



Stones River National Battlefield

3501 Old Nashville Highway

Murfreesboro, TN 37129

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Regimental File Donation Form

Donor Name: JAMES W. DIEHL

Address: 207 HAWTHORNE DR.

City: BEDFORD State: IN Zipcode: 47421

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Significant Person's Name: SA BENJAMIN CHAMBERS

Unit: IND. 31 VOL. CO. G

List Contents of Donation Below:

COPY OF CIVIL WAR DIARY

Civil War Diary

of

Benjamin F. Chambers

August 25, 1861

Through

February 2, 1866



31st REGIMENT INFANTRY.

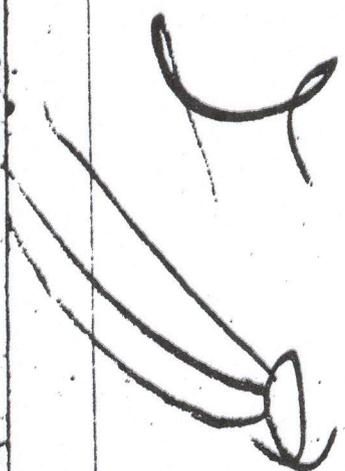
Organized at Terre Haute, Ind., and mustered in September 15, 1861. Ordered to Kentucky and camp at Green River till February, 1862. Attached to 13th Brigade, Army of the Ohio, to December, 1861. 13th Brigade, 5th Division, Army Ohio, to February, 1862. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Army of the Tennessee, to March, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, Army of the Tennessee, to April, 1862. 22nd Brigade, 4th Division, Army of the Ohio, to September, 1862. 22nd Brigade, 4th Division, 2nd Army Corps, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, Left Wing 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 21st Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to August, 1865. Dept. of Texas to December, 1865.

SERVICE.--Moved to Fort Donelson, Tenn., February 11-13, 1862. Investment and capture of Fort Donelson February 14-16. Expedition to Crump's Landing, Tenn., March 9-14. Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6-7. Advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., April 29-May 30. Phillips' Creek, Widow Serratt's, May 21. Bridge Creek before Corinth May 28. Occupation of Corinth May 30. Pursuit to Booneville May 31-June 12. Buell's Campaign in Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee June to August. March to Louisville, Ky., In pursuit of Bragg, August 21-September 26. Pursuit of Bragg to Loudon, Ky., October 1-22. Battle of Perryville, October 8. Wild Cat October 17. March to Nashville, Tenn., October 22-November 8. Destruction of Goose Creek Salt Works October 23-24. Duty at Nashville till December 26. Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30. Lavergne December 26-27. Battle of Stone's River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863. Duty at Murfreesboro and Cripple Creek till June. Action at Spring Hill, Woodbury, April 2. Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign June 23-July 7. Occupation of Middle Tennessee to August 16. Passage of the Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga (Ga.) Campaign August 16-September 22. Lee and Gordon's Mills September 11-13. Battle of Chickamauga September 19-20. Siege of Chattanooga, Tenn., September 24-October 26. Reopening Tennessee River October 26-29. At Bridgeport, Ala., October 28, 1863, to January, 1864. Regiment Veteranize January 1, 1864, and on furlough February and March, At Ooltewah till May. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign May 1-September 8. Tunnel Hill May 6-7. Demonstrations on Rocky Faced Ridge and Dalton, Ga., May 8-13. Buzzard's Roost Gap May 8-9. Battle of Resaca May 14-15. Near Kingston May 18-19. Near Cassville May 19. Advance on Dallas May 22-25. Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-June 5. Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain June 10-July 2. Pine Hill June 11-14. Lost Mountain June 15-17. Assault on Kenesaw June 27. Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4. Chattahoochie River July 5-17. Vining Station July 7. Peach Tree Creek July 19-20. Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 25. Flank movement on Jonesboro August 25-30. Battle of Jonesboro August 31-September 1. Lovejoy Station September 2-6. Operations against Hood in North Georgia and North Alabama September 29-November 3. Nashville Campaign November-December. Columbia, Duck River, November 24-27. Battle of Franklin November 30. Battle of

Nashville December 15-16. Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28. Moved to Huntsville, Ala., and duty there till March, 1865. Operations in East Tennessee March 15-April 22. Duty at Nashville till June. Moved to New Orleans, La., June 16, thence to Texas, July. Duty at Green Lake and San Antonio till December. Mustered out December 8, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 5 Officers and 115 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 5 Officers and 253 Enlisted men by disease. Total 378.

Co. G 31st Regt Ind. Vol.
 was organized at
 Bloomington Monroe Co.
 The Co. was raised by
 Henry L. McCalla who
 afterwards was elected
 by an unanimous
 vote. Captain
 Silas Grimes 1st Lt.
 Wm. Berry 2nd Lt.
 Thomas J. Hay 1st Sarg.
 Left for camp August
 25th 1861 arrived
 in camp Vigo August
 26th was the 7th com.
 Reporting in camp at
 Terre Haute Ind.



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 at Bloomington, Monroe
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 Left for camp August 25,
 1861. Arrived in Camp
 Vigo August 26th. Was
 the 7th company report-
 ing in camp at Terre
 Haute, Ind.

The time was spent in doing guard duty and Drilling untill the Regt was filled up and organized Then it left for Evansville Ind. Oct. 1st. Remained here untill Oct 3rd at which time we moved to Henderson Ky about 15 miles down the River Time was occupied in Drilling and doing guard duty. the measles broke out here and Co. G suffered here share. Henderson is a nice town situated on the south Bank of the Ohio River

Moved from Henderson Nov 1st for Calhoun a distance 40 miles arrived at Calhoun Nov the 5th. Took up camp on the north Bank of Green River. While at this camp Co. G lost heavily by sickness. By Death Benjamin F Taylor. Wilson L Mathers Robert Harbinson Benjamin H Whistenan Mitler M Suthin Samuel Wily. All died of camp fever.

The time was spent in doing guard duty and drilling until the Regt. was filled up and organized. Then it left for Evansville, Ind., Oct. 1st. Remained here until Oct. 3 at which time we moved to Henderson, Ky., about 15 miles down the river. Time was occupied in drilling and doing guard duty. The measles broke out here and Company G suffered here share. Henderson is a nice town situated on the south bank of the Ohio R.

Moved from Henderson Nov. 1 st for Calhoun, a distance of 40 miles. Arrived at Calhoun Nov. the 5th. Took up camp on the north bank of Green River. While at this camp, Co. G lost heavily by sickness. By Death: Benjamin F. Taylor Wilson L Mathers Robert Harbinson Benjamin H. Whistenan Mitler M. Suthin (sp?) Samuel Wily. All died of camp fever.

Discharged
 Trawles Mize
 Samuel Anderson
 John C. Warner
 Gilbert Piercefield
 Our time occupied while
 here Drilling and doing
 Guard duty. took several
 Scouts. All of no purpose
 One to South Carlton
 Ky. about the 12 of Dec
 while at Calhoun we
 were Brigaded with the
 17th Reg. Ky and 25th Ky
 44th Ind. Col. Charles Craft
 Commdg. Brigade

Discharged:
 Trawles Mize
 Samuel Anderson
 John C. Warner
 Gilbert Piercefield
 Our time occupied while
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 guard duty. Took several
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 Ky. and 25 Ky. 44th Ind.
 Col. Charles Craft Commdg.
 Brigade.

Brig Gen Thos
 Crittenden Comg forces
 moved to South Carlton
 Jan 15th 1862 South Carlton
 is a small Town on the
 South Bank of Greenriver
 Distance from Calhoun
 27 miles Our time was
 occupied Drilling Fortifying
 and Felling timber it being
 known by Comg officer
 that Gen Buckner was
 at Bolingron with a
 superior force
 and in all probability
 would dispute our
 footing on the south side

Brig. Gen. Thos. Crittenden
 Comg forces. Moved to
 South Carlton Jan. 15th.
 South Carlton is a small
 town on the south bank of
 Greenriver. Distance from
 Calhoun 27 miles. Our
 time was occupied drill-
 ing, fortifying, and fall-
 ing timber, it being
 known by Comg officer that
 Gen. Buckner was at Boling
 Green with a superior
 force and in all probabili-
 ty would dispute our
 right to footing on the
 south side.

4
of the River. After
Performing the work
assigned we returned to
Calhoun Jan the 31st.
Only remained here long
enough to build comfort-
able quarters when orders
came to prepare 3 days
Rations and be ready to
move by Sunday Feb 1st
at which time we boarded
B J Adams Destination
unknown. arrived
at Evansville on the evening
of the 10th after a few minutes
stay and a few congratulatory

Remarks from the Ladies
~~at Evansville~~
of Evansville we were
steaming down the beautiful
water of the Ohio passing
our old camp at Henderson
the night of the 10th
arrived at Paducah on
the morning of the 11th
Remained but a short
time when we were
ascending the Tennessee
Destination Ft Henry
the place being captured
some days previous by
our troops. Stayed
here only a short time

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of the Ohio, passing our
old camp at Henderson,
The night of the 10th. Ar-
rived at Paducah on the
morning of the 11th. Re-
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When we were ascending the
Tennessee, Destination Ft.
Henry, the place being
captured some days pre-
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here only a short time

and we were descending
the Tenn. arrived at
Paducah the morning
of 12th on the evening
of the 12th we were
ascending the Ohio River
arrived at Smithland
the night of the 12th
while here we hear
in probability that
we would see the enemy
in his full glory at
Ft. Donelson for the
place we were fast steering
arriving at the landing
below the Ft. on the
morning of the 14th

and we were descending
the Tenn. Arrived at Paducah
the morning of 12th.
On the evening of the 12th
we were ascending the Ohio
River. Arrived at Smithland
the night of the 12th.
While here we hear in probability
that we would see the enemy
in his full glory at Ft. Donelson
for the which place we were
fast steering, arriving at
the landing below the Ft.
on the morning of the 14th.

here we took up our
line of march for our
Position on the Battle
field there had been
sharp skirmishing
the 14th the Gun Boats
Operated on the Ft.
30 minutes two O'clock
P.M. of the 14th
Our Brigade moved to the
right and took Position
late in the evening
having a snow storm
on the night on the
of Feb. Co. G furnished
five men for picket
and through the carelessness

Here we took up our line of
march for our position on
the battlefield. There had
been sharp skirmishing the
14th. The gun boats operated
on the Ft. 30 minutes
two o'clock P.M. of the
14th. Our brigade moved
to the right and took position
late in the evening. Having
a snow storm on the night
on the 14th of Feb. Co. G
furnished five men for picket,
and through the carelessness

6

of the officers they
were not relieved that
night their names were:

W T Glenn
Joseph Gaither
A D Gray
J F Johnston
R P Retchans

the next morning of
the 15th Dawn clear
and cold Pickets
were drawn in and
skirmishing commenced
about day light
and the Battle commenced.
Our Brigade was engaged
and repulsed.

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not relieved that night.
Their names were:
W. T. Glenn
Joseph Gaither
A. D. Gray
J. F. Johnston
R. P. Retchans
The next morning of the
15th Dawn clear and cold.
Pickets were drawn in and
skirmishing commenced a-
bout daylight and the
battle commenced. Our
Brigade was engaged and
repulsed

afterwards rallying
and in turn drove
the enemy's side
their works. Co. G
lost one man killed,
his name was Richard
Elkins. He was shot
through the head.
The Regt. lost 7 killed
and 47 wounded.
Federal Forces engaged
40,000 Rebel Forces
Darkness closed hostilities
on the 15th. all kinds
of rumors were afloat
that night. All
speculated on the result

Afterwards rallying and in
turn drove the enemy inside
their works. Co. G lost
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Regt. lost 7 killed and 47
wounded. Federal Forces
engaged 40,000; Rebel Force
20,000. Darkness closed
hostilities on the 15th.
All kinds of rumors were
afloat that night. All
speculated on the result

7
of the movement
of the following
morning. One was
that there would be
a simultaneous attack
Early on the morning
of the 16th and take
the place by a storm
the 16th came in all its
splendor. Then and
there all hearts beat
high Each one wan-
dring but none know-
ing what the 16th of
Feb 1862 would
bring about. While
in this very

Uncomfortable
situation. Col. McHenry
of the 17th Ky. brought the news to
us. That Gen. Buck-
ner had surrendered
his whole force to
Gen. Grant uncondition-
ally. Gen. Floyd and
Pillow and their
command making
their escape previous
to the surrender. 15,000
prisoners, arms, camp
equipage, stock, and
all their supplies.

of the movement of the fol-
lowing morning. One was
that there would be a si-
multaneous attack early on
the morning of the 16th,
and take the place by a
storm. The 16th came in all
its splendor. Then and
there all hearts beat high,
each one wandering but
none knowing what the 16th
of Feb., 1862 would bring
about. While in this very

uncomfortable situation
Col. McHenry of the 17th
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us that Gen. Buckner had sur-
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ers, arms, camp equipage,
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supplies.

9
fell in our hands.
Our Brigad was march^{ed}
in side the works
and to the ground
occupied by the Prisioners
after a Short Stay
at this Place we
were taken out side
of the work to camp
for the night during
the night we got orders
to be Ready to move
at an Early hour
of the 17th. at which
time Rain was falling
in torrents and as
muddy as we ever found

fell in our hands. Our
brigade was marched inside
the works and to the ground
occupied by the prisioners.
After a short stay at this
place we were taken outside
of the work to camp for the
night. During the night
we got orders to be ready
to move at an early hour of
the 17th. at which time
rain was falling in torren-
ts and as muddy as we ever
found

in any of our travels.
But all were willing
and and Ready and
the evening of the 18th
found us at Ft Henry
12 miles by land.
From Ft Donelson
we Remaing here untill
5th of march then
we moved four miles up
the river on the morning
of the 7th we went
aboard Steamer Fanny Bullet
and on the 10th we were
again ascending the Tenn
River arrived at Pittsburg
Landing

in any of our travels. But
all were willing and ready
and the evening of the 18th
found us at Ft. Henry, 12
miles by land from Ft.
Donelson. We remained
here until 5th of March.
Then we moved four miles
up the river. On the morn-
ing of the 7th we went
aboard Steamer Fanny
Bullet, and on the 10th
we were again ascending
the Tenn. River. Arrived
at Pittsburg Landing

march 17th nothing
 of importance occurred
 until the 6th of April
 when Gen. Beauregard
 and Johnston attacked
 Gen. Grant with a
 superior force and with
 succession to the Rebel
 Army. Driving the
 "Feds" to a position
 near the River.
 But during the night
 of the 6th Gen. Grant
 received reinforcements
 from Gen. Buel's army
 and on the 7th drove
 the Rebs in turn

were Driven back and
 made a hasty Retreat
 to Corinth moved from
 Pittsburg landing the 8th
 arrived and went in camp
 May the 1st 1862
 When there was ordered
 on Corinth and by
 gradual approaches
 took possession of
 Corinth 31st without
 any loss the place being
 evacuated on the 29th & 30th
 Left Corinth June 4th
 in Pursuit of the Rebs
 moved 12 miles west to
 Camp Near Booneville

March 17th. Nothing of importance occurred until the 6th of April when Gen. Beauregard and Johnston attacked Gen. Grant with a superior force and with succession to the Rebel Army, driving the Federals to a position near the river. But during the night of the 6th, Gen. Grant received reinforcements from Gen. Buel's army, and on the 7th drove the Rebs in turn

were driven back and made a hasty retreat to Corinth. Moved from Pittsburg landing the 8th. Arrived and went in camp May 1st, 1862. When there was ordered on Corinth And by gradual approaches took possession of Corinth 31st without any loss, the place being evacuated on the 29th & 30th. Left Corinth June 4th in pursuit of the Rebs. Moved 12 miles. Went to camp near Booneville.

moved on the 6th still
 farther South. Remained
 until the 9th when
 orders came to be ready
 to move by three o'clock
 P. M. Traveled until
 10 P. M. Stopped for
 the remainder of the
 night in Jacinto.
 June the 10th continued
 our march and on the
 11th went into camp on
 the Memphis and C.
 Railroad, 3 1/2 miles from
 Puka. June 18th moved
 camp one mile nearer
 Puka.

and camped where
 Breckenridge camped.
 Left Puka June the 21st
 for Eastport. Arrived
 at Eastport the same
 day. Left Eastport for
 the 23rd for Tuscum-
 bia. Arrived at Tuscum-
 bia June 25th. Left Tus-
 cumbia for Florence.
 Distance 4
 miles. Got to the
 River 26th. Commenced
 crossing 27th. Crossed
 Tennessee where Gen. Jackson
 crossed on his way to
 New Orleans.

Moved on the 6th still further south. Remained until the 9th when orders came to be ready to move by three o'clock P. M. Stopped for the remainder of the night in Jacinto. June 10th continued our march, and on the 11th went into camp on the Memphis and Cincinnati Railroad, 3 1/2 miles from Puka. June 18th moved camp one mile nearer Puka.

Camped where Breckenridge camped. Left Puka June the 21st for Eastport. Arrived at Eastport the same day. Left Eastport June the 23rd for Tuscum-bia. Arrived at Tuscum-bia June 25th. Left Tuscum-bia June 26th for Florence... distance of 4 miles. Got to the Tennessee River the 26th. Commenced crossing the 27th. Crossed Tennessee where Gen. Jackson crossed on his way to New Orleans.

11
Arrived at Florence
on the night of the
27th. Left Florence at
for Decatur. Passed
through Rodgerville
June 30th crossed Elk
River 30th. Camped
on Round Island Creek
30th 2 1/2 miles west of
Athens July 1st in land
Town in limestone
County Ala. went into
camp one mile east of
Athens July 1st.
Grand Review of the
Brigade July 3rd.

Arrived at Florence on
the night of the 27th.
Left Florence 28th for Dec-
atur. Passed through
Rodgerville June 30th.
Crossed Elk River 30th.
Camped on Round Island
Creek 30th, 2 1/2 miles west
of Athens, July 1st, in
land Town in Limestone Co.,
Alabama. Went into camp
one mile east of Athens
July 1st. Grand Review of
the Brigade July 3rd.

Grand Review of the
Division at the Fair
Ground near Athens July
4th. Left Athens July
9th. Passed through Ektoron
the 10th. Arrived R.R. Bridge
10th. R.R. at Prospect
July 11th 1862. Left for
Reynolds Station July
14th. Passed through
Pulaska July 15th and
went into camp.
Left R. Station for
Nashville July 15th.
Arrived at Nashville
same day. Went by way
of R.R. a distance of 4 miles.

Grand Review of the Division
at the Fair Ground near
Athens July 4th. Left
Athens July 9th passed
through Ektoron the 10th,
arrived R. R. Bridge 10th,
R. R. at Prospect July
11th, 1862. Left for Rey-
nolds Station July 14th.
Passed through Pulaska July
15th and went into camp.
Left R. Station for Nash-
ville same day. Went by
way of RR, a distance of
4 miles.

12
fine country. Left
Nashville July 30 at
1 o'clock A.M. arrived
at Gallatin at 6 o'clock
A.M. Distance 28 miles
by R.R. Left Gallatin for
Nashville August 1st
arrived same day. Camped
west of the city. Left Nashville
for Murfreesboro August
3rd arrived same day.
Distance 22 miles by R.R.
Camped 1 mile south
of town on the Turn
Pike. Left M... August 10th
August 8th for Mc
Minville arrived at

Fine country. Left Nash-
ville July 30th at one
o'clock A.M. Arrived at
Gallatin at 6 o'clock A.M.
Distance 28 miles by R.R.
Left Gallatin for Nash-
ville August 1st; arrived
same day. Camped west of
the city. Left Nashville
for Murfreesboro August 3rd
and arrived same day. Dis-
tance 22 (or was it 12?)
miles by RR. Camped 1 mile
south of town on the Turn
Pike. Left M... August 8th
for McMinville. Arrived at

Smithville August 10th
Continued our march from
Smithville south 8 miles.
Orders came. Countermarch.
We returned to
Smithville on the 11th.
Camped near the town.
Troops came to Smithville
the 11th, 21st, & 8th Ky. Regt.
& 51st Ohio & one battery.
Left S... for Lebanon
August 12th. Passed through
Liberty 12th. Camped 2
miles west of the town.
Orders countermarch again.
On our road to McMinville.

Smithville August 10th.
Continued our march from
Smithville south 8 miles.
Orders came. Countermarch.
We returned to Smithville
on the 11th. Camped near
the town. Troops came to
Smithville. The 11th, 21st,
and 8th Ky. Regt; 51st Ohio
and one battery left S...
for Lebanon August 12th.
Passed through Liberty
the 12th. Camped 2 miles
west of the town. Orders:
Countermarch again on
our road to McMinville.

the 13th and 14th Reached
 McMinville distance
 50 miles But By our
 countermarching we had
 120 miles Left McMinville
 on a southern trip
 August 24th in a southerly
 direction traveled 12 miles
 and camped. 25th we
 marched 5 miles and went
 into camp. on the 26th
 we returned to McMinville
 and went on Picket.
 Left McMinville Sept.
 3rd for Nashville Passed
 through Murfreesboro
 Sept 7th

The 13th and 14th reached
 McMinville, a distance of
 50 miles, but by our count-
 ermarching we had traveled
 120 miles. Left McMinville
 on a southern trip August
 24th in a southerly direc-
 tion. Traveled 12 miles
 and camped. "5th we march-
 ed 5 miles and went into
 camp. On the 26th we re-
 turned to McMinville and
 went on Picket. Left Mc-
 Minville Sept. 3 for Nash-
 ville. Passed through
 Murfreesboro Sept. 7th.

Left Nashville 8th for
 Gallatin Left Gallatin
 to the north and traveled
 the Louisville Pike for
 Boling Green Ky Sept
 Distance 70 miles. Left
 B.G. Sept 18th for
 Mumfordsville. Passed
 through - 20th Passed
 7 1/2 miles south of the
 Mammoth Cave or cave
 city. The enemy being
 reported at Mumfordsville
 we marched within
 7 miles of Mumfordsville
 on the 20th and camped
 took up the long march

Left Nashville 8th for
 Gallatin. Left Gallatin
 to the north and traveled
 the Louisville Pike for
 Boling Green, Ky. Sept.
 15th. Distance of 70
 miles. Left Boling
 Green Sept. 18th for
 Mumfordsville. Passed
 through on the 20th.
 Passed 7 1/2 miles south of
 the Mammoth Cave or Cave
 City. The enemy being
 reported at Mumfordsville
 we marched within 7 miles
 of Mumfordsville on the
 20th and camped. Took
 up the long march

for Louisville.
 on the 22nd passed through
 Elizabeth town on the 24th.
 arrived at West Point on
 the 25th. West Point is a small
 town at the mouth of
 Salt River 20 miles
 below Louisville.

Arrived at Louisville
 26th camped. Left
 Louisville Oct. 1st for
 Bardstown moved out
 24 miles and drew 4
 months pay arrived
 at Bardstown Oct. 5th
 Rebels left on the 4th
 for -----

for Louisville. On the
 22nd passed through Eliza-
 bethtown on the 24th. Arriv-
 ed at West Point 25th. West
 Point is a small town at the
 mouth of Salt River 20 miles
 below Louisville. Arrived
 at Louisville 26th. Camped.
 Left Louisville Oct. 1st
 for Bardstown. Moved out
 24 miles and drew 4 months
 pay. Arrived at Bardstown
 Oct. 5th. Rebels left on
 the 4th for-----.

Left on the 6th for
 Springfield Passed
 through Lendville 6th.
 Camped 2 miles from
 Springfield. Caught
 up with the Rebs at
 Perryville. Pickets
 commenced fighting
 at 10 o'clock on the 8th
 of Oct and at 12 o'clock
 the battle became
 general and continued
 so till dark. Result unkn-
 own no fighting this
 morning of the 9th up to
 past 6 o'clock at an
 early hour it was

Left Bardstown the 6th
 for Springfield. Passed
 through Lendville 6th.
 Camped 2 miles from Spring-
 field. Caught up with the
 Rebs at Perryville. Pick-
 ets commenced fighting
 at 10 o'clock on the 8th
 of October and at 12 the
 battle became general and
 continued so till dark.
 Result unknown. No
 fighting this morning
 the 9th up to $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6
 o'clock. At an early
 hour it was