

Journal of Hiram C. Holt during service in Civil War. He was a sergeant in the 1st Ohio Light Artillery. Born Oct. 22, 1830 in Sheridan, New York. Died on Oct. 15, 1885 at age 55 at Hampton, Iowa. Married Marietta L. Leggett on Nov. 25, 1852 in Montville, Geauga County, Ohio. He was 31 years old when he entered service in the Union Army and had been married 9 years with two children, ages eight (Louisa) and two (Guy). Louisa later married Edward Thomas Gilbert in 1873. Their daughter, Ruth Virginia Gilbert, born in 1882 was my grandmother on my father's side.

Mortimer D. Leggett, the father of Hiram's wife, Marietta Leggett, was the Colonel of the 78th Ohio Regiment referenced in the journal several times.

The journal is written in a ledger style book 6" wide and 14" tall with lined pages formatted for bookkeeping. Hiram's initials are on the upper left inside cover. It is written in ink in beautiful penmanship and perfect spelling. His grammar is retained as well as his punctuation... It was passed on to his daughter, Louisa Evangeline Holt, as evidenced by her initials under Hiram's.

Saturday, Sept. 7th, 1861

The regiment was organized in 1860 under the Ohio Militia Laws under Col. James Barnett. Ready for service when the war broke out and after serving in West Virginia, it was mustered for three years service in the Federal Army on September 3, 1861. It consisted of 12 batteries or companies each of which has a separate history serving almost independently on different fields.

Enlisted in Capt. Dennis Kenny's battery of Light Artillery being Company G. of the First Regiment of Ohio Artillery under Colonel James Barnett. On Monday Sept. 9th party of the detachment we are raising here started for Camp Dennison consisting of the following persons Cristus Atkin, A. E. Graham, Henry E. Gurney, Edward Proctor, Byron Protor, James E. Stevens, George P. Winterstein, Peter E. Winterstein, Peter Basquin, Albert A. LeClear, Harvey O. Snedeker, Luis Wretimyer, Stevens, Bradley & Hiram Woddim, being all who had at that time enlisted in this detachment except myself & Samuel W. Hickok who also accompanied the party. I accompanied the party to Gainesville and returned to fill up our detachment by enlistment.

Labored industriously through the week and obtained the following names John McKee, Francis Morgan, Henry Olds, Isaac Wickerson, John Foster, Newton Shepard, Henry Quayle, Andrew S. Sanders, James W. Sanders, George W. Sanders, and Albert I. Wardy who with myself took the cars at Centerville on Monday Sept 16th 1861 for Camp Dennison which place we reached about 12 PM. next day. Formed the men who had preceded us in the barracks and not having yet received clothing or blankets not very comfortably situated. We all however soon received our uniforms and blankets commenced drilling under

Battery G was organized at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, and mustered into Federal service on December 17, 1861. It was attached to the 5th Division, Army of the Ohio through June 1862.

our respective Lieutenants until we were examined when the following persons were thrown out on account of physical disability viz. Newton P. Shepard and Isaac Wickerson. Henry Quayle also refused to swear into the service because Shepard could not be accepted. Also A. A. LeClear could not enter the service as he had no written consent from his parents & was a minor.

These along with others were sent home and a day or two after Byron R. LeClear joined us & was sworn in and sent home on a furlough of a week when he returned with his brother who was then sworn in and entered the Ashtabula detachment.

Our detachment now being full we proceeded to elect our non-commissioned officers with the following results. Sergeant or chief of Piece Hiram C. Holt. First Corp. or gunner, Cristus Atkin. Second Corporal or chief of caisson A. E. Graham.

We remained in Camp Dennison till Sunday October 5th when we marched to Cincinnati where we remained getting our horses shod and our guns sighted. From our barracks here we marched to the river escorted by a large body of cavalry. At the river we were received the Hon. Secretary of War when we crossed to Covington Ky. Where we partook of a splendid dinner prepared for us by the ladies of the place who were enthusiastic over our arrival and spared no pains to make our stay which however was short an agreeable one.

The battery moved by rail cars from Covington (just south of the Ohio River from Cincinnati), about 80 miles to Nicholasville just south of Lexington, Ky.

After dinner got our horses and equipage aboard the cars and started for Nicholasville Ky. en route for Camp Dick Robinson. Reached Nicholasville just before daybreak and took up our march early for Camp Dick Robinson but having marched about four miles were recalled as it was considered very sickly at Camp Dick Robinson.

Found a very pretty camping ground about half a mile from town where we remained for about two weeks which time we improved by perfecting ourselves in the artillery drill.

From here we marched to Camp Dick Robinson passing Boone's Knob famed in history as the place where Boone (not Daniel) remained so long waiting for the return of his fellow emigrants.

Found the Camp very sickly and remained but two days to check the advance of Zollicoffer who is invading the State from Tennessee by the way of Cumberland Gap.

Brigadier General Felix Zollicoffer was a Confederate former newspaper editor and Tennessee Congressman who was ordered through the Cumberland Gap north of Knoxville close to the Ky/Tenn border to guard the passes leading to Knoxville and the Virginia/Tennessee Railroad.

Leaving Camp Dick Robinson we passed through the town of Lancaster (Ed Note: about 30 miles south of Lexington) cheered on our march by the inhabitants more especially by the ladies who rushed to view us waving handkerchiefs and presenting beautiful bouquets of flowers and also by the colored population who testified their joy by sundry “yah yahs” and exclamation like the following, “After Old Zolly” Give him fits, etc.”

We camped the first night the town of Crab Orchard a place noted for its mineral springs, being a fashionable resort of the elite of society. From this point marched to Mount Vernon & encamped for the night. At his point we left the good roads or rather the public road terminated here. Marched from here in the direction of “Wild Cat” a strong position occupied by a small force under Col. Garrard of Kentucky. Camped at nights. We are too late to participate in the scene for which we were marched here Zollicoffer having attacked our little force and being pretty essentially used up before we came up to this point which is distant from the scene of the engagement about two & one half miles.

From the river we marched to Camp “Wild Cat” a very appropriate name. Here we remained on night giving us an opportunity to view the battle ground. Many of the enemy were killed thirty three of whom have been found and buried by our men. Three of the Indiana Thirty Third were killed & one Kentuckian & about twenty were wounded our on side.

Gen. Zollicoffer made the attack supposing Co. Garrard to have only one regiment & no artillery. We had fortunately however been reinforced & Zollicoffer is reported to have said on his retreat that Co. Garrard was the greatest fool he ever saw. That he (Garrard) did not know what it took to make a regiment as he had at least twenty five Captains & each Captain five hundred men. The southern account as published is that our forces were routed & would have been all taken prisoners but ran too fast.

Saturday Oct. 26th.

We marched to Camp Cormil and here for the first time we had the “long roll” caused by a drunken soldier discharging his revolver. We were all ready for battle in ten minutes when after waiting an hour we were dismissed.

Sunday Oct. 27th.

Had our usual Company inspection at nine AM the remainder of the [day] spent in reading & writing.

Monday Oct. 28th, 1861

This morning commenced a journal from which I copy the following. At present we occupy Camp Cormil in Laurel County, Kentucky among lofty hills and magnificent scenery. My men with one exception are well & he only slightly indisposed. The weather is beautiful. Our boys in good spirits expecting ere many days to meet the forces under Zollicoffer.

We are at present attached to the 17th and 38th Ohio regiments under Colonels Correl and Bradley. At about eight o'clock this evening we were aroused by the "long roll" and were soon drawn up in battle array expecting that like our former one this would prove a false alarm. We soon however received orders to march and started in the dark leaving our tents and all our camp equipage in the charge of our supernumerary men. Marched about three miles to this place (London) on double quick & bivouacked on the ground only a few of our men having brought blankets. I am keeping guard over my canon while my boys rest. We expect an attack in the morning as Zollicoffer is reported near us in force. What may be my fate in the coming contest God alone knows. But if I fall it will be in the discharge of a sacred duty and in view of my past life calmly reviewed at this hour I am willing to trust all in His hands knowing "He doth all things well".

Tuesday Oct. 29th 1861

Our camp viewed by daylight is a very high ridge commanding a range of two or three miles in every direction. Today we have been reinforced by the 38th and 14th Ohio, 1st Tennessee and 33rd Indiana regiments and Standards battery which with the 17th Ohio and Col. Garrard's 1st Kentucky regiments and our battery constitutes our force here. We are entrenching and fortifying our hill (Rose Hill) and felling all the timber that obstructs our range. Today I am very unwell unable to retain any food on my stomach but still doing my duty. Men all well.

Wednesday Oct. 30th, 1861

This morning found me so unwell that for the first time I'm obliged to report myself sick. The regimental surgeon ordered me into the hospital, but I begged off and am taking my medicine in my tent. This evening after the operation of my

medicine felt much better but still am much in need of the kind care I should receive at home.

Thursday Oct. 31st.

Today I am much better volunteered to go out in the country to supervise the collection of forage. Picked corn till noon when it commenced raining when we came back to camp. Raining all the afternoon and night.

Friday Nov 1st, 1861

Raining all day. Have kept close in our tents all day.

Saturday Nov 2nd, 1861

Still raining. We have moved the tents of our section to the bottom of the hill near our horses in a pretty grove of timber on clear ground. One of my men B. R. LeClear is very sick today. Everything wet blankets and all so we have to sleep on and in wet clothing. Had roll call at our own quarters and "turned in" on our wet blankets & slept soundly.

Sunday Nov 3rd, 1861

Still raining today. Walked down to the town of London in company with Charles Judd of Edgartons Battery who came on here last night from Camp Dennison. Visited most of the hospitals. Found a great many sick, but most from the Kentucky and Tennessee regiments. Could not help observing the great contrast between the Ohio troops and those from the southern states. While our few sick are clearly and well cared for we found the others dirty and very miserable indeed. My sick man no better today.

Monday Nov 4th, 1861

This morning the weather is pleasant. We are at work fortifying the hill on our "right wing". Sick myself & LeClear no better today. This evening received a letter from home which I find \is a great consolation to a sick man. May we who giveth the ravens food watch over and preserve the loved ones at home till we met again. There is now a strong probability that we shall fall back forty or fifty miles to winter. If we should and God wills I shall go home.

Tuesday Nov 5th, 1861

Spent most of the day in search of some house to which I could take LeClear who is getting worse & who I do not wish to take to the hospitals as they are full of men sick with measles. At last found a room in the Laurel House where he can have a bed but the landlord informed me he has no tea, sugar or coffee in fact hardly anything so that we have to provide all his food. Am much better tonight myself. All the men in good spirits. Acting as sergeant of the guard in place of a sick sergeant. Raining all night.

Wednesday Nov 6th, 1861

Cleared off this morning. Took LeClear to the Hotel and found a Physician in town who I employed to attend him upon him. All quiet in camp.

Thursday Nov 7th, 1861

Nothing of note to record today. One man in the Kentucky regiment killed by being thrown from a horse and one accidentally shot.

Friday Nov 8th, 1861

All quiet. One man from the 14th Ohio was buried today. There is something grand and imposing in a soldiers funeral.

Saturday Nov 9th, 1861

LeClear getting better. Went out & erected a target for our artillery. Had a very pleasant time in company with Lieuts Gary Sergt Turner & Belding. Called on LeClear on our return. Found the Hotel fast filling up with sick. There are now here about fifteen hundred men unfit for duty mostly cases of measles & mumps.

Sunday Nov 10th, 1861

Held our inspection as usual at nine o'clock AM and having no Chaplain and no churches in this town have been in my tent mostly all day except to visit LeClear. We had great sport in camp this morning killing him a squirrel. Killed him by climbing tree around him & shaking him down till I finally kicked him down to the boys on the ground & they halted him and made him a prisoner. As he would not swear alliance we killed him & dressed him for our sick.

Monday Nov 11th, 1861

No occurrence of note. Drilling nearly all day.

Tuesday Nov 12th, 1861

Same as yesterday.

Wednesday Nov 13th, 1861

We have received orders to march at eight o'clock P.M. The weather pleasant. Spent the day in making preparations for marching. Started promptly at eight. The moon shining brightly. Marched till nearly midnight on the road to Wild Cat when it began to rain. Our tired horses refused to draw us up the high hill and we were till daylight reaching Rock Castle River two miles from Wild Cat. Here we halted and rested our teams about an hour. The men thought thoroughly saturated with rain laid down whenever they could find a place & slept. For myself I was so fatigued that seating myself on the chest of our caisson & drawing the tarpaulin over my head I slept soundly though the rain was pouring down in torrents. On resuming the march my boys took the lead and plunged into the river with our teams. The cannon crossed safely but returning to bring over the caisson the teams became frightened and got entangled in the harness and I was obliged to jump into the river up to my waist and arranged them. Then rode all day in my wet clothes over the worst road I every saw. Passed nearly all of Standards battery who had the advance and reached Mount Vernon about four o'clock P.M. having marched twenty hours without food for ourselves [or] our horses. Here we encamped for the night & about nine o'clock got some hardbread & coffee & slept in a large room in a hotel. This march performance at the instance of an insane General has been a very severe one and will terribly affect our little battery as well as all the other troops who performed it. It is pronounced by military men of experience the hardest march they ever witnessed.

Friday Nov. 15th, 1861

Took up our March early for Crab Orchard. Had a very pleasant march compared with yesterday. Encamped near Crab Orchard and our tents not having overtaken us we are compelled to sleep under the "blue arch" which we find particularly uncomfortable as it is freezing hard.

Saturday Nov. 16th, 1861

In camp & busy washing our clothing, cleaning our carriages etc. The boys nearly tired out. At night Sergeant of the guard. Freezing very hard. All suffered severely from cold.

Sunday Nov. 17th, 1861

Very cold all day. Kept up large fires to warm ourselves. Our Captain quite sick and many of our men suffering from cold. I am so lame with rheumatism as to be hardly able to get around and the weather very cold ice forming to the thickness of three inches. Our tents reached us today and we have filled in plenty of straw so that we shall be more comfortable tonight.

Monday Nov. 18th, 1861

After suffering with cold till near morning got up and walked to warm myself. At roll call we received orders to march at two o'clock PM. Got everything ready and started. Passed Crab Orchard and turned west. Marched three miles and encamped. In the evening went about half a mile to a farmhouse in company with Lieut. Gary, Veils & Southwick and Sergeant Turner & Pratt and had a good warm supper the first warm meal I have eaten since I left Montville. It is so long since I sat at table that I hardly knew how to act. I shall ever remember our host Mr. Newland with gratitude. Not being very well remained over night & took breakfast.

Tuesday Nov 19th, 1861

Struck our tents early and marched in company with Col. Fry's Kentucky regiment fourteen miles and camped one mile from Stamford having marched over a splendid road. Felt well all day having slept in a good bed and had a good breakfast. Stamford is a very pretty Kentucky town but wants that peculiar air of neatness and thrift which characterizes our northern towns.

Wednesday Nov. 20th, 1861

Left camp at eight o'clock AM in the direction of Danville. Passed Danville about noon. This is the prettiest town I have seen in Kentucky. The large Theological Institute is a splendid building and many of the private residences are very fine. Marched fifteen miles today and encamped on the land of Logan Caldwell who is proprietor of one of the largest plantations in the "Blue Grass" region. Mrs. Caldwell came out in her carriage with a supper of corn bread and cold meats which she distributed among the soldiers. Our officers all took up their quarters at the "Great House".

Thursday Nov. 21st, 1861

Last night LeClear staid [stayed] in the tent for the first time since he was taken sick. Boys all in good spirits. Marched about ten miles & then turned back about two miles & encamped on the plantation of a Mr. Montgomery. Raining all night.

Friday, Nov. 22, 1861

On the invitation of Lieut. Gary rode to Perryville and took dinner at a hotel kept by a Mr. Tucker a rank secessionist for which we paid one dollar each. Rode back to our old camp and found it broken up our battery having moved back one mile to the farm of Mr. Bromfield where we are ordered to wait for the Paymaster.

Saturday Nov. 23, 1861

Still in camp waiting for the Paymaster. Weather cold and very wet. Our sick at the Hotel and private residences in the vicinity.

Sunday, Nov. 24th

Still in camp & raining all day. Today James Stevens left the camp sick with a cough from which I fear he will never recover. Have found lodgings for him at the house of Mr. Wade near camp when we have two more sick Mr. A. O. Gary and B. R. LeClear.

Monday Nov 25th, 1861

This is the anniversary of my wedding day. What a contrast between surrounding circumstances then & now. Received a long letter from home. Also a splendid Revolver and Rubber overcoat, there which nothing could have been more opportune. M. D. Leggett, Lieut. Col. of the **78th Ohio Reg't.**, sent me these articles.

Tuesday 26th Nov. 1861

After waiting so long our Paymaster Major Coon made his appearance and paid off the boys which causes many smiling

faces. I received Twenty nine dollars & forty five cents. Sent home twenty dollars by the Captain. Having borrowed a little money and wanting some few things for my comfort I retained the balance and sent five dollars to Cincinnati by D W Dorman for Rubber goods.

Wednesday Nov 27th 1861

Being very rainy of course we received marching orders. Started for Lebanon distant sixteen miles where we expect to form an army of twenty or twenty five thousand men. Marched in the rain till 2 PM when it cleared off. Reached Lebanon about four o'clock P.M. found four regiments here and a splendid camping ground. Left James Stevens sick and fear he will never march with us again. G.P. Winterstein too is quite sick but came on with us in the ambulance & LeClear in a baggage wagon. Our boys have been on guard and exposed to the severe weather that our sick list begins to present a very formidable appearance.

Thursday, Nov. 28th, 1861

In camp most of the day. Went to town and procured a case for my revolver.

Friday, Nov. 29th 1861

Waked up this morning and found everything covered with snow. Visited the Fourteenth Ohio and spent most of the day in Sergeant Burroughs tent. Snowing and raining all day.

Saturday, Nov 30, 1861

Cold and snowing all day. Very unpleasant. Wrote a long letter to M. I. Leggett and attended to my duty as Serg't of the guard.

Sunday, Dec 1st. 1861

Our battery was inspected by Capt. Gilman inspector of artillery and had some target practice which is a strange way of spending the Sabbath.

Monday Dec. 2nd 1861

Snow fell last night about three inches deep and weather very cold. Our men are suffering with cold but our poor horses more. Tents are a poor protection from storms but the poor horses have not even tents.

Tuesday Dec 3rd 1861

Rode back to Bromfield's to see Stevens who I found worse than when I left him. News came that our troops are fighting at Somerset and as I expect our battery will be ordered there I must start back early in the morning. The Landlord is very kind to Stevens and compliments our Ohio boys highly but gives Kentuckians a hard name.

Wednesday Dec 4th 1861

Rode back to camp. Found my men well. Weather pleasant and snow nearly all gone. As no orders have come, we are looking for a new camping ground as our present one is getting very muddy. The fourteenth Ohio left us today and we are entirely by ourselves and maintain a camp guard. Our men remain in camp better than when closely guarded.

Thursday Dec 5th 1861

Moved our camp half a mile nearer Lebanon and are now located in one of the prettiest groves one of ten for this country. So we hope to be pretty comfortable. Our camp is thronged with peddlers with pies, gingerbread & apples and roasted fowl. Our boys are making up for their former provisions by stuffing with the "good things".

Friday Dec. 6th 1861

Nothing of importance to note except that the weather being beautiful we drill more than usual. The country around us is fast filling up with troops who come pouring in from Louisville which looks as if some active demonstration was soon to be made from this point. If so "may I be there".

Saturday Dec 7th 1861

Same as yesterday except I am Serg't of the guard.

Sunday Dec. 8th 1861

This morning when I arose I hoped to be able to spend the Sabbath in a becoming manner but find this is impossible for a soldier as no respect is paid to the sanctity of the Lord's day in the army. We have drilled today as usual and even more today.

One man killed today in town by falling from a wagon & the wheel passing over his head. Truly, in the midst of life, we are in death.

January 1st 1862

After lying here in the camp for more than a month drilling through the most delightful weather I ever experienced at this season of the year, we are this morning ordered to march at daybreak. Consequently our camp is aroused at four o'clock and as it is so dark we can do nothing with our wild mules we are idling by our cooking fires though some are busy packing for a start. At early dawn we begun to harness but our mules kept us busy so that we did not start till ten o'clock AM. The weather threatening but not stormy. The road dry and dusty. Marched twelve miles and encamped having passed two regiments of infantry. At night was Serg't of the guard and had to arrest one of our non-commissioned officers for drunkenness the first arrest that has been made in our battery. The case was dismissed upon the culprits making an apology. The night very disagreeably cold and took a severe cold by exposure. Left James Stevens behind at the house of Calisters Abell Esq. where whom no truer Patriot lives. Stevens we shall probably never see again. Nothing of importance has occurred during our stay in Lebanon except that we have exchanged our small bell tents for large sibly tents and have bought stoves for them so that we are now very comfortably situated as regards weather. We leave behind us in hospital nine men besides two at private houses. Our time has been very well spent in drilling our men and teams so that we regard ourselves eminently fitted to perform our part.

January 2nd 1862

This morning on the march over a splendid road. Weather very cold so that I walked most of the time to keep myself warm. Reached our camp at Campbellsville about noon. Found eight regiments camped here. Our camp is in heavy timber on a high knoll or mound. Commenced raining just as we got our tents pitched. Continued to rain incessantly all the P.M. There is a rumor here that there is fighting going on at Jamestown twelve miles from here. This begins to look as though we should soon see active service.

Friday January 3rd 1862

The rain continued till daylight this morning and has formed a beautiful coat of ice over everything but has made it very disagreeably muddy. Our poor horses are in a pitiable plight.

Raining all day. My cough very severe with very acute pain in my head and side.

Saturday Jan 4th 1862

Still raining. Received a visit from Sarg't Burroughs. Our Lieut. has gone back today to see his nephew who is sick with Typhoid fever and is left at the same place with Stevens.

Sunday January 5th, 1862

Raining very hard. Our Lieut. has returned and reports our sick as doing well. Spent the day in reading & writing.

Monday January 6th 1862

Being very stormy have been in camp all day. My cough very bad and our surgeon no medicine for a cough it seems I must wear it out.

Tuesday Jan. 7th 1862

At eight o'clock A.M. took up our line of march for Columbia preceded by the second Minnesota and the first Michigan engineers and Mechanics. Gen Thomas and staff & body guard accompanied us. Road good but country rough. Crossed Green river about noon. About three o'clock P.M. we captured two of Buchner's men & took them with us. Encamped six miles from Columbia. The "Secesh" were sent back to the Kentucky regiment who were guarding the river.

Union-loyal Virginian Gen. George Thomas had responsibility for about 13,000 troops in this area. He was an experienced officer having been a major in the pre-war cavalry.

Wednesday Jan. 8th 1862

Marched early and reached Russel's creek near Columbia when we halted two or three hours. Then we left the Pike road and again betook ourselves to the mud on the Somerset road. A mile from town we again came to Russel's creek when we were delayed till dark by the infantry baggage who were in advance of us and who has broke one of their wagons in the road where teams could not pass. At last the road is clear and we ford the stream and march about a mile and encamp in the mud and water but make our tent quite comfortable with straw. Where we got the first mail we have had for several day [s].

Thursday Jan 9th 1862

Spent the day much as usual in camp preparing for a march and writing letters. Several regiments reached Russel's Creek but could not cross the footbridge being carried away. The

Michigan Engineers and Mechanics at work building a bridge and repairing the road for the troops & baggage to cross.

Friday Jan 10th 1862

Still in camp. Lieut. Gary received a line by a special messenger from his nephew at Lebanon by which we learn that one of our sick has died, also that A. O. Gary is not expected to live. The Lieut. started for Lebanon at nine o'clock P.M. on leave of absence for three days. We have received orders to march at daybreak tomorrow.

Saturday Jan. 11th 1861 (1862)

Struck our tents and took up our march for Somerset. Received another letter from home but cannot answer at present as all our mail now will be carried by Special Couriers as no mail passed beyond this. Marched thirteen miles and encamped without tents or supper. The Minnesota troops gave the most of us coffee and invited us to breakfast with them. The weather is warm as May and the ground dry so we shall pass a comfortable nights with the heavens for our canopy.

Sunday Jan 12th 1961 (1862)

Started very early after partaking of the hospitality of our Minnesota friends. Marched five miles and encamped having passed through the most barren country for the last fifteen miles I ever saw. About ten oclock PM. our baggage came and some of our boys pitched tents though others lay on the wet ground in the cold all night. Rained considerable in the night and froze quite hard.

Monday Jan 13th 1862

Cleared off & grew very cold. At night commenced snowing & snow fell about an inch deep. Our Lieut. has returned and reports our sick doing well. Today James Stevens' furlough came to the Captain having been made out the twenty first of Dec. 1861 to run twenty days. Will be forwarded to him tomorrow. Have written home also to Stevens to be forwarded with his papers.

Tuesday Jan 14th

This morning the sun shines out pleasantly and the the indications are good for favorable weather but I am beginning to learn that Kentucky weather is a very uncertain thing. About noon commenced raining hard. Went out the P.M. to "press"

teams to haul our baggage to Somerset. "Pressed" four yoke of oxen and returned to camp about dark. About midnight commenced one of the most terrific storms I ever witnessed which lasted till near daylight.

Wednesday Jan 15th

Started on our march. Preceded by the ninth Ohio and followed by the second Minnesota regiments. Roads in a horrible condition. Marched twelve miles and encamped on high rocky hill. There we had an opportunity to repay the hospitality of our Minnesota friends whose baggage did not come up. Five of their sick slept in my tent. The rest as far as possible were accommodated in other tents and under our tarpaulins.

Battle of Mill Springs

The inexperienced Gen. Zollicoffer was ordered 70 miles north of the Cumberland Gap to Mill Springs on the south bank of the Cumberland River. He moved to the north bank with an unfordable river at his back due to heavy rains. He disobeyed a direct order to move back to the south bank because falling back was "not the manly sort of action".

Gen. Crittenden took command from Gen. Zollicoffer and decided to attack the Union left which was divided from the other forces by a swollen Fishing Creek. Zollicoffer attacked with eight regiments of infantry, one six gun battery and a cavalry battalion. He had some initial success but Thomas reinforced with troops from across the river. Some confederate regiments were armed with flintlocks which couldn't fire in the rain and had to retire.

Thursday Jan 16th 1861 (1862)

Waiting for the rest of the Division and brigade baggage to come up Col. McCooke distributed two barrels of apple brandy among his men which made a noisy camp and got up some fighting among them.

Friday Jan 17th 1862

Started at eight o'clock AM. for or in the direction of Somerset. Camped about three o'clock P.M. at Logan's Cross roads known as the oldfields. Seven miles from Zollicoffers camp and at one of his favorite picket stations this being the spot from which he drove Col. Hoskins a short time since. At sunset our section of the battery volunteered to go out and guard the road to Zollicoffers camp. We were supported by Co. A. of the tenth Indiana under Captain Carroll. About midnight we had an alarm. Our pickets were fired on by five of the enemy's cavalry who had dismounted and were creeping through the woods. Our two pickets returned the fire and beat a hasty retreat to the shelter of our big guns. We were up and prepared for action in double quick time but after learning the cause of the firing we laid down on our blankets and waited for daylight.

Saturday Jan 18th 1862

This morning we found a blanket cap shawl & overcoat left by the cavalry when fired on by our pickets. Are lying in camp today waiting for our forces to come up. Have been reinforced till there are probably ten thousand men in our immediate vicinity besides Gen Schopf's forces at Somerset.

Sunday January 19th 1862

About half past six o'clock A.M. we aroused by a frisk firing which seemed to come from the woods on our front and apparently very near us. Being in the direction of the point where we were picketed the night of the 17th. The call to arms sounded and the tenth Indiana regiment which lay between us and the front from which the firing proceeded rushed over the hill to support their pickets. We were soon ready for battle and the firing being kept up we were ordered on toward the scene of action and were drawn up in line on the brow of the hill and just at the edge of the woods which filled a deep ravine between us and the secesh forces. A brisk fire was kept up between the tenth Indiana and the enemy for about thirty minutes when the fourth Kentucky came up and reinforced the tenth Indiana who were falling back having exhausted all their ammunition and were nearly surrounded. Their ammunition now came up and taking a fresh supply they again advanced upon the enemy and kept them at bay assisted by shot and shell from our batteries for nearly two hours when their ammunition being expended they were about to fall back. At this critical moment when the enemy were cheering supposing themselves victors the second Minnesota under GranBleu[?] and ninth Ohio under McCook came up and now commenced the battle afresh. The "Mississippi Tigers" made several charges but were driven back by our men who manifested the most undaunted coolness till after three hours hard fighting Col. McCook ordered a charge which routed the enemy who broke double quick for their camp leaving all their dead among who was Gen. Zollicoffer, Baillie Peyon and many other officers and many of their wounded on the battlefield. They were closely pursued by our troops and such was their fright they threw away every thing they could, muskets, blankets, coats, haversacks in fact everything leaving two of their cannon on the road.

Conspicuous in a white rubber raincoat, the near sighted Zollicoffer lost his way in the rain and mistook a union colonel for one of his officers. The union colonel recognized Zollicoffer and shot him which demoralized the southern troops who broke and retreated.

This was the South's first military defeat in the war.

We pursued them closely till near their entrenchments when our troops were advanced more cautiously till they were within range of our guns when we opened upon them with shell. Capt. Kenny's battery took up a position about two miles above them on the river bank and commenced firing on their steamboat which soon ran up a white flag and nights coming on we were ordered to cease firing. During the progress of the battle in the morning Zollicoffer rode up to Col. Fry and said "for God's sake Colonel don't fire on those men they are our own troops". He being disguised Col. Fry did not recognize him and replied "those are the enemy" "no they are not" said Zollicoffer "they

are our own men” Col. Fry was about to order his men to stop firing not being sure in the confusion but he might be mistaken when one of Zollicoffer aids fired on him killing his horse. Col. Fry now drew his revolver and fired on Zollicoffer the ball passing through his heart killing him instantly.

It having rained most of the day and having had no breakfast our men were wet, tired, and hungry. Many of the men took the food contained in the haversacks which the enemy had thrown away in their flight , but my stomach revolted against and I could not touch it. Our hard tack bread came up after dark and having partaken of this and cold water, we found the best sleeping places we could for the night which was very mild.

Monday January 20th 1862

The Rebels lost 500 men compared with the Union loss of 250. The Rebels also lost 12 guns, 1000 mounts, 150 wagons and six regimental colors. Crittenden’s army ceased to exist as the Tennessean’s melted away to their homes.

Early in the morning resumed our fire on the boat. Could see men and horses swimming the river. When finding that the enemy were fleeing our men were ordered into the breastworks and found the camp entirely deserted. Following the enemy to the river we found all his cannon & baggage teams harnessed to the guns & wagons, we having set fire to his boat before they could cross. We captured here twelve guns, over two thousand horses and mules and all his baggage.

Our loss ascertained today amounts to thirty killed and about one hundred and sixty wounded. Of the enemy over three hundred dead have been found and the resident here say that more than five hundred were drowned in the river. This division of the “secesh” army is completely demoralized. Prisoners all agree in saying that they can never be brought to fight against us again. Our battery remained in its position during the day our men sleeping in the barns at night.

Tuesday Jan. 21st 1862

Our section of the battery moved into Beech Grove Camp and took up quarters in the log barracks. The rest of the battery marching to Somerset. We are left as a guard in Col. Manson’s brigade.

Found very comfortable quarters in the cabin of a Capt. Willie Lowrie and made ourselves at home generally.

Wednesday January 22nd 1862

Looking at the fortifications today leaves me to believe that it was a “special interposition of Providence” which led Zollicoffer out of them to attack us.

From a journal kept by one of his officers we learn that he supposed we had only two regiments at the cross roads. But says the journal *We found they had from twenty five to thirty five thousand men and during the fight were reinforced till they had at least fifty thousand. We found that we were being surrounded and fell back on our entrenchments which the "Yankees" commenced shelling as soon as we entered. Our men were disheartened and could not be forced into the trenches many declaring they would never fire another shot. The Yankees being further reinforced till they had at least seventy five thousand men we determined to abandon our position*" Here ends the journal. Our troops followed their forces today as far as Monticello capturing four more brass cannon and finding about one hundred and fifty wounded and sick left by the enemy. Horses & mules still come in and will swell the total capture to near three thousand if it does not exceed even that.

Thursday Jan. 23rd 1862

Busy all day in moving the captured guns out of the entrenchments preparatory to taking them to Somerset.

Friday Jan. 24th 1862

Quite unwell. Remained in my quarters nearly all the time.

Saturday January 25th 1862

Crossed the river to Camp Mill Springs. Learned from Col. Manson that our section is to move with his brigade. Received orders to go to Somerset and bring up our tents and baggage. Found on my return to our quarters a messenger here from Capt. Kenny who came to ascertain when we should rejoin the battery.

Sunday Jan. 26th 1862

Rode to Somerset in company with Sergeant King. Found the men mostly well. Our captain objects to the separation his battery & things he will not send the tents & baggage. Staid with my supernumerary men in the tent at night. In looking over the battle field today am surprised that no more men were killed. The trees & fences are completely riddled with balls.

Monday Jan 29th 1862

Returned to camp found all right but very tired myself & severely afflicted with neuralgia.

Tuesday Jan 28th 1862

Nothing of note occurred. Our baggage was sent us but did not arrive.

Wednesday Jan 29th 1862

Raining nearly all day. Have another sick man Cristus Atkin who is down with bilious fever. The Dr. recommends sending him to Somerset. He has been very filthy in his habits not bathing himself or keeping his clothing clean and I fear it will go hard with him. Decided to send him by the teams that brought our tents.

Thursday January 30th 1862

Still raining so much that our baggage team cannot start for Somerset. Atims getting worse.

Friday Jan 31st 1862

Sent off our sick man by the team. Received a large amount of mail by a messenger from Somerset for our section. Received one from James Stevens who is still at Lebanon not having received his furlough yet. By his letter learned that another of our sick at the places has died. First Andrew Benton now Milo Bartholomew both the sons of widowed mothers and their dependence and support.

Saturday February 1st 1862

B. R. LeClear has gone to Somerset to see his brother who is sick with fever. Weather very unpleasant. Sick myself with neuralgia and have been for several days.

Sunday February 2nd 1862

The day has been very rainy and disagreeable. My face particularly painful which added to the gloomy weather makes me perfectly "Blue". LeClear has returned from Somerset and reports Atkin in a dangerous condition also Samuel Billings of the Painesville detachment. His brother thought to be better but

Grant, at this time a Brigadier General equal to Thomas with responsibility for the western end of operations, asked for approval to take Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. He attacked with 23 regiments or about 15,000 men against the garrison of 3400 confederates poorly armed and commanded by Gen. Tilghman. The fort put up a token resistance and escaped to Fort Donelson on the nearby Cumberland River.

very sick also Luis Hetinger of Thompson sick with measles. Spent most of the day in writing to my friends at home. At night slept very well the first nights rest I have enjoyed for more than a week. There is a rumor that the rebels are advancing on us with a force of twenty five thousand.

Monday February 3rd 1862

Rained all night and still pouring this morning. A great lack of items for my journal induces me to note the variations of the weather which however are lately very few it being rain nearly all the time.

Tuesday February 4th 1862

Nothing of interest occurred except that our foraging party captured five nice fat turkeys which they brought into camp with several chickens. No news as the mail cannot cross Fishing Creek.

Wednesday Feb. 5th 1862

A very pleasant day. Sun shinning brightly. Was agreeably surprised this afternoon by the arrival here in camp of James E. Stevens who is looking very fleshy but whose cough troubles him much and is still weak but fast getting well. Had a good visit with him. In the evening our foraging party came in with three nicely dressed pigs.

Have now another sick man in my detachment. Henry C. Gurney is down with measles and most of the men are complaining with diarrhea.

Thursday February 6th 1862

Last night came on one of those hard thunderstorms so frequent in this mountainous region which lasted all night & today it has been misty disagreeable weather. Strolled about the camp with Stevens who like all who have seen its extent are surprised at our success in taking possession of it.

Friday February 7th 1862

Still lying here in camp. Sick with stress of military camps, the diarrhea. Our Lieutenant in company with his brother & Stevens has gone to Somerset so that tomorrow we look for letters from home. Stevens expects to proceed at once for home.

Saturday Feb. 8th 1862

Our lieutenant returned this morning with orders for our section to march to Somerset. Enroute for Lebanon whither our battery will proceed. As we have no teams for transportation we have been very busy in hunting them up but do not succeed. (Ed. Note: about 45 miles between Somerset and Lebanon, Kty.).

Sunday Feb. 9th 1862

This morning again in search of transportation . Crossed the river to Gen. Manson who could not aid us and as a last resort made an appeal to Col. Fry who is now in command at the post and who kindly furnished us a baggage team and drivers to go as far as Somerset. Left the entrenchments about two oclock P.M. the roads in a horrible condition and our horses very much run down it is with great difficulty we can proceed. When about a mile from the entrenchments one of our best horses failed & fell never to rise again. Rolling him out of the way we harnessed another in his place & proceeded. Marched till dark and camped on the banks of Fishing Creek having traveled about eight miles. Obtained lodging for myself and two sick men. W.C. Gurney and J. W. Sanders at the house of a secessionist who is now in the southern army. Being very tired and sick slept very little. Our boys mostly slept on the ground without tents though the weather was very cold.

Monday Feb 10th 1862

Started very early for Somerset hoping to rejoin the battery there. Having tasted no food in the morning I gave out about noon & though I had no money I stopped at a farm house & asked for a cup of tea which was freely given me. The roads becoming worse we were obliged to send to camp for more teams to assist us & did not reach camp till near night & found that the battery had proceeded without us. There again we were obliged to hunt for transportation & succeeded in obtaining a brigade team to go through with us. There again we were obliged to leave another sick man making in all four of our company left here sick with Mr. Martindale as nurse. On visiting the hospital I was alarmed at the changes which had then taken place in the appearance of corporal Atkin. Had his eyes been closed I should have been sure he was dead. I shall probably never look upon his face again. 'Tis hard, hard indeed to see our brave noble hearted boys left to die among strangers.

Tuesday February 11th 1862

Last night came on a hard snowstorm and this morning snow lies to the depth of three inches and weather very cold. However we broke camp at an early hour and started for Lebanon. Being very weak I could not endure the cold & and was obliged to stop frequently & warm myself. About noon called at a house and inquired of the town if I could get a cup of tea. "you can ask the old woman" said he. Accordingly I preferred my request to the Lady of the house an woman of about twenty years. "O yes you can have a cup of tea" "what kind of tea would you like"? I told her I would prefer a good strong cup of green tea. "We have no store tea but can make you some sage or spicewood tea" Make the sage by all means said I and accordingly she made me the sage tea for which she charged me the small pittance of twenty cents. This is all the nourishment I have taken today. Marched ten miles & camped having passed over the worst road imaginable.

Wednesday February 12th 1862

Started very early passing through the little town of Mt. Gileau. Broke our caisson about noon which delayed us an hour. But managed to make a march of twelve miles during the day. The weather being pleasant have felt better though fast getting weak. Sanders too is running down rapidly.

Thursday February 13th 1862

Broke camp early and reached the Houstonville Pike at Coffers Mill about ten A.M. & marched to within seven miles of Danville. There being completely worn out I again took refuge in the house of P.L. Dandidge a "states rights" man in other words a secessionist who however we differed in opinion treated me very politely the effect probably of being in company with a body of Union troops.

Friday Feb. 14th 1862

Passed through Danville at noon. I am now so weak that I am ordered to take my own time and not try to keep with the train. Stopping frequently to warm myself I am kindly treated & invited to eat but my stomach rebels against food. We reached Bromfields Hotel late & this man like a true Patriot took all our

Grant, with 37,000 men invested Ft. Donelson which had 17,500 men. The defenders decided to fight their way out and opened the road but reversed and went back inside except for Bedford Forrest who escaped with his cavalry. When asked for surrender terms, Grant gave the first of his "unconditional and immediate surrender" terms.

men into his house feeding the sick & administering medicine & giving them good beds. Here we were obliged to leave J.W. Sanders & H. C. Gurney who were too sick to proceed & here G.P. Winterstein was taken violently ill but came on with us.

Saturday February 15

Reached our battery at Lebanon about three P.M. having been separated from them nearly a month. Here we learned that Billings one of our sick left at Somerset had died & that our other sick men there were in a critical condition. Also that Peter Basquin & H. C. Mallory had been left on the road from Somerset being too sick to be brought forward. Learned too that they were left without their clothing. O that I were well enough I would ride back & carry their knapsacks to them. After resting awhile in camp I rode down to Esq. Abells with Steven's discharge from the service & in company with Lieutenant Gary remained over night.

Sunday Feb. 16th 1862

This hospitable family insist on my staying here till I am better & it having become necessary for me to have rest & quiet I have concluded to accept the invitation. No other could more solicitously care for me than does Mrs. Abell. I am very weak, reel like a drunken man in walking but hope soon to recover under their kind care.

Monday Feb. 17th 1862

This morning Stevens started for town in company with Mr. Gary of Pennsylvania preparatory to leaving for home. So here I am alone among strangers. No not alone. He is ever present in whom I trust. "He is my shield & my exceeding great reward" in Whom will I trust.

Tuesday February 18th, 1862

Am feeling some better today thanks for the kind care I have had. Toward night A. E. Graham rode down & informed me that our battery was to leave at nine A. M. tomorrow. Concluded to ride to camp & learn its destination & if possible to go with it. Started & was met by a messenger who brought word from the Captain that we should not leave till next day. Contenting myself I rode back and remained over night intending to start early for Camp. My disease is now pretty thoroughly checked & I think I can go with the battery though very weak.

Wednesday February 19th 1862

Commenced raining very hard in the night & still continues this morning. So here I am a prisoner to the elements. Just at night the rain having ceased saddled up; and started for camp but had not rode a mile when a terrific storm burst upon me drenching me to the skin. Reached camp wet and tired and found the men in a sad plight. The tents being full of mud which they had covered with straw or hay. Having no alternative I camped with the rest and passed a sleepless night.

Feb. 20th 1862

At eight oclock A. M. Broke camp and started for Bardstown. The weather cold and damp. Had to stop frequently and warm myself. Passed through Springfield the county seat of Washington County a very pretty place. Struck Salt River at Fredericksburg & encamped completely tired out and & my disease worse.

Feb. 21st 1862

Struck our tents at eight oclock A.M. and marched over a very good road and encamped about a mile from Bardstown about noon. Here we learned that another of our sick left at Somerset is dead namely Amos Beckwith of Ashtabula.

Saturday Feb 22nd 1862

In camp all day. Raining hard all the time. Wrote letter to Sister Nancy and Ellen and to the sick boys. In the afternoon fired a salute of thirty our guns in honor to the birthday of the "Father of his Country". Our Lieut. very sick with chill fever.

Sunday February 23 rd 1862

At nine oclock A. M. broke camp and marched through Bardstown a "secesh" place and about five miles on the Mumsfordsville Pike and encamped. Then orders came for us to march back to Bardstown and from there to Louisville. Sent letters home. Our Lieut. and Sergt Belding left sick at a private residence [and] will follow us by Railroad to Louisville.

Monday Feb. 24th 1862

Struck our tents at seven in the morning and marched back to Bardstown and took the Louisville road and marched twenty eight miles before sunset being the longest days march we have every made. Passed through some beautiful country & over the best road I ever traveled though a very crooked one. Pitched our tents at night sixteen miles from Louisville in a pleasant piece of timber.

Tuesday 25th Feb. 1862

Broke camp at seven A. M. and marched to within two mile of the city where we encamped about noon there being some misunderstanding about boats to convey us from here. In the evening signed our "pay roll". Lieut. Gary & Sergt Belding came into camp both better but the Lieut. very sick with fever.

Wednesday Feb 26th 1862

Idling in camp today. Weather warm. Troops moving down the river as fast as possible. At noon the Paymaster came into camp and we were paid part of our due. I received thirty dollars of which I sent home twenty by mail.

Thursday Feb. 27 1862

Struck our tents at seven oclock A.M. and marched through Louisville to Portland three miles below on the river. No boat being ready for us I was sent back to the city with Captain Kenny to look out for our transportation. After dispatching the Steamboat Horizon to Portland we rode to the National Hotel where we took dinner which they "get up" here in magnificent style.

Rode back to Portland and assisted in shipping our horses and guns which we accomplished about dark. Took five days rations for our stock which looks as if we were going to take quite a trip on the river.

Friday 28th Feb 1862

At daylight crossed the river to New Albany and took in our supply of coal. River up to high water mark and full of

driftwood. Being quite unwell and the air chilly I did not see much of the shore on our passage down but kept my berth most of the time.

Saturday March 1st 1862

About 130 miles west from Louisville down the Ohio River

Reached Smithland Ky. at the mouth of the Cumberland about four P.M. Here we found out that our destination is Nashville Tenn. Stopped to take in a supply of coal & wood and turned over our prisoners of whom we had several being some of Buckner's guerillas who had robbed the inhabitants of their property stealing their horses & conveying them to Buckner's camp but who are now being in turn roughly handled by the Union men who are returning to their homes from which they had been driven by these rascals.

Our pilot regarding the navigation of the Cumberland as dangerous we laid by till morning. On duty as Sergt of the guard. Delivered our prisoners to the military authorities here.

Sunday March 2nd 1862

Started very early up the Cumberland. The river higher than has been known for many years. Many of the buildings along the river entirely, others partially, covered with water. In many instances the inhabitants have moved to the upper stories while the lowers are entirely submerged. It was amusing to hear the boys hailing the inhabitants with such questions as "What is the price of water lots" "Put your farm in to soak out the dirt & etc." Reached Fort Donnellson about nine o'clock P.M. & laid up for the night.

Monday March 3rd 1862

After breakfast I learned that the **78th Ohio Colonel Leggett's** regiment was here and called on him for an hour which passed off very pleasantly and quickly while conversing of home and war matters. Here I also met several other acquaintances among whom were Lieut. Osborn, Dr. F. Sinclear besides many others .

About ten A.M. started up the river. Passed Clarksville just at sunset. This is a very pretty town viewed from the river but is now almost entirely deserted the inhabitants having fled on the approach of our forces. Those who remain live with closed doors & blinds shut & in many instances with crape tied to the door handles. Laid up for the night about three miles above town.

Tuesday March 4th 1862

From the junction of the Cumberland and Ohio Rivers in Kentucky to Nashville is about 100 miles by land.

Started very early & reached Nashville about three o'clock P.M. having passed two of the enemy's forts erected to command the river but from which they ingloriously fled without striking a blow. We got our horses & guns ashore but slept on the boat. Conversing with citizens I find a strong "secesh" sentiment prevails many of them openly avowing the belief that we shall soon be driven back and the flag of the confederacy be flying over Nashville in a few weeks.

Wednesday March 5th 1862

Landed the remainder of our baggage which occupied our time till nearly noon. After dinner about four miles from the city & encamped on a very pleasant ground. On our march passed the State House a most splendid structure the building presenting an appearance far superior to the State House at Columbus though not as large. The grounds are in an unfinished state and will be probably till the reign of peace is established. Also passed the state prison a massive structure. Found many evidences of the haste in which the rebels left the city remaining in the shape of gun carriages partly destroyed & etc. Passed a nice park of deer at one of the palatial residences on the route.

Thursday March 6th 1862

Weather cold. In camp all day. No event of note.

Friday March 7th 1862

Nothing to report except that one of our men Garrret Seymour of Ashtabula died of fever.

Saturday March 8th 1862

First ironclad battle between the confederate Virginia and wooden union ships which were sunk. The next day, the union Monitor came up and fought the Virginia to a draw.

On duty as Sergt. of guard. Raining most of the day. Spent most of the time in writing letters.

Sunday March 9th 1862

Inspection, Devine Service and dress parade taken up most of the time. Was agreeably surprised by the arrival in camp of P. Basquin one of the sick left at Somerset.

Monday March 10th 1862

In camp all day and nothing to record.

Grant promoted to Major General.

Tuesday March 11th 1862

Same as yesterday except that it rained all day.

Wednesday March 12, 1862

Weather clear and warm.

Thursday March 13, 1862

Raining hard. Sergt of the guard today. Heard of the evacuation of Manassas and of the battle at Gross Hollows Arkansas.

Friday March 14, 1862

Sick with my cough having taken more cold yesterday. Weather warm but rainy. Today another of our company H. C. Mallory of Jefferson died of pneumonia after measles.

Saturday March 15, 1862

Raining all day. I am Oh so lonely today and oh how I wish I could go home.

Sunday March 16, 1862

This morning Horatio Fuller died of pneumonia. He was from Ashtabula and is the eighth man we have lost by sickness of whose death we are certain.

Probably others we have left behind are dead. Our Lieutenant is failing fast so that though he has got a furlough he cannot go home.

Monday March 16, 1862

Sick again with diarrhea and remained in my tent all the time having thoroughly cleaned our camp today shall probably soon leave here.

Tuesday March 18, 1862

Rode to Nashville today to visit Lieut. Gary who is sick with Typhoid Fever. Found him better than I expected and thinks he will not go home though he has a furlough. Received orders to march at seven o'clock tomorrow morning. Am feeling better tonight than I have for many days.

Wednesday March 19, 1862

A hard rain commenced in the night and this morning it is pouring down in torrents. Did not march till nine o'clock A.M. instead of seven. Marched back through Nashville and took the Franklin turnpike which leads me to infer we are on our way to Decatur Alabama. Marched about three miles on the road & encamped with Col. Barnetts reserve on the farm of the dishonorable Robtr. Ewing who promised his "secesh" friends that he would stay with them and shed the "last drop" in defense of their principles but who fled ingloriously the same night. At this place we exchanged fifteen of our worn out horses for fresh ones taken from the Wisconsin and Michigan batteries. I left one man John Foster of Trumbull in the hospital at Nashville. Ten of our company are left namely Foster, Wilson, Arnold, Gates, Sweet, Wetmore, Paul, Lieutenants Gary and Southwick and one man whose name I do not recollect.

Thursday March 20th

At about eight o'clock A.M. we were prepared for marching but our brigade consisting of the 17th 31st 38th Ohio and 12th Ky. Under Brig. Gen Schopf did not come up till noon we could not move. Made but a short march of about six miles through a splendid country and encamped at night on a beautiful plantation.

Friday March 21st 1862

Broke camp at seven o'clock A.M. and marched through Franklin quite a large town where the "secesh" destroyed the Railroad bridge. From here we marched through the "land of cotton". Bales of it being piled up on the plantations along our route. Passed through the town of Spring Kill just at night and encamped having marched about twenty one mile. Last night A. A. LeClear came up with us from the hospital at Lebanon & reports our boys there as doing well except G.P. Winterstein who is very low with pneumonia. The rebels have destroyed all of the bridges beyond here and torn down the Telegraph wires.

Saturday March 22nd 1862

In camp all day & received a visit from Thos. Jackson & Amenzo Brown of the 41st Ohio regiment. I find that "Uncle Samuel" has many boys with whom I am acquainted who are constantly turning up as I travel through the county.

Sunday March 23rd 1862

Raining and snowing today. The weather has been so disagreeable that I have kept my tent all day and spent my time in reading and studying my chart through the voyage of life. May I be enabled to shape my course by that chart which will guide one safe to that haven of "rest that remaineth for the people of God".

Monday March 24th 1862

The weather pleasant but cool. Had a mounted drill in the morning. In the afternoon visited Sergeant Burroughs of the 14th Ohio. Found him quite sick. Rumors reached us that Richmond and New Orleans are both taken.

Tuesday March 25th 1862

Weather pleasant. Drilling my men in infantry tactics. Received letters from home the first I have had for nearly three weeks.

Wednesday March 26th 1862

Drilling and writing letters. Acting Sergeant of the guard today.
Weather beautiful and warm as April in Ohio.

Thursday March 27th 1862

Today we had some little excitement in camp. A likely Negro boy ran away from his master a secessionist who boldly came into camp & claimed the aid of the men & officers to arrest the slave but found no aid or sympathy. Some of the men gave the slave a revolver and told him to defend himself. When last seen by us he was "making tracks" for the woods while his master stood wondering that our soldiers did not obey his bequest and catch his slave for him.

Friday March 28th 1862

The slave owner again visited us with an officer of Gen. Thomas' to protect him but could not find him though he was in one of the tents of Capt. Bidwell's battery.

Saturday March 29th 1862

Ordered to march at eight so we were up at four and ready at the hour but owing to other troops blocking the road we did not move till ten & only marched five & a half miles when we went into camp at about five P.M.

Sunday March 30th 1862

In camp all day. Spent the time in reading and in writing letters.

Monday March 31st 1862

Still in camp. Four of my men have gone to the hospital. Orders having been received to send all men who are complaining. Everything a forced march and battle our orders being to prepare for a forced march.

Tuesday April 1st 1862

Two of my men returned to camp as they did not find the hospital as pleasant a place as was anticipated.

Wednesday April 2nd 1862

This morning at eight we were ready for marching but the press of troops kept us back till an hour later.

Forded Duck River about noon and marched about two miles this side of Columbia & encamped. Another of my men left the hospital as we passed through town and joined us. They complaining very strongly of the treatment the sick received at the hospital. Secession is rampant here the women wishing they had guns and they would drive us from the state and say we shall be driven back as our forces were at Bullrun.

Thursday April 3rd 1862

On the march again at eight accompanied by ten or twelve other batteries. Passed the residence of Gen. Pillow. A splendid place. He has here six hundred acres of the choicest land and five large plantations in Arkansas and owns about six hundred slaves.

An old darky told me he had not been home for six weeks. I asked him why he did not come home. "O de Lor(d) kese all yous arn after him." This country far surpasses anything I ever saw for richness of soil and beauty of landscape. Col. Polk's residence on the adjoining plantation is equally as grand as Gen. Pillow's. Marched three miles beyond Mt. Pleasant and encamped.

Friday April 4th 1862

Broke camp at eight oclock and marched in a hard rain. After marching about half a mile were obliged to halt for an hour in a drenching rain then started & marched about thirteen miles and encamped in the rain. We left the open country and turnpike and again entered the wilderness. Sergeant of the guard as usual when it rains. Took cold and nearly sick.

Saturday April 5th 1862

Ready to march at eight but so many troops were ahead we did not march till twelve and marched about four miles & camped on the banks of a pretty stream.

The battle of Shiloh
(sometimes called Pittsburg
Landing)

This was the first major action after Bullrun and Grant's initial major battle.

A. S. Johnson and P. T. Beauregard concentrated 40,000 men at Corinth, TN to protect the main Confederate east/west railway. This was the largest field army yet assembled by the Confederates. Gen. Grant had 43,000 located on the Tennessee River with both forces just north of the Tenn./Miss. border.

Gen. Johnson marched the 20 miles to attack Gen. Grant on the morning of April 6 with the plan of surprising him and pushing him back into the river. The Union retreated on the 6th with heavy losses although Gen. Johnson was killed in the fighting which demoralized the Rebels.

On April 7th, with Gen. Buell's fresh troops coming on the field, the Confederates were forced to retreat with no pursuit from the Union forces.

Holt's unit was in the part of Buell's army that did not arrive in time for the battle.

Sunday April 6th 1862

Notwithstanding it is the holy Sabbath we were ordered to march at seven o'clock. This however in our case is a military necessity as no forage can be obtained here. Marched very slowly during the forenoon through (not over) horrible roads. Much has been said and written about the union sentiments in this state but till today since we entered the state I have seen but one national flag displayed from a residence. But today we have reached a part of the country where we see the "red white & blue" displayed from many of the dwellings. Found a man from Grange Co. who has settled here. About noon we began to hear firing in the direction of Savannah which the inhabitants tell us was commenced at early daybreak. Camped later at Waynesburg [Ed Note: still 35 miles from Pittsburg Landing] where we could hear one continual roar of heavy cannon. Dispatches were received ordering us to march at three o'clock in the morning. So ends the Sabbath.

Monday April 7th 1862

At early dawn were on the march on the Savannah road. Still hearing the heavy booming of the artillery. Roads very bad. Marched about seventeen miles and bivouacked on the banks of Indian Creek. Lay here about three hours and at nine o'clock P.M. started in the mud and rain and at daylight were about three miles from our camp. Rained hard all night and no sleep or rest for any.

Tuesday April 8th 1862

As soon as light started and after laboring in the mud till about two o'clock camped about five miles from Savannah as we could not cross a large creek which intervenes between us and that place.

Wednesday April 9th 1862

Lying in camp till noon when all the drivers went out on horses after forage. Were obliged to go about three miles to obtain anything for our stock. There are however some wealthy cotton planters along the streams of this apparently desolate region.

Thursday April 10th 1862

The Confederates lost 10,600 killed, wounded and lost; one out of four in total. The Union lost about 13,000 in total.

The combined losses were more than the previous total combined of the Revolution, War of 1812, and the Mexican War.

The battle achieved nothing for either side as both retained their original ground.

Marched at seven o'clock through fields & woods to reach a fording place & after marching for perhaps ten miles reached the outskirts of Savannah & went into camp. Here for the first time for several days we have an opportunity to send letters home which opportunity I improved by sending letters home.

Friday April 11th 1862

Am lying in camp so lame with rheumatism that I can not get down to the hospitals to see the wounded & prisoners. The men who have visited town say that every building is filled with wounded & many still remain on the battlefield.

Saturday April 12th 1862

Rainy and cold. Still laid up with rheumatism. Troops are passing up the river every hour. There is to be a terrible struggle between the forces here and I hope it may be a decisive one.

Sunday April 13th 1862

Lying in camp. Weather very pleasant. Today several of the men sent home their army overcoats as we hope we shall not need them longer.

No they did not send them home. He Captain found on enquiry that no soldier could send any box or packing home from here. So the men had to unpack their overcoats again.

Monday April 14th 1862

This morning early we were ordered to harness up as rapidly as possible in order to embark for Pittsburg Landing and in less than two hours we had everything safely on board the Planet a very large New Orleans steamer and about noon we were landed on the river below our original destination. From here we marched about a mile over the scene of the late fight & camped in an open space where the battle began a week ago today.

Tuesday April 15th 1862

Very warm. Drilling on the piece and lying in the tent or looking over the battlefield. The graves of our men are thickly interspersed through the wood as well as those of the rebels.

Wednesday April 16th 1862

Still in camp. Troops constantly arriving and baggage that has been detained by bad roads coming up in vast quantities. It is really amusing to hear the remarkable feats of personal prowess that each individual has performed in this great battle allowing each one to tell his own story.

Thursday April 17th 1862

This morning we were ordered to move & accordingly packed up and started. After marching about one and a half miles through the woods among the camps that cover the whole country about here encamped about half a mile back from the river in a very pretty place. But all around us are traces of the recent conflict. Graves of our soldiers & of the rebel troops many of the latter with hands & feet protruding from the little mounds of earth thrown over them.

Friday April 18th 1862

Today in camp. Rainy & disagreeable. Received letters from home & from my brother in Carbondale Illinois.

Saturday April 19th 1862

Still raining. Our Captain & Lieut. Miller sick. On duty as sergt. of the guard. Nothing of importance to notice.

Sunday April 20th 1862

Spent the day in reading and writing letters. Still raining and weather cool & disagreeable. Men murmuring & not without cause. Our Capt. started for home this afternoon on a leave of absence for thirty days.

Monday April 21st 1862

Raining disagreeable weather. All our men murmuring because they are obliged to eat in one mess.

Tuesday April 22nd 1862

Weather pleasant & very warm. Rode all the forenoon in search of the **78th Ohio Col. Leggett's regiment** and when I found this regiment was disappointed in finding the Col. who was absent on a military commission. In the afternoon wrote to Father and Mother Leggett.

Wednesday April 23rd 1862

Lying in camp. Weather pleasant. Rec'd a letter from Sister Louise from Franklin Co. Iowa. Nothing occurred worthy of note.

Thursday April 24th 1862

Gen Thomas's Division moved to a front about two miles from the rebel's outposts. Accordingly our battery took its position between Fry's & Schopf's brigade & now occupy the advance. Our battery being so much weakened it has been deemed advisable to reduce it to a four gun battery and this evening the sergeants drew lots for the commands. I was successful in retaining my position and shall command my detachment in the events of our battery.

Friday April 25th 1862

Very rainy & cool. As usual on such days we keep inside our tents as much as possible. Yesterday our skirmishers drove in the rebels advance posts taking 20 prisoners & burning their tents without the loss of a man.

Saturday April 26th 1862

The sun is shining once more and the indications through the camp are that as soon as the roads are in a condition to allow it a forward movement will be made.

Sunday April 27th 1862

Up to this time we have since my last entry in my journal been lying idle in camp. Last Sunday we were paid off & on Tuesday

General Thomas with General Buell's fifth division which came up after the Shiloh battle, joined Halleck's army advancing on the confederates position at the important railway junction at Corinth, Tenn. Halleck had 120,000 men. Grant was taken out of field command and made assistant commander under Halleck.

sent seventeen dollars home. This morning we are ordered to move. Our first Lieut. Miller having tendered his resignation on account of his health, we are now under the command of our Junior second Lieut. Southwick whom the men all most cordially hate on account of his over bearing style & acts of petty tyranny. Marching all day in a drenching rain we found ourselves at night about three miles from our old camp and put up our tents in the mud. Acting as Sergt of the guard at night. I took a severe cold and [--].

It took Gen. Halleck over a month to move to Corinth entrenching every night as he was under the impression that Gen. Beauregard had 200,000 men when, in fact, he had only 52,000 fit for service with another 18,000 on the sick roll.

Monday May 5th 1862

Am so lame with rheumatism as to be hardly able to mount my horse. Broke camp at seven A.M. & after toiling in the mud till four P.M. went into camp about sixty rods from where we started.

Tuesday May 6th 1862

About ten A.M. we started again & the road having been bridged for about a mile we managed to march about four miles & went into camp about dark in an old cornfield.

Sunday May 18th 1862

There was much firing by the pickets during the night. But this morning everything was quiet. About ten A.M. firing again commenced & has continued all day. Captain Loder having opened a fire once from his battery on the enemy's pickets. The rattle of musketry & the din of camp make one sigh for the quiet of a Sabbath at home. Rec'd a letter from home & wrote one in reply to it. Tomorrow I fear the ball will open & though we must conquer it will cost an immense sacrifice of life.

Monday May 19th 1862

A very heavy picket fire has been kept up today. Our battery has been moved farther to the right and nearer the rebels. At night the center section was sent out on picket many shots from the rebel artillery having been thrown at us during the day. From the vicinity of a large house about a mile in our advance which seems to be a favorite resort for the rebel pickets as they seem determined not to give it up. Much severe skirmishing has taken place over it.

Tuesday May 20th 1862

This morning early our left section was ordered out to relieve the center & though scarcely able to sit my horse, I accompanied it. The boys were found completely drenched it having rained nearly all night. The weather is cool & we had a very pleasant time through not allowed to fire at the enemy who several times came in sight. In the afternoon we burnt the house referred to above & fell back. At six were relieved & returned to camp.

Wednesday May 21st 1862

This morning our battery advanced with all of Gen. T. W. Sherman's troops about one & a fourth miles. Being very sick I was left in the old camp. The picket firing has been very brisk with considerable artillery firing on both sides. But we are all unable to learn the results or a list of the casualties.

Thursday May 22 1862

Early this morning the sick were sent for to come up with the battery. On our way learned that our Capt. was at the landing. Reached camp about noon & found the men on a very pretty ridge over which there has been some hard fighting for the right to occupy.

Friday May 23rd 1862

Gen Beauregard , using disinformation techniques, convinced the union forces that he meant to attack. But in reality, he chose to retreat south on the rail line on the evening of May 28, 1862. When the union forces attacked in the morning, they found empty lines.

Last night the Fourth Kentucky regiment was driven in by the enemy but rallied & recovered their position. About ten o'clock all the forces were turned out to throw up entrenchments at which they labored till daylight. This morning in consequence of a rumor brought in by deserters that the rebels have orders to march this morning with four days rations prepared which looks like fight.

Saturday May 24th 1862

Still the preparation for a fight goes on while I am lying here in the ambulance unable to do anything. This evening the captain promised to send me home at the suggestion of Dr. Chase though the favor was unsolicited on my part.

Sunday May 26th 1862

Early this morning in company with LeRoy St. John I was placed in a baggage wagon & being furnished with introductory letters to Ex Mayor G.B.Senter in charge of the steamer Lady Franklin were brought to Pittsburg Landing & having obtained a pass from the medical director McDougall were placed on board when we dropped down the river to Savannah & lay over till daylight when the trip was resumed.

Thursday May 29th 1862

After a pleasant trip all the circumstances considered we reached Cincinnati this evening. My health is much improved & my cough nearly gone though still very weak.

Friday May 30th 1862

This morning were sent to Camp Dennison where aided by a letter from Gen. G. B. Senter we were examined & furloughs given us & our passes obtained though too late to start for home tonight. We are comfortably quartered here in the barracks which are admirably fitted up for hospital purposes.

Saturday May 31st 1862

Reached home late in the evening & found my family all well. My appearance being changed so much that my wife did not recognize me until she heard my voice. How pleasant to again clasp the hand of those who are dear.

Lapse of journal
entries for one month
while at home.

Monday June 30th 1862

After a month's sojourn (in) [-----] (my) [-----] I this morning again started for camp at Camp Chase where all northern Ohio troops are called upon to (reform, respond?). Took the mail train at Madison at one o'clock P.M. & reached (??) about ten o'clock in the evening. Slept in the soldier's room at the depot.

Tuesday July 1st 1862

Returned [?] at Camp Chase & was sent to the barracks to wait an examination before I can go to the battery or home.

These last two days entries are very faint. There are no more entries by Hiram Holt and his daughter starts her journal on Dec 1st, 1863. Either Hiram was sent home after the examination or he went back to the battery but made no additional entries in the journal. I suspect that the war was over for him as of the 1st of July, 1862.

The school journal writer is not identified and makes eight entries between Dec 1st 1862 and Aug 14th 1864, The last entry is dated Fall 1863 (should this be 1865?) noting that she is going to a school at Thompson at a place called Tillotsons Corners and boarding at Mrs. Strange's and gives a list of 16 girls and 17 gentlemen attending with a few following notations as to who married who. One of the entries does reference her father being at Shepherdsville, Ky, so perhaps he did return to the Army after all.

Roster compiled from the various dairy entries

After the battles of Shiloh and Corinth covered in the journal, the Battery went on to participate in the siege of Nashville (Sept 1862), Stone's River (Dec 1862), Battle of Chickamauga (Sept 1863), Mission Ridge (Nov 1863), Battle of Franklin (Nov 1864), and Battle of Nashville (Dec 1864). Moved to New Orleans, June 1865 and ordered home to muster out August 31, 1865.

The Battery lost 1 officer and 6 enlisted men by combat and 1 officer and 26 enlisted men by disease for a total of 33.

Officers

Captain Dennis Kenny*	Sick
First Lt. Miller	Resigned due to health
Lt. Gary, A. O.	Typhoid Fever
Lt. Southwick	Sick

Non-commissioned Officers

Sergeant Belding	Sick
Sergeant Hiram C. Holt*	Discharged sick
Sergeant Turner (possibly from a different unit)	
Sergeant Pratt (“ “)	
Corporal Cristus Atkin*	Sick
Corporal A. E. Graham*	

Enlisted

Arnold,	Sick
Bartholomew, Milo	Died of sickness
Basquin, Peter*	Sick
Beckwith, Amos	Died of sickness
Benton, Andrew	Died of sickness
Billings, Samuel	Sick

Bradley*	
Foster, John*	Sick
Fuller, Horatio	Died of pneumonia
Gates,	Sick
Gary,	
Gurney, Henry E.*	Measles
Hetinger, Luis	Measles
Hickok, Samuel W.*	
C. W. Lyman	
LeClear, Albert A.*	Sick
LeClear, Byron R.*	Sick
Mallory, H. C.	Died of pneumonia
McKee, John*	
Morgan, Francis*	
Olds, Henry*	
Paul,	Sick
Proctor, Edward*	
Proctor, Byron*	
Qualye, Henry*	
Sanders, Andrew S*.	
Sanders, James W.*	Discharged Sick
Sanders, George W.	Sick
Seymour, Garret	Died of fever
Shepard, Newton*	
Snedeker, Harvey O.*	
Stevens, James E.*	Discharged sick
St. John, LeRoy	
Sweet,	Sick
Wardy, Albert I.*	
Wetmore,	Sick
Wickerson, Isaac*	
Wilson,	Sick
Winterstein, George P.*	Pneumonia
Winterstein, Peter E.*	
Woddim, Hiram*	
Wretimyer, Luis*	

*Denotes those listed in original enlistment.

“Sick” notation means having left the detachment at some point and returned later.

Ed.Note: Holt diary referenced eight died from sickness although only six are recorded by name.

About 47 personnel listed by Holt during his service. This includes four sets of brothers.

Addendum:

1. Harvey O. Snedeker, an original enlistee and still in the Regiment in 1864, wrote the following in a request for remembrances of the war:

A "Put Up Job" in the Summer of '64

While "Marching through Georgia", one night after going into Camp, Conrad Bell came to me and said Harvey O, don't you want to make some money? I very quickly answered in the affirmative for at that time our money was run pretty low. He then told me that he had a horse "gobbled up" and that he would to "caboots" if I would sell the animal. I took him up and started out to make the sale. After getting about a mile out of camp, I met a man and offered him the horse for \$25.00. At first he seem willing to take me up at any offer but after a little he was not willing to give the \$25.00. So as I wanted to sell pretty bad, I told him he might have him for \$10.00 but he thought it was a mighty mean trick for one Battery man to steal his horse and another to come and sell it to him again.

But as I was very much in need of the money I could not decide to give my half of the profits.

H. O. Snedeker Oberlin, Battery C, 1st Ohio Light Artillery.

2. Lt. Gary went on to become a Captain and stayed until the unit was mustered out in 1865. He become an attorney at law in Cleveland, Ohio.
3. C.W. Lyman. Wrote to Gen. Barnett in Jan 1889 that he enlisted at the age of 18 from Madison in Lake Co. Ohio and was in the battle of Logans Cross Roads in Jan 19, 1861 against Gen. Zollicoffer from Mill Springs. As the color bearer without colors at the time, he had been left in camp at the beginning of the battle. When scared lightly wounded men returned, he took a soldier's gun and cartridge box and went forward to join the 10th Indiana Regiment skirmish line and started firing on the advancing "rebs". For awhile he was on one side of the roots of an overturned tree and the "rebs" were on the other. The Union forces advanced and the "rebs" ran. He pressed forward and came across a confederate officer dead in the center of the road. He took his gold watch and chain and latter learned the officer was Gen. Zollicoffer. Lyman still had the watch in 1889 when he wrote this.