

## Jesse Leeper Civil War Diary

### Private, Company I, Fourth Indiana Volunteer Cavalry

#### Biographical Information

PVT Jesse Leeper enlisted in Company I, Fourth Indiana Cavalry Regiment (Seventy-seventh Regiment of Indiana Volunteers) from his home shown as Independence, Indiana. He was mustered into Federal service with the regiment on 6 August 1862 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Indiana AG Report indicates that he died of disease at Nashville, TN, on 17 January 1864. PVT Leeper's diary covers the regiment's activities from Murfreesboro, TN, through the Tullahoma Campaign, the Battle of Chickamauga, and the beginning of the pursuit of Roddy and Wheeler from Chattanooga to McMinnville, TN. The diary closes with a final entry dated about the 2d of November 1863.

#### First Entry

"June the first in the year one thousand and eight hundred and sixty-three, "I bought this book and paid 40 cents for it."

#### June the First

Nothing going on today but Drill and Grazing the weather very warm orders to draw and cook 3 days rations and be ready to march at any time. [Ed Note: The regiment at this time was in the vicinity of Murfreesboro, TN, as part of the Second Brigade [Col. E. M. McCook], First Division [MGEN R B Mitchell], Cavalry Corps [MGEN David S. Stanley], Army of the Cumberland [MGEN W. S. Rosecrans] Other organizations in the brigade included First and Second East Tennessee Cavalries, Second Indiana Cavalries, First Wisconsin Cavalry, and Company D. First Ohio Artillery COL. John A. Platter (USV) commanded the regiment at that time.]

#### June the 2

Rained some today the day about the same as yesterday but some firing some cannon on the picket lines

#### The 3rd

Heavy firing on the Shelbyville Pike and at triune [sic] we ar [sic] kepet [sic] in readiness [sic] to mount but not called out firing continued until after dark

Fourth

Cannonading begins at daylight we are ordered to saddle [sic] our horses and be ready to mount about noon we are mounted and going on the Salem Pike got to the pickets and formed front in line but did not wait long untill [sic] we was ordered to move over on the Midleton [sic] Pike and there was a force standing there and then we was led out through farmes [sic] and scirts [sic] of timber we went about 2 miles when our scouts wer [sic] fired on and they was reinforced and we formed in line of battle which extended about four miles and then we moved forward in two lines one on dismounted [sic] and in front about 200 yards and in this manner we marched about six the scirmishers [sic] picking up as they firing all the time the [missing] of the ground being well adapted for gurilez [sic] fighting there being a number of small branches running parallell [sic] through the country at a distance of about a half mile apart and away those streams about one half of the ground is covered with large stones rising about 4 feet above the surface and this stony parts is left on it which is very heavy and between those streams there is strips of beautiful land which in a state of cultivation some of it in corn and some in wheat but the most in cotton which is about ankle high and the corn about knee high the wheat is due to cut in a few days these strip appear to extend for miles and are cleared out from forty to sixty rods wide and the rebles [sic] scirmishers [sic] would hold our scirmishers [sic] in the front of each of these the same time as their men could take refuge behind the stone and timber and fences while our men had to advance in open ground and on being drove from one of these places they would fall back on the next and in this way we followed them about 6 miles when it become sunset and we returned to camp by way of the night and as soon as we got there we had orders to draw five days rashons [sic] and cook them and put them in our havver [sic] sacks this making seven days and this amount must be kept on hands all the time this day our brigade had five men wounded and some threw from their horses and hurt but none serious there was fighting all around today

June the 5

This morning all quiet I hear no cannon at all but we had a thunder shower last night a shock of thunder awakened me in the night and for some time I thought it was a bumshell [sic] but after some time I saw it lightning and herd [sic] the rain falling and then I knew what it was we remained in camp all day and drilled on foot but in the afternoon we saddled [sic] up to be ready to move at any time reports comes in that we lost all of our force at Triune and Franklin night comes and puts an end to all our cares

Saturday morning the 6

Raining some this morning before breakfast our company is ordered to saddle [sic] and after we ate a bite we mounted and rode into town in the gallop and passed on through town and galloped out eight miles on the Nashville road and the lieutenant found out he was on the wrong road and we galoped [sic] back to town again and there we was informed that our duty was to drive some cattle to Triune and we got at it as soon as we

old [sic] and we had to pass our camp, we got there some men told us that the rebs [sic] were so thick on that roade [sic] that we would be gobled [sic] up before we got there and then you ought to see some of the boys get sick and play out it is true that most of our horses were played out my horse was in bad condition but I would not say anything as long as he could walk the cattle was verry [sic] poor and it was verry [sic] hot and it was hard to get them along but we arrived at Triune about sundown and to our surprise the Tenth IND Regiment of Volunteers was there and we spent the night with our friends with the greatest pleasure they are encamped in a beautiful sugar tree grove that makes a splendid shade and they are the noisiest lot I ever saw in my life. [Editor's note: The Tenth Indiana Infantry was one of the first 90-day regiments recruited for Civil War duty It was first mustered into Federal service at Indianapolis on 20 April 1861 under the command of COL Joseph J. Reynolds. The regiment was later enlisted for three years on 18 September 1861. COL Mahlon Manson, Crawfordsville, Indiana, assumed command of the regiment until he was promoted to command a brigade with appropriate rank Lieutenants Colonel William Kise, Lebanon, Indiana, commanded the regiment in the Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky, in January of 1862. The companies of the Tenth Indiana were recruited in: A, Boone County; B, Montgomery County; C, Clinton County; D, Benton County; E, Tippecanoe County; F, Boone County; G, Franklin County; H, Tippecanoe County; I, Boone County; K, Tippecanoe County; and Enlisted Staff and Band, Lafayette.]

Sunday Morning the 7

I took breakfast with the Millford boys. Last night I staid [sic] with the Pond Grove Boys the Troop has a grand review to day I was interested in conversing with the boys and the company went of(f) and left me and they came about 3 miles before they missed me and then lieutenant sent Joseph Knight [Editor's note: Knight was a private Company I; died at Fayetteville, TN, 25 July 1863] back after me and they rode on and you see I must have been 6 miles behind the Officer of the picket guard said that we would be captured and we had better not try it but we told him that we was willing to try it and he concluded at last to let us go and we galloped taking good notice of all the houses that no one took snap judgment on us but we overtook the command in about 3 miles of this place and just before we got up with them they run some fellows from the road and fired some shot but they was dressed in our uniform they shot a hole in one of thair [sic] hats and he stoped [sic] and had a pass from our General and the boys let him go again butt if we was right he would not have run on seeing our men and the Lieu come to the conclusion and sent after him again but he had fled We got in camp about 2 o clock pm the chat in camp was that we had been gobled [sic] in but knew it was a lye [sic] as soon as I heard every thing quiet we found one of our majors under arrest for being intoxicated

Monday Morning

Everything still today I have not heard a cannon today this afternoon we had a greate [sic] time at drill we done some greate [sic] charging the thunderingest [sic] time I ever saw our track was about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long and it apeared [sic] that every one [sic] tried to get a head it was hard to manage a horse my horse run over a stump and come near falling preparing to move to Triune in the morning.

Tuesday the 9

We had orders to be prepared to move at 8 oclock [sic] am which was done but did not move untill [sic] one and then the roade [sic] being so muddy that the teames [sic] could hardly get along they had to throw away a greate [sic] site [sic] of forage and burned concidrable [sic] of corn and oats and some wagons that broke the distance is 14 mile I was on rear guard and did not get into the picket lines untill [sic] 12 at night there was stoped [sic] and fed and laid down but I was a horse guard and only slep [sic] 2 hours

Editor's note: General Stanley reported in the OR's that incessant rains fell from 24 June until 3 July, obviously later than those described by Lepper. However, that does not preclude that the rains described by Leeper could not have fallen earlier. The conditions according to General Stanley's report were: "...incessant rains and the consequent condition of the roads rendered the operations of the cavalry difficult and exceedingly trying to the men and the horses. The impossibility of bringing up forage in wagons, and the absence of feed in the 'Barrens of the Cumberland Mountains', the constant rain depriving the poor beasts of their rest, has reduced the cavalry considerably. They now require rest and refitting. Notice how the following entries constantly refer to the rains during this period.]

Wednesday the 10th

This morning we started a little after day light without eating or feeding and passing through Triune and pitched our camp in a heavy pach [sic] (of) poplar beach and gum timber where the leaves was about knee deep but we went to work and cleared it of in nice order and it is a beautiful place showers all day and promises of sunshine warm

June the 11th

Showers of rain sunshine in the morning about 8 oclock [sic] the enemy surprised and captured all our pickets on 2 posts amounting to 27 and moved up and shelled some camps firing heavy we was called and formed in line about 11 oclock [sic] and we went through the little town and formed in line of battle and they began to fall back our brigade made a circuitous march and partially gained thar [sic] rear but not suficient [sic]

to bag them firing was heavy for some time the enemy fell back across the Harpeth (River) and glad of the chance in this affair [sic] our brigade lost 2 men killed and 7 wounded we got to camp about 5 o'clock [sic] all still we took more prisoners than we lost all together we took 40 prisoners and got in camp before night

[Editor's Note: Colonel Edward McCook reported the action of 11 June as a rapid advance upon the enemy positions at Chapel Hill with the Second Indiana on the right, the Fourth Indiana in the center, and the Second east Tennessee on the left. McCook reported lively skirmishing all the way to the Big Harpeth River. The Second Indiana suffered one officer and one enlisted man killed and two enlisted men wounded. Colonel Platter reported the actions of the Fourth Indiana similarly with 3 enlisted men wounded and 5 missing. Eight horses were disabled.]

12th

All quiet today graze and drill

13th

Last night the whole camp was alive with martial about 6 o'clock [sic] I learned that there was a large infantry force went out in the night herd [sic] some [sic] cannon at 11 we were ordered to be ready to mount at noon and at that time we mounted and went out to hunt them, our command was divided out and went different ways the part that I was in went to Cassville where it had been reported that there was a rebel [sic] force but they were not there we found no force but some scouts and not many of them the first Tennessee cav [sic] took 50 prisoners [sic] I was flanker today and rear guard as we came to camp we got in about nine that night

In the morning I was detailed to build a meeting house but going out put a stop to it we went through some beautiful country there is not more than one acre of corn here to 5 last year in the night we had to get up and draw 2 days rations [sic] and have it ready in case we had to march but the sabbath [sic] morning came with out [sic] any interruption the day passed off slow about noon General Cheatham sent in a flag of truce for all the women and children to be moved out of the place by noon tomorrow that he should attract [sic] the place at that time it is about sunset and I hear heavy firing cannon east of here a cloud rising and a nice shower falls

[Editor's Note: This is about the time that General Rosecrans launched the Tullahoma Campaign. Troop dispositions as the campaign was initiated follow: Confederate, Wheeler's cavalry at McMinnville on the right; Forrest's cavalry at Columbia on the left; Hardee's corps at War Trace; Polk's corps at Shelbyville; and Bragg's headquarters at Tullahoma: Union, Crittenden's Twenty first Corps at Bradyville southeast of Murfreesboro; Thomas' Fourteen Corps on Manchester Pike to the right of Murfreesboro; Alexander McCook's corps on Thomas' right; Granger's Reserve Corps on the Shelbyville Road; and Stanley's Cavalry Corps on the army's left flank to the right of Granger between Franklin and Triune]

Monday the 15th

Today we went to Nashville as a guard for the wagon train wheat is in good order to harvest and it is good passed where every body had pies to sell at 25 cents each

Tuesday 16th

All still and warm time passed on without anything only one heavy rain which caused the water to run through our camp in a low piece of ground about belly deep to a horse which had no respect for a pup tent but piled them around as it did other trash

22nd

On the 22nd we trimed [sic] up our camp finishing it just in time to the beauty of it which was truly greate [sic] we retired at night thinking we would stay here for some time but on this day I had the ague

23<sup>rd</sup>

This morning I reported sick had a severe head ache before breakfast we got orders to draw 3 c(d)ay rashons [sic] and be in line ready to march at 8 oclock [sic] which was done and we marced [sic] nearly all the force at that place the cavalry in advance but at the edge of the town the infantry and artillery moved to Murfreesboro the mounted force about 6000 strong with 2 small pieces of artillery moved in the direction of Shelbyville went about 10 miles when our advance came in contact with the Forth [sic] Georgia Reg which was doing picket duty the four KY Reg [Editor's Note: Third Brigade, COL L D Watkins] charged them and they fell back on the main force sharp scirmishing [sic] was kep [sic] up in front all the time the rebs [sic] falling back all the time untill [sic] about 2 oclock [sic] pm when the enemy opened up with a six gun battery 2 of our guns was ordered up and took position on a rais [sic] and the rebs [sic] moved their battery our battalion was ordered up to support the artillery Col Platter with one battalion tried to charge the reb [sic] battery but was repulsed and fell back in good order in a short tine after that the rebs [sic] made a charge on our right on on(e) of the tenn [sic] reg but were nicely drove back in the evening our company was ordered as skirmishers while we was engaged Isaac Moles received a wound and he had to leave the field bullets flew pretty thick around sunset the rebes [sic] slack up their fire and drew off we turned and went about 2 miles and encamped for the night at 3 am we was out in line and remained there untill [sic] day light when we march out by this time it was raining we marched through some hard county and bad roads at about 2 pm we come upon Midleton [sic] where we was greeted with the sound of musketry and artillery her [sic] we was ordered to support the left flank the pretty part of the day was the 3rd

Michigan [Editor's Note: Wilder's Lightening Brigade] with revolving rifles dismounted and advanced in open coloms [sic] the rebes [sic] charged them but they could not aford to come to [sic] close this day the rebes [sic] lost conciderable [sic] we lost only about 5 men we drove the enemy and took posesion [sic] of the town and burnt a wollen the rebes retired to shelbyville we marched to within 9 miles of murfreesboro [sic] to get our suply [sic] train which we found about 10 oclock [sic] at night rai(n)ing good and fast did not take our sadles [sic] off last night or to night rained all night

[Editor's Note: The next morning (24 June) the march was resumed with the Second Brigade leading the First Cavalry Division. The brigade encountered enemy skirmishers about a mile and a half north of Middleton, drove in the skirmishers, and followed with a mounted attack against the enemy's main body. The Fourth Indiana was in an uncommitted role during the attack carried out by the other regiments of the brigade. Enemy sharpshooters occupied the log houses in Middleton, and the light cavalry carbines could not dislodge the snipers from their cover. General Mitchell came up, observed the situation, and ordered up two artillery pieces which began to zero in on the log houses. Under the cover of the supporting artillery, the Second East Tennessee drew sabers and ran headlong into the town, killing or driving the snipers out of their haven.]

June the 24th

This morning still raining we mount and move about one mile and camp in a piece of timber but in a few hours it become verry [sic] muddy [sic] and disagreeable good water not to be got here we fed our horses for the first time since we started rained all day

June the 25th

This morning we got orders to be ready for inspection of armes [sic] we remained in this place all day we drew rashons [sic] here

June the 26th

This morning we broke up camp and marched out on the shelbyville [sic] pike march to what is called guys gap where the was posted Here a sharp fight took place but the rebes [sic] was compeled [sic] to give way and that at their best speed at some other gaps the was regiments were posted but they in turn had to get out and go leaving all their surplus and losing a good number of prisners [sic] at each place they fall back to thair [sic] earth works at Shelbyville but here the [sic] was a feint move made on thair [sic] right flank and then fell back and in a short time after thair [sic] front was successfully charged and here about 300 prisners [sic] was taken [illegible words] 3 miles from town but they mad [sic] another stand in the town and planted thair [sic] battery in the streets here the 9th PA CAV charged thair [sic] battery and captured 3 of

the gunes [sic] and casions [sic] the 3<sup>rd</sup> IND Editor's Note: Third Brigade, Second Cavalry Division] and some other Reg charged the retreating enemy and killed and wounded a greate [sic] many and took about 500 prisers [sic] numbers of armes [sic] which was all broken as we had no use for them we remained in town untill [sic] night when we was ordered picket and remained until the next day which was Sunday Abott [sic] 9 oclock [sic] am we was called in while we was here on picket we fared well we took some meal to a house and got it cooked which went nice about nine oclock[sic] we was called in and we marched back nine mile toward murfreesboro [sic] the rain fell in torents [sic] there we staid [sic] in a clover field and had inspection but Monday morning at one oclock [sic] we marched from that place this was verry [sic] agrivating [sic] as it was verry [sic] dark and the raining extremely hard we marched on the Shelbyville roade [sic] untill [sic] we come to the edge of the town and then we turned to the left and went to war trace [sic] and from thence to manchester [sic] we staid [sic] one night between these places in a creek botom [sic] and it rained as common, we started and went within 2 miles of manchester [sic] and we herd [sic] that our train was atacted [sic] and we turned back and marched back to the place where we staid [sic] the night before and there we met our train and we camped there for that night and the next day and drew 5 days half rashons [sic] and it still rained. We sarterd [sic] at 8 oclock [sic] again for manchester [sic] and passed through it about noon wilders [sic] mounted infantry [Editor's Note: First Brigade, Fifth Division, Army of The Cumberland] was there and a greate [sic] many other troops was there we thought that was was [sic] going to Tulihome [sic] but before we got there we turned to the left and marched up Elk River about 20 miles when we come to the Ford the enemy was there and drove our advance back scouts was sent out and it was found that the river could be forded about 3 miles above and about the same distance below which was soon done and then we move them out of that place after some loss we marched 2 or 3 mile in line of battle until we come on the upland and we was preparing our camp when the enemy was discovered on our left formed in line was was [sic] emediatley [sic] formed in line and marched for them but they gave way with out resistance and our was sent out in the advance to draw the enemys [sic] fire but they did not give it and it was to [sic] late to folow [sic] them it being and as our company was in the advance it was left there on picket the boys in hunting around found some gotes [sic] and they bootchered [sic] some of them and had some goate [sic] meat and some mutton

Editor's Note: General Mitchell described the actions leading to the crossing of the Duck River (27 July) as one smashing victory by the First Cavalry Division. “. . .in the close hand-to-hand contest, and in the crowd of the rapidly freeing enemy, it is impossible to state the exact number of prisoners taken, my forces sending prisoners as rapidly as captured to the rear, and pushing on the lower bridge across the Duck River, drove, such of the enemy as attempted to escape without surrender, into the river. Upward of 175 or 200 were either killed on the river bank or drowned in their attempt to escape by swimming. The enemy were completely routed and demoralized, and darkness alone prevented the capture of the entire rebel force.]

The next morning we started and marched to decard [sic] station it rained hard and as we marched along a man [Editor's Note: PVT Henry Bellville, Company K, Rockport, Indiana] fell off his horse and broke his neck some thought he had a fit and some that he went to asleep we arrived at decard [sic] about 2 oclock [sic] pm and marched about 3 miles to the left and encamped on account of the rain

Next morning being the Fourth day of July about 9 oclock [sic] am we was ordered out to take a train that was said to be about 3 mile from us we marched about 5 mile along side of the cumberland [sic] mountain and there we saw where they had encamped but were all gone and we took thair [sic] track and started up the mountain after them we did not go far untill [sic] we come to where they began to fall timber across the difficult places to pass as the surface was covered with large stones and it was impossible for a horse to walk out side of the roade [sic] where the stone had been rolled out and the result was that we had to clear the timber out before we would follow them but we come to it so think that we could not make any progress and on that account as it was raining so we turned back and went to our old camp again and we staid [sic] untill [sic] the 6 day of the month then we marche [sic] through Winchester a beautiful town we marched 5 mile to the right side of Winchester an [sic] camped at a large pond we staid [sic] here for 3 or 4 days having bad water we marched to a little town called Salem here we had good water and a nice camp ground here we had a day or 2 that it did not rain from this place we started for Huntsville Alabama we passed through some small towns on the roade [sic] the [sic] was nothing worth notice ocured [sic] on this march we arrived about sunset on the 3 day we found a beautiful town and more contrabands than I could tell any use for this is surely the greatest place for negroes that I have ever saw in my life at least 2 to one the streets was lined with them the white people look grimm [sic] and ill but the [sic] was a smile on the face of evry [sic] darkey [sic] in the place the enemy had left this place before we got there and gone across the Tenn [sic] River we went about one mile beyond the town and encamped in a piece of woodland that was covered with briars and small brush large timber scare here the [sic] was no other fence here that we could get for wood but plank fence and it took a greate [sic] chance of it I will here make some remarks of the country for some miles on the side of the side of the town that we come in on it is a delightful country in about 2 miles on the east side of the towns one ridge of the Cumberland Mountain but on the south and west is the prettiest country that I ever saw and it is as productive as any of our Northering [sic] counties and it appears that the whole creation is corn and the prospect is good as could be asked for at this time in the year some of the earliest begins to yeald [sic] us some roastin [sic] ears during our stay in those camps that I have spoke of we never have been still but had to hunt for forage which took about one of the command we could not get transportation for forage on these marches and by this I saw a good chance of the country I have not spoke about black baries [sic] the most of them in this country that I have ever saw and the largest ones we began to get about the first of July and they was plenty in evry [sic] place we have been at while here we begin to find some ripe peaches which promises us a good thing as the whole country south of the Cumberland River abounds with peach trees we begin to get

onions and potatoes to eat which helps us a great deal since we left triune [sic] we have had plenty of fresh meat while we was in camp here we went to the river one day and fired some shell over at the rebs [sic] works but they did not reply

On the 20 day of July we got orders to march we started at 4 oclock [sic] am and marched to Flintrock River and camped for the night on the farm of the secitary [sic] of war of the Southern Confederacy marched in the morning at 4 oclock [sic] arrived at Fayetteville Tenn [sic] about 3 oclock [sic] pm this is a beautiful place but our camp is too much encumbered with weeds and briars we encamped in the river bottom.

22

Today we moved our camp across the river we remained in this place until the 26th day of July we marched to Salem arrived there about 3 oclock [sic] pm went into our old camp and remained there untill [sic] about 3 oclock [sic] the next day when we marched to winchester [sic] and arrived there about 10 oclock [sic] pm when morning came a report come with it that we would get 4 months pay before we left.

On the 30th day of July we received our pay I received 56 dollars and sent 50 dollars of that home next morning we marched back to camp at Salem again this making the 3rd time we have camped here on this ground

August the 1st

We marched to Fayetteville we arived [sic] here about 5 pm and camped on our old ground and remained here untill [sic] the 11th of August we marched at 4 pm for Huntsville where we arived [sic] the 12<sup>th</sup> and encamped near the Greate [sic] spring

August the 13th

We marched this morning we took our way through the mountains marching parallel with the Memphis and Charlestown Rail Roade [sic] encamped about 4 mile above Maysville for the night here a prisner [sic] tried to make his escape the guard shot him he he [sic] fired 5 times one ball broke his arm and one shot struck him in the and passed through his stomach which proved fatal it was extremely dark when this was done marched at 3 am and arived [sic] at paint rock river bridge where our Regiment was left to guard the Rail Road across the river here we have a good time we scout and forage the most of the time the people are all turning Union we remained here untill [sic] last day of Au [sic] we marched for Stephonson [sic] and arived [sic] on the first day of September here we have to across the river but the [sic] is so many soldiers crossing that we may have to wait 3 or 4 days there is a splendid pontoon bridge here but the(re) is men enough to keep it fool [sic]

[Editor's Note: The Cavalry corps entered the area around Huntsville just after the close of the Tullahoma Campaign and just prior to the events leading to the battle for Chattanooga and Chickamauga. The Fourth Indiana Cavalry is now preparing to cross Lookout Mountain preparatory to the action we remember today as the Battle of Chickamauga. The OR's presents a series of reports involving the Second Brigade and the Fourth Indiana Cavalry through September. These reports generally relate to the crossing of the Tennessee River on the 2d, advancing toward Lafayette, Georgia, by the 7th, the actions of the regiment in the Battle of Chickamauga, and of escorting the supply trains back to Bridgeport, Alabama, by the 25th. The crossing of Sand Mountain briefly referred to by PVT Leeper was quite an arduous task for the regiment. Colonel Platter's battalions escorted the brigade trains to the foot of Sand Mountain. The force then set up a camp, cared for the horses, with the men returning to assist the trains up Sand Mountain. Two hard days were required to help the ascent of the steep mountain slope. See entries below for September 3d through 6th.]

Sep the 2ond [sic]

The sun shines beautiful we are still lying here to cross some talk about country but the [sic] is the best material on the south to make a good country that I ever saw anywhere but indolence appears to be the leading character there is no improvements of any sort only once in a while a fine house but it is not evry [sic] rich man that has one of these some rich men lives in old log houses with the cracks that a dog can crall [sic] through thair [sic] country church houses are make of hued [sic] timber with boards nailed over the cracks on the inside and the roof is made of clabboards [sic] and a log cut out on 2 sides answers for a window glass in one of the country houses in the last hundred miles they look more like a hog hours or a sheep shed than anything else I have not saw a country school house in the last 3 months they use the old wooden mole board plow here yet notwithstanding the [sic] is as good corn here as I ever saw anywhere the soil is good for most anything

September the 3

We crossed the river and camped about two miles below

4th

This morning we marched about 3 miles above and encamped for the night

5th

This day we climbed the sand mountain and marched about six miles and camped

6

Today we got across the mountain into will valey [sic] and marched about 8 miles up the valey [sic] and camped and remained 2 days and we marched out across lookout mountain into Alpine Valy [sic] her [sic] at the foot of the mountain we met the enemy and drove them away after some loss we camped here and scouted some we marched toward Rome which place we found the enemy strong posted we did not make any atact [sic] but returned to our camp the next morning we started out to the east and marched about 8 miles and atacted [sic] and drove forest [sic] [Editor's Note: Nathan Bedford Forrest] back through Summerville and county set of some county in Georgy about 5 miles from here we found the enemy in strong force we fell back to Summerville and encamped for the night in morning we marched out again and found them about the same place we scirmished [sic] with them for some time when was a force came up in our rear we took a by roade [sic] to the left and got out of the trap and marched back to our old camp and staid [sic] for the night the next day we recrossed the lookout mountain for to draw rashons [sic] and went down at a point near Lafayette and camped for the night

Abot [sic] 10 oclock [sic] today we started for Chattanooga marched about 15 miles and camped for the night

Sep the 18

This morning we marched untill [sic] about 2 oclock [sic] pm we were fired on we scrimished [sic] for some time and the command marched on late in the evening we arrived at the coffee spring about 1 ½ mile in the rear of where crittenden [sic] [Editor's Note: MGEN Thomas L. Crittenden, USV] was engaged reinforcement had arived [sic] before we got there the roar of the battle was terrible cannon were fired at the of one or 2 per second and musketry was a continually [sic] roar our company was sent on picket the cavalry force was to guard the rear and suply [sic] trains about 9 oclock [sic] at night the firing died away about 8 oclock [sic] Sunday morning I commenced again and raged terrible about noon we was called in again and formed line of battle near the hospital as the(re) was the appearance of the rebbles [sic] in in that direction we remained for some time and we was started on towards Chattinooga [sic] to guard the trains through as it was found our forces must retreat they commenced it by moving the trains first we did not move on the direct road but on the west road we moved on untill [sic] we come to the river bottom where the(re) is another roade [sic] comes in here we was halted and remained untill [sic] about 11 oclock [sic] at night when we moved with in six miles of town and remained until morning we then went back about 4 miles and stood picket that day and night through the woods abot [sic] day light next morning we was informed that we was about to be cut off we marched to Chattinooga [sic] on the double quick here we found the soldiers entrenching and burning some houses that night come in the artillery scirmishing [sic] had already begun and cannon firing briskly we remained in town untill [sic] evening we crossed the river in the rear from the time

we left the mountain we had frequent scirmishing [sic] up to the time we recrossed the river we remained here untill [sic] the 26th the [sic] has been assult [sic] after assult [sic] up to this time but they have ganed [sic] nothing yet

On this day we was ordered down the river to Bridgeport we marched over the mountain into the Caschauchee [sic] valy [sic] over Sunday

On the 28th we marched on down to Bridgeport arived [sic] late in the night

On the 29 it began to rain the first the first that we have had in a long time

On the 30th and also on the first of October this morning we had orders to draw a days rashons [sic] and get ready for 3 days scout we got ready bout 8 oclock [sic] we marched to Jasper and camped for the night

The 2ond [sic] we marched again about 12 miles and fed our horses and staid [sic] there about 3 hours and again took up our march up the valy [sic] we had not marched long untill [sic] we saw smoke rising we did not go far untill [sic] we saw some men and negroes running as though they were running for life they told us that the rebes [sic] we burning a large wagon train we did not march

[last entry in the diary]

Editor's Note

On the first of October, Colonel McCook's headquarters was at Bridgeport, Alabama with only three regiments of his division. In the midst of a heavy downpour Colonel McCook received word at 1100 hours that Wheeler had crossed the Tennessee at Washington, Tennessee, and was ordered to Washington's Crossroads to pick up the pursuit with whatever force was available. The action that followed was generally referred to as Roddy's and Wheeler's Raid. The Fourth Indiana was generally concerned with the pursuit of General Wheeler in the subsequent actions. McCook began the pursuit with only the Second Brigade at 1300 hours which indicates the high degree of discipline that the cavalry elements had so far attained. Think of the actions accomplished in only two hours in the middle of a blinding rain. Receiving and issuing orders affecting more than 3000 men and 3000 horses, collecting and mounting the horses, assembling the brigade trains and artillery section, and seeing the column on the road and passing the start point of the march. Part of the reaction time was consumed by the lower headquarters and mounting the horses of heir commands. No small task to accomplish in only two hours. Due to the condition of the roads and the horses, the column did not reach Jasper until 2030 hours the next day McCook ordered the Second Brigade to march for Anderson's Crossroads (from Jasper) by dawn, and the column moved out. At about 1330 hours the heavy column of smoke that Leeper referred to above was observed rising from a burning wagon train near Anderson's. A friendly civilian warned the column that Wheeler was in the area and had set fire to the wagon train. The following account of the subsequent action is copied from my Fourth Indiana Cavalry, pp 95-95. A friendly civilian warned McCook that a large body of

Confederate cavalry was burning the wagon train ahead. The column broke into a trot and took a side road that allowed McCook to go across country to catch up with the wagon burners. The Second Brigade led off with the First Wisconsin, the Second Indiana, and the artillery section and leaving the Fourth Indiana at Jasper as rear guard with the special mission of cutting off any additional enemy force that might be coming up from the rear. The First Wisconsin made the initial contact, and the resulting skirmish netted a number of PW's and drove the remaining rebels from the burning wagons. The renewed action was an attack by the available two regiments in a formation of each regiment in a column with three battalions on line. The First Wisconsin found itself on the enemy's flank with enfilading fire down the enemy's line while the Second Indiana closed with and attacked the enemy frontally. The enemy found itself in an impossible situation and fell back with heavy losses. The portion of the First Wisconsin that had remained picked up an immediate pursuit with [sic] the second Indiana remounting and adding a sharp impetus to the pursuit. The enemy was driven across the Sequatchie River as darkness approached. The rain and darkness, combined with the exhaustion of the men and the horses, after an all day's march, bad roads, constant rain, and five continuous hours of combat, caused McCook to call off any further pursuit. The men entered a sodden bivouac for a needed rest for the men and horses. This action observed the enemy's being driven more than eight miles, the capture of 40 to 50 PW's, and not an unbloodied saber in the command as an unknown number of killed or wounded enemy casualties fell to the thirsty sabers of the horsemen.