



April 26, 2005

Jim Lewis, Park Ranger
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Dear Jim,

Enclosed are multiple documents I have been able to gather regarding the life (and death) of Orlando Wells Nash, who died December 31, 1862 at the Battle of Stones River. The compelling story of local citizens travelling down to Tennessee to reclaim the body of Orlando W. Nash has been documented by two diaries and a newspaper article. One of the diaries specifically mentions the condition of the body, confirming a positive identification. Crystal Lake Cemetery records also confirm the burial in Crystal Lake on February 3, 1863.

The military records from Washington D.C. indicate that Orlando's personal effects were lost in the engagement. Which leads me to still wonder if his personal items were buried with another body, or perhaps just by themselves in the Stones River National Cemetery. Perhaps we'll never know.

On May, 22, 2005 the Crystal Lake Historical Society will be hosting a Memorial Service dedicating the newly-installed headstone for Civil War soldier, Orlando Wells Nash at the Crystal Lake Cemetery (now known as Lake Avenue Cemetery). I will forward a copy of the program booklet to you after the Memorial Service.

Thank you for your interest in our story of a young man, who lost his life serving our country. I hope to someday visit your Battlefield, and pay my respects to Orlando's "other" grave.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Kenney".

Diana Kenney, President
Crystal Lake Historical Society

Transcribed from original documents located at the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Library, Springfield, Illinois, Manuscript collection.

Written from Hospital No. 20, Summer Street, Nashville, TN
Portion of a letter from J.H. Sackett to his brother, dated January 10th, 1863

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in due time and was glad to hear from you once more and to hear that you was all well. The letter found me well and I hope that these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. You have in all probability before this heard of the great fight at Murfreesborough or Stone's River, 27 miles from Nashville, Tenn. We marched the next day after Christmas and skirmished until Dec. 30 when the fight began in good earnest and there was heavy artillery fighting all day. We gained considerable ground but the next morning the rebs had been reinforced from Chattanooga and they overpowered us and drove us back and ent(sp?) our men up pretty badly. Our men fell back to the heavy cedar timber and there made a stand and fought until the 2nd of January when they evacuated Murfreesboro and left the place in our hands.

Note: According to the Illinois State Archives, John H. Sacket (note only one "t") served in the 36th Illinois Regiment, Co. H. He is shown as a resident of Hebron when he enlisted. Records also indicate that Sacket died at Nashville, February 9, 1863 from wounds. His rank was Private.