

LAW OFFICES OF
TIMOTHY R. BROOKES, J.D.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

517 BROADWAY
P.O. BOX 15
EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO 43920-5015

RECEIVED
STONES RIVER
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

OCT 13 1995

Supt. *WMB/10*
Chief Ranger *WMB*
Staff Ranger *SC/STG/atc*

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October 9, 1995

Ranger Elizabeth C. Cook
Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

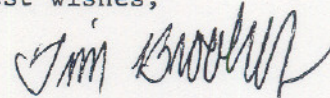
Dear Ms. Cook,

Thank you for your recent call and for the brochures on Fortress Rosecrans. They did a nice job reproducing the photograph from my collection.

I am enclosing several copies of letters which may be of interest to you.

Please feel free to call anytime or to refer researchers interested in the 115th Ohio Vol. Inf.

Best wishes,



TIMOTHY R. BROOKES

TRB/dat
enclosures

Fortress Rosecrantz
near Murfreesboro Tennessee Nov 17th 1863

Dear Mary,

On Saturday the 26 of Oct ultimo, our regiment left Cincinnati and crossed over the Ohio river to Covington Barracks under orders to prepare for moving us soon as possible for to the fields of active duty. And on Tuesday the 27th we set sail for Louisville Kentucky and from there by railway for Nashville Tennessee, thence to this place by Turnpike.

Before leaving Cincinnati I wrote to somebody in Wellsville, perhaps to James informing him of our expectation of leaving and of my intention to send from that place a box of articles that I did not wish to take with me, and asked him to keep a look out for its arrival in Wellsville by express. I did not, however, find time to get that done but brought them with me & from here it is considered rather unsafe to send back anything at all valuable. I shall therefore have to keep them as long as I can.

Since leaving Ohio I have seen the battle fields of Bowling Green in Kentucky and of Murfreesboro or Stone River, as it is now called, and Oh! what sad, what mournful evidence of horrible battle. here and there a lonely grave and frequently a cluster of them together. In one place lay a torn boot with the human foot and ankle remaining in it and all along the road for 10 or 12 miles lay war implements of every kind from the pocket pistol to cannon carriages.

My health continues good, thank God, but Milo is at present quite unwell. We have all to go armed. I had to buy me a revolver and get a six shooter with which to defend against attack should it happen. The country here is full of guerrillas and very treacherous citizens that it is unsafe and we are not allowed to go out of our line of Pickets.

Saturday Nov 21st. The former part of this letter I wrote in a

Captains tent, and under circumstance of such inconvenience as when added to my nervousness, resulted in bad writing but you must strive to make it out and in doing so you will at the same time be learning to read.

We are still quartered in Fortress Rosecrantz near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The main body of General Grant's army lying at Catanooaga about 120 miles south-east of this place.

My general health continues pretty good except that, on the day before yesterday, whilst on duty going to and returning from the Post Office (distance about one mile) with the mail, my right leg began to fail and progressed so rapidly that by the time I reached our camp I could with difficulty bear my weight upon it. On examination it was found to be nearly encircled with inflammation and swelling between the ankle and knee. The Surgeon immediately applied a good coat of the Tincture and Iodine which arrested it, so that it is getting better. It was *erresypelas* about to locate in that part of my leg. Perhaps I ought to spell it thus, *erysipelas* again *erysipelas* but I have no book to refer to for the correct spelling of words.

Lieutenant H. Milo Torrance is still unwell, unable for duty---Typhoid Fever, perhaps, and should he not soon begin to get better the Dr. will remove him to the hospital. This disease prevails here and some of our regiment have already died of it after a very short sickness. I believe that Milo's case is not considered dangerous.

We know not when we shall be ordered from this post, nor where we shall go to. I believe that the expectation, if not the intention, is to have a hard fight some time soon, and somewhere near Chatanooga. But I believe there are no very strong indications of its coming off before the holydays of Dec and January. Since being here, I have not yet been able to see any more danger from the rebels of this country than was from the butternuts of the northern

states. They both seem to have the one object, the overthrow of the General Government. The South come out openly, the butternuts sculkingly. The action of both tending to the dissolution of the Union. And it remains to be seen whether they will be allowed to succeed. If God has any choice of sides in this war, it will inevitably result in favor of his choice And we must abide that result.

I believe I have nothing more of consequence to write at present. Please to accept the tender of my love to yourself and family and remember me tenderly to all of your brothers and sisters. Most Affectionately
W.G. Torrance

Mrs Mary A. Bowers. - write soon and address Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Remember Co I 115 Regt. O.V.I.

I must caution you folks at home to be definite in addressing your letters to me. It may be thus.

W.G. Torrance, R.P.M.
115th Regiment O.V.I.
Murfreesboro,
Tennessee

Lieutenant H. Milo Torrance is convalescent and it is hoped will soon be fit for duty again.

What on earth has come of Daniel?

Fortress Rosecrans Near Murfreesboro
Tennessee Jan'y 21st 1864.

My Dear Daughter, Your letter of the 10 inst has been received, and were it not for its account of your ill health, would have afforded to me much satisfaction. I was, however gratified, to hear from you. And should have answered it before this time, but a day or two after the receipt of that letter, Mr. Meno¹, a private in Co A. of our regiment, received a letter from his father who lives either in or somewhere near to Wellsville, in which it was stated that Joseph E. Torrance and Henry Bunting had been drowned whilst striving to save a coal boat from being lost. I at once conjectured that you could not have known anything of the circumstance at the time you wrote as you mentioned nothing of it-- but, believing that if it was true some one would soon write and inform me of it -- no letter coming as thus expected, I came to the conclusion that I would write now and afterwards await further intelligence in relation to the death of Joseph. I wish some one to write to me immediately in relation to this matter.

We are still quartered in this Fortress which is situated on the Nashville and Murfreesboro Turnpike Road, within a mile and in sight of the latter place. How long we will be allowed to remain is quite uncertain. We have had very cold weather here ever since the day before Newyear. We, having provided ourselves with little houses built of cedar timber, each affording room enough for about 6 or 8 men, have been able to live quite comfortably. Our provision and clothing have been quite good and, as a general thing, the health of our regiment has been pretty good. notwithstanding, there has been a good deal of sickness prevailing in these fortifications--Typhoid fever, Smallpocks and Diptheria are among the diseases and the number of deaths are numerous. I have

1) Pvt. Lewis F. Menough

been informed that our force here amounts to about three thousand men. their duties are constant, and owing to the severity of the weather have been quite difficult, but no danger of attack from any considerable rebel force is apprehended. Still, there is no very flattering prospect of the war's being ended very soon yet.

I believe I have not much more to write at present but shall add that as death is certain to all men-the time only uncertain, it behoves us all to be preparing for the awful change. God grant that we may all be enabled to do so and that in the right way. From your affectionate father
W.G. Torrance

Mrs. Mary A. Bower,
N.B. Milo Torrance has been ailing for some time, but is getting better.
Give my love to your family and all enquiring friends.

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their rights as loyal citizens and loyal States should all be respected, and warning them of the madness and folly of their attempting to secede. But his gentle, but earnest warnings were treated with disdain, and when the American Flag was for the first time humbled by traitorous foes in the assault upon Fort Sumter, the time had come to sound the tocsin of war, and prepare for the bloody conflict. The prestige of success to the rebel cause in their first attack, acted like magic in uniting the Southern people in their mad career. The North now arose with a fervor and patriotism never excelled, to declare their integrity to the Union, and few there were to oppose the war for suppression of the Rebellion and the preservation of our glorious Republic. What few unprincipled dastards there were who sympathized with the enemies of their country and opposed the prosecution of the war, were treated with merited derision and contempt by every one—their friends even denouncing them as "politically damned!" At first the war was conducted on very conservative principles—touching the rebels tenderly and protecting their property, hoping to reclaim them without much effusion of blood or loss of property; but after weary months of fruitless trial in attempting to beat down rebellion without removing its cause, it was deemed best to strike at the root of the evil, accordingly due warning was given to the insurgents to return to their allegiance or suffer the loss of their institution of Slavery. They chose the latter and the Government stands acquitted before God and man of any undue exercise of power in this important measure. The Rubicon was crossed and, now it successful in overthrowing the Slaveholders' rebellion, the United States of America, freed from the only incubus that has ever retarded her progress, will rise in her glory and be for all time to come in deed as well as in word the "land of the free and the home of the brave." And the rebellion will be suppressed if its emissaries in the North do not interfere to prevent so good and glorious a result. The war has steadily progressed, severing the so-called Confederacy in two and compressing it on every hand till the rebels have nearly reached their "last ditch;" and considering the many obstacles against which the Government has had to contend, as much perhaps has been accomplished as could reasonably have been expected. That our present rulers have committed errors we do not pretend to deny, for they are but men and not infallible, and we accord to every one the right to criticise them that improvements may be made; but the ceaseless, unjust fault finding, and heartless opposition to every war measure of the Government, and to the war itself, is not honest criticism, and can result in but harm, and harm only—encouraging the rebels to keep on in their reckless course to their further destruction, and creating disaffection and strife at home. When the record is made up it will be found that the Copperheads and malcontents of the North will not be held guiltless for the ignominious part they are acting.

Reader how will your record stand!
CARTRIDG.

For the Union.
CALCUTTA, O., July 21st, 1864.
Mr. Editor.—While acting as agent of

his regiment lost ten officers out of nineteen. The brigade lost 423 killed and wounded in less than half an hour. Some of our men were found dead in the enemy's works. This has been a very hard campaign, and I think the worst has not come."

8-4-64 Union

For the Union.
From the 115th Regt. O. V. I.
MURFREESBORO, Tenn.,
July 23, 1864.

Feeling satisfied that a few lines from the 115th Regiment, O. V. I., may interest some of your readers, perhaps you will deem them worthy a place in your valuable paper. It is sometimes received here, and is admired by all, for its uncompromising fidelity to the Constitution and to the "glorious" principles upon which it is based.

Three companies are on duty here in Murfreesboro, three or four companies in Fortress Rosecrans, the other part is guarding the railroad between here and Nashville.

The general health of the Regiment is good, this climate seems to agree with most of the boys, they are in fine spirit, and determined to do their duty wherever their lot may be cast.

Capt. H. B. Hill, is Provost Marshal of this Post. He is the right man in the right place, rebels find it so to their sorrow, while the Union people around here find in him, an able protector of their rights, and in his own company he has the love and respect of all. Murfreesboro, from its location ought to be a commercial centre for this part of the State. All that has been wanting to make it a thriving place is the right kind of people, and even now the genius of the universal Yankee is beginning to be felt and seen. All Northern men are called Yankees down here, and there are many of them who are doing a lucrative business here. Others have rented confiscated land and have a good prospect of a splendid cotton crop.

It is an interesting sight to see forty or fifty darkies, male and female, busily employed on a large field of cotton; it is asserted that they do more than double the amount of labor, now they are working on the free labor system; the crops are looking very well.

The opinion prevails here that the rebellion is about played out, and the end very near, for which desirable result none pray more earnestly, than your humble servant.

GARESCHE.

For the Union.
NEW SOMERSET, Jefferson co., O.,
July 20th, 1864.

Mr. Editor.—The Sabbath School celebration which came off at our place, on the Fourth, was truly interesting and beautiful; the citizens deserve much credit for the religious principle on which it was conducted. The programme was as follows: They met at the M. E. Church at 9 o'clock A. M., filed into rank, each class according to its number, conducted by proper officers, marched into the grove, with the flag of our country in front; the procession being well entertained with music; after arriving at the grove, and being orderly seated, the music was next in order after which the blessings of heaven

of the 2d Ohio Volunteer Infantry. At the battle in front of Atlanta, Wednesday, he had charge of a brigade, and, from the *Gazette's* report, it will be learned he handled his men admirably. The writer says: It gives me real pleasure to be able to mention here a young Buckeye Colonel, Anson G. McCook, 2d Ohio, and feel that I can assign him a place with the best and bravest who on that day beat back the legions of treason and anarchy. His brigade, consisting of old regiments, each of which has a historical name, was until recently under command of Brig. Gen. Carlin. The latter being on leave of absence, Col. McCook assumed command by right of seniority. On him was devolved the duty of clipping the left wing of the rebel host which pounced upon us. He was on the extreme left of Palmer's corps, and his was the left brigade of Gen. Johnson's division. It was formed into two lines, the first commanded by Col. Taylor, of the 15th Kentucky; the second by Col. Hobart, 21st Wisconsin. The brigade advanced to top of the ridge in front, to keep in line with Gen. Hooker, and had time to throw up some slight work before it was assaulted. This remark applies to the first line only—the second had no work.

The 104th Illinois, on the left of the first line, was somewhat in advance of the other regiments, in consequence of the peculiar nature of the ground; and was therefore the first struck, when the rebels came thundering upon us. A brave stand was made, and then the right of the regiment began to crumble away. Col. McCook, while feeling deeply the heavy responsibility resting upon his shoulders, remained cool and self possessed as a veteran. He knew how terrible the result might be if this portion of our line was broken. Yet the rebel legions had advanced entirely up to our rude works, and a rebel color bearer stuck his detested flag into one of the logs composing them. He almost instantly paid for his audacity with his life, being both shot and bayoneted where he stood. While the rebels were pressing on with exultant shouts after the retiring 104th the 15th Kentucky, 42d and 88th Indiana, which were in line further back than the 104th, were shifted round in such a way that they were able to pour into the advancing enemy a destructive flank and cross fire, which at once chilled his ardor, and sent him to the right about. Again they essayed to charge; but by this time the gallant Col. Hobart had placed the second line in such position that it could assist materially in the conflict, and again the rebel flood was rolled back. Thus gloriously did Col. McCook inaugurate his new command, and showed himself a worthy namesake of him whose blood bathed the soil of Alabama, and of him who gave his life for freedom at Kearsaw.

The British *Army and Navy Gazette*, after reviewing the facts in the late naval fight, says: "The palm, therefore, of care and skill must be adjudged to Captain Winslow and his first Lieutenant; and it must be a matter of pride to these two officers, confessedly among the most practical and best gunnery officers of the North, to have achieved so important a triumph at such a slight cost to their vessel and crew." This opinion, from a professional quarter, will make amends for the feeble attempts of other English and French journals to disparage the achievement of the Kearsaw.

The 'local' column of the *Richmond Examiner* furnishes the following sections

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