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## **A history of the 27th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the War of the Rebellion, 1862-1865. 2001**

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[Kohler, Wisconsin]: [M. H. Knipping], 2001

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A History Of The  
27th Wisconsin Volunteer  
Infantry Regiment  
In The  
War of the Rebellion  
1862 - 1865

SHEBOYGAN REFERENCE/BASEMENT

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Knipping, Mark H

History of the 27th Wisconsin Volun  
teer Infantry Regiment in the War o  
f the Rebellion, 1862-1865



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By Mark H. Knipping  
January 15, 2001

## Introduction

This compilation began as a regimental history of the 27th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during our nation's Civil War, 1861 - 1865. But it also has become a family history of sorts, a tribute or memorial to those who have gone before and helped to create the world of today.

I am fortunate in having had four fathers in my lifetime. There is my biological parent, Paul August Knipping (1920-), who gave me life and provoked in me a quick and skeptical mind. There is my maternal Grandfather, Hugo Henry John Muetzelburg (1895-1965), a skilled carpenter and timber-frame builder of the old school, who has come to represent for me a refinement of human physical ability seldom seen in this world. There is his brother-in-law, Gustav Ferdinand Herman Werthmann (1893-1981), a humble dairy farmer in complete harmony with nature, who attended church every Sunday, said grace before every meal, and is my personal symbol of spiritual purity in human beings. And there is grandfather's uncle, Roland A. Kolb (1884-1975), who worked his way through the University of Wisconsin by rising at 3:00 a.m. to milk cows before classes each morning, who read and thought and listened throughout his life, and who symbolizes to me a spirit of learning and intellectual development worthy of admiration and respect by us all. These are my four fathers, who brought me life, and provided inspiration for development of the body, the spirit, and the mind. If ever I amount to anything in this world, the credit must go to them.

When I was a boy, I really did not enjoy playing with other children. They seemed to be involved in pointless pastimes -- made-up activities like baseball or watching television or reading comic books. Instead, I was impressed with the old people, because they seemed to know everything. They built barns, drove horses, milked cows, raised crops and gardens, baked bread, canned fruits and vegetables, and could tell the most remarkable stories of times and people long ago. I learned as a lad that my Great-Great-Grandfather, Ernst Kolb (1839-1913) had served as a Private in Company D of the Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. This was Uncle Roland's father, Grandpa's grandfather. We held family reunions each summer in the crossroads village of Edwards, Wisconsin, virtually at the center of my extended rural family's location: the Kolbs, Muetzelburgs, Maeusers, Arnhoelters and Reineking. I heard fascinating stories about the olden days, but was unable to find a history book which recorded the Civil War experiences of the 27th Wisconsin. Perhaps this was because the regiment largely was comprised of German immigrants who lacked facility with the English language; perhaps it was because they were sent to the swamps and trenches of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama, where amoebic dysentery claimed far more lives than battlefield casualties. Ernst Kolb's brother-in-law, Private Friedrich Steinhaus, served in the 26th Wisconsin and lost a leg at Gettysburg -- Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Sherman's March To The Sea -- now that's to write a book about. But malaria, dysentery, scurvy and malnutrition apparently lacked sufficient luster to warrant similar treatment. This, then, is a series of notes copied from a variety of sources which attempt to trace the trials and tribulations, the hopes, the fears, the joys and the tears which accompanied Great-Great Grandfather Ernst Kolb during his three years as a Private in Co. D, 27th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

Ernst Kolb was born in the village of Dreitzsch, near Neustadt an der Orla and Weimar, in the Duchy of Saxen-Gotha (now southeastern Germany) on October 20, 1839. His father, Johann Heinrich Kolb, and grandfather, Johann Friedrich Kolb, labored there in the Thuringer Forest as charcoal burners during the early nineteenth century. Trees they cut and piled into huge stacks having an open central vent or chimney, and covered these timber mounds with sod to regulate the amount of air which could reach the fire kindled within. The stack was lit and allowed to burn slowly, and at the proper time the vent holes were closed off with more sod, causing the heat of the fire to convert unburned wood into charcoal or pure carbon instead of burning up completely to form worthless ash. The charcoal burner lived with his smouldering pyre for days, napping for a few moments here and there, probing the mound's depth with long iron rods to test the process as need be. A careless moment, deep slumber, or other distractions could result in a disastrous flareup, destroying the stack and many weeks of labor. It was a time-honored craft, but their isolated existence caused charcoal burners to be regarded as almost a separate tribe or culture, living away from other human beings in the dense forest with the wild beasts, the trees, and their smoke and flame.

By mid-nineteenth century, however, the demand for charcoal was in decline as coal mines were opened throughout Germany, and improved transportation networks made this mineral product available at competitive prices. Amid great social unrest in Germany as a "push" factor, coupled with rumored opportunity and prosperity in America as a "pull" factor, the Kolb family sailed for the United States in March of 1850. Landing in New Orleans, they proceeded up the Mississippi River, across Illinois on the old Peru canal, and travelled by rail from Chicago to Sheboygan. From there they pressed on by wagon to the Town of Centerville, Manitowoc County, where they joined an emerging community of Saxon immigrants who shared their dialect, their Calvinist Reformed beliefs, and their desire to put down roots on the Wisconsin lakeshore frontier. In a few years they sold this 40 acre farm to the Wiegand family and moved several miles west to an 80-acre farm in Town Meeme near the present village of Spring Valley.

The family included father Johann Heinrich Kolb, and mother Hanna Rosina nee Wimmmler, with their five children. Eldest daughter Christiana later married August Telgener, a police constable of Sheboygan, with whom she raised 5 children. Ernestine married Joseph Wolters, a bookbinder in Germany who farmed in Town Meeme, and together they raised 10 children. Elder brother Karl married Henrietta Oemichen, farmed within a half mile of the home farm in Meeme, and raised 15 children. Youngest sister Karoline married Henry Schuette and they farmed in Town Mosel, where they raised 8 children. The family was very poor, and all of the children worked out at an early age for their board and to send back whatever they could to help pay off the farm.

At the time the Civil War broke out, Ernst Kolb was in the copper mining region near Calumet, Michigan, where he worked for a time in a shingle mill and possibly as a stable hand in a mine's employ. A large number of high-minded ideals often are cited as reasons for enlisting in a Civil War regiment: to protect freedom, to free the slaves, to preserve the Union, etc. etc. In Ernst Kolb's case, it was a simple matter of family responsibility. By 1862, the Federal government realized that the war could drag on for years, and that building an army through volunteerism



was not going to provide sufficient manpower to bring the struggle to a close. President Lincoln announced that a draft would be necessary to win the war. By that time elder brother Karl was married with two or three small children: if he was drafted, killed, or disabled, it would bring a terrible hardship upon his family. Accordingly, young, single, and healthy, Ernst resolved to enlist as a volunteer so that his brother would be spared.

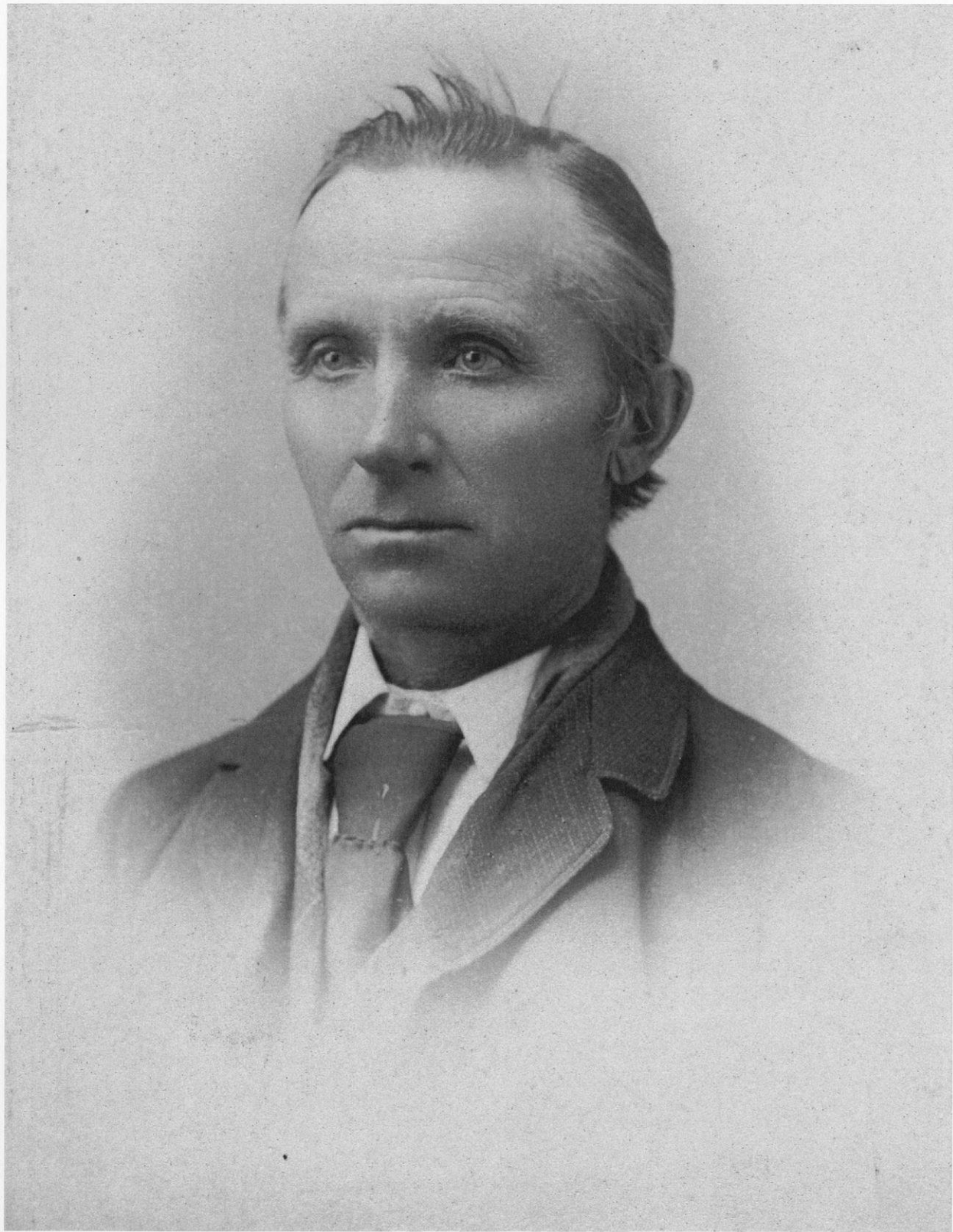
This brief statement regarding the life and times of Ernst Kolb does not begin to do justice to his varied and at times difficult life, filled as it was with triumph and tragedy. Following the Civil War he married Emma Steinhaus, also from the same region of Saxony, and one of 12 children raised on a nearby farm. Together they had 13 children: Edmund (1867), Mary (1868), Henry (1869), Rosa (1870), August (1872), Frederick (1873), Amelia (1875), Lena (1877), Alvina (1879), Emil (1881), Emma (1882), Roland (1884), and Lydia (1888). Mrs. Kolb died at the age of 39 on May 22, 1888, giving birth to her thirteenth child, daughter Lydia. Son August was killed in a slaughterhouse accident in Sheboygan when he was 18; son Fred lost a leg in a farm accident when he was 4; daughter Lydia died from an overdose of cocaine administered as a pain killer by their dentist when she was 12.

For those who wish to know more about this Civil War veteran and his family, I can think of no better source of information than The Story of an Epoch in the Life History of a Segment of the Kolb Family, written by their son Roland with assistance from his surviving brothers and sisters in 1956. Only twenty-two pages long, this slender volume carries with it many of the joys and tragedies of this hard-working immigrant family. It is a remarkable testimonial to hard work and also to perseverance in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. It has at its center the dual concepts of positive thinking and of family support -- of working together as a unit for the common well-being in all human endeavor.

During the early 1960's, Uncle Roland would send out greetings to family members which carried a likeness of the Cologne Cathedral, and contained a small parable which well sums up the Kolb vision of life:

"And the architect went out among the workmen to note progress of the work. He accosted the first one with, 'Friend, what are you doing?' The reply was a bit indignant, 'Can't you see, I am at hard labor for a mere two dollars a day.' The second was accosted in a like manner, and the reply, 'I am at hard labor to keep a roof over my family, and bread on the table.' [But] The face of the third lit up as he lifted his head proudly to reply, 'Sir, I am assisting the architect, who is building a temple to the eternal glory of God.'"

Respectfully,  
Mark H. Knipping  
540 Roosevelt Road  
Kohler, Wisconsin  
January 15, 2001.



Ernst Kolb  
(1839 - 1913)



Emma Steinhaus Kolb  
(1849 - 1888)

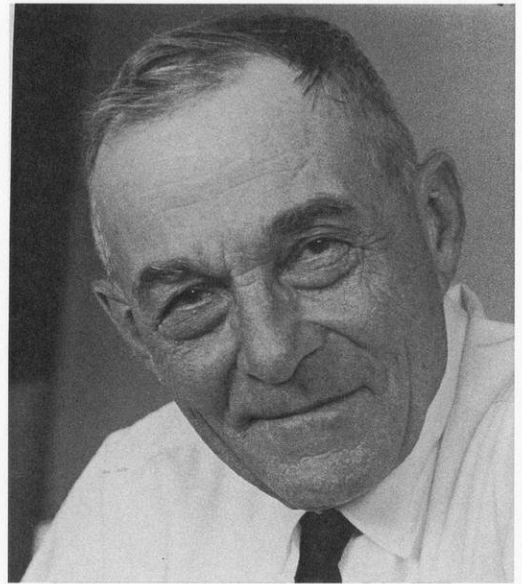


Wedding Portrait  
Ernst and Emma Kolb (1866)



# Three Wise Men

Hugo Muetzelburg  
(1895 - 1965)



Gustav Werthmann  
(1893 - 1981)



Roland A. Kolb  
(1884 - 1975)

The sun is just sinking in the West, and if this were Saturday instead of Sunday, and the Church bells in the area were proclaiming the end of the work week, and announcing the beginning of the Sabbath, my father, coming up the lane from his day's work would sing us the little German song:

Se eth wie die Sonne dort sinket  
 Hinter den Nächtlichen Wald  
 Glöcklein zur Ruhe uns winket  
 Hörrt ihr wie lieblich es schallt  
 Liebliches Glöcklein es leitet so schön  
 Ladet uns Heimwerts zur Ruhe zu gehen  
 Leite mein Glöcklein nur zu  
 Leite zur stillen Ruh.<sup>1</sup>

[The following inscription appears on the Town Rhine Civil War monument, along with the names, regiment, company, and dates of death of 23 residents of that township who died as soldiers during the Civil War:]

VON DES LEBENS GUTERN ALLEN  
 IST DER RUHM DAS HOCKSTE DOCH  
 WENN DER LEIB IN STAUB  
 ZERFALLEN. LEBT DER GROSSE  
 NAMENOC.

[You wish to know the valor of the West  
 Go ask the Rebels for they know it best.]<sup>2</sup>

The outbreak of the Civil War found Ernst, our parent still employed in the mining region near Calumet, Michigan.... The sense of loyalty to his country prompted him to feel the obligation each family owed in the War effort. His only brother Karl was married with two or three small children. It would be an extreme hardship if Karl were to be called [by the Draft]. Thus by his own choice and sense of duty father selected himself to volunteer. While he was still at Calumet, came Lincoln's first call for volunteers "to put down the rebellion." There was an urge to go and men "joining up" right and left. This was accentuated also by the fact that some of the mines had shut down operations, and many men found themselves unemployed. At a recruitment rally which father attended he evidently manifested an interest and yet hesitation. Finally the recruiting officer faced him bluntly. "So you have decided not to join?" "No," father replied, "When I join, I want to go from my own state." On this reply, two brothers, names unknown, from Port Washington spoke. "If you are not joining Ernst, then we will not either." Shortly after this, more of the men who were out of employment, came home. As father parted from the two brothers at Sheboygan,

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<sup>1</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, June 9, 1968.

<sup>2</sup> Inscription, Town Rhine Civil War Monument, NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, sec. 23, Town of Rhine, Sheboygan Co.; notes made Aug. 20, 1997.

the parting words were "We'll see each other in the South." This remark, though lightly made, proved [to be] true. One evening, name and place unknown, father's Unit was camped near a small stream. Footsore, the men waded into the water to bathe their aching feet. Came the sound of a familiar voice, and in a later Contingent were the two brothers from Port Washington.<sup>3</sup>

... the news came to Manitowoc [pop. 3,061] on April 19, 1861, that Fort Sumpter had been taken four days previous, and on the next evening a war meeting of the citizens was held at the courthouse.... Hon. Charles Esslinger delivered one of those fiery German speeches for which he was noted and drove the young Germans wild....

... Hon. Temple Clark somewhat dramatically stepped forward and read a paper, which pledged the signers to be members of a military company and tender their services to the governor of the state....

In a few days after the ranks of the company were full, we held a meeting at Klingholz Hall and elected our officers. Temple Clark, having the greatest amount of military experience, was chosen captain. His military experience consisted in the fact that his brother-in-law was a captain in the regular army and that "Temp," as everybody called him, had served as a sutler's clerk for a couple of months at a military post somewhere. It was not much, to be sure, but a good deal for those days. Joseph Rankin was elected first lieutenant, and Horace M. Walker, second lieutenant. We elected everything down to the eighth corporal.

Some difficulty afterwards arose between Captain Clark and Joseph Rankin, which resulted in Mr. Rankin withdrawing from the company....

Our company was composed almost entirely of young men. There were but four married men in the ranks. Our average age was a fraction under twenty-four years. Of one hundred and four men who left that day, only thirty-six lived to see the war ended, and only about twenty returned to Manitowoc.... When we reached Camp Randall we were assigned as the first company of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers, being Company A.

Before the first draft was ordered on October 12, 1863, the county had sent to the war 1,099 volunteers. After that time it sent 391 more volunteers and 67 veterans reenlisted, 408 men were drafted, the greater part of whom immediately volunteered before they were ordered to report.... The county sent to the front in all 2,467 men, a large number for a community which cast only 3,987 votes in the exciting presidential election of 1860.<sup>4</sup>

The additional call, on the 5th of August, [1862] of the President, for 300,000 men, to be drafted from the militia of the State, had given such an impetus to recruiting, that the Governor determined to organize seven other regiments. By the instructions of the War Department, the quota of volunteers was to be filled by the 15th of August, and if there was any deficiency it would then be drafted. The time for enlisting in new regiments was finally extended to August 22d, at which time, bounties and advance pay were discontinued to recruits in new regiments.

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<sup>3</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story of an Epoch in the Life History of a Segment of the Kolb Family. (1956), p. 13.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Louis Falge, History Of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1912), p. 251-254.

Regiments were authorized, numbering from the Twenty-seventh to Thirty-third, both inclusive.

The Twenty-seventh Regiment was made up of recruits principally from Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties. When the recruiting for new regiments was stopped, on the 22nd of August, the Twenty-seventh had only seven companies fully organized. These were ordered into Camp Siegel, at Milwaukee, on the 17th of September. The remaining companies were authorized by the War Department to fill up. The partially organized regiment remained through the winter in Milwaukee, doing duty, part of the time, in guarding the Ozaukee draft rioters. In March, 1863, the remaining companies being filled, the regiment was mustered into the United States service, with Conrad Krez, as Colonel. On the 16th of March, 1863, they left the State for Columbus, Ky.<sup>5</sup>

Gen. CONRAD KREZ, lawyer, was born in Bavaria, April 27, 1827. In January, 1851 he came to America as a political refugee; he resided in the city of New York until he came to Sheboygan, Wis., Aug. 27, 1854. He has been engaged in practice of law ever since he came here; he was, for twelve years, District Attorney, and now holds the position of City Attorney, having held that office several terms. He is Water and Park Commissioner. The artesian well is largely the result of his labors in that interest, being Alderman at that time. Aug. 21, 1862, he enlisted as a private soldier, and raised the 27th W. V. I.; before going to camp he was commissioned Colonel of the regiment. He participated in all battles of his command, and was only absent thirty days during his term of service; he served until Aug. 29, 1865; he commanded his brigade and was made a Brevet Brigadier General. The General is a poet of considerable distinction; he is a prominent contributor to German literature. In December, 1852, he was married at New York to Adelphina, daughter of Judge Stemmler; she is a native of the city of New York. They have seven children -- Paul T., associated with his father in practice of law, Josephine, Louise, Cornelia, Gertrude, Albert and Alfred.<sup>6</sup>

Father and Reinhold Oemichen (neighbors living 1/2 mile apart) attended a recruiting rally at the old Michael Herr farm. It was a festive occasion with much beer drinking and speech making. A third friend, Adam Phillips, went along but left during the meeting; Oemichen and Father both enlisted. On their way home the two recruits stopped at the Phillips' home to try and talk Adam into enlisting. They received a severe tongue lashing from Phillips' mother for their efforts, and left for home. Phillips was drafted late in the war (hostilities ended just after he finished his training). He was so upset after receiving his draft notice that it was said he "looked

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<sup>5</sup> E. B. Quiner, The Military History of Wisconsin: A Record of the Civil and Military Patriotism of the State, in the War For The Union... (Chicago, 1866), pp. 136-137.

<sup>6</sup> Western Historical Co., History of Northern Wisconsin (Chicago, 1881), p. 992. *Evergreen City Times*, Sept. 30, 1854: 'Conrad Krez has opened a Law Office on Eighth-St., and will also teach the Languages.' A history and collection of Gen. Krez's poetry and other writings has been published by Wolfgang Diehl, Konrad Krez - Freiheitskämpfer und Dichter in Deutschland und Amerika: Sein Leben und eine Auswahl aus dem Werk (Landau, Pfalz [Germany]), 1988.



like a spider ran across his liver."<sup>7</sup>

When father walked to Manitowoc with several of his comrades to enlist, they made it a practice to stop at every saloon they passed. The bartender was expected to "set 'em up" for the thirsty volunteers, the beer to be "on the house". But at one stop the saloonkeeper refused to treat, so the men tipped his bar upside down as they left.<sup>8</sup>

The meeting where [Father] enlisted was held at the Old Michael Herr Hall on the Green Bay Road just north of Edmund's place. Who called it and how it was organized I do not know. There is little doubt in my mind but what beer flowed, but who paid for it I do not know. You do know that some of the Companies were due to the energy of one man, and who in consequence was elected Captain. I do know that there was an element of cajolery (father told us) where each would dare the other to join. Adam Phillips hung back and would not be dared into joining, and unobserved slipped away and went home.

Father and Rheinhold Oemichen followed and earned themselves a severe tongue lashing from Adam's mother. Adam was later drafted, and the remark was made that he looked so sour as though a spider had crawled over his liver. On their way for Induction and assembly at Manitowoc to take their boat to Milwaukee the Meeme boys got together and walked as a group. They followed the old Green Bay Road... which at that time was an important highway. They stopped at every Saloon on the way and demanded a drink. "We don't need any money... Uncle Sam pays." At one place the proprietor demured and they knocked his bar upside down. At Manitowoc young Karl Rieck joined them, and made his way aboard ship. But he did not have passage so father and Rheinhold Oemichen paid his way. He later joined a regiment in Milwaukee.<sup>9</sup>

A NEW REGIMENT. -- Conrad Krez, Esq., returned from Madison, on Sunday morning last with an order from Gov. Salomon, authorizing the raising of a full regiment of volunteers from Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties, and appointing D. Taylor as Post Commandant for the purpose of organizing the regiment. Measures were immediately taken to begin recruiting at once. Officers were commissioned and sent into all portions of the district embraced in the order with all possible dispatch, and the work was commenced in good earnest. The stores and places of business in this city have generally been closed except an hour or two in the morning, during the entire week, up to the present writing (Thursday P.M.), and their

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<sup>7</sup> Notes made by Mark Knipping during conversation with Roland A. Kolb, April 4, 1970. Oemichen was one of the regiment's first casualties, and died April 14, 1863, at Columbus, Kentucky, of unspecified illness.

<sup>8</sup> Notes made by Mark Knipping during conversation with Roland A. Kolb, Jan. 26, 1967.

<sup>9</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972. The Michael Herr Hall is a stagecoach inn built on the Green Bay Road in 1847; in year 2001 it is known as Sessler's Meeme House, located at Spring Valley, Manitowoc County.

proprietors have devoted their time to recruiting. A fund has been raised by subscription sufficient to pay each volunteer a bounty of \$50 in addition to the bounties paid by government.

It is doubtful whether the full quota of the city will be filled before the expiration of the extended time for receiving volunteers, to-morrow (Friday) night, but it will not be for lack of effort. As we write wagons containing Brass and Marshal bands of music, and recruiting officers, with the National Flag, and banners with recruiting devices, mottoes and inducements, flying, are traversing the streets, sending forth soul-stirring strains of music, and attracting crowds wherever they go. As the time for enlistment draws to a close the interest and excitement increase, and those who have been hitherto almost persuaded to volunteer, will undoubtedly cast their lot with those who have already done so.<sup>10</sup>

**MILITARY ITEMS.** Recruiting Commissions for the Regiment to be raised in Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Kewaunee counties have been issued to the following persons:  
In Sheboygan County - David Schreiack, John A. Verdier, Cyrus Webster, S. R. Crocker, Charles Lang, Sheboygan; W. D. Kirkland, John Hanchet, Sheboygan Falls; Aaron Hobart, Hingham; E. W. Stannard, Greenbush, Greenbush; Michael Winters, Abbott; A. B. Peterson, Wilson; E. W. Robbins, Scott; Julius Schlaich, Samuel W. Frisbie, Plymouth; Frederick Bodenstaub, Frederick Schneller, C. F. Schmidt, Hermann; Jerome F. Brooks, Cascade; and Phillip Matthes, Rhine.

In Manitowoc County - Ten Eyck Olmstead, Joseph Rankin, Geo. C. Dwyer, Bryan Lorrigan, Henry Wilhelmy, Manitowoc; Peter Mulholland, Liberty; L. H. Knapp, Horace W. Hamilton, Julius Linstedt, Two Rivers; Francis Mika, Maple Grove.

In Kewaunee County - R. L. Wing, C. H. Cunningham, Kewaunee.

**SCOTT UNION RANGERS.** This is the name of the new company of volunteers from the towns of Scott, Abbott and Holland, raised for the 27th (Sheboygan) Regiment. The company numbers 95 men, and has elected the following officers: Captain, S. D. Hubbard, of Scott; 1st Lieut., E. W. Robbins, of Scott; 2d Lieut., Wm. F. Mitchell, of Holland.

It is said to be a strong company, and it is believed the officers will prove to be efficient and popular.<sup>11</sup>

**The First Company.** We believe the first company organized for the 27th Regiment was the company raised in the towns of Greenbush, Plymouth, Lyndon and Lima. They organized on Monday last by uniting the forces recruited in the several towns, and electing as Captain, E. W. Stannard, of Greenbush; 1st Lieutenant, Aaron Hobart, of Hingham; 2d Lieutenant, Julius Schlaich, of Plymouth.

Capt. Stannard is personally popular where known, and we think will not be likely to become less so with his men from more intimate acquaintance with them in his present position. Lieut. Hobart has served as Colonel of the Militia in a New England State, and holds the post of

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<sup>10</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 23, 1862, p. 3/3.

<sup>11</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 30, 1862, p. 3/2.

Brigadier General of the Militia in our own State. He is a good drill officer and will be a great accession to the company. Lieut. Schlaich we have but little personal acquaintance with, but he has a fine personelle for a soldier, and is a pleasant and active appearing gentleman.<sup>12</sup>

THE INDIAN SCARE. This notable event in our history has been considered of sufficient importance to make a chapter by itself. It was a lovely day in September, 1863 [sic]; the sun shone through the Indian summer haze which veiled yet enhanced the splendors of the autumnal forests. Everything was peaceful, calm as the "bridal day of earth and sky," when a "solitary horseman" rode rapidly into town. His horse was flecked with foam; he had traveled fast and far, had "stayed not for bush and stopped not for stone." His eye was wild, his face was pale; terror was enthroned upon his whole person. In short, he was almost "scart to death." In a dreadful whisper he announced the blood-freezing fact that MANITOWOC, TWO RIVERS, CHILTON, FRANKLIN, etc., had all been burnt and sacked and all inhabitants murdered, by a band of blood-thirsty Indians; that they were advancing rapidly "over field and fell," and we of PLYMOUTH would in all human probability soon share the same fate. These tidings, though sufficiently fearful, did not at once gain credence among the more reasonable, but it was not long before the report of the first horseman was confirmed by another, whose story was still more exciting. The afternoon sun was already far in the west, when the very air seemed to tremble with the quaking panic. As twilight approached there was a rush of hundreds of wagons. In some mysterious manner the news had spread like "fire in CHICAGO." Every wagon, carriage, buggy or buckboard came laden with men, women, children, provisions, tubs, grain, clothing, looking glasses, band-boxes, bundles, furniture, anything and everything likely to become handy in an emergency. For some reason it was considered the only safe plan to congregate in town, leaving the farm to be plundered and burned by the ruthless savages. The men were armed with scythes, sickles, butcher-knives, corn cutters, screw-drivers and every species of fire arms possible to be procured. On they came, load after load, till not only the taverns, but the private houses and even the little depot, swarmed with unexpected guests who had not "stood upon order of their coming," but were attired in "every day clothes." Meantime, here was a hush of expectancy. What must be done? measures must be taken at once to defend ourselves against the on coming hordes who, like the GOTHs and VANDALS, were coming from the north to destroy and burn -- at first 1500 strong, then 15000, then 150000. At one time it was declared that they were only four miles north. By this time it was dark; a mournful wind rustled the dry leaves, and a sad faced moon looked out from the dim atmosphere. The imagination pictured in every whisper of the wind the rush of the savage foe; and the trembling light of the AURORA BOREALIS was easily made to simulate the flames of burning villages. A council of war was held; it was discovered that although there were several rifles, guns, pistols, etc.; that would go off when properly loaded, (at one end or the other,) there was not an ounce [sic] of powder in town, except three pounds, the property of Delos Gates, which Mrs. Gates secured in her apron and would not part with for love or money. In this emergency Hon. R. H. Hotchkiss offered to brave all danger and go to SHEBOYGAN for powder. Meantime, the crowd increased in the streets, anxiety and fear

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<sup>12</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 30, 1862, p. 3/2.

depicted on every countenance. It was suggested by one that as nobody claimed to have seen the Indians, it would be advisable to ascertain the truth of the exciting rumors, that as soon as possible the crowd disperse and seek rest and refreshment. H. N. SMITH, JOHN CARROL and a stranger, whose name we have forgotten, volunteered to go north, in the direction whence the latest news had come. A pair of fast horses, with a light wagon, soon took the party far on their way. Plenty of people flying before a fancied foe, all along: but no Indians. At SENZ's tavern, TOWN OF RHINE, they found hundreds of women and children, with three or four men. At FLAGG's tavern, twelve miles north of PLYMOUTH, two hundred men had assembled. The party was under the leadership of HON. JULIUS WOLFF, who, armed cap-a-pie, with the uniform of PRUSSIA, a la KAISER WILHELM, with gun, sword, bayonet, pistols, was an object well calculated not only to strike terror to the savage heart, but also to restore confidence to the most timid -- and to cure dyspepsia in its worst form. The scene here was ludicrously solemn, but with a throb of awful expectancy in the air. Everybody was silent, and not a drop of beer could be obtained. Upon inquiry, nobody could say that he had actually seen an Indian, or even heard one; but somebody else had not only seen the "varmints," but had witnessed the burning of villages and the massacre of hundreds of white men. When this person was interviewed, he also, referred to another, and so on, ad infinitum. So at midnight the scouting party returned, tired, but tranquil; satisfied that there was not a redskin enemy between PLYMOUTH and LAKE SUPERIOR.

Here, meantime, the multitude, weary with excitement, bivouacked here and there, as beds, lounges and floors were obtainable. Gradually, as night waned and the morning began to break, sleep settled upon all, and "nary" an Indian appeared, even in dreams. At 1 o'clock A.M. we went home from watching by a sick child; all was still, save the chirping crickets, and the water falling over the mill dam.

After the excitement was over, the absurdities of the occasion were freely talked over. Men who went flying through the country without hats, on unsaddled horses, screaming at every farm house that the Indians were coming, were ready to laugh at their own ungrounded fears, or to declare that they "were not frightened a bit."

One family in town had a child dangerously sick of diptheria, whom they wrapped in blankets and carried to a neighbors house. The excitement and extra warmth of coverings produced a change, and the patient rapidly recovered. One man took the pork out of his barrels and buried it in the cellar. An acquaintance of ours, who had a cask of excellent currant wine, called in his neighbors as they were passing, and drank it up, determined that the savages should not get drunk through any fault of his. Another family scattered all their furniture over a "ten acre lot," hoping thereby saving some, at least, another put their valuables in a well. One lady ran all the way to town, three miles, with a pumpkin pie in her hand. One good friend of ours turned pigs into her garden, because the corn and vegetables would benefit her no longer, and the pigs might enjoy one good meal before the Indians came. The scene was indescribably queer...

But this was not all; the same scene, varied by circumstances was enacted over a great portion of the STATE. The panic wave, starting in MANITOWOC COUNTY from some trivial circumstance -- we know not what -- gathered strength as it traveled, rolling like a tide through SHEBOYGAN, OZAUKEE and MILWAUKEE COUNTIES. A gentleman returning from the latter city with a horse and buggy met the crest of the advancing breaker -- people running, people

on horseback, riding in all manner of vehicles, with but one word out of their pale lips -- Indians! Houses were deserted with the fires burning and the dinner smoking on the table. The sick were snatched from their beds, and many a scene of suffering aggravated by the terror to a fearful tragedy.

In Sheboygan, as the panic-stricken people came rushing in, as they supposed with the Indians at their heels, the city sachems took up the draw bridge at the river, thus rend[er]ing escape impossible.

In MILWAUKEE, the Gov., who was in the city, telegraphed for troops, and if we mistake not, they were ordered out.

Such as a bit of history of the Indian panic -- as baseless and senseless, yet as complete a scare as the world ever witnessed. It is estimated that at least 40000 persons left their homes in these counties on that day....<sup>13</sup>

Adjutant Thayer's Report. We have been furnished the following report of Adjutant Thayer to the Colonel of the [27th] Regiment, detailing the military efforts to smoke out the Big Injun:

Head Quarters 27th Regiment, Wis. Vols.  
Sheboygan, Sept. 4th, 1862.

Col. Krez, Commanding 27th Wisconsin:

Dear Sir: About ten o'clock Wednesday morning (Sept. 3d) three men came into the city on horseback and reported that an attack had been made by some Indians upon the inhabitants in the vicinity of Centerville, in Manitowoc County; that a house and barn had been burned and several cattle driven away. Considering the report as greatly exaggerated, I did not deem it necessary to give any order to the Captains commanding volunteer companies belonging to the Regiment in this District.

Before eleven o'clock women and children began to arrive in considerable numbers, fleeing, as they all represented, from Indians. As the excitement was rapidly increasing, and knowing that there were Indians, supposed to be friendly, in this vicinity, it occurred to me that should the citizens, who were rapidly arming, act without any organization there might be a disturbance created which it would be more difficult to allay, than to control under some organization. In the absence of yourself and all the field officers of the Regiment, on consultation with Sheriff Mallory, who had received a letter from a Justice of the Peace, asking for five hundred men, arms and ammunition, I decided to issue orders to all companies within reach of these headquarters to hold themselves in readiness to quell any disturbance that might arise and quiet the fears of the inhabitants.

Capt. Schnellen of the Herman Tigers, whose Company were within a few miles of the Manitowoc County line, was ordered to proceed at once to Centerville and endeavor to ascertain the truth of the reports, and more especially in regard to the destruction of buildings belonging to Mr. Knapworstz, who was reported to have been killed. This duty he performed, having kept his men under arms and on the march twenty four hours, as will be seen by his report annexed, without being able to discover either Indians or any trace of their having committed the least depredations on the northern line of this county.

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<sup>13</sup> *Plymouth Reporter*, Plymouth, Wis. April 17, 1873.

Capt. Marschner was directed to hold his company in readiness for such service as might be required, and the citizens voluntarily placed themselves under his command. His report is annexed.

The number of women and children sent in from the country had, at five o'clock, amounted to over two thousand, and all the roads leading into the city were filled with others seeking safety, each one having some wonderful story to tell which very naturally increased the excitement. None of the messengers sent out in the forenoon having returned, and a report being in circulation that Schnellen's force were actually engaged with the Indians, Sheriff Mallory and myself rode out as far as the town of Hermann, where we found some three hundred of the citizens armed with rifles, shot-guns, pitch forks and various other utensils which might or might not be of much service in actual fight. Hogarth's "March to Finchley" would better illustrate the condition of affairs than I could do. Finding that the farther we travelled brought us, apparently, no nearer to any solution of the cause of the excitement, we returned to the city to await reports from our messengers.

In conclusion I would say that as ludicrous as may have been the scene of yesterday, the volunteers cheerfully performed all the labor that was required of them, and those who perhaps are foremost in laughing at their exploits slept all the sounder Wednesday night from the knowledge that a strong guard was posted at every point about the city where Indians or any one else could enter, and the troops are satisfied with their first lesson in picket duty, resting from their labors with the satisfaction of knowing that while our loss in killed, wounded and missing amounts to just nothing at all, that of the enemy is supposed to be double that number.

Respectfully,

J. O. Thayer, Adjutant.<sup>14</sup>

GREAT INDIAN MASSACRE!!! TREMENDOUS EXCITEMENT.

Plymouth, Sept. 4th, '62.

EDITOR TIMES:

Yesterday P.M. our staid and sober town was startled by couriers dashing into town on two or three different roads, and announcing that 14,000 Indians were approaching the town from the north, massacring women and children and burning everything they came to. That the village of Franklin was burned, and every man must turn out and fight!

Well, about two-thirds of the men turned out to fight. The writer thinks that every old shot gun but one was bro't into town, some minus ram-rods and others minus locks. The weather was very hot, and we all had to walk up and drink, then gather in groups and discuss the news. In the mean time loads of women and children began to arrive, some with loads of bedding hastily flung into wagons, and some bare-headed; and as it was very hot, we had to drink often, and still the excitement increased. One man came in and dranked and reported that Sinz's house in the south part of Rhine was burning; another man came in and dranked and reported that the steam mill and three or four barns were burning; others came in and dranked and reported that Matthes' mill was burning. In the mean time one man went into the school house and ordered the school dismissed that the teacher might help defend the town. The writer thinks that the gentleman

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<sup>14</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 6, 1862, p. 3/3.

showed great want of military sag-ass-ity by not having the little girls armed with pudding sticks.

About this time it was discovered that there was no powder in town, and a man was dispatched to the Falls, for a wagon load of powder. During all this time we had to drink often because we were so dry, and it was so hot!

As time passed along men appeared in the streets armed with pitchforks. One fellow had an old bayonet stuck on a stick; two men appeared armed with old scythes; several men were armed with manure forks, and still the excitement increased and we walked up and dranked! Evening came and companies of men paraded the streets around as above described, pitchforks still increasing in numbers, and ever and anon, we walked up and dranked! At nine o'clock in the evening there were about twenty ox teams and very many horse teams, and very near 500 persons in the streets, some gathered in groups, and others parading the streets, the liquor holes all full of men and boys drinking.

LUTHER WITT.<sup>15</sup>

When the big Indian scare happened, the Arnhölder family had set full milk pans on pantry shelves in preparation to making butter. They quickly dumped the milk into a trough for the hogs and turned the cows out loose. They loaded some provisions and bedding in a wagon and fled into hiding in the woods. After 3 days with no sign of danger, the old father (Henry Arnhölder, aged 66) went back to the farm alone to see whether it was safe. (If the Indians caught and killed him, it would not be so great a loss as one of his young sons.)<sup>16</sup>

#### Another Scare - Big Injun this Time.

Sheriff Watrous visited the Forks of the Manitowoc River, and discovered about 30 Indians, who had just returned from their corn ground on the Sheboygan River. They couldn't understand the Skedaddle and were, if possible, more scared than the white folks. Four of them were in town yesterday with faces about a yard long which shortened up considerable when assured by our citizens that they need apprehend no danger. All of them are old residents of this county. *Chilton Times*.<sup>17</sup>

Aug. 18th, 1862.

Sir: Having confidence in your fidelity and loyalty, I do hereby designate you as a Recruiting Officer for the purpose of enlisting Volunteers for a Regiment to be raised in the counties of Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Kewaunee. Your commission will be forwarded to you by the Governor without delay. In the mean time you will proceed in recruiting for such Regiment, and report to me at Sheboygan.

David Taylor  
Post Commandant

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<sup>15</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 6, 1862, p. 3/4.

<sup>16</sup> Conversation with my Grandmother, Ruth Maeuser. Her closing comment was "Wasn't that a funny place to hide? The woods would be where the Indians were hiding!"

<sup>17</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 11, 1862, p. 2/4.

J. O. Thayer, Adjut.  
To E. W. Stannard Esq.  
Greenbush.<sup>18</sup>

MILITARY ITEMS. Commissions have been issued - to E. W. Stannard as Captain, A. Hobart as 1st Lieut., and Julius Schlaich as 2d Lieut. of Plymouth Union Rifles.

To S. D. Hubbard as Captain, and E. W. Robbins as 1st Lieut. of Scott Union Rifles.

To Fred. Schnellen as Captain, and D. Schreiak as 1st Lieut. of Hermann Tigers.

To Alfred Marschner as Captain, and J. A. Tverdier as 1st Lieut. in [blank].

To Conrad Krez as Colonel, Ten Eyck G. Olmstead as Major, Wm. N. Shafter as Lieut., and Quartermaster, Dr. E. Krach, of Milwaukee as Surgeon, and Dr. Frank Simon as Assistant Surgeon of the 27th Regiment.<sup>19</sup>

A Patriotic Family - Who can Beat It? -- We have seen notices in our exchanges, occasionally, of four, five, and in one instance six, persons volunteering from the same family to swell the ranks of the Union army in defense of our government, but the town of Holland, in this county, bears off the palm for individual family patriotism, from any thing we seen or heard of yet. In a family named Ernest, the following members have volunteered in a body, and joined Capt. Marschner's company of this city: They are Isaac, Abraham, John, Marine, Peter, Samuel, Mathew, James, Abraham, Jr., Isaac, Jr., Jacob, John, Jr., and Isaiah, all able bodied men; and more said to be coming! If any other town, county or State, can furnish an equal number of E(a)rnest, liberty-loving volunteers from one family, they will bring up their reserve.<sup>20</sup>

MILITARY COMMISSIONS ISSUED. To Chas. G. Meyer, of this city, as Lieut. and Adjutant of the 27th Regiment, and to Wm. F. Mitchell and Julius Bodensstab as 2d Lieutenants in the same regiment. The former in the Scott Union Rangers, Capt. Hubbard, and the latter, we believe, in the Herman Tigers, Capt. Schnellen.

Adjutant Meyer is a graduate of one of the Military schools of Germany, and will make an efficient and we think popular officer.<sup>21</sup>

A HORSE PRESENTED TO COL. KREZ. The citizens of Sheboygan County have purchased a handsome charger as a present to Col. Conrad Krez, of the 27th Regiment, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his worth as a man and a patriot.

The presentation was made on Tuesday morning last by E. W. Ellis, Esq., in a short but appropriate speech, to which Col. Krez replied with a good deal of feeling, promising never to

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<sup>18</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site .

<sup>19</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 6, 1862, p. 3/4.

<sup>20</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 11, 1862, p. 3/2.

<sup>21</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 11, 1862, p. 3/2.



dishonor the givers or the gift on the field of battle.<sup>22</sup>

#### The 27th Regiment.

This regiment is now fully officered in a manner highly creditable to the good sense and patriotism of Gov. Solomon. We understand they expect to go into Camp at Milwaukee the last of this week. The regiment will be composed of some of the best material that ever went from Wisconsin. Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee counties furnishes [sic] the most of the men, and Sheboygan may well be proud of the compliment paid the county by the Governor in the selection of so large a portion of the field officers from this county. Col., Lt. Col., Qr. Master, and Chaplain, all most judicious selections; and if their good conduct on the field of battle does not justify the wisdom and caution of our truly patriotic Governor, we know nothing of the character of our neighbors. KREZ, BROWN, SHAFTER, and STOW, are all names of honor in this county. Differing from them all, as we do in politics, we yet bid them a harty [sic] God speed in their patriotic devotion to the country. Maj. OLMSTEAD, too, of Manitowoc, is one of God's own nobility; and altogether, we predict that the 27th will be one of the best officered regiments ever sent from this state.<sup>23</sup>

#### Roster of the Twenty-Seventh.

Colonel - C. Krez.

Lieutenant-Colonel - J. J. Brown.

Major - Ten Eyeck G. Olmstead.

Adjutant - Charles Meyer.

Surgeon - Dr. C. Krak.

Assistant Surgeon - Dr. Geo. Hutchinson.

Quartermaster - Wm. N. Shafter.

Chaplain - Rev. Wm. P. Stowe.

*Olmsted Guards* - Captain, J. Rankin, 1st Lieut. Peter Mulhollen [sic]; 2d Lieut., Thos. McMillen.

*Scott Union Rangers* - Capt., L. D. Hubbard; 1st Lieut., E. W. Robbins; 2d Lieut., Wm. F. Mitchell

*Kewaunee County Guards* - Capt., C. H. Cuninghame; 1st Lieut., J. C. Saltzman; 2d Lieut. J. J. Booland. [sic]

*Highland Boys* - Capt. Wm. Wigham; 1st Lieut. Jas. Gunn.

*Capt. Marshner's Company* - Capt., A. Marchner; 1st Lieut., J. C. Verdin, 2d Lieut., Charles Wilts.

*Herman Guards* - Capt. F. Schrellen; 1st Lieut., D. Lohriack; 2d J. Bodinstab.

*Plymouth Union Rifles* - Capt. E. W. Stannard; 1st Lieut. Aaron Hobart; 2d Lieut. Jul.

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<sup>22</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 20, 1862, p. 3/2.

<sup>23</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" at Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 303.

Schlaick.

*Norway Bear Hunters* - Capt. C. Cornelison; 1st Lieut. Ole Jacobson; 2d Lieut. A. L. Lund.

*Barton Squad* - No officers.

The War Department has granted permission to fill the Twenty-seventh Regiment by raising new recruits, extending to them the same privileges of advance pay and bounty that have been granted to volunteers before. It is expected the regiment will fill in a very short time after the proclamation of the Governor fixing the day of the draft.<sup>24</sup>

#### The 27th Wisconsin.

Among the military appointments, in another column, are those for the 27th Wisconsin, which is to be composed of companies raised in the counties of Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Kewaunee.

The Colonel, CONRAD KREZ, is a German by birth. He has for some years past followed the profession of the law at Sheboygan, and is now Dist. Att'y. of that Co. He is a gentleman of excellent character and fine abilities. A native of the Palatinate, he united while yet a student with the liberals, and was an associate with SIGEL, SCHURZ and others in the uprising of 1848. Upon the failure of the revolutionists, a reward being offered for his apprehension, he escaped to Switzerland, and went thence to Paris where he spent some years prior to coming to America. He will make a gallant and popular officer.

Dr. J. J. BROWN, the Lieutenant Colonel, is an old resident of the State, a skilful physician and surgeon, a man of energy and resolution. He has had little or no military experience, but will soon acquire a familiarity with details of his new occupation.

Mr. SHAFTER, the Quartermaster, was a member of the Legislature in 1858, and is a brother of ex-Speaker SHAFTER. A better selection for this position could not have been made. If the men of the 27th are not well cared for it will not be the fault of the Quartermaster. Of the other officers of the regiment, we have less personal knowledge, but presume they are all right.<sup>25</sup>

At Fairfax Court House... we found Gen. Schurz very comfortably established, his headquarters being in a vacant house, with a fine yard filled with trees in front. A half dozen camp stools and a table in the center of the dining-room, constituted the furniture. Military life has not changed the appearance of Gen. Schurz, except to bronze his face, and give him a more hardy appearance. He wears nothing to indicate his rank, retaining his slouched hat and civilian dress, with the exception of a huge pair of military boots, which in their vastitude go far to make up for the deficiency in other military apparel. His wife and children are here at present, and

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<sup>24</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" at Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 303.

<sup>25</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" at Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 289.

board at an adjoining house. Gen. S. commands a division of Sigel's corps, and his headquarters are constantly thronged with officers coming and going. These, almost without exception, spoke in the German language. The sight of these bearded warriors, and their sonorous Teutonic accents, were almost enough to make one think himself in Wullenstein's camp, rather than in an American army. But in battle they strike sturdy American blows for the old flag. In the battles about Manassas, Sigel's corps stood in the imminent deadly breach of peril for successive days, and gallantly withstood the rebel advance. Had the whole army manifested the same zeal and patriotism, I solemnly believe the stars and stripes might to-day have been floating over Richmond.<sup>26</sup>

The Twenty-seventh Wisconsin was organized in Camp Sigel, Milwaukee, under the supervision of Colonel Conrad Krez. The muster was not completed until the 7th of March, 1863, though seven of the ten companies had been ordered into camp on the 17th of September, 1862.

The ten companies had been recruited as follows:

A	Charles H. Cunningham	Kewaunee Co.
B	Erastus W. Stannard	Sheboygan
C	Frederick Schnellen	Sheboygan
D	Joseph Rankin	Manitowoc
E	Alfred G. Marschner	Sheboygan
F	Samuel D. Hubbard	Sheboygan
G	William Wigham	Iowa
H	Charles Corneliusen	Dane
I	James C. Barnes	Lake Shore Counties
K	Peter Mulholland	Lake Shore Counties <sup>27</sup>

THE 27TH REGIMENT GONE INTO CAMP. In obedience to orders from Madison, the 27th Regiment has gone into camp at Milwaukee. The Scott Union Rangers, Capt. Hubbard, we believe left on Thursday, going via West Bend. The Plymouth Union Rifles, Captain Stannard, and the Sheboygan Guards, Capt. Marschner, left on the Sunbeam yesterday. [The Sunbeam sank with all hands the following year -- see following 2 notes.]

A large concourse of citizens went to the pier to see them off, and the farewells and leave-takings exhibited a singular blending of heart-full sorrow and a hopeful patriotism. The brave volunteers seemed to maintain better spirits than the friends they left behind, and as the boat left the pier, cheer after cheer from those on board and those on the pier, arose responsive to each other, until the former were far out on the lake.

The company from this city is not composed of so large a proportion of large men as some

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<sup>26</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" at Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 289.

<sup>27</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg: Report of the Wisconsin-Vicksburg Monument Commission Including the Story of the Campaign... (Madison, 1914), p. 164.

others that have gone from here, but they are young, hearty and active, and will prove efficient on a march or in handling the musket in action.

Capt. Stannard's company is composed mostly of middle aged men of good physique, and numbered 115. We doubt if the regiment will contain a better looking or more intelligent company, and should not be surprised to learn that they were the "crack" company of the regiment. We are promised the correct roster of both companies for publication, as soon as completed.

-- Just as we go to press, this morning, the Hermann Tigers, Capt. Schnellen, are marching past our office apparently with full ranks. They will take the Comet this afternoon for Milwaukee. They are a fine looking set of men, and we are not sure but we shall have to award them the position in the regiment that we have above indicated for the Plymouth Rifles.<sup>28</sup>

[Shipbuilders] Bates & Son [of Manitowoc] secured contracts in 1860 for the building of two steamers for Capt. Goodrich and the next spring they were completed and christened the Sunbeam and Union. The first was lost on Lake Superior and the last named was soon sold, the captain purchasing in their place the Ward liner, Planet, and the May Queen...<sup>29</sup>

The first steamboat built here [in Manitowoc], I think, was the propeller "Union," about where the electric light plant now is. It was built for Captain Goodrich. He also had the steamer "Victor" (name changed to "Sunbeam") built in the same place. That was the Bates shipyard. The "Sunbeam" was built with screw wheels on the sides with independent engines for each wheel, but this arrangement was not a success, and they were soon removed and the regular paddle wheels and a beam engine substituted. The "Sunbeam" was lost on Lake Superior [in 1863] with all hands except one man. That was the beginning of the Goodrich fleet that was built here.<sup>30</sup>

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT. We paid a flying visit, Friday, to the Twenty-seventh Regiment, located at Camp Sigel. This regiment, it will be recollected, was first quartered at Camp Washburn, but moved to its present location after the departure of the Twenty-sixth. The regiment has a daily drill, and has already made commendable progress in discipline. The barracks are cleanly, and the soldiers have quite comfortable quarters. There are eighteen sick in all -- nine at the St. Mary's and nine at the regimental hospital. The sick are well cared for and watched with unremitting attention by the surgeon and his assistants. While there we were pleased to notice a number of our kind-hearted ladies with jellies and other delicacies for the sick. On the same day the regiment was being paid the advance bounty of

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<sup>28</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 20, 1863, p. 3/3.

<sup>29</sup> Dr. Louis Falge, History of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1912), p. 128.

<sup>30</sup> Dr. Louis Falge, History of Manitowoc County, p. 134.

twenty-five dollars.<sup>31</sup>

The Twenty-seventh Regiment was ordered to rendezvous at Camp Sigel, Milwaukee, on the 17th of September, 1862. The discontinuance of recruiting for new regiments in August of that year left the regiment with only seven companies full. An order authorizing the recruiting of three more companies was received, and, under the supervision of Colonel Krez, the organization was completed, and the regiment mustered into the United States service on the 7th of March, 1863.<sup>32</sup>

Father responded to Lincoln's second call for volunteers at a recruitment rally held at the old Michael Herr place on the old Green Bay Road in town Meeme. Together with a number of other young men they walked to Manitowoc the next day. The group was taken by boat to Milwaukee and were enrolled into service on August 21, 1862. They became part of Company D of the 27th Wisconsin Regiment of Volunteers. Captain Joseph Rankin was Captain of the Company and the Regiment was under the command of Colonel Conrad Krez of Sheboygan. Due to the fact that the Regiment was not yet up to full strength, its basic training was more complete than that of some of the other Regiments. The training was at Camp Sigel, Milwaukee and under the able leadership of Lt. Col. John J. Brown of Sheboygan....<sup>33</sup>

HOME ON FURLOUGH. Several of the officers of the 27th Regiment were home on furlough the fore part of this week. Among them we noticed Adjutant Meyer, Quartermaster Shafter, Capt. Marschner and Capt. Stannard. The latter was called home by the serious illness of his wife. The staff officers looked quite comely in their new regimentals.<sup>34</sup>

MEASURE OF PATRIOTISM. Most of those who have volunteered in the army of the Union, have done so out of a patriotic love of country, and a large portion have made more or less sacrifices in a pecuniary point of view, in doing so. Some, however, seemed to have an eye principally to the emoluments of a position in the army; especially as an officer. An instance of this kind has just been presented to our notice in one of the field officers of the 27th Regiment. Not satisfied with holding a civil office under the U. S. government, worth \$800 to \$1000 a year, in addition to the pay of his military office, amounting to about \$2400 more, he had no compunctions in taking \$50 from the Bounty Fund of this city, to which he had contributed never a penny, and which was made up, in part, by poor men who contributed of their small means to

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<sup>31</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" at Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 303.

<sup>32</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 760.

<sup>33</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story... of the Kolb Family (1956), p. 13.

<sup>34</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 4, 1862, p. 3/2.

aid other poor men who left their families behind with little or no means of support, while they went to fight the battles of the country on a pay of \$13 per month from government. That Bounty Fund was not designated by those who contributed to it, to hire men to take commissions as Field Officers of the Regiment, but for those who made sacrifices that they could ill bear in leaving their homes for a small pecuniary compensation, or who left families without any other means of support than their individual earnings. Verily, the measure of patriotism is different in different men!<sup>35</sup>

By circumstance they had good drilling at Camp Sigel in Milwaukee under their Lt. Colonel... no bayonet training. A crowd of youngsters in Camp would get into rough house and devilry at night. Somebody in authority would come to stop the noise, and of course the noise makers could not be recognized until one of them sounded off like a cat in a long drawn out Meow. "Hello Pete" was recognized and in turn took his turn in the Guard House. On another occasion one of the boys ventured out at night to steal apples. On his return he had difficulty in hanging on to his loot. One after another you could hear the apples bup bup bup across the floor. "God damn their souls." [he exclaimed.]. At frequent times an old lady stood at the edge of the camp... "Eppelle ihr Junge" ... "Epele ihr boys."<sup>36</sup>

When father's regiment was in training in Camp Sigel, Milwaukee, one of the men slipped out of the camp at night and stole some apples. He sneaked back into the barracks and dropped a few -- thump, thump, thump on the wooden floor -- and he cursed them for making so much noise: "God damn their souls."<sup>37</sup>

We are under obligations to Mr. Henry Stannard, of Greenbush, for the Company Roster of the Plymouth Union Rifles, of which his father is Captain, and which we publish to-day. Will not Orderly Walthers, of the Sheboygan Guards, send us the full Roster of his Company? We would also like that of the Herman Tigers.<sup>38</sup>

NEW SHOULDER STRAPS IN TOWN. Quite a number of the officers and privates of the 27th Regiment have been home on a brief visit during the past week -- the former with their new uniforms, which looked very neat and comely. Among them were Col. Krez and Lieuts. Hobart, Verdier and Schreiack.

Col. Krez wears his shoulder straps easily, and shows no disposition to "take on airs" in consequence of his position. His men speak approvingly of his military administration of the

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<sup>35</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 4, 1862, p. 3/2.

<sup>36</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972.

<sup>37</sup> Notes made by Mark Knipping, conversation with Roland A. Kolb, April 4, 1970.

<sup>38</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 11, 1862, p. 3/2. Column 3 of the same page carries a list of Stannard's Company B.

regiment so far, and anticipate that he will make an efficient and popular officer.<sup>39</sup>

For the *Kewaunee Enterprise*.

Camp Sigel, Milwaukee, Wis.,  
Kewaunee Co. Guards, 27th Reg. Wis. Vol.,  
Oct. 12th, 1862.

FRIEND ENTERPRISE: With the hope that this will reach you in time for your next issue, I will try to redeem a part of my promise. There is nothing of particular interest to write, but as there are so many of your readers closely connected with the Co., I think most anything about us will be acceptable to them. The trip to Milwaukee was a very pleasant one, the weather was tolerably fine, and the boys felt as good as could be expected after parting with friends, and the dear ones at home. The piers at every stopping place were crowded with people, and we were received with cheers all along. Our Co., did have a first rate name, and I think we have kept it up so far. We arrived at Milwaukee at about 2 o'clock A.M., and stayed on the *Comet* till day light, when we marched to our camping ground, "Cold Spring" about 2 miles west of the City Hall, where we arrived about 8 o'clock.

We found six companies in camp, and one, from the town of Herman, Sheboygan Co., who had come down on the *Comet* from Sheboygan with us, arrived shortly after us. We were quartered in barracks made of boards, with bunks on both sides, lumber camp fashion, on the west end of the enclosure of the old cold spring race course. During the day we got some straw, and were agreeably surprised by receiving our blankets from government the same day, which in addition to those brought from home, gives us a very comfortable bed. On Monday, Mr. J. J. BORLAND, of the firm of BORLAND & DEAN, was unanimously elected 2d Lieutenant, and has since joined our company. Mr. Borland is a very efficient drill master, and the company may well congratulate themselves on the acquisition of so good an officer.

Our company is full as well, if not bettered officered than any company on the grounds. We are full as far ahead in drill as any, and we intend to stand No. 1 in the list of companies. We outstrip anything in size on the grounds, and I think we can cope with any of them as far as intelligence is concerned. We drill about five hours a day, and besides furnishing a guard from 7 to 10 men daily, and keeping the quarters clean, have the balance of the time for ourselves. We get the regular soldiers rations, and as some of your readers are not acquainted enough with military matters, I will give you a list of our daily rations. 22 ozs. of bread per man daily; for 100 men daily, 128 lbs. beef or 75 lbs. pork, 8 qts. of beans or peas, or 10 lbs. of rice, 10 of coffee or 1 1/2 lbs. tea, 15 lbs. sugar, 4 lbs. soap, 1 lb. sperm candles, 1 gallon of vinegar, 2 qts. salt, 3 times a week 1 3/4 bushels potatoes and twice a week 1 gallon syrup. This is all furnished by contractors, under the supervision of the commissary sergeant. The orderly sergeants of the companies get the rations daily, in the morning. The men, according to the regulations, have to prepare their own meals, but they usually hire some man of the company to do it, and pay him so much a month for it, which, is the case with us. Capt. C. gave us the privilege of electing our Sergeants and Corporals, and we elected the following men: 1st Sergeant, Edward Bach, 2d Michael Mullen, 3d L. P. Fisher, 4th Milton McKinnon, 5th Barney Nadeau; 1st Corporal Aaron

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<sup>39</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 11, 1862, p. 3/2.

Cory, 2d Thomas R. Roberts, 3d Alfred Vibber, 4th Timothy Landy, 5th Joseph C. Boutin, 6th Patrick J. Rooney, 7th John T. Gonyou, 8th Fred. Helmhold.

We had some rainy weather lately, and as the barracks in Camp Washburn were not quite water tight, as some of the boys could testify, our officers thought we had better move to Camp Sigel after the 26th Regiment left, which it did last Monday. Squads of our men came over the first days of the week and cleared and white washed the barracks here, ready for our reception, and last Thursday morning we got orders to be in readiness at half past 7 in the morning, to march over here. The regiment marched over in columns, it was the first time we were all together, as we never had any dress parade yet. We were assigned the place as Co. A, at the head and right of the regiment, which we expected as the Colonel had told us a few days before at drill, that we were wonderfully improving in drill, and he intended to give us the right of the regiment as Co. A, for which we gave him seven hearty's a tiger and a Kewaunee with a will.

The boys like the change very well, the barracks are much warmer, better lighted, and comfortable than our first ones; there is a stove in each building, and as Uncle Sam furnishes wood gratis you may think that we will not freeze. We have a fresh lake breeze here, just such as the boys are used to, and furthermore, we have good grounds to drill on, and a good view of both lake and city. My paper is giving out, and I am thinking that I am intruding on your space already, so I will cease for today.

More soon.

KEWAUNEE.<sup>40</sup>

From the Twenty-Seventh Regiment.

Correspondance of the Times.

Camp Sigel, Oct. 21, 1862.

Editor Times: - Having spent a few days in camp, I thought a few [illegible] might not be uninteresting to many of your readers. There appears to be a good deal of dissatisfaction among the soldiers, and I am apprehensive that serious difficulty will be the result, if not entire insubordination.

From all appearances the Colonel has done all that lay in his power to have them mustered in and receive their pay; yet many seem to have laid aside all reason, and determined that no reconciliation should prevail.

I think the Colonel will soon begin to show his authority -- and the sooner the better. A number refused to do duty today, and I heard him inquiring after the insubordinates, which looks as though they would be especially attended to in a legitimate manner. From all appearances now the regiment will soon be filled up -- The uniforms are making and will soon be ready.

Amongst the most popular of the Field and Staff officers are the Colonel, Quartermaster, Adjutant and Major -- the Quartermaster standing A No. 1 Charles Witte from the 4th is here. Charley is unquestionably one of the best Commissioned officers in the regiment. John Verdier will make [a] prominent officer. He is liked by his company, which is evidence of his qualities.

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<sup>40</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" in Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 288.



Charley Walthers, too, makes a first rate Orderly. He is up to time and takes pride in performing his duty. Amongst the most prominent Captains is Capt. Stannard. I think he is the best Captain in the regiment, and commands the highest esteem from his company. He has been quite sick but is on the gain and will return to duty soon.

On the whole I think the Colonel eventually will make the regiment deserving of the reputation of Wisconsin soldiers and one that will not fall short of any now in the field.

The Senator, or rather would-be Senator, Thomas, from the Falls and Milwaukee has been in camp looking wishfully and very smilingly. Conjecture says that he would like to marry the soldiers and become the groom of those whom he repudiated in his seat in the Assembly. The general impression is that his missing will prove that he "can't come in," and he won't visit camp with such smiles again.

An excellent war sermon was delivered Sunday by a clergyman from the city, to a house full of soldiers and citizens from the city. Yesterday and to-day the wind is like a hurricane, so much so that battalion drill is dispensed with. All of our boys are well, and the most satisfied, and are advancing in drill and military duty rapidly. With best respects,

I remain, truly [illegible].<sup>41</sup>

Capt. Marschner, of the 27th Regiment, returned home on Tuesday last, and will spend several days in the city and county to recruit a few more men for his company, which is not quite up to the maximum. The company has been mustered into the United States service, the boys had received their uniforms, and were to have been paid off of Wednesday. The health of the company is good, save what results from slight colds, such as must necessarily follow a change from home to camp life at this season of the year, and all were in good spirits.

Lieut. Chas. Witte, of Capt. Marschner's company - late Sergt. in Co. C 4th Regiment -- called on us on Thursday last, looking well and feeling ditto. He left his former company in New Orleans, a little over two weeks since, on receiving official notice of his promotion to a Lieutenancy in the 27th. The Sheboygan members of the 4th were generally in very good health, aside from an occasional chill with which some of them were yet afflicted, among whom was Lieut. Wintermeyer.<sup>42</sup>

#### The Draft.

In an other column we publish an order from the office of the Adj't General in which our county is somewhat interested.

After a patient examination of the complaints made, Gov. Salomon has ordered a new deal throughout, and has appointed Capt. ALFRED MARSCHNER, formerly of Sheboygan and now of the 27th Regt., to fill the position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Vilas.

In selecting Capt. MARSCHNER for this important position, Gov. S. has exhibited his usual wisdom and sagacity. Capt. M. is a high toned gentleman, of keen perception and good judgement, and being a stranger to most of our people, must necessarily exhibit the impartiality

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<sup>41</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 25, 1862, p. 2/2.

<sup>42</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 1, 1862, p. 3/2.

which his instinct would prompt him to exercise.

With Doct. BLOOD we have no acquaintance but judging from the other appointments, we take it for granted that it is a good one. There are no surgeons residing in this vicinity except Doct. Simons, (who has been appointed) Doct. Schenke, and an illiterate Homeopathist quack.

Doct. BLOOD is doubtless proof against temptation to commit fraud, and being like Capt. Marschner, a stranger here, will of course deal impartially.

Doct. SIMONS is so well known as an educated and skillful Physician and Surgeon that we need hardly take the trouble to vouch for him. His professional character is above suspicion, his courtesy proverbial and his integrity without stain. Educated in a school where quackery and empiricism are unknown, and humbugs are not tolerated, where men earn their diplomas by hard study, and an established character before they get them, he combines the courtesy of the gentleman with more than ordinary skill as a physician. Knowing him as we do, we feel confident that no one will be able to deceive him by pretended disabilities, nor will real physical defects escape his practised penetration. The Doctor has a practice as extended as that of any physician in the State, and he has been more than ordinarily successful in his treatment.

Capt. Marschner desires us to say to those who are really suffering from disability, that it is advisable they should secure their exemption before the draft is made, as by so doing they will save trouble and expense both to themselves and the State.

The object of the examination is to secure ablebodied soldiers, not cripples or diseased men, and those who are really disabled should see to it that they are properly exempted.

Gov. Salomon has exhibited in connection with this affair not only patience and industry, but an amount of judgement almost as rare as it is creditable. All classes unite in universal comendation of his unflinching course, and if we have failed hitherto in awarding the praise to which he has on more than one occasion shown that he was entitled, we do not propose to withhold it on this occasion.<sup>43</sup>

Commissioner Graves, with 153 of the drafted men in this county, left by boat on Thursday noon last, for rendezvous at Racine. The balance of the men did not report themselves here as required. The government will send a force to take them, if they do not voluntarily come forward and if they cannot be found, the ward or town must again be drafted for the deficiency.<sup>44</sup>

On the morning of the 11th of November [1862], Governor Salomon received a despatch stating that the militia rolls of Ozaukee County had been seized and destroyed by a mob, and that several citizens had been injured, and their property destroyed. The Governor immediately gave orders for the march of a military force to the scene of disturbance.

It appears the Commissioner, Mr. Pors, was just prepared to begin the draft, when he was unceremoniously crowded upon by the mob, who seized him, dragged him to the door, and

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<sup>43</sup> Uncited newspaper clipping found in scrapbook titled "Correspondence of Wisconsin Volunteers 1861 - 1865, Vol. 6: 16th - 29th Regiments Infantry" at Library of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, call number F9022 / Q7c, p. 303.

<sup>44</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 11, 1862, p. 3/1.

flinging him down the steps of the Court House, injured him severely. Succeeding in getting into the Post Office, he concealed himself for a while in the cellar. The mob followed him to the door of the Post Office, but could not gain entrance. After they departed, Mr. Pors left his hiding place, entered a carriage with a friend, and, taking down the lake shore, succeeded in getting out of Port Washington, and arrived in Milwaukee.

The mob, after losing their victim, determined to destroy his property. They went to his dwelling, which was a very handsome house, well finished and furnished. This they completely demolished in the interior, smashing furniture, pictures and everything they could lay their hands on.

Leaving this scene of their barbarous outrage, they proceeded to the residences of other prominent citizens, destroying them in the same way. It is needless to say that whiskey contributed to keep up the rebellious spirit. When the mob commenced, a thousand men were present, and two hundred or three hundred were actively engaged all day, led on by a saloon-keeper and other similar characters. The mob appeared to belong to a class of Germans or Belgians called Luxemburgers. Not an Irishman was to be seen in the crowd.

On the afternoon of the 11th, Colonel Lewis, of the Twenty-eighth Regiment, in camp, at Milwaukee, was... ordered to send a detachment of the Twenty-eighth to quell the riot. Accordingly eight companies were detailed for that purpose, who immediately prepared to leave, and by midnight were on the steamer, bound for Port Ulao, the nearest port to Port Washington...

The Provost Court, opened by the Provost Marshal, examined into the cases of those persons arrested for complicity in the riot, and adjudged the evidence against eighty-one to be sufficient to commit them, and they were sent, under charge of Captain White, to Camp Washburn. The arrests, afterwards made, increased the number of prisoners to about one hundred and thirty. They were placed under guard at Camp Washburn, and afterwards removed to Camp Randall, where they had quarters in the "Bull Pen." They were subsequently placed in charge of General Pope, who retained them as prisoners for some months, and were subsequently released informally by the Government. The sufferers by the mob at Ozaukee presented their claims to the Legislature, at its next session. They were allowed, and the amount charged to the Government.<sup>45</sup>

#### THE DRAFT RIOT IN OZAUKEE CO. TWO OR THREE HOUSES TORN DOWN.

The draft trouble is more serious in Ozaukee county than first reported. At Port Washington the rioters picketed the town, and assault was made upon commissioner Pors, to which we allude elsewhere.

They tore down his house, and stole his money. They also tore down Tomlinson's mill. Judge Downs had his leg broken.

They also broke into the Masonic Lodge and cleared that out, having an old spite against it. At 3 o'clock this morning the crowd was increasing, and they avow that they will not be drafted.

Trouble about the Draft in Ozaukee County. The Draft was interrupted in Ozaukee county, by the fair Amazons of that locality, who assaulted the commissioner with clubs, and

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<sup>45</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, pp. 146-147.

stones, and for a while put his life in jeopardy. The men were inclined to let the draft go on peaceably, but the women would not allow it, and it had to be stopped. The commissioner has telegraphed to the Governor for aid.

The commissioner is now in this city, and represents that he was very badly treated. Even after he had started to leave the place where the row was commenced, the crowd continued to assault him, the men by that time having joined in with the women.<sup>46</sup>

The Draft [Sheboygan]. -- This event, fraught with so much anxiety to some, and dread to others, came off under the supervision of Commissioner Geo. S. Graves, at the office of the Clerk of the Court, in this city [Sheboygan], on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday last. The name of each person in every town and ward, liable to draft, had been previously written upon a separate slip of paper. The names of those belonging to a given town or ward were then taken, each slip, containing a name twisted into a hard roll and put into a box. The whole were then thoroughly shaken up and one ballet drawn therefrom by Alderman Deichman, of the 4th ward in this city, he being blindfolded. The slip was then unrolled, the name read, and recorded by the Commissioner. The slips were again thoroughly intermingled, and another drawn and recorded, and so on until the requisite number for the town or ward was drawn. The names of those liable to draft in another town were then placed in the box and drawn in the same way, until the whole draft was completed.

There were more or less persons present from nearly every town and ward drafted from, and although they wore anxious faces as each successive name was drawn in their respective towns, until the last, yet no demonstrations of violence, or disposition to resist the draft, was manifest until coming to the 4th Ward of this city. This was postponed until the last, for the purpose of awaiting the return of, or advice from Mr. Pott, who had gone to Madison with evidence of the enlistment of eight volunteers from that ward, for whom the ward had received no credit, with the view of having them thus accredited. In the event of his success it would reduce the number to be drafted from the ward, from 14 to 6, and hence the disposition on the part of many Germans (there are but six or eight native born men in the ward liable) to resist the draft unless those were accredited to them. Some, indeed, were disposed to resist the draft on "general principles," having been told before the election, by their Democratic leaders, that if they voted the straight Democratic ticket (which they did do,) there would be no draft, and they were disposed to insist upon the fulfillment of the promise.

Nine o'clock Thursday morning, the hour set for the draft to be made, arrived, but Mr. Pott had not yet made his appearance. Open resistance was freely talked of, if an attempt was made to enforce it then. A gentleman of the city, who came down on the night previously, saw Mr. Pott on board, and read the letter which he had brought from Gov. Salomon, to the effect that he could not now remedy the error complained of, as it would necessitate a reapportionment of the entire State if such corrections were now commenced.

Commissioner Graves then decided to go on with the draft, and repaired to the office with Sheriff Mallory and a number of order-loving citizens who determined to see the law enforced.

A large crowd of men and women from the 4th ward had congregated around the door,

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<sup>46</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 15, 1862, p. 2/3.

and were talking quite excitedly. Soon after the door was opened a rush was made for it by several. Quartermaster Shafter, of the 27th Regiment, with one or two others, was standing in the doorway facing the crowd, he having a cane in his hand. This was seized by two men, with the evident intent of forcing it from him. While holding on to the cane he was pulled forward in a stooping position, and was then struck upon the head with a heavy club by a man in [the] crowd. The blow staggered him backward, and at the same time his cane was released, he struck a quick blow, bleeding one of his assailants pretty freely, and at the same time draw his revolver which he had taken the precaution to carry with him in anticipation of a necessity for its use. The sight of the "little joker" caused a scattering among the crowd, and soon stopped all belligerent demonstrations on their part, and the draft went on without further interruption.

In this instance the women, of whom there were many present, were most clamorous, nearly all of them being armed with clubs and pieces of brick bats done up in their aprons. As soon as the draft was over, however, the excitement quieted down, and a general disposition seemed manifest, except on the part of one or two of the drafted ones to submit to it with as good grace as possible.

In a few instances it evidently bears hard upon the individuals drafted, they being poor men with large families. Every loyal, patriotic man who has escaped the draft, should give liberally of his means to make the families of those men comfortable during the term of their service; and we have faith to believe that it will be done.

We append the list of those drafted from the several towns and wards of the county:  
[list of 205 drafted men, listed by town and ward]<sup>47</sup>

Standing by his Flag. A loyal citizen of Buffalo came near being mobbed, election day, on the strength that he had a secession flag flying. His house was visited by an excited crowd, who found only his wife's Balmoral [a brimless Scottish cap with a flat, round top] that had been hung from a back window to dry. The husband vowed his determination to stand by that flag as long as he lived, and surrender his right of raising it; the excited crowd exploded and vanished.<sup>48</sup>

Privates were not allowed in Saloons. One man in the Company somehow contrived to get hold of a pair of Epaulets, and so would venture into the forbidden places. One day he spied his own Captain Rankin seated at one of the tables, drinking with his companion officers. Of course they recognized each other, and in spite of inquiries by the other officers both remained non committal. The "Private" paid for his drink and got out. Later Captain Rankin sought him out and informed the "Private" that if such an incident occurred again he would find a place for the "Private" between four walls.<sup>49</sup>

At the close of the year 1862, but three incomplete regiments were in the state, viz: the

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<sup>47</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 15, 1862, p. 3/1-2.

<sup>48</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 11, 1862, p. 2/4.

<sup>49</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972.

Twenty-seventh and Thirty-first Volunteers, and Thirty-fourth Drafted Regiment. These were completed and all in the field by the 1st of March.<sup>50</sup>

December 26  
Cascade Wisconsin

Captain E. W. Stannard

I write you a few lines to let you know that i am at home yet i went to the Doctor at Cascade and told him how i was he said i warent fit to go back and he gave me a Certificate to stay home fifteen Days and i put it in a letter and Sent it to you i put it in the ofice thursday, one day before my frulough run out and yesterday was male day, and i didnt get my answer from you and i herd that you was to home and i thought i would Come over and see you but i couldent get any horse and So i thought i would write you a few to let you know that i hadent run a way.

From Augustus E. Brown to Captain E. W. Stannard<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 150.

<sup>51</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

## 1863

Father used to have a saying... February says to January, "Wenn ich die Kraft hät' wie du, Dann frierte ich das Kalb in der Kuh." (If I possessed the strength that you have, I would freeze the calf inside the cow.)<sup>52</sup>

January 2, 1863. Shortly before 1 o'clock A.M., a fire was discovered in the extensive barracks at Camp Sigel, North Point. The four or five large frame structures occupied by the Twenty-seventh Regiment (Col. Krez) were burned, and, sad to say, three privates lost their lives, so quickly did the flames spread. The officers' quarters were saved. The property destroyed amounted to only \$2,000.<sup>53</sup>

### Fifty Years Ago, 1863.

A fire broke out at Camp Sigel, Milwaukee, on New Years morning, destroying the barracks of the 27th Regiment and 200 guns and lots of Commissary Stores. Three soldiers were so badly burned as to cause their death.<sup>54</sup>

**FIRE AT CAMP SIGEL.** About 12 o'clock on New Year's night, a fire broke out in the old barracks at Camp Sigel, Milwaukee which resulted in their entire destruction, and burned to death two soldiers belonging to the 27th Regiment. The fire originated in an empty shantee, and in a few minutes the entire barracks were enveloped in flames.

The names of those burnt to death are V. Brosna, a substitute, and James West, a member of Capt. Marschner's company.<sup>55</sup>

[Account of the fire written by Capt. E. W. Stannard, who was Officer of the Guard at the time of the fire. This apparently is a draft copy, as words are crossed out and changed. In this note, words crossed out are underlined and words added appear in brackets:]

On the evening of Jan. 1st I being Officer of the Guard, mounted at Camp Sigel, relieved withdrew the Guard, and posted it inside of the barraks, according to the orders of the Camp Officer of the day, by which [the way], as had been usual for some time, every body of men detailed from each Company for guard duty had to guard theyr own barraks under the Control of the commissioned and non commissioned Officers of the Guard. The officer of the guard, after

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<sup>52</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, Feb. 22, 1965.

<sup>53</sup> Western Historical Co., History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from pre-historic times to the present date... (Chicago, 1881), p. 371.

<sup>54</sup> *Mineral Point Tribune*, Mineral Point, Wis., Jan. 2, 1913, p. 3/4.

<sup>55</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Wis., Jan. 9, 1863, p. 3/3.

having withdrawn the same, gave the Orders, that every Corporal [of the Guard] should report himself half an hour before his relief [at the Guard House to the Sergeant of Guard half an hour before his relief would come on duty and, the his chief occupation should be, to make the rounds in [all] the Quarters of the different Companies, to control the Guards, and to report those, which were not attending theyr duty, or would be found without theyr equipments on. The officer of the Guard himself made the rounds in all the barracks, and found everything in orders, and as there were not Guards enough to relieve relieve, I detailed some more guards of the same Company. He cautioned the Guards to be on the Lookout for fire, to can ordered the Guard at the Cannon No 12 to march to and from the Cannon to the Headquarters, to inspect the outsides of the Quarters. The Corporal [Arnold] of the 2nd relief, A having visited [all] the Barracks, returned to the Guard House, and went out again with a Guard, to relieve No. 12 at the Canon, when he perceived the flames bursting out of the roof of the second Barrak at the south west corner.<sup>56</sup>

MICHAEL SWEET, Postmaster at Plymouth... was born near Kingston, Canada, May 25, 1842. The family was originally from Rhode Island and of English ancestry....

A settlement was made on section 8, in the town of Greenbush....

Michael Sweet enlisted August 13, 1862, in Company B, Twenty-seventh Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, and served till the close of the war. The regiment went into camp at Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, and thence to Camp Seigel [sic], in the same city. About the 1st of January following, the latter was burned, together with all of the arms and camp equipments of the soldiers, because of which they were returned to Camp Washburn....<sup>57</sup>

LOUIS A. KAEPLER... was born in Graefentona-Gotha, Saxony, Germany, September 28, 1837, being a son of John and Martha E. (Ketenbeil) Kaeppler. His great-grandfather was one of the Hessians that England sent over here to whip Washington. After the war was over he returned to his native contry, where he continued the life of a soldier, serving in all twenty-one years. He was a relative of the great astronomer, Keppler.

The father of Louis Kaeppler was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and being left an orphan when only a year old, he was reared by the old Hessian soldier. For a livlehood the father followed the calling of a shepherd... In 1849 the parents and remaining children embarked at Hamburg, and after nearly eight weeks of sailing dropped anchor at Quebec....

Louis A. Kaeppler was twelve years of age when the family came to the New World....

The Rebellion breaking out, Mr. Kaeppler offered his services in defense of the Union, and on the 21st of September, 1862, became a member of Company C, Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry, going into camp at Milwaukee. During the burning of that camp, January 1, 1863, Mr. Kaeppler heroically pulled three men out of the fire. One was already dead, another died a few minutes after he was taken out, while the third is still living, his home being at Port Washington. In rescuing these men, our hero burned himself so severely that he was confined in the hospital

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<sup>56</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

<sup>57</sup> Excelsior Publishing Co., Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1894), pp. 671-672.



for nine months, and has never fully recovered. Having partially regained his strength, he got transferred to Madison, Wis., being an assistant in the office of Maj. C. W. Smith until he was discharged, July 14, 1865....<sup>58</sup>

AARON P. RITTER of New London, Wis., member of G.A.R. Post No. 46, was born August 15, 1823, in Cattaraugus, New York, and he is the son of Hugh M. and Anna (Post) Ritter.... [His brother] George Ritter was an enlisted man in Company A, 27th Wisconsin Infantry, and his brother-in-law, John McNally, belonged to the same company, enlisted the same day and was mustered out the same day, after three years service. Mr. Ritter enlisted August 22, 1862, at Two Rivers in Company D, 27th Wisconsin Infantry for three years and was mustered out August 21, 1865, at Milwaukee. Oct. 3, 1863, he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, and was made Quartermaster's Sergeant of the 23rd regiment of that organization. After enlisting he went to Milwaukee and was first at Camp Washburn and afterwards at Camp Reno. On the night of New Years, 1863, a rebel fired the camp and at 10 the next morning the regiment returned to Camp Washburn. Mr. Ritter was just recovering from the measles and was sent to Madison with about 80 men when the regiment left the State. The hospital at Madison was full and about 60 went to the barracks where Mr. Ritter was placed in charge by Dr. Hoyt, Surgeon of the 30th, with orders to report men as fast as they became fit for service. When all but six were gone, the remainder went to hospital.

While at Camp Randall the hospital steward reported him fit for duty but the doctor in charge of the hospital countermanded the report. Mr. Ritter was detailed as Postmaster by order of Lieutenant-Colonel Chapman in command and reported to Camp Sigel which was called Camp Reno after the fire. He acted as Quartermaster's Sergeant until June 1st, when he went to Milwaukee and received his commission as Quartermaster's Sergeant dated May 1, 1864, and he remained at Milwaukee in that service until mustered out. He was permanently disabled in his limbs and back as a result of measles....<sup>59</sup>

LIEUT. ROBERT HORNOR, of the 27th Regiment, died of Consumption at the residence of his mother, in this city, on Monday morning last, and his funeral took place on Thursday.

He completed two years course of study at the Military School at Hartford, Conn., last spring, and was subsequently appointed to a 2d Lieutenancy in the 27th, by the Governor. During the few weeks he was in camp he bid fair to make a most efficient officer, and was well liked by both his superiors and subordinates. The exposures of camp life in the fall, gave him a severe cold, which unexpectedly to his friends soon developed itself into the above named disease, and suddenly terminated his opening career of usefulness at the early age of nineteen.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, pp. 706-707.

<sup>59</sup> Soldiers' And Citizens' Album... 1888, p. 458.

<sup>60</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Jan. 10, 1863, p. 3/2.

Camp Washburn Jan 12th 1863

Dear Wife

I little thought when I left home that it would be two weeks before I should write you but my time has ben to much ocupied to think of writing to any one unless obliged to. I got back tuesday noon and found the boys all very glad to see me and they had a great many wants to be attended to and kept me quite busy the next two days and then come the fire and moving and everything to be seen to for the company. and in adition to that I have been in comand of the Regiment Most of the time since the fire until yesterday all the field officers having been absent and the ownly Captain that out ranks me is under arest by Order of Colonel Annerkee the Colonel in command of Camp Washburn.

The Colonel charges Capt Cuningham with disobeying orders. Colonel Annerkee is an old boy and I think Capt Cuningham treated him as such and the Old fool claims respect that his rank entitles him to and under these circumstances it was an easy thing for them to git into difficulty.

Lieut Colmen Brown come yesterday and takes comand and I am glad to be relieved as I do not feel very well I took a hard cold and it hangs on though I think I will git over it now as I shall have more time to take care of myself Lieutenant Schlaich and Myself Board at a private house near the Camp as we have no accomodations in camp. the folks where we board are from Vermont and appear like very nice folks. I am feeling better to day than I did a few days Many of our Boys lost a part of their clothes by the fire and nearly all lost something. My things were all thrown out and I have not had time to look them over to see what I have lost I miss one of My Flanel shirts and did before the fire and thought I Must have left it at home but I got a white Shirt from you and nothing said about the Flanel and feel allmost afraid that it is lost. write whether it was sent or not John is Stoping at Camp Sigel he was over here yesterday and is well.

We expect to go to Madison or Racine before long I think within two weeks though you can write as before directing to Milwaukee 27 Reg I received quite a long letter from [son] Henry and will answer in a few days. I was glad to hear that you were getting along so well.

Tell Henry that the Governor was here to see us on saturday and called on me as Officer in comand of the 27 Reg Colonel Annerkee come in with him. The Colonel does not think much of some of the Officers of our Reg but spoke in the hiest terms of Me and the good order of the Reg since under my care the Governor said he was pleased to hear so good a report of an officer that he had commissioned and they were the ones that would receive favours here after. The visit was quite pleasant to me though I thought he was rather prejudiced against some of our Officers.

I wish you would write as soon as you git this and let me know about My shirt and how you all get along at home and I will write again this week

Nothing more at present so good by

Tell [daughter] Allie that in my next I will write something to hir

E. W. Stannard<sup>61</sup>

DEPARTED. The 34th regiment of drafted men left Wauwatosa yesterday at 2 o'clock p.m., en route for Cairo. They were conducted from the camp to the cars under guard of the 27th regiment of volunteers, one half of that regiment marching in their front, the other half in the rear.

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<sup>61</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

Why they were brought out of the state in this round about way is not easy to conjecture. We are informed that much dissatisfaction was manifested by the regiment in consequence of not being paid off before leaving the state. *Milwaukee News*.<sup>62</sup>

Plymouth Wis Feb 14

To Mr Capt E. W. Stannard Milwaukee Wis / dear sir

i take the liberty to adress you to know if my husband is run away if there is any trouble at all please write and let me know it will relieve me of a great deal of trouble write as soon as you get this give that other letter to my husband if he is there and oblige yours truly

Mary V Robinson to E. W. Stannard

February the

Dear husband

i take my pen in hand to let you know that we are all well and hope this will find you the same i have heard such bad news that i am most crasy i heard you had run away then i heard you was absent one row call so i cannot get my pay for another month yet from the state and not but a few minutes ago i heard you was in jail for stealing so you see i am in a great deal of trouble about you i want you to write and let me no what is the trouble and if you are not coming home send me some money for i heard you got your pay last week i wish you would come home i cannot find anything in your box i think you have stolen it is your good friend lines johnson that started the story you had run away but i cant believe it yet i hope you will come home as soon as you can i have not got any thing to write about i am out of everything to eat but potatoes and bread no more from your wife to her idol of her heart

good by

Mary V. Robinson<sup>63</sup>

Plymouth Sheboygan Co Wis Feb 22

Dear Friend [ To E. W. Stannard Capt Co B 27 Milwaukee Wis:]

I expect you would like to hear from your absent Boys I being one I will write you a few lines and let you know what I am about. I am taking care of my poor sick woman who is longing to breathe her last to get out of her troubel. she looks like a dead person more than a living we have to stand over her most of the time and rub her limbs we give her morphine every four or six hours that is what keeps her alive she houses no apetite to speake of she has not had eney thing pass her bowels in two weeks, to day we gave her some oil it has not opperrated yet how long she will live the Lord only knows some days we think her end is neigh at hand and she will revive a little she is losing her memory her mind wonders some the Doctors say she will not live he can not help her eney what few days she does live I would like to remain with her if our Regiment is in the state if I should go in Camp I would not have eny peace as long as my wife is in the situation she is now the month of March will tell the story with her she may die inside of twenty four hours may live a week or three or four weeks it is more than we can tell it makes it

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<sup>62</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Feb. 6, 1863, p. 3/1.

<sup>63</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

bad for me I want to be with my Regiment and be with my wife I want to do my duty let the matter be what it will Capt you do just what you think is best in my case. I may want my furlough extended and may not one more week may tell the story as for myself I am well I saw Privat Wilson yesterday in the store he has got quite smart he will be ready to go to his Regiment in a few days Clinton Arnold is getting a good deal better than he was we have a good deal of sickness here and death in Plymouth nothing new of importance I would be please to hear from you, I am some exerted so I can but half write I will stop for this time and try to do better next time

Yours truly

J. P. Risbis [?]

To E. W. Stannard Capt Co B 27 Milwaukee Wis<sup>64</sup>

The following tribute to the memory of the late Lieut. Robert E. Hornor, of this city, we find in the Hartford (Conn.) Calendar, and is from the pen of the Rev. C. W. Everest, Principal of the Rectory School, at Hamden, where the deceased was a pupil for some time:

IN MEMORY OF

LIEUT. ROBERT E. HORNOR,

Of the 27th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, who died at Sheboygan, Wis., Jan. 6th, 1863.

Gone is thine early promise, while the dew  
Of youth yet sparkled in thy Morning's glow!  
The music of thy voice Is hushed; thine eye  
No more shall beam with joy; thy bounding step  
Shall greet no more the listening ear. Cold, cold  
And still lies thy fair form in dreamless sleep.

How short is life! how sudden its eclipse!  
Few weeks have sped since then, amidst our band,  
In Learning's paths pursued thy peaceful way.  
Thy Country called thee to the tented field!  
Prompt, at her word, thou gavest glad response;  
Hied thee from Learning's shrine, from Pleasure's call.  
E'en from thy Home, a Mother's fond embrace;  
From all that please the eye and glad the heart,  
Thou turn'd away at Duty's stern behest.  
Thy Country called: thou girdedst on thy sword,  
And on her alter swore to do or die!  
All vain, alas! The clarion's note no more  
Calls thee to strife. Cold, cold and still thou liest.  
Wrapped in thy Country's flag, in Death's calm sleep.

Nor yet all vain! Thy bright example lives,  
Thy simple truth, thy earnest manly zeal,  
Thy loving heart, thy gentle, virtuous life,

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<sup>64</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

Pointing to Honor's path, to Glory's way!

Nor yet all vain thy life! While erst thy feet  
Lingered in Learning's bowers, thou heard'st the voice  
Of Heavenly Wisdom, speaking to thy soul,  
And wooing thee to seek its upward way,  
The prize of life was won. A Father's voice  
Was heard; his child obeyed. A Saviour's love  
Cheered thy young heart, and Life and hope were thine.  
We call not vain his life whom Heaven receives:  
For life's great aim - Eternal Life - is won!

And when thou laidst thee on thy couch to die,  
Twin Angels, Faith and Hope, beside thee there,  
Soothed all thy grief, thy dark despair dispelled,  
Pointed to Heaven, and led the shining way!  
Farewell, farewell! Thou'rt home for aye with God.

Rectory School, Hamden, Feb. 23d, 1863<sup>65</sup>

Camp Washburne, March 5, 1863

Dear Boy [Henry Stannard]

Daniel Carver tells me that you want me to send you a knife and I will do so the first time I go into the City I allsa send you receipt for making Blacking. To one pint of Alcohol add one fourth pound of Gum Shelack and one Ounce of Camphire gum let it stand for 3 days shake it well in the bottle then add lampblack enough to colour it and it is fit for use. You will want a safe Brush to put it on with. I was sory to hear of your poor health and hope you are better before this time.

My health is quite good and the health of the Regiment is very good in fact it has improved one hundred per cent since they have a case of Small Pox in the Hospital the boys are not so fond of reporting there at the Hospital to git rid of duty

I have no fear of its going through the Reg but think it will be confined to a very few cases there is but one yet

Enclosed you will find a line to take to the German Bank to enable you to draw the money there

I must close as the mail comes soon

From your Father

E. W. Stannard<sup>66</sup>

On March 7, 1863 the Regiment was finally mustered into the United States Service and on March 16 left the State for Columbus, Kentucky, After being on Garrison duty here for a short time, they were moved to Memphis, Tennessee as assembly point for the forces that were to join

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<sup>65</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, March 14, 1863, p. 3/3.

<sup>66</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

General Grant in the siege of Vicksburg.<sup>67</sup>

IN TOWN. Capts. Joseph Rankin and James C. Barnes, and Sergeant McGuire, of the 27th Regiment, were in town this week.<sup>68</sup>

It [27th Regiment] left the State on the 16th of March, under orders to proceed to Columbus, Ky. The following was the regimental roster:

Colonel -- Conrad Krez.

Lieutenant Colonel - John J. Brown; Major - Ten Eyck G. Olmstead; Adjutant - Charles Meyer; Quartermaster - William N. Shafter; Surgeon - Christian Krak; First Assistant Surgeon - George Hutchinson; Second Assistant Surgeon - Franz Simon; Chaplain - Rev. William P. Stowe.

Co.	Captains	First Lieutenants	Second Lieutenants
A	Charles H. Cunningham	Jerome C. Saltzman	John J. Borland
B	Erastus W. Stannard	Aaron Hobart	Julius Schlaich
C	Frederick Schnellen	David Schreiack	Conrad F. Smith
D	Joseph Rankin	Thomas McMillan	William Henry
E	Alfred Marschner	John A. S. Verdier	Carl Witte
F	Samuel D. Hubbard	Edward W. Robbins	William F. Mitchell
G	William Wigham	James Gunn	Amanzer Strong
H	Charles Corneliusen	Ole Jacobsen	Albert T. Lund
I	James C. Barnes	Julius Bodensab	William T. Cole
K	Peter Mulholland	Charles H. Raymer	Charles F. Folger <sup>69</sup>

LIEUT. CHARLES WITTE, of Co. E, 27th Regiment, called on us on Wednesday. He looked well and was in excellent health, but was heartily tired of lying in camp so long, and had sometimes regretted that he had not remained with Co. C, 4th Regiment, where he would have had at least some active service. A rumor had reached him from Camp Washburn, since he arrived here, that the regiment had received marching orders, which if true, was the most gratifying news he had received for some time.

He said the 27th was now a minimum regiment, and was about to be fully organized as such. The position occupied by the companies from this county, are as follows:

Plymouth Union Rifles, Captain Stannard, Co. B.

Hermann Tigers, Capt. Schnellen, Co. C.

Sheboygan City Guards, Captain Marschner, Co. E.

Scott Union Rangers, Capt. Hubbard, Co. F.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story... of the Kolb Family. (1956), p. 14.

<sup>68</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, March 13, 1863, p. 2/3.

<sup>69</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 760.

<sup>70</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, March 14, 1863, p. 3/1.

The regiment left the state [of Wisconsin] for the South on the 16th of March, 1863, going to Columbus, Kentucky, where it was stationed until the latter part of May, when it went down the Mississippi to take part in the siege of Vicksburg.<sup>71</sup>

We have received the roster of Company E, 27th Regiment, but were unable to get it in type this week. It shall appear in our next.<sup>72</sup>

THE LADIES OF THE SOLDIER AID SOCIETY of this city have within the past week, shipped to the Chicago Sanitary Commission, their tenth and eleventh boxes of hospital stores.

Box ten contained the following list of articles:

8 pillows with cases,	4,00
2 Quilts,	3,00
5 pairs of Socks,	3,13
14 Handkerchiefs,	2,10
4 Handkerchiefs, second hand,	20
31 Towels,	4,65
3 Towels, second hand,	30
10 pairs of Drawers,	12,50
2 packages of Sage	75
1 quart of dried Raspberries,	25
1 quart of dried Plums,	25
1 quart of dried Grapes,	25
2 quarts of dried Corn,	28
1 quart of dried Currants	25
10 shirts,	17,50
3 lbs. of Lint,	37
14 feather Cushions,	5,60
Old Cotten and Linen,	50
Papers,	25
5 Volumes,	<u>2.50</u>
Total	\$58,63

Box eleven was composed of delicacies, and comprized the following list of articles:

4 bottles of Wine,	3,00
1 bottle Catsup,	25
1 two quart can Catsup	1,00
2 two quart cans Tomato	1,50
2 three pint cans apple,	1,00
1 three pint can Tomatoes	33
1 three pint can Currants	37

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<sup>71</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>72</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, March 28, 1863, p. 1/2.

2 quart can Currants	75
2 quart cans Blueberries	1,00
2 quart cans Strawberries	1,00
1 quart can Peaches	50
1 quart can Plums	60
1 quart can Cherries, preserved,	65
4 quart cans Tomatoes,	<u>1,50</u>
Total	\$13,70 <sup>73</sup>

THE 27th REGIMENT TO MARCH TO DAY. We received a call from Lieut. J.A.S. Verdier, of Co. E 27th Regiment, on Tuesday afternoon. From him we learned that the 27th Regiment had orders to march at once for the seat of war, but that it would be impossible for them to get ready to do so before to day, when they would start for Cairo, where they are to report. Lieut. Verdier was here on duty, to return absentees with leave, several of the soldiers having given themselves furloughs to visit home before leaving.

Four companies of this Regiment, T [sic - B], C, E, and F, are from this county, and we know they will give a good account of themselves whenever they have the opportunity. May the God of Battles be with them in every conflict through which they may be called to pass, and crown them with the victory which Right and Justice will ever in the end achieve over wrong.<sup>74</sup>

#### Departure of the Twenty-Seventh

The Twenty-seventh Wisconsin, Colonel Krez, departed this morning for Cairo, in fine style and in good spirits. There was a large concourse of people out to see them off, and the flagstaff throughout the city, were generally decorated with the stars and stripes, while the fronts of some of the stores contained additional decorations in honor of the occasion. The front of Mr. Nazro's immense hardware establishment, containing twenty-four windows, had a small flag extended from each window. The day being so beautiful, the effect of the display as the regiment passed through the city, was augmented to a grand pageant-scene, and the soldiers were so inspired by it that they apparently rejoiced at the prospect before them, of soon sharing in work of blood which is now going on upon the sunny fields of the South. The regiment numbers about 800 effective men, and its roster is as follows: *Milwaukee Wisconsin, March 30.*

[names of field and staff line officers]<sup>75</sup>

THE 27th REGIMENT, Col. Krez, left Milwaukee Tuesday morning, arrived at Chicago at 4:30 P.M., and left almost immediately for Cairo. The *Chicago Post* says: "As the regiment marched up Lake street to the sound of a full drum corps, they presented a handsome appearance, and so perfect was their marching that some of our citizens supposed it was an old regiment returning to

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<sup>73</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, March 28, 1863, p. 1/3.

<sup>74</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, March 28, 1863, p. 1/3.

<sup>75</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, April 2, 1863.



enforce the conscription act."

We meant to publish the Roster of the regiment this week, but are obliged to defer it for want of room.<sup>76</sup>

PROMOTED. We inadvertently omitted to mention, last week, that Sergeant Charles F. Folger, of Co. E, 27th Regiment, (The Sheboygan Guards,) has been promoted to the 2d Lieutenancy of Co. K, of the same regiment. Lieut. Folger, we learn, makes an excellent officer, and his promotion was well merited.<sup>77</sup>

The 27th. The 27th Regiment left Milwaukee for Cairo, on Monday last. Manitowoc county is largely represented in this Regiment, having one Company in it, under command of Capt. JOSEPH RANKIN. The Major, T. G. OLMSTED, is also a resident of this place. Besides, we have Captains MULHOLLAND and BARNES, Surgeon HUTCHIESON, and a host of other good fellows. Good luck attend them!<sup>78</sup>

BURGLARY AT PLYMOUTH. The Post Office at Plymouth was burglariously entered by some persons with evil intent, about 2 o'clock on Sunday morning last.... They took what change was in the money drawer, and a silver watch, in all about \$30 in value. They then passed into the sleeping room of Mr. Schlaich, the Post Master, who was awakened by their entrance, upon seeing which they incontinently fled, followed by Mr. S.; but they were too fleet of foot for him to overhaul them. It is believed, however, that identity can be proven, and that justice is on their track.

Mr. Schlaich, a few days before, had returned from a visit to the 27th Regiment, just previous to their departure from Milwaukee, and brought back with him about \$1500 in money entrusted to him by the soldiers of the regiment, to pay to their families and friends. Some \$500 or over of this sum was still remaining in his hands, subject to the order of the persons to whom it belonged, and it is supposed that was what the burglars sought. They failed, however, in finding it.<sup>79</sup>

Incidentally, the first casualty of the Company was [father's friend,] one Rheinhold Oemichen who died while the Regiment was at Columbus Kentucky [on April 14, 1863].<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 1, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>77</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 1, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>78</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, April 3, 1863, p. 2/3.

<sup>79</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 11, 1863, p. 1/3.

<sup>80</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, January 8, 1968.

## Widmung

an unseren Kameraden Reinhold Oehmichen,  
geboren 3. April 1844,  
gestorben 9. April 1863.

Ruhe sanft, du armes, junges Leben,  
Ungestört in deiner letzten Ruh'!  
Treue Freunde haben dich begleitet  
Zu der Stätte, die sie dir bereitet,  
Dich gedeckt mit fremder Erde zu.

Wenn die freiheitsmörderische Kugel  
Ueber deinem stillen Grabe saust,  
Kannst ungestört du friedlich liegen,  
Während deine Feinde weiter fliegen,  
Wo des Krieges tolle Brandung braust.

Ja, wer weiss, wie bald zum letzten Male  
Wir zum Kampf für Recht und Freiheit geh'n;  
Doch geloben wir an dieser Stätte,  
Dass des Schlachtendonners Mordrakete  
Wird uns fest und muthig kämpfen seh'n.

Hier geloben wir an deinem Grabe,  
Treu, wie du es warst uns beizusteh'n,  
In dem heissen Kampfgewühl der Schlachten  
Wollen wir als Brüder uns betrachten,  
Siegen oder sterbend untergeh'n.

Jos. Wolters.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Joseph Wolters, Zum Andenken an den verstorbenen Joseph Wolters: Eine Sammlung der von ihm verfassten Gedichte, no date, p. 11. ([Some] Thoughts of the late Joseph Wolters: A Collection of his Poetry") Joseph Wolters married Ernst Kolb's sister Ernstine, and they farmed adjacent to her parents' home farm. Wolters had acquired an education in Saxony, was trained as a bookbinder there, and belonged to the Society of Free Thinkers. "Her husband being more of a student and a philosopher, in his way... it devolved on Ernstine to do most of the farm work. This she did with the help of her children, as soon as they were able. There was none of the farm work that she was not able to do. In later years she told her grandchildren, how, at times she would be at work in the field with her husband. Suddenly, some lines would occur to him, and he would need to drop his work, and hurry home to finish his poem." The Story... of the Kolb Family, p. 12.

Columbus Ky April 15 1863

My Dear Wife

I sent a letter from Cairo yesterday to [son] Henry giving him notice that I had sent him a packedge containing \$1.385. one thousan three hundred & eighty five dollars also an account showing what is to be done with the money. My Boys all said send to Henry we know it will be safe if he gits it. I know it will make him some trouble but we did not know any one else that would satisfy all the boys. Even William Monk wasn't afraid to trust him. I wish he would write as soon as he gits the money and tell him that I will collect and send him something for his trouble. I went to Cairo last Monday and caried about fifteen thousand dollars to the Express Office. I hope it will all go safe. I had Transportation and an Escort furnished me. We have no ideas how long we shall remain here and I do not supose any one knowes. There is lots of Counterbands here and they are comeing in evry day. The boys are gitting them for cooks they hire them cheap and they do all the drudgery of the camp. The greatest niger heighters that we have in our company are the first to get one. So far from this beeing any expence to Government they are a help they will work harder and for less pay than any white man and the women wash and earn their own living. And I believe they are the ownly Union folks in this part of Ky. My Boys are all well not one in the hospital here and I here that those at Madison will be here in a few days. Dan Carver went to Madison with Dr Huchinson and the sick and they have not yet returned. I think they are visiting their friends and you may see him. I wish you would write often and send me papers. I have every thing that I want and some things that I shall send home when we leav here.

We had a fine warm rain yesterday and everything looks splendid this morn. I should like Kentucky if we could have peace and a good sett of enhabitence.

The bugel is sounding for Batalion Drill and I must close so good by

From your Husband

E W Stannard

I find after tearing my paper in to that I have writen on both halves of the sheet so I will send both of them.

E.W.S.<sup>82</sup>

PAID OFF. The 27th Regiment has received two months pay since their arrival at Columbus. We learn that Co. B, Capt. Stannard, have sent home \$1,330 as their allotment. This speaks volumes for their prudence and foresight.<sup>83</sup>

FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

Columbus, Ky, April 18, 1863.

Dear Pilot: Perhaps it may be of some interest to the many friends of the 27th Reg't Wis. Vol. to learn their whereabouts and what they are doing. The health of the Regiment is good, and the boys are in good spirits.

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<sup>82</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

<sup>83</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 18, 1863, p. 1/2.

We left the "City of Bricks" on the 30th day of March, at 11 o'clock A.M., and no Regiment ever stationed in Milwaukee left with the good wishes of so large a portion of its inhabitants. Better treatment than we received at the hands of the citizens could not be asked for, and we hope to be able to repay them tenfold. We were also well treated while passing through Chicago. At the Illinois Central R. R. depot the men received each a nice cup of hot coffee which put them in good humor, and at 6 o'clock that evening we took the cars for the land of Dixie. The next morning found us at Champaign City, on the I.[llinois] C.[entral] R.[ail] R.[oad], where we drew some rations, and then jogged along to Cairo, which place we reached about 3 A.M. of the 1st of April. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon of that day we again embarked on board the ROY ROY for down the river, and arrived at this place at 4 o'clock of the same day -- pitching our tents, or rather ourselves, where we could.

The force encamped at Columbus consisted of the 25th, 31st, 34th (drafted) Wisconsin Regiments, two companies of Cavalry, and some Regulars. The whole force was reviewed by Generals THOMAS and ROGERS, from whom we received great praise for our good conduct and appearance; Gen. THOMAS also remarked that we were the finest Wisconsin Regiment he had yet seen, and it made us feel as if we had the feather.

On the morning of the 3d the long roll was beat, and the Regiment formed in line. It would have done your soul good if you could have seen Capt. Jo., of Co. D, come along with some of those lengthy strides of his, with blood in his eye, and cheese-knife in hand, ready to deal death in double portions to the rebels. Co.'s A and F went down the river to Hickman, 15 miles below this place, to see what the rebels had done, as reports reached us that they had made an assault on that place and taken some of our men prisoners. The alarm proved false: everything was quiet. At noon Co.'s D and B took the cars on the Columbus Railroad, and went down to Union City, six miles into Tennessee, but found no secesh, and returned without having accomplished anything.

The country through which we passed while on that expedition looks well: we were surprised to find peach, apple, and pear trees in blossom; and wheat, which is about six inches high, looks good. I have no doubt that the people of Kentucky -- if the State was clear of Federal troops -- would be as rampant as the inhabitants of the other Southern States for Disunion; but the gunboats make them good Union men. The majority are tired of the war, but stick to their faith as much as ever, and all claim that if it had not been for the nigger the war would not have happened.

There are about five hundred contrabands here that are supported and clothed at the expense of the government; they are offered opportunities to enlist, but do not seem anxious -- in fact, we find they prefer to lay around than to soldier it. Gen. THOMAS gave us instructions to allow the nigger to pass through our lines and treat them kindly, and fight the secesh ourselves. It goes down pretty hard, but we have to make the best of it.

A number of prisoners are stationed here, mostly guerillas, and a hard looking set they are; they make sport of Northern soldiers -- say that they will never give up while a man remains, &c. Some thirty, including a Captain, were taken near Hickman day before yesterday and sent up to Columbus. In appearance they have no advantage over the others, and they bid defiance to all the force we can bring ag'st them. We would get rid of a great trouble, if all the guerillas that were caught could be hung as high as Haman. Lieut. BORLAND, of Co. A, with 18 men, went down

the river with some prisoners, and returned this morning -- thinks that there is no prospect of a forward movement of any kind. He says the gunboats are playing up and down the river every day and large numbers of troops are going below and some up the Cumberland.

The Paymaster made us all feel good Saturday, for he dealt out some of his greenbacks to our Regiment, and you can imagine about how a man feels when he is dead flat broke, and what a light heart he has when his pockets are flush.

About forty of our boys went down on the railroad 15 miles back of Hickman to guard the workmen from molestation while repairing the road. A small number are sick, but no cases of an alarming nature. The company has lost one man by death. REINHORD OEMICHEN died on the morning of the 9th inst., of disease of the lungs. He was sick but a few days, and now rests beneath the green sod of the soldier's grave yard in Columbus. He was a fine soldier and is missed by his comrades.

Major OLMSTED is hale and hearty, and is around amongst the boys with his accustomed hood humor and smiling countenance, while Capt. RANKIN is always on hand looking to the welfare of his company, and sees that they are well cared for and supplied with sufficient rations. MAGUIRE is at his post amidst the barrels and boxes -- pork, bacon, and bread -- dealing out to each Orderly the amount of rations for his men, and I must say that the rations so far are of the very best kind and of a sufficient quantity -- more than many can dispose of. Our old friend, Capt. MULHOLLAND is all right, and makes a capital officer.

Election was held in camp on the 7th. Co. D cast 48 votes for [Democrat Montgomery M.] COTHREN [of Mineral Point], and 2 for DIXON. It was a small vote for the reason that there had been a very heavy detail made for picket guard, and quite a number were sick. I don't think there are a great many here but what are of the simon-pure kind.

We are shut out from the world so far as news is concerned. Send us some of your papers, and let me know something about the good folks of Manitowoc.

You may expect that the 27th, if ever they have an opportunity to immortalize themselves they will do it with a will and determination never to surrender.

Respectfully yours,  
OLD SOLDIER,  
Co. D, 27th Wis. Vol.<sup>84</sup>

#### FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

Columbus, Ky., April 29, 1863.

Editor of the Pilot: Doubtless before this reaches you, you will have heard of the attempt of the rebel Marmaduke to take Cape Girardeau, but not of the particular action of this regiment in connection therewith. The fight commenced on Sunday, the 26th inst., and continued until next day. The 27th and 25th Wisconsin, and 9th Indiana battery, were ordered to embark for the scene of conflict on Monday morning, and arrived there the morning of the next day, when we learned that no more force was needed. The regiments left for down the river at 9 1/2 A.M. without having had the privilege of smelling gunpowder. I was informed by one of the 1st Wisconsin cavalry, who just came in from Jacksonville, that the Federal forces had captured 1,000 prisoners,

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<sup>84</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, April 24, 1863, p. 2/3.

1,500 horses, and 18 pieces of cannon, and had got the rebels surrounded in the swamps and would probably bag the whole pile. From the best sources I learn, as near as can be ascertained, the Rebel force amounts to about 8,000, while the Federals numbered only 5,000. A force of 2,000 is said to be marching from New Madrid to cut off the enemy's retreat, and from the present appearance of things, I should say Marmaduke's situation is anything but a pleasant one.

I saw a letter in the Manitowoc "Tribune", dated April 9, '63, signed "GUIDE RIGHT," giving a statement of the manner in which the election was conducted. He says that a large majority of the Company were in favor of Dixon, but could not vote for him as there were no tickets for him to be had, and thinks it was a gross outrage and insult upon the Company; and seeks to implicate the officers of Co. D, in the affair. The fact is, "GUIDE RIGHT" has made a statement which is utterly false, and he knew it to be so when he wrote the article. Our officers refused to have anything to do with the matter, and let the men vote for the candidate they preferred -- tickets for each being on the ground. The writer of those falsehoods feels somewhat grieved because the boys will not admit that a nigger is their equal; but I am sorry to say the nigger is above HIM, so far as truth and honesty are concerned.

Resp'y Yours,  
OLD SOLDIER.<sup>85</sup>

#### EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM THE 27TH.

Columbus, Ky., May 9, 1863.

The health of the members of Co. D is good, and we live high. Fresh meat is served once a week -- salt meat all the time, and plenty of potatoes with other vegetables -- which, together with baker's and pilot bread, furnish as good living as a man could desire. The pilot bread is so hard that it is difficult to drive a nail into it, but we manage to dispose of it.

The Regiment drew hats yesterday, of the same style as those of the 21st, worn in Manitowoc by some of its members. They are great high things -- showing a short man off to advantage, and on a tall man, resembling something odd on a bean pole.

Sergeant Marez and Melvin Ingerson, of this company, have received their discharges since we came here. Another member, named John Whitcomb, had his finger shot off somehow the other night, while on picket duty.

The fellow that wrote that correspondence to the "Tribune" is an unmitigated liar; he was not around, and knew nothing about the election. He is a man who has shirked duty ever since we've been in camp, and has never stood guard. He went to work once without being detailed, and the officer in command gave him to understand that he would be detailed when his services were required.<sup>86</sup>

The following are the casualties among the Manitowoc soldiers in the 27th (German) Regiment:

Killed - Capt. Chas. Pizzala, Sergeant Chris. Schmidt, Wm. Veght.

Wounded - Lieut. Adolph Cordier, Corporal Daniel Tubs, Wm. Hoefling, Fred. Puls,

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<sup>85</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, May 3, 1863, p. 2/3.

<sup>86</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, May 15, 1863, p. 1/7.

Wenzel Herman Roehr, Frederick Voss.

[Note: this is a misprint. These men served in the 26th Wis., "The German Regiment"]<sup>87</sup>

The regiment remained at Columbus, engaged in garrison duty, until the 30th of May, when it moved, with other forces, to Memphis, where orders were received to proceed to Vicksburg.<sup>88</sup>

[The 27th Wisconsin at Vicksburg] occupied a position at Snyder's Bluff, near the Yazoo river, until the surrender, when it took passage up the river to Helena, Ark., where it was in camp until the 13th of August.<sup>89</sup>

Arriving at the mouth of the Yazoo on the 4th of June, they proceeded up that river to Sartaria, where they remained two days, when an action took place between the rebel artillery and the gunboats. During this time, companies A, B and C were thrown out as skirmishers, while the regiment was held in reserve. They were not, however, actively engaged, and on the 6th, marched down the river, thirty miles, to Haines' Bluff, where they arrived next day, somewhat fagged out by the rapid march under a scorching sun. On the march to Haines' Bluff, Captain Stannard, of Company B, was shot by the discharge of a musket, which he was passing to a sick man in an ambulance. He died on the 7th, and was buried by the roadside. His loss was greatly lamented.<sup>90</sup>

DEATH OF CAPT. STANNARD. It is with pain we learn [of] the death of Capt. E. W. Stannard, of Co. B, 27th Regiment, who was accidentally shot while marching from Sartaria to Haines Bluff, Miss., recently. The particulars of the accident we have not learned. It is said, however, that he was left behind, on the march, in the care of Daniel Carver, of his Company, and that the guerillas coming across them, killed Capt. S. and took Carver prisoner.

Capt. Stannard is said to have won the especial confidence and love of his own company, and the esteem of the whole regiment, and his loss is keenly felt by all. He has for many years been a prominent citizen of this county, and his name is intimately interwoven with its local history. In 1860 he represented the Second Assembly District of the county in the Legislature. He was a worthy man, a true patriot, and his loss will be mourned by the community generally where he was known and esteemed for his personal excellencies.

Just as our paper was being made up, the following resolutions were received from the 27th Regiment, relative to the decease of Capt. S.:

Haine's Bluff (Miss.), June 15, 1863.

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<sup>87</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, May 15, 1863, p. 1/7.

<sup>88</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 761.

<sup>89</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>90</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 761.

At a meeting of the officers of the 27th Reg't Wis. Vol. Infantry, held at Head Quarters, the following resolutions in reference to the decease of Captain Erastus W. Stannard, of Co. B, who came to his death on the 8th inst. by the accidental discharge of a rifle, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased the Almighty dispenser of events to remove from our midst by sudden accident our highly esteemed fellow officer, Capt. E. W. Stannard, therefore

Resolved, That we feel deeply the loss we have sustained that by his death we have been deprived not only of a faithful and efficient officer, but of a kind hearted, genial, wholesouled man, one of cultivated mind and noble, patriotic impulses, whose character was based upon a love of truth, justice and virtue.

Resolved, That we will ever cherish his memory as one worthy of imitation, and that his noble example shall stimulate our energy in defence of the cause in which he so cheerfully sacrificed his life.

Resolved, That the family and friends of the deceased shall ever share largely of our sympathy and cadolence in their said bereavement.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and one copy to each of the newspapers published in the county of Sheboygan, State of Wisconsin.

Conrad Krez, Col. presiding  
Adj't Chas. Meyer, Clerk.<sup>91</sup>

CAPT. ERASTUS W. STANNARD was one of the early and well-known citizens of the town of Greenbush. He was a native of Cortland County, N. Y., his birth having occurred November 22, 1817, and was a son of Ezra Stannard. He grew to manhood in his native State, and on November 6, 1839, was married to Keviah [sic - Zeviah] Knowles, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Dygert) Knowles.

In 1851 Mr. Stannard came with his family to Wisconsin, and settled in what is now the town of Greenbush, where he bought a farm and engaged in farming.... served in the capacity of Supervisor and Chairman of the town a number of terms. He was also elected... to the Assembly branch of the Wisconsin State Legislature....

When the War of the Rebellion came on, Mr. Stannard responded to the call of the Government for volunteers to aid in its suppression. He was instrumental in raising a body of men, which was mustered into the service as Company B, of the Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry. He was commissioned Captain of this company, and served in that capacity until his death. The Twenty-seventh was one of Wisconsin's famous regiments, and took part in many of the most important campaigns and battles of the war. Though he had participated in many severe conflicts, he escaped the bullets of the foe, but was accidentally killed by one of his own men. It was during the siege of Vicksburg, in June of 1863. Becoming exhausted while the command was making a forced march, he had been riding in an ambulance, and was just in the act of alighting, when a soldier, in removing his gun from the ambulance, accidentally discharged it, wounding Capt. Stannard so severely that he died a few hours later. This sad event occurred on the 8th of June,

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<sup>91</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, July 4, 1863, p. 1/2. A similar brief notice along with the same resolutions appeared in *The Sheboygan Journal* of July 9, 1863.



1863. After being wounded, realizing that he could not long survive his injuries, he requested that his body be taken home for burial. He was buried temporarily near the place of his death, but later his dying request was complied with, and his body rests in the beautiful cemetery at Greenbush. He was a gallant soldier and a useful citizen, and his untimely death was greatly lamented.

Besides his wife, who still lives in... the village of Greenbush,... he left two children, a son and a daughter. Henry, the former, was born January 20, 1843, and also served in the late war, being a member of the gallant Eighth Wisconsin, known as "the Eagle Regiment." He is now a resident of Armstrong Corners, Fond du Lac County. The daughter, Althea, is the wife of Hollis Wade, of Greenbush[, proprietor of the Wade House].<sup>92</sup>

FROM THE 27th REGIMENT. [We have been handed the following private letter from G. E. Bartlett, of Greenbush, a member of Co. B, 27th Regiment, which we publish with pleasure, believing that it will be of interest to many of our readers, and more especially as it is the first we have received for publication from that regiment since they left the state, notwithstanding we had the promise of frequent correspondence from it] Ed. Times.

Head Quarters, Kimball's Division,  
Haines' Bluff, Miss., June 15, '63.

Dear Father and Mother: Your kind letter of June 9th came to hand this morning, and was read with much pleasure. It found us both well and in good spirits. It is raining here some to-day. We have got quite comfortably settled down, since our hard march, which I mentioned to you in my last letter, and begin to recruit a little; but no one knows how long before orders to "march" will again sound on our ears.

I should not be surprised if fighting was renewed here soon. They are making great preparations for it. There are a great many troops here now, and more are arriving every day. Vicksburg is not taken yet; there was heavy cannonading going on there this morning. Gen. Grant says he can "take it in two hours" if occasion requires; but he says it would inevitably be attended with very heavy loss on our side. I think he had rather force them to surrender, than to make another such terrible charge as was made on the 22d of May. That was an awful charge! I have seen and talked with a number of the boys who were in that fight, and they say (and they are old troops too,) that "it beat all charges they ever witnessed."

Our force lay within 200 yards of the enemy's breast works, and every man who showed his head on either side, got shot. The boys of the 27th seem to begin to rally from the gloom which the loss of our beloved Captain had thrown around them, and now seem to be in good cheer, and ready for anything in the line of fighting, or marching. I wrote you that they gave out pretty bad, in that march from Satartia (a place 25 miles up the Yazoo) here. But I think they stood it pretty well for new troops, unused to fatiguing marches. The weather was terrible sultry, and we marched through cornfields nearly the entire distance. We left there at 11 A. M. and got here at 12 the next day. The first night we encamped at 11 o'clock, and laid ourselves down on the bare ground to rest, with nothing but the starry heavens for a covering, to shelter us from the dews of evening, and that was sufficient, for I presume that not one in ten of our men knew, five

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<sup>92</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, pp. 251-252.

minutes after they had laid down but what they were on a good feather bed, and sheltered beneath their own or their father's roof. I know I did not, for one. The ground felt soft to my weary limbs, after a hard, half day's march; and that, the first one we had had since we commenced camp life.

Dear friends, I will lay aside pen and ink for a few minutes, while I partake of a good, wholesome, substantial and (to a very hungry person, with a good appetite), palatable dinner; consisting of Bacon, Hard Tack and Coffee.

Well, I have done ample justice to our Bacon and Shingles, and I feel far better for it, and will finish my letter. I have been detached from our regiment to join a Pioneer Corps. Our business will be to go in advance of the main army, to fix roads, construct bridges, if necessary. The Corps is composed chiefly of mechanics. We encamp by ourselves, and have a good time. There is but about forty now, but I think there will be more soon. We have orders to bring in every negro we can find, and make them work.

We had quite an accident happen in our squad yesterday. We were all sitting on the ground in front of our camp, and a man came along holding in his hand a pistol. I asked him to let me look at it, which request he immediately complied with; but between us both, somehow or other, the weapon was discharged -- the ball striking another man who was sitting about 8 feet distant, and entering the left arm at about two inches below the front of the shoulder. It did not hit the bone, and I hope he will not be laid up long with it. I assure you, I am heartily glad it is no worse.

Capt. Stannard is buried about fifteen miles from here. His loss is very deeply lamented, and he will be missed more than any other man in the regiment. I wrote to you in my last letter that Dan. Carver was hung by the rebels. It is now ascertained that he was taken prisoner. I think we will have Vicksburg before many days. From your son,

G. E. Bartlett.<sup>93</sup>

The Twenty-seventh was brigaded with the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin, in the Second Brigade, commanded by Colonel Montgomery, of the Twenty-fifth, in the Third Division, General Kimball, Sixteenth Army Corps.

On the 11th [of June], they moved four miles, to Snyder's Bluff, which formed a portion of the rear line of investment around Vicksburg. Here they remained, in the performance of picket duty, and work on the fortifications and intrenchments, until after the capitulation of Vicksburg, when they moved to Helena, Ark.<sup>94</sup>

[Photograph of Twenty-seventh Infantry monument on Grant Avenue, Vicksburg battlefield]

The Twenty-seventh Infantry.

The Twenty-seventh went into position in the latter part of May at Snyder's Bluff on the Yazoo above Vicksburg, where it remained until the surrender. I can find nothing further concerning the regiment during the siege than the mere statement of the fact that it was there.

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<sup>93</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, July 4, 1863, p. 2/2-3.

<sup>94</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 761.

After the fall of Vicksburg it moved up to Helena, Arkansas.<sup>95</sup>

#### Twenty-seventh Infantry

The Twenty-seventh regiment came down the river from Columbus in the early part of June and was posted at Snyder's Bluff, about twelve miles northeast of Vicksburg, on the Yazoo, until the capture of the place.<sup>96</sup>

U. S. Provisional Division;  
Sixteenth Corps (Detachment); Army of the Tennessee.  
Brig. Gen. Nathan Kimball.  
Engelmann's Brigade: Col. Adolph Engelmann.  
Richmond's Brigade: Col. Jonathan Richmond.  
Montgomery's Brigade: Col. Milton Montgomery

A portion of the division bore a part in skirmish at Mechanicsburg, Mississippi, June 4, 1863, without reported casualties. Uniting with the remainder of the division at Hayne's Bluff, June 7, the whole force held that position until June 15, when it moved to Snyder's Bluff, strongly fortified that point, and remained there to the end of the siege.

Engelmann's Brigade: Col. Adolph Engelmann  
43rd Illinois: Lieut. Col. Adolph Dengler  
61st Illinois: Maj. Simon P. Ohr  
106th Illinois: Maj. John M. Hurt  
12th Michigan: Col. William H. Graves  
Richmond's Brigade: Col. Jonathan Richmond  
18th Illinois: Col. Daniel H. Brush  
54th Illinois: Col. Greenville M. Mitchell  
126th Illinois: Maj. William W. Wilshire  
22d Ohio: Col. Oliver Wood  
Montgomery's Brigade: Col. Milton Montgomery  
40th Iowa: Col. John A. Garrett  
3d Minnesota: Col. Chauncey W. Griggs  
25th Wisconsin: Lieut. Col. Samuel J. Nasmith  
27th Wisconsin: Col. Conrad Krez<sup>97</sup>

#### FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

The following extracts of a letter from a member of Capt. Rankin's Company, now stationed before Vicksburg, will be of interest to many of our readers:

Haines Bluff, Miss., June 17, '63.

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<sup>95</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 122.

<sup>96</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 95.

<sup>97</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 247.

Dear Father... We have had rather hard fare for the last two days, and have no present prospect of better. Day before yesterday we left our old camp at Haines' Bluff, and started up the river. We went about two miles with our knapsacks on our backs, and were then ordered to deploy into battle line to perform picket duty for the night. We had no supper, and about nine o'clock in the evening it commenced raining and did not stop until we were all wet through, so you imagine how pleasant our situation was. In the morning we slung knapsacks for another march, breakfastless, and went beyond our old camp about five miles, carrying our tents, and pitched them in the heat of the day, only receiving at noon a small slice of bread and a cup of tea, and at night, some boiled ham and tea, without any crackers or bread, and were very thankful to get that. This morning we had coffee and ham, and five of those small round crackers, about the size of a copper. We expect some bread for dinner, and a wagon is coming this way now, which I think resembles the bread wagon. The Government is not to blame for our lack of rations, for there is plenty of provisions here, but our Quartermaster is too lazy to draw them.

Old JOE JOHNSTON is coasting about here, trying to get to Vicksburg, but he can't make out; he went over on the Big Black River and they flaxed him out pretty badly, and he is moving about the country, but dare not come near our lines.

GEN. GRANT issued an order the other day, in which he said that he considered the enemy at Vicksburg as prisoners, and that he could take them any day, but with a great loss of life, and he proposed to sacrifice as few of our men as possible; and the way he is working it is this: The army have large bales of cotton placed in position to work behind, and shell the city during the day and in the night move the cotton towards the rebels. By this means our men are completely screened from the fire of the enemy, and at the same time are steadily approaching the place and continually shelling it, while our sharpshooters are on the alert for a rebel head above the fortifications. We must have a large force here. Every hill is covered with our cannon, and the whole country with our infantry and cavalry.

Our Regiment has a pretty good camping ground, and I think we will get along well after we get settled down, if we stay here. We are stationed in line of battle, and form part of the army in the rear of Vicksburg. The boys expect to be paid off soon.<sup>98</sup>

#### Twenty-Seventh Infantry - Vicksburg casualties:

Florence H. Bentrupp	E	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	July 5, 1863
Selah Copley	B	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	July 20, 1863
John Feiten	E	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	June 29, 1863
Henry Hoberg	E	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	June 28, 1863
Lemuel Lawrence	K	Disease, Milliken's Bend	July 23, 1863
James Piper	D	Disease, Haynes' Bluff	July 19, 1863
Charles Prieder	B	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	July 14, 1863
William Thompson	H	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	July 26, 1863
Christian Wolf	D	Disease, Snyder's Bluff	July 22, 1863

casualties not buried or recorded in the Vicksburg cemetery records:

John Tuarnaur	A	died on hospital boat	July 30, 1863
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<sup>98</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 3, 1863, p. 1/3.

Chester M. Gilman	B	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 23, 1863
Josiah A. Wright	B	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 13, 1863
Simon Wehrman	C	died at Snyder's Bluff	July 15, 1863
Gilbert Bailey	D	died at St. Louis	July 17, 1863
Jonas Piper	D	died at Snyder's Bluff	July 19, 1863
Cornelius Sullivan	D	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 13, 1863
David Welch	D	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 3, 1863
Fritz Wolf	D	died at Snyder's Bluff	July 23, 1863
John Barnes	E	died at St. Helena [La.]	Aug. 21, 1863
Johannes Demmler	E	died at Duvall's Bluff	Aug. 13, 1863
Carl Janke	E	died at Snyder's Bluff	July 23, 1863
Alonzo Loomis	F	died at St. Helena, La.	Aug. 7, 1863
Simeon Pond	F	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 14, 1863
Gerrit J. Te Camp	F	died at Memphis	Aug. 31, 1863
Antonie Voskuil	F	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 1, 1863
Michael Connely	G	died at Arkansas	Aug. 15, 1863
Frederick Heilmich	G	died at Memphis	Aug. 27, 1863
Kjel A. Anderson	H	died on hospital boat	Aug. 1, 1863
Asbjorn Brynjeldsen	H	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 13, 1863
Nils H. Larsen	H	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 11, 1863
Ellen Nielson	H	died at Mound City, Ill.	Aug. 9, 1863
Johan George Reder	H	died at Memphis	Aug. 29, 1863
Samuel Gilchrist	I	discharged	June 9, 1863
Ulrich Rothlisbergen	I	died at Helena, Ark.	Aug. 6, 1863
Thore Aadenson	K	died on hospital boat	July 28, 1863
John Cochams	K	died at Mound City, Ill.	Aug. 14, 1863
Oscar Smith	K	died on hospital boat	July 28, 1863 <sup>99</sup>

[The regiment lost 36 men from disease at Vicksburg during 2 months June 28 - Aug. 31, 1863]

During the siege of Vicksburg, the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry, and two squadrons of the Second Cavalry were doing duty at Snyder's Bluff, about four miles south of Haines' Bluff, six or eight miles north of the city. These places had been strongly fortified, General Grant fearing an attack on that end of his lines by General Johnston.<sup>100</sup>

After Vicksburg, nearly half of the 27th [Regiment] was out of action due to dissentary which ravaged the ranks, -- polluted drinking water. Father carried the amoeba infection which caused the dissentary for the rest of his days.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, pp. 215, 460-467.

<sup>100</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 403.

<sup>101</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 13, 1962.

JOHN JUNIUS BROWN, M.D., is a pioneer settler of Sheboygan,... born... June 24, 1819 [in Toronto, Canada].... Some three years later the family removed to Lockport, N. Y., and about 1824 to Buffalo.... The year 1846 witnessed the arrival of Dr. Brown in Sheboygan. Though he bought a farm near town, he pursued his chosen profession, until after the breaking out of the war. In raising troops for the service he took an active part, and in recognition of his services was commissioned, October 20, 1862 by Gov. Salomon as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry. He served with his command until disabled by sunstroke at Vicksburg, which has finally resulted in severe paralysis....<sup>102</sup>

They [27th Regiment] arrived near Vicksburg on June 4, 1863 and were stationed at the mouth of the Yazoo River. It is worthy of comment here that these men only recently from the North and stationed between the bluffs, suffering from the heat was intense. After a two day too rapid a march to another point and back, half the Regiment was ill. Heat and contaminated water took its fearful toll. After the fall of Vicksburg, father with others was furloughed home on sick leave.

An incident on the boat, coming up the Mississippi River needs to be told. It so happened that Captain Rankin of Company D was on the same boat with the sick men. He was coming North to aid in recruiting in order that he might refill the ranks of his depleted Company. On an evening, the good Captain accosted each of his men, who were lying about on the deck, too weak to stand. "Did they have any money?" As the men had not been paid for some time, they were naturally completely out of funds. "Well, I haven't any either. But I have a good company on board and I'll see what I can do in the morning." Came morning, and he handed each of his men five dollars. The story is that he had gambled most of the night, and out of his winnings, gave to his men.

Arriving at Sheboygan, the men were so weak they were forced to sit down on the curb to rest. Some kind lady accosted them and when they told her they were tired, she took them into a nearby tavern and bought beer and sandwiches. When father reported to Dr. Bock, the good doctor exclaimed, "My boy what have they done to you?" On recovery father rejoined his Regiment which was then stationed in Arkansas doing Garrison duty and guarding railroads in and near Little Rock. Their duties carried them as far as Camden, which was occupied in April 1864.<sup>103</sup>

You ask for personal accounts [of the 27th Wisconsin].... There of course [was] the trip up the Mississippi on furlough when the boys were so sick with dysentary, that they could not stand up, and their Captain Rankin gambling [on the steamboat transport] all night was able to hand each of his boys a \$5 dollar bill [from his winnings]. And when they arrived at Sheboygan too weak to stand, so they sat on the curb, and a kind lady brought them some sandwiches and beer.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, pp. 226-227.

<sup>103</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story...Of The Kolb Family, p. 14.

<sup>104</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, Dec. 6, 1969.

... when I was courting my first wife, Elsa Clusen in Manitowoc, they used to have a visitor from Michicott, a widow by the name of Brimmer (or Brümmer). She told the same story that father told of their trip up the Mississippi River after Vicksburg when they were furloughed home on sick leave. Her husband had been on the same boat.<sup>105</sup>

After the capture of Vicksburg, the Wisconsin regiments engaged in the siege, were transferred to other fields of service.... The Twenty-seventh was sent to Steele's department, at Little Rock.<sup>106</sup>

Capt. A. Marschner, of the 27th regiment, is at home (he says) on furlough for a few days. Some, however, are so uncharitable as to insinuate that his furlough is one of an indefinite length of time, as he left the regiment only some six hours previous to its departure to join Rosecrans' forces.<sup>107</sup>

SAMUEL GILCHRICE, of Franklin, a member of Capt. Rankin's Company, 27th Regiment, was brought back here this week under care of Sergeant A. C. Pierce, who had been detailed for that purpose. Mr. Gilchrice has been suffering from sickness for some time, and it is feared that consumption has marked him for one of its many victims.<sup>108</sup>

ONE OF CO. B, 27TH REG., UNDER FIRE. A correspondent in Greenbush sends us the following item:

"Our youngest boy, in one of his letters home, says: 'One of our boys was sitting on the beach gazing into the water, (no doubt musing of loved ones far away) two or three days ago, and all at once was startled from his reverie by the report of a rifle. Quickly as thought, he felt it in his shoulder. It was fired by a Guerilla across the river, passed through his coat, just grazing his shoulder, and reminded him that he was a soldier, and in the enemy's country.'"

Late advices say that the 27th has gone down the river to re-inforce Gen. Grant. If so, they will stand a chance to see some warm work. By the way, why do not some one of the three or four in that regiment, who promised to keep us advised of its movements and doings, send us the promised information? There are those who are capable of writing interesting letters for publication, in the different companies from this county in that regiment, and we hope that some of them will do it.<sup>109</sup>

Military....

Capt. A. Marschner, of Co. E, 27th Regiment is also said to be at home, but as we have

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<sup>105</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 13, 1962.

<sup>106</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 405.

<sup>107</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, June 4, 1863, p. 3.

<sup>108</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 5, 1863, p. 3/2.

<sup>109</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 6, 1863, p. 1/3.

not seen him we do not know for what length of time.

We also observe a number of others from the 27th, who are home on a brief furlough to visit their friends.<sup>110</sup>

THE 27th REGIMENT, Col. Krez, has moved down the river from Columbus, Ky., and is said to be stationed, for the present, at Young's Point, a short distance above Vicksburg.<sup>111</sup>

[26th Wis. at Gettysburg, Pa., July 1, 1863:] Reynolds was ordered to move to Gettysburg. July 1st he sent General Buford with a cavalry force of 6,000 on a reconnaissance. He followed closely to find that Buford was hotly engaged with the rebels and hardly pressed. With the 1st Corps, comprising 8,000 men, he dashed into the town and formed his lines under cover of Seminary Hill, opposing his weary soldiers against 20,000 rebels fresh from rest and inaction. He sent an urgent message to General Howard, in command of the 11th Corps comprising 15,000 men, and continued the struggle against fearful odds. He fell early in the fight and General Doubleday, assuming the command, held the Spartan troops until one o'clock, when two divisions of Howard's command arrived on the field. That general ordered his remaining forces to occupy Cemetery Hill, foreseeing that a retreat was inevitable. The rebels charged the Union troops through the streets of Gettysburg and considerable confusion ensued when, suddenly, an artillery fire opened from Cemetery Hill and the rebel advance was checked. At one o'clock in the morning General Meade arrived on Cemetery Ridge with the main part of the Army of the Potomac.<sup>112</sup>

[26th Wis. at Gettysburg:] On the 1st of July, the fire of artillery was heard in the direction of Gettysburg. March was resumed, and at a rapid pace, the Eleventh Corps pushed forward, the First Corps, of General Reynolds, having opened the battle of that memorable day. The Eleventh Corps pushed forward, passed through the town, and the Third Division formed to the right of the First Corps, which occupied a position to the northwest of the town. The Twenty-sixth was placed in the second line, in double column, closed in mass. The lines then advanced, and the first line became engaged. The enemy, advancing in overwhelming force, soon compelled the first line to break in disorder, scarcely allowing the regiment in support to deploy. The Twenty-sixth became hotly engaged, checked the enemy, and held its position until the flank of the One Hundred and Nineteenth New York, which was on its left, was turned, which compelled the brigade to retire. They retreated across an open field, under a heavy fire of the enemy, in very good order. At the edge of the town a stand was made, a smart skirmish ensued, and the Twenty-sixth took position of rear guard, during the further retreat to Cemetery Hill, where it took

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<sup>110</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 6, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>111</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 13, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>112</sup> H. O. and M. A. W. Brown, Soldiers' And Citizens Album of Biographical Record Containing Personal Sketches of Army Men and Citizens Prominent in Loyalty to the Union (Chicago, 1888), p. 74.



position behind a low stone fence. Only four of the officers engaged, escaped unhurt. In the subsequent battles, the Twenty-sixth was not engaged, except small parties on picket.

Wounded... Friedrich Steinhaus...<sup>113</sup>

An incident that may be of interest to you, and which occurred at the Battle of Gettysburg. Uncle [Friedrich or Fritz] Steinhaus had been struck in the knee and lay wounded on the battlefield. It was near dusk when a Confederate soldier came across the field. My uncle accosted him and asked for water, at the same time handing the soldier his empty canteen. The Confederate took the canteen and left. He was gone for a long time, but finally returned with the canteen filled with good fresh water. Uncle's comment was that if he lived to be a hundred years he would always remember that face.<sup>114</sup>

PENSIONS. The Attorney General has decided that, under the Pension Act of 1862, widows and daughters of soldiers and sailors who, after being wounded while in the service, and in the line of their duty, resign and subsequently die in consequence of such wound, are not entitled to a pension. The death must occur while they remain in service, to raise a valid claim.<sup>115</sup>

Lieut. Col. J. J. Brown, of the 27th regiment, returned to his home in this city a few days since, sick and on leave of absence. His health is, however, so rapidly improving that he hopes to be able to return to his regiment in a few weeks.<sup>116</sup>

\$85.00

Received of Jacob L. Miller for Capt. E. W. Stannard Per order of Col Krez Commanding 27 Reg  
Wis Vol Eighty five Dollars for one Metalic Burial Can Lined & Outside Box

M Capt L [?] Clark

Vicksburg July 12th 1863

Rec'd \$1.49 being Expenses to get the coffin from Vicksburg Snyder's Bluff July 13, '63.

J. L. Miller<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 750.

<sup>114</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 13, 1862. In 1866, following his Civil War service, Ernst Kolb married Emma Steinhaus, a younger sister of Friedrich. On the morning after his wound, Union forces recaptured the field upon which Steinhaus lay overnight. He was carried to a field hospital "where arms and legs were stacked like cordwood" and his lower right leg was amputated without benefit of anesthetic. Unable to farm with a wooden leg, he operated a tavern after the war.

<sup>115</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, July 3, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>116</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, July 9, 1863, p.

<sup>117</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

Snyder's Bluff Miss July 17, 1863

Henry Stannard, Esqr  
Dear Sir,

I hereby send you a specified report of the accounts, dues, outstandings & expenditures of your father. If anything should be not clear to you, Mr Knowles will be able to explain it to you

a. Credits & outstandings are	
His purse, containing	\$22.00
Lt Witte, collected by me	\$30.00
Small dues, after deducting two small accounts (see Captains little Memorandum Book)	<u>\$ 5.50</u>
	\$57.50
b. Dues and expenditures	
Company fund balance due and in care of Capt	\$71.26
Coffin (see receipt)	<u>\$86.40</u>
Total	\$157.66
Balance	\$100.16
c. Recapitulation, dues from the Captain	
Company fund	\$71.26
Money borrowed from B. Collins	\$ 5.00
" " Capt Hobart	\$10.00
" " Lt. Schlaich	<u>\$13.90</u>
Total	\$100.16

To my and Mr. Knowles knowledge, our old Sutler, Kroeger from Milwaukee, owes the Captain \$15.00. This sum is partly secured by orders which are in the hands of that fellow, but he is not here and I never saw him since we left Columbus. Furthermore he is discharged as Sutler of the 27th and so it is quite a precarious thing about collecting the money. I therefore did not mention this item under the outstandings, but with some time you may depend on me that I shall try my best to get the money, and then I will send it to you immediately.

All the other things can now be satisfactorily explained to you by Mr. Knowles, and I am really glad, that he is going home, for he can remove from you good many painfull rumors, which are reported through the county without the least reason and foundation.

Hoping that you all are well, I remain, with my most sincere respects to all of you.

J. Schlaich<sup>118</sup>

THE 27TH REGIMENT. The last accounts state that Major OLMSTED, of this Regiment, was very seriously ill at Columbus, Ky., and Capt. RANKIN was acting as Major.<sup>119</sup>

Major OLMSTED, of the 27th, reached here on Tuesday. He has been very severely ill at Columbus, Ky., and is yet an invalid. We understand the Major does not look much like his

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<sup>118</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

<sup>119</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, July 17, 1863, p. 2/6.

former self, having greatly dwindled away in flesh.<sup>120</sup>

A PART OF CO. H, 26th REGIMENT, was from this county, and we find the names of the following members of that company reported as remaining in the 11th Corps Hospital, two miles south of Gettysburg -- at which battle they were wounded -- July 12th:

William Ehmann, wounded in left leg, below knee.

Adam Galz, left cheek and neck.

Ludwig Beck, left foot.

Fred. Stonehouse [Friedrich Steinhaus], right leg, below knee, very bad.<sup>121</sup>

Capt. Stannard's Body Brought Home. The body of Capt. E. W. Stannard, of Greenbush, late of Co. B, 27th Regiment, arrived here by the Comet, on Wednesday morning last, in charge of a relative a member of the Company, who came home on a sick furlough. The body was taken to Greenbush by the Wednesday morning train.

In our notice of the death of Capt. Stannard, not long since, we stated that he was killed by guerillas, after having been left behind from sickness, while on the march from Sartartia to Haines' Bluffs. Such was the report here at the time, but it proved unfounded. He gave out on the march, and was compelled to take an ambulance, and not long after, while handing a soldier his gun from the ambulance it was accidentally discharged, the ball entering Capt. Stannard's body, inflicting a mortal wound from which he soon after died, deeply lamented by every member of his company. Indeed, it was the excessive fatherly care that he bestowed upon his men, and the consequent anxiety and over exertion that devolved upon himself, which caused him to give out on that occasion. The day was excessively hot, and the march a long one, and the men were constantly falling out by the way, unable to go on encumbered with their arms. Capt. Stannard marched in the rear of his company, giving encouragement to one, and taking the muskets of one or two more, and advising all, until the fatigue, anxiety and excessive heat prostrated him and he fainted by the way and was placed in the ambulance. Though his death was accidental, it occurred in the faithful discharge of his duties in the service of his country; and his memory will be longest and most fondly cherished by those who knew him best.<sup>122</sup>

27th REGIMENT. We learn that this Regiment, which has been for some time back with General GRANT, at Snyder's Bluff, near Vicksburg, has been ordered to return to Columbus, Ky., where it was stationed immediately after leaving this State.<sup>123</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, July 31, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>121</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 1, 1863. The Steinhaus farm was located in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, sec. 9, Town Mosel, Sheboygan County.

<sup>122</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 1, 1863, p. 1/4.

<sup>123</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Aug. 7, 1863, p. 1/2.

REBEL TREATMENT OF FEDERAL PRISONERS. Daniel Carver, of Elkhart Lake, a member of Co. B, 27th regiment, who was taken prisoner by guerillas, on the Yazoo, while taking care of Capt. Stannard after he was wounded and left behind his company, was sent to Richmond, with other prisoners, where he was confined for a while, the recipient of the barbarous treatment for which the prisons of that city are so notorious. Being subsequently released on parole, he went to St. Louis, where he now is, awaiting an exchange.... In a previous letter he says that the guerillas that captured him robbed him of his hat and shoes, and he avers that when he returns to the service some secesh in arms will be minus just as good ones. But to the extract:

"We all took breakfast at one house (Union Relief) this morning [after parole, as he was passing through Baltimore]. We have the best bread here I ever tasted, and good coffee with plenty of sugar, but no milk, and the best of boiled ham. It is the same every meal. I have eaten here eight times. It does not taste as good as my four ounces of bread and small piece of meat and maggots (half and half) did to me before I left Richmond." ...<sup>124</sup>

CAPT. FRED SCHNELLEN, of Sheboygan... is a native of Prussia, Germany, where he was born November 27, 1827.... grew to manhood in his native city of Medebach, and at the age of twenty years entered the army and took part in the famous revolution which began on the 18th of March, 1848. He served in the city of Berlin, and in the corps commanded by Kaiser William...

In April, 1851, occurred the marriage of Capt. Schnellen and Miss Wilhelmine Freinatis, who was also born in the city of Medebach, in 1831. In the spring of 1852 they came to the United States, landing at New Orleans in May of that year. Thence they proceeded up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where they remained two years, the husband working at his trade, that of shoe-making. In 1854 they came to Sheboygan, and removed thence to Howard's Grove... There Capt. Schnellen resided when the War of the Rebellion came on. His service in the army of Prussia had given him a knowledge of military tactics which was possessed by few in the early days of the war.

His services were now in demand, and... In 1862 he raised a company, which became known as Company C, of the Twenty-seventh Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, of which he was commissioned Captain, and entered the service in command of the company. The regiment went from Camp Milwaukee to Ft. Halleck, Columbus, Ky., and thence followed the Confederate general, Price, up the Mississippi River to Cape Girardeau, Mo. After discontinuing the pursuit of Price, the command returned to Ft. Halleck, and, proceeding to Vicksburg, was stationed on the Yazoo River, during the siege of that Confederate stronghold. On the close of the Vicksburg campaign, the regiment went to Helena, Ark., where Capt. Schnellen resigned and returned home. The cause of his resignation was general debility, which incapacitated him from further active service. However, he served during the remainder of the war in Hancock's Veteran Reserve Corps, filling the position of Sergeant. He has never fully recovered his former condition of health, his constitution having been more or less permanently affected by his misfortune in the service....<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 8, 1863, p. 1/4.

<sup>125</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, p. 216.

## LETTER FROM THE 27TH REGIMENT.

Helena, Ark., Aug. 5, 1863

Friend Pilot: For the benefit of the readers of your paper and the many friends of the 27th Wisconsin Regiment, I will give you some news as to their whereabouts and condition. To tell the truth, we are pretty well "played out." Our present location is Helena, Arkansas, but our stay will be of short duration, as I learn that we will leave here in about two weeks and are now under marching orders, probably to join the expedition being fitted out to sweep down through the country to Galveston, Texas. The order was given to prepare for a ten days' march, and when the inquiry, how many are able to stand the march! was made by the Orderly of Co. D, but 25 privates and 3 commissioned officers responded to the call; and I think the first day's march will reduce that number to 15, and the rest of the Regiment in the same ratio. So you can see that the Southern climate is harder to fight than the rebels are.

We have never lost any men in battle, for we have never been in action, but Co. D has lost the following-named by death: Jonas Piper, died July 19th, at Snyder's Bluff, Mississippi, of disease of the heart; Fritz Wulf, died 22d July, of congestive fever; Christian Wulf, died 23d of July, of congestive fever - the latter at Snyder's Bluff; David Welch, died in camp at Helena, Aug. 3, of fever; Gilbert Bailey, I learn, died in hospital at St. Louis July 17th.

Captain Rankin and Lieut. McMillan are sick, but will be around in a few days; Orderly Sergeant Hansen is sick so as to be unfit for duty; Cornelius Sullivan is sick at the Hindman House hospital; he has had the fever, and now has a swelling on his neck, but is getting better. I saw him yesterday, and he felt quite smart; Thomas Gallogley is in hospital at Memphis.

Captain Mulholland is sick and has been for some time; he expects to start for Manitowoc in a few days. If he leaves here, he will soon come up.

We thought after leaving Snyder's Bluff we had left one of the most God-forsaken places in the world, but if so, I think we have anchored in a place which God has no record of. The majority of the boys are unfit for duty and the 25th Regiment is in a worse condition than we are. The 28th men say they have not enough able soldiers to do picket duty, and so they are doing Provost Guard duty.

I would say to those men who gave us such good promises when we enlisted about coming to our assistance in case we wanted them, now is the time! The 600,000 are about all "played out," and the rebellion is not ended; you had better be in the ranks with a musket on your shoulder, than staying at home crying "Copperhead," and "the Administration must be sustained at whatever sacrifice!" It is just such men as you that are wanted, and we desire one and all to come to the rescue. If I mistake not, there is more attention paid to political gambling than there is to the wants of our distracted country. Now, men of the North, lay down those political weapons, and come to our assistance - come with a musket and bristling bayonet, for, depend upon it, the soldier who has left his home and friends is the only one who is going to save this government. The Eastern armies seem to be a failure, while the Western boys are crowned with success, and have done the fighting -- will do more.

The rebel, Price, is at Ozark, 90 miles from here, laying still, recruiting. There is any amount of troops coming up the river, and a great many sick and wounded. The river is clear to New Orleans, and some boats have gone through.

We all send our respects to the good citizens of Manitowoc.

Respectfully, Yours, W.<sup>126</sup>

At this date [August 13, 1863] the regiment was transferred to the army of Arkansas, 1st division, 7th army corps, and it marched to Little Rock, where, early in September, it went into camp and remained until March 23, 1864.<sup>127</sup>

On the 13th of August, they were transferred to the army of General Steele, and with the forces of that General, proceeded up White River, to Duval's Bluff, and from thence, marched to Little Rock, and assisted in the capture of that place. Here the regiment engaged in post and picket duty, with an occasional expedition into the surrounding country, until the 23d of March, 1864, when it accompanied the march of General Steele to cooperate with General Banks, in the celebrated Red River Expedition.<sup>128</sup>

Sick Sheboygan Co. Soldiers. The following soldiers in the 27th Regiment, belonging to companies from Sheboygan county, are reported as having arrived at Memphis, on the 31st of July, per steamer Glasgow, on their way to Paducah:

G. J. Johnson, Co. B, dysentery.

Ed Schwartz, " "

Geo. Laysnan " ophthalmia

H. O. Lawrence " debility (sun stroke)

F. Bucher, Co. C. renal disease and rheumatism.

G. J. T. Sloa, Co. F, died July 30th, on the boat.

The surgeon of the boat was under orders for Paducah, but intended to go to St. Louis if he could get a permit at Cairo.<sup>129</sup>

Soon after the fall of Vicksburg, it became the interest of the government to possess itself of the State of Arkansas, many of its people giving assurances of a desire to return to the old Union. Accordingly an expedition was fitted out at Helena, and placed under command of General F. J. Steele. The force consisted of about 12,000 men, including Davidson's cavalry division.

General Steele commenced his march, and crossed the White River, at Clarendon, on the 17th of August, 1863. Leaving his sick, about one thousand in number, at Duvall's Bluff, on White River, he proceeded to Brownsville, where his whole force was concentrated. On the 7th of September, he reached the Arkansas River, where dividing his force, which had been reduced

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<sup>126</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Aug. 14, 1863, p. 1/4.

<sup>127</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>128</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 761.

<sup>129</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Aug. 15, 1863, p. 1/3.

to about seven thousand men, he marched a column on each side of the river towards the capital of the State. His approach caused great panic in Little Rock. General Davidson's cavalry dashed into the city and took possession, capturing many Confederate officers before they could make arrangements to fly. General Steele crossed the Arkansas in a skiff, and appointed General Davidson military commander. The combined operations of General Steele on the capital, of General Blunt on Fort Scott, and of General Stevenson on the southern borders of the State, compelled the rebel General Holmes, to retreat and take refuge in Texas. In this expedition of General Steele, the Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Wisconsin regiments participated.<sup>130</sup>

FROM THE 27TH REGIMENT. By a private letter just received from a member of that Regiment, we learn that they were under marching orders, destined for Little Rock, Arkansas, and were to leave Helena on the 13th. The writer states that but 125 men fit for duty could be mustered in the Regiment, and Co. D presented 12 men for inspection on the 11th. Six or eight officers, among whom was Lieut. HENRY, had sent in their resignations.<sup>131</sup>

HOME ON FURLOUGH. Lieut. J. A. S. Verdier, of Co. E, 27th Reg., is now home, and looks as though soldiering was hard work. Sickness compelled him to come north to recruit. He reports the company as about used up, there being only 180 men in the regiment fit for service, and they have been ordered on an expedition to Texas.<sup>132</sup>

MELANCHOLY. Intelligence of the death of CORNELIUS SULLIVAN, of the 27th Regiment, and son of our townsman, Mr. EUGENE SULLIVAN, reached here last Sunday, immediately after his brother started to see him, hoping to find him alive and prepared to alleviate his sufferings. He will probably not hear the sad news until he reaches the hospital at Helena, Arkansas. CORNELIUS was a fine young man, and was beloved by all his acquaintances. Major OLMSTED informs us that he was the great favorite of his Company. He was a printer, having learned his trade in the Herald office.

SOLDIERS IN TOWN. Brigadier General SALOMON; Major OLMSTED, of the 27th, and Major Baetz, of the 26th Regiment; Lieut. Traemel, of the 26th; Sergeant Major John M. Read and Sergeant Sam. Stone, of the 14th, are now in town recruiting their health. The last four are suffering from wounds.<sup>133</sup>

Quartermaster Wm. N. Shafter, of the 27th Regiment, arrived home on Sunday last, having been sick at Memphis for several weeks. He went immediately to his family, at present residing at Gibbsville, and we have not seen him, although we are told his avoirdupois is a good deal less

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<sup>130</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, pp. 407-408.

<sup>131</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Aug. 21, 1863, p. 1/5.

<sup>132</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 22, 1863, p. 1/4.

<sup>133</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Aug. 28, 1863, p. 2/1.

than when he left home. It was rumored here yesterday that he has had a relapse within a few days, but we know not how true it may be.

Adjutant Chas. G. Meyer and Chaplain Wm. P. Stowe, of the 27th returned last week, both, we believe, having been sick with Liver Complaint. The disease of the latter was so serious as to compel his resignation, and it is thought that of the former will disable him from active service.<sup>134</sup>

AT HOME. Capt. PETER MULHOLLAND, of the 27th Regiment, arrived at home last week, having obtained a furlough to recover his health. He is rather low, but his friends anticipate an early recovery.<sup>135</sup>

From the 27th Regiment.

The following letter from a drummer boy of Co. B, 27th Regiment, to his parents at Greenbush, has been sent us for publication. It contains some items of general interest, and as we get so little from that regiment -- our promised correspondence having entirely failed to "come to time" -- we give it an insertion:

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 12th, 1863.

DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER: I now take my pen in hand, to let you know of my whereabouts, and that I am well and hearty. John Mack is also well.

I have not heard from George since I left him sick in the hospital at Helena. Day before yesterday, we started from a place about ten miles from here, and after marching three miles, came to Arkansas river, which must be crossed by aid of Pontoon Bridges.

We formed in line of battle, and remained so until the bridge was built, so that we could cross over; and during the whole time, constant firing was kept up, by both our troops and the rebels. But the few there [who] were able to do duty, of the 27th, escaped unharmed, though the balls flew rather thick. One of the enemy's cannon balls passed to the right of our regiment a few rods, cutting a tree down, but harming no person.

When the bridge was finished, the 40th Iowa, and our regiment, had to cross a sand bar. While doing so, we expected every moment to be saluted by the enemy's batteries from the woods; but, when we got safely across to where they had been, lo! the rebs. had all skedaddled. Pa, you know it was often talked of at home whether a musician's position was one of as much danger as the rest of the soldiers, or not. I can now answer from experience. The musician's place, when formed in line of battle, is just in the rear of the colors.

I have just received three letters from home, and I was very glad to hear that you were both as well as you are. You enquired in one of your letters to me, Ma, what we had now for rations.

Well, now for a "Bill of fare". We have salt pork, corned beef, rice, beans, flour, coffee, tea, sugar, salt and pepper. I never felt better and healthier in my life, than I do now. I weigh 115 lbs. and I only weighed 100 when I left Greenbush.

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<sup>134</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 5, 1863, p. 1/4.

<sup>135</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Sept. 11, 1863, p. 1/3.



O, yes. Our boat was fired into by the enemy, when we were coming up White river to a place called Duvall's Bluff, and four or five were wounded, but none killed. No one in our Regiment was among the wounded.

Nothing more this time; only please write often. Good Bye. A DRUMMER BOY.<sup>136</sup>

#### LETTER FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

Helena, Ark., Oct. 11, 1863.

FRIEND PILOT: It is Sunday evening, and in the absence of anything else to do, I will improve the time by giving you a little news about the 27th Reg't Wisconsin Volunteers. Our boys are scattered from Little Rock, Ark., to Avoca Minn. I am sorry to say that the Regiment has been badly broken up, but every day brings back some of the noble boys to join it, and give their brother soldiers a helping hand in duties that soldiers all have to do. Those that are returning are looking quite well, and will soon be able to resume active duty.

Our noble Captain, JOS. RANKIN, arrived here about a week ago on his way to Memphis to get our overcoats and camp equipage, preparatory to going into winter quarters; he informed me that the boys were all in very good health and spirits. Their new situation is very nicely located, and they have good camping grounds, and can obtain good water, which is a soldier's blessing, and something that we have not seen or tasted since we left Milwaukee.. Good water and good rations, I think, will soon bring all the sick and convalescent on their feet again.

Our Regiment lost a number on the march to Little Rock, three of which were members of Co. D. EDWARD W. LYON died very suddenly; he was a good boy, and always done his duty manfully; CYRUS ELLIS, of Manitowoc Rapids, a nurse in the hospital, was taken with a convulsion fit and died in few moments; GEO. HUSS, of Mishicott, died suddenly of fever. The Regiment, when the Captain left, numbered 260 men fit for duty. Co. D had but two on the sick list, and I think, judging by the appearance of the Captain, that the change in the Regiment is for the better; for, when the Captain started on the march from Helena he had been quite sick for some time, and looked more fit for the hospital than he did for a march thro' the wilderness of Arkansas: but his appearance is now a good deal changed coming down on the scales to the tune of about 200 lbs. I never saw him look better and feel better; he will be here again on his way to the Regiment in a few days.

The 27th gained some honors as they took the advance, with the 40th Iowa, in crossing the river to protect the cavalry -- marching under the rebel fire three-quarters of a mile, and driving the enemy from his camp in hot haste, taking possession of his corn cake, and took breakfast in the rebel camp, and all without the loss of a single man. The assault was made in full view of the whole army, which was drawn up in line of battle on the bank of the river, and the boys were highly complimented by all, for they did their work with a courage which every true soldier might be proud of. The rebels skedaddled in double quick time as our boys were sent round and saluted them in the rear, bidding defiance to the breastworks which the enemy had erected with the expectation that it would be attempted to be taken by storm; but GEN. STEELE had too much good sense and had seen too much of that at Vicksburg, to be drawn into such a trap; and Little Rock was occupied by our forces, with the loss of but a few men.

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<sup>136</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 3, 1863, p. 2/2.

The rebels are coming in every day in large numbers and giving themselves up. The steamers ELLA and SALLY LIST came up here day before yesterday from Duvall's Bluff, bound for Memphis, loaded down with prisoners; they are all a stout, hearty-looking set of men, but their dress gives them more the appearance of devils than human beings. The most of them seem to be tired of the rebellion, and sick of old dad PRICE'S generalship; they claim that they have been deceived by their leaders; and many of them are as much astonished to see a Yankee as Mother PARTINGTON was at the sight of a kangaroo.

The war news here is limited at this time. A large number of troops have gone up the river, bound for ROSECRANS' army, and it is expected that there will be warm work in that Department soon.

The guerillas are making some disturbance on the river. On Friday last the steamer SOUTHWESTERN, bound up, was fired into by a band of bushwhackers ten miles below this place, and the Sutler of the 17th Illinois killed, and on Thursday night they made an attack on the negro camp four miles below, and killed one negro, besides stirring things up generally. The negro pickets don't keep a very good watch, as they let the "rebs." pass their lines and make a dash on their camp and get away again, without even capturing a man. The officers of these negro troops are generally men that don't like to fight, as they all expect to live very quiet doing garrison duty, where there is no danger; but don't want the war should cease as long as there is an inch of slave territory, or while there is a chance of making a dollar out of the government. (All good Union men, though.)

The greatest excitement here is caused by politics and it is fun to see the hundreds of State Commissioners - licensed to delude and defraud the soldier out of his vote - making Bull Run time with mail bags filled with tickets and electioneering documents. It would be a glorious act, if after they had safely arrived at camp, they were each presented with an Enfield rifle, and forced to accomplish their mission by being obliged to "shoulder arms," go through the "bayonet exercise" &c., for thirteen dollars a month, rations and clothing, and I am inclined to think they would do the government more good and the country less evil than in any other capacity; but the majority of them are government officials who are free from the duties of a soldier. I tell you, I should like to command a regiment of such men. I think they would go home with a full understanding that there is a war in this United States, and that it is more necessary to put down this rebellion than it is to peddle tickets and quarrel over politics at the expense of the State.

There is a few of Co. D men here in the Convalescent Camp. Lieut. HENRY is here in the Commissary department of the camp; he has been quite sick, but is now all right again. JOSEPH E. SILSBY and Corporal W. G. LOVELL are here in the Commissary with the Lieutenant. Lieut. Col. J. J. BROWN is in charge of the camp. Lieut. COLE, of Co. I, arrived here a few days ago from Wisconsin, and has recovered his health, and looks quite well again. Lieut. McMILLAN returned two weeks ago from Memphis hospital with his health much improved, and has gone to the regiment. Dr. HUTCHINSON, 1st Assistant Surgeon, has been temporarily attached to the 2d Tennessee Cavalry at Saulsbury, Tenn. The regiment has made one very good addition to its force. Dr. MITCHEL has been selected as the Chief Surgeon, and has the appearance of being an efficient officer.

The most of the sick who were sent to Memphis hospitals have been furloughed. Sergeant W. H. MAKEE, of Cato, has so far recovered his health as to be sent to the Convalescent Camp,

and is also on furlough: he will soon be able to rejoin the regiment.

As soon as I can see the regimental muster roll, I will give you a list of all the deaths that have occurred since we were mustered into service at Milwaukee.

Respectfully Yours,  
W.<sup>137</sup>

RECOVERING. We are glad to notice that Major OLMSTED and Captain MULHOLLAND, of the 27th Regiment, and Major BATES, of the 26th, are regaining their health. All three are good officers, and their regiments will be glad of their return to their respective commands.<sup>138</sup>

A FIGHT IN CAMP BUTLER. There was a severe fight in Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday last, between a company composed of Germans and another composed principally of Americans, both cavalry. The Springfield "Journal" says a bad state of feeling has existed for a considerable time, and to avoid difficulty the Americans were deprived of their sabres some days since. Both companies were watering their horses when the fight commenced, pistols and sabres being freely used. One man was killed and another received a ball through his cheek.<sup>139</sup>

Brush-shelters were now constructed, and laid off by companies as a regular camp. Many of them were no inconsiderable protection. Of course they would not turn rain, but they were very good houses for warm, dry weather. Some of them were erected with much skill and patience. One man of the regiment, who "roomed by himself", kept at work for a week or two in twisting and weaving a kind of kennel in which to stay; and when it was done, and he was in it, the sight was almost equal to a small side-show at a circus.

Supplies were now to be hauled from Duvall's Bluff to Little Rock in wagons, as the railroad had no rolling stock in order. The consequence was, that we were put on quarter-rations; and very scanty living we found it. A great demand sprung up for pieces of tin and sheet-iron, of which to make graters whereon to grate corn. At these home-made graters the men would put in their spare time by turns, until they had meal enough to satisfy hunger for a day or two; and when that was gone the grater was in demand again. One or two small, portable, iron mills were erected, to be worked by two-man-power; and their creaking was heard at almost all hours, monotonous and dreary.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Oct. 30, 1863, p. 2/4-5.

<sup>138</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Oct. 2, 1863, p. 1/3.

<sup>139</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Oct. 16, 1863, p. 2/6.

<sup>140</sup> A. [Andrew] F. Sperry, [1839-1911], History of the 33rd Iowa Infantry Volunteer Regiment 1863-6 (Des Moines, 1866), p. 49.

Near our camp was a garden, from which the boys occasionally "drew" sweet potatoes and some few other vegetables; but nobody lived too high. Again and again we would run all over Little Rock in search of bread for sale, and find never a loaf. Pies of miserable quality and limited amount, retailed readily at twenty-five cents each; but eatables of any sum and substance, it was frequently impossible to buy. The city seemed quite deserted. Shops and stores were closed, and few citizens could be seen in the streets. Indeed, the ladies had been terrified by all sorts of wild reports about our army, until they dared not remain in sight of us. They got over this after a while, however. One who spent only the last week of our stay in Little Rock with us, could form but a faint idea of the appearance and manners of the city and its people when we entered.<sup>141</sup>

Cold weather was now coming on, and preparations were made for Winter. Log barracks were erected for the companies [of the 33rd Iowa]; and a great demand arose for brick-bats, sticks and mud, for chimneys. The town was ransacked for stoves, but with poor success. Only the Winter before, stoves had sold at one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty dollars; and people seemed to have hardly yet forgotten the old Confederate price-list. But soldiers "draw" things some times, and buy when they can't avoid it; and so before long, stoves and chimneys began to make the Winter-quarters quite comfortable.<sup>142</sup>

While in camp at Little Rock, winter of 1863-1864, the men camped in tents. Some became rather elaborate, this being somewhat permanent as camps went. The tent next to father's had a stove with a chimneypipe coming out of the roof. Father and his tentmates filled a bag with sand and lowered it into the stovepipe on a long pole -- then tossed the pole and jumped inside their own tent. In a few minutes the men in the other tent ran outside, driven by the smoke. They had to take the whole tent down to unplug the flue.<sup>143</sup>

Or the time in Little Rock... when the boys occupying the tent next to father's had acquired a small wood stove so they could be more comfortable. The pipe sticking out above the tent proved a temptation so some one had a bright idea to prepare a sack filled with sand and with a long pole insert it into the top of the pipe. Smoke drove out the occupants, and before they could correct the difficulty they were obliged to dismantle the entire thing.<sup>144</sup>

By this time bakeries had been established in town, so that bread could generally, though not always, be obtained. The usual price for a loaf weighing a pound and three-quarters, was twenty-five cents. The army-ration is such intolerable fare for men in camp, that most of our

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<sup>141</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 50.

<sup>142</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 51.

<sup>143</sup> Notes made by Mark Knipping, conversation with Roland A. Kolb, April 4, 1970.

<sup>144</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, Dec. 6, 1969.

regiment regularly bought a large share of their living, rather than sicken on the unwholesome "hard-tack and sow-belly." Potatoes could generally be had for two dollars per bushel, and butter at sixty cents a pound; and at such figures many a man spent the most of his wages in getting wholesome food.<sup>145</sup>

Quartermaster W. N. Shafter and Lieut. Wm. F. Mitchell, of the 27th Regiment, who have been home on sick furlough for a few weeks left on Tuesday of last week to rejoin their regiment at Little Rock, Ark. Though not entirely recovered, they considered themselves able to do light duty. We hope to greet them again at the close of the war at an early day, in robust health.<sup>146</sup>

CHARLES WINTER... was born in Milwaukee, June 22, 1843... The father, who was a laborer in 1845 purchased forty acres of land and began farming....

Going to Michigan, he [Charles Winter] worked in the lumber woods until nineteen years of age, when he entered the service... as a member of Company F, Twenty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry, under Col. Krez. The regiment went to Camp Washburn, in Milwaukee, thence to Ft. Halleck, in Kentucky, and on to Vicksburg. Mr. Winter participated in the famous siege of that city, when Gen. Grant forced Pemberton to surrender the place, and he well remembers the joyful celebration that took place after the surrender. His regiment then went to Helena, Ark., and afterward to Little Rock, where they spent the winter. Our subject was sent to the Adams Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where he remained for thirty-eight days, and was then transferred to Jefferson Barracks, in Missouri where he continued until November 12, 1863, when, on account of physical disability, he was honorably discharged. For six months after his return home he was unable to do any work, and he now receives only a very small pension, although he has never recovered his usual strength.

After the war Mr. Winter went to Whitehall, Mich., where he worked in a sawmill and in the lumber woods for four years. On the expiration of that period we again find him in Wisconsin, where he purchased eighty acres of land from his father [Town Sherman], and began farming....<sup>147</sup>

Camp near Little Rock Ark  
Nov 6th, 1863

Mrs. Stannard

Having a few hours leisure I will improve it by writing a few lines to you.

I wrote to Henry last week. I have my old position in the Hospital as Ward Master but am acting as Steward now.

The Steward is expected on the next boat. I arrived here Oct. 20th and found nothing but the wreck of the once noble 27th Co B is but the mere shadow of its former self. Most of them being sick and away from the Regt but are coming back by evening boat.

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<sup>145</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 55.

<sup>146</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 31, 1863, p. 1/2.

<sup>147</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, p. 296.

It seems that fate is against us as a Company. Capt Hobart died yesterday morning after a few days illness. He had the Typhoid Fever. I was not with him at all as he was at a private house. His body starts for home this morning. He is the third officer we have lost since June 1st.

I hear Mick Henry is going to be at Madison for some time what business is he in

I think this is quite a healthy place excepting some cases of Fever & Ague.

There has been a great deal of that but not as much since the Regt got into its present camp as before. The men have been much exposed to the weather having nothing but Shelter Tents until within the past week. They have now got log houses.

We have a small frame house & one wall tent for a Hosp. with room for only 18 men -- the rest have to be sent to the General Hosp in the City. Next to Selma, Ala, Little Rock is the best situated of any place I have been in the South and I have seen a good many.

The Southern people seem to lack the spirit and energy of the Northern people. Slavery is not the thing to improve the Country. I will try and get the statements of Dr Saltzman of Mr Stannards wound, it seems to be different from what I understood it from Dr Krak. I did not see the wound myself not being with him at the time and not seeing him till after the bandages were put on. Dr. Saltzman was present and assisted in the operation.

Clark Adams called on me today. He looks as though Southern climate agrees with him.

How is your own & Allies health this summer. I should like well to hear from Allie. A letter is always welcomed by a soldier. I have not heard from home in two weeks but will probably get one now as the Mail has come in a large one it is too. It is a one horse mail and only comes once a week.

Nov 7th

I have not had time to finish my letter till now having so much to do. I saw Dr Saltzman and got his statement of the wound. The ball struck near the lower rib on the right side passing upward outside the ribs striking the collarbone and passing out near the armpit cutting the large artery and passing through the arm near the shoulder making more wounds. (The ball split on one of the bones supposed to be the collar bone.) His exclamation when wounded was "My God I'm shot", and fell but the Dr caught him before he struck the ground and put his hand to the wound and stopped the blood all he could while the other Surgeons tied the artery. But as I am not feeling well to-day I will close by hoping to meet again sometime.

Yours Truly  
D. Carver<sup>148</sup>

The body of Lieut. Hobart, of the 27th regiment of Wis. Vols., arrived here this (Thursday) night. He was Lieutenant of the company which went from Sheboygan Falls and Lima. No intimation of this death had previously reached his friends or the public hereabouts.<sup>149</sup>

Sudden Death of Capt. Hobart. The body of Capt. Aaron Hobart, of Co. B, 27th Regiment, arrived here by boat yesterday morning, in the care of J. S. Cullen, of the same

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<sup>148</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

<sup>149</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Nov. 19, 1863, p.

Company, taking our citizens, as we learn it would his family at Hingham, entirely by surprise, they supposing him to be in the enjoyment of tolerable health.

It appears that after the march from Helena to Little Rock, Ark., Capt. Hobart was taken sick, but subsequently recovered so as to enjoy passable health, though not entirely well. He continued thus until about the first of November, when he was again suddenly taken quite sick. Col. Krez immediately on learning his condition, had him taken to a private residence in the city, and procured the best medical and other attendance that could be obtained, but he sank rapidly, and died in four days, we believe on the 5th inst. His disease was a fever of a typhoid character, peculiar to that country. Capt. Hobart was not of a very strong constitution, and past the meridian of life, but his patriotism prompted him to volunteer to serve his country in the time of her need, and he has thus offered up his life in the discharge of his duty in her service as fully as though it had been on the field of battle.

An escort of our citizens accompanied the body from this city to Hingham this morning.<sup>150</sup>

#### ARMY CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

Head Quarters 27th Regt. Wis. Vol. Inf.  
Little Rock, Ark. Nov. 3d, 1863.

Editor Evergreen City Times:

Dear Sir: According to agreement while in your City, I will now devote a few leisure moments in gathering some items for your paper.

To-day is election with us. I have just cast my vote for the regular Union State Ticket, as nine-tenths of the Soldiers in the field will undoubtedly do for their respective States; showing that we can defeat the rebels at the ballot box, as well as those who are in open arms against us.

Our Reg't is pleasantly located on the south bank of the Arkansas, in close proximity to the city, in a beautiful grove of Norway pines, which afford excellent materials for building purposes, and of which our boys have taken every advantage; and we are now, or soon will be, in our log huts, as comfortable as any soldier could wish to be. How long we will remain here is out of my power to say: but while we do, we are going for good quarters.

Little Rock is indeed a beautiful place, and must be, from its high elevation, quite healthy. The soil is sandy, and the country undulating. My time has been so much occupied that I have not had an opportunity to make many observations. Yesterday, in company with a Lieutenant of our Regiment, I took a stroll about the city. The principal public buildings are the U. S. Arsenal, State House, and State Prison. The Arsenal buildings occupy an inclosure of some 40 acres of as beautiful ground as I ever saw, with a fine growth of Sycamore, Oak, Cotton Wood and Evergreens. The buildings are now occupied by the 43d Ill. Inf. The State House is the quarters of the 3d Minnesota Inf. The State Prison, near which we are encamped, is enclosed by a stone wall some three feet wide by thirty high, the enclosure including some 5 acres; it is now used as a receptacle for captured Guerillas. There are a great many handsome residences, but what adds so much to the beauty of the town are the noble shade trees on either side of the streets. Beautiful females may also be seen occasionally, and the flash of their bright eyes reminds us of others we

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<sup>150</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 21, 1863, p. 1/4. A clipping of this notice is found in Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

have seen in the old Badger State.

The health of the troops is improving rapidly, although the duties are very heavy. Our Regiment is kept on duty constantly. If a soldier gets three nights sleep in a week, he may consider himself lucky.

A body of cavalry have just returned from Arkadelphia and report no Rebs. in sight. A portion of our army is constantly scouting, and many a Butternut have they gobbled.

Orders are very strict here. I doubt whether there is another point where our army have possession, which shows the effects of war as lightly as here. We have now over 450 men with us and are "feeling more than gay." Our Sutler has gone to St. Louis and is going to ship us some Lager.

The Colonel is well, and feels proud of his Regiment, and we feel proud of him, for he has been with us through thick and thin, and prov [sic] himself every inch a soldier.

The Rail Road to Duvall's Bluff is now in good running order, therefore we need have no fears on account of short rations. The country for 20 miles west of the Bluffs is Prairie. From thence to the "Rock" (as the Natives call this city,) mostly heavy timber, very similar to the forests of Wisconsin. The White River is navigable all the year round, making communication sure, but awful slow. In speaking of the White river, I wish to mention my trip from its mouth to Duvall's Bluff, a distance of 180 miles.

At the mouth the gunboat No. 3 hailed us, and gave us to understand that it intended to escort us; so in a very few moments we were steaming up as handsome -- but the most crooked -- stream as I ever saw. The shores overhang with the wild grape and other vines, and the water marks can plainly be distinguished upon the trees 10 and 15 feet above the banks. The whole country overflows for miles, and I am told that the planters used to run their Negroes and other household property in boats away to Texas. I only saw one house for 60 miles, and that was upon stilts to protect it from high water. The only towns along the road are Clarendon, Aberdeen, and St. Charles, all deserted except by a few contrabands. We were three days on our way, and nothing to vary the monotony but gazing upon the shore at the numerous cranes, turtles, buzzards, &c., and listening to the sweet melody of a screeching Calliope. It would be an excellent place to finish an ill-spent life, where one could meditate in solitude.

The 9th and 28th Wisconsin Regiments are here, having just returned from an expedition to Pine Bluff. We have had two or three heavy frosts; but to-day is very sultry, which makes writing rather tedious.

Hoping that my communication may interest your numerous readers, I subscribe myself,

Yours &c.,  
S.M.<sup>151</sup>

It is worthwhile to tell the story of a war time romance which took place while the Regiment was stationed in Arkansas. As is the age old custom, the soldiers fraternized with the local population, some of whom were loyal to the Union while others sympathized with the South. Father became especially friendly with a particular young lady, the daughter of a local physician. So much so, that he with a few of his comrades were invited to a party at the girl's home. Shortly after, he was

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<sup>151</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Nov. 21, 1863, p. 1/2.



warned by the faithful slave of the family. Speaking of a sister of the girl in question, the black said, "she am a rebel and she will have you killed." Nothing daunted, the boys were going to the party in spite of the warning. Fate intervened. The Company was transferred a few days before the event. Later, father received a letter directed in care of his Regiment via the authorities in Washington. "The bullet that was intended for you struck me," the note read. The sister had had her revenge. On the night of the party the home had been ambushed and shots exchanged. The note ended with, "If we ever meet again, it will be where there are no wars or killings."<sup>152</sup>

ARMY IN MORALITY. The Louisville *Journal* one day last week published the paragraph below:...

Eighteen soldiers were arrested at houses of ill fame yesterday, and night before last there were five commissioned officers and twelve privates arrested in brothels in the city. A rigid discipline is being enforced by the military authorities, and no distinction is made between officers and privates when caught in such places.<sup>153</sup>

RECRUITING. Several officers of Companies from Manitowoc county have arrived home on recruiting service. Among them we notice Sergeant JAS. H. HODGES, of the 21st Regiment and Sergeant RAY FLINT, of the 27th. Volunteering is far better than being drafted, and we hope that many of our young men will avail themselves of the opportunity.<sup>154</sup>

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED. We have received the following notes from the 27th Regiment, inclosing advertisements for young lady correspondents from this county. As we have no means of identifying the writers thereof, or of determining the genuineness of the signature or initials attached, save what appears upon the face of them -- the advertisers very strangely having forgotten, or refrained from, giving us the private proof of their identity, which is always an editor's right to expect from those who ask to be heard through his columns -- we give them publicity without assuming any responsibility as to the writers or their sincerity of motive. There are undoubtedly many many lonely hours of camp life, which might be agreeably and profitably employed in conducting such a correspondence in good faith and the right spirit, and when so conducted, its tendencies would be to elevate the young soldier to a higher moral plane, and restrain him from yielding to many of the vices that are wont to cluster around a soldier's life.

Camp 27th Reg't Wis. Vol. Inf.  
Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 18, 1863.

Editor Evergreen City Times -- Dear Sir:  
Please insert the following in your paper:

WANTED! -- Correspondence by three gay and happy soldiers, with three fair young northern girls. Object: fun, friendship, and pastime (and may be more than that after the war).

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<sup>152</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story... of the Kolb Family, pp. 14-15.

<sup>153</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot, Manitowoc*, Nov. 27, 1863, p. 2/5.

<sup>154</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot, Manitowoc*, Dec. 4, 1863, p. 1/3.

Address,       H. R. S.  
                  L. L. G.  
                  C. M. K.  
27th Regt. Wis. Vols., Little Rock, Ark.<sup>155</sup>

Camp of 27th Regt. Wis. Vols.  
Near Little Rock, Ark.  
Nov. 19, 1863

Editor Everg' City Times, Sheboygan, Wis.

SIR: You will confer a favor upon one of Uncle Sam's boys, by giving the following a place in your worthy paper.

WANTED -- Correspondence from the village of Plymouth, Sheboygan County, Wis., with a young lady of some intelligence and respectability, by a gay and happy soldier in the gallant 27th Regt. Wis. Vols., who wishes to improve some of his lonely hours in camp in corresponding with some young lady with whom he may at some future time become more acquainted.

If desired Photographs may be exchanged.

Address, Theodore Aller,  
27th Regt. Wis. Vols., Little Rock, Ark.<sup>156</sup>

Come Home to Recruit. Many of the Wisconsin regiments that have been a long time in the service, are sending home parties of men and officers to recruit for their ranks which have been thinned by losses from battle, sickness, and discharges for disability. Among those who have returned to this city for that purpose, are Lieut. Henry Stocks, of the 9th Regiment, and Sergt. Chas. Walther, of the 27th, both of whose regiments are now stationed at Little Rock, Ark.

The boys are both looking healthy, are in good spirits, and represent their respective regiments as comfortably located, and enjoying general good health.

The present affords an excellent opportunity to avoid the coming draft, which will take place on the fifth of January next, if the quota of the city and county under the last call of the President for volunteers, is not made up by that time. The quota which we published in detail last week -- is 218 for the county, and 31 for the city. Those who enlist will receive a bounty of \$302 if new recruits, or \$402 if veteran volunteers. Those who wait to be drafted, will in that event receive no bounty, and will not have even the privilege of choosing their regiment. By enlisting, then, with either of the above recruiting officers, you will not only make sure of the extra pay, but will have the still greater privilege of going into companies composed of your friends and acquaintances, and receive the benefit of their experience in the service, as well as their sympathy if needed, instead of being compelled to go wherever the government may chance to send you among strangers. Several instances of such gain of pay and privilege occurred in this county, by men who enlisted in the 4th Regiment just previous to the late draft, and whose names were

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<sup>155</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 5, 1863, p. 1/4.

<sup>156</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 5, 1863, p. 1/4.

subsequently drawn as conscript at Fond du Lac....<sup>157</sup>

DIED. At Little Rock, Ark., on the 5th ult., Capt. Aaron Hobart, Co. B, 27th Reg. Wis. Vol., aged 48 years.

And thus another of the prominent and honored names of Sheboygan County, is enrolled in the long list of martyrs to the great cause of the Nation.

Capt. Hobart was born in Solon, Maine, and settled at Hingham, in this county, about nine years since. From the first he has been known as a man of enterprise, of thorough integrity, and of a very kindly and benevolent disposition.

He took the deepest interest in our national struggle at the very outset, was active in recruiting and organizing Co. C, of the Fourth Reg., and when the President issued his second call for 300,000 volunteers, he felt that it was time for men of influence, and of middle life, to leave home and business in response to the summons. He was all the more ready to do this, because he saw that slavery, which he had for years regarded with an upright man's hatred, must fall with the rebellion. He joined with E. W. Stannard, of Greenbush, in raising a Company, and although he had served as Col. in Maine, and held a still higher commission in the State Militia of Wis., he willingly took the second place in the Company and went as Lieut.

Returning from Milwaukee to recruit for his regiment, in the fall of 1862, he was taken dangerously ill; but though there was reason to fear that he could not, at his age, endure the exposures of the service, he refused to seek a release, rejoined his regiment and accompanied them down the Mississippi.

On the death of Capt. Stannard the command devolved upon him. He was with his company in the deadly atmosphere of the Yazoo river. He felt and shared the triumph of the taking of Vicksburg, and having passed thro so much exposure without serious sickness, his friends at home had little apprehension that he would fall by disease in the late autumn, and in the healthful climate of Little Rock. He was seized by fever before he had recovered fully from the exhaustion of the march, and in four days from the attack he passed away. No intimation of his illness reached here till his body was brought to be buried.

COM.<sup>158</sup>

PAY SUSPENDED -- A list of officers is published by the war department whose pay is suspended until proper rolls and returns for their respective regiments are filed in the office of the Adjutant General. In the list are the commanding officers of the 16th, 27th and 32d Wisconsin regiments.<sup>159</sup>

Meant to Cheat Uncle Sam. We learn that a day or two prior to the recent draft, the residents in a certain locality in the town of Holland, in this county, were startled by the outcries

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<sup>157</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 5, 1863, p. 1/3.

<sup>158</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 5, 1863, p. 1/5.

<sup>159</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Dec. 11, 1863, p. 1/6.

of a woman in one of the dwellings in the vicinity, and on rushing in to ascertain the cause of her distress, discovered her husband lying upon the floor apparently in a state of deathly unconsciousness. An inquiry into the cause of his condition brought forth the statement that while splitting kindling wood a few minutes previously, he had accidentally cut off the fore finger of his hand. On examination it was found to be the finger upon the RIGHT hand, and the query arose whether he was LEFT-handed in the use of tools. Those present knew him to be the contrary, and the conviction at once followed, that the self-maiming "accident" was designedly done to avoid the results of an anticipated draft. And here comes the joke of the thing. THE MAN WAS NOT DRAFTED.<sup>160</sup>

From the 27th Regiment.

Headquarters 27th Reg't Wis. Vols.  
Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 22, 1863.

Editor *Times*: Dear Sir -- I am now seated in our little tent with a blazing fire on the hearth. The Colonel, Quartermaster, and several others are seated near me chatting and making themselves as comfortable as possible. It is a bright moonlight night, the weather is cold and the atmosphere fresh and bracing, giving us all such sharp appetites that even "hard tack" relishes exceedingly well, and pork and beans are on a par with roast turkey and oysters.

I have been waiting some time for something interesting to come and see us, that I might write you a few more lines. Since my last [letter] our brigade have had quite an expedition. We received marching orders on the 4th ult., and on the morning of the 5th, bright and early, we were ready, knapsacks packed, teams harnessed, camp and garrison equipage loaded, for a march to Benton, a little town 25 miles south-west of this place. Our object in going there, was to hold possession, while a larger force of cavalry were sent 75 miles further on the Camden road, to reconnoiter and hunt up a gang of Marmaduke's bushwhackers. We began the march about 8 o'clock, the morning was cloudy and looked very much like rain, but presently the sun came out in all its splendor and drove the clouds away. The boys all felt in the best of humor and many a merry laugh and witty speech might have been heard as we went marching on.

We passed several deserted plantations, the fields overgrown with weeds and brush, showing plainly the foot prints of rebellion, which has left the deluded people of Arkansas in such a miserable condition. The first day we marched 20 miles and camped for the night under the open canopy of heaven. I never saw a more lovely night, nor ever slept sounder; with the dry leaves for our mattress and knapsacks for pillows, the bright stars peeped down upon us through the overhanging branches of the trees, and as we sat around our camp fires it seemed more like a band of Gypsies than a lot of Uncle Sam's soldiers.

Dec. 6th we broke camp at 6 o'clock and only having five miles to march we took our time and arrived in the city of Benton about 8 o'clock. Perhaps you would like to know what constitutes a city in this country? It is a distillery, grocery, post office and grog shop -- but Benton is an exception; it can boast of a court house and several other buildings. The people of Benton are divided in their sentiments, some being loyal and others still adhering to Jeff. & Co. The habits of the women differ in some respects from those of the north. They can both chew and

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<sup>160</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 12, 1863, p. 1/3.

smoke tobacco and dip snuff. In dipping they use a little stick or twig, which by chewing forms a sort of a brush; said brush they saturate well with the above named article, then placing it in their mouths, as a natural consequence, are obliged to spit and make as much fuss as any one who chews tobacco. I do not mean to say that all the ladies are addicted to this filthy habit; I saw some very good looking ones. There were two or three marriages while we were out there, the nature of the contract being a little peculiar: "For three years unless sooner tired of the bargain."

We helped to complete a fort intended for 4 guns. A portion of our regiment were out foraging most of the time, and fresh meat, geese and chickens formed our principal diet. The cavalry force came in after having quite a little skirmish, killing 6 or 8 and taking 30 or 40 prisoners.

Lead ore and other minerals are found in considerable quantities about Benton, and the celebrated hot springs are not far distant. The 4th Arkansas Cavalry, or "Mounted Feds" as they are called, a regiment composed exclusively of natives of Arkansas, are stationed here. They are a motly looking set of fellows, but make good soldiers as they are used to all kinds of hardships, many of them having seen service in the C. S. A. as conscripts. They are mounted principally upon Mexican and Indian ponies, and are very useful to send out as scouts, as they are thoroughly acquainted with every foot of the country, and any poor secesh who falls into their hands has to come to time. Horse racing, cock fighting and card playing forms the chief fund of amusement. In the former exercise men, women, and children indulge.

Ten days, the time that was allotted for our sojourn at Benton, having expired, and accomplishing all that was required of us, we again, on the 16th, packed up, and bidding adieu, were off once more for Little Rock, where we arrived about 5 P. M. of the same day, safe and sound but somewhat fatigued.

Little Rock has now got to be a regular fast town; there are two or three theaters in full blast, besides numerous other side shows and catch-penny institutions. You will see by the heading of my letter that some time has elapsed since I began it; to-day is the 26th, Christmas has come and with it many kind thoughts and remembrances of good old Sheboygan times. The town looked gay yesterday, every street and avenue was thronged with soldiers; it was a lively day, as fine as one of your May days. There was to be a walk on a tight-rope. I did not see it, but saw some so tight they couldn't walk. In the afternoon I took a pony ride out to the cemetery and a new fort on the south side of the town; it has an excellent position, with a sweeping range from all directions.

Since our return, Benton has been abandoned, I presume on account of the difficulty in transporting rations, which will encrease every day as the rainy season approaches. The Arkansas [River] is rising; there is some talk of a movement up the river as soon as it can be navigated. It is raining hard to-day, we are very thankful for our log houses.

Hoping this will find you in good health and spirits, I wish you all a happy New Year and trust that when another rolls round to see this rebellion crushed and the States once more united.

S. M.<sup>161</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Jan. 16, 1864, p. 1/2.

Little Rock Ark  
Dec 25th [18]63

Friend Allie [Stannard]

I received yours the 21st and haste to reply. I also rec'd one from [brother] Henry a few days before and was very much pleased to hear from both of you as I always shall be. I am glad your health is so good this winter. My health is the best now that it has been for since about the 1st of Nov. I have not been down sick but about one week of the time but have been far from well losing flesh & strength all the time till the last 8 or 10 days. I have been out on an expedition 11 days of this month. I had just got well enough to begin to do duty when the surgeon asked me if I was well enough to start with Sims the next morning for Benton 25 miles from here where the Regt were to go with 10 days rations and as I am always ready for anything that comes along I went. I am ready for all such trips as that as it is just what I like. Benton is somewhat smaller than Greenbush and nearly deserted. It contains a church, court-house & Jail. Our troops have just got a Fort finished there and evacuated it as the roads are getting so bad they could not be furnished with supplies. We will probably have to whip the Rebs out of it in the spring which we can do if we get the chance. These Arkansas troops (Mountain Feds) are good soldiers and know how to treat their neighbors that are in the Rebel service. They shoot everyone they find. I heard Yesterday that you & Hollis [Wade] had started on a long journey [engaged to be married]. I hope it will prove a pleasant one. I think I would take an Arkansas girl home with me if could find one that did not chew tobacco. It takes mail a long time to reach us here as it comes but once a week and is if not delayed from 12 to 15 days coming from Wis.

We had a good dinner Friday as we can get nearly everything we want. They charge enormous prices for some things. I will give you the price of a few articles as a sample: eggs \$1.00 per doz., butter 60 cents per pound, cheese 50 cts milk 20 cts per qt, green apples \$2.50 per pk and other things in proportion.

The Surgeon accepted our invitation to take dinner with us and pronounced it the best he had had in a long time. It was certainly better than I had in the Libby Hotel, Richmond. I am sorry to hear that Amy's health is so poor also Augusta but I guess she will soon get well as she has a strong constitution. Co. B is not what it was before your Father's death. It has been kept back in every way since that time for want of a commander, but I think Lieut. Schlaich will soon straighten everything up. The books being lost cause near keeping us from getting pay this last time but Lieut S worked hard for us and for it. Give my respects to your Mother and 'H\_\_\_\_\_d' and answer if you think this worth answering. Please excuse all mistakes and believe me your friend

Dan Carver<sup>162</sup>

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<sup>162</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Vol. I, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

On the 8th of January, Charles Dodd was hung at Little Rock as a spy. Details were made from all the infantry, as guards to the execution. The criminal was a young man of scarcely twenty-one years, and had formerly resided only eight miles south of the city. For the last few months before the war, he had attended school at the St. John's College, immediately in front of which he now saw the last of earth. What his thoughts may have been, at this last terrible moment, no tongue can tell; but he bore himself with a bravery and composure that would have done honor to a better cause. This was the only military execution we ever attended. Many of the regiment would not go out to witness this; and the general expression of those who did go, was that they never wanted to see another man hung; yet the same men would walk unmoved, over the bloody horrors of a battlefield.<sup>163</sup>

Sheboygan County Soldiers in Memphis Hospitals. The following members of Sheboygan County Companies of volunteers are reported by Geo. C. Smith, State Agent, as being in the hospitals at Memphis, on the 7th of January:

Seymore Ellickson, Co. B, 8th regiment.

Sydney Barrager, B, 27th.

James Smith, B, 27th.

Henry W. Couch, B, 27th.

Benj. W. Collins, B, 27th.

James Drake, B, 27th.

D. W. Dunham, B, 27th.

August Kenter, C, 27th.

Mathias Goos, C, 27th.

Valentine Hermann, E, 27th.

John Banborn, E, 27th.

George H. Lawrence, E, 27th.

Joseph A. Lock, E, 27th.

George W. Smith, F, 27th.

E. A. Delmart, F, 27th.

Clinton Webster, K, 27th.<sup>164</sup>

We occasionally see the genial "phiz" of Lieut. Col. J. J. Brown, of the 27th Reg't. He returned home a few weeks ago in poor health, but we are gratified to state that it is improving, and as they say of Queen Victoria, when an olive-branch springs forth, 'Is as well as could be expected.'<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>163</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 57.

<sup>164</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Feb. 6, 1864, p. 1/3.

<sup>165</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Jan. 21, 1864, p. 3/2.

Soldier's Families. The families of soldiers who are in need of money, clothing, or provision, can be supplied upon application to the Soldiers Aid Society of this city. We are informed that the proceeds of the entertainment which is to come off on Tuesday ev'ng next will be devoted to that purpose.

If less money was given to the Sanitary Commission and more to the families of soldiers at home, it would be well.<sup>166</sup>

Twelve Brothers in the Union Army. While we were at the recruiting agency of Messrs. Maynard and Griswold yesterday afternoon, a resident of the town of Camillus, Almon Wilber, was enlisted. He stated that he is the oldest of twelve brothers, sons of William and Electa Wilber, of Camillus, and that now they had all entered the service of the United States. This brother is now between forty-four and forty-five years of age, and he added that not one of the twelve brothers weigh less than two hundred pounds. His son enlisted at the same time he did. *Syracuse Journal*. Jan. 14.<sup>167</sup>

Two Fires within Twelve Hours. A very unusual occurrence in the way of fires, took place in this city on the afternoon and following night of Tuesday last, which was the breaking out of fire in one of the best built dwelling houses, and one of the best brick blocks in the city, and both from the same cause.

The first was in the house of Adjutant Chas. G. Meyer, of the 27th Regiment, situated on Virginia street, between Eighth and Ninth, and which broke out about 4 o'clock P. M., around the chimney at the north end of the main building, and where the roof of the addition joins on to it. The great depth of snow rendered it impossible to get the engine or hook and ladder wagons to the spot in season to prevent the conflagration, and no time was wasted in the attempt. But firemen and citizens went to work with buckets and labored hard, to stay the flames until all hope of saving the building vanished. Water from three wells and cisterns was used as fast as it could be pumped, and scores of persons heaped piles of snow upon the roof, but the fire, although broken out in but one or two spots, filled the attic of the addition and was fast eating away the roof beneath, as well as into the main building, and when holes were cut through it to get at the fire, the strong wind which prevailed at the time, created such a draft that the flames spread rapidly, and were soon beyond the control of water from buckets, and the fine building was consumed. The furniture was pretty much all saved, but we learn that the clothing of the family was mostly burned, it being in a room in the second story which was so full of smoke that it could not be entered. Supposed to have caught from a defect in the chimney. Loss about \$2500. Insured in the Milwaukee Mutual, \$1000 on the house and \$400 on the furniture.<sup>168</sup>

Sick Soldiers. The following soldiers belonging to Sheboygan County companies, are reported

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<sup>166</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Jan. 21, 1864, p. 3/2.

<sup>167</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Jan. 30, 1864, p. 4/2.

<sup>168</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Feb. 6, 1864, p. 1/4.



sick in General Hospital at St. Louis, Feb. 1st, and at Little Rock, Jan. 11th:

At St. Louis -- Francis Luscomb, Co. E, 17th wounded; Corporal Henry Stahl, Co. C, 27th, convalescent, furloughed; Conrad Sinner, C 27th, convalescent.

At Little Rock -- Henry Befinger, B, 27th, intermittent fever; William Monk, B, 27th, chronic diarrhea; J. H. Wasterson, C, 27th, chronic diarrhea; F. Martinson, E, 27th, acute diarrhea; B. Rengleman, E, 27th, anarasca; E. R. Hanny, F, 27th, debility.<sup>169</sup>

RECRUITING. Captain Hubbard of Company "F", 27th Regiment, who has been at home a few weeks past recruiting for his company, has raised 17 men. The Company has lost by death about 25 men.

Lieut. Col. J. J. Brown, who has been at home on sick leave several weeks past will return to the seat of war as soon as the mercury thaws out.<sup>170</sup>

... After a slight fall of snow we are enjoying delightful weather; the sun is again shedding its genial warmth over us, and the budding branch, the green grass and the music of the wild birds, tell us that Spring is fast approaching with its balmy breath to surround us with its sweet perfumes, its fragrant flowers and shrubs, and all the verdure of the sunny South. The Arkansas [River] is rising rapidly, as the snow from the mountains, in a thousand little rivulets, comes pouring down. A portion of the fleet that have been at Pine Bluff two or three months, waiting high water, arrived here on the 20th and was received with a salute of 13 guns. Communication is now open from the Mississippi to Fort Smith. Several transports have gone up to supply the troops in garrison there with Quartermaster, Commissary and other stores. There are rumors of a battle at Pine Bluff; the 18th Illinois infantry have gone down there; the 28th Wis. are there at present.

We are all waiting patiently for the spring campaign to open. Every preparation is being made to supply the wants of both men and animals with suitable outfits for a long march, to Texas, I think. There have been two or three messengers here lately from Bank's army, and I have no doubt we will co-operate with him. A lot of deserters from Price's army came into our lines the other day and enlisted in an Arkansas regiment. They were the dirtiest, half starved and most ragged set of beings I ever saw. From all accounts Price is in a desperate condition; he was moving towards Red River with his army, consisting of all of four or five thousand men.

Our regiment participated in a grand review not long since, and received the compliment of being A No. 1 in the list. We are beginning to assume our former respectable appearance as more of the furloughed and sick have returned. We have also received a lot of recruits and expect a fresh supply on the next convoy. The mails are now quite regular; news by telegraph is also received daily by the way of Memphis. It is amusing, when the mail arrives, to see with what eager looks and anxious hearts all wait, patiently expecting sure to receive a letter this time; what exclamations of joy from the lucky ones, and what language, not so delicate, from the unlucky.

Little Rock is now a business town. Theaters, concerts, boarding houses, and restaurants,

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<sup>169</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Feb. 13, 1864, p. 1/3.

<sup>170</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Feb. 18, 1864, p. 3/2.

are all crowded, while soldiers and citizens of every class, dress and color, throng the avenues. On the 14th, the people elect their officers for the new State government, under a free constitution, and everything bids fair to see another bright star decorate the altar of the Union. God grant it may be so, and that all the States now in rebellion, with the assistance of Uncle Sam's soldiers, return to their true allegiance.

Several officers of our regiment have resigned, among whom is Capt. Marschner. We miss him very much, for he was always good natured and full of fun. Lieut. Witte will succeed him, and no doubt will fill his place like a true soldier as he is. John Verdier is now Capt. of Co. H. The Hospital Steward, Charley Mooth, still retains his rosy cheeks and continues to deal out quinine, and occasionally a little spirits. The Colonel, Quartermaster and Adjutant are well.

Hoping we may all some day return to our homes and friends, I subscribe myself

Yours as ever,  
S. M.<sup>171</sup>

As part of the Red River Campaign Steele was supposed to move against Confederate forces in southwest Arkansas to prevent their opposing Bank's advance on Shreveport. Steele planned to mass the infantry divisions of Frederick Solomon and E. M. Thayer (Dept. of the Frontier) and the cavalry division of E. A. Carr (12,000 total) at Arkadelphia and draw toward him the two infantry divisions of Sterling Price (under Churchill and Parsons) that were at Spring Hill. Confederate cavalry divisions (under Fagan, Marmaduke, and Maxey) in the vicinity of Camden and Princeton could then be driven off and these places occupied.

Although Sherman had asked Steele to begin his movement on 1 March, it did not get started until the 23rd. This was three days after the divisions of Churchill and Parsons had left to reinforce Taylor in Louisiana. Steele's delay was a major factor, if not the decisive one, in preventing the Federal capture of Shreveport.

On 29 March Steele's column from Little Rock reached Arkadelphia, having skirmished heavily with Confederate cavalry the entire way. A few days later Thayer's Frontier Division joined him from Fort Smith. Confederate cavalry continued to be aggressive, and there were skirmishes at Mt. Elba, 30 March; Spoonville (Terre Noire Creek) and Antoine, 2 April; Okolona, 3 April; and Elkin's Ford (Little Missouri River), 4 - 6 April.

Steele had no word from Thayer's column until the evening of the 6th. He waited in the vicinity of Elkin's Ford, where Thayer joined him the night of 9-10 April. (At this time Banks had decided to abandon his operation against Shreveport.) Steele now moved with his combined force in the direction of Spring Hill to draw the Confederate cavalry in that direction and permit his capture of Camden. He was engaged at Prairie d' Ann 10 - 13 April. (This place is about halfway on a direct line between Arkadelphia and Spring Hill.) Steele then turned eastward and occupied Camden 15 April; here he learned of Bank's failure.

Kirby Smith knew of Bank's withdrawal on 10 April, the day after Pleasant Hill, and decided to move with his main infantry force against Steele in Arkansas. He reached Camden 20 April with the divisions of Churchill and Parsons and with J. G. Walker's division from Louisiana. To turn Steele's position he sent a force across the Washita below the city to cut his

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<sup>171</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, March 26, 1864, p. 1/3.

line of communications. At Mark's Mills, 25 April, this column captured a train of 211 wagons that was moving from Camden to Pine Bluff under heavy escort. Steele withdrew via Princeton. At Jenkins' Ferry, 29-30 April, he was attacked while astride the Saline River and forced to abandon his pontoon train. He entered Little Rock on 3 May. (This campaign is also known as the Expedition to Camden.)<sup>172</sup>

... in the celebrated Red River Expedition.

The Twenty-seventh was in the Third Brigade, commanded by Colonel Engelman, of the Forty-third Illinois, Third Division, Brigadier General Frederick Salomon, Seventh Army Corps, General Steele.

Leaving Little Rock on the 23d of March, nothing of importance occurred until the 1st of April, when the First Brigade, under General Rice, which occupied a position in the rear of the division, guarding the trains, was attacked by the enemy, near the junction of the Washington and Camden roads, in the vicinity of Witherspoonville, or Hollywood. In this attack, the Twenty-seventh was detached to aid in protecting the train, which was brought safely into camp.<sup>173</sup>

At this date [March 23, 1864], as a part of the 3d brigade, 7th army Corps, [the 27th regiment] left Little Rock to participate in the unfortunate Red River expedition under the direction of General Banks. After a long and toilsome march by way of Arkadelphia and Spoonville the regiment, on the 4th of April, joined the main army at Elkin's Ferry. It was in action at Okalona, Little Missouri, Prairie d' Ane and Camden.<sup>174</sup>

The 23d of March, 1864, was clear and beautiful. Reveille was sounded at the usual hour; and at 9:40 A. M., with rations packed, knapsacks slung, forty rounds of ammunition in the cartridge-boxes,... to the old, accustomed tune of Yankee Doodle, we marched out of Little Rock -- for the last time, we thought -- as part of General Steele's column intended to join Banks' army at Shreveport, by way of Camden.

The march seemed harder at first, from our having been in camp so long; but we made the nine miles marked out for the first day without difficulty, and camped at night in an excellent place, on the Benton road. ...plenty of good water for men and animals, plenty of rails or other timber for fires, and enough tolerably smooth ground to sleep on.<sup>175</sup>

FROM THE 27TH REGIMENT. Gen. Steele's Expedition to the Red River -- Frequent Skirmishing with the Rebels -- Reaches Camden -- Loss of Two Wagon Trains -- Return to Little Rock -- Five Days March Without Rations. Correspondence of the Times.

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<sup>172</sup> Mark M. Boatner III, The Civil War Dictionary, (New York, 1959), p. 24.

<sup>173</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 761.

<sup>174</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165,

<sup>175</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 60.

Head Quarters 27th Reg. Wis. Vols.  
Little Rock, Ark., May 2d, 1864.,

Editor Evergreen Times: -- Sir:

The army of Arkansas, consisting in all of about 12,000 fighting men, cavalry, infantry and artillery, took its departure from Little Rock, the capitol, on the 23d of March, 1864, to join in the great Red River expedition. I mentioned in my last letter that we were about making a move. Well, I was not mistaken. We did move and have been moving for the last forty-two days and nights, over mountains and hills, through sloughs, mud holes, creeks, rivers, low bottoms and pine swamps and are, as you observe, once more in Little Rock, tired, ragged, foot sore, and hungry. This is the second attempt I have made to get a letter to you; my first lies buried in the beautiful mud of Saline river, having been sent with a train that was gobbled. I will speak of this hereafter, and will give you an outline of our adventures as near as I can sum up....<sup>176</sup>

Next morning [March 24] our bugle startled the surrounding darkness, and soon the call was answered from all the neighboring fields. Bugles rang as we had never heard them before.... Finally a brass band, that accompanied the expedition, rang out its mellow tones, and the noise of bugles ceased. The Camden Expedition started out "in style."

On the evening of the second day, camping early in a good place, we drew our first rations for the trip, and learned that during the march, but half-rations would be issued, except that with commendable care and prudence the General had ordered a full allowance of coffee for all the time....

The exact amount of food that was issued to us as half-rations on this expedition was two hard-tacks, a little salt pork, a little salt, and some coffee, to each man per day. And this was not in prison or in camp, but on the march... with gun and rig, weighing from twenty to twenty-five pounds, and knapsack, haversack, and other articles, weighing almost as much more...<sup>177</sup>

March 24th. Camped for the night near Benton, a distance of twenty-five miles from the Rock.<sup>178</sup>

March 25th. Broke camp at 8 a.m., roads very muddy; crossed the Saline, a shallow but rapid stream, marched about 10 miles and camped for the night on a high gravel ridge.<sup>179</sup>

March 26th. Marched at 6 a.m., passing through a miserable country scant of forage and every thing else. Halted at 5 p.m. near Rockport, on the Washita river, twenty-five miles from Benton, in a heavy growth of pine timber, where blazing fires were soon made from the numerous pine

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<sup>176</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 1/27 of note).

<sup>177</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 61.

<sup>178</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 2/27 of note).

<sup>179</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 3/27 of note).

knots that lay around us.<sup>180</sup>

March 27th. Broke camp at 7 a. m. and resumed the march, taking the advance. We managed to forage considerable, tho' still in a poor country. Crossed the Washita on a Pontoon Bridge, marched about ten miles and camped for the night in an open field. Were aroused from our slumbers about midnight by the downfall of our Tent in a drenching rain storm.<sup>181</sup>

March 28th. Marched at 7 a. m. through low bottom land and scrubby pine, have captured some prisoners, have marched ten miles, and camped for the night: plenty of beef, chickens, &c.<sup>182</sup>

March 29th. Off at 7 a. m. crossed one or two rocky streams, which delayed our march a long time, as we had to wait for the [t]rain to cross. We found the river Cadsaw, a beautiful, shallow stream, and halted at 5 p. m. near Arkadelphia, a distance of 75 or 81 miles from Little Rock. We are now in the country for [s]ugar and molasses and the boys are more than going for it.<sup>183</sup>

In the afternoon of March 29th, the sixth day out, we entered camp in the outskirts of the fine village of Arkadelphia -- a place which seemed to us much like a Northern town. Situated on the Washita River, and built mostly of good, white frame houses, it presented a very different appearance from many of the dilapidated "huddles" to which we had been more accustomed.... There was little, if any foraging done.... A considerable amount of good ham, corn-meal and molasses was obtained.<sup>184</sup>

... Arkadelphia had been their principal army depots; here was a powder mill, different machine-shops, and the valuable saltpeter and salt works, from which a great part of Arkansas was drawing this indispensable [sic] article. Arkadelphia is situated high on a bluff on the Ouachita River. Everything in and around this place indicated its former prosperity, the fine residences a [bit] delapidated [sic] and neglected, perhaps, but still bearing signs of better times; its extensive trade, both by river and land, for the steamboats run on the Ouachita up to this place during two-thirds of the year, and it was also the great thoroughfare to Texas. The sterile lands and deserted farms which we had met thus far on our march gave way to a fertile country and cultivated lands...<sup>185</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 4/27 of note).

<sup>181</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 5/27 of note).

<sup>182</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 6/27 of note).

<sup>183</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 7/27 of note).

<sup>184</sup> A. F. Sperry, *History of the 33rd Iowa*, p. 64.

<sup>185</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster: The Story of General Frederick Steele's Expedition into Southern Arkansas" (Little Rock, 1955), p. 7, quoting from the report of

On the 30th and 31st [of March] we remained in camp and took a rest, making our beds of dry leaves, or Arkansas feathers, as the boys call them. Arkadelphia is a town about the size of Sheboygan Falls, is situated on the Washita, and has been a brisk business place, having a big trade in cotton, tobacco, &c., with New Orleans via Camden. Nearly every building in the City is now deserted. Our cavalry went out on a scout and were driven in; prospects of a battle in a few days.<sup>186</sup>

April 1st. Marched at 7 a. m. Took the Washington road and bore off more to the west. Arrived at Spoonville, a little place twelve miles out, at 4 p. m. The country through which we passed was far superior to any we have yet seen, with [c]otton fields in full blow. We expected to meet Gen'l Thayer's forces here from Fort Smith, but some how failed to connect.<sup>187</sup>

At 8 A. M., of the 1st of April, we started on again; and at night, after a march of about a dozen miles, the camp was pitched in the woods near a couple of houses... designated in the geography... by the name of Hollywood, Arkansas, but by the inhabitants were ordinarily called Spoonville.<sup>188</sup>

On moving from Spoonville on the 2d, the rear was attacked by Shelby, who made several vigorous charges, but was handsomely repulsed by our troops under command of Brig. Gen. S. A. Rice, who had the fortune to command in rear on that day.<sup>189</sup>

April 2d. Were up and ready to march at 4 o'clock. Took our position as guard for the train. Marched at 6. We had gone about two miles when the roar of cannon in the distance, could plainly be heard. It proved to be an attack of the Rebels upon Rice's Brigade who were in the rear. I have never been able to learn the result. After marching about 10 miles we came to another road running at right angles and nearly south; this we took, and arrived at Oakalina, another small burg, at 7 p. m., having marched 20 miles. The Rebels kept bothering the rear all the way.<sup>190</sup>

Next day [April 2] our regiment was scattered as guard among the [wagon] train; this was

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Lt. Col. Adolph Dengler (Union forces).

<sup>186</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 8/27 of note).

<sup>187</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 9/27 of note).

<sup>188</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 66.

<sup>189</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 4, quoting from the report of Capt. Junius B. Wheeler (Union forces).

<sup>190</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 10/27 of note).

a hard day all round. During a good part of the time, there was skirmishing with a body of rebels, whose number we had no means of knowing. The field-pieces which accompanied the rear-guard were pretty actively employed with occasional shots "on the wing." ... A part of the afternoon there were great efforts made to "close up the train", which had become badly scattered along the road.

Nearly all the way was through timber, mostly pine. Some of the time our advance-guard would set the leaves on fire before us, which compelled us at times to march for hours... through the dense smoke and heated air of the still burning under-brush. This was dangerous business for powder-wagons and caissons, but fortunately there was no explosion.<sup>191</sup>

General Rice's brigade, having the rear and the large train in its charge, had (since we left Spoonville, on the 2d) an almost continuous skirmish with Shelby's brigade, inflicting a severe loss on the enemy. We had but just arrived, at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at Okolona, a small village of only few houses, when we were attacked by the enemy. ...the enemy quickly retired..., exchanging several hundred shots with him without any casualties on our side. General Steele had determined to send Colonel Engelmann's brigade... the next day back to Spoonville to gather, if possible, some information about General Thayer, while the main army was to move forward for the purpose of crossing the Little Missouri.<sup>192</sup>

Okolona, Arkansas, 3 April, 1864. Skirmish during Steele's Arkansas campaign.<sup>193</sup>

There were a few stars in the sky and many shadows among the trees when [on April 3, 1864] the advance moved out early upon the road, along which numbers of the overpowered Federals were sleeping, broken down by fatigue and incessant marching. Steele's army was encountered in a line of battle two miles long, cavalry well in advance and batteries all along the front. He had mistaken Shelby's attack [on the rear of his column the day previous] for the blow of an army, and waited to give general action. This mistake favored operations wonderfully, and Shelby immediately bore down upon the cavalry drawn up in a large field before the infantry line stationed upon the crests of a long series of hills, steep and precipitate. It seemed like child's play to drive back these timid horsemen, and General Steele soon sent forward a brigade of infantry, whose skirmishers advanced rapidly to the attack. The battle grew fierce in a moment. Smith's regiment had repulsed one sudden charge, and Elliott had nearly executed an admirable flank movement, when one of those sudden, fearful hurricanes came roaring out of the sky, so peculiar and so familiar in southern latitudes. The air became dark as midnight.... The blare of bugles and the clatter of musketry were hushed instantly in the valley below.... For two hours this terrible storm raged with fearful power. On every side came the crash of falling oaks and the thunder of

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<sup>191</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 67.

<sup>192</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 8, quoting from the report of Lt. Col. Adolph Dengler (Union).

<sup>193</sup> Mark M. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 607.

splintered timber.... Slowly the air grew lighter -- the wind became less mighty -- and the sulphurous stench in the atmosphere died out by degrees.... Steele not caring, perhaps, to uncover his front, and doubtless, busy with preparations to cross the Little Missouri river, retired his forces, and left only a hard, naked line of massive infantry impossible to be penetrated by a single brigade of cavalry.<sup>194</sup>

On the morning of the 3d, their [Union] videttes were encountered about a mile north of Okolona, which were soon driven in, and I found the entire [Union] army lying quietly in camp, with their same rear guard, now heavily covered by cavalry, about 2 miles from the town. This I at once attack[ed] and fought three hours, inflicting on him severe loss. While engaged a terrible hailstorm came up from the northeast and spread its dark wings over the sky. The scene was rugged and sublime. Amid the jar and sighing of the pines as the pitiless hail-stones tore through them, there was mingled the crash of artillery, the sharp rattle of musketry, and... as the wind ceased there came the wild blare of bugles and the ring of sabers from the valley below, where the enemy was fighting. Twice during the day I felt their entire line and found it nearly 2 miles long, and twice they advanced in force, but were driven back each time. I drew off at 2 o'clock and retired to the little village of Antoine, where I fed men and horses and camped for the night.<sup>195</sup>

April 3d. Weather cloudy. Two companies of our Regiment were placed on picket on the evening of the 2d, and exchanged several shots with the Rebels during the night. About nine o'clock our Regiment was ordered out and deployed as skirmishers. The firing from both sides soon became quite lively and continued till noon, when a drenching rain put a quietus to both sides for a time. We lost three killed and three wounded, Co. A one, Co. G two. Cassander Knowles was wounded severely and carried from the field; he afterwards died at Elkins' Ferry. His father lives at the Falls. About 5 p. m. our Brigade was ordered back to Spoonville to ascertain the whereabouts of Gen. Thayer; our boys had driven the Rebels two or three miles. We marched till 11 p. m. and laid down with empty stomachs to shiver in the cold and wet.<sup>196</sup>

April 3 -- At Okalona, Ark., another action was had, in which Illinois and Missouri cavalry, and Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Ohio infantry participated; the Union loss was 16 killed and 74 wounded; the rebels lost 75 in killed and wounded.<sup>197</sup>

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<sup>194</sup> John N. Edwards, Shelby And His Men: or The War In The West (Cincinnati, 1867), p. 259.

<sup>195</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 12, quoting from the report of Brigadier-General Jo. O. Shelby (Confederate).

<sup>196</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 11/27 of note).

<sup>197</sup> H. O. and M. A. W. Brown, Soldiers And Citizens Album of Biographical Record (Chicago, 1890), p. 93.



On the 3d, Engleman's brigade was ordered to remain at Okolona, with orders to proceed back to Hollywood, in conjunction with Colonel Ritter's cavalry brigade, and communicate with General Thayer. Before the cavalry forces arrived at Okolona, Colonel Engleman was attacked. The enemy were driven back and pursued by the Twenty-seventh Regiment, under Colonel Krez, for two miles.<sup>198</sup>

April 4th. Reached Spoonville 8 p. m.; remained here till 10 p. m. of the 5th and hearing nothing of Thayer put back again to Oakalina and four miles farther on, where we camped for the night in a swamp, near the Little Mo. River.<sup>199</sup>

General Steele crossed the Little Missouri river the next day [following Okalona skirmish] with his entire army, after having been reinforced by several thousand troops from Fort Smith, under General Thayer, and General Shelby crossed the same river five miles below, marching to Steele's front and taking position on Prairie d' Ann, a beautiful stretch of smooth, level land bordering the bottom, in whose muddy and pestilential marshes Steele still struggled, having to corduroy every mile of ground before he could advance his huge train to firmer soil.... General Gano came from the Indian nation with several regiments of Texans and Choctaws, making the whole cavalry force, when united, about seven thousand. Three days passed slowly away waiting for Steele to get ready, broken by incessant skirmishing and occasionally a shock or two of outlying regiments.<sup>200</sup>

The cavalry arrived (to join the infantry at Okolona), and Colonel Engleman proceeded to Hollywood, in pursuance of orders, and rejoined the division near Elkins' Ford, on the 5th.<sup>201</sup>

The [Confederate] enemy had been severely punished in the several skirmishes, for we found all along the road to Spoonville new-made graves, and in the houses his wounded and dying. Another noticeable feature was that when we had first come over the road but rarely a man had been seen in any of the houses, while when going back to Spoonville any number of young men were seen loitering about. This was noticed and commented upon by all.<sup>202</sup>

The division left camp on the 6th, and moved forward in rear of the cavalry division of General Carr, and encamped about midway between the river and Prairie del Ane, near the abandoned

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<sup>198</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 762.

<sup>199</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/1 (no. 12/27 of note).

<sup>200</sup> John N. Edwards, Shelby And His Men, p. 263.

<sup>201</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 762.

<sup>202</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 8, quoting from the report of Lt. Col. Adolph Dengler (Union forces).

breastworks of the enemy. Here they remained three days, the troops being engaged in foraging and repairing the roads, to facilitate the march of General Thayer's division, which was in the rear.<sup>203</sup>

On the 6th, the column moved, and after some skirmishing the enemy fled, leaving over a mile of breast-works of timber and earth crowning the hills which overlook the bottom and perfectly commanding the road along which we had to march. On the 7th, working parties were sent back to repair the roads so as to pass General Thayer's train. At nightfall it commenced to rain, and lasted for several hours.

Daylight the next morning showed that all the work of the day before was undone; corduroying and bridges were all afloat, the whole bottom nearly was under water, and the Little Missouri was no longer fordable, having risen 3 feet. The bridge train was ordered to the ferry, and working details placed on the road to repair the worst places....<sup>204</sup>

April 6th. Resumed the march, forded the Little Mo. about noon, and come up to the main army about sun-set, at a place called Elkins' Ferry. After crossing the river the roads became, worse and worse. Corduroy roads were built through pine swamps with quicksand for foundation, and in some places were actually afloat. It was in these woods that our artillery played on the rebs and made them skedaddle. The trees on both sides of the road were completely riddled with shot and shell.

We remained at Elkins' Ferry until the 10th. Thayer's troops came in on the 9th; they are mostly from Kansas and Arkansas, with some Indians and two colored regiments.<sup>205</sup>

Resigned. Quartermaster Wm. N. Shafter, of the 27th regiment, has resigned his commission in consequence of ill health, under the advice of the Surgeons of the army at Little Rock. He has been unfit for duty much of the time since his return to the regiment after his severe sickness of last summer. He arrived here on Tuesday morning last, and shortly after went to Gibbssville, where his family have been living during his absence in the army.

He reports the 27th as being the best drilled and most soldierly looking regiment in General Steele's army, and so acknowledged by the general officers of the army; that Col. Krez is more thoroughly versed in military matters than any officer of his rank there, and even more so than many of his superiors in position.

Adjutant Meyer, of the same regiment, has also been compelled to resign his commission from physical disability, being afflicted with a chronic liver complaint. He is said to have made a thorough and efficient officer, and to have been well liked by the men. He has also returned

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<sup>203</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 762.

<sup>204</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 4, quoting from the report of Capt. Junius B. Wheeler (Union forces).

<sup>205</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 13/27 of note).

On the 9th, General Thayer came up, and on the 10th... left for Prairie D'Ane at 3 p.m. Like an oasis lies this beautiful prairie in the midst of dense forests and almost impassable swamps, a relief for the eye of the traveler, who has for many days hardly seen anything but rocks crowned by dark pines or the gloomy cypress swamp. The prairie, elevated above the surrounding country, rises gradually toward its center. A ridge running along the northern edge, slightly covered with brush, was occupied by a strong force of the enemy's sharpshooters, who kept up an annoying fire on our lines, they being well protected by the crest of the eminence and the low brushes, while we were standing low and without cover. ...the rebels in haste fell back upon their main force. This we saw now half a mile farther south drawn up in a long line along the crest of another and somewhat higher ridge.... Now the enemy's battery opened and our artillery... replied promptly and with telling effect. For half an hour the artillery kept up a brisk fire, then a general advance was ordered, but as soon as our forces commenced ascending the slope of the hitherto contested ridge the enemy's line began to waver.... the enemy... under cover of the twilight, hastily retreated in a southwestern direction... Night had already come when our line was formed in the new position, and there we rested on our arms.

About 8:00 the enemy planted two pieces of artillery behind the brow of the nearest ridge, half a mile distant... and for about an hour a lively exchange of shells took place ...<sup>207</sup>

... on the evening of the 9th, sharp, rapid, and heavy firing on the Elkins Ferry and Camden road warned me that an advance in force was being made on our [Confederate] position... The melee of the battle approached rapidly.... I opened fire on the enemy's cloud of skirmishers. Captain Collins had but two guns to fight the grand advance of Steele's army, and as battery after battery rushed up from the [Union] rear and opened upon him he never changed his position, but held his men...with calm and daring courage. The artillery duel was terrible and magnificent. The broad prairie stretched away smoothly as a sea of glass. The long lines of cavalry on either side of the guns, and over all the bursting bombs and the white powder clouds, came fast and furious. For three hours the fight went on. Collins fought their eighteen guns, and his supports never wavered for a moment... At dark General Marmakuke ordered me to retire, which was done in perfect order. After falling back a mile I found the enemy advancing stubbornly upon me, and I knew that if he was not checked at once he would command our fortified position with his artillery before daylight. I ordered Collins once more in position on the naked prairie and deployed about 400 men as skirmishers along their entire front, and a real night battle began. For three hours more the fight went on, the whole heavens lit up with bursting bombs and the falling flames of muskets. Their advance was checked for the night, and at 12 p.m. I drew off, after eight hours

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<sup>206</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 9, 1864, p. 1/2.

<sup>207</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 9, quoting from the report of Lt. Col. Adolph Dengler (Union forces).

of severe fighting.<sup>208</sup>

27th Wisconsin on the move. The 27th Regiment, Col. Krez, and the 9th, Col. Salomon, form a part of the forces of Gen. Steele, 15,000 strong, which left Little Rock, Ark., on the 23d ult., for the South, to co-operate with General Sherman from the east, and Gen. Banks from the south, in the effort to crush out the "Trans-Mississippi" Army of the rebs on the Red River under Price, by a sudden and overwhelming blow. The boys may have a chance to prove their mettle on this expedition. If so, we shall expect to hear a good report from them.<sup>209</sup>

April 10. Marched eight or ten miles to Prairie d' Ann, and were drawn up in line of battle in the edge of the woods. This prairie is five or six miles square. We had been told that the rebs intended making a desperate stand here. Our skirmishers were thrown out and immediately the rebs began to fall back; we followed them closely. Soon the cannon began belching forth their shot and shell and reminded me that we were really in a battle. Our battery, the 3d Ill., Capt. Vaughn, soon got in position and more than poured it into them. We kept advancing and finally came up where the rebs had their pieces. Eight dead horses showed the result of our firing. We held this position and our regiment supported the battery during the night. The rebs kept firing more or less till mid-night. Capt. Vaughn replied to them several times with one from each of his 12 pounders. We lost one man killed and two or three wounded, and one artillery horse. It was an awful cold night and most of us were without blankets.<sup>210</sup>

April 10 -- The troops belonging to Steele's expedition had a heavy fight at Prairie d' Ann, Ark., in which the loss was 100 killed, wounded and missing. Several days were occupied in the conflict.<sup>211</sup>

The next day about two o'clock in the evening, Steele came sure enough, driving everything before him from the timber and pouring line after line upon the naked prairie. Shelby was always ready, and having previously selected his position, about midway between the camp of Steele and the fortifications of Price, on the long crest of a little narrow ridge, prepared quietly for the desperate combat close at hand. General Steele advanced slowly, but in beautiful array. Far as the eye could reach might be seen the glitter of burnished arms and the proud flutter of embroidered banners. The skirmishers, deployed along the whole front in one unbroken line, kept exact time and distance.... Shelby opened fire first with artillery, and, as if by magic, and before almost a shell had exploded, two magnificent six-gun batteries galloped up in advance of the

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<sup>208</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", pp. 12-13, quoting from the report of Brigadier General Jo. O. Shelby (Confederate).

<sup>209</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 9, 1864, p. 1/4.

<sup>210</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 14/27 of note).

<sup>211</sup> H. O. and M. A. W. Brown, Soldiers And Citizens Album, p. 94.

[Federal] skirmishers and concentrated a heavy fire upon Collins and the exposed horsemen bestriding their steeds as calmly as if on dress parade.... The two batteries, unable to silence his guns, were reinforced by another, and still another, until twenty-four pieces of cannon were pouring a hell of shot and shell into the ranks. Not a soldier moved or changed the position of his horse's head. Steele angrily turned to his chief of artillery and said: "If you can not silence those four guns of Shelby's yonder on a naked prairie, and break his simple lines of cavalry, you had best return to Little Rock -- you can do nothing here."

For an hour and more the artillery fight continued. Every horse and seventeen of Collins' men lay dead and wounded among the guns. Great gaps torn in the cavalry regiments were coolly filled up... Then the skirmishers met in desperate battle. The cavalry thrown forward by Steele was shattered and driven back; three batteries changed positions twice, and finally left the front for repairs....

Darkness came down upon the vast prairie, yet the battle was not ended. Steele showed signs of advancing, and Marmaduke ordered Shelby to attack and check him effectually. Deploying his entire brigade, except Gordon's regiment, as skirmishers, he engaged Steele's whole army.<sup>212</sup>

Captain Rankin lined (evening) our Company in Battle Formation and marched them up the hill facing the enemy and then marched them down again. In the morning the enemy was gone.<sup>213</sup>

[The afternoon of April 10] the rebels began to resist our advance. All the way was through timber, mostly pine, and a good part of the time we marched through this, in line of battle. As we neared the large and beautiful prairie called Prairie De Anne, the opposition of the rebels increased. Their main body was posted on the prairie, under command of Price himself, and numbered several thousand....

At about 4:45 P. M., as we came upon the edge of the prairie, the continuous skirmishing merged into a battle, and the artillery-firing became quite heavy. ... we marched in close column by division formation for several minutes, in the direct range of a rebel battery.... Marching steadily forward to the edge of the prairie, we were ordered to support the 9th Wisconsin battery... by lying down flat on our faces in line of battle, while the battery continued its vigorous and well-directed fire. The rebels responded actively; but their guns were of an old and inferior pattern, and their shot and shell, though very destructive to the trees in the rear, did not come very near us. For a while the cannonade was brisk and lively; but it gradually grew weaker, as the rebels retreated, and before sun-down, had almost ceased.

Now began a slow and cautious advance over the prairie, in line of battle, with skirmishers deployed, and interrupted by frequent orders to halt and lie down. The prairie was at intervals intersected by small brooks, fringed with dense and some times very thorny thickets... As it grew too dark to go any farther, the line was ordered back a little, to one of these thickets, where we

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<sup>212</sup> John N. Edwards, Shelby And His Men, pp. 264-266.

<sup>213</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972.

stacked arms for camp.<sup>214</sup>

The night was clear and cold, and our wagons had been left a mile or two behind us, which two facts caused the hearts of the officers to sink considerably, for their blankets, mess-chests, &c., were with the train. The men had all their possessions with them, of course, and could therefore eat hard-tack and drink coffee, and tumble down to sleep as usual; but the officers had to get along as best they could.

During the night the rebels kept up an occasional artillery-fire, aimed at us, but doing its only damage among the trees far in the rear. Those of us who were out on picket, could see not only the flash of their guns, and the light of the shells as they rose in the air, but the very blaze of the old-fashioned matches they used, instead of the improved locks or primers of more modern construction. So near were our picket-lines to those of the rebels, that much ill-humored conversation passed between them, the "Jonnies" being particularly severe on us for being all Dutchmen.

Some time before mid-night, we were suddenly waked by the fierce firing of small arms near us. The rebels were making a bold sortie, to capture one of our guns; but they were repulsed before we could even move toward them.<sup>215</sup>

The horizon, from east to west, was one leaping, incessant blaze of about six thousand muskets, lighting up the very sky and making night hideous with their screaming missiles. The batteries, too, joined in the combat and burst like volcanoes from the solid earth, throwing large jets of flame at every discharge; while from the gloom and distance came the wild yells of the Confederates as they drove a regiment here or gained an advantage there. Steele at midnight had not advanced an inch when General Shelby withdrew his command. The next day he again went to the front and skirmished heavily, Steele positively refusing battle and remaining quietly upon the prairie, secure in his concentrated strength. It soon became evident that General Price would not fight in the position chosen -- indeed the attempt, had the issue been made -- could only result in severe defeat, and check the Federal army but a moment; so when General Steele advanced the third morning upon the fortifications he found only a few logs and shallow ditches.<sup>216</sup>

On the 10th, the division advanced about four miles, to the prairie, where the enemy was encountered, and a severe skirmish ensued, which lasted until dark, the enemy being driven back from position to position, and the division occupied the highest ridge on the prairie. The troops lay on their arms all night. The Third Brigade, Colonel Engleman, took part in this engagement. The enemy attacked them during the night, but were successfully repulsed.<sup>217</sup>

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<sup>214</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 68.

<sup>215</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 70.

<sup>216</sup> John N. Edwards, Shelby And His Men, pp. 264-266.

<sup>217</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 762.

The casualties, in the several skirmishes from the 1st to the 10th of April, near Camden, were officially reported, as follows:

Killed or Died of Wounds. Company A - Private Safra Villett, Company F - Corporal Edward H. Bates. Company G - Privates Patrick Knox and William Anding. Company K - Private Cassander Knowles - 5.

Wounded. Company A - Private Thron Olson. Company H Private Gunderson - 2.<sup>218</sup>

April 11th. Held our position till 2 P. M., when we advanced half a mile or so. It began to rain and we fell back again to our old position.<sup>219</sup>

[This] morning [April 11], details of men were sent back to the wagons to make coffee at fires kindled behind some thickets, which hid them from rebel view.... [The] majority of the line had to take the "hard-tack and sow-belly" in a raw state, and be thankful to have their coffee warm. The remainder of the forenoon, we merely laid there, waiting orders. It was a beautiful day; and the singing of the birds... contrasted oddly with the occasional booming of the cannon and the continued skirmishing on some part of the line. As for us, we hunted rabbits, played euchre, read old novels, wrote away at letters, slept, and so on, as though there were no thoughts of battle in the world.

At 2:25 in the afternoon a forward movement commenced. The whole of our little army was drawn up in battle array.... We heard afterward, that when General Price saw us thus advancing, he threw up his hands and exclaimed "My God! they are coming in clouds," and immediately ordered a retreat. Toward evening we halted for some time, on the high prairie. There was considerable skirmishing in front. The old [rebel] smooth-bore field-pieces threw shot so awkwardly, that some would plunge into the ground far in front of us, and others would come down so closely in our rear, that we began to have fears of being shot in the back, though fronting the enemy. Meanwhile, as if for relief from the monotony of lying still to be shot at, an old cow, with a bell on, started up near us, and was immediately pursued by some thing less than a hundred shouting and laughing soldiers, but finally succeeded in making a fair escape.

That night we marched back to our previous camp...<sup>220</sup>

On the morning of the 12th, anxious to meet the rebels in their works, our army moved forward, keeping more in the direction toward the left of the line of fortifications. Now and then skirmishers became engaged, but when we came in sight of their rifle-pits, which extended for over 1 1/2 miles along the highest ridge, just on the skirt of the forest, the enemy's skirmishers

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<sup>218</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 762.

<sup>219</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 15/27 of note).

<sup>220</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 71.

disappeared.... Our advance entered the intrenchments; the enemy was gone.<sup>221</sup>

... before six the next morning [April 12], our whole force was again in battle array, and advancing toward the enemy. The skirmishing was at times, quite lively. Our batteries would open on the rebels, and speedily silence and scatter them. At about 9 o'clock, we reached the edge of the woods, and entered the rebel camp, which their rear-guard had just evacuated. Over a mile of very passable breast-works, alternated with places for cannon, of such a range that they could have... mowed us down in a direct assault;... we were much pleased at this result of a flanking movement.

Halting here but a little while, the column moved off across the prairie, to the Camden road, and soon after reaching that, passed through a town called Moscow, consisting of three houses, one of which had been in use as a temporary rebel hospital...<sup>222</sup>

April 12th. About noon the whole force advanced. I never witnessed a more beautiful sight. The prairie for miles dotted with our troops, and the colors of many a gallant regiment flaunting in the breeze. We passed fourteen more dead horses, the rebs not even having time to take their harness off. We moved on and came up to their breast works all deserted. We marched about ten miles, passed a little place called Moscow, where the rebs had some wounded, and camped for the night in another swamp.<sup>223</sup>

On the 12th, the division advanced, when skirmishing ensued, without important results. The force continued its advance on the road to Camden, through Moscow, and on the 16th, marched into Camden.<sup>224</sup>

April 13th. Marched at daylight through roads next to impassible; no rations, only a little parched corn that we stole from the horses and mules. Thayer's brigade were in the rear and were attacked, but drove the rebs three or four miles. We marched till 2 A. M., and rested till daylight.<sup>225</sup>

At frequent intervals on Wednesday, the 13th, we could hear cannonading in the rear, where Thayer's Division marched. In camp that night, there were all sorts of reports concerning the losses of the day. Slightly exaggerated statements represented that one of the colored

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<sup>221</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 10, quoting from the report of Lt. Col. Adolph Dengler (Union forces).

<sup>222</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 72.

<sup>223</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 16/27 of note).

<sup>224</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 762.

<sup>225</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 17/27 of note).



regiments had lost eleven hundred men and two colonels; but not many believed so much. Finally, all the reports settled down to the fact that the rebels had followed us, and tried to annoy us all they could.<sup>226</sup>

[April] 14th. Resumed the march at daylight, drew half rations of hard tack, halted at 5 P. M., and camped for the night.<sup>227</sup>

[April] 15th. Marched at daylight. Our cavalry skirmished with the enemy and drove them. They opened on us from the front to-day, with their batteries masked in the woods. We lost 10 or 11 men killed and wounded, but soon made them "git".<sup>228</sup>

April 16th. Arrived at Camden and took quiet possession of the forts, nine in all, and planted the star spangled banner on them. We remained in Camden until the 27th, and had a pretty good rest. It is a beautiful little place and has been one of the most prosperous towns in the State. Situated on the south-west bank of the Washita, 50 miles from the La. line, in one of the richest farming countries in the world, and the river navigable for boats of the largest size. The people are all regular secesh. The court house, a large brick building, is used for our sick and wounded. Our hard tack is played out and our only resource is corn. Two or three mills were instantly put in running order, and the way we went for hoe-cake, pan-cakes and mush, was a caution. We lived on the top shelf, with plenty of No. 1 sugar, molasses and bacon, all confiscated. Our camp ground could not have been in a more lovely spot -- in a clump of small pines near a heavy growth of oak, beech, and other noble shade trees, with food and water handy in a deep ravine in the rear of us, on the opposite side of which lies the village graveyard.<sup>229</sup>

### IMPORTANT FROM ARKANSAS

General Steele Fights and Whips Price, and Occupies Camden.

Camden, April 17. Our forces crossed the Little Missouri at Elkin's Ferry, where the rebels had a line of breastworks on the hill commanding the bottom. After a sharp skirmish we drove the rebels off who fell back to Prairie D' Ann. We waited here to be joined by Thayer. Heavy rains set in, so that the river had to be bridged, and the bottoms corduroyed to get the reinforcements across. Our army then proceeded to meet the enemy at their chosen and fortified position at Prairie D' Ann. They had a line of rifle-pits and epaullments for guns on barbette one and a half miles long. This was hidden by a belt of timber along a creek, and commanded the Washington and Camden road and other approaches. Gen. Steele felt of them cautiously, ascertained their position exactly, extended his right so as to flank their fortifications, and would

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<sup>226</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 73.

<sup>227</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 18/27 of note).

<sup>228</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 19/27 of note).

<sup>229</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 20/27 of note).

have cut them to pieces by an enfilading fire, had not Dad Price, who commanded the rebels in person, got up and dusted towards Washington. The fighting for a while was brisk, but when the rebels saw their position was uncovered, they incontinently skedaddled.

Arkadelphia, Washington and Camden, form a triangle, and the military road upon which we traveled was on the line to Washington, and from thence direct to Shreveport. By glancing at the map you will see that we were forty miles west of Camden, and within a few hours' march of Washington.

Camden is strongly fortified, having nine forts, on commanding heights, well laid out and built. The wood is cut for miles around, and all approaches to the place capable of being, is well defended. Price supposed that General Steele was going directly to Shreveport, by way of Washington, and moved his army from Camden to Washington. After the fight at Prairie D' Ann, General Steele pursued the rebels a few miles toward Washington, then suddenly turned and pushed for Camden. Price saw his error, and started for Camden. Then commenced a race for the position. Marmaduke got in front and Dockery in the rear, endeavoring to delay and impede us, on the middle and north roads, until Price with his command could reach the fortifications at Camden by the south road. There was continuous and severe skirmishing, but that evening our forces marched fifteen miles and the next day twenty five entering Camden, driving Marmaduke from position, until he fled for good and aye.

Camden, April 17 -- We are here without much loss. General Steele took matters coolly, and when he decided on taking any point or position he took it. We were bushwhacked, attacked in the rear, front and flank, by rebel cavalry with twelve pieces of artillery, yet our loss, including the fights at Little Missouri, Prairie D' Ann and on the march here has not been over 100. The rebel loss has been much greater, as part of the time we drove them. Our rear guard, under Rice, had severe skirmishing on the Terre Noir. He is a trump and thrashed Cabell beautifully. I was with him in the engagement on the Little Missouri, and there he caused Mr. Marmaduke to oil himself and slide out. General Rice had his scalp ploughed up, and a piece carried away by a canister shot.

The affair at Prairie D' Ann was the most brilliant display of military movements I ever beheld. Imagine a line three miles in length on a beautiful prairie, when the fresh grass was growing; the cavalry on the flanks, a reserved column of a division; the rays of a brilliant sun gleaming on thousands of muskets, and flashing from sabres, and you can form an idea of what we saw. General Steele extended his right so as to flank their fortifications on the edge of the prairie, a mile and a half in length, whereupon Father Price found that he had received an order from Kirby Smith to decline battle and retreat to Shreveport.<sup>230</sup>

During the occupation of Camden, the division of General Salomon was employed on duty as pickets, provost guards, escorts for forage trains, fatigue parties, and similar duties.

News of the disastrous termination of Banks' Red River Expedition having been received, General Steele set about returning to Little Rock. On the 26th, the army left Camden, the division

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<sup>230</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 14, 1864, p. 2/2.

of General Salomon acting as rear guard.<sup>231</sup>

The 27th Regiment in Action. Many rumors of disaster to the 27th Regiment -- of defeat and capture even -- have been circulating through the county, we learn, for several days past, but without any reliable foundation in fact. It was known that the regiment formed a part of Gen. Steele's expedition which left Little Rock to co-operate with Gen. Banks' forces from the South in the taking of Shreveport, and on the falling back of the latter after the disaster at Grand Ecore and battle of Pleasant Hills, it was feared that Gen. Steele's forces would thereby be placed in jeopardy, which fact in part, undoubtedly, gave rise to the above mentioned rumors. But a letter from Col. Krez to his wife in this city, just received, gives the first reliable news from the regiment that we have seen since it left Little Rock. We are permitted to make the following extract from it for the information of those interested. It is dated:

Camden, Ark, April 17, 1864.

"Yesterday morning we took possession of the fortifications here. We had seven skirmishes on our way here, in three of which the 27th was actually engaged. One of them I fought alone with my gallant boys. I have five men killed, the names of which I give you that you may have them published for the information of their friends. They are Safon Vilet, of Co. A, Wm. Anding and Patrick Knox, of Co. G, Cassander Knowles, of Co. K, of Sheboygan Falls, killed at the fight at Okolona, and Edward F. Bates, of Co. F, from the town of Abbott, killed at the fight on Prairie Deahon. There are five wounded, but all doing well. The regiment is in good spirits, but we are on short rations."

Camden, where the above is dated, is a little east of south of Little Rock, almost on a direct line from the latter place to Shreveport, and about equidistant between them. We look upon it as quite doubtful whether Gen. Steele advances any further towards Shreveport at present, unless Gen. Banks again takes up his march in that direction.<sup>232</sup>

April 18th. A train of 180 wagons, that were sent out foraging, were captured by the rebs -- a most disastrous affair, caused by not sending out a sufficient force to guard it.<sup>233</sup>

#### FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

Little Rock, Ark., April 18.

FRIEND CROWLEY: As I have a few leisure moments to spare I will give you the proceedings that occurred at this city at the new birth of the State of Arkansas into the sisterhood of States, under the President's late proclamation of re-construction. It was a happy day for some and a sorry one for others. The procession formed at ten o'clock A. M. on the brigade drill ground, and marched to the State House, where the Governor elect, Isaac Murphy, was installed as Governor of Arkansas, and delivered his inaugural address -- one that was stirring, patriotic

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<sup>231</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 763.

<sup>232</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 7, 1864, p. 1/4.

<sup>233</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 21/27 of note).

and to the point -- one that defined the duties of every citizen of Arkansas and every lover of the Stars and Stripes -- one which if its teachings are followed, will restore peace and harmony to this portion of our distracted country. The demonstrations were participated in by the Federal soldiery and a few of the citizens who had the most at stake; but the majority co'd be seen in the background as witnesses, praying in their hearts for the good old says of secession again, a change that would be heartily hailed by many of the pretended Union-loving men of Arkansas. I assure you that Arkansas will see the worst time for the next nine months that she has yet experienced. The war that is going on in this State is one of extermination between the two parties; they hunt each other as if their prey were foxes -- The country is filled with roving bands of desperadoes, who seek to rob and plunder for their own purposes.

This evening there has been an illumination -- the Headquarters and Quartermaster's office were brilliantly lit up and the Jews helped to make it a respectable affair, although there were a great many of that class that made no demonstration whatever. It was a happy time for the American citizens of African descent; they all felt fully persuaded that they were free and had full rights with the rest of mankind -- which they have, as a matter of course, under the President's proclamation. I will send you a full account of the proceedings as soon as they are published.

I have just heard from the expedition to Camden, which place GEN. STEELE took possession of without any loss. He made a feint on Washington, and PRICE rallied all his forces for the defense of that place, leaving Camden unprotected, expecting that STEELE was pushing hard on Washington; but the latter was too smart for the rebels and the Federals and Confederates had a grand foot race for Camden, the Yankees making the best time, and gained possession of all their forts and positions. The rebels are reported to have gone south, towards Texas.

There are a few boys of our regiment here, who will move forward as soon as a train goes, which will be in a short time. Lieut. McMILLAN is up the Arkansas River on detached service, with a few men; Lieut. COLE, of Co. I, is in charge of the boats down the river for forage; H. A. ALDRICH, of Co. D, is Army Mail Messenger from Duvall's Bluff to Memphis; and EDWARD A. EDWARDS is here in charge of the Commissary Department of the regiment. There are a few of our boys here sick, but none dangerously. I have not heard anything direct from the regiment since their departure, but it has had no trouble with the exception of annoyances from QUARLES' and MARMADUKE'S cavalry and unimportant skirmishes since it crossed the Little Missouri. Things are quiet here. A force has been sent out after an outlaw band, which it is determined shall be captured, and if so they will be roughly handled.

Some of the new recruits have come forward, and appear to feel first rate. Major OLMSTED and Captain RANKIN looked fine and felt well when they left. Our respects to all the good people of Manitowoc.

Respectfully yours,  
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April 20th. A train of 200 wagons came through from Pine Bluff, bringing the mail and 46

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<sup>234</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, May 13, 1864, p. 4/2.

recruits for our regiment.<sup>235</sup>

April 25th. Our regiment took a scout out three or four miles south on the Shreveport road. The cavalry drove in their pickets, and finding the rebs all around us we returned again to the city, having been out farther than any other infantry regiment. Arriving in camp we learned that our supply [t]rain of 250 wagons, that were on the way to Pine Bluff, with the 2d or McLane's brigade as guard, had all been gobbled after a most desperate battle near the Saline river. Our sutler came in with a box of letters, among which was mine; these he buried in the mud as I said before. Only about 400 men of the brigade escaped, the rest were either killed or taken prisoners.

Things were now getting desperate: 150 miles in an enemy's country, with no rations and no way to get any; with awful roads to travel, and the rebs in large numbers all around us; also rumors that Banks' army had been defeated, and that a large force of rebs were on the way from Shrevesport as fast as their legs could carry them, and were going for us. Something must be done. All day the 26th, troops were moving over the river. Everything was quiet. We had orders to be ready in the evening, and until 12 or 1 o'clock troops kept passing us. Every thing was silent; not the sound of a drum nor bugle; the camp fires gradually went out and all Camden was hushed in sleep apparently. Our brigade was the last; we crossed the pontoon about 2 o'clock, [April] 27th, by moonlight; the bridge was then destroyed, also a steamboat that we had captured. We all knew now that we were on a retreat, and every man felt that there were terrible hardships yet to endure. We marched 18 miles and camped for the night on a large plantation.<sup>236</sup>

The auxiliary forces of General Steele had advanced as far as Camden, Ark., one hundred and ten miles from Little Rock, when he encountered a strong cavalry division under Marmaduke. General Steele executed a flank movement on this force, and drove them from their fortified position, returning from the pursuit to Camden. Here news of the failure of General Banks' expedition was received. As it was the plan for him to act in concert with General Banks, he deemed it necessary to fall back, as the enemy were concentrating upon him the force with which they had beaten Banks. The trains sent for supplies were cut off, and General Steele determined to evacuate Camden. Before daylight, on the 27th, his army had crossed on a pontoon bridge, and placed the Washita River between them and the enemy.<sup>237</sup>

[April 26] General Steele immediately gave orders to evacuate the town, to move over the river such wagons and artillery during the day that would not attract the attention of the residents of the place. At nightfall pickets were doubled, vigilance exercised, tattoo beaten and sounded at the usual time and in the same places, and the whole army to commence to move across the river. At

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<sup>235</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 22/27 of note).

<sup>236</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/2 (no. 23/27 of note).

<sup>237</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 419.

daylight the whole army was safe and the bridge taken up and all on the road to Princeton.<sup>238</sup>

On the 26th, the army left Camden, the division of General Salomon acting as rear guard. Proceeding on to the Saline Bottom, which was reached on the 29th, without molestation, on the afternoon of that day, General Salomon's rear guard was fired upon, which indicated pursuit by the enemy. General Salomon took immediate steps to possess the strong positions in his vicinity, and directed Colonel Engleman to hold possession of the crest of a hill. This was done, and the position held until three o'clock next morning. General Salomon then withdrew his troops out of range of artillery fire from the hill, thus contracting his lines, and covering his right flank with a small bayou.<sup>239</sup>

[April] 28th. Marched to Princeton, a distance of 18 miles, but found no rebs in force. Scouts have come in and say a large force of rebs are moving on another road parallel with us and trying to get to Little Rock before us. It was now a race for life, and the prospects of getting to hard tack urged us on. Princeton is a place about the size of Arkadelphia; the people are bitter secesh.<sup>240</sup>

Pushing forward over bad roads, on the 28th, they camped at Princeton Crossing, and on the next evening, at Saline Crossing, Jenkins' Ferry.<sup>241</sup>

April 29th. Marched at 6 A. M. Our brigade was in the rear and were attacked about 8 miles out. We marched to within about four miles of the Saline River and halted in a low bottom. The skirmishing to-night is very heavy; the rebs are all around us. It rained a perfect flood all night and we are wet as drowned rats; it is rough, with no rations at all.<sup>242</sup>

The clouds had been collecting heavily during the day, and the threatened rain now began to fall in earnest. The rest of the day was dismal enough; the woods became deep and miry; men and horses were thoroughly wet; and guns and pistols streamed with water, putting them in no good condition for use. But the rear and advance guards of the two armies managed to engage each other repeatedly, but without serious results. Just before night the Federals disappeared in the wide, deep, and gloomy bottom of the Saline river, and prepared to camp and to erect their pontoons across the river, already rising under the influence of the falling rain. Their lines were

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<sup>238</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 32, quoting from the report of Capt. Junius B. Wheeler (Union).

<sup>239</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 763.

<sup>240</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/3 (no. 24/27 of note).

<sup>241</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 419.

<sup>242</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/3 (no. 25/27 of note).

soon established, and the Confederates, after skirmishing with them until dark, drew back to the bluff and went into camp as well.<sup>243</sup>

Father told us of hunting for rails so that [they] could keep their sleeping places above water, ... did he tell of the fearful losses of men and material.<sup>244</sup>

The 29th saw us at Jenkins' Ferry... The river was too deep to ford, and the pontoon train was hurried up, thrown across under my direction... and ready for troops to pass at 4:15 p.m. All the cavalry and many wagons were passed over before dark. There was slight skirmishing in the rear in the afternoon. Rain commenced to fall about 12 a.m., and poured incessantly all day and night. I never saw it rain harder than it did during the night. The bottom, which extends at least 2 miles on each side... soon became a sea of mud, in which wagons settled to the axles and mules floundered about without a resting place for their feet. Fires were made along the road, pioneers and working details set to work, and every exertion made to push the impediments across before daylight, it being evident that the enemy were in force in our rear. But we failed. The rain came down in torrents, putting out many of the fires, the men became exhausted, and both they and the animals sank down in the mud and mire, wherever they were, to seek a few hours' repose. At daylight we resumed our labors, and by 11 a.m. everything was across the river except the infantry and one section of artillery. During this time a severe engagement was going on and lasted until 12:30 p.m., at which hour, the enemy having been badly beaten, our troops were withdrawn to the east side of the river. The last of the infantry had crossed before 2:05 p.m.... The bridge was kept in tact for three quarters of an hour longer to allow such stragglers or wounded who may have loitered behind to pass over. One of the hospital attendants from the hospital on the battlefield having arrived with a message from the surgeon in charge to his brigade commander, having stated that there were no men on the road, I... gave the command for destroying the bridge. The reason... was our inability to carry it with us. It had in the natural course of the train become the rear. The mules could scarcely pull the wagons, much less when loaded, and over such a road it was impossible to get it along. The pontoons were very much the worse for wear, and several were worn out, so as no longer to be reliable. It was destroyed by cutting every compartment with an ax and piercing them with the bayonet. Many of the chests were split with axes and then thrown in the stream, and some of the barks were thrown after cutting them in two parts. The bridge was dismantled by successive rafts and destroyed by detail.<sup>245</sup>

The command reached the Saline River on the 29th of April. The pontoon bridge was laid and the crossing commenced, which continued through the night and the next day, over 4 miles of

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<sup>243</sup> John N. Edwards, Shelby And His Men, pp. 293-294.

<sup>244</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 5, 1966.

<sup>245</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 32-33, quoting from the report of Capt. Junius B. Wheeler (Union).

the worst swamps in Arkansas. Our rear guard was attacked before the bridge was laid, but the enemy was repulsed. A terrific thunderstorm commenced about 1 p.m., and lasted the entire night. At daylight I had crossed about one half the train, and the balance was in readiness to cross and everything was over about noon of the 30th, except 4,000 of the infantry, who were covering our crossing and resisting 20,000 rebels commanded by Kirby Smith...

Three pieces [of artillery] brought up by the enemy fell into our hands and were drawn off by the men with ropes. The enemy having been signally repulsed and terribly punished, we were allowed to withdraw over the Saline. Not having animals to haul the pontoon train, it was destroyed together with the pontoon bridge. The storm continued, and the animals giving out for want of food, the rations of the men being exhausted, an order was issued to destroy all the wagons except those attached to the different headquarters, and the ammunition, and the ambulances, which was done on the night of the 30th of April, and the march resumed at daylight.

The command reached [Little Rock] May 3, with the ammunition train, ambulances and headquarters wagons (some 200 wagons in all). The animals had not been out of harness for six days, and [were] entirely exhausted. I mounted the wounded and footsore men on the animals that were taken from the [destroyed] wagons. I also supplied all the batteries with mules to take the place of the broken-down horses. No artillery was abandoned during the campaign, and whenever the teams gave out I pressed the animals belonging to the sutlers and others.<sup>246</sup>

During the night [of April 29] the enemy came up in the rear. The extent or character of the enemy's force could not be ascertained, the heavy rain and darkness preventing it. Dispositions were, however, made by General Steele, to resist a large force. The rain and darkness prevented the crossing of the Saline during the night, although the pontoon bridge had been laid, and a few troops had passed over. The remainder of the command was encamped in the bottom lands of the river. General Salomon's division was encamped about two miles from the river, and the line which he was to hold in the morning, was protected on the left, by the Saline, and swampy bottom lands, and on the right, by a bayou skirting the base of the uplands. Rain poured in torrents in the morning. Soon after daylight, skirmishing commenced, which soon grew into a general engagement. The enemy had brought against General Steele, all the forces in southwestern Arkansas, as well as some from Louisiana, under Generals Kirby Smith, Price, Walker, Churchill, and others. Under General Steele, the commands of Generals Salomon, Thayer, Rice, Engleman, and Benton, were engaged. The battle continued seven hours, and resulted in the repulse of the enemy, with a loss to General Steele of seven hundred in killed and wounded, although several stands of colors were captured, and three pieces of artillery. The enemy also suffered severely in killed and wounded. So badly were they defeated, that a safe retreat was not only secured by General Steele, but that part of the State of Arkansas was relieved for some time from the presence of the enemy. General Steele returned to Little Rock on the 2d of May.

In this expedition, the Ninth and Twenty-seventh Wisconsin regiments behaved with

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<sup>246</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", p. 34, quoting from the report of Capt. C. A. Henry (Union).



conspicuous gallantry.<sup>247</sup>

April 30 -- Jenkins Ferry. Steele's division, which had suffered heavily in incessant skirmishing through the entire march from Little Rock to make connection with Banks, was attacked on the Saline River in Arkansas by the consolidated forces of Kirby Smith and Price -- 5,000 Union soldiers against 20,000 rebels -- a battle of about eight hours' duration ensuing, which was one of the sharpest contests of the war in the southwest, but resulted in a victory of the Union force which saved Little Rock and Arkansas to the U. S. Government. General Salomon of Wisconsin won the honors by determined bravery, and the pursuit of the rebels was prevented only by lack of supplies. 1,175 Union soldiers were lost and about 2,000 rebels.<sup>248</sup>

News was received of the failure of the Red River expedition, and General Steele set about to return to Little Rock. The enemy had succeeded in getting into his rear, and capturing his supply trains. Leaving Camden on the 26th, nothing of importance occurred until the Saline Bottom was reached, on the 29th. Here considerable skirmishing occurred, which indicated that a battle would ensue before a crossing of the river could be effected.

General Salomon's division occupied the post of rear guard, to protect the army in its crossing [of the Saline River] at Jenkins' Ferry.

The First Brigade, General Rice, was sent out to keep the enemy in check. Finding the rebels in great force, the brigade was heavily reinforced in the morning. General Kirby Smith was in command of the rebel army, which was estimated at 20,000 men. In the morning, General Salomon's advance was 2 1/2 miles from the river -- two miles of train and artillery must cross before he could withdraw. Under these circumstances, nothing was left but to fight long enough for them to get across the river. To add to the difficulties of the situation, the country was flooded. At 5 1/2, A. M., on the 30th, the skirmishing began. General Rice's brigade were the first engaged. He was ordered to form a new line nearer the river, which had scarcely been done before the second line was attacked by the enemy. They endeavored to deceive our troops by being partly dressed in national uniforms, and also by driving before them a flock of sheep, to create the impression that they were a returned foraging expedition. The attempt to turn the right flank was unsuccessful, and the enemy gave his attention to the left, which he succeeded in driving back about 250 yards. Being reinforced, the enemy were driven back, and General Rice advanced his line nearly 300 yards. The enemy's artillery on our right, was effectually checked by sharp shooters. The second attack was met by the same obstinate gallantry, and the enemy was driven back. Ammunition was supplied to the troops, and preparations made for further attack. It soon came, and for nearly an hour an incessant fire of musketry extended along the whole line. Early in the assault, General Rice was severely wounded, and left the field. The command of the brigade devolved on Colonel C. E. Salomon, of the Ninth, who led it through the heaviest part of the action, and by his presence and personal disregard of danger, encouraged his men in the performance of their whole duty. General Salomon speaks in enthusiastic terms of the conduct of

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<sup>247</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 419.

<sup>248</sup> H. O. and M. A. W. Brown, Soldiers And Citizens Album, p. 95.

his men. His regiments were all engaged, and the rest of the army was across the river, but "our men forgot that they were tired, forgot that they were hungry, only remembered that they were ordered to hold their ground." Firing ceased at 2 o'clock, and General Salomon proceeded to withdraw his forces slowly and in good order, collecting the dead and wounded, and bringing away as many as possible. The crossing of the river was effected without further molestation. A flag was taken from the enemy by wagoner John Welhaupt and private William Ohler... Ninth Regiment....

The Ninth and Twenty-seventh Wisconsin regiments behaved with conspicuous gallantry in the action.<sup>249</sup>

For both armies it was a sufficiently miserable night [April 29]. The rain fell without ceasing. The Federals in the deep mud of the bottom, surrounded by rising waters, labored continually to secure the means of their further retreat. The Confederate cavalry was either on duty, or lay under the trees without covering of any kind, drenched and muddy, and the infantry toiled heavily onward through the storm to reach the front. It was a night utterly devoid of any of the romance or pomp of war. Toward morning the head of the infantry column came up, and the day, delayed seemingly, dawned at last. General Smith ordered the cavalry to find the enemy. Two regiments, Burbridge's and Greene's, were ordered forward, and discovered them in the position held the evening before. They were at once deployed as skirmishers, and tested the strength of the enemy's line and found them in force. General Smith rode over the field and reconnoitered the position. He then retired to the bluff, a mile and a half in the rear, and ordered forward General Churchill's division, to be deployed as skirmishers along the entire battle front. But neither Parsons' Missouri division, nor Walker's Texas division, were ordered down within co-operating distance. Before General Churchill had time to complete the execution of his order, the firing suddenly ceased along the line, and General Smith, not interpreting the movement that caused it, and imagining that the cavalry were only fighting a rear guard, and that the enemy had in fact withdrawn, countermanded Churchill's order, and directed him to advance his forces in column down the road, keeping pace with that portion of his force already deployed as sharp shooters. The road held down the bank of a bayou usually without water, but now filling rapidly with the falling rain. It passed through an old abandoned field, without fences, and containing in the midst a dilapidated cabin. The Federals had withdrawn suddenly their advance line from the front of this field to their main line in the rear of it. General Churchill, in obedience to his orders, exposed his column terribly in this open space, and very naturally met with a severe check. He deployed his men and got them into line under cover of the woods, however, in good order under the circumstances. Churchill was then ordered, unsupported, to cross the open field, and right gallantly he made the attempt. But the enemy were too strongly posted, and he met with a reverse. The Missouri division was now ordered forward, and it, unsupported, made the attempt of the field and likewise failed.... In the beginning a section of artillery had been ordered forward, but the horses floundering in the mud nearly to their girths, and the pieces becoming unmanageable, it had been ordered to the rear by Marmaduke. Later in the day another section had been ordered forward by somebody, it was impossible even to tell exactly by whom, and not

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<sup>249</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, pp. 544-546.

being ordered to halt, it was driven into the lines of a negro regiment, the horses shot down in their harness, and the men at the pieces, before they had fired three rounds, were indiscriminately bayoneted. The enemy used no artillery, but trusted the issue entirely to the musket.

A pause ensued. Walker's strong Texas division was brought into action. A portion of it, under General Walker, moved to the right, and attempted to turn the enemy's position in that direction. But two brigades were ordered, with the stubbornness of fatality, directly into the open field. This field contained not more than two hundred acres, and by deflecting a little to the right might have been entirely avoided. But it was deemed by some kind of wisdom, absolutely necessary to cross it. When Walker advanced to the attack neither the Arkansas nor Mississippi troops were properly in hand to support him. His division made a gallant but unavailing fight. They were beaten back, as the other divisions had been before them. Each division of the army had by this time been whipped in detail. The day looked gloomy for the Confederates. Marmaduke went back to General Smith, reported the condition of affairs, and urged that General to mass his whole army, and make a vigorous effort in force. General Smith gave him carte blanche as chief of staff on the field, and directed him to fight it out as he pleased. Marmaduke employed himself with the necessary preparations in reorganizing the different commands; but before he could complete them the enemy took advantage of the lull in the storm, crossed the river, destroyed his pontoons, and thus ended the battle. The Confederates retained possession of the field, and the wounded. Both sides lost heavily. The Confederates had two general officers, Randall and Scurry, of Texas, killed, and two, Clarke, of Missouri, and Waul, of Texas, wounded.

This engagement ended the Spring campaign of 1864 in the West.... The official report of the bloody and horribly managed battle of Jenkins' Ferry gave the Confederate loss at one thousand and twenty-three killed and wounded, and it is probable that General Steele suffered equally as much....

After Steele got well over and was moving to Little Rock, Colonel Elliott, who had crossed the Saline river at Mount Elba after the battle of Mark's Mill, came upon his rear and pressed it heavily with his regiment. The demoralization was great. In the retreat arms, ammunition, clothing, and medicines had been abandoned lavishly. Many prisoners were picked up, and many of the slightly wounded, unable to continue further, had fallen down despairingly by the roadside.<sup>250</sup>

Maj.-Gen. Kirby Smith having arrived at Mansfield, perhaps the day after the battle at Pleasant Hill, took Walker's division of Texas infantry on a march to southern Arkansas to join Price's cavalry in meeting General Steele, who with a Federal force estimated at 18,000 was moving south in the expectation of joining General Banks at Shreveport. This formidable array of Southern troops approaching him, General Steele commenced a retreat, and was found by the Confederate advance protected with such fortifications as could be hastily erected on the west bank of the Saline river at Jenkins' Ferry. The whole bottom of the river was overflowed with water, which had to be waded some distance to reach him. As from previous arrangements it was expected that General Fagan with Arkansas cavalry had got in Steele's rear, and would impede or

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<sup>250</sup> John N. Edwards, Shelby And His Men, pp. 294-298.

prevent his crossing the river, General Smith determined to give battle in the hope of being able to capture the whole Federal army. Therefore the Southern forces waded into the overflow of the river, and on April 30th attacked the enemy. The fighting under such circumstances was terrible and destructive. It did not move Steele from his position, and General Fagan's cavalry, from some accident, did not appear on the opposite bank, but the hot fight gave General Steele's forces such a warning as induced him to abandon meeting his friends at Shreveport. In that battle we lost two generals and other good officers and men, and many others wounded, and it was reported that some of the men on being shot down were drowned during the fight.<sup>251</sup>

Brig.-Gen. Thomas N. Waul, reporting the action of his brigade at Jenkins' Ferry, said that his men marched through rain and mud, to the sound of battle, and went into the fight when General Price's troops were being withdrawn from the field. The brigade advanced against the enemy's strong position, under a continuous and destructive fire. "In a few minutes the increased and rapid discharge of small arms satisfied me that the other two brigades of Walker's division were approaching and warmly engaging the enemy's left. Forming upon my right in the woods we immediately prepared to charge along the whole line. In a very short time, and before the command could be executed, Generals Scurry and Randal fell mortally wounded, and were borne from the field." The resulting confusion prevented further advance.<sup>252</sup>

At daylight [April 30], General Salomon's advance was two miles from the river, and a train of artillery and wagons, two miles in length, were between him and the river, and nothing was left but to maintain his position until they were out of the way. During the action which followed, the Twenty-seventh was sent to reinforce the left of General Rice's brigade, which had been pressed back by the enemy. The balance of Engleman's brigade was sent to the right. The enemy made a second attack, but was driven at all points. He, however, advanced a third time. Having received a fresh supply of ammunition, the enemy was received with a heavy fire, the action extending along the whole line, and was continued for three-fourths of an hour. General Salomon, in his report, says: "Bravely did our troops maintain their ground, never once wavering, never once yielding. I confess, I had not a little anxiety as to the result. Every man was engaged, and regiments were sent from one portion of the line to another, wherever their services seemed to be most needed." The rest of the troops were across the river, and General Salomon, with his division, with a few extra regiments, held at bay the whole force of Kirby Smith, which was stated to be 20,000 men. He held his ground, and this last attack was successfully repulsed, the enemy was punished severely, and several of his guns and three battle flags captured. Fresh reinforcements arriving to the enemy, General Salomon took steps to withdraw across the river. This was accomplished, the dead and wounded being mostly brought off, and General Salomon's

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<sup>251</sup> Clement A. Evans, Ed., Confederate Military History: A Library of Confederate States History, in Twelve Volumes (New York, 1962), Vol. XI, pp. 134-135.

<sup>252</sup> Clement A. Evans, ed., Confederate Military History, Vol. XI, p. 208.

troops withdrew in good order, and without further molestation.<sup>253</sup>

When news came of the defeat of the Banks Red River Expedition, the Regiment was ordered to retreat toward Little Rock. General Kirby Smith was approaching from the South with a force of 20,000 men. In their retreat toward Little Rock two supply trains of the Union Army were captured and the men were forced to forage for food. They were two days without supplies. On April 29 their rear guard was fired upon by the advance of the Confederates. During the night the Union forces were rearranged so that their flanks were protected by swamps and bayous. This under the leadership of General Solomon [sic] of Manitowoc. On April 30th the Confederates attacked and three times hurled their forces against the much smaller number, yet they were each time repulsed. The next day both armies retreated, the Confederates toward Camden, and the Union toward Little Rock. Of the battle of Jenkins Ferry, as it was called, a Southern comment was, "Helena was a shameful defeat, but Jenkins Ferry was worse."<sup>254</sup>

[Before the battle at Jenkin's Ferry,] Col. Krez rode in review [of the regiment], and Sergeant Frederick Kaiser started a certain little German song (I do not know which).<sup>255</sup>

I remember just one occasion when [father] related the story of the Battle at Jenkins Ferry, the experience of Company D. How Captain Rankin lined up the Company on the evening before, and had them march up the hill in battle formation... probably to give the men that previous "dress review" as to what would be expected when the Confederates attacked. It was an evening (when father related the story) at Lizzie O'Grady's wedding. He was with a number of younger men stationed near the keg of beer, and no doubt his tongue had been loosened. For the one time he seemed to be able to depict the fearful excitement that prevailed as the enemy made three onslaughts, yet was each time repulsed.

And on the same occasion (I believe) before the approach of the enemy, Col. Krez was reviewing his Regiment, and the Sergeant of the Company Fritz Kaiser (they were neighbors of ours on our farm in town Meeme, although Kaiser had long been dead in my time) sang a German song reminiscent of the occasion.<sup>256</sup>

I am wondering whether my memory of father's [story] was a bit confused. Father spoke of the Battle of Jenkins Ferry, and told how the enemy made three assaults, but was repulsed, and on one occasion I heard father tell about it. (It was at Lizzie O'Grady's wedding, and father had had a few beers, and had a circle of younger men about him). He told how excited Captain Rankin became and he cursed his sword as useless, and urged on his men to keep firing. Father

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<sup>253</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 763.

<sup>254</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story of...The Kolb Family, p. 15.

<sup>255</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, Dec. 6, 1969.

<sup>256</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 13, 1962.

told also, that on the evening before the Battle the Captain assembled the men in battle assembly and marched them "up the hill" and back again. This sound more like the battle of (the French name [Prairie d' Ann]). [When Gladys and I visited Jenkins Ferry] It was a flat area, with the sluggish stream, muddy water, and covered with tree[s] perhaps a foot in diameter. These trees had grown since the Battle as the various accounts tell of the sea of mud, and... casualties... no doubt sank into the mud, although some of the officer casualties had been buried on a knoll "farther back". Because of the bodies, the field was taken out of cultivation, and hence the trees.<sup>257</sup>

[Father's] best account [of Jenkins Ferry] I heard at Lizzie O'Grady's wedding.... Quoting Captain Rankin at the approach of the enemy: "Give it to them boys, give them hell! This God dam sword is no good! I should have a rifle!"<sup>258</sup>

... I am unable to understand that our father never mentioned the Prairie D'Ane battle, while the battle of Jenkins Ferry stood out. It may have been as the "history" man at Little Rock indicated that the 27th was one of the early Regiments to reach the river and was assigned to guard the crossing. I was told that the early regiments reached the river in the afternoon, and they crossed the pontoon bridge all night and into the next day.<sup>259</sup>

... as the 27th [Regiment] approached the location [of the Jenkins Ferry battlefield] they heard the shouts of an earlier Regiment as they stormed the enemy in a Charge and routed them.... ...father related of not being able to lower his rifle for the first shot due to trembling.<sup>260</sup>

Did you know that father [Ernst Kolb] selected the Text for his Funeral sermon before he died? It was given in German of course... "Ye though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow..." He called attention to the fact that in this Campaign where frequently they walked in darkness and in mud, this text was a comfort to him.<sup>261</sup>

The morning of April 30, 1864, was a gloomy one for our little army: exceedingly unpleasant weather, worn down as we were with fatigue, fasting and loss of sleep, we saw ourselves now almost surrounded by an evidently overwhelming force of the enemy.

The battle commenced with a heavy musketry-fire in the rear. The rebels had swung their long lines around upon the heights which described some thing like a semi-circle around

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<sup>257</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, January 8, 1968.

<sup>258</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972.

<sup>259</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, December 14, 1963.

<sup>260</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972.

<sup>261</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 5, 1966.

that part of the swampy and heavily-timbered river-bottom where we lay. The conflict [lasted] seven mortal hours, with such fierce vigor and determination that the fire of musketry became one undistinguishable and unbroken roar. The field [was] a heavily-timbered bottom, swampy at best, and now so covered with water that a foot could not rest on land alone.

[Soon] a dense cloud of powder-smoke settled so closely down, that at a few feet distant, nothing was distinguishable. The rebels [fired] mostly too high or too low. But our men soon learned to stoop down, and look under the smoke to discover the rebel masses and then fired at the level of the breast.

Some [dead and wounded] were borne from the field, but most had to remain unheeded. The rebels brought one battery to bear upon us, and fired three or four shots from it; but the 29th Iowa and 2d Kansas colored infantry charged upon it, and captured its guns. All of the train and stores that could be saved were sent across the river on the pontoon that had been laid, and the pontoon-wagons, and large quantities of stores were broken, scattered and destroyed. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon the day was won: the rebels abandoned the field, all their dead and wounded. [We left our] dead and wounded on the field with men to care for them and crossed the river and cut the pontoon away. Crossing the river, we found ourselves in a slough, which was in places waist-deep; and in which we waded, rather than walked, for some three miles. Teams stuck, and were abandoned. About three miles from the river we came to land again, and went into camp in the midst of a steady rain. There was rest now, but little food.<sup>262</sup>

April 30th. The most eventful day so far. Were ordered out early in the morning to relieve the 33d Iowa, who had been out all night on picket. We were out half or three quarters of an hour when we were ordered back, passing the 29th Iowa and 9th Wis. farther in the rear. About this time the fight became general; our regiment was again ordered out to support the left wing so that we might not be outflanked. The fighting on the right and centre was now dreadful; a continual roar of musketry. The rebs came on in six ranks with fresh forces, and their shouts might plainly be heard urging their men on; but our troops never wavered. Several charges were made and each time the rebs driven back with terrible slaughter. Our regiment lost about 30 men killed and wounded; I have not learned of our entire loss, probably five or six hundred. The battle was in heavy timber and is called the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry.

After we had crossed the river the rebs sent in a flag of truce to bury their dead and [care for their] wounded. The battle lasted four hours without cessation, and is said to be, by old soldiers, one of the most desperate ever fought. Our boys fought nobly, some of them firing 80 and 100 rounds. The scene along the roads beggars all description; dead and wounded soldiers, mules, horses, wagons, tents, knapsacks, blankets, rifles, &c., all stuck in the mud. Refugees and little pickinies deserted to their fate -- such is war. After crossing the Saline nothing unusual occurred, only the work of destruction was renewed, and when we got to Little Rock the [wagon] train was so small I could not see it.<sup>263</sup>

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<sup>262</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 94.

<sup>263</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/3 (no. 26/27 of note).

Jenkins' Ferry (Saline River), Arkansas, 30 April, 1864. (Arkansas Campaign) While retreating from Camden, closely pursued by Kirby Smith, Steele's command was attacked while astride the Saline River. Steele escaped with a loss of 528 (64 killed, 378 wounded, 86 missing) but had to abandon his pontoon train (Fieberger, p. 395). S. A. Rice, commanding the 1st Brigade of Solomon's division, was mortally wounded. The Confederates lost 443 (86, 356, 1 missing).<sup>264</sup>

The [27th Regiment] casualties [at Jenkins' Ferry], as officially reported, were:

Killed or Died of Wounds. Company A - Privates Laurence Dickenshort, Walter Osborn, Thron Oleson and Conrad Plimke. Company B - Private Wesley H. Staff. Company C - Sergeant Philip Theiss, Private Charles Witte. Company D - Privates Peter Bart and Heinrich Mandell - 9.

Wounded. Company A - First Lieutenant J. G. Borland. Company C - First Sergeant John Gehring, Private Diedrich Baderin. Company D - Privates F. Rumer, Justin E. Gretson, J. Kingsland and H. Hinke. Company H - Private Christian Finningson. Company I - Private Joseph Mesner - 9.

Corporal George Smith, of Company E, is reported to have died of wounds at Pine Bluff, on the 23d of May, 1864, and Fred. Leflor, on the 21st of May, at Smith's, Ark.<sup>265</sup>

... Gladys and I visited Little Rock a [few] years ago, and we visited the Jenkins Ferry battleground. [We met a retired Professor of History who] had made a study and maps of the various engagements on the route [of the 27th's march]. I asked him about the graves of the casualties and he told of a little knoll where some of the officers were buried, but he said that he believed that the bodies of the common soldiers merely sank into the mud. At the time of the battle the area was an open field, but because of the bodies buried there it was abandoned and there were now trees 10" and 12" in diameter growing in the field. Father lost a companion in the battle, one Jacob Brueck, and there is a stone erected to his memory in our Spring Valley Cemetery, but the name of the Battle is designated as Yankee Fairie on the monument. Also the mother of this lad, would call on father (before our time) and berate him for not having saved her son. I well remember the old log house where the family had lived just north and a little east of the home farm eighty. As children we used to prowl through it, and note the straw beehives that were woven...<sup>266</sup>

Did you know that there is a marker for a "Jacob Brueck" in the Spring Valley Cemetery? He was father's pal at Jenkin's Ferry, but the marker says "Yankee Fairy Ark."<sup>267</sup>

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<sup>264</sup> Mark M. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 435.

<sup>265</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 764.

<sup>266</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 5, 1966.

<sup>267</sup> Letter, Emil Kolb to Mark Knipping, August 29, 1965.



JACOB BRÜCK  
Geb. d. 17. Sept. 1841  
Gest. d. 30 April 1864  
Yankee Fairy, Ark.  
EVA BRÜCK  
Geb. d. 20 Juli 1831  
Gest. d. 5 Juni 1866<sup>268</sup>

On the 27th of April, the [Red River] expedition having been abandoned, the regiment began the return march to Little Rock, where it arrived early in May, having been engaged on the way, April 30, in the sharp battle at Jenkins' Ferry. In the engagements during this expedition the regiment lost about ten killed and twenty wounded.<sup>269</sup>

Thinking [Confederate] General Fagan's whole cavalry force was after them, they commenced setting fire to their train and burned 200 wagons in one place, destroying a great amount of camp and garrison equipage. Ordinance and ordinance stores were strewn for miles on the road, a great deal of which might be easily taken care of. Hundreds of blankets, oil-cloths, and overcoats were piled and burned.... I followed the next morning in their rear. They continued burning their wagons so far as I followed them, which was [with]in 20 miles of the Rock. I counted 65 mules and ten wagons burned in the first eight miles we passed over, and I think that there was equally as many the balance of the way.<sup>270</sup>

The march from Saline River to Little Rock, was barren of particular incident, except that, owing to the roads, men and animals were completely worn out, and much property was necessarily destroyed. The command arrived at Little Rock on the 3d of May.<sup>271</sup>

At a little after midnight [May 1, 1864] the order came to burn our wagons and most of our equipage, and be ready to march at 4 o'clock in the morning. Mess-chests, company-boxes, &c., made excellent fuel; and by their blaze the coffee was boiled and the poor pretense of breakfast eaten. There was a mile or two of marching through mud-holes, and then came the mud in earnest. A pine swamp of four miles' width now cut up into almost unfathomable softness by the wagons and artillery that had already crossed it. The long train of wagons would stick in the mud,

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<sup>268</sup> Inscription on grave marker, St. James United Church of Christ Cemetery, Spring Valley, Wis. The wording is barely legible in Dec., 2000. Caretaker Frederick Krause also tried to read the stone and consulted church burial records, home telephone (920) 693-8377.

<sup>269</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>270</sup> James Harris Atkinson, "Forty Days of Disaster", pp. 34-35, quoting from the report of Lieutenant Colonel B. Elliott (Confederate).

<sup>271</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 764.

and the mules would flounder in the mire. Many as were the wagons that had been destroyed, the train still stretched out apparently two or three miles. The train guard that day cut down all the young pine trees near, brought them on their backs to that deepest part of the mire, which was called the road, and built corduroy across most of the swamp. If all failed in freeing a stuck wagon, the mules were unhitched and the wagon broken and burned; and so all over the swamp, near the road, were burning wagons and their scattered contents;... the occasional explosions of powder, cartridges, etc. lent variety without beauty to the scene.

Between one and two P. M. we came to land again. From this time until dark, the march went fast and steadily. All that night the forced march continued, with no stop but what the mud enforced, till four o'clock next morning. The road was all the way through timber; details of cavalry kindled and kept up continuous fires till through the whole forest ran a sinuous line of flames. It was a strange, wild time. At every halt, the instant we stopped moving, we were asleep; many actually slept while marching.<sup>272</sup>

Morning [of May 2] came at last but brought no rest. Having no thing to eat, we did not need to halt for breakfast or dinner; and so we steadily marched on. We had been hungry for some time, but now began to actually suffer for want of food. One man paid a comrade two dollars for a single hard-tack, and another traded a silver watch for two of them. That afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock we came out upon the Benton road, and then knew where we were; and in an hour or so we camped, this last night of the march, on the very ground where we had camped the first night of the expedition, more than a month before.

[Kindled fires, made coffee and rested for two hours, when rations arrived from Little Rock.] Never were rations more speedily distributed, or "hard-tack and sow-belly" put inside of blue uniforms with greater haste. The night was altogether too cold for comfort, but sleep was a necessity and came of course.<sup>273</sup>

ALLOUIS AMMAN, Whitewater, Wis., member of G.A.R. Post No. 34, was born in Bavaria, Germany, May 13, 1843... His father was a farmer, to which trade he had been apprenticed according to the law of his country and he afterward engaged in agriculture, removing to America in about 1846 and soon after came to Wisconsin, locating on a farm three miles from Jefferson, in the county of that name. At the age of 10 years the son assumed the charge of his own affairs and worked on a farm and at shoemaking... He enlisted in the 24th Wisconsin Infantry, but his mother refused to sign the necessary papers and he was compelled to defer his plan until he enrolled as a soldier Dec. 19, 1863, in Company H, 27th Wisconsin Infantry, and joined the regiment as a recruit at Little Rock, Ark., where he took his initiation into the details of military life. He went thence with the regiment towards Shreveport to make connection with the army of Banks preparatory to taking part in the Red River expedition. The march there was one of his severest experiences, the roads being almost impassable and the weather extremely hot, a fact which told on the men, as they were in many instances unaccustomed to such a high temperature. Many of

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<sup>272</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 95.

<sup>273</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 97.

them accomplished the journey on bare feet, among whom was Mr. Amman. Shortness of rations made it all the more unendurable. During the march he was engaged in heavy skirmish duty, and after arrival at Camden he operated in several actions of the same kind, the guerrillas under Price, Kirby Smith, Marmaduke and other leaders being more lively than agreeable. The Red River expedition having come to nought, the regiment started to retrace its steps to Little Rock, and when near the Saline River, at Jenkins' Ferry, was attacked by rebels in the rear. The action was severe, particularly from the fact of a turbulent river confronting them while their rear was under fire. But the rebels were repulsed and the march resumed. During its progress rations were short and Mr. Amman relates that he saw Colonel Krez dismount from his horse to pick up a nubbin of corn, wipe the mud from it on the skirts of his coat and eat it with relish, and probably more wonder that it had escaped the sharp eyes of the men. Mr. Amman was barefooted and his feet became raw and sore, which his captain observing he gave him the use of a pony, on condition that he should feed him and share his back with others. This he did and arrived at Little Rock, where he was deprived of the animal. His feet were still swollen and he obtained a pair of No. 12 shoes which he tried to put on. An old darkey saw his dilemma and remarked, "Massa, I has a clean pair of socks I can give yer," and Mr. Amman tried to draw the shoes over them but was obliged to cut them down until only a strip of leather remained and he bound the sandals, so to speak, on with strings and proceeded in comparative comfort. Mr. Amman states that from the morning of the fight at Jenkins' Ferry, no rations were issued for three days, and he wishes to pay tribute to the virtues of army hardtack, which he thinks he never appreciated until he received a supply at Little Rock, where rations were issued. Owing to his exposure and hardship he was seized with fever and was under the surgeon's care six weeks, being absent from duty two months from May, 1864. When he became convalescent he was seized with rheumatism, but went with the regiment to Pine Bluff. He was here occupied in the discharge of military duty and contracted malarial fever, which caused his relief from duty, but he did not go to hospital....<sup>274</sup>

We arrived here [Little Rock] on the 3d of May. It will take us a long time to reorganize again, as we have lost nearly every thing. Gen. Kimball was in command at Little Rock, and expected soon to have a big fight.

We found our old camp ground fortified with cotton bales; in fact the whole city was fortified and all was wild with excitement. When I look at the whole thing, the number of miles marched, over 300, the condition of the roads, scarcity of rations, &c., I think we done well getting back as we did. From the time we left Camden to the time we struck the Benton road, five days, we had no rations at all. We are now camped on the south side of the town.

S. M.<sup>275</sup>

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<sup>274</sup> Grand Army Publishing Co., Soldiers' And Citizens Album of Biographical Record [of Wisconsin] Containing Personal Sketches of Army Men and Citizens Prominent in Loyalty to the Union, Vol. II (Chicago, 1890), pp. 302-303.

<sup>275</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 28, 1864, p. 2/3 (no. 27/27 of note).

INCREASE OF SOLDIERS' PAY. The House of Representatives passed a bill on the 3d, providing that on and after the 1st of May the pay of privates in arms shall be increased from \$13 to \$16 a month, and of noncommissioned officers as follows: corporals, \$18; sergeants, \$20; orderly sergeants, \$24; sergeant majors, \$26; clerks and paymasters, 1,200 per annum. The bill reduces the ratios to the same amount given at the beginning of the war, it having been demonstrated that the present ratio is much larger than is needed.<sup>276</sup>

On the 14th of May, the Twenty-seventh was transferred to the Second Brigade, First Division, Seventh Corps, with which it was thereafter identified.<sup>277</sup>

Military Appointments. Gov. Lewis has issued the following military commissions, by way of promotions, to officers from this county in the 1st and 27th regiments....

Twenty-Seventh Regiment - 1st Lieut. Carl Witte, of this city, as Capt. Co. E, vice Alfred Marschner, resigned; 1st Sergt. Chas. W. Walter, of this city, as 1st Lieut. Co. E, vice Witte, promoted.<sup>278</sup>

PROMOTIONS. Major TEN EYCK G. OLMSTED has been promoted to the Lieut. Colonelcy of the 27th Regiment. Capt. CHAS. H. CUNNINGHAM has been appointed Major.<sup>279</sup>

Losses of the 27th Wisconsin -- Col. Krez.

The following are the casualties in the 27th Wisconsin which accompanied Steele's expedition to Red River.

At Okolona, April 3d.

Safra Villet, A, killed.

Thron Olsen, A, slightly wounded.

Patrick Knox, G, killed.

William Anding, G, killed.

Christian Gunderson, H, severely, wounded.

Cassander Knowles, K, mortally wounded.

At Jenkins' Ferry, April 30th

Company A - 1st Lt. J. J. Borland and Conrad Plimke, severely wounded. Walter Osborn, Lawrence Dickensort, killed. Paul Cosley, Edward O'Hara, Conrad Martin, missing.

Company B - Wesley H. Stagg, killed.

Company C - 1st Sergt. John Gehring, severely wounded. Carl Witte, killed. Diedrich

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<sup>276</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, May 13, 1864, p. 4/2.

<sup>277</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 764.

<sup>278</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 21, 1864, p. 1/3.

<sup>279</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 3, 1864, p. 1/3.

Badaree, mortally wounded. Philip Theirs and Adam Eifler missing.  
 Company D - Peter Barth, killed. F. Rumery, Justin E. Cretton, severely wounded;  
 J. Kingsland, H. Hinke, slightly; F. Prottman, H. Mandle, F. Abel, M.  
 Wagner and T. Bethel, missing.  
 Company E - Jos. Graetzer, missing.  
 Company H - Christian Finningson, severely wounded.  
 Company I - Jos. Mesner, severely wounded. Levi Dean, Jacob Brick, George W. Coles,  
 missing.<sup>280</sup>

Military Appointments. Among the recent military appointments by the Governor, the following will doubtless be of interest to our readers:

In the 27th Regiment -- Major TenEyck G. Olmstead as Lieut. Col.; Capt. Charles H. Cunningham, of Co. A, as Major, vice Olmstead, promoted; Sergt. Major D. Lepreletto Moore, as 1st Lieut. and Adjutant, vice Meyer, resigned; Q. M. Sergt. Joseph Kent, as Quartermaster, vice Shafter, resigned.

Fourth Cavalry...

The friends of Sheboygan County boys named in the above, will be glad to hear of their promotion.<sup>281</sup>

#### A SOLDIER ON ENLISTMENTS.

27 Reg. Wis. Vol., 1st Div. 2d Brig., 7th A[rmy] C[orps], Little Rock, Ark.

Mr. Editor: These being stirring and exciting times to soldiers, and having read in different newspapers, that the Government will now expect 100-day men, to help to deal the finishing blow to the rebellion, and also having read that Wisconsin, together with Pennsylvania and Ohio, is called upon to furnish her quota of such men, the question arises among us soldiers from Sheboygan and County, how patriotic will Sheboygan County prove herself, and how many patriots will come forward to swell the ranks of our Army? It has been said by many, "I can not leave my family for three years, but could for 90 or 100 days." -- Now the time has come to prove your assertion true. Relieve the Old Soldiers, now in fortifications, they will do the fighting, and you will do your duty to your Country by holding the Fortifications in their stead. Come forward, men, and the soldiers will honor and bless you for your Patriotism!

From A Soldier.<sup>282</sup>

Little Rock Ark June 6, 1864

Mrs Stannard

Yours of April 28th was received May 9th But I have delayed answering in hopes something would turn up as that I would have something to write about.

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<sup>280</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 4, 1864, p. 1/5.

<sup>281</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 4, 1864, p. 1/4.

<sup>282</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 4, 1864, p. 1/5.

Maj Gen Sickels reviewed our small army today by Divisions. He is a fine looking officer but shows the effects of Gettysburg very plain. He does not even wear an artificial leg but has an orderly carry a crutch when he rides. I see Wis is raising quite a number of 100 days men. I think that is all foolishness as they will be good for nothing their time will be out before they will get drilled. Grant & Sherman seem to be doing something now at least better than we have done here. I think Edward Wade had much pleasanter work soldiering in Wis than he would in the "Sunny South". I do not blame him for not reenlisting as three years is long enough for one man to serve that will add at least ten years to his age. We are having beautiful weather here now but quite warm.

I have not heard from Henry yet. I have not that letter from Brother Henry in over two months and do not know where he is but expect him with Shermans Expedition

Just one year ago today we started on the Yazoo Valley march where our Noble Captain lost his life. His was the first death in Co "B" since then we have lost about thirty. If our boys [losses] is as heavy this year as last where will be our once noble company. One was killed in battle one drowned and one died in Gen Hospital since April 1st. One is to start for home tomorrow morning on furlough. He belongs to the Hingham Squad. D. K. More is now Adjt Jos F. Kent of Sheboygan is Quarter Master. Major Olmsted is promoted to Lt. Col vice Brown Discharged. If a few more of the old officers would resign or get discharged and let some of the others take their place we would be better off as some officers in the Regt do not amount to any great sum, in fact they are a damage to the Regt. Our apt surgeon has sent in his resignation which will probably be accepted. We have not been paid off since Jan'y 1st but expect to be this month.

I am afraid some of the boys will hold a "glorious fourth" if they get money and Beer & liquor is plenty here.

I wrote to Allie a few days ago and hope to hear from her before long But I must close. Respects to all. Write often and \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Carver<sup>283</sup>

Letter from Gen. Salomon - A flag captured by the 9th Regiment.

The following communication, with the Flag mentioned therein, were received recently at the Executive Office, at Madison, through Capt. BLOCKI, of Sheboygan, A.A.G. on Gen. SALOMON's staff:

HEADQUARTERS 3d DIV. 7th A.C.,  
Little Rock, Ark., May 6, 1864.

His Excellency, Gov. J. T. Lewis, Madison, Wisconsin:

SIR: I have the honor to send you a flag taken from the enemy at the battle of "Jenkins' Ferry" on the 30th day of April, where my division fought and defeated the rebels under General Kirby Smith.

The flag was taken by wagoner John Wolhaupt, and private William Ohler, both of Capt. Hesse's "B" company of the 9th Wis. Vol. Infy., Col. C. E. Salomon commanding.

Of Wisconsin regiments besides the 9th, the 27th, Col. Kretz, was engaged, and well may

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<sup>283</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

the state be proud of her soldiers.

Your Obedient Servant,  
F. SALOMON,  
Brig. Gen. Comd'g 3d Div. 7th A. C.

The WILLIAM OHLER mentioned above is a drummer in the company raised in this county for the 9th regiment, and his parents now reside in this place. He is but a boy in years, but the General's letter sufficiently testifies to his bravery.<sup>284</sup>

The following is the loss of Co. D (Capt. JOS. RANKIN'S company), 27th regiment at Jenkins' Ferry, April 30th: Peter Barth, killed; F. Rumery, Justin E. Cretton severely wounded; J. Kingsland, H. Hinke, slightly; F. Protzman, H. Mandle, A. Abel, M. Wagner, and T. Bethel, missing.<sup>285</sup>

DROUTH. Well may our farmers and merchants look down-hearted. Another week of drouth, and no prospect of rain. Our country is cursed with war, thievery, rascality, a divided nation, and a prospect of famine.<sup>286</sup>

HONORABLY REFUNDED. When the 27th Regiment was being recruited in this county, John Pradt, a young lad temporarily here on a visit, enlisted for the regiment and received an installment of \$20 on a local bounty of \$50 which was then paid to recruits here. Before being mustered in he left here and enlisted elsewhere for some cause that we do not now recollect. Some time afterwards \$10 of the bounty money was returned to the hands of C. W. Ellis, Esq., then of this city, and a few days since the other \$10 was enclosed to the Soldiers' Aid Society of this city, to be used for the benefit of the soldiers. This young man has thus honorably acquitted himself in this matter, and set an example that a certain ex-field-officer of that regiment would do well to follow.<sup>287</sup>

We give place to the letter of our new correspondent from the 27th Regiment, "Occasional," on the inside, as we are always disposed to give all a hearing, so far as consistent, whether in approval or disapproval of public matters. Although "OCCASIONAL" may have had cause for many of his strictures, particularly in the personal "facts" which he alludes to in the latter part of his letter, yet we cannot but think that he was decidedly in a "blue" mood when he wrote, and that his whole thought took the same unpleasant tinge. So far as the operations of the Soldier's Aid Society of this city is concerned, we know that to be the case, for they have been doing the things that he has suggested in the way of ministering to the wants of soldiers' families

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<sup>284</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 10, 1864, p. 1/4.

<sup>285</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 10, 1864, p. 1/4.

<sup>286</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 24, 1864, p. 1/1.

<sup>287</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, July 9, 1864, p. 1/3.

within their field operations. At the same time they have not relaxed their efforts to aid the soldiers in the hospital and field through the agency of that truly good Samaritan organization the Sanitary Commission, which has saved and is saving thousands of lives to their friends and the country.<sup>288</sup>

#### FROM THE 27th REGIMENT.

Health of the Regiment - Ready for an Attack from the Rebels -  
Strictures Upon Northern Sentiment and Action - The *Times* a  
Welcome Messenger in Camp - Interest in Doings of Soldiers' Aid  
Society - Soldier's Families - Their Treatment - The Soldier's  
for Old Abe and Andy.

Little Rock, June 20th, 1864.

EDITOR TIMES -- Dear Sir: I tho't when I came to Little Rock, that I would furnish you with an occasional communication but I see that your regular correspondent, "S. M.," has kept you well posted in regard to the affairs of the regiment, which is considered as sufficient. But as I may write upon a subject that he might not touch upon, I will venture to send this communication, and if you find merit enough in it to publish it, you can do so; if not, you can lay it on the table with other rejected articles and it will be all the same to me, for I do not aspire to become a newspaper correspondent.

The 27th is getting along swimmingly since the new batch of officers, that have been recently promoted, have been mustered in and entered upon their respective duties. The health of the regiment is as good as can be expected at this time of the year. I think it is better than in other regiments, judging from the number of deaths that occur in them, while a death in our regiment is a rare occurrence, there having been but few since our return from the Expedition. Our medical department of the regiment is a well arranged system, and is in excellent hands, from the Surgeon down to the lowest attendant. The good health of the regiment, no doubt is greatly owing to the efficient and untiring labors of Surgeon Mitchell. They are giving us plenty of duty now, so that the men are most all on duty all of the time. I have heard the orderlies say that if there should be another call, they would have to send the cooks, for every man that was fit was on duty. We have made some splendid fortifications since we returned to Little Rock, and feel prepared for any attack that the enemy may make, and we would be more than happy to have them attack us, for we had rather fight them here, than to run after them to do it.

There is a great deal of bushwhacking going on all around us. The guerillas are more troublesome than before we went on the Expedition. They were concentrated then, but seem to have divided up into small squads now, and we hear of their depredations almost every day; but I understand that measures are being taken to put a stop to it. And so there is to put a stop to the rebellion, but I don't see it stop, and I am afraid that I can't see it very soon, unless the North get more in earnest, and manifest more of a desire for the war to close than they do to have it continue that they may make money. It cannot be denied that the war is making a vast number of speculators rich, in the North, and we all know that it would not be policy for them to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

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<sup>288</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, July 16, 1864, p. 1/4.



You may say, what can we do more than we have done? Have we not raised extra large bounties and paid recruits to fill up our quota, &c., &c.? Very true; we admit all that, but let us ask in return, were not those large bounties raised more through motives of selfishness than patriotism? It strikes me that if it had not been for the large bounties, a great many who are now at home making money, would have been down here with us. I think that system of large bounties has worked an injury to the old soldiers inasmuch as it has degraded them. These new recruits are not men that have enlisted through the same motives that we did, but they have been induced to by the amount of money they were to receive. You have bought them with your money and paid their price, and consider them worth just so much and no more, and the great mistake, is no distinction is made between the men who went for \$100 (mere nothing) and the one who goes for \$500. As I said, we know that you have done a great deal to aid in putting down the rebellion, but this apathy which we all know exists in the North, overbalances the whole, and causes a depression in our spirits -- discourages us, and makes us feel as though it was of but little use for us to struggle away here against the enemy, hardships and disease, unless we can be sustained by those at home.

Perhaps you think I am mistaken in regard to the sentiment at home, but I think not, for extracts from letters that I have been permitted to read prove it; One of which I will give to illustrate: -- "Every body appears more consequential and selfish, or else I notice it more. There is not as much anxiety for the war to close as there was one year ago. The Flag is not raised any more, and there is no demonstrations of joy when news of victory comes. All that is thought of now, is, how much is to be gained or lost? Those that this war leaves widows and orphans will have an element of selfishness to contend with, that will be overwhelming, and if they are not crushed in the struggle it will be because they have an uncommon amount of endurance both physically and mentall, &c." I might give other extracts, but this is sufficient.

The *Times* comes to some of us about every week, filled with its usual amount of local news, and is sought after and read with eagerness by every one from Sheboygan county. The doings of the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society interest us very much, and when we read how much they are doing for, and sending to, the soldiers in the field, we feel like saying, if we do not say it, "God bless them, and their efforts! and may the potatoes and other contributions reach those for whom they were intended." But we have our fears lest it may be like the parable of the seed sown; some of it may fall on good ground and do the sick soldiers a great deal of good; but much of it will be wasted on the way. Some will spoil by decay, and some will fall by the wayside and be gathered up and used by the hungry fowls that hang around the transportation lines. Many of the packages will get broken open and the contents stolen out, and then when it arrives at its destination there are so many attendants that have the handling of it before the patients get it, that about as much of it is used by them as by those who really need it. Now I do not write this to discourage you, Ladies, by any means. No, no; keep right on in your efforts to do good. But after all, it seems to us very much like the foreign missionary societies that raise and expend a great amount of money to send off to foreign countries to make a few doubtful converts, while we have plenty of heathen to convert at home: **YOU SEE THE POINT, NO DOUBT.**

There are a great many soldiers' families at home that need help and assistance more than we do, and we would be just as thankful to know that aid had been rendered to our families, as to know that it was intended for us. Now it is a well known fact, that many articles that a soldier's

family is obliged to buy, are double and treble what they were when we enlisted for \$13,00 per month; consequently the money will go only half or one third as far, and the families must go without just so much; and then they from necessity get out of money soon, and when the soldier is not paid for six months, (as is the case with the 27th now,) they must be without some time unless they have other resources to rely upon besides the soldier's wages. And where they have not, such families in Sheboygan county are now, no doubt, without the necessities of life and too proud spirited, perhaps, to let any one know it. Let me suggest something to the Ladies' Aid Society: Suppose you appoint a committee to visit the families of soldiers and inquire into their condition and see if they are out of such articles of food, and out of money; if so, try to relieve their wants. I would not propose that you should send a committee of six to ten to stay to tea, though you might find out the condition of affairs in this way by the scantily set table, though the poor woman might do her best to hide defects; but I think one would be sufficient, and that one ought to be a little guarded. Don't remind the woman that her husband is only a private soldier, getting only \$13 per month, and she ought to economize; for she may formerly have been a woman of spirit and pride, and having some of it left, may cut your investigations short by short answers. She no doubt feels the disgrace of the former and the painful necessity of the latter; and she might tell you, too, that if your husband was in the army where he ought to be, instead of hers, there would be no need of her economizing or of your visit.

Should you find any needy families, you can have the satisfaction of knowing that your contributions of potatoes, cabbages, &c., will do some good; which you do not, when you send them to the Sanitary Commission.

Another fine feature I discover in your paper, Mr. Editor, and that is, that you publish the names of the patriotic persons who contribute, which is no doubt an inducement for others to do likewise. There is another class you would do well to publish -- their names, and their deeds, if you could obtain them, and that is, those who charge an under price to soldiers families instead of over-charging them for every thing. There is another record which you cannot keep either, (but it is kept, however) I believe no mention was ever made of the farmer who charged a poor woman 18 cts when he was passing right by her door, for drawing a little load of wood that had been given her by a furlough'd soldier; and also of that farmer who contracted before witness, with the furloughed soldier, to draw a certain number of cords of stove wood during the winter, and has failed to draw any, and the woman has to pick up and saw all of her own wood because she can't afford to hire a man to do it at \$1,50 or \$2,00 per day, while her husband is getting only 45 cts. per day; and that other farmer who charged 15 cts. on a bushel of potatoes over the market price, because he knew that she could not get out to take the advantage of the market as a man can. I might continue this, but this is sufficient to show what I mean, and as I said, these things are all recorded, and there will be a fearful reckoning when the soldiers all get home again. Knowing these facts, as we do, we feel in rather an awkward position, down here, protecting secesh families and their property, while we ought to be at home protecting our own. You may think this is too plain talk, but I have adhered to the truth, and the truth needs no embellishing.

But I will close this erratic communication by touching a little upon politics. There is not much excitement yet among us, but the general sentiment, I believe, is, "Hurrah for Old Abe and Andy!" Poor John Charles [Fremont]! I am afraid he will find his last "Path," which is the one leading direct to the head of Salt river; and there, I am afraid he will loose it, never to find the

return trail. Excuse me, this time, and I will not promise to trouble your readers again.

Yours for truth & right.

Occasional.<sup>289</sup>

Home on Furlough. Col. Krez, of the 27th Regiment, arrived home on Tuesday morning last, on a short furlough, being his first absence from duty with his regiment since it left the State about two years ago. He is somewhat thinner in flesh than when he entered the service, but otherwise looks hearty. His health, with some slight exceptions, has been excellent, and in this he has been more fortunate than most persons. He came direct from Little Rock, where the regiment is stationed, and left the boys generally in good health. The sanitary condition of his regiment is much better than that of most others who have had no greater hardships or exposures to endure than they have. What diseases they do have are in a great measure consequent on the miasm and poison taken into their systems while on the Yazoo.

The regiment now numbers 600 men fit for duty, which certainly is a large number compared with other regiments which have been as long in the service, and passed through the exposures that they did on the Yazoo and the Expedition from Little Rock to Red River. What sickness there is, is principally among the new recruits of last spring, who not having become acclimated, are more susceptible to the enervating influences of the tropical heat of the present season. In some of the other regiments there the mortality among these is quite large.<sup>290</sup>

MR. CONRAD KREZ, Colonel of the 27th regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, returned home last week on a furlough to visit his family in this city. Except a slight diarrhoea, he appears to be in excellent health, and in good spirits. His many friends in this city welcome him home most cordially.<sup>291</sup>

The Soldiers' Aid Society of this city desire to send a few barrels of pickled cucumbers and potatoes, and other delicacies, to the 27th Regiment, by Col. Krez, or a special agent, and hope all who feel an interest in the regiment will aid us by sending us contributions of vegetables, dried fruit, &c. Donations must be received by the first of the week, as we have but few days to work in. Contributions sent to the *Times* office will be properly cared for. Or they may be left at the room next door south of Lawrence's Hardware Store.

Mrs. H. N. Ross, Sec'y.<sup>292</sup>

STRANGERS IN TOWN... Lt. Col. Olmsted, of the 27th, arrived home from Little Rock

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<sup>289</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, July 16, 1864, p. 2/3.

<sup>290</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, July 30, 1864, p. 1/5.

<sup>291</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Aug. 3, 1864, p. 3/2.

<sup>292</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 6, 1864, p. 1/5.

on Tuesday, on account of sickness in his family. He is in good health.<sup>293</sup>

We received a call from Lieut. Col. Olmstead, of the 27th Regiment, on Thursday last. He arrived a day or two previously at his home in Manitowoc, in consequence of the sickness of his wife who is far advanced in consumption. He said the regiment was in tolerably fair health, yet they were in need of the very articles that the ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society here were now preparing for them, and they would be a God-send to them. Col. O. intends to return with Col. Krez, and take his wife south with him, hoping that the change of climate may benefit her.<sup>294</sup>

The Soldiers' Aid Society of this city, with the help of those individuals in city and county who responded to the call of the Secretary in our last issue, have done a splendid work, this week, in preparing pickled vegetables and other sanitary supplies for the 27th regiment. A glance in to their rooms at almost any time on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, would have shown most of the leading ladies of the city in wealth and social position, hard at work cutting and slicing potatoes, onions and cucumbers, preparing the pickling compound [,] putting them into barrels, canning butter, berries, jellies, &c., and putting up the various other delicacies and mementoes which women know so well how to do. They have now, we learn, thirteen barrels of pickles and fifteen boxes of various sizes of other supplies, all of which are to be sent by Col. Krez, who leaves for the regiment next Monday.

The Aid Society here have officially requested the North Western Sanitary Commission of Chicago, to appoint Col. Krez a Special Agent to take these stores through to Little Rock, and see that they are applied to the relief of our soldiers there.

The reception of these supplies will gladden the hearts of our brave boys, and cause them to bless those at home who thus labor to render their life in camp more comfortable. Official report next week.<sup>295</sup>

PERSONAL. Our fellow townsman, Col. Krez, of the 27th regiment, who has been enjoying a furlough with his family and friends for a [few] weeks past, left here on Sunday last to rejoin his command at Little Rock, Ark. Our best wish is that the rebs will shoot high when the Colonel is about.

We noticed that he took with him quite a large quantity of sanitary stores for our brave boys in the field. We know not, but presume they were furnished by the patriotic ladies of Sheboygan county. It's just like them.<sup>296</sup>

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<sup>293</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Aug. 12, 1864, p. 1/1.

<sup>294</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 13, 1864, p. 1/5.

<sup>295</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 13, 1864, p. 1/5.

<sup>296</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Aug. 18, 1864, p. 1/2.

Sanitary Contributions -- The following list of articles have been received by the Sheboygan Aid Society, through the agency of Mrs. C. A. Bartlett, and were contributed mostly by the people of Armstrong Corners, Fond du Lac Co. They came just before the last box for the 27th Regiment was closed up, and many of the articles were put into it. The remainder will probably be sent to Milwaukee next week.

Mrs. S. Pulling, 1 pillow, 4 linen sheets, 1 towel, lint, bandages, and "lots" of old cotton and linen.

Mrs. E. Conger, 1 linen sheet, 1 house-wife, a quantity of linen and cotton. Mrs. D. Porter, 1 pillow, bandages and butter. Mrs. Louisa Armstrong, 1 pillow, bandages, dried grapes, butter. Mrs. Sarah Oderkirk, 1 pillow, old cotton and housewife. Mrs. Levi Cary, butter, sage, feathers, cushions. Mrs. Callaghan, butter, sage, dried fruit, pillow slip, old linen. Mrs. A. Coon, 1 pillow, sage, old linen. Mrs. Williams, sage, pillow, and a large amount of old cotton. Mrs. Pulling, 1 towel. Mrs. Bartlett, pillow, dried currants, lint, butter, and 28 cents in money. Mrs. Benedict, old cotton. Mrs. Flynn, old feathers, and \$0.10 Miss D. E. Armstrong, 2 house-wives. Miss M. Eastman, 1 house-wife. Miss Netty Armstrong, 1 house-wife. Miss Ellen Skermerhorn, 2 cents. Master Simeon Hanson, 15 cents. Miss Durkee sent dried currants, and a jar of pickles for 27th Regiment. The currants were sent but the pickles were too late as our barrels were headed up. They will be sent to the Commission.

The same box also contained cushions, lint, compresses, linen, bandages and dried beef, from Miss Julia Lampheer of Greenbush, and bandages and cushions from Miss Elmore, of the same place. We learn that Miss Lampheer has been laboring and hoping to obtain a liberal contribution from the people of the neighborhood but that they finally concluded not to give anything, as somebody had told them that the soldiers did not receive these things -- that the officers ate every thing....<sup>297</sup>

Supplies to the 27th Regiment. Last week the ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society of this City set to work with a will to prepare pickles and delicacies for the 27th Regt. to be sent them by Col. Krez. Our call was very generally responded to, considering the brief time and the unfavorableness of the season, it being too early for pickles and ripe vegetables to be abundant. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, there were 18 boxes, varying from one to two feet in length, all marked for different individuals or companies. These boxes were enclosed in three large dry goods boxes firmly secured and properly marked. One barrel was filled with packages for individuals.

There were six barrels of pickles, one barrel of which was prepared by Mrs. Col. Krez, one barrel of pickled potatoes was brought in by Mr. Tripp, of \_\_\_\_\_, and one barrel of pickled cucumbers, and three of pickled potatoes well seasoned with onions, horseradish and pepper, were prepared by the Society. The five barrels of vegetables sent, were composed largely of onions, and were from the country but the donors names are unknown to us.

In the haste of preparation, and the confusion attending the reception of so many boxes and parcels for individuals, we found it impossible to preserve the names of all who contributed to the general fund, especially in the matter of pickles and vegetables, as small quantities from

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<sup>297</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 20, 1864, p. 1/4.

numerous homes made up the aggregate. We will give such as we remember: David Taylor, \$5, Mrs. J. L. More \$2, Mrs. A. P. Lyman \$2, Mrs. J. O. Thayer \$1, Mr. J. H. Mead, and Mr. Geo. End contributed liberally of vinegar. Mr. Rufus H. Bartlett, of Greenbush, sent \$1 to the vinegar fund, which however, was applied to a more personal use. Mrs. Ira Bliss filled a good sized box for Co. E. Mr. A. F. Wheeler gave several papers of corn starch, farina, and bottles of flavoring extract. Mr. John Christian, a jar of fine butter and a quantity of onions. A German lady, name unknown, sent in half a dozen or more heads of nice cabbage, but before it could be attended to, some one was mean enough to steal them.

That most generous of draymen, John Klein, assisted by Mr. Miller, took all these barrels and boxes to the pier free of charge. By the way, Mr. Klein has done nearly all the draying for the society since its organization, and always gratuitously, thus evincing considerably more patriotism than many others.

Mrs. H. N. Ross, Sec'y.<sup>298</sup>

AT HOME. Capt. JOSEPH RANKIN, of the 27th Regiment, arrived home from Little Rock, Ark., on Tuesday last, on a brief furlough.

Capt. RANKIN has been absent about two years, and has won high distinction as an officer in the army. He has had charge of the Regiment some time during the summer, and commanded it with credit. He will remain here two weeks, and recruit those wishing to join his forces. The 27th Regiment is a lucky one, having been in only one engagement, and is now stationed at Little Rock.

MICHAEL MAGUIRE, Commissary Sergeant of the Regiment, and Sergt. ALONZO C. PIERCE, also returned home with Captain R.<sup>299</sup>

HOME ON RECRUITING SERVICE. Sergt. Irving Bliss, of Co. E, 27th Regiment, arrived home Wednesday night, on recruiting service for his regiment. He looks healthy and is in good spirits. He left Little Rock about the time Col. Krez left Sheboygan on his return, and supposes that they passed each other on the river, as he did not chance to meet him.

His arrival on this particular service just now is very opportune for those who desire to escape the draft and secure the government bounty of \$100, \$200, or \$300 for a one, two, or three years enlistment, and at the same time go among their friends and acquaintances. The 27th has for a long time been stationed at Little Rock, and it is thought will before the coming winter, at least. A liberal bounty, \$16 per month pay -- board and clothes thrown in -- and a pleasant service in garrison, is better than working at ordinary wages here, or at starvation prices among cowardly sneaks in Canada.

Sergt. Bliss' office is at Blackstock's Drugstore.<sup>300</sup>

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<sup>298</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 20, 1864, p. 1/5.

<sup>299</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Aug. 26, 1864, p. 1/1.

<sup>300</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 27, 1864, p. 1/5.

No. 28916 / Department of the Interior / Widow's Claim.

I certify that Zeviah Stannard, widow of Erastus W. Stannard, who was a Capt in Co "B" 27th Regt Wis. Vols., in the service of the United States, is entitled, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 14, 1862, to receive pay at the rate of Twenty dollars per month, to commence on the Eighth day of June, 1863, and to continue during life, unless she shall again marry, in which case the pension is not payable after the date of such marriage.

Given at the Department of the Interior, this Twentysixth day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four.

[signature] Secretary of the Interior

[signature] Acting Commissioner of Pensions.<sup>301</sup>

Department of the Interior / Pension Office

Aug. 29th 1864.

Madam:

You are hereby notified that your claim for pension, No. 28916 has been allowed at \$20 per month, commencing June 8th, 1863, payable at the Pension Agency in Milwaukee. Your pension certificate has been issued and sent to Geo. W. Weeden Esq., your appointed attorney, residing in Sheboygan.

Respectfully yours, Joseph H. Barrett, Commissioner.

To Mrs. Zeviah Stannard<sup>302</sup>

\$350,00, BOUNTY!

Join the 27th Wis. Inf. Vols.

The undersigned are now at Manitowoc recruiting for the 27th Reg. Wis. Inf. Vols. The 27th Wis. is now stationed at Little Rock, Ark., doing garrison duty. If light duty and a healthy climate is any inducement for those wishing to enlist, they can do no better than to join the 27th.

The Town of Manitowoc now pays \$250,00 Local Bounty, which with the U. S. Bounty amounts to \$350,00, which gives an enlisted man \$48,66 per month, and rations for one year.

The 27th Wis. has but one year longer to serve, and those that now join return with the old regiment, and are not required to remain in the service as a detached body of men, after their comrades have returned home.

Serg't A. C. PIERCE,

" M. A. MAGUIRE,

Recruiting Officers 27th Wis. Vols.

Manitowoc, Wis. Sept. 6, 1864.<sup>303</sup>

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<sup>301</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Vol. II, Old Wade House State Historic Site. Printed form, underlined portions completed in longhand.

<sup>302</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Vol. II, Old Wade House State Historic Site. Printed form, underlined portions completed in longhand

<sup>303</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Sept. 9, 1864, p. 3/4.

ENLISTED. We understand that Messrs. JOHN ROBINSON, WM. ROBINSON, and GEO. ROBINSON, three brothers of the town of Kossuth, enlisted in the 27th Regiment this week. They are three of the best citizens of the county, and were forced to enlist to prevent conscription. It is in this way we are losing our best producers for the sake of the nigger. When will this thing stop. Certainly not as long as LINCOLN is President. Oh! God! Give us M'CLELLAN and PEACE!<sup>304</sup>

On the 3d of October, 1864, the 27th [Regiment] descended the Arkansas river to Pine Bluff to reinforce General Clayton, who was threatened by a greatly superior force under General Magruder.<sup>305</sup>

On the 3d or October, they descended the Arkansas River, to Pine Bluff, for the purpose of reinforcing the command of General Clayton, at that point, who was threatened by a greatly superior force of the enemy, under General Magruder. Remaining until the 22d, they returned to Little Rock.<sup>306</sup>

On the 3d of October, 1864, the Twenty-seventh Wisconsin embarked at Little Rock, Ark., and descending the Arkansas River, landed at Pine Bluff, Ark., under orders to reinforce General Clayton, whose command was at that time threatened by a greatly superior force of the enemy, under General Magruder. Here the regiment was retained until the 22d of October, when they left Pine Bluff, and arrived in camp at Little Rock on the 24th, having marched a distance of fifty miles.<sup>307</sup>

RECRUITS. Within three weeks, Capt. JOSEPH RANKIN, of the 27th Regiment, has obtained over one hundred recruits in this county, which shows well for his popularity at home, and the confidence the people have in him as an officer.<sup>308</sup>

Our Ticket....

Charles Meyer, of Sheboygan, received the nomination for the Register of deeds, a position which he has filled heretofore to the entire satisfaction of the people of the county. Mr. Meyer enlisted in the 27th Regiment while it was being raised and was subsequently commissioned as its Adjutant. He discharged the duties of that office until by sickness, which

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<sup>304</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Sept. 30, 1864, p. 1/6.

<sup>305</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>306</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 764.

<sup>307</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin, With Reports From the Quartermaster General and Surgeon General, 1865, (Madison, 1866), p. 300.

<sup>308</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Oct. 7, 1864, p. 1/4.



ultimately assumed a chronic form and compelled his discharge from the service last spring. While he was with the regiment at Little Rock, Ark., last winter, his dwelling was burned here, involving himself and family in a heavy loss, upon which there was only small insurance. He has therefore peculiar claims on the Union voters of the county for their support, aside from his personal qualifications for the office....<sup>309</sup>

Treasury Department / Second Auditor's Office, Oct. 7, 1864.

Madam:

Enclosed you will receive a certificate, No. 113,180, for \$345.13 payable to you as Widow of decd or to your order, by any Paymaster of the U. S. Army, being for pay due Erastus W. Stannard, a late Capt. in Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Company B, 27 Regiment of Wis Vols for services from the 1 day of March 1863, when paid to the 8 day of June 1863, time of his death (and the \$100 Bounty allowed by Act July 22, 1861 [crossed out]), and Rations for 99 ds, 4 Rs per day, 396 Rs a \$ .30 per Ration Less \$5.51 Income Tax to be deducted.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. Linch / Second Auditor.<sup>310</sup>

From the 27th Regiment.

Correspondence of the Times.

H'D QR'S 27th Reg't, Wis. Vol.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Oct. 7, '64

Editor Times: Dear Sir -

As you see, we have once more shifted our "base of supplies," and are camped in close proximity to the village of Pine Bluff, Ark., a distance of one-hundred miles by the river from Little Rock, in a very romantic spot, between a large Bayou and a Grave Yard. Oh! it is pleasant to gaze upon this vast swamp and behold the lovely alligators with mouths wide open to gobble some of us.

We received marching orders Monday, Oct. 3d, and took passage on the steamer Carrie Jacobs, Tuesday Oct. 4th, 3 P. M., arriving at this place Wednesday, Oct. 5th P. M. We were taken completely by surprise, as our Brigade had just been assigned to post duty and we were making all preparations to go into winter quarters; but such is the fate of a "sojer." We had a very pleasant trip down the river; passed two or three boats going to the Rock for supplies, and luckily were not fired into by Bushwhackers. There has been considerable excitement here lately as well as at Little Rock, expecting to be attacked; we were probably sent on this account, and our stay will be temporary, as I understand Gen. Dennis' Division, now at the mouth of White River, have been ordered here. A Brigade of cavalry commanded by Col. Ritter, of the 1st Mo., started by land the same day we did, and arrived here last night, coming down the north side of the River. They did not see any rebs in force. They have gone out again, it is said to Monticello, fifty miles

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<sup>309</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 8, 1864, p. 1/2.

<sup>310</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Vol. II, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

south east of here, where Magruder has his Headquarters, and will probably have a brush with the rebs before they return. Brig. Gen. Powell Clayton, formerly Col. of the 5th Kansas Inf., commands the forces here; the people have all the confidence in the world in him. It was on the 25th of this month last year, with only a hand full of men that he gave the rebs -- in number five times his own -- such a good sound threshing. It was indeed a desperate battle and nobly won. There being no breast works of any kind, the enemy thought they had the "soft thing" on him sure, advancing way into town; but our men found cotton bales, and were not slow in getting behind them. The Court House and several other buildings show for themselves better than words can tell, how desperate was the fight, being completely riddled with bullet holes, and shot and shell. Churches as well as other buildings had to suffer, also grave yards, tombstones and marble slabs, knocked into a cocked hat.

We are camped, as I said before, near a Bayou. This extends along the south side of the town about a mile, and is from a quarter to half a mile wide. At either end of this Bayou, east and west, is a wire fence extending to the river, as a guard against any sudden charge made upon us by the enemy's cavalry. On the inside of this Bayou and fence are rifle pits forming the outer works. The inner works, enclosing the Court House, occupies a space of about fifteen acres, and are very substantially built. In case the outer works are carried, the orders are to fall back and burn all buildings in front, so as to give our artillery a full sweep. Our Headquarters are in a Farm House, which is very comfortable considering circumstances, but we can hardly reconcile ourselves to remain here all winter, and are waiting patiently for orders to return to Little Rock.

The morning we took our departure, a hundred guns were fired in honor of the glorious victory achieved by Gen. Sheridan and the Union forces under him.... It has been very sickly here this summer caused, no doubt, by the Bayou or swamp which surrounds this place.

The weather now is delightful; just cold enough, and the health of the troops is improving rapidly. We received those Sanitary Stores sent us by the women of Sheboygan, which were very acceptable, I assure you. One of the boys remarked that "the Ladies must have very warm feelings for us, by the way they peppered their pickles." Gen. Mowre with a large force left Brownsville, some time since, in pursuit of Price and Shelby, who were somewhere on the Mo. borders. It is rumored that he has met them and waxed them out, and that they are travelling for Camden again.

Gen. Solomon has returned from leave of absence, bringing a fine Silver Band with him, which was all the life in Little Rock. The Col., Lt. Col., and all hands are pretty well. The river is rising fast and they are taking advantage of it by sending any quantity of supplies here. Having nothing more to write, I close by signing myself as ever,

Your Ob't Serv't, S. M.<sup>311</sup>

DEPARTED. About forty men, recruited by Capt. RANKIN, of the 27th, left here Monday evening per steamer COMET. They comprise some of the best men in the county, and have left friends and families behind in tears. On their way to the pier they cheered the McCLELLAN flag, the portrait of Gen. McCLELLAN which hangs in Robinson's show window, and the Pilot office. This makes about one hundred Democrats recruited by Capt. RANKIN in

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<sup>311</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 29, 1864, p. 2/2-3.

this county within four weeks, and some of them have often been stigmatized as "copperheads" and "traitors" by skulking stay-at-home Abolitionists.<sup>312</sup>

Capt. Alfred Marschner has been appointed Post Master in this city vice Brown, the valiant.

The character of the new incumbent is a guarantee of gentlemanly treatment of, and all reasonable accommodation to those doing business through the office.<sup>313</sup>

From the 27th Regiment. Resolutions of Thanks to the Ladies.

Correspondence of the Times

Head Qrs. 27th Reg't Wis. Vol. Inf., Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 28, 1864.

Editor Evergreen City Times:

Dear Sir: Enclosed please find copy of Resolutions, adopted at a meeting of the officers of the Regiment, expressive of their thanks for the stores sent us by the ladies' Sanitary Commission, in charge of Col. Conrad Krez. By publishing said resolutions you will confer a great favor upon us.

I have the honor to be, sir, Your most obt. servt.

D. L. Moore,

Adj't. 27th Reg. Wis. Vols.

Hd. Qrs. 27th Regt. Wis. Vol. Inf.

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 28, 1864

At a meeting of the officers of the 27th Regt. Wis. Vols., at which Col. Conrad Krez presided, and Adj't. D. L. Moore acted as Secretary, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in behalf of the enlisted men of this regiment we do hereby tender our sincere thanks to the patriotic ladies of Sheboygan City and County, for the kind donations of Sanitary Stores sent in charge of Col. Krez to the regiment.

Resolved, That the Ladies Sanitary Committees are doing much to alleviate the sufferings of our soldiers both in hospitals and in the field, and that we bid them God speed in the noble work they have undertaken.

Resolved, That as many in the regiment were suffering for want of vegetables, the stores received came very opportune and are therefore doubly welcome.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent the Ladies' Sanitary Committee, and to the Evergreen City Times and Sheboygan Zeitung.

D. L. Moore,

Adj't. 27th Reg't. Wis. Vol. Inf.

Sect'y.<sup>314</sup>

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<sup>312</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Oct. 14, 1864, p. 1/2.

<sup>313</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 15, 1864, p. 1/3.

<sup>314</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 22, 1864, p. 1/2.

[The 27th Wisconsin] remained at Pine Bluff [, Arkansas] until the 22d [of October, 1864], when it marched back for Little Rock, arriving there on the 24th.<sup>315</sup>

[After arriving at Little Rock on Oct. 24, 1864, the regiment] was engaged there in guarding railroad and other duties until the 7th of February, 1865...<sup>316</sup>

Soon after their return (to Little Rock on Oct. 22), companies A, D, E and H were detailed to guard duty on the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad, west of Brownsville, being stationed at various points, the rest of the regiment remaining in camp at Little Rock. The regiment was engaged in this duty until the 7th of February, 1865, at which date, under orders to join General Canby's forces at New Orleans, they left Little Rock on transports....<sup>317</sup>

By order of the general commanding the district of Little Rock, the regiment, on the same day [as arriving in Little Rock Oct. 22, 1864], was detailed to guard the stations and bridges on the Memphis and Little Rock railroad, west of Brownsville. Companies A, D, E and H were assigned to this duty, and stationed at various points on the line of railroad; the remaining companies going into camp at Little Rock, on the left bank of the river, near the railroad depot.

In this duty the regiment was employed until the 7th of February, 1865 [when they embarked for Algiers, Louisiana]...<sup>318</sup>

MILITARY.... The 4th [Regiment] is at Baton Rouge, 27th and 9th at Little Rock, 21st and 17th with Sherman, 19th and 36th near Petersburg, and the 8th in the vicinity of Memphis.<sup>319</sup>

Chicago Nov 23 1864

Mrs E. W. Stannard / Dear Madam

Your favor of 15th reached me last Monday -- I went in search of your trunk which I found but as I had not the check the Baggage man refused to give it up and referred me to the baggage master having charge of "Lost Baggage" as being the only one authorized to give it up -- after a fruitless search for him in various places over town I have to give it up for that day -- I renewed my search the next day and found him just at night at his post where he ought to have been before -- he proposed two ways to send you the trunk -- one of which I had to accept -- either send for the check and he would send the trunk to you free of cost or send it by express and you pay the cost of sending the trunk and also of returning by express to him the check -- The

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<sup>315</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>316</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>317</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 764.

<sup>318</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General, 1865, p. 300.

<sup>319</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, Nov. 24, 1864, p. 1/4.

first would necessarily take time and I was afraid to adopt it not knowing what your necessities might be -- the next best was adopted -- I tried hard to save you the expense but could do no better with him -- I regret exceedingly that I was not more attentive to you here -- In avoiding officiousness the other fault is sometimes committed -- Hoping your trunk may reach you in safety I am

Most respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
J. J. Brown<sup>320</sup>

# Vote of Co. E, 27th Regiment.

Correspondence of the Times.

H'D QR'S CO. E, 27th REG'T WIS. VOL. INF.

STOCKADE AT THIRD CROSSING BAYOU METRE,

L. R. & M. R. R., Ark., Nov. 9th, 1864.

H. North Ross: Sir, The following is the result of the election in my company:

Union Ticket		Dem. Ticket.	
For Presidential Electors.			
Lincoln,	34	McClellan,	2
Members of Congress, 4th District.			
A. Scott Sloan,	23	F. W. Horn,	0
For State Superintendent.			
John G. McMynn,	35	John B. Parkinson,	2
For State Senator, 1st District.			
Jolin A. Bentley,	26	John E. Thomas,	1
For Member of Assembly, 1st District.			
Samuel Wilgus,	23	Joseph Wedig,	0
For Member of Assembly 2nd District.			
Cephas Whipple,	0	Louis Wolf,	3
For Sheriff			
Michael Winter,	25	F. Hoppe,	2
For Treasurer.			
John Bredemeyer,	27	Stephen B. Hogan,	0
For Register of Deeds.			
Charles Meyer,	25	Albert Mahlendorf,	2
For Clerk of Circuit Court.			
H. Noth [sic] Ross,	25	Alex. H. Edwards,	1
For District Attorney.			
John H. Jones,	27	A. S. Alexander,	0
For Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.			
Edward Drewry,	8	Fred. Zimmermann,	2
Respectfully yours,			

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<sup>320</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Vol. II, Old Wade House State Historic Site.

Personal. We were pleased, yesterday, to feel the cordial hand-grasp, and look into the genial countenance of ex-Quartermaster Wm. N. Shafter, of the 27th Infantry. Although he says he arrived at the home of his family in Plymouth in season to vote for "Old Abe and us," both of which votes we duly appreciate -- we still supposed him rusticating among the hills of the Green Mountain State, where he has been recuperating his health during the last five or six months, while settling up the estate of his deceased father. He informs us that he has not yet fully recovered his health, which was so badly damaged by his long sickness while in the army, but that it has improved more rapidly since the commencement of colder weather. We hope his days are yet to be many and prosperous in the land.<sup>322</sup>

From the 27th Regiment. New Camping Ground -- Building Winter Quarters -- The Climate -- The End Rebellion is Near -- Suffering Caused by it -- Election Day.  
H'D Qrs. 27th Wis. Vol. Inf.  
Little Rock, Ark. Dec. 2, 1864.

Editor Times: Dear Sir, In a little log house, on the north of the Arkansas, near which at one time stood the flourishing Village of Huntersville, is seated your humble servant. He is trying to think how he can best pass away the long evening, for it is dark and stormy, and he feels rather lonesome sitting all alone by his little mud hearth, with nothing to cheer him but his own silent reflections, the voice of the cricket or the occasional hum of a mosquito. Suddenly pleasing memories flit across his mind and he takes his pen in hand to drop a few lines to the Evergreen City.

Tattoo has just been sounded in the different camps, and the music of the drum, the bugle and fife, are still ringing in my ears. The soldiers are preparing for another night's rest, and all is now quiet. I will just stir up the coals. Now as the bright flame lights up the room, I will try and tell you all about what has happened to us since my last letter, which was written at Pine Bluff.

We returned from that lovely land, of screech owls and alligators on the 24th of October, since which time we have been very busy building winter quarters, as we had to leave our old camp on the south side of the river, having been assigned to duty as guard for the Rail Road west from Brownsville to this place, a distance of 30 miles. Five companies are stationed at different posts along the road, and the balance are with Head Quarters at this place, called Huntersville. But you would have to hunt a long time to find any such place now, for all that remains to be seen is a low bottom over which the Arkansas, remarkable for its sudden ups and downs, used to take its course, overflowing many a beautiful plantation, and carrying with its swift current mountains of the rich soil, which, with the assistance of time, has formed a ridge or embankment, upon which we are now encamped. We are nearly through with our work and will have the best quarters we have ever had before. The accomodations for the sick are also excellent, as several large buildings have been erected especially for their use. It is the Surgeon's intention to keep

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<sup>321</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 3, 1864, p. 1/2.

<sup>322</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 3, 1864, p. 1/4.

them all under his own charge, which is far better than sending them off to General Hospitals, which are always crowded too full.

Our camp is only a short distance from the Depot, and the coming and going of trains, and the usual stir and bustle near a rail road depot, makes it quite cheerful; also the moral effects of being so far removed from all the allurements and vices of city life, I think is very beneficial to us. The women with their rosy lips, fragrant with (the natural leaf) tobacco -- Oh! it is hard to leave them -- the theatre, and all such sort of things, we are free from in Huntersville.

The health of the regiment is very good. The weather for the past few days has been uncomfortably warm, but as a general thing it is delightful here at this season; very similar to Indian Summer in Wisconsin. All day long the sun pours down its mellow rays upon us; it seems, indeed, like perpetual spring; the wild birds even do not leave their native haunts for a milder clime, but remain with us all the live-long day. Their cheerful, happy voices may be heard from morn till night, perched upon some forest tree, or skimming through the clear blue skies. I don't know of a country under the face of the sun where I had rather live in winter. The air, though pure and bracing, does not creep into your very veins and chill the blood, as your cold December days are wont to do.

The river is at a good stage of water, and boats run up and down without much difficulty, although they get peppered sometimes by the Bushwhackers along the shore. Since Price made his grand raid into Missouri it has been very quiet here. Now he has skedaddled again I suppose the country will be overrun with his marauding bands.

Our regiment is increasing rapidly in size as squads of recruits keep coming to us. They come, too, just in the nick of time to assist in building our quarters. I hardly think we would get through this winter if they had not joined us, for all of our old men are on duty constantly. They are an excellent lot of men, and with a little drilling and instruction, will make as good soldiers as any general could wish for.

We are all looking forward patiently for the war to close, and judging from the present situation of affairs that glorious day cannot be far distant; and in my opinion our prospects were never more flattering than now. With the country once more United, Old Abe elected, and Sherman with his victorious army moving through the very heart of their country, the rebels must lose all hope and the glorious Southern confederacy for which they have fought most stubbornly will ere long, like a ship wrecked upon the angry sea, leave, nought to tell of its sad fate, but its scattered timbers floating on the waves. These may be compared to the men who, in upholding the rebellion, have sacrificed every thing -- their honor, lives, fortunes, homes, friends and relations. In feasting their ambitions they sought to destroy the best Government ever formed by man; but instead, they are now reaping the just rewards of their infamy, while war, with all its attendant horrors, is sweeping through their midst. And when I think that there are those in the North who dare even breathe their sympathies for so unjust a cause, it makes me shudder; for they do not, can not know what a world of suffering these men have caused, and how many thousand innocent lives are resting upon their shoulders; whole families, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, little children, famishing for want of food. Farms desolated, no shelter but the skies over them and no medicines to administer to their dying wants. If they knew only a little of the suffering, even here in Arkansas, they would say that a certain place was not hot enough for the men who first brought on this rebellion.

Election day passed away very quietly with us. I intended sending you the result some time ago, but I presume you have got our returns ere this. Sheboygan County is sound in our regiment; all vote one way. I understand the copperheads have got quite a majority on the home vote. If I am not mistaken the soldiers' vote will help some of them to a back seat. I will wait patiently for the result. News is dull here now. I will therefore bring my letter to a close, having nothing more to write about.

Yours as ever, S. M.<sup>323</sup>

Little Rock Arkansas  
Dec 19th [18]64

Mrs. Stannard

I recd your letter Nov 16th but have delayed answering because I had Allies to answer first and thought there was no use answering both at a time. I have not much news to write as we have been here all the time and it is the same thing over every day.

Gen. Steele has been relieved from the command of the 7th A[rmy] C[orps] and left here the 17th Maj Reynolds takes his place but has not arrived yet. Brig Gen Salomon takes command till Gen Reynolds arrives.

I hope there will be different times here now. I do not believe us having these citizens passing through the lines as they please. I hear that Andrew Elmore is dead, brave boy. He had not ought to [have] Enlisted. He had not the health and strength to make a Soldier. The Army is no place to improve health. The Draft did not seem to bring out enough men to fill quotas. This Regt recd about 150 recruits. Four new commissions came yesterday Co B will not get men enough to have another officer and I am glad of it for Col Krez does not do the fair thing by the companies. He told them men that enlisted for Co K that they must vote for the Commisary Srgt for 2nd Lieut or he would not let them go into that Company. There was not one of them that liked him but they had to vote for him or do worse. He is just the same about everything. But never mind it is only eight months more for me. You speak of my having a chance to go home. That is "played out". If I have my health I shall not try to go home till my time is out. I am perfectly contented here as long as I am well. I am sorry to hear that my friend Miss F. has been sick again I do not blame him for not writing as that was her privilege. She only done as I would if I saw fit with any one. Christmas will soon be here but I guess it will not be much different from other days with us here. Uncle Sams rations will be the same as on other days. But never mind I may be home next year at this time. I have not heard from my Brother Henry in a long time and do not expect to before he gets to the Sea Coast. I suppose he is there before this time but we have not heard any thing about it here yet. The latest papers we have had was the 9th. The folks at home are well and getting along finely. But I can think of nothing more so will stop. Schlaick is Commissary of the Co.

Musters Tripp Commander Dan Carver

Co B 27th Wis Little Rock Ar<sup>324</sup>

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<sup>323</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Dec. 31, 1864, p. 2/1-2.

<sup>324</sup> Stannard Family Papers, Manuscript Collection, Old Wade House State Historic Site.



In this duty [of guarding railroad line and in camp at Little Rock] the regiment was employed until the 7th of February, 1865, at which date, under orders to join General Canby's forces at New Orleans, they embarked at Little Rock and descending the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers, landed on the 12th at Algiers, La.<sup>325</sup>

Early in February 1865, the Regiment was ordered to proceed to Mobile via New Orleans. In the siege of Mobile, they were stationed before Spanish Fort, and when that was abandoned they were moved to before Fort Blakely. After the fall of Mobile, and as Lee had already surrendered everyone was jubilant in the firm belief that they would soon be going home.<sup>326</sup>

[On] the 7th of February, 1865, [the regiment] embarked for Algiers, Louisiana, going down the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers and landing at Algiers on the 12th [of February].<sup>327</sup>

They left Little Rock on transports (Feb. 7), and passing down the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers, reached Algiers, opposite New Orleans, on the 12th, from whence they reembarked on the 20th, and arrived at Navy Cove, Ala., on Mobile Bay. Encamping on Mobile Point, near Fort Morgan, the regiment was, on the 27th, assigned to the Third Brigade, Third Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.<sup>328</sup>

[After arriving at Algiers, La., on Feb. 12, 1865] they re-embarked on the 20th of February and landed on the 25th [of February] at Navy Cove, Ala. They encamped at Mobile Point, near Fort Morgan, where on the 27th of February, the regiment was assigned to the Third brigade, Third division of the Thirteenth army corps.<sup>329</sup>

On February 20th, the regiment reembarked [from Algiers, La.] and landed on the 25th at Navy Cave [sic], near Mobile, where it was attached to the 3d brigade, 3d division, 13th army corps.<sup>330</sup>

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<sup>325</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General...1865, p. 300.

<sup>326</sup> Roland A. Kolb, Story of the... Kolb Family, p. 15.

<sup>327</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>328</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, pp. 764-765.

<sup>329</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 300.

<sup>330</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

From the 27th Regiment.  
HD. QRS. 27th Inf. Wis. Vols.  
3d Brig. 3d Div. 13th A. C.,  
Mobile Point, Ala. March 14, 1865.

Editor Evergreen City: Dear Sir -- I presume by this time, that you have heard of our departure from Little Rock. I can at least realize the fact, seated in my little wedge tent with a carpet of sand for my feet, the surf of the ocean dashing against the shore hard by, the rain pouring in torrents about me, and the quietude which reigns throughout the camp; it is indeed a fitting time, and the only favorable one afforded me, to write to you a few lines.

We left Little Rock on the 7th of February, taking the cars to Duvall's Bluff. The weather was very cold, and we were quite glad, when we found ourselves snugly packed on board the Steamer ROWENA, on the evening of the same day. Our trip from the Bluff to the mouth of the river was pleasant and without anything unusual occurring worth mentioning. We arrived at the mouth February 8th. Gen. McGinnis commands the post, and appears to be a very fine, courteous gentleman.

Feb. 9th, embarked upon the splendid steamer HENRY AMES for New Orleans. Arrived at Vicksburg on the 10th about 4 P. M. Remained there long enough to go up town and get a glass of lager, and take a little stroll about. Saw the holes in the banks where the citizens hid themselves during the siege. Vicksburg has improved very much since I was last there. Gen. Washburne had been in command, but was relieved a short time before our arrival.

Again steamed up and arrived at Natchez February 11th, about 11 A. M.; did not remain long; took another glass of lager; saw groves of oranges, and one of the principal streets, on both sides of which were fine shade trees. Natchez is said to be one of the healthiest places on the river; it is certainly one of the handsomest, situated upon a high Bluff.

We now began to approach an Eden of loveliness, the garden spot of the great Mississippi Valley, and all eyes now eagerly bent upon the beautiful scene, as we glided along down the river, passing hundreds of magnificent plantations, with groves of oranges, bananas, live oaks, cedar, and many other trees, natives of the sacred soil, sometimes so near the shore you could almost swing from the branches. At one plantation we stopped to wood. I strolled through the shady groves, plucked the yellow fruit with my own hands. Oh! Sir, one who has not seen an orange grove hanging full of the luscious fruit, cannot judge of its beauty. It seems more like some fabled tale you read of, than a real, living scene; and then to think that a people having every thing that heart could wish for, and living in such a country, protected by its laws, should rebel and grasp for more, there by losing what they have and leaving their homes and families desolate! They must indeed have been infatuated, or tempted by the same individual who caused our first parents to be driven from the garden.

Well, we kept on our way through the ever changing landscape nearly 300 miles, until we arrived at Algiers, a little town opposite New Orleans, on the evening of the 12th about 9 o'clock, moon shining bright. Disembarked and encamped in the outskirts of town, on a low bottom or flat. All that keeps it from over flowing are the levee's on both sides, which extend, it is said, all the way from Memphis.

We had heavy times at Algiers; the camp was full of women from morning till night huckstering their delicacies to the boys for a small portion of a "Green back." Algiers is what

you might call a mixed town; but French is the principal language spoken, although there are many Italians, Spaniards, &c. We feasted on oysters during our sojourn, and what is more singular, had Creole eggs and Western eggs. Creole eggs are eggs laid at Algiers, and Western eggs are eggs laid in the direction of the setting sun. I visited New Orleans once or twice; saw my old friend P. Smalley; took dinner at the St. Charles; visited the statues of Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson, both fine pieces of art. I was greatly surprised to find New Orleans one of the handsomest as well as the cleanest city I had ever seen. The principal streets are all finely paved, and every thing betokens the most perfect order. You would hardly know there was war in the land, only for an occasional sentry that you meet on the street.

We remained at Algiers until the 20th, when we crossed to the New Orleans side, over to the Pontchartrain R. R. Depot. This Rail Road extends to Lake Port on Lake Pontchartrain, about 6 miles. We soon traveled that distance, and put up for the night waiting further orders. This Lake Port, as it is called, is a port for shipping to different points along the coast. It has a pier, light house, several good warehouses, and two large hotels richly furnished. It used to be a summer resort for the heated population of the city; has several baths where-with to cool the heated blood, and numerous shady groves wherein to lounge.

Feb. 22nd P. M., embarked upon the steamer NASHUA for Dauphin Island; grounded about a dozen times, and finally landed at this place on the 25th, 5 P. M., passing Forts Gaines and Morgan. Our immediate locality is called Navy Cove, but the main land is Mobile Point, at the entrance of the bay. Fort Morgan, which surrendered to Farragut, is at the extremity of this Point. We have been here now two weeks and three days, and form a part of the 3rd Brigade, 3d Div., 13th A[rmy]. C[orps]. Gen. Gordon Granger commands the Corps, Ben. Benton the Division, and Col. Kretz [sic] the Brigade. We are actively engaged in making preparations for the field. Each officer has his "Purp Tent," and is entitled to but one paper collar, a tooth pick, and a pair of shoe strings.

We have not been paid for eight months, consequently have to draw rations on returns. It has rained nearly every day since we came here, and if it were not for the sand we would be in a pitiable condition. The Point is covered with troops, and several Monitors and gun boats lie anchored close by. I have not yet been up to Fort Morgan, but intend to make it a visit soon; then I will try and give you more news.

The 20th, 23d, 28th, 29th, and 35th Wis. are here. The 28th is in our Brigade. Col. Gray is well and comes over often to see us. The health of the regiment never was better. We have upwards of 500 men for duty, and are still getting recruits occasionally. We are bothered more about mails than most any thing else, they come very irregular.

Oysters are plenty here and cheap, but like Paddy's potatoe, we haven't the wherewith to buy them, or the time to fish them. Our camp is but a few feet from the Gulf, which affords us an excellent chance to bathe and make our simple toilets.

Having nothing more of interest to write at present, and dinner being nearly ready, I will close by, subscribing myself as ever,

Your Ob't. S. M.<sup>331</sup>

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<sup>331</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 8, 1865, p. 1/2-3.

...March 16th the order came for us to move next morning, with three days' cooked rations in haversack.... That night... the long-looked for mail arrived, with news from home about a month old.<sup>332</sup>

On 17 March, E. R. S. Canby (C. G. Mil. Div. of West Miss.) undertook operations with 45,000 troops to capture Mobile. The latter place was held by 10,000 troops and 300 guns under D. H. Maury, supported by five gunboats. While Frederick Steele led one column of 13,000 men from Pensacola, Canby led the other column from the captured forts at the mouth of Mobile Bay (Forts Gaines and Morgan). Canby's approach to Mobile was from the east with the support of the navy. This led to his capture of SPANISH FORT, 27 March - 8 April, and BLAKELY, 1 - 9 April. Having sustained 1,417 casualties (Battles & Leaders, IV, 411n), he entered Mobile the morning of the 12th. Maury had left the night before with his remaining 4,500 troops, 27 guns, and his supply train. The Confederates moved toward Montgomery. On 4 May they were surrendered by Richard Taylor. "I had tried for more than two years to have an expedition sent against Mobile when its possession by us would have been of great advantage," wrote Grant in his Memoirs (II, p. 519). "It finally cost lives to take it when its possession was of no importance."<sup>333</sup>

The operations of 1865, in the Mississippi Valley, were not of extraordinary character, except the siege and capture of Mobile. The surrender of Lee's army showed to the rebels the hopelessness of their cause, and inducements to continue the contest were not great. The several strongholds remaining after Lee's surrender were, therefore, soon in possession of the National forces, among others, the City of Mobile. This place had been invested for some time by the combined army and navy, and on the 2d of April, a simultaneous attack by land and water was commenced on the outer defenses, which consisted of the formidable forts Blakely and Spanish Fort. The latter was captured on the 9th by General A. J. Smith's forces and the surrender of Fort Blakely followed soon after to the forces under General Steele, after a general assault. On the 10th, the city surrendered to a portion of the forces of General A. J. Smith. In these results, the navy is entitled to its share of honor. The surrender of Mobile was the last important movement of the war in the Mississippi Valley, if we except the final surrender of the rebel forces in Texas.

Wisconsin soldiers bore a conspicuous part in the capture of Mobile. The following regiments were present, and participated in the several actions: The Eighth, Eleventh, Fourteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-third, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirty-third and Thirty-fifth Infantry, and the Fourth Cavalry.<sup>334</sup>

[From biographical sketch of Michael Sweet, Town Greenbush, Co. B, 27th Wis.] ... a force, including the Twenty-seventh Regiment, was sent in pursuit of Price when he made his last raid in Missouri. The regiment returned to Little Rock, from which point it was sent to Algiers, La., and

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<sup>332</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 128.

<sup>333</sup> Mark M. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 559.

<sup>334</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 421.

then to Mobile Point, near Ft. Gaines. From there it marched eighty-five miles up the bay to Spanish Fort and was for thirteen days and nights engaged in the siege of that Confederate stronghold. After the surrender of Spanish Fort, it crossed the bay to the city of Mobile and went up the river some eighty-five miles in pursuit of Confederate transports, blockade-runners and rams, that had escaped up the bay. These, with Gen. Forest, surrendered and the command returned to Mobile with the prisoners. Three weeks later the command was ordered to Texas...

Mr. Sweet was not seriously wounded by the bullets of the enemy... His severest trouble was an affliction of scurvy, which he contracted in the service, and from which he has suffered greatly. On returning from the army, he engaged in farming in the town of Greenbush to such an extent as he was physically able. In 1875, he engaged in the sale of farm implements, which he continued until 1889, when he was commissioned Postmaster at Plymouth... June 20 of that year....<sup>335</sup>

Mobile Point is a strip of land some four or five miles long, and about a quarter of a mile wide, extending from the mainland down between the gulf and the bay. Nearly the whole of it... is a mere bank of sand, washed by the surf of the gulf on one side and smoothed to a beach on the other. Near Fort Morgan, at its lower extremity, were camped some regiments which had been there since the fort was captured. From the fort to the cove, extended a railroad, with a rolling-stock of a single locomotive and a few platform-cars, sufficient to convey supplies from the landing.

Near the cove commenced a kind of swamp in the center of the point. This was filled with water, grass and alligators.

Around its edges were thickets of thorny bushes, strange weeds, and a kind of dwarf palmetto. A few straggling old houses stood near the landing, occupied by the families of pilots and oyster-men. North of these, and connecting with the bay, was a shallow pond, almost lined on the bottom with small mud-oysters. Beyond this, a rather heavy and swampy timber-land commenced, which seemed to have no limits but the horizon. The whole place seemed strange and wild, and in no wise like any country to which we had been accustomed.<sup>336</sup>

Accompanying the forces of General Canby, intended for operations in the vicinity of Mobile, they left Mobile Point on the 17th of March, and moving with difficulty over the exceedingly bad roads, which impeded the progress of the trains, they took position on the 27th, in the trenches before Spanish Fort.<sup>337</sup>

It was glorious fun for us, while the novelty lasted, to go out and bathe in the surf of the gulf in the hot forenoons; or to walk at night along the beach, where every step stirred up showers of phosphorescent sparkles, that looked as though the very sand were latent fire; or to wade for oysters in the shallow pond above the cove, and forget our baked heads and cut and bruised feet,

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<sup>335</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, p. 672.

<sup>336</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 124.

<sup>337</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 765.

in the tantalizing prospect of fried oysters for supper; or to gather a crowd on the edge of the little swamp, and endeavor to capture an alligator; or to watch the fairy-like sailing craft and war-like steamers, as they glided to and fro, so near us. All these were pleasant at first, but the novelty would not last forever. The discomforts, on the contrary, were present continually. There was endless heat above, and restless sand below, -- sand, sand, sand in everything. Mouths, noses, ears and even eyes were filled with it, and victuals were all seasoned with the everlasting and omnipresent nuisance. To partially balance this, was the strange but grateful fact, that we had only to dig holes a few feet deep in the sand, on the gulf side, to find plenty of the freshest and purest water.<sup>338</sup>

As a part of the forces under command of Major General Canby, destined for the reduction of Spanish Fort, [the regiment] left Mobile Point on the 17th of March, and moving slowly, on account of the condition of the roads and the difficulty of moving the trains, took position on the 27th in the trenches before Spanish Fort.<sup>339</sup>

On the 17th of March [the regiment] moved, under General Canby, toward Spanish Fort, taking position in the trenches there on the 27th, where it took part in the siege until the fort was evacuated, April 8. The next day the regiment marched to Fort Blakely, arriving in time to witness its capture by the forces under command of General Steele.<sup>340</sup>

March 17th, the 13th A[rmy]. C[orps]. of which we form a part, broke camp at Mobile Point at 4:30 A. M., marched 10 miles and camped for night near Navy Cove. Country rough, sandy, and pine timber.<sup>341</sup>

... at 6:30 [a.m., March 17, 1865] the march commenced. The day proved perfectly beautiful. Moving up the beach on the eastern side of the point, we soon entered the wood, left the gulf behind, and after a march of eight or ten miles, pitched camp in a very good place at about 2 p. m.<sup>342</sup>

The day's march [March 18] was ten miles, through pine timber, over alternate marsh and sand. In the morning there was a jolly scene, when we waded across a small and shallow arm of the bay. The whole division formed in columns closed in mass; and at the word all proceeded to roll up their pants and prepare to wade.... It was a scene for a comic artist -- those heavy columns

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<sup>338</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 125.

<sup>339</sup> Annual Report Of The Adjutant General... 1865, p. 300.

<sup>340</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 165.

<sup>341</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 1/14 of note).

<sup>342</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 129.

of blue-coated infantry busily engaged in rolling up the legs of their pants, until, like so many boys at play, they struck into the water, and with shouts and laughter waded easily across.<sup>343</sup>

March 18th. Fine day. Broke camp 5 A. M., marched 8 miles, and camped for night in grove of small pine; country the same.<sup>344</sup>

March 19th. Marched at 5 A. M.; traveling bad; had to build roads; marched about 6 miles and camped in forest of huge pines.<sup>345</sup>

Sunday night [March 19] our camp was pitched in the midst of the endless forest of tall, straight, almost branchless pines. The ground was flat, smooth, clean and dry; and the camp would have been an excellent one if only wood and water had been near. It may seem odd that in a pine forest should be no wood to burn; but such is very nearly the actual fact. Green pine is abominable fire-wood. Pine knots were scattered around quite plentifully, and we used them for fuel; but they smoke the victuals so in cooking that the soldier will for that purpose, take any other wood in preference. Water was plenty, but not near camp; [it was] but a shallow pond where the rain-water had not yet had time to evaporate or become absorbed.... Men must wash their faces and hands, at least, and to get water for coffee in the center of a little pool, all around whose edges men are washing hands and feet...<sup>346</sup>

March 20. [27th Wis.] Ordered back to help supply train out of mud. Marched at 5 in the morning and worked hard all day. Returned to same camp we were at last night.<sup>347</sup>

[On March 20 we]...marched four or five miles... Across the road in one or two places lay the ugly carcasses of alligators, which some of the advance-party had killed and left there.... it should be added that there were occasional ponds and swamps. As night drew on, of course the wagons stuck in the swamps worse than ever. ...a heavy shower came up. [Camp was pitched in the middle of a large turpentine orchard.] Such an "orchard" in full vigor is a dense, unbroken forest of young pine trees, each of which at a certain age has been tapped by a large chip off one side. The turpentine slowly oozes from the wound, forms a thick coating over the abraded surface, and settled in the hollow at its bottom. Usually the trees are carefully tended, and the turpentine gathered at the proper time; but in this orchard the trees had been neglected, till there was now a thick mass of solidified turpentine on every one. There was warmth for us, and novelty withal;

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<sup>343</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 129.

<sup>344</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 2/14 of note).

<sup>345</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 3/14 of note).

<sup>346</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 130.

<sup>347</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 4/14 of note).

and soon the trees were blazing furiously. Each one would burn fifteen or twenty minutes before its supply of turpentine was exhausted.<sup>348</sup>

March 21st. Broke camp 5:30 A. M.; it had rained during the night. Had not gone far before artillery got stuck in mud; the rain soon more than came down. We were passing through same everlasting pine swamp. It rained as hard as I ever saw it, and the roads became impassible. Of all the times we have had, this capped the climax. We had gone about 3 miles and were then ordered back to help the train through. The water stood knee deep and the corduroy roads were all afloat. It stopped raining about noon; then how the boys did cheer when the sun came out. Worked all day and camped for night.<sup>349</sup>

March 22d. [27th Wis.] Broke camp at 4:30 A. M.; roads awful. Marched about 4 miles; had to haul artillery by hand. Camped for night at 8 o'clock.<sup>350</sup>

Wednesday [March 22] was spent in sending back details... to build corduroys for the last few miles of road, along which the train had "stuck" with remarkable uniformity.... the forest had been set on fire not far from us; and now the huge volumes of smoke rose black and nearer. The bright flames played round the trunks of the trees, whose stores of turpentine increased the intensity of the conflagration, till it seemed as if the whole camp must perish.... the fire did not come near enough to give us much real discomfort.<sup>351</sup>

March 23d. Broke camp at 4 1/2 A. M. Roads good; marched 8 miles; still in pine timber. From this timber the rebs obtain their tar, pitch, turpentine, &c. The trees for miles were all tapped. Crossed Fish River on pontoons 4 :30 P. M., passing factory for making rosin; burnt by rebs. Came up with A. J. Smith's 16th A[rmy]. C[orps]. Rebs said to be in force 15 miles off. Camped near river; the place is called Ganley's Mills. Remained in camp until 25th, 4 P. M....<sup>352</sup>

The wagons having finally got out of the mud, we started on again [this] morning [March 23], moving nearly all the way through the unvarying pine wood, but noting with a real feeling of welcome and joy, the appearance of trees and bushes of a more familiar leaf and living green, as we neared Fish River. This deep and narrow stream we crossed at about half-past two P.M., of the 23rd, on a wooden pontoon-bridge which had been laid by men sent around on boats before us. By order from General Benton, every band in our division struck up "Out of the Wilderness"

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<sup>348</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 130.

<sup>349</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 5/14 of note).

<sup>350</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 6/14 of note).

<sup>351</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 131.

<sup>352</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no 7/14 of note).



as its regiment crossed the bridge. Moving on up to the high grounds a mile or so from the river, we were marched and counter-marched in various places, and stopped and formed in camp-arrangement here and there, to see how the brigade would fit the ground; and finally settled down to camp.<sup>353</sup>

[March 24] As it was expected we would take some little rest before the whole column moved on farther, the camp was therefore laid out with great care and regularity, wells dug, sinks provided, and arrangements made as if we might remain a month. We were now part of the largest army with which we had ever been, and therefore felt "invincible against any force the enemy might send against us." Soon after we had camped, another mail was distributed....<sup>354</sup>

...[27th Wis.] in camp until [March] 25th, 4 P. M., then kept on marching till 8 P. M., a distance of 8 miles, and camped for the night in heavy growth of pine.<sup>355</sup>

Saturday, the 25th, the column commenced moving in the morning.... We made but about six or eight miles that evening, and then camped so far ahead of the wagons, that they did not come up that night. ...many a poor officer, whose blankets and provisions were in the train, had to lie down supperless, on the bare and chilling ground, and take what little sleep he could by the warmth only of the half-tended pine-knot fires.<sup>356</sup>

March 26th. [27th Wis.] Broke camp at 5 A. M. Passed 2 long lines of earthworks. Country growing more mountainous and broken; army moving in three columns. Camped 7 P. M. Beautiful night; busy building earthworks around us.<sup>357</sup>

Sunday [March 26] brought no rest. Rising early, we marched on as usual; and at night camped within two miles of the "Spanish Fort" which was expected to hinder further progress.<sup>358</sup>

March 27th, near Spanish Fort; warm work expected; moved up in double column closed enmasse. This Fort lies on the bay and is said to be very strong, and is so situated that our gun boats can not help us, water being too shallow, and torpedoes too thick; the country is similar to that around Vicksburg. We were expected to charge, but I suppose on reflection they concluded

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<sup>353</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 132.

<sup>354</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 132.

<sup>355</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 8/14 of note).

<sup>356</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 133.

<sup>357</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 9/14 of note).

<sup>358</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 133.

to go slow. Our skirmishers were thrown out and we began to lay siege.<sup>359</sup>

Sun-rise of Monday, the 27th of March, saw us in arms, and making ready to move forward. The command was finally formed in column by battalion, properly placed and directed, and at 9:30 the advance commenced. There were frequent stops, mysterious runnings to and fro of officers and orderlies, changes of position by artillery and skirmishers, and all the usual indications of premeditated battle. At 10:20, occasional artillery-firing began, and at a quarter after 11 the first rattle of musketry was heard on our left. The siege had commenced.

... Meanwhile a rain came on. Having nothing else to do, we huddled under the trees for shelter... Early in the evening we were moved forward to our position in the main line of attack which was thrown almost entirely around the land-side of the rebel works, and rested at either extremity upon the bay. Our regiment was the extreme right of the 13th corps; and the 16th corps extended its left around to join us.... The field-pieces in our main line of attack kept up an occasional firing till some time after dark, but the rebels did not reply very much. This seemed like weakness then; but we afterward learned that they had their guns double-shotted with grape and canister all the time, in readiness for the charge they expected us to make...

Night at last brought quiet.<sup>360</sup>

At day-light next morning [March 28], a single bugle sounded reveille; and soon the "ball opened" again. Heavy details were kept on the skirmish line, and relieved in the day-time. This was all wrong. Several men were wounded while being thus relieved; and soon the details refused to be relieved in the day-time, preferring to remain in their shallow lines, and holes of partial safety, rather than to risk the full exposure of their persons so near the rebel works, for the mere sake of coming back to camp. The time of relieving was therefore changed, and a company or two at a time were sent out. The number of casualties was from this time much smaller.<sup>361</sup>

On the night of the 29th of March the enemy charged us and attempted to capture our advanced line. Our company... left camp about three o'clock in the morning, with a day's rations and one hundred rounds of cartridges. Arriving in the vicinity of the rebel fort, we had to march very stealthily to prevent the enemy from hearing and slaughtering us before we reached our ditch. The road was a miserable one to advance over, being covered with fallen trees, whose tops pointed mostly outward. Every now and then a minnie ball would whiz through the air close to our heads, making us dodge, and think it was aimed for no one especially.<sup>362</sup>

By this time it was growing light; and we found ourselves in front of the rebel fort, so that

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<sup>359</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 10/14 of note).

<sup>360</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 134.

<sup>361</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 135.

<sup>362</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 135.

we could pour our fire directly into their embrasures. Before it grew too light, we busied ourselves in improving our ditch, by digging it deeper and throwing the dirt over in front for protection. Through the day we watched the enemy's embrasures so closely that they could not use their guns with any effect. At one embrasure they ran out a huge, grim monster of a siege-gun, but we kept up such a peppering that they were glad to withdraw it without firing. About this time the large rebel fort opened upon our skirmish-line. We would closely watch the huge pile of yellow dirt seen dimly in the distance; and presently we would see a dense volume of smoke rising, and "down" would be our warning. Down we would fall, to the bottom of the ditch. In a few seconds we would hear a loud explosion, and looking in its direction would see the smoke curling up in fantastic wreaths from where the shell had burst.

We were directly between the rebel fort and one of our own batteries, which opened during the day, so that our own shots passed directly over our heads. One struck very near us, and bounded over toward the enemy. Another exploded close to our ditch. By this time we began to fear our friends.<sup>363</sup>

Deploying our line [March 29], we advanced with a considerable low whistling and other signaling, to the works which had been thrown up the night before by Company K, close to the enemy's line. I was considerably amused at the Dutch (27th Wisconsin) who were on our left. When I came up, I came on them. By that time, the enemy were firing very briskly. I asked one of the Dutchmen where our company was. "Get town here, G\_\_\_ tam you!" was all the response I could get. After blundering and stumbling around for some time, I got to our ditch. The Dutch were now relieved; but one of them was left in the ditch asleep. One of our boys shook him, and asked him if he did not belong to the regiment that was relieved. He roused himself up, and replied that he did. We told him to go on to camp, and he started to go; but the flash from the enemy's guns, accompanied by a warning from some of us to "keep low," so frightened the poor boy that he commenced describing a circle, and performing various other antic feats.... "Here, this way, this way," said some one, pointing with his finger. "Vich vay, vich vay?" replied the poor frightened boy, as he climbed over our works and was on the point of running over toward the rebel fort. Some one caught him by the heels and dragged him back to our ditch; and after a deal of crawling and creeping, hither and thither, he started off in the right direction, and we saw him no more.<sup>364</sup>

That night [March 29], half of us wrapped ourselves in our gum blankets and lay down to sleep; but the rain pelted us so heavily we could not sleep much. At mid-night... I heard a sharp, heavy rattling of musketry on our left, accompanied by loud cheering.... ...a perfect stream of fire from our ditch kept the enemy at bay.<sup>365</sup>

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<sup>363</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 137.

<sup>364</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 136. "Dutch" was an English corruption of 'Deutsch', the German word for 'German', and German soldiers thus came to be called 'Dutchmen'.

<sup>365</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 138.

Wednesday night, the 29th, the rebels made a bold sortie, and penetrated almost to the main line of our works. There was confusion in camp for a few minutes; but the affair did not last long. The rebels went back more hastily than they came, and gained nothing by their daring.<sup>366</sup>

The duty of the main lines of infantry, drawn around the rebel works, was simply to protect themselves, and furnish the tremendous [work] details. Not only the regiments themselves had to be protected by breast-works, but every head-quarters, from brigade on up, must have a heavy line of earth-works in front of it. The artillery-fire of the rebels was not slackened after the first day; and there was great need of protection.... The country immediately around Spanish Fort seemed to have been specially formed for us to lay the siege. Deep gullies, separated of course by ridges or knolls of earth, formed a rough likeness to concentric circles which, connected by the heavy breast-works of logs and dirt, constituted our parallel lines of approach and defense. To aid the fitness of the place, an excellent and copious brook ran at a convenient distance, and good springs gushed from the little hills. Evidently nature had intended Spanish Fort to be besieged.

There was now a certain monotony about the days. Very heavy details were sent out to work on the fortifications.... The companies out on the skirmish-line, two at a time from each regiment, had occupation enough, having approached so near the opposing line that frequent conversations took place between them and the rebels. A miniature commerce in coffee and tobacco was at least much talked of, if not carried into actual effect; for as there were no sutlers' shops allowed with this expedition, tobacco had now become almost as scarce with us, as coffee among the rebels.<sup>367</sup>

The din of reveille dwindled down to a bugle in the early morning; and no sound of bugle or drum was allowed during the day; yet brass bands at the different general head-quarters would make the wood ring with their practice for hours together. We were now for the first time in a regular siege. There was no time in the day when one could feel at all certain that some rebel bullet or shell might not come singing or whistling along especially for him; but it must not be inferred that we considered this uncertainty always as a very serious matter. There were times, indeed, when no one would travel around more than he had good cause for; but much of the time there were men scattered along the brook, washing, or traveling between line of attack, and the hospitals and trains, which kept themselves at a safe distance in the rear.<sup>368</sup>

At the Siege of Mobile a Confederate cannon "found" their location and was able to make things very uncomfortable. Volunteers were called for and father responded. The wheels of a cannon were wrapped in rags and the gun was trundled by hand around a hill where a better sight on the offending gun could be obtained. The cannon was "set" and then the officer laid his telescope on

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<sup>366</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 141.

<sup>367</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 139.

<sup>368</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 140.

top of the barrel and "sighted". The shot went true and the offending cannon was knocked off of its foundation. Their gun was "spiked" and the volunteers made their way back to their lines.<sup>369</sup>

About sun-down of the 31st there was a decidedly lively time for a few minutes. The cannonading on both sides was heavier than it had been before; and piles of brush laying between the opposing lines were set on fire, either by accident or intentionally, and lit up the scene to almost grandeur. Though the siege had now lasted but four or five days, we felt already well used to it. The regular booming of the half-hour guns was an accustomed sound; and the lively contest of artillery just before sun-down was looked for as a thing of course. Soldiers soon learn to adapt themselves to circumstances. The routine of camp was readily adjusted to the place, and followed with as cheerful carelessness as ever. Laughing and joking abounded.<sup>370</sup>

The whole ground was dug in holes, and looked like an oblong of gigantic burrowers. This was by no means useless labor. The firing was of course irregular, and some times almost entirely ceased; but there were spells, as always just before sun-set, when the artillery on both sides would open briskly, and then, when the rebel shot and shell began to whistle closer over us, the bomb-proofs were welcome and crowded; and it was not cowardice but common-sense, which demanded the protection.<sup>371</sup>

Post Office Removed. Capt. Marschner has removed the [Sheboygan] Post Office to the late Board of Trade Rooms, next door to the Bank of Sheboygan. This makes a much more comfortable if not pleasanter room than the one heretofore occupied. By the way, Capt. Marschner, who has been confined to his house for some weeks by sickness, is able to be around again so as to attend to business.<sup>372</sup>

The firing grew all the time heavier. On the evening of the 8th, the gun-boats, which had been taking part but occasionally in the contest, began launching their tremendous bolts in solid earnest. As darkness came on, the scene approached the sublime. The bay was entirely hidden from us by the wooded hills, but the shells from the gun-boats could be distinctly seen as with majestic slowness they described their brilliant arcs, and fell point-blank in the rebel fort almost at the instant of explosion. The gunners seemed to have got the range perfectly. On land, too, the siege-guns which had been so long in coming up, were now in position; and for about an hour on the evening of the 8th there was such a cannonading as we had never heard before. The whole artillery force of our army and gun-boats opened in one terrible storm of fire, so

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<sup>369</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, March 29, 1972.

<sup>370</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 142.

<sup>371</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 142.

<sup>372</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 1, 1865, p. 1/4.

concentrated on the rebel fort that it seemed almost impossible for it to endure a repetition.<sup>373</sup>

That afternoon [April 8, 1865] and evening there was much heavier cannonading some distance up the bay, than we had heard before. General Steele with his negroes was evidently pounding away at [Fort] Blakely, but there seemed to be nothing new in store for us, and we went to sleep as usual. About mid-night a shout arose. Our forces, pressing closer on the rebel lines, had found the fort just evacuated; and with joy and tumult they rushed in and took possession. The thirteen days of siege at last were ended.... Many of our regiment were so eager and excited, that they could not wait till morning, but tumbled out of bed, and went up to see the fort by moon-light.<sup>374</sup>

That evening [April 8] we noticed a little circumstance, which seemed odd to us then, and which in earlier days might have hastened exertions on to victory, or been accepted as an omen of defeat. The evening was clear, and the moon shone bright in the southern sky. Some where about 8 o'clock, we saw three very small halos, or circles, of various colors, like the rainbow, around the moon. The effect was weird and beautiful. Ordinary "rings around the moon" are common enough, but three small rings, brightly and variously colored, in the midst of a cloudless sky, were to us as novel as they were beautiful.<sup>375</sup>

We have an interesting letter from our 4th Cavalry correspondent, on the second page giving a full account of their late expedition into Mississippi. Also one on this page from our 27th Regiment correspondent, giving the incidents of their trip from Little Rock to Mobile Point. By the way, "S.M" is rather sparing of his favors from that regiment; hardly writing often enough to keep in mind the fact that there is such a regiment, if we were dependent alone upon such letters for a reminder.<sup>376</sup>

[After arriving at Spanish Fort March 27,] Rifle pits were dug in all directions, artillery planted and the ball opened, lasting until the 8th of April, at midnight, just two weeks, when the Rebs skedaddled. Our skirmishers and reserves had been strengthened the same evening, and were ordered to keep up a continuous fire. The artillery had more than poured it into them during the day, and things were getting lively indeed. Oh! what cheers filled the air when it was ascertained the Rebs had left. We had just captured two or three hundred prisoners, and would have had them all had they not put out as they did. We captured nearly all their guns, and any quantity of ammunition and forage. You can hardly imagine the amount of labor expended; the whole country for miles cut up by rifle pits and earthworks, the hill sides dotted with bomb

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<sup>373</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 143.

<sup>374</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 143.

<sup>375</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 143.

<sup>376</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 8, 1865, p. 1/4.

proofs, &c., &c. Spades were trumps, sure. The Rebs boasted they could hold the Fort, but we dug them out - Oh! how surprised they would be to wake up in the morning and find our works under their very nose. The following letter found at Fort Blakely, which I copy, will show the condition of things better than I can write.

Headq'rs. Spanish Fort, near Mobile.

March 31st, 1865.

General: I am about to attempt counter zigzags on the right -- to attempt to do something to arrest and if possible to drive back the advance of the enemy. I shall also organize a volunteer party for sorties. Can you not undertake something -- do something -- show some enterprise in moving against the enemy and driving him back? Appeal to your officers not to allow themselves to be dug up and pitched out of this position upon a Yankee shovel.

Yours Sincerely,

(signed) R. L. Gibson, Brig. Gen.

To Brig. Gen. B. W. Thomas,  
Commanding Center.

Our loss at Spanish Fort, in the army, is estimated at 60 killed, wounded, and missing; very small proportion killed. The loss in our regiment is 4 killed and 7 wounded.<sup>377</sup>

JEROME J. CURTISS, a citizen of Black Creek, Wis., was born Dec. 28, 1844, in Ellisburg, Jefferson Co., New York. He was still very young when his parents removed to Wisconsin and settled in Plymouth, Sheboygan county, where he obtained his schooling in the winters, attending school about three months yearly. He lived the life of a pioneer until he enlisted in Company B, 27th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Fond du Lac, about the middle of February, 1865. He was discharged in August, 1865, at Brownsville, Texas, the war being closed. He proceeded to join the command at Spanish Fort, having charge of a squad of 15 recruits. He made connection with the regiment about the last of March, and remained therewith until discharged. He contracted a terrible cold through exposure to fatigue and bad weather, and inflammation of the kidneys resulted, from the effects of which he has never recovered....<sup>378</sup>

The enemy having evacuated [Spanish Fort] during the night of the 8th of April, the Twenty-seventh on the following day marched five miles northward to Fort Blakely, before which they arrived in time to witness its capture by the forces under command of Major General Steele.<sup>379</sup>

April 9th. Took up our line of march for Fort Blakely, which the Rebs still occupied, about 7 miles. After evacuating Spanish Fort the Rebs fell back to Blakely. Had just got there when the glad tidings came of its capture with all its guns and 3,000 prisoners. Remained at

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<sup>377</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 11/14 of note).

<sup>378</sup> Soldiers' And Citizens' Album... 1888, p. 205.

<sup>379</sup> Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 300.

Blakely until the 11th,...<sup>380</sup>

Sunday morning, the 9th, was rainy and disagreeable. Reveille was sounded on the drums for the first time since the commencement of the siege. Orders soon came for us to be ready to move immediately; but not all of us could restrain the curiosity to see what we had been so long fighting about, and so we had to go up and see the fort. A strange sensation came over us as we climbed, unhindered, over the breastworks and walls, from which a few hours before we would have been swept off with a storm of fire had we attempted to scale them. We were glad enough no "charge" had been ordered; glad, indeed that our position had been on the outside and not inside the fort, the center of such a rain of iron and lead, it showed the marks of conflict every where. There was hardly a square yard of ground in or near the fort which was not torn by shot or shell. Along the top of the inner wall, logs a foot or so in diameter were laid, as protection for the heads of the sharp-shooters stationed behind them; and one of these logs, on the side opposite that part of the line last held by our regiment, was so scarred that not a finger could have been laid on it without covering the mark of a bullet.<sup>381</sup>

Breaking camp on the morning of the 9th, without a thought of its being Sunday, we formed line a little way out in the wood, and drew rations while halting for a few moments. There seemed some thing almost ludicrous in the idea of issuing those two barrels of sour kraut, with the other rations, to men all in line and ready for the march, and whose only means of carrying food was in their haversacks; and in fact the kraut disappeared so fast in other ways that it was not issued.

The march of Sunday was of only ten miles' length, but was very tiresome. On the way, the knowledge spread that we were being pushed forward to Blakely to take part in a charge on the rebel works there. Some time before we reached the place, however, the news met us that the charge had been made, and the victory won.<sup>382</sup>

The fort -- or rather, Battery Huger, as the name of the main work seemed to be -- must have been a terribly hot and uncomfortable place during the bombardment. Looking at the traces of ruin and devastation around, one would hardly think it possible that human beings could have lived there and worked the guns, under such a storm of death as beat upon them; and indeed we remember that during the last two days the rebel fire had gently slackened, and finally dwindled to nothing. But the fort evidently had been well supplied with arms and ammunition. Some of the cannon had within the month been cast at the Selma Arsenal. The largest gun, a splendid one-hundred-and-twenty-pound Brook's rifled, had been dismounted by a shot from one of our batteries or gun-boats. The other ordnance was numerous enough, but very various in

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<sup>380</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 12/14 of note).

<sup>381</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 144.

<sup>382</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 148.



construction and caliber, though none of them were heavy.<sup>383</sup>

For protection from the tremendous fire of our artillery, the rebels in the fort had dug holes and winding ways in the ground, inside the works. It was said that after its evacuation, a number of sick and wounded were found in these holes, and that two or three days afterward, a rebel officer of rather high rank, was found concealed at the extremity of one of the covered ways.<sup>384</sup>

Surrender of Spanish Fort. The bombarding of the fort was carried on actively on the day preceding this date [April 8] for 14 hours and at nightfall the 8th Iowa under Colonel Bell fought the decisive action on the parapet. The Union infantry carried a portion of the garrison by storm and before the hand-to-hand contest was over an entire brigade had taken possession and commenced to intrench. Under feint of a determined resistance the garrison abandoned the fort, moving to Fort Huger and crossing the Appalachie. A part of the force was intercepted by Canby's troops and 500 prisoners were captured. Canby took possession of the fort April 9th. Fort Blakely was carried by assault at nightfall of the 9th and about 3,500 men were captured; the Union loss was 654 killed and wounded. Fort Tracy was occupied by the rebels flying from Spanish Fort. The siege of Mobile included Forts Spanish and Blakely. The fortifications about the city were very strong. The attack was made by Canby commanding the Army of the West Mississippi, one corps marching from Fort Morgan up the east side of the bay to a small stream called Fish River. A landing was secured and the remainder of the Command was brought to the same point in transports. At the same time a column under General Steele left Pensacola, directing its march upon Blakely, a port near the mouth of the Blakely River. A short distance below Blakely lay Spanish Fort on whose defense the city depended. It became a necessity that the communication by water of the city with the fort be cut off while the army made the land investment. The virtual surrender of the city was made at nightfall of the 8th. The Union loss was 213 killed, 1,211 wounded and that of the rebels 500 killed and wounded and 2,952 captured and missing.<sup>385</sup>

All around the fort, at a suitable distance from the outer walls, the ground was planted with torpedoes set in a double line, such as would be described by the corners of a common rail-fence made with rails a foot or two shorter than usual. The effect of thus planting them, was that no column of men, even so small as four abreast, could have passed over the line without hitting the torpedoes. This same diabolical plan of defense we afterward found in use at Blakely -- diabolical, because it was as likely to work destruction after the contest was over, as while it lasted, or even more so; as likely to kill the victor as the enemy. A description of the torpedo may not be useless.

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<sup>383</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 145.

<sup>384</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, pp. 146-147.

<sup>385</sup> The Soldiers and Citizens Album...1865, p. 141.

A heavy shell of cast-iron, about the average size of a twenty-four-pound round shot, is perforated with two holes. One of these serves simply to admit or draw out the powder, and is usually secured by a screw cap. Through the other hole runs down a compound substance that communicates the fire to the powder that fills the shell. At the upper part of the substance is a material which will ignite under a sudden pressure of about four pounds. Over this, when the torpedo is in the arsenal, is screwed a thick and solid safety-cap; but for actual use, this heavy cap is taken off, and an inner one exposed, consisting of copper so thin that a pressure of four pounds will force it down suddenly upon the explosive compound beneath. The torpedo so prepared, is set in the ground just enough to let the thin cap appear above the surface. Any ordinary foot-step will now cause the explosion, which will in all probability shatter to fragments every thing near it.

... Men... would examine the ground minutely for the little sticks which served to mark the place where a torpedo was buried. At Spanish Fort, as afterward at Blakely, several men were killed by the explosion of torpedoes, after the grounds came into our possession. At Blakely, after the rebel works were captured, squads of the rebel prisoners were set at work, taking up the torpedoes which encircled their lines;...<sup>386</sup>

They [27th Regiment] were thenceforward [from March 27] occupied in picket and fatigue duty, until the termination of the siege, during which the regiment sustained a loss of three killed and nine wounded.... The enemy... evacuated the fort during the night of the 8th of April...<sup>387</sup>

Here [at Spanish Fort] they were occupied in picket and fatigue duty, until the termination of the siege, during which the regiment sustained a loss of four killed.

The killed, and those who died of wounds, at Spanish Fort, as officially reported, were:

Killed or Died of Wounds. Company A - Private Frank Truedell. Company B - Private John Johnson. Company E - Private August Ziebreth. Company I - Privates Edward S. Radley and August Bruss -- 5.

Wounded. Company C - Privates John H. Rosebaum, John H. Questloff and John Beinbaum. Company D - Private F. H. Steele. Company K - Private Wm. Robinson -- 5.

The enemy evacuated the Fort on the night of the 8th of April. On the next morning, the regiment proceeded five miles, to Fort Blakely, before which they arrived in time to witness its capture by the forces under General Steele.<sup>388</sup>

Alabama 27 March - April, 1865 (Mobile Campaign). On 17 March, 1865 Canby led 32,000 troops to attack Mobile from the east. (Frederick Steele was moving with 13,000 from Pensacola to link up with him.) The XVI Corps moved by water from Fort Gaines and the XIII Corps marched from Fort Morgan; the two forces united at Danley's Ferry and on 27 March laid siege to the Confederate bridgehead at Spanish Fort. Maury reinforced the brigade here and brought its

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<sup>386</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 145.

<sup>387</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 300.

<sup>388</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 765.

strength to 4,000. Steele closed in on Blakely, five miles north, and on 4 April, after a brigade had been put across Bayou Minette, the two Confederate positions were within the same line of investment.

By afternoon of the 8th there were 53 siege guns and 37 field pieces in action against Spanish Fort. At 5:30 P.M. the 8th Iowa led the rest of Geddes' brigade in an assault that established a foothold in the Confederate works. By midnight the place had been captured with about 500 prisoners and 50 guns. The Confederate commander, R. L. Gibson, reported a loss of 93 killed, 395 wounded, and 250 missing. Most of the defenders escaped over a treadway bridge to Battery Tracy and from there to Mobile. Canby then reinforced Steele in the siege of Blakely, Ala., 1 - 9 April, 1865.<sup>389</sup>

Receiving orders on Monday [April 10], to be ready to march at a moment's warning, we lay in camp till Tuesday evening, the 11th; and by that time there came news that Mobile was evacuated. The report that reached us, was to the effect that our division-commander had received the news, and, intoxicated with joy, or some thing else, had sworn that his division should be the first to enter Mobile. Some thing of the kind seemed to be in the wind; for at about dark on Tuesday evening, we broke camp again, and turned to retrace our steps toward Spanish Fort. The night was beautifully moon-lit; the report of the evacuation was more than half-credited; and we started out in high spirits, singing and laughing as we marched along. But the tramp proved exceedingly tiresome, before it ended.

Colonel Krez, of the 27th Wisconsin, then commanding our brigade, had managed to acquire the reputation of never getting on the right road. Coming up to Colonel Mackey, at Spanish Fort, one day, he had complained of the bad conduct of some of our boys. "Dey says me Chris," he urges; "dey calls me lose de vay. As I catch 'em, I punish 'em bad." In our ignorance of the occult principles of "military necessity," after the head-quarters interpretation, we could not feel at all delighted, at being on different occasions put under the command of bloated beer-casks, whose only antecedents were, that they used to keep a saloon. On this mid-night march, when all were tired to the last extreme of uncomplaining endurance, of course the worthy brigade-commander must lose the road. Against the advice of his staff-officers and others, and in default of precautions which ordinary common sense would have provided, he led us off on a wrong track, and had to waste perhaps an hour of marching, before we were finally set right again. The curses of the tired soldiers were loud and deep.

At about two in the morning we reached the bay at Stark's landing, two or three miles south of Spanish Fort. Here we were to take steamers to cross the bay; but were compelled to lie around on the sand, as best we might, and wait for daylight.<sup>390</sup>

The rebel works at Blakely were extensive, as indeed the rebel works in Alabama always were -- always such as would require a force from two to ten times as great as they could ever have, to properly man them.... ...we had for ourselves fully learned that earth-works, to be

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<sup>389</sup> Mark M. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 780.

<sup>390</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 152.

effectively available, must not be too extensive for the force likely to defend them. At Pine Bluff, Arkansas, General Clayton had resisted repeated attacks from a force greatly out-numbering his own command; and we could plainly see that his success was partially due to the great concentration of his lines of defense.<sup>391</sup>

The left of the rebel line of defense [at Blakely] rested on the deep and narrow Tensas river, of which this bank was a bluff some twenty feet in high [sic], and the opposite was a low, swampy flat; and its continuation was a series of earth-work, aggregated at every salient point into batteries of varying strength and size, interspersed with palisades and isolated pieces of artillery, and additionally strengthened by the most impregnable abattis we had ever seen, piled high in double, triple, and some times quadruple rows. How men could charge over such lines of defense, we, ourselves not wholly ignorant of warfare, could not imagine; but probably if we had been in the fight we should have known as well as any, and done our share.<sup>392</sup>

The town of Blakely, so far as we could discover, existed almost solely in name. We were told that there had once been a number of fine houses there, and that the town was a well-known watering-place for the beauty and fashion of Mobile. No semblance of such prestige now remained. At the usual landing-place on the bank of the Tensas river, a large crane had apparently been just scared out of the job of mounting a couple of heavy cannon which lay near it, just arrived from the Selma Arsenal. One small frame building, formerly a grocery, now stood dirty and empty by the street. Several wall-tents, made of the coarse but strong cotton cloth which plainly showed its Southern manufacture, were used as hospitals, and filled with rebel sick and wounded. And a large shed, which had been used as the arsenal, was well stored with torpedoes, shell, shot and other weapons, with the remains of such quarter-master's and ordnance papers as the absconding officials had not taken away.<sup>393</sup>

WILLIAM J. CLASSON, of Oconto, Wis., and member of G.A.R. Post No. 74, was born July 7, 1833 in Canada.... [He] came from the Dominion to the States when he was 21 years old and he enlisted at Manitowoc Sept. 19, 1864, in Company K, 27th Wisconsin Infantry, for one year or the war. He joined the regiment at Little Rock, Ark., and in February, 1865, went down the river to New Orleans and to Algiers opposite that city, whence they went to Mobile Bay. Mr. Classon was first in action at Spanish Fort and passed through the siege there. He went with his command to Fort Blakely and reached there in time to witness the capitulation. Thence they proceeded up the Tombigby River and engaged in building fortifications. When Taylor surrendered, the regiment proceeded to Brazos Santiago, Texas, whence they marched to Clarksville, and thence to Brownsville, and were there mustered out of service.

After the battles at the forts at Mobile, Mr. Classon was seized with chronic diarrhea

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<sup>391</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, pp. 149-150.

<sup>392</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 150.

<sup>393</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 150.

and was in two hospitals successively. He was discharged under a general order from a hospital to which he had been sent in New York and came home. He has suffered from the disease continuously ever since and is debilitated and emaciated. He is unable to do active labor but manages the business of his grocery at Oconto. Two brothers, Andrew D. and Philip R., were in the United States service in the civil war. The former was an enlisted man in the same company and regiment as himself and died with the disease which has wrecked his health. The latter was killed in action.... In principle he is a decided Prohibitionist. Edmund L. Leger, the brother of Mrs. Classon, was a soldier in the same company and regiment as her husband and died at her home of chronic diarrhea while on sick leave.<sup>394</sup>

[27th Wis.] Remained at Blakely until the 11th, then marched back to Stark's landing again, passing Spanish Fort; we were rear guard. Marched all night the 11th and remained at the landing until the 14th, waiting transportation for Mobile. Found that Stark's landing was being evacuated and had to march back again to Blakely. Passed 3,500 Rebs, prisoners, on their way to the landing to be shipped. Arrived at Blakely about noon 14th. Gen. Steele commands the forces.<sup>395</sup>

On the evening of the 11th of April [the 27th Wis.] marched twelve miles to Starks' Landing on Mobile Bay, where, owing to lack of transportation, the regiment was separated from the brigade. Having remained two days at Starks' Landing, awaiting transportation, they returned on the 14th of April to Blakely, and marched thence next day through Mobile to Whistler Station, five miles north of the city, on the Mobile and Ohio railroad, where they rejoined the brigade and encamped late in the evening.<sup>396</sup>

As early as practicable on the morning of Wednesday, the 12th, we embarked on the fine steamer General Banks, used then as the head-quarters of General Granger, whose corps only was moving; and so commenced the crossing for the occupation of Mobile. The morning was foggy; but soon the sun shone out merrily upon the rippling waters, and lit up a scene of military splendor such as we had never beheld. Transports and gun-boats, in single or double lines, with signal-flags rising and falling, and colors proudly flying from the mast-head, moved slowly but majestically across the bay. One or two of the gun-boats were provided with machines for raising the torpedoes with which it was feared the course was strewn; but no trouble occurred.<sup>397</sup>

It had been the intention to take our regiment to Mobile by boat, but upon further consideration it was not deemed wise to hazard so many lives against the torpedoes which were

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<sup>394</sup> Soldiers' And Citizens' Album... 1888, p. 366.

<sup>395</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 13/14 of note).

<sup>396</sup> Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 300.

<sup>397</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 153.

known to obstruct the channel. The General therefore went on in the boat, and we disembarked over the rotten and broken old wharf at Codfish landing. A delay of an hour or two ensued, and then we fell in with the column, and marched on toward the city, over the "shell road" of which we had heard so much, and of which too much could not be said in praise. Hard as a rock and smooth as a floor, it wound for five miles along the edge of the bay, shaded by beautiful trees and adorned by the neat though humble residences of the Creole population. It was such a delightful change from the rough places where we had usually been, that it must ever hold a place among our bright memories of pleasant scenes.

...we went into camp that night, on a nice, green field, near a part of the main defenses of Mobile, designated as battery K. Among all the extensive earth-works with which we were now environed, this was the most elaborate and completely finished we had ever seen; and citizens near there said it was the pride of the rebel engineers. Artillery abounded along all the works; and had the Johnnies made a stand they could have given us serious trouble....<sup>398</sup>

Next morning [April 13] there were strict orders to the effect that no man or officer should leave camp to go to town. The orders were much more strict than was the obedience to them.... That night there were many men for extra duty, brought to it by unauthorized absence from camp when the roll was called in the morning. A little before noon we were called into line; and our division marched on through the city with colors flying, drum-corps doing their noisy best, and as much display as the ragged and dirty condition of the uniforms would allow. Every body, except the white folks, turned out to see us. Little delay was allowed. The rebels had retreated up the Mobile and Ohio railroad; and forthwith up the railroad we started after them. At the little town called Whistler, some five miles out from Mobile, were located the manufacturing and engine-shops of the road; and word had been received that the rear-guard of the rebels had just been committing depredations there.

Marching on a railroad is no pleasant way of traveling. It does very well for a while; but one soon gets tired of straddling from tie to tie, especially if he wears a knapsack. Reaching Whistler at last, we piled all our baggage, except fighting-gear, on the ground, and prepared for a skirmish. Our regiment went forward some distance on the double-quick, but could not come in soon enough. Other regiments, reaching town in advance of us, had done the business. The enemy was only a squad of some two hundred rebel cavalry, as we afterward learned, who had remained behind the main body of the army for the sake of plunder. Had their number been known at the time, there would have seemed some thing ridiculous in rushing to attack them with a whole division of infantry; but they made quite a resistance, as it was, and in the skirmish three of our force and sixteen rebels were killed.

This was the last preparation for battle that we ever saw; and our part of it ended in standing near the railroad for a few hours, and then, toward dark, going into camp, in the wood, in a nice place near town.<sup>399</sup>

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<sup>398</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 154.

<sup>399</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 155.

Next morning [April 14], of course, the camp had to be moved again; and then we fixed ourselves up as if to stay for some time, which we really more than half expected. We could not see that there was any further fighting to be done; and the best probabilities seemed to be, that we should remain there in camp, till ordered home for muster-out.... The boys were always ready enough to form acquaintances among the ladies of any place, where we might happen to stop; and at Whistler, perhaps on account of our prospective stay there, a peculiarly auspicious commencement for society was made. It seemed too bad to see all these dreams of rest and comfort shattered; but we must be of those to whom "there is no peace."<sup>400</sup>

Five days after the capture of Fort Blakely [April 14] the Twenty-seventh started on a march through Mobile, then up the Mobile and Tombigbee rivers to McIntosh Bluff, where it was employed in building fortifications until, by the surrender of the forces under the Confederate General Taylor, further occupation of the post became unnecessary.<sup>401</sup>

From the 27th Regiment.

Correspondence of the Times.

Headq'rs. 27th Wis. Inf. Vols.

in the field near Whistler Station, Ala., April 17, 1865.

Editor Evergreen City Times: I will now give you an account of our doings since my last, i.e. all I can, making allowance for time and circumstances....

[notes for daily activities March 17 - April 15 incorporated into text at appropriate dates]

Apr. 15th, [the 27th Wis.] embarked on steamer Fort Lawrence for Mobile, where we arrived same day about noon. Passed any quantity of Forts in the river.

Mobile looks worse for wear, but now in the hands of Yankees it will soon bloom again. Did not have time to look about, but intend to make it a visit, when I will write again. We are now, as I said before, at Whistler. This is a small village about 5 miles from the city, on the Mobile and Ohio R. R. I presume we will remain here some time. I'm sure we need a rest. The weather is fine, health of regiment good, and every body in the best of spirits over the glorious news.

Our cavalry are constantly bringing in prisoners and will soon have more than we know what to do with. We captured over a hundred heavy guns at Mobile, 20,000 bales of cotton, and cords of ammunition. I suppose we will be stationed along the road as guard, and also to repair damages. There are 12 Wis. regiments in this Department.

S. M.<sup>402</sup>

The regiment subsequently moved through Mobile, to Whistler's Station, where they

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<sup>400</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, pp. 156-157.

<sup>401</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 166.

<sup>402</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 6, 1865, p. 1/3-4 (no. 14/14 of note).  
Thirteen other notes regarding daily activities March 17 - April 15 appear at the appropriate date.

rejoined the brigade on the 15th of April, and encamped. Remaining till the 19th, they marched fifty or sixty miles up the Tombigbee River, to McIntosh's Bluff, where they were engaged in building fortifications.<sup>403</sup>

Wednesday, April 19th, reveille came at 3:30 in the morning; and in two hours we were on the march again. Though only seven or eight miles were accomplished that day, and camp was reached before two o'clock; it was a very hard march, on account of the intense heat, and the length of time we went without stopping. There should be short halts, of perhaps five minutes' duration, made regularly every half-hour, by a column of infantry, on the march; and unless some such precaution is carefully observed, especially in the heat of a Southern climate, there will result much misery, which might be avoided.<sup>404</sup>

We marched from Whistler Station, on the Mobile and Ohio R. R.... on the 19th of April, destination said to be mouth of Tombigby river, in a north easterly course. Travelled about 10 miles, passing some of the loveliest places I have ever seen, with the rose, locust, peach, plum and laurel in full bloom; through ravines where many little streames of good water, which Alabama is so bountifully supplied with, were rippling by; through groves of forest trees, whose overspreading boughs formed shady archways, shading us from the rays of the heated sun; camped for the night on old field near plantation.<sup>405</sup>

Marching from Whistler on the morning of the 19th of April, a distance of thirty-six miles, [the regiment] encamped at noon next day at Nannahubba Bluff, near the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers.<sup>406</sup>

WOUNDED. A letter received by GEO. N. WOODIN, Esq. from his son, states that Adjutant JOHN M. READ of the 14th Regiment, was severely wounded near Mobile.

WM. ROBINSON, of Kossuth, a member of the 27th, was also wounded - how badly is not stated.

#### MOBILE CAPTURED.

Chicago, April 16.

A Cairo special says our forces occupied Mobile on the 9th.

Spanish Fort was captured with three thousand prisoners.

Three hundred guns were captured in Mobile.

The garrison fell back up the river to Chickasaw Bayou.

Gen. Wilson captured all Roddy's command.

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<sup>403</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History Of Wisconsin, p. 765.

<sup>404</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 158.

<sup>405</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 27, 1865, p. 1/2-3 (no. 1/6 of note).

<sup>406</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 301.



LATER. -- 3 p. m. -- From a reliable source, it is learned that Mobile was captured on the evening of the 9th by a portion of Gen. Smith's command, assisted by light draught gunboats, after a short resistance by the enemy.<sup>407</sup>

"Reveille at 3 o'clock," was the order again on Friday morning [April 21]; and hardly had the drums and fifes ceased their rattle and squeak, when the rain began to patter too. Getting up in the morning, and making fires, and cooking coffee and hard-tack, in the midst of a soaking rain, is very easy to write about, but not the most cheering and comfortable of realities. It has a tendency to make soldiers either very glum, or very jolly; and generally we chose the latter, which proved to be the better way.

Early in the forenoon we passed through the grounds of the United States Arsenal at Mt. Vernon, which was unanimously pronounced to be among the loveliest spots our ennuied eyes had seen. The place appeared now to be deserted, but not much injured....

From the arsenal to our camp that night, the march was not long, but it was a hard one. The rain that had been resting for a while, commenced again with renewed vigor, and soon drenched every thing. Every gully was a creek, and every creek a river. The very road itself, for perhaps a mile or two at a time, on the more level places, was covered with water, through which the splashing column waded drippingly. At half-past 11 our camp was reached, in a pine swamp, near the Tombigbee River. Much difficulty was experienced by our accomplished brigade-commander, in finding the worst possible place for us, and even more than the usual marching and counter-marching in consequence ensued; but finally the ground was chosen so that the whole brigade might rest in line. Military discipline, as interpreted by martinets, may require that in a mere bivouac for a night or two, not less than in regular Winter-quarters, the whole force must be disposed in strict line and order, whatever else may be the result; but Common Sense, if it had ever had the pleasure of commanding a body of soldiers, would, on all such occasions as this, have consented to much irregularity of line for the sake of the comfort the men would gain by having the best ground for camp.<sup>408</sup>

#### Capture of Spanish Fort!

Twenty-five Officers, Five Hundred Men. Five Mortars and Twenty-Five Guns Taken!

Rebel Fortifications at Blakely Taken! General Granger's Forces Occupy Mobile.

[OFFICIAL]

War Department

Washington April 18.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:

The following dispatches from Maj. Gen. Canby report the capture of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, which form a part of the rebel defences of Mobile:

Headq. Military Div. North Mississippi In the Field, April 9th a. m.,

To Maj. Gen. Halleck, Chief of Staff:

Spanish Fort and its dependencies were captured last night. We have 25 officers and 538

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<sup>407</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, April 21, 1865, p. 1/2.

<sup>408</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 159.

enlisted men prisoners, and have taken five mortars and twenty-five guns. The major part of the garrison escaped by water.

Blakely is already invested and will be assaulted to day unless the works are stronger than I now believe them to be.

[signed] E. R. S. Canby, Major General.

Headqrs, Mil. Div. Northern Mississippi in the Field, April 9th.

To Lieut. Gen. Grant and Maj. Gen. Halleck:

I have the honor to report the capture this day of the rebel fortifications at Blakely, with 2,400 prisoners and twenty guns.

[signed] E. R. S. Canby, Major General.

[signed] E. M. Stanton, Sec'y of War.

Letters dated headquarters Military Division of Northern Mississippi, Spanish Fort, April 9th, say the last lunette of Spanish Fort have previously been taken by Gen. Smith, the enemy evacuated the other parts of the fort at daylight on the 9th. Col. Bertram's brigade immediately occupied the fort, and found two brass howitzers, one 20 and one 30 pounder Parrott, a 64 Napoleon, two 6-pounders, one 8 inch mortar, and eight 8-inch Columbiads, a large quantity of ammunition and a number of horses and mules. The guns were all spiked with nails.

The prisoners numbered 25 officers and 538 men.

The capture of Spanish Fort gives us Fort Alexis, Eugene and Blakely.<sup>409</sup>

April 20th. Marched 12 miles, crossed Cedar Run, and encamped for the night in a heavy growth of pine.<sup>410</sup>

April 21st. Raining hard; got another sound drenching; wading through streams up to our middle regardless of depth. I really believe it is more comfortable to be wet all over than be trying to keep dry with an old rubber blanket not much better than a mosquito bar. We marched about 8 miles and encamped at Nannahubah Bluff, on the banks of the Tombigby, about noon, passing through Mount Vernon Arsenal, built by the U. S. during the Florida War. Every one was completely surprised to find such a magnificent place as this away down in Alabama. The buildings and every thing are all in good condition, but the arms and ammunition had all been taken by the Rebs. We were the first federal troops to desecrate its sacred precincts [sic], not being molested even by the sight of a single Reb; in fact our whole march from Mobile has not been interrupted by one of them, which makes me think this thing is about played out.

Our view of the Arsenal was similar to that of the boy's who went to college; passing in at one door and out at the other; therefore, having no time to see much. The buildings are enclosed in a massive brick wall, occupying an area of 40 acres. Fine shade trees are abundant, making it altogether a lovely as well as desirable place to "sojer." The 27th Iowa Inf. were left here as guard, and the balance of us kept on, stopping, as I said before at, Nannahubah Bluff, where we

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<sup>409</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 22, 1865, p. 4/2-3.

<sup>410</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 27, 1865, p. 1/2-3 (no. 2/6 of note).

remained until the 25th; this bluff lies on the north bank of the river, is about 30 feet high, extends about 2 miles, is 50 miles from Mobile, is a very pleasant place but rather lonesome; here lay the gun boat Octorora.

April 23d. The transport Tamaulipas, came up with supplies and brought the tragic intelligence of the assassination of the President and Secretary of State. We had heard such a rumor in camp, but could hardly believe such horrible news, but when Mobile papers confirmed it, we felt too well it must be so, and then how many questions were asked and answered, and how many conjectures as to what probable effect it would have upon the war. The general feeling with us was, it would rather quicken than prolong it.

We were camped close to a house where lived an old lady with her daughter. It was amusing to see her majestically pacing up and down her door yard, giving instructions to the guards that were placed over her property, not to allow the boys to take anything; but I'm afraid with all her vigilance sundry chickens, &c., were missing when we took our departure. Our boys made some curious discoveries, finding several articles buried in the ground, which they (the females) thought were safe from the ruthless invader. A jar was found in which was a photograph, some cloves, and a peck or so of letters from the young lady's lover, gone to the war. These were all returned to the owner with the hope that she might some time again sit and gobble cloves with her lovier [sic], while like a true knight he told his tales of chivalry.<sup>411</sup>

On Sunday, April 23d, the terrible news reached us of the assassination of the President. The blow was so sudden and so strange that we could hardly realize it; but there was left no room for doubt. ...this rage gradually died away, leaving only that deep grief which the whole nation felt, and must forever feel, over the mighty fallen. Never was man so loved as Abraham Lincoln.

Two days of rest gave us an opportunity of cleaning the mud off our clothes, and part of the rust from our guns....<sup>412</sup>

April 24th. Fine day; remained in same camp; were ordered to be ready for inspection; got ready but were not inspected; gun boat Winnebago came up in the evening; nothing new.<sup>413</sup>

April 25th. Fine day; were having inspection when orders came for us [27th Wis.] to embark up the river; got aboard steamer Jennie Rogers and steamed up for McIntosh Bluff, about 12 miles, where we are now comfortably camped. How long we will stay here no one can tell, but have gone into camp with the intention of living comfortably while we do remain. Are comfortably sheltered from the heat of the sun, by shade over head, making the camp appear very much like a Lager Beer garden; the weather is fine and health of Regiment good.

A large Fort has been begun on the river bank. I have not been able to learn the object of it so far. The whole Division is at work on it. This place was intended for a Navy yard. Any

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<sup>411</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 27, 1865, p. 1/2-3 (no. 3/6 of note).

<sup>412</sup> A. F. Sperry, *History of the 33rd Iowa*, p. 160.

<sup>413</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 27, 1865, p. 1/2-3 (no. 4/6 of note).

quantity of material for shipping was got out, but I'm told they never used any of it.

We hear from Mobile quite often. Every thing is prospering there. The streets are full of Lee's old soldiers. Went out in the country the other day; stopped at an old chap's by the name of Tailor; took dinner; corn bread and bacon; he is thoroughly disgusted with the confederacy; I am invited to strawberries; think I shall go.

The paymasters are here. With plenty to eat and drink and prospects of speedy peace, why shouldn't we all feel well? As the mail leaves soon, I will close by subscribing myself  
as ever. S. M.<sup>414</sup>

... Tuesday morning, the 25th, the left wing of the [33rd Iowa] regiment was sent up the river about ten miles, to McIntosh's Bluff, on the gunboat Octorora; and the remainder of the regiment went up on the Jennie Rogers in the afternoon. McIntosh's Bluff, dignified by the title of navy-yard, contained one old dwellinghouse, three or four new and unpainted frame buildings, a saw-mill and a black-smith's shop. At a little distance from the river there were also several log buildings, which had been used as quarters by the mechanic's who worked at the yard. The place had been one of considerable importance to the rebels, who had repaired and even partially manufactured their steamboat-navy there. Little or no injury appeared to have been done to the works or buildings by the retreating Johnnies; and our soldiers soon set things running again.

Moving up in the wood, half a mile or so from the river, our regiment proceeded to clear off a place for camp, with the rest of the brigade. The shanties were of course appropriated as officers' quarters; but the camping-ground was excellent; and by the help of shades made of boughs and brush, we soon had things fixed quite comfortably for the some what lengthened stay which we expected. This part of the country being comparatively uninjured by the war, there was of course considerable forage to be obtained; and our boys could not justly be accused of neglecting any opportunities, though the strictness of the orders from division head-quarters soon prevented any foraging to amount to any thing.<sup>415</sup>

When soldiers camp in the wood in Summer, and expect to stay some time, as we did here, it is amusing to see what improvements they will make. In a little while our whole camp-ground was nicely cleared off, streets laid out, ample shades put up, wells dug, and preparations made for as much comfort as possible. The band-quarters were even nicer than usual. The boys had set their dog-tents in a row, on light walls of boards and stakes to make them higher; had built a long a heavy booth over the whole of them, dug a well and covered it, made themselves tables and seats in the shade, and even started a barber-shop, with a sign made of a piece of cracker-box badly lettered with shoe-blackening. The impression had now become pretty general that the war was over, and that we would probably stay here until ordered to Mobile for muster-out.<sup>416</sup>

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<sup>414</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 27, 1865, p. 1/2-3 (no. 5/6 of note).

<sup>415</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 161.

<sup>416</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 162.

The colored people seemed to have heard of the "good time coming;" and from all the country round they flocked to our lines. For the first two or three days after our arrival, flatboat after flatboat came floating down the river to us, laden with negro-men, women and children, pigs, chickens, bedclothes, rags and tatters, dirt and all, crowded and piled in promiscuous confusion.<sup>417</sup>

On the 25th [of April], they ascended the Tombigbee River, twenty miles to McIntosh Bluff, where the regiment was employed in building fortifications until the surrender of the rebel General Taylor's forces rendered further occupation of the post unnecessary.<sup>418</sup>

The following list of killed and wounded in the 27th Wisconsin, Col. Krez, we clip from the correspondence of the La Crosse *Democrat*:

James Johnson B, killed; Frank Trudell A, arm and thigh severely; W. Robinson K, right leg severely; F. H. Steele D, slight; Augustus Ziebert E, killed on the field; John H. Roscelsbon E, slight; John H. Questoif E, R't hand slight; John Reinbow E, slight left shoulder; A. Brass I, throat and arm severe.<sup>419</sup>

KILLED. James Johnson, of the town of Lima, was instantly killed by a rebel bullet, near Mobile, a short time since. Mr. J. entered the service in 1861 as a private in Co. C, 4th Regiment, and served three years. Last fall he re-enlisted in the 27th Regim't, and was with it when he fell.<sup>420</sup>

On the 28th, the news reached us of the surrender of Dick Taylor's army -- the last organized force of rebels east of the Mississippi. We heard it with joy and thankfulness. The war was now surely over, at least on land, and east of the great river. But the rebel fleet which had gone up the Tombigbee, was still above us, and it was our business to be ready for their coming down. A large fort was planned, on the bank of the river, in such a way as to fully command its passage; and work on it had already been commenced. The saw-mill was pushed to the hardest to get the necessary lumber ready; and heavy fatigue-details were kept at work to build the fort. It was to be an honor to all concerned. But, things did not get ahead fast. The men all believed that the war was over, and the fort would never be of any use; and so they would not work, and could not be made to work. All ways of detailing were tried, from the usual squad from each company, up to a whole regiment, colonel and all; but still the fort would not grow very much. It lacked the pressure or apparent reason. One regiment at Spanish Fort would throw up more dirt in a single night, than all the details did here, in all the time of our stay.

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<sup>417</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 163.

<sup>418</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 301.

<sup>419</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, April 27, 1865, p. 1/4.

<sup>420</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, April 27, 1865, p. 1/4.

So the days passed -- work and rest alternating, but work having greatly the advantage.<sup>421</sup>

Killed and Wounded of the 27th Regiment. -- From a list of the killed and wounded in Wisconsin regiments participating in the capture of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, at Mobile, we find the following casualties in the 27th Regiment, all but four of which are in companies belonging to this county:

Killed. James Johnson, B; Augustus Ziebart, E.

Wounded. A. Bress, I, thorax and right arm, flesh wound, severe; Frank Trudell, A, severely in arm and thigh; William Robinson, K, severely in right leg; F. H. Steele, D, slight; John H. Rocalsbon, E, slight; John H. Quesstoiff, E, slight in right hand; John Beinbom, E, slight, left shoulder.<sup>422</sup>

From the 27th Regiment.

Correspondence of the Times

Headqr's 27th, Wis. Inf. Vols.

McIntosh Bluff, Ala., May 2d, '65.

Editor Times: We marched from Whistler Station, on the Mobile and Ohio R. R., when you last heard from me, on the 19th of April...<sup>423</sup>

Our thanks are due to Capt. JOSEPH RANKIN, of the 27th Regiment, for a copy of the *Mobile Daily News*, of April 13 -- the first number of the first Union paper issued in that city after its possession by our troops.<sup>424</sup>

Saturday morning, the 6th of May, a boat came up the river with a load of paroled prisoners from Lee's army. In a little while, the news spread that the rebel fleet above us, was to come down soon, surrendered, and we were to go with it to Mobile. Next morning [May 7], at a quarter after eight, the first boat of the rebel fleet, came in sight; and as her side swung round so that the name "Jeff. Davis" could be read, she was greeted with a cheer from the crowd that gathered on the shore.<sup>425</sup>

By the next morning [May 8], the whole rebel fleet had arrived, with one or two exceptions.... Here were two of the gun-boats which had thrown "railroad freight-trains" at us, at Spanish Fort; here was the little, black tow-boat-looking craft, yclept the Diamond, which had

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<sup>421</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 163.

<sup>422</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, April 29, 1865, p. 1/6.

<sup>423</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, May 27, 1865, p. 1/2-3 (no. 6/6 of note).

<sup>424</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, May 5, 1865, p. 1/2.

<sup>425</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 164.

once been rigged out as a gun-boat, by the rebel ladies of Alabama, who had given up even their earrings and other jewels for its preparation; and perhaps, even a greater curiosity to us, was the low, rakish-built blockade-runner Heroine, with its peculiar wheels, and its alleged powers of running eighteen miles an hour.<sup>426</sup>

... The General said there must be wood enough cut to run the boats down to Mobile, and we would go as soon as that was done. In a little while the whole wood rang with the sound of axes; and if ever four-foot-wood was cut and piled up faster, it must have been because there were more men to do it.

At last the welcome order came for the start. Never were knapsacks packed more cheerfully than on this morning of the 9th of April [sic - May]. We had reveille at half-past three, and were ready to move at five, started about nine, turned back, started again, stacked arms and waited a long time on the bank of the river; and at last embarked.... Good-bye, navy-yard; and ho! for Mobile.<sup>427</sup>

[Allouis Amman, Co. H, 27th Wisconsin]... accompanied the command to Little Rock and was detailed as guard along the line of railroad, the companies being distributed for the purpose. When the regiment was again consolidated it went to New Orleans to Camp Algiers, and thence to Fort Morgan on the Mobile expedition. Here he suffered every other day with ague [malaria]. He was afterwards in the assault on Spanish Fort, and went on the double quick to Blakely, reaching there a few minutes too late, the rebel flag going down just before arrival. From Spanish Fort they went to Mobile, marched to Whistler's and thence up the Tombigby, where they remained on the forts until Dick Taylor surrendered a large number of vessels for which the soldiers prepared wood and after the news of Lee's surrender, proceeded on their prizes to Mobile.<sup>428</sup>

The trip down the Tombigbee river seemed to us but preparatory to that long-hoped-for one which should take us up the Mississippi to our homes. But we soon found to our sorrow, that "there's many a slip 'twist the cup and lip;..." We reached Mobile at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening [May 9], and after a delay of two or three hours, marched out north of the city, to find a place for camp. This was by no means a cheerful time. Though the distance was only three miles, it seemed nearer a dozen. The dismal swamp over whose dreary length we had to pass, was resonant with the doleful croak of frogs innumerable, and every one of them, to our imaginative ears, seemed to call the name of our brigade-commander. "K-r-e-e-et-z, K-e-e-e-e-e-tz" they sang, and a hundred or so of voices in the regiment would echo it in a little more intelligible English, but with even more doleful emphasis and drawl, as they thought of the frogs and King Stork in the fable.

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<sup>426</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, pp. 164-165.

<sup>427</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 165.

<sup>428</sup> Soldiers' And Citizens' Album...1890, p. 304.

Camp was reached at last -- a bare and comfortless place, on which we merely tumbled down to sleep as best we could....<sup>429</sup>

Friedrick A. Mandel, a successful agriculturist... of Two Rivers township, Manitowoc county... was born in Brunswick, Germany, February 5, 1841, a son of David and Maria (Eichenroth) Mandel, natives of that country. David Mandel was a shepherd... and on May 28, 1854, he with his family landed at New York city, where they remained until April 19, 1855, when they came to Two Rivers.... They... had five children: Johanna, who is deceased; Henry, a member of Company D, Twenty-seventh Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, who was killed in the battle of Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas, in April, 1864; Theodore, also a member of that company who served throughout the war, after which he settled in Dodge county, Nebraska, and there spent the rest of his life in farming; Friedrich A.; and Christian, a retired farmer of Dodge, Nebraska.

Friedrick A. Mandel attended the German public schools until he was thirteen years of age but after coming to this country his services were needed on the home farm and he had no chance to attend the schools. On August 20, 1862, with his two brothers, he enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-seventh Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, at Two Rivers, from whence the regiment was sent to Milwaukee to drill, and in March, 1863, went to Columbus, Kentucky, and later to Cape Girardeau. The regiment was at Vicksburg, June 4, 1863, and on July 16 of that year was sent up the river to Helena, Arkansas, later marching to Little Rock, where they participated in an engagement. On the march from the latter point to Camden, Arkansas, the regiment encountered terrific rainstorms which delayed their progress and for several days they were out of rations. At Camden they helped to build pontoon bridges on the river, and then returned to Little Rock, where they guarded railroad bridges, and in February, 1865, were sent to Spanish Fort and Fort Blakesley [sic], where Mr. Mandel was taken seriously ill. He was sent to the hospital at Mobile and in May, 1865, to the Barracks hospital, New Orleans, where on May 31 he was discharged on account of disability. He came north by boat to Cairo, Illinois, and thence to Milwaukee. On enlisting in the army Mr. Mandel had weighed one hundred and eighty pounds, but his sickness had so emaciated him that on his return to Milwaukee, his weight had diminished to one hundred and thirty pounds.... After reaching Milwaukee, Mr. Mandel made his way to the home farm, where he has since made his home.<sup>430</sup>

On the 9th of May [the 27th Wis.] was placed on transports, and proceeding down the river to Mobile, went into camp, three and a half miles from the city. Here they remained until the 1st of June...<sup>431</sup>

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<sup>429</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 167.

<sup>430</sup> Dr. Louis Falge, History of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, pp. 272-275.

<sup>431</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General...1865, p. 301.



From the 27th Regiment. -- Return to Mobile. -- Business of the City Lively. -- Terrible Explosion and loss of life. -- Regiment Under Marching Orders.

Correspondence of the Times.

Headqrs. 27th, Wis. Inf. Vol.,

Near Mobile, Ala., May 26, '65.

Editor Times: - Dear Sir: - Events crowd themselves so thick and fast upon us, that it is hardly possible for me to keep track of any body or any thing; but if I am not mistaken, my last letter was from McIntosh Bluff. As near as I can ascertain our Regiment was ordered there for the purpose of escorting a fleet of 25 or 30 transports and gun boats to Mobile. We remained there from the 25th, of April till the 9th of May. The fleet was surrendered to Admiral Thatcher, U.S.A., by Admiral Farron, C.S.A. The first boat that came down was the Jeff. Davis. She was used at the siege of Forts Spanish and Blakeley in carrying off the Rebel dead and wounded. Next came the Sumpter, Waverly, Cherokee, Robt. Wilson, Magnolia, Southern Republic, St. Charles, St. Nicholas, Reindeer, Admiral, Duke, Nashville, Maryan and Baltic. Our Regiment embarked upon the transport Waverly, an old tub of a thing, - if we didn't have a jolly time I don't want a cent. They all thought they were going to beat us down, but we came in ahead of the second boat. We let them pass us, but the boys began poking in the cord wood, and she soon got such a head of steam on that we could not hold her: away we went fairly jumping out of the water.

We landed at the "Levee" at Mobile about 9 o'clock, immediately disembarked and toddled out the Whistler Road, 8 miles, where we are now encamped. We could not possibly be more fortunate in selecting a camp ground; near the river, in a fine growth of large pines, where shady boughs afford us shelter all the day from the heated rays of the sun.

The weather is very warm, but our duties are so light that we do not have to expose ourselves but little. The health of the regiment is good and all are in fine spirits over the prospects of speedy peace. We are rather unsettled, nevertheless, as we are under marching orders, and have been, for nearly two weeks; destination supposed to be Texas; whether we go or not time alone can tell. If Kirby Smith don't "pass in his checks," I suppose we will have to go. If we don't go for him, I hope there won't be a mother's son of them left. To think the war is over, and then have a miserable loafer set up a side show away over in Texas!

Mobile has improved wonderfully since its occupation by the Feds. The shops are nearly all open for trade, the troops have all been paid, and business is brisk. I notice they are very willing to barter their goods to the "detestable Yankees" for their greenbacks.

The paroled prisoners have all gone to their homes to follow their various avocations and meditate on the folly of bucking against Uncle Sam.

There are many fine public and private buildings in Mobile. The Post Office is one of the former. I called on our old friend Smalley at the building formerly occupied by the different military organizations of the city. The rooms were fitted up in the finest style, with oil paintings of several of the most distinguished commanders; some were very fine looking men.

I must now tell you of one of the most horrible accidents that has ever happened, that occurred in the city yesterday, about noon. I was lying on my bunk at the time, half asleep, when I was suddenly startled by what I supposed, at the time, a shell bursting directly over me. Every one was up in a moment, anxiously enquiring of the cause of all this. On turning my eyes towards the city I beheld a sight which can never be forgotten; a dense volume of smoke, resembling a

balloon more than anything I can think of, and covering an immense space. I immediately rode to the city, and there with my own eyes witnessed a scene which beggars all description. On inquiry I learned that a magazine containing about 30 tons of powder, shot and shell, had exploded. This, as far as I am able to ascertain, was caused by dropping a shell while being unloaded near the powder house. The magazine was in the north part of the town near the Depot, and close to a pile of ten or twenty thousand bales of cotton. The shells bursting in every direction.

The Mobile papers of to-day estimate the loss at over 300 killed, and the Lord only knows how many wounded and missing. The casualties were chiefly among the colored troops. Four or five blocks were completely razed to the ground, and it was impossible to rescue the poor victims from the ruins near by on account of the bursting shells. Two or three fine boats were also destroyed.

To-night we have again received orders to be ready to take the field at two hours notice. I will write again when I pick up in some favorable locality.

S M.<sup>432</sup>

New Orleans, May 26th. One of the most terrific explosions that has ever occurred in this country, was the main ordinance depot, with surrounding magazines, at Mobile, at two o'clock yesterday. The shock was dreadful, and the city shook to its very foundation. Eight squares of buildings are now in ruins, and many a victim is buried beneath the walls. Five hundred persons being buried outright. About 8,000 bales of cotton were destroyed. The steamers Col. Cowles and Katadid, with all on board, were entirely destroyed. The loss incurred, it is said, will reach eight millions of dollars. It is not yet ascertained by what agency the explosion occurred.

Gov. Grainger rendered prompt relief to the sufferers. The cause of the explosion is uncertain. The ordinance stores which were a portion of the munitions of war surrendered by Dick Taylor were in the course of removal when it occurred. The entire city is more or less injured by the explosion.<sup>433</sup>

...the monotony of waiting [to go home] was broken at last, by an event of the most terrible destruction, sudden and fearful to the city, as unexpected and overwhelming [as] battle could have been to soldiers. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, the 25th of May, the ware-house in the northern suburbs of Mobile, which was used as a store-house for ammunition, and then contained many tons of shells, torpedoes, cartridges and powder, exploded, with a noise such as he might hear, who should be shot from a one-hundred-pound cannon. We, who were in camp, were perfectly astonished, but could not imagine the cause of the terrible sound. In a few seconds, the vast and majestic column of smoke that rolled slowly, curling and wreathing upward, told the nature of the explosion. The papers of the time, described the event as well as they could; but no words can convey an adequate idea of the ruin and devastation thus in a single second wrought. Those who saw it will never forget, and those who did not, can never imagine

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<sup>432</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 10, 1865, p. 1/2-3.

<sup>433</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 3, 1865, p. 4/1.

the appearance of the city, after the catastrophe.<sup>434</sup>

Mobile soon became a familiar place to us. Nominally, there were all the restrictions upon leaving camp, but practically few of the men stopped to ask many questions when they wanted to go. In a day or two, the boys had gathered so many skiffs and canoes from the different wharves in town, that there was a regular fleet of them. Regularly every morning, the whole collection would be manned by soldiers who wanted to go to town. It was but a pleasant row down the river; and for the return-trip the wind generally blew, so that a few leafy boughs erected as sails, would quickly and easily waft the little fleet home.<sup>435</sup>

The city [of Mobile] was now full of rebels, paroled from Dick Taylor's army, who still retained their rebel uniforms and opinions, and made no attempt at concealing either. They would talk freely, and with all boldness, generally seeming willing to acknowledge that they were whipped for the present, but confident of a more successful conflict with us in the future. Some were anxious to go over and join Kirby Smith. A few, perhaps, were willing to accept the logic of events, and settle down to quiet citizenship; but certainly, the greater number were rebellious as ever, and wholly unsubdued in thoughts and feelings.<sup>436</sup>

We could not be in town all the time; and as there was now no duty to perform, the time hung slow and idle on our hands. With eight months' pay in their pockets, and nothing to occupy their minds, many of the boys soon got to gambling excessively. "Chuck-a-luck" banks were set up in the wood a few steps from camp, and surrounded all the time by crowds of eager players. The story was the same as in all such cases: the "luck" all gradually centered in a few, and these generally the ones who kept the banks. There were some who gained a considerable amount of money by their gamblings, but by far the greater number lost the most of their wages.... Our regiment was not alone in the matter. The practice was universal. Every where, if there was a camp, there was gambling...<sup>437</sup>

Came the unexpected Order, "Get ready to march in ten minutes." The [27th] Regiment was loaded on to transports and moved to Brazos Santiago, Texas, near the mouth of the Rio Grand River. Mexico was having its trouble with Maximilian of France and there was the possibility of the United States becoming involved. With an army stationed across the river, the United States was serving notice on Mexico and on France that we were not friendly to the establishment of a monarchy next door to us. Maximilian was crushed and our forces were

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<sup>434</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 171.

<sup>435</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 168.

<sup>436</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 168.

<sup>437</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 169.

disbanded.<sup>438</sup>

For a number of days we were under orders to be ready to march at an hour's notice; and on the morning of the 31st the notice came. At two in the afternoon, we were on the move. Knowing it must be a sea-voyage which should take us to Texas, the boys had provided themselves with sacks and boxes of extra provisions, which, had the trip been a march, could not have been carried half a day. But ships will carry a great deal; and the only limit to each man's baggage seemed to be his ability to take care of it. Marching slowly and laboriously down to the city, we rested on a wharf till some time in the night; and then embarked on transports, which took us out to the good ship Continental, on which, with a part of another regiment, we stood out to sea. The smell of salt water was no more new to us; but it takes more navigation than we ever tried, to keep a landsman's stomach steady when the ship falls away from under him continually. Sea-sickness is nothing new, and needs no description here. Happy are they who have never known it!<sup>439</sup>

[The 27th Wis. remained at Mobile] until the 1st of June, when they again embarked, and leaving Mobile on the following day, proceeded via the Gulf of Mexico to Brazos Santiago, Texas, at which place they disembarked on the 6th of June.<sup>440</sup>

With pleasant weather, a comparatively smooth sea, and no remarkable event on the way, except that no lives were lost from thus crowding human beings in a ship, like hogs in a slaughter-pen. The voyage passed quite monotonously; and the 6th of June found us off Brazos Island. Months before, we had heard of this place as one of the worst where soldiers were ever stationed. It was said that they could not even have water to drink, except what was distilled from the sea. We had congratulated ourselves then, that duty had not called us there; yet here it was now before us, and we felt some what as the wicked may feel, who at the end of life have full belief in purgatory.<sup>441</sup>

On the 9th of May, the [27th] regiment embarked for Mobile, where, on the 1st of June, it reembarked on the Gulf of Mexico for Brazos Santiago, Texas, arriving there June 6.<sup>442</sup>

The surrender of Dick Taylor's army, rendered further occupation of the post [at McIntosh's Bluff] unnecessary, and the [27th] regiment, on the 9th of May, proceeded by transports to

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<sup>438</sup> Roland A. Kolb, Story of the...Kolb Family, p. 15.

<sup>439</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 172.

<sup>440</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General...1865, p. 301.

<sup>441</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 173.

<sup>442</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 166.

Mobile, and encamped near the city, where they remained until the 1st of June, when they again embarked, and proceeded through the Gulf, to Brazos Santiago, Texas, where they arrived on the 6th of June.<sup>443</sup>

The channel at Brazos is so shallow that no ships drawing more than five feet of water can safely pass. The troops were conveyed to the shore by a small steamboat used as lighter, which had to make several trips over the tossing waves to get a single ship unloaded. On one of these trips, those who were on board had perhaps a narrower escape from death than they had ever known in battle. The waves ran high; and the frail craft struck bottom several times so violently that the crew, and others who knew the danger, began to think their time had come. But here especially ignorance was bliss. Most of the men on board knew little of the danger until it was past. Nothing serious actually happened; and after a few more thumps the little steamer passed the bar, and soon reached the landing in safety. We were glad enough to set foot on land again, bare sand though it was; but even the land seemed rolling and tumbling occasionally, as bad as the unstable billows; and it was some time before this feeling wore away. The dangers of the deep were over for the present, but comfort was no nearer.<sup>444</sup>

#### Particulars of the late Fight in Texas....

New York, May 28th. The Herald correspondence gives full particulars of the fight at Bacachio, Texas, the last battle of the rebellion. The national forces under Col. Barrett was only three hundred. It started out for foraging purposes, and to surprise a rebel camp at Palmetto Ranch, and was in the commencement of its movements very successful, capturing the camp and making other valuable seizures. Col. Barrett's troops kept pushing on, driving parties of the enemy before them, but finally, they found themselves confronted by about a thousand rebels, and were obliged to retreat. It appears that Col. Barrett had none killed in the fighting, and only five wounded. But on his return to Brazos twenty of his men were missing. Many of these, however, afterwards made their escape from the enemy and returned to camp. The rebel loss is not known. Great excitement was caused at Brownsville by the movements of Col. Barrett's foraging party, the rebels there taking it for an advance on that place.<sup>445</sup>

#### THE HOUR IS ALWAYS DARKEST THAT IS JUST BEFORE DAY.

The island which bears the euphonious Spanish name of Brazos de Santiago, is a low, flat, sandy place, but a few feet out of water; and among its greatest faults is the fact that it is out of water at all. General Taylor's army had gathered here, before the invasion of Mexico; and from the observatory on the flag-staff in front of head-quarters, could be seen with a glass his old battle-fields of Point Isabel and Palo Alto, while Resaca de la Palma was almost in sight. There were men in our regiment who had been here in his army; but the memory of those days was very

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<sup>443</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 765.

<sup>444</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 173.

<sup>445</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, June 3, 1865, p. 4/1.

little help to them now. However, if his army could stand it, we could.<sup>446</sup>

We were here now as part of General Steele's army of occupation, which, hastily thrown together, had not yet been duly sub-divided and organized. Our brigade-organization had been partially retained, but beyond that there was little definiteness. Orders for a small detail for fatigue-duty would come some times to the regiment direct from head-quarters of the army. Except the necessary fatigue and guarding of camp, there was no duty to be done; and to merely exist between the blazing sun and an oven of hot sand, with no protection from the one, but the little dog-tents, and no screen from the other, but such bits of boards and wooden boxes as could be gathered and saved among so many men, was the round of the monotonous days. A salt-water bath occasionally lent variety; but there were sharks in those waters, and it was unsafe to venture far from shore.<sup>447</sup>

On the eastern side of the island, where we were now camped, there had for some time been a small military station. A regiment of negroes was now on duty as garrison; and their daily guard-mounting and parade were objects of much attention to us, their proficiency in drill being the greatest we had ever seen. The whole regiment would go through the bayonet-exercise with more uniform accuracy than any single company of white troops in our knowledge. Whatever else may be affirmed of the negroes, it need not to us be denied that they made excellent soldiers. As guards, where white people also are concerned, they are not the most agreeable, on account of too literal and unreasoning obedience to orders.<sup>448</sup>

Near the landing, a number of small frame buildings had been erected by the Government, and were used as head-quarters, ware-houses, offices, hospital, &c. The condensing apparatus, by which all the fresh water used there was distilled from the sea, consisted of four steam engines, located in a building near the water's edge, and having suitable tanks to hold the nauseous fluid as it was manufactured. As the vile but precious stuff was issued only in scanty rations, there must of course be a constant guard over the tanks lest it should be stolen. The negroes were kept on this duty; and their unreasoning fidelity to the literal words of their orders, with their inability to read any writing presented to them, were the cause of much inconvenience, and came near resulting in some individual collisions.

The ration of water issued to the troops was at first a gallon daily to each man -- the whole allowance, for all purposes. The amount proved too great for the capacity of the condensers; and on the 11th, the allowance was cut down to a half-gallon per day to each. It may be supposed that this was scanty enough; but this was but a part of the discomfort. The water had to be drawn daily, like other rations; and there was almost nothing to keep it in. Canteens, kettles, and every thing else were put to more use than ever before. Hastily thrown

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<sup>446</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 174.

<sup>447</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 174.

<sup>448</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 175.

together, in a strange country, and under strange circumstances, the army had but few conveniences; and the belief, which had gained ground, that we would not be retained much longer in the service, had bred a slackness in feeling and discipline that would have greatly impaired the efficiency of any detail, and which by no means added to the comfort of the regiment. It was probably the fault of circumstances rather than of persons.<sup>449</sup>

On the 13th [of June], [the 27th Wis.] marched eight miles to Clarksville, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, where they were employed in picket and guard duty, until the 2d of August, at which date they marched to Brownsville.<sup>450</sup>

A week later [on June 13, 1865] the regiment marched to Clarksville at the mouth of the Rio Grande river, where the men were employed on picket and guard duty till the 2d of August, when they marched to Brownsville.<sup>451</sup>

The scarcity of water was now such as could not long be endured. On the 14th [of June] our regiment, with nearly all the others, was ordered to Clarksville, opposite Bagdad, in Mexico, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, and some nine miles west of Brazos. Here was plenty of fresh water, such as it was. The Rio Grande is a very swift and muddy stream; and its water now looked like very strong coffee into which some generous woman had put the milk and sugar -- but it didn't taste that way, to any remarkable extent. If an ordinary bucket was filled with it and left to stand over night, in the morning the water would be found clear and beautiful, with a sediment of mud two inches deep at the bottom. So purified, it was excellent to drink; and even fresh from the river it was better than the distilled water at Brazos, which always had a sickish taste, and was peculiarly calculated to upset the epigastric gravity.<sup>452</sup>

Bagdad [Mexico] would doubtless have been a beautiful city if the site were better, and there had been plenty of nice buildings there. As it is, however, it is a wretched and dirty place; but those who have worn shoulder-straps long enough to know, assert that its like is not to be found, as a place wherein to get some thing good to drink. At first, wonderful bargains were to be had there in goods. Our boys would go over, wither with or without a pass, some times by swimming the river, change a few greenbacks for gold with some broker on the street, and buy clothing for the happy days when every man should be a citizen. There were probably few among us who did not thus obtain some memento of Bagdad, and win at the same time the distinction of having been to Mexico.

Between living on a red-hot sand-bar at Brazos, and the same thing at Clarksville -- as the

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<sup>449</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 175.

<sup>450</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General...1865, p. 301.

<sup>451</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 166.

<sup>452</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 176.

place was called, where once a few houses may have stood -- the difference, except as to the water, was mostly in name. Existence became more like that of the animals than ever before; for in other places we generally either had some thing to do, or could do some thing. But here, what could be done? The heat was excessive, though there was always a strong breeze. For fuel, the dependence was on the drift-wood which had floated down the river, and been washed on shore by the waves of the gulf. For a day or two, while the novelty lasted, there was much interest in the view of the French fleet and other vessels, lying off the mouth of the river; in aquatic exercises in the surf; and in the strange appearance, desolate as it was, of the country generally; but this did not last long. A soldier of three years' experience, can exhaust the novelty of a place in a very little while.<sup>453</sup>

RETURNED. WM. ROBINSON, Esq., of Kossuth, a member of the 27th Regiment, returned home on Tuesday, having been discharged from hospital at New Orleans. WILLIAM looks good, notwithstanding the wound received by him near Mobile, which is now nearly well. He brought back the remains of Mr. PETER VADER, who died on the Mississippi on his way home. Mr. R. thinks the 27th Regiment is among the army lately sent to Texas.

Mr. VADER was buried on Wednesday, a large number of people attending his funeral.<sup>454</sup>

The 4th Regiment is at Vicksburgh, Miss.; the 17th is at Louisville, Ky.; and the 27th is on the banks of the Rio Grande.<sup>455</sup>

From the 27th Regiment.

Correspondence of the Times.

Headqr's 27th Wis. Inf. Vols., on the

Rio Grande, Clarksville, Texas, July 16, 1865.

Editor Evergreen City: Near the banks of the turbulent Rio Grande, on the most extreme southern point of land over which the Eagle of America flaps his glorious wings, and the bold banner of the Stars waves victorious in the breeze, is the camp of the 24th [sic] Wisconsin. Tis Sunday evening and all is quiet with the exception of the voices of the crickets and the roar of the ocean surf as it dashes against the shore close by. It is indeed a fitting time to unburden myself of some of my cares and grievances, and various little scraps of news that have crept into my noddle [sic] since I last wrote you at Mobile. I supposed then our correspondence was about at an end, and when the intelligence reached us of the surrender of Kirby Smith, that the Texas expedition, as far as we were concerned, was a played out institution. I think now, from where I sit, I can see it in a different light. Oh! land of the prickly pear and sand crabs, mosquitoes, lizards, ants, crickets, fleas, and the other elegant little animals, methinks I shall long remember the many cruel bites I've had from them. Even now, while I write by the flickering light of a tallow candle, they

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<sup>453</sup> A. F. Sperry, History of the 33rd Iowa, p. 177.

<sup>454</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, June 16, 1865, p. 1/3.

<sup>455</sup> *Sheboygan Journal*, Sheboygan, June 29, 1865, p. 1/3.



plague me so, I could say some very hard things, but I guess I wont. But to my story.

We received orders to embark on steamship Clinton, on the 31st of May, and bade farewell to the fair city of Mobile on 2d of June. We did not know at the time where we were going, but supposed it must be Texas by the large quantity of stores stored away in the hold of the boat.

Gen. Steele and staff was with us, also three companies of the 77th Ohio Inf. We were pretty well crowded, but take it all in all had a very pleasant trip. After getting fairly out into the blue Sea, we amused ourselves as best we might gazing upon the broad expanse of water that surrounded us on all sides, the numerous fish that followed in the wake of the boat as she went plunging through the silvery waves, dashing the briny spray into our faces, or at night upon the clear pure sky filled with myriads of little stars looking down upon us, as if to say "speed on good boat, and bear your burden safely to its journey's end."

The weather was fine all the way, and we landed at Brazos Santiago, Texas on the 6th of June, distance about 500 miles. Brazos is an Island cut off from the mainland by a narrow lagoon, or as it is called here, an arm of the sea. It is 8 miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande, and directly opposite on the main land is Point Isabel, where Gen. Taylor landed his troops during the war with Mexico. Padre Island is also near Brazos, and extends up the coast two or three hundred miles. The country is nothing but a waste of sand. Scarcely a shrub or a bush can be seen, and I am told it is just the same two or three hundred miles up the Rio Grande.

We remained at Brazos until the 13th, there were several colored Reg'ts there, also quite a fleet of boats anchored off in the bay. Brazos is said to be the best harbor on the coast; they are building a Rail Road from there to Brownsville, about 30 miles. We remained there, as I said, until the 13th, when the balance of our Brigade coming up, we marched to Clarksville at the mouth of the Rio Grande, opposite the city of Bagdad, Mexico. We are very pleasantly camped near the sea shore and river, just beyond a range of sand hills which extend all along the beach drifted together by the force of the wind, which always blows a fresh breeze here. We procure our fuel from the driftwood on the beach, and our water from the Rio Grande, which is very good after it stands awhile and settles. When first taken out it looks very much like skimmed milk. Speaking of water reminds me that I did not mention the kind we had at Brazos. There it all has to be made or condensed from the salt water, and on account of the great influx of troops it very often fell short, on account of which we suffered considerably.

We are now very comfortably situated. Camped near the beach we improve every opportunity of bathing in the salt water, making it our common bath tub, which is a great comfort as well as source of health to the regiment. General Slack commands the forces here, consisting of six regiments of Infantry. He is a jolly old fellow.

We had a grand celebration on the 4th of July. Gen. Slack gave us a speech, also Gen. Colt, commanding a Brigade of colored troops. In the course of their remarks they referred to the glorious old flag which now waves triumphant on every foot of land from the Penobscot to the Rio Grande. After the speeches salutes were fired from a battery of artillery, and every thing passed off fine. The poor Mexicans hardly knew what to think of it; they have been half scared out of their wits ever since we came here. They think Uncle Sam, having finished the southern Confederacy, is about to come out and dispose of them. There is a large fleet of vessels off here, from nearly every nation. It looks gay to see all the various flags, prominent among which is the Stars and Stripes, the flag of Great Britain and the Tri Color. Sometimes some large Man-of-War

has all her flags unfurled, which is really a beautiful sight. Very often salutes are fired as some officer of rank makes them a visit. The river is full of small sail boats or lighters, which are used to unload the large boats that can not run in on account of the bar.

The Rio Grande is the most rapid stream I ever saw; it is all a boat can do with all sails out to steam up against the current. Row boats are used to ferry over the river, and are kept constantly busy taking passengers and freight back and forth. The freight is mostly coming to this side, under the influence of which Clarksville is growing to be quite a town. When we came here there was only one or two buildings; now there is a block or more, and it bids fair soon to out strip Bagdad. Under Yankee enterprise considerable cotton is being shipped. Three or four steamboats are in the government employ and things look quite business like.

Bagdad is a place of 4 or 5 thousand inhabitants, Mexicans, French, and a goodly number of Jews; also quite a number of defunct members of the late Southern Confederacy. The streets are very narrow and dirty, the houses small frames, mostly one story, every other one of which is a saloon or restaurant. Wine and liquors of all kinds are the staple articles of trade. When we first came here things were quite reasonable, but they soon learned to charge enough. Gold and silver is plenty, being the only money in use. The town has been under water for some time, and the only way of crossing the streets is in boats. The place looks foreign enough, and one is very glad to get back again to the Yankee side of the stream; but I have known some very good men who could not think of leaving so soon. Oh! that Mexican wine; how it will fool a person! The Mexican soldiers are a seedy looking sett, and I am told their looks do not belie them, for they are the most inveterate thieves that ever lived; but if they are caught at it the penalty is death.

Well, to come back again to Clarksville, the health of the regiment is very good and duties are light. Our numbers are daily diminishing. We sent home 77 one year men a day or so since, and every mail that arrives brings us notice of more that have been mustered out. Two companies of the regiment, A and G, are stationed at Boca Chica at the entrance of the Bayou that separates us from Brazos. Their object in being there is to keep the bridge in repairs, which is something of a job as it washes away nearly every night; but it has to be kept up, as all our supplies have to cross over it. The boys have gay times there boating, fishing, &c.

The mails are very irregular here. We get one about once a month. We are all waiting patiently for orders to muster out, and will not begrudge the trip to Texas if they will only come soon. There is talk of our regiment going to Brownsville, where Gen. Steele has his headquarters. If we do I will try and visit Matamoras, and will give you a description of the place. I also intend visiting Palo Alto and Reseca De La Palma, the famous battle grounds only about 10 miles from here, where Gen. Taylor gave the Mexicans such a thrashing.

There is a regular gang of robbers up the river. The stage between Brownsville and this place has been robbed several times lately. Only a day or two since 11 persons were robbed by 3 of them pouncing suddenly upon them from chapparal. I have since heard that Col. Orff, of the 35th Wis., was one of them.

Well, the ants are beginning to pounce on me so furiously that I must beat a hasty retreat. Will write again soon, and remain as ever,

Your Ob't. S. M.<sup>456</sup>

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<sup>456</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 19, 1865, p. 1/3-4.

The 27th, 28th and 35th regiments were at Brazos, Texas, at the last accounts. The 20th and 23d were at Mobile, and had their muster-out rolls prepared.<sup>457</sup>

The 27th. It was supposed that this regiment was on its way home to be mustered out, but we learned yesterday that it had been ordered to Brownsville, Texas. This will be a provoking disappointment to a large number of persons in this county who have friends in that regiment.

*Sheboygan Journal.*

We think the *Journal* is mistaken in the above, and that the Regiment will be home in the course of two or three weeks.<sup>458</sup>

[Arriving at Brownsville on August 2,] the regiment was mustered out and set out for home on the 29th of August.<sup>459</sup>

The 27th. The one year recruits of the 27th Regiment were discharged in Texas, and have returned home. We were glad to greet Messrs. LUTHER PELLET and CHATTERTON, of Gibson, and WRIGHT of the Branch, among them.<sup>460</sup>

Just as we were closing up our paper we had the pleasure of meeting Capt. John A. S. Verdier, of the 27th Regiment, who arrived here on furlough yesterday morning, from Clarksville, Texas, where he left the regiment on the 19th of July. He thinks the regiment will be mustered out in a month or six weeks.<sup>461</sup>

The 27th. We may expect the members of the 27th Regiment home in a short time, as orders have been issued for mustering them out.<sup>462</sup>

The 27th. Mr. LEONARD VADER, a member of the 28th Regiment, returned home on Tuesday. He saw Capt. RANKIN in New Orleans on the 17th inst., who was just about starting for Texas with an order from Gen. SHERIDAN to muster out the Regiment. Capt. RANKIN did not propose to wait for "red tape" to reach the boys, but took the matter in his own hands, for which he is entitled to the thanks of the friends of the 27th. The Regiment may be expected home

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<sup>457</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, July 21, 1865, p. 1/4.

<sup>458</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, August 25, 1865, p. 1/1.

<sup>459</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General...1865, p. 301.

<sup>460</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, August 4, 1865, p. 1/6.

<sup>461</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, August 5, 1865, p. 1/5.

<sup>462</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, August 11, 1865, p. 1/4.

about the 10th of next month.<sup>463</sup>

They marched to Clarksville, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, on the 13th, remaining until the 2d of August, when they proceeded to Brownsville, where they were mustered out of service, and set out on their return home, on the 29th [of August].<sup>464</sup>

They arrived next day [after leaving Brownsville Aug. 29] at Brazos Santiago, where they embarked on the 1st of September.<sup>465</sup>

[The regiment embarked from Brazos Santiago on September 1 and] reached New Orleans, La., on the 5th and re-embarking on the 7th, left that city in the evening.<sup>466</sup>

Good! Despatches received at Madison announce that the 27th and 28th Regiments have left New Orleans, and are now on their way home. The members of the 27th from this county will be warmly welcomed.<sup>467</sup>

[Leaving New Orleans the evening of September 7] and proceeding up the Mississippi River, [the regiment] arrived on the 14th at Cairo, Ill., from which point the journey was continued by rail.<sup>468</sup>

[The regiment] arrived on the 17th of September, 1865, at Madison, Wisconsin, where the regiment was shortly afterwards paid and disbanded.<sup>469</sup>

There [Brownsville], August 29 [1865], they were mustered out of the service, and on the first day of September started for Wisconsin. They came home by way of New Orleans and Cairo, Illinois, arriving September 17, 1865, at Madison, where the men were shortly paid off and the regiment disbanded.<sup>470</sup>

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<sup>463</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, August 18, 1865, p. 1/3.

<sup>464</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 765.

<sup>465</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 301.

<sup>466</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 301.

<sup>467</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Sept. 15, 1865, p. 1/6.

<sup>468</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 301.

<sup>469</sup> Annual Report of the Adjutant General... 1865, p. 301.

<sup>470</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 166.

... and set out on their return home, on the 29th [of August]. Reaching New Orleans on the 5th of September, and ascending the Mississippi to Cairo, they took cars on the Illinois Central Railroad, and arrived at Madison on the 17th of September, where the regiment was shortly afterwards paid off and disbanded.

Colonel Krez was subsequently brevetted Brigadier General, for meritorious services during the war.<sup>471</sup>

The 27th. In Madison last week we had the pleasure of meeting many of the members of the 27th Regiment, who were there awaiting payment, and probably have arrived home before this is read. Col. Olmsted, Captains Rankin, Mulholland, and Barnes, and Messrs. Maguire, Edwards, Hutchins, and other brave boys of the Regiment, too numerous to mention, were in good condition, and anxious to see their friends at home.

P. S. - The boys arrived home yesterday morning.<sup>472</sup>

Reception of the 27th Regiment Boys. A portion of the soldiers of the 27th Regiment belonging in this county, arrived here on the boat Thursday night, from Milwaukee, and were received by a large number of our citizens who assembled at the pier for the purpose and escorted them with music to Lossius' Hotel, on Center street, where they were supplied with a lunch, and such other refreshments as they desired, after which they dispersed to their homes, pleased to be once more in their old places in the family circle.

The four companies from this county did not come in a body, as was anticipated here, for after being mustered out and paid off, each man regulates his own movements as his inclinations dictate, and of course there is a general dispersing and individuality of action and movement. Hence but a small part of those belonging to this county came on that boat: Col. Krez being among the absentees.<sup>473</sup>

Personal. Col. Krez, of the 27th Regiment, arrived by Thursday night's boat, in good health and spirits, after his two and a half years of active service in the various campaigns of the Mississippi Valley.

We also note the presence of Capt. Witte and Lieut. Walther, of Co. E, of the same regiment, in town, looking in excellent health.

We congratulate them, as well as every other officer and private in the Sheboygan county companies of that regiment, on their safe return to their home and friends, and wish them a long life in the consciousness of having done their duty to their country well and faithfully.<sup>474</sup>

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<sup>471</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, pp. 765-766.

<sup>472</sup> *The Manitowoc Pilot*, Manitowoc, Sept. 29, 1865, p. 1/6.

<sup>473</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 30, 1865, p. 1/6.

<sup>474</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 30, 1865, p. 1/4.

The Twenty-seventh was, at different times, under command of Colonel Conrad Krez and Lieutenant Colonel Ten Eyck G. Olmsted.<sup>475</sup>

The men of the Regiment were mustered out on August 29, 1865. They were shipped to New Orleans, to Cairo and to Madison, where they were paid off and sent home. It may be noted here, that of father's Regiment, the 27th Wisconsin, 15 men were killed in action, 8 died of wounds, but 222 died of disease. Father was shipped to Sheboygan and no doubt walked as far as [Henry] Schuette's in town Mosel. Uncle Schuette hitched up his team and brought father home. Both Oscar and Ernst (oldest of Uncle Karl's children) have related how they ran to open the gate for their soldier Uncle.<sup>476</sup>

[There is the story of] when father came home after his discharge and Uncle Schuette brought him from Mosel to the home in Meeme, and Uncle Karl's oldest boys ran out to open the gate for their soldier uncle.<sup>477</sup>

Father never claimed a disability pension from his war service. He listed it as arthritis.<sup>478</sup>

[Excerpt taken from biographical sketch of Amelia Telgener, Mrs. William Rietow, 1857 - 1949, who was a niece of Ernst Kolb, daughter of his elder sister Christina Kolb Telgener.]

Born in 1857, she had a ready fund of memories of the Civil War period going back to a time when she was about six years old.

"President Lincoln had asked the North for 300,000 men." DaDa [Mrs. Rietow] wrote. "My father and mother would tell us about those who had been drafted.... One of my uncles took part -- my mother's brother. Ernest [sic] Kolb was his name."

"I remember he was in the 27th Regiment and I can clearly remember his coming home on a furlough. He arrived at night, yet I was up to see him, very excited."<sup>479</sup>

[From the State Journal]  
Return of the 27th Infantry.  
Their Movements and Doings.

Since or last issue two more regiments of Wisconsin's sons returned from the war, have arrived here for final discharge and payment, having fought the good fight and finished their

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<sup>475</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 166.

<sup>476</sup> Roland A. Kolb, The Story of...The Kolb Family, p. 15.

<sup>477</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, Dec. 6, 1969.

<sup>478</sup> Conversation, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, April 4, 1970.

<sup>479</sup> *The Sheboygan Press*, Sheboygan, October 25, 1975, p. 13 in a sketch of Mrs. Rietow's long and eventful life.

course. Gladly do we welcome them home.

Sunday afternoon, about 5 o'clock, the 27th Regiment, Col. Krez, arrived with 446 men, and 29 officers. It was welcomed at the depot by the Governor, and the men provided with a good supper, at the Railroad Hotel, after which it proceeded to quarters at Camp Randall. The weather had become considerably cooler during the day, and the men felt the change from the warm climate where they have been spending the summer sensibly.

The 27th was organized at Milwaukee during the fall of 1862, but only seven companies were then raised, three more being filled up during the winter and the regiment leaving the State on the 7th of March, 1863. It was composed mainly of men from the lake shore counties north of Milwaukee and received considerable accessions at different times, mostly from the same regions, by draft and enlistment. When mustered out the regiment numbered 546 men and 31 officers.

The following is a brief summary of the history of the regiment, which was composed of excellent material, and has made an honorable record:

After leaving the State the regiment was stationed at Columbus till the latter part of May, when it moved down the river and occupied a position at Snyder's Bluff during the siege of Vicksburg, after the surrender of which it moved to Helena, Arkansas, where it remained in camp till the middle of August, when, with the "Army of Arkansas," under Gen. Steele, it moved up White river to Duval's Bluff, and thence to Little Rock, where it remained in camp from the early part of September to the 23rd of March, 1864, when, with the 3d brigade, 3d division of the 7th corps, to which it was attached, and the other forces under Gen. Steele, it set out on the expedition designed to co operate with Gen. Banks' movement up the Red River. It had a tedious march, with frequent skirmishes with the rebels, to Camden, where, owing to Gen. Banks' failure, the advance was abandoned on the 16th of April. The return was very disagreeable, in consequence of heavy rains, bad roads, and harassing attacks by the rebels. The regiment took part in the battle of Jenkins' Ferry, on the 27th, securing the passage of Saline river by our forces, and losing 5 killed and 14 wounded. Reaching Little Rock without further molestation, the regiment remained there or in the vicinity, engaged in garrison duty, guarding railroad, &c., till February, 1865.

On the 7th of February the regiment started for the Gulf, reaching New Orleans on the 12th, and after a few days spent in camp there, embarked to join the forces operating against Mobile, reaching its vicinity the last of the month and being assigned to the 3d Brigade, 3d Division, 13th Corps. During the month of March it was stationed at Mobile Point and Fish river, and on the 27th took position in the trenches before Spanish Fort, and until its evacuation was engaged in the arduous and dangerous labor of the siege. It reached Fort Blakely just as it was captured, and after the surrender of Mobile went to Starks Landing, then to Nannahubbah Bluff, near the junction of the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers. On the 27th of April it moved 20 miles further up the river to McIntosh's Bluff, where it began to fortify and prepare for further operations, which were rendered unnecessary by Dick Taylor's surrender. It started back to Mobile on the 9th of May, and encamped a short distance from the city till June 2d, when it embarked on the Texas expedition, reaching Brazos Santiago on the 6th of June and Clarksville on the 13th. It remained at the latter place till early in August, when it moved to Brownsville. It left the latter place for home August 29th and New Orleans September 11th, coming up the Mississippi to Cairo, and thence to Chicago and Madison. The following is the present roster:

### Field and Staff.

Colonel - Conrad Krez.  
Lt. Colonel - Ten Eyck G. Olmsted.  
Major - C. H. Cunningham.  
Adjutant - D. Leprelette Moore.  
Quartermaster - Joseph Kent.  
Surgeon - Robert Mitchell.  
1st Asst. Surgeon - J. B. Cooper.

### Company Officers.

Co. A - 1st Lt., Edward Bach; 2d Lt. Wm. Stone.  
Co. B - Captain, Julius Schlaich; 1st Lt. R. H. Tripp; 2d Lt. Oscar N. Silver.  
Co. C - Captain, Conrad F. Smith; 1st Lt. John Gehring.  
Co. D - Captain, Joseph Rankin; 1st Lt. Thomas McMillan; 2d Lt. Nicholas Hansen.  
Co. E - Captain, Carl Witte; 1st Lt. Chas. W. Walther; 2d Lt. Irving B. Bliss.  
Co. F - Captain, Josiah F. Platt; 1st Lt. Peter Daane; 2d Lt. Clayton Stevens.  
Co. G - Captain, James Gunn; 1st Lt. Amanzor Strong.  
Co. H - Captain, John A. S. Verdier; 1st Lt. Ole Nelson.  
Co. I - Captain, James C. Barnes; 1st Lt. Julius Bodenstab.  
Co. K - Captain Peter Mulholland; 1st Lt. Michael Mullen; 2d Lt. Michael A. Maguire.<sup>480</sup>

We were pleased, a few days since, to greet Adj. D. L. Moore, our "S.M." correspondent in the 27th Regiment, in fine health and spirits.<sup>481</sup>

The Twenty-Seventh Infantry is passing. This Regiment left the State singing with equal lustiness, "Die Wacht am Rhein," "I go to Fight mit Siegel," and "John Brown's Body." True to the traditions of the "Faderland," they were equally expert with the pipe, the musket or the stein. I have not been unable to follow this regiment into its civic triumphs. In any case I should not have had the time or skill to spell out the terrible names from Germany. But by this time we can take any Wisconsin regiment on trust, and whatever in the way of public service the Irishmen of the Seventeenth failed to secure, the "Dutchmen" of the Twenty-seventh were ready to seize, all for the glory of Wisconsin, the perpetuation of the flag and the winning of the race.<sup>482</sup>

### Statistics of the Twenty-seventh Regiment:

Original strength of the regiment.....	865
Number of recruits received.....	<u>331</u>
	1196

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<sup>480</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 23, 1865, p. 1/3.

<sup>481</sup> *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Oct. 14, 1865, p. 1/3.

<sup>482</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 358.



Killed and died of wounds.....	22
Died of disease.....	239
Died of accidents.....	<u>5</u>
	266 <sup>483</sup>

[27th Wisconsin] Regimental Statistics.

Original strength.....	865
Gain - by recruits in 1863.....	24
in 1864.....	236
in 1865.....	68
substitutes.....	<u>3</u>
total	1196
Loss - by death	244
missing	4
deserted	56
transferred	57
discharged	248
mustered out	585 <sup>484</sup>

Kolb, Ernst

Co. D, 27th Regiment

Private

enlisted Aug. 21, 1862

enlisted at Meeme, Wis.

enrolled by P. Mulholland

resident of Meeme, Wis.

mustered in Oct. 23, 1862

mustered in at Milwaukee

age 22

grey eyes

brown hair

light complexion

height 5 ft. 9 inches

occupation - Farmer

remarks: M 7/63. Absent with leave since 7/20/63. M 8 to 12/63. Absent sick at Manitowoc Wis. since 8/22/63. M 1/64. same. M 9/64 Absent sick in Gen. Hosp. Little Rock Ark. since 9/25/64. MO. 8/29/65 with Co.<sup>485</sup>

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<sup>483</sup> Hosea W. Rood, Wisconsin At Vicksburg, p. 166.

<sup>484</sup> E. B. Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, p. 766.

<sup>485</sup> State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Manuscript Series 37/1/29, Box 34 (MSS muster rolls, blue series.)

An meinen Freund aus Town Meeme  
im 27. Wisconsin Regiment.

Wenn im sturmbewegten Kriegerleben  
Gefahren ernst und sorgenschwer euch nah'n,  
So möge der Gedanke euch erheben:  
Wir haben redlich uns're Pflicht gethan.

Wenn die Kartätschen euch entgegensprühen  
Und Schlachtendonner eure Ohren gellt,  
So lasst im Kampf das flammend' Antlitz glühen  
Und weichtet nicht vom blutgetränkten Feld.

Nur der kann sich die Siegesfahn' erringen,  
Der muthig in die Feindesschaaren dringt,  
Und darf sich dann auf jenen Altar schwingen,  
Wo's Vaterland ihm Dankesopfer bringt.

Seht ihr die Fahne dort auf jenen Zinnen  
Hochmüthig und von Aroganz sich bläh'n?  
Stürmt kühn hinauf und reisset sie von hinnen,  
Lasst dort das stolze Sternenbanner whe'n!

Noch einen Kampf! Der letzte dieses Kreiges,  
O! mögt ihr heldenmuthig ihn besteh'n!  
Mögt ihr im wahren Hochgenuss des Sieges  
Gesund und froh die Heimath wiederseh'n!

J. Wolters.<sup>486</sup>

M. O. This Co. [Co. D, 27th Wis.] participated in the following engagements viz.  
Siege of Vicksburg from 6/6 to 7/4/63.  
Capture of Little Rock, Ark. 9/10/63.  
Okalona, Ark. 4/3/64.  
Prairie De Ann, Ark. 4/11-12 & 13/64.  
Jenkins Ferry, Ark. 4/30/64.  
Siege and capture of Spanish Fort, Ala. from 3/27 to 4/19/65.  
Was mustered out Aug. 29/65 at Brownsville, Texas.<sup>487</sup>

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<sup>486</sup> Joseph Wolters, Zum Andenken an den verstorbenen Joseph Wolters..., p. 12.

<sup>487</sup> State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Manuscript Series 37/1/29, Box 34 (blue series).  
This handwritten note, regarding Co. D engagements, was included with Co. D archival materials.

### Soldiers Re-Union...

There is to be a re-Union of the surviving members of Co. E 27th Wis. vols., at the house of John Henry Haen in the town of Wilson, in this county, on the 21st of August, 1870. Soldiers and friends of the Company are invited to be present. Good speakers and the Sheboygan Brass Band will be in attendance.<sup>488</sup>

Mr. Elijah Dawley has shown us a minnie [sic] ball which his son Malman Dawley carried in his body for more than six years. It was shot into his shoulder on the 8th of October, 1862, at the battle of Perryville, Ky., and was extracted from his body, below the fifth rib, on the 11th of August, 1869. The ball is a large one and very much battered by contact with his flesh and bone.<sup>489</sup>

Samuel Wilson, a young man living in this city, during the late war was a member of the 4th New York Artillery, and at the battle of Petersburg, Va., was struck by a musket ball just back of the upper portion of the right ear, which penetrated the skull, and has remained there since -- about thirteen years -- until last Tuesday morning, when it came to the surface as the core of an abcess that had recently made its appearance about three inches below the place where it entered. On discovering its position it was extracted with little difficulty and weighed one and a half ounces -- a substantial evidence of Johnny Reb's love for Union men.<sup>490</sup>

HONORABLE JOSEPH RANKIN, deceased, formerly a resident of Manitowoc, Wis., and prominent in his military service during the civil war, was born at Passaic, New Jersey, Sep. 25, 1833, and died at Washington, D. C., Jan. 24, 1886, during the session of the 49th Congress.

In his childhood his family removed to Cortland county, New York, and he received a thorough education at Homer Academy. He came West in 1854 and settled at Mishicot, Manitowoc Co., Wis., where he was engaged a few years in the business of a merchant.... He was elected to the Assembly of Wisconsin in 1860 and served in the State Legislature with conspicuous ability.

The advent of civil war monopolized his attention to the exclusion of local interests and, in 1862, he raised a company for the 27th Wisconsin Infantry and, on its organization, was commissioned its captain. It was assigned to the 27th Wisconsin Infantry as Company D and he served as first line officer of the organization until the end of the war. He enlisted Oct. 23, 1862, and was mustered out August 29, 1865. The roster of his battles and skirmishes includes the siege of Vicksburg, Jenkins Ferry, Poison Springs, Sabine River, Camden, Prairie d'Ane, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Terre Noir Creek, April 2, 1864, Little Missouri River, April 4th, White Oak Creek, April 15, 1864. The later history of the regiment in 1865 includes the movement of the regiment to New Orleans and Mobile and the command occupied trenches at Spanish Fort

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<sup>488</sup> *Sheboygan Times*, Sheboygan, Aug. 27, 1870, p. 3/4.

<sup>489</sup> *Sheboygan Times*, Sheboygan, Sept. 17, 1870, p. 3/3.

<sup>490</sup> *Sheboygan Times*, Sheboygan, Feb. 15, 1879, p. 3/1.

through the siege. After the surrender of the defenses of Mobile the regiment went up the Tombigby River and proceeded next to Mobile and thence across the Gulf of Mexico to Brazos Santiago, Texas, and moved successively to Clarksville and Brownsville where they were discharged on the day stated. The characteristics of Mr. Rankin as a soldier were coolness and bravery in danger and a solicitude for the well-being and comfort of his men. He was the friend and adviser of the members of his command and received from them implicit confidence on all occasions. He was peculiarly modest and unassuming in character, always avoiding anything like a parade of his own actions and in deference to his well known trait, his biographical sketch is devoid of the elaboration it justly deserves. He was once asked to supply the necessary data for his biography for the Congressional directory and embraced his military record in seven words: "Served in the Union army three years."

He remained in Louisiana after the close of the war, engaging in the management of a plantation until 1868, when he returned to Manitowoc county, and, soon after was again elected to the Assembly of Wisconsin, in which he served four years. (1871, 1872, 1873, 1874.) In 1876 he was elected to the State Senate and served three successive terms, the last of which expired in 1882.... In 1882 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected in 1884, receiving in both instances a large majority.... In the later years of his life he was stricken by incurable disease. Notwithstanding his feeble state, he decided to take his seat at the opening of the session in December, 1885, and accomplished his determination... and a few weeks later was "mustered out." An instance of his last days delineates his character. Not long before his death he was visited by his colleagues and political associates, and he left with them a piece of work he had been unable to finish. One of his old soldiers was entitled to a pension which he sorely needed, but the proofs were not all complete and he requested that the work be finished for him, and it was done.... He was buried there [at Manitowoc] and his obsequies were honored by the attendance of a concourse of people to whom he had been for many years the object of sincere admiration.

He was married Sept. 18, 1862, to Amelia S. Borchardt of Manitowoc. A daughter, Jennie, and a son, Joseph, survive him. His family reside at Manitowoc.<sup>491</sup>

Conrad Krez, Milwaukee, Wis., member of Sheboygan Falls G.A.R. Post, was born April 27, 1828, in Landau in the Palatinate to Bavaria, a province on the Rhine in Germany. His father, Jean Baptiste Krez, served his prescribed term in the Bavarian army, and later in life entered the Grecian service under King Otto in the same conflict in which Lord Byron engaged, and died in Greece in 1839; he married Louise Henrietta Naas, who bore him two children. Paul died in Germany.

Mr. Krez received the best educational training his country affords, studied at the universities at Munich and Heidelberg, and prepared for the profession of law. He belonged to the progressive class in his own country, and at the age of enthusiasms became involved in the political issues that shook Germany in 1848, when an attempt was made to establish a constitutional Empire, including Austro-Germany of the then German Confederacy, and he threw

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<sup>491</sup> Soldiers and Citizens' Album... 1888, pp. 424-426. A very similar account of his life appears in Dr. Louis Falge, History Of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, pp. 524-525.

all his hopes as a true son of Germany into the balance. When the Hungarians were overthrown, when the last hope for the unification of Germany had perished, he determined to sever his connection with the land of his birth and started for the United States, arriving in January, 1851.<sup>492</sup> He studied law in the city of New York and in 1854 went to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and was admitted to the Bar; he established his practice there and continued his business with success until the advent of war. He was serving a term as District Attorney when he enlisted, Aug. 18, 1862, in Company E, 27th Wisconsin Infantry.

When the regiment was organized, Mr. Krez was made Colonel. He completed the organization and went to camp at Milwaukee, the regiment leaving there March 16, 1863, for service in Northern Kentucky. An encounter with the rebels of slight moment took place at Sartoria on the move to Vicksburg, where the regiment was assigned to the Provisional Division under Gen. Nathan Kimball in the 16th Corps. It took position at Snyder's Bluff, a situation designed to protect the besieging forces, and operated there in miscellaneous duty incident to the situation, until the surrender of the city. A removal to Helena was effected, where the 27th was assigned to the command of Steele and went thence to the capture of Little Rock. Colonel Krez had 150 men in line when he started on the march, the rest of his command being sick at Helena. Several skirmishes took place en route to Little Rock, which town was taken by General Steele as if he were playing a game of chess, checkmating the confederate forces by moving a column on each side of the river, by which the confederate army, superior in numbers to General Steele's command, was compelled to evacuate the place with small loss to the Union force. The next general movement in which the regiment took part was in General Steele's Red River expedition, the 27th being one of the regiments of Colonel Engleman's brigade, General Salomon's division. But while endeavoring to effect a junction with General Banks, the army was harassed by Shelby and Marmaduke's commands, who endeavored to retard their march, but without great success. General Steele left Camden when disaster had overtaken Banks. A train sent out for supplies had been captured by the confederates, and the escort defeated and taken prisoners, and General Steele was cut off from all communications; Colonel Krez was sent out with infantry and cavalry to reconnoiter. He discovered the footprints of a column of infantry and ascertained that the enemy was attempting to intercept General Steele by getting between him and Little Rock. At night Steele broke camp and stole across the Washita River, followed closely by Kirby Smith who came up with him at Saline Bottom. The first blow fell on the 27th in the battle which followed. The main attack was made when General Rice had taken their place in the rear of the column in the resumption of the march, and by him the enemy was decidedly repulsed. Without further molestation General Salomon's division crossed the Saline, being compelled to leave the dead and wounded on the field in charge of surgeons and assistants. A forced and unincumbered march was rendered necessary by the state of the roads and the troops had nothing to eat for three days except corn on the cob and coffee. Afterwards the regiment was ordered to report to General Canby and formed with the 28th Wisconsin, 33d Iowa and the 77th Ohio, part of the 3d Brigade, 3d Division, 13th Army Corps, with Colonel Krez as Brigade Commander, and in that capacity he was with his command in the siege of Spanish Fort 14 days under an incessant storm of shot and

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<sup>492</sup> Certificate of Naturalization, Sheboygan County Clerk of Court, filed Oct. 20, 1859, lists his date of entry as August 24, 1853, at the port of New York.

shell from the rebel fortifications. On the morning of the 9th of April, Spanish Fort was occupied by the Union force, the 27th proceeding to Fort Blakely to witness its capture. Colonel Krez, at the head of his command, marched to McIntosh's Bluff under orders to take possession of the confederate navy yard, which order he executed, waging war until the confederate admiral surrendered the naval vessels and transports to his superior officer. He returned with his brigade on the fleet of transports to Mobile whence the regiment started with General Steele's old troops of the 7th Army Corps across the Gulf to Brazos Santiago, Texas, to form part of General Steele's command. Thence the regiment went to Clarksville and from there in August to Brownsville where they were mustered out and sent to Wisconsin. During all the service imperfectly outlined in this sketch, Colonel Krez was always with his command and performed service of the most meritorious character which was properly recognized by the Government in the form of a commission as Brevet-Brigadier General.

On the day following his return to Sheboygan, he opened his office and followed his profession as an attorney until he was appointed by President Cleveland Collector of Customs of the port of Milwaukee and he received his commission July 27, 1885. In his capacity as a representative of the President, under the law empowering him to suspend officers during the recess of Congress, he operated until May 17, 1886, when he was appointed, confirmed and commissioned for four years as Collector of the port; Nov. 27, 1889, he was removed by President Harrison and turned over his office to his successor. He soon thereafter commenced the practice of law in Milwaukee. In political affiliation he is a Democrat.

He was married in New York City in 1852, to Addie, daughter of Judge John A. Stemmler and he has seven children: -- Josephine, Louise, Cornelia, Paul, Albert, Alfred and Gertrude. Cornelia is married to W. M. Jennings of Brookville, Kansas.<sup>493</sup>

Gen. Conrad Krez, a prominent early settler of Sheboygan, and a distinguished officer of the late war, recently Collector of Customs at Milwaukee, and now City Attorney of that city, was born in Landau, Bavaria, Germany, April 27, 1828. He was reared and educated in his native country, and studied law in the University of Heidelberg. Later he volunteered under von der Thann in Schleswig-Holstein and took part in the rise of the Palatinate and Baden for the unification of Germany, and in consequence had to seek refuge in Switzerland and France, and finally sailed for America, where he arrived in 1851.

On coming to this country he made his home in New York City, where he engaged in the practice of law, and where he was married, in 1852, to Miss Adolphine Stemmler. Mrs. Krez was born in New York, and is a daughter of Judge Stemmler, of that city.

Mr. Krez continued his residence in New York until the summer of 1854, when he removed to Sheboygan, Wis., arriving in that city on the 27th of August. There he entered upon the practice of his profession, which was interrupted by his entering the military service of the United States in defense of the Union. On the 21st of August, 1862, he enlisted for the late war, and raised the Twenty-seventh Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry, of which he was commissioned Colonel, when the regiment was mustered into the United States service. He participated in all the battles, skirmishes and sieges in which his command was engaged, and from the spring of

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<sup>493</sup> Soldiers' And Citizens' Album, pp. 597-599.

1865 until the close of the war he commanded a brigade. After the siege of Mobile he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. He was mustered out of the service August 29, 1865, after an honorable service of three years, during which time he was absent from his command not to exceed thirty days.

On his return from the war he resumed the practice of his profession at Sheboygan. Originally a Republican in politics, he joined with Horace Greeley the Democratic party in 1872. He was elected to the office of District Attorney, which he held for twelve years. He continued to reside in Sheboygan until 1885, when, having been appointed under Cleveland's first administration to the office of Collector of Customs at Milwaukee, he removed to that city in order to discharge the duties of his office, since which time he has been a resident of the Cream City. He served as Collector of Customs for four years, when a change of administration caused his retirement from that office. In 1892 he was elected City Attorney of Milwaukee, which position he now fills.

Gen. and Mrs. Krez have seven children, three sons and four daughters: Josephine; Louise; Cornelia; Paul T., who married Miss Minnie Schroeder, and is a practicing attorney of Sheboygan (of whom see sketch); Albert and Alfred, who are twins; and Gertrude.

By his contributions to German literature, both in prose and poetry, Gen. Krez has won distinction as a talented and entertaining writer. As a lawyer, he was for many years a recognized leader of the Sheboygan County Bar; while his election to the position of City Attorney of Milwaukee shows that the citizens of that important commonwealth have paid a just tribute to his ability in the line of his profession.<sup>494</sup>

Our mother [Emma Steinhaus Kolb] was buried in May 1888. There were 12 of us that stood at the grave side and cried as Pastor Holzapfel shoveled a few clods of frozen earth and it seems I could still hear the thump as he pronounced the fateful words. There were twelve of us as [eldest son and lumberjack] Edmund was on the spring log drive, and there was difficulty in locating him. He arrived at Kiel and walked home [to Spring Valley], and as the family were to the Services he went upstairs and stripped his clothes and threw them out of the window to rid them of the vermin with which they were infested. The baby [Lydia] was with a neighbor. Since that day the rest of us have always stood at the side of the grave of the latest deceased:

"And if I should be  
The last leaf upon the tree  
Where I cling  
Let them smile as I do now  
At the old forsaken bough  
Where I cling."<sup>495</sup>

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<sup>494</sup> Portrait And Biographical Record Of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, pp. 212-213.

<sup>495</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, December 19, 1968. Uncle Roland was 4 years old when his mother died, aged 39 years, giving birth to Lydia, her thirteenth child. Lydia formed a special bond with her father and became his favorite in his old age. It broke the old man's heart when she died at age 12 in 1900, following an overdose of cocaine administered as a

Some time after his retirement, father undertook to revive the memories of his War years. It was the occasion of the unveiling of the Wisconsin Monument on the Vicksburg battlefield. Together with his daughter Alwina he attempted to retrace the route of his former Regiment. It was at Vicksburg, that he had the opportunity to read his name, together with the roster of the entire Regiment as they were listed on the stone. On the same trip, they visited Little Rock and Mobile and incidently, Shiloh Battle Field. At Mobile, they were able to view the remains of the breastworks that he had helped to dig, when the Regiment was stationed before Spanish Fort.<sup>496</sup>

On our way to our "German Evangelical Church" [St. James United Church of Christ in Spring Valley, where Uncle Roland had pointed out his father's grave in the cemetery], we passed the [former site of] the Roman Catholic Church, St. Fidelis. The building has now been razed, and the Congregation members absorbed by the two or three neighboring congregations. Our church building had no steeple. When the Romans built (their second edifice) they had a steeple, but funds were short to buy a bell. They solicited among the neighbors and father contributed. A record was made in the Church Record. At my father's funeral (it was a stormy winter's day) the church bell in the Roman Catholic Church was tolled all the while that the funeral cortege drove past the church. I believe it was one of the finest tributes to community loyalty that I have ever seen.<sup>497</sup>

At father's funeral, Aunt [Ernstine] Wolters gazed at the coffin and remarked, "How we worried about you when you were in the war."<sup>498</sup>

Sorge, Sorge, nicht so viel;  
Es kommt doch wie es Gott haben will.<sup>499</sup>

It is 33 years this early morning since [my first wife] Elsa died. "We go on from here," and there is no alternative, and fortunately memory is kind. She has a tendency to blur and bedim some of

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pain killer by their family dentist.

<sup>496</sup> Roland A. Kolb, Story of the... Kolb Family, p. 19. This trip was undertaken in 1911, two years before he died; a brief diary of this journey was kept by Alwina Kolb and now is in possession of Mark Knipping.

<sup>497</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 13, 1962. Grandfather Hugo Muetzelburg drove the funeral sleigh carrying his grandfather's casket from the Kolb home to the churchyard for burial, and recalled how on this frigid February day the horses stood in drifted snow up to their chests and frequently he had to dismount and help them to their feet whenever they fell.

<sup>498</sup> Notes from conversation, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, April 4, 1970.

<sup>499</sup> Oft-repeated folk saying, Myrtle Henrietta Muetzelburg Knipping, Dec. 25, 2000.



the sad and hard pictures in our past, and she does retain ever bright the mirror that reflects the happier days in our past.<sup>500</sup>

Und sind wir auch fern von einander,  
So bleiben die Herzen doch nah;  
Uns allen ja allen wirds freuen,  
Wenn einen was besseres geschah.<sup>501</sup>

So I come to the end of what there comes to mind this evening. It has been a pleasant evening that I am able to spend with you. I hope you will forgive the rambling, the errors, and the boasting at times, and even the advice that we old folks love to give and which is the reason we are not loved by the young people. "Though age and infirmity overtake me, and I shall not have reached the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life; and for time's olden memories, which are good and sweet: and may the evening twilight find me gentle still."<sup>502</sup>

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<sup>500</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, February 11, 1967.

<sup>501</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, June 9, 1968.

<sup>502</sup> Letter, Roland A. Kolb to Mark Knipping, July 13, 1962.