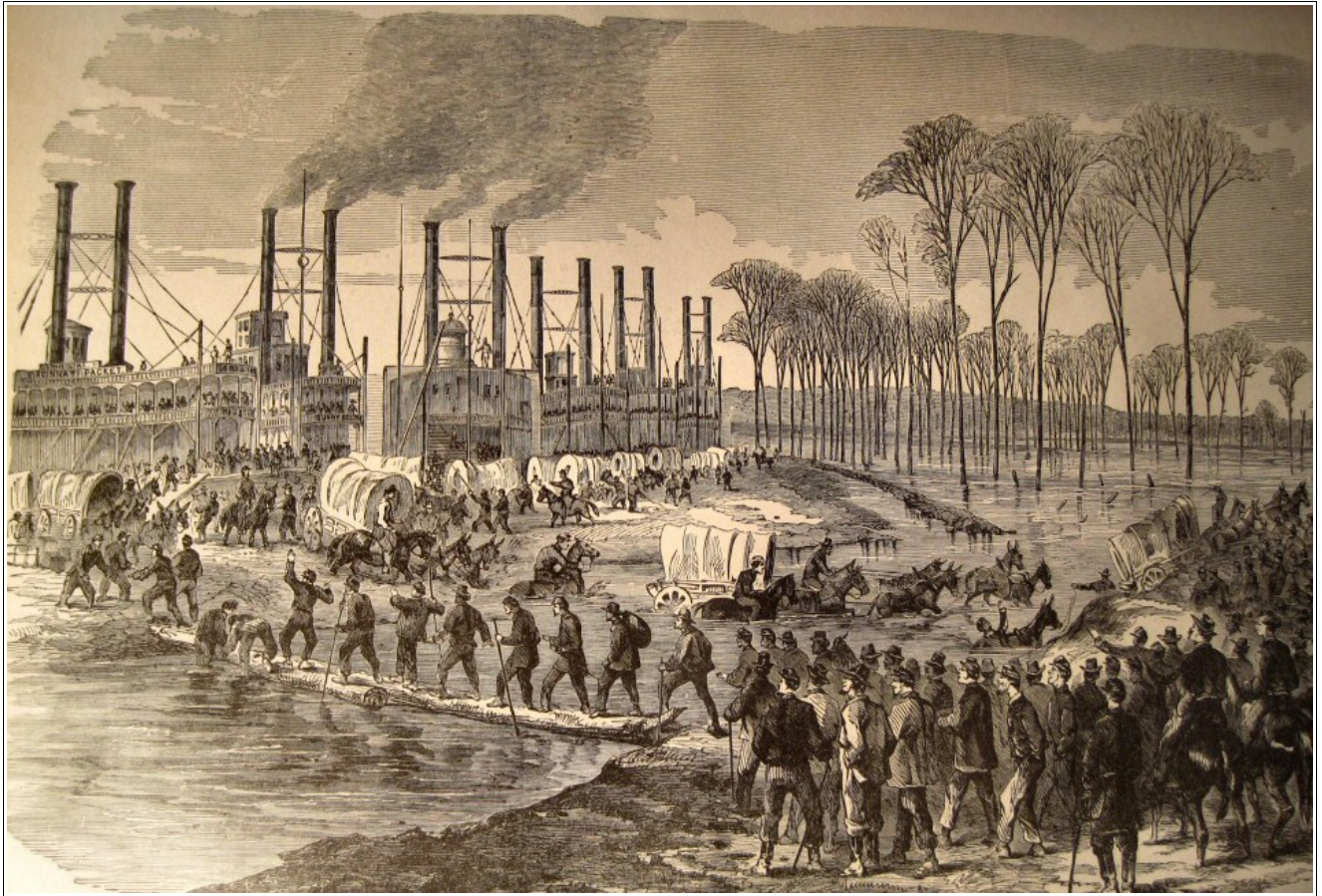
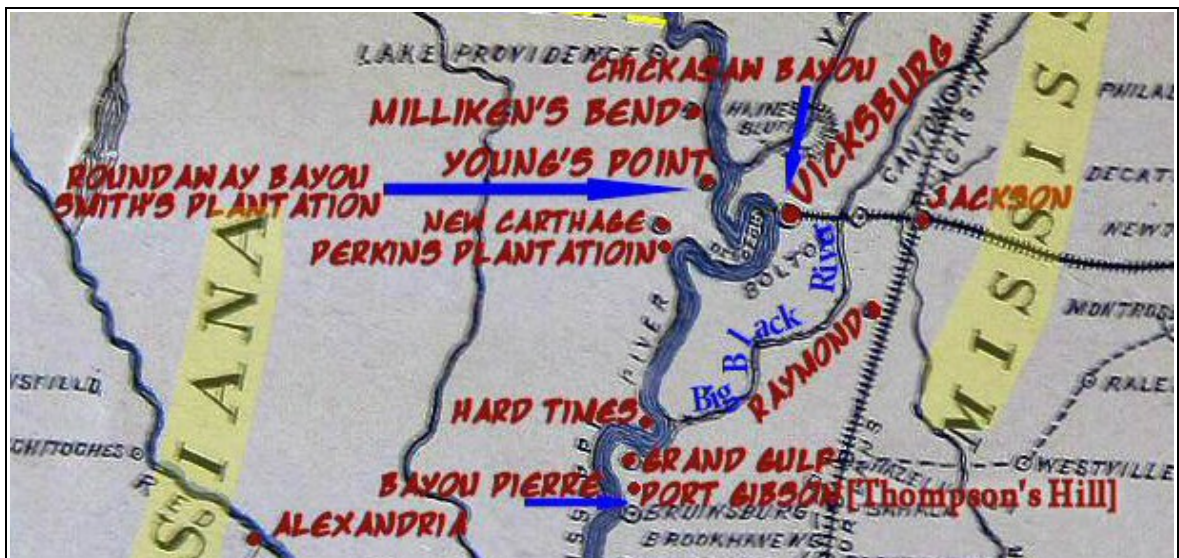


## Moving South again on the Mississippi to Grand Gulf

[Note: The 120th went on the move to get in position below Vicksburg on the Louisiana side of the Mississippi where they could then get transports down to Grand Gulf for the eventual attack on Vicksburg from the rear.]



From the book *Battles and Commanders of the Civil War* : a graphic and pictorial history prepared directly from the government records in the Departments of War and Statistics, by Frank Leslie and Marcus J. Wright, 1902 and 1906, page 207.



Company C Muster Roll records: March and Apr, 1863 shows station of the company In the field.  
Record of events: On the 1st of March the regiment lay in camp at **Youngs Point, La.** - from



which place it moved to **Milliken Bend, La.** on the 10th inst. Encamped here until the 2nd of April it marched to **Perken's Plantation, La.** stopping and laying in camp near **Richmond, La.** from the 3rd to the 6th at **Holmes plantation** from the 6th to the 9th at **Smiths plantation** from the 9th to the 19th? at **James Plantation** from the 19th to the 21st - on the 28th the regiment **Perkins Plantation, La** and embarked in the transports bound for Grand Gulf on the 29th we lay on the transports and witnessed the bombardment of the place. - on the evening of the same day we **disembarked and marched below the Gulf and camped for the night.** [map for Grand Gulf <http://www.battleofchampionhill.org/trail/> ] On the morning of the 30th the regiment again embarked and crossed the river - took up the line of march.

**31 Mar - 17 Apr 1863: Operations from Milliken's Bend to New Carthage: included Ohio 120th Infantry.** [Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, vol 1, page 745]

**8 Apr 1863: page 745: Skirmish, James' Plantation, near New Carthage: included Ohio 120th Infantry.** [Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, vol 1, page 745]

Company E Muster Roll records: March and April, 1863, station not stated.

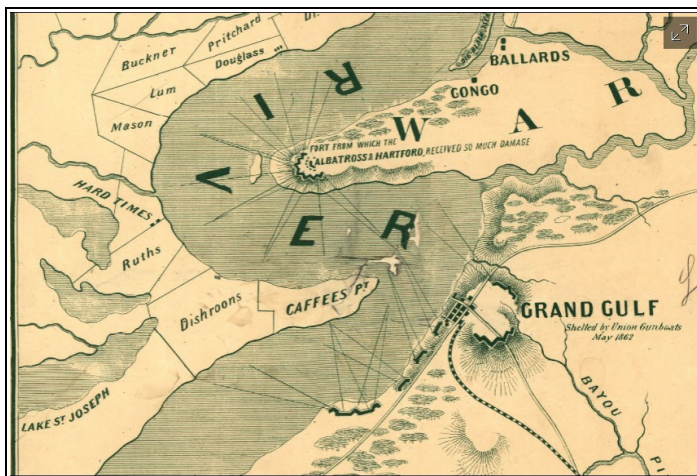
Record of events: Lay with the Regiment at Millikens Bend, La until April 2, 1863, when we marched to Richmond La. from Richmond to James' Plantation ; then to Perkins Plantation La. where we went aboard Transports on the Mississippi River on the 28th day of April 1863 and sailed to Grand Gulf, where we witnessed the bombardment, but took no part. April 30th marched to the Battlefield of "Thompsons Hill"

Company G Muster Roll records: Mch and Apl 1863 shows station of company, In the Field Mississippi

The company left Young's Point La. on the 10th day of March and came up the river to Milikens Bend when it went into camp. The Regt remained there until the 2nd of Apl. when it was ordered to Richmond. Thence to Homes Plantation Thence to Smiths Plantation remained there about a week. Thence to James Plantation Thence to Perkins Plantation [at the mouth of Vidal Bayou] on the **29th day of April ... went aboard the Steamer Silver Wave with orders to participate in the Battle of Grand Gulf [Mississippi] owing to the failure of the naval engagement the troops disembarked and marched to a point below. crossed on the boats which ran the Blockade and commenced to march the 30th.**

**Diary of Henry S. Sherman, nephew of Gen. W. T. Sherman, Sergeant Major, 120th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 9th Division, 13th Army Corps [Henry was in company A when he wrote the following. He had been promoted to Sergt. Major from Private on 26 Sep 1862. Contributed by descendant David Carter.]**

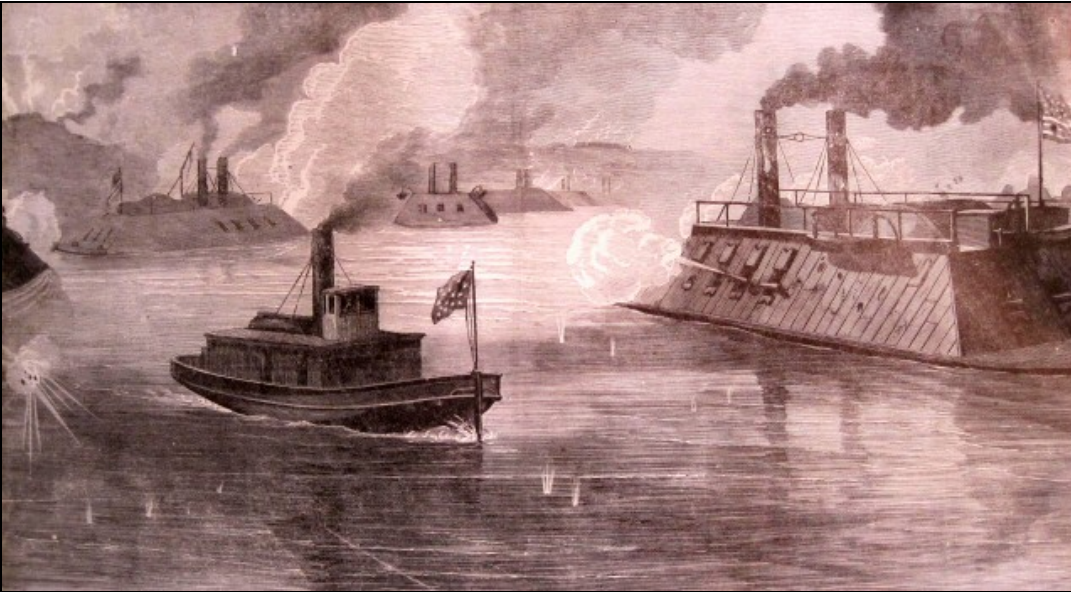
**29 Apr 1863**



"My birthday. At about 6:45 the Gun boats moved down upon the Bluffs. "Lafayette" in the advance, "Tuscumbia" bringing up the rear. When within a mile the Rebels batteries opened upon them briskly. Our boats did not fire until almost abreast of the Works and fired rapidly and seemingly with good effect. The firing was continued heavily till about 1 o'clock P. M. when it ceased and the Gun boats came back to their old positions. The troops on the transports immediately disembarked and marched overland along the levee across the points. After a short march of a mile & half we came upon the river again and bivouacked immediately behind the levee in an old cornfield (as

usual)...

**About 9 o'clock the boats commenced running the Blockade amid a terrific cannonade and tempest of shot and shell which lasted during two hours. It was a magnificent sight at night to see the shells bursting in the air and the flashes of the guns both from the Gunboats and rebel batteries on the hill. Cheer after cheer rent the air from the point through the whole line of the army as the boats made their appearance below the bluffs."**



Battles and Commanders of the Civil War : a graphic and pictorial history prepared directly from the government records in the Departments of War and Statistics, by Frank Leslie and Marcus J. Wright, 1902 and 1906., page 212. Sketch by F. B. Schell. Federal Gunboats and Ironclads under Admiral Porter ran the blockade at Grand Gulf Miss., April 29, 1863.

[Now the troops had to get back on the transports. They marched from Hard Times plantation above Grand Gulf across a triangle of land to Disharoon's [Dishroons]plantation which was below Grand Gulf where they got on the transports again for Bruinsburg.] This is a portion of G. W. Tomlinson's map of Vicksburg, showing all the surrounding fortifications.....1863, available at the Library of Congress online. <http://www.loc.gov/>

Diary of Henry S. Sherman continues:

### **30 April**

"Embarked on the transports about day light. About 11 o'clock we started down the river and landed ten miles below on the Mississippi side of the river. After disembarking we lay until about three o'clock on shore until we received our five days rations. We started about three o'clock towards Port Gibson and marched until 7 P. M. where we rested an hour. We passed through a most beautiful country, although it was in places very wild and rugged and somewhat mountainous. How delightful the air felt, so pure and fresh without that swampy taste we have been so long accustomed to. We passed through some very wild country where the valleys were gorges and deep fissure but no rocks were visible.....After an hours rest and a little lunch we started again. Some of us were fortunate enough to obtain mules and horses to ride. But such riding! It was worse than walking for the mules backs more resembled the dorsal fin of a sunfish than anything I can think of. Well about midnight our advance met the enemy and quite a lively cannonade occurred for nearly an hour. We marched on until within a short distance of the enemy where we bivouacked for the remainder of the night. We slept on the high ground where our first engagement took place about an hour before."

Company H Muster Roll records: Mch and Apl 1863 shows station of company On march to Port Gibson

Record of events: Mar 11th moved from Youngs Point La to Millikens Bend where we remained till April when we marched to Richmond La 14 miles thence 14 miles to Smiths Plantation La on the Roundaway Bayou crossed the Bayou marched via New Carthage 8 miles to Perkins Plantation, Tensas Parish, La. here we remained till Apl 28-'63 when **we moved on Transports to a point near Grand Gulf and on the 29th witnessed the bombardments of the batteries at the point of Rocks. Same night marched down the levee to Hard Times Landing and on Apl 30 moved on the Transports to the mouth of Bayou Pierre Miss. when [whence to?] Port Gibson Miss.**

Major-General McClernand:

Page 57 "**Having concentrated my whole corps at Perkins's [Plantation], on the twenty-**

**eighth [April]**, without wagons, baggage, tents, or officers' horses, which were left behind for want of transportation, the whole of it except the detachment at Hard Times and two regiments ordered to remain at Perkins's as a garrison, embarked on steamers and barges including the gunboat General Price, for Grand Gulf. Arriving at Hard Times that evening, they rested there during the night on boats and on shore."

"On the morning of the twenty-ninth [April] the gunboats steamed three miles down the river to Grand Gulf, and closely approaching, the enemy's batteries opened fire upon them. The **Ninth, Tenth, and Twelfth divisions of my corps followed on transports, casting anchor in full view of the Gulf, and holding themselves in readiness to push forward and disembark the moment the enemy's water-batteries should be silenced and footing for them thus secured.** General Car's division remained at Hard Times, waiting for the return of transports to bring them on too." [But this attempt at Grand Gulf failed and they had to go back to Hard Times. They tried another route.] The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events, with Documents, Narratives, etc. Volume 7 by Frank Moore, Putnam, 1864 [Available at Google Books] Major-Gen. McClermand's Report starts on page 54. March from Milliken's Bend to Vicksburg. He was in charge of a portion of the Thirteenth army corps which included the Ninth Division under Brigadier-General P. J. Osterhaus. His command included the First Brigade under Brigadier-General Theophilus T. Garrard. This First Brigade consisted of the 49th IN, 69th IN, 120th OH, 118th IL, and 7th KY.

[Bennington [VT] Banner, 23 Ap 1863, page 2, available at GenealogyBank]

"Col. French of the 120th Ohio Regiment having lately resigned all the staff officers, and nearly all the remaining commissioned officers in the Regiment, have sent in a petition to Gov. Tod [of Ohio], praying for the promotion of Lt. Col. Spiegel to the vacancy. **Lt. Col. Spiegel is a brother of our townsman, E. Spiegel**, who has not seen him for some 15 or 16 years, and knew nothing of his whereabouts until hearing of him as Lt. Colonel, and probable Colonel.

A strong recommendation for his appointment has also been sent the Governor by the Colonel of the 3d Kentucky, acting Brigadier, Brigadier General Osterhaus, of the regular army, A. Schwartz, Inspector General, and Chief of Staff 13th army Corps, and also by Maj. Gen. M'clernand, all of whom pronounce him a brave, accomplished and gallant officer."

"The Officers of the 120th Ohio

**Judge Perkins' Plantation, La., April 22, 1863**

Mr. Editor - The following named persons compose the Field, Staff and Line officers of the 120th Reg. O. V. I.:

Colonel Marcus M. Spiegel

Lt. Colonel John W. Beekman

Major Willard Slocum

Adjutant Henry S. Sherman

Quartermaster Ezra V. Dean

Surgeon Byron Stanton

1st Assistant Surgeon - John W. Hammond

2nd Assistant Surgeon - Christopher C. Stouffer

Company A

Captain Henry H. Eberhardt

1st Lieutenant Reuben Bechtel

2d Lieutenant William Van Ostern

Company B

Captain Joseph P. Rummell

1st Lieut Samuel A. English

2nd Lieut. Harvy Applegate

Company C

Capt John F. McKinley

1st Lieut William Harvey

2nd Lieut. William Hughes

Company D

Captain Valentine Moffet

1st Lieut. Benjamin F. Miller

2d Lieut. William Spear

Company E

Captain William McIlvaine  
1st Lieut Hiram E. Totten  
2d Lieut. Robert P. Wallace  
Company F  
Captain John Sloan  
1st Lieut. Elias Fraunfelter  
2nd Lieut John Ambrose  
Company G  
Captain Loyd N. Meech  
1st Lieut Benjamin T. Jones  
2d Lieut Franklin Stotler  
Company H  
Captain James B. Taylor  
2d Lieut. George W. Althouse  
Company I  
Captain Christopher Au  
1st Lieut Augustus Case  
2d Lieut. William Milliken  
Company K  
Captain John Smith  
1st Lieut - vacancy  
2d Lieut. John A. McMillen"

[Published in Wooster Republican, 14 May 1863, page 3, available at GenealogyBank]

**Died in April 1863, 120th OVI, Died of disease unless otherwise noted**

Scruby, Charles, Private Co A, died 3 Apr 1863 at Regimental Hospital Milliken's Bend, LA  
Kurtz, Benjamin, Co A, died on 16 Apr 1863 at Camp McClernand, LA  
Jackson, Charles E., Co B, died 6 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Stoner, George W., Co B, died 8 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Freed, Joseph B, Co B, died 15 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Wolfe, John, Co B, died 17 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Barr, David, Co B, died 27 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Robinson, William, Co C, died 2 Apr 1863 in floating hospital "Nashville"  
Arnold, William, Co D, wounded 28 Dec 1862 battle of Chickasaw Bayou, MS; died 7 Apr '63 St. Louis, MO  
Diehl, Aaron, Co E, died ?4 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Rapp, John, Co E, died 21 Apr 1863 on hospital boat "Nashville"  
Angus, Samuel, Co E, died 28 Apr 1863 near Grand Gulf, MS  
Crumrine, David, Co F, died 9 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Crull, Israel, Co F, died 11 Apr 1863 on hospital boat "Nashville"  
Flickinger, Benjamin, Co G, died 15 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Mutters, Michael, Co G, died 18 Apr 1863 on hospital steamer "D A January" at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Grubaugh, John H, Co H, died 20 Apr 1863 at Smith's Landing, LA  
Church, Alonzo B., Corporal, Co I, died 1 Apr 1863 at Regimental Hospital, Millikens Bend, LA.  
Nazor, Augustus E., Private Co I, died on hospital steamer "City of Memphis" 3 Apr 1863  
Ells, Herbert, Sergeant Co I, died at Van Buren General Hospital, Milliken's Bend, 27 Apr 1863  
**Purdey, Joseph C., Private Co K, discharged 24 Mar '63 at Milliken's Bend, LA; died 5 Apr 1863, Cairo, IL**  
Parcell, David H, Co K, died 10 Apr 1863 at St. Louis, MO  
Drake, James M. Co K, died 11 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA  
Etwiler, John J., Co K, died 11 Apr 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2018  
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[Index to History of the 120th OVI](#)

[Link to Main page for the 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry](#)