

New Plymouth, O. Jan. 1898. Personal recollections of Wm. L. Bartlett, who was a member of Co. B 18th O. I. from Aug. 12, 1861 until Sept. 1864. (age 22)¹

Transcribed from the handwritten manuscript by Jane Merritt Land.²
“The spelling is as the original.” JML.

Father born: 1839. Feb 4th. J.B.M. [Jane Bingham Merritt]

War of the Rebellion

The Spring of 1861 was one of terrible and deep excitement throughout our country. After the inauguration of President Lincoln, there was rumors of preparation in the South for war. In a short time fort Sumpter was bombarded by the Rebels. Then the Presidents call for 79000 volunteers for 3 months. We all thought then that, that would be sufficient to to whip them out in a short time. But before their time expired, we had been beaten at the Battle of Bull-run and a call for 300,000 men for 3 years, and soon another call for the same number &c until every State in the North became a Military Camp. Troops were organized faster than the Government could Arm and equip them.

On the 9th of Aug. 1861, Bro Sylvanus³ and I were mowing in the Bottom land west of town (New Plymouth⁴) near the Townshipline. We were nearly done Harvesting. When S. said to me that he had been thinking of enlisting in the Army. I answered that I also had been thinking of doing the same thing.

He then told me that there was a Co being raised at McArthur O⁵, which was wanting more men. So I proposed that, as we were done mowing that Brother John⁶ could finish the hay, and we would go to McArthur the next day which was Saturday. We went and found the Co about full, but they took us in. Orders were given for us to go into Camp at Athens, on the next Monday. Then we returned home and told the folks what we had done. Nothing was said against our going but there was no doubt but all felt sad enough. At that time Miss Kate Finney⁷ who had been making her home at our house was at the time lying very low with consumption, and on that Sabbath died, and on Monday S. and I left home, while her Corpse was lying in the house.

¹ William Lewis Bartlett was born February 4, 1839 in section 36 of Brown Township, Vinton County, Ohio. From his service record: “Enlisted as a Corporal on 12 August 1861 at the age of 22. Enlisted in Company B, 18th Infantry Regiment Ohio on 12 August 1861. Promoted to Full Sergeant on 01 March 1862. Wounded on 20 September 1863 at Chickamauga, GA. Received a disability discharge on 14 September 1864.”

² Footnotes by Laurie Smith Filstrup. Unless otherwise noted, footnoted material is from Wikipedia. [9/7/2007; <http://en.wikipedia.org>]

³ Sylvanus Bartlett was born January 9, 1827 in Athens, Ohio. He also enlisted on Aug. 12, 1861. From his service record: “Enlist date: 12 August 1861. Enlist. Rank: Sergt. Enlist Age: 33. Served Ohio. B. Co. 18th Inf. Reg. OH. Transferred on 01 February 1863 from Company B to Company H.”

⁴ “New Plymouth is an unincorporated community in northwestern Brown Township, Vinton County, Ohio, United States. Although it is unincorporated, it has a post office, with the ZIP code of 45654. It is located at the intersection of State Routes 56 and 328 in the county’s far northeast.”

⁵ “McArthur is a village in Vinton County, Ohio ... It is the county seat of Vinton County.”

⁶ John Hunt Bartlett was born September 9, 1835 in New Plymouth, Vinton County, Ohio. [Bartlett file kept in FamilyTreeMaker by Laurie Smith Filstrup. Hereafter referred to as Bartlett file]

⁷ The Finneys and the Bartletts were both families that had come to Ohio from Plymouth, Massachusetts. Finneys and Bartletts married each other and this is a cousin or other close relation. [Bartlett file]

You can imagine something of the trouble, Mother and Sisters had, at that time.⁸

We walked across the Hills to Hope-Station, and took the train that the balance of the Co. was on, and went into Camp Wood at Athens. This Camp was situated on a high flat piece of ground just north of the C.H. and T Depot composed of Barracks, each building of which was made to accommodate one Co. each man rec'd a blanket, and this with the soft side of a board composed our bed. Of course, there was no such thing as sleep. Some talked, some hollowed,⁹ some crowed, some swore, and so we spent the night. By the third night things quieted down and there was no more trouble. We soon got so we could sleep any where. In a few weeks I obtained a furlow for 3 days, and I remember I was so anx[i]ous to appear military that I borrowed an old dirty cap from a man that had been in the 3 month Service and wore it home. We were Uniformed and Armed in a short time after this, and mustered into the U.S. Service.

Som[e]time in Sept we were ordered to Camp Denizen¹⁰ which is 16 miles this side of Cincinnati, where we were drilled for sometime by a German officer, and reviewed by Ben Wade¹¹ and others. We then went to Cincinnati, and went on board a Steamboat the "Jacob Strader"¹², with all our teams and equipments, 1,000 strong. 10-6 mule teams and wagons heavily loaded, One 4 mule team and wagon, officers, Horses &C. We went down the river and landed at Louisville, KY and became part of the Army then forming there.

The next day we marched all day southward about 12 mi. Our Knapsacks were very heavy, and they became heavier and heavier. We were awful tired. I could hardly move. We were Galled¹³ and sore all over. That night we went through our knapsacks, and threw away every thing we could possibly do without. We left waggon loads of boods [books?], keepsakes, clothing &c in that camp. The next day we got along better. After 2 or 3 days marching we were placed to guard the RR Bridge across Salt river. In a short time, one dark night, there was a gun fired on one of the out-post. Immediately the Long-roll was beat, everybody was frightened and scrambled into ranks half-dressed where we stood quite a while, then were dismissed and about the time we had got to rest, another shot was heard and then another. The longroll was beat again, and another scramble to get into ranks, but this time we got most of our Clothes on. This time the Col.

⁸ Mother is: Amanda Bingham Bartlett born July 10, 1798 in Athens, Ohio, died December 22, 1881 in New Plymouth, Vinton County, Ohio. Sisters are: Julia Bingham Bartlett (later Junipher), born November 16, 1834 in New Plymouth, died 1898 in Santa Monica, California(?). and Mary Sophia Bartlett (later Weller), born April 12, 1843 in New Plymouth. [Bartlett file]

⁹ "Hollowed" is probably hollered. [LSF note]

¹⁰ The Civil War Archive, Union Regimental Histories, Ohio, 18th Regiment Infantry (3 years) [9/7/2007; <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unohinf2.html>] "Organized at Athens, Ohio, August 16 to September 28, 1861. Moved to Camp Dennison, Ohio, and organization there completed November 4, 1861. Moved to Louisville, Ky., November 6, thence to Elizabethtown, Ky., November 15...."

¹¹ "Benjamin Franklin 'Bluff' Wade (October 27, 1800 - March 2, 1878) was a U.S. lawyer and United States Senator.... In July 1861, Wade, along with other politicians, witnessed the defeat of the Union Army at the 1st Battle of Bull Run. There, he was almost captured by the Confederate Army. After arriving back at Washington, he was one of those who led the attack on the supposed incompetence of the leadership of the Union Army. From 1861 to 1862 he was chairman of the important Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War ..."

¹² Maritime History of the Great Lakes: Stanton, American Steam Vessels. [9/7/2007; [http://www.hhpl.on.ca/GreatLakes ...](http://www.hhpl.on.ca/GreatLakes...)] Ohio River Steamboat Jacob Strader, 1853 [Illustration]

¹³ "Galled" meaning chafed or rubbed sore. [LSF note]

marched us out a good ways and halted us in the road, where we waited quite a while. As there was no more firing we went back to Camp.

This was our first experience, and perhaps we were more frightened than we afterward were, in the Midst of Shot & Shell & Carnage & Death.

Our next Stop was at Elizabethtown, KY¹⁴ where we remained 2 or 3 weeks, and were Brigaded with the 19th Ills 11th Mich & 37th Ind. Col Turchin¹⁵ of the 19th Ills was put in command.¹⁶ The first thing he did was to have the Brigade march in review. So we were drawn up and marched in column of Company past the reviewing Officers. Now as this was our first review and our Officers were green. As each Co passed the reviewing stand, each Cap't commanded "Present-Arms". Think of troops marching along holding their guns at a "present." It is almost impossible to hold a gun in that position while marching. We thought we were just doing it, but some of our Officers were considerably cut-up afterwards when Truchin reproved them, and said we were "Farmers mit guns".

We afterward became very proficient in drill under his direction. Turchin was, or had been, an officer in the Crimean War, and he had us drilled in the Zouave drill the same as his own reg't.

We next marched South 2 or 3 days to Bacon Creek KY and went into Winter quarters or it was called that. We pitched our tents and ditched them, but our tents were poor – they were what were called "A" tents. they were too low and flat. We were soon in a Swamp of Mud, and a large portion of the men were Sick. We then drew new Sibly¹⁷ tents with Stoves in the center and moved our Camp out nearer the creek where it was dryer ground. We staid there until Feb. perhaps over 2 months.

Then directly after the fall of Fort Donnoldson¹⁸ our Division now under Gen O.M. Mutchel¹⁹ marched on Bowling Green²⁰ & Nashville. Then on Southward to the

¹⁴ Elizabethtown, KY is just south of Louisville, Kentucky.

¹⁵ "Ivan Turchaninov. Ivan Vasilyevich Turchaninov, Russian ... (December 31, 1821 – June 18, 1901), better known by his Americanized name of John Basil Turchin, was a Union army brigadier general in the American Civil War. He is most noted for the 'Rape of Athens,' a controversial incident in Athens, Alabama, in which he allowed his soldiers to terrorize the local civilian population."

¹⁶ The Civil War Archive, Union Regimental Histories, Ohio, 18th Regiment Infantry (3 years) [9/7/2007; <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreghst/unohinf2.html>] "Attached to 8th Brigade, Army of the Ohio to December, 1861.... SERVICE.—Duty at Elizabethtown and Bacon Creek, Ky., November, 1861, to February, 1862...."

¹⁷ Sibley tent. [LSF note]

¹⁸ Fort Donelson National Battlefield – The Battle (U.S. National Park Service) [9/7/2007; <http://www.nps.gov/fodo/planyourvisit/thebattleforfortdonelson.htm>] February 14-16, 1862: "That morning, February 16, [Confederate General Simon] Buckner asked [Union General Ulysses S.] Grant for terms. Grant's answer was short and direct: 'No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted.' Buckner surrendered...."

¹⁹ "Ormsby MacKnight (or McKnight) Mitchel (July 20, 1805 – October 30, 1862) was an American astronomer and major general in the American Civil War. A multi-talented man, he was also an attorney, surveyor, and publisher.... Known in the Union Army as 'Old Stars,' he is best known for ordering the raid that became famous as the Great Locomotive Chase during the Civil War.... General Mitchel led a division in the Army of the Ohio from December 1861 to July 1862, and was placed in charge of the defense of Nashville, Tennessee, with headquarters in the vicinity of Shelbyville, Tennessee...."

²⁰ The Civil War Archive, Union Regimental Histories, Ohio, 18th Regiment Infantry (3 years) "SERVICE.-- ... Advance on Bowling Green, Ky., February 10-15, and on Nashville, Tenn., February 18-25. Occupation of Nashville, Tenn., February 25 – March 18...."

Northern Parts of Georgia and Alabama Seizing the Nashville & Chattanooga²¹, and the Memphis & Charleston RRs²² with a great amount of rolling stock and other property and holding it for months. The Reg't was on the march continuously from Feb. until July, a great deal of the time after Rebel Cavalry. I had the mumps at the time the Army left Bacon Creek, and was left with many others in the Camp. In a week or so I was taken with Typhoid fever, and was removed to a dwelling, near the Camp which was being used for a Hospital. I was not conscious of any thing further for a good while perhaps several weeks. When I came to myself, I was in a strange place, in a large upper room on the street of a town a lot of other Sick men were in the same room every thing was so Strange and no one there that I knew. I lay there awhile and wondered, ashamed to ask any one where I was, but I finally asked the Soldier who was acting as nurse, he told me that I was in Elizabethtown and that I had been moved 30 miles on the cars during my delirium. Then one of my comrades N.B. Stout came into the room to bid me good-bye and told me he was going to the Reg't. I told him to tell the Boys I was going to die. I was so very weak, but O! they said I was all right and was a great deal better than I had been, and that encouraged me greatly. Nearly all the sick men in the room had the same fever and one died most every day and a new case brought in from Camps out of town. My sister Julia²³ and Jesse Finney²⁴ came down to see me while there Julia remained for a week in the Town and came in every day to see me. Jesse got permission to occupy a vacant bed in the room where I was for one night, and I have no doubt died from the effects of it, as he was never well afterwards and died in a few months after his return home. Sometime in March I think, I was moved to Louisville to one of the City Hospitals where I was well cared for, but in a week or so I was sent out into the country 3 or 4 miles to a convalescent Hospital. The diet here was dreadful all the Bread was very sour and this with boiled pork and coffee was the principal diet. The only way I could eat it was to take the bread down to the Kitchen where was a tub of grease, and dip it in, and then go out-doors and roast it over a coal fire where some women were Laundrying clothes. This for fever convalescents. I soon found that I rather got worse than better. So I applied to the Surgeon to be sent to the Reg't, but this was just at the time of the great

²¹ Tennessee Encyclopedia: Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. [9/7/2007; <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net> ...] The Nashville and Chattanooga (N&C) Railroad ... was the first complete line to operate in Tennessee in 1854 ... After the fall of Nashville in February 1862 to Union forces, the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad came under the control of the U.S. Army .. The N&C was a vital link in supplying the Union army, with a critical connection to the Louisville and Nashville (L&N) Railroad and Union army supplies stockpiled in Louisville. Confederate cavalry conducted several skirmishes in efforts to destroy this important rail connection. The Union army attempted to protect the line by constructing several blockhouses and stockades along the railroad, fortifications like Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro. It spent a considerable amount of time in repairing torn-up rails. The railroad also had a critical role in supplying Union forces in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, and ultimately General William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.

²² "The Memphis and Charleston Railroad completed in 1857 was the first railroad in the United States to link the Atlantic Ocean with the Mississippi River. Chartered in 1846 the railroad ran from Memphis, Tennessee to Stevenson, Alabama through the towns of Corinth, Mississippi and Huntsville, Alabama. ... When the Civil War broke out in 1861, this railroad became of strategic importance as the only east-west railroad running through the Confederacy...."

²³ Julia Bingham Bartlett. [Bartlett file]

²⁴ Jesse Bartlett Finney (1830-1864). 9/17/2007. Ancestry.com [<http://trees.ancestry.com/pt/...>] Jesse Finney. [Photo of Jesse Finney tombstone]: Jesse B. Finney 1830-1864.

Battle of Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh²⁵ was being fought – Apr 1st – and it was very uncertain where the Reg't was, because it was not known whether Mitchels Division had joined Buels Army, or not. So myself with others were put aboard a Steamboat and sent down the Ohio river and up the Tenn. river to Pittsburg landing. When we got there we found that Mitchel had not joined Buel²⁶, and there was no Communication with Mitchels Army. So we just had to stay there. (this was the 1st part of Apr) we didn't see our Reg'ts until July. We were placed in charge of Buel's Surgeon Gen. until after Corrinth was evacuated. All the private Soldiers were kept at work, policing the Hospital Camp, and burying the dead, but as I was an officer (non commissioned) they had no use for me, so I wandered about the Camps day after day with nothing on earth to do, and not money enough to buy a paper to read. About the 1st of July (I think) the Rebel-army evacuated Corrinth, Miss.²⁷ As soon as possible, an Engine and cars were got ready and we got on it, and Started East. All the Stations and water tanks were on fire as we passed. At Decatur Alabama the Bridge was destroyed I think Mitchel had destroyed it some time before. We crossed in boats I beli[e]ve and took another train, and continued East to Stevenson Ala., then north to the Elk river²⁸ Bridge on the N & C Ry²⁹ where my Reg't was then encamped. Very glad to see the Boys and again feel that I might again be of some use the [to?] the great Cause for which I had been enlisted. I was furnished with an old rusty gun and equipment which kept me many days to make it look respectable. We very soon moved to several places in that part of the State occupying perhaps 2 months time. About Sept. 1st Bragg³⁰ marched past the flank of our Army and then came the race

²⁵ “The Battle of Shiloh, also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, was a major battle in the Western Theater of the American Civil War, fought on April 6 and April 7, 1862, in southwestern Tennessee.

Confederate forces under Generals Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard launched a surprise attack against the Union Army of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and came very close to defeating his army.”

²⁶ “Don Carlos Buell (March 23, 1818 – November 19, 1898) was a career U.S. Army officer who fought in the Seminole War, the Mexican-American War, and the American Civil War.... At the start of the Civil War, Buell was an early organizer of the Army of the Potomac and briefly commanded one of its divisions. In November 1861, he succeeded William T. Sherman as head of the Department of the Ohio (which was eventually designated the Army of the Ohio and then the Army of the Cumberland), for operations in eastern Tennessee, an area with Union sympathies and considered important to the political efforts in the war....”

²⁷ “The First Battle of Corinth (also known as the Siege of Corinth) was an American Civil War battle fought from April 29 to June 10, 1862, in Corinth, Mississippi. following the Union Army victory at the Battle of Shiloh, the Union armies under Major General Henry W. Halleck advanced on the vital rail center of Corinth, Mississippi. Made cautious by the staggering losses at Shiloh, Halleck embarked on a tedious campaign of offensive entrenchment, fortifying after each advance. By May 25, 1862, after moving five miles in three weeks, Halleck was in position to lay siege to the town. Confederate commander General P.G.T. Beauregard saved his army by a hoax. Some of the men were given three days' rations and ordered to prepare for an attack. As expected, one or two went over to the Union with that news. The preliminary bombardment began, and Union forces maneuvered for position. During the night of May 29, the Confederate army moved out. They used the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to carry the sick and wounded, the heavy artillery, and tons of supplies.... When Union patrols entered Corinth on the morning of May 30, they found the Confederates gone.”

²⁸ “The Elk River rises in Grundy County, Tennessee ... it rises in Middle Tennessee and flows into northern Alabama.”

²⁹ “Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.”

³⁰ The Battle of Perryville; The Generals: Confederate Leaders: Army of the Mississippi. [9/10/2007; http://www.battleofperryville.com/generals_s.html] Confederate General Braxton Bragg.

back into Kentucky and the Battle of Perryville³¹ was fought. We marched with the balance of the Army, as far as Nashville. The weather was terribly dry, The Limestone Pikes were ground up into dust Shoetop deep, with passage of Armies. It was a forced march, and almost without water. Much of the time we could scarcely see the men before us for the dust. Fortunately for us our Div. under Gen Negliz³² was detached, and left to Garrison the City of Nashville, while Buel followed Bragg's Army into KY.

We went into Camp on the South side of the City but North of the forts, where we remained for months, for about one month or more we were cut off from the north and Forraged our living off the Country. We were kept either on picket, or Foraging all the time stripping the Country for 20 miles around the City. I remember one day, I was one of the Guard to a Foraging train which went to the plantation of Gen Hardee (Rebel)³³. We loaded about 20 Army wagons with corn, Bacoln [sic] &c. While the waggons were loading, the Guard got to shooting at the Deer in a large park on the place. It was like a Battle, for a while, and about as dan[g]erous, I never knew whether they killed any of the Deer.

We were very glad when the Army returned, and we got back to Army rations, and got letters from home &c. The Rebs retreated to somewhere South of us and Our Army stoped at Nashville, or on that line, and remained there until Dec. The Army of the Cumberland was reorganized under Gen Rosecrans³⁴. We were put into the 14th Army Corps, under Gen. Geo H. Thomas³⁵, and was the center of the Army, Chriddenden and McCook commanding the Right and left wings.

During our Stay here, one night at dark my Co rec'd orders to march. We were led off by untraveled roads all night, about daylight we heard firing in our front. We were hurried forward at double-quick time for 2 or 3 miles, and got there just in time to see the Rebs Cavalry skipping out. Other troops had been sent out by other routs, for the purpose

³¹ "The Battle of Perryville ... was fought on October 8, 1862, in the Chaplin Hills west of Perryville, Kentucky. The battle began with a middle-of-the-night skirmish over a source of drinking water, and ended more or less by default with the onset of darkness and the retreat of the tactical victor, the Confederates. The Confederate "victory" marked the end of their offensive campaign in the West, and their retreat left the border state of Kentucky under the control of the Union Army for the rest of the war."

³² "James Scott Negley (December 26, 1826 – August 7, 1901) was an American Civil War general, farmer, railroader, and U.S. Representative from the state of Pennsylvania. He played a key role in the Union victory at the Battle of Murfreesboro."

³³ "William Joseph Hardee (October 12, 1815 – November 6, 1873) was a career U.S. Army officer who became a Confederate general in the American Civil War. ... Hardee resigned his U.S. Army commission on January 31, 1861, after his home state of Georgia seceded from the Union. He joined the Confederate States Army as a colonel in March and was given command of Forts Morgan and Gaines in Alabama. He was subsequently promoted to brigadier general ... and major general ..."

³⁴ "William Starke Rosecrans (September 6, 1819 – March 11, 1898) was an inventor, coal-oil company executive, diplomat, politician, and U.S. Army officer. He gained fame for his role as a Union general during the American Civil War. He was the victor at prominent Western Theater battles such as Second Corinth, Stones River, and the Tullahoma Campaign, but his military career was effectively ended following his disastrous defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863."

³⁵ "George Henry Thomas (July 31, 1816 – March 28, 1870) was a career U.S. Army officer and a Union general during the American Civil War, one of the principal commanders in the Western Theater. ... He won one of the first Union victories in the war, at Mill Springs in Kentucky, and served in important subordinate commands at Perryville and Stones River. His stout defense at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863 saved the Union Army from being completely routed, earning him his most famous nickname, the 'Rock of Chickamauga.' He followed soon after with a dramatic breakthrough on Missionary Ridge in the Battle of Chattanooga."

of surrounding and capturing a small force of Reb Cavalry, at the Village of Laverne³⁶. Part of them arrived too soon, and part of the Rebs got away, a portion of them were (one whole reg't was) captured. We burned the Depot and several cars loaded with Supplies, and two or 3 other houses, and returned to Nashville. On Dec 26th the whole Army moved toward Murfreesboro which is 30 miles South³⁷. Almost immediately firing commenced in our front which continued day after day the rebs retiring from point to point, which made our progress very slow³⁸. We marched most of the time in line of Battle through Brush and Briars and Steep hillsides. We were not engaged during this advance. Once we got where the bullets sung around us. Finally the two Armies were drawn up face to face along the Stone River, in front of Murfreesboro³⁹. On Dec 30th there was heavy Skirmish firing all day. My Co was deployed early in the morning on the Skirmish line, in the river bottom (open timber land.) We fought behind trees and logs, shooting at every thing we could see. at night we fell back to the Reg't. That evening Gen Rosecrans issued an order to his Army stating that we were to meet the enemy the next day in deadly conflict urging us to be brave &c⁴⁰. That night we rested with our equipments on, and ready for what might come. By 3 o'clock in the morning we could hear the Rebs moving over in our front on a road running parallel with our lines, and as soon as it was light enough, we could see the tops of their flags and bayonets, as they moved to our right. Presently there was a tremendous crash of musketry and Artillery off on our right. In a few minutes McCooks Corps was crushed and in full retreat – the Battle rolled on like a great Cyclone, and as McCook's men gave way, it came upon us. We were at once deployed in line of Battle, and then, for some reason, we were run up into Solid Column by Companies. While in that position the whole Reg't seemed to quaver like leaves in the wind. Col Given⁴¹ put us through the Manual of Arms to try to Steady

³⁶ “La Vergne.”

³⁷ “The Battle of Stones River or Second Battle of Murfreesboro (in the South, simply the Battle of Murfreesboro), was fought from December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863, in Middle Tennessee, as the culmination of the Stones River Campaign in the Western Theater of the American Civil War. Of the major battles of the Civil War, Stones River had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides. Although the battle itself was tactically indecisive, the Union Army's repulse of two Confederate attacks was a much-needed boost to Union morale after the defeat at the Battle of Fredericksburg, and it dashed Confederate aspirations for control of Middle Tennessee.”

³⁸ “The Army of the Cumberland marched southeast the day after Christmas in three columns, or “wings,” towards Murfreesboro, and they were effectively harassed by Wheeler's Confederate cavalry along the way, which delayed their movements. ... The left wing under Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden (14, 500 men) took a route that was parallel to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, passing through La Vergne and south of Smyrna. ... The right wing of 13,500 men under Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas moved south along the Wilson Turnpike and the Franklin Turnpike, parallel to the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, then eastward through Nolensville and along the same route used by Crittenden south of the Nashville and Chattanooga. ...”

³⁹ “Murfreesboro was a small town in the Stones River Valley, a former state capital named for a colonel in the American Revolutionary War, Hardy Murfree. All through the war it was a center for strong Confederate sentiment, and Bragg and his men were warmly welcomed and entertained during the month of December.”

⁴⁰ “On December 30 ... Rosecrans ordered his men to be ready to attack after breakfast [of December 31], but Bragg ordered an attack at dawn.”

⁴¹ History of the 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. [9/13/2007; <http://www.18thovi.com/history.html>] “Lt. Colonel Josiah Given ... Born in Murrsville, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania on August 31, 1828 ... died peacefully on February 3, 1908 at the age of 80 ... His early Civil War service saw him take part in the marches through Kentucky, Tennessee, and Northern Alabama. Upon the promotion of Colonel Stanley to

our nerves, which did seem to accomplish its object. We were at once deployed to our place in line of Battle, and fighting was on us, and as the right had given away, the whole force of the enemy seemed to be concentrated on us. We being on the right of Thomas Corps. We held our position what seemed to be hours, against fearful odds. Trees were shot off and fell down in the Ranks, our Artillery (Capt Loumis Battery which was attached to our Brigade) was disabled and Horses and men lay in heaps. We finally fell back fighting through a cedar thicket that lay in our rear, and formed on the line of the R.R. running North and South. here we had the Ry cut for protection. Presently Gen Rousseau⁴² came dashing up, and asked Col Given what Reg't we were. He told the Col that part of his Div were cut off, and asked the Col to charge on the cedar thicket with the Bayonet. Col Given gave the Command, to fix Bayonet, forward double quick, Charge. We went forward with a yell, and a rush. Gen Rosseau put his hat on top of his Sword and galoped ahead of us until near the Thicket, then turned to one side. The enemy fell back, and we fired a volley into the thicket. Then I stepped behind an old Stub and reloaded my gun. When I looked around, the Reg't was gone back, and I was alone. I was too exhausted to run, so I walked back with the bullets, tearing up the ground on all sides of me, but I was not hurt. We lost but few in this charge. Then we were moved back across the R.R. into a secluded place, and allowed to rest. We were held in reserve in this place until the afternoon of Jan 1st when the Enemy under Breckenridge⁴³ attack our left, in great force driving our troops back across the river. Our Div being in reserve, was immediately order over there, and went into the fight we were on a steep bluff at the bend of the river on the left. The enemy had driven our troops across the river and were on the opposite side from us. Then ocured that famous Charge of Negley's Div which has been illustrated in diferent magazenes of our Country⁴⁴. We advanced across the river jumping from one stone to another, and reg'ts all mixed up together. When we were partly across my reg't was ordered to charge, and go up on the right side of the river, but I did not hear the order, and kept on with the balance of the troops, as we charged up the slope through the woods in face of a Battery, the Canister Shot crashed through the trees over our heads, when we got to the top of the ridge the rebs had left their guns and we could only see their heels as they entered a woods on the other side. By this time, it was nearly dark. In the mean time the Engineer Corps had been brought up and formed a new line, to support our broken ranks, we had passed them as we went into the fight and I saw Brother Sylvanus both before as well as after the fight. I have forgotten to mention that he had been detached from our Co. and was in the engineer Corps at this time and remained in it for nearly a year after. After the charge, I commenced looking around for my reg't and I couldn't find anyone that knew where it was. The ground was strewn with

brigade commander, Given was given command of the 18th Ohio and led them in their shining moments at Stones River, where he was wounded....”

⁴² General Rousseau. History of the 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Unfortunately, an ill-advised move by General Rousseau of a neighboring brigade caused the death, wounding, and capture of a number of the 18th's men. This action took place in front of and close to the place now known as Hazen's Stand. Many wounded and dead were left on the battlefield.

⁴³ “John Cabell Breckinridge (January 16, 1821 – May 17, 1875) ... a Confederate general in the American Civil War, and the last Confederate Secretary of War.”

⁴⁴ “A Union division under the command of [Brigadier General] James S. Negley (Thomas's wing) led a counterattack at 4:45 p.m., and the Confederate troops retreated.”

dead and wounded men, mostly Rebels. Some camp fires were burning where troops had been before the fight. I lay down by one of these and slept until morning.

In the morning I saw Col Given riding out to look over the Battle field, and he told me where to find the Reg't. My comrades were surprised when I returned, for they thought I had been killed and they had found a dead man they thought was me.

On the night of Jan 2nd (as I beli[e]ve,) the Rebel Army retreated.⁴⁵ We had suffered great loss in killed and wounded and missing some were prisoners and a few had deserted. On the 31st of Dec when we formed behind the R.R. our line was so short and (only 250 men left) so many missing that I saw officers and men shedding tears. Our Captain Ashbel Fenton (who was acting major) was hit by a shell and died in a short time. We had no Commissioned officer at the time in my Company. Our orderly Serg't John Hommel was in Command and I was acting in his place.

The next day the enemy having retreated, we were marched into Murfreesboro with colors flying and Bands playing, we were marched out to the South of the town and went into Camp. Our waggons were brought up and we pitched our tents again. We had not seen them befor[e] or since we left Nashville⁴⁶.

We remained here a long time.⁴⁷ About the 1st of June 1863 we again started Southward driving the enemy before us. Continual Skirmishing in our front, we progressed very slow, and it rained almost continuously for nearly a month. While we were on the road and in ranks all the time. Finally about the 1st of July the Rebel Army made a stand at Tullahoma, Tenn. where they had Fortifications I remember, about the last day of June, at noon, we were ordered into ranks, and it commenced pouring down rain, and in a few minutes the water was shoetop deep in the roads, every little Branch was full and overflowing, but there was no stoping, on we went till in the night (which was very dark).⁴⁸ We stoped in an old cornfield where the ground was so soft that we would slump in every step. We were tired out and soaked with water and expecting to fight the next day. The question was to find any place rest till the morning. I found a few pieces of Brush and curled down on that. I forget how I passed the night, but you can imagine. During that night the Enemy retreated precipitately.⁴⁹ The roads were strewn

⁴⁵ "But on January 2, 1863, further attempts to assault Rosecrans were beaten back decisively and Bragg withdrew his army southeast to Tullahoma."

⁴⁶ "On the morning of January 3, a large supply train and reinforced infantry brigade reached Rosecrans. ... Bragg was convinced that Rosecrans would continue to receive reinforcements, and he knew that the miserable weather of freezing rain could raise the river enough to split his army. Beginning at 10 p.m. on January 3, he withdrew through Murfreesboro and began a retreat to Tullahoma, Tennessee ... Rosecrans occupied Murfreesboro but made no attempt to pursue Bragg."

⁴⁷ "After his victory at Stones River, Rosecrans occupied Murfreesboro for almost six months while Bragg rested in Tullahoma, establishing a long defensive line that was intended to block Union advances against the strategic city of Chattanooga in his rear."

⁴⁸ "Tullahoma [Tennessee] was then still little more than a rough outpost, with no paved streets. 1863 was a wet year, and the place became known to the bedraggled troops of both sides as a place of endless mud. One witty officer on Union General William Hardee's staff is said to have written his own account of the origin of the name: 'It is from two Greek words – "Tulla" meaning mud, and "Homa" meaning more mud.'"

⁴⁹ "The Battle of Hoover's Gap was the principal battle fought in the Tullahoma Campaign ... Although slowed by rain, Rosecrans moved on, forcing Bragg to retreat from his defensive line and fall back to Tullahoma. Rosecrans sent a flying column (Wilder's Lightning Brigade ...) ahead to hit the railroad in Bragg's rear. Arriving too late to destroy the Elk River railroad bridge, the Federals destroyed railroad track around Decherd. Bragg then evacuated his forces from Middle Tennessee."

with utensils and clothing &c. We followed them the next day to the foot of the mountains (Cumberland). On the 4 of July we rec'd the news of the fall of Vicksburg, and the defeat of Lee at Gettesburg, and Nat'l Salute was fired and we did some wonderfull cheerings. We felt pretty good, although we didn't have much to eat for several days. Our Army remained along the north side of the mountains for some time. My reg't was encamped at Dechard Station⁵⁰ which is in a beautiful cove near where the RR Tunnels the mountain. We lived principally on berries and Green Corn.

About the 1st of Sept we were again on the march. We followed the R.R. south and in a few days we crossed the Tenn River, on pontoon Bridges near Stevenson Ala. and continued our Course up the river for a time. After passing the Raccoon mountain we went up Lookout Creek which flows north between Raccoon, and Lookout mountains. About 20 miles south of Chatanooga we camped for a night at the foot of the mountain near Stevens Gap. I had been suffering for several days with a boil on my instep and I called the attention of our surgeon to it. He lanced it, and then put me on his own horse, and he walked up the mountain. The [?] was in the morning of the day we marched up the mountain. I[t] took us all day to get up with all our waggons trains and artillery. We went into Camp on the mountain. This mountain is nearly perpendicular on its sides and goes off into a comparitively Level County 7 or 8 miles in width. The next day the Army marched across to the other side, and some of the advance regiments went down, where they run into a masked Battery of the enemy. My reg't was one that suffered most. 2 of my Co had their heads shot off, some had their knapsacks shot off, some were badly stun[n]ed &c. The [We?] fell back up on the side of the mountain again to spend the night. I was in an ambulance that day but the next morning I was able to walk and went with reg't. I found them prety badly used up, but we again de[s]cended the mountain into a valley which is called Maclamores Cove, which is between Lookout and Pigeon Mountain. This mountain seems to be a spur of Lookout and forms a Y with Chattanooga in the wide end of it. Lookout projects its self over to the Tennessee River on the west side of the town while Pigeon Mountain, projects eastward to the river about 5 miles East of Point Lookout. The north end of this mt. is called Missionary ridge. I cannot here give an account of the movements of the Army nor the object of the movements. Only we all understood that it was the object to take Chattanooga, and destroy the rebel Army.⁵¹ We remained in this Cove several days. We then moved northward passing through a gap in the Pigeon Mts, into the Valley of the Chicamauga Creek. We were not in any fighting but there was continual Skirmishing. On Sept 18th both Armies seemed to be moving in the same direction on paralel roads, in the same vally both were trying to head off the other, and get posession of Chattanooga. When Bragg found he could not succeed in this, He turned on us.⁵² All day of Sept 19th there was terrible fighting off to our left a mile or

⁵⁰ "Dechard is a city in Franklin County, Tennessee."

⁵¹ "After delaying for several weeks in Tullahoma, Rosecrans planned to flush Bragg out of Chattanooga by crossing the Tennessee River, heading south, and interdicting the Confederate supply lines from Georgia. He began operations on August 18 and used a two-week bombardment of Chattanooga as a diversion."

⁵² "Rosecrans pursued Bragg into the rugged mountains of northwestern Georgia, only to find that a trap had been set. Bragg started the Battle of Chickamauga (September 19 – September 20, 1863) when he launched a three-division assault against the corps of George H. Thomas. A command misunderstanding allowed a major gap to appear in the Union line as reinforcements arrived, and Longstreet was able to drive his corps into that gap and send the Union Army into retreat. If not for the defensive stand by a portion of

so. Our Reg't lay on the ground in the woods in support of a Battery which was firing in our front. The Enemy's shells many of them passing over us and some of them came dangerously near. One of the guns was struck and dismounted, but we were not engaged more than this, during this first day of the Battle of Chickamauga.⁵³

At 2 o'clock PM we were moved farther north, passing the Great Crawfish Springs, where we stopped and filled our canteens. And passing along the road northward the rail-fences on both sides of the narrow road were on fire. So it was like marching through a furnace. After going quite a distance, passing Battle field Station in this way, we halted and were told not to make the least noise. We crawled into a thicket to the left of the road and laid down on our Arms til morning. There was another line in front of us, and from the lay of the ground I suppose were near the Creek, and although it was quite dark we could notice that those in our front, seemed agitated, as though the enemy was very close to them and they were almost on the point of firing. The night was cold and chilly, almost frosty, and everything remained quiet until perhaps 10 o'clock Sunday morning Sept. 20th. There was deathly stillness. One that did not know, would not have believed, that Two mighty Armies lay there ready to grapple each other in a death struggle. Who of us would have believed that before the Sun went down that day 40,000 (this no includes both days fighting) men would have been slain (counting both sides) and including wounded and missing.

It was perhaps 10 o'clock AM when away off to the left (north) a single musket was heard. Instantly there was a terrible roar of Musketry and Artillery along the whole line, for miles. We were immediately formed into line, and marched on quick time down the same road northward I have no idea how far but were soon ordered into line of Battle, in open woods in the Creek bottom and facing toward the left of the General line of our Army. (I may be mistaken in this) We went forward until we came to the edge of a small clearing, or field, where we were ordered to lie down. In a few minutes, the enemy emerged from the oposite side of this field. Their officers were urging their men forward and even pushing some of them. Our reg't was ordered to fire. We commenced firing and cheering as loud as we could. I fired my gun and turned on my back and reloaded my gun. Turned again and raised on one elbow to fire again but did not do it. I was hit in the breast with a musket ball. I was stuned for a little bit. Then I cheered 2 or 3 times with the rest. I thought I was mortally wounded but I soon got up and went to the rear, behind a large tree. Leroy Lacy was there he had been hit in his leg, but not very bad. He and some one else helped me back off the field. As we moved back I saw a man runing away, and I asked him what was the matter and he said he had no gun. So I told him I would given him my gun if he would go back. He took it, but I don't know what he did with it. After going back perhaps ½ a mile onto the ridge (mission ridge I suppose) we had the good fortune to find our own Ambulance train, under charge of H.B.W. McVey, of my own Co and they were just ready to start with a load of wounded to Chattanooga. I was laid on a matress in the bottom of the Ambulance, and that ends my knowledge of the battle. Only as I have read and been told of it. (You can read of how they fought during all the rest of the day, resisting 17 onslaughts of the enemy, how Thomas got the great name of "The

the line led by Thomas ('The Rock of Chickamauga'), the Union Army would have been completely routed."

⁵³ History of the 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. ... the Battle of Chickamauga, September 19-21, opened when both armies appeared ready to annihilate the other.

Rock of Chickamauga.” withdrawing his Corps after dark and again beating them back at Rossville Gap). While it is all true, yet, I was not in it. The Orderly Serg’t of my Co was taken prisoner there, and spent nearly 18 months in Andersonville Prison, which is worse than a hundred deaths. I only remember of the Train stoping at Rossville Gap because of a jam of waggon Trains. I don’t remember any ting else untill in the night they told me we were in Chattanooga. Our train had stoped in the street. Pretty soon a man came riding on Horse back along by the train. He said he wanted to see if he could find any body he knew, among the wounded, that he belonged to the Engineer Corp which was encamped in Chattanooga. I told him who I was and asked him if he knew my Brother, he said he did and would go right and tell him I was there.

In a short time he came to me. Then the question was what was to be done with the wounded. The train master McVey and S went to a house near by, and asked permission to put some of the wounded in the house, but were refused. They then forced their way took their beds and spread them out on the parlor floor and filled the house with wounded men. I had a very good place, but the Ladies of the house (who were rebels) refused to give any assistance. Sylvanus staid with me all night and the next morning he went and got the Surgeon of the Engineer Corps to come and dress my wound. It was afterward found out that 3 of our Surgeons were enjoying a good bed up stairs, while the town was full of wounded men needing their services. My clothing was a mass of dried blood and had to be cut off with a knife. After a few days some Rebel Hospital Barracks had been fixed up, and I was removed to them. The Enemy had closed in around the town, occupying Mission ridge and Lookout Mountain which commanded the river and RR on the west. While Wheeler with a large force of Cavalry crossed the Tenn so as to prevent our getting supplies. We were practically in a state of Siege. Those of us who were in the Hospitals were put on $\frac{1}{4}$ rations but the Army outside lived at starvation rates for 2 months. During all this time I lay there, on a cotton mattress over which was spread my rubber blanket with my knapsack for a pillow and my Army blanket for cover. I could not wear a shirt or underclothing because the corruption from my wound run continuous over each shoulder and gathered in a puddle under my hips, something like a quart a day. The Soldier nurse came each morning and got me up and washed me clean, brought food and drink and that was all the attention I rec’d. I had a dreadful cough, and suffered with cold and constant hunger, and most of the time toothache. I finally prevailed on the nurse to try to get me some more cover. He went out and got two more blankets, old and dirty. These seemed to only add to the weight without warming me and in a few days I discovered that the whole bed was crawling with Greybacks and there was no relief from these while I staid there. The little piece of Bread and meat I got each time only seemed to agravate my apetite, so I thought of little else than somthing to eat, and long for the time to come when they would bring me another bite. Then the Rebels shelled the town every day and the shells came dangerously near. Some came bounding up the street in front. One day a shell passed over the ward I was in and came down through the middle of the next one between the beds and went into the ground, but it so happened it did not explode.

In Nov. Gen Grant arrived and took command. he had been assigned to the command of all the Army of the West. Hookers Corps had also arrived, and marched up on the west side of Lookout point, and the river was opened up to that point, and soon we were supplied with plenty to eat. Then Sherman[‘s] Army arrived from the west and

crossed the river above the town. Preparations were made for driving the enemy off the mountains, which resulted in the celebrated Battles of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge.

Orders were given to remove all the sick and wounded out of the town. I was loaded into a 6 mule Army waggon on my back, on a mattress at night and h[a]uled out and across the river on a pontoon bridge to a boat landing 7 miles, over a Cordor[o]y road. This seemed like a hard experience but in the morning, I twisted myself around till I got up into a sitting posture and looking out I saw some soldiers had made a fire and were making some coffee, and I thought, now if I could only get out there I might get them to give me some. (Understand that I had not been able to raise myself or to walk before this.)

So I got out of the waggon. (This was the first time I had got my clothes) and found that they were stiff with matter and when I stood on my feet it run down to my feet, but I went and got some coffee and felt better.

Pretty soon we were put onto the Hull of an old steamboat that had been rigged up and were taken down the river to Stevenson Ala. where we were put into some tents there for several days. Then a Hospital train was brought down there, and we were taken to Nashville Tenn. which is about 100 miles. I do not remember how long we were on this car. At Nashville Tenn we were quartered for 2 or 3 weeks in the Basement of a church not far from the Statehouse. I improved all the time, in spite of the wast[e] of my wound and the want of proper care, and cleanliness. I had no assistance in caring for my wound or change of clothing. I am aware that all this recital is disgusting and disagreeable, but I could not tell my story without it. After this we were put onto a Hospital boat where every thing was nice and we fared nicely. In the course of 7 or 8 days we were landed at Evensville Ind. and placed in the Marine Hospital where I remained for some time. I was able by this time to walk about and take care of myself very well. About Dec. 1st, I think, we were placed (in charge of an officer) a considerable number of us on board a freight train like cattle and shipped to Cincinnati where we arrived in the night. We were marched along way up into the City to some sort of Soldiers Home or stopping place. We were put into a large room with a few wooden benches awful filthy. There was no place on the floor where we could spread a blanket so as to lay down so we had to stand or sit up the rest of the night. The next morning we were taken out and given a good Breakfast, and then we went to the depot and took a train for Camp Denezan 16 miles. This old camp had been transformed into a Convalescent Hospital and was a very comfortable place, and in Feb sometime, I obtained a 10 days Furlough and came home. Brother S. had to be commissioned as a Lieut and sent home on recruiting Service, and I found him there when I got home. While at home we attended a notable wedding. That of Mr. TM Cherry to Miss Assinath Finney.⁵⁴ After I returned to Camp Denezan, I remember of visiting J.L. Hughes whose Reg't was quartered there for a time, and he had been sick with measles, and his Father Rev David Hughes had just Died, and we had just heard of it.

In Apr I was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps and was sent to Cincinnati to some Barracks in the upper part of the City where I remained for several weeks. No beds or straw was provided and we had to come down to the soft side of a board again.

⁵⁴ Vinton County, Ohio, brides, 1850-1869. p. 13: Finney, Aseneth [married] Cherry, Thomas M. [on] Feb. 4, 1864.

Then were again loaded on freight cars and sent to Washington D.C. We were I think about a week in going, and but once on the way did we have a chance to get out and make some coffee or to cook our meat. We went via Lancaster, Zanesville, Belleare, Grafton, Baltimore. On arriving at Washington we were marched out into the country, where there was other men gathered of the same class and then organized into Companies and regular Army Officers appointed over us. Then we went into the City, to some Barracks, located about 1 square east of the Capitol grounds. We remained there until about the middle of Aug, doing guard duty alternately at the Navy yard Bridge and the B & O Depot. At both places we had to examine the passes of all persons leaving the City to arrest all suspicious persons and seize all contraband goods. We suffered dreadfully in these old Barracks from Bedbugs. I could not begin to describe it, but the old lumber in the siding and bunks was literally alive with them. Most of the men slept on the street most of the Summer on account of it. I once concluded I would go down on Penn Ave. without a pass when I got about 7 square west of the Capitol I run into the City patrol guards. They marched me off at once to the central guard house, and locked me up until the next day, when I was turned out. As I had done nothing only to be a few squares from Camp without a pass but such is military rule in the City in war times. My term of service expired on the 12th of Aug but I was not discharged. Soon after this, we were marched to the B & O Depot just at night and loaded again into freight cars, and sometime the next day we were landed at Elmira NY. Here we staid a few days. We were then ordered to take a train and went to Binghamton then North via Ithica and on the Cayuga Lake to Syracuse. Thence to Utica N.Y. where we were marched up into the City, and halted on one of the principal streets, where we remained a number of days, sleeping on the sidewalks. We were there for the purpose of enforcing the draft which was then taking place. Then those of us whose time of Service had expired, were put in charge of an officer and sent back to Elmira and dis-charged, furnished with transportation via Buffalo and Cleveland to Columbus O where we were paid off. We got a train to Loveland and arrived there on Saturday night and had to stay there until Monday, when we got a train to Hope Sta and walked across the hills home again.

In this naritive I have only t[o]uched upon a few of the principal events of my Soldier life. The every day life, the drilling the guard and picket duty the Camp, the Bivouac the Dress parade, and the grand reviews, I have left out because it is not possible to do so (These things were so common place) any more than it would be now to give the details of last years house work, or farm work.

In the report of the Chickamauga Commission I find that we were contending for a Bridge with Breckenrige's Div on the 19th of Sept. That we left that position at 2 PM and marched past the Spring turning westward across the Ry then North to near Battlefield Sta then turning East to Bothertons field where there is a tablet Erected to the 18th O.V.I. Here is where we spent the night of the 19th. On the 20th we went north on the Lafayette road, to Kellys field where I was wounded, and where there is another Tablet to the 18th O.V.I. After this they charged the enemy and drove them about a mile, afterward fell back to Thomas Headquarters Snodgrass hill, where they charged the enemy many times at this place or [a?] regimental monument is erected.

Wm. L. Bartlett