

The 120th after Snaggy Point 4 May 1864 - 27 Nov 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.617

Those who were fortunate enough to escape [from Snaggy Point] formed themselves into a battalion of three companies, under Lieutenant-Colonel Slocum, coming together for that purpose about one mile from the scene of disaster. Recognizing at once the folly of attempting to rescue their comrades from captivity, the battalion resolved to husband the remaining ammunition and use it to defend themselves against the guerilla bands infesting the country between them and Alexandria. A fatiguing march of twenty-three hours brought them to Alexandria, where they reported to General Banks, were kindly cared for by that General and his staff, and furnished with rations, clothing, camp equipage, and comfortable quarters. This remnant of the One Hundred and Twentieth was assigned to duty on the 12th of May in the division commanded by General Lawler.

On the 13th of May General Banks began his memorable retreat. The One Hundred and Twentieth, having shared its hardships and privations, reached the Mississippi river on the 21st of May and went into **camp at Morganza, Louisiana, where it remained until the 23d of August. On that day it started with its division on an expedition into Eastern Louisiana, and after dispersing a Rebel force near Clinton, Louisiana, returned to Morganza.**

25 May 1864 Willard Slocum was appointed Provost-Marshal of the Trans-Mississippi Department with headquarters at Morganza, LA. [A Short History of the Slocums, by Charles Elihu Slocum, 1882, pp 388 - 391]

There were 192 men of the 120th OVI reported to be with the First Division, Thirteenth Army Corps at Morganza, La., June 13, 1864. [page 334 The War of the Rebellion: formal reports, both Union and Confederate... 1891] Willard Slocum was Colonel at that time and was in charge of what was left of the 120th.

[Daily True Delta (New Orleans, LA), Tues. 9 Aug 1864, Vol XXIX Issue 221 pg2, available at GenealogyBank.]

Paroled 17 Jun 1864 at Red River Landing, LA:

Pvt. Peter Eckard, Co D, 120th OH Vol.; [Note: had been captured at Snaggy Point, LA, 3 May 1864.

Pvt. Jacob S. Fisher, Co F, 120th OH Vol. [Where captured?]

Pvt. David Painter, Co E, 120th OH Vol. [Where captured?]

Letter from Private James Harlan, Co C, to sister, Frelove Harlan. He was from Ashland County, OH. He became ill after writing this letter and died of disease 2 Dec 1864 in Illinois. [Contributed by Dana Pennell.] [Often punctuation wasn't used, so I have added punctuation for clarity but left the spellings as they were.]

Morganzia Bend La

July the 8th /64

Well Frelove I thought I would embrace the present opportunity to address you with a few lines but not in answer to any that I have received from you. I have recd some letters from Lydia and one from Sally. I recd two letters a few days ago, one from Father and one from Ann. I have answered all the letters that I have recd. I will now inform you that I am well at present hoping these few lines may find you all well. the boys are all well but Wm Wilson and he is getting his discharge. I am going to send some things home with him. I have a ring for you and Lydia. I sent Sarah and Ann a ring in a letter some time ago. Joseph Byerly is well. I havent heard any thing more from our prisoners since I wrote last. John Mowers and Henry Culler and Alonzo Shambaugh is prisners. we have had no word yet from John Hawks. we are camped at Morganzia Bend about two Hundered and fifty miles above New Orleans. it is a very nice place. I don't know how long we will stay here. there is some talk that we will be sent up north to recruit up but we cant tell any thing about it so I must close. I must go on fatigue duty in about an hour. it is very warm here.

Write soon without fail.

so good Bye for this time.

Yours truly

James Harlan

[To] Frelove Harlan

[Note: The prisoners mentioned in Harlan's letter, Mowers, Culler, Shambaugh and Hawks, were captured at Snaggy Point and being held prisoner at Camp Ford, near Tyler, TX.]

MYERS, Henry, Co I, died 3 July 1864 at Natchez, MS

DEARTH, Jacob, Co I, captured 24 Aug 1864; sent to Andersonville, GA; exchanged 1 April 1865

HOCH, Benjamin F., Co I, captured 24 Aug 1864 near Clinton, LA; died 3 Nov 1865 at Cahawba, AL.

REED, Jacob S., Co I, died 24 Aug 1864 in Rebel Prison at Tyler, Texas. [Camp Ford]

MACKEY, John D., 1st Lieut, Co B, died 21 Sept 1864 at home in Plain Twp, Wayne Co OH, of disease.

[Wooster Republican, 1 Dec 1870, page 1, available at GenealogyBank] "After abandoning the vessel [City Belle at Snaggy Point], he tarried with one of his wounded comrades until he lost sight of his fleeing and panic stricken companions, when he began pursuit, exerting himself too violently to over take those who were struggling to escape. Losing his blankets, having to sleep on the cold ground, with no covering but the broad, cheerless canopy of the sky, overtaking his energies that he might avoid the living death of the prisoner, he contracted a cold which settled on his lungs and resulted fatally."

PARKER, William, Co B, died 27 Sept 1864 in Rebel Prison at Tyler, Texas.

Congressional Serial Set, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1893

Page 177

Devall's Bluff, October 22, 1864 - 1.30 p. m.

Capt. C. H. Dyer,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Little Rock:

The Ninety-ninth Illinois Infantry, Lieutenant-colonel Matthews, and the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry, Maj. J. F. McKinley commanding, in all 650 strong, have just arrived per steamer Eclipse.

C. C. Andrews, Brigadier-General

Page 215

Morganza, October 24, 1864 (Received 6.45 p. m.)

Lieutenant-Colonel Christensen,

Assistant Adjutant-General:

Captain **Moffitt**, of the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Volunteers, an exchanged prisoner, reports he learned in Alexandria from conversation with rebel officers that the enemy had fallen back in Arkansas to the Ouachita River, but had lately again advanced, as they had to drive Steele out of the State. Captain Moffitt reports but a comparatively small force south of the Red river, the bulk of their army having gone to Arkansas.

M. K. Lawler, Brigadier-General.

[Note: Capt. Valentine Moffitt, Company D 120th OVI, when was he captured? He is not listed for Camp Ford.]

Page 269

Special Field Orders, No. 6, Hdqrs. 19th Army Corps, **Mouth of White River, Ark., Oct. 27, 1864**
2. Brig. Gen. Alexander Shaler, U. S. Volunteers, is hereby assigned to the command of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Nineteenth Army Corps. He will join his command at the mouth of White River without delay.

Lieut. Col. Willard **Slocum**, One hundred and twentieth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, will resume command of his regiment at the mouth of White River, Ark., without delay.

By command of Maf. Gen. J. J. Reynolds:

S. C. Farrington, Major and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

Page 557

Hdqrs. Second Division, Seventh Army Corps, **Devall's Bluff, Ark., November 14, 1864** - 10 a.m.

Capt. C. H. Dyer,

Little Rock:

Three regiments of Colonel Slack's brigade have already arrived and gone into camp, namely, Forty-seventh Indiana, Ninety-ninth Illinois, and One hundred and twentieth Ohio. General Dennis says he is willing to have his men aid in making the fortifications if he is to remain here some little

time, not otherwise. The engineer has laid out two or three forts, and I need a good many men to make them. The White River is still rising. I have not received an answer to my inquiry about unserviceable horses in Ninth Kansas.*

C. C. Andrews, Brigadier-General.

Page 638

Hdqrs. Second Division, Nineteenth Army Corps, **Duval's Bluff, Ark., November 21, 1864.**

Col. J. R. Slack,

Commanding - second Brigade:

Colonel: In compliance with orders from corps headquarters you will cause the following named regiments of your command to embark with their entire force, camp and garrison equipage, &c. on steamer "John H. Dickey" to-morrow, the 22d instant, at 10 a. M., or as soon thereafter as may be, viz: Ninety-ninth Illinois Infantry, Colonel Bailey; One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry, Major McKinley.

By order of Brig. Gen. E. S. Dennis:

Richard A. Kent, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General

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.617

On the 13th of September the One Hundred and Twentieth left Morganza again and proceeded up the Mississippi to the mouth of White River, thence up that river to St. Charles, Arkansas. On the 21st of October **General Slack's brigade, of General McGinnis's division**, to which the One Hundred and Twentieth now belonged, moved up to Duval's Bluff, Arkansas, and on the 27th returned to the mouth of White River. **A second expedition was made to Duval's Bluff, returning to the mouth of White River on the 24th of November.**

[Note: General James Richard Slack, 13th Corps, 1st Division, originally with the 47th Indiana.]

MYERS, Henry, Private Co I, died 3 July 1864 in General Hospital at Natchez, MS

REED, Jacob S., Co I, died 24 Aug 1864 in Rebel Prison at Tyler, Texas. [Camp Ford]

MACKEY, John D., Co B, died 21 Sept 1864 at home in Plain Twp, Wayne Co OH

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2018

120researcher@gmail.com

[Index to History of the 120th OVI](#)

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