

Clint & Mary Ann Byrd
2 Valois Place
Hendersonville
North Carolina 28739

When Connie had the open house for the Sandburg employees and volunteers, I spoke to you about Civil War letters that were in my possession. Fourteen of these letters were written from Murfreesboro and I have transcribed them exactly as to the original spelling, punctuation etc. I would like to give the enclosed copies to the Archives at Stones River NB.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Byrd
August 8, 1995

Ohio State Park Resorts
& CONFERENCE CENTERS
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K14

September 5, 1995

Mrs. Mary Ann Byrd
2 Valois Place
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Dear Mrs. Byrd:

Thank you for the transcripts of letters that you donated to Stones River National Battlefield. As I may have explained to you, we maintain a file on each regiment that fought in the battle and make the information available to visitors when they inquire. The letters are a valuable addition to the collection and help fill out the human story of the battle.

I'm enclosing some information from a catalog about preservation of paper documents. You may want to check into some good storage techniques for your letters in order to better preserve them.

I enjoyed talking with you at the open house in Flat Rock. Thank you again for the transcripts and for your interest in Stones River National Battlefield.

Sincerely,

Gilbert J. Backlund
Chief Ranger

GJBacklund:gb:09-03-95

Letters from Henry H. Henderson
written from
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



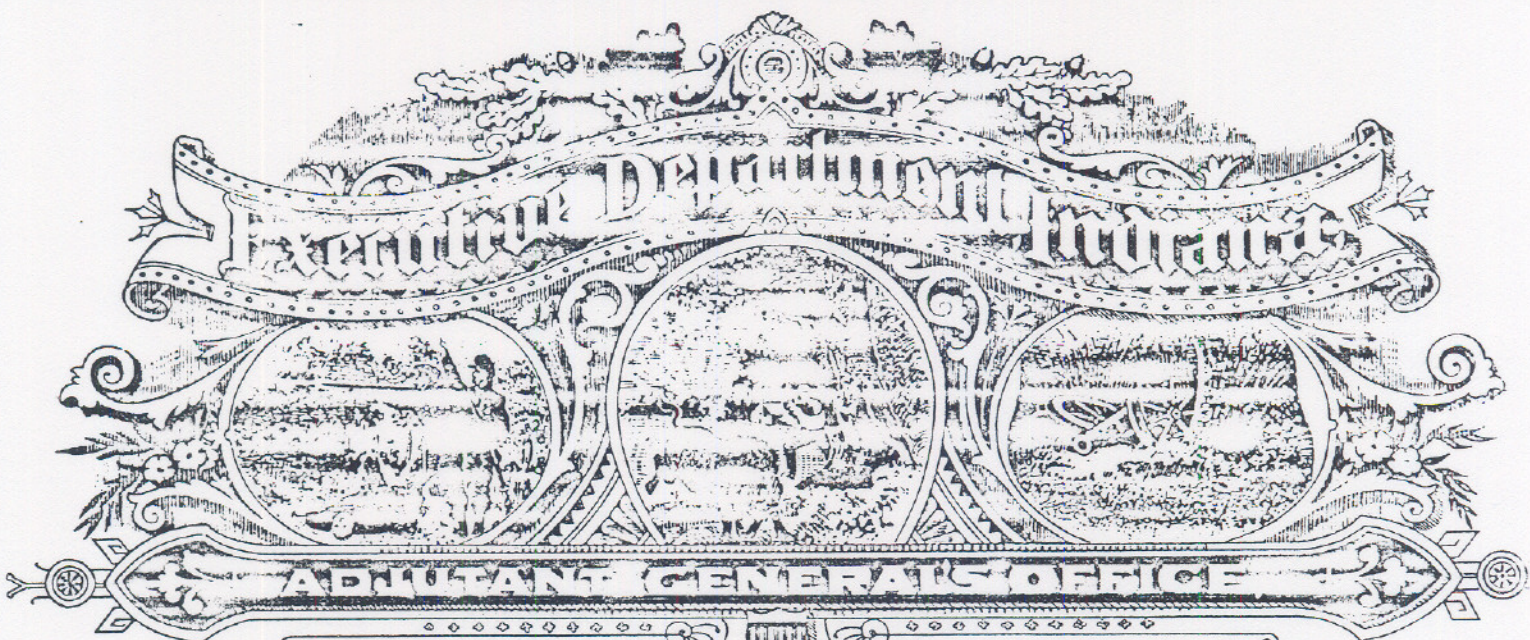
Henry Henderson and wife
Photo in 1920's

These letters have been transcribed exactly
as H. H. Henderson wrote them as to
spelling and punctuation -

Henry H. Henderson
and
Great-great, grand niece
Mary Ann Houck
Photo Spring of 1929



Henry could not know that Mary Ann
would transcribe his 1861-1865 letters
so they would not be lost for future
family members. July 1995



INDIANAPOLIS

10 April

1968



This Certifies That the official records of which I am the lawful custodian on file in this office show that Henry H. Henderson

joined for duty and was enrolled as a private of Company (C), 36th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, at Richmond, Ind on

the 27th day of August 1861 by Capt. Woodward

and that he was duly mustered into the Military Service of the United States, at Richmond, Ind. on the 23rd

day of October 1861 for the term of three (3) years by

Lt. Col. Wood, United States Army Mustering Officer

Age: 21

Mustered out at Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 21, 1864

This Certificate is given as official evidence of enlistment, service and muster out

of Henry H. Henderson of Company C, 36th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers

Witness my hand and official seal.

STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE LIBRARY
For the State Librarian

John S. Anderson

Adjutant General, Indiana.

Helen S. Morrison

Helen S. Morrison, Archives Division

Camp on the battle field near
Murfheysboro Jan 5th 1863

Dear Sister, it is with pleasure that I take my pencil in hand to inform you how I am getting along I am well and hearty at present hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same state of good health I suppose you have heard of the big battle that has just been fought our Regt was in the fight and had many killed and wounded I come through safe all only there was a bum shell busted a piece flew and _ _ _ _ (pencil too faded) taring my briches leg half off it only scatched the scin a little if it had hit my leg center it would of taken it off

we started from Nashville on the 26th of December and found the Enemy at Leavern (La Vergne) about 8 miles from Nashville our Regt was in the rear that day our advance drove the Secesh all that day and on the 27th. the 28th was Sunday we did not do anything that day on the 29th it was our turn to go in the advance our Company and Company D deployed out as Scirmishes and drove them all that day we would shoot at them at every chance they had canon and Shoot shells and grape shot at us. when they got at Murpheysboro they made their stand. on the 30th the pickets was fighting all day and canonading on both sides. on the 31st the Secesh formed almost there whole force on our right and made a tremendous dash on our men driving them back for about a mile our Regt was in the thickest of it but they were checked up and our men drove them back to where they started from there was a great many killed and wounded on both sides one man killed in our company several wounded George Hazzard was wounded in the hip we had 22 killed in our Regt we had 197 killed wounded and missing they got so close to our Regt that they cut it in two drove one part one way and the other another way its a wonder they did not kill half the men in the Regt our Regt rallied again and went in to the Secesh again that evening we had two Captains killed and Major Kinley wounded. On the first of January the pickets was fighting all that day on the second there was heavy canonading all along the lines on both sides the shells flew in every direction on that evening the Secesh formed almost their whole force on our left which was the weakest point they made another dash on our men they drove a whole Division of our back they come to our brigade and we checked them and drove them back we more than Slayed them that time on the 3th our pickest was fighting all that day on the 4th news came that the Secesh had left I received a letter from Mother on the Sunday before we left Nashville she said she was going to Middletown to stay a few days if she aint there by the time this letter reaches you I wish you would write to her and tell her I come through the fight safe

(Henry wrote to the bottom of the page and had no room to sign his name)

(George Hazzard is mentioned as being wounded in the hip. After the war he returned to New Castle and wrote Hazzard's History of Henry County Indiana 1822-1906.)

Camp Near Murfreesboro Ten

Jan 19. 1863

Dear Mother

It is with much pleasure that I take my pen in hand to let you know how I am getting along I've not been very well for a day or two the Regt has gone to Nashville to guard a provision train there and back I was left here on account of not being well I am getting better now

Dear Mother I suppose you have heard of the big battle that has just been fought here we had a hard time of it I come through safe with out getting much hurt I feel thankful that I got through as well as I did. Simon Powel and several others were out here from Newcastle to see to the wounded they have gone back now I let Lieutenant Holland have my money when we was back to Nashville to keep for me till next pay day or I would sent it home by Powel.

Dear Mother I want you to write and tell me how Pet is if you have heard from him lately tell me if Isom has left Indiana his or not for the present I will bring my letter to a close from you son

H Henderson

write soon tell me all the news

Camp near Murfreesboro Ten. Jan 30th 1863

Dear Mother, it is with much pleasure that I sit with my pencil in answer to your kind letter that I just received from you I was very glad to hear from you again I am well and hearty at present. Dear Mother I expect to try to take your good advice although Soldiers life is an aggravating life it is hard for a man to be good I will try and do the best I can.

Since I rote to you about them socks the government has bought a lot of socks _ _ _ all 5 pair before that I bought _____ a sentence here is too faded and on fold of letter) I had to pay 15 cents a pair I have got 7 pair now if you hant sent _____ dont send them for a while I never heard from that box that was Expressed to Leden that you Spoke about. I saw Uncle Isom Hunt son John the other day he is in the 10th Ind Regt Yelbe Bowman is there to Cousin William Allen Hunt is in the 89th Regt I think.

for the present I will bring letter to a close from your Son

H Henderson

write soon tell me all the news

Camp near Murfreesboro
Ten, february 21. 1863

Dear Mother I am seated in the tent this afternoon for the purpose of answering the letter I just received from you yours found me in good health and enjoying myself fine and I hope when these few lines reach you they may find you the same the winter has been very open here there has been no snow of any account but there has been a great deal of rain it is raining to day our camp is situated on a nice piece of ground and dont get much muddy we had orders to build chimneys in our tents, and fix up generaly we have done so and we are living like old coons I think from the appearance of things at this time that we will stay here all winter if the rebels dont drive us away from here when they undertake that Job they are badly fooled we are fortifying all around our camp and we have got the town fortified in every shape and form. we have got a fort built on the north side of town that commands the railroad Bridge that crosses Stone River and the surrounding country I am sorry that there is so many tritors in the north I hope their treacherous designs will soon be put down you toled me to keep in good heart I never allow myself to get discouraged in the least. you spoke about John Leibern getting wounded. I never knew he was in the service I wish you would tell me what Regt he is in. we are a going to be paid off in a day or two and we have all ready signed the payrolls they say we will only get 2 months pay I will send home all I got to spare that will not be very much for I let John Holland have my money to keep till pay day about 3 weeks ago he got orders to report to Washington City I am afraid he will not be here in time to get his money so as to pay me back I am looking for him back every day he is good for it it is time to bring my letter to a close from you Son

H Henderson

write soon give my best respects to Huldah and the children and inquiring friends

Sunday March 1st 1863
Camp near Murfreesboro Tennessee

Dear Sister it is with much pleasure that I sit down this fine Morning in answer to your kind letter that I received a day or so ago I am well and hearty at present hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same state of good health. our Regt got payed off day before yesterday we got 2 months pay that is \$26.00 I raked and scraped up what the boys owed me I got \$52.00 I sent home \$40.00 to Mother by Cap Chambers which is going to start home tomorrow morning I sent it to Knightstown in care of Post Master Lieutenant Holland is gone to Washington City with \$85.00 of my money I will get that when he comes back. if Mother aint there I wish you would write to her and let her know about it. tell her that I received them two letters and roll of apple leather that come in that box. tell Mary Ann I will write to her in a day or so. for the present I will bring my letter to a close from your Brother H Henderson write soon

P S I will enclose a 25 cent piece I wish you would take it and by some Postage Stamps and send me for they are about played out here

H Henderson

Camp Near Murfreesboro

Ten. March 11th 1863

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to answer the few lines that I recieved from you of the 1st inst I am well and hearty the present hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same State of good health. this is a very fine nice morning after the rain it rained all night last knight yesterday all day and knight before last it is hard for us to keep dry when it rains so hard for our tent leaks the prospect this morning we will have fair weather for a while yesterday we got payed off again we got 2 months pay I sent home \$20.00 I sent it to you at Knightstown in care of the Post Master I sent home \$40.00 the other pay day about two weeks ago and sent it by Cap Chambers he was going home on a furlow I had him to Express it to Knightstown in care of the Post Master there has been some talk of the Soldiers in the Field getting furlows. So many out of a company there is men in the company that never been sick nor way from their Regt since they have been in the service they are the ones that will go home first I will not get to go home for some time yet if I knew I would keep well till the war is over I would not care much about going home. I have not seen the coppys of them Speaches yet only Ande Johnsons Speach was in the newspaper that was here in camp my time is over half out I have been in the Service 22 months all together. day before yesterday we got orders to tare down our tents and pack up ready to march we loaded everything up and waited for further orders. we waited till knight when orders came to put up our tents again I dont know what it was done for unless it was to reinforce the right for the present I will bring my letter to aclose from your
Son H Henderson
I wish you would write again to send some Stamps for they are about played out here

Note Henry's usage of inst after the 1st. You will continue to see this same abbreviation in letters to follow. It is not something he invented, but rather an abbreviation of "instant". The 1st inst means the 1st day of the present month. Abbreviations such as inst. (of the current month) and ult. (of last month) are no longer considered good form in business correspondence, according to the dictionary.

Camp Near Murfreesboro

March 11th 1863

Dear Neice,

It is with much pleasure that I take my pen in hand in answer to the letter that I received from you a few days ago I was very glad to hear from you. I am well at present hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same state of good health. we are still camped here in the same place I dont know how much longer we will stay here, we got orders day before yesterday to tare down our tents and pack up and get ready to march we loaded every thing up and waited for further orders we laid round till night when orders came to put up our tents again, tell Granmother I received her letter yesterday and I will answer it in a day or so when I get another Stamp tell her we got 2 more months pay yesterday tell her I send home some the first chance tell her I sent home \$40.00 the other pay day about 2 weeks ago by Captain Chambers took it for me I had him to Express it to mother at Knightstown in care of the Post Master tell your Mother that I wrote her a letter the other day I sent a 25.ct. peice for her to buy some Postage Stamps and send them to me Since writing the above I seen a chance to send home \$20.00 by Mr. Goodwin I sent it to Mother at Knightstown in care of Post Master if Mother is there tell her about it it has been raining here for several days it rains about every other day our tent leaks and it is hard for us to keep dry. it is time to bring my letter to a close

from your Uncle

H Henderson

write soon

tell Huldah to write

Camp near Murfreesboro

Ten. April 11th 1863

Dear Mother, I sit down once more to answer the few lines I received from you I was very glad to hear from you although sorry to hear of your illness I hope you will get better I am well and hearty at present I have never enjoyed my health better than I have since the battle we got paid off to day I rote a letter day before yesterday to you and sent it to Middle town I stated that I would send home \$26.00 but I find it is a mistake Goodwin come here with his distribution rolls to get us to Sign them and put down the amount of money we wanted to Send home then he would go to Indianapolis and draw the money and Send it to where we wanted it to go but the Paymaster did not want to do that way so there is no chance to send it home till some body goes from the Regt there is no chance to Express it home I will have to bring my letter to a close you will have to excuse me for not writing more this time I will try and do better the next

from your Son
H Henderson

P S. me and my mess mate went and bought a lot of flour and got some baking powders you ought to see the biscuits we get up I think they are good enough for most any body

Camp near Murfreesboro

Ten. April 12 1863

Dear Mother, Since writing yesterday I see a chance to send home \$25.00 by Mr. Quincy or some such name as that he is from Richmond he will take it to Richmond and there send it to Joshua Holland at Newcastle and Holland will publish it I had it directed to you at Knightstown in care of the Post master the whole Regt is sending their money home by him we have orders this morning to be ready to march at any moment I dont know whether we will go or not I am well and hearty at present no more at present your Son

H Henderson

Camp near Murfreesboro Ten.

April 26th 1863

Dear Mother

I sit down once more to answer your kind letter that I received from you on the 21st inst I am well and hearty at the present hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same State of good health we have just had Brigade Inspection we had to come out with our Shoes blacked up and our guns clean and bright and every thing in good order we have Regimental Inspection every Sunday and every morning at daylight we have to fall out in a line of battle and have our guns inspected we have to drill twice a day there is not much prospect of us getting into a fight very soon unless we make a forward movement to chatanooga there is a lot of troops just marched by here with Some rebel prisoners I did not learn where they was captured I suppose they had been at Mc Minville you can see an account of it in the papers I sent home \$25.00 the last time we was paid off about the first of the month I sent it by McQuincy he was to take it to Richmond at Express it to Holland at Newcastle then Holland was to publish it in the papers I directed it to you at Knightstown in care of Post Master I suppose he will send it to you if he dont you can write to him and tell him about it I was very glad to hear from Pet again you Spoke to me about Sending me a bottle of currant wine if it aint to much trouble I would like to have it

I will have to bring my letter to a close

From your son

H Henderson

Write Soon

Camp near Murfreesboro
Ten May 10th 1863
Dear Mother

I sit down once more to answer the kind letter I received from you of the 3d inst I was glad to hear from you once more I still keep well and hearty. I received that bottle of wine and them papers which you sent me I allso got that latest paper you sent me that wine was very good and I was glad to get it I have heard all about Hookers doings we can get papers by paying 10 cents for them you made a mistake in your letter I could not understand you said that Pet had got in a severe Skirmish and nearly the whole Division is wounded I could not understand whether Pet was hurt or not if he is wounded I am sorry of it I hope it aint bad I wish you would tell me what Isoms Captains name is if you know for I have forgotten he never has wrote to me so I thought I would write to him if I could find out how to direct my letter the 31st Ind is in our Division it is on the McMinville pike out about 8 miles from here at a place called Readyville I never had a chance to go to it to find out how Nat Henderson is with it or not for the present I will bring my letter to aclose
from affectionate Son

H Henderson
write soon

Camp near Cripplecreek
Ten. May 26 1863

Dear Mother

I sit down once more to answer your welcome letter of the 17th inst I was very glad to hear from you I am well at present hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same state of good health we have moved our camp since I last wrote we have moved on Cripple creek close to the McMinville Pike about 6 or 7 miles from Murfreesboro we are on a line with one of our other brigades it is the brigade that has the 31st Ind in I went over there yesterday and inquired for Nat Henderson in Com B they said there was no Such a man in that company they said there was a Henderson in Com I the next com to that I went there and found William Henderson he would not give me much satisfaction I come away then

I suppose Grant is about to clean them out at Vicksburg news come yesterday that he took alarge amount of prisoners and over 50 canon I suppose you heard all about it before this time I wish you would send me some more postage Stamps I received that paper you sent me the wether is very hot down here it is cold enough of a night to have 2 or 3 blankets over abody to keep warm day time so hot we can hardly stand it

for the present I will have to quit writing
from your affectionate Son H Henderson

write soon

REGIMENTAL HISTORIES

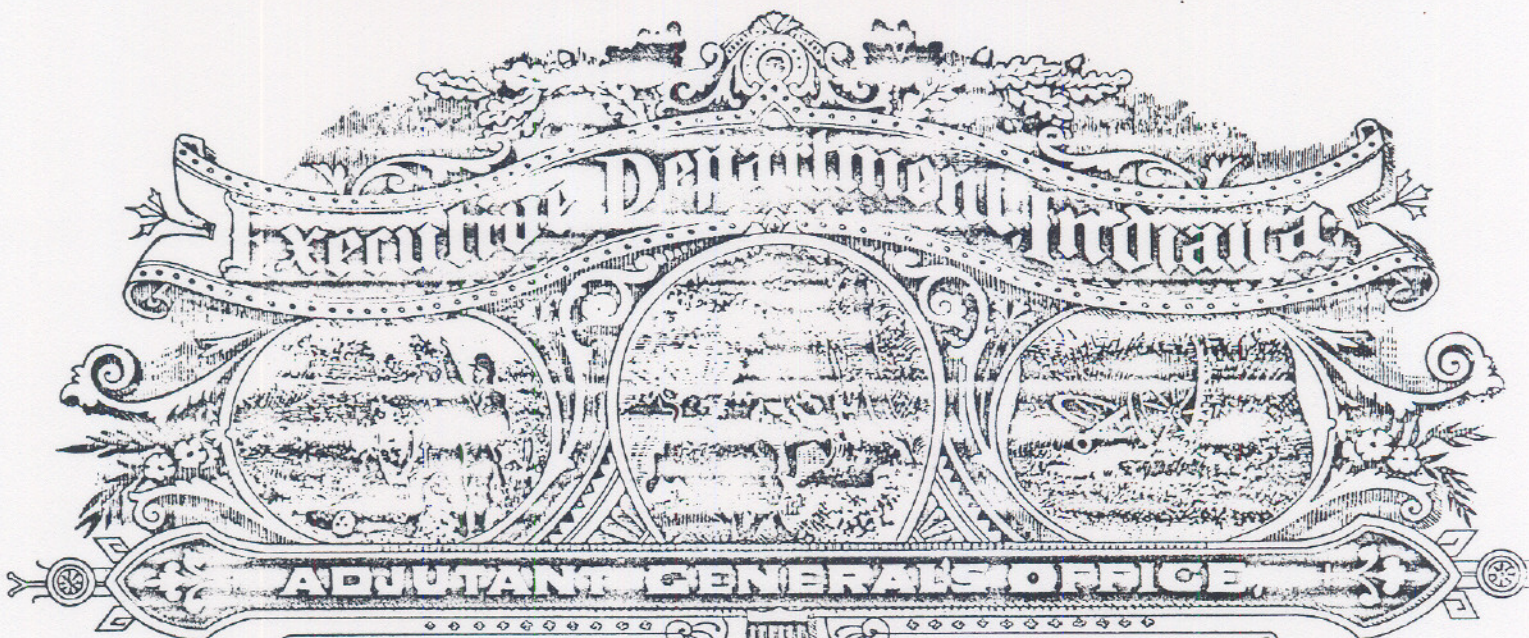
36th REGIMENT INFANTRY.

Organized at Richmond, Ind., and mustered in September 16, 1861. Ordered to Kentucky and duty at Camp Wickliffe, Ky., till February, 1862. Attached to 10th Brigade, Army of the Ohio, October-November, 1861. 10th Brigade, 4th Division, Army of the Ohio, to September, 1862. 10th Brigade, 4th Division, 2nd Corps, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, Left Wing 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 21st Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to June, 1865. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, to July, 1865.

SERVICE.—Expedition down Ohio River to reinforce General Grant at Fort Donelson, Tenn., thence to Nashville, Tenn., February 14-25, 1862. Occupation of Nashville February 25. March to Savannah, Tenn., March 17-April 6. Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6-7. Advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., April 29-May 30. Occupation of Corinth May 30. Pursuit to Booneville May 31-June 12. Buell's Campaign in Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee June to August. Round Mountain, near Woodbury, August 23. March to Nashville, Tenn., thence to Louisville, Ky., in pursuit of Bragg, August 21-September 26. Pursuit of Bragg to Wild Cat, Ky., October 1-20. Wild Cat, Ky., October 17. March to Nashville, Tenn., October 20-November 9, and duty there till December 26. Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30. Battle of Stone's River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863. Duty at Murfreesboro till June. Action at Woodbury January 24. Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign June 23-July 7. At Manchester till August 16. Passage of the Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga (Ga.) Campaign August 16-September 22. Battle of Chickamauga September 19-20. Siege of Chattanooga, Tenn., September 24-November 23. Reopening Tennessee River October 26-29. Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign November 23-27. Lookout Mountain November 23-24. Mission Ridge November 25. Pigeon Hill November 26. Ringgold Gap, Taylor's Ridge, November 27. Duty at Whiteside, Tyner's Station and Blue Springs till May, 1864. Demonstration on Dalton, Ga., February 22-27. Near Dalton February 23. Tunnel Hill, Buzzard's Roost Gap and Rocky Faced Ridge February 23-25. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign May 1 to September 8. Tunnel Hill May 6-7. Demonstrations on Rocky Faced Ridge and Dalton May 3-13. Buzzard's Roost Gap May 8-9. Battle of Resaca May 14-15. Near Kingston May 18-19. Near Cassville May 19. Advance on Dallas May 22-25. Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-

June 5. Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain June 10-July 2. Pine Hill June 11-14. Lost Mountain June 15-17. Assault on Kenesaw June 27. Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4. Chattahoochie River July 5-17. Peach Tree Creek July 19-20. Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 25. Non-Veterans mustered out August 13, 1864. Veterans and Recruits consolidated to a Battalion. Flank movement on Jonesboro August 25-30. Battle of Jonesboro August 31-September 1. Lovejoy Station September 2-6. Pursuit of Hood into Alabama October 3-26. Nashville Campaign November-December. Columbia, Duck River, November 24-27. Battle of Franklin November 30. Battle of Nashville December 15-16. Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28. Moved to Huntsville, Ala., and duty there till March, 1865. Operations in East Tennessee March 15-April 22. At Nashville, Tenn., till June. Ordered to New Orleans, La., June 16. Transferred to 30th Indiana Battalion Infantry July 12, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 11 Officers and 102 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 2 Officers and 130 Enlisted men by disease. Total 245.



INDIANAPOLIS

April 10

1968



This Certifies That the official records of which I am the lawful custodian on file in this office show that Henry H. Henderson

joined for duty and was
enrolled as a private of Company (F) 8th
Regiment Indiana Volunteers at New Castle, Ind. on

the 20th day of April 1861 by Frederick Tykle

and that he was duly mustered into the Military
Service of the United States at Camp Morton on the 25th

day of April 1861 for the term of three months expressed by
Lt. Col. Wood, United States Army Mustering Officer

Age: 21

Mustered out at Indianapolis, August 6, 1861

This Certificate is given as official evidence of enlistment, service, and
muster out

of Henry H. Henderson of

Company (F) 8th Regiment Indiana Volunteers

Witness my hand and official seal.

STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE LIBRARY
For the State Librarian

John S. Anderson

Adjutant General, Indiana.

Helen S. Morrison
Helen S. Morrison, Archives Division

