thomas. This would force Thomas to form a hollow square and resist as long as he could, and then surrender. A half hour more and the trap would be complete.

It was at this critical time that help arrived. Thomas had seen a cloud of dust approaching from a distance. He didn't know if it was friend or foe. It was the Reserve Corps including the 96th. The reserves were tired, hot and dusty, but ready. There was a quick consultation among the officers of the two Corps. There was a movement of the two Corps toward the woods, the 96th was still in the lead of the Reserve Corps. It was at this moment that Captain Moe of

General Steedmans staff proclaimed, "There are often disputes as to the time when important military events occur, and as this is likely to be an important event, gentlemen, just remember that it is now ten minutes past one o'clock."

After a short march, the column was ordered to halt and came to a front. The 96th was at the extreme right of the line. With them were the 115th Illinois and the 22nd Michigan. Behind these three Regiments were the 40th Ohio, the 84th Indiana and the 89th Ohio. On a ridge to their front was seen several Rebel skirmishers. They fired a few shots and then ran back. One of the Rebel shots struck a man in the 40th Ohio with a dull thud. One of the men said "There's a Reb on the hill." Col. Champion replied very casually, "Why don't you shoot him, then?" The man responded with a rifle shot. In a moment they sent out skirmishers, inspected their rifles and the double line of troops started forward. The forward movement was carried out quite admirably even though they had to work around fallen trees. They passed several little ravines, then they broke into a double-quick. They were ascending the first ridge when there was the pattering of shot like the first rain drops of a shower. Then the constant deafening roar as Regiment after Regiment took up the deadly work. The first line of Rebels gave way and the line of blue uniforms kept up the rapid advance, shouting and cheering as they vaulted over logs and other obstacles. The enemy was but six to ten rods in front of them but they could hardly be seen because of the smoke and bushes. Many brave men from both sides had been shot and were either dead or were making their way to the rear as their injuries would allow. Every moment thinned the ranks. Artillery opened up on the advancing Federals. They were ordered to "Fire at the battery." This they did and soon most of the guns were silenced. The air fairly screamed with the sounds of battle. Lt. Col. Clarke of the 96th, sat calmly on his horse at the right, and urged the men onward. A moment later a bullet struck him, inflicting a mortal wound. He was helped from his horse and carried to the rear on a blanket. Col. Champion's horse was wounded twice, but the Colonel was unhurt and stood behind the center of the line through it all.

The advance was halted and for a time they held their ground. Soon the Regiment on their left had to give way. The Regiments in the second line could not endure the terrible storm, and fell back. Soon was heard the terrible "Rebel Yell" and fresh Rebel Battalions came through the opening on the left. Men looked in each others faces as if to read each others thoughts. There was no protection on the right or the left, and they were being fired upon, not only from the front, but also from the sides. The troops at the rear were gone. The enemy was now charging very viciously. To remain longer meant the destruction of the entire Regiment. They had to give ground. The 96th retired slowly at first, but then faster and in some disorder. The Rebels had been terribly punished so they did not follow far. The ridge passed, the Regiment again formed upon the colors, but the lines were much shortened. Lt. Col. Clarke was being borne to the rear, Captain Blodgett had been wounded and trapped by a fallen tree brought down by a Rebel shell. He had been left behind when they fell back and was virtually a prisoner of the Rebels and the tree. A hundred officers and men must have fallen in that first half hour. General Whittaker was wounded, so Col. Champion took temporary charge of the Brigade. As Major Smith was on General Steedmans staff, this left Captain Hicks of Co. A in command of the Regiment. Captain Hicks was as gallant and brave a man as ever wielded a sword. Most of the men responded to the call to reform the lines. Captain Hicks stepped to the front and addressed the men. "Comrades, You have made one charge - a gallant charge. On yonder hill lie the bodies of your fallen comrades. Forward to avenge their deaths!" The men responded with a cheer and moved to the front, bearing a little to the right, to cover

the extended Rebel lines and cover a artillery unit that had been moved to that part of the field. Some of the wounded had been carried to the rear during the brief interval while the lines were being formed. Those at the extreme front, however, could not be reached, as they did not penetrate that far again. These men lay between the fire of the two armies all that afternoon, with the Rebel forces sometimes even passing them.

(Sergeant Edward Murray of Co. C was wounded severely at this time and lay paralyzed in "no mans land" for several days. Mr. Murray wrote about this in "A Soldier's Reminiscences." I have included a copy of his description of this event at the end of this work).

As the line moved swiftly forward, there was again a wild cheer by the men. Again the lead flew hot and fast as both lines charged. This time it was the Confederates that first hesitated, then halted and fell back. There was, however, much more depth to the Rebel lines than the Union forces had. Officers put down their swords and picked up muskets. The Color Guard of the Regiment, normally composed of 9 men, was cut to 2, but the Colors still flew at the head of the Regiment. The fighting was severe, but it seemed not to be quite as noisy as the earlier charge. The Rebels were trying to drive the reserves back and take the road leading to McFarland's Gap from them. The lines of the Reserve Corps were not as straight as they had been on the drill field, but the men made every shot count and no one sought the protection of a rock or tree. It was almost as if they were courting death.

The battle raged from 2:00 P.M. until dusk. They would drive the Rebels back, and then they in turn would be driven back over the same ground. This middle ground was covered with the dead and dying of each side. The Union forces were severely outnumbered. They would attack with one, or sometimes with two lines, but they were always met with three or four lines of the enemy. Once the 96th advanced so far that they were being fired upon by troops from their own Brigade. Col. Champion said at one time during the battle that he thought that with 500 fresh troops he could have driven the left wing of the Rebel Army from the field. General Hindman, who commanded one of the Rebel Divisions against the Reserve Corps, later said that he had never seen Rebel soldiers fight better, or Federal forces fight so well. A few of the Rebels were captured and from them it was learned that it was not Bragg's soldiers that they were up against, but Longstreet's veterans from the Potomac. They had rarely known defeat, and they boasted that they had been sent to show Bragg's men how to fight.

The left of the line moved less than the right. It was as if the right side was the pivot of a great pendulum upon which the Brigade swung. Col. Champion and the other line officers of the Brigade were very cool and courageous leaders, and were an inspiration to all. Just at dark, two Regiments in the Brigade, the 89th Ohio and the 22nd Michigan, ran out of ammunition. They met the rebel charge with bayonets. They were surrounded and overpowered and most of them were made prisoners. This was near the close of fighting and many of the troops had left and moved to the rear. It was a terrible sacrifice, but probably deemed necessary to protect those leaving the field.

At a little before night fall, the baffled and discouraged Rebels drew back a little and quit the fight. It was lucky that they did as the Brigade was exhausted and out of ammunition. Toward the last, they were using the ammunition from the cartridge boxes of their fallen comrades. At one time a few boxes of ammunition were brought on the field. It was eagerly seized by the soldiers as if it was gold. At a little before sunset General Thomas took his command

quietly but quickly back through McFarland's Gap and toward Rossville. The right of the line, however, kept up the firing, and the 96th and the 121st Ohio were the last to leave the field. The 4 or 5 miles to Rossville was covered in silence, and between 8 and 9 o'clock, they reached camp and threw themselves on the ground. Many could not rise once they had. Oh, how tired they were. They had had no sleep for two nights and nothing to eat since very early that morning. They were dusty, so hoarse they could not speak and covered with powder smoke. Some gathered around campfires and in quiet voices discussed the days activities. They worried about their dead and wounded companions that they had to leave on the battlefield. Col. Champion had proven to be a very lion in the battle. Two horses were shot from under him, and he was riding his third.

The Brigade had lost 40% of their number and the 96th had lost almost 50% of their number, but the Reserve Corps had saved the right, and in saving the right had saved the whole army, in saving the army had, perhaps made the final victory possible and saved the Union. Of the survivors, nearly all had bullet holes through their clothing or their equipment.

In withdrawing from the field there had been some breaking up of the various commands, and at daylight on Monday, September 21st found the army in much disorder. They were reorganized and soon were setting up their defenses on or near Missionary Ridge. They expected the enemy to try and take advantage of their disorganization, but the enemy's losses had been considerable also, and they weren't anxious to resume the battle either. They did send skirmishers to the front all along the new line to check out the Union defenses. They must have found them sound, for no direct attack was made. You might think that the moral of the troops was low, but on the contrary, the battle of the day before had built up their confidence to a point that they could withstand any attack that the Rebels could mount. Although they had been forced back by a much superior force, they had not been broken. This was the first really big battle that the 96th had been in, and they knew that they had performed well. It built up their confidence to a high pitch.

The position of the army, although fine for defense if the enemy made a direct assault, left their right vulnerable, and they could be passed and cut off from Chattanooga. It was therefore decided to move back to Chattanooga soon after nightfall. Meanwhile the engineers had laid out a line of works, either flank of which rested on the Tennessee River. At 9:00 P.M. that night they started their movement back to the new line. Division after division was withdrawn. At 11:00 P.M. Steedman's Division, of which the 96th was a part, commenced their movement. They reached Chattanooga after a slow and tedious night march. Here the 1st Brigade, including the 96th, was detached and sent across the river to Moccasin Point, confronting Lookout Mountain. During this movement, a serious disaster befell the Regiment. Co. H had been posted in front as skirmishers during the day. In the early evening, it was felt that the line was too weak, so Co. C was sent to reinforce them. When the main line was drawn back to Chattanooga, these two Companies were not relieved or ordered back. At about 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday morning, they, along with several other Companies from other Regiments were captured. They made a brief battle of it but were overwhelmed. The 96th thereby lost 36 brave men, more than half of whom died in the foul prison pens of the south.

When they got to Moccasin point, the 96th finally had a chance to fully measure their losses. From many sources came unstinted praise for the heroic action of the Reserve Corps on Sunday afternoon. It had fought more than three times its own numbers. Three times it had hurled itself against the solid lines of the enemy when attack seemed hopeless. Each time they had thrown back the enemy. In all this terrible fighting, the 96th had been in the front line at the right, where the work was the most severe and the fighting the most intense. It had charged the most frequently, penetrated the farthest to the front, held its advanced position the longest and was the slowest to fall back. Its losses were the heaviest of any regiment in the Reserve Corps, and considering the length of time they were engaged, the heaviest in the Army. Of the 419 men that went into the battle, 200 were killed or wounded. This did not include those that were slightly wounded and able to stay with the command. The total loss, including those captured on Missionary Ridge, was 234, or 58 percent of all who took part in the battle. This is a percentage rarely reached by any command in a single battle. The casualty list by company is most impressive.

On Monday and Tuesday, the 30 men who had been left at Rossville to guard the wagons, several who had been detached and several of the slightly wounded rejoined the Regiment. This brought the Regiment, including musicians and the medical staff, up to about 240 men. At this time they vowed to close ranks and do their duty until the end, if necessary. All resolved to retain the good name that they had acquired on the battlefield of Chickamauga.

The objective of the campaign was the possession of Chattanooga, and Chattanooga was still theirs. The Confederate army had gained some territory, but at a terrible cost. At the very moment that Thomas was pulling back through McFarland's Gap, The Rebels were also pulling back to defensive positions. Even though they knew that the Federal forces were pulling back, they didn't even try to follow them or to occupy the field where they had battled the Reserve Corps until late Monday. This was confirmed by the severely wounded of the Regiment who lay upon the battlefield until that time. The Rebel General Bragg, in his official report, admitted that he lost two-fifths of his army. General Longstreet, who commanded the left wing of the Rebel Army, reported 1,080 killed, 6,506 wounded and 270

captured on Sunday. The best estimate of the two armies shows the Rebels with 70,000 men and the Federals with 56,000. On Sunday afternoon it was not unfair to say that the Rebels outnumbered the Federals by two to one.

After Chickamauga, General Rosecrans withdrew his army to the vicinity of Chattanooga and threw up a strong line of earth works. He had a large bend of the Tennessee River behind him, in the hollow of which the city lies. Lookout Mountain, and with it the railroad and main wagon road had been abandoned to the enemy. With supplies virtually cut off, it was thought that the Rebels had but to wait to starve the Federals out. While the 96th was at Moccasin Point, they were stationed near the 18th Ohio battery, which seemed to delight in sending a barrage at the enemy at any time of the day or night. They felt secure in their actions, as it was a known fact that the Rebels were short of artillery ammunition. On several occasions, however, the Rebels sent the men of the 96th for cover. Their guns could be seen and when a puff of smoke was seen, it was always a question of where the missile would fall. The skirmish lines of the two opposing forces would fire at each other, but do little harm. After a few days they fell into a routine of "I won't shoot at you if you don't shoot at me".

Bragg had decided to cut off the Federal supply lines and starve them out, but Longstreet wanted to use a flank movement and get the job done sooner. Because they had suffered so severely in the recent battle, it was deemed best to use the slower approach. The siege of the Union forces by the Rebels did not put the Union in great danger, but the Rebel Cavalry was raising havoc, capturing or destroying much in the way of supplies. The rations were cut quite severely but not to the point of starvation. The corn fields in the area had been harvested, but not very thoroughly. For a time the fields were gleaned and an ear of corn given to each man once a day, to supplement their daily ration. The hungry mules soon finished off the available corn and there was none left for the men. Then things started to get serious. The Rebels raided the wagons as far north as Murfreesboro. They soon alluded to this place as "Starvation Point". At one time they lived on soap, candles, pepper and vinegar, the comments made on this occasion would be entertaining if they could be printed. Later corn alone was issued. Some of the men were heard to ask their officers how they were expected to eat corn without soap or candles. The moral was still very good, the men being by no means discouraged. Mr. H. W. Blodgett of Lake county, when he heard of the terrible battle, traveled to the front and while following a wagon train in to the Chattanooga area, narrowly missed being injured or captured by a Rebel raiding party. During this time it was estimated that they lost 10,000 horses and mules because of hard usage and starvation.

As they neared Brentwood, a large force of enemy cavalry was seen in the distance, just waiting for an opportunity to rush in and capture or destroy the wagons and the men guarding them. The troops at Brentwood were notified and came to their rescue. The wagons stayed at Brentwood that night. The next day they proceeded on to Nashville, where there was a delay of several days before the busy Quartermaster had a chance to give them a receipt for the wagons and teams. The escort then returned to Franklin by rail.

The Regiment had picket duty again on May 4th but with little trouble. Potatoes and other vegetables were now abundant in camp, so the scurvy that had been prevalent since Danville was much improved and the Regiment was in very good health. Newspapers could be purchased and the men enjoyed them greatly. The Nashville papers were received the day they were published, the Louisville paper the next day and Cincinnati and Chicago papers from two to four days after they were published. There was great disappointment when word was received of Hookers defeat at Chancellorsville.

CHAPTER 9

The weather was warmer now so just at dusk each day the men could bathe and swim in the river. Rations were quite abundant now and each Company had their own brick oven. Fresh beef could now be roasted rather than boiled. Flour was available so "soft bread", biscuits, pancakes and even cookies were baked. Also available were: salt pork, bacon, fresh beef, hardtack, beans, dried peas, coffee, sugar, vinegar, rice, salt, pepper and sometimes black tea, molasses and potatoes. The following is a recipe for pancakes or "slapjacks" as they were called:

"To one quart of water add one teaspoonful of salaratus (should be spelled saleratus, today we call it baking soda), three tablespoonfuls of vinegar, and stir to a thick paste with flour, then salt to taste. It makes them better to stand over night before cooking."

On the 8th of May, Col. Champion returned from an absence of several weeks. He had been at home on sick leave.

"Franklin Tenn."

"Sunday May 10th 63"

"I have just recd. your letter containing some of darling's hair.. how very fine it is! I have put it in my picture case where it will be safe as long as I am.. Myron said he was going to write to Edwin so I proposed we should send both in one envelope to which he assented so I have got my paper you sent me and am in his tent with him writing because our tent is so full of card players & gamblers I could not write there.. Lib don't let any one know that I have written you any thing about ----- & ----- gambling: or any thing of the sort.. Col. Clark is getting unpopular again; he has issued some orders lately that we don't like much.. The Lt. Col. of the 92nd Ill. Regt. began to issue some very foolish orders and Clark seemed to think he ought to follow suit.. To illustrate I will give you one of the orders the Col. of the 92nd gave to his Co. commanders.. "That they wake their men at ten minutes to 4 o'clock A.M. and permit none to go to the sinks until after daylight. Well of course some of the men had to commit nuisances in the ranks while standing in the line of battle and their Co. Commanders were arrested for allowing it. What do you think of that. Aint that treading on the laws of nature a little? Col. Clark would soon have been up to even that I think had not the line officers protested against the orders he had already issued.. Capt. Hicks of Co. A drew up a letter to Col. Clark protesting against some of his orders and every one of us line officers signed it he has not answered it yet and we don't know what he will do about it. We just as live be court-marshaled and dismissed the service as not if we have got to be used in this manner.. You say mother is worrying about my getting my pay.. Of course she will but I don't worry much. It is true I can't get it now but I will get it some time, I, think.. The man that mustered us in as officers said we would get our pay from the state."

"I shall write to Haines soon about it and perhaps he can get my pay immediately.. I have borrowed of Myron now (counting what I am owing him for the revolver) \$46."

"I dreamed last night that our little daughter was dead.. It was a mixed up dream I thought the folks told me that she had died and they buried her but they heard her crying so they dug her up again.

"It is hard telling when the sorrell will foal but if she goes" the usual time she will foal about the middle of July if I am not mistaken She may foal in June.. I had the time set down that she would be most likely to have a colt but I have not got my book now.. Mares go from ten to thirteen months but generally eleven mos"

"I have no particular objection to the name Nellie so name our daughter that if you wish. I think you had better keep the mare you have now got for I think from your description she will suit me first rate.."

"Let no one see this letter nor tell any one any of these things about Col. Clark.. Clark and I are on good terms now so keep whist about all I write You.. I must now go to meeting. so good bye."

"Vange"

"Lib"

The baby that they were expecting (Nellie Evangeline) was born 4-20-63.

On the 11th of May there was an inspection and a grand review of the troops. On the 12th the regiment was wood chopping and a large amount of work was done. On the 16th the Regiment was on picket again across the river but all was quiet. On the 19th was the first full fledged Brigade drill, the troops having to march about two miles to find a place level enough so that the whole Brigade could be seen at once by the inspecting officers. On the 20th was a very strict inspection of the camp and the arms of the men, followed by target practice for some of the units, including the 96th. There was then a division drill on the 21st. The Regiment was again on picket on the south side of the river on the 26th, but it was a quiet time. The weather for the last half of the month was warm, dry and pleasant, but the camp became very dusty. On the 29th, however, there was a very heavy rain, which settled the dust and purified the air.

About the time that the Regiment reached Tennessee began what was termed the "nine months fever". In calling out the troops the year before, President Lincoln had stated that 300,000 or one half of all called for would be accepted for nine months. Several of the eastern states filled their quotas with men recruited for that period. It was held by some that Illinois or any other state could not hold their men for a longer period than that, even though they had signed up for three years, should his services be required for that period, but there was also the phrase "unless sooner discharged". Many saw in that phrase a loop hole that would permit them to go home after nine months, the same as the eastern soldiers. Many fully believed that they would soon be allowed to go home. There were also many of the men that helped the rumors along by stating that they heard someone at headquarters confirm the nine months theory. This made the men more homesick and some really thought that the officers were doing them an injustice, keeping them beyond the nine months. Not until the nine months was well passed, did some in every company give up hope of being released.

The army had made no movement or had any serious engagements in five months. It was as if General Rosecrans (Union) and General Bragg (Confederate) were each waiting for the other to make an offensive move first. The Confederate Infantry was mainly at Shelbyville, Wartrace and Tullahoma, with their calvary at McMinnville on their right and Spring Hill and Columbia on their left. The Union's main forces were at Murfreesboro with sizable forces of both infantry and cavalry at Franklin and Triune, with a large body of cavalry to the left of Murfreesboro. Washington was becoming impatient for the army to move into Alabama and Georgia but General Rosecrans did not feel that he had the troop strength to do the job. After much discussion it was decided by all that preparations for a forward movement would be commenced. June first was the start of this effort.

CHAPTER 10

On June 2nd the troops of the 96th were called into line well before day break. They started to make their preparations to move. The weather had by this time become very warm. The men gathered all of their cold weather gear, including heavy coats, and packed them in boxes and sent them to their homes in Illinois. They didn't want to carry more than they had to. By sunrise all the tents were down, the knapsacks were packed and the men were ready to move. A long wait occurred, however, as General Granger and his staff were not yet ready. It was 7:00 or 8:00 A.M. before they were on the road to Triune. The cool morning hours had been wasted and they were forced to march in the heat of the day. The march was very difficult and many dropped by the side of the road along the way. Although they had sent many articles of clothing home, the men soon felt that they were still carrying too much, so they tore open their knapsacks and left many personal articles by the side of the road. By 5:00 P.M. they were making camp near Triune, having traveled 20 miles. The actual distance should only have been 12 miles, but they took an indirect route. They heard firing to their rear all day, and it was afterward found that the Rebels had made a probe of the forces left at Franklin, to see how much of a force was left there.

On the third, all was quiet and the men had a chance to rest. There was at this time at Triune between twenty and thirty regiments of infantry and six or more batteries of artillery. A very critical inspection of all of the soldiers cartridge boxes and knapsacks was conducted on June 4th. The same day the Rebels made a serious attempt to capture the fort at Franklin. Several units of cavalry from Triune made a quick trip to Franklin to help, but were not needed, as the troops there had handled the situation very well and had thrown the Rebels back with heavy losses. On June 5th the Regiment moved a short distance to a field on the left of the Shelbyville Pike. It was a pleasant spot with plenty of good water, but the move was accomplished in a heavy rain storm. It seems that a movement of that kind by the 96th was generally accompanied by rain. It was thought that the Army would be in camp for some time at this location, so rifle pits and other fortifications were constructed. The Cavalry was sent out in front to check the area, but found no enemy. Directly in front of the camp was a large house and barn belonging to a secessionist. It was thought that he himself had shot a Union soldier who was assigned a guard position in his garden. The secessionist's barn was burned on the first night after the incident. There was no fire apparatus near by and no help came from the troops. The day the army moved on, the house at this location burned also. It was discovered that there were well kept gardens in the area of Triune, and that the new potatoes were ready. The only problem was, there were not enough to go around. Some had to be satisfied with digging up seed potatoes that had been planted, but had not yet sprouted.

"Triune Tenn."
"June 4th 1863"

"Dear Wife"

"I sent you a Harper's Weekly the 2nd inst on which I stated that we were to march the next morning but that I did not know our destination. We left Franklin at 8 o'clock & marched a circuitous route of about 20 miles to this place which is only 13 miles directly east of Franklin. We left 3 regiments and I presume other regiments have taken our place. There was a very current report here yesterday that 8,000 rebs marched into franklin about 2 o'clock P.M. the day we left and that our men in the fort kept them at bay until a larger force came up from Brentown to their assistance when we whipped them soundly" but the report has not been confirmed yet.. We heard heavy firing in the direction of F----- this afternoon but perhaps it was only target practice."

"We are camped where the right wing of Rosecrans army was at the battle of Stone River."

"A large burying ground close by doubtless contains many a hero. The trees show the battle was no small affair. News has just come that they are indeed! fighting at F----- and no doubt we will march there before morning. I would keep you posted better in regard to the force we have but you know it would be contraband. If the rebs. should get our mail as they frequently do they would learn our force."

"The 1st Tennessee cavalry, Col. Brownlow (Parson Brownlows son) is here or was a few moments ago but that with 3 other cavalry regiments have gone to Franklin. One Col. of a cavalry regiment has his wife with him & she wears 1st Lieut. shoulder straps but whether she really is an officer or not I have not learned. but the men say she rides into the fight and does as much execution as any of them; she is no doubt a true heroine and doubtless her name will have a place in history. These cavalry men have a fight to average once a week; day before yesterday they had a fight here on this ground. Each cavalryman is armed with a revolving rifle two revolvers and a sword. I have sent home 2 blankets 1 towels 2 books with some things with others in a box directed to Mrs. A. B. Whitney. Myron sent a blanket marked Wm. Monaghan; mine have my name pinned on them I believe. I got some washing done today for ten cents apiece."

"June 5th We are at Triune yet. A courier from Franklin states that the cavalry drove the rebs out this morning at 3 o'clock but I guess they have come back again with reinforcements for they have commenced canonading again: it is now 10 o'clock A.M. and the canons have been roaring about an hour. It is raining quite hard I hope we will not be needed at F----- for it would be rather disagreeable marching in the storm but we could fight there the best of any place as it seems like home to us. and we built the fortifications.. Capt says I called on my daughter to bring me a cup of water last night but I don't remember as I dreamed about her. I am in hopes to come across E. Blotherwick again pretty soon."

"Yours as Ever."

"Vange"

"Lib."

On June 11th, the Paymaster was in camp and had paid Companies A and B and the Captain of Co. C when brisk firing was heard a half mile away. The Paymaster left in a hurry and the rest of the Regiment didn't get paid that day. They immediately fell in, and Co. A was sent ahead as skirmishers. Rebel artillery soon opened up on the camp and the tents were ordered struck and the men ordered to occupy the breastwork recently constructed. Miller's Chicago Battery set their pieces up to the right of the Regiment and soon were dueling with the Rebel battery. The Brigade Commander and his staff were on their horses in plain sight of the enemy, but soon retired a short distance when the Rebel Artillery seemed to be aiming directly at them. The regimental sutler was back in Illinois securing more supplies, but his two clerks were overseeing his tent. A Rebel shell passed directly over their tent and the clerks headed for the rear, leaving the sutler's goods unattended. Some of the soldiers proceeded to invoice the unattended goods. When the sutler returned there was nothing much left of anything eatable. His cash box was not touched however. It was thought by the soldiers that the sutler took advantage of them, charging more than he should for his wares.

The 96th was in line for about six hours that day and were under fire a good portion of the time. It was thought that the enemy forces under Gen. Forrest would make an assault on the Union forces, but they did not. If they had, they would have found a deep gully which was impossible for a horse to cross, and difficult for a man to cross. Their losses would have been very heavy. The 96th lost no men that day. The Rebels lost about 100 men while the Union forces as a whole lost one Lieutenant, 2 or three men killed and several wounded. About 100 head of horses and mules were grazing in an open field, but when the shooting started, they deserted to the enemy. When the Rebels finally retreated, the Union cavalry followed them for about 5 miles taking a few prisoners. This was even nearer to a battle than the Franklin experience, and the men began to feel quite like veterans.

On June 12, the Paymaster again came in to camp and this time finished paying the men, each receiving two months wages. The next day Gen. Steedman took a Brigade of infantry and quite a heavy force of cavalry and marched south toward Shelbyville. They met a sizable Rebel force and the rest of the troops at Triune soon marched rapidly to help them. When the troops arrived they found Steedman's forces retiring leisurely with the Rebel's skirmishing with their rear guard. The whole column then moved back to camp at Triune. That night there was a report that the Rebels had followed them back to camp, so they all remained very alert until sunrise. There was no action that night but the men didn't get much sleep. Each soldier was required to keep two days rations in his knapsack and 20 rounds of ammunition in his pocket and 40 rounds in his cartridge box. The heavy dress coats that were first issued were no longer needed because of the warm weather, so they were either left in camp when they moved the first time, or were discarded along the road when they needed to lighten their load. Light blouses made of a dark blue fabric were issued. One day a Rebel Lieutenant and Private came into camp and surrendered. They were tired of the war. They said that many of the Rebels were very discouraged and ready to give it all up.

CHAPTER 11

At this time, some of the regiments were having trouble with soldiers falling asleep at their posts. In one of the regiments in the Brigade, several of the men were tried and sentenced. In some cases they had their pay forfeited and they were sent to a military prison to be confined at hard labor. In some cases they had to stand on a barrel for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon for ten days. Others had to drag a heavy ball and chain or a heavy fence rail up and down in front of their commander's tent for a couple of hours each day. There was never any trouble about the soldiers of the 96th falling asleep at their post. On the rare occasions that it did happen, the officer who discovered the violation, felt that his own reprimand and warning was sufficient and didn't feel it needed the attention of higher authority.

On June 23, the men had been called out very early, and while they were standing in line an aide rode up and notified the Colonel to have his command ready to move by 7:00 A.M. All was ready at the appointed hour but the road was clogged with the wagons, so little advance was made until late in the morning. They were marching toward Murfreesboro and they didn't make camp until 10:00 P.M. that night at Salem, a small place 5 miles from Murfreesboro. It was a very difficult march of 14 miles that day, with much of the travel through a dense cedar forest. About a dozen of the wagons broke down and a small guard of men was left behind to watch them. The next morning a body of Rebel calvary came upon the wagons and made a dash as if they were going to capture them, but when they saw the soldiers guarding them they took off with a few Union bullets fired at long range following them.

General Rosecrans plans were now complete. His forces were now all at Salem and Murfreesboro and points in between. Shelbyville, which was very well defended by enemy entrenchments, was the objective of their forces. Rosecrans didn't want to make a frontal assault on Shelbyville, but rather wanted to flank the entrenchments. To the Reserve Corps, which included the 96th, fell the task of making a frontal assault on Shelbyville, while the rest of Rosecrans Army made an end run.

On the 24th the movement of the army began. By 7:00 A.M. it began to rain. It rained as if the very flood gates of Heaven were opened. The men plodded on through muddy fields with the sound of cannons ahead of them. They reached the Murfreesboro and Shelbyville Pike. They forded Stone River without serious trouble and didn't stop until 1:00 A.M. when they bivouacked near Walnut Church on the Shelbyville Pike. They had been on the road for 12 hours but only traveled about 7 miles. The delay was caused by the breaking down and miring in the mud of the heavy army wagons. The rain which had fallen all day, did cease in the evening, so most of the tired men slept on the ground without putting up their tents. By morning it was raining again, but the tired soldiers slept through it, and when they awoke they found themselves laying in an inch or two of water. Here they learned that both Liberty Gap and Hoover's Gap had been taken.

On June 25th, they started out early but only marched a mile or two when a halt was called and they waited in a position near the Pike to hear the results of the contest ahead of them. The cannons roared ahead of them all day. They received orders to put their knapsacks in the wagons that had been emptied by the distribution of supplies, and sent back to Murfreesboro. Most of the men kept their woolen blankets but a few were happy to get rid of all the excess articles they could,

and kept only their ponchos. The 96th stood in line for an hour or so near the Pike and then relieved the 115th Illinois on the picket line. There was no action however, as the cavalry which was ahead of them was keeping the enemy occupied. Picket duty was continued the next day with the other regiments of the Brigade moving to the front. There were a great number of lean hogs running in the woods in the area occupied by the regiment on this day. They were out of pork, so they made good use of the hogs. One sentinel said that 50 dead hogs passed his post on this one day. Black berries were also plentiful, so the men fared very well. It may not have been proper, but Walnut Church was turned into a cook house and the smell of frying pork filled the air that whole day.

June 27th, a forward movement was made toward Shelbyville, but the 96th and the 5th Iowa Cavalry were detailed to guard the wagon train. There was a constant procession of regiments that passed the 96th that day, requiring between 3 and 4 hours for them all to file by. It was said that there was 17 regiments of cavalry, 7 regiments of infantry and 2 batteries of artillery. After they passed, the 96th moved back a mile to where the wagons were parked. Companies B, G and K were on picket that night. At about 10:00 P.M. a messenger came with a report that Rebel General Wheeler with a large force of cavalry were in the area and threatening a night attack on the wagon train. The rest of the Regiment was called out. They stayed in line about 3 hours and then went back with nothing serious happening. It was later learned that they were seriously threatened but at the last minute Wheeler had received word that he was urgently needed elsewhere.

CHAPTER 12

On the 28th, they prepared to move forward but by 3:00 P.M. the rest of the Brigade came back from Shelbyville, having with them 489 Rebel prisoners. Among them were a Colonel, a Lt. Colonel, a Major, an Adjutant and about 35 line officers. The prisoners were taken by the Union Cavalry the day before. They represented several different regiments. The charge upon the Rebel forces had been lead by the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry, many of whom had their homes right in that area. Most of the fighting had taken place right in the village of Shelbyville, which was quite a strong Union center. Sabers were freely used during the attack and many of the wounded Rebels bore sabre cuts. Besides the prisoners, many Rebels were killed in the charge or drowned while trying to swim the Duck River. Some artillery was also captured. The Prisoners were halted near the wagon train and rations were issued to them. They had coffee, hard bread and bacon. At 4:00 P.M. the 96th took the prisoners in charge and escorted them back to Murfreesboro. The prisoners seemed quite happy and were familiar with the territory. One lady came out and shook hands with the prisoners. One man was heard to say that while he was standing guard near her home, she would come out and tell him to go to her house and eat. While he ate, she would stand his guard post for him. It was a difficult trip. Most of the prisoners were cavalry men and not used to marching, so their feet became very sore. There were a few ambulances at the rear of the column for those that could not walk further. The prisoners marched in the road and the 96th walked in the ditches on both sides of the road with guns loaded and bayonets fixed. It was less than 10 miles to Murfreesboro, but it was not reached until after 10:00 P.M., and it was nearly midnight before they could turn the prisoners over to the proper authorities. They then went into bivouac in an open field, hoping for a good nights sleep. It soon started to rain very hard however, and most of the men, led by Major Smith, fled to a warehouse packed with boxes of hard bread. They climbed up on the boxes and spent the night close under the roof on top of the boxes.

June 29th saw the regiment moving to the depot and the baggage train. They strapped on their knapsacks which they had parted with several days before, and started back to the front. On the way they met several more groups of escorted prisoners heading the other way. They hoped to be given the rest of the day to rest, but upon arriving at camp they found the rest of the brigade waiting for them before they started their days march. When they did stop that night at about 8:00 P.M. they were 18 miles south of Murfreesboro and 9 miles from Shelbyville. They did sleep well that night because they were so very tired, and also this was about the first night since they left Triune that it didn't rain.

The next morning they started at about 7:00 A.M. and marched about 7 miles, passing Guy's Gap. The trees and fences showed the effects of the sharp fighting that their cavalry had had just a few days before. They got to Shelbyville and made camp on the same ground that the Rebels had used just 2 or 3 days before.

On July 1st at Shelbyville, the word was passed that they were to remain here. They immediately started to make improvements in their new camp. After a few hours they were marched a mile or two out of town and required to make a new camp near Duck River. On July 2nd they were allowed to lie in camp and rest. Quite a number of the Tennessee Cavalry that had been instrumental in the Battle for Shelbyville had enlisted from here so they were fighting for their very homes. They were allowed to stop for a few minutes and see their families before again riding off to battle. That night when they returned, most of them were allowed to spend a few days with their families.

"Camp near Shelbyville Tenn."
"July 2nd 1863"

"Dear Wife"

"I presume you wonder why you do not get more letters from us but "Rosy" stopped the mail for a while. We are making the Rebs skedaddle partes at a double quick; a good many were drowned in Duck river here when our cavalry rushed in here and took the place, they didn't all have time to cross on the bridge and were doubtless too badly frightened to swim the river: our boys have found several dead bodies in the river. and from the pockets of one they got \$109. in Confederate money.. I swam the river twice but I think I shall not try it much more the water is so very deep and runs so rapidly. The day we left Murfreesborough we marched about 16 miles and bivouacked in the woods - started the next morning and marched to within two miles of S----- and were very happily surprised to see our knapsacks, mess chests, tents, etc. etc. came up in the afternoon. but the next day-yesterday we came through town to about a mile S.E. of it. which is an old camping grounds for the Rebs. Col. Champion is appointed Provost Marshal here and we may be used as Provost Guard. This is considered the strongest union town in the state; probably a hundred of the citizens have come in from hiding places where some have been 6 mo, quite a few have enlisted in some of the regiments here. The Brigade of our Div. that got cut up at Franklin about the time we went there, has been reorganized and is now with us. I expect Granger's Head Quarters is now in Tallahoma and the report is, tonight, that Chattanooga is ours - that Rosy took it this morning. We expected the rebs would make a strong stand at both this place and at Tallahoma but they didn't face the storm but a little while."

"The 33rd Ind. boys that were taken prisoners when their Brig. was gobbled say they were taken through this place while on their way to Richmond and the citizens here were very kind to them and wanted to feed them etc. but the Reb. Officers wouldn't allow them to. We are all pretty well now.. I am not as fat as I was two weeks ago. Weather pleasant. I am very tired tonight so please excuse me. Good night."

"More Anon"

"Vange Gillmore"
"Lib Gillmore"

"Rosy" was General William S. Rosecrans, the commanding officer of The Army of the Cumberland. The 96th was in the Reserve Corps of The Army of the Cumberland.

This is the last part of a letter probably written in June or July of 1863. The first part has been lost at some time in the last 125 years.

"babies picture-sure. Well, the first time I saw it I thought it was the picture of a fair babe but now I think it is a picture of of something far better & prittie than a common or fair looking child. Yes she looks all right now. I just wish I was there to spend a few days with you and the little Darlings. Adjutant Blodgett is now at home on furlough and a good many of the officers are trying to get furloughs. Some are making out statements that "Large Estates have fallen to them and unless they can get home to tend to them they will suffer great _____ losses". I am not going to make any such statements for the purpose of getting a furlough. When I am likely to be dangerously sick or my family then I want to go home and can make true statements. I think Ed has offered a fair price for the cattle. though if I was at home I would sell them as it is best. I would like to get a letter from Leonora first rate but you need not feel jealous ha! ha!"

"Good Bye"

"Vange"

"Lib"

"Ed" is probably Lib's brother Ed Rowling.

CHAPTER 13

On Thursday July 3rd the Regiment marched to Wartrace, a distance of about 8 miles. It rained very hard all day and all of the little streams were swollen, requiring the command to wade through them in water up to their waist. Here they carried their knapsacks on their bayonets, high out of the water. The weather was hot and sultry, so the cooling rain was not unwelcome. Wartrace was a little station on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad. It was not important except that there were in the vicinity two or three railroad bridges that required guarding. They reached the camp just east of the village early in the afternoon and set about making themselves comfortable. The camp grounds had been occupied by Rebels shortly before, and was filthy. It required a lot of work to make it livable.

Things had been going very well for the last several weeks and the Rebels had been driven to the mountains beyond the Tennessee River. General Rosecrans plans had worked out very well and a lot of land and supplies had been yielded by the Rebels. Work was begun on the railroad so that supplies could be brought up on that, rather than the wagons.

On July 4th, the Regiment rested in camp. There were very heavy guard details from the Regiment and a line of pickets extended out quite a ways in all directions. Black berries were in very good supply, and all feasted a good deal on these tasty berries.

"Wartrace Tenn."
"July 4th 1863"

"Dear Wife."

"In my last I wrote you we expected to stop at Shelbyville quite a while as Col. Champion was Provost Marshall but yesterday we came to this place which is a station on the Murfreesborough & Chatanooga R.R. We had to wade streams yesterday that were waist deep and "it rained pitch forks tines downwards" The Rebs left this camp ground one week ago today. Our Cavalry and Artillery have done pretty much all the fighting so far. Our Cavalry don't use their carbines much now-days, but dash right in and cut and slash with their swords, several of those we guarded at M----- bore marks of slashes"

"This morning I got leave of the Col. to go Black berrying, and put on haversack canteen & revolver and started out but had not got but a few rods when the Sergeant Major came up and informed me that I was "Officer of the Day" so I came back to the tent, slicked up some, put on my sash and sword and reported to Head Quarters for instructions since which the programme has been as follows. Visited the guards who turned out and saluted me as I approached. I just informed them they needn't do that thing any more for me. Examined a case of a prisoner the guards had in charge, and then gave orders to the Co. commanders in regard to policing etc."

"I got a letter from Bout and lib today stating that they were all well and that Dwight was there. I have had no letter from you since the 23rd ult. Guess you don't write me very often of late. Have you "soured" on me? Well one of the boys has just brought me a dish of nice ripe berries so I am all right on the "Schugee" There is now another rumor in regard to Rosy's taking Chattanooga stating how he took it etc. but you know "What a liar old wing is" still I am inclined to think it is true for Wilders cavalry came in here last night all tired and fagged out and said they had been making a raid to within 20 miles of C----- O! The mail boy has come & I will close."

"Good Bye."

"Lieut. E.J. Gillmore
Co. B. 96th Regt. Ill. Vol.
Nashville Tenn.
1st Brig. Gen. Bairds Div."

"Dwight" is Vange's brother (next younger than Myron) who was in Oskaloosa, Kansas visiting with their sister Elizabeth (Lib) and her husband Bouton Ball (Bout). Dwight would enlist in July of 1864 in a Kansas Regiment for 100 days of service. All through these letters there are words or little phrases that are underlined or in quotation marks that must have meaning to only Vange and Lib.

July 5th 1863 was a Sunday. The black berries inside the picket line were about exhausted, so a few men from each company were given permission to go outside the line for the berries. There were new potatoes and apples in the neighborhood so a supplement to the army rations was in order. Since there was a good chance that they would be here a few days, the men set about improving their situation. They constructed bunks up off of the ground on posts and crotchets. They had no qualms about using local barns, fence boards or abandoned houses. Some of the officers tried to discourage the use of local materials, but on the first dark night these articles disappeared anyhow. These bunks were made more comfortable by the addition of corn stalks, leaves, straw or cedar boughs. Chopping wood was the order of the day on the 6th, and heavy details from each company were assigned an axe. Most did not like the idea of chopping wood on a hot day in July in Tennessee, but when it was explained that the wood was needed to operate the trains, they followed orders and soon a pile of wood was at each stop that the trains made. The men were allowed to stay in bed until sunrise which was different than the 3:00 or 4:00 A.M. they had been used to.

At this time the 92nd Illinois was sent to a point on the Duck River, 7 miles closer to the front, to construct a wagon bridge. Col. Adkins, who had been commander of the Brigade for 6 months did not get along very well with General Granger who commanded the Reserve Corps, so when the 92nd returned after a week of bridge building, it was announced that the 92nd had been assigned to Col. Wilder's Brigade of mounted infantry. This was the first time that the 96th and the 92nd had been separated since they were organized. The word was passed in the brigade, and soon nearly every Regiment was clamoring for a transfer to the mounted infantry. It was not that there was so much dissatisfaction with Gen. Granger, but rather that they all thought it would be easier to ride into battle rather than walk. "Cavalry fever" persisted in camp for several weeks, but only the 92nd received the coveted transfer. There was great difficulty in securing horses for the 92nd.

On July 7th, there was received a dispatch from the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, that Vicksburg had been surrendered to Gen. Grant and that the Union forces under Gen. Meade had won a great victory at Gettysburg. Since their own Army of the Cumberland had also made advances, they were all highly elated and spent the rest of the day celebrating. The next day drilling was resumed and more glowing dispatches were received, including one that Gen. Lee's Army was hemmed in along the Potomac, his pontoon bridges being swept away by high water and another that Meade had captured 35,000 Rebels. It was later learned that these dispatches were not completely true. The 8th saw the railroad bridges between Murfreesboro and Tullahoma repaired or replaced and the first train headed south through Wartrace. The train was cheered by the troops as it went through town.

On Friday, July 10, the first passenger train from the north went through, bringing a lot of mail from home. The mails had been very sparse for over a month, so the letters along with newspapers were eagerly read, the newsboys being able to charge high prices because of the demand. 15 cents was the usual price for a paper.

The usual routine was followed in camp for the next several weeks. It seemed that there was a lot of sickness in camp since they arrived at Wartrace, many of the men suffering from dysentery. A local doctor, who was a Union sympathizer and had been in hiding until the Union forces occupied the area, stated that the spring that they

were getting their water from had been poisoned, and about 400 Rebels had died from using that spring. The command was not sure of the information, but did move the camp about 1/4 of a mile to another spring. The sickness soon disappeared.

"July 14th 1863"

"I expect we will move camp today if it don't rain too much.. Gambling is being carried on again to a fearful extent. Four gambled in this tent all last night. Our pay rolls have been called for so I am in hopes we will be paid again this mo. I send Lieut. William Vincents picture - please preserve it well. Lieut. was Leitwilers old chum in California and is a wealthy man of Galena."

"I do not know what form they wish the receipt to be in so if this does not suit send me the form ((-----)) sign it."

"I ((-----)) my boots so badly marching on the pike I have had to get them tapped for which I paid \$1.50."

"I will write Haines in a day or two. Burnett & Clarkson wish to lay their cases before him also as theirs is similar to mine. one thing we do that I have some feelings of compunction about whis is drawing pay for servants when we do not have any. We have to certify "on our honor that we have actually employed them". I am in reality just as much entitled to a servants pay if I do my own work as if I employed one but I don't like to certify as above although the Col. has to sign it too & he knows that but a few of the officers has servants and he has not ever said any thing about it. We have to name the servants in the pay rolls ((-----)) is John Sawney. ((-----)) per. Mo. for servant- 13 for his wages & 19 for his rations 3 1/2 for clothing. What do you think about my certifying as above. "When you are with Romans you must do as Romans do."

"Vang - to Lib"

There is one very large hole and one small hole that affects both front and back of this letter. The ((---)) indicates missing words.

CHAPTER 14

On July 21st the Paymaster was in camp and the Regiment received two months pay, bringing their accounts up to the first of July. Col. Champion took command of the Brigade for a few days with the departure of the 92nd and Col. Atkins. In a few days, however, Gen. Walter Whittaker assumed command of the Brigade and Col. Champion returned to the Regiment. At about the same time Gen. James B. Steedman was named commander of the Division, succeeding Gen. Baird, who went to his home on sick leave. Gen. Baird later returned to the front and took a new command. Gen. Whittaker expressed his delight with his new command and seemed especially pleased with the 96th.

"July 25th 1863"

"Dear Lib."

"Today I received your letter of the 19th inst. but it did not find me as well as usual. I have had the diarrhea pretty badly so I am now in about the same flesh as I was when I left home. I have reported for duty all the time until yesterday. Probably I shall be all right again in a day or two as I am considerably better this afternoon. My also recd. a letter from home bearing the signature of mother, yourself George & Frank. I think I have recd. all your letters but they did not all come in due time."

"I made out a statement and so did Lt. Clarkson to send to Haines but Col. Clark advised us to wait awhile as Capt. Pierce's Muster was very much the same as ours (he having been promoted Capt. from 2nd Lt.) and they are trying to have his muster revoked so as to change it to the date of his commission-or back to the time he commences to take rank."

"If I ever do get my pay as Lt. back to Jan. 6th it will amount to about \$250. more than what I have recd. I feel very confident I can get pay back to about March 10th which would give a reasonable time for my commission to come from Springfield by mail as it was made out March 2nd but that would leave me only about \$50. after taking out my sergeant's pay."

"We have concluded to wait until Capt. Pierce's matter is settled for if his muster is revoked & changed we can also do the same and then we can get our pay here, so "keep cool as the hen is on".

"I wrote you the 20th and stated that we expected to be paid the next day. Well we were not disappointed. I draw my regular \$224.60/100 or at least had that amount after taking out my war tax which was \$6.40/100 so you see I got \$10. for commanding the company in April. I paid My \$35.44/100 our mess \$15. and send you \$140. so I have kept about \$35. for emergencies & board."

"We sent the money to C.R. Steel the same as we did before so you will have to call there or send your order to get it. I have sent you \$225., \$40. of which is from My to Mother, \$20. from A. Edwards to his father, \$15. from George Bangs to his father and \$10. from Elijah Carpenter to Peter Millard who lives just opposite the Simons school house. We had to consolidate where money was going into one neighborhood in order to get it all in as the roll was not large enough to hold all our monies. You will please see that the money is paid over to the proper persons. I did it to accommodate the boys. Request them all to write to the boys immediately and acknowledge to them the receipt of their money. Some of the boys that sent money last payday have not heard from it yet. Of course what you have left after paying Mother, Edward Bangs & Millard vis \$140. is for Lib "The

girl I left behind me" I think I have sent just about enough to pay Shove and Lyon. Will it not be best to cancel those debts this time? In my last I wrote you to sell of most of our personal property if you could get a decent price for it. If we commence farming again perhaps we can do it in a little more substantial manner. I certainly ought to have a new harness & wagon Rosecrans was expected here today. We still continue to here good news. My respects to all the folks.

"Elisabeth" "Evangelist" "Fred"
"Grace Ahem!"

"Tell Fred I couldn't hardly read his letter, he must take more pains. I suppose he was highly pleased with what he saw at the circus & Menagerie. Frank gave us full particulars of what he saw."

These last three sentences were a P.S. to the July 25th letter. He wrote it upside down on the first page in the area of the date and salutation. "My," in the main body of the letter is his brother Myron.

On August 3rd, Gen. Rosecrans and his staff spent a part of the day at Wartrace, inspecting the troops and looking over the grounds. As he rode along he made amusing remarks about the men and seemed to endear himself to all of the men. One of the men on Gen. Rosecrans staff was Brig. Gen. James A. Garfield who later became the President of the United States. Gen. Garfield was Rosecrans Chief of Staff. President Lincoln declared August 6th, as a day of Thanksgiving. There was no drilling and church services were well attended by all in camp at Wartrace.

This is the last part of a letter from Vange to Lib. We don't know where the first page is. We feel that it was written in July or August of 1863. It starts out in mid sentence.

"no one in this regt. has succeeded in getting any. If I knew I should surely get home by Spring I should not care much about getting a furlough on the account of the expense. I should like to see you all very much but I rather come home with more money when I do come. if I do have to stay away a little longer."

"Mother was inquiring about Mr. _____ he was reduced to a private in Feb. on account of being absent in hospital & would not likely be of any use to us for a good while to come which was in accordance with "Rosy's" orders. We do not think much of _____ since we came to be thoroughly acquainted with him. There is said to be an order out that "2nd Lts. would be mustered out of all regiments that do not muster 800 men" and as our Regt. does not muster that _____ is "togging". I should not feel very bad about being mustered out but I would rather remain. as I am until spring. I wish we had a different kind of a Capt. - but guess I can get along with _____ - I have got along so far very well. Don't say any thing to any one there that will make folks think I don't like _____ & _____. Don't ever say any thing to mother about their gambling. or any thing I have ever written about them: they are not liked very well now as their old chums at gambling have got mad at them about something or they have got mad at their chums I don't know which. I think by Oct. we shall pitch in and whip the enemy severely & the war will be at an end by Spring sure so if "I am still in the land of the living" I can come home & go to farming once again."

"I should like to spend my evenings with wife and babies - have you read me a good story while I trottles the little ones on my knee."

"I give you all praise for economizing - think you are trying to save all I earn and add some to the gain beside. I feel at ease a little more than I would if I had a wife that couldn't bear prosperity. Most women would say "O! Shaw! My husband is making \$350. a day poor story if I can't have what I want." Now is the time for us to secure our farm and get something ahead if possible by which we can make us a pretty home. Then again I feel at ease on another point and that is if I should be "taken away" that your choice of a future supporter would be such a man as I would be willing to have the training of the little ones. God grant that you may never be deceived if such a thing ever should happen. but these are unpleasant thoughts and I will not dwell on them longer although they often come across my mind and no doubt you often think of such things. as thousands of such cases are constantly happening. This war has made many widows & orphans and doubtless will many more. O! an invitation has just come for the Col's. & Co. Commanders to attend a Soiree at Gen. Whittiker's H.Q. at Shelbyville friday night. Whittiker was well pleased with our appearance before "Rosy" the other day - he has temporary command of this division during Gen. Baird's absence."

E. Potter is very bad off and we have tried to get him furloughed but the Dr. will not do any thing about it - it all lies in his power now. Kiss the babies for me."

"Yours Forever"

"Vange to Lib."

"It is raining now and a few drops fell on this. I didn't know but you might think they were tears ha! ha!"

These last two sentences were written upside down after his signature.

CHAPTER 4

The 96th was now back together as a unit. There was now many hours of drilling each day. This was a time of learning to be soldiers. You do not make soldiers out of civilians in such a short time, especially when most of the officers were also new at the job. The weather was cold and snow fell on two or three occasions. Good food was in abundance, but it lost a great deal in the preparation. Each Company assigned two men to be cooks. These men had never prepared food before and the food was generally burned or otherwise badly prepared. The coffee was prepared in the same cast iron kettle as the meat. It was not very appetizing to see great globs of grease floating on top of the kettle of coffee. The matter was discussed by the officers and men and different men were assigned to be cooks each day (the beginning of K.P.). This worked out quite well, and from there on the food got much more palatable. A few of the men in every Co. got to be very good cooks, and thereafter when ever they were in camp, they fared quite well.

Many of the regiment visited the tomb of Henry Clay while they were in the area. The monument was 55 feet square at the base and 100 feet tall with a statue of Clay at the top. Many copied the inscription on the monument which read:

"I can, with unshaken confidence, appeal to the Divine Arbiter for the truth of the declaration that I have been influenced by no impure purpose; no personal motive; have sought no personal aggrandizement, but that in all my public actions I have had a sole and single eye, and a warm, devoted heart directed and dedicated to what, in my best judgement, I believe to be the true interest of my country."
At this time a member of Co. H died in camp, from typhoid fever.

On Thursday November 13, 1862 the regiment struck their tents, packed their knapsacks and were on the move again. They were on the pike by 7:00 A.M. They traveled 14 or 15 miles and camped for the night near Nicholasville. Some of the men were quite ill and it was a hard march. Some of the officers even let the sick ones ride their horses and the officers even carried the muskets and knapsacks of the sick. Many of the men had to be left in the hospital at Lexington. The next morning they started a 8:00 A.M. and by noon were nearing the Kentucky River. At one point there was a high rock wall on one side of the road and a deep chasm on the other. It was pretty, but didn't make the trip any easier. About 50 or 60 feet above them, on the high side, stood a horse drinking from a spring. The men could not contemplate how the horse got up there, or would get down. The 96th was not traveling alone. The whole division was together. When the river was reached, there was only one way across, and that was by ferry boat. They went into bivouac and waited their turn to cross on the ferry. There were two boats and they could carry about one company at a time. The 96th crossed in their turn an when all had crossed, the march was continued. Only 8 miles was traveled that day and camp was made that night at Brooklyn, on the river.

On Saturday, November 15th, they marched 10 or 12 miles stopping at Harrodsburg. During the day they passed through Shakertown. The soldiers talked with the people of Shakertown and found that no marriages were allowed there. Everyone in town seemed to be either very old or very young. They adopted orphan children from all over the country to keep up their population. They did not take part in war, but they were very much against slavery. Within the previous 2 weeks the rebel army had been in their town and taken much of supplies

and even money from them. The command stopped at Harrodsburg about 1 P.M. There was a large hospital here with a lot of Rebel soldiers who had been wounded in the battle of Perryville. This was the first time the command had seen Rebel soldiers in uniform, and they found it interesting to converse with them. Many of the Rebels were quite defiant about "southern rights", but so also were the "Yankees", about the northern point of view.

Perryville was only about 10 miles from Harrodsburg. There was not only many sick and wounded from both armies in public buildings, but also in private homes in Harrodsburg. Before they had been there many hours, soldiers from the command were inspecting muskets, saddles and tents that were in the possession of the citizens. Soon they were ranging out over the battlefield and collecting these items themselves. When they left the area, they took with them several wagon loads of muskets, many horses and mules and a few tents. It was on these excursions over the battlefield that the men got their first view of the horrors of war. Many of the dead remained unburied and some that had been buried in shallow graves had had the soil washed off various parts of their bodies by recent rains. The Union soldiers had been carefully buried and the graves marked, but not so with the Rebels. There were also many dead horses on the battlefield and the smell of decaying flesh was overpowering.

Most of the regiment stayed in Harrodsburg about two weeks. There had been very little rain in the area for some months, but on the 17th of November it rained hard for hour after hour and the camp became a sea of mud. Another incident occurred while they were here. A civilian came into camp and invited a soldier from Co. H into town where he was offered and accepted a glass of wine. When he got back to camp he became very sick, and it was believed that he had been poisoned. The camp doctors did pull him through however.

One day a couple of men passed through town headed south with about twenty horses. After they were gone, the officers became suspicious that they might be rebels. The Colonel and about five men went after them and brought them back. They said that they were loyal and were allowed to go to secure witnesses to bring back to prove their loyalty. They never came back however. The twenty horses were turned over to the Government Quartermaster. During their stay at Harrodsburg there occurred occasional firing on the picket line at night, but there were no casualties.

This is part of a letter from Vange to Lib. There is no date but it was probably written in November of 1862.

"about its raining any more until morning when they found themselves lying in about three inches of water. I was thoughtful enough to place some flat rails down and lay on them but as my rubber blanket was not long enough to cover me my legs got a thorough wetting and they have not got dry yet. It don't hold up raining long enough for us to dry our clothes. I am thankful my wife and babies are in a comfortable place. Our Regt. is on picket today and we are close by some houses which contain a good many women who have doubtless got husbands in the Rebel Army."

"We have set some rails up against the fence and spread our rubber blankets on them and they make a very good shelter. The boys though have got their shelter tents with them so they are provided for better than we are just now. but perhaps our tent will be here. The teams are all in the rear of the Div. now. Several of our wagons have broke down."

"Vange"

On November 20th Col. Champion was asked to send two companies to Danville which was about 10 miles away. Companies C and I were sent and on their arrival were given quarters in the Baptist Church. They were kept very busy during the next week or two. They had to provide the Provost guard, provide funeral escorts for from two to six funerals a day, preserve order at the hospitals which contained sick and wounded from both sides, prevent escapes of Rebel soldiers who had become well enough to travel and scout and picket outside the city as a unit of Rebel cavalry were hovering there.

Back at Harrodsburg the rest of the regiment was drilling, scouting and doing guard duty. The Rebel prisoners would watch the drilling and applaud any well done maneuver or perhaps laugh at the occasional errors. The camp at Harrodsburg was known as Camp Clarke, it being named after Lt. Col. Isaac L. Clark. On November 25th occurred the death of Hiram Holister of Co. B.

While at Harrodsburg, some members of the regiment took over the office of the "The Kentucky Press" and set out to print a newspaper. They called it "The Soldiers Letter". It was a five-column paper and 2,500 copies were issued. In 1885 several veterans of the command living in the area of Galina, Illinois, issued a duplicate of the original paper.

On Thursday, November 27th, the regiment was ordered to Danville but because it was Thanksgiving, they were allowed to wait until Friday to make the move. The 96th enjoyed a good meal on Thanksgiving, but the 92nd Illinois was not as fortunate for they had to march to Danville that day. At 8:00 A.M. Friday the 96th started for Danville, leaving behind Companies A and E., and covered the 10 miles in two and one-half hours. The next day Companies C and I, which had been quartered in the church in Danville, rejoined the regiment in camp a half mile from Danville. About 50 men were left in the hospital at Harrodsburg, many of them with measles. Most of these men rejoined the regiment in about two weeks. Danville was, at that time, a stronghold of Union sentiment. From November 28th until December 26th, the 96th would remain at Danville. Their camp there was named "Camp Baird" in honor of the General commanding the division. A few days after their arrival at Danville, Col. Champion called the men together and said that he would like to make the guard

detail lighter. If the men would promise not to leave camp without permission, he would reduce the camp guard from 24 to 27. The men quickly agreed and gave three cheers for the Colonel.

Company and battalion drill was kept up when weather would permit. There was a snow storm in early December. The men enjoyed a good snowball fight and the officers found a sleigh and had a ride around town. Much attention was given to their appearance while at Camp Baird. This was probably because they were visited by several of the wives and mothers of the soldiers, some staying for several weeks.

The following is an enclosure in a letter from Vange to Lib. It was probably dated in December of 1862. We can find no letter that it may have come with. The first few lines have to do with Lib's pregnancy. She would have been in her fifth month at this time.

"Lib! I wish you would write on a little slip of paper all about the private affairs in regard to yourself etc. How soon do you expect to be confined? Do you dread the hour more than ever before? Some of the members of this Reg. have caught diseases that prove they have had intercourse with women of a bad character. Lib! when I see so much vice practiced by men who pretend to be virtuous it makes me feel almost proud of myself. All kinds of men are here & of course all kinds of vice are practiced but we have some good & virtuous men.

----- says his wife tells him to get all he wants of other women & he always has & she seems to like him the better for doing so." He is an unprincipled fellow but it don't make any difference here he is though just as much of.

I have but little desire for sexual intercourse & don't know but I shall lose all desire.. Wouldn't you wish to be divorced if I should?

Major Smith expects his wife and two little boys here soon.. ((I have deleted several lines here as they may be offensive to some)) "By writing on separate slips we can let anyone read our letters.. Be sure and direct just as follows..

Danville
K.Y.
Co. B. 96th Reg. Ill. Vol.
To follow the Reg.

You need not say care of Capt. ----- etc."

About this time there came the rather disappointing news of the defeat of Gen. Burnside's Union forces at Fredricksburg, on the Rappahannock. They also heard at this time of Gen. Sherman's lack of success at Vicksburg. Up until this time they had supposed that the war would be brought to a close in a few months. After these setbacks, however, they knew that it would be a prolonged war. The eyes of the nation were now on "The Army of the Cumberland" under Gen. Rosecrans which were now in the vicinity of Nashville. It was understood that he would soon make a forward movement in the direction of Atlanta, and hopes ran high that he would be successful.

The 96th were using little wedge tents up until the 18th of December. At that time they drew Bell tents, 5 or 6 being allowed to each company. By this time the men had learned to make themselves quite comfortable in camp. The edges of the tents were built up to from two to four feet with boards, (fence) rails, rocks or bricks, and most had a fireplace. In the evening each tent was a very cozy place. The men would lie on their blankets, which were spread over dry straw, and tell stories, play cards or checkers or chess. Bayonets stuck in the ground served as candlesticks, from the center pole of the tent hung their gear and their Enfield muskets were all on a rack made for that purpose. A great many letters were written and sent back to their homes during this time, and mail call each day was eagerly anticipated by all.

On the night of December 10, a rumor reached camp that the Rebel Morgan and his cavalry were in the vicinity. Co. C was sent to town to guard a building holding their ammunition stores. Picket lines were doubled and all was made ready to give the noted cavalryman a warm reception, should he pay them a visit. He did not come, however.

It was not an easy life while they were in camp at Danville. Reveille came at 5:30 each morning, followed by roll-call. If a man did not answer to roll-call he was given extra duty. After roll-call they had breakfast, policed the grounds and had guard-mount. A part of the command was assigned to picket duty, part for camp guard and part for provost duty in Danville. The latter were required to arrest all citizens or soldiers without written permission in the daytime or the pass word at night. For those that didn't have one of the above duties, the day was filled with company drill, battalion drill and dress parade. At 7:30 P.M. was final roll-call and at 8:00 P.M., taps, when all lights went out. After a period of time the First Sergeants became a little careless with the evening roll-call. This was mostly out of the kindness of their heart at first by allowing someone to answer for one that had been on guard the night before. Then one night it was very stormy out and they allowed everyone to answer from inside the tent. The next few nights the same was allowed, even though there was no storm. After a week of this the First Sergeants were called to Col. Champion's tent one evening. The Col. spoke to the First Sergeants thus: "I understand that there has been some deviation from the prescribed rule in the matter of roll-call. I have only this to say: If the present First Sergeants are unable or unwilling to obey the orders heretofore made, I have no doubt that I shall be able to find men in each company who can and will. Good evening, gentlemen." His audience fell silent, and as they filed out, and back to their own companies, each probably felt like crawling into a hole. From that night on, the roll was taken properly.

Christmas was spent in camp with ample food for all and was a very pleasant day. Just after the evening dress parade, word was received that they should be ready to move early the next morning.

Reveille was sounded and then breakfast, after which all of the tent stakes were pulled except just enough to hold them up. At a given signal all stakes were pulled and all of the tents fell at once, the canvas rolled and placed in wagons. They built huge fires and burned all of the tent floors, gun racks, etc. They didn't want to leave them for the enemy. It was not yet daylight and it was a strange sight seeing their little village disappear before their eyes. On the evening before, extra rations were issued and arrangements were made for all of the men too sick to travel to be sent to local hospitals. At 5:45 A.M. all was ready and the men slung their packs on their backs, assembled in companies and marched to the parade ground. At 6:30 the column, comprising the whole division, set out on a good macadam road: destination Lebanon. At the start the weather was good, but about nine o'clock a drenching rain set in and as the march continued, it got worse. General Granger and his staff were on horses, so as the rain got worse, they went faster. This was a very difficult march for the men, for their woolen coats and their packs got more water soaked and heavy with every step. The General seemed to have little regard for the men as he gave no opportunity for rest. It was rumored that the rebel Morgan was ahead and the 96th and the rest of Granger's forces were to reinforce the garrison at Mumfordsville. Rarely has infantry been so over marched. It was as if infantry was trying to keep up with cavalry. The men became very sullen and quiet. At about three o'clock the rain abated a bit and by four o'clock the column pulled off into a very muddy corn field, and it was announced that this was to be their campground for the night. The men sank in mud to their shoe tops at every step. The General ordered that no fence rails be taken for fuel (the rail fences belonging to the local farmers). The regimental officers, however, said that they should only take the top rails. After the long wet march, the comfort of the men was essential. Stacks of straw and cornstalks in the area had soon disappeared, finding their way to the floor of the tents and the men were as comfortable as they could be under such circumstances. When he realized that the top rails had been taken, General Granger had a few choice words for the "Volunteer Officers" but he decided that digression was the better part of valor and didn't pursue the matter of the top rails further.

The next morning it was much colder. There was an early reveille and the days march begun. There was a lot of marching and counter-marching. It was evident that the officers were uncertain as to what they were to do. After about two hours, the column found themselves headed back for Danville. By 4:00 P.M. they were back at the same campground that they had left the day before. They now wished that they had not burned all of their floor boards and gun racks. It was later learned that Gen. Morgan had tapped the telegraph and sent a bogus report to Granger to proceed at great speed to Lebanon, while Morgan made a leisurely march to the Kentucky river, picking up some horses and a few recruits along the way.

On December 30, Companies B and I were sent out to scout the Kentucky river along with several companies from other regiments and a battery of artillery. Their destination was Hickman bridge, about 15 miles away. It was a disagreeable march as there was a cold rain all the way. They were gone several days, but found no organized force of the enemy. All through this winter there were many men who became sick, and some even died. Beside the weather related illnesses there was a lot of cases of measles, mumps and typhoid fever. At nearly every stopping place, some of the men were left in the local hospital.

The new year of 1863 was now at hand. On January 3, Companies B. and I. came back to camp from their Kentucky river scout. There was at this time quite a few visitors in camp from Lake and Jo Daviess counties including many of the wives of the men. Because of her pregnancy, it is believed that Lib Gillmore was not among these visitors. There was no further movement of the command until January 26th. During this time there was a lot of drilling and a lot of bayonet exercises.

Pay day was supposed to be every two months and when the paymaster finally came on January 15, it was hoped that he would pay them up through December 31. However, the government was very short of funds and the paymaster was only able to pay them through October 31. The privates received only about \$20. after deductions were made for clothing etc. This was not much, especially for the men with families at home depending on them for support.

There was a heavy storm on the 15th and 16th of January. A heavy rain was succeeded by sleet and heavy snow. The ground was covered by heavy snow and the trees by heavy ice. Because of the storm, there was very little drilling done for the rest of their time in Danville. At this time the nation was looking to General Rosecrans and his Army of the Cumberland for some good news.

In Co. B, Captain David Salisbury, who was a physician, resigned to fill a position on the medical staff of the regiment. The officers under him were advanced and First Sergeant E.J. Gillmore was promoted to Second Lieutenant. Col. Champion was quite sick for a time while they were at Danville. He took up residence in town and left the regiment in charge of Lt. Col. Clarke. A number of other officers were also ill and lived in private homes in town.

This is the last part of a letter from Vange to Lib. There is no date, but perhaps written at about this time.

"I can buy a good team here now for \$100. so she can't be worth much more than \$80. any how. I repeat it, do as you like & I will find no fault."

"I recd. your letter of the 8th inst. & expect another soon. Mr. Fred your letters come just as regular as your mothers and they do make me laugh I think you are a natural genius.. Well I have just finished eating dinner and as you would be glad to know, no doubt, what we had to eat I will tell you; we had beans, soft bread, pork, peach sauce, and coffee; we have to eat hard bread part the time. The assembly is beating for battalion drill or I would write more."

"Yours as Ever"

"E.J. Gillmore"

"Mrs. E. Gillmore"

CHAPTER 5

On January 25th marching orders were received. They were to start the next morning for Louisville. All of the men who were not able to travel were sent to hospitals in the area and preparations were made. They were issued rations for six days, most of which were loaded on wagons. It was difficult to leave Danville as many of the men had made friends with the loyal citizens in the town during the two months that they were camped there.

On Monday, January 26, they were up by 3:30 A.M. They had breakfast, broke camp and were on the road by 6:30. They went through Danville and then through Harrodsburg by noon. There were plenty of wagons so all supplies and even the mens packs were loaded and carried for them. It was understood that they were to travel the 85 miles to Louisville and be there by Saturday night, January 31. This meant that they would have to travel over 14 miles a day. The first day they stopped near Salvisa at about 2:00 P.M. having come 17 miles. It was raining hard and although there were many good meadows nearby, they were stopped in a poorly drained corn field.

The next day they traveled on the pike again. The mud was not bad but the rain had covered the road with a thin coat of a mixture of limestone and water to a consistency of a thin mortar. This made the road slippery to walk on. The march was cold, wet and difficult but at about 3:00 P.M. they had covered another 17 miles and stopped for the night. At about noon, two men from each company reported to the commissary where they were given a leather bucket filled with whiskey. Each man was given a ration of the whiskey to counteract the cold. Some received more than one ration and became so drunk they had to be loaded in the ambulances to continue. This was the first time the command ever received this stimulant as an issued ration. That night much foraging was done. The men asked the negroes in the area who among the local farmers were disloyal. Many poultry houses and sweet potato bins were raided.

On January 28th the 14th Kentucky had the lead followed by the 96th. The Kentuckians were veterans and had made many long marches and told the 96th that they would soon leave them in the dust. The march was very rapid, but the 96th kept up and even yelled ahead for the 14th to go faster. The pace soon took it's toll on both units and men began to fall by the wayside. The drop-outs, however, were as numerous in the 14th as the 96th. The officers of each unit soon slowed the pace considerably as it was foolish to use the men like that. By 2:00 P.M. the head of the column went into camp and all were grateful for the rest. During the day they had passed through Hardinsville and Clayville. Whiskey was again issued. During the day the snow had fallen to a depth of three or four inches and it had to be scraped from the ground before tents could be erected. For the men that were well, it was difficult, but for those who were sick it was a very trying time.

The next day the 96th led but there was no racing. During the day they passed through Shelbyville and Boston. Shelbyville was reputed to be the home of the hero of "Uncle Tom's Cabin". After 17 miles of travel, they made camp for the night at 4:00 P.M.

On the next day the 96th had the very rear of the whole column and did not start until 8:00 A.M. This was the first day since they left Danville that they marched in sunshine. Middletown was passed early in the day and by 3:00 P.M. the outskirts of Louisville was reached. Here they made camp for the night, having traveled 15 miles. The trip had been made in one day less than anticipated. Col.

Champion had improved in health and had traveled by rail and stage and rejoined the regiment here at Louisville.

The next day the command traveled 3 or 4 miles, reaching the landing on the Ohio River. The right wing of the command, companies A, F, D, I and C boarded the steamer "R.B. Hamilton" and the left wing, companies H, E, K, G and B going on the steamer "Nashville". Col. Champion and Adjutant Blodgett went with the right wing and Lt. Col. Clarke and Major Smith went with the left wing. All of the equipment had to be taken apart and stored either in the hold or on the deck. The mules and horses went to the very lowest deck. Loading took the entire day. The cooks stayed on shore and cooked the food. For the rest of the voyage, there would be only coffee, no cooked food. At this point there was a rash of homesickness as they were very close to "God's country", which is what they called anything north of the Ohio River. Officers and the sick were given the few staterooms. The rest of the command would make the trip on the open decks. There was some discontent in the ranks and at Louisville the 96th was 10 men short. They had deserted between Danville and Louisville.

During Saturday and Sunday all the troops of the Division were loaded on the large fleet of transports. The boats took on coal, filled up any remaining space with government stores and during Sunday night, dropped down the Ohio River about 10 miles and tied up on the Indiana shore. The next morning they loaded a large amount of baled hay. The bales were set up on end around the boilers to protect them from enemy shore attacks. The pilot house was protected by boiler iron. More coal was taken on at Cannelton, Indiana. The weather was terrible. There was a combination of rain and snow and the wind was fierce. The soldiers on the open decks found shelter in the hold, or any place that they could that was sheltered from the elements.

Tuesday, February 3, 1863, found the transports passing Evansville and Shawneetown and by early in the afternoon the mouth of the Cumberland river was reached. At this point any speculation about their destination was answered. It had been announced that they would tie up at Smithland for the night, but word was received that the "Army of the Cumberland" was in serious trouble, they having been attacked by the enemy in large force. With the ominous sounds of battle ahead of them, they did not stop for the night, but continued on up the Cumberland. Their destination was Nashville. As the night progressed, the sounds of battle stopped entirely. This made for considerable concern about the Union forces.

The next morning the wind was still fierce, but since the river was narrow and there were very high bluffs along the river, the decks were protected and the men came out of the holds and appeared on deck again. Many bales of hay were seen floating in the river and at one point a mule was seen swimming toward the shore. There had been many desertions among the men, and it was assumed that the mule was also "deserting". The men on deck watched the mule's struggles in the water with much interest and when it reached the shore, a big cheer went up from the boats. The men were kept standing on their arms all day. It was expected that they would be fired on from shore, because it had been learned that Wheeler's Cavalry was out to stop the passage of the reinforcements to Nashville. A landing at Dover, which was a little above Fort Donaldson, was made at about 4 P.M. The Union had but a single regiment at Fort Donaldson, and it was known that Wheeler had a large force in the area. The heavy firing that they had heard the previous day made them wonder whose hands they might find the fort in. The 92nd Illinois was put ashore to see who was in possession of

the fort. Inquiry was made and it was found that General Wheeler had been soundly defeated and the fort was still securely in Union hands. The fleet then proceeded a few miles further and tied up, the men disembarking. It was good to be on solid ground again.

It seems that 9 companies of the 83rd Illinois, (about 650 men) under Col. Harding, with only one battery of artillery and one 32 pound rifled siege gun had successfully held off 8,000 cavalry and mounted infantry under Generals Wheeler and Forrest. They even left the fort and chased the Rebels for some distance. The losses to the 83rd was 13 dead and 51 wounded. The ground around Dover was strewn with dead and wounded and many of the homes in the area were filled with the wounded. Since the rebels were all mounted, there were also many dead and wounded horses. The 83rd killed about 200 and wounded several hundred; more killed and wounded than the muskets carried by the 83rd. The newly arrived troops formed details to bury "the brave but misguided men who yielded their lives in the hard-fought battle."

The last of the fleet did not arrive until Friday, so the men had some time to walk about the battlefield of Gen. Grants memorable battle of February, 1862. Many brought back mementoes of the battle which they found at the site.

When the last of the fleet arrived, the men were again called on board the boats, and they were off for Nashville. The boats were lashed together, two and two, the two boats with the 96th were lashed side by side. There were seven gunboats and more than thirty transports in the fleet. There were two gunboats at the head of the fleet, two at the rear and the others near the center. On several occasions the gunboats shelled the timber along the shore in case there might be Rebel forces there to intercept them. Many of the steamer captains had not "volunteered" their services or their boats. Many were actual Rebel sympathizers. At one point the "Nashville" with part of the 96th on board suddenly pushed it's companion boat, the "Hamilton," into Gen. Baird's boat, the "Prioress". Damage was done to both vessels. It was discovered that the captain of the Nashville had caused the accident. He also had fomented a lot of discord among the soldiers on his boat. He had said he would ground the boat on the Illinois shore and the men could all get to shore, desert and go home. Lt. Col. Clarke heard of this and stationed several soldiers in the pilot house with orders to "shoot to kill" the captain or the pilot should they try to land on the Illinois shore. The captain was told that his life was not held in high estimation by the military.

All day and night of February 6th the fleet proceeded toward Nashville, and at 5 P.M. on the 7th, they reached that destination. They had traveled nearly 550 miles on the transports. The morning of the eighth was spent in unloading the boats, putting the wagons together and gathering their other equipment. In the afternoon the 96th marched out past Fort Nagley and went into camp at what was called Fort Jackson, which was about four miles outside of Nashville. As it turned out, this was near the site that they would make one of the most brilliant and successful charges of the war.

CHAPTER 6

As soon as they reached Nashville, they encountered another enemy. A tiny little insect known to the men as the "Greyback". I believe we would call them lice. Since other units had camped at the location of their present camp, it was thought that the Greybacks were left behind by the previous residences. The very ground seemed to be alive with them.

Many were sick after the arduous river trip, and many retired to hospitals upon their arrival at Nashville. The troops once again returned to drilling.

There were changes in the command of the regiment in February. In Co. B, Capt. David Salisbury resigned and First Lt. Allen B. Whitney was made Captain, Second Lt. E.J. Gillmore was promoted to First Lt. and First Sergeant George H. Burnett was made Second Lt. It seems that if an officer wished to, he could resign. An enlisted man, however, had to stick it out, or desert. The latter choice, however, made him a hunted man.

During the next several weeks they moved their camp several times. The moves were generally only a matter of a mile or two, and each move got them closer to Nashville. On February 23, there was a mass meeting in Nashville to celebrate the birthday of George Washington (Although Lincoln was then president, his birthday was not yet a cause for national celebration). Since Washington's birthday was on Sunday, the celebration was held the next day. There were many patriotic speeches and a great many of the men from the 96th attended.

March 2, 1863 was a memorable day. The Emancipation Proclamation had been issued just two months before and there was much discussion among the officers and men as to the merits of the decree. There were a lot of dissatisfaction in some of the Regiments and in some, particularly those from Kentucky, there was a lot of desertions because of it. The Brigade officers gathered and discussed the issue, and appointed a committee to draft a resolution to express the attitude of all of those present. As a result, a resolution in support of the Emancipation Proclamation was prepared. When it was presented to the men of the 96th, and a voice vote taken, it was enthusiastically endorsed by most with an "aye" vote. The "Ayes" were not universal, however. Col. Champion immediately ordered "Sergeants take your Companies to quarters". The Colonel then addressed the officers and told them to discuss the issue with their men that evening. Within a few days the colonel sent a copy of the resolution to newspapers in Chicago, Lake County and Jo Daviss County. He stated to them all that the 96th had adopted the resolution "without a dissenting voice". At the time of the vote the Colonel did not allow the "nays" to vote, so I guess it was a truthful statement to the papers. He did not want the world to know that there were any dissenting voices in the state that was President Lincoln's home. It was hard to see why any of the men would be against it, but a few were very much against the total emancipation of the slaves.

On March 3, the command was notified to be ready to move at a moments notice. They held their regular drills but were kept ready for a move. The next day there was a wild report in camp that Generals Grant and Sherman had been badly defeated in the vicinity of Vicksburg with a loss of 20,000 men. Fortunately this report was proven untrue.

March 5th, while they were drilling, there was heard the sounds of much cannon fire in the distance. They were immediately taken back to camp to await orders. At this time the soldiers were strangely

silent and subdued. At 2:00 P.M. Col. Adkins, the Brigade Commander rode into camp, conversed briefly with Col. Champion and rode off. Soon thereafter the order was given to prepare to move to Franklin. The tents were struck and they were marched to the railroad in town. In a short time a train arrived and took on board three of the Regiments. After the train made the first trip to Franklin and back the 96th and one other regiment was allowed to board the train. This was about 10:00 P.M. that evening. The men were all forced to stand because they were so crowded. They got no rest for the four or five hours that it took to travel the eighteen miles to Franklin. The engine was old and could make not even the slightest grade without backing to the bottom and waiting a long period of time to make sufficient steam to try again. It rained very hard all during the trip and when they reached their destination about 3:00 A.M., they found themselves in a muddy corn field. Their tents and other equipment were still in Nashville, so some wrapped themselves in their blankets and tried to get some sleep and some gathered around campfires waiting for morning to come. In the morning it was learned that nearly all of the men that had been sent out to Spring Hill on reconnaissance the day before had been captured. There was supposed to be but a small Rebel force at Spring Hill, but instead a very large force was there. As it turned out, the Union forces which numbered about 2,500 were met by about 15,000 Rebels. The odds were just too great. One of the units involved in this action was the 22nd Wisconsin of which about 2/3 were captured.

The 96th, along with the other Regiments in the Brigade stood around in the mud for most of Friday, March 6. Just at dusk, however, the wagons arrived from Nashville and they were able to get the tents up for that night. On March 7th they fully expected that an advance would be made and they held themselves ready all morning. In the afternoon, when it became apparent that no move would be made that day, two members of Co. F asked and received permission to visit a home in the area to see if they could buy some butter. They were captured by a Rebel cavalry squad which happened to be scouting in the area. This was the first time that any members of the 96th had been captured. They were released a short time later in a prisoner exchange.

By Sunday, March 8th, more troops arrived at Franklin including Gen. Sherman. By night there was about 15,000 troops at this place including quite a force of cavalry. On Monday this little army commenced to move south. Each man had three days rations and 20 rounds of ammunition on his person plus another 40 rounds in his cartridge-box. The cavalry led and covered the flanks. Rebel cavalry was encountered, but generally offered no serious resistance. There were a few skirmishes however. Near Spring Hill there were signs of the disastrous battle of March 4th. Most of the local white men from the area had apparently followed the army south, for mostly women and blacks were seen. That night they camped in front of a large farm house having traveled about 12 miles that day. Within half an hour of their arrival a large board fence on one side of the road and a rail fence on the other side had completely disappeared. They were without tents so the fences were used for shelter and for fuel for the night. They also felt that since they were in enemy territory that they had the right to confiscate anything they needed for their own well being. They fared well with ample amounts of fresh pork, bacon, potatoes, poultry, tobacco and honey.

On March 10th the cavalry again took the lead. It was here that the Regiment had the first enemy shells fired at them. The command moved slowly and cautiously, moving forward then stopping, then forward again. This was repeated several times. It seemed that they were expecting the enemy to resist the attack and perhaps assume the offensive themselves. This did not happen so by noon the order "forward" was received and a rapid advance of 6 or 8 miles was made, sometimes at a "double quick". The artillery kept firing all day, placing their shells into the woods just ahead of the advancing troops. At about 6:00 P.M. they went into bivouac in the woods within a short distance of the enemy. The pickets from each side exchanged shots all night and the camp fires of each army were plainly visible to the other. This was the first real battle situation that the 96th had been in, but by no means the last. It had rained all day and increased as the sun set. Whole Companies were sent out on picket duty that night. This was against all the rules, but it was feared that individual pickets might fall asleep, which was a court marshal offense. The men had not had a good nights sleep since they left Nashville 5 days ago.

On March 11, the cavalry and the artillery engaged the enemy and quite a skirmish took place at one of the crossings of the Duck river. There was extremely high water at the river which could not be bridged or forded, so no advance was made that day. On the 12th, the entire command marched back to Franklin. Sheridan's Division took the lead and set a blistering pace. It was thought that they were trying to show Granger's green troops how to march. The entire trip of some 21 or 22 miles was traveled in 7 1/2 hours. Many of the troops in both regiments fell out all along the way. This was a useless and heartless abuse of soldiers. This ended what was later called the Duck River campaign.

"Franklin Mar. 17th 1863"

"Dear Wife"

"I have rec'd yours of the 8th inst. and as I have plenty of time this morning I of course will spend a portion of it in writing to her who seems to love me and who I believe would prove as true in adversity as she has in the past or would be in prosperity. This is a beautiful morning & I wish you and Fred were here to spend the day with me. The scenery is beautiful and it would be an interesting one to you. Between 20 & 30 regiments are camped here & we send out 10 to 12 men per day to work on the fortifications which are being made here".

"The rebs. followed us back from Duck river across which we drove them last week. Signals which looked like stars were seen both east and west of us last night. and of course there are all sorts of opinions as to what the Rebs. intend to do. I see the Copperheads are playing out some and I hope the conscription act will be rigorously enforced although it would take Ed. and a great many others that would be much needed at home but they better come and help us & have the thing done with than to keep us here fooling with the Rebs. a year or two longer. for we are, or at least many of us are as needed at home as most of those that are there I wish they had enforced this act on the start or say 6 mos. ago for if they had we doubtless might now be at home with our families"

"I am wearing my old boots yet although I have had them tapped twice & I got one of them mended yesterday & guess they will do to wear 3 or 4 weeks longer".

"Carlisle Druse has arrived from the hospital at Danville where he got his pay & he has let me have \$7.00 to buy a pair of boots with when I get an opportunity. I thought I better have the money in my pocket ready for the first chance. We can't make any calculations about getting our pay; sometimes we think we will get it right away but have been disappointed a good many times. I saw E. Blotherwick out to Duck River & he is quite healthy. has not recd. any pay for 8 mos. but their privates got their just after the battle at M-----. ----- is running at large & Ed mistrusts he has gone home. If it is so and he gets back by the first of April he will be all right as deserters have until then to return without being punished. One of our deserters has returned; it was Geo. ----- of Wauconda but I think he will not be punished as the Col. allowed him to take a gun to go out to fight the other day".

"Do you furnish wood for Chet? if you do he has got the house pretty cheep. I am inclined to think we had better fence through on the north side of the road for I doubt that fencing will be any cheaper very soon again. I would like to have about 50 trees set out this spring besides some cherry & peach trees and I think it will not be best to put in any manure for it hurt those set out last spring."

"I rather spread manure around the trees after they are set out. I think you will need about 2 bu. of grass seed to seed the ground I wrote you about and as about 6 acres of that on the east side of the creek is to be seeded to timothy alone you will not need more than 1/2 bu. of clover seed to mix with the timothy for the rest. or if it is hard getting clover a peck will do for the clover will soon run out the timothy. I think by what you wrote you understand what I want. I believe it generally takes about 5 qts. to the acre and there must be pretty near 15 acres to be seeded so it may take 2 1/2 bu."

"We don't know how much it does cost per. mo. to live but I guess it is not far from \$12. Yesterday we got some things a good deal cheaper than usual. Hams for 9 cts. & sugar for 12 1/2. We generally have pd. from 14 to 18 cts. I have not written Mrs. Kellogg".

"On my return from Duck River I found 8 old letters here for me & found the postage stamps you sent me. I got a letter from uncle Joe a few days ago. Uncle is failing pretty fast. I wrote Frank a day or two ago & presume you have seen the letter".

"Yours Forever"
"Vange"

I'm sure there must have been many letters written between early November 1862 and March 17, 1863, but they were evidently not saved.

CHAPTER 7

Soldiers from the 96th were required to work on the fortifications in the area of Franklin. On the 22nd the entire regiment was on picket duty across the river. They had to remain on picket duty at that location for a full 24 hours. There was a little firing through the night but no casualties. They were exceptionally vigilant during this 24 hour period, however, as a Captain from one of the other regiments had been killed just a few nights before by a Rebel scout. On the 25th there was a lot of activity around the perimeter and Rebel cavalry exchanged shots with the pickets. Later in the day it was learned that the remainder of the 22nd Wisconsin and two companies of the 19th Michigan, which were guarding a bridge at Brentwood, between Nashville and Franklin, had been surrounded by a large Rebel force and captured. At this point the whole 22nd Wisconsin had been captured in 2 separate engagements.

On the 27th the 96th, the 92nd Illinois, the 6th Kentucky Cavalry and the 9th Ohio Battery left Franklin about 5:00 P.M. and headed back for Brentwood in a pouring rainstorm. They travelled the 9 miles and arrived about 10:30 P.M. The night was dark and the men pretty well spent when they arrived. A deep and rapid stream had to be forded along the way. The wagons finally arrived with the tents, but there was a lot of trouble putting them up because the ground was very rocky. A few rails were found but the men spent the night setting on their knapsacks. A few fell asleep and toppled over into the mud and water. Often streams of water rushed through the tents. In the morning the men spent an hour or two looking over the partially burned out camp where the Wisconsin and Michigan units were captured. They found letters and pictures left behind by the captured men. Major Smith of the 96th laid out a line of earth works long enough to accommodate the 96th and the 92nd and men from the two infantry regiments began work on it. The zig-zag trench was 6 feet wide with a shelf along each side which the men could stand on to fire from. The advantage of this arrangement was that the men could fire in either direction and be protected. Head logs were placed at the edge of the trench so that the men could poke their muskets under them and their heads would be protected. The men worked hard at the job and when they were not working on the fortification, a few would make excursions into the countryside. More than one farmer in the area found when he got up in the morning that his cows had already been milked for him by someone who did not leave the milk behind. There was considerable foraging in the area, but the men did attempt to find out who among the farmers were loyal. They would leave them alone. A mill in the area was set in operation and quite a lot of grain was ground so that the men had a little extra variety in their diets. There had been no vegetables in their diet so there was a lot of scurvy. The officers sent an urgent request north for vegetables and between the government supplied items and boxes of butter, fruit and other items sent by express from the soldiers homes in the north, the scurvy was soon halted.

"Franklin Tenn. ((April 5, 1863))"

"Dear Wife"

"I have rec'd yours of the 14th inst. and as I am detailed as Lt. of a picket guard I will try and answer it before going out. We arise now at 4 o'clock every morning. Attacks are generally made just at day-break so we, you see, will be ready to receive the rebs at almost any time.. Our videtts are in sight of the rebels every day and are fired on quite often.. Most all the men are on duty every day, what are not on guard are put to work on the fortifications. We calculate we can stand a force of 20,000. Ambrose Gage was here last night to see Henry but I did not see him - he belongs to the 121st Ohio Reg. and is a sergeant.. My has been on duty since he came back and stands it first ((rate)). The ----- have received a box from home but I have not got ours yet.. I do not worry about it but think we will get it in a day or two. I have sent you \$10. in a letter and \$40. I sign on an allotment role.. This company sent home \$2,319. on the allotment and a good deal other ways. This Allotment Roll contains our names the names of the persons we send the money to, your P.O. address and the address of the nearest Express office so we pay over the money here and the Allotment Rolls are sent to Chicago and the paymaster there expresses the money to you and writes you that he has done so.. I sent my money to mothers address as there might be trouble in your getting it from the Express office being you ((are not)) able to go to town.. This is a very nice arrangement as there is no chance of loss on the part of the soldier. We keep a duplicate copy of these Allotment Rolls and it is receipted by the Allotment Agent.. If the express is robbed these rolls will be of no use to any one and it saves transportation of money as this agent pays the money (we let him have) right over to the paymaster here and it is again used to pay us.. You say ----- is there yet and what I have written concerning him seems to affect him most of all. Well Lib I wish I had not written any thing against ----- though I am sometimes glad I did.. I have not written anything but what is true except that he was owing the Q.M. You wrote me that he told Dwight he would have me court-marshaled and that aroused me a little and Whitney, Burnett & many of the boys wish me to draw up some resolutions stating the ((facts)) in regard to him and many of the boys have signed them. I believe all the sergeants and principal men of the company have signed them and Whitney talks of having them sent to the Gazette for publication. ----- is a very smooth tongued man, but he is also a bad man and his downfall is ((a dead)) certainty. I expect a good many evil reports will be circulated about us all but I can ride over them for I believe I have generally done right and I intend to do what is right as long as I live so I have a clear conscience.. "Let the world wag as it will I'll be gay and happy still." We were mustered out of the service yesterday but were mustered in again as officers. My love to all. Yours as ever."

"Vange to his Libby"

There were several holes in this letter. Most were very small and even parts of letters or words remain. I have enclosed the words that I think belong in these spaces In (()). The corner with the date was missing, but since we know that Whitney, Gillmore and Burnett were mustered in as officers on April 4, 1863, we assume this letter was written on April 5, 1863. He writes that "My has been on duty since he got back". Evidently his brother Myron had been home on a furlough early in 1863. Vange sent his money to his mother's because Lib was in her 9th month of pregnancy and was unable to get to the express office to get the money.

This is the last part of a letter from Vange to Lib. At least one page was missing. The letter was finished on April 7, 1863

"---to get in the rear of them hoping to take them prisoners but the rebs got wind of it and skidaddled back in double quick time..

"I feel so much encouraged about --- war closing as I ever have. If the Copperheads at home do not try to resist the draft we are all right.. Those Union Leagues are doing a great deal of good. If they do nothing more than to make the traitors keep --- it is considerable. You seem to think the new comer we expect will be a boy but I dreamed it was a girl. We shall welcome the little stranger with joy whichever sex it may be. It is an old superstitious belief that it is a pease sign to hear of so many girl babies being born, you know. My little Fred saw his pa looking in the window at him, did he? Well, I hope you may see him ere long but guess he won't stop to look in a great while. I hope you have not robbed your self for me, Lib. The most I care for is the boots.."

I would like first rate to have a few trees set out but if you can't get it done conveniently let it go. If Chet wishes to plant out west of the house I can let the seeding go till fall but I would like very well to have Chet manure it some; in fact he will have to, to raise much.. We do not buy very much tea but have had to pay \$2.00 for what we did get.. We buy now of the Brigade Q.M. and get things quite cheap, but he has not tea. He gets potatoes occasionally & we get one bushel for which we paid only \$1.20 We are living good enough now days for soldiers so don't worry about that at all.. We buy flour and Isaac Butterfield, our cook makes pretty good bread and that with our ham and coffee with potatoes and sauce occasionally makes us pretty good living. I am getting quite fleshy. We expect to get our pay this week & I will not sent my commission home until after pay day as I may need it in order to get my pay.."

"Tuesday Apr. 7th All is well.. I have my commission registered and will send it by Wm. Bottom who got his discharge papers today. Wm. is very fleshy and cant stand it to carry a knapsack, he has a bad breast.."

"Yours forever"

"Vange"

"Lib"

He speaks again of the impending birth of their child.

CHAPTER 8

On April 5th, twenty men from the Regiment were assigned to the Engineer Corps. On the 8th a Division of Infantry arrived from Nashville and the 96th along with other units of their Division marched back to Franklin leaving Brentwood about 5:00 P.M. and arriving at Franklin about 8:00 P.M. 4:00 A.M. was the usual time for reveille for all of the troops at Franklin.

On the 10th, firing was heard on the picket line in front of town. The camp was made ready very quickly and the Union Artillery began to throw shells over their heads and very shortly getting the range and doing a lot of damage. The Rebel Artillery was soon answering with shells landing very close to the camp. The 40th Ohio was on picket and gave the attacking Rebels a hot salute checking their advance. Soon their cavalry charged again, passing through the picket line and riding into town. The 40th along with the guards in town took to the houses in the town, keeping up a continuous firing upon the disorganized raiders. It was soon determined by the Rebels that the Union force was larger and better organized than they realized and they withdrew. At about 2:00 P.M. the 96th led the Brigade out of town following the Rebels. Four Companies of the Regiment were deployed as skirmishers but their advance was not resisted. The brigade took a position behind a stone wall until 10:00 P.M. when they marched back to Franklin, arriving about midnight.

On the 11th the Union Cavalry moved out and engaged the enemy. The fighting could be heard for most of the day. On the 14th the Regiment had picket duty across the river having its headquarters at the cotton press which afterwards became a historical sight. This was the actual site that the Rebel General Hood made their gallant charge one and one half years later. Hood was badly defeated by the 4th and 23rd Corps and his force was of very little further service to the Confederacy. On the 15th the Regiment was back in camp resting and cleaning up after the 24 hours spent on the picket line.

On the 17th the Paymaster arrived.

"Franklin Tenn. Apr. 17th 1863"

"Dear Wife".

"I recd. a letter from you yesterday and I expected to get the "news" but was a little disappointed. Myron came up yesterday and he looks quite healthy: Well this has been our pay day but we who have been promoted did not receive our Lt's pay this time and will have to wait till next pay day.. I drew 1st sergeants pay up to the first of March but I took a paper signed by the paymaster certifying I had recd. only \$80. or 1st sergeants pay for the time so it would not cut me out of my Lt's. pay from the date of my commission. This paymaster tried to make us believe that we had no Lt's pay due us and that we did not receive such pay only from the time we received our commissions which was not until April 4th but he can't make any of the 96th believe such stuff."

"I shall loose the use of the money until next pay day but I guess we can stand it." "

"Whitney is here now and he is so unwell I think he will be likely to get a furlough and we would like to have him go home and take our money, what we have to spare.. I wish I could come home and stay a month if no longer.. If Whitney gets back there he will give ----- "fits" I have been drafting some resolutions this afternoon about ----- and they think at head quarters they are first rate but that I have been a little too easy with him but I think I got enough in although I could add a good deal more and we know we can prove them all to be true.."

"Whitney is going to send these resolutions to the Gazette for publication.. If ----- should still continue to reestablish himself in the manner he is now trying to he will hear from us again and next time the field and line officers will sign them.. The Adj't. just handed me a resolution of his own getting up which is as follows. Resolved: that in Capt. Whitney we have an officer tried and true; one in which we have the utmost confidence both as a soldier and as a man."

"Pretty good isn't it. You remember I wrote you that Whitney was wrongfully put under arrest a short time ago and know they are trying to make it all right again.. It is a good time now for them while ----- is trying to hurt Whitney what he can.. The Col. has a very long and well written letter from a man at Crystal Lake showing just what kind of a man ----- is and how mean he was to his wife - how he sold his virtue once for \$50. and a great many things too numerous to mention.. It may appear in the Gazette yet.. I will endeavor to get it long enough to copy it & then I will send a copy to you.. The Col. is at Nashville sick now but when he returns we think he will be very willing to let us have it for he thinks as little of ----- as any of us. If Whitney goes home I shall be left in command but it will be no worse than it is now while he is sick.."

"Vange to Lib.."

The next week was rather quiet with the men taking their turn working on the fortifications. On April 24th the regiment was again called on to do picket duty across the river but it was a quiet picket. April 27th the regiment was detailed for wood chopping duty but received word that a fight was imminent so was ordered back to town. On the way they crossed the river on the pontoon bridge. They were then ordered to counter march back to the woods, then back to town again, crossing this time on the railroad bridge and taking up positions near the depot where they remained in line for an hour or more. Col. Watkins and his cavalry had been out raiding some Rebel camps and sent back word that all was going well. The 96th was then sent back again to their wood chopping and the cavalry returned with 128 prisoners, 300 horses and mules, 8 wagons and a complete camp outfit. A very successful foray.

The regiment stopped at the plantation of a man who flew the flag of the United States while he served as an officer in Bragg's army at the front. The plantation had a beautiful park with an abundance of many varieties of trees. The trees had been nicely trimmed with none of the lower branches lower than 20 feet above the ground. The Rebel forces had been threatening to make a dash upon the Union forces from the direction of this timber. The commander had determined to make that plantation impassable for cavalry. The regiment had been issued 300 axes and the 600 men were divided into two shifts, one hour of chopping followed by one hour of rest. The trees soon began to fall and soon the sound of falling trees was almost continuous. This continued through the morning and until the middle of the afternoon. They tried to fell the trees so that the tops intertwined, making penetration very difficult for any Rebel cavalry. By four or five P.M. there was but a few trees standing. The destruction of this beautiful grove was regretted by all of the command but it was rationalized that it was necessary for their protection, and besides, it was the property of a Rebel officer.

On April 29th, the command received shelter tents and had to return their large Bell tents, which they had received at Danville, to the Quartermaster. The men didn't like the shelter tents, which they called "dog tents" or "pup tents". As soon as the Bell tents were struck, a very heavy rain storm set in. The men had not had time to erect their shelter tents, and soon had to throw their ponchos over themselves and their possessions until the rain stopped. They then went to the woods to secure tent poles, and soon had shelter again. About this time, Gen. Granger came along. The men disappeared into their tents and started to bark and yelp like dogs, indicating to the General their displeasure at the "dog tents" or "pup tents". Each man was issued a square of cotton cloth measuring 5 1/2 feet square. He and a companion would button two of these together, drape it over a tent pole and stake the edges to the ground. This was their "shelter" such as it was. The one advantage that the shelter tents had was the fact that since they were carried by the men, there was no waiting for a wagon to come up from the rear before they could have shelter. The men soon became quite attached to the "shelters".

President Lincoln had decreed that April 30th should be a day of prayer and fasting. There was therefore no drilling on that day.

As the men were now carrying their own tents, there was no need for so many Regimental wagons. The order was therefore issued that each Regiment turn over to the Quartermaster at Nashville all teams and wagons except four. On May 1st, all of the surplus teams and wagons of all of the units at Franklin were turned over to Lt. Burnett of Co. B, who with a large guard, were to escort them to Nashville.