

*Regimental History of the
79th Pennsylvania Volunteers
of the Civil War.
The Lancaster County Regiment*

By Harrison C. Williams

Preface

The Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment was recruited from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with the exception of Company D, which was recruited from Washington County, Pennsylvania. During their four years of active duty in the Civil War, 1861–1865, the regiment fought in ten major battles and participated in five campaigns. Their contribution to the Union war effort is impressive but heretofore they have received little recognition for their efforts. The intention of this paper is not to wave the American flag for every brave action or sing a patriotic tune harmonized by heroic deeds. What is important to note is that there were men in every regiment like Lewis H. Jones and John H. Druckemiller. These two men were members of the 79th PV who left recorded evidence of their beliefs and feelings in the form of letters and diaries. It will soon be easy to see that these men were among the many who fought for what they truly believed. They were common men with an uncommon strength. Lancasterians should understand their ancestors' beliefs and how they were formed. The Civil War had an enormous effect on the United States as a country, as a government, and as a people, and this regimental history is one small avenue by which to learn how we developed the beliefs and feelings we have today.

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Part I, Enlistment

“Young men of Lancaster! now or never is the time to rally to the defense of your country.”¹ Those words were printed in the Lancaster Evening Daily Express on September 2, 1861, as a plea to recruit men who would later become the 79th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment. This regiment would soon fight in the developing Civil War. “Wait not until hordes of traitors and robbers under Jeff. Davis invade and desolate your homes,” implored the newspaper. Continuing, the plea mentioned the threats of having Lancaster burned, pillaged and destroyed. Lancaster would most certainly be in danger if there were no men willing to fight. The newspaper suggested, “go manfully forth and beat them back to their rice swamps and cotton fields.” Similar advertisements appeared regularly in all three of Lancaster’s newspapers.²

President Lincoln’s first call for 75,000 militia and his second call for volunteers on May 3, 1861³ did not seem to be enough. The Union army was shaken by a hard defeat at Manassas in the battle of Bull Run on July 21. The loss sobered any Union thoughts about a quick end to the rebellion. Previous to Bull Run there was a common belief that the large towns would have enough unemployed men to fill the army.⁴ But the tide had turned and people began to realize the monumental significance of the time at hand. The newspapers became rampant with pleas for men to enlist. “If they don’t it will disgrace the ‘Old Guard’. Lancaster men must show their patriotism or have their homes attacked and over run with rebels.”⁵ Col. Henry A. Hambright, a veteran of the Mexican War and an officer in a three-month regiment during the early rebellion, received an order from the War Department on August 21 giving him permission to muster-in men in order to form a three-year volunteer regiment. At that time he also applied for permission to form a camp near Lancaster.⁶ Locations were set up all over Lancaster City to facilitate enlistment. M. H. Locker, a captain in Col. Hambright’s growing regiment, had a recruiting office at his Billiard Saloon, on the corner of North Queen Street and center square. Similar offices were located at Blickenderfer’s Hotel and at the Democrat Office in Russell’s Hall in Lancaster. John H. Duncan, previously a Captain of the Lancaster Fencibles, opened a recruiting office at Rankin’s City Hotel.⁷ The Lancaster Evening Daily Express supported Frederick C. Klein, who was recruiting local German men, with a plea for the German population of Lancaster.⁸ “Our patriotic German fellow citizens should rally around his standards.” The newspapers reported daily progress of the recruiting efforts by listing those who signed the rolls and scolding in general and with parental fortitude all those who were not enlisting. When units were first forming, the Lancaster Intelligencer started making critical comparisons be-

tween Reading and Lancaster. Reading, equal in size to Lancaster, had four or five units while Lancaster could only muster one unit by the name of "The Fencibles."⁹ By the beginning of September, however, companies were being filled and sworn in. Capt. Kendrick's company was the first to be sworn in on August 26 with an aggregate of 94 members. Each man received a medical exam from Dr. Albright, who was a veteran in Col. Hambright's three-month Jackson Rifles regiment.

Many three-month units reenlisted to become a part of Col. Hambright's regiment. The Lancaster Fencibles under Capt. M. H. Locker's command; the Jackson Rifles, commanded by Capt. Kendrick; and the German sharpshooters, previously under Capt. Seaver's command, all made up companies in the regiment soon to be the 79th PV. Brigadier General James G. Negley, well known to many Lancaster soldiers, visited Lancaster in September to bring the information that Col. Hambright's regiment would be in Gen. Negley's brigade to be formed in Pittsburgh at Camp Wilkins. This news was happily received. In a less than happy way was the camp in Lancaster. The camp was not filling up well at first because men did not want to leave their work and their farms and lose money during harvest. Their problems were alleviated when Col. Hambright received news from Governor Curtin that the state of Pennsylvania would appropriate money, in the form of 30 cents a day, for every man brought into camp, and the federal government would feed and clothe the volunteers.¹⁰ The regiment then gained numbers quickly and soon it was ready to leave Lancaster. When the companies started to leave for Pittsburgh, one more company was needed to fill the requirements for a full-fledged regiment. Capt. Duchman and another officer stayed behind to recruit the remaining company. Any last-minute recruits were to apply at Company Headquarters, Cooper's Hotel, 20 West King Street. W. J. Cooper owned and ran the hotel.¹¹ The late company would eventually catch up with the others in Kentucky about a month later. There was a tally of nine companies, with eight recruited from Lancaster County and one, Company D, recruited from Washington County.

Part II, The Boys' First Journey

In October, Col. Hambright's regiment was almost full and preparations were made to leave for Harrisburg. As companies were filled and mustered-in, they were sent to Harrisburg and then to Pittsburgh where they would be assigned a regimental number and become a part of Gen. Negley's brigade. Every day another company left and the streets around the railroad station were lined with families and spectators wishing their sons and husbands good luck in their new adventure. In the diary of John H. Druckemiller,¹ a 21-year-old Lieutenant and later Captain of Company B, his first entry reads, "Left Lancaster today at 2:55 P.M. Took the River rout."² After a short stop in Columbia, the company moved by train to Harrisburg and arrived there at 6:00 P.M. where they joined

Companies A and D. In a letter from Lewis H. Jones of Company H, to his wife, Lewis writes, "we had a happy time a comin over the mountains."³ The novelty of such travel would soon wear off. From Harrisburg the companies were sent to Pittsburgh. Druckenmiller wrote in his diary that they travelled all night and arrived in Pittsburgh at 2:00 P.M. in a heavy rain. Having no tents, the men marched into the city and were quartered in Wilkins Hall. Other companies stayed in cotton and tobacco barns. The next morning the men were treated to a breakfast furnished by the ladies of Pittsburgh. On October 11, the balance of the regiment arrived at Camp Wilkins. Every day new equipment was distributed to the regiment. First they received tents and blankets. The next day they received cartridge boxes, knapsacks, canteens and belts. By the time the regiment was ready to head south on their first campaign, they would also have uniform pants, shirts, socks, overcoats, and Springfield rifled muskets. Lewis Jones boasted about his new possessions by writing home, "I got a blankit last night as big as a cover lid." He continues, "we are living in a cotton house and the grub is good bean soup and fresh beef."⁴

Before any fighting started, camp life was good to the soldiers. Lewis Jones wrote, "I am getting fatter on camp life."⁵ He also noted that he had all the clothes he could carry. Most soldiers would eventually leave behind a large percentage of clothes and equipment that had been issued to them. A light haversack was more valuable to them than an extra overcoat. This was a logistical problem that only experience could settle. It was at Camp Wilkins, however, that the men received their first lesson in military discipline. The first general order to be issued to the troops was a list of orders regarding the daily schedule.⁶ Reveille was scheduled at 6 A.M., breakfast at 7 A.M., and company drill went from 9 to 11. Dinner was at 12 noon followed by drill from 1 P.M. until 4 P.M. Dress parade was held at 5 P.M. followed by supper at sunset and, finally, tattoo, which signaled lights out, was sounded at 9 P.M. For most of those men who owned and ran farms, the sunrise to sunset hours were not unusual. On the other hand, the amount of drill was certainly a new and demanding experience for all the volunteers.

At 1 P.M. on October 17, Col. Hambright's regiment formed line and marched from Pittsburgh to nearby Allegheny City. Governor Curtin was in Allegheny City to give the regiment a spirited address and present the regimental colors. At this time Col. Hambright's regiment became the 79th Pennsylvania Volunteers (79th P.V.). On the following day the 79th P.V., which was in the brigade under Gen. Negley's command, boarded six steamers headed for Louisville, Kentucky. John Druckemiller listed the names of the boats in his diary as follows: Sir William Wallace, Silver Wave, Argonaut, Clara Poe, Moderator, and John Hailman.⁷ Companies A, B, and H, with generals, staff and band, were on board the Sir Wallace. As the Sir Wallace prepared to leave, an accident occurred that injured a few members of the band. A horse fell off the lower deck of the boat and all the men rushed over to the edge of the upper deck to see what had

happened. The sudden extra weight caused the upper deck to collapse. Daniel Clemens and Daniel Landis were injured in the fall. Charles Frailey was also hurt and was never able to return to the regiment. The first day of travel the boats only went 10 miles before docking. Heavy fog prevented traveling any further. Travel by steamer was much more hazardous in 1861 as there were no navigating devices such as radar. The boats travelled both day and night and were lucky to have only one slight collision while on their way to Louisville.

The brigade arrived in Louisville on October 12 and camped near the city. The citizens of Louisville furnished the 79th with several meals before the brigade left by train for Camp Nevin. On Nolen Creek, Camp Nevin was 50 miles south of Louisville in Nolin Station, Kentucky. Camp was set up and picket duty started. Picket duty entailed each company taking turns going about a mile out of camp and stationing each man 25 to 50 yards apart in an arching line around camp. This way there would be some warning and a form of first defense if a rebel attack was started. On November 28, twenty-five rebel scouts were captured by this method. Unfortunately, with 20,000 men at Camp Nevin, there seemed to be more dangers in camp than outside it. While attempting to keep warm one of Company G's tents accidentally caught fire and burned up. In another incident, one soldier of Company K shot off his forefinger. With even less luck were two men who were struck by lightning. With such a large number of men in one camp tempers had a tendency to act up. One fight ended when a guard was injured by a bayonet. Worst of all, a misfired gun hit a man in the leg and the limb had to be removed. Although unwanted, accidents like these did happen and usually resulted from a discipline problem. Drilling continued for three weeks until the 79th moved across the stream to Camp Negley.

Camp Negley meant only one thing to soldiers who had to drill every day and that was mud. John Druckemiller mentions rain and cold weather in almost every entry in his diary while he was at Camp Negley. "Cold today. . . regimental dress parade in mud. Camp was called Camp Negley. Some men suggested Camp 'Stick in the mud.'"⁸ December brought frozen water buckets at night and deeper mud during the day. At one point it got cold enough that two horses in an adjoining battery were frozen to death. The 79th left Camp Negley on December 10 and headed for Munfordsville, situated on the north bank of Green River. Three Union companies on picket duty were on the other side of the river and were suddenly attacked. The attack was made by seven or eight Confederate cavalry and a battery. The fight lasted forty-five minutes and ten Union men were killed and thirteen wounded. The bridge at Green River was blown up and had to be rebuilt. During picket duty two days after the skirmish John Druckemiller found twelve dead horses in the field where the fight was.

Due to the early lack of Federal organization of the armies, the 79th made many changes in brigade and division assignments. At Nolin Station in November of 1861, the 79th was assigned to Brig. Gen. James S. Negley's 4th Brigade

which was under Major Gen. A. McDowell McCook's command.⁹ In December the 79th was transferred to the 7th Brigade in the Army of the Ohio. These changes were made mostly on paper and did not affect the soldiers as such. For the soldiers, camp was the same no matter where they were or what they were called. At Munfordsville, in Hart County, Kentucky, camp was called Camp Wood. Here the 79th continued the usual drilling, dress parades, and picket duty. At Camp Wood, Lewis Jones was ordered to be the company cook, which was fine with Lewis. About the skirmish of the 17th, Lewis wrote, "I run into camp but the captain make me stay to get coffee ready," he explained. "So you need not be alarme of me being shot for I have to stay in the camp while they fight."¹⁰ As cook, Lewis got the chance to try a few not-so-common meals. Boasting of his ability, Lewis wrote, "we can bake bread without sots, make shorte cake without lard, fry potatoes without fat."¹¹ To do this he built an oven which was 12 feet square. Lewis made sure he had plenty to eat and, as he said, "the food was cooked to sute myself." There were also a few ingenious brewers in camp. Some members of the 32nd Indiana had a little lager beer which they shared with Lewis who remarked, "the first I had sense I left Lancaster."¹²

Another first for the Lancaster boys was getting paid. Since they had mustered-in, the troops were without money until November 15. The Paymaster arrived and paid the men for one month and 21 days of service. Lewis received \$22.10 for his work. He sent \$17.00 home to his wife.¹³ Sending money home by the mail was a problem for the soldiers since mail was often stolen or lost. Therefore, the Federal Army set up an allotment program that would facilitate matters. If a soldier signed the agreement, a predetermined amount of money (\$10.00 in Lewis' case) would be sent directly home every month instead of giving it to each soldier who might lose it while at war. Mrs. Elizabeth Jones could pick up her husband's money at Reed McGrum Kelly and Company in Lancaster.¹⁴ Lewis did keep some money so that he could buy extra food and clothes when he needed to. He also had to buy stamps to mail letters home. He sent three or four letters a month and always complained that he did not get enough in return. Most of his letters dealt with the regiment's present position in the war and home matters. Finally, he would have a little fatherly advice for his four children. "Tell Susan," he suggested, "not to be discouraged by losing her beaux that when the war is over the good ones will be plenty."¹⁵ Needless to say that most of the "good ones" probably never made it home.

Many stories reached home that were distorted rumors and not founded with any truth. Lewis had to correct one such story when a fellow Lancastrian wrote home and said that Lewis had been hit in the head by a cannon ball. Lewis quickly wrote home and explained the matter. "When we was out on pickett guard," he started, ". . . a (cannon) ball past by us and went through a tree and into another." He continued to explain that he and a friend picked up the cannon ball and were throwing it up and catching it. One time he missed and it hit

him above the eye and made him bleed a little bit. "When the boys asked me what don it," he concluded, "I told them that a cannon ball struck me."¹⁶

The cold and bad weather began to affect many of the soldiers in January 1862. One of Lewis' best friends, Joseph Maxwell, began complaining of pains in his intestines. He had been out on picket duty for several days and slept on the wet ground. One Tuesday he went to the company doctor. The doctor gave him oil and paregoric, which is an opium compound used to relieve diarrhea.¹⁷ The pain got worse and all the doctor could do was give him opium. By the following Saturday, he was sent to the hospital in Munfordsville. After 48 hours in the hospital, Joseph died. Lewis wrote a very moving letter to his wife to explain what he had done for Joseph. "I sopose before you receive this letter," he began, "poor Joseph will be laid in his final resting place."¹⁸ Joseph Maxwell's body was sent home in a coffin by train and later buried. Lewis sent Joseph's clothes and a "likeness" or picture home to Joseph's family.

Time was dragging for the troops and more were getting sick. All those who could not pass a doctor's inspection were going to be sent home on furlough. Lewis was in good shape, but bored. In February he wrote home to say that he never expected to see fighting. As far as the soldiers knew, the war was going to be over in a few weeks. But, to the surprise and joy of many, the brigade was ordered north on February 14 to join Grant with his movement upon Forts Henry and Donelson. After much confusion and marching, the orders were changed. The 79th then moved down through Bowling Green, left Kentucky, and went into Tennessee. They were marching for three weeks and came to a halt in Nashville. Having few encounters along the way, the troops thought the war was close to an end. Lewis speculated that "things is a moving so fast so the war will soon be over."¹⁹ What Lewis didn't realize was that in a matter of weeks the 79th would have more action than they could wish for.

Part III, Tennessee and Alabama: Heavy Fighting for the 79th

Camped just outside of Nashville at Camp Andy Johnson, the 79th got a short rest from its marching. Provision wagons caught up and the troops settled in. Bridges and railroad tracks had to be repaired because the Confederates had destroyed them as they went south. All the way to Nashville the men found dead horses in all the ponds and lakes. Drinking water was scarce for a while. Rations were shorter than the 79th first started. Each man received eleven crackers a day and some soup that even Lewis did not like. "I make pea soup the devel wont eat,"¹ he exclaimed. But, unless they caught their own food, there was not much else to eat. On March 29 the 79th received orders to march south to Columbia. More burnt bridges delayed their movement at Franklin, Tennessee. By April 8, the 79th was at Camp Moreland, in Columbia, Murry County, Tennessee. As the Union forces went further south, Lewis noted one detail

that, whether he or anyone else realized at the time, would become a major factor in the Confederacy's slow demise. "We past cotton fealds," he wrote, "that had not bin plowed up this spring yet."^{1a} The South's resources were not being renewed. Modern total warfare was just starting to firm its grip on the economy and life style of the Confederacy. It would be a while before the Union realized that they were fighting a people and a way of life and *not* just an army. But even so, the erosion of the Southern culture had started and it would prove to be unremitting.

While the 79th was at Camp Morehead, Gen. Grant's army was recovering from one of the bloodiest battles in the Civil War. On April 3, Confederate Gen. A. S. Johnston moved out of Corinth, Mississippi, 50,000 strong to strike against Grant's force before a planned juncture between Gen. Grant's and Gen. Buell's Union forces could be made. On April 6, Johnston made a sudden surprise attack and caught the Union army off guard and pinned them to the river. Only when Gen. Buell's forces arrived during the night was Grant able to counter and send Johnston back toward Corinth. There was a total of 13,047 killed, wounded and missing at the battle which was named the Battle of Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh. The 79th was not involved in this battle but the 77th PV, which was previously in the same brigade with the 79th, was heavily involved. The 79th was having a few of its own difficulties. A detachment under Captain Kendrick went out to repair telegraph lines between Columbia and Polaski. While at work cutting trees for telegraph poles, the men were defenseless. They had their guns in the wagons and were in the woods.² A group of guerrillas under John H. Morgan's³ command attacked and captured nearly the entire detachment which numbered 268.⁴ Word of the attack did reach camp headquarters and four companies, commanded by Major Millinger, were sent in pursuit. As Millinger moved towards Pulaski, his group met the prisoners who had been paroled and were heading back to camp. Millinger moved ahead and occupied the town with little resistance.

As guard for the Nashville and Decatur railroad, the 79th stayed at Camp Morehead while the main body of the army was still in support of Grant. On May 10, Gen. Negley initiated an expedition to Rogersville, Tennessee, with the 78th PV and 79th PV in advance, and an artillery unit and cavalry unit all under Col. Hambright's command. Col. Hambright was acting as brigadier-general. The troops made a 21 mile march in six hours;⁵ drove in the enemy's pickets who gave alarm to the forces in town, who fled in every direction. A portion of the cavalry marched on to Lamb's Ferry and fired upon a ferryboat-load of Confederate cavalry and killed several men and horses. Then a force on the other side of the river opened fire on the 79th, killing one and wounding others. The Union artillery returned fire on the frameworks and log cabins where the rebels were hiding. A few well-placed shells sent them running. A Confederate wagon train was also shelled and damaged. The Confederates, under Col. Adams, numbered 2,000. They were finally driven back toward Florence. The 79th

sent a detachment of 80 men under Captain Klein who went down river to destroy rebel boats and equipment. After struggling 10 to 12 miles over Muscle Shoals, where the men had to get in the water and pull their boats along, the detachment seized and destroyed nine rebel boats. From here, they returned to the 79th which, in turn, marched back to Columbia. The entire procedure encompassed 75 miles of marching in less than three days and almost 200 miles in the full 10 day span.⁶ Lewis said he saw some of Alabama and thought "it is the poorest country ever I seen along the Tennessee river."⁷

On May 29, Gen. Negley's independent brigade was ordered to proceed across the mountains of Tennessee to Chattanooga. The 79th met opposition at Sweden's Cove on June 4. Confederate Col. Adams was surprised as the 79th came over a rugged mountain to catch the rebels. Rebel line was formed and fired at Col. Hambright's advance. The rebels retreated through a narrow lane toward Jasper. With not much room to maneuver, the rebels succeeded in making a confused retreat, but not before 40 men were wounded and killed. Many guns and ammunition were captured afterward. Two Union soldiers were killed and seven wounded. Continued pursuit produced four prisoners who reported that Col. Adams had fled to Chattanooga, 43 miles away. The brigade advanced, traveling a road that was in such bad condition the wagon teams gave out.⁸ Lewis gave a complete description of the skirmish at Sweden's Cove. "The rebels was cut up bad," he wrote. "Along the road the citizens told me that som was jus a laying on their horses som with their arms and heads half cut."⁹ When the 79th made it over the Cumberland mountain to East Tennessee, Lewis saw the first Union citizens he had seen for several months. One old man went up to Lewis and asked about his son who had run off in the night to join the Union army. Lewis also saw women and children who had been living in the woods for weeks that "had bin run out of town on account of their sons a being in the Union army."¹⁰ When the 79th arrived at the foot of the Cumberland mountains and on the bank of the Tennessee river on June 7, they were 400 yards away from the town of Chattanooga just across the river.¹¹ The enemy was well entrenched behind earthworks. Artillery was brought up in position and the 79th was thrown forward to the river bank to act as sharpshooters to pick off the enemy's gunners. The rebels opened battery fire quickly with one 24 pounder, one 18-pounder, and some smaller pieces. The 79th returned fire and kept it up for five hours, driving the rebels out and evacuating the town. In their flight, they destroyed two railroad bridges. One injury was sustained by the 79th. The purpose of the thrust at Chattanooga was to make a diversion for Gen. Smith who was forcing his way through the Cumberland Gap into East Tennessee.¹² With this accomplished, the 79th returned to Shelbyville. The entire march took 14 days in which time the 79th had two encounters with the enemy and traveled an awesome 284 miles.¹³

The 79th spent all of June at Camp Cooper in Shelbyville. July 4 was

celebrated vigorously and the troops went into town to a pole raising and then they went to the fairgrounds and had a dress parade. The citizens of Shelbyville gave them dinner afterwards. Lewis did not go with the troops since he was not a part of the drill practice. He stayed in town and had dinner at a private house. "We had chicken pot pie cooked Lancaster style with corn bread and butter." Amazingly enough, it was the second time in nine months that Lewis had eaten at a table with a knife and fork. Everything was very expensive for Lewis but, as he said, "I thought I mite have a little diversion once."¹⁴ Soon after July 4 the regiment was temporarily split up. Major Millinger was now in charge of the 79th and he took four companies to Wartrace to reinforce Gen. Barnes. The rest of the regiment quickly caught up and then two companies were sent to Duck River to fortify the south bank and build a stockade and protect the railroad bridge. This was soon found to be impossible, thus the entire regiment moved to Tullahoma.

In August, the 79th was attached to the 28th Brigade, 3rd Division, in the Army of Ohio. The 79th joined the 15th, 16th and 19th regulars, all commanded by Gen. William S. Smith.¹⁵ The new brigade left Tullahoma and went to Manchester. From Manchester, the brigade was ordered to Nashville and camped at College Hill just south of the city.

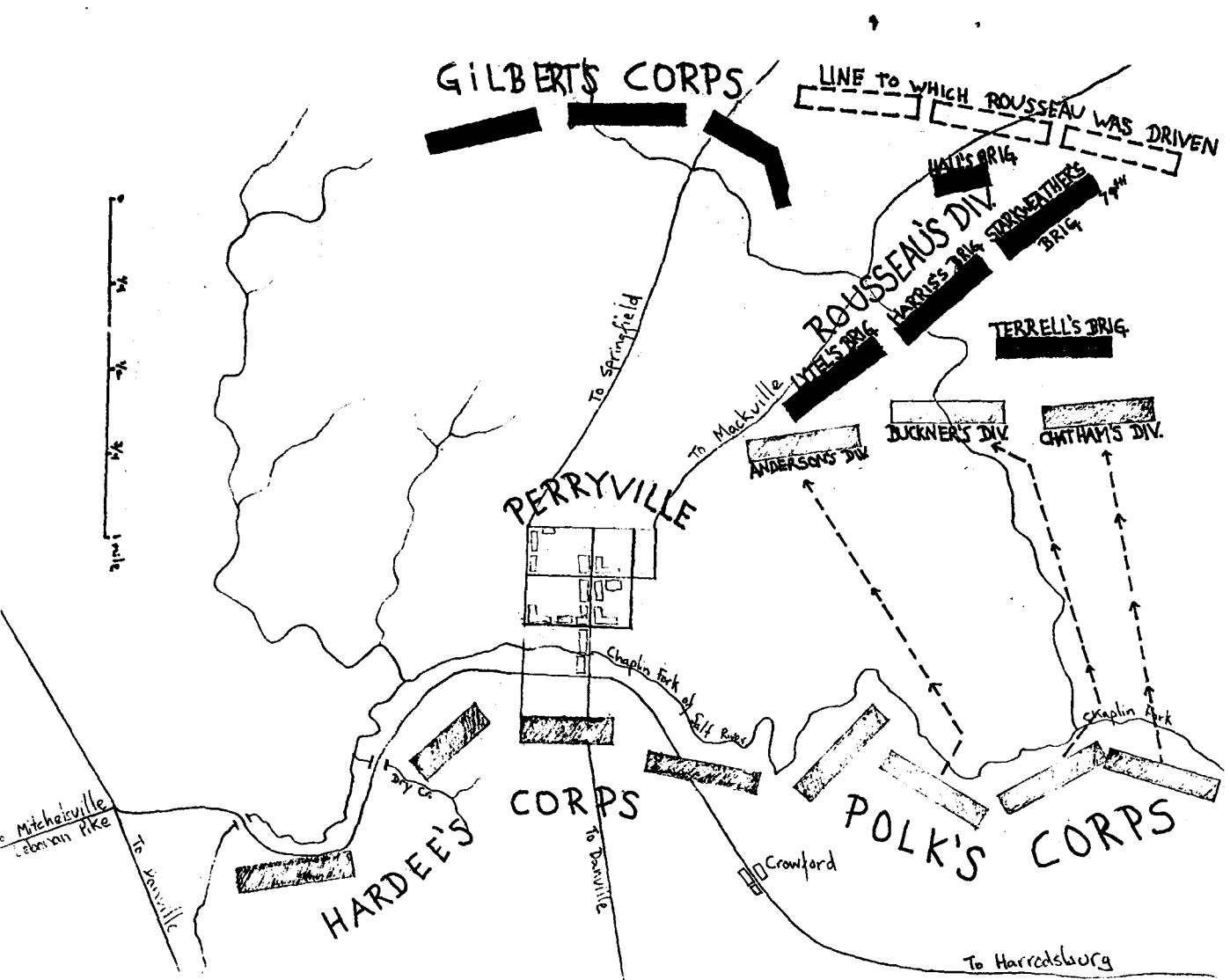
The Confederates were close to the city and causing frequent damage to railroads and bridges just outside Nashville. The 79th made several small maneuvers to Gallitin to help support the defenses around Nashville.¹⁶ For the rest of August the regiment stayed in the city. The regimental band, which traveled with the regiment for the entire time up to now, was ordered by the War Department to muster-out and go home.¹⁷ The troops were pleased to be in Nashville for a while because now they were back on full rations. Lewis gained six pounds right away. In the larger spectrum of the war, plans for an important campaign were formulating as Confederate Gen. Bragg¹⁸ prepared a large assault on Kentucky. Much news of this campaign was in the Lancaster papers and many people worried about their Lancaster County regiment which was preparing to march north to support the defense of Louisville. Lewis received a letter from a family friend who said she was afraid she would never see Lewis again. Lewis would have none of it and his reply was to the point. "If Josephine don't go blind she will see me again for the war don't go so hard."¹⁹

Union Gen. D. C. Buell²⁰ took his army north in September in an attempt to reach Louisville before the Confederate attack reached there. The 79th went through Franklin, Tennessee, then they went five miles up into Kentucky; returned to Nashville for two days and then back up to Kentucky to Bowling Green. The 79th stopped at Bowling Green for two weeks before moving on to Louisville. Lewis received a Lancaster paper that informed him that many Lancaster people were shutting their stores and turning out for military drill. Lewis commented in a somewhat sarcastic tone, "the people must got very patriotic all at once or els badly scard."²¹ In a very perceptive note, Lewis

thought that it was good the Confederates were headed for Maryland and Pennsylvania. "It will make the men turn out,"²² he wrote. Lewis did not realize how correct he was. The Confederates' aggressive campaign would only scare the North into action and wear down their army which had already been through much fighting.

Gen. Buell was able to reach Louisville before Gen. Bragg, thus Bragg turned back and headed south for Tennessee. Bragg was very slow, having enormous quantities of supplies and trains. Buell gave chase and came up on Bragg at Perryville and fighting began on October 8. After a slight conflict with Gen. Jackson's rebels at Mackville in the morning, the 79th moved with Gen. Starkweather's brigade into a position with Gen. Rousseau's division right where it was most needed. Gen. Rousseau's division consisted of four brigades: Barn's and Lytle's brigade on the right, Harris' brigade in the center, and Starkweather's brigade on the left with Terrill's brigade just in front of them, also on the left.²³ The battery in Starkweather's brigade was placed on a ridge to the extreme left and the 79th was on an adjoining ridge at right angles to the battery. This set up a cross fire that was most effective in maintaining the important high grounds. The Confederates under Jackson made many strong advances with cavalry and infantry supported by some brass artillery. In an attempt to turn the Union forces to the left, heavy pressure was forced on Terrill's brigade which fell back in confusion behind Starkweather's line. Gen. Rousseau said of the 79th in his report of the battle, "I had great confidence in the gallantry of these two regiments (1st Wisconsin and 79th PV) and was not disappointed." He continued to say, "they drove back the enemy many times with great loss, and when their ammunition was exhausted bravely maintained their position."²⁴ From this point the 79th was ordered to retreat to a line originally chosen for the battle. the 79th lost two officers, 38 enlisted men, had 146 men wounded and 30 men missing or captured.²⁵ When the news of the heavy loss reached Lancaster, it brought much grief and indeed Mrs. Elizabeth Jones would remember the battle of Perryville. Lewis, eager now to help his mates, went into battle at Perryville and was listed among those who lost their lives at Chaplain Heights, just outside Perryville. As Lewis had been responsible for Joseph Maxwell when Joseph died, so now was a friend named Christian Mattern responsible for Lewis. He wrote Mrs. Jones on October 16 in a hurried but sad letter to explain what happened. "Mrs. Jones," the letter started, "yor Husband fell in the Battle of Chaplain Heights. He was shot in the brest, he live 15 minuats until he was dead."²⁶ Later Christian Mattern wrote again to explain the details of Lewis' death and how he was buried.²⁷ The Union army followed Bragg south to Bowling Green and then stopped. At this time Gen. Buell was replaced by Gen. Rosecrans.

Col. Hambright took the 79th from Bowling Green and moved to Mitchellesville to guard the Louisville' and Nashville Railroad. Here the 79th was



GILBERT'S CORPS

LINE TO WHICH ROUSSEAU WAS DRIVEN

WALKER'S BRIG

ROUSSEAU'S DIV

LYLES BRIG

HARRIS'S BRIG

STONEMAN'S BRIG

TERRELL'S BRIG

PERRYVILLE

To Springfield

To Mackville

ANDERSON'S DIV

BUCKNER'S DIV

CHATHAM'S DIV

Chapin Fork of Wolf River

Chapin Fork

Mitchellsville
Lebanon Pike

HARDEE'S
CORPS

CORPS

POLK'S
CORPS

Crowford

To Harrodsburg

1/4
1/2
3/4
1 mile

reassigned to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, Centre Army of the Cumberland. After a month's rest the 79th moved to join the main body of the army. When they reached Nashville, Gen. Rousseau's entire division was assigned to Gen. Thomas' Corps. The 79th was now in the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 14th Army Corps.

Gen. Thomas' Corps left Nashville on December 17 and marched south on Franklin Pike and over to Nolansville to reach Murfreesboro Pike ten miles from Murfreesboro. On the 29th skirmishing started. The 30th brought more skirmishing and the brigade split up to protect supply trains. The brigades' wagon train separated from the main train and went to Jefferson. Soon it was attacked by Wheeler's Cavalry and a total of 22 wagons were destroyed, equipment and all. The brigade returned to the main body of its division after hearing reports that Rosecran's Army was badly hurt. On January 2, 1863, heavy fighting started and the 79th was in support of Loomis' Battery. The next day, the 79th attempted to occupy a rifle pit but was eventually driven out. During the next night the enemy withdrew leaving many dead unburied.²⁸ In the 79th, two soldiers were killed and 12 were wounded.²⁹

After the battle the regiment went into camp at Murfreesboro where it received supplies, clothing, and a beautiful flag from the citizens of Lancaster.³⁰ The 79th lay here more than five months during which time it took part in a successful expedition to McMinnville, Tennessee which captured and destroyed cotton and flour mills and numerous provisions. During its stay at McMinnville, the 79th was again reassigned. This time they were in the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 14 Army Corps.

The spring campaign had taken form and the Confederates were pushed back across the mountains to Chattanooga. On the 17th of September the division under Rosecrans approached Chicamonga Creek. The army gathered at Crawfish Spring on the 18th. On the 19th the fighting slowly drew nearer and reached the 79th at mid-morning. The 79th was in support of Scribner's brigade which was pushed back and the 79th came forward. Because of the rough terrain the entire 2nd Brigade was surprised while advancing and took a great loss. The Division retreated behind the line and reformed, and late in the afternoon advanced again and made a strong surge to its earlier position. At dusk another enemy thrust pushed all the Union lines back. At that time Lieutenant Colonel Miles and 20 enlisted men were separated and captured.

Sunday the 20th was cold and a heavy fog made for little visibility.³¹ The Confederates took advantage of the conditions and made many gains, however, "the carnage in its front was fearful."³² After hours of artillery fire, both sides tired and the Union withdrew. The following night the Union forces retreated to Chattanooga unheard because the wagon wheels were wrapped with tents to muffle the noise. The 79th stayed in town under meager conditions until reinforcements from Gen. Grant and Gen. Hooker arrived a few days later. The 79th was posted at Chattanooga in the earthworks but they took no active part

in the great battles of the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of November at Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. In this conflict the 79th lost 16 killed, 67 wounded, and 42 missing or captured.³³

Part IV, The Will to Go on

The Lancaster County Regiment had more than two months to heal its wounds and recover from the Battle of Chickamauga which took a total of 16,179 killed, wounded and missing. On February 9, 1864, 265 men¹ in the 79th made the decision to reenlist. It seems hard to understand why any one of those 265 men would want to come forward and reenlist. After having just come out of a disastrous campaign and seeing the losses, one would believe the discouragement to be overwhelming. To the contrary, the Union men were beginning to feel some of the fears and determination that the South must have felt for quite some time. The deaths of men like Joseph Maxwell and Lewis Jones would give anyone reason to continue and make their lives and deaths worthwhile. On the 12th, the 265 men were mustered-in. To make things worse, on February 22, instead of the veteran furlough which was expected, the 79th was ordered to move to Tunnel Hill with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 14 Army Corps. The regiment came upon Tunnel Hill and, with admirable positioning, forced the Confederates to retreat to Buzzard's Roost. The enemy was well entrenched here and a foolish move would have been made to attack. Thus, the Union forces retired to Tyler's Station. Only two men were wounded. At this time the long-awaited word was given sending the veterans home to Lancaster on March 8 for a furlough. It took the men eight days to get back to Lancaster, but the trip was surely worth the wait. During the veterans' absence there were continued engagements on and around Tunnel Hill. Gen. Thomas took control of the area again on May 7. Upon their return to Georgia, the veterans of the 79th arrived to find the brigade at Buzzard's Roost ready to meet the enemy.² Gen. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign had just started and, with the combined efforts of Sherman and Grant who was advancing on Richmond, the South was quickly losing its strength.

On May 9 the regiment returned from furlough and reported for duty. The men immediately formed second line of battle at Buzzard's Roost.³ While the 79th moved one mile to the right and rear under heavy fire, shell and canister, a fragment of a shell struck Col. Hambright in the side.⁴ Lieut. Col. M. H. Locker had to take command of the regiment. The 79th remained in line until the 13th. Then they moved to Snake Creek Gap. Shirmishing continued until the 16th. On the 16th the 79th received orders to march to Resoca. They arrived at 12 noon to find the Oostenaules River railroad bridge in flames. Here the men buried 228 rebels and collected 1,500 stands of arms.⁵ From there the 79th went to guard an ammunitions train which arrived in Kingston on the 23rd of May. They remained at Kingston for duty. On May 24 a sudden rebel raid de-

stroyed 30 wagons but left no one dead. On June 8 the troops marched to Allatoona station and continued skirmishing until they reached Kenesaw Mountain. Fighting was constant and the enemy was pushed back through Marietta, Georgia, across the Challohooche River and up to Peach Tree Creek. In August, the 79th rejoined their division and made further advance moving more to their right than straight away and arriving at Jonesborough on September 2. Capt. John S. McBride, Captain of the Washington County Company of the 79th, had to take command of the 79th at one point during this lengthy advance because Maj. M. H. Locker was injured. Maj. Locker's spirit never faltered as can be seen by the last words of his report of the long campaign. "The 'Old Flag' is still the only fitting emblem of our nationality." He continued to say that the flag was the only one to which they "will dedicate their lives and honor, and will continue to fight for until this rebellion is subdued and universal liberty be again proclaimed."⁶ The 79th lost six killed, 86 wounded, 12 mortally, and two taken prisoner, which totaled 94 for the entire Atlanta campaign.⁷

Gen William T. Sherman was now headed for Savannah. From Atlanta, November 16, the 79th joined Sherman's army on his famous march to the sea. This march to the sea was the culmination of that small detail Lewis Jones noted two years earlier in the cotton fields of Tennessee. The Confederate armies were quickly falling apart. The resources were gone. All that was left them was the land and a people. It is useless to feel remorse for Sherman's army's devastation of Georgia, but it is hard to justify such wanton destruction. A dying way of life was ground into the dirt. It is sad to see that such strength was humiliated so. Unfortunately, it was this humiliation which made reunion between the North and South more difficult.

*T*here was hardly any resistance to Sherman's sweep to Savannah,⁸ and after the 79th reached the city it rested for a month, going into camp at White Hall.⁹ On January 18, the 79th headed north through the Carolinas.¹⁰ On March 19, the 3rd Brigade moved towards Goldsboro. They quickly met opposition that was well fortified. The Confederates flanked the Union force and met one charge with terrible fire. The Union had to retreat and strengthen their own works. The 79th lost 13 killed and 46 wounded at this, the Battle of Bentonville.¹¹ There was no further fighting and on the 22nd the 79th moved to Goldsboro. Two hundred new recruits were waiting for the 79th at Goldsboro and from here they all moved to Raleigh. Continuing north, the regiment went to Martha's Vineyard. While encamped at Martha's Vineyard, the news arrived that General Johnston had surrendered. The war was close to an end. The men ended their long and grueling journey by returning through Richmond, Virginia to Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. With the following request, the 79th was mustered-out of service.

Capt. R. Chandler
A. A. G.

I have the honor to report that my Regiment was this day mustered-out of service and to request that an order may be issued directing me to proceed with it to Philadelphia, Pa. for final payment and discharge. Transportation is required for 30 commissioned officers and 650 Enlisted men, 111 private horses.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

D. Miles
Lieut. Col. Comd. Regiment¹²

Part V, Common Regiment, Uncommon Men

The 79th Pennsylvania Volunteers was a typical Union regiment of the Civil War. They fought in many famous battles and held strategic positions with bravery. They are certainly among the unsung heroes of our history books. It is more important here to realize how genuine these people were. Generals and officers may have showed great knowledge and prowess by leading sound tactical maneuvers and winning strategic points. But it is the soldiers like Lewis H. Jones, John H. Druckemiller, Joseph Maxwell, and Christian Mattern who shared their own humble sense of prowess, and their sense of humor, that makes a regimental history worth studying. Their feelings and beliefs were always in plain view. It is Mrs. Maxwell's and Mrs. Jones' strength to endure that makes these common people so uncommon. Certainly Susan's worries about "getting a good beaux" now seem petty for, truly, there was good in all the men who came home from this war. □

Notes

Part I

¹ *Lancaster Evening Daily Express*, September 2, 1861, p.2.

² *Lancaster Evening Daily Express, Lancaster Examiner and Herald, Lancaster Intelligencer.*

³ Marion Mills Miller, ed. *Life and Works of Abraham Lincoln*, (New York, 1907), Vol. 6, *State Papers*, p. 173.

President Lincoln's first call came in a proclamation on April 15, 1861, and the second call was for 42,034 volunteers and an increase in regular army and navy forces.

⁴ Letter from Mr. Elmore to older son, Miner, September 17, 1861, from Conquest Center.

Mr. Elmore, a New York state farmer, had a son, Day, who wanted to enlist. Mr. Elmore wrote Day's older brother and said, "Last spring it was my opinion that the large towns and villages would furnish from the unemployed population a sufficient number of soldiers. . . rebellion is so energetic and our commencement so slow and bungling as now to call for new recruits."

⁵ *Lancaster Evening Daily Express*, September 2, 1861, p. 2.

⁶ *Lancaster Evening Daily Express*, August 26, 1861, p. 2.

⁷ *Lancaster Evening Daily Express*, August 27, 1861, p. 2.

⁸ *Lancaster Evening Daily Express*, August 27, 1861, p. 2. "The German Company to be commanded by Capt. Klein. Klein has seen active service in Europe as well as three months campaign in the 2nd Regiment of PV."

⁹ *The Lancaster Intelligencer*, December 18, 1855, p. 2. "There should be more military spirit in our midst—and it is rather a reflection on Lancaster that we have been so long without at least one military company, when our neighbor, Reading, with very little more of a population than we have, should be able to sustain, and do it well, 4 or 5."

¹⁰ *Lancaster Evening Daily Express*, September 4 and September 9, 1861, p. 2.

¹¹ *Lancaster Directory*, 1868.

Part II

¹ Capt. John H. Druckemiller diary, Lancaster County Historical Society, October 6, 1861.

² *Ibid.*

³ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, October 11, 1861.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, October 22, 1861.

⁶ General orders No. 1 Headquarters Camp Wilkins, October 12, 1861.

The following orders will be observed by the troops:

I. The Reveille will be sounded at 6 A.M., when the men form on line their company parade grounds. As soon as the Reveille ceases the rolls will be called by the order: by Sergeants, superintended by a commissioned officer.

II. Immediately after roll call the tents shall be put in order by the men of the company superintended by the chiefs of squads; the parade streets, etc. shall be cleaned by the Police party of the day, in charge of a non-commissioned officer and superintended by the Officer of the day. And Guard tent shall be cleaned by the guard (or prisoners if there are any).

III. Breakfast call shall be sounded at 7 o'clock.

IV. The troops shall be sounded at 7½ A.M. for the purpose of guard mounting.

V. The Surgeons call shall be at 8 o'clock, when all the sick able to go about shall be conducted to the Hospital by the first Sergeant of Companies: who shall hand to the Surgeon a list of *all* the sick in the Company.

VI. After the Surgeon has passed upon the sick the first Sergeants shall make off the morning reports of their companies which after being signed by their captain shall be taken to Regimental Head Quarters at first Sergeants call.

VII. First Sergeants call shall be sounded at 8½ o'clock A.M. Company drill shall commence at 9 o'clock and continue until 11 A.M.

VIII. Dinner call shall be sounded at 12 o'clock—Company drill from 1 o'clock until 4 P.M.

IX. The Troops shall have sound for Dress Parade at 5 o'clock.

X. The Retreat shall be sounded at sunset when the Rolls will be called.

XI. The Tattoo shall be sounded at 9 o'clock when Rolls shall be called and no soldier shall be permitted to leave his tent after this hour without special permission and all lights shall be extinguished and perfect quiet maintained in the Camp.

⁷Capt. John H. Druckemiller diary, Lancaster County Historical Society, October 18, 1861.

⁸Capt. John H. Druckemiller diary, Lancaster County Historical Society, November 30, 1861.

⁹Major General Alexander McDowell McCook, the highest ranking of the fourteen "Fighting McCooks," West Point Graduate 1852, commissioned Colonel of 1st Ohio Volunteers which he led at First Manassas. Maj. Gen. July 1862. Fought at Perryville, Murfreesboro, Tullahoma, and Chickamonga. Later charged along with T. L. Crittenden for Union disaster.

¹⁰Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, December 18, 1861.

¹¹Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, November, 9, 1861.

¹²Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, November 19, 1861.

¹³Lewis H. Jones, diary, November 15, 1861.

¹⁴Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, December 4, 1861.

¹⁵Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, November 9, 1861.

¹⁶Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, November 19, 1861.

¹⁷Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, January 9, 1862.

¹⁸Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, January 9, 1862.

¹⁹Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, March 7, 1862.

Part III

¹ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, March 24, 1862.

^{1a} Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, June 14, 1862.

² Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, May 9, 1862.

³ John Hunt Morgan, Transylvania College Graduate, Lexington, Kentucky, veteran of Mexican War, saw service at Buena Vista. Legendary figure of the Confederacy. He was promoted colonel of the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry on April 4, 1862, and brigadier-general on December 11. Famous for raids throughout Kentucky. Died September 4, 1864 – *Generals in Gray*, Ezra J. Warner, p. 220.

⁴ *War of the Rebellion Official Records*, Series I, Vol. X, Part I, p. 876.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 894.

⁶ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, May 21, 1862.

⁷ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, May 21, 1862.

⁸ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, June 14, 1862.

⁹ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, June 14, 1862.

¹⁰ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, June 14, 1862.

¹¹ *War of the Rebellion Official Records*, Series I, Vol. X, Part I, p. 921.

¹² Samuel P. Bates, *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers* (Harrisburg 1869), Vol. II, p. 1077.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, July 8, 1862.

¹⁵ William Sooy Smith, Ohio University graduate. June 26 commissioned colonel of 13th Ohio Infantry, fought at Shiloh and Perryville in D. C. Buell's Army of the Ohio.

Brig. Gen. April 1862 – *Generals in Blue*, Ezra J. Warner, p. 464.

War of the Rebellion Official Records, Series I, Vol. 16, Part 2, p. 263.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 263, 288

¹⁷Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers* (Harrisburg 1868), Vol. II, p. 1078.

¹⁸Braxton Bragg. West Point graduate 1837; veteran of Mexican War; Brigadier-General March 7, 1861 in Provisional Army of Confederate States; Major General September 12, 1861; assumed command of A. S. Johnston's 2nd Corps at Shiloh; commander of Army of Tennessee June; lost at Perryville to D. C. Buell. Succeeded at Chickamonga, charged with the conduct of the military operations of Confederate armies.

¹⁹Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, August 12, 1862.

²⁰Don Carlos Buell. West Point graduate 1841; veteran of Mexican War; Brigadier-General May 17, 1861; fought at Shiloh, Corinth; Major General March 22, 1862; occupied Louisville; fought at Perryville; was succeeded by W. S. Rosecrans; mustered-out 1864.

²¹Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, September 12, 1862.

²²Letter from Lewis H. Jones to wife, Elizabeth Jones, September 12, 1862.

²³*War of the Rebellion Official Records*, Series I, Vol. 16, Part I, pp. 1044–1049, 1155–56.

²⁴*Ibid.*, p. 1044–1049.

²⁵*Ibid.*, p. 1033.

²⁶Letter from Christian Mattern to Elizabeth Jones, October 16, 1862.

²⁷Letter from Christian Mattern to Elizabeth Jones, October, after letter of 16th.

Mrs. Jones, I received your letter but I could not write any sooner for we had to march the next day, you want to know how it went with Lewis. he was shot a little below the Brast and after he fall we carrit him off of the fild and we laid him a nunter a tree and there he diet in few hour afterwarts he was buriet the next morning with the rest of the men thay are all buriet in one Grave all of our Regement the Grave was about one hundret yards long and Blanket on top of the men and that is the way he was buriet. I don't think Lewis could be found any more, his things what he had was all Sold and the money will be Send on to you as soon as we get pait. no more at present.

Your friend
Christian Mattern

²⁸Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers* (Harrisburg 1869), Vol. II, p. 1079.

²⁹*War of the Rebellion Official Records*. Series I, Vol. 20, Part I, p. 393.

³⁰Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers* (Harrisburg 1869), Vol. II, p. 1080.

³¹*Ibid.*, p. 1081.

³²*Ibid.*, p. 1081.

³³*War of the Rebellion Official Records*, Series I, Vol. 30, Part 1, p. 171.

Part IV

¹Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers* (Harrisburg 1869), Vol. 2, p. 1081.

²*War of the Rebellion Official Records*, Series I, Vol. 38, Part 1, p. 565.

³*Ibid.*, p. 565.

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 592–593.

⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 620–623.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 623.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 623.

⁸*Ibid.*, Series I, Vol. 39, Part 1, p. 618.

⁹*Ibid.*, Series I, Vol. 47, Part 1, pp. 473–474, 71.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, p. 473.

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 473.

¹²Letter from Lieutenant Col. Miles to R. Chandler, at Alexandria, Va., July 12, 1865. National Archives, Washington, D.C.