

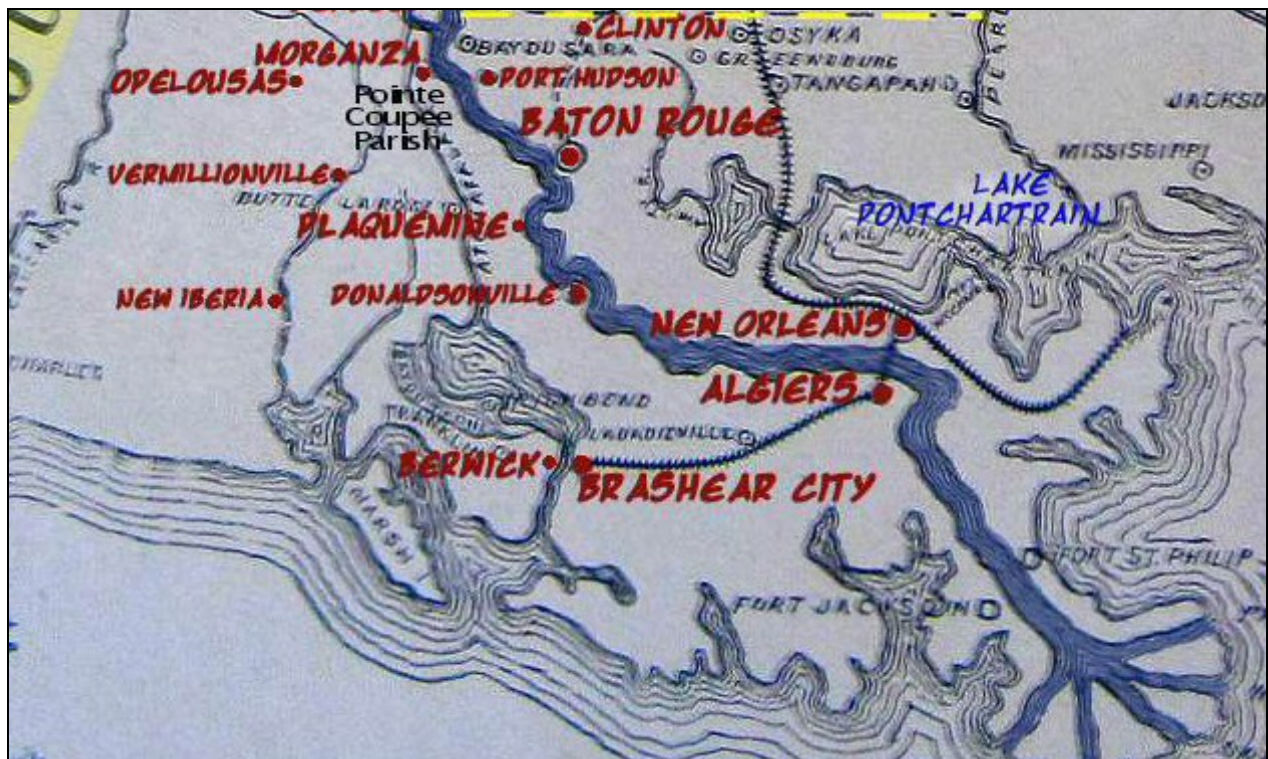
## South into Louisiana 8 Aug 1863 - 23 Mar 1864

Ohio in the War: her statement, generals, and soldiers, Volume 2, by Whitelaw Reid, The Robert Clarke Co, 1895 **Section on 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry** pp.616

On the 8th of August the Thirteenth Army Corps (now commanded by Major-General Ord, a division of which was commanded by General Washburne, the successor to Osterhaus) left Vicksburg for New Orleans, and, after a **week's detention at Port Hudson**, arrived at its destination. The One Hundred and Twentieth went into camp at **Carrollton, a suburb of New Orleans**, where it remained until the 5th of September, when it accompanied the corps to **Berwick City**, and thence to **Opelousas**, returning to **Berwick City** on the 9th of September. Soon after the regiment, **in company with the Forty-Second Ohio** and Twenty-Second Kentucky, under the command of **Colonel Sheldon**, was sent to **Plaquemine**, a small town on the Mississippi River, one hundred and ten miles above New Orleans, where it lay in camp until the **23d of March, 1864, when it moved up to Baton Rouge**.

It [ the regiment] participated in the campaign in the valley of the Teche [A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, Vol 1, page 749. Bayou Teche is northeast of New Iberia.][Bayou Teche Campaign [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayou\\_Teche\\_Campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayou_Teche_Campaign).] The 120th OVI was one of the regiments that took part in the Bayou Teche Campaign in Western Louisiana, **Oct 3 - Nov 30 1863**. [A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, Vol 1, page 749. Bayou Teche is northeast of New Iberia.]

"The Teche Bayou. -- the Teche (pronounced tesh) is a bayou of Louisiana, and commences in St. Landry parish, a few miles from Opelousas, and after flowing in a southeasterly direction, in a very tortuous course of about 200 miles, unites with the Atchafalaya Bayou, near the south-eastern extremity of Lake Chetimaches. The chief towns on its banks are St. Martinsville and Franklin. It is bordered by fertile prairies and plains, in which cotton and sugar flourish. During high water steamboats can ascend this bayou for a distance of nearly 200 miles from the Gulf of Mexico." [Published in San Francisco Bulletin, 24 Feb 1863, page 1.]



**8 Aug 1863 left Vicksburg**  
**Stopped at Port Hudson one week**  
**Camp at Carrollton until 5 Sep 1863**  
**To Berwich City**  
**To Opelousas**  
**To Berwich City 9 Sep 1863**  
**To Plaquemine, LA**  
**To Baton Rouge, 23 Mar 1864**

**Oct - 30 Nov 1863: Campaign in Western Louisiana. Operations in Teche Country: included 120th Ohio Infantry.** [Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, vol 1, page 749] Other Ohio troops: 2d, 16th, and 17th Indpt. Batteried Light arty; 16th, **42d**, 48th, 56th, 83d, 96th Infantry.



[Pension papers of William Roddy, Sergeant, Company I, died at Marine Hospital, New Orleans. The pension went to his mother, Sophia.]

Written from Carrollton LA, **1 Sep 1863**

Sir

It is with regret that I am compelled to inform you of the death of your brother William Roddey who died at the marine Hospital **Aug 30th**. He was taken sick while on the march from Black River Miss. to Jackson and was sent back to Black River when we came back to Vicksberg. He again joined us and was in a fair way of getting well. I then tried to have him sent home on sick furlough with Wm Henny and James Coleman but failed and we were ordered to bring all our sick with us when we came down here and on arriving here we were put under marching orders and were ordered to send our sick to the hospital. He was taken there Aug 25th but soon after arriving there he gave up and said that he must die.

He sent for the chaplain and was baptised. He was first taken sick with fever and got better and then the diarrhea set in which soon became chronic and cut short the life of one who was loved by all who knew him. He was always while in health at his post and was in all the battles that the Regt was in except Jackson and there was only prevented by sickness. I herewith send you a certificate which will enable you or his father to draw his back pay and bounty which is due him. I also intend to send to you some of his effects the first opportunity I have which I think will present itself in a day or two as there is a couple young men of the Regt expects to go home on sick furlough in a day or two while at Port Hudson. He had the bad luck one night while asleep to have his pants stole with all the money he had and little trinkets. I will send all that I can get the boys to take and dispose of the rest to the best advantage I can. The things I will send in a carpet sack of my own to my wife and she will deliver them over to you on their arrival there. In conclusion I would say that all was done that could be done during his sickness to supply his wants and especially while in the hospital. I was told that they watched over and attended him almost with mothers care. Though fair and esteemed was the flower with us, it now blooms (we have hope) with more radiance in the eternal world.

Capt. C. Au

P.S. I have started Wm Roddy's things, everything he had except his blanket and boots which were too heavy to send. If they get through safe, you will get them of Mrs. L. J. Au.

Capt C. Au

[Note: It was fortunate that the National Tribune contained an article about this time period in southern Louisiana since there were not a lot of sources telling what the 120th was actually doing down there. Some notes in italics have been added to the article.]

[The National Tribune, 8 Jan 1885, page 1 at Library of Congress; Chronicling America]  
[Article](#) by Frank H. Mason and John W. Fry, **42d Ohio**

13th Corps

"After a pleasant voyage the fleet reached New Orleans on the night of the **15th [Aug 1863]**. The division debarked and marched to the pretty suburban village of Carrollton, four miles above, and in the rear of New Orleans, on the road to Lake Pontchartrain. Here, on a beautiful lawn, a clean, dry, and healthful spot, Osterhaus's war-worn Division encamped in luxurious style. Tents and camp equipage were in perfect order, and the troops, with no enemy to oppose, divided their time between drilling and exploring New Orleans. .... The pleasant episode at Carrollton lasted from the 15th of August until the 6th of September, when the division, leaving the sick and convalescent behind, moved to Brashear city, near the coast, about 100 miles southwest of New Orleans. Up to this time it had been expected that the next point of attack would be Mobile, and this was, indeed, Gen. Grant's intention; but the condition of Rosecrans in Tennessee induced the Government to recall the captor of Vicksburg to that important department, and the movement against Mobile was postponed. In its stead, the troops at New Orleans were headed towards Texas. Gen. Banks's Department west of the Mississippi had by this time lost all importance as a part of the rebellion to be crushed.

Objects of the expedition: The fighting that should close the war was to be done east of the great river. But Louisiana and Texas were wealthy in cotton, a heavy crop of sugar was ripening, and it was the greatest importance that those States should be kept sufficiently under Federal control to permit the cotton and sugar to be gathered and marketed. [Sept 6 the division went to Algiers and got the train west.] At 10 in the evening the trains stopped at Bayou Boeuf, 75 miles from New Orleans, and, in the absence of orders, the men remained on board the cars during the night. Next morning, the division having all arrived, the troops were unloaded and put into camp. The weather was excessively hot; and the water in the bayou was found to be salt. The tide in the stream rose and fell about two feet, and when it was out the men skirmished up and down the sand in an industrious and interesting hunt for crabs. ... [11 Sept marched 10 miles to Brashear City.] Before reaching Brashear City many of the men, unable to endure their thirst, rushed to the brackish streams that crossed the road and drank of the warm, salt water. By this indiscretion many were rendered sick, and the road was strewn with stragglers unable to walk. They came up after sunset, however, and found the camp at Brashear City on the large bayou, 25 miles in length, which connects Grand Lake with the Gulf. Here the difficulty about water was again encountered; but the men immediately dug holes in the sand, in which small quantities were collected, and this, with what could be obtained from cisterns and the oranges which grew abundantly everywhere, served to assuage their thirst. It was also discovered that a strong north wind filled the bayou with fresh water from the lake above, and the rare opportunity thus afforded was improved by filling all the tubs, barrels and mess kettles that could be mustered with the heaven-sent beverage. After 10 days spent in Camp Brashear heavy and continuous rains set in, and the troops, still without tents, were badly exposed. On the 27th, however, the tents arrived; but the rains continued until the camp was flooded. A few of the prudent ones, who always spend their leisure time in providing against emergencies, had built bunks to sleep on, supported by stakes, several inches above the ground. As they lay in these they could hear their less fortunate comrades calling out, in imitation of the steamboat leadsman, 'Two feet!' 'Two and a half!' 'Quarter less twain!' 'No bottom!' The veteran volunteer had become a creature whose logical hilarity no misfortune could suppress.

.....After more than two weeks spent at Brashear, the division set out, on Oct. 3 for Opelousas, 100 Miles to the northwest.....Apparently, therefore, **we had come to re-enforce the army with which Gen. Banks was operating in the Tesche Country.** The 13th [Oct] was the Gubernatorial election day in Ohio, and after brigade and division inspection, the Ohio regiments, by the grace of their loyal Legislature, cast their patriotic vote for the Hon. John Brough, adding this mite to the overwhelming majority of 101,101 under which their loyal State had buried the arch traitor, Clement L. Vallandigham.

[Went to Opelousas and then Vermillionville and then back to Brashear City at Berwick Plantation on 10 Nov 1863.]

On the 25th of October, while on the return march, a party from the 120th and 42d Ohio had been

out foraging, while 12 men were at dinner at a sugar plantation, they were approached and captured by a squadron of rebel cavalry in federal uniform. The infantry observed them coming, but supposing them to be Union cavalry of the Nineteenth Corps, permitted them to surround the house and get possession of their muskets stacked in the yard. This misfortune was the occasion of stringent orders which from that time greatly restricted foraging."

*[Barnhart, David, Co D 120th, captured 24 Oct 1863 at battle of Opelousas, LA; returned to company 14 Jan 1864*

*Reckard, George, Co F 120th, captured 24 Oct 1863 in action at Opelousas, LA]*

*Corporal Jacob Nauman, Company G, was detailed, Oct. 28, 1863, on recruiting service in Ohio. "The remainder of his term of enlistment was spent in recruiting and in escorting recruits to their regiments in the South." [Portrait and Biographical Album of Benton County, Iowa]*

[The National Tribune, 8 Jan 1885, page 1, continued]

"After remaining at Camp Berwick until the **18th [Nov]**, Sheldon's Brigade (now including the 42d and 120th Ohio and the 7th and 22d Ky) crossed to Brashear City. .... the remainder of the Thirteenth Corps returning to New Orleans, whence a portion of it was sent to Texas via the Gulf. On the 19th Col. Sheldon was ordered to re-enforce Gen. Birge at Thibodeaux. The brigade went by rail to that point, where it reported to Gen. Birge, debarked, and marched up Bayou Lafourche to Donaldsonville on the Mississippi, where it took steamers for Plaquemine, a town of 4,000 inhabitants, on the western shore of the river, 110 miles above New Orleans. While returning from Opelousas we had confidently expected to be dispatched from Brashear to Texas; in fact, orders had been issued to be ready to embark for Galveston as soon as transportation by sea could be procured."

*[The War of the Rebellion: v. 1-53, 1889, pp 806-897]*

*Thibodeaux, La., **November 19, 1863.***

*Maj. G. Norman Lieber, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Gulf:*

*Major: I have the honor to report that the Seventh and Twenty-second regiments Kentucky Volunteers, Forty-second and One hundred and twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and first Indiana battery, four guns, all under command of colonel Sheldon, Forty-second Ohio, and being a part of the First Brigade, Third Division, thirteenth Army corps, arrived at this post this morning at 9 a. M., and marched immediately for Donaldsonville, where they will probably arrive to-morrow. The strength of Colonel Sheldon's command is about 1,050 men.*

*I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
H. W. Girge, Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

[The National Tribune, 8 Jan 1885, page 1, continued]

"The transfer to Plaquemine was so abrupt and hurried that it was evident the entire plan had been changed. A force of 4,000 or 5,000 of the enemy had appeared in the rich country west of Plaquemine, and it was found upon our arrival there that the brigade, with Col. Sheldon in command, had been ordered to fortify Plaquemine and hold it as a base of operations during the Winter. .... Immediately upon his arrival Col. Sheldon gained information that the enemy, 5,000 strong, under Gen. Walker, was raiding through the interior and threatening Plaquemine. An expedition was made to meet this enemy; but the Autumn rains had set in, the plantations were flooded, artillery could not be moved, and even infantry was often obliged to leave the roads and travel along the levees that lined the bayous and inland creeks. Forty or 50 prisoners had been captured in this expedition, however, but finding that Walker was not seriously disposed to fight, Col. Sheldon settled his command down to the work of repairing the levee and fortifying the town. Meanwhile, considerable work of a miscellaneous character had been done. Our tents, left at Brashear City when we left for Opelousas, three months before, had been issued to other troops, and were permanently lost to us.

To supply their place, barracks were built at Plaquemine; old buildings in and around the town being torn down to furnish lumber for the purpose. A strict provost guard was organized, the most rigid garrison discipline established, and, with better acquaintance, the relations between the

inhabitants and the garrison soon became intimate and cordial."



[After the expedition against Jackson, Miss.] About the **1st of January, 1864**, Captain Au was detached with his company [Co. I] and Company A, and sent to **New River Landing**, Louisiana, to enforce the **building of a levee**. He remained here four months with both companies under his command."

Published in *Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia*, New York, H. H. Hardesty & Co, 1885, for Richland Co OH

[Note: **New River Landing was between Donaldsonville and Plaquemine but on the east side of the Mississippi river.**]

Company A Muster Roll: Jan/Feb: Record of events: On the 19 day of Jan 1864 **Co's A and I** commanded by Christopher Au rec'd orders from Co. L.A. Sheldon Comd'g Post at Plaquemine La to proceed to **Rescuss Plantation to oversee and enforce the building of a levee**. We completed the levee and on the **19th day of Feb 1864 We received orders from Brig Genl Cook Comdg U.S.F. at Baton Rouge to proceed to Chastans plantation and remain until further orders.**

1st Lieut. William Milliken, Co I: "In the spring of 1864 Mr. Millikin, then a commissioned officer, was sent down the river in charge of a company of men to build a mile of dyke. This work he successfully accomplished....."

**Company I Muster Roll: Jan/Feb:** Record of events: Remained at Plaquemine La. untill the evening of **Jan 19/64** when I received orders to move immediately with my company. Went on board of the Transport Meter?, moved down to **Chastains Plantation** La (20 miles) where I received order to press hands and **build a Levee** on the 19th Feby 1864 I rec'd orders from Brig Gen Cook Comdg. District to remain at or near the above named Plantation.

[The National Tribune, 8 Jan 1885, page 1, continued]

"....The two Kentucky regiments and the cavalry had been transferred to Baton Rouge on the 27th of January, and the garrison was thereby reduced to the Ohio troops and the artillery. On the **26th [Jan 1864]** a steamer came up from New Orleans bearing our old comrades and friends of Foster's battery, bound for Red River. That famous campaign was then in motion. On the same day the 120th and 42d received the first outfit of dress coats that had been issued to them since enlistment. After two and a half years of service, and just as we were about to take the field for the last campaign, we received the uniforms, that could be of no possible advantage and only an

incumbrance on the march. There was a theory in the army that soldiers' luxuries always came in that awkward way. We were under orders for Baton Rouge."  
[They left for Baton Rouge on the **26th of March 1864.**]

-----end National Tribune article.

Corporal Martin S. Ryal, Company G, probably did desert. He was sent out on a foraging expedition at or near Plaquemine LA, **25 Feb 1864** and was never heard from again. He was listed as deserted. It looks like the mystery is solved. RYAL disappeared as stated above. The military thought he deserted. His wife thought he was dead because she had received a letter from the colonel saying that it was believed that the Rebels had killed him, and she remarried. She later applied for the corporal's pension but was turned down because the soldier had deserted. RYAL's mother and brother were left in Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co OH in 1860 by themselves. His father ended up in CA and married someone else. Corporal RYAL shows up later in Iowa and marries and has 2 children. He dies in Iowa. His mother and brother are buried in the same cemetery as the soldier in Iowa. So apparently they had moved to Iowa to be near Martin. Mystery solved. He probably did desert.

While his company was at Carrollton, **Daniel Chacey, Co E**, from Congress Twp, Wayne County Ohio, was back at Memphis:

[Hardesty's Encyclopedia, Wayne County OH]

"...when Daniel Chacey reached Youngs Point with his regiment he was sent to the hospital boat, for transportation up the Mississippi, sick unto death with chronic diarrhea. The following extract from a letter written the young wife and Mr. Chacey's father by young Mr. Morrow, a school teacher who saw him on the boat, tells of his condition: 'He believed he was going to die, and called me to him, in the engine room, where he had thrown himself on a pile of coal, and gave me his watch and purse to give you for him. I cared for him as best I could, and got him admitted to the Washington hospital at Memphis. I did not think it possible for him to survive the trip further, and if you wish to see him alive you must hasten to him with all possible dispatch.' The young wife had then in her arms a babe of five months, whom he had never seen, and with it she started for her husband's side with his father. When they arrived at Memphis they found only his grave. The body was disinterred and brought home...." Daniel died **21 Aug 1863**.



Private Henry Kahler, Company G, was transferred to Company A 5th Veteran Reserve Corps on 1 Sep 1863. The Veteran Reserve Corps was formerly called the Invalid Corps and was used in the Civil War for men who were fit only for light duty. See [Wikipedia](#). [Photo contributed by Lynn Gaulin.]

Tribute to the Memory of **Lieut. H. E. Totten. [Company E, 1st Lieut, wounded at Jackson 12 July, died 6 Oct 1863]**

We have never performed a duty so painful, as the one that now prompts us to chronicle the death of our esteemed and worthy young friend, Lieut. Hiram E. Totten. Having known him long and intimately - having associated with him for years - being familiar with those elements of his character which adorned it, and which contributed so highly to the elevation of his manhood, and being his friend while living, it need be no source of wonder to any one, that we should often visit his grave in memory - that when dead we should contemplate his virtues through the true glass of kind remembrance, or that we should submit to giving our feelings public expression. And it is not simply personal sadness and grief that results from his departure from our midst, but it is one that is felt and is tangible among large circles of weeping kindred and that widens out in sorrowful undulations among a sympathizing community. As a soldier we have incontrovertible assurances, if such were necessary, of his magnanimity and valor.

His courage was rather of the calm and thoughtful character, and not of that boisterous and impetuous order that seeks danger for display, but of that moral quality, united with the physical, both of which are necessary to make a truly brave man, which courts no struggle at the cannon's mouth, and which shrinks not from it when the conflict comes. Kind, to a criticism, to the brave boys he commanded, yet rigid in the enforcement of discipline and obedience, he had their fullest confidence and their most ardent desires for his recovery and restoration to them again. But it seemed as if some stubborn fate had set out for a victim, and determining to not fall in the pursuit of many, made fatal choice of him.

Characteristically prompt when resolution was formed, he applied for his commission and it was forthwith tendered to him. He commenced recruiting men for his company and those who best know the exertions he put forth wonder least at his success. The 120th Regiment had no more gallant and gentlemanly officer, or none more desirous of being a true soldier than he. He followed its bitter fortunes - constantly under the shadow of that mysterious fate - resolutely and cheerfully fulfilling his duties, and educating himself to the sufferings and privations incident to that daring and hazardous life upon which he had entered. Whatever of danger his regiment encountered at Chickasaw Bayou, to it was he exposed, and at Arkansas Post the unshrinking courage of the brave boys was again triumphantly illustrated. His Company and Regiment were in the Division of Major General Osterhaus, and participated in those sanguinary contests in the rear of Vicksburg, that ultimately led to its surrender. After gaining possession of that stronghold, when a portion of the army of General Grant was pursuing the scattered columns of Johnson, and **in the battle near Jackson, he received the wound that in twelve weeks resulted in his death.** He was struck with one of our own shells, which likewise inflicted a serious wound upon Co. Spiegel. Conjecture at the time was contradictory as to whether he would recover or not, but being a soldier, even in his helplessness, he clung to life when the frail thread was nearly broken by the fatal shell, and **succeeded in reaching home** after a weary pilgrimage of unparalleled intensity of suffering. We scarcely thought then, that so soon, we who bore his torn and bruised body to his home, would follow it decayed and wasted to the grave. As a man, he was honored and respected, and on the horizon of his young life was rising the bright sun of a promising career. He appreciated the jest and song, was good natured and mirthful - 'all his tickets from nature were stamped with a smile.'

He was a firm, unswerving friend, ardent in his attachments, generous and agreeable, a reflecting medium in the centre of a rare retinue of personal and social virtues. He leaves sorrowing relatives, weeping sisters, desolated parents, a vacant chair and a gloomy fireside. 'Yet there's glory in their grief - 'tis a glory that shall grow  
When their sorrow hath no morrow.'

Life, as it is to all, to him was sweet, and he loved to linger in its sunlight and pleasures, but when the drooping eyelid and the fading hope became the interpreter of his destiny, he as willingly renounced them, as in health, he would have happily enjoyed them. But his voice is now silent amongst us forever, the darkness of the grave obscures his eye, and his heart, in the soil of which flourished the plants and flowers of affection and sympathy, is now throbless and cold.

The latter moments of his life were of more than ordinary interest. He knew his end was approaching and saw the shadows of the land of death gathering around him. But in those calm hours of dissolving nature, when life was ebbing away, and he seemed to be 'receiving rather than

suffering death's tremendous blows,' in the full possession of his faculties he called the family to his bedside, and after brief instructions to his father as to his own affairs, he told them he was dying. Rational to the last, he rallied from a slumber, and said, 'I have read of the pains and pleasures of dying and now I am experiencing both.' Shortly after he again fell asleep to awake once more. He gazed on all for the last time - a pleasant smile lighted up his countenance - joy was victor on every feature, and he marched into the Great Presence as quietly and consciously as though he had sounded the depth of eternity and measured the spaces of the Infinite. He died, 'Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch, About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.'

Com."

[Published in Wooster Republican, 22 Oct 1863, page 3, available at GenealogyBank]

Company A Muster Roll: **Sept and Oct 1863** shows station of company Camp near Iberia La. Record of events: Camp Carrollton La. Left Carrollton on the evening of the fifth [Sep] and landed at Bayou Boeuf on the 6th. Left bayou boeuf on the eleventh and marched to Brashear City [now Morgan City]. Left Brashear City on the twenty fifth and crossed over the bay to Burwick [Berwick] La. [St. Mary Parish] Left Burwick on the third [Oct] and started on the march and went into camp at Vermillion bayou [Abbeville] on the tenth [Oct]. Left Vermillion bayou on the twenty third and went into camp near Opelousas [St. Landry Parish] on the twenty fifth [Oct]. Left Opelousas on the 27th then started back. ?Landed at Vermillion bayou on the 29th [Oct] and went into camp near Iberia La.

Company B Muster Roll:

Sept and Oct 1863 shows station of company, Oct 31, 1863 New Iberia, La.

Record of Events: Regiment left Carrollton [near New Orleans] La Sept 5; crossed the river to Algiers [area of New Orleans on the west bank of the Mississippi] taking the train and landing at bayou Boeuf [just south of Lac des Allemands] on the 6th. Remained at bayou Boeuf until the morning of the 11th. from there we marched to Brashear City, La, taking qrs. and remaining until the 25 of Sep, at which time we crossed Berswick bay and remained there until the 3rd day of Oct.

**On the 3rd [Oct]** we took up our line of march in the direction of Franklin, reached Camp Becthel about one o'clock P. M. Bivouaced for the night, again took up our line of march on the morning of the 4th [Oct]. passed through most beautiful country abounding with oranges, and the country being well improved and roads good our army seemed to manifest a taste for marching; passed through Centerville reaching Franklin about 2 o'clock P. M.

On the 5th [Oct] we again took up the line of march and continued until about one oclock, when we halted and bivouaced for the night and in the morning of the 6th. started again reaching New Iberia about 3 oclock. Remained at Iberia until the 9th, when we again took up the line of march, passing through St. Martinsville, a road a little to the right of the main road leading from New Iberia to Vermillionville. The 19th [Oct] UC shelled a few rebs in Vermillion. we halted 4 miles north of St. Martinsville until the morning of the 10th, when we again moved forward reaching Vermillion about one P. M. Remained there until the 21st??? when we took up our line of march for Opelousas, rain pouring down in torrents, reached a small bayou by sun set, and bivouaced for the night. Next morning again started out, marching into camp near Opelousas on the 24. Remained here until the ?? of Oct when our forces were turned rearward and teams and men of the 13 U.C. were ??? ??? Brashears, reached halfway bayou on the evening of the 27th [Oct], remained there until the morning of the 29th [Oct], when we started for Vermillionville passing through the town and encamping by the bayou. On the 30th [Oct] we started for this place [New Iberia] reaching it yesterday about one o'clock.

Company F Muster Roll: Record of events: Sept 5th 1863, embarked on board steamer Atlanic en route for Okelousas [Opelousas], La., and arrived at Algiers, La. same evening. Sept 6th left Algiers via Railroad for Bayou Bouef, arriving there the same day. Sept 11th left Bayou Bouef and marched to Brashear City, La. Sept 25th left Brashear City, La and arrived at Berwick City La. Oct 3 left Berwick City; marched 15 miles and encamped. Oct 4th Started at 6 O'clock A.M. and marched to Franklin, La. Oct 5th left Franklin La, marched 10 miles and encamped. Oct 6th started again at 6 o'clock A. M. marched 10 miles and encamped. Oct 9th started again at 6 o'clock A.M. and marched 20 miles Oct 10th started again at 6 o'clock A.M. marched 10 miles



and encamped near Vermillionville, La. Oct 23rd left Vermillionville, La, marched 10 miles and encamped. Oct 24th started at 6 o'clock A.M. and marched to Okelousas. Oct 27th left Okelousas La, and marched back towards Vermillionville, La. 12 miles and encamped. Oct 30th left Vermillionville and arrived at New Iberia.

Company F Muster Roll: Record of events: Nov 8th 9th and 10th [1863] Co F marched from New Iberia to Berwick via Franklin and Pattersonville La. distance fifty miles. On the 18th crossed the bayou to Brasher City. Nov 19th left Brasher City went via Rail Road thirty six miles - marched ten miles and encamped. Nov 20th started at 7 o'clock A. M., marched sixteen miles and encamped on the banks of bayou La Forche. Nov 21 marched nine miles to Donaldsonville La. Embarked on board the **Steamer John Warner** and sailed up the river thirty miles to Plaquemine La. and encamped.

Company G Muster Roll: Record of events: This company was last mustered at Carrollton La. On the 5 day of Sept it moved to Bayou Boeuf, La. and then encamped until the 11 of the same month when it was ordered to Brasher [Brashear]City La. where it again encamped. On the 25 of Sept it crossed Berwicks Bay with the Division and went into camp. On the 3rd Inst [Oct] it took up a line of March with the forces under Genl Franklin, and on the 24 day arrived at Opelousas La.

Remained there until the 27 when ordered to march back to this place [Iberia, La.] arriving on the 30th [Oct]

**The Company has not been detached or otherwise disengaged from the Regt since last mustered.**

Company H Muster Roll: Record of events: **left Iberia La. Nov 7th** Marched Berwick La. arriving there Nov 11. Nov 18 crossed the Bay to Brasher City Nov. 19 came **by railroad** to Terrabone Marched thence up the Laforche to Donaldsonville Thence by steamer to this place. **Arriving here [Plaquemine, La.] Nov. 21st.**

Company I Muster Roll: Record of events: Sept 5 left Carrollton La and landed at Algiers La 6th. Proceeded by Rail Road 73 miles west to Bayou Boeuff 14th. left Bayou Boeuff and proceeded to Brasher City La 25th crossed to Berwick Oct 3rd left Berwick and arrived near New Iberia Oct 6th a distance of 45 miles Oct 9th marched a distance of 28 miles and arrived at Vermillion Bayou Oct 1- - Oct 23rd marched a distance of 25 miles and arrived near Opelousas Oct 24. Oct 27th marched back a distance of 12 miles Oct 29th and 30th [Oct] marched back to New Iberia La.

Company I Muster Roll Nov/Dec: Record of events: Camped 2 miles East of New Iberia 6th [Nov] moved one half mile west of the city remained 3 days expecting and attack 9th [Nov] moved at 5 o'clock ??? for Franklin La marched 23 miles and bivouacked near Franklin La 10th [Nov] moved at 6 o'clock a.m. marched 25 miles and camped for the night within 4 miles of Berwick City La. 11th [Nov] marched at 6 o'clock a.m. and moved to Berwick City La and went into camp Nov 18 crossed Berwick Bay and camped at Brasher City La. Nov 19 received orders at 1 o'clock A.M. to march ??? in line? at 2:30 o'clock and moved east by railroad 30 miles disembarked passed through the ??? and proceeded up bay on Lafourche to Donaldsonville at which place we arrived on the 21st and immediately **embarked on Transport John Warner** and landed at **Plaquemine** La at dark at which place we have remained up to this time **doing garrison duty and fortifying the men.** Generally healthy and on duty fully half the time.

**"Death of Wm. Rickel [who had been wounded 10 July 1863 at Jackson MS and died 5 Sept. '63]** Headquarters **Co. F**, 120th reg. O. V. I. Plaquemine, La., **Nov. 29, 1863.** At a meeting of the members of Company F, 120th regiment, of which Jonathan Holmes was appointed Chairman, and Sergeant Benj Myers, Secretary, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:  
Whereas, An All-wise God, in His infinite wisdom, and dispensation of his kind Providence, hath been pleased to remove from our midst our much esteemed member, **William Rickel**, while nobly serving his country. - There fore,

Resolved, That while the members of Company F, 120th regiment, bow with humble resignation to the will of Providence, we deeply mourn the sad event that deprived us of our highly esteemed friend, in the dawn of promise and vigor of manhood.

Resolved, That in the death of William Rickle, this Company has lost one of its most valient and brave members, his parents, brothers, and sisters a kind and affectionate son and brother, his comrades a loving and cheerful companion, and our country one of its most gallant defenders.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathies, to the friends and relatives of the deceased, and sincerely hope that the remembrance of his many virtues may be a source of comfort and consolation to them in this their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That this preamble and these resolutions be published in the Wooster and Ashland papers, and a copy of the same be sent to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of regard and respect to the deceased, the meeting do now adjourn.

Sergt. J. P. Van Nest

Sergt. R. Smilie

Cyrus Plank, Committee"

[Published in Wooster Republican, 24 Dec 1863, page 3, available at GenealogyBank]

**Wallace, Robert P.**, Co E, escaped from Libby Prison in Richmond, VA, on **9 Feb 1864**.

**The regiment was in Plaquemine until 23 Mar 1864.**

**Then to Baton Rouge.....heading for disaster!**

**Died 8 Aug 1863 through April 1864, 120th OVI. Died of disease unless otherwise noted**

Buchwalter, Enos, Private Co A, died 16 Aug 1863 at Regimental Hospital, Port Hudson, LA

Martin, Abraham, Private Co A, drowned 23 Aug 1863 at Carrollton, LA

Dunham, Henry, Private Co A, died 25 Sept 1863 at Marine Hospital, LA

Stitt, Robert T., Co A, died 24 Oct 1863 at Cairo, IL

Smith, Henry, Private Co A, died 18 Dec 1863.

Smith, James, Private, Co A, Died 1 Nov 1863 on Steamer "Cahaba" at sea, Gulf of Mexico, going from New Orleans to New York]; buried in a church cemetery in Key West, Monroe Co, FL.

Bretz, Martin, Co B, died 14 Aug 1863 at Mound City, Illinois

Ferguson, Charles, Co B, died 15 Sept 1863 at New Orleans, LA

Risser, Joseph, Co C, died 11 Aug 1863 at Port Hudson, LA

Gettle, Anthony L., Co C, died 8 Sept 1863 at Keokuk, IA

Rhodes, David McK., Co C, died on 23 Sept 1863 at New Orleans, LA

Grindle, Henry B., Co C, died 14 Nov 1863 at New Orleans, LA

Casey, John, Co C, died 21 Dec 1863 at New Orleans, LA

Vinter, Charles, Co C, drowned 28 Jan 1864 in the Plaquemine River, LA

Montgomery, Harrison L., Co D, died 20 Aug 1863 at Camp Dennison, OH

Peppard, James, Co D, died 9 Oct 1863 at Keokuk, IA

Weaver, John, Co D, died 14 Oct 1863 at Vicksburg, MS [had already been discharged]

Chacey, Daniel, Co E, died 21 Aug 1863 at Memphis, TN

Cowell, William H., Co E, died 6 Sept 1863 at St. Louis, MO

Hartman, Alexander A., Co E, died on 9 Sept 1863 at Bridgeport, OH

France, Isaac, Co E, died 11 Sept 1863 at Carrollton, LA

Totten, Hiram E., Co E, **wounded 12 July 1863 in the battle of Jackson, Miss.;**  
**he died at home in Wooster 6 Oct 1863 of wounds received in action.**

McClure, Upton, Co E, died 7 Nov [Oct] 1863 near Cairo, IL

Hoegner, John W., Co E, died on 21 Nov 1863 in New Albany, IN, General Hospital No. 11

Sullinger, Jacob, Co E, died on 17 Dec 1863 at Cairo, IL after discharge on 7 Nov

Reckard [Rickerd], Francis B., Co F, died 17 Aug 1863 at Port Hudson, LA

Rickel, William, Co F, **died on 5 Sept 1863 at Jefferson Barracks, MO**  
**of wounds received on 10 July 1863 in the battle of Jackson, Miss.**

Switzer, John, Co F, died 22 Sept 1863 at La Fayette, OH

Yearick, Abraham, Co F, died 12 Nov 1863 in the 13th Army Corps Hospital, New Orleans, LA

Boak, James T., Co G, died 3 Sep 1863 in hospital at New Orleans, LA

Ryal, Martin S., Co G, listed as deserted 11 Oct 1863. He was sent out on a foraging expedition at or near Plaquemine Louisiana and was never heard from again. Evidence that he did desert.

Miller, Charles E., Co H, died 7 Sept 1863 at Carrollton, LA

Kindig, Daniel, Private, Co H, died 21 Sept 1863 at Marine General Hospital, New Orleans, LA.

Gaddis, Johnson R., Co H, died 7 Oct 1863 at Carrollton LA

Roddy, William, Sergeant, Co I, died on 30 Aug 1863 at Marine Hospital, New Orleans, LA

O'Keefe, Daniel, Jr., Private Co I, died at convalescent camp 13th A. C. New Orleans La, 8 Oct 1863

Harris, David W., Co K, died 17 Aug 1863 at Port Hudson, LA

Bebell, Edward, Private Co K, died 2 Oct 1863 at Marine Hospital , New Orleans, LA

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2018

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