

Chapter 7 Young's Point and Milliken's Bend

Douglas, Ben, History of Wayne County, Ohio, c.1878, page 56.

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924028848765/page/n9>

"From Arkansas Post the regiment returned to Young's Point, and went into camp. Here it was decimated by disease, measles, typhus and malarial fever working sad havoc in its ranks. At one time over half the regiment was reported on sick list. The officers became discouraged and resigned in large numbers, which contributed to the despondency of the men."

Wooster Republican, Thursday 12 Feb 1863, pg 3. Wayne County Public Library or pay site

January 18, 1863 "The health of the troops is very bad, no more than one-half of our Regiment is fit for duty, and deaths are frequent." George W. Gardner

Hospital Life at Milliken's Bend

Not everyone was able to go on the march south and the attack on Vicksburg in May. Some were left behind in hospitals back where the march had begun.

Map: Portion of National Archives map.

This map shows the often mentioned Millikens Bend and Youngs Point in relation to Vicksburg and Grant's Canal across from Vicksburg.



[Published 28 May 1863 in the Wooster Republican, page 3] Available at Wayne County Library, Wooster, OH.

Van Buren, Hospital, Milliken's Bend, La., May 14, 1863

[Letter to the editor, author unknown **from 120th**]

It may be interesting to some who have not been permitted to take an inside view of a general Hospital, to hear something relative to its conduct. Having been an inmate of such a hospital for over five weeks we have been able to learn many things that could not be learned otherwise. The hospital is situated immediately on the bank of the river, and contains about fifteen hundred sick and convalescent soldiers. A Mr. Marshal owns the plantation and resides at Natchez-----Our tents are situated beneath o'er shadowing branches of the China trees, which are set out in a perfect alignment; the air is made melodious by the singing of birds, and the odoriferous effluvia exhaled from the flowers and shrubs, wafts in a delightful cloud of fragrance on the breeze. The exquisite natural and artificial beauty of the place reminds us of pictures of Paradise. The strictest discipline and order are enforced, and the Surgeon in charge, Dr. Whiting, merits the praise of keeping his camp as clean, neat and tidy, as any housewife ever kept her door-yard. After viewing these beautiful scenes that almost enrapture the mind, we come to notice that which seems more directly connected with the interests of the soldier -- we refer to the table -- and a view of these things brings us down from our transports of pleasure in contemplating other beauties. Long lines of tables are spread, at the ringing of the first bell the men are paraded, at the second, marched in order to their places at the tables. The breakfast consists of a piece of soft bread, a piece of smoked ham and a cup of muddy coffee, and if the unsatisfied appetite of the soldier prompts him to a complaint, he receives a blessing from the waiter, and a threat of being reported to headquarters. This subsides the complaint for a ride astride the fence, banishment to some secluded spot for a day, fed on hard bread and water, or some other corporal punishment looms up frightly for him, and he swallows his indignation and goes quietly to his tent. For noon a dish of barley soup is served up. A light supper, --bread, stewed apples and coffee. Sometimes we have an extra dish, perhaps codfish, potatoes or eggs, which, to make them military -- if we may judge from their flavor -- have been a very long time in reaching the table.

For the sicker portion, who cannot go to their meals, light diet is prescribed, --lighter not in quality, but in quantity. The people of the North are unceasing in their patriotic labors, boxing and shipping sanitary stores to the army for benefit of the sick soldiers, but it is **a lamentable fact that but very little of these stores ever come to be used by the sick, there is such a host of clerks, rascally ward masters, nurses, cooks and waiters, that but little passes safely through their hands.** -- The Doctors are faithful in the discharge of their duties, rendering all the aid to the sick that is in medical skill, but proper care and diet conduce more to health than drugs and medicine. But little occurs [*sic*] here to break the dull monotony of camp life. A few days since a party of rebels who were known to be lurking in the woods on the opposite side of the river, with the design as it was supposed, of firing upon our transports, made their appearance on the bank, but a few well directed shell from a couple of 30-pound guns, which the precaution had been taken to plant for our protection, soon dispersed them. -- Scarcely a day passes but the boom of cannon at Vicksburg and vicinity can be heard, telling us that the work of death steadily goes on.

Our regiment (the 120th,) was engaged in the battle of Grand Gulf, after the capture the army moved up the Black River some distance. The boys are represented in good health and fine spirits.

A severe battle is expected at the Railroad bridge across the black River. We receive the Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and Memphis papers almost daily, and keep informed of the war news, the advance of Hooker, the repulse of the rebels in Missouri are known. The troops are becoming enthusiastic, that enthusiasm which has been so proverbial in the great army of the Union, is again manifested here. Hope again brightens the future, the ominous clouds that hung so darksome around us are lifting and light is breaking in, and the prospect of peace and a restored Union is more cheering. We hope soon to see the tri-colored banner waving triumphantly over every foot of American soil, and men who now learn war return to the peaceful vocations of life.

I am yours, &c., CONVALESCENT.

P.S. The days are very warm, but the nights are remarkably cool. Peaches are half grown, figs will soon be ripe. No cotton or corn has been planted in this vicinity this Spring. The river is falling rapidly.

**About the lice [graybacks] that the soldiers endured:
[The National Tribune \(Washington DC\), 23 July 1885, page 3](#), available at [Chronicling America, Library of Congress](#). Sent in by W. A. Cannon, Co. B, 83d Ill., written by his comrade in the war.**

"The Grayback in Rhyme"

At dead of night, when all is still,
The graybacks hold battalion drill;
Along your ribs they form a line,
Then wheel in column down your spine.

Then in platoons they quickly break,
And down your legs their course they take;
With measured tread they onward speed,
The tallest grayback in the lead.

The Photographic History of the Civil War: Prisons and Hospitals, edited by Francis Trevelyan Miller and Robert Sampson Lanier, Review of Reviews Company, 1911 Page 318

At [Google Books](#) <https://books.google.com/books?id=wFxDAQAAMAAJ>

"There was a surgeon and sometimes an assistant surgeon on each ship. Hospital boats had medical staffs as large as the hospitals ashore." Mentioned are *Red Rover City of Memphis, D. A. January, Empress, Imperial.*

This is a list of some of the boats which carried men of the 120th during the war.

Nashville, City of Nashville, Di Vernon, J. C. Swon [named for Capt. Swon], Iaton, Cahaba, Omaha, D A January, Jesse K. Bell, C. McDougall, Crescent City, Laural Hill, Diana or Rosalee Judson, Henry Von Phul, R. C. Wood, and Memphis.

<<http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/boatburners/boatburnerlist.html>> The boat Jesse K Bell was burned September 28, 1863, at St Louis MO

<<http://www.riverboatdaves.com/riverboats/j.html>> The steamboat J. C. SWON, was named for Capt Swon, and was destroyed in 1867

Wooster Republican, 29 Jan 1863, page 2. Wayne County Public Library or pay site

List of sick from the 120th at hospitals in Memphis, TN, and Paducah, KY.

Pvt **Thomas C. Stevens**, Co C, died Thursday, January 22, 1863, on a hospital boat.

Pvt **Henry Rhodes**, Co C, died January 22, 1863, of typho mal febris on board hospital boat "Jesse K. Bell." He was buried opposite the mouth of the Yazoo River.

January 23, 1863, Henry Sherman Diary

"Disembarked today. Our Camp is a miserable place being an old cotton field and it is very soft & muddy. Feel some better. Worked hard in getting up our tents, &c. Capt. Conyer & Lt. Roseborough returned from the Hospital at Memphis."

Pvt **Jacob Vieny**, Co H, died Saturday, January 24, 1863, at **General Hospital**, Jefferson Barracks, MO. **Jacob Veney**. Cause: not given.

Memoirs of Gen. William T. Sherman (complete) by William Tecumseh Sherman, D. Appleton, 1861, page 305:

"General Grant when at Napoleon, on the 18th of January, ordered McClernand with his own and my corps to return to Vicksburg, to disembark on the west bank, and to resume work on a canal across the peninsula which had been begun by Gen. Thomas Williams the summer before, the object being to turn the Mississippi River at that point, or at least to make a passage for our fleet of gunboats and transports across the peninsula, opposite Vicksburg."

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia. [Richland County OH version] lists both Mathias Harter, Co B, and George Stake, Co H, as helping to dig the canal.

Grand Army Pub., Soldiers' and Citizens' Album of Biographical Record [of Wisconsin] Containing Personal Sketches of Army Men and Citizens Prominent in Loyalty to the Union: Also a Chronological and Statistical History of the Civil War, and a History of the Grand Army of the Republic, with Portraits of Soldiers and Prominent Citizens, Volume 1, 1888, Page 461-462 Library of Congress.

<https://archive.org/details/soldierscitizens00brow/page/n10?q=Soldiers+and+citizens+album>

John Baer, Co H, 120th OVI

"The regiment proceeded next to Young's Point, nine miles from Vicksburg, to assist in the famous canal digging, **their allotment being 188 feet long and 60 feet wide, and to be three feet in depth.** About this time the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, and one-third of the field officers of the regiment resigned their commissions. Hardships increased with the severe duty of canal digging and, as flour had been substituted for hard tack and 'slap jacks' had become the staple article of diet, much sickness resulted. **The decimation of the regiment was frightful and when Captain Phelan of H Company died, of the detail of eight men for ditch digging, only four were able to report for business and the additional duty of the burial.** The work on the canal was pressed on, the men standing in water between two and three feet deep and shoveling mud into wheelbarrows. Their allotment was completed and the regiment assigned to the 9th division under Gen. P. J. Osterhaus. They went next to Milliken's Bend ..."

Pvt **William Anderson**, Co I, died Sunday, 25 Jan 1863 at Sisters of Charity Hospital, St. Louis, MO. or 6 Feb 1863 Cause: Typhoid Fever.

January 24, 1863, Saturday, Henry Sherman Diary

"Rained all night and this morning the ground is almost impassible. Whole regiment sent out on fatigue duty. Feel a little better mentally and about as usual physically."

Pvt **Wilson S. Shenabarger**, Co B, died January 25, 1863, at Young's Point, Louisiana, of camp diarrhea.

Pvt **William W. Stewart**, Co B, died January 25, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, Louisiana. Cause: phthisis pulmonalis [tuberculosis]

Pvt **Michael Schaaf**, Co A, died January 24-25, 1863, on the steamer "Iaton." Michael SHEFF, Cause: chronic diarrhea.

January 25, 1863, Sunday, Henry Sherman Diary

*"Was to day detached from Reg. and ordered to report to Maj. Gen. Sherman [his uncle]."
Henry did not write again until mid-February.*

Pvt **Martin Stauffer**, Co G, died Monday, January 26, 1863, at Young's Point, LA.

Pvt **William Stamets**, Co F, died January 26, 1863, at Young's Point, LA.

Private **Jacob Beck**, Co D, died January 27, 1863, and buried at Island No. 82 [see maps] in the Mississippi River.

Pvt **Ferdinand Vieny**, Ferdinand, Co H, died Tuesday, January 27, 1863, at Young's Point, LA.

Pvt **Joseph R. Yoder**, Co H, died January 27, 1863, on hospital steamer "Von Phut."

Pvt **Lester L. Hayes**, Co C, died January 27, 1863, at General Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, MO. Cause: debilitis.

Pvt **John E. Buckley**, Co C, Wednesday, died January 28, 1863, at St. Louis, Missouri, of typhoid fever and wounds received at Chickasaw Bayou.

Pvt **William Dow**, Co F, died January 28, 1863, at Young's Point, LA. Cause: typhoid fever.

Pvt **Simon P. Wilson**, Co G, died Thursday, January 29, 1863, at No 3 Hospital, Memphis, TN.

Sgt **Charles H. Dorland**, Co F, died January 29, 1863, at New House of Refuge General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: acute dysentery.

Pvt **Simon P. Wilson**, Co G, died January 29, 1863, at Memphis, TN. Sick at No. 3 Hospital, Adam's Block, Memphis.

Pvt **Jacob M. Lutz**, Co B, died Friday, January 30, 1863, on the steamer "Omaha" at Young's Point, Louisiana.

Pvt **Daniel Hamman** [Hommon, Howman], Co G, died January 30, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: Rubeola [measles].

Pvt **John Heller**, Co D, died January 30, 1863, at House of Refuge General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: typhoid fever.

Pvt **John Welch** [Welsh], Co G, died January 30, 1863, at Regimental Hospital at Young's Point, LA.

Pvt **Abraham Stiver**, Co I, died Saturday, January 31, 1863, at General Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, MO. Cause: consumption.

Reid, Whitelaw, Ohio in the War: her statement, generals, and soldiers, Volume 2, by Whitelaw Reid, The Robert Clarke Co, 1895 p 615.

Reid, Whitelaw, Ohio in the War: her statement, generals, and soldiers, Volume 2, The Robert Clarke Co, 1895 Section on 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry pp. 614 Ohio in the War: her statement, generals, and soldiers, Volume 2, by Whitelaw Reid, The Robert Clarke Co, 1895, Robert Clarke Co, **Section on 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry** pp. 614-615] [This Google book: There are no restrictions on use of text transcribed from the images, or paraphrased or translated using the images.]

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x002044840;view=1up;seq=13>

February, 1863, proved to be no better for the health of the regiment.

.....they proceeded by river to **Young's Point, Louisiana**, six miles above Vicksburg. This place proved to be another unhealthy locality, and the One Hundred and Twentieth suffered so severely from measles and typhus malarial fever that, during the month of February, **half the aggregate number present were reported on the sick-list**. A large number of the officers became discouraged, and, unwilling to await the issue of their illness, tendered their resignations. Among them was **Colonel Daniel French, the acceptance of whose resignation bears date February 18, 1863**. The Colonel was constrained to take this step because of the re-appearance of a disease which he had contracted in the Mexican war. His retirement from the service was deeply regretted. Among the great number who died at Young's Point were three of the best officers of the regiment, viz.: Captain Phelan, of company H; First-Lieutenant Armstrong, of company C, and Captain Conyer [Co K].

In the month of February the army at Young's Point was reorganized, and General Grant assumed personal command. The One Hundred and Twentieth was assigned to the **Third Brigade (Garrard's), Ninth Division (Osterhaus's), and Thirteenth Army Corps (McClernand's)**

Pvt **Abraham Fetzer**, Co A, died Sunday, February 1, 1863 on a hospital boat "J. C. Swon." **Abraham LITZER/LETZER. Cause: diarrhoea and typhoid fever.**

Pvt **Joseph B. Prichard**, Co B, died February 1, 1863, on steamer "Omaha," at Young's Point, LA.

Pvt **Richard A. Hill**, Co B, died February 1, 1863, on steamer "Omaha," at Young's Point, LA.

Pvt **James Andrew Wilson**, Co A, died February 1 or 2, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: Typo. Mal. Fever.

Pvt **Benjamin F. Masters**, Co D, died Monday, February 2, 1863, at Sisters General Hospital St. Louis, MO. Cause: pneumonia.

Pvt **Johnson M. Dewitt**, Co K, died February 2, 1863, at Young's Point, LA.
Pension: died on hospital boat of measles.

Letter in pension:

"Young's Point La, Febry 18th 1863

Mrs. Johnson M. Dewitt,

Madam

In conformity with my duty although it is a painful task, I write to apprise you of the death of your Husband who died the 2nd inst of measles or rather the results of that fatal disease to all who may have the misfortune to contract it in the army.

Although a painful thing my dear Madam it is the fortune of war and the fate of many who have gone forth in this struggle for right. I most sincerely condole with you on the loss of that best and dearest friend on earth a Husband & pray God that your Fatherless Babes may not suffer as extremely as I know you must in the loss of their dear dead Father. But he who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb will care for the Fatherless and the widows. In the death of Johnson we have lost a good and faithful soldier and companion & all deeply deplore his loss. We performed the last rites to the deceased as well as was possible under the circumstances & gave him what thousands fail to get a 'Christian burial' I might add great deal more but think my dear Madam that the news of your loss is enough in itself to harrow your feelings to the utmost extent. I will conclude by saying that the only relics that remain is a dagguereotype of yourself and your husband which I will send to Millersburg in care of "J. S. Nelson" Shff[Sheriff] when you can get it. In regard for the pay and bounty for services of Johnson, you can draw it through the war department by your attorney at any time after the final statements are made out

here.
??? I am dear Madam
Your Obedient Servant
George W. Conyer
Captain Co 'K' 120th O.V.I."

On on February 2, 1863, Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, US Ram Fleet, proved that rams could get past Vicksburg when he took the "Queen of the West" down the Mississippi past the batteries and an opposing steamer.

Pvt **Thomas B. Zediker**, Co B, died Tuesday, February 3, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Another record says he died 30 Jan 1863. Cause: endocarditis.

Pvt **John J. Culler**, Co B, died February 3, 1863, at General Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, MO. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt **Obadiah Munnell**, Co I, died February 3, 1863, in Regimental Hospital near Young's Point, LA. Cause: pneumonia and diarrhoea

Pvt **James Latimer**, Co C, died Wednesday, February 4, 1863, at Field Hospital, Young's Point, LA. James Latimore Cause: rheumatism.

Corporal **John H. Straher**, Co D, died February 4, 1863, at Lawson General Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri of wounds received on 11 Jan 1863 in the battle of Arkansas Post, Arkansas. Cause: vulnus sclopet [wound inflicted by gunshot].

Pvt **Martin S. Gardner**, Co F, February 4, 1863, at General Hospital Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO. Martin S. GARDINER. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Chaplain W. A. G. Emerson resigned February 5, 1863.

Captain William G. Myers, Co G, resigned February 5, 1863.

Wooster Republican, 26 Feb 1863, page 3. Wayne County Public Library or pay site
Article in support of Captain Wm G. Myers' resignation, cause disability.

*******Wooster Republican, Thursday 19 Mar 1863, pg3.** Wayne County Public Library or pay site.
Important letter by William W. Wallace, Co A, in which he said that he and Mahlon Rouch had been, detailed as guards with the sick and rebel wounded on the way to St. Louis for treatment. He said that the conditions were poor at Young's Point. He talked against those who encourage desertion. Read about the great soldier he was!

Sgt **Harlan, Samuel**, Co C, died February 5-6, 1863, at Field Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Samuel HARLON. Cause: rheumatism.

Pvt **Thomas H. Sloan**, Co F, died February 5-6, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: pneumonia.

Corporal **George Ginther**, Co C, died Sunday, February 8, 1863, at Field Hospital, **Ballard's Farm**, Young's Point, LA. Aka GUNTHER, Cause: debilitas. Surg. E. C. Franklin said that George died of debility.

SEE MAPS FOR BALLARDS.

Pvt **James Wilson**, Co C, died Wednesday, February 11, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typo mal fever

Pvt **Isaac Risser**, Co K, died February 11, 1863, at General Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO. Ricer or died January 29 Cause: consumption

Pvt **William Hall**, Co K, died February 11, 1863, at Young's Point, LA.

Wooster Republican, 12 Feb 1863, page 3. Wayne County Public Library or pay site.

Mr. J. S. Keiffer, Green Twp. Trip to Memphis to bring home two dead soldiers. Important news for friends of the dead.

February 12, 1863, Sergeant Henry H. Crooks, Company I, was discharged from the 120th to accept a commission as a 2d Lieut in the 10 Ohio Cavalry. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861 - 1865, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II-Reports, 1891 Government Printing Office, No 421, p 888. Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas W. Sanderson, Tenth Ohio Cavalry

Google books: [https://books.google.com/books?](https://books.google.com/books?id=JEt5AAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=888&f=false)

[id=JEt5AAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=888&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=JEt5AAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=888&f=false)

"On the **30th [August 1864]** the column advanced toward Jonesborough [Georgia]. At ----- plantation, the enemy was encountered behind strong barricades, and after a brief engagement, was driven from his position. During this engagement First Lieut. Henry H. Crooks was killed by a gunshot in the head while in the discharge of his duty as aide-de-camp to Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, commanding brigade."

Pvt **Benjamin F. Mills**, Co G, died Friday, February 13, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Or February 15 Cause: diarrhoea

Pvt **Addison Strong**, Co G, died February 13, 1863, at Small Pox general Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: Variola [smallpox]

[Pension file letter about Addison Strong was written to Mrs. Nancy Strong, Clinton, OH, from the smallpox hospital. Apparently Nancy had written to them.]

"Small Pox Genl Hospital, Saint Louis Mo. May 20" 1863

Madam,

Yours of April 15" came duly to hand. I feel sorry when I have to inform you that he [Addison Strong] died of small pox at the Hospital Feb. 15" 1863. The Hospital is situated on **an Island in the Miss. River** near St. Louis, and he was interred in the Grave Yard near the Hospital in as decent a manner as the nature of the disease would admit of. He left no effects except some clothing, which owing to the nature of the disease is not allowed to be removed from the Hospital.

Hoping the above information may prove satisfactory as regards his death."|

I remain Very Respectfully Yours

L. W. Adsun?, Act. asst. Surgeon U. S. A.

In charge St. Louis Small Pox General Hospital"

Pvt **Eli C. Bisel**, Co H, died February 13, 1863, at the Field Hospital before Vicksburg at Young's Point, LA. Bisell Cause: debilitas. Or 15 Feb 1863

Pvt **John T. Palmer**, Co K, died February 13, 1863, at Overton General Hospital, Memphis, TN. Or 1 Feb Cause: scarlatina [scarlet fever]

Pvt **Harrison Behler**, Co B, died Saturday, February 14, 1863, at Hickory St. General Hospital St. Louis, MO. H. BECHLER Cause: pneumonia.

Pvt **Thomas Kerr**, Co K, died February 14, 1863, at General Hospital, Jefferson

Barracks, St. Louis, MO. or 3 Feb 1863 Cause: typhoid fever.

Captain **Patrick Phelan**, Co H, died Sunday, February 15, 1863, at Young's Point LA.
Pension: typhoid fever

Captain **Henry Buck**, Co F, resigned February 15, 1863.

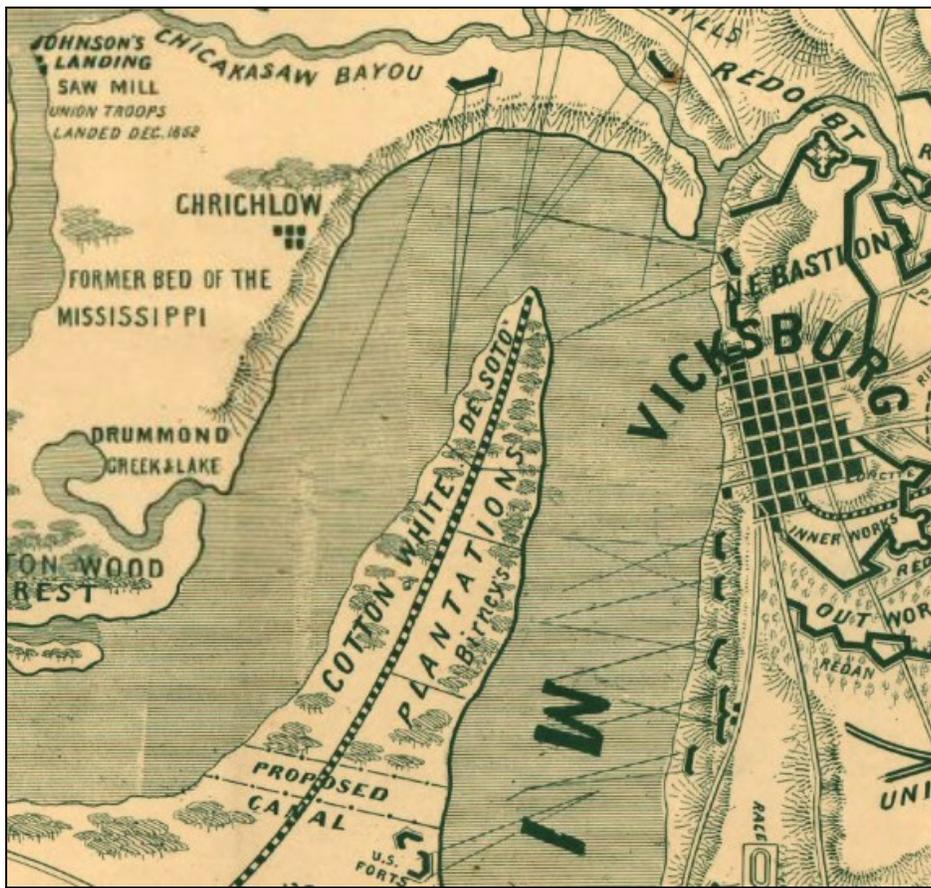
[Published in *The Democratic Press*, 2 Apr 1863, page 1, *The Democratic press*. (Eaton, Preble County, Ohio), 02 April 1863. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88077265/1863-04-02/ed-1/seq-1/>>

[Solon Boydston, Private, Company A, 120th OVI; Isaac Huntsberger, Private, Company A, 120th OVI]

"The Soldiers on the Negro - What They Think. The following extract is from a letter written by a soldier of the 120th regiment, who was an ultra Republican when he entered the army. The lovers of the negro can see what misery their policy entails upon the unfortunate objects of their love:

Camp at Young's Point, La., **February 15th 1863**. We are encamped in a swamp on the banks of the Mississippi. Old Abe's Proclamation has had a bad effect here. We have about 1,000 n***** at present. They are working in the ditch. Those of them that starve and get sick, are turned out to die. (When I speak of the 'ditch,' I mean the canal we were going to dry up the Mississippi river with.) I. Hunsberger was down to see it yesterday. He says that the very air is black with negroes. -- You can see negroes lying around dead almost any place. This is the effect of Uncle Abe's 1st of January Proclamation. The war is over with me. I didn't come to fight for the freedom of the negroes; and you may tell the Republicans who like negroes to come down here and they can get lousy with them.

Solon Boydston



George W. Tomlinson's map of Vicksburg, showing all the surrounding fortifications.....1863, available at the Library of Congress online. www.loc.gov/ Tomlinson, G. W. Tomlinson's map of

Vicksburg, showing all the surrounding fortifications, batteries, principal plantation, &c. Boston, J. Mayer & Co., lith, 1863. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/99447428/>.

Tomlinson wrote about the canal:

"The proposed canal, which is simply a huge ditch, was made about fifteen feet wide, and three or three and a half feet deep. This, it was supposed, was of sufficient depth to allow the water of the river to flow through; but when the levee at each end was cut through, it was found to be above the level of the water. The river had fallen some during the process of digging, but not enough to account for so great a short coming.

The mountain would not come to Mohammed, and some wiseacre determined to make it come by placing an old steamwheel boat at the lower side of the entrance to the canal, to work her wheel, and so paddle the water up into it, which succeeded in wetting the bottom of the canal just enough to make it muddy, but no more. This experiment of making water run up hill not proving very successful, it was determined to deepen the ditch. The bottom being, as stated before, about fifteen feet wide, the one half of this bottom, longitudinally, was dug five feet deeper, the entire length of the canal, the earth being thrown up on the other half of the original bottom. By this means, a small thread of water, about a foot wide, was decoyed into it, where it remains, looking very much bewildered, as though it did not know where to run to. The entire south side of the canal is now composed of loose earth, thrown up from the deepning [sic], and should the river rise sufficient to make a current through the canal, this loose earth would undoubtedly be undermined by the current, and coming down would soon fill it up sufficiently to stop the current. G. W. Tomlinson, Boston."

February 16, 1863, Monday, Henry Sherman Diary

"Father writes that if [I am] really sick to try and come home which I intend to do if possible."

Corporal **Minor H. Dean**, Co B, died Tuesday, February 17, 1863, at Young's Point, LA.

Cause: eresypelas [skin infection]

Pvt **Emanuel Lutz**, Co F, died February 17, 1863, at Young's Point, LA. Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: E. LUTZ, Co F 120th OH Inf, died 17 Feb 1863 at Field Hospital before Vicksburg Miss. Cause: rubeola. First buried on **Ballards plantation** below his residence [vicinity of Youngs Point LA].

Dayton daily empire. (Dayton [Ohio]), 17 March 1863. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85026002/1863-03-17/ed-1/seq-2/>> p2.

Dates of publication: 1850-1865

It is more than ban health that is demoralizing the regiment.

Letter in newspaper, John Weaver, Co D

"Camp at Young's Point, La,

February 17, 1863.

Any man who is in to fight this rebellion through, and talks so loud against compromise, should come down here and fall in with us and try his hand. J The rebellion can't be put down by talking, unless you talk the right way.

I have changed my mind since I saw how that things are. I have learned more than I could have learned in five years at home. Every man who is in for the fight should come down here and try their hands, and I think you would come to the conclusion to agree to a compromise. And I think one could be made if an

armistice of five months were declared, and the people North and South would reason together. As long as we fight we can't settle our misunderstandings. If it has to be fought through you can tell your friends that it will take all the able-bodied men in the North. So you had better all take hold and look the matter over in good faith, and let party spirit fall. We are all of one mind in the army, except a few Abolitionists. We are all in for a compromise.

I think there are too many Abolitionists in the republican party, and if they are not hunted out and shot the party is gone to the Devil; and to him must every man go who holds on to the Abolition party.

John Weaver" [Company D]

In the same news article:

Author not given:

"Dear Brother:

I received your note of 2d inst., on the 15th. We received the Wooster Democrat of February 6th containing Valandigham's speech. His views on the war suit the majority of us in the army to a 'T.' But it makes a few of the Abolitionists howl. I think the day is not far distant when they will howl worse. John Ropp [Co E] [a former Republican] is sitting by my side, he requests me to tell you that if we had a few more Vallandighams in the North we would soon have peace. So you can infer what his views are on the war question."

Pvt **William Kenton**/Kinton, Co B, died Wednesday, February 18, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: pneumonia.

Pvt **Parker Leefer** [Leeper], Co K, died February 18, 1863, 18 Feb 1863 at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal fever.

Following is a letter from Private **James Harlan**, Company C, 120th OVI contributed by **Dana Pennell**.

There will be a second letter later from James in July 1864.

Often punctuation wasn't used, so the sentences have been separated with spaces for clarity. The spellings have been left as they were. Notice that James put his name and the names of the letter recipients at the end of the letter.]

"Louisiana

Feb the 18th 1863

Dear Sisters

it is with great pleasure and with Due respect that I take up my pen this morning to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well at present hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same Blessing.

I wrote Father a letter yesterday and I have nothing to do this morning so I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgotten you yet also to answer your welcome letters I received a letter from Sam Budd day before yesterday he is in Paducha Ky he stated in his letter that he is getting better he also stated in his letter that John Buckley was Dead he said he Died at St Lewis with the measels but it may be a false report [Note: Sam Budd died in March '63; John Buckley had died in January.] there is some of our number that has left us their voice is heard no more here **Samuel Harlan [and] James Latimer and James Wilson is Dead** [Note: all in company C] the rest of the boys that was sick is getting better we are still in Louisiana camped near the Mississippi river I dont know how long we will stay here there is flying reports here that our regt is going to be sent to Saint Lewis to guard prisoners and get recruited up but I dont know how true it is I can tell better when we get started the boys that we left at Memphis has come to the regiment I was glad to see them you stated in your letter that you had a very deep snow up north [Ashland co OH] but there was not much sleigh riding done If that is the case I don't suppose you will get your feet frozen without Peter Nief comes around to take you sleigh riding for my part I havent seen much snow this winter it snowed when we was at the arkansas post about three inches deep but it soon went off it is tolerable warm

weather here and it rains about half the time I will have to stop writing for I will have to help bake some ?? beans?? I expect you would laugh if you would happen along and see us doing our baking but we can bake pretty good biscuit I would rather do the cooking than to do my washing I believe I will close for this time as I have written several letters within a few days back so I have nothing new to write I have written Thomas Stafford two letters and have not recd any as yet I received one letter from David Braden and I have written him two letters but the letters comes more regular now than they did at first we had some of our mail captured at the arkansas river before we took that fort I will close for this time by sending my best respects to all enquiring friends No more at present but still remains your Brother Until Death write soon Your Truly James Harlan

[To] Freeloze Harlan

Lydia Harlan and Sarah Harlan

Ann Rebecca Harlan

Samuel R Harlan"

Crisis [Columbus OH], 25 Mar 1863, page 72, pay site

Letter probably written by Isaac D. Huntsberger, Co A. About bad health and denunciation of Lincoln's abolishing slavery.

*******Wooster Republican, E. Foreman, Editor, 19 Feb 1863, p 2.** Wayne County Public

Library or pay site

Charges of neglect and incompetency of "politician" officers who are anti-Lincoln and "rebel sympathizers."

Colonel Daniel French resigned February 18, 1863, because of reoccurrence of illness acquired during the Mexican War. He was a very well-liked officer.

Pvt **George W. Clouse**, Co G, died Thursday, February 19, 1863 at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point LA. Cause: typho mal fever.

Pvt **Benjamin Morgan**, Co C, died on Friday, February 20, 1863, at Field Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: Rubeola. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960: Moved from field at **Ballards plantation** below his residence, vicinity of Youngs Point, LA, where he was first buried.

Musician **Lemuel Cook**, Co D, died February 20, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal fever.

Pvt **Isaiah Brown**, Co E, died February 20, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: diarrhoea.

February 20, 1863, Friday, Henry Sherman Diary

Went to 120th. Col. French resigned & went home.

February 21, 1863, Saturday, Henry Sherman Diary

Had a conversation with Uncle [Gen. Sherman] about leaving the service. Much opposed to it. Have not rec'd my commission yet. Expect it in a day or two.

Pvt **Samuel Ray**, Co A, died Saturday, February 21, 1863, in field hospital at Field Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: Rubeola [measles] or 22 Feb

Pvt **Jonas Coup**, Co E, died February 21, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal fever.

Pvt **Joseph Henry Becker**, Co K, died February 21, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. or 20 Feb 1863 Cause: typh mal fever.

February 22, 1863, Sunday, Henry Sherman Diary

At 12 m [noon] Salutes were fired from all the gunboats. [Washington's Birthday]

No more from Henry until mid March.

Wagoner [teamster], **William McCracken**, Co D, died Sunday, February 22, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: pneumonia. Pension: became ill 1 Feb 1863.

Corporal **Shannon Wilson**, Co E, died February 22, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Or 23 Feb 1863 Cause: typo mal fever.

Pvt **David Myers**, Private Co I, died February 22, 1863, in Regimental Hospital at Young's Point, LA. Cause: phthisis pulm. [tuberculosis]
Pension: William McILVAIN, Lieut Co I, 120th OVI: "company quarters then situated in a low damp unhealthy place at which time the said Myers was quite feeble and thin in flesh and said 'Lieut I am not long for this world' but affiant (McIlvain) did not then think said Myers would die so soon. Many others were sick at the same time."

In his address Colonel Spiegel speaks out against those who are attempting to demoralize the soldiers of his regiment.

February 22, 1863, Monday

Colonel Spiegel's address to the 120th Regiment delivered on Dress Parade.

"I have to-day been informed that some soldiers of this Regiment, have, at different times, expressed sentiments disloyal and unbecoming a soldier of the Union Army, when about the Sutler* shop of the 96th Indiana; saying that if this Regiment should ever have to go into another engagement, not half of the men would fire a gun for this d---d abolition war, etc. When I heard it I thought it almost impossible, that any soldier of the gallant 120th Regiment, which so nobly stood up at the battles of Vicksburg [Chickasaw Bayou] and Post Arkansas, to defend the good old flag, where every heart swelled with pride; when they saw the stars and stripes first planted by the 120th, wave so proudly, succeeding the traitorous rag on the stubborn ramparts of Post Arkansas, could make use of language disgraceful to the Regiment, disloyal to the country, and productive of evil only to the good cause, for which we are enlisted. If there is one man in the Regiment who would refuse to shoot at a rebel, in an engagement, let him step three paces to the front in order that he can be marked as a coward and receive the reward of a traitor. Such talk will only strengthen the rebels, disgrace the Regiment, and further defer that, for which we are all longing, an honorable Peace. If any of us differ with the acts and doings of parties at home, and policy of the administration, let us hope that those at home, who have nothing to do, will see to that. Whatever is wrong will in time, by the American people, be righted. Ours is the proud position of maintaining the world-wide and noble reputation of the American Volunteer Soldier, who stands classed with the most intelligent and brave in the known world -- our's [sic] is the patriotic position of restoring the grand and sublime American Union -- tranquility, peace and happiness to our bleeding country -- knowing and appreciating our position none but the most loyal and high-minded thoughts and expressions can emanate from our hearts and lips.--Men! for God's, your country's, your friends [sic] at home, your own and my sake, do not, either by thoughts, expressions, or willful actions, disgrace yourselves. Stand by the Government right or wrong. You may now do an unsoldier-like act, which, by excited men at home may be approved, but rest assured it will ere long come sweeping like an avalanche, your own good name and leave you in shame and disgust over your own acts of violating your soldier's oath. While you are in the service, be soldiers' [sic] in every sense of the word, so that when in private life, you can ever be respected and honorable citizens."

The main sutler for the 120th Ohio was Joseph Spiegel, brother of Colonel Spiegel. After the war Joseph would found the Spiegel Catalog Company. Two other sutlers were Aaron B. Sinsheimer and Lewis Burger. All three were taken captive along with the soldiers at Snaggy Point in 1864.

[Published in *The Ashland Union*, 18 Mar 1863, page 3]

The Ashland union. (Ashland, Ashland County, Ohio), 18 March 1863. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83035173/1863-03-18/ed-1/seq-3/>>

[Unsigned letter: The paper's editor left out the names of the recipient and the sender. Some of the soldiers were treating the freed slaves worse than they would an animal. The Democrat papers were against the war and against abolition.]

"Camp Young's Point, Louisiana, **February 23, 1863.**

Friend T____ : I pen you a few lines to let you know how the bloody 120th is getting along down here in this land of cotton, where the [former slaves] die and are getting rotten. A [former slave] is not as much looked after by us soldiers as a mule is, for we see that our mules are fed, and if a contraband comes into our camp for something to eat, we club him out. I saw two [former slaves] die from starvation. We just dug a hole and rolled them into it like dead hogs. I tell you I have come to my senses at last. I now think that this is nothing but a damned abolition war.... and under the present Administration this war will not be closed. I think the only way to close it is to have an armistice of 90 days. One thing is sure; this emancipation policy must be recalled or all of the army of the Mississippi will desert inside of six months.....When our mess was formed at Camp Mansfield, there were six abolitionists, of which I was one; and now there is not a man of us for the [former slave.] We say stop this civil war immediately, and settle this question in some other way. Our boys, (some of them) are of the opinion that the trouble will be settled in this way in less than two months from this time. Amen to the war.

We are busy digging canals, like Irish paddies. We have dug two canals since we have been down here, and they both proved to be a fizzle.

I must close. I want you to write to me soon.

Your friend, &c." NO SIGNATURE PRINTED

Pvt **William Reilly Rittenhouse**, Co B, died Monday, February 23, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. or 12 Feb 1863 Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt **William Schindler**, Co H, died February 23, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal febris.

Pvt **Jacob Kohlman**, Co A, died Tuesday, February 24, 1863, in Field Hospital at Young's Point, LA. Coleman Cause: Rubeola [measles]

Pvt **Samuel Robison**, Co A, died February 24, 1863, in Regimental Hospital at Young's Point, LA. Robinson Cause: pneumonia or camp fever.

Pvt **Henry Shambaugh**, Co C, died February 24, 1863, at Young's Point, LA . or died 1 Feb 1863 at New Hospital of Refuge General Hospital St. Louis, MO. Cause: chronic dysentery.

Pvt **William S. Shambaugh**, Co C, died February 24, 1863, at Field Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal febris.

Pvt **William H. Hettinger**, Co F, died February 24, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal fever.

Pvt **Hiram Stone**, Co A, died Wednesday, February 25, 1863, at Seminary Hospital, Columbus, OH. or **Hiran STORN**, died 4 July 1863 at Seminary Hospital Columbus OH. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt **Jacob R. Soliday**, Co A, February 25, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA
or died 26 Feb 1863 Cause: rubeola [measles], or camp fever.

Pvt **John Pool**, Co I, died February 25, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typo mal fever. Pension: diarrhea and typhoid fever.

Pvt Jacob R. Soliday, Co A, died ??2 July?? 1863 at Young's Point, Louisiana.
Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: Jacob R. SALIDAY, Private, Co A 120th OH Inf. died 26 Feb 1863 at Regimental Hospital. Cause: rubeola [measles].
Stone at Wayne County OH says he died 25 Feb 1863.

Pvt **Christian Eckie**, Co H, died Thursday, February 26, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. or ECKEY. Cause: typho mal fever.

Daily national Republican. (Washington, D.C.), 02 March 1863. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86053570/1863-03-02/ed-1/seq-1/>>, p 1. Dates of Publication: 1862-1866; 1877

Officers Dismissed the Service

War Department, Adjutant General's Office, March 1, 1863.

"The following named officers having been reported at the Headquarters of the Army, for the offences [sic] hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that they will stand dismissed from the service of the United States, unless within (15) fifteen days from this date they appear before the Commission, in session in this city, of which Brigadier General Ricketts is President, and make satisfactory defence [sic] to the charges against them."

"Prolonged Absence Without Proper Authority".....included was First Lieutenant Bryant Grant, co. H, 120th Ohio volunteers. Bryant Grant seemed to be chronically absent.

Wooster Republican, Thursday 2 Apr 1863, p 2.

March 6, 1863, Friday

The 120th wrote a Resolution which was sent to the Wooster Republican to "defend" themselves against some critics.

Resolutions of the 120th, Young's Point, La., near Vicksburg, March 6, 1863.

"At a meeting of the Company Officers of the 120th Regiment O.V.I., Capt. Au being appointed President, Capt. McKinley Vice President, and Capt. G. P. Emrich Secretary, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, an article published in the "Wooster Republican of the 19th of February, entitled 'latest from the 16th and 120th Regiments,' wherein the good name and reputation of the officers of the 120th is villainously[sic] assailed, by base and malignant flings, as well as a direct charge upon the officers of this Regiment, as being political demagogues and rebel sympathizers in disguise, and designated as political charlatans, who brood over the Regiment, preventing them from going on gloriously conquering and to conquer; proclaiming this Regiment demoralized and discouraged by the acts of the officers, in discussing politics, and thereby bringing sickness and death upon the soldiers.

"Therefore, be it resolved that we denounce as an infamous falsehood, the base charge made in said article against us, the officers of the 120th Regiment, and brand the coiner of them as a vile slanderer, a base and malignant falsifier, and a traitor to his country and her soldiery.

"Resolved, That without boasting or egotism, we point with pride to the history of the 120th at 'Chickasaw Bluffs' and, 'Arkansas Post,' as given by our commanding Generals, as a complete refutation of the infamous falsehoods perpetrated by said Editor in the article referred.

"Resolved, That while we lament over the deaths of our brave comrades, and deeply sympathize with the sick, we feel assured that all has been done by our Regimental and medical officers that could be, under the circumstances, for their relief; our Regiment never having seen service, having been organized a little over three months when they were called upon to endure the exposures, fatigue and hardships of older Regiments, both at Chickasaw Bluffs and Arkansas Post, and with pride and satisfaction, we can point to what is now history, of the acts and deeds of the 120th O.V.I."

"Resolved, That the charge that we are rebel sympathizers is base, malignant, and false, and that we call upon our neighbors and friends to vindicate our characters when thus assailed, while we are in front of the enemy's works at Vicksburg, exposed to all the privations and hardships of camp life, far from home and unable to meet the base slanderers who thus malign our fair fame, e'er it was made among those who knew us not, a reputation unworthy of a soldier fighting in our country's glorious cause, the preservation of the Union our father's gave us.

"Resolved, That in Daniel French, late Colonel of the 120th Regiment, we shall ever recognize the true soldier and patriot, and while with us ever, ready and willing to discharge his whole duty, kind and attentive to the sick, was ever watchful of the wants of his men, brave and heroic in battle, he will, as he does now, ever merit our highest esteem.

"Resolved, That we recognize in our Commander Col. Spiegel, and the other Regimental Officers, patriots, loyal and true to their country, and men worthy of the positions they now hold, and have full confidence that they will, as they have ever done, fully discharge the duties of their various positions with zeal and fidelity, and as an act of justice to them, pronounce as false and slanderous the imputations and charges contained in the artice [article] referred to, wherein it in any manner implicates them.

"And now we say to the people of Ashland, Richland, Wayne and Holmes counties, from whence our Regiment has been formed that, although afflicted by disease and death, ours is in no worse fate than any other new Regiment; your sons and neighbors, through patriotism and zeal for their beloved land, volunteered to defend it from the assault of traitors. There are many other Regiments who have been much longer in the service, that have not been exposed to the hardships and privations that our men have been. After leaving Covington, KY., with the exception of one week, we were closely confined on board of the River Transports, without the means of cooking our rations regularly or otherwise attending to our own sanitary condition, five weeks, were landed on the Yazoo, exposed to the rain for two nights and a day, compelled to drink the Bayou water, and owing to the position we occupied, unable to build fires to warm and dry ourselves or cook our rations; after the evacuation were again placed on transports, landed at Arkansas Post, bivouacked for the night on the field, and after the taking of the Post, exposed to an incumbent snow storm, embarked again, and after several days confinement, landed on these low swamp lands, where pestilence and disease thickly fill the humid air; after all this, is it to be wondered at that our men sickened and died? and is it generous then to attribute this disease and death to the incompetency of the officers, while *they too* have sickened and died, and *to day* our Regiment is as cheerful and ready to do duty as any other in this army."

"Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the Wayne, Holmes, Ashland and Richland County papers.

"The foregoing proceedings and resolutions were read on dress parade, and unanimously adopted by the whole Regiment and signed by all the line officers present.

Capt. Au, President. [Co I]

Capt. M'Kinley, Vice Pres. [Co C]

Capt. G. P. Emrich, Secretary. [Co D]

Benj. Eason, Capt. Co. E.

G. W. Conyer, Capt. Co. K.
Samuel English, Capt. Co. K.
Loyd N. Meech, 1st Lieut. Co. G.
H. E. Totten, 2d Lieut. Co. E.
John Sloan, 2d Lieut. Co. F.
H.H. Eberhart, 1st Lieut. Co. A.
J. P. Rummel, 2d Lieut. Co. B.
Wm. Harvey, 2d Lieut. Co. C.
John Smith, 1st Lieut. Co. K.

Pvt **Matthias Stauffer**, Co B, discharged Friday, March 6, 1863, at General Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, MO and died the same day before leaving the hospital. Cause: pneumonia.

Corporal **Ephraim Dial**, Co K, died March 6, 1863, in Regimental Hospital at Young's Point, LA.
Cause: pneumonia.

Pvt **Franklin McMaster**, Co C, died March 7, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhea.

Pvt **George Shambaugh**, Co B, died Saturday, March 7, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typho mal febris.

Pvt **Jacob Bowman**, Co G, died March 7, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Young's Point, LA.
Cause: typho mal fever.

Milliken's Bend, Camp McClernand

The move up to Camp McClernand at Milliken's Bend by the various companies seems to have been between March 9 and March 11, 1863 according to company records.

Letter home written by James H. Smith, Private, Co A 120th OVI, was included in pension papers. [Note: Punctuation added for clarity but the spelling remains the same.]

March 1_, 1863 Millikens bend Lous [Louisiana]

Dear friends, it is with pleasure that I seat myself to inform you that I am well and hope that these few lines will find you all enjoying the same pleasure. I received your letter on the 1st of march for the first one for about too months. the health of the regiment is a getting better. we can muster about 250 men now. you say the conscript law has past. well they can say we are coming father abriham six hundred thousand more fore to put this rebellion down, no comprmise, no flinch till it is done. so tell the boys that don't want to submit to the law to hide them selvs till this rebellion is closed and then come out like a thief. for my part I don't know what is a going to be done heare. the gun boats is a shelling some every night but I don't know wat they do, but I suppose for to stop forage of the rebbels.

Capt Eason sote [wrote] a letter home that we hadent enough to eat but he lies like the dickens for we have had plenty to eat always sine [?since] the fight. the weather is very warm heare now. the boys try to get in the shad[e] heare about noon. I would like to step in to meeting in the new church some nite and see the folks again but I am well enough satisfied heare. I am a cooking this weak. you better believe that I a make things git [good?] we draw a loaf of bread, a piece each day and beef once a week and Cincinatti ciding [cider] onc and awhile, but that don't bother me at all. when you rite to me tell me about the draft in franklin township. and John if you are on the list come to our regiment and we will be to gather, for it will take about 200 men to filup our regiment now. mother that money that I got for you \$3 take it out of that money that that John got. I forgot it be fore and take all that you need. tell lyman that I am all right. sid up with care. and I hope that barney case has a good time at home but the divel [devil]I care in this glorius rebellion. well as I have not much to rit I wont rite much. tell the boys that I would like to see about six hundred thousand of them down heare before long. rite soon and tell hannah to rite to me fer the peopl in wagon [Wayne] Co think that the soldiers has nothing to do heare but they are fooled. So rite soon and tell me the nurse

[news] at home.

??? Millikens bend March 1st?

James H Smith 1863

in care of H. H. Eberhart, 120 Regt OVI

Pvt **Benjamin Cramer**, Co A, died Tuesday, March 10, 1863, on hospital boat "Nashville."

Cause: debilitas. Remarks by J D Strawbridge, Surgeon USN.

Pvt **J. Wesley Myers**, Co H, died March 10 or 11, 1863, at General Hospital, Memphis, TN.

Cause: diarrhoea. Or Jackson Hospital

The Wooster Republican, Thursday 26 Mar 1863, p 2. **March 11, 1863, Letter** written to newspaper in Wayne county, Ohio.

"From Co. 'A,' 120th Regiment Capt. Eberhart warns Rebel Sympathizers not to Write to his Company, Encouraging Desertions - He will Report them to the Authorities.

Sir: - Through your paper I wish to say to the friends of my Company (A.), 120th Reg't O.V.I. that, when corresponding with your sons and brothers who are members of said Company, I desire that you should not write discouraging letters, as some of you have of late been doing. It does you no good; and is doing them harm. But when you write (and by the way we wish you to write often) write something of a cheering nature, *something* that will tend to enliven them, that everything around them is '*Gay and happy,*' and that they too must be the same. This will be to your interest, to theirs, and to the interest of the country. I have a good Company, a kind and an intelligent Company, a Company that will never disgrace itself or Regiment, provided its members are not spoiled *by influential friends at home.*

"Let me take charge of the Company whilst in command, and let me say whether or not it is best for them to *desert*, or in other words get home as best they can, and I will impart such instructions I think, as will be of more honor to them. So, if hereafter I should see a disposition on the part of any parent, or friend of any soldier of this Company, to discourage a soldier of said Company, by encouraging, persuading, or asking him to refuse to do duty, or to stack arms, to desert or otherwise illegally to quit and desert the army, I shall, on being convinced of the mal-act, report such person to the proper authorities. Yours, with respect, Lieut. H. H. Eberhart, Comd'g Co. A, 120th Reg't O.V.I. Millikin's Bend, La., March 11th, 1863."

Pvt **Christian Mowry**, Co H, died March 12, 1863, at Memphis TN.

1st Lieut. Robert R. Gailey, Co D, resigned March 14, 1863.

Captain George Perry Emrich, Co D, resigned March 14, 1863.

2nd Lieut Martin J. Stanley, Co G, resigned March 14, 1863.

Wooster Republican, 9 April 1863, p 1. Wayne County Public Library or pay site

Resolution in support of Capt Emrich, Capt Eason, Major Beekman, Capt McKinley, and Lieut English that they resigned because of illness.

Pvt **Albert Schaaf**, Co A, died March 15, 1863, on hospital boat "Nashville." Cause: diarrhea.

Pvt **John Kidd**, Co A, died 15 Mar 1863 at hospital boat "Nashville," Young's Point, LA. Cause: febris typhoides.

Corporal **Samuel Budd**, Co C, died 15 Mar 1863 at General Hospital, Paducah, KY. Cause: peritonitis. [found listed as Rudd] L. S. Horton, A. Assistant Surgeon, USA: Samuel Budd was admitted to USA ("St. Marks") General Hospital No. 3 in Paducah

KY from a hospital steamer which came from the vicinity of Vicksburg, on 13 Jan 1863 with a contusion of the right ankle. He recovered from the injury but was attacked with inflammation of the peritoneum while in hospital.

Hardesty's historical and geographical encyclopedia, illustrated ... : containing ... maps of each state and territory of the united states, and the provinces of canada ... history of the united states, history of each state and territory of the united states ... special military history of ohio ... ohio's rank and file in the war of the rebellion ...pub ny, sketches of wayne county, oh, 1885,. p 492

While many were sick, others kept working.

Elijah Keister, Company D

"...on return to the Mississippi, at Youngs Point, he was detailed teamster, in which capacity he served till the regiment reported at New Orleans previous to the Red River campaign. Through the advance on Vicksburg and its siege he was hauling munitions, mail, and provisions, and was busy and efficient in keeping his company supplied with these necessities. **While the army lay at Millikens Bend he was detailed transport to the boats**, then was ordered on the boat with wagon and six mules, and taken one hundred and fifty miles up the river to James Landing, where he helped to load several thousand bales of cotton. At Yazoo river he helped to load a pontoon bridge under heavy fire from the enemy."

See Maps for Gaines Landing

Pvt **John L. Kean**, Co A, died 14 or 16 Mar 1863 on hospital boat "Nashville." Cause: diarrhea and "putrid sore throat."

Wooster Republican, Thursday 16Apr1863, p 3.

"Milliken's Bend, La., March 14, 1863 Mr. Kean - Dear Sir: - This sheet will bring to you the sad intelligence of the death of your son, John L., who died in the hospital boat at Young's point, twelve miles from our present encampment. He died of the putrid sore throat, took sick about two weeks ago. Oh, this will be sad news to you and all his friends, and let me assure you it is sad news to Company A, too. Oh how good and kind he has always been to me, and how I do mourn his loss. To loose [sic] such a brave, good, and noble soldier as he was affects an officer not a little, I can assure you. Always ready to do any duty when called upon, and do it without a single murmur. God bless his ashes. And oh, I trust his spirit in the form of an angel has joined a nobler army. May is fingers sweep o'er the golden wires of the Celestial harp in the glory of Paradise. I firmly believe he has died a christian, and that he has gone to a christian's home in glory. One thing I do know, he died a noble soldier. Such soldiers as he I shall never forsake nor forget. I cannot praise him too much. Others may resign and seek their comfortable homes, but as long as I have relatives, associates, classmates, and playmates here to care for, together with the honor of a proud nation to uphold, I am one among those who, though death stares in the face, shall stand by duty until God in his wisdom shall say 'Ti's enough.' , Yours as ever. Lieut. H. H. Eberhart."

Captain Benjamin Eason, Co E, resigned March 15, 1863. Bad health.

Letter written in support of Emrich, Eason, Beekman, McKinley and English who had to resign because of bad health. Published in Wooster Republican, 9 April 1863, page 1, Wayne County library or pay site.

Pvt **Isaac Strong**, Co I, died March 15 or 16, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, probably near Judge Byrnes Plantation. Cause: typo mal febris.

Corporal **Neil McCoy**, Co A, died March 15-16, 1863, on the hospital boat "Nashville". Cause: febris typhoides.

Corporal **Jacob Wilson**, Co E, died March 16, 1863, on the hospital boat "Nashville." Cause: purpura [bleeding under the skin that can be present with typhus and

meningitis]

Pvt **George Washington Licklitter**, Co B, died March 16, 1863, on a hospital boat "Nashville" near Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: diarrhoea and icterus [jaundice] Various death dates given in pension.

Pvt **Hiram H. McCance**, Co D, died 16 Mar 1863 at Lawson General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Death date could be May 16.

Pvt **James R. McCaleb**, Co F, died March 16, 1863, on a hospital boat "Nashville." Cause: chronic diarrhea and lung disease. Possibly at Young's Point.

Pvt **Morgan Reese**, Co F, died March 16, 1863, on hospital boat "Nashville T." Cause: debilitas.

Pvt **James Crozier**, Co K, died March 16, 1863, in Regimental Hospital near Judge Byrnes plantation at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typho mal fever.

Corporal **Jacob Johns**, Co G, died March 16 or 17, 1863, on the hospital boat "Nashville" near Young's Point, LA. Cause: diarrhoea.

Wooster Republican, 7 May 1863, p 3.

Pension: sent to hospital boat "Nashville" on 9 Mar 1863 and died near Youngs Point, LA, on 16 Mar 1863.

"DIED - March 16th, 1863, of rheumatism and Chronic Diarrhoea, JACOB JOHNS, in the 42d year of his age, leaving a wife and seven children. He enlisted in Company G, 120th Regiment, in August 1862, and although afflicted with rheumatism, was present and took part in the battles before Vicksburg [Chickasaw Bayou] and Arkansas Post. He conducted himself bravely in both battles. He was kind and obedient as a soldier, and sympathized with all the afflicted in his company. He was an honor to his company, his country, and his family. W. G. Myer, late Captain of Company G."

Corporal **Peter Thompson**, Co B, died March 17, 1863, on the hospital boat "Nashville." Cause: typhoides febris.

Pvt **Leonidas Day**, Co B, died March 12 or 17, 1863, on a hospital boat, "Nashville" near Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt **Amos Holtzberg**, Co A, died March 17, 1863, at Memphis, TN.

Pvt **Lewis Brown**, Co E, died March 17, 1863, at Memphis, TN.

or Died on the hospital boat "City of Memphis" near Memphis TN. Cause: typhoid fever or chronic diarrhoea.

Pension Affidavit on 30 July 1864 at Parish of Pointe Coupée, by Enos BROWN [brother of Lewis], Co E 120th OVI: "Lewis Brown was taken sick with said disease [chronic diarrhoea] on or about the 1st day of March 1863, at, or near Youngs Point La., and continued sick with the same until the day of his death which occurred on or about said 17th day of March 1863 on board U. S. Hospital Steamer 'City of Memphis' near Memphis Tenn. That he was present when said Lewis Brown died and saw him interred.

Pvt **John A. Porter**, Co E, died March 18, 1863, at Memphis, TN. Cause: chronic dysentery.

or Died on the hospital boat "City of Memphis." Cause: diarrhea.

Pvt **Samuel Weirick**, Co C, died March 18-19, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typhoides febris.

Pvt **George W. Wells**, Co E, died March 20, 1863, on the hospital boat "Nashville."
Cause: injury of bladder.

Pvt **George Fleming**, Co B, died March 21, 1863, on a hospital boat "Nashville" near Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: debilitas.

Pvt **Abraham Baughman**, Co G, died March 21, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typhoid fever.

Pvt **John Gable**, Co F, died March 22, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Milliken's Bend, LA.
Cause: pneumonia.

Pvt **Lewis W. Miller**, Co C, died March 22-23, 1863, on hospital boat "Nashville" at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhoea

Pvt **Joel Bair**, [East Union Twp], Co H, died March 23, 1863, on hospital steamer "Nashville" at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typhoid fever.

Pvt **David Seifert Funk**, Co A, died March 23, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Camp McClernand, Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typhoid fever.

Note of interest on Company H: **Captain Patrick Phelan** of Company H had died on 15 Feb 1863 at Young's Point LA. James B. Taylor was promoted to First Lieutenant 18 Feb 1863 and to **Captain on 23 March 1863.**

1st Lieut. Joseph E. Roseborough, Co E, resigned March 24, 1863. He had been at Overton Hospital in Memphis, TN, and was listed as "convalescent" on January 29, 1863. He was a teacher in Wayne Co, Ohio, who had raised a company for the 120th. He went back to school in 1863 and 1864 and graduated from Charity Hospital Medical College in 1865.

Pvt **George F. Baughman**, Co B, died March 24, 1863, at Lawson General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: peritonitis.

Pvt **David Fry**, Co K, died March 24 or 26, 1863, on hospital steamer "Nashville" at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: erysipelas.

Pvt **John J. Rodenheber**, Co C, died March 25, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Milliken's Bend, LA. Rodenhaler. Cause: acute dysentery.

Pvt **James Caskey**, Co A, died March 25-26, 1863 at on hospital boat "City of Nashville, Young's Point, LA. Cause: typhoid fever.

Pvt **Johnson Fink**, Co D, died March 25, 1863, at Regimental Hospital, Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typh mal fever Brown eyes, dark hair and a dark complexion, 5 feet 8.5 inches tall.

Captain **George W. Conyer**, Co K, died 21/25 Mar 1863 on hospital steamer "City of Memphis" near St. Louis, MO [Captain Conyer had raised Company K in Holmes Co OH.]
Cause: typhoid fever contracted about March 1, 1863.

Pvt **Samuel Geiselman**, Co A, died March 26, 1863, at Lawson General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: typho materal.

Pvt **David Norrick/Norrick**, Co B, died March 26-27, 1863, on a hospital boat "Nashville" near Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: camp diarrhoea and debilitas.

Pension: David had become sick with fever and then diarrhoea [15 to 20 times per day] in Feb 1863, and on 7 Mar 1863 David was placed on the hospital boat "Nashville" at Youngs Point. He was "much reduced and emaciated from the disease." [Hiram McCREARY affidavit] "...there was but little more than skin and bones left of him..." [William SWAN affidavit] He was at Millikens Bend, LA, some seven miles up the river from Youngs Point when he died.

Pvt **Charles Kramer**, Co D, died March 26 or 27, 1863, on hospital boat "Nashville" at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cramer.....was he promoted to Corporal? Cause: diarrhoea and/or febris typhoides.

Pvt **Thomas H. Roberts**, Co K, died March 27 or 29, 1863, on hospital steamer "D. A. January" at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typhoides febris.

Pvt **William Budd**, Co C, died March 28, 1863, at General Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.
Cause: dysentery.

Musician/Pvt **James W. Dunham**, Co B, died March 30, 1863, at Sisters General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: hepatitis/pneumonia.

Sgt. **Martin Van Buren Coulter**, Co B, died March 30, 1863, on the hospital boat "Nashville" near Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: typhoid pneumonia and chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt **Samuel [Lemuel] Patterson**, Co E, died March 30, 1863, at Elliot General Hospital, St. Louis, MO. Cause: diarrhoea and fever.

Wooster Republican, Thursday 16 April 1863, p 2. Wooster library or pay site

Camp near Milliken's Bend, La.,

March 30th, 1863

E. Foreman----Dear Sir:

It has been some time since I have written to you, partly because of illness and partly of negligence.--

Shortly after the battle of Arkansas Post I was attacked with fever and lay in a Field Hospital till the first of this month. On my return to the Regiment, I found that much sickness prevailed. Is this

surprising when we reflect that a new Regiment unaccustomed to exposure, had been aboard transports with their usual amount of filth and vermin most of the time since our departure from Covington. And afterward we were not encamped on the beautiful highlands of Ohio, subjected to her genial climate, but upon a spot which is now covered with water----a swamp----in a climate to which we were wholly unused.

March 11th McClernand's Corps was ordered to this point. [Milliken's] Here we have a beautiful camping ground, and the move has greatly improved the health of the Regiment. True, while we were at Young's Point many of our number died. Of these a large proportion was of those who had contracted disease during the six days fight on the Yazoo. [at Chickasaw Bayou]

The health of our Regiment at this time will compare very favorably with that of other Regiments of the Corps. Yesterday we were on Brigade drill under command of our Division General, Austerhaus. [Osterhaus] Our battalion was the largest on the field.

But few deaths have occurred since we moved to this camp, and there are but few dangerous cases under treatment. The "well" are in good spirits. Our "for duty" list is fast increasing, and if called into battle we could muster over an average Regiment, which, under the command of the gallant Col. Spiegel, will send back a report to the good people of Old Wayne, which will be received by its friends as tangible evidence of its loyalty, discipline, and fighting character.

The papers with which you have favored me were promptly and thankfully received. In one of them, I find the "Address of Ohio Soldiers to the people of the State." Of course "them's my sentiments," and I believe would be endorsed by a large majority of the Army of the Mississippi. The rebellion must be

crushed and we have the power to do it. I am glad Congress passed the Conscript Bill.

Since we started on this expedition our Company [*Company H*] has lost four by desertion, and by death its Captain and eleven men, eight of whom were from Wayne County, viz: Orderly A. C. Bushong and Ezra Stutsman, of Green township; Jacob Veiny, Ferdinand Veiny and Jos. R. Yoder of Milton; Ira Burnet, Eli C. Bisel and Joel Bair, of East Union.

I cannot see that there are any special indications of a speedy move on Vicksburg, yet we subalterns know but little about how near red tape has brought us to the fortifications of the enemy. I believe that when we do move Vicksburg will be ours; if so, it will be glory enough for one expedition. I have nothing more of interest to communicate, but remain,

Respectfully yours,

J.B.T" [Note: James B. Taylor, company H]

Pvt **John Spitzer**, Co G, died March 31, 1863, in hospital at Milliken's Bend, LA.
Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

End Chapter 7

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2019

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