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DVB

THOMAS R. FORD
Resident Agent

Altamont, Mo. Jan 6, 1921

Dear Ruth:

Your grandpa began to write his military history last week and will now try and finish it upon as short order as I can. On the 1st of March 1862 our Army evacuated Columbus, Ky. and fell back to Corinth, Miss. (look at your map). Gen. Albert Ridney Johnston in command. I was sick with chills and mumps and sent with some hundreds of others to hospital at Grenada, Miss. (see map) and missed the Great Battle of Shiloh the 6 and 7 of April 1862, but was all through the siege of Corinth in which many were killed and wounded. We finally fell back to Tupelo, Miss. on the Mobile and Ohio R. R. and remained there till August when we were R R around John Hoodsburn) to Knoxville, Tenn. via Mobile, Ala. across the bay at that point then via of Montgomery, Ala., Atlanta, Ga., Chatanooga, Tenn. and on to Knoxville, Tenn. Thence forward we went on foot. On Aug. 30 1862 we fought the battle of Richmond, Ky. and whipped them good and plenty. On Oct. 5 and 6 we found the Battle of Perryville. It lasted about 1/2 a day. We slept on the battlefield but fell back next day and _____ took up our march back to Knoxville, Tenn. From there we went to Murfreesboro where your great grandparents were raised, and the last day of the year run as bloody a battle as was fought. That day 42 of us went into battle 5 of us stacked arms that night, 14 wounded, 8 killed and nearly all of them shot in 12 minutes time, but we whipped them and took the battery.

Altamont, Mo. Dec. 28, 1920

To my granddaughter Ruth Herman

Dear Ruth: Your grandpa is now an old man but can remember things that occurred over 50 years ago better than some that happened last week. I volunteered in July 1861 and was mustered into service at Union City, Tenn. I was in Co. J 12th Tenn. Regiment Infantry before the war was over the 22nd and 47th infantry from the same county (Gibson) were consolidated with us, but we still were numbered the 12th. Our first battle was at Belmont, Mo. on Nov. 7, 1861. I was sick in hospital and left my bed, went up the river and saw the Regiment land on the Mo. shore off the Steamer Charm so all I could do was to stand on the Kentucky side in Columbus (see map) and watch the fight. The Miss. River is one mile wide at Columbus but many minnies and lots of shells came over. I had a dear cousin Davis Hall orderly Sergeant in the 22nd Tenn. killed in battle that night. Our Regiment suffered terribly; our co. had several casualties. We whipped the Yankees and they were glad to get back to Cairo, Ills. 20 miles up the river (see Map). Well my wrist hurts me so I must rest.

Dear Ruth:

I will give you names and dates as far as I can remember of the engagements I took part in:

Belmont, Mo. Nov. 7, 1861
Seige of Corinth, April 1862
Richmond, Ky. August 30, 1862
Perryville, Ky. Oct. 8, 1862
Murfreesboro, Tenn. Dec. 31, 1862
Chicamauga, Ga. Sept. 19-20, 1863
Missionary Ridge, Tenn. Nov. 25, 1863. We were shipped
to ----- Resusic (?), Ga. about May 10, 1864
New Hope Church about MMay 15, 1864
Lost Mountain about May 15, 1864
Kenesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864
Atlanta on Peachtree Creek, July 20, 1864

Where I was wounded and never returned to the army.

With love to all,
Your grandpa
Thos. R. Ford

T. R. FORD

When I was 18 I listened to Andrew Johnson make a political speech at Trenton, Tenn., and thought him the greatest orator in the world. Few men at that time could surpass him. During the War my favorites were the Great War Governor of Tenn. Isham G. Harris. We loved him because he was good to us and was brave a man as ever rode into Battle and he was always on hand at every big battle. He was with us at Murphysboro and Chicamauga and served on the staff of the Commanding Gen.

As I said in answers, Belmont was the only battle I ever saw because I was always too busy and there was too much smoke to see anything. Richmond, Ky. on Aug. 30, 1862 was the next engagement after the siege of Corinth. We (our brigade commanded by Gen. Preston Smith) was detached from Cheatham's division and sent into Ky. under Gen. E. Kirby Smith. We started from Knoxville sometime about the 2nd of August 1862, flanked Cumberland Gap and struck the Yanks commanded by Bull Nelson. They were very stubborn but we whipped them 3 times that day and took the most of them Prisoners about night. I got an unfired rifle on the battlefield, new shoes, blanket, socks, etc. On the morning following the battle our brigade marched about 1/2 mile from where we had bivouacked into a fine blue grass pasture, the 13th Tenn. being next to the 12th. While sticking their guns under good sized tree a private soldier looked and saw 5 Yanks, a sergeant and 4 men in the tree. They had roosted there all night. The reb yelled at them: "Come down out of that tree. I know you are up there. I see your legs hanging down." Of course we all ran over to see the fun and joke the Yanks who proved to be nice boys. The sergeant and I traded canteens, I trading a cedar canteen for a Government one. We showed them the way to Gen. Smith's headquarters and he paroled them.

The battle of Perryville, Ky. on the 8 of Oct. 62 was our next battle. I will state right here that Kirby Smith's foot Cavalry could and did when necessary march 50 miles a day. We did this more than once and any private soldier could tell how far we marched for there was a toll gate every 5 miles. The blue grass region of Kentucky and middle Tenn. to my mind is the best country in the Good old Old U.S.A. Well, at Harrodsburg on the 7 of Oct. our Maj. General Frank Cheatham visited us. We had not seen him for months and were mighty glad to meet him again. We surrounded him, gave him a rousing cheer and he waved his cup and began to cry. We called on him for a speech and he said "You all know I can't make a speech. You are all my children" while the tears rolled down his cheeks. We loved Gen. Cheatham, feared Gen. Bragg and almost worshipped Joseph E. Johnston but I must make this report short.

Berryville was a battle. Our brigade got there about 4:30 p.m. and double quick we from the center to the extreme right then back to the extreme left. During the whole time the Yankee batteries shelled us, although we lost but few men. The other brigades of Cheatham's division suffered quite a loss. We slept on the battlefield and Bragg as usual fell back next day and after a few days we went on that long hike back to Knoxville.

The battle of Murfreesboro on the 31 of Dec. 1862 was one of the

fiercest and bloodiest we took part in. Our brigade charged through an open field for 1/2 mile. I stepped out of line before the order to charge and counted the men in our company who carried guns. There was 44 of us. We lost 22 in the 1st charge, 9 wounded, 3 killed and 5 of us only stuck some together that night. We charged twice more that day, held the field 48 hours, then retreated. Bragg was still in command. We quietly marched in good order to Shelbyville, Tenn. We took no part in the fight that Gen. Breckenridge made on Jan. 2, 1863. Someone had blundered.

And now I will give one or 2 incidents which may be of interest to some one. On Nov. 25, 1862 at Missionary Ridge Grant's army advanced. About 4 p.m. a brigade on our right (not Tennesseans) threw their guns and everything else they had away and stampeded. That forced us to change our allignment as the Yanks were coming up in 4 ranks, colors at the front. I was feeling fine because they were out of breath, could not run and all they cared for was to get through the 1/4 mile Gen. D.'s brigade had left for them. We killed them by hundreds. I shot at a color bearer. He fell to the ground. The colors were caught before they reached the ground until 5 color bearers were killed. All at once our fellows fell back. I looked around; the Yanks had surrounded us with the exception of about 100 yards. Just then I met our Adj. Lieut Jones. He said "Boys, the Yanks are crowding us. 100 of you come and fire them a volley," and then calling me by name: "Dick, I know you. Come, of course." We fire them a volley at 20 feet but it held them but a few moments. Then and there I done the fastest running I ever did. I will say that most of the 100 who fired that volley were captured or killed.

I hope you will make due allowances for an old nervous crippled reb.

Thos. R. Ford

coming up in 4 months. Calmest the
front I was feeling fine because
they were out of abundance could not
see that all they carried for us to get through
they make for the Brigades but for them we
killed them by hundreds & shot at a calm. I never
felt to the ground the colors were caught before
they reached the ground until 5 colors were
we killed all at once our fellows fell back. Look
around the ranks feel hundreds as excited
& about 100 yards just then our own
front Jones he said boys the ranks are excited
us 100 yards come and give them a volley an
then calling me by name 'Daddy Jones' you
some of course we give them a volley at 200
yards till late then but a few moments. Then come
these I alone the fastest running of ever did & in
that most of the 100 who fired that volley in
advance or killed. I hope you will make due
allowance for an old nervous confederate man.

Thomas R. Jones

regard how men of that time could make
him during the my favorites were the
great war Governor of Tom Gahorn
by Harris he loved him because he
was good to his enemies better a man
as ever rode into battle and he was alive
on hand of every big battle he was with
us at Annapolis and Chancellorsville and
served on the staff of the commanding Gen
also I served in command Baltimore was the
only battle I ever saw because I was at
ways looking and there was too much time
to see every thing. Richmond by on
Aug 30 1862 was the most magnificent
after the bridge of Comfort was destroyed
commanded by Gen Foster Smith was ordered
from Chancellorsville and went
into my order Gen & Kirby Smith
we started from Knoxville
the use of August blanked Chancellorsville
got and struck the Gen's command
by Bull's Bluff on 11th they were very subtle

... into a fine blue grass pasture the 13th began being
needed to the 12th while stacking three guns made
a good haul three a private soldier looked
and saw 5 yards a haystack and 4 men made
me. They first searched there all night. It
told me that they came down out of that
I know you are not there I see your legs in
town of course we all run over to see the gun
and take the yards who proved to be a long
the sergeant and I traded cartridges & making
a better bargain for a government one in
I showed them the way to gun barrels this sergeant
of the battle of Ruyter's Bay on the 9 of Oct.
was our next battle I will state right here the
Kilby Smith's foot company could not do it
necessarily march 30 miles a day we did this was
than one and any private soldier could tell
for me marched for there was a tall gate over
5 miles the distance beyond of Kentucky
and Mobile town to my mind as the best
country in the year at 2000 ft. well at the
roads have on the not at all.

your energy and earnest work &
Johnston but I must make this report short
Pennyville was a dreary little town
got there about 4:30 P.M. and unlike Omaha
from the center to the extreme right then
back to the extreme left forming the whole
line the square battens shrouding the
we lost but few men. The other angles of
headlines division suffered quite a loss.
reception the battle field and Briggs was
fell back next day and after a few days
went on that long hike back to Tennessee.
The battle of manassas was on
the 31 of Dec 1862 was one of the fiercest and blood
ever took part in our history. I was through
an open field for miles & I felt that I was before
the order to charge and I felt the men in
company who carried guns there was
10 of us we lost 22 in the 1st charge
I numbered 3 killed. 5 of us only stayed
arms together that night. We charge three
more that day feel the big guns. I am not
Briggs was killed in command. We quickly marched

Nov 25-1862 at Missionary Meeting Gove's company
advanced about 4 p.m. a brigade on
our right (not James's) then the
guns are every thing else they had
are transferred that forest us to
our alignment as the ganks were
coming up in 4 series. Colons at the
front I was feeling fine because
they were out of the earth could not
them that all they carried for us to get through
to get into the Brigades had left for them we
killed them by hundreds & shot at a calmness
he felt to the ground the colons were caught before
they reached the ground until 5-6 colons
we killed all at once our fellows fell back & look
around the ganks had surrounded us except
I about 100 ganks just then our sign was
found Jones he had boys the ganks are coming
us 100 of your own and give them a volley an
them calling me by name 'Dack & know you
one of course we give them a volley at 20 ft
it'll take them but a few moments then our
then I alone the fastest running gank shot & in

J R Ford of Attamont 1770

statements, I would be glad to you to add just as much as you desire.

1. State your full name and present postoffice address
Private all through the war

2. State your age now 79

3. In what State and county were you born? Tennessee Gibson County

4. Were you a Confederate or Federal soldier? Confederate

5. Name of your Company? D (B) Number of Regiment 9th Regt

6. What was the occupation of your father? Farmer and School Teacher

7. Give full name of your father. John Ford Born at Burke
 in the County of Burke State of North Carolina
 He lived at one mile north of Milam Tenn

Give also any particulars concerning him, as official position, war services, etc., books written by, etc. was a teacher taught school filled the office of J. P.

8. Maiden name in full your mother. Vollette Hall
 She was the daughter of Franklin Hall and his wife Jane Hall
 Full Name Full Name
 Who lived at Franklin Co Va. afterward at Murfreesboro Tenn

9. Remarks on Ancestry. Give here any and all facts possible in reference to your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, included in the foregoing, as were they lived, offices held, Revolutionary or other war service; what country the family came from to first settled, county and State; always giving full names (if possible), and never referring to an ancestor simply as such without giving the name. It is desirable to include every fact possible, and to that end the full and exact record from old Bibles should be appended on separate sheets of this size, thus preserving the facts from loss. 2 Brothers of my father Jacob Ford and Thomas Ford fought in the war of 1812 also my uncle Henry Ford was at the battle of Shiloh. Tradition in the Ford family is that our ancestor Thomas a French Huguenot landed in the Carolinas in the year 1732 my father always told me never descended from the F. Perrot.

10. If you owned land or other property at the opening of the war, state what kind of property you owned, and state the value of the property as near as you can. I owned no land my father owned a farm worth \$1000

11. Did you or your parents own slaves? If so, how many? none. Father sometimes had negroes in household but never owned one

12. If your parents owned land, state about how many acres. 200 acres

13. State as near as you can the value of all the property owned by your parents, including land, when the war opened. \$2500
It is difficult to answer that question my father had well stocked farm at the beginning of hostilities.

14. What kind of a house did your parents occupy? State whether it was a log house or frame house or built of other material, and the number of rooms it had. Log house weather boarded 3 large rooms considered a good country dwelling house.

was considered honorable. I knew men who owned slaves who actually patronized border towns their charges as would let them stay in in bad weather and I do not

19. Did the white men in your community generally engage in such work? Yes. At the white in our community worked.

20. To what extent were there white men in your community leading lives of idleness and having others do their work? I suppose take our County over there was not over 5 percent of men who had no employment.

21. Did the men who owned slaves mingle freely with those who did not own slaves, or did slaveholders in any way show by their they felt themselves better than respectable, honorable men who did not own slaves? They met on an ity slave holders and poor men as our neighbor and seemed to respect one another every where.

22. At the churches, at the schools, at public gatherings in general, did slave-holders and non-slave-holders mingle on a footing of yes. I attended school with several slaveholders sons and daughters were all on an equal footing.

23. Was there a friendly feeling between slave-holders and non-slave-holders in your community, or were they antagonistic to each other? There was a good feeling up to the war then when the Federals had the County the home made yards said.

24. In a political contest in which one candidate owned slaves and the other did not, did the fact that one candidate owned slaves any in winning the contest? I think not. I was not a voter till the War and not then until I left Term and never ill and waited a year and have been voter ever

25. Were the opportunities good in your community for a poor young man, honest and industrious, to save up enough to buy a store or go in business for himself? yes many of them did. The opportunities were good as any where I believe. I know a who worked and paid for farms and improved them and several of them were Confederate soldiers.

26. Were poor, honest, industrious young men, who were ambitious to make something of themselves, encouraged or discouraged by slaveholders? I never heard of one being discouraged or discouraged. I am a white man in west Term and discouraged a poor man I never heard of a

27. What kind of school or schools did you attend? Common schools only. Some there good others not so the 3 is was the rule at

28. About how long did you go to school altogether? not over 20 months. (on 2 school months before I was 14 years of age)

29. How far was it to the nearest school? 2 miles. I attended one school on the 1st part of it taught by a graduate from where the highest teachers were taught and there I st

30. What school or schools were in operation in your neighborhood? Kirkman Creek

to H. Williams Co it being the 4th company in 1st Regt over Lt Col was J H Bell over ally Robert C. Cattan

36. After enlistment, where was your Company sent first? California I. Regt

37. How long after enlistment before your Company engaged in battle? about 4 months before was fought on Nov 7 1861. I remember from the Hospital

38. What was the first battle you engaged in? The siege of Corinth and was the only one which lasted till Gen Beauregard had I ever seen any

39. State in your own way your experience in the War from this time on to its close. State where you went after the first battle you did, what other battles you engaged in, how long they lasted, what the results were; state how you lived in camp, how you were clothed, how you slept, what you had to eat, how you were exposed to cold, hunger and disease. If you were in hospital or in prison, state experience here.

We went into winter quarters at Columbus Miss until March 1862 thence to Corinth Miss where the army was preparing to move to fight Grant at the top I was sick with stomach and chills and was taken on a freight train with several hundred others, and

40. When and where were you discharged? I was never discharged. I went to Memphis and was wounded badly at Peachtree on July 2 1864

41. Tell something of your trip home. As I was on crutches I found it as it would be a long story but I left when our army was in the Hospital on August 27 1864 and had to go from Memphis to New Orleans via a float homery also to afloat home

42. What kind of work did you take up when you came back home? After I got able I taught subscription school in a room in the R. I and worked on the farm but had poor health as I

43. Give a sketch of your life since the close of Civil War, stating what kind of business you have engaged in, where you have lived, church relations, etc. If you have held any office or offices, state what it was. You may state here any other facts connected with your life experience which has not been brought out by the questions.

Since December 1867 I have lived north of Mason and Dixon's imaginary line 15 years in Greene and Scott ties in Ill. Gradually used cars in Mo. I came near passing out with same nerve at the Hospital had a fine doctor and good nursing. Although by the mercy of God I had to get home and I find it best that my health started so bad that I had better change climates. After being in a way a little longer I married an old Federal's young daughter who died in this country in 1886. I raised a family of girls and only have been one week old what his mother died the last of her months and died. I remarried in 1890 and have