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Received

AUG 13 1980

STONES RIVER
NATIONAL
BATTLEFIELD

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DEADLINE: December 30th

Sir,

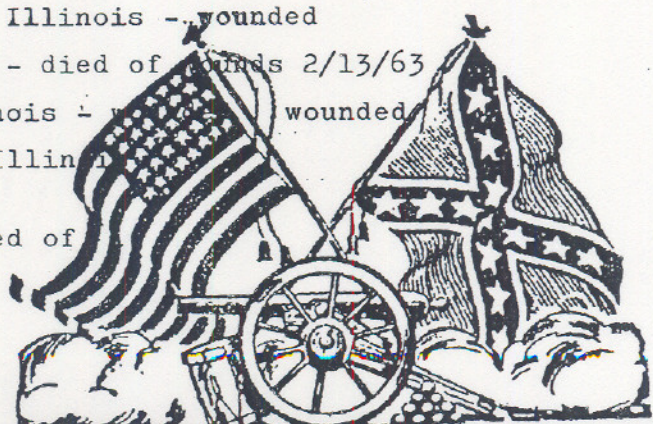
I recently came across the enclosed letter in the Illinois Archives in Springfield. It is a part of the Phillip Welshimer Collection. I thought that perhaps you might be interested in it.

As you can tell, it seems to mention a brief struggle on December 30th before the actual battle began on December 31st. The 21st Illinois, it seems took part in the struggle. It is of interest to me because of the Thomas Ashmore which Welshimer mentions as having been one of the first, if not the first man killed, on December 30th. According to the Illinois A.- G. Report, the other men are listed as having died on the 31st, but Ashmore on the 30th. This Ashmore, as well as two others, all cousins from the small town of Oakland, Illinois were all at Stones River. Thomas and John were killed and Hezekiah was wounded. (in the big toe). John was killed on the 31st. Also from Oakland, and a brother to an uncle by marriage, Wesley Hoge was killed on the 31st.

I have photographs of Thomas Ashmore, John Ashmore and Hezekiah Ashmore that I would be glad to have copies made and send to you if you would be interested. I also have copies of the certificates for both Ashmores and a letter attesting to Hoge's death signed by Welshimer.

The names mentioned in the letter and specifics about them are:

William Kersett - Neoga, Illinois - killed
John Redfern - Prairie City, Illinois - killed
Wesley Hoge - Oakland, Illinois - killed
William Furgason - Mattoon, Illinois - killed
Sgt. Sam Wilson - Neoga, Illinois - wounded
James Sell - Neoga, Illinois - wounded
Columbus Halbrook - Prairie City, Illinois - wounded
Thomas Robinson - Neoga, Illinois - died of wounds 2/13/63
Allen Gorden - Prairie City, Illinois - wounded
Wallace Buchanan - Prairie City, Illinois - reenlisted as a veteran
John Maynard, - Neoga, Illinois died of wounds 2/28/63
Dock's brother had to be Samuel
Albin - Co. D - 21st Illinois
of Newman, Illinois - killed
at Stones River 12/31/62



Sincerely Frank Crawford.

(over)

P.S.

I neglected to mention that the Ashmore men are all great-great uncles of mine, and grandsons of a Samuel Ashmore who fought in New Orleans with Andy Jackson. There were 10 cousins and an uncle involved from Oakland.

GA

Elizabeth & James Black _____ William Black (Co. B.- 55th Illinois)
Lost hearing at Shiloh

Sussarah & Josiah Black _____ James Black (Co. B.- 55th Illinois)
Lost Hearing at Shiloh
Crippled from forced march from Vicksburg
to Chattanooga to Nashville.

Louisa & George Washington McConkey
(Co. H.- 4th Illinois Mexican War)
(Co. E.- 5th Illinois Cavalry Civil War)

James Alfred Ashmore _____ Hezekiah A. Ashmore (Co. B.- 21st Illinois)
Wounded at Stones River
George Washington Ashmore (Co. K.- 143rd Ill.)*
Died of illness - Mound City, Ill.
Gideon Mathew Ashmore _____ George Washington Ashmore (CO. K.- 1st Wis.**)
Died of illness at Falling Waters, Va.

Hezekiah Ashmore _____ Hezekiah M. Ashmore (Co. C.- 8th Illinois)*
(Co. A.&S.- 123rd Ill.)

Carrol Omar Ashmore _____ James M. Ashmore (Co. J.- 8th Illinois)*
wounded - Shiloh (Co. C.- 8th Illinois)**
John H. Ashmore (Co. B.- 21st Illinois)
Killed at Stones River

Samuel Claburn Ashmore _____ John N.(W.) Ashmore (Co. B.- 55th Illinois)
Killed at Shiloh
Thomas J. Ashmore (Co. B.- 21st Illinois)
Killed at Stones River

* 100 day unit

** Re organized unit

Samuel Ashmore
War of 1812

Camp in Bivoach near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Jan. 4, 1863

Dear Wife and Children,

The first leisure time that I have had for some days I hasten to drop you a line, as you will hear we have been fighting for some days. I know that you will be very uneasy. We have had some of the hardest fighting that I have yet seen, and harder than I pray than I may ever again see. I came out safe, not having the hide broke, yet my clothes was somewhat ridled, but OH GOD, my company and my regiment.. We went into the fight with over seven hundred men and now have about 300 but some we are missing will come up. Our brigade opened the fight here Tuesday about two O'clock Dec. 30 and held our ground till darkness compelled us to cease. The next morning they attacked the division on our right at day light, surprising them and capturing a full battery of artillery before they had their horses hitched. They of course fled in confusion. This division was under General Johnson. May God save our army from all such insignificant Generals and may Heaven pardon his dark and treacherous soul. They then threw their whole force upon our divisions, completely over powering us and drove us some two miles leaving our dead and some of our wounded in their hands, but we fought them the best we could until we fell behind our reserves under the immediate supervision of the noble and brave Rosecrans who in person led the first successful charge against them, checking and driving them back with greater slaughter than they drove General Davis's division. They held part of the ground we once occupied we held a part that they held. We have taken between two and three thousand prisoners. They perhaps as many. So the thing so far is about even. There has been more or less fighting every day since the 31st till today, this being Sunday. All so far appears quiet. They are well satisfied that they can not break our lines and as our reinforcements are coming up we all feel confident of success. I had ~~four~~ five killed dead and ten wounded and four missing. The killed I give as they fell. Thos. Ashmore, Wm Kensett, poor Bill never knew what hurt him he was in the ranks fighting bravely and fell with his face to the enemy of his country. That this under the stars and stripes, this is all I now can say to console his friends, The next one that fell was John Redfern from near Prairie City, Wesley Hoage & Wm. E. Fergason, both from Coles County. The wounded that any around Neoga would know was Sam Wilson, James Sell, Colubus Halbrooks, Thomas Robinson from near Etna and I fear mortally & Allen Gordon. I think

they will get well unless it is Robinson. Among my missing is Wallace Buchanan and John Maynard and a brother of Dock's. They were in the ranks when the order was given to fall back but perhaps did not hear it. If so they are prisoners. I will write you more at length when the fight is over if I am not wiped out. My health continues good, notwithstanding I have not had my clothes off for ten days or sleep on the cold wet ground what little I could sleep. It has been raining about half the time since Christmas. May Heaven Bless us all. Let J. H. Orr and Dock Albin see this letter.

Your Husband

Phil Welshimer