Father of Anna Bert Warner.
G. Watson

Taken at Nashville Tenn.
Sep 15/62

Sep 15/62

MIDDLETOWN YANK'S

"JOURNEY TO WAR AND BACK"

Copyright, February 5, 1985

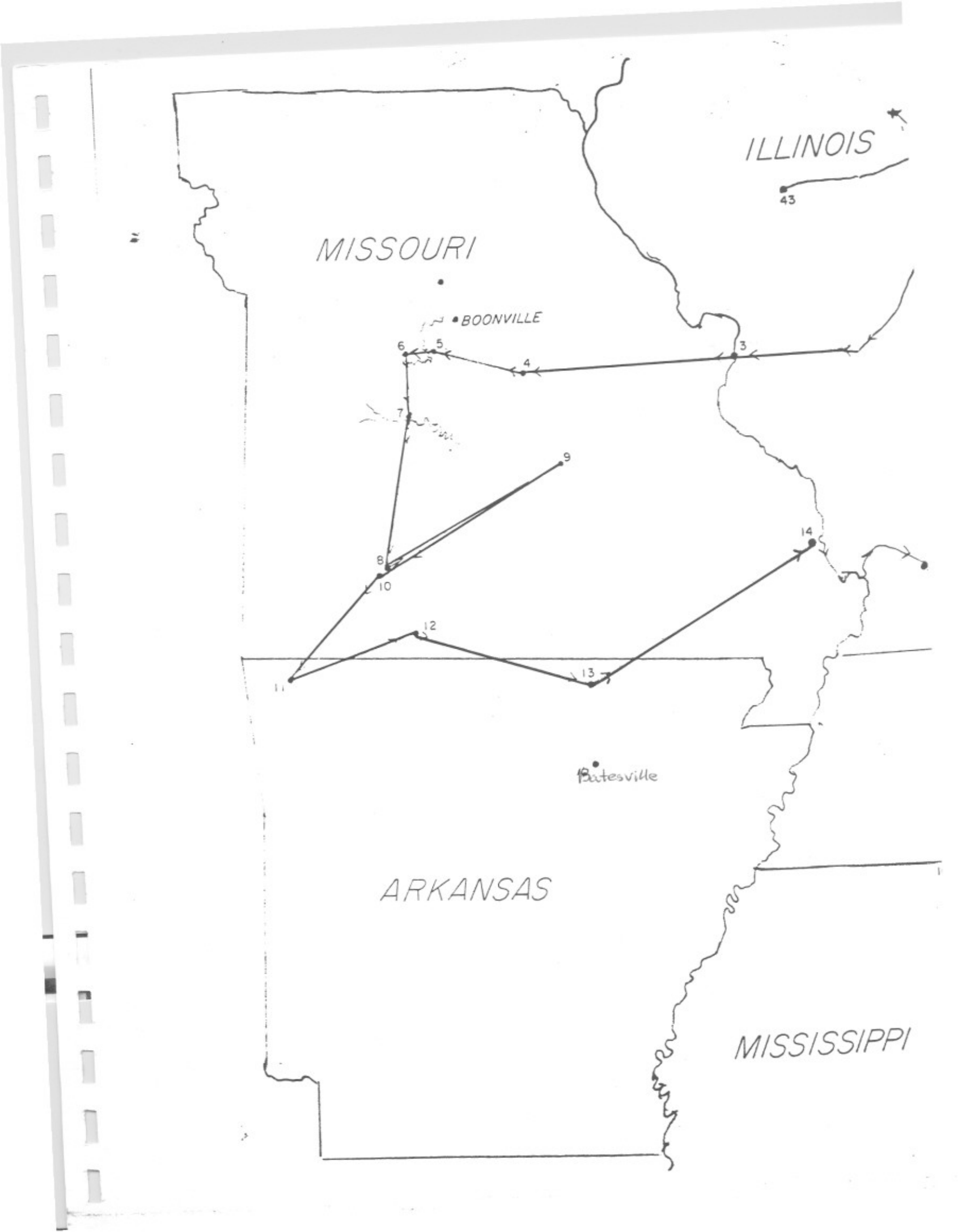
Gerald J Miller
513 S. Russell
Champaign, Il 61821

Company "I", 25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

"Journey to War and Back"

1. Home, East Bend, Middletown, Il
2. Urbana, Illinois
3. St. Louis, Missouri
4. Jefferson City, Missouri
5. Otterville, Missouri
6. Sedalia, Missouri
7. Warsaw, Missouri
8. Springfield, Missouri
9. Rolla, Missouri
10. Fayetteville, Arkansas
11. Sugar Creek, Arkansas
12. Forsythe, Missouri
13. Salem, Arkansas
14. Cape Girardeau, Missouri "The Henry Clay"
15. Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee
16. Corinth, Mississippi
17. Rienzi, Mississippi
18. Jacinto, Mississippi
19. Iuka, Mississippi
20. Murphreesboro via Florence, Tuscumbia, Alabama and Mt. Pleasant, Columbia and Franklin, Tennessee
21. Louisville, Kentucky
22. Crab Orchard, Kentucky
23. Lebanon, Kentucky
24. Bowling Green, Kentucky
25. Nashville, Tennessee
26. Franklin Turnpike
27. Murphreesboro, Tennessee
28. Manchester, Tennessee
29. Winchester, Tennessee
30. Sand Mountain, Alabama
31. Stevenson, Alabama
32. Chickamauga, Georgia
33. Chattanooga, Tennessee
34. Mission (Missionary Redge), Tennessee
35. Knoxville, Tennessee
36. Marysville, New Market, Strawberry Plains, Blains Crossroad, Blue Springs, Tennessee
37. Cleveland, Tennessee
38. Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
39. Marietta, Georgia
40. Chattahouchee River, Georgia **near** Atlanta
33. Chattanooga, Tennessee
26. Nashville, Tennessee
41. Jeffersonville, Indiana
42. Lafayette, Indiana (Great Western RR)
43. Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois
1. Home, East Bend, Middletown, Illinois

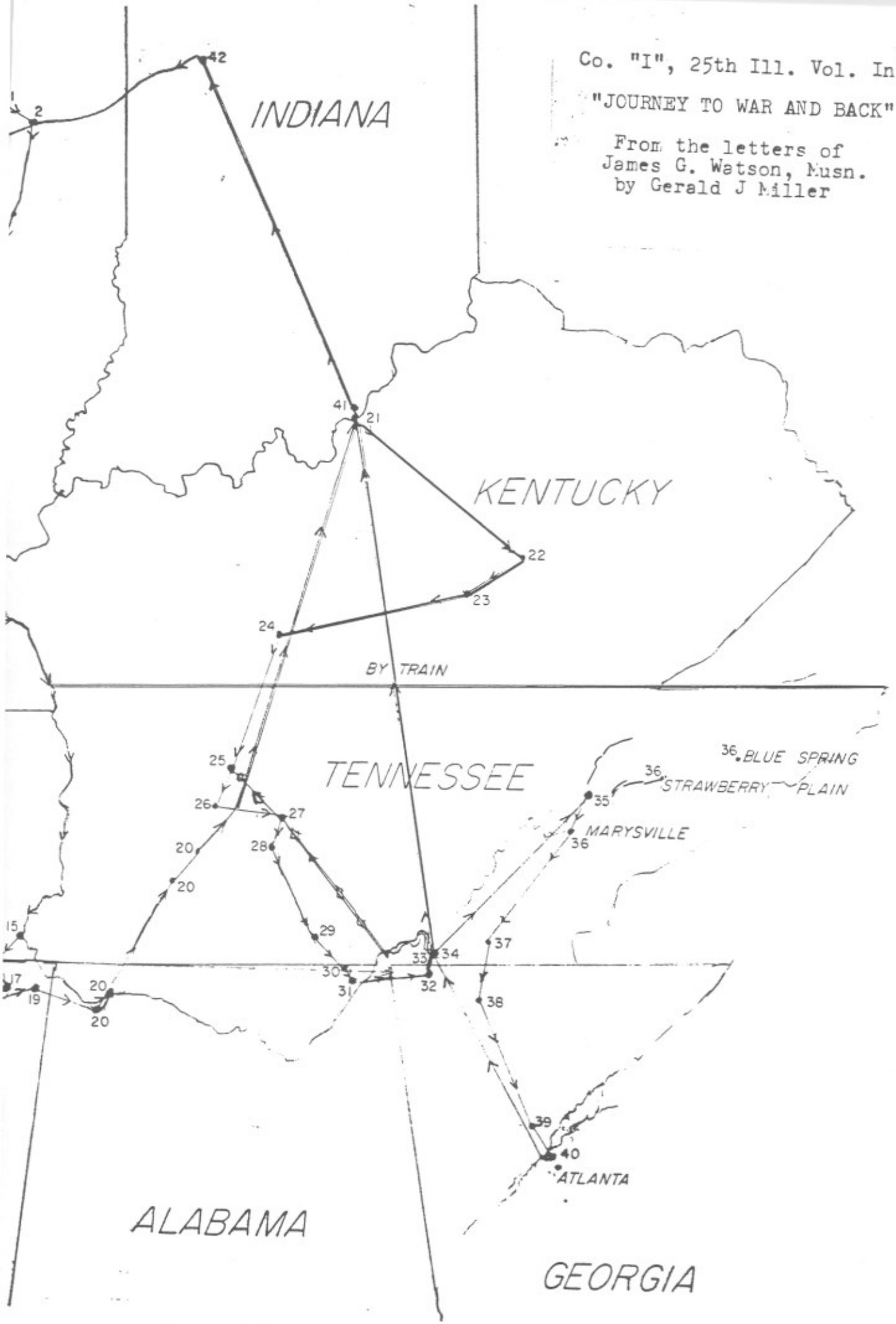
3,252 miles on foot and 1710 miles by steamboat and railroad. Total 4,692.


ILLINOIS
43
MISSOURI
BOONVILLE
6
5
4
3
7
9
14
8
10
12
13
11
Batesville
ARKANSAS
MISSISSIPPI

Co. "I", 25th Ill. Vol. Inf

"JOURNEY TO WAR AND BACK"

From the letters of
James G. Watson, Musn.
by Gerald J Miller



COMPANY I.

Name and Rank.	Residence.	Date of rank or enlistment.	Date of muster.	Remarks.
Captains.				
Samuel Houston	Newcomb	July 31, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Promoted Major
Everet G. Knapp	Champaign	May 24, 1864	July 14, 1864	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
First Lieutenants.				
William W. Brown	Middleton	July 31, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Resigned Dec. 27, 1862
Everet G. Knapp	Champaign	Dec. 27, 1862	Feb. 7, 1863	Promoted
Josiah Stacher	Middleton	May 24, 1864	July 14, 1864	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Second Lieutenants.				
Julius A. Brown	Middleton	July 31, 1864	Aug. 5, 1861	Resigned Dec. 12, 1861
Everet G. Knapp	Champaign	Dec. 13, 1861	Jan. 2, 1862	Promoted
Josiah Stacher	Middleton	Dec. 27, 1862	Feb. 7, 1863	"
First Sergeant.				
Everet G. Knapp	Champaign	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Promoted 2d Lieutenant.
Sergeants.				
Samuel M. Dunseth	Middleton	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Disch. Dec. 12, '61; disabil.
Thomas J. Scott	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
George W. May	"	"	"	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as Corp'l.
John Wesley Moppin	"	"	"	Kil'd, Stone Riv., Dec. 31, '62.
Corporals.				
Josiah Stacher	Middleton	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Prom. Serg't and 2d Lieut.
Benjamin F. Higdon	"	"	"	Disch. Jan. 21, '62; disabil.
Wesley W. Davis	"	"	"	Disch. Dec. 10, '63, as Serg.
Daniel W. Lane	"	"	"	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as private.
Joseph S. Martin	"	"	"	Died, St. Louis, Nov. 28, '61.
James Lake	"	"	"	Disch. Jan. 16, '62; disabil.
Martin V. Marsh	"	"	"	Disch. Dec. 12, 1861; accidental wound
Daniel F. Rouse	"	"	"	Deserted Oct. 2, 1862
Musicians.				
James G. Watson	Middleton	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as private.
Samuel McKinney	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Wagoner.				
William Smith	East Bend	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Privates.				
Anderson, John	Middleton	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Missing since battle of Chickamauga
Bray, Minter	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Banes, Uriah M.	Newcomb	"	"	Drowned near Cairo May 23, 1862
Bower, Valentine	Blue Ridge	"	"	Died, Chattanooga, Nov. 9, 1863; wounds
Bashaw, John		"	"	Re-enlisted as Veteran.
Benjamin, William	Middleton	"	"	Died, Knoxville, Feb. —, '64.
Campbell, Samuel P.	Newcomb	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Chambers, John D.	Middleton	"	"	Disch. Sept. 9, '63; di-abil.
Davis, John	"	"	"	Died, St. Louis, Jan. 15, '62.
Demoree, Lewis	"	"	"	Wounded, M. O. Sept. 5, 1864, as Corporal
Frey, John	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Freelove, William	"	"	"	" "
Fisher, Septimus F.	"	"	"	" "
Fisher, Isaac H.	"	"	"	" "
Ferry, James	"	"	"	Died, St. Louis, Dec. 13, '61.
Garrett, Charles	"	"	"	Died, Rolla, Mo., Feb. —, '62.
Hillsbury, Moses	East Bend	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Hayden, Joseph A.	Middleton	"	"	Disch. Jan. 16, '62; disabil.
Hawk, George W.	Newcomb	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Hawk, William	"	"	"	" "
Ham, Andrew	Middleton	"	"	Kil'd, Stone Riv., Dec. 30, '62.
Hendricks, James	"	"	"	Disch. Jan. 14, '62; disabil.
Herrott, Charles	"	"	"	Died, Rolla, Mo., Jan. 17, '62.
				Corp'l. Disch. Nov. 1, '62; disability
Holoway, Thomas N.	Newcomb	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Hewerdine, Robert	"	"	"	" "
Kurr, Elijah H.	East Bend	"	"	" "
Lawless, Patrick	Champaign	"	"	Re-enlisted as Vet. See new Co. H.
Lane, Henry C.	Middleton	"	"	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as Corp'l.
Mills, Richard	Urbana	"	"	Disch. May 12, '63; disabil.
Minor, Rufus	Middleton	Aug. 5, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Serg't. Disch. Apr. 5, 1864; wounds
May, William	"	"	"	Died, Rolla, Mo., Jan. 24, '62.
Morane, James W.	Newcomb	"	"	Died, Otterville, Oct. 10, '61.
Mitchell, Joseph L.	Middleton	"	"	Discharged for disability.
Plusky, Edward	Newcomb	"	"	Missing since battle of Chickamauga
Parks, Daniel C.	Middleton	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Pittman, Johnson	"	"	"	Corp'l. Disch. Apr. 1, 1863; disability
Peyton, Melvin	"	"	"	Died, Rolla, Mo., Jan. 17, '62.
Ryan, Michael	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Rothwell, William H.	"	"	"	" "
Shaw, Samuel	"	"	"	Died, St. Louis, Dec. 15, '61.
Skillings, Lewis	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Stansbury, Theodore	Newcomb	"	"	" "
Stipes, Isaac	Champaign	"	"	Deserted Feb. 10, 1862
Schloneker, John	Middleton	"	"	Died, Nashville, Jan. 12, '63; wounds
Sluss, George	"	"	"	Died at Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 8, 1863
Wilson, Charles E.	Newcomb	"	"	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as Serg't; wounds
Williams, Adolphus S.	Middleton	"	"	Died at Murfreesboro, T., June 16, 1863
Ware, James	"	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
White, Moses W	Newcomb	"	"	Taken prisoner at Chickamauga, Ga.
Woodside, Robert J.	Middleton	"	"	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Watson, James G.	"	"	"	" "
Vete ans.				
Bashaw, John		Nov. 7, 1863	Apr. 25, 1864	See new Co. H.
Lawless, Patrick		"	"	" "
Miller, William V.		Nov. 5, 1863	"	" "
Recruits.				
Biggy, Eugene	Middleton	Nov. 17, 1861	Nov. 24, 1861	Transferred to new Co. H.
Browe, Alfred S.	"	Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as Corp'l.
Campbell, John A.	Champaign	Aug. 20, 1863		Missing since battle of Stone River
Carson, Joseph	Middleton	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Transferred to new Co. H.
Cherry, Jesse B.	"	Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	Tr. to Inv. Corps Sep. 1, '63.
Conerty, Hugh		Feb. 1, 1862	Mar. 5, 1862	Transferred to new Co. H.
Croddy, John	Champaign	Aug. 20, 1863		" "
Clark, Ezekiel	"	"	"	Died, C'p Butler, June 22, '64
Demoree, Franklin C.	Champaign co.	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Died, St. Louis, Jan. 18, '62.
Davis, James	"	"	"	Died, Murfre'sb'ro Ap. 21, '63
Demoree, W.	Middleton	June 1, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Freeze, Henry	Champaign co.	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 24, 1861	Disch. Oct. 13, '62; disabil.
Gerall, Nehemiah T.		Feb. 5, 1862	Mar. 1, 1862	Transferred to new Co. H.
Groves, Joseph H.	Newcomb	Sept. 8, 1861	Sept. 8, 1861	Kil'd, Stone Riv., Dec. 30, '62.
Harriott, James	Middleton	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Transferred to new Co. H.
Herrick, James T.	"	Nov. 1, 1861	Nov. 24, 1861	Abs., d-t'ch., at M.O. of Reg.
Hinton, Pleman	Champaign co.	Aug. 20, 1863		Transferred to new Co. H.
Hormell, Henry C.	"	"	"	Taken pris. at Chick'ma'ga
Houston, Thomas	"	"	"	Disch. Mar. 7, '63; wounds.
Kilgore, Adam	Middleton	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Kil'd, Mis'n Ri'ge, Nov. 25, '63
Kelly, Augustus		Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	Missing since battle of Chickamauga
Lake, Henry	Middleton	"	"	Died, Chat'nooga, Jan. 5, '64.
McCormack, Joseph	"	Sept. 8, 1861	Sept. 8, 1861	Deserted Nov. 8, 1862
McKain, William	"	Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
Morse, William	"	"	"	" "
Miller, William	Champaign co.	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Transferred to new Co. H.
Nichols, Asa	Middleton	"	"	" "
Nye, Benjamin F.	"	June 1, 1861	Aug. 5, 1861	Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.
O'Donnell, John	Danville	Aug. 16, 1863		Transferred to new Co. H.
Osborne, Richard	Middleton	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Disch. Jan. 21, '62; disabil.
Peyton, George W.	"	Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	Mustered out Jan. 18, 1865.
Rector, Daniel C.	Champaign co.	Aug. 20, 1863		Transferred to new Co. H.
Ridenhower, John F.	Champaign	Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	Deserted Oct. 2, 1862
Spencer, Elijah	Middleton	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Transferred to new Co. H.
Slater, James	"	"	"	Disch. Dec. 12, '61; disabil.
Smith, Phillip	"	"	"	Transferred to new Co. H.
Van Gundy, Felix	"	"	"	Died, Rolla, Mo., Jan. 15, '62.
Williams, William	Champaign	Aug. 16, 1861	Aug. 18, 1861	M. O. Sept. 5, '64, as 1st Sgt.
Wright, Hardin	Middleton	Sept. 8, 1861	Sept. 8, 1861	Disch. Dec. 12, '61; disabil.
Woolington, Henry	"	Sept. 19, 1861	Oct. 21, 1861	Disch. Oct. 9, '62; disabil.

JOURNEY TO WAR AND BACK

Middletown's Yanks

Company "I", 25th Infantry Regiment, was formed around the nucleus of 78 men from Middletown, now Mahomet, Illinois.

The 25th Regiment Infantry was mustered in August 4, 1861 at the arsenal in St. Louis, Missouri and attached to the Department of Missouri to January, 1862. Fourth Brigade, Army of the Southwest, Missouri to March, 1862; 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Army of the Southwest, Missouri to June, 1862; 1st Brigade, 4th Division, Army of the Mississippi to Southwest Missouri to June, 1862; 32nd Brigade, 9th Division, Army of the Ohio to October, 1862; 32nd Brigade, 9th Division, 3rd Army Corps, Army of the Ohio to November, 1962; 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland to October, 1863; and 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps to August, 1864.

This article is written as a tribute to one of the Middletown Yanks, JAMES G. WATSON, and his father who saved the son's letters so that we may have the privilege of "going with" a soldier of the Civil War, to imagine what it was like and, perhaps, to be more thankful for what has been done for us and hopefully, make us more willing to help preserve freedoms we enjoy. James was the father of Bessie Watson Warner who lived with her family "on the hill" at the northeast edge of Mahomet with her husband Bert Warner and sons Coy, George and John and daughter Mary. Some of the Mahomet old-timers will remember that the Warners delivered milk to residents of Mahomet. George and John played in the Mahomet Band.

James had some acreage in East Bend Township. We understand he came to Middletown from Brooklyn, New York, perhaps on the invitation of his Uncle Jonas to whom he refers in some of his letters.

Copies of the letters, pictures, and other memorabilia were unselfishly made available by a great-grand-daughter and great-grandson of James, namely Janet Warner Hogen and Bill Warner, daughter and son of John Warner. The letters have so inspired me in studying Civil War history that I wanted to insure that Mahomet citizens had an opportunity to understand that Company "I" of Middletown did their duty willingly and well and that we can be very proud of them and our home town.

The complete listing of Middletown soldiers in Company I are listed in the State of Illinois Adjutant General's Report; however, names that may possibly be of interest to present citizens of Mahomet are:

Lt. William Brown
Lt. Joseph Stacher
Thomas J. Scott
Wesley W. Davis
John Anderson
John Davis
Samuel Campbell
Charles Herriott
Rufus Miner
Johnson Pittman
James Davis
James Herriott
Adam Kilgore
William Morse
Richard Osborne

Captain Samuel Houston commanded Company I under Colonel W. N. Coler of Urbana, Commander of the 25th Illinois Infantry.

This regiment, including our "Yanks" of Company "I" did not at this time have any ideas concerning what lay ahead of them, but. . . they traveled 4,932 miles, by boat and rail for 1710 miles and by foot 3,252 miles in three years. . .! James G. Watson went the entire distance; some, however, like Rufus Miner didn't. Wounded in the battle of Chickamauga, Rufus was discharged because of disability and died in the Doane House in Champaign on his way home to the Rising Community and lies buried in the Bryant cemetery just south of Mahomet with others of the Miner family.In passing, I would like to call attention to the Doane House. It was an Illinois Central owned Hotel-Depot located on the east side of the railroad tracks just north of Main Street extended, where the city parking lot is located north of the police building.

We are now ready to go with James G. Watson and our "Middletown Yanks" during their three year enlistment. You are invited to review the map reflecting the movement of the regiment and our Company "I". Each location shown on the map indicates that at least one letter was written by James from that location. Each of James' letters is addressed to "Dear Father" and closed "Yours, James G. Watson." As we follow their travels we hope to quote those lines portraying their faith, beliefs, their hopes, their anger, their fears, their hunger and other deprivations.

<u>May 12th, 1861 (still on the farm)</u> "the wheat and oats are growing nicely and I have about 18 acres plowed for corn and 15 more to plow. . .The war spirit seems pretty high here, almost everyone is volunteering their services to their country. . . I have volunteered, and am awaiting a call from the Governor. . .there are about 100 men in our company, all good lively boys, and will do the secessionists some mischief if they get a chance to fight, which I expect they will. . .I think my country needs my services and am willing to sacrifice everything I have in her defense."

<u>August 1, 1861</u> James is on his way. They all assembled in Urbana and "expect to leave on Saturday for St. Louis, where we will receive our uniforms and arms at Jefferson Barracks and drill until further orders." Many WWI and WWII soldiers can relate to this interlude.

(<u>August 3, 1861</u> -- the regiment is mustered in.)

<u>August 4, 1861</u> St. Louis, Mo. "I have arrived at Secessiondom at last. . . Some of our regiment arrived here the day before we did and just missed being captured by a mob of secessionists in the city . . .there are about 40 acres in these grounds surrounded by a stone wall, situated on the Mississippi with plenty of shade trees and buildings and tents. . . I write this on a box of pickax handles. . . since we came here we've baan sleeping in horse stalls, until Friday night, when there was a company of cavalry arrived and we were ordered to give them up. . .now this was pretty hard to have to give up our

beds for horses and sleep on the ground. . . the commanding officer could not be persuaded that a man was better than a horse so we had to go to the guard house or sleep on the ground; we took the latter alternative. . . I have been appointed drum major in our company and have practiced some under the drum Major. I like it first rate, and can drum pretty well now; I am writing this letter on my drum head. . . The city has been under martial law since (riot in the city) and we have had to watch pretty close. . . we have preaching in camp Sunday mornings and it is pretty well attended. We were presented with a testament each just as we were leaving Urbana, so that we have plenty of religious instruction. . . I feel that I need sustaining Grace to keep me from backsliding and being led astray by the influence of those around me. . . pray for us that we may hold faithful to the end, and crush this rebellion and then return to our homes in peace . . . 1st Iowa regiment arrived last night from the battle at Springfield (Missouri). They have had some pretty hard times; they have been on the march for the last four weeks, fighting and skirmishing and going whole days without food, and sleeping on the road, the thicker the dust the better the bed. . . They have lost about 150 men killed and wounded, and have lost a great many of their arms, blankets and clothing and have got very sore feet. . . The companies of the 25th Ill. cooked and carried breakfast to the corresponding companies of the 1st Iowa."

August 30, 1861, Jefferson City, Mo. "I have had the camp diarrhea pretty bad. . . It is a very common complaint. . . We are encamped on a high bluff about 100 ft above the Missouri River, and about a mile west of the capital buildings on a state road. . . the state buildings are situated on a high knoll of limestone which is very plentiful here, in fact the banks of the river are most all limestone, running up in high hills very much resembling the Palisades on the Hudson River. There are a number of regiments in and about the city but the timber is so thick that we can see but a few. Regiments are coming daily . . . we are well guarded on all sides from the rebels. . . A soldier's life is truly a hard life and those who have always had plenty of good food well cooked, feel it pretty hard; many of us have lost our appetites and are getting poor as snakes. We have plenty of hard tack and pork and beef but no vegetables, so you see it is pretty dry eating. . . I don't expect we will have much fighting to do here because there is such a large force here that the rebels will be afraid to attach us. . . Last Sunday the Chaplain started a Sunday School. . . There is no drill on Sunday except dress parade in the evening so we can have school and preaching both."

September 8, 1861 Jefferson City "Most of the Company I along with Company H went upstream (Missouri River) with provisions for Mulligan's Brigade." James, however, was left behind to practice on his drum. "There was a report this morning that our Company were all taken prisoner and six killed, but I hope it is not so. . ."

September 16, 1861 Jefferson City "Our company arrived here safe Saturday evening. . .they started in to guard a cargo of provisions and

stores on the steamer Sioux City to the Irish Brigade at Lexington, but they ran on a sand bar, as the river was so low near Boonville and could not get through. They had to shove her off and core back again; after a good deal of trouble, they arrived here again Tuesday evening and took another company and started again next day. This time they worked around the sand bar, and went as far as Glascow; here they met with opposition in the shape of a cannon ball across the bow of the boat from a battery on shore. Well, they was not prepared to resist artillery, but blared away at them with the muskets, and the first thing they knew the boat was going downstream as fast as she could go, with a regiment of cavalry on shore chasing them and at the same time firing their rifles at the boys..." The retreat was successful and the stores and boat was saved but "one of our boys strained himself inwardly lifting a barrel of flour to build a sort of defense to the engine and boilers. Another had a hole shot through his shirt pocket which was stopped by a likeness he had in it, yet hadn't been nearly spent it would have killed him; another had a ball go through his hand."

September 25, 1861, Bridge over the Lamine River. (near Otterville. . . about 40 miles west of Jefferson City, Mo.) "We did not go to Lexington as I expected, but have come to the Lamine River to guard the bridge on the Pacific R. R. . . . There is a great deal of work to be done to move a regiment of soldiers and their trap on the cars. There was 40 cars and two locomotives in one train but some of them were for companies stationed along the road. Our regiment had to ride in open flat cars, and it was a pretty cold trip too, as it was cloudy and part of the time a cold drizzling rain, but we were in pretty good spirits as there was prospects of a fight ahead. . . but we didn't see a rebel . . .We got good pay. . . as I owe you $10, I will enclose $30.00 in this and make you a present of it, as I have no use for it, and I know you have. . .I wish you would send me sore stamps...a dollars worth. . ."

October 8, 1861, Otterville, Mo. "We moved to town near the depot. We have a very good campground in the edge of a pretty little town. . They say the rebels are preparing to sweep the state of union men, and if they do you will hear of bloody work soon. I don't know why our officers don't lead us out to battle; we have been layin around and getting fat for the last three months. . . I am willing to trust their judgment. . . I am rather inclined to your opinion that of all the politicians and peace criers were in a cave where they could not be seen or heard for the next six months our leaders could do something and the war would soon end; but as it is we can't do anything but what they will set up a howl unconstitutionality or some other big word they don't understand themselves. I have confidence in Fremont, and believe that if let alone he will soon drive the rebels from the state. . ."

October 14, Sedalia, Mo. "I have just bought me a splendid pair of boots for $4.00 and now I think I can travel through mud and water without getting my feet wet. . . we are within a few miles of the end of the Pacific Railroad, and we will have a great deal of walking to do after this. We are expecting to start in a few days to have a fight or a footrace with Price".

October 18, 1861, Warsaw, Missouri. ". . .expecting to head Price off, but he travels too fast for us. . . We are waiting here now till a

bridge can be built across the Osage River a mile distant. We expect to cross between now and tomorrow morning in pursuit of Price if we have to go to New Orleans, but expect to catch him before he gets that far."

October 29, 1861, Springfield, Missouri "We are at Springfield after ten days travel on the road. . . We were 20 miles from here yesterday morning and started at 2 o'clock for this place, we got here at three in the afternoon, and were pretty tired, but when we saw how glad the people were to see us it cheered us up a great deal. There was quite a battle here last Thursday. General Fremont sent out two hundred cavalry as a scouting party to this place when they got here they found about 2000 rebels mostly mounted, they fired into each other and made some bloody work; our boys were surrounded once and had to cut their way out again; the rebels got frightened and ran and left our men the victor. . . they evidently thought that there was more than there really was of us. There was reported 86 rebels killed and a great many wounded; on our side there was 14 killed and about 40 wounded; they are here in town now. . . we are camped close to the battleground now. . . you may expect to hear of a battle soon. I expect to have a hand in it and will do my best; if I am killed you may be assured my life was lost in the discharge of duty."

November 27, 1861, Rolla, Missouri "We left Springfield on the 13th and arrived at Rolla on the 19th a distance of 120 miles in six days, we laid by one day. . . I have a very sore thumb. . . is getting better fast, it was caused by a blister at first and then drumming so much after it. . . We have been chasing the rebels around a great deal but have not taken but a few of them. . . We started (Sigel's Division) one afternoon about four o'clock after a party of secesh that were out on Wilson's Creek, ten miles from Springfield. We got there at ten at night but could not find them; we camped on the old battleground where Lyon (General) was killed. . . The rebels had been there the night before, but had left. . . in a few days we started for Rolla. . . I don't see why in this world they took us from Springfield for; if they had let us gone right on when we were on the track of Price and his band of cut-throats we might have done some service to the country, but no, we must leave them to murder and steal at will, and go to a place when there is no more danger than there is at New York. However, it is none of my business who is general. I think the only way to kill secession in this state is to follow the example the rebels have set themselves; that is, to go in small squads and prowl around in the brush and kill every enemy we see, and take everything he has got, what we can not take destroy. . . Our regiment is supplied with the Fremont tent it is large enough for fifteen or twenty to sleep in. It will be pretty cold living in tents this winter if we stay here, but I hope they will send us further south before long where it will be warmer. . ."

December 13th, 1861, Rolla, Missouri "There is a great deal of sickness in the regiment, in fact (the regiment) is reported unfit for duty. The measles have spread all over the regiment and the mumps

have had full play. . . there also several cases of smallpox. . . the doctors are doing all they can to prevent its spreading, yet I'm afraid it will spread. . . Diarrhea is the main cause of most all disease in camp. . . I don't know how long we will have to stay here . . . we have built a fireplace to our tent and it is a fine thing to warm by. . ."

December 17th, 1861, Rolla, Missouri "Dear Father, I received yours of the 22 (November) this morning and I think if you write any more such flattering letters you will spoil me entirely. I don't see how I could be otherwise than contented when I have plenty to eat and wear and pretty good health generally. . . We have moved our camp and have got a better place away from the other regiments. We are building huts for winter quarters with fireplaces in them and will be well fixed for cold weather. . . There are thirteen in our mess (no centralized mess with experienced cooks) and we can sit around a fireplace and have a nice time cooking and eating this winter. . . I had my likeness taken and have been waiting to receive a letter from you before I sent it. . ."

January 15th, 1862, Rolla, Missouri ". . . glad you received my likeness and that you appear to be satisfied with it. . . health of the regiment is no better. . . one man died last night, a mess-mate of mine, of typhoid fever, he (Felix Van Gundy) was a neighbor of mine and a good man too. . . we went to work on our huts. . . we split logs and set them in the ground about 18" deep in a circle the size of the tent and rammed the dirt against it solid and then filled the cracks with hay and mud to keep it warm, and put the tent on top, so it is high and dry; the logs are four feet out of the ground. We also made a good fireplace on stone and mud and can do all our cooking inside the tent. We received orders today to hold ourselves in readiness to march at anytime, so we may have to leave our nice quarters and take the road this cold weather. . . I am well and in good spirits. . ."

January 30th, 1862, Rolla, Missouri ". . . we have been under marching orders for several days. . . so much mud and rain that roads are almost impassable for teams. . . there is a large force gone from here under General Curtis. . . the advance is at Lebanon 90 miles this side of Springfield. . . I expect you will soon hear of a fight between our army and Price as General Hunter is pushing things in order to get ahead of Lane. . . I will have a good deal of drumming to do now as our leader is sick, and I have to take his place. . . I have all the calls to make alone."

February 8, 1862,Lebanon, Missouri ". . . After marching from Rolla . . . it started to snow about 10 o'clock and snowed all day and part of the night, and then commenced to rain. . . We had to scrape snow off the ground to lay down on; pretty hard ain't it for the first day. . . next day we started about 7 o'clock and marched about 14 miles again; we crossed the big Piney in wagons as it was too cold to wade, the road was slippery and it was hard marching but we toddled along and got to camp tired and hungry, and went to work shoveling snow and putting up our tents, cooked our supper and went to bed on our blankets. We got up at 3 o'clock next morning, got

our breakfasts, and started again at 6 o'clock and marched all day crossing the Gasconde river on a flat boat and camped again. . . we marched 80 miles in five days and are now within about 40 miles of Springfield. It has been the hardest march yet; we had to carry our knapsacks because there were not teams enough to haul them. . . I can't tell anything about plans, but I think we have enough now to take Price this time sure. We had division drill this morning under General Sigel. . . It was a splendid sight to see 15 to 20 thousand men all in line of battle. . . we had a regular sham battle on a level prairie of about 1000 acres or so. . . We liked the fun first rate. . . I hear we have orders to march at any moment. . ."

February 23, 1862, Camp near Fayetteville, Arkansas ". . . we are now 18 miles north of Fayetteville. We got here Thursday and started again next day but were ordered back for some cause or other. . Our advance has had plenty of skirmishing but can't get the enemy to stand for a regular fight. We have taken lots of prisoners and killed a good many, too. We live off the country now as we have no provision train along with us. . .we found considerable at Springfield that Price left in his hurry to get away. . .I have been acting drum major since we left Rolla and have to make all the calls alone mostly. I have to get up often at 2 or 3 o'clock. . .and wake the regiment up and its a cold job too, as my boots would be froze solid and I could not get them on sometimes and I don't get anything extra for it either. . .I expect you will hear about our operations before you get this. . ."

March 11, 1862, Sugar Creek, Benton County, Arkansas (NW Co. of the State. "It is with feeling of gratitude to God for the preservation of my life through this awful conflict that I am enabled to write you a few lines. I am well and have been through all the engagements without receiving a scratch, although there was a perfect shower of iron hail continually pouring upon us for about three days. We have had some pretty hard times since I wrote last; provisions have been scarce and we have had to get our feed off the farmers as our train had not come. We have lived on corn and wheat bread mixed with salt and water, baked in ashes and fresh beef, pork and mutton; we shot them whereever we found them. But it will be easier on us hereafter I expect as our train arrived last night, and we have captured a large amount of commissary stores. On the 6th as a number of small detachments were returning to the main body about noon, we were attacked by about 1000 cavalry. Four companies of our regiment, F, G, I & K had been out the day before to take a flour mill eight miles distant; we got there at three o'clock in the afternoon and staid there till next morning but during the night General Sigel sent for us to return. We started at seven o'clock and marched to Bentonville, four miles through a snow storm. We then joined other companies and went further till we heard firing in our rear. We went back to help them then and turned a battery of the rebels who were on the ridge to our left. After some skirmishing we marched to our camp four miles further on. Next morning there was a regular battle and lasted all day till after dark. We were in reserve part of next day, and did not do much till afternoon, then were sent to support a battery; the rebels tried to take it but we drove them back and shelled them good; they tried it three times, but had to give it up. There was a hard fight on our right till after dark when they ceased firing and lay on their arms for the night. The right wing of the regiment which I was with lay down in the edge of a cornfield close up in the fence corners without any supper, and some had neither coat or blanket, it was very cold too.

"About two o'clock we started off to the right a few miles and made some fires and slept till daylight. About sunrise the battle began again. General Sigel ordered our regiment to lay down behind a fence in front of our battery, where we laid for two or three hours, with shot and shells, canister, and chain-shot flying over and through us all the time. One man in Co. F was killed near me, and a Lieutenant in Co. G was wounded near him, my bed-fellow was hit in the ankle and hurt pretty badly. General Sigel directed our batteries and they did good service too. We were ordered to charge across an open field in our front and drove the rebels out of the brush which we did without much trouble. Our batteries then moved and gave it to them again. We then advanced slowly through the brush and at last came in full sight of them and charged double quick on them, and run them out of the brush. We then lay down and the 22nd Indiana came up behind us and gave them a few volleys when they were ordered to cease firing. As the Colonel's voice could not be heard in such terrible noise, I commenced beating on my drum and they heard it and soon stopped. The rebels had to take 'leg bail' then and threw their guns and everything that would hinder them from running. They lost a good many men and several batteries, our loss was not very heavy, but some other regiments lost a good many men. . . Our cavalry were after them and have captured a good many of them. I expect you wil see a better account of the battle than I can give."

You may have noted that this battle was never mentioned by name but the time it was fought, the place and the severity, all point to the battle that ended serious Confederate operations in Missouri and is known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern or Battle of Pea Ridge, March 7-8, 1862.

March 25, 1862, Camp Huffman, Barry Co., Missouri ". . .I can assure you, for if there is anything that will cheer a fellow up these hard times it is a letter from. . .there has not been much going on; we have moved from place to place on account of the scarcity of provisions and are now making our way east near the state line of Arkansas. Price is collecting his forces and provisions for another stand, I expect. . . his army is composed of raw recruits pressed into service as they are marching along, and lots of them desert the first chance they get; two brothers joined Co. F of our regiment after the battle. . ."

April 11, 1862, Forsyth, Missouri. ". . .I will take good care of myself and will have good care if I get hurt so don't worry at all about me, if anything happens I have plenty of good friends to take care of me and let you know. . .If it is the Lord's will that I should die for my country, I am willing and you should feel as resigned as I do about it. . .we left camp near Cassville last Saturday and have marched over mountains, across streams and through valleys to Forsythe, a distance of 80 miles or more. . .we all felt cheered that Island No 10 was taken." . .(April 8, 1862) "we've had some very hard times since the battle. . . almost impossible to get anything to eat, for our trains or ourselves. . .the worst is over now as our train is here now. . .wish we could get a chance to ride when we next start for we have travelled afoot so much that we are about played out. I have marched at the head of the regiment with my drum and been in all the skirmishing and fighting with the regiment without receiving a scratch yet, although I have been so tired and faint and footsore, that I have staggered along like a drunken man. . .This town is the county seat of Torrey Co., and is on the banks of the White River, it is a nice town but a regular secesh hole. . . cold and rainy day. . ."

The battle of Yorktown, the beginning of the Penninsular Campaign occurred about this time.

April 30th, 1862, Salem, Fulton Co., Arkansas ". . . As we are resting today from our hard march I thought I would write and let you know where we are. We are marching through a very rough desolate part of the country. . . nothing for us or our teams to eat hardly . . . we only marched about six miles a day. . . we got up about 3 o'clock and marched at five generally, but get to camp early so as to let the teams catch up, as it is very rocky road through these mountains. . . They say Price and Van Doren is somewhere south of us and we may have another fight or a footrace soon. . . beautiful weather. . . although it has been very wet. . ."

May 6, 1862, Batesville, Arkansas "We left Salem the 2nd inst at 4 o'clock and marched 22 miles by 3 o'clock. It was a very warm day, and a good many of the boys fell out and didn't get to camp till after dark. If any of us get sick on the march there are three or four ambulances to each regiment, and the doctors get them in to ride, so there is no danger of a man being left on the road to die as you thought. . . this is the best looking town I have seen since I have been in service. . . on the banks of the White river. . . plenty of fine houses in it owned by rich planters. . . steamers ply between here and ports on the Mississippi. This state is a great deal better than Missouri. . . land is better. . . people are more intelligent and thrifty. . . we will have plenty to eat I hope. . . I don't know where we will go next, but am ready to go anywheres. We all think a great deal of him (General Sigel) and I believe if it had not been for him the first day of our last battle, we would have been captured, for we were surrounded and had to cut our way out the best we could; he directed the battery himself and opened a way through them in a hurry. . ."

May 21, 1862, Cape Girardeau, Missouri "We left Batesville on the 10th inst and arrived here this morning. . . hard march of 260 miles in the hot sun and rain. . . we started to Little Rock, Ark. with General Curtis and crossed the White river at Batesville and marched 10 miles, when our division was ordered to the Mississippi. . . we returned and marched to the Cape. . . we came here with General Jeff C. Davis, and suppose he will be our commander now. . . I have been promoted to Drum Major. What do you think of that for a plow-boy one year ago. I have been acting drum major for over three months . . . I am well, and have been, all through the march; I walked all the way, but had very sore feet and was tired as any body could be after going 25 miles a day." (total 260 miles)

June 6, 1862, Camp 20 Miles SW of Corinth, Mississippi "We arrived at Pittsburg Landing on the 25th (May) and camped for the night after being on the steamer Henry Clay about 6 days on the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. . ."

While going through the roster of Co. I, 25th Ill. VOL INF, I read that Uriah M. Baines of Newcomb Township was drowned near Cairo, May 23, 1862. I pondered how a soldier in the infantry would drown near Cairo.

"Next morning we marched out to the lines near Corinth and camped again. We were in the entrenchments two days and expected to have an attack but the enemy left, and so did not get into the fight which was going on at our right. We are in Pope's Army, Davis' Division. Colonel Coler commands the Brigade which is the 25th, 35th, & 22nd Indiana. Our advance is 18 miles from here, and we are expecting to be ordered up at any time. The country is very swampy. . . have to make our road. . . out of brush and dirt so the teams and wagons can follow. . . we wade ourselves. . . haven't seen our knapsacks for five days. . . a blanket apiece; it is fine now but has rained considerable lately. I have sent $20.00 to Jonas, $10 to pay for his work gathering my corn and $10 I lend him. He says I have got 800 bu. and it's worth now 16 cts."

June 9, 1862, Tishomingo Co., Mississippi ". . . we're still at the same camp near the Mobile and Ohio R. R. . .got a nice clean camp ground in the woods. . .we are treated now as strict as the regulars are, for our health I expect. The rebels don't appear to be very anxious get into a fight with us. . .Maria wrote me a good letter about the Sunday school celebration. . ."

June 15, 1862, Tishoming Co., Mississippi " . . .Received your letter of April 26th. . .it had been all over missouri and Arkansas. We had preaching this morning by Lt. Buckner of Co. H. . .made a very good address and is a Methodist minister. . .we got the news yesterday that Fort Pillow and Randolph and Memphis was taken. . .looks as though God was favoring the right, as he always will do, and it only needs energetic action on the part of our leaders, with his blessing on us to bring the war to a close. Since my last (letter) we have marched 25 miles and are now encamped five miles from the Corinth and ten from the river (Tennessee). . .we have to clean off all the brush and make everything clean. . . but it don't take long for a regiment to clear a 20 acre patch with axes and mattocks and spades. . .this is all very well as cleanliness promotes health more than anything else.. . I have a great many things to attend to myself; a drum-major's position is not so easy as some might think for, and there are a good many things I can't do. . .I never have been able to drill at much. I expect I'll resign as soon as they can get another drummer to take my place. . ."

June 26, 1862 the Seven Day's Retreat and General Sherman is reigning in the Shenandoah Valley.

July 3, 1862, Rienzi, Mississippi. ". . .we left camp near Boonville about two weeks since and have been on a chase after the enemy but could not find him. . .they are a set of regular guerillas and are always on the watch for our trains and trying to cut off our supplies. Mississippi is one of the richest of the rebel states and he wealthiest planters are the one who support these bands. We went to Ripley last week. . .fine large town with splendid houses in it and a rich country around it. There were plenty of niggers there all dressed up (it was Sunday)in their Sunday clothes and looked please to see us. There were some very pretty white girls too, but they turned their backs on us mostly. . .we marched toward Holly Springs. . .during the night we were ordered to this place. . .there was a fight at Boonville day before yesterday (14th) and our men lost their camp and several

more killed and wounded. I have not heard the particulars yet. It is very hot here and the water is not very good either and it is surprising that we have such good health; but there is no telling what we can stand till we are tried.

July 16, 1862, Camp near Jacinto, Mississippi. ". . .we're camped here now, but don't expect to stay very long, as we were called up this morning at 3 o'clock and ordered to be ready for a march; but are still here yet. It is very hot now and it makes a fellow feel lazy too; we lay around in the shade and keep cool as we can. We have plenty of good spring water now and a small creek to bathe in. . ."

July 21, 1862, Jacinto, Mississippi. ". . .it encourages a soldier to hear from home. . .I am thankful that we have had such a long continued correspondence with so few lost letters. . .it is one year today since we arrived in St. Louis. There has been a great many changes in the United States since then and a great many battles fought and won on both sides. But when we look around us over the country to see there has not been much done towards crushing this rebellion. . .yet we that have been through all the hardships of the past year think we have done a good deal, and have too. . .we were called up double quick yesterday morning but it was only a squad of cavalry firing on our men out in a cornfield, they were soon driven off by the 22nd Indiana of our brigade..

August 12, 1982, Iuka, Mississippi. "We left camp (Jacinto) on the 4th inst and started for a camp of guerrillas at a place called Bay Springs about 20 miles distant, but had to march about 40 miles in order to get around them and surprise them. . .the day being very hot. . .we had not gone three miles when it got so bad that they had to lay off the road in the shade, for the men were dropping in the road, sun struck every few minutes and lots of them would have died if they hadn't been taken care of promptly. Several did die. I don't know how many. . .I. . .had to lay in the shade or would have dropped in a little while. . .we. . .then halted till dark close to a cornfield. I tell you we went at the roasting ears in a hurry and soon cleaned it out; every fellow got a big armfull and we roasted them in the fire for our supper. . .we then marched on again till 11 o'clock and laid down in a cornfield and slept till three. . .our advance had a little fight but no one hurt; they heard we were after them and had got away as usual. . .next morning we were ordered to return to Iuka."

August 17, 1862, Iuka, Mississippi. "We marched to Eastport on the Tennessee River Monday afternoon and camped on the bank till next morning then crossed on two steamers and one flat boat. The soldiers and horses on the steamers and artillery and wagons, eight at a time, on the flat boat. We haven't received orders to march yet but expect to soon. I don't know where we are going, but are now on the border of Alabama. I was very glad of that receipe for diarrhea of sweet gum bark tea Aunt Wakelin sent me, tell her I have tried it, and therefore can recommend it as one of the best things I ever tried. . ."

The Second Battle of Bull Run occurred near this time.

September 3, 1862, Murfreesborough, Tennessee. "We left Iuka Aug 18th. After the division had all crossed the river at Eastport, we started at 3 o'clock Saturday morning and marched 15 miles next morning. . . we

marched to Florence, Alabama. Florence is connected to Tuscumbia on the Memphis & Charleston R.R. We left our sick men and tents at Tuscumbia, don't know when we will see them again. . .after staying one day went on and marched north, through the towns of Mt. Pleasant, Columbia and Franklin, then turned east and went 30 miles in one day to this place arriving here on the 1st inst. . .we had a very hot and a hard march and our feet suffered terribly walking on the turnpike in the fine stone dust, which made our feet awful sore and mine bled a great deal,as they got perfectly raw. . .I washed them off in cold water whenever I got a chance and soaped the bottom of my socks which helped them some. . .we have formed a junction with General Buell now and suppose he will be our commander."

"We have passed through some fine country lately and the cotton is looking well, so is the corn. . .the cotton is all in bloom and looks very pretty too with its pink and white blossoms. We get all the fruit we can eat now, but the corn is most too hard for roasting. . . just received order to march..."

September 29th, 1862, Louisville, Ky. ". . .we arrived here on the 26th, we have had a very long hard chase after Bragg. . .he has escaped and is now roaming the country at his pleasure, doing all the mischief he can. . .I am disgusted with the way things have been working. . . if we had a General worth anything, I believe Bragg's army would have been whipped at Mumfordsville, but 40 thousand men excaped from nearly twice their number of veteran soldiers. . .you can judge our feelings toward some of our officers, after being on half rations and force marches, and skirmishes for nearly a month and then not gaining anything. . .it is very discouraging. . .lot of new troops here, and some from our place, and it does good to see some of our old neighbors again. . . "

It was here that the 125th Ill Infantry was mustered in and became part of the same Army of the Cumberland. This, too, was a Champaign and Vermillion County Regiment. The great grandfather of Joseph G. Pugh of contemporary Mahomet was in the 125th Ill Inf.

"General Davis joined us here again. . .there is a report that Buell has been relieved of his command. I hope it is so. . .I have heard that General Davis has shot General Nelson."

This affair grew out of the insolence of General Nelsen toward General Jefferson C. Davis who immediately borrowed a pistol and shot him at the Gualt House, Louisville, Ky. General Davis was court-martialed and acquitted.

"We have marched over 600 miles lately through beautiful country generally, with hot sun pouring down on us, and the dust burning our feet, and nearly suffocating us. Our tents are at Tuscumbia and our knapsacks at Bowling Green, we have nothing with us but our blankets."

October 16, 1862, Crab Orchard, Ky. "I like that map that you sent and it is very useful sometimes to find where we are. During the battle all musicians were left in the rear to take care of the wounded and I had the colonel's horse in my care, too. I was ordered to the Regiment with it (the horse) towards night and thinking to have to go back again (to the hospital), I left my drum at the hospital, but did not get a chance as we advanced about 4 miles so had to let it go.

It was a drum we brought from home with us and our captain gave $10.00 for it. There were two others left besides, so we are without music. There is a bugler though and he will make the calls hereafter, for I will carry my rifle. . .our regiment was in reserve with others so did not get in the fight. . .We were under fire a good deal, but would rather have been really in the fight than in suspense as we were expecting every minute to be called on. . .We are in Mitchell's Division, Third Brigade. . .Day before yesterday we had a little brush with Bragg's rear guard but drove them through Lancaster without much loss. Some of our regiments get into a fight most every day. . . I went over to the battleground the day after the fight and saw some of the most horrible sights I ever saw. The ground in some places was thick with the dead, some were torn all to pieces with shot and shell, others had legs, arms and heads off, and their flesh was already turning black, but I cannot tell anymore about the battle than I suppose you already know. . ."

October 24, 1862, Lebanon, Kentucky "It is getting pretty cold to sleep out of doors with no tents, but we are getting used to hardships and don't mind it much. . . We have had a long hard chase after old Bragg, and have had one good fight out of him, so that now he is pretty badly used up; we have been under General Gilbert's command since we left Louisville, but are now in the grand division of Major General McCook and expect that if there is any more fighting done this winter, we will have a hand in it. . . at the Battle of Perryville though Bragg was not entirely crippled, he will not be able to do much more this winter. He has lost a great many men in killed, wounded and prisoners, besides arms and artillery. . ."

November 2, 1862, Bowling Green, Kentucky "Our knapsacks did not come up till after the battle of Perryville and have just pulled off a shirt that I've worn a month and burnt it and the lice together . . . I just mention that so you can see how we have to live while on a long march after Bragg. On the 25th of October snow fell to the depth of four inches. It was very cold the day before, but next day it thawed and left the roads very muddy. We lay in camp during the storm and made big fires and fixed a shelter of rails and corn fodder over us. . . I believe now that General Rosecrans is in chief command that there will be something done before long. I see by the papers that there is another movement on foot in the east and hope it will be more successful than the former campaigns have been . . . direct your next (mail) to Woodruff's Brigade, Davis Division."

November 7, 1862, Nashville, Tennessee "Arrived here yesterday noon after having a skirmish with a squad of Morgan's cavalry 20 miles from here. . . about two miles out we were fired on by the enemy . . . we returned it and drove them into the hills, and killed several of them. They had captured a sutler's wagon just before but hadn't time to get away with (it) but took the sutler and his horse with them. We took the wagon to Nashville, and will probably get some of the things in it for our use. . .Morgan made a dash at the bridge here day before yesterday but General Negley was ready for him, and stopped it. General Sill's Division got here in the morning before us and Sheridan's next. . .It is getting very cold now and I want to see Bragg and his army whipped before spring. You were mistaken in thinking our regiment had 400 men; there are nearer 700 or 800. . .our company numbers 80 men

and there are about 60 able for duty now, the rest being on furlough or sick. . .I am now a high private, and don't have near as much responsibility as when a drummer, except when on guard. I only get $13.00 a month. . ."

November 13, 1862, Nashville, Tenn.". . .we expect to march at any time. . .you seem to be discouraged about the way things are working.. . it is enough to make a well man discouraged let alone one that is sick. I almost feel like giving up in despair of ever seeing the union saved again, and when on a hard march that is doing no good apparently, and am suffering with sore feet or a bad diarrhea, as I often am it is very apt to make me discouraged; but when I am well and hearty I love the life of a soldier with all its dangers and excitements. . . but I think our next march will pay the trouble of marching it, as we are now under a man that understands his business, and won't let the rebels slip through his fingers as Buell did at Mumfordsville and Perryville. The piece you sent about General Rouseau vindicating Buell, I don't believe but on the contrary his division did most of the fighting, while there was at least 10 thousand men idle and waiting to be called into action to help these comrades, who were getting cut to pieces. Ours and Sheridan's divisions were under fire, but not near enough to help, till about noon when Sheridan's were engaged and towards night the first brigade of our division went in and drove them through Perryville and captured fifteen wagon loads of ammunitions. They were obliged to leave the wagons and cut their way back again with considerable loss, while the rest of our division were doing nothing. Next day we were in advance and expected a hard fight but the rebels had left in the night so we were ordered to bury the dead and the cavalry went after the enemy. . .General Gilbert was removed after the battle and also Buell for incompetency I believe. . .General Davis again commands the Division. . ."

November 16, 1862, Nashville ". . . still encamped west of the river near the city, and will be apt to stay till the railroad is completed, for our supplies have to be hauled by wagon about 40 miles and have to be well guarded. . . when we do move I don't expect to stop much short of Chattanooga and then have a fight.

"I am a good deal better than I was at Bowling Green and am on picket today. I have not applied for a discharge yet, but may before long as I don't feel able for the duty that I have to perform and my hearing is so bad, too. . . I cannot hear well enough for a picket. . . cannot hear the commands often. . . it unfits me for duty in that respect; but I am doing the best I can and am ready for anything I can do. . ."

December 3, 1862, Nashville, TN. ". . . the regiment started last Wednesday on an expedition down the river (Cumberland) about 30 miles in wagons and captured 18 barrels of whiskey, 14 barrels of salt and several prisoners. I was on picket so didn't go. They came back Monday evening. . . one thing marred their pleasure. . . the death of Captain Clark of A company. Some of the boys got drunk and disorderly and he tried to arrest them and one was an Irishman, shot him in the head, killing him instantly. He was brought to camp and has since been sent home to prison and will be apt to stay there a good while and may be shot. . . nothing going on here but

what Co. I has a hand in it. There are plenty of rebels at Murphreesborough 39 miles from here, and we may have a fight with them before long. . ."

December 7, 1862, Nashville, Tn. ". . . now camped five miles south (of Nashville) on the Franklin Turnpike (south and west of Nashville and nearly due west of Murphreesborough). Friday it snowed about three inches. Today is a beautiful day. . . I have been thinking about what I had better do if I get discharged this winter. I think it would be better for myself to settle down in Illinois, as I have a pretty good start there now and can make more at farming than at anything else I know of. But then I should like to help you some if possible as it is my duty to do still I don't know of anything that I could work that would suit me as don't like to live in a city after being got used to the country, so I guessI'll pay you a visit and settle in Illinois. . ."

December 21, 1862, Nashville, Tn. "We are still encamped five miles south of the city, but don't know how long we will stay here. Our pickets have not been driven in as you heard, but we have driven theirs in several times. Our lines have been advanced two or three miles further. The enemy's pickets are seven miles this side of Murphreesborough and the country between is neutral ground. It is used for foraging and scouting and we often have a little brush with each other while out foraging. Our regiment went out about six miles from camp towards Franklin and loaded them with hay and corn and returned the same night without seeing one enemy, but they was there the day before. There was a sad accident happened in Co.D as we were returning about a mile from camp. One of the boys while carrying his gun on his shoulder by the strap let it fall and it went off and shot three men behind him two severely and the other slightly . . . General Mitchell has command of the post at the city (Nashville) . . . I don't know why we don't attack the enemy, but am willing to trust General Rosencrans. . . I must now close and will send $5. for a New Years present. I was glad for those stamps you sent."

January 5, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tn. "Now that I have got a sheet of paper and an old scratch of a pen, I will write a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well, and will try to write again when our knapsacks come up. . .left our camp near Nashville on the 26th inst and since then have been through more rain, and blood and mud than it has ever been our lot to see in eight short days. It rained most of all the first day and night and we drove the rebels from their camp at Nolensville; and it was awful hard marching too; we carried our shelter tents and overcoats with us, some had their blankets and some all their clothes, but they got so tired that they threw most everything away. I started with my overcoat, shelter tent and oil blanket, I was so nearly run down the first evening while skirmishing that I threw my tent away, and lost the blanket a few days afterwards. It's pretty cold sleeping out of doors in a rain these times without a blanket, and without a fire either, but I had to do it several nights. I should like to give you an account of our different adventures for the last two weeks, but can

not now. I have been with the grigade all the time and suffered with the rest, and been in all the battles, too. I have seen my fellow soldiers cut down all around me but was not hurt though the bullets flew thick as hail around me, one went through my coat. Colonel Williams was shot through the heart while cheering on his men; he was promoted from a Captain only a few weeks ago. . .I was with him just before he was shot. He had our flag and was calling us to rally around it, but did not see him fall as it was a terrible fight and we were all mixed up. . .his body has just been sent to Nashville to be sent home. . . He was a good man and a brave one too. Major Noding commands the regiment now. He has been on General McCook's staff. The rebels have left here and I suppose their next stand will be Chattanooga. They claim a great victory as usual, but had to retreat. Our loss is heavy but theirs is more so.

"Our brigade of three regiments had to fight a whole division and we held them to it for about two hours, when we were surrounded and had to retreat under a heavy crossfire of grape and cannister besides rifle balls. That was the two last days of the old year and I think it will be long remembered. I have great reason to be thankful to the Lord for his protection of me, through all this battle and believe me I should have been killed if it had not been for it. . ."

Reference the Map of the Battle of Stones River, see enclosure. Co "I" , 25th Ill Inf was in the Woodruff Brigade, Davis Division, Thomas Corps, Under General Rosecrans.

January 27, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tn. (Battle of Stone's River) ". . . I will now try and give you a sketch of our movements before and after the battle. . .I have seen but very little of anything about our division (Davis'). . .
"We had been for three days under fire, but nothing very severe till the 30th of Dec, Wednesday, when part of Johnson's division on our left was driven back by overwhelming numbers, and left us exposed to a terrible fire of artillery and infantry (This was early in the morning of the 30th, the day Colonel Williams was killed) We lay the night before in fence corners near a corn field; it was very cold, too.
"The day before this (29th) we had marched ten miles and laid in a cotton field with rain coming down on us all night without any fire to warm by. Some had their blankets, others including myself none, we pulled up the cotton bushes and laid them in the furrows for a bed and the water run under us all night; in the norning we made some fires and warmed ourselves.

"On Thursday (30th) about daylight the rebels advanced in force from a piece of woods in our front, across a cotton field. We waited until they got near enough and then gave them a sudden volley which staggered them and they had to stop, but tried it again; as we were behind a fence, we had a little advantage of them and held them off for several charges that they made; there was about the hardest fighting of the battle for three or four hours. We were driven from the fence three times, and twice took it again but being overpowered three to one we had to retreat and fought the best we could, every man for himself, under a heavy fire of grape and shell. Our battery which was on our left was supported by 81st Indiana, but the enemy in the first grand

rush captured one gun, but it was afterwards retaken by some of our company and Co. "H", the rebels afterwards took it again, but it was finally retaken by Wood's Division. We being relieved by Wood's Division went to the rear and rested while they fought and drove the rebels the rest of the day. We found out afterwards that Hardee's, Clairbourn's (Cleburne) Cheetham's (Cheatham) divisions were in our front that morning and our division had to do some of the hardest kind of fighting to keep them back, in fact their whole army was massed against McCook's Corps of three divisions. The main cause of our first defeat was that part of Johnson's Division on our left were not expecting an attack so early; their (Johnson's) artillery horses were taken to water and the men were standing around their fires with guns in stack when all of a sudden the rebels rushed across the field in the dark with yells and fired into them so suddenly that it caused a panic and they lost their artillery and a good many men besides. Now you see why we were surprised and Sheridan's also so had to fall back against four times our numbers, after doing all we could and losing a great many of our best men. The next day (31st) we were in reserve. . .on Jan 2nd in the evening the rebels drove our left flank, Crittendon's and Rouseau's Divisions and we went to their aid, with Negley's Division. We had to wade the river three times as it was so crooked there before we got out of it and charged with a yell, and drove them back with great loss. We were in a perfect hailstorm of shot and shell, but were partly sheltered by the river banks and hollows. Negley's Division took a battery close to us that had been doing a good deal of mischief and also a rebel flag. It then being dark, there was no more fighting that night only picket firing; our division went to carrying rails and soon had a good line of defense in case of attack. We laid behind it on cornstalks in the rain and mud all night, but were not molested. After daylight we made fires and warmed ourselves. It rained all day, but there was not much fighting, till in the evening they made a charge on our right, but were driven back; that was their last charge. Our company was on picket part of the day, and laid flat in the mud in a cornfield and kept firing away every chance we got; it was not pleasant you bet with bullets whizzing around us all the time either; even behind breastwork a fellow had to lay low for their guns were of long range. It rained all night and was very cold. About 4 o'clock we got up and started across the river and on to the Murphreesborough Turnpike, where we stopped and made fires and took a general drying spell, there having been so much rain that the river was belly deep, and we crossed a bridge of wagons and rails. We then heard for certain that the rebels had left and were not sorry either, for we were pretty tired and worn out, too, for we had nothing to eat for three days to amount to anything, some eat horseflesh even being so near starved. I gathered up corn that the mules had left and eat it and was glad to get it. . .next day we crossed the railroad bridge and marched through town two miles north where we now are. The rebels tried to burn the bridge, but it was too wet and only burnt the floor out, so we laid plank across the rails and crossed easy. . .It is almost beyond the power of human mind to describe the horrible spectacles witnessed on a battlefield. A man feels when engaged in fighting almost indifferent to the suffering around him, as well as the danger, and pitches in with all his might and don't think about getting hurt hardly in the excitement of it no matter how timid or fearful he may be just before. .