

**Object ID:** *MG0828\_SeriesB\_F02*  
**Document:** *Battle of Buena Vista*

**Transcription:**

Battle of Buena Vista

From the Rio Grande's waters—to the icy lakes of Maine  
Let all exult—for we have met the enemy again

[Page is then turned upside down]

near the rancho Buena Vista where ~~the advantages required were~~ on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> February – the Division under Gen. Wool were drawn up in line of battle The 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Reg<sup>t</sup> extending from the road over a hill which they had fortified during the night, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kentucky Reg<sup>t</sup> in line on the top of a hill about one hundred yards in rear of the 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Indiana on the left extending with intervals to the base of the mountain, whilst Washington's Artillery and the mounted men were ready to take position at a moments warning wherever the enemy's movements rendered them most useful

Casting the eye to the front over a level plain of several miles could be seen the numerous hordes of the enemy who were advancing and taking position about two miles distant from our front—filling the Valley from mountain to mountain and extending to the rear as far as the eye could reach the sun reflecting on their arms giving them a magnificent appearance—whilst on our side could be seen scattered in groups apparently a few ragged volunteers their rusty muskets, their worn out uniforms and scantiness of numbers presenting an awful contrast to the splendidly equipped foe before them. at ten o'clock [sic] Gen Wool and Staff rode in front of the line and announced to the soldiers

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the birth day of the great Washington requesting them to remember the day and their Country's honor – and now one solid burst of enthusiasm ~~burst~~ rose from our gallant army which ~~made the~~ was caught up and continued by the enemy his which apparently made the whole valley tremble.

The echo had scarcely died away when General Taylor at the head of his Division returning from Saltillo was discovered by our soldiers, when shout after shout rang from right to left welcoming the brave old Veteran and the noble troops comprising his Division to join in the terrible conflict which all knew was soon to take place and where Glory and honor was to be won.

Written by my father Thomas Welsh  
BCW



LancasterHistory

**Analysis: Wiggin**

*Obviously, this is just the start of a much longer piece that for whatever reason was apparently never completed. Coupled with TW-B-48-09, this paints an interesting picture of the impression of the overall situation upon the 22 year old volunteer who was to be badly wounded in the battle. Since this was obviously written after the battle (and after his wound), it is interesting how vivid the recollection of the moments before the battle actually began. It is also interesting that the wound—which nearly cost him his life—seems not to have diminished his romantic enthusiasm and belief in the glory and honor of war.*

*It appears as if he intended to compose a poem, an ode to the great Victory, then either had a poetic block or thought better of it, turned the page around and continued in prose.*

*Judging by the postscript, Blanton C. Welsh (probably later in life) was similarly taken in by this piece of writing.*

**Scope and Content:**

Description of the moments before the start of the Battle of Buena Vista, by Thomas Welsh; obviously intended as a prelude; exudes his romantic belief in the glory and honor of war.

