

Moving West: Down the Ohio River and to Memphis, TN



Unsigned Sketch from the book Battles and Commanders of the Civil War : a graphic and pictorial history prepared directly from the government records in the Departments of War and Statistics, by Frank Leslie and Marcus J. Wright, 1902 and 1906, page 81.

[Cleveland Morning Leader, (Ohio) November 22, 1862, Image 4]

"The 120th Ohio has been relieved of duty in Covington, Ky., and ordered to Memphis. Its place has been supplied by two companies of the 115th Ohio."

[From diary of Henry S. **Sherman**, Sgt. Major, Co B, nephew of Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, courtesy of David Sherman Carter, descendant of Henry Sherman.

24 Nov 1862

"Got started (at last) about 3 o'clock P. M. -- sailed down the river [Ohio] about 25 miles and then tied up for the night."

25 Nov 1862

"Started again very early. Run aground about noon--not off yet."

26 Nov 1862

"Got off again about 8 o'clock. Traveled about 10 miles and run aground again. confound the luck! We will never get to Memphis at this rate. Off again about 4 P. M. Arrived at Madison Ind. about 6 P. M."

27 Nov 1862

"Arrived at Louisville, Ky. at 4 P. M. Had a Thanksgiving supper in the evening which passed off very agreeably."

28 Nov 1862

"**Left Louisville about 1 P. M. Passed through the Canal around the Falls in about three hours. [see larger map]** Saw the gun & cane, &c. of Porter the Kentucky Giant. About 9 P. M. we tied up along the side of the Kentucky shore in order to let the men cook their three day rations. The boat had not been made fast before some of our men were on land and had their fires started on the side of the bluff, while others started towards the interior of the country for 'forage' as we understood. Hulligan was a leader of one party, of course, and it did not come in empty handed. From the boat the scene on shore was most picturesque indeed. The lurid glare of the fire playing upon the rocks, trees and men made a picture worthy of remembrance. The men in their uniforms lounging around the fires, some busy cooking, others gathering fuel and others replenishing the fires & broiling meat & roasting potatoes for themselves among the wild rocks & forest trees of



Kentucky was truly a weird and romantic scene. A little after midnight the foraging parties began to straggle in laden with booty consisting of turkeys, geese, chickens and honey. Of course, keeping out of the way of the officers, who, of course, would be compelled to discountenance any

such proceeding, but a present of honey and a couple of turkeys made the matter all straight with them."

29 Nov 1862

"Arrived at Cannelton, Ind. about 1 P. M. While loading coal went through the town to see what could be seen of interest. First visited coal mine back of the town, then made a visit to the large Cotton Factory near the river. After some trouble were admitted and shown around by a guide through the whole building. It was quite a curiosity to one who had never seen anything of the kind We were first shown through the engine room. The machinery was splendid and kept in the finest order. On the second, third, fourth and fifth floors were the looms, &c., which employ between three and four hundred operatives. They are unable to run but half the time on account of the scarcity of cotton."



Unsigned Sketch from the book Battles and Commanders of the Civil War : a graphic and pictorial history prepared directly from the government records in the Departments of War and Statistics, by Frank Leslie and Marcus J. Wright, 1902 and 1906, page 384.

From the Diary of John Summerfield Petty, at that time a Private in Company C:

Friday, 21 Nov 1862: "We bade goodbye to Camp & marched through Covington in columns to the Ohio where we found two boats waiting for us. They were in a poor condition but we were crowded into them like 'hogs.' 'This is soldiering' said Ben. [Note: Ben Morgan, Co C, friend of Summerfield]

Saturday, 22 Nov 1862: "On the Ohio Why we remain here at anchor seems a mystery to me. The boat we have taken passage on is nearly 'used up' & has not run for a year. We sleep on the damp floor and whatever better we can find. This is a poor place for the newly initiated to learn to 'love' the soldier's life. Our attention was arrested at dark with the cry 'man overboard.' A rope was thrown out when the unfortunate fellow was rescued from a watery bed. There seems to be

little value placed upon a soul which must live in either bliss or woe throughout the ages of eternity. God help me set a higher estimate on my own, and live more in conformity to his holy will."

Monday, 24 Nov, 1862: "We remained at the old place at anchor until 4 and a half o'clock P. M. when we pulled out into the Ohio and bade farewell to Cincinnati & Covington. We dropped anchor about 12 miles below."

Tuesday, 25 Nov, 1862: "...continued on the steamer 'Silver Wave' bound for Memphis - or some other place."

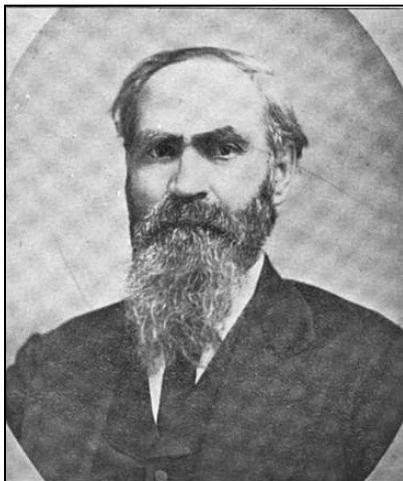
Friday, 28 Nov, 1862: "We left Louisville at 11 A.M. and had the pleasure of walking through the locks. The canal bridges are constructed so as to turn round and admit the passage of boats. [Note: A canal goes around the rapids at Louisville, KY.] New Albany opposite Louisville is quite a handsome [sic] town. We run until 9 o'clock. When we moored on the Ky. shore nearly the whole regiment went on an errand of 'confiscation.' Three hundred chickens, 40 turkeys, 200 lbs. tobacco, 7 bee hives were the benefits derived. The sufferer was Atwood, Mead Co., Ky."

Tuesday, 2 Dec 1862: "Everything glided smoothly until near nightfall when we ran against the hull of a wreck which nearly made one of our boat. Such a jarring and crashing I never heard. We succeeded in getting on the 'Fort Wayne' and were landed on the Illinois shore near 12 o'clock P. M. & had the 'extreme pleasure' of sleeping on the damp ground with no covering above but the azure field of heaven."

Wednesday, 3 Dec 1862: "Our tents and stores were removed from the 'Silver Wave' & we pitched tents and made ourselves comfortable. We messed off and I think ours first rate."

Thursday, 4 Dec 1862: "The steamer 'J. S. Pringle' came from Mound City, Ill. for us & before sunrise we were on board gliding down the Ohio. We arrived at Cairo [IL] about 11 o'clock A. M. It is a small though flourishing town. There are a good many boats lying here. The gunboats present a formidable appearance."

Sunday, 7 Dec 1862: "onboard 'J. S. Pringle'.....We arrived at Memphis at 11 A. M. The city presents a fine appearance from the wharf. There are a great many soldiers strolling around."



JOSEPH H. DOWNING.

[Published Thursday, 25 Dec 1862 Wooster Republican newspaper, pg 1-2 available at GenealogyBank: Parts of the article are included here.]

Letter in Wooster Republican:

From **Capt. Downing's** Company [Joseph Downing, **Co A**], Dated **9 Dec. 1862** from Memphis, TN. **The 120th went aboard the 'Silver Wave' and 'Fort Wayne' to go down the Ohio river from Covington to Memphis.**

"Owing to the low stage of the water, it was deemed unsafe to proceed at night, so at 20 miles below Cincinnati the boats were run ashore, where we lay during the night. At 6 and a half o'clock, A. M. the next morning, we were gliding smoothly down stream.

The stars and stripes, handkerchiefs, hats and bonnets, waived in honor to the brave soldiers, as they passed along this day. At 11 A.M. our progress was interrupted by the 'Fort Wayne' running upon a sand bar. She stuck so fast that it was impossible to get her off until the next morning (Nov. 26) At 8 A.M. both boats were again under full headway."

That morning the 'Fort Wayne' again ran aground but was on way again at 4 o'clock. Thanksgiving was spent aboard the steamers. The 'Fort Wayne' grounded once again above Louisville. After Louisville came a canal and 45 miles later they spent the night on a Kentucky shore.

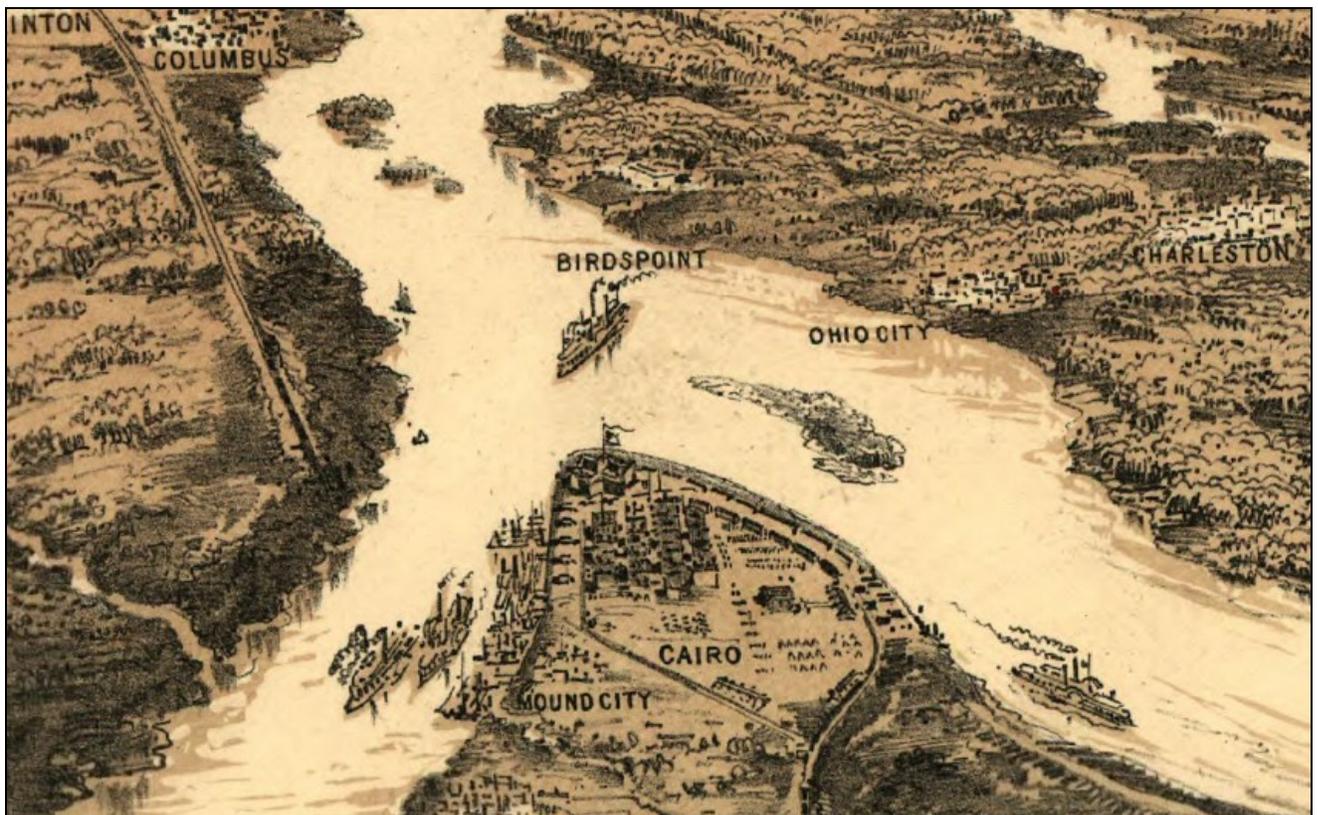
"Dec 2. - Started early this A. M. and arrived at Paducah, Ky., at 2 P.M. At 6 P.M. the 'Silver Wave' ran upon a large rock in the river, and stuck fast. - The shock sprung a leak in the old boat and she began to settle down toward the bottom of the river. "Then there was hurrying to and fro' in the cabin. Chairs, tables, etc., were kicked over in the rush to see what was the matter. Two men ran

down and attempted to push a plank into the river in order to get ashore, but the guard, with fixed bayonets, foiled them in the attempt. The 'Fort Wayne' was at this time 3 miles ahead of us. The signal of distress was sounded, and in an hour the 'Fort Wayne' hauled up to our wreck. She had already landed the left wing of the regiment on the Illinois shore about a mile below. She now took on board four hundred of the right wing and landed them in the same place. One hundred of the right wing remained during the night on the wreck.

"Dec. 3. - The 'Silver Wave' was still above water. The pumps had been worked all night. The Quartermaster's stores, etc., had all been taken from the hold during the night. Early in the morning the 'Fort Wayne' ran up to us and took on board all that remained on the wreck, hitched to the 'Silver Wave' and pulled away at her until 2 o'clock P.M. when she succeeded in getting her off. - The right wing was left on the Illinois shore until the next morning. We pitched our tents in a beautiful grove of Sycamores, Elms, Pecan and Persimmons. This grove contained three acres, and was surrounded on three sides by a high hill. - The right wing remained there during the night. The left wing got aboard the 'Fort Wayne' and moved down to Cairo."

[Map: Portion of "Bird's eye view of junction of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers, showing Cairo and part of the southern states" available at National Archives online.

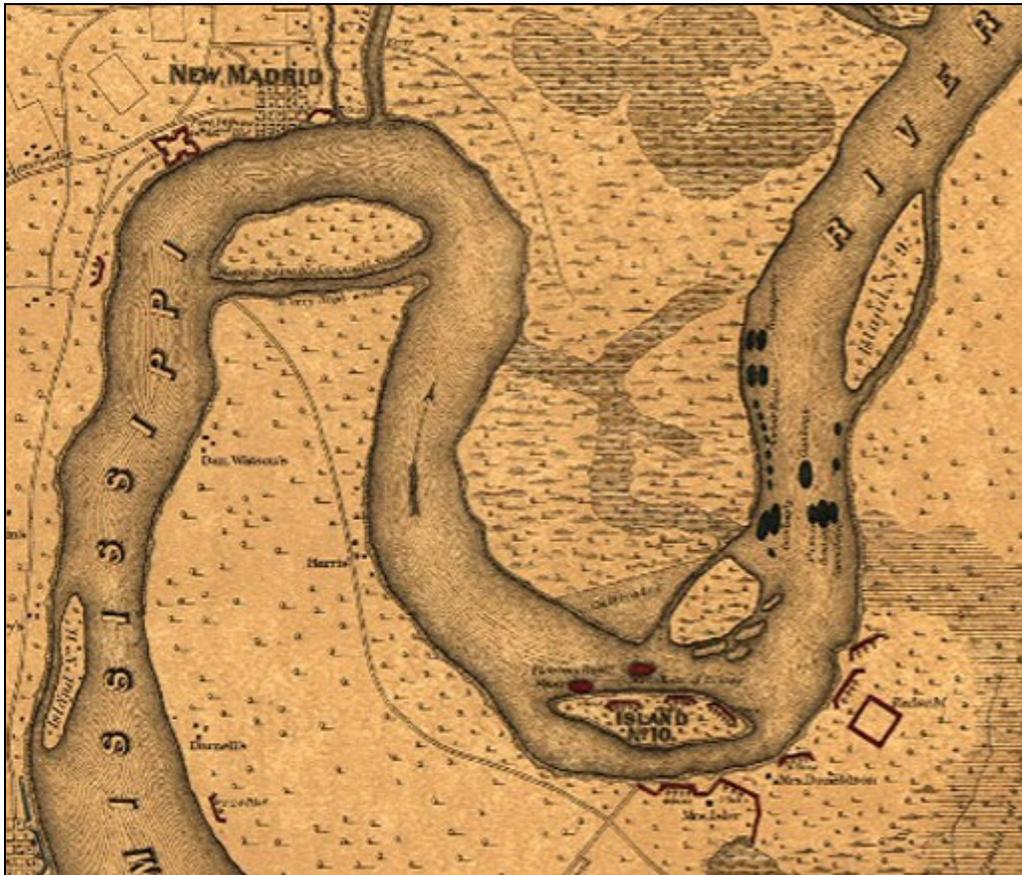
<http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4041a.cw0001500/>] This is Cairo, IL, facing south. On the left of the image are Mound City IL, and Columbus KY. On the right side of the image to the west are Charleston, MO and Birds Point, Ohio Township, MO.



"Dec. 5. - At 9 A.M. both boats left Cairo, [This is where they entered the Mississippi River.] and moved down to Columbus, Ky. This point is well fortified. Before we left Columbus [KY], every man on the boats was ordered to his quarters. Captain Brayton's company [Rufus Brayton, Co B], of the left wing, and ours [Co A] of the right, were placed on the hurricane deck, to guard the boats from the attack of any guerrilla band, that might be strolling along the river. Hickman [KY], a small village below Columbus, is another strong point, also well fortified. Here the flag of the Union was floating in the breeze, and elicited three hearty cheers from the boys. We arrived at

Island No. 10, at 8 o'clock in the evening. Two miles below we ran ashore and lay till morning."

[Note: Island No. 10 had been taken from Confederate forces on 8 Apr 1862. Map: Portion of [map](#) from the Library of Congress, ...system of the Confederate fortifications on the Mississippi river at Island No. 10 and New Madrid, MO. <http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4042m.cw030000/>]



"**Dec. 7.** - At 6 A.M. we hauled out and started. We arrived at Memphis at 11 A. M. This city is beautifully situated on a high bluff. With the exceptions of Louisville, this is the only place of importance in any of the slave holding States along the river.

"After landing, we were busily engaged all day, in unshipping, &c. At 6 P.M. the regiment was marched to Camp Oliver, two miles northeast of where we landed, pitched our tents, cooked our supper, and after partaking, retired to rest. We are at present attached to the Fourth Brigade, Morgan's Division. This Division is commanded by Col. de Coursey. - We are encamped fifty rods from the 16th Ohio."

"The boys are enjoying good health, and are in excellent spirits."

J. H. Downing.

[Published in Wooster Republican, 25 Dec 1862, page 1, available at GenealogyBank]

[Note: **Captain William G. Myers, Company G**]

"**Camp Oliver**, Near Memphis, Tenn. **Dec. 9, 1862.**"

....."We arrived at Covington, Ky., on the 26th of October. After guarding the city and forts for nearly one month, we received orders to report at Memphis, Tenn. On Friday, Nov. 21st, the

regiment left camp and marched through the city in excellent order, keeping exact step to the music. The health of the regiment was good while we remained at Covington. When we arrived at the river, seven of the companies went on board the 'Silver Wave', and three on board the 'Dunlieth.' After remaining on board one day and night, it was determined to employ another large boat in place of the 'Dunlieth.' -- **Consequently the right wing was shipped on the 'Silver Wave', and the left on the 'Fort Wayne.'** On the following Monday, we commenced our voyage. The Captains promised to make the trip in six days, but by the time they hauled each other off sand bars and 'chains of rocks,' thereby damaging the 'Silver Wave' to such an extent that she was unsafe, we were compelled to leave the right wing for the night. It was then determined to have the left wing proceed to Cairo, some twenty miles distant, and procure another steamer. Fortunately on our arrival we found the steamer 'J. S. Pringle', ready for the task. She proceeded the same evening, and on the next morning the 'wings' were again united. From there glided smoothly down the 'Father of waters,' **arriving at Memphis on Sabbath, Dec. 7th,** without any further accident. After unloading wagons, horses, mules, &c., and loading each company's team, it was about sunset before we started for our present camping ground.

When everything was ready we broke into sections and marched through the city, keeping step with the music while the band was playing 'Yankee Doodle.' -- The mien of the boys was soldierly and dignified, and no doubt commended itself to the 'natives,' who stood thick on either side, of every grade and color, permitting us to pass quietly, with the exceptions of a few isolated cases, of ladies remarking, as our band was playing, that if they had the power they would not permit that air to be played. When we arrived at camp and each company had their location assigned, we struck tents for the night, taking the best possible care of our sick, whose number was increasing rapidly as we passed down the river, by reason of their long confinement on the boat, but the changes produced on the visages of the ailing ones after being two days in camp, is charming. Our location is rather level, the weather reminding me of a mild October in Ohio. It freezes slightly at night, but becomes quite pleasant during the day time.

Our field officers recommended the study of Casey's Infantry Tactics during our voyage through the land of 'Dixie,' and we were called upon to practically demonstrate about twenty pages per day, so that if our long voyage had no other redeeming quality, it gave us slight acquaintance with Gen. Casey's theory."

[A list of the names of the men of company G was included.]

[Note: [Casey's Infantry Tactics](https://books.google.com/books?id=...) is available at books.google.com]

[Published in Wooster Republican, 25 Dec 1862, page 3, available at GenealogyBank]Letter in Wooster Republican, **Pvt. George Gardner, Co. E**

"From the 120th Ohio. **Camp Oliver, Tenn., Dec. 11, 1862.** Mr. Editor:--Through the medium of your valuable paper, I wish to let the friends of our regiment know where we are and what our condition is. On the evening of the 24th ult. [November], as the sun was casting its last ray across the majestic Ohio, we weighed anchor at Covington, Ky., and floated gracefully out into the current, and fell down fifteen miles to Harrison's Landing and anchored for the night.-- Nothing, perhaps, that would be of interest to your readers, occurred on the way. The river was very low, and our journey was a very tedious one. **We were fourteen days on the river,** (which we considered a pretty strong initiation) and on last Sunday about noon we landed at Memphis, which is a beautiful city, and nicely situated. As we marched through the streets, hundreds of citizens came out to see us, but no demonstrations of pleasure at our arrival were exhibited. We marched to our camp, two miles southeast of the city, pitched our tents and made our beds for the first time on the ground. The fatigues of the journey brought sleep and we arose in the morning refreshed. The sun arose bright and clear, and one of the most beautiful days I ever saw followed. The weather is fine and dry, birds are singing gaily, and all nature seems to rejoice.

The surrounding country is level, well timbered, rich soil, and very productive. How lamentable, that such a country as this should be desecrated by the tread of the traitor.

We are attached to the Fourth Brigade of this division of the army, composed of the 16th, 42d, 114th, and 120th Ohio, and the 22d Kentucky, and commanded by Col. de Coursey.

It is rumored here that Fremont has been appointed to the command of this division of the army. This would give great satisfaction. We believe him a man of ability and patriotism and that the army under his command will not be oppressed by those unaccountable and mysterious delays, that have been so much discredit to our arms.

Report says the bombardment of Vicksburg has commenced, also, that the citizens of Tennessee have held a convention and resolved to return to allegiance. We are encamped eight miles from the Mississippi line. The city of Memphis is very strongly fortified, and sixty thousand troops are supposed to be encamped in the vicinity, no considerable body of rebels are within less than seventy miles.

The health of the regiment is tolerably good.

The last several issues of the Republican did not reach me which was a great disappointment, it seems like a messenger from home is prized more highly by soldiers than anything else.

Promising to keep you informed of our movements and whereabouts, I am yours,

Geo. W. Gardner [Note: Private, Company E]

[Published in Wooster Republican, 1 Jan 1863, page 4]

"From Capt. Downing's Company. [**Company A**] **Camp Oliver**, Near Memphis, Tenn., **December 16th, 1862**

Editor Republican - Sir: We have been in camp here eight days, and have formed some acquaintance with the citizens. They all say they wish the war was ended. But they say we can never ship the rebels, but that they, the rebels, are willing to come back into the Union if the North will give them their rights. The families residing in this neighborhood say they treat Union men and rebels all alike. That they will use all classes well. On last Saturday ten regiments of Sherman's Division returned here from Mississippi. They say Gen. Grant had more men with him than he needed, and sent them back to form part of the grand army that is about to move down the river.

This day we had a grand review of General Morgan's Division. This Division consists of three Brigades. 1st, Sheldon's; 2d, Lindsey's, and 3d, de Coursey's. Our Regiment is connected with the 1st. Generals Sherman and Morgan and staff in reviewing us to-day, *made a grand display*. They kept us standing about four hours in mud and wet whilst they galloped around and inspected us. At the close of the review Gens. Sherman and Morgan informed our colonel that in their judgment our Regiment is the best one in the Division. That both officers and men performed their part well, and that they never had seen a new Regiment drill as well. When this information was communicated to the boys of our Regiment it called forth three long and loud cheers. They felt that they, by receiving this compliment, were paid for their trouble.

We are under marching orders, perhaps we will leave here on Thursday of this week. - Rumor says we are going to Vicksburg. A very large army is rapidly concentrating at some point down the river, and if I am not mistaken, you will hear stirring news from the South before long.

Grant is moving on Jackson, Mississippi, with a large army. If he is successful there, we will not find much trouble in getting possession of Vicksburg, if he is not successful, we may have a hard fight there, but I am sure our expedition will not fail.

We are enjoying good health and all are in excellent spirits.

Yours truly, J. W. **Downing.**"

[Published in Wooster Republican, 1 Jan 1863, page 4, available at GenealogyBank]

17 Dec 1862

From **Capt. Emrich's** Company [**Company D**], **Camp Oliver**, Near Memphis, Tenn., **Dec. 17, 1862.**

".....We arrived here on the 7th inst. [Dec], at 10 A. M., after a voyage of seventeen days down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, after leaving Covington, Ky. We were delayed one day and two nights, by the wreck of the steamer 'Silver Wave,' having on board the right wing of the regiment, of which my company forms a part, consequently we were compelled to procure another

boat to carry us to the place of our destination. The re-shipping of the troops and freight, necessarily caused some delay in our journey. **But we are happy to say, that we incurred no serious loss during the wreck, although the skeddaddling spirit was somewhat aroused when the wrecked boat began to lean over into water, from eighteen to twenty feet deep.** The steamer 'Fort Wayne,' carrying the left wing of our regiment, immediately came to our relief and carried the men ashore, where we encamped two nights, and named the place after our worthy Colonel, (Camp French) being twenty miles above Cairo. Our journey down the river was very interesting to most of the men, it being a trip beyond their usual travels. The romantic sceneries [sic] along the river, a full view of Island No. 10, the battle ground of Belmont, Fort Wright, Fort Pillow, and various other places of importance aided in giving interest to our voyage. The fortifications at this place are very extensive. An immense amount of labor has been done upon them. They are also well mounted with heavy cannon, scientifically arranged to repel an approaching enemy, either by land or water. We have now forty regiments of Federal forces encamped at this place, numbering over thirty-five thousand men. We are now permanently brigaded under Gen. Sheldon, of Elyria, Ohio, in Gen. Morgan's division, subdivision of Gen. Sherman. We had a grand review drill yesterday. The 120th Ohio was very highly complimented by Gens. Sherman and Morgan, assuring our Colonel, that his regiment in military discipline and appearance for a new regiment, excelled every thing they had yet seen. You may think this is boasting, but it is nevertheless true, for our camp is ringing with cheers and huzzas from the boys for the honorable compliment they have received from the Generals, under whose supervision we are assigned. I am happy to say, that our field officers have the highest regards of the whole regiment, they are gentlemen of high attainments both as men and officers. Col. French is a man of kind and social disposition and labors for the promotion of the true interest and comfort of his officers and men. Lieut. col. Spigle [sic], is a gentleman in the social circle, and, as a military officer, has the universal admiration of the whole regiment. Our Major, Beekman, is a good and kind hearted man, and promptly fills his post from early dawn until the last stir of the day's labor is done. Our Adjutant, Wm. Slocum, too, is always the right man and in the right place, and fills his post with masterly ability and is universally beloved by the whole regiment. Our company officers, I am happy to say, all take a deep interest in the work of our country's cause in which they are engaged, and the best feeling prevails throughout the regiment among officers and men.

The general health, I am sorry to say is not as good as it has been. The exposure on the boats, and the heavy rains we have had lately, has caused some sickness in the regiment.

We are now under marching orders and expect to leave this afternoon for Vicksburg, where we expect to have a battle, and we hope the prayers of our friends we left behind, will be with us through our perillous [sic] labors, far away from our homes and those we love. - The weather has been pleasant here since our arrival. We have such weather here now as we have in Northern Ohio in the fore part of October or the latter part of September,
Yours truly, G. P. Emrich."

Letter from **William Kenton, Private, Co B**, to his mother from pension papers contributed by Debbie Ferdetta

[Note: William died 18 Feb 1863 at Young's Point, Louisiana]

Camp Oliver Tenn

Dec 19th ??? [1862]

Mrs. Polly Kinton

Respected mother your letter of the 8th is just read

I am glad to hear that you are all well

I am nearly as well as usual

I hope that all will be right in a few days.

I finished writing a letter to Grandfather just after dinner

Since writing that I have seen Hughes

he reports that L Ryder?? is getting better. [Note: Pvt. Levi Rider of Monroe Twp, Richland Co OH,

was discharged the next February, but did live until 1895.]

They are tolerably comfortablely ??situated?? and get about as good rations as in camp

If Levi was at home in his present condition he could not assist his father much

The only thing that could be done would be to make him more comfortable

As soon as his discharge can be filled he will be sent home

You said that you put some checks into a letter that you sent to me

If you put them in I did not get them

I perhaps dropped them and when I opened the letter

For just as I rec'd the letter I was ordered to report to the officer of the day immediately

And I was so anxious to hear the news from home that I opened the letter as I walked along and if they were in I dropped them and did not notice them.

I am sorry to hear that you are afraid of me deserting my religion.

I have too high a sense of my honor to degrade myself thus

It is true that a large number of the members of this reg't have deserted the religion they once embraced

The joys of this world will not compensate for the glories above.

I hope that you will remember us at a throne of glory.

In regard to the provisions and meat especially I will just say that I think that the pork packers must have been laying up a supply of meat for the last 3 or 4 years for we do not get any pork except ???side and ham which is not fit to eat.

Some of it would eat pretty well but our cook Lt. Norrick is too lazy to prepare it in good style.

We draw fresh beef twice a week which some times is cooked pretty well but too often it is so tough that we can scarcely chew it.

While in camp we have drawn bread which is sometimes hard and sometimes soft.

On some occasions we sell our old pork and buy cornmeal and make mush and then fry it which eats pretty well.

When at Louisville our ??? laid in a supply of crackers for our trip down the river which did not contain a particle of salt

The boys got so sick of them that they could scarcely eat them

The weather is pretty fine

we have only had one rain since we came to camp.

It is not very cold

the ground scarcely ever freezes here.

We sleep pretty comfortably here at night

Our gum blankets come in good play at night to spread on the ground and then make our bed on them

In speaking of the health of the reg't I should have told you that our surgeon took sick while at ?? Covington?? and resigned

[Note: Dr. William Taggart resigned 13 Nov 1862.]

Since we came here one of the assistant surgeons has taken sick.

Consequently our surgical aid is pretty slim

As my time is rather limited I must close

Hoping that we may soon meet again and enjoy the society that I love so much I will bid you good bye

I am so ever your affectionate son

Wm. Kinton

P.S. If you direct your letters to Cairo instead of Louisville they come much quicker for the reason that they come quicker by railroad than by water.

And also so many packets are engaged by Government that there is not a regular time to carry the mail.

[From the Diary of John Summerfield **Petty**, at that time a Private in Company C, contributed by descendant Dave Robinson]....at Memphis:

Tuesday, **16 December 1862**: "We had a 'blank battle' in the woods near camp. Our company fired well. At 2 o'clock went out for a grand review by Gen. Sherman. There was the largest concourse of soldiers I ever witnessed. It was an imposing sight to see the glistening guns and hear the 'measured tread.' Our regiment received a compliment from the Gen. & especially our company 'C.' We returned to camp at night tired & hungry 'such is war.' "

Friday, **19 December, 1862**: [Picket Duty] **[Note: In reading this, remember that Summerfield was from Virginia where his parents still lived and that he had two brothers fighting for the Confederacy.]** A squad of men & a lot of wagons & mules were captured yesterday....We passed a house in ruins, having been burnt during the night. It was the property of a widow who sat in an arm chair mourning over her great loss. My heart was pained at the sight. O what a great desolation follows in the path of the army. A mule was standing in the yard, which was dreadfully burned, especially about the head. The widow refused to give lodging to sick soldiers declaring in favor of secession which perhaps was the cause of her misfortune."

Saturday, **20 December, 1862**: [Summerfield had been out on picket duty.] "We were relieved at 7 O'clock & ordered to report to camp as early as possible. When we arrived there, we found the tents struck & the regiment gone. I felt as if my home had been destroyed, tired & hungry we were forced to march to the wharf to join the regiment. such is the life of a soldier, tired & hungry we must go when ordered. ...continued on board 'Jessie K. Bell' We did not leave Memphis until 10 P. M."

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2018

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