

Chapter 2 Camp at Covington, KY



Henry Stoddard Sherman entered Company B as a private on September 24, 1862 at age 18. He was promoted to Sergeant Major on September 26. On January 14, 1863 he was promoted to Second Lieutenant for meritorious conduct at Chickasaw Bayou. On March 15, 1863, he was promoted to First Lieutenant of Company I; and on April 17, 1863, he was appointed Adjutant of the regiment. July 31, 1863, he resigned that office to accept a position on the staff of his uncle, General William T. Sherman. Henry then left the service around the first of August, 1863. Henry was the son of Charles Sherman, Commandant of Camp Mansfield, and nephew of General William T. Sherman. Portions of Henry's civil war diary will be in the chapters which follow. After the war Henry became a lawyer in Cleveland, Ohio. Henry's diary is "Courtesy of the Carter and van Vliet families, descendants of Henry S. Sherman." Photo contributed by David Carter, descendant of

Henry S. Sherman.

See Selections from the speeches and papers of James Humphrey Hoyt, 1850-1917, published 1922. Cleveland, Ohio printed for private circulation; digitized by Library of Congress, The Library of Congress is unaware of any copyright restrictions for this item. See especially pages 134-136 for an event that I believe occurred at Chickasaw Bayou.

<https://archive.org/details/selectionsfromsp00hoyt/page/134?q=Henry+S.+Sherman>

On October 25, 1862, Henry Sherman Diary

"Left Camp Mansfield at 8 o'clock A. M. Arr'd at Sugar Station at 3 o'clock. Got some sugar manftre. from Sorghum." [Jacob or Jacobs Brothers were sorghum manufacturers in 1866 in Columbus, Ohio. Perhaps by 3 p. m. the train had made it as far as Columbus.]

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Pub. Under the Direction of the ... Secretary of War, United States. Record and Pension Office Volume 52:1, page 294: orders for Cincinnati and Covington special Orders, No. 79. Headquarters Department of the Ohio

[https://books.google.com/books?](https://books.google.com/books?id=635ZAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

[id=635ZAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=635ZAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false)

"On its arrival at Cincinnati, Ohio, Col. Daniel French will proceed with his regiment, the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Volunteers, to Covington, Ky., and report to Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, U. S. Volunteers, commanding that place. By order of Major-General Wright: N. H. McLean, Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

The regiment arrived at about midnight at a snowy Cincinnati and marched the next day to the Ohio River. They crossed over to the camp near Covington, Kentucky.

October 29, 1862, Thursday, Henry. S. Sherman Diary

"Commenced keeping Diary. Writing in Barracks near Covington, Ky. in cold but not cheerless quarters. Adj. Slocum singing comic song."

October 30, 1862, Friday, Henry S, Sherman Diary

"Major Beekman dancing a jig. Went to Cincinnati this afternoon. Enjoyed myself very much. Hunted or rather tried to find Aunt Lib but did not succeed. Saw some rather pretty girls but none to suit me. Bought a copy of Byron's Works. Met Uncle Hoyt and Henry Russ on the street. Invited by them to dinner to the Burnett House but did not accept on acct. of having had my dinner. Rather tired out. Acted as Adjutant on Dress Parade. [Although he started out as a private, Henry had been promoted to Sgt Major on 26 Sep 1862.] ... Moved into new quarters tonight. Well pleased with them."

Mentioned above, Major and Lt. Colonel John W. Beekman was age 41 when he joined the regiment. He had been a merchant and lawyer in Plymouth, Richland County Ohio. His widow's pension papers say, ""the Colonel was taken very sick about June/63 at Black River Bridge, Miss. About June 18th was examined, and procured a sick furlough to return home where he remained until his death." He died 8 Sep 1863.

October 31, 1862, Saturday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"Our Regiment was mustered and inspected by Major Flint, U. S. A. today. It was a rather tedious job..."

Private Henry Harpster, Co. C, 31 Oct 1862, age 23, died of disease at home in Ashland Co, OH.

November 1, 1862, Saturday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"....a crowd of Tennessee refugees & parts of Kentucky soldiers came into camp numbering about 300 men. They are a rather hardy set of men and somewhat demoralized judging from their appearance. They are all for the Union come what may. Met a pretty sharp fellow among them. Rather inclined to be witty. Says the only sharp thing about him are his teeth. Confesses that they are pretty sharp & could very easily make a hole in a loaf of bread. ... Intend to make an effort to get a staff appointment some of these days. Will write to Father and Uncle John [Charles T. and John Sherman, brothers of Gen. Wm T. Sherman] to effect it with Genl. Granger."

November 2, 1862, Sunday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"Adjutant enlivening the company with a 'rural' story. All feel in good spirits in our quarters. Adjutant more lively than usual. Just finished our muster and pay rolls. Will probably receive a month's pay tomorrow. ... What was supposed to be a 'Secesh' spy was captured by our pickets & brought to Headquarters. He was sent to Genl. Ammon by Col. French. Intend to go to the fortifications tomorrow with Major Beekman. There was quite a high wind which made the dust fly and was very unpleasant for a short time but it afterwards rained enough to lay the dust and now is growing colder."

November 3, 1862, Monday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"No letter from home yet. Wonder if they have forgotten me. Expect one sure tomorrow. ...Was not paid off today as was expected. Made arrangement for messing today. Formed a mess of six persons. Will commence tomorrow morning. Adjutant Slocum full of mischief all day long, which with his comic songs, &c. keeps us in a good humor and 'drives dull care away.'"

November 4, 1862, Tuesday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

Been, more than usual, busy today in getting the Regimental books started. Hope to get through this week. Do not like the idea of laying here in camp all winter. Things begin to look like it but fortune may change and we may turn up a lucky card and be pushed into the field sooner than expected. Adjutant just returned from town where he had gone to meet his wife. Was sorely disappointed in not meeting her.

Wooster Republican, published 6 Nov 1862, page 3, Wayne County Library or pay site:
George Gardner letter about bad weather, other regiments, and barracks.

See **maps and illustrations** for Covington and Fort Mitchell where some of the men were assigned.

November 10, 1862, Monday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"The Regiment was inspected today by Brig. Genl. Judah..."

November 11, 1862, Tuesday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"Had a long and hard battalion drill in the afternoon by Col. Spiegel and while there Genl. Ammon passed, the Regiment saluting."

Private **Daniel R. Eberly**, Co. D, died 11 Nov 1862, at Mansfield, OH.

Wooster Republican, 13 Nov 1862, page 4, Wayne County Library or pay site: County Bounty notice, Capt. Phelan, Co H

Wooster Republican, 13 Nov 1862, page 4, Wayne County Library or pay site: letter 7Nov1862, then 1st Lt. Loyd N. Meech, Co G, quarters at Covington, compliments for Col. French and Adjutant Slocum

November 16, 1862, Sunday, Henry S. Sherman Diary

"Attended church in Capt. Phelans Barracks. Had a few ladies in the congregation which made it look more home like. Had a large crowd of spectators at Dress Parade in the evening. Saw three pretty girls among said spectators. Put on a great deal of style to attract their attention and succeeded very well & found out from the Col. after Parade that they enquired after somebody that stood on the eft of the battalion. Attended prayer meeting in the evening."

Finally, preparations were made to leave Covington. **November 21, 1862, Friday, Henry S. Sherman Diary**

"Left Covington Barracks at 9 A. M. Marched to River & embarked (three companies) in the New Duntush [steamer] for Memphis."

November 22, 1862, Saturday, Henry Sherman Diary

"Changed our boat for the Fort Wayne [steamer], a much larger one, but not nearly as pleasant."

*****Wooster Republican, 27 Nov 1862, page 3: Wayne county OH library, or pay site
George W. Gardner 23Nov1862letter: boarding boats, arrival of 16th and 42d OH.

*****Wooster Republican, 27 Nov 1862, p 3: **Letter James B. Taylor:** ready to leave Covington
Wayne county OH library, or pay site

Wooster Republican, 27 Nov 1862, page 3. Wayne County Library or pay site

Arcadome advertisement of items to buy for the soldiers, The Archadome was on East Liberty street, Wooster, on the south side next to what is now the "Gallery in the Vault" on the square.
Wayne county OH library, or pay site

Bryant Grant was not with the regiment at Covington:

Daily national Republican. (Washington, D.C.), 02 March 1863. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. Columns 5 and 6

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86053570/1863-03-02/ed-1/seq-1/>, p. 1: **Lieut. Bryant Grant, Co H dismissed for prolonged absence.**

The 120th Regiment finally got under way down the Ohio toward Memphis, TN, on Tuesday, 25 November 1862. The Right Wing consisted of Cos. A, C, D, F, H, I, K; the Left Wing, Cos. B,

E, and G. The Right Wing boarded the "Silver Wave." The Left Wing was at first on the "Dunlieth" but changed to the "Fort Wayne" before leaving Covington. Henry Sherman was on the "Ft. Wayne."

END CHAPTER 2

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