

Chapter 18 Plaquemine until move to Baton Rouge on March 26, 1864.

Circulars, papers and annual meeting of the Ohio commandery of the Military order of the loyal legion during the year ..

by [Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Ohio Commandery](#)

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William Harley Williams, Late major 42d Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Register - Born in Lafayette, Medina Co., Ohio, May 22, 1836. Enlisted Sept. 3, 1861; joined 42ds Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and elected Captain of Co. [pg 24] B, Sept. 24, 1861; promoted to Major July 25, 1862; honorably discharged, at expiration of term of service, Dec. 4, 1864.

History of Service - **detailed to command of 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Oct., Nov., and Dec., 1863...."**

Nov 21, 1863 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. [Co I]Generally healthy and on duty fully half the time. [SEE MUSTER ROLL RECORDS]

The National tribune. (Washington, D.C.), 08 Jan. 1885. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016187/1885-01-08/ed-1/seq-1/>> 42d OH
"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."

Pvt **Jacob Sullinger**, Co E, died on 17 Dec 1863 at Cairo, IL after discharge

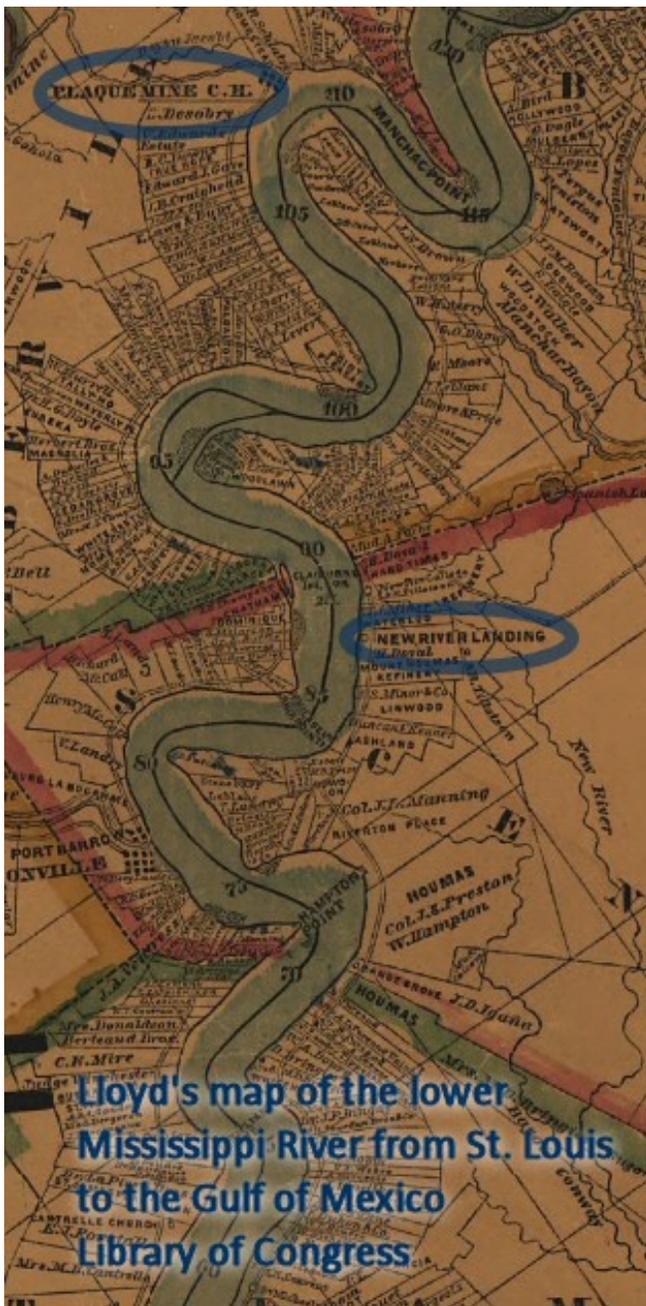
on 7 Nov at New Orleans, LA. Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: Jacob Sullinger, Private, Co E 120th OH Inf, died 17 Dec 1863 at P. H. Cairo IL. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt **Henry Smith**, Co A, died 18 Dec 1863. No other information.

Pvt **John Casey**, Co C, died 21 Dec 1863 at New Orleans, LA. Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: John CAISEY, Private, Co C 120th OH Inf. died 21 Dec 1863 at 13th A C [Army Corps] Hospital. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Lloyd, James T. Lloyd's map of the lower Mississippi River from St. Louis to the Gulf of Mexico. New York, 1863. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/99447114/>.

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4042m.cw0041000/?r=0.616,-0.004,0.372,0.294,0> See Map Section No. 5



Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia, New York, H. H. Hardesty & Co, 1885, for Richland Co, Wayne County Library, OH 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."

[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.

Company I Muster Roll: Jan/Feb: Record of events: Remained at Plaquemine La. untill the evening of Jan 19/64 when I [Capt Christopher Au] 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 .

Simon Bott Diary, (Civil War Diary of Simon M. Bott, 1864-1868), collection number (collection M-1156), and holding repository (Louisiana Research Collection, Tulane University), Courtesy of Tulane University.

Simon M. Bott, Co E, 120th OVI [PRIVATE]

<https://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane%3A79290/datastream/PDF/view>

January 1, 1864, Friday, Diary of Simon Bott

On boat of "Sally Robison" going up the river from new orleans to Plaquemine LA from Tensas? To my regiment.

January 2, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

on "Sally Robison." Return to Regiment.

Command of the company

January 3, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Plaquemine

Went on picket one mile from camp a long the levy.

January 4, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine

this morning it was rainy out it rain all day and all night

January 5, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine La

this morning it was still raining yet our kept on all day

January 6, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine La

This morning the ground was covered with snow

January 7, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine La

in camp and not on duty today and a nice winter day

January 8, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine La

Went out to work on the fort 4 hours then went to camp and no more duty done today. a nice day

January 9, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine La. In camp this morning and no duty done today. Nice day.

January 10, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine LA. In camp this morning and Company inspection at 8 o'clock A. M. A nice winter day.

January 11, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Camp Plaquemine LA. Camp this day and no duty to ??? for this day.

Simon didn't write Civil War notes again until April 4.

Jan 12, 1864, Captain **Loyd N. Meech**, Co G, resigned.

Jan 19, 1864, Capt **William McIlvain**, Co E, resigned.

The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official ... ser.1:v.34:pt.2:Correspondence.United States.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924077730251;view=2up;seq=2>

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Headquarters U. S. Forces, **Plaquemine, La., January 19, 1864.**

Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone, chief of Staff, Department of the Gulf:

Sir: The troops I have here now are the Forty-second and **One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry**, the Second Ohio Battery, and the one company of fourth Wisconsin Cavalry. The battery has two 6-pounder James rifles and two 12-pounder howitzers. The battery has 94 men present, the cavalry 42; the infantry numbers 730, including sick and convalescent. There are very few sick, however. There is no gun-boat here. **The fort is in rapid process of completion, and would have been done ere this had not the weather been so bad.** If I could have four 20-pounder guns to mount I think there would be no difficulty in resisting any attack the enemy may make. I should like them soon. However, there is no present danger of an attack.

Very respectfully, L. A. Sheldon, Colonel, Commanding.

Jan 26, 1864, Asst. Surgeon **Christopher C. Stouffer** resigned [disability].

Pvt **Charles Vinter**, Co C, drowned 28 Jan 1864 in the Plaquemine River, LA.
No other information.

Jan 30, 1864, 2nd Lieut **John Albert McMillen**, Co K, resigned .

Feb 9, 1864, 2nd Lieut **Robert P. Wallace**, Co E, escaped from Libby Prison in Richmond, VA.

Court Martial **Feb 9, 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt **Andrew Budd**, Co A, 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." He had received a furlough on the Sept 16, 1863 until Oct 16, 1863. But he remained absent until Jan 14, 1864. He was found not guilty upon presenting a Surgeon's Certificate [for the time period that he was gone.]

Court Martial **Feb 9, 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt John S. Hawkins, Co C 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." Hawkins was granted a sick furlough for 30 days on Aug 14, 1863, while at Vicksburg. He did not return until Jan 6, 1864. He produced a Surgeons Certificate covering all the time he was absent. He was found not guilty.

Court Martial **Feb 11, 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt **George Flaharty**, Co H 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." He had received a furlough on Aug 14, 1863 at Vicksburg and remained absent until Feb 3, 1864. Testimony of 1st Sgt Isaac Mylar: Flaharty had been reported absent without leave

about Oct 20, 1863. Captain Rummel testified: "I saw him at the cars on his way home o furlough. Two weeks afterward I visited him. He was not able for duty and was afterwards so sick that he was not able to be about. I saw him last about the 8th of Nov. 1863. He was not fit for duty. He was not entirely well when he joined the Reg. And I think had good reasons for not joining sooner." Uriah Larue testified: "I saw him in New Orleans about the last of Nov. 1863. He was not fit for duty then and had not recovered up to Feb. 4th when he rejoined the Reg. Is not well yet." Flaharty presented his Certificates of disability that covered the time of his absence up to Jan 9, 1864. He was found not guilty even though the certificate ended a month before he actually returned to the regiment on Feb 3.

Court Martial **Feb 16. 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt **John Jones**, Co G, 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." He had received a furlough on Surgeon's Certificate for 30 days on Oct 5, 1863, at Carrollton, LA, and failed to rejoin his regiment until Feb 1, 1864 making him one day late. He was found not guilty upon presenting a Surgeon's Certificate covering the whole time of his absence.

Court Martial **Feb 16. 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt John Horney, Co G, 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." John received a furlough on a Surgeon's Certificate for 30 days on Aug 2, 1863 at Vicksburg. He failed to return in the time specified. He returned Jan 24, 1864. Sgt Harshey, Co G, testified that John "is a good soldier ad I do not think he would remain away unnecessarily." John Jones, Co G testified that "I saw the accused at home. He was sick and not fit for duty." and that he did not look as well in late Nov 1863 as he did then in the court. Horney presented his Surgeon's Certificates of Disability covering all the imt of his absence except 33 days and said, "I left home on the 4th of Jan. Got to New Orleans the 19th. J Did not know my regiment was here. I sent to the regiment a certificate coviering the time for 30 days after Nov 16th 1863 but it was lost." He was four Guilty of absence without leave for 33 days. He was made to forfeit 33 days pay.

Court Martial **Feb 16. 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt Hiram G. Elson, Co D, 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." Hiram received a furlough on Oct 24, 1863, at Carrollton, LA. for 30 days. He returned Feb 11, 1864, at Plaquemine. He produced a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability covering the whole time of his absence. He was found not guilty.

Court Martial **Feb 20, 1864**, at Plaquemine. Pvt **Salathiel Fast**, Co K, 120th OVI was charged with "wilfully quitting his post while on picket duty." "...did without proper authority quit his post on picket and pass beyond the lines and was absent from about 2 Oclock A. M. until 6 Oclock AM of Feb 17th 1864. This at Plaquemine La. Signed by Lieut H. Applegate. "J. J. Plank Co H 120th was called and sworn as a witness: "On the night of the 16th inst we were on picket and the accused was standing watch until 2 oclock A. M. when he was relieved and gave his blanket to another man and passed out and we did not see him until nearly the time we were relieved when he came back." Question: Where had he been? "He said he had been out to a house to stay or something to that amount." Question: Is it customary for the guards to pass out without leave? "no sir." Question: How was his going away looked upon by the men on the post? "They thought strange he should leave in that way." Question: Did any one know he was gone? "No Sir." Fast had no evidence to offer. Salathiel Fast was found guilty. He was sentenced to "to perform ten days labor upon the fortifications of this place." The officer who reviewed this case thought that "the sentence, although grossly disproportioned to the offence, will be carried into effect." The officer also was concerned that "the court martial wanted to be "guided by public opinion in the ranks."

Court Martial **Feb 22, 1864**, at Plaquemine. Sgt **Harvey H. Galehouse**, Co G, 120th OVI was charged with "absence without leave." He had received a furlough on Surgeon's Certificate for thirty days at Carrollton, LA on Oct 4, 1863 and failed to return at time specified. He returned Feb 20, 1864. He was

found not guilty upon presenting a Surgeon's Certificate of disability covering the whole time of his absence.

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 [1870 Census] 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. He died 7 Mar 1871 in Monroe Co IA

WARD
For use in the above-entitled claim for pension you are requested to furnish this Bureau with a full military and medical history and personal description, including birthplace and occupation, of Martin S Ryal, who it is alleged, enlisted in, 1862, at Mansfield, Ohio, as a 41 in Co. G, 120 Reg't, Ohio Vol. Inf., and was discharged to have disappeared, at while on a foraging raid at or near Plaquemine, La., on or about February 25, 1864, and has not ever been heard from.

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE

APPROVALS.

Submitted for rejection, July 16, 1904, W. H. Druell, Jr., Examiner.

Approved for rejection, on the ground that soldier deserted and is being as a deserter at large, and was never discharged from the Army - accepted due to _____ which has been legally accepted.

July 22, 1904, W. T. Cherson, Legal Reviewer. Medical Examiner. Medical Reviewer.

July 27, 1904, L. H. Cannon, Re-Reviewer. Medical Referee.

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....."

The National tribune. (Washington, D.C.), 08 Jan. 1885. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016187/1885-01-08/ed-1/seq-1/>> **42d OH** "....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** 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 encumbrance 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."

The Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (colored), In the War to Preserve the Union, 1861-1865. By William H. Chenery, Late First Lieutenant, Company F, Second Battalion, by Providence: Snow & Farnahm, Printers and Publishers, 1898.

Hdqrs. Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La., March 7, 1864
Special Orders, No. 58.

2. I. The Second Battalion Fourteenth Rhode Island Heavy Artillery is relieved from duty in the Defences of New Orleans, and will proceed to Plaquemine (La.), to garrison the fort at that place.

II. **The Forty-second Ohio and One Hundred and Twentieth Ohio volunteers, now serving at Plaquemine, will, on the arrival of the Second Battalion Fourteenth Rhode Island Heavy Artillery proceed to Baton Rouge, and report to the commanding officer of that district for duty.**

By command of Major-General Banks,

Richd. B. Irwin, Assistant Adjutant-General.

<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.eresources.cuyahogalibrary.org/resources/doc/nb/image/v2%3A122AFBBA107AC9E4%40EANX-NB-125E77D6D06E4373%402401989-12589624C4A9AEFB%402-12FECFC087689F82%40Letter%2BFrom%2BLouisiana?p=EANX-NB>

Plain Dealer, Cleveland OH, 27 Apr 1864 Letter from a member of the 92d Ohio written 12 Apr 1864 from Baton Rouge, La.

"The 92d OVI...were sent to Plaquemine, La., with 120th O. V. I., 7th and 22nd Kentucky and 2nd Ohio Battery; we were there a little over four months, longer than we ever stayed at one place before. We left there the 16th of last month, the other regiment had already left, and are now here [Baton Rouge.] We were relieved by the 14th reg't U. S. A. Corps de Africa heavy artillery; they were raised in Rhode Island. We had built a very strong fort, mounting ten heavy cannon while there, and to leave it and our comfortable quarters was not very pleasant to some, but we have found the Capital city far pleasanter to stay in, the ground being higher and more to see and healthier than at Plaquemine."

[The Regiment left for Baton Rouge on March 26, 1864.]

The regiment left Plaquemine March 23, 1864, to go to Baton Rouge.....heading for disaster!

END CHAPTER 18

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2019

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