



The Vidette

Vol. 11, No 4 Friends of Stones River National Battlefield December 2003

From the President

Greetings,

Fellow members of the Friends of Stones River Battlefield, it is indeed an honor to serve as your president for the next two years. I am a native of Murfreesboro and have been visiting the Battlefield since I was a young boy. While I was in the Boy Scouts I camped on the grounds and was a charter hiker of the 10-mile trail. A lot has changed since then and now we have a real battle on our hands to protect and preserve what remains of the land surrounding the park. I had several ancestors in the "Battle of Murfreesboro" (All Confederate), so the battlefield is a very special place to me. We are working on salvaging the remainder of the James house and hopefully the end result will keep the house intact. This is in the planning stages and we will keep you informed.

I hope you will be able to attend the commemoration of the 141st anniversary of the Battle to be held on December 27 at the Bragg Headquarters from 12:00 - 4:00. The descendant's reunion last year was a great start to what we would like to be a semiannual event. I hope that you and yours have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

James G. Patterson

141st Anniversary of the Battle of Stones River
Join the Friends of Stones River National Battlefield at the Bragg Trailhead pavilion on Saturday, December 27th from 12:00 to 4:00 to commemorate the 141st anniversary of the Battle. Refreshments will be served. Contact Eddie Macon at 615-849-8424 or email friends_srnrb@yahoo.com for details.

New ZIP Code for the Friends' Address
The Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, Inc.
P.O. Box 4092
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

Fund Raiser a Success

Numerous donations have been received to support the expansion of the Friends commemorative and education outreach programs. We apologize to those who had to wait for their copy of the book "Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Stones River", but the large number of donations exceeded the Friend's initial inventory of books.

In appreciation for a \$50 donation to the Friends', you will receive a gift copy of the book "Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Stones River" which is a collection of 130 eyewitness accounts of the battle from letters, diaries and memoirs compiled and edited by David R. Logsdon. In addition to the book, you will receive a one-year membership to the Friends or a one-year membership extension for current members.

The special fundraising initiative will continue through March 2004. Send your \$50 donation and address to The Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, P.O. Box 4092, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129.

Eyewitnesses at the
Battle of
Stones River

Revised Edition
Second in a series

Compiled and edited by David R. Logsdon

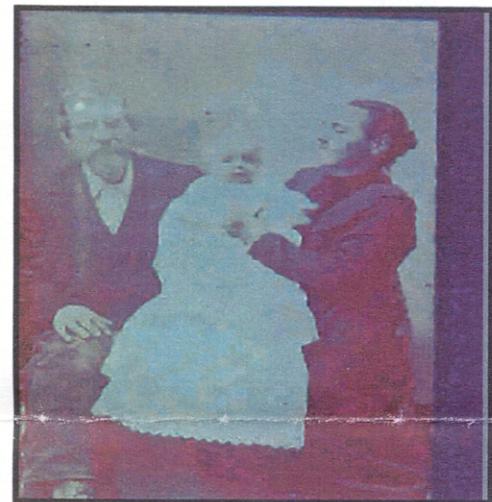
Appreciation gift for a \$50 donation

From the Editor:

As we approach the 141st anniversary of the Battle of Stones River, this edition of *The Vidette* honors a Union soldier who fought at Stones River: Pvt. Dennis Murphy, Company I, 22nd Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. During the planning for last year's descendant's reunion, the Friends received contact from the Murphy family concerning the possibility of Ivan Dennis Murphy, son of Pvt. Dennis Murphy, attending the reunion. A few weeks prior to the reunion, we were saddened to learn about the death of Ivan Dennis Murphy. An empty place was left at the head table during the reunion banquet in honor of Ivan Dennis Murphy.

Although we didn't get the opportunity to talk to Ivan Dennis Murphy and to hear stories about his father, we are blessed this year to have photographs and documents related to Pvt. Dennis Murphy. Special thanks to Sergeant Joel D. Wheeler, descendant of Pvt. Murphy, for sharing the photographs and documents used for this special profile.

Photos of Dennis, Ivan Dennis and Flora Murphy



From the writings of Ivan Dennis Murphy:

On July 10th, 1861, my father enlisted "to serve three years or, during the war," in Company I, 22nd Regiment of Indiana Infantry Volunteers, and was mustered into the service August 15, 1861, at Madison, IN. Although the army records show him to be 18 when he enrolled he was, of course, just past 17. I remember hearing him say many times that he told a lie to get in and would have told a thousand to get out. I can not recall ever having heard any explanation of why he left his new bride for the army.

I recall some of the stories of his army experiences that my father used to tell. One that fascinated me as a youngster was, while sleeping on the ground, he awoken to find himself covered with snow and finding that it served as a warming blanket. You will recall that on the march from Atlanta to the sea, the army lived off the land. I remember at least two stories of that experience. One was the stealing of hives filled with bees and honey. The soldiers would plug the openings of the hives and carry them to their quarters for robbing them of their honey.

As the army advanced through the countryside, the farm families tried all sorts of ways to hide their foodstuff. In one instance, I remember him telling about arriving at a farmstead where some hogs were in a pen. They tore down the pen and took the hogs despite the family protesting that this was all they had. Then the officer in charge called for the mattock and ordered the soldier to dig beneath the pen where they uncovered a supply of cured bacon.

Another story that I also like to hear him tell was about the battle of Chattanooga where the Union army was attempting to dislodge the Southern army for the top of Lookout Mountain. Father's regiment help dig a tunnel under the mountain into which it was intended to place explosives. Another feature of that story that fascinated me was his explanation of the Southerners overshooting the Union soldiers as they climbed the Mountain because of the odd angle.

To all whom it may Concern:



Know ye, That Dennis Murphy
a Corpl of Captain Leroy S Mayfield
Company. (D.) 22^d Regiment of Foot Vol Infy
VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the 23^d day of December
one thousand eight hundred and Sixty three to serve Three years or
during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States
this 24 day of July, 1865, at Louisville
Ky by reason of G. O. No 26 Army of the Land
(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)

Said Dennis Murphy was born in Morganery Co
in the State of Indiana, is 19 years of age,
5 feet 6 inches high, Rd complexion, Gray eyes,
Slight hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Soldier

Given at Louisville Ky this 24 day of
July 1865.

*This sentence will be erased should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

(A. G. O., No. 92.)

Wm H. Smith
Capt & Adjut
Genl 2^d Div 14th Reg

Thomas Shea
Col Co 1st Reg

* * * ROSTER * * *

—OF THE—

Survivors of the 22 Reg't

INDIANA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

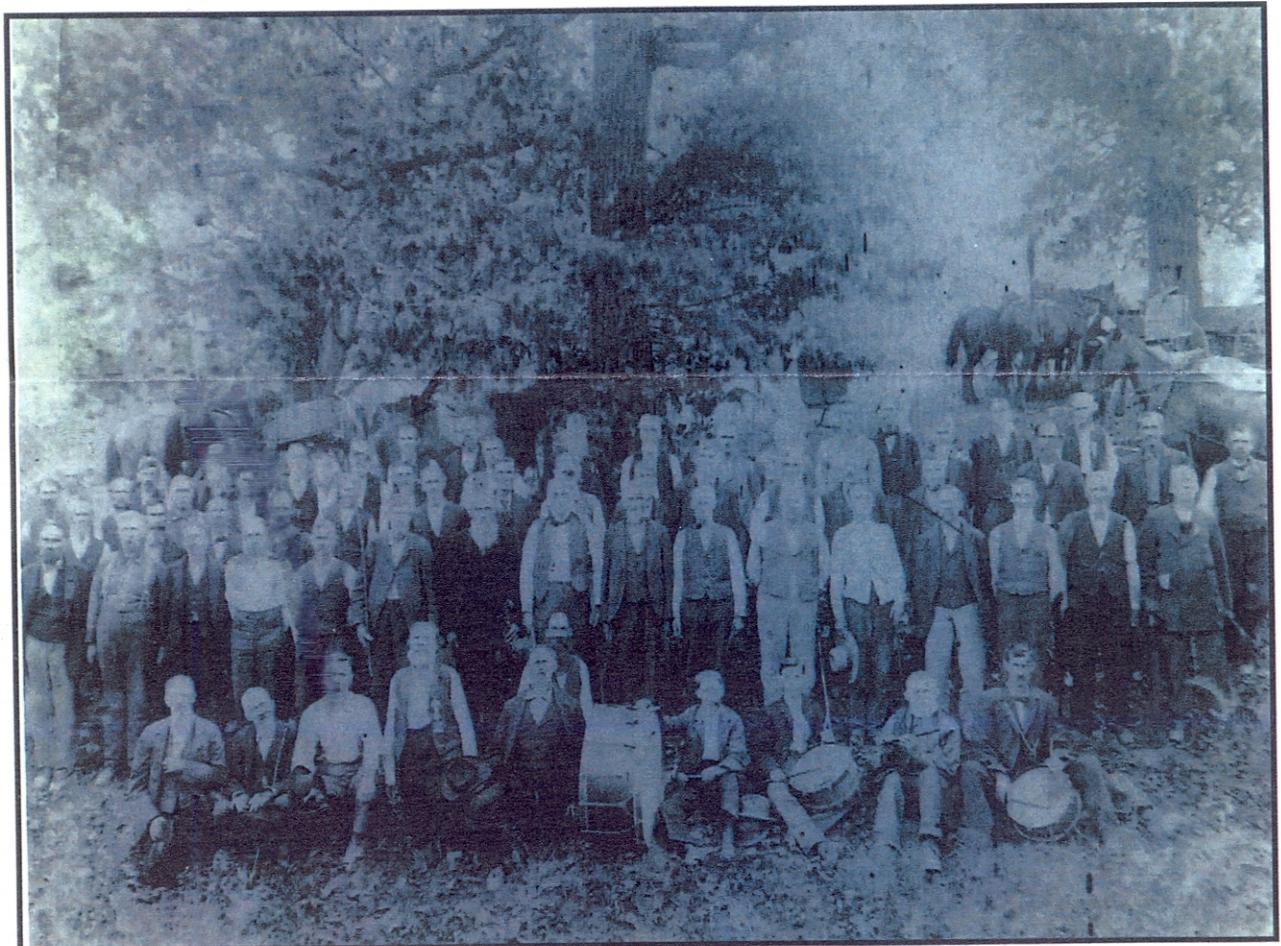
Col. Thomas Shea. Westport. Ky.
 Adj. W. S. Jordan. Clarinda. Iowa.
 Ass't. Surg. Joe Sidle. Brazil. Ind.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Pres. Thomas Jones, Seymour Ind.
 Vice Pres. G. W. Bard. Crothersville. Ind.
 Sec. and Treas. W. R. England. Seymour. Ind.

Company I.

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|---------------------|----------------------|
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| Brannan Annanias | Indianola, Ill |
| Bunch Benjamin | Bloomfield, Ind |
| Carlton David | Oklahoma, Okl |
| Cooper W. B. | Otowa, Iowa |
| Curry John J. | Fayetteville, Ark |
| Curry Robt. J. | " " |
| Cline John H. | Bedford, Ind |
| Cooper Joseph H. | Oden, " |
| Douglas Alex W. | Bell Plains, Iowa |
| Deckard Michael | Owensboro, Ky |
| Eller J. J. | Bloomington, Ind |
| Eller J. W. | Portland, Oregon |
| Farris J. R. | Bloomington, Ind |
| Fitzpatrick Jno. L. | " " |
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| Gray W. B. | Bean Blossom, Ind |
| Hepley William | Bloomington, " |
| Heeson E. S. | " " |
| ▶ Murphy Dennis | Yellow Stone, " |
| Miller John | Lafayette, " |
| Millen W. B. | Bloomington, " |
| McPike F. M. | Heltonsville, " |
| McCain W. T. | East Liverpool, Ohio |
| McAffer W. J. | Bluffton, Ind |
| Lare John A. | Harrodsburg, " |



Dennis Murphy (arrow)