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United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
P.O. Box 2128
Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia 30742

K14 (CHCH)

June 29, 1992

Richard Miller
Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

Dear Richard:

Enclosed is STRI's copy of the Joshua DeWees, 97th Ohio, diary that the visitor we spoke with last Thursday donated to us. I've read a bit of it and it seems good. I'm glad we got it. It is our first manuscript from the 97th.

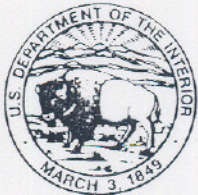
See you Friday.

Sincerely,

Jim Ogden, III
Historian

Enclosure

JO/jo



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P.O. Box 2128
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CIVIL WAR DIARY

OF

JOSHUA DEWEES

97TH OHIO

DeWees' diary (75 typescript pages) covers the entire period of his service, August, 1862 to June, 1865. His daily entries almost always include the weather, but are often very descriptive of events as well. Introductory material gives biographical information on DeWees and his diaries. DeWees grandson, Joseph DeWees, RR2, Box 262, Nashville, Indiana 47448, produced the typescript and donated a copy of it to both Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Stones River National Battlefield in June, 1992.

K14 (CHCH)

June 27, 1992

Joseph DeWees
RR2, Box 262
Nashville, Indiana 47448

Dear Mr. DeWees:

It was nice to meet you while we were both visiting the Stones River National Battlefield on Thursday. I hope you enjoyed your visit there and here in the Chattanooga area.

Most specifically, I'd like to thank you for allowing us to have a copy of your typescript of Joshua DeWees's diary. I have, to date, read a portion of it and have found it very useful. I particularly liked the material around the time of the Battle of Chickamauga when he was detailed to guard a signal detachment. His description of the 97th Ohio on Missionary Ridge is also interesting. It is a welcome addition to our files of manuscript material.

Thank you for your consideration of this National Military Park.

Sincerely,

James Ogden, III
Historian

JO/jo

FOREWORD

This is the Civil War Diary of Joshua DeWees (often spelled Dewees by our ancestors, also by Joshua when used in his diary, perhaps in deference to the simplicity of the Quaker style, or for streamlining his penmanship during the exigencies of the war swirling around and about him.)

His diary is prefaced with a brief biographical sketch of his youth, his family, his education and the occupations leading up to his enlistment in the Union Army in August 1862, at the age of 20. Then it quickly becomes a day by day war diary, rewritten from the original field notations into a large 7 1/2" by 12 1/2" journal, done by Joshua in 1882, almost 20 years after the Civil War ended.

One might well wonder why he would undertake such a painstaking, time-consuming effort, but I, as a grandson who happens to be interested in the history of the Civil War, am greatly pleased that he did so, because some of the original diaries--for there were several--have been lost. He must have taken with him to his army life one or more pocket-size 5 inch by 3 inch leather covered, tab-closed note books and writing instruments, receiving by mail or purchasing from the sutler additional supplies to replenish his requirements as the war progressed, then evidently mailing home the field diaries as they were filled. He mentions mailing letters and money home many times, so it was not unusual, therefore would in all probability be the way the war diaries got back to Belmont County, Ohio. They have turned up with different members of his grandchildren. How they were originally dispersed is unknown. Two are in existence covering the latter two years of his enlistment--and the war--quite legible, in the possession of my sister, Helen Stephenson, Joshua's granddaughter who lives at Chippewa Lake, Ohio. It is our intention to turn these and the journal over to the Ohio Historical Society in the near future.

Joshua compiled the aforementioned journal from his field diaries verbatim, with a few exceptions of a minor nature. This is mentioned here to forestall the observation by the reader that Joshua must have been blessed with the ability to foresee the future, for in a very few cases, in 1882 as he compiled the journal from his diaries he adds an opinion on an event whose outcome was not settled at the time of his original diary entries. Or the death of a comrade, usually added in pencil. Another notable example was the honor of being the first to occupy Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 9, 1863, and the ensuing squabble. The 97th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment disputed the claim of the 92nd Illinois Regiment, and was prepared to submit resolutions supporting their own claim at a Regimental Reunion of the survivors of the 97th OVI in 1886.

At times he uses the common Quaker style of designating days of the week along the left margin of his diaries as follows: 12th (month), 14th (day) 1st or First Day (meaning Sunday), 2nd being Monday, et cetera. "Rosy (General Rosecrans) will not attack on First Day." Occasionally he alters this style. The journal is reproduced word for word as it was written by Joshua DeWees, describing his activities, commenting on camp duties, for it seems there was always fatigue duty or picket duty for the private soldier, or foraging, or fighting, and always the weather, for there seemed to be lots of it during the Civil War.

The spelling and punctuation and place names are as he wrote them. My grandfather seemed unusually gifted, although of limited schooling, with a sound knowledge of proper English usage and grammatical construction. He kept abreast of the general army tactics, to the fullest extent available to the private in the ranks, and to the movements, distances covered, units involved, locations and other logistical details. Perhaps this was made

ossible by the more or less efficient "grape vine" communication system
ed by soldiers of every generation.

In the work that follows Joshua sometimes finds a need for
parenthetical remarks, even in the original field diaries. Therefore the
parentheses are his. If any explanatory remarks are thought to be required
by this writer, brackets are used, to distinguish from the original diary
parenthetical entries.

This diary could not have been reproduced here without the dedicated
efforts of Bette DeWees, Donald DeWees, great grandson of Joshua, Mary and
Verna Kilgore who did the preliminary word processing, and my sister Helen
Stephenson who urged me to undertake this project.

Joseph W. DeWees
grandson
9-3-91

Fifth Month 6" 1882
Barnesville, Ohio

Memoranda concerning some of the principal changes in the Life and Experiences of Joshua Dewees born 12 mo 11th 1842.

Beginning with his enlistment in the U.S. Service. After a few observations, etc. It has frequently been impressed on my mind to leave some account of the Lord's dealings and tender care over me (from my youth to the present day) who am indeed so unworthy of the least of His mercies.

As above stated, I was born the latter part of 1842 of humble parents in Morgan County, Ohio. My father Dying of Scarlet fever in the 6th mo., 24th or 26th 1845, I being 2 1/2 years of age, one younger among seven children. I went to live with my Uncle Jesse Dewees then a single man living with his father & mother where I lived until my Uncle married Rebecca Edgerton in 1847, when I went with him to reside at Somerton, Belmont Co., Ohio where we resided until the year 1852, when we removed to within the limits of Hopewell particular & Pennsville Mo. mtg. where I rec'd most of my school learning. Among my teachers was Caleb Grigg, Aunt Rebecca Dewees, Hannah M. Penrose, Lydia Pierpoint, afterwards Patton, etc. etc. About the year 1858 I went away from my Uncle to work on my own acc. Engaged for the season at 10\$ per mo. The two winters following I went to the Boarding School at Mt. Pleasant, Ohio. Winter of 1861 & 2 taught school in Windsor Morgan Co., Wesley, Washington County. The following spring planted a crop in partnership with my brother Wm, being the 1st attempt to work on my own account except teaching. In the fourth Mo. 1862

e) the Battle of Shiloh had been fought. Abraham Lincoln then Pres. of U.S. made a proclamation calling for men to put down the insurrection. I was young & full of sympathy for the race held in shackles, listened to speeches until I was made to believe that if we wished to avoid bloodshed we must obey the President--Enlist, & put down the Rebellion & perhaps there would not be much if any more bloodshed. The South seeing the North determined & united would as a necessity lay down their arms. Such was a part of the arguments brought to bear upon me, who had not the privilege of a father's counsel. I finally concluded it was my duty to enlist, not to kill men for I never could persuade myself that such was right. So on the 1st Day of the 8" Mo. 1862 I joined a company of infantry then forming in Chester Hill & on the west side of Muskingum River in Morgan Co. known as Co. D, 97th Regiment, Ohio Vols. gave myself away for 3 years, or during the War. The First day following [Sunday] I was at meeting at Chesterfield and my aged Aunt Debbie Dewees wept in the gallery all the time of meeting & I was told afterwards that it was on my account which touched me exceedingly but I had taken the step tho rashly and how could I be released. Only a few days were allowed in which to arrange my affairs, say farewell to friends & relatives and join the command then to rendezvous at Malta, Morgan Co.

From Malta we embarked on board a steamboat for Zanesville over one hundred men in full manhood; alas, never one half to return, and as we gazed back at the landing where was a great throng of human beings, Men, Women, & Children some one of whom had a father, brother, or son or husband on board the boat fast receding from view. We waved our hats and handkerchiefs in return to those on shore and after watching as long as we could see & until the throng began to disperse then I turned away my weary eyes & wiped the tears as they followed each other thick & fast, went & set down & gave myself up to reflections untill nightfall shut the curtain. We went into Camp Goddard at Z. mustered into the service. (in Co. with Cos. D. Yokum) We were not allowed to remain long inactive as soon as our regt. was fully equipped & officered were ordered to the relief of Cin. which was

then threatened by Gen. Kirby Smith (rebel), then penetrating Ky. The following is a copy of memorandum dated 9 Mo. 7" 1862: Left Camp Janesville for the field at 10 a.m. on Sabath Day and as the City Church bells are pealing out on the autumnal air calling the citizens to worship in their several places, our regt. is getting on board the cars in waiting, run thro to Morrowtown [Morrow, Southwestern Ohio?] where the 97th will always remember her citizens with gratitude for the dinner spread for our use. Also when we disembarked the cars at Cinn. at one o'clock at night a bountiful table was spread by her generous people the last of the Kind on Ohio's soil for almost 3 long years.' Crossed the river into Covington & took a few hours repose in a cow yard in the edge of city.

9 Mo. 8th: About 10 o'clock marched out of town to the South up a long hill, camped about 3 o'cl P.M. 3 ms. from the city, when word came to fall back immediately as the enemy were reported advancing. We fell back 1 mile formed in line of battle & remained till daylight.

9 Mo. 9th: Moved back toward Covington 1/2 m. for position on a very high hill commanding the road to the city, dug rifle pits for protection. Skirmishing in our front, some casualties occurring.

9 Mo. 10th: We were aroused at midnight formed in line of battle stayed so all night.

11th: Drawn up in line all day. But no enemy appeared

12th: The rebels retreated last night about 12 o'cl. our cav. pursuing.

13th: Very pleasant & quiet. Layed still.

14th: Was on picket last night. A man in our Regt. was shot.

15th: Pleasant. All quiet.

16": Thirty of our Co. went on a scouting expedition. I was one of the 30; went 7 ms. stayed all night. I went on picket.

17": Came back off the scout in the evening. Our Regiment is in Benj. P. Kimball's Brigade.

9 Mo. 18th: Rained in the morning afternoon pleasant.

19": On camp guard, very pleasant. Heard of the surrender of Munfordville, Ky to the rebels by a cowardly U.S. officer.

20": On Covington heights, at 10 o'cl. a.m. tore up ready for a move. Afternoon marched, got to the City of Cov. at 4 o'cl p.m. Halted in the street till about five ocl. when we went on board the steamer lying there for us ("Emma Duncan").

21st: Started down the river about daylight for the field of action. Many conjectures were indulged in as to our destination. I got in the life at & saw the spires of Cin. & Cov. slowly recede in the distance as the

'This observation obviously made after the war, in 1882
rewrite.

sun arose to bless us as we passed down the Ohio. The sight was sublime not to say grand. Tied up & layed on Indiana side all night. to escape the guerillas haunting the Ky shore.

22nd: Renewed our journey, passed the mouth of Ky. River about 11 ocl. a.m. At Madison about noon & got to Louisville about 8 P.M. Crossed over to Jeffersonville and camped 1 1/2 miles out.

23": Pleasant morning found us in Camp Gilbert, an old campground on the Ohio River.

24": Came into Louisville last night moved 1/2 m out on to a nice level plateau.

25": Very pleasant & quiet.

26": Fell in line of battle at 3 A.M. & remained till daybreak, watching for the rebels, then went on Brigade Parade in the city. We are in Taylors' Brigade, Nelson's Division, left our camp & went a mile below on Ky side.

27": Layed still.

28": Quiet the 1st of the week & pleasant.

29": General Nelson was killed by Jefferson C. Davis. [This was a tragic result of personal feud between the two in the Galt House, Louisville; over purported heated words and insults to Gen. Davis by arrogant Nelson. After Davis -- no relation to President of Confederacy by same name -- shot Nelson he was arrested by military officials but politics, in person of Gov. Oliver P. Morton of Indiana, intervned to such an extent that nothing happened to Gen. Davis, and we shall read of him now & then throughout this diary. Incidentally, Gov. Morton was important to Pres. Lincoln, and his support of Gen. Rosecrans of Cincinnati to command deposed Gen. Buell's Tennessee Command -- after the failure at Perryville, Ky. -- was an important item in progress of the war.]

30": Moved back to our old camp near Broadway.

10 Mo. 1st: 10 ocl. a.m. have left camp for a march and are now halted in the pleasant & wealthy city of Louisville as I make these jottings. Marched very hard in afternoon. Excessively hot & roads dusty. Passed thro a beautiful rich country fine residences etc. Dis 10 m. We marched on the Bardstown Road.

10 Mo. 2": At 6 a.m. we are ready to march. Marched within one m. of Floyds Fork of Salt River. Rained all afternoon & night.

3": John Lewis & myself went to creek - - - for water to make our coffee while others started fires.

4th: Started at 9 a.m. passed thro a little vil called Mt. Washington. This afternoon, yesterday & day before heavy skirmishing in r front. Camped on Salt River 18 ms. from Bardstown. Good country.

5th: Marched hard camped at Bardstown today. We passed thro fairfield the cavalry skirmishing in this place as we advanced. We saw for the 1st time a few wounded federals & a few prisoners of war.

6": First day. The morn is beautiful. There is elegant residences ere marched 10 ms & camped on Big Buck Fork of Ky. River. Marched in afternoon, camped in the Fairgrounds at Springfield. A skirmish took place here this morning between our adv. and the rebels rear guard, killing 10 or 12 men. Marched 15 ms. today.

7th: Marched 20 miles toward Danville. Passed thro a little vill called Haysville. Marched nearly all night camped at 3 a.m. on a hill near a creek, or rather a range of hills called Chaplain hills.

10 Mo. 8": Marched 8 miles toward Perryville where there was fighting going on all day. We were drawn up in line & 2 shells burst over our heads. We advanced one mile in line of Battle & layed on our arms all night. We are now beyond the place where the rebels stood 2 hours ago. This is the part we took in the bloody battle of Perryville though we did not always escape so well as will be seen hereafter [obviously written after the War]. We are in the edge of Boyle Co. Ky. McCook was the hero of Perryville, Ky.

9th: Saw a line of rebel muskets as they were layed on the ground by their owners when captured at Perryville. Also saw many dead bodies of confederate soldiers. We are laying in a field of ragweed surrounded on all sides by a woods. Just now, 8 A.M. heard cannonading for the first time on our right. A very bright morning. The firing of cannon has now shifted to our left & front. Moved out through the town of Perryville & camped in the open woods beyond, where the rebels had been yesterday. In the evening walked out over the battlefield, saw sights which I cannot think on without a shudder. The Battle of Perryville will be remembered in history as one among the hardest for the no. of men engaged. McCook's Corps. bore the brunt of the Battle.

10 Mo. 10", 1862: Marched about 6 or 7 miles and camped in the afternoon in one of the most beautiful walnut groves I ever saw, with sugar [maple trees]. We call it walnut grove. Commenced raining just before we halted & rained all evening. Quite cool & blustry at times, whirling the leaves about us.

11th: Were all called to arms about daylight heard musketry in our front. They were a party of Jno. Morgan's thieves dressed in our uniform. Capt. Cox's 10th Ind. Batty made them get with a few shells. The reb cav came up within 1/2 mile of us we were in line all day.

12th: First of the week. Marched 12 miles to the northward heard cannonading in front about 3 P.M., formed in line of battle in quick time, stood there about 2 hrs. then moved back one mile, and camped for the night in a beautiful grove. We passed thro a fine country today.

13th: Marched to within 1 m of Danville & camped about 11 ocl A.M. in a grand sugar grove. Marched 8 miles.

14th: Marched out of our camp at 2 ocl this morning went thro Danville after which we had seven ms of skirmishing contesting every inch as we went. It began in our front we were thrown in line of battle and rched so, for one and a half miles. We are now stacked arms awaiting demonstrations. The rebels are now 11 A.M. shelling us. The first one went over our heads, the next struck a hickory top close to our company. Our guns were brought up & fired several rounds at them which had the effect to silence them; they are evidently retreating, and are making some

demonstrations to deceive. Just heard our Brig. Commander, Gen. Wagner say they were retreating on the Crab-orchard Road. Our Co. went on picket at night. After moving on thro Stanford camped on a high hill near town. Gen'l Buell is comdg. our army after reorganizing the old & new recruits at Louisville. We are in Wagners Brig. Woods Div., & T.J. Crittenden's Corps. The 21st Army Corps. [Army of the Cumberland].

15th: Marched 6 ms. thro Crab Orchard. Had a very rough road. We shelled the rebels before us as we went. Camped on Beech Fork where was an old desolate meeting house used for Headquarters.

16th: Marched out toward Mt. Vernon about 3 ms but for some unaccountable purpose went back to the same camp we left this morning.

17th: Layed in camp. 2 or 3 companies went forageing.

18th: Marched 14 miles toward Camp Wild Cat, passed thro Mt. Vernon. Skirmishing. The country the hilliest I ever saw. Camped at night on a hillside near a creek.

19th: 1st of the week: Layed in camp. A scouting party of ours took 33 rebel prisoners. They were mostly cavalry men. We have good pure creek water.

20th: Layed in the same spot all'day. Drewed 2 days rations to last 3. Heard no firing today.

21st: Layed still until about one hr. before dark. Marched back 4 miles. Up to this time we have marched 190 miles.

22": Aroused between one & 2 ocl at night & marched back to our old camp at the mtg. house for breakfast. Came on 3 ms west of Crab Orchard & camped near the pike on Cedar Creek, Lincoln Co. Ky. 18 ms. today.

23": Marched 24 ms. backward thro Stanford & Huestonville. Camped after dark on a creek. Very tired. Always aim to camp near a creek for water.

24th: Marched 22 ms, went thro Liberty camped in Beech Grove near a creek. Got good water, etc.

25th: Marched 16 miles, camped within one mile of Columbia. Crossed Green River. It snowed all night. We stood around the campfires & done the best we could, shivering, etc. We are in Adair Co., Ky.

26th: Cold & cloudy. Got some mutton. Many of our boys have fallen out on the hard forced marches, others were compelled to throw overcoats & blankets away in the warm weather & now when it is cold we stand in sore need of them & tents as we have none. I have got a diarrhea that troubles me much.

27th: Our co. was on picket, the weather cold. Layed still.

28th: Had inspection of arms at 2 ocl P.M. I am sitting on a stump sitting on my knapsack, wonder what we will hear next: it is said we are within 15 ms. of the Cumberland River & 25 of the Tennessee line. Received mail got 5 letters.

29th: Layed still. Cold & raw.

30th: Marched out about 8 o'cl a.m. Went thro Columbia, Ky. Marched 23 miles. Camped near a stream.

31st: Marched at 6 a.m. Went thro Edmonton. 12 miles.

11 Mo. 1st 1862: Marched thro Glasgow, 2 miles beyond & camped in a beech grove.

2nd: First of the week. Layed still.

3rd: Pleasant. Layed still, Dewees, Wm H & Daughterty deserted.

4th: Marched out of camp about dark, went 6 miles, camped on a small stream.

5th: Marched 20 miles to Scottsville. Very cool. Passed a fine sugar grove.

6": Layed in camp. Got persimmons. Splendid ones too.

7": Marched at 6 A.M. We went in the vanguard. Crossed the Tennessee line, saw a stone marked [with] date of each admission [to the Union] Tennessee & Kentucky. 20 ms today.

8": Marched 17 miles today, fell back to rearguard, went thro Blain camped on the Cumb. River.

9", First of the Week: Layed still on the north bank of the Cumberland River, a pure mountain stream.

10": Marched 10 miles. Camped at Silver Springs.

11": Layed in camp.

12": Layed quiet. Rained most of the day.

13": Layed in camp. The rebels captured a few of our convalescents on their way up a few miles back.

14": Layed in camp. Drilled, etc.

15": Went out to Lebanon 12 ms for some rebels, but they had skipt when we got there. Stayed there 3 hours & marched back to camp. Marched 24 miles.

16": Rainy & gloomy. No move yet.

17": Rainy & cool. Nothing of import.

18th: 35 of our co. started with a wagon train for Mittchallsville a station on the L&N R.R. to get provisions, went 30 ms & camped. I was of the [number].

19": Marched 5 miles to Mitchellsville & loaded our wagons it rained hard all day, went out Nashville Road 2 ms & camped for the night. A very long day. One of our boys had a scare on picket. One man firing at some

object approaching.

20th: Our wagons went out about noon 10 ms.

21st: Went 27 miles to Nashville camped near the Cin [rest illegible, being written close to the crumbling page edge] close to the Cumb. river. In the evening went over to the city to hear the Rev. Wm G. Brownlow & Horace Maynard speak as a mtg was given out. We were not disappointed as the Parson was there & did our cause justice in all respects. Capt. Davis & Leuts Arick & Ira Ellis were in company at lecture.

22nd: Moved on thro Nashville found our div. 9 ms from the city as they had moved up since we left Silver Springs. Camped on Nashville & Chattanooga Pike.

23": 1st of the week: Rested. No news.

24": Had drill; & dress parade.

25": Staid in camp. Orders to move at noon; but countermanded. Here rec'd our tents for the first time.

26": Marched 8 miles toward & to the left of the Lebanon pike, 3 ms from Nashville. A beautiful country.

27th: Fixed up camp.

28th: Our co. all went on picket four miles west of Nashville had potatoes & persimmons.

29th: Relieved of picket duty in the evening; nothing of note.

30th 1st of the week: Rained very hard all day.

12 Mo. 1st: Very cool & chilly. Had grand review. I was detailed for guard, went down to the old meeting house to Div. Headquarters. (Antioch)[This latter notation, in heavy pencil, I believe was added in his 1882 rewriting of the war diary after he learned the name of the meeting house]

2": Writing this in an ancient meeting house belonging to some sect or other; the inscriptions indicate almost a half century.

3": [no entry]

4th: On Gen'l. review, by old Rosecrans, he having succeeded Buell.

5th: Snowed. On guard duty.

6th: Our regt. went out on a foraging expedition. Had a skirmish with the enemy. One man killed & one wounded. Richard Casaer [sp?], Co. T killed.

7th: Very cool. Had orders to have 3 days rations in our Haversacks & ready to march at a moments notice.

8th: Pleasant. Heard cannonading this morning. Rec'd a pair of

loves from Bro. Wm.

12 Mo. 9": Pleasant. At 1 o'clock cannonading to the south. Rumor says that Gallatin was captured by the enemy.

12 Mo. 10": On guard. Very cool and rain.

12 Mo. 11": Our regiment went foraging; had a skirmish. Today is my 20th birthday.

12 Mo. 12": Pleasant. Levi Thompson died yesterday in the hospital, the first man in our company deceased since leaving Ohio.

12 Mo. 13": Cool. Nothing of note today.

12 Mo. 14": First of the week. Went foraging out over stony or Stone river and loaded our teams, making 20 miles this trip.

12 Mo. 15": Warm with violent rain in the afternoon and night.

12 Mo. 16": Cleared off. Saw a man drummed out of camp for stealing some small things. He was marched before a file of soldiers with fixed bayonets followed by the fife and drum.

12 Mo. 17": On guard. Very cool.

Mo. 18": Our regiment went out foraging.

12 Mo. 19": On brigade drill in the afternoon, a hard work.

12 Mo. 20 & 21": Cool and cloudy. Soon to advance on Murfreesboro.

12 Mo. 22": Chopped wood.

12 Mo. 23": On guard today.

12 Mo. 24": Struck tents, ready to march at 7 o'clock. Layed still all day and pitched our tents again in our old camp at night.

12 Mo. 25": A quiet Christmas. No move yet.

12 Mo. 26": Struck tents again and marched at 7 o'clock on to the Murfreesboro Pike. Heavy rain all day. Cannonading all through the afternoon. Camped an hour after dark 1 mile north from Lavergne. Went on picket, tired enough. Rained very hard.

12 Mo. 27": Our advance pickets began firing about daylight, the enemy taking shelter in houses of the town. They sent several shells at us, which were promptly answered by our guns after which the cannons ceased and the forward march began. The 1st Brigade of our Division in front and ours next. The 26th OVI led the charge on the town that regiment lost 35 men in killed and wounded 10 killed. The rebels took shelter in the buildings till our men would get too close. Then they would get behind them and run the next. It was 12 o'clock noon when we passed this place. We allowed them till dark, shelling them and being shelled in return by them. Marched one side of pike. Heard the heaviest cannonading I ever heard today. Rained most of day and mud to our knees in places. Just as we were going into camp, a party of rebel cavalry surrounded and captured 60 of

our men. Camped on Sugar Creek. We are driving the enemy step by step, but expect them to make a strong stand at Murfreesboro, when we know there must be bloody work; our own countrymen against each other.

12 Mo. 28": First of the week. Layed still with our accoutrements on us ready at any moment to move. We were ordered to get our breakfast at 4 a.m. Old Rosy [Rosecrans] will not make the attack on first day of the week. A battle is expected tomorrow. Spent the day in reading and meditation, also writing letters.

12 Mo. 29": Moved on towards Murfreesboro at 10 a.m. Skirmished every foot of ground. Halted 2 miles from Murfreesboro near the bank of Stone River. Marched in line of battle all day. Camped on & to the left of R.R. in an open wood. Our Company D. and C. went on picket. The weather intensely disagreeable: sleet and rain made my teeth chatter while standing on my post. Our men were not allowed fire in the front at all and the pickets have orders not to talk or speak but in a whisper. We were posted on the N. edge of Stone River. Could hear the rebels calling their regiments' rolls and could see their and our signal lights, fire balls, etc. all night. We expect they have drove as far as they will go kindly.

12 Mo. 30": Relieved from picket at daylight, wet and cold. We could very plainly hear the stir in Bragg's camp and now the battle indeed has fairly begun. Heavy cannonading with sharp musketry from 10 a.m. til one o'clock at night. Our regiment moved 100 yards to the front to picket and guard against surprise. Moved back at daylight.

Mo. 31": At 7 a.m. [Wednesday] the rebels charged McCook's right where Johnston and Davis Divisions were lying. Surprised them and drove them back on Sheridan's Div. wheeling his division in face of a victorious foe. Checked them untill assistance came. General Sill was slain. At seven o'clock the cannonading opened on our right followed by heavy musketry fire and sharp shelling from the enemy's guns in our front; we were formed in line of battle. Marched back into a cornfield and layed down, letting the death messengers fall over and around us, our right McCook's has lost ground and are being forced back; with what feelings do we see our noble stars and stripes surged back, still back, until the sight sickens and brave men turn palid as horse and footmen ambulance and cannon go all streaming back. And the cheers and yells of the advancing rebels tell the short sad story. We are surprised, beaten, is it possible? Our entire right up to our Division Woods have been beaten back and we had hot work to prevent the same to us, having to swing back our right wing to keep in line with our army. At 12 M our regiment was ordered to the support of Gen. Haskell immediately on our right along the R.R. who was sorely pressed by the enemy who was flushed by victory. We went over on the double quick slung our knapsacks and made ready for a charge. Fired one round, loaded, fixed bayonets, advanced 100 yards and layed down. General Rosecrans rode up behind us and told us to hold our fire untill they got close enough to see the whites of their eyes; fire and charge them with a yell. Such is war! But they did not come that close at this point. Here we had John Livezey killed and 2 others hurt in Co. D while we were supporting Haskell. The rest of our brigade suffered fearfully on our old ground and in the cotton field, receiving every charge by a repulse and counter charge the 9 Ills. 15th, 40th, and 57th Ind. and 26 OVI the 40th especially lost heavily. We seem to be spared only that others should fall where we a few minutes ago were lying. Such is the vicissitudes of battle. Saw Colonel Garesche killed. (He was Rosy's chief). Garfield takes his place on General Rosy's staff.

1 Mo. 1" 1863: New Year's Day. Moved at 4 a.m. back off the front. Made fires and got breakfast. Cannonading to our right very heavy. It is said more than 100 Cannon on our side have been speaking at once., the grandest artillery display yet seen or heard. Our company went on skirmish line all day. S.H. Coyle was taken prisoner and several wounded. I never saw such work before. Could see men torn limb from limb and thrown in every direction. But we are holding our ground and rather gaining advantage. Near dark they ceased shelling us & heard nothing after night.

1 Mo. 2": Heavy skirmishing at daylight our Co. went on picket. Terrific cannonading at 10 a.m. Hard fighting on our left from 2 to 3 p.m. At 3 in the afternoon Negley's Division came from the right on double quick to reenforce us as the enemy are seen massing their forces for a grand last charge to break our lines, but we are preparing to receive them. (They wanted to break our left as they had done our right wing 3 days ago.) At 4 o'clock the enemy made a desperate charge on us and to our left and front finally we repulsed them. The rebel corps under General Breckenridge confronted us on left.

1 Mo. 3": Thus ended the Battle of Stone River as the rebels retreated in the night leaving many dead for us to bury which with our own dead took several days with fatigue parties out all the time collecting the dead and digging trenches.

1 Mo. 4": Rained nearly all day and night. We have been in the front ever since the action began three days ago. We have not got the dead near all buried. Are very short of rations. At 2 o'clock a.m. started to move. Crossed the river which we had to wade. Went back on the pike 1 1/2 miles and stopped to rest 3 of our company detailed to bury the dead. This is more like rest than anything we have had for 2 weeks. [Joshua omits designating date as being First Day, Sunday. This occurs often in succeeding entries.]

1 Mo. 5": Our regiment was taken out on picket at noon. Heard the distant roar of cannons to the southwest. Rained very hard in the night.

1 Mo. 6": Our co. layed as reserve all day. Went to camp at night and drawed three days rations. Lt. Ira Ellis came up to us this evening from Nashville.

1 Mo. 7": Marched out through the town of Murfreesboro and after trying 2 or 3 positions finally camped in a beautiful grove of timber to the left of the Nolensville Pike. Pitched our tents etc. The country here is well piked, good roads leading from here and Nashville in every direction.

1 Mo. 8": Layed quiet. Nothing of note took place Writing to friends and relatives at home, Hope I am in some degree thankful for the many preservations during the last few days of my life.

1 Mo. 9": Moved positions 2 miles to the left, not so pleasant a camp.

1 Mo. 10": Layed in camp. Built breastworks out of rails.

Mo. 11": Layed still.

1 Mo. 12": Lt. Ira Ellis started home, resigned.

1 Mo. 13": At 1 o'clock got up and took breakfast and started at 2