

David H. Chandler Letters

5th Ind Battery Daniel H. Chandler Artificer

Baldwin Brig

The Fifth Indiana Vol Artillery

Was recruited in Whitley, Noble, Allen, Marshall, and Laporte Cos-And was organized and mustered into the U.S. Service on the 20th day of Sept. 1861.

Capt. Peter Simonson, Columbia City

1st

Sen. Lieut. Henry Rankin, Valsparaiso

Jr. 1st Lieut. Alfred Morrison, Plymouth

Sen. 2d Lieut. Henry M. Allen, Laporte

Jr. 2d Lieut. Gordon Simons, Ft. Wayne

Non Com. Officer Were

O. Serjt. [sic] Jacob F. Ellison, Laporte

2 [illegible] Geo. H. Briggs, Plymouth

1st " James Tollerton, Columbia City

2d " Sam. P.C. Freeman, Ft. Wayne

3d " Jos. M. Allen, Laporte

5th " Smith Brown, Swan

6th " Wilson Guysinger, Columbia City

Co. Clerk Geo M. Robinson

Guider John Marshall

Corps John J. English, – James Watson

John Hughey – Henry Bucker

John E. Douglass – Alexander Craig

Artificers

Black Smiths Alexander Hall – Daniel H. Chandler

Wagon Makers Henry Hackett – John Spear

Saddlers Henry J. Prickett – Jasper N. Koonts

Hospital Stewards

Henry Mock

Waggon [sic] Master

John Walton,

When first organized the Battery numbered 98 Men, And went into camp at Indianapolis [sic] at Camp Morton, but was soon moved to Camp White, on bank of that river, and began drill & camp duty, and filled up the Co to maximum 148 men –

Nov. 20th Received Armament of 6 guns 4-12 pr Smooth bore—2 rifled 6 pr James All brass pieces. With Caisson to Each gun 6 baggage Waggon [sic], 4 horses or mules Each. One Ambulance, A Battery Waggon [sic] and Forge & 148 Horses & Mules

In consequence of an Error in Mustering all were remustered Nov 20th 1861, And the Battery being full & fully Equiped [sic] was organized into sections 2 guns each & mustered 1st-2d- 3d Named “Right” Rankin. Lieut “Middle” Allen, Lieut “Left” Morrison Lieut. The Middle [illegible] had the “James rifles 6 pdrs. The Battery was assigned to the “Army of the Ohio.” Maj Gen. Don-Carlos-Buel, Com, Reported for duty Nov 28th And went into Camp at Camp Jenkins 3 Miles from Louisville Ky under Capt. Terrill. Dec. 19th went to Bacon Creek Ky by rail, And were attached to the 3d division, under Brig. Gen O.M. Mitchell. Feb 9th the Army of Ohio took line of march to Nashville Tenn crossed Green river on R.R. bridge 80 or more ft high, a perilous trip the bridge being 10 ft wide. A file of soldiers lined Each side marking a living railing Through which the teams and pieces had to pass. the [sic] bridge is several hundred feet long at that point The Rebel Army had obstructed the road with rocks And fallen trees & burned bridges & filled ponds with dead carcasses, but the Army pushed on within a few miles of Bowling Green couriers from Cavalry in advance reported Rebels were evacuating Bowling Green & burning the town, the 1st Mich. & 5th Ind. Batteries were ordered “Trot March” and hurried for 1st Mich. in Advance reached the high ground about 1/2 mile from the river in time to throw a few shells across to hurry them in retreat but could not cross as the bridges were down & the river very high, the forage, meat, and other supplies gathered by the Enemy were mostly destroyed or successfully carried off. two [sic] days Afterwards the Army crossed and continued the pursuit and reached Edgefield on 24th, found the Cumberland river very high & all the bridges including the wire suspension bridge belonging to the “Zollicoffer” estate & cost \$100,000 gone having been destroyed by Gen Floyds order, A cowardly act for it did not delay the Army but one day, On 26th crossed river on Steamboats that came up the river from Ft. Donalson [sic] under Gen Nelson, were here joined by troops from below all under Gen Buel [sic], went into camp & remained until Mar 8th the 3d division was ordered to Murfreesboro, which was reached 2 days after being compelled to make circuit of 10 or 12 miles on acct of

bridges being down on the main pike The Div. was composed of the 2d, 7th, & 8th Brigades comd respectially [sic] by Brig. Gen. Dumont, Col Sill of Ohio, & Col Turchin of 19th Ill, The 5th Battery was in 8th In which was 19th Ill. Col Turchin, 24 Ill. Col Mihilotski [sp?], 18th Ohio Col Bill Gibson, 37th Ind. Col Gazley, in the other Brigades were the 2d 3d 10th & 21st Ohio 10 & 21st Wis. & 15th Ky & some other that I dont [sic] remember but think the 5th Ky (Louisville Legion) was one 1st Mich Battery Capt Loomis, 4th Ohio Capt Edgerton, and 4th Ohio cavalry Col Kennett. April 5th the 3 div left Murfreesboro & marched to Shelbyville crossed Duck River the 6th remained 3 days pushed on to Fayetteville thence to Huntsville Al. making a forced march of 65 miles in 2 days & one night reached Huntsville at Sunrise [illegible] of 11th taking the Enemy by surprise & capturing 16 locomotives. 84 loaded cars many empty ones a great quantity of sugar & molasses meat & other stores for the rebel army at Corinth. 1000 old muskets & 200 bales of cotton, all of which was confiscated It was on this occasion that the first effectual service was rendered by the Battery. About 2 1/2 miles from Huntsville the R.R. & Pike run parallel about 500 yds apart just as the Battery reached that point Several Locomotives were discovered on the R.R. trying to escape up the road The 1st detachment ran their gun a 12 pr on a little rise and the 2d shot disabled one of the engines by knocking a drive wheel off, thus stopping all the others, The next day a force was sent each way on the R.R. a piece of artillery being with each one, one went up to Stevuosore [sp?] about 60 miles. burnt [sic] a bridge at Widows Creek & returned with 21 bales of Cotton & some rebel prisoners. the [sic] other went west to Tuscumbia [sic] captured some prisoners 1 gun a 4 pdr & burnt the bridge across the tennessee [sic] river at Decatur While here received news of battle of "Shiloh" All important points were visited and the country thoroughly secured for guerillas & rebel soldiers by the 4th Ohio Cavalry, Col Turchin with 19th & 24th Ill 1 gun each from 5th Ind & 1st Mich Batteries routed a body of Confederates at Athens & raided the town. Col Lytle with 10th Ohio had a fight with Stearnes [sp?] rebel cavalry at Winchester & defeated them killing the Col. Many skirmishes occurred with success generally with the Union forces June 16 Col Turchin with 19th Ill and 3 guns of 5th under Capt Simonson, went to Winchester drove out 600 rebel Cavalry & infantry that had reoccupied the town, Killed one took 47 prisoners, went to Paint [sp?] rock. thence to Stevenson Al. & then [illegible] to Bridgeport when the big bridge crosses the tennessee [sic] River on the Nashville & Chattanooga R.R. Here on the 4th of July 1862 the Guns of the 5th Battery fired a National Salute in honor of the declaration of Independence. The Bands playing favorite National [illegible], Across the river in plain sight the Rebels displayed the Confederate flags & regaled us with Dixie & Bonnie blue flag. About this time the 8th Brigade was broken up Col Turchin having been court martialled for permitting his men to pillage the town of Athens, The sentence of the Court was dismissal from the service which was approved by Gen Buel, but was set aside by President Lincoln who immediately promoted him to a Brigadier Gen. for "Gallant And Meritorious Service," and Mitchel was relieved of command of 3 div. and sent to Beaufort S.C. where he died of Malarial fever in fall of 1862. Bridgeport was made a depot of supplies, & placed under command of Col Tom. Harrison, of 39 Ind with that regiment & 3 guns of 5th Battery. About 5000

troops of Buels Army were at Battle Creek 3 1/2 miles up the river and opposite the Rebel Army about 3 miles away with the broad river between, Brig Gen Lovel, H. Rousseau [sic] succeeded Mitchel in command of the 3d Div, He recruited & took the Louisville Legion to the Army and was in the Mexican War, The 3d Div was attached to Gen. A, McD McCooks Corps The 23d, the Entire Army under Buel was at battle creek Bridgeport and along R.R. Aug. 24th the ballance [sic] of the Battery having arrived from Huntsville it was ordered with 3d Div to Stevenson to garrison the fort at that point. There were 2 Co.s Of 37th Ind. there & 13th Mich. Col. Hammond There also, Buel with all the troops at Battle Creek Evacuated the 29th & 30th striking directly over the Mountains to Cowen, leaving the 3d Div. at Bridgeport to cover the Movement, early on Mor. of 31st information was received that an attacking force of Rebel infantry was advancing from Battle Creek. A small force under Capt Simonson went out to recruit soon met them & after exchanging a few shots and ascertaining that there was a large body with Artillery returned to the fort a 12 pdr, was run out a mile or so & when the enemy made his appearance opened on them causing them to form in line of battle and bring up their Artillery. After firing a few shots the gun retired to the fort, The Enemy now advanced in line & took position about 1/2 mile distant Brought up there guns & opened on the fort but could not reach, The Battery returned the fire dismounted one of their pieces & they retired out of range & sight, Having orders to leave Stevenson & all the cars being loaded and the waggons [sic] ready Everything was started about 2 P.M. The guns with the Infantry as support in rear left 2 at time taking position as rear guard, Thus the 5th Battery has the first Union Artillery to enter Al. & the last to leave in that campaign

We of the army did not know it then but learned it in time, that right then had commenced that (to us) ever memorable race between "Buels" Army, and that commanded by Rebel Gen Bragg, the latter had crossed the Tennessee at & above Chattanooga with a large Army and was rapidly moving Westwardly through Tennessee seriously threatening our communications and invading Ky. and Louisville—

The Div moved slowly being encumbered with many baggage waggons [sic] loaded with stores & rations. And the rear guard was obliged many times to take position and repel attacks of rebel Cavalry that hung persistently on the rear 2 guns would take position "Action front" commanding the road with Infantry as support in line of battle, a half mile or so farther on, 2 other guns & Infantry in same way & again 2 more thus being constantly ready, the rear guns moving forward, when the advance ones here in position, The Enemy made several dashes in but was repulsed Every time with no other casualties on our part than the loss of one baggage wagon & horses with the driver who we always believed purposely strayed off in the dark to be captured, We marched till 11 o'clock & slept "on Arms" in line guns in position, ready for fight but had none, in morning found the train that had left Stevenson loaded with Sick & Convalescents, Stranded the engine being off the track at about 11 A.M. the train got in motion and the troops followed quite slow & made 8 miles to [illegible] not far from the tunnel thro. the Mt: Next day went over the Mountain 6 miles. Reached Cowan at noon and formed

junction with troops from Huntsville & below and pushed on to Estell Springs, saw no more of Rebels after leaving Cowan, next day moved on to Tullahoma and from there to Murfreesboro where Army remained 4 days, then another rush to Nashville, Thus leaving to the Enemy all the territory beyond Nashville that Army had acquired during the previous 6 months Leaving a garrison at Nashville with all the sick and convalescent soldiers, the Army moved on taking the pike thro Edgefield Junction Tyree Springs, Franklin, Mitchel to Bowling Green over the same ground we had gone 6 months before, By this time all knew the rebel Army was on a parallel kine not two days march distant and the feeling was universal that if led against them we could whip them, and there was much criticism of the dilatory and apparently cowardly pollicy [sic] of the Commanding Officer, A halt of 3 days was made at Bowling, then a rush to Glasgow & Cave City where the Army went into line of battle extending to Horse-Well [sp?] Several Miles in extent & waited two days while Bragg coolly walked in & invested & captured Munfordsville with 4500 Union troops 16 pieces of Artillery & great quantities of stores, while Buels Army numbering 10,000 more than Bragg's lay "on arms" in sound of the cannon 4 hours March away 2 entire days at length when Bragg with his army had got out of the way, were again in column on the Pike faced north. A few miles from Munfordsville met the 4500 paroled men minus arms & colors that had bravely fought two days Against twice their number and only Surrendered when entirely surrounded & out of ammunition Both armies now continued the "race" for Louisville, the 23d & 24th Sep the troops marc[paper cut off] almost continuously, stopping only to sleep [paper cut off] eat, and night of 24 marched all night a [paper cut off] reached Louisville at sunrise complete[paper cut off] worn down with fatigue and want of rest th[paper cut off] road for last 10 or 13 miles lined with men who had fallen asleep exhausted, Bragg had turned off towards Bardstown and buried his Army in gathering up horses cattle and provisions of all sorts for use of the Confederacy, Thus it was apparent that with the exception of holding the L. & N. RR. to Nashville & that city scarcely any had been done to further the Union cause, it was now a year since we of the 5th Battery had left our homes to defend our Country from disunion and to say we were despondent & disappointed is putting it mildly, We were disgusted, indignant! Mad!! We looked across the Ohio river to the green hills of our State & longed to be there, but we had Enlisted for three years and it was well for the Union cause that 3 years was the limit I have no doubt but had the soldiers been free to do so half of them would have quit right then & went in again a few months later, During the year our Battery had lost 9 men died of disease 13 had been discharged unfit for service by Sickness & Exposure 1 captured & never came back 2 deserted and 17 in hospital & convalescent camp 1 accidentally killed, not a man had been hurt in battle, We had been in several skirmishes it was true, but had been a whole year in the army and not a man of our Co. had been killed or even wounded in battle. We felt humiliated and were spoiling for a fight, We had no confidence in our Commanding Gen, and believed he was wholly incompetent, but a few days rest a clean wash and new clothes some fresh horses in place of old ones, with plenty of work recuperating and fitting up soon put an end to murmuring and after a rest of 6 days the Army increased to at least 70,000 in the ranks were in motion, it was

said "bag Mr. Bragg." The Army had he[page cut off] reorganized, We were still in McCook's Corps & 3d Div. the Nos of Brigades were changed to 9th 17 and 28th. In 9th was 2d & 3[illegible]d Ohio, 38th Ind 10th & 21st Wis. Regts. & 5th Ind. Battery, in 17th was the 3d & 10th Ohio, 42d & 88th Ind. & 1st Mich. Battery 28th had the 50th & 94th Ohio, 75th Ill. & 76th Pa Regts & 1st Ky Battery. The Div. was commanded by Gen. Rousseau. The 9th Brigade by Col. Lou Harris of 2d Ohio, 17th by Col Ben Scribuer [sp?] of 38th Ind, 28th by Col Stackweather [sp?] of 76th Pa. We left Louisville the 2d of October on Bardstown Pike but left it, went through Shepardsville, Taylorsville, Bloomfield, Mackville, which latter was reached by the 7th on morning of 8th were ordered up at 2 in Mor. & had breakfast and took line of march at daylight in distance of Perryville 9 miles distant, at 8 heard guns In advance & Div. halted & made ready for battle, Our detachments had been filled by "details" from the Infantry who were instructed in their duties. Sponge buckets were filled and everything looked after in proper form. About 11 reached the hills bordering Chaplin Creek which was dry at the time & water was hard to find, went into line of battle, we were the left of the 3d Div. 17th the centre & 28th the right. The day was clear and beautiful, the mild October sun shone with genial warmth, clothing [illegible] and woodland with a golden light, The ground was dry and dusty, The 5th went into position in an open field, the 38th Ind on our right. 10th Wis on left, Opened fire on the Enemy at about 11:50, Loomis Battery being already engaged, Enemy replied with several pieces and firing rapidly extended along the line and soon became very hot & continued for an hour or more with artillery alone. About 12-50 Loomis fell back some 300 yds the Enemy having got an [illegible] range on his pieces, Simonson held his position and to use his own words "kept [illegible] away until guns got hot as could not fire" Water to sponge with after first few [illegible] The supporting Regts were lying flat on the ground on either side & behind the guns shot & shell from Rebel Batteries howled and shrieked over & around, now tearing up the dry Earth and again "[illegible]" with a wild unearthly shriek again strike or explode with terrible effect. This was our first real battle and we soon began to realize what a battle means, we soon lost our anxiety for a fight, often thro. the smoke we could see the Enemy marching & forming in line to attack, and as often when we turned the guns on them they would disappear, About 1 P.M. the Rebels made a charge on the 1st Div. on the