Private Samuel A. Linton, Co. I, 21st Ohio

Patrick
Driscoll on Nashville Pike
Von Cleve Lane (near
intersection)
on Cotton ~~Patch~~ Trail

904 4977

Dec 30- Rested well last night although the skirmish
were fighting all night; and opened at daylight all
along our front; There has been some hot fighting
on the skirmish lines to day; I saw one man
by a cannon shot, taking both legs off. The Johns
are trying to get our range- and are getting the
About 11 P.M. We were ordered on picket, or skirmish
line, where there was some shooting done- About
m the dance opened, and warmed up pretty well-
Dec 31- We were eating our breakfast, when the fight
opened on our right; Orders came to fall in; and
We were soon on the move for the front- We changed
position two or three times; and as we passed by
where a beef had been killed and partly skinned
stoped and cut off a peice; As the regiment moved
past- near by- and moved to a fence between the
Cedars; and Cotton field- I think that this field had
corn in one part of it, We were ordered to lie
down; As we lie here we can hear the fighting on
the right; Soon the enemy charge across the cotton
field. They were met by a well aimed volley and sent
back, But were soon coming again. We had lost Alemson
Veon killed, A, E, Ingraham wounded- Soon we had to
n them again, They could not stand the fire
ll back. Our Col- came along the line and

in his own expressive way complymented us. The
was more fighting; and then came the orders to f
back; George Oleghorn 2nd Lieut of Co. I began to c
and said that it was a disgrace to retreat, and
call on the boys to fight, I suppose that he did
hear the order; But soon there came a fire from the
right, this said to me git; and for the first twenty
I just wiggled my toes and flew, I found nothing
~~nothing~~ in my way that I could not get over. The
were helping me, by their yells and cries of Halt
you d-m yanky s-of a b-ch, run yank. Bullsh
git thar d-m you. I knew that they had just
fired, and if I could out run them; which I believed
I could, I stood a good chance of getting out; As I
doing my best as a trotter on Dixies race grou
I met Charlie Tyler; of Company I, coming on the
run toward me and he said don't go that way Sal
for they are as thick as hell down in there; Well
Charlie they are as thick as two hells back there
and more coming; What shall we do; Sal, must we
surrender; not by a d-m sight; I would not live six
months in a rebel pen; Well lead out and I will
follow; Lead, hell, it's a foot race, between us and
a bullet or the pen, I pulled out on quick time,
Charlie lost second; soon the shells began
ll cutting the trees, bursting here and there

sending [illegible] and as some
of them seemed to come our way, we droped, and up
again, and off, more by guess than by knowing
Soon we began to find dead and wounded rebels
I knew that we were going to what had been our
rear and still believed that this way was the right
one. One of the rebs; asked me if his friend was
coming; I said, I thought that they were; and I have no
doubt, but he thought by my movements that they
were too; As we neared the edge of the cedars, we heard
the command charge; It sounded like a southerners
voice, and my hair raised; The brush was so thick
that I could not see the men; But before I could make
up my mind what to do; I caught sight of the blue
coats, we were soon in the rear of this column; I
found John J. Slater of Company F. wounded in
the arm; I helped him along to our lines; where
we passed between the guns of a battery; and
went to a hospital; I had not got ten rods from
the ~~place~~ Hospital, when I heard a great noise; and on
looking around, I saw the rebel cavalry, charging
on the place; Then I done some more tall walking
I pushed for the pike; where I found some of the 2nd
I asked; where are the rest? The answer; was killed
wounded or captured; I passed on and soon saw others
who gave me the same answer. The pike was

lined with men; some wounded; & but many
that was not; I soon came to another squad of
the 21st Who told me the same story, I said to
to them, I know of over three times as many as
there are here; I just then saw a team that belonged
to Company I, and I made for the back end of the
wagon, and fastened on; and was soon landed at
the Company where it, with the rest of the regiment
were supporting a battery on a small rise of ground
When I reached the ~~Company~~ Company many were surprised
it was supposed that I had been left on the field
When I tried to sit down to rest; I found that part
of a soldier that hits the ground first, to be very
sensitive, and on near inspection found the cause
to be that a bullet had caught up while I was on
the way out of the Cedars and pushed very hard
but could do no more - I was on the git; I was
soon resting at full length on the earth near the
battery we were supporting, we had not yet learned
~~yet~~ who all had been killed or wounded; But it was
known that Corp Veon the one who had said that he
would be killed, and where the ball would hit him,
and it all came just as he had said, Corp M. C. Reynolds
killed; wounded, A. C. Ingraham, shoulder; Sargt R. H.

[illegible]
you can you [illegible] it to carry you through the
hard work before us, But if you should change your
position in the night, I would not know of it, and
would not know where to find you, Capt. We will [illegible]
know, if we do, you go to the fire. We dare not [illegible]
here on this front line. I went back about twenty [illegible]
to a fire; and there took a good restfull sleep until the
sun was up; When I got up I found, Oliver Ingraham
at my back; having crawled, under my blanket after
I had gotten to sleep. We done the best we could on
the breakfast line; but it was a very slim one
We then looked for the company; But it was gone [illegible]
where no one knew; While we were talking, and [illegible]
to get on track of the company - along came the
Provost guards; and took us in; We were marched
up toward the front line, halted and our name
were about to be taken; but when the name of the man
on my right was being wrote, the man doing the writing
got his head down quite near the book; which made
it bad for him to see all things in his front; at once, I saw my
chance and stept around, my right hand man, and
Ingraham done the same, with the man in the rear rank
and thus far we were in good luck, we stept to one
side, to get the lay of the land; we soon noticed that
that there were being marched through our guard

[illegible] with canteen, [illegible]
a spring back of our position, to get water for the
front line; I had a gun and a canteen, and [illegible]
being a musician had no gun; he had been detailed
to help carry off the wounded; I gave him my canteen
and we marched out to the spring, filled the two [illegible]
then marched back through all guard lines toward the
front, not knowing where the 21st regiment had been
sent. I hailted an officer and asked if he could
tell me, He did so, very respectfully, and kindly [illegible]
out to us the battery which it was supporting [illegible]
the position of the regiment, Thanking him [illegible]
on and was soon with the company. We changed our
position near noon, to a very mudy place and [illegible]
the sharp shooters made us flat out in the mud [illegible]
amad snakes They would send a bullet at any [illegible]
that they saw move; While here in the mud Edd
Fields crawled up the line through the mud with
a letter for me - from I. W. Ingraham of Elmore Ohio
How he came by that letter I never learned. We
remained on the front line untile near night when
we got a chance to make coffee; While supporting
the battery I went to sleep, I was so near played
out, that the rebel sharp shooting could not

[illegible]
and I drawl myself up a little more compacted heap
I learn that on the first of Jan we were ordered to
support Gen Haskell, which we did. On Jan [illegible]
in the morning we went to the support of [illegible]
right. About noon or little past, we got a [illegible]
ration of flour, which we prepared the [illegible]
could. Some had cooked it by wetting it up in [illegible]
cups and baking it in the ashes; others had [illegible]
got it mixed partly into dough when the order [illegible]
fall in. Some snatched the dough that had [illegible]
got warm from the fire; others left theirs as it
was, and caught up their guns and fell into line
and away we went on double quick toward our
left front, and laid down on the bank of Stone
River, to wait for the enemy. Soon their batteries
opened fire along their front as far as I could see.
And soon after Gen Breckenridge with a grand
display of troops dashed at Van Cleves division
which had been stationed over the river. They
soon gave way, and came across the river in our
left front, at a ford prepared for artillery; [illegible]
in great disorder; all mixed up infantry and artillery
all comingled [illegible] horses with riders and horses with
harness, but no riders. Wounded being crushed
by the artillery wheels; men with a foot fastened

in the harness and [illegible] with [illegible] heads dragging
[illegible]
Joe who were pouring a deadly fire into them, I noticed
that the horses would never ~~if it were possible~~ [illegible]
a prostrated man in getting over him, they
clear him at abound; but the wheels crushed [illegible]
poor fellow beneath their great weight. As we [illegible]
here, the enemy had an enfilading fire the whole
length of the 21st. And all we could do was to [illegible]
the ground and take it. Wait we must for the defeated
troops to pass, and they must pass the whole length
of our line, Shells were striking all around us [illegible]
whistling every where, and comrades hit on our right [illegible]
on our left, I ask is it any wonder that some talked of
running, even to saying I'll run if you will, a few did
go. But there was one man; Sargt Mike Rice, who did
more to hold the boys in line, at this time than all the
officers we had; and he did it by every few words, we
can check them; and any one who runs now is
a d-m coward; ~~At this~~ all hug the ground the harder
and kept quiet. Then came the order-Attention 21st [illegible]
Shoulder armes; Ready, left oblique aim; Fire,
Load, and fire, at will-Load; The fire concentrated
by a left oblique [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Bayonet
[illegible] Away we went
the most of Company I struck the river at the ford, a
place where the banks had been cut about 15 feet wide [illegible]
the artillery might cross; Here some stoped for a moment
and Elias S Jackson, fell shot dead - John Anderson
wounded in the leg; Lieut Bumpus, leg flesh wound
John Fitzgibbon hand; R Rice leg. I had my
left hand on Lieut Bumpus's shoulder when he
was hit. He was just stepping in to the river I
leaped past him and went for the other bank
as there were too many blue pills falling in the
water for me to believe it a healthy resort, I reach
the bank all right; and had fired once; and was
loading; When a man at my left, placed his gun
on the top of the bank which was about breast
high, and droped his head to sight his gun; When a
ball from the rear struck him in the back of the
head, and his brains went over and beyond his
gun; I droped down below the bank, and called to
Capt McMahan of Co C who was out in the water
saying Captain, this man was killed by one of our
own men. He wanted to know, how I knew; And I
told - He was facing the enemy - and his brains are
strewing in front of him. He then ordred every one
to move forward; and those in the rear to stop

firing; I sprang on top of the bank and ran
out [illegible] I soon found others and Lieut
Wood with them; We moved on untill we came in
sight of a battery, Joe Higgins, while lying down
was hit in the top of the shoulder, by a spent ball
He got up, put his hand in and picked the ball
out, saying there I'll keep that; Take it cool boy [illegible]
it cool; I captured a Johney, and turned him [illegible]
to one of Co C who had been wounded; Lieut Wood [illegible]
down a reb and caught him. We finished up by coming
in and help take a four gun battery just beyond the
Woods, The enemy fell back into their works And [illegible]
fell back across the riven; When I came to the river
I found a very tall man sitting in the water, [illegible]
was a very cool bath, He began to beg to be helped
I took a hold of him, and helped him across the
river, Just as I came to the bank, our regimental
surgeon, came up, jumping from his horse he asked
Sam are you hit; I said no but this fellow is,
He grabed the man by the coat pulled him up the bank
and almost threw him down; then as he began to rip
the mans pants to get at the wounded leg, he looked
up at me and; said so your not wounded; I answered
[illegible]

A yes - it it is - I was shot, No you was not it is a bayonet
And at that he stuck his finger in the wound - to
satisfy himself - then fixed the fellow up, and we
carried him to afire; Then he turned to me and said
Now as soon as you can, get this fellow on a ambu-
lance, and then come up to that house upon the
hill, do your hear, Yes sir; Well you will come with
you Yes sir; I then sat down by the fire, and I
noticed over on the other side of the fire was a man
that was about to breath his last, The comrade that was
with him was doing all he could for him, he gave him
water from under the bank, and tucked the blanket
down, and again he would kneel by his side and
talk to him in low tones as sweet as a womans,
He died before midnight. I got my man on an ambu-
and then I went up where I had been ordered - and
sat by afire, when I could not do better, The house
was full of officers of all grades, While on the
charge I came up with W A Fink, who was resting
his gun against a small tree while he took aim -
I said Bill what are you doing here - Getting revenge
G-d-m them, His bother Emmanuel had been wounded
and died at Pittsburg Landing, After the fighting
was all over, the boys who had saved their dough - began
to try again to bake it Mart, Bowland, had caught
a rabbit, and had carried in his haversack before

he got a chance to cook it, And in to this sack he had
dumped his dough; and now when he drew it out,
Mart almost beleived it to be the same old
rabbit, as there was far too much hair for the
dough to show up, But after a few moments spent
thought, Mart, felt sure that he was not in a trance
nor a dreaming, but what he had in his hand was
flour and river water, with out salt, dressed in a
way a French cook dreamed off, Mart eyed it but
his stomach said, try it. We dreed it and
may be like the singed cat, better than it looks
Mart pulled the coals apart, and with trembling
hands and averted face put new concoction
there in. The other boys thought that he was burning
his rabbit, But Mart said to me Sal I never
ate anything that tasted so good. Jan 3 I found
the company on a hill, apart of the battle field of
yesterday, A house built of loggs was demolished and
used to make a breast work, while rolling the logs
down the skides; a man was struck on the head and
killed, Our boys are gathering up the dead, and
bureing them, We find that those who fell on the
21st striped of their clothing. It has rained nearly all
some time. We of the 4th done no [illegible]

While in this light breast Works the [illegible] sent in a dose of Canister, one striking the Works just back of where a German [illegible] smoking his old black pipe; it came [illegible] and rolled down against dutchys back. He felt back behind him found the ball took his pipe out of his mouth, looked at the boys - and then at the Canister, then holding it up called out Py Cot Poys dot is shust like dot we hash in the old Country. Then put it down and leaned back and resumed his smoking

We [illegible] in and near our works made in
haste of logs and dirt, I found a place to rest and
dry in a cotton house, where I covered up well in
cotton, and came out of my nest on the morning
Jan-4-dry and well covered with the cotton from
head to foot; I find many dead are yet on the
field, the wounded have been cared for our [illegible]
and a squad of men have been out over the field
looking for the boys who fell on Wednesday, [illegible]
be accounted for, but Corp- M.C Reynolds who
could not be found; It is now known that Corp
A J Veon- and M.C. Reynolds and private [illegible]
Jackson were killed; Sarg't R.H. Caldwell, R Rice Corp
J M Parker; Joe Higgins, and privates W H
Cheaney; A E Ingraham; L White, John Anderson
John Fitzgibbon Phil Hutchison- and Lieut [illegible]
and Eli Sarns
Bumpus, wounded, James Reynolds; Caldwell
and Anderson very severely; Garret Kating,
Everson Wainwright and Charles Tryon Missing
Killed wounded; and missing, total 19- or about
one in five, our boys who fell on Wednesday were
left by the enemy where they fell; except M.C.
Reynolds who [illegible] as one of their own
to eve sleeping; The boys who [illegible]