

Confederate prison, Camp Ford, near Tyler TX

List received from Tyler, TX, contains 185 names connected with the 120th who were captured at Snaggy Point. That included 3 sutlers. But I have 200 names here who were captured and taken to Camp Ford.

Those **wounded and captured** at Snaggy Point went to Cheneyville, LA.

Company A

Isaac Huntsberger [Not at Camp Ford]

Company C

William Hannan [Escaped from Camp Ford]

Company D

John A. Willower [Not at Camp Ford]

Company H

John Null, gun shot would rt hand, paroled 16 June 1864 [Not at Camp Ford]

Company I

John H. Morton, wounded [Not at Camp Ford]

"List of Casualties...while on board the Steamer 'City Belle' near 'Snaggy Point' La, May 3d 1864...." Private Wm. CUDDY, missing, condition not known. [From the records of the Ohio Adjutant General, available at the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, OH. NOTE: According to *Grandpa's Gone...The Adventures of Daniel Buchwalter in the Western Army, 1862-1865*, by Jerry Frey, p. 101, Sergeant Harvey H. Galehouse and Pvt. William F. Cuddy escaped from Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas, on 20 Aug 1864 and made it back to Union lines. Contributed by Kerry Kimberly]

Captured and taken to Camp Ford near Tyler TX.

Field and Staff [3 captured]

Philip Kuhn, Principal Musician

William W. Reinoehl, Commissary Sergt.

Mahlon Rouch, Sergt. Major

Company A [17 captured]

John Batdorf

Solon Boydston

Christopher Cowell

Luther Finley

Nicholas S. Hawkins

Jacob Lehman. Sergt.

John R. McKinney

John McQuigg, Corporal

George W. Metzler

William E. Montgomery, 1st Sergt.

Joseph P. Rummel [Escaped and recaptured]

Emanuel Shreve

William A. Shreve

Samuel Smedley

William H. Sponsler

William R. Taggart

Company B [12 captured]

John W. Baughman

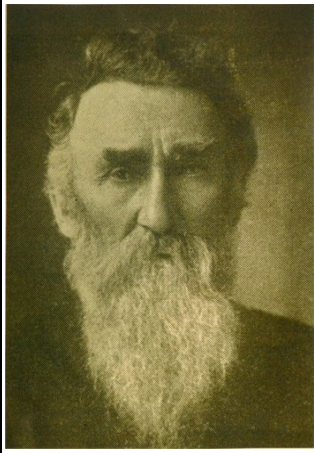
James Channel

Henry H. Culler

Lewis L. Hoopes

Anthony W. Miller

Frederick S. Moffitt
John H. Mowers
Matthias Mowry, Sergt.
William Parker, died 27 Sept '64 Tyler TX
Benjamin Pressler, Corporal
Joseph P. Rummel, Captain
Andrew J. Stichler, Corporal



Andrew J. Stichler

Company C [16 captured]
Gibson Craig
Amos M. Eby
Harrison Fisher, Corporal
John Fronce
John Gray, Sergt.
William Hannan, escaped
John S. Hawkins
John a. Henney
David Hurst, Sergt.
James Jarvis
William M. McCreary, Corporal
Archibald Marshall, Corporal
Edward Otto
Alonzo Shambaugh
Samuel E. Strine

Company D [23 captured]
John S. Fortney [alias Alexander Anderson]
John Baker
Cornelius Bender
James W. Christy, Sergt.
John T. Clark
Robert C. Crow, Sergt.
Peter Eckard, paroled 17 Jun 1864 at Red River Landing, LA
Hiram G. Elson
James R. Hanna
Henry Hartman
Adam Keister, Corporal
Elijah Keister
Franklin W. Martz, died 29 July '64 Tyler TX
Benjamin F. Miller, Captain [escaped and recaptured]

John W. Plum
Dallas Reaser
Joseph A. Shively, Sergt.
Albert Smyser
Marcus L. Stophlet
John Swinehart
Amos Thompson
Joseph Woolf

Company E [13 captured]

Esli S. Bonewitz
John J. Bonewitz
Henry Grunder
Franklin Holmes, Corporal
Augustus Hushouer
Cyrus McConnell
John W. McCrery
John M. Marrietta
George D. Palmer
Harmon B. Pershin
William G. Spencer, Sergt.
John H. Weltmer
Samuel L. Whonsettler

Company F [13 captured]

Richard Biggs
William W. Brown
Franklin Emery
Elias Fraunfelter, Captain
Jonathan Holmes
Amos B. Kepner, died 30 Sept 1864 at Tyler
James S. McClain, Corporal
John W. Millington
Adam Mish
George W. Saltzman
George Shriner
Richard Smily, Sergt.
Isaac Yearick

Company G [27 captured]

James Berridge
Benton Burkhimer
David Burn
Henry A. Cooper
Henry F. Cooper, Sergt.
William Cuddy, escaped 20 Aug 1864
Gabriel C. Dague [weighed only 80 lbs upon his release]
George Detrick
James Eaton
William Eaton
Jefferson Etling
Harvey H. Galehouse, Sergt., escaped 20 Aug 1864
John Gochenhour
Thomas Golden
John Harney
Peter M. Harvey

John Harbaugh, Corporal
William A. Jameson
Benjamin T. Jones
Franklin Kissinger
Samuel Ludwick
Enoch Medsker
Martin Noonan, Corporal
John Rigdon
Elias Seig
John Smith
Enoch H. Wilford

Company H [25 captured]
John Baer
John A. Baker
John Beveridge
Henry Brubaker
Jacob Farmer
Joseph Farmer
George Fetzner, Corporal
John J. A. Foss



Lewis Hoover

Lewis Hoover
Isaac N. Keiffer
Jacob Krauter
George W. Lightfoot
Davidson Long
Joseph Myers, Sergt.
Menno Myers
Tobias B. Myers
Benjamin N. Norris, Sergt.
John Sexton
Francis F. Shellman
Samuel A. Smith
Andrew J. Stake
Henry Stauffer, Sergt.
John R. Weaver
Cyrus Willford [See story and photo below]
Company I [28 captured]
William Buck

James Bussing, Corporal
Alfred S. Church
James Coleman
Samuel Cook
Alfred J. Creigh
Samuel Etwiler, Pvt., [Hardesty's states that Samuel Etwiler of Co. I was wounded at the time of the capture of the City Belle, but was able to march to the prison. His weight while in prison went from 175 pounds down to 97 pounds.]
Abraham D. Eyeler
James Ferguson, wagoner., paroled at mouth of the Red River, 27 May 1865.
William Higgins, Pvt., [Hardesty's states that William was severely wounded in the wrist as he fended off a blow from the sword of a Confederate captain as he attempted to escape at Snaggy Point.]
Thomas S. Hill
Peter Hyer
Philip Kuhn
Israel Lindly
John C. McIlvain, Sergt.
Josiah R. Martin
John S. B. Matson, Sergt.
William B. Milliken, 1st Lieut.
Matthew A. Morrow, Corporal
William R. Morrow
Daniel Oyster
Milton Parks
Jacob S. Reed, died 24 Aug 1864 at Tyler
Joseph H. Richie, Sergt.
Levi Ritter
Martin V. Taggart



*Charles Wallace,
Musician*

Charles Wallace, Musician
Company K [20 captured]

Harvey Applegate, 1st Lieut.
William Carmichael
William Cockburn, Sergt.
Thomas V. Craig
William F. Craig
Christian Eschbaugh
Salthiel Fast
Cyrus Gurwell
John H. Hyman
Milford Johnson
John Leylander, Sergt.



August Longe

August Longey/Longe. He was a photographer after the war.
Henry Louthan
C. Lurwell [Not on the list of Camp Ford at time of their release]
William Metzger
Philip Miller
Jacob Morfoot
Joseph Snyder
Alexander J. Swanger [Not on Camp Ford list]
Frederick Tanner

Aron Z. Sinsheimer, Joseph Speigel and Lewis Burger were sutlers who were also captured and taken to Tyler prison camp.

[Exchange of Prisoners of War, Headquarters Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, August 4, 1864, "General Orders No. 107] The following named Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and privates, being of the number of prisoners of war **delivered on parole at Red River Landing, La., June 17, 1864**, and being an equivalent for one hundred and ten (110) privates, are hereby declared duly exchanged, in accordance with an agreement entered into July 22d, 1864, between Colonel Charles C. Dwight, United States Commissioner of Exchange for the Military Division of the West Mississippi, and Major Jg. Szymanski, Confederate States Commissioner of Exchange for the Trans-Mississippi Department :"
included Peter ECKARD, Pvt, Co D 120th OH Volunteers; Jacob S. FISHER, Pvt, Co F 120th OH Volunteers; David PAINTER, Pvt, Co E 120th OH Volunteers "Officers and enlisted men above enumerated will join their respective commands without delay. By Command of Major Gen. BANKS. George B. Drake, A. A. General."

[Published in Daily True Delta [New Orleans, LA], 9 Aug 1864, page 2, available at GenealogyBank] **[Jacob Fisher and David Painter...captured where??? Were they captured after they escaped from Snaggy Point? Peter Eckard's obituary says he was captured at Snaggy Point, 3 May 1864.]**

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia, New York, H. H. Hardesty & Co, 1885, for Wayne Co OH. Page 506: Henry Hartman, Private Co D.

"The ingenuity displayed by some of the men was truly wonderful. With only two axes, the winter quarters of this entire company were constructed. One of the men made a lathe, and from clay found within the borders of the prison, made different articles of pottery. Another formed a 'gigsaw' from an old hoop skirt and began the manufacture of combs. Another engaged in making sweet potato pies, which were sold to the Confederates. As they had neither sugar or salt, and were limited in all their resources, it is hard to imagine how these pies were made."

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia, New York, H. H. Hardesty & Co, 1885, for Richland Co OH [*Richland County OH version*]...original available at the Ohio Historical Society. There is also a version of the soldier's biographies extracted from the above Hardesty's that has been published by the Richland County Genealogical Society, 1998 called Richland County, Ohio Civil War Veterans. From the account of Pvt. **Alexander J. Swanger** of Company K: "the prison....they were without shelter of any kind the first six months of their stay. In the fall these prisoners were taken out under guard and allowed to cut the logs, from which they constructed rude pens, which were their only shelter during the winter. Some few made their escape by lying in the bottom of the dust wagon and having the filth thrown on them; the wagon was driven by a negro man; this was soon discovered, and negro and wagon alike disappeared. A tunnel was dug and had every prospect of success, when a notice was posted upon the gate that anyone who would disclose plans for escape among the prisoners should be released. One was a traitor and revealed their plan. Poor unhappy fellow, after wandering about a week or two, he came back one night to visit his friends. The next morning there was a new-made grave within the stockades of the prison, the traitor was gone."

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia, New York, H. H. Hardesty & Co, 1885, for Richland Co OH: From the account of Pvt. **William Higgins** of Company I, relating the account of the march from the City Belle capture to the prison at Tyler, TX: "They were nearly rescued on the following day by General Smith's cavalry corps."

From Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia, New York, H. H. Hardesty & Co, 1885, for Wayne Co OH page 470:

Camp Ford, or Camp Tyler

"This stockade was situated a few miles from Tyler, the county seat of Tyler county, Texas, and was at first an enclosure two hundred feet across the end by five hundred on the side, with no shelter from the weather. It was later enlarged so as to enclose about five acres, and five thousand prisoners were confined here at one time."

"They were subjected to the tyranny of a vicious, cowardly lieutenant, McEcheu, whose favorite recreation was "tying up by the thumbs: those who incurred his special displeasure. There were several commandants in the two years the stockade was used, 1863 and 1864, among them Colonels Allen, Stewart and Borden, but McEcheu, who was given full powers, was most like Winder and Wirz in discipline. [*Winder and Wirz were the officers in charge of Andersonville.*] The dead-line was established fifteen feet from the stockade, and a furrow was run to mark it. This was soon obliterated by the rain, after which the guards used their own discretion as to when a man had crossed the imaginary line, and prisoners were frequently shot when fifty feet from the stockade. Officers and men of the rank and file were confined together here, and were subjected to the same treatment. There was a supply of good water, the prisoners digging wells for themselves with old case-knives, half canteens, etc. No shelter was provided, but the prisoners were permitted to construct cabins, sheds and caves for themselves with logs, brush and dirt. There was much suffering for food, and a favorite punishment was the stopping of rations for the whole camp on account of an offense given by one or a few. Frequently the prisoners were without food two days, sometimes three. Rations were withheld for an alleged mistake in the count, and as

they were as poor accountants here as the men occupying similar positions all through the South, this was often the case. A pint of meal, with a small quantity of fresh beef, constituted a day's ration. No conveniences were furnished for cooking, and the prisoners had to exercise their ingenuity in preparing their food, which was after all eaten in a half cooked state, and bowel diseases resulted. Scurvy also raged, for want of vegetables, which were plentiful, and could be bought by those whose money had not all been stolen. Dessicated [sic] vegetables from our government were sent to this prison, and distributed to the prisoners, relieving the scurvy a good deal."

"Bucking and gagging, and standing on stumps in the hot sun, were common punishments. Prisoners were frequently tied up by the thumbs with their toes just touching the ground, with sharp pegs driven in the ground, just touching their heels. On becoming unconscious they would be taken down, and when recovered strung up again. They were ironed and clubbed for slight offenses, the dogs were used to hunt them down if they attempted to escape, and many were torn by them, some so severely that death ensued. If the dogs did not finish a recaptured man, tying up by the thumbs was his punishment. One Captain Reid, of the third Missouri Cavalry, was stood on a barrel in the sun from July 3d for ten days. His hat was taken away, and his only clothing was a shirt and pair of drawers. He was refused water hours at a time. Standing on stumps in the sun was a common punishment."

"When colonel Allen was relieved of command he made the prisoners a short speech, in which he said he hoped every Yankee _____ would stay in the stockade till he entered a Southern grave. Three or four times, when it was feared our raiding forces would reach the stockade, the prisoners were paroled and marched away ostensibly for the purpose of exchange, and after a few days hard marching brought back to the same place. The most of them marched barefoot, whether on hot sand or snow, and if any could not keep up from weakness they were murdered. One old man, on a forced march back to prison in April, 1864, gave out, and was tied to the saddle of an officer and dragged until he died. The weak and sick were commonly prodded with bayonets to increase their speed, and those who fell by the way were shot. As the stockade became crowded, the sanitary condition grew worse. The food was poorer, filth increased, vermin swarmed, and great numbers of the prisoners sickened and died. There was no hospital accommodation adequate to the need, and men would just drop anywhere and die where they fell; they had no medical attendance. Attempts to escape multiplied under such circumstances, and on July 1, 1864, the following order was issued: **Hereafter any Federal prisoner being detected in trying to make his escape from this prison, either in the act or after his escape, will be shot by the one capturing him.**

**By order of Lieutenant-Colonel J.P. Borden, commanding.
B.W. McEachau, Lieutenant and Acting Adjutant."**

"The condition of the prisoners then was such that this order did not deter many from trying to get away, and it is estimated that in 1864 out of one hundred and fifty who escaped from the stockade one hundred reached our lines. When those whom death had not sent to the grave Colonel Allen wished for them, were finally paroled for exchange, not one man was fit for any place but a hospital."

[Note: National Park Service: There was a First Lieutenant/Captain B. W. McEachern in Border's Regiment Texas Cavalry (Anderson's), Companies A and K, CSA]



Cyrus Willford, Private, Company H [photo from pension]
 "...during his long confinement in said prison owing to barbarous treatment therein received by reason of flagrant exposure to heat, cold and rain, deprivation of food and medical treatment with the wretched sanitary surroundings, his physical system was completely wrecked and never has revived, the effect being a general prostration of the nervous system with affection of the lungs."

He was a prisoner of war at the time he was taken sick with the scurvy about October 1864 in the Confederate prison Camp Ford Texas. There being no surgeon or medicine in the prison he received no treatment except at the hands of his comrade with such herbs as they knew to be of service in the treatment of scurvy. "After my return from prison to our line all the treatment I received was pickled cabbage with plenty of cayenne pepper."

"During my suffering from May to Dec. 1st 1864 my shelter was a brush shed to keep off the hot sunshine by day and dews by night. For our bed one government blanket for three of us. In time of rain this same blanket stretched over a pole made our shelter. During the summer rain and vermin were the only two things plentiful with the prisoners."

"The first treatment I received by any physician was the Confederate Post Surgeon at Camp Ford Texas. He treated me for the cough that I contracted while there in the months of November and December. He gave me

medicine for the relief of my cough but received but little benefit there from."

[Joseph MYERS testified for Cyrus in the pension papers. Myers was the ranking officer of Co H to be at Camp Ford.]

"In October 1864 Cyrus took sick while assisting in preparing material for shelter. He took sick with what I supposed was scurvy. His nose bled frequently especially from coughing. His gums became swollen and bled frequently. His legs were swollen and his skin had a chalky white appearance. These conditions continued with varying degree until spring. We had a ring in which we walked for exercise during the winter. The stronger ones of us assisted Cyrus frequently in taking this exercise. In the spring about March 1865 we gathered young and tender shoots of such plants as we knew were not poisonous which we cooked into 'greens' for him and other sick men." [Photo was included in his pension file which was sent to me by Debbie Ferdetta.]

David Bunn, Private, Co G

[History of Summit County, by Perrin, pp669-670]

David Bunn "was captured at Snaggy Point, Red River, and imprisoned at Camp Ford for thirteen months; was at one time sentenced to be shot by the rebels and taken out for that purpose, but was not executed for some cause [reason]. After being inhumanly treated, rendering him an invalid for five years, he was, in 1865, paroled at Camp Ford."

Letter written by Pvt. **George Saltzman**, Co F [Spelling unchanged]

"Dear Sir

I think every prisoner ought to have a pension. We suffered every thing. Death would of been exceptible. They starved us for too or three days at a time and then they would give us some fat meat and beans. We could skim the worms of[f] them and half enough. They took our shoes. Our feet was bleeding. I was so sick with the chronic dir [diarrhea] and had the rheumatism so bad I would give up and lye down. This was when they took us prisoners and marched us on duple quick for too days and never gave us one bite to eat. If we would give out they would come at us with

the baynot [bayonet] and swair and curs at us. We had to get or be ????. While we was in prison we ware most naked with out shelter. The sun so hot it curled our hair. They would call us up very often and tell us that they would shot every yankey, shoot one or too and send us back to our quarters. I never called? a doctor or went to the hospital. I thought I would die sure if I went there. If there is a man ever diserved of pension it is me. I wish you would look up my case. I am a year. I hope you will try to get me a pension. I was not at home when your papers came. This is just a ???comesnsoon??? of what I could tell you of my suffering in prison.

Yours respectfully

George W. Saltzman [Co F]
Maryville Nodaway Co, MO"

[Contributed by Tom Cooper of the Cooper family]

Henry Cooper, Sergeant, Co G, 120th OVI, application for pension was denied and he replied:
"November 1883 Dalton Ohio

Mr. Dudley

If you think with the Government that I am not entitled to a pension, why do you not grant - if you think that a boy can be penned up 12 months and 24 days and come out a sound man - I have not more to say

- and the Rebs must have been kind, their prisons a heaven.

yours

Henry F. Cooper"

[The Photographic History of the Civil War in The Volumes: Vol. Seven - Prisons and Hospitals

by Robert Sampson Lanier, 1912 The Review of Reviews Co. , NY

Editor Holland Thompson, Ph. D. available at books.google.com]

Page 51 "Conditions in this prison were not hard until 1864, when the concurrent increase in numbers and exhaustion of supplies and wood in the neighborhood brought much suffering. It is reported that when the guards learned of the capture of Richmond, they went to their homes, leaving the prisoners almost without supervision to make their way to New Orleans."

Page 49 "**Up to the spring of 1864**, conditions here were better than in many other prisons.

The stockade included a number of noble trees, several springs, and a stream of some size.

Abundant opportunities for bathing were afforded. Drinking water was excellent. wood was plentiful and an abundant supply of fresh meat was furnished. Prisoners at first built themselves log huts. Later any simple shelter was a luxury. **Many of the captives were forced to burrow into the sides of the hill. The supply of wood became scanty. Meat grew scarcer until at last corn-meal was the staple article of diet. Clothes wore out and were not replaced.**"

In this book are photos of groups of men from the 19th Iowa after their release.

Contributed by Robin Biddle

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, 1881 - pg 597 **Lloyd Biddle** was born in this township in 1844, and was married in 1867 to Sarah Mitchell, born in Monroe county in 1844. To them were born six children—Eva, Abbie, and Jessie now living. He enlisted in 1861 in **company C, Seventy-seventh regiment, Ohio volunteer infantry**, and was mustered out in 1866—after having served during the entire war. He was in the battles of [page 597] Pittsburgh Landing, Little Rock, and Mark's Mills, where he was captured with about fifteen thousand others, and was **confined in the rebel prisons at Tyler, Texas, for ten months.** [Note: Mark's Mills was 25 Ap 1864 at Cleveland Co AR] When captured they were stripped of their clothing, except shirt and drawers, confined in an open stockade without shelter except what they themselves provided by digging caves in the earth, and were compelled to subsist on one pint of meal and three-fourths of a pound of beef, per day, and that issued irregularly. Many died from the severe treatment, and naturally every means was sought to escape from the prison. At one time a New York prisoner was detailed to haul dirt from the prison with a dump-cart and mule, and as many as three hundred of the prisoners escaped, one by one concealing themselves in the load of dirt and were dumped into the garbage holes outside the prison, but just before Mr. Biddle's time came the guards discovered the trick, and, as a precautionary measure, would prod the loads of dirt with their bayonets as they passed out. One very extensive tunnel was worked entirely beyond the guards, requiring from June

to October to complete it, but the anxiety of the prisoners to escape overcame their precaution, and the tunnel was opened at the wrong time and discovered by the guards in time to prevent any escapes. Punishment for such offences was ten days' standing on a stump."

[Published in New Orleans Times, 28 Jan 1865, page 1, available at GenealogyBank]
"The Delivery of Supplies to Union Prisoners in Texas. Headquarters, Military Div. of West Miss., New Orleans, La., Jan. 26, 1865. To the Editor of the N. O. Times - For the purpose of resolving some doubts which I hear are entertained in respect to the safe transmission and delivery of supplies intended for Union prisoners in Texas, will you have the goodness to give publication to the following receipt, which was returned to me in October last of an Invoice of Quartermaster's stores and medicines, delivered at Red River Landing, La., Sept. 13, 1864, by Col. Charles C. Dwight, U. S. Agent of Exchange for the Military Division West Mississippi, to Major Ig. Szymanski, C. S. Agent of Exchange for the Trans-Mississippi Department, for the use of United States prisoners at Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas, viz: 1200 pairs of bootees, sewed. 1200 pairs trowsers. 1200 lined blouses. 1200 knit shirts. 1200 pairs stockings. 1200 wool blankets. 1200 haversacks. 400 canteens. 20 axes. 20 axe helves. 3 cases assorted medicines. Total number of packages, 66 boxes and 12 bales.

Headquarters A. Q. M. Camp Ford, Texas, **Oct. 3, 1864.**

Signed J. M. McCulloch, Capt. 77th Illinois Infantry, U. S. A.

Capt. McCulloch is himself a prisoner at Camp Ford.

On the 12th of December ultimo, I delivered a quantity of supplies, similar in description and amount to the above, to Major Szymanski, at Galveston, Texas, for the same destination and use. There has not yet been time for me to hear of their arrival at Camp Ford, but I have no doubt they have arrived safely.

I also take pleasure in saying that in all the instances, and they have been several, in which I have delivered money to Major Szymanski for Union prisoners in Texas, I have received proper acknowledgments of its receipt by the parties for whom it was intended.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully yours, Charles C. Dwight, Col. and Agent of Exchange, Mil. Div. West Miss."

Camp Ford, Texas, a Second Andersonville

Daily Ohio Statesman (Columbus, OH) Vol 12, Issue 1, page 4

Published Thursday, 24 Aug 1865

[Available at GenealogyBank]

"New York, August 18 -- The Tribune's Tyler, Texas, correspondent describes Camp Ford, near that place, as a prison pen second only to Andersonville, in the barbarism and atrocities inflicted upon Union prisoners for two years. The correspondent says that, scourged, beaten and frozen, these prisoners were too far off and too closely guarded for their groans to be heard by those in the outside world. Their sad story only became known from their own lips after they had been exchanged. It is a stockaded inclosure [sic] of, I judge, eight or ten acres. This estimate includes all adjuncts of the prison. It is situated on the side of a sandy slope, at the lower edge of which and just within the stockade, is a spring that supplied water to the prisoners. The inclosure [sic], which seems to have been enlarged at different times to meet the requirements of rebel captures, is filled with huts and shanties of almost every imaginable shape, and constructed of every available material. Two barrels, one on top of the other, form the chimney of a hut made of bushes, the limbs of which have been pressed together and plastered with mud. Near the point at which we entered there is a number of grave-like mounds scattered in a place of about one acre. I at once thought they were graves, but on examining I found that they were excavations in the ground, which had been covered first with buses and then with dirt. They had been made by those of our men who had been captured last and for whom there was no room in the huts above ground. Everywhere war blackened spots which show where fires had formerly been, by which those who had shelter at all cooked their daily mite of meat. Fragments of kettles and stoves, old cast-off pans and flat rocks, the cooking utensils which they had used, are strewn about, as I noticed in one of the huts piled up with care to await further use. Toward the upper side of the inclosure [sic], where there seems to have been a prison for the confinement of offenders, are several stumps, on the tops of which those who violated any of the prison rules were made to stand and mark time for perhaps a whole day, while the guard had imperative orders to shoot any

one that stopped or fell off from exhaustion. The whole scene, with its associations, is a horrid illustration of the inhumanity that originated and carried on the rebellion until its overthrow. Perhaps I am raking a hurtful coal from dead ashes. I will stop."

Captivity in the South, Narrative of a Union Prisoner in Texas

[14 Mar 1864 Philadelphia Inquirer, page 2 Available at Genealogy Bank]

29 Feb 1864 communication from Dr. D. F. Nestell, surgeon on US steamer Clifton, captured at Sabine Pass, TX, 8 Sep 1863.

"Colonel Allen, commanding post at Camp Ford behaved towards us with much humanity, assuring us that our food was 'just as he gave his own soldiers,' which was indeed the fact, and which was both scanty and poor. This state of things, however, was much alleviated by our ability to purchase, at exorbitant prices, many little things without the cruel stockade which enclosed us."

Alfred Creigh, Private, Company I, claimed in his pension record, "In March and April 1865, I was escaping from prison at Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas, and was in the savanahs, woods and water for thirty three days and nights, and from this exposure I contracted the rheumatism..." He must have been recaptured because he was at Camp Ford on May 22 when they wrote the record of the men who were released.

[Prison Life in Texas - Narrative of an Escaped Prisoner

Friday 11 Nov 1864, Milwaukee Sentinel, Vol. 21, Issue 294, page 2]

[Available at Genealogy Bank]

[Note: **John Price of the steamer Emma** escaped Camp Ford. The Emma as captured on Red River on May 1st during Banks' Red River Expedition. So he would have been at Camp Ford at the same time as the men from the City Belle.]

"A man named Col Allen had charge of the prisoners. He was a gentleman entirely, and treated every one well in every respect.....He did not stay long though, and we were very sorry for his departure. A Colonel Boder, under Colonel Anderson came next. He was one of the biggest scoundrels in the world. He might be a good fellow round a whisky shop, but he was no gentleman anywhere else. But after all, he wasn't the biggest scoundrel, for his Adjutant, McCann, was worse again than him. He would come in every morning flourishing his pistol round among the prisoners, saying if they didn't keep away he would shoot the sons of b---s, To the guard on duty about the gate he would say, 'if they don't stay away, shoot them down!' "

"At last prisoners were running away fast. When recaptured the punishment for their misdeed was this: in the forenoon to stand three hours in the sun on a stump, bareheaded, in the afternoon, tied to a beam at the guard house by the thumbs for three hours, standing on tiptoe."

"During the summer I saw five men shot. One of them was a Pottawattomie Indian, a member of the 6th Kansas regiment."

"A private of the 130th Illinois, as religious and good a poor man as I ever saw, was quietly reading when he was shot dead. The rebel guard that shot him said? as an excuse, that the prisoner was making fun of him; yet he was away from him a distance of a hundred yards. There was great indignation at that time among the prisoners, and came near being a break out that night."

"Another prisoner was cruelly slaughtered without provocation. His hat blew over the stockade, and he asked a fellow to get him his hat, when the latter blazed away and killed him."

"Border had a written order to his guards hanging up, which could be read by all. In this order they were instructed that when they caught any of us trying to escape they were to leave us where they found us."

Border was removed and replaced by Col. Sweet who stopped the punishments and stopped the bloodhounds chasing escapees. A refuse cart became a means of escape.

"It carted away to freedom 300 prisoners, during two weeks, out of the 4,300 who were there in June." But someone told and the cart escapes stopped.

The Tunnel

"There was a number of brush shanties we bought for comfort. The tunnel was started in one of these. We had candles to work by at night. Soon a great many of us knew about it, but nobody told. We had spades and buckets. We scattered the dirt into holes, and used it for daubing cabins, etc. It took about four weeks to dig the tunnel. It went six feet deep from the surface, was about three feet in diameter, and we ran it outside the stockade forty feet.....The first night thirty-seven

got away, but one fellow, a soldier of the 6th Kansas, as soon as he was outside, hollered, 'Ho? Jim, where are you?' ...he was no traitor. He just forgot himself in the excitement of escape."

That was the end of the tunnel escapes.

"The morning after the discovery, I shaved closely, put on my 'Sunday clothes,' and walked out by the gateway. No one said anything to me. I looked like a reb, with ribbed shirt on, but my hair was too short. Twelve miles from my late prison overtook six hundred of our men who had been paroled to be exchanged. That night most of those who had gone through the tunnel joined the six hundred, as I had done. Those who escaped were mostly sailors, and of the 6th Kansas men."

[History of Richland County, Ohio, from 1808 to 1908: Also Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens of the County, Vol 2, S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1908.]

Page 1003-1004: **William B. Millikin 1st Lieut. Company I**

"[page 1004] Mr. Millikin did not complain of his one year's incarceration, for he said that the conditions at Tyler were far superior to those at Andersonville, or Libby: that they had plenty of good [page 1005] water and a reasonable allowance of corn, which was ground just as nature left it --husk, cob and kernel--and then converted into food. While in prison Mr. Milliken was engaged most of the time making coffins. On one occasion he was in possession of a three bladed knife which he had in some manner concealed from the guards. This he sold for twelve dollars in gold, while engaged upon negotiations whereby he could secure a better knife for ten dollars. The soldiers used many devices wherewith to while away the time, but the hours doubtless at times seemed very long when, in forced inactivity, they awaited the result of the efforts of their brother soldiers on the battlefield."

Pvt. George Metzler of Co A: "He was one of the party who set up a lathe, turned themselves arrows, and headed them with old hoop iron, in a desperate determination to escape, which was discovered and stopped before reaching a head."

Newspaper at Camp Ford

[Note: This newspaper was only published in February and March of 1864, with 3 issues. So the 120th was not there for this particular newspaper. You can see this newspaper at:

<http://archive.org/details/oldflagserial00newy> The paper was published by Captain William H. May, 23rd Connecticut Inf. Capt. May smuggled the copies out when he was paroled in July 1864.] [See also: <http://handwrittennews.com/2011/07/16/the-old-flag-tx-1864/>]

" 'The Old Flag.' It was a War Newspaper Printed with a Pen."

[Published Sunday 15 Mar 1896 St. Louis Republic, Vol 88 Issue 261 Section Part Four Page 34]

"Cheering News and Bright Gossip Compiled in Prison."

"It tells of the Doings of the Men at Camp Ford, Texas"

"Written for the Republic."

"If a collection was made of unique prison relics, there is at least one war-time newspaper that ought to be given first place among them. A copy of this odd paper called 'The Old Flag,' which was printed with pen and ink in a Confederate prison, is in the possession of Mr. J. L. Day of Chicago, who was one of the prisoners who issued the paper."

"It was one of the most remarkable war prisons of the war period. In spite of deprivation, disease and hunger there sprang up between the captured and their guard a feeling of fellowship which ripened into that sort of thing that makes men kin."

"There had to be some diversion in such a place, and one of them was the 'publication' by the prisoners of the Old Flag. It was written with a pen, and only one number of an issue was gotten out. This was read to squads and passed about. It had advertisements and 'telegraph news' and poetry and gossip about events in the prison. When the prisoners at Camp Ford went out, after the surrender, the editor of the paper, Captain William H. May, of the Twenty-third Indiana Cavalry, took the copies with him and had them photographed. A copy of each issue was sent to every man who was a prisoner in that camp. It is curious and interesting, and throws a white light on one of the darkest clouds that ever shadowed any land."

"A facsimile of the Old Flag, lately published by a Chicago newspaper, shows it to have been a work of real ingenuity and patience, as well as much originality and humor. An ante George

Washington's birthday celebration announcement reads as follows, showing that the writers and printers of the Old Flag still had courage enough left in their hearts to be patriots:
" 'With the violin lately purchased from one of the guards for \$100, Confederate money (equal to \$10 in greenbacks here), and the banjo Messrs. Mars and Co. are making, and Captain Thompson's excellent flute we are in hopes to have quite a band by the 22d of February. Now, with the addition of a singing club we certainly do not lack music for a celebration on the birthday of Washington. We have excellent public speakers and therefore hope such a celebration will come off.' "

"There is always something pathetic in the reviewing the little crumbs of comfort such as this paper must have been to the prisoners who wrote it, but these reminders of war-time days seem only to bind those closer who shared in the making of them."

Added 5 Feb 2017

Letter from Fraunfelter to J. P. Van Nest, 25 Sep 1864 published in the Ashland Union, 16 Nov 1864, page 3:

Camp Ford Prison, Tyler, Texas, September 25th, 1864.

Orderly J. P. Van Nest – Dear Sir: --Your kind note of August 13th is before me, and I am very glad to hear that the boys are getting along finely. It is the first I have heard from the Company since my capture. The following members of Company F are with me: Sergt. Richard Smilie, Corp. J. S. McClain, privates Briggs, Brown, Emery, Kepner, Mish, Millington, Shriner, Saltzman, Yearick and Holmes. We are all in the enjoyment of good health, except Kepner, who has been complaining for some time. Keith was left at Shreveport, in the Hospital, and has no doubt since died. In comparing your list and mine I find Klinger missing. I cannot account for him. You will please let the friends of the prisoners know where and how they are. Give my kind regards to all the members of Company F, and tell them I hope to be with them soon. Regards to Hughes, Slocum, Petty, &c.

I have the honor to subscribe myself, Yours truly, E. Frownfelter, Captain, P. W. [Prisoner of War]

P. S. from Van Nest

Since receiving the above letter I have heard from reliable sources, that Keith is not dead as the Captain supposes, but is exchanged and on his way to the Regiment. J. P. V. [Van Nest]

[Photo: Akron Daily Democrat, Wednesday, 9 Aug 1899, page 1, available at GenealogyBank.]

[Letter contributed by Dave Robinson, descendant of J. S. Petty...punctuation added for clarity]

From Captain Elias Fraunfelter, Co F, in the Confederate prison camp at Tyler, TX to 1st Lieut. John S. Petty after the consolidation of the 120th with the 114th OVI. Petty may have been in Florida in February at that time with the 114th.

Page 1

Camp Ford Feb. 7th 1865

J. S. Petty Dear friend – As there is an exchange giving off mood, I have an opportunity of sending a few lines through to the Land of the living and plenty – I have heard but little from the Regiment and nothing from my friends north since that memorableday ? loss on which I took my ad-vent from or ?vice? of the City Bell. I am much surprised that some of the officers have not written before now. I am well as is the whole Command here. Capts Miller and Rommel have effected their escape from the stockade – whether ?they? are through

you ?? ??? know ere this reaches you. I hope they are safe because this place earned their freedom if they get through. Our hard- [Page 2] ships are sometimes almost unen-durable – But considering the justice of our cause we bear it without murmur– We carry our fire wood near one mile under guard – one fourth to one half pound of beef & three fourths of musty corn meal per diem. Petty I do not know whether you would realize this as students fare or not -I learn with joy of your promotion. permit me to congratulate you as I know you well worthy of the position you now hold – of the consoladation of the Regiment I was indeed sorry to hear – not because I do not like the 114th but the idea of losing our number - Oh! What an era in the history of our lives was the

3rd of May/64 - S [S stands for Summerfield] And what a train of evils follow in its wake. S I sometimes try to imagine it all a dream but the dread reality always comes staring me in the face like a grim monster – and the death of our noble Colonel – Irreparable loss! [Page 3] Well I suppose it is all for the better since it has been ordered by an all wise providence – Where is B. Myers that I do not hear from him? No one seems to write to me – Twelve hundred go out this time for exchange – This leaves in camp about 1600 all told - Well Petty I hope you will write to me and let me know all about the consolidation of the Regiments – what officers are retained with the different companies and what original companies compose them. And above all let me know what is done with me and what is my command if I have one – I hope you will see that I come out all right - and have a good command and a good position in the Regiment- This news I know would not be contraband. when the next exchange will take place I do not know but hope it will be soon I wish the Colonel would see Col. Dwight and have us called for the next exchange A little trouble on his part might do a great deal. [Page 4] Do you hear from Hayesville? at times give me the news. We have but little news here. Reports of the capture of Galveston & Wilmington – not admitted by Rebel Authorities. They admit the evacuation of Galveston but think it of any importance to the Confederacy - News of Peace movements are prevalent – Armistice &c The question of arming slaves is creating quite an exciting discussion at present and I think it will make trouble among themselves before it is settled. But think they will ultimately ? assess? ??a truce?? as it is their only salvation. They can raise no more men any other way. the country is exhausted from the youth of 15 to the old man of 60 – And now they call loudly for exempts of all classes. Boys -old men, cripples &c to come to the rescue and thus ? hurl back the vile invader from the sacred soil of Texas. O! What a country and what a people. did I ever imagine that men could be so completely hoodwinked as these southern people are ?here. [Page 5] You would find to day if they could once understand each other the Union element would still amount to something in Texas. But they are so completely under the control of the officials that nothing but an invasion of the country will do any good here. I hope they will get it – I know of plenty of soldiers who are only waiting for our army to advance when they will desert at once. A guard told me to day he wished he could go through with this party of yankees and bid the Confederacy good bye - these cases are numerous but they are afraid to trust each other. Well I should like to write more but the paper will not permit – This sheet of paper only cost fifty-cents in green backs scarce at that - Wretched Country! ??? page [Page 6] I have enjoyed good health since I was captured. Tell Myers and Plank I should like to hear from them. They can let me know how my friends are getting along. Give my respects to McKinley and all the other officers and men of the old 120th. Those of the 114th. I do not know. My particular regards to Myers, Plank and the boys of my old Company. I hope I may soon see them all. If it would not be asking too much you will please drop a note to my brother Benjamin at Ashland Ohio. If a duplicate of my Commission and mustering papers have not already been obtained ?I wish you would get these for me. I was mustered by Capt Rodman at Baton Rouge. Petty I should like to have a chat with you but am debarred the privilege only by proxy. But be assured of my high consideration of your friendship

I am your friend E. Fraunfelter Capt.

[Page 7]

Write immediately so the letter can come through by the next flag of truce which comes up Red River.

E Fraunfelter

[Page 8]

I send this through privately and hope it will find you well – I wrote to Myers some time ago – rec'd no answer.

Good bye

E Fraunfelter

Capt 120th Ohio

is P. W. [Note: Prisoner of War]

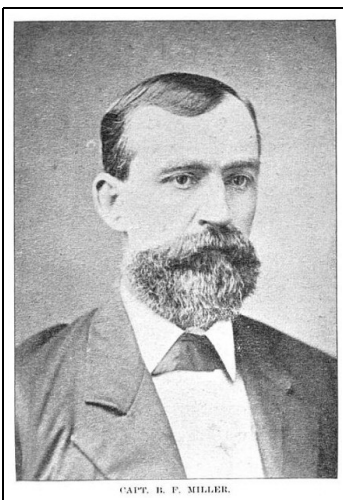
-----[end of letter]

John Gochenhour, Co G

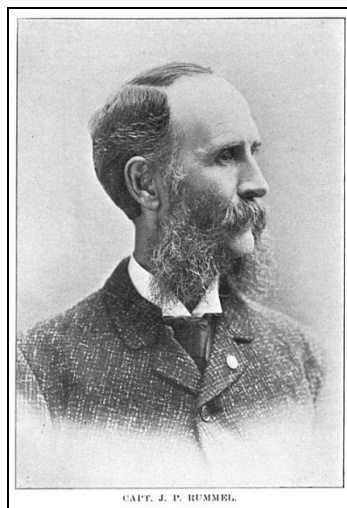
[Hardesty's Encyclopedia, Wayne County, page 497]

He with a companion laid out a plan for escape, to bribe the guards, get a start and make for Mexico, as the boys trying to make their way north were about all recaptured. But the prisoners were removed for parole, and returned to God's country. [Ohio]

Another escape follows on next page.



Benjamin Miller



Joseph Rummel

The Bright Side of Prison Life: experiences, in prison and out, of an involuntary sojourner in rebeldom by Samuel A. Swiggett, Press of Fleet, McGinley, 1897. The whole book can be read at books.google.com and is well worth the read.

Escaped from Camp Ford, TX, Capt. Samuel (Seth) A. Swiggett Company B 36th Iowa, Capt. Benjamin Miller, Co D 120th Ohio, and Capt Joseph Rummel, Co B 120th Ohio. Civil War record: Samuel A. Swiggett, 1st Lieut. and Captain, Co B 36th Iowa Infantry. [Swiggett in 1860 census: Wapelo Co IA, 1860, a tailor, married with two children.]

[Swiggett had been captured 25 Apr 1864. The men of the 120th followed on 3 May. They were taken to Tyler, TX.]

Page 44: "The Stockade...was about four miles distant from the town of Tyler, in a northeast direction, and on the side of the main road to Marshall. The stockade was called Camp Ford, and was situated in the midst of a section thickly covered with a growth of pine timber, the enclosure consisting of about six or seven acres in a comparatively open space, where the trees had been cut off. The trunks of from one foot to eighteen inches in diameter had been split in two, and cut so that they were about nine feet long. These had been sunk in the ground about three feet and one-half to make the fence around the prison, and the tops of these slabs were about the height of an ordinary man's eyes from the ground.

The enclosure had been recently enlarged and there were no buildings in it except in the old portion, and these now stood in the northwest corner, where there was a beautiful spring, which gave an abundance of clear and good water.

The stockade had two gates, the main entrance being on the north side and the other through the eastern fence or wall. The guardhouse was opposite the main gate, the headquarters of the rebels in a house over 100 yards down the road toward Tyler, and the hospital about 300 yards beyond."

[Swiggett had escaped but was recaptured and returned to Camp Ford and began to form a new plan.]

Page 115

"When I explained the plan to some of my former companions in escape they tried to discourage the idea of escape altogether, saying that we would soon be exchanged, and that another failure would keep us from exchange when the time came. I had no hope of release before the end of the war, and so I sought other companionship, believing that the guard could be induced to help more than one of us.

Capt. J. B. Rummel, of the 120th Ohio, had impressed me as a man of the right sort, and I approached him on the subject. He was ready [page 116] and willing to try an escape, but he confirmed my own impression about the risk of trying it with horses, and we finally concluded to devise a scheme and try it on foot. He suggested that we take Capt. B. F. Miller, of the same regiment, and we decided to do so, after finding that Miller was anxious to go as we were to have him do so."

Page 117

"Miller, being a turner, manufactured a rude lathe and made numerous articles likely to be purchased, chessmen being the principal of these, being the most salable. We realized some cash from the demand for just such novelties."

[They used the cash to buy supplies. Swiggett forged passes to the hospital which was outside the stockade. They escaped 23 December 1864.]

At the Sabine river:

Page 122: "Miller could not swim, and was afraid to trust to our support; so that means of crossing was out of the question."

[They could see a canoe on the other side of the river.]

Page 123: "Rummel and I drew lots to see who should swim over and borrow it."

"We drew the boat along the bank to a low place, where Rummel and I seated ourselves carefully in the canoe, instructing Miller how to enter and sit down without upsetting our calculations and ourselves, but he was too painstaking and careful. He got both feet into the canoe, but that was all. In being exceedingly careful to place his feet in the proper place he forgot about the perpendicular necessities of the case, and about the time his second foot touched the bottom of the boat his head struck the water."

page 126: Swiggett found a good place to ford the river.

"Rummel undressed and started, carrying his clothes and mine above his head, and Miller followed when he saw that he was to be left behind."

Page 127: "Captain Miller was in many respects one of the finest characters I ever knew, and I liked him more as I knew more of him, but he was the most apprehensive individual imaginable. He was more afraid of a river than of the whole confederate army, and was continually imagining all sorts of possible contingencies, trying to decide in advance what was to be done in each case, and losing sight of the fact that we could not foresee any of the surrounding conditions of a probable contingency, and hence could not meet the emergency until it and all its phases could be

clearly seen."

[After a long, difficult trip, and told at times in an amusing way, they were caught "275 miles from Tyler, Texas, and fifty miles from Little Rock [Arkansas]-- "]

[Page 173] "...we walked right into a picket post of nine men, or, rather, right into plain view of them, they being fifty yards distant."

[That was the beginning of the end of their journey.]

[Page 176] "After our hosts had finished their supper we started for Arkadelphia [in Arkansas]....."

"This was our twenty-first night out since leaving the stockade, and we were not 275 miles from Tyler, Texas, and fifty miles from Little Rock-----'so near and yet so far.' "

[They were eventually discovered to be Federals after a valiant effort to lie their way out of it, and were made prisoners. They were then taken down to Washington, AR, then to Magnolia AR, and then to Shreveport, LA. They were kept at Four Miles Springs for six weeks.

[Page 207] Swiggett was then sent back to Tyler, Texas, but Rummel was not sent with him because he was ill. [Page 237]" Rummel "was taken sick at Shreveport, LA., after being recaptured, and remained there until the close of the war, being finally discharged from the army on June 29, 1865." Swiggett does not mention Miller at this point. But, Miller was sent back to Camp Ford and was released with the other prisoners.]

End of Swiggett's book.

[Note: The prisoners at Camp Ford were held until 22 May 1865. See later chapter for the story.]

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2018

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