

Donald O. Mundale
385 Knollwoods Terrace
Roswell, Georgia 30075
June 15, 1988

Received

JUN 20 1988

STONES RIVER
NATIONAL

BATTLEFIELD

Supr. Am 6/20
 Historian _____
Ranger _____
Admin _____
Ranger/Ad _____
Maint _____
Exp & Ma _____

Stones River National Battlefield
Rt. 10, Box 495
Old Nashville Hwy.
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

To the Staff:

During a visit to Stones River National Battlefield last summer, our second visit, I was talking to a member of your staff about my great-grandfather, Knud Iverson, who was killed in the battle of Stones River. I mentioned that I had two of his letters written in Norwegian and that I was trying to get them translated. He said that you would be interested in having copies of the translations so I am enclosing them.

It may be of interest to you to know a little about Knud Iverson - He was born in Voss, Norway in 1822, married in 1846, emigrated to the United States in 1855 and settled in Dane County, Wisconsin. On January 18, 1862 he enlisted into the military and was in Company "F" of the all-Norwegian 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment. He was killed in the Battle of Stones River December 31, 1862.

I appreciate the help you have given me.

Very truly yours,

Donald O. Mundale
Donald O. Mundale

1862, March 29

Dear wife and children,

I must still briefly write you a few lines. I am living well, thank God. I wrote you a letter on March 9 from (Complein?) Bird's Point but I don't know whether you received it or not. I haven't received any reply.

I am now farther south than before. We are in the vicinity of New Madrid, we are on one side of the river and the Rebels on the other side. Our cannon boats have fired on the Rebels' fortifications for 11 to 12 days but they can't do anything to them. Now, however, they are surrounded. In New Madrid there are 40 thousand Union Troops and 5 miles higher are 15 to 20 thousand Rebels. But now they are not getting any provisions, neither powder nor bullets; in time they will have to stop. With God's help we will capture them. I have heard that New Orleans is supposed to have been captured by Union men but I don't know if that is true.

I must tell you that the lists for the families were not sent in to the governor in Madison, the adjutant neglected it. But now our captain has gone back to Bird's Point, the records are there and when he gets the lists ready he will send them to Madison and then, my dear wife, you can draw your money.

I must tell you that it is two weeks since I spoke to Gullek, he was in Bird's Point again. He was a little ill from dysentery and I haven't heard from him but I hope he will soon come to me. Now almost the entire regiment is ill from dysentery but I hope it will soon go over. This is an unwholesome place and the river is all muddy, unwholesome water. We get plenty bacon and meat and coffee and sugar, peas and grits, but we eat little.

I must now break off my short letter. I don't know when we will be paid. If you, my dear wife, should get into difficulty on account of money you must appeal to Brynjulv because you are to live decently. You are to buy bacon and butter, coffee and a little sugar and molasses. I hope you soon have fresh milk.

I am concluding, unforgettable wife and children. I ask you, dear little children, that you obey and be subject to your mother. Sincere greetings from me to you all, as well as to acquaintances and relatives.

Greetings to Andris Lie, to Lars Møn, to Amund Graue, to Stork Vikæ, and all acquaintances. I will soon write a letter again.

Knud Iverson Vikæ

1862, March 29

I have seen Ole Stengaland, he was well. I must remind you again whether you will be kind enough to send me a letter again. My address is as follows:

Mr. Knud Iverson
Co. F 15th Regt.
Wisc. Vol.
near Island No. 10
Via Cairo, Ill.

When we left Madison we got a little whiskey but since then I haven't tasted whiskey.

I must tell you that we see plenty of slaves every day, small and big, women and children, to the point where it distresses us.

Our army chaplain conducts services twice a day for us.

THE SOLDIER'S GAURDIAN ANGEL

Times of joy, and times of woe
Each an Angel's presence know,
Gaurdian Angels hover round
Peaceful Home, and Battle Ground.
(This verse printed on stationery)

Nashville, 20 December 1862

I will again gladly take my pen in hand and send you some simple lines. As for my condition and my manner of life, I am living well. I am covered with bumps and boils all over my body, on my thighs and legs and arms. They are swellings and it is well that they break out for we sometimes suffer. We lie on frozen ground and sleep in the open air. But I am not saying this to make you sad - nor is it something to be glad about.

Today, the 20th, I received your welcome letter which was dated the 6th of this month and I read it with joy and almost sadness. I'm glad because you are living well but I'm sad because you had to sell the oxen at such a low price. But it will have to be that way, I'm away now.

I have also sent money home now but I don't know whether you have received it or not. But as soon as you (illegible deletion) get it I ask you to be so kind as to write to me and then I will know how much state money you have received. And then I would like to know how much you, my dear son, earned last summer. And then I would like to know what the prices are for wheat and bacon and butter. And before I break off (illegible deletion)

My dear brother, Gullek - I have not had any word from him in 3 weeks and he said he was improving.

Now I will conclude my simple letter to you, my dear wife and children. I am living well and am so happy to hear in every letter I receive that you are in good health.

A sincere greeting to all, especially my nearest relatives.

We must all move about in strange lands, everyone feels his afflictions and complains about his distress. Some go to great trouble to accumulate wealth, to some time passes so slowly, some lose their health in youth, some think time passes so sadly - over which I must constantly sigh and weep, never to get joy anymore in this world.

I see now that I have written wrong.

May you fare well, that is my wish.

Knud Iverson Vikæ

Wisconsin's 15th REGIMENT -

The Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment has been regarded by the Norwegian immigrants and their descendants as a symbol of the patriotism of the Norwegian Americans; and its achievements have been celebrated and remembered in Norway as well as among Norwegian Americans. It originated soon after the Civil War began. This was an era when the loyalty of various immigrant groups was not infrequently expressed through the organization of entire regiments made up of immigrants of given nationalities. The Ninth Wisconsin, for example, was mainly German and the Eleventh, Irish. And so the Scandinavians launched a movement for a regiment of their own, asked the governor of Wisconsin to commission Col. Hans C. Heg as its colonel, and in the fall of 1861 set about recruiting soldiers. Heg and nine other Scandinavians called upon their countrymen late in September to come to the support of the proposed regiment, emphasizing the unique opportunity that it presented to the Scandinavians of the Northwest. The appeals were successful: The regiment was brought together at Camp Randall in Madison, built up to a total membership of approximately 900 and on March 2, 1862, left for the South. The men, drawn generally from the Scandinavian settlements of the Northwest, included some Swedes, Danes, and native Americans, but they were preponderantly Norwegians, who tagged their companies with such salty names as the Wergeland Guards, Odin's Rifles, the Norway Bear Hunters, the St. Olaf Rifles, the Scandinavian Mountaineers, and Clausen's Guards. Olsens, Johnsons, Petersons, and Hansens were numerous, and in the regiment as a whole there were 128 men who bore the first name of "Ole". Company A was recruited in Chicago, and Company K in St. Paul, drawing largely from northern Iowa and from Fillmore County, Minnesota. The other companies were organized in the various Norwegian settlements of Wisconsin as follows: Company B in Madison, Company C in Racine, Company D in Waupun and Waterford, Company E in La Crosse, Company F in Manitowish, Company G in Beloit, Company H in Dane County where the HEGs had originally come.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY
REFER TO
A. G. 201
Iverson, Knud
7-8-38 ORD

STATEMENT OF THE MILITARY SERVICE OF

Knud Iverson

Private, Company F, 15th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry

Civil War.

It is shown by the records on file in this office that Knud Iverson, aged 39 years, was enrolled January 18, 1862, in Dane County, Wisconsin, for a period of three years, was mustered into the service January 27, 1862, at Madison, Wisconsin, as a private, Captain Gustavson's Company, 15th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, which organization subsequently became Company F, 15th Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, and was killed in action at Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.

Official Statement of Service furnished Mr. Richard E. Lee, Princeton, Illinois, July 18, 1938.

By authority of the Secretary of War:

E. S. ADAMS
MAJOR GENERAL.
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.



Menig H. Hanson.

Menig Hans Hanson af Manitowoc hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 23de Oktober '61 og indmønstred i Madison den 12te December; 20 Aar og ugift.

Han var syg paa Hospitalet i Nashville den 5te September '62 og døde der af Sygdom den følgende 1ste Oktober; ligger paa Gravpladsen sammesteds, Afdeling A, Grav Nr. 1291.

Menig Halvor Hoen.

Menig Halvor Hoen, Door County, hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 18de Februar '62 og indmønstred i Madison den 1ste Marts; 17 Aar og ugift.

Han var syg paa Hospitalet den 20de Juli '62; døde af Sygdom i Jackson, Tenn., den følgende 27de September; blev transporteret til Gravpladsen i Corinth, Missisippi.

Menig Lemuel S. House.

Menig Lemuel S. House af Two Rivers hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 8de November '61 og indmønstred i Madison den 1ste Januar '62; 45 Aar og gift.

Han blev udygtig til Tjeneste og fik Afsted i Corinth den 26de Juli '62.

Sergeant R. Murray House.

Sergeant R. Murray House af Two Rivers hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 18de November '61 og indmønstred i Madison den 12te December; 23 Aar og ugift.

Han blev udnævnt til Sergeant den 13de December '61; blev udygtig til Tjeneste og fik Afsted i Corinth den 24de Juli '62.

Korporal Charles Hultman.

Korporal Charles Hultman af Manitowoc hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 21de Oktober '61 og indmønstred i Madison den 12te December; 29 Aar og gift; blaa Vine, mørkt Haar, lyslet, 5 Fod 5½ Tommer høj; Farmer.

Han blev udnævnt til Korporal den 1ste Januar '62; var

Hospitalsoppasser i Murfreesboro den 12te December samme Aar; blev sendt syg paa Hospitalet i samme By den 21de Marts '63, saa til Konvalescentleiren; døde paa Hospitalet i Chattanooga af kronisk Diarrhoe den følgende 23de Oktober.

Menig B. Iversen.

Menig Knud Iversen, Dane County, hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 18de Januar '62 og indmønstred i Madison den 27de; 39 Aar og gift.

Han var en Tid i '62 Vagt med Kommissærtrænet; faldt ved Stone River den 31te December samme Aar.

Sergeant John P. Johnson.

Sergeant John P. Johnson af Manitowoc hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 19de Oktober '61 og indmønstred i Madison den 12te December; 44 Aar og gift.

Han blev udnævnt til Sergeant den 13de December '61; var syg paa Hospitalet i Nashville den 28de November '62, hvor han blev udygtig til Tjeneste og fik Afsted den 11te Februar '63.

Sergeant Ole B. Johnson.

Sergeant og Brevet Sekondløjtnant Ole B. Johnson af Manitowoc hverved sig for Kaptein Gustavson den 17de Oktober '61 og indmønstred i Madison den 12te December; 19 Aar og ugift.

Han blev udnævnt til Korporal den 1ste Januar '62; var en Tid i '62 Vagt med Kommissærtrænet; toges tilfange ved Stone River den 31te December samme Aar; blev i '63 udvekslet i St. Louis, men toges atter tilfange ved Chidamanga den følgende 19de September; var blet udnævnt til Sergeant den 18de; ikke udmønstred med Kompaniet; blev udnævnt til Brevet Sekondløjtnant den 25de Februar '67 at rangere fra den 21de Mai '65; er i Johnsons Raveliste opført som død i Andersonville.