



## Stones River National Battlefield

3501 Old Nashville Highway  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
Phone: (615) 893-9501, Fax: (615) 893-9508



### Regimental File Donation Form

Donor Name: Guy R. STALLMAN  
Address: 6950 TOWNSHIP ROAD 551  
City: HOLMESVILLE State: OHIO Zipcode: 44633  
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Significant Person's Name: DAVID STALLMAN  
Unit: CO K 51ST OHIO OVI

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List Contents of Donation Below:

SEVERAL LETTERS  
1 LETTER FROM DR. CHARLES GENTSCH TO DAVID STALLMAN

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*John Berger*  
Received By

12-30-12  
Date

Forward this form and the donated items to Jim Lewis for cataloging. **DO NOT** place uncataloged materials in the regimental files.



Columbus, O. March 4<sup>th</sup> 1889

Know Ye That the records of this office show that  
David Stallman  
was enlisted as a Private in Company K  
51<sup>st</sup> Regiment Ohio Vol Regt, on the 14 day of Oct  
1861, at New Philadelphia, Ohio, by Lewis Mueller  
and was mustered into the United States service as such for the period of three  
years, on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 1861 at  
Leavelle Dover, O., by Capt Belknap  
U.S.A. Mustering Officer, and that he was discharged of  
Aug<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1863 at Westville Tenn on Surgeons  
Certificate of Disability;

W.S. Mishaw  
Adjutant General of Ohio

Camp Andrew Jackson March 1, 1862

Dear Sister,

I take the pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know that well at present and hope you are the same. We left Paducah on the 23<sup>rd</sup> morning and went up the Ohio River till the mouth of the Cumberland River and then we went past a fort at the mouth of the river we passed Fort and Donelson and a great many more forts where the Sesesh had been. We Zolizopher and their we seen the cannons lying around on aside of the where the sesesh had tried to roll them in the river they had no time to them away. We passed too railroad bridges and one suspension bridge that they burned down. Then tried to burn the suspension bridge but it didn't burn fast enough for them and so they pulled a lot of their cannons on and broke it down. And the cannons are in the river now. We landed in Nashville, Tennessee in the morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. When we landed got off the boats and went up town and lade in there till in the evening and then went 2 miles south of the city and camped there. In the morning early on the 27<sup>th</sup> orders came that every man was to have one days cooked rashuns in his haversack and his knapsack packed and his gun and catridge box on ready for a march at 6 o'clock and so we got ready for a fite. We was sure for a battle, because their was no teames to go along or no tent to be taken down. As soon as 6 oclock came the company was called into town and we started off and the cornel took us over to town and thair led us into too hospitals and put us to work. They was sesesh hospitals that the left in a big hurry. The houses was very darty, the floor was full of str and boots and knapsacks and old clothes and all kinds of dirt. We scrubbe the floors and cleaned the houses very nice and clean and in the afternoon our cornel got orders to send 6 companies back to camp. So our company and 6 others went back to camp and 4 staid in town with the Cornel to guard the town. Our Cornel is Provost Marshal of the city of Nashville and he stays thair and 4 companys with him and 6 companies is in camp 2 miles south of Nashville. I do not no what will be don with our companies but I think we will stay hear and if their is not enough guards they will take us over in town. I found a Sesesh leter that I was going to send to you to read but it is lost. There was lots of letters found in the hospital. When we got off the boats and marched up in town some of the people was so scart that they hid under the floars and some run out in the woods, and some hid up in the garet, and one woman was so scaret that she fainted. The rebels told them that the yankees would kill them and everybody that we came acrost and that scart them so bad that there was not a house open. And the people would peep out of there windows and around the corners of the houses. There was 200 Sesesh Cavalrymen in the town watching us coming up the river but when we landed they took to their heles and left. We catched one rebel in #0 town. There is 16 thousand rebels in Murfreesboro 8 miles from hear. Yesterday one of their niggers ran off and came hear and told us that there was 16 thousand in Murfreesboro and they heard that we had 100,000 men in Nashville and now they have left. But they cannot go far for some of our men are coming up that way and they will get in a bad fit. The last I heard of them vegetables they opened the boxes and distributed the eatables among the sick that left behind and the clothes will be sent on. Some of our men think we will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at home and I wouldnt be mutch surprised we would the way things are going.

I must bring my letter to a close. I will write soon again when I get paper. Our settler is not hear yet and the comissary has none at present but will soon get. We will have meating tomorrow in the fuir house which is near our camp.

My best respects to all them that wants to hear from me.

Roy Stallman reporting

David Stallman 51st Regiment  
Co. K O.V.U.S.A.  
Andr

Camp Wickliffe Dec. 25th, 1861

Dear Father, Sister, and Brother. I take the pleasure to sit down and write you a letter to let you know that I am well and hope that you are the same. Dear sister I have not much to write yours this time. I send you a letter about a week ago and I haven't heard any answer and I thought I would write to you this morning while we are not drilling today. We are all well here there is no one of my friends sick that I know of. This morning the boys were out hallowing I want my Christmas gift but they did not get much only what they paid for at the grocery. Day before yesterday we drew some money but very little. Our company only drew \$2 and 60 cents. We drew from the time we was mustered into service till the 31st of October. Our company was mustered in on the 26th day of October and so we only drew for 5 days wages. But some of the other companies was mustered in 2 months before ours and they of course got more pay. Our company was the last company mustered in this regiment. But we will draw some more money in a week or two and then we will get as much money as before we are all paid till the first day of October and when we get payed again we will get payed for two months, from the first day of November to the last day of December. And we will get paid regular every two months from this out. I thought it was not worth while to send two dollars and 60 cents home but I will try to save it till we get payed again and then I will send you all that I can possible get. We have a grocery in our regiment and some of the boys spends more than they make. They get checks for 8 or 10 dollars and then they go and spend it for cakes and cigars and everything that they see and then when they go to get there pay the grocery ceper draws there money and then they get nothing. When we got payed the other day there was lots of boys ode the settler 9 or 10 dollars and some as high as 21 dollars and then the settler got their pay and what didnt reach he will get the next time they get payed.

But I didnt owe the settler one cent for I stay away from his grocery only when I wanted some paper or envelopes ore any thing that I had to get I got and paid for it and you no that I did not spend much for when I left home I didnt have over 75 or 80 cents and out of it i got my likeness taken and the pair of suspenders 25 and threat a nd naidels and so you no that i didnt spend much money away folishly, and now I have most of my my money while most of the rest has none. The weather is very warm theas fue days. It changes very often in a week. Saturday we went out on picket guard. It was very warm and plesant till in the morning and then it chamenst to rane as hard as it could pour down till in the evening and then another company releaved us and then we started five miles for camp and it was very dark and muddy. And on the way some fell in the mud holes and some in runda that had raise very high and some got wet and mud all over. We ware all wet from end to end so when we got home some of us got dry clothes on and some went to bed wet with all there cloths on. We were all very sleephy because we stood guard all night. And when we was sound asleep about 12 oclock there was a great noys in the camp. The captans and lliutenants was running to the tents boys boys get up as fast as you can and get your gunes and some of the boys was so that they could not find anything there shoes and close was froze so hard that we could not get them on for long time and then they formed us in line of battle and then the general gave commande that we should go to bed. You never saw any captans so foled so bad in your life. Some of the captans had their haversacks on with about four days reshuns in it. we all thought that we all thought we ~~is~~ was going to have a battle. We was all right but how did we look. Night before last we heard them cannonading and they cept it up till last night about 12 oclock. But we dont kno whare it was now what it ment but it was south of us.

Write soon Dont forget. I send my best respects

youens alland to Mr. Teelreas and all  
my friends. Tell John to write to me ~~what~~ what kind  
of Christmas he had. David Stallman, Louisville, Ky.

Roy Stallman reporting

51st regiment OVIUSA

Gleanings from various diaries and notes of David Henry Stallman

Sept. 10, 1874 I married Louisa Miller. We went to Millersburg & took the train to Chicago. Got a hotel and in the evening # I am writing while Lou is reading". In fall 1874 Jacob Miller gave Lou (Louisa) \$75 to buy furniture. In spring 1875 I started farming on shares. I got 3/5 and gave Jacob Miller 2/5. In spring of 1875 he gave Lou 1 cow, 1 heifer, 4 pigs, 1 small sow, 6 sheep, and 12 chickens. I paid \$50 for a reaper and mower. I had one mare 3 years old. I traded a colt and \$40 to Jacob Miller for my other horse (Dick).

From other sheet : 1874 , \$500 on Sharon Bridge -very warm & raining. Going around town with commissioners and city mayor hunting men to work. 11 A.M. started for Holmesville. Arrived Akron 3:30 P.M. and Millersburg 7:45. Got horse & rode old white horse to Holmesville. Run in wagon & man horse back. Horse fell down , big time, very dark.

Aug. 27 arrived at Massillon. 28 At shop office settlin. 29 went Holmesville. 30 Sunday warm. 31 4A.M. started Massillon .P.M. finished settlin Massillon Bridge Co. Sept.1 received \$125 on Sharon Bridge. Started for Sharon 1:30 P.M. arrived 8 P.M. stopped at Shanango House. Sept.2 I went 14 miles to Mercer.

Notes, addresses, etc from another notebook - W.W. Morgan Co. Kansas City. Kansas Dept. State Auditor's Office Southwest room. 51st OVI Reunion at Columbus, O. Thursday, Sept. 13 in West Va. Tent on E. Broad St. Rudy Bair 137 Sterling St. Columbus, O.; H.C. Stallman Mille Ave.; G.H.H. Stallman 118 Lingo 28th Ward , Cincinnati, O. ; Mrs. E. Sands 203 South Z. ; Marton Bailey, Grove Port, Ohio; W.H. Stallman, Jasmine, Ky. ; 1902 paid Hudson plow shoes 2 pair rubbers \$2.90 ; Oct. 27 bought R.I. Flack 30 lbs sugar & 1 gal. oil \$ 1.62 ; Cincinnati to Somerset 473 mi. & to Chattanooga 975  
Jacob M. Evans Blair, Nebraska; Martin V. Huff , Miami, Saline Co. N.W.  
1845 Henry Stallman left Little York, Marion Co., Ohio was in Fredericktown, Wheeling, W.Va. died about 1878 (tombstone shows 1886). Miller Allen Stallman born July 21, 1875 6 A.M. ; Made \$350 clear putting up 2 bridges on Paint Creek 1876. Worked on bridges at Delphi, Ind. ; Oct. 20, 1882 started for Holmes Co. For sick lambs: 2 teaspoons gasoline & 4 oz. milk, 3 doses 24 hrs. apart. Hess 778 yds. @ 10 \$77.80 ; Moved on Moreland Farm 1st Nov. 1882 ( Home farm 62 A. on Twp Rd 329)

John Henry Stallman son of Johann Jorgen Stallman and Anna Catherine Schurmann of West Cappeln Germany. John Henry 1803 - 1886 married Anna Rochester (of Switzerland) 1815- 1854 . Children: Mary 1839 - 1854, Catherine (Kate) 1840 - 1923, David 1843 - 1917, William 1845- 49, John Daniel 1849-1905 , Louisa 1854- 1855. All buried at Bolivar except Kate at Melshimer Cemetery, David at Prairie Twp., John, Melshimer Cemetery.

David Henry volunteered as private 10-11, 1861 Co. K 51st Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry at New Philadelphia, O. for 3 years. Left sick at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Aug. 1862 (considered deserter). Sept. 2, 1862 rejoined & ~~reinstated by~~ reinstated by Gen Crittenden. May 25, 1863 sent sick to Nashville, Tenn. Aug. 27, 1, 1863 discharged for disability -- chronic diarrhea by Gen Rosecrans at Nashville, Tenn. Sept. 23, 1864 Re-enlisted at Alliance, O. for 1 yr. Co. G. 179 OVI Regiment Ohio Infantry. Appointed Sargent Sept. 26, 1864. Mustered out June 17, 1865 at Nashville, Tenn.

~~In 1915~~ For some years he had received \$ 4 per month disability pension so in 1915 he re-applied for an increase. On the form which he had to complete was the question --are you living with your wife? David's answer was, " She just now called me for dinner. so you know we are living together!"

A deed for Lot # 24 in the village of Martinsburg in consideration of \$5. June 27, 1831 to Peter Heinkel and wife Molly from John Moore recorded 12-26-1834 in Vol.3 page 14 by D.P. Leadbetter, Recorder, Holmes Co. ?

Roy Stallman reporting

From David Stallman's Memoranda Book of Civil War As he wrote it

I, David Henry Stallman enlisted in Co. K 51st O.V.I. at Canal Dover, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio in September 1861. We left Canal Dover sometime in October, went to Wellsville, Ohio in cars (by train) then took boats down the Ohio R. to Cincinnati. Went to Camp Dennison (or some camp near there). In about two weeks we took boats to Louisville, Ky. We marched about 7 miles to Camp Harden near Green River, Ky.

We were there during the fight where the rebel general Zollicoffer was killed. We could hear the cannonading very clear. Got orders to march to West Point on the Ohio River. Sometime on or about February 1862 we took steamboats up the river to Kenelton then down the river to Paduca, then up the river to Smithland. This was the time of the Fort Donalson & Fort Henry fight. We were under General Nelson. We had some 15 steamboats and 3 iron-clads. From Smithland we went up the Cumberland River to Nashville, Tenn. We were on the boats 9 days. The river was very high. Marching from near Green River to West Point was very muddy, then it snowed and it was mud snow and got very cold. Then we had rain most of the time to the river.

Our regiment (51st) was the second regiment in Nashville. When our boats landed there were plenty rebel cavalry in the city but they lit out as soon as we got off the boats. As we came past Fort Henry & Donelson we could see the big cannon rolled down the river bank and some in the river. When we got to Nashville Floyd had burned the large bridge across the Cumberland River. The people most all of them hid & some ran to the woods. They thought we would kill them all.

Our regiment went into camp in a large storehouse near the river. Some time after (about 2 weeks) I took typhoid or lung fever & was in the hospital some time, then went back to the regiment. We were Provost Guard at Nashville about 6 months. Then the rebels were coming to Murfreesboro and we marched there, then to Shelbyville and Tallahoma, Tenn. There we threw up breast works and cut down timber to get behind. By this the rebel cavalry got around to Murfreesboro and captured some artillery. Then we took cars to Murfreesboro. On the way the train got off the track. Two or three men were hurt, one colored boy was thrown off the top of a car in a stone pile and very near killed him. I took a relapse of fever and was sent to a hospital in Murfreesboro. Got better and went to regiment at McMinnville, Tennessee. The rest had just started on a march. This was the Buell Campaign the time Bragg tried to take Louisville. We marched to Nashville through Bolden Green, Cane City to Louisville. This was in fall of 1862. We stayed at Louisville about 2 days & got paid.

While we were at Louisville General Nelson got shot in a hotel. We then started on a march about 9 or 10 miles from the city we found the rebels. There was some fighting the first day's march and fighting more or less every day until the rebels got through the Cumberland Gap. At Crab Orchard we had quite a fight. In the evening or early night at Perrysville we had a hard fight. The 51st supported the artillery. Bullets flew in every direction but our regiment lay in front of the artillery and had to lay still while the artillery did the fighting. This was in the afternoon.

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Next day we marched on and went through Danville, Lexington, Stanford, on to Somerset, Pulaski. Got to Somerset one evening and slept on the streets. In the morning we were covered with snow. I got a pair of shoes out of a shoe store. The boys took all there were in the store. We then marched to Camp Wild Cat on Cumberland Mountains. The rebels got Cumberland Gap then we turned after getting past Lexington. We were on half rations part of the time, almost starved. Often we would go where they fed the mules & horses to pick up grains of corn and parch it to eat. I saw two men fighting for a piece of cracker they found in some old straw, where some men had slept and lost it.

From Camp Wild Cat we started for Nashville. It was now late in the fall and getting cold. We went through Silver Springs. Near Silver Springs we was camped about two weeks on a hillside. I got a large hogshead & filled it half full of straw to sleep in. Our company was on the hillside. I had to drive some stakes in the ground to keep the hogshead from rolling down the hill. One night some of the boys got out and found some apple jack and got drunk. When they got to camp some of them pulled the stakes and let me and my hogshead rolling down the hill. Soon after we started on our march for Nashville sometime in November, I think. We camped about a mile from the city. December getting very cold and plenty snow.

Reenlisted Sept 23, 1864 for one year at Alliance, Ohio Co G 179th OVI  
Regiment Ohio Infantry. Appointed Sergeant Sept 26, 1864. Mustered out  
June 17, 1865 at Nashville, Tennessee.

Letter from Charles Gentsch, M.D. 802 Franklin Ave. Cleveland, O.

My Dear Comrade:

Dec. 19, 1902

A busy man cannot always find time to answer as promptly as he would like to such kind letters as yours has been.

I take it that you are enjoying good health and from the reference you make to your daughter that she is quite young and that probably she is the youngest of your flock or that you married late in life -- of course I shall be very glad to answer very fully your reference to the bullet; but 40 years quite have passed since the incident, and the very rapid course and change of events at the time can not all alike deeply impress us - Excepting therefore or in a dim way, the facts you relate come back to me - As I recall the battle of Friday, Jan. '63 you and your blanket must have been stuck about the time or shortly before the right of our regiment started to give way under the impetuous charge and the overwhelming force of the enemy - I remember well hearing the fierce rebel yell when the charge began and a moment or two later looking to the right and seeing the rebel flag passing to our right near along the bank of the river - coincident with this our companies formed right to left yielded to the pressure of the charging columns and the turn of Company K came - We broke in considerable disorder and soon all organization was gone - In going to the rear I soon ~~came~~ overtook Lt. Everhard of Company C who that day had been assigned to the command of Co. K in the absence of any of its own commissioned officers - He informed me that he was wounded in his left arm near the elbow, if I remember rightly, said he would find a hospital and that he did not need my help and directed me to do the best I could to bring the Co. K together. - On the crest of a slight knoll, a hundred yards or so behind our original line at the edge of the cottonfield you have spoken of, I passed into the ranks of the 19th Ohio and lay down behind a log, and began firing at the rebels who were every where to be seen in the woods, in front of Beatty's Brigade, which we had just vacated. I do not remember at this time ever seeing a single member of Co. K - While lying behind the log Lt. Col. May of ~~Co.~~ the 8th Ky. came riding up from the left toward the right. - He was riding a fine black horse at good speed - The rebels were firing grape and shrapnel and one of these struck the horse killing him instantly. The horse went down on his front knees with his hips well elevated and apparently never moved from this position. Col. May was not thrown but gained his feet instantly with the death of his horse never looked back at the poor animal but ran directly past me as though he had not at all been mounted - I have often smiled when this incident recurs to me. - It was not long until the pressure of the rebels became too strong for Gen Beattys Brigade and it began to break to the rear as our brigade had already. I remember next stopping behind a cedar picket fence not far from the bank of Stone River. Here on the right and on my left I heard the dull thud of bullets striking soldiers and seeing the effects of mortal wounding. -

The enemies were shelling the ford and there was a great spattering in the water as their missiles struck it but in the hurried movement to reach a decision I thought it would be ~~life~~ dangerous to risk across  
less

✓  
the ford than to take chances of being wounded in the deep water directly behind me-- I crept up the farther bank and passed through the ranks of Negleys Division which was then in battle line and firing at will into the masses of the enemy in the woods we had just left.- 58 pieces of artillery then opened up and the very earth seemed to quake under the terrible thunders.- Soon after I found the colors of the 51st and around it were gathering a small remnant of our good regiment.

Without special command as I recall we now moved forward with our now advancing line and before long we had passed into the cotton field in front of our original line and here we made a rush for and captured a couple pieces of artillery but as one of our comrades who straddled one of them found -- with the heat of fire and battle. As you know this ~~ba/~~ ~~battle~~ assault and defeat of the rebels decided the battle of Stone River. In one half hour our good regiment out of 400 engaged, lost between 150 and 200 men in killed, wounded and missing.

In a short half hour like this a participant lives intensely, and is likely to remember many things most clearly - and yet many other things, equally important, are less vividly stamped.

I went over this battle field seven years ago with Capt. Carter B. Harrison. The woods have been cleared away and a fine field of growing corn was ripening in the autumn sun. The captain was overjoyed to meet me and asked me many questions of the many "dutchy" of Co.K -- Ours was a ~~pottery~~ motly aggregation.

Years come and go and our hairs are silvering - but I would not change today my army experiences for any other of my existence. - As we look upon our broad and prosperous land, the home of the oppressed of every nation, the hope and inspiration of liberty throughout the world, we who took a part however humble, in its preservation, may yet feel grandly proud of its achievement.

I hope you will be spared many many years and to the inquisitive years of childhood fight your battles oer again.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
Your comrade  
Charles Gentsch

Roy Stallman reporting

Please excuse my poor writing for i am in a big  
hurry. Sam brown is <sup>going</sup> to Cincinnati this evening  
and i want to send this letter with him.

We did not get any male ~~for~~ for sweaks and  
then we got the male ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> ~~friday~~ <sup>friday</sup> evening and  
had a letter that

Sunday it thundered and lightened  
very hard to day it is snowing

I just now got a letter while i was going to  
read this. I was very glad to get a letter for i  
can not go a letter for three or five weeks

I was going to send this letter to Mr. ~~John~~  
Tells but i recd in your letter that he had  
Mr. Bellar

But if she tells me in your next  
letter what Regiment and what Company  
he is maby i can find him for their  
is Regiments coming in every day.

David Stallman  
5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Co. K.  
Nashville  
Tenn. Ill.

Nashville March the 9<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Friend

I take the pleasure to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present and hope you are the same. I landed in Nashville in the morning and it was quite a surprise to find that there was nothing for folks to become

white people are so scart almost to death the soldiers and the citizens believe that if we come hear we would kill every body that we would come a crust and the town would be <sup>burnt</sup> down. All then we was <sup>from town</sup> up the river about a mile there was 200 slaves wearing in the town and they swore they would not leave till they seen what kind of soldiers we was they staid in town till the first boat landed and then took it to the horses could carry them. we went into camp that night the day after that we went into town and was going to stay there for to guard the town and in the evening they took six of our companies over to camp and only kept 4 companies and day before yesterday they brot the rest of us over to town to help guard the town we get on guard every other day but we do not need it.

The rebels like a gradual of Provision hear. The ware houses are filled full of provisions such as sugar and all kinds of provision wine and brandy is plenty hear. Coffee is one dollar a pound common boots 20 to half a pair of shoes 2 dollars worth paper three cents a sheet and then cant hardly get it.

I seen Alf Tanyard yesterday he is in the 18<sup>th</sup> Regulars he is well and sends his best respects to all the boys in the war.

Wentworth Hill, N. H.,  
Dear Sister;

I received  
your letter the other day  
I suppose you have heard of  
the fight that was had here  
this time, our Regt. was not engaged  
in the fight although we stood  
in the rifle pits & I got much  
exercise, we was in the second  
line and the most of the fighting  
was on our right, but there was  
shells were flying all round  
the men is still chasing them  
the weather is very cold for the  
last of days, but is getting warmer  
now it has been very wet here  
this month, I believe I have written  
all the news I have nothing special  
to write this time.