



# Stones River National Battle Monument

3501 Old Nashville Highway  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
Phone: (615) 893-9501, Fax: (615) 893-9501

*Jim!  
I think  
this form  
needs to be  
modified to  
include date  
donated +  
who received  
by*

## Regimental File Donation Form

Donor Name: KENNETH C. DAWSON

Address: 1130 Linmar Ave

City: Fruitland Park State: FL Zipcode: 34731

Phone: 352-250-3241 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person's Name: ~~Herman~~ Herman F. Dawson

Unit: 21st Michigan - Co. B

### List Contents of Donation Below:

Newspaper article from the Hastings Reminiscences  
from Hastings Michigan April 6 2013

Obituary from Lowell Ledger, Lowell Michigan  
1929

*MB 6/5/2013*

## Old Soldier Sleeps Well At Oakwood



Herman F. Dawson was born on Christmas day, 1841, at Blenheim, Canada. He came to Michigan at the age of eight and settled with his parents on a farm in Keene township. When the Civil war began in 1861 he was a boy of 19 years. At that age he enlisted in the first regiment of Michigan Lancers, serving in that regiment until August, 1862, when the regiment was disbanded. He enlisted again as a sergeant in Company B., 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry and served with this regiment until the close of the war, his entire service amounting to 3 years and 4 months.

The Twenty-first Michigan Volunteers to which Mr. Dawson belonged was organized at Camp Segiel, Ionia. He was engaged with his regiment in much hard service. He fought in the battles of Perryville, Stone River and Chickamauga. He was in Sherman's great march to Atlanta and the sea, taking part in the siege of Savannah and the battle of Bentonville, N. C., in which battle he was wounded. Many of the men went into the battle of Chickamauga barefooted and with tattered clothing. The fighting was severe. Their colonel was taken prisoner and their lieutenant colonel was killed. He witnessed the famous battle of Lookout Mountain, and for three months his regiment was camped on the top of this mountain. From Savannah he marched with Sherman's army through the Carolinas to Richmond, and then on to Washington and participated in the Grand Review. When discharged he ranked first sergeant of his company. All this was more than sixty years ago. It is but a sketch of honorable and patriotic service and does not convey to our minds today the weariness and hardship and danger of the soldier's life, the long marches, the lonely vigils on picket duty, the hard fare and exposure to all sorts of weather, the terror and awfulness of battle which this man and his comrades endured.

Mr. Dawson came home from the war and nearly the entire balance of his life has been lived here in Lowell. In September, 1862, while home from the war, he was married to Miss Cynthia Elson of Keene. To them were born three children, two of whom survive: Herbert Dawson of Lowell and Mrs. Lessie Stuart of Grand Rapids. The mother died in 1869, seven years after their marriage. Ten years later he married Mrs. Anna Howk, who passed away July 23, 1923.

Mr. Dawson's death, occurring suddenly Thursday morning last, has removed from our midst a noble Christian gentleman whose long and honorable life of more

than 87 years was filled with good. He was a member of the First Methodist church of Lowell for 35 years. He will be missed by his old comrades of the Grand Army and by his many friends. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Emma Austin and Mrs. Mary Moore and his two children already mentioned.

The funeral service was held from his late home in Lowell, Saturday afternoon, May 11, Rev. A. T. Cartland, assisted by Rev. Earl Stevens, officiating. Burial was in Oakwood cemetery with military honors under the auspices of the American Legion.  
Com.

He fought at Perryville which took place 10-8-1862 in Kentucky. In the summer and fall of 1862 Kentucky experienced one of the worst droughts on record, and soldiers suffered severely from heat, stifling dust, and poor water as they maneuvered across the state... Darkness and exhaustion halted the battle, the largest fought in Kentucky during the war. The Union army had 845 killed and 2,851 wounded; the Confederates losses were 510 killed and 2,635 wounded. Wounded soldiers cried out for water during the night as weary surgeons operated to save as many as possible of the wounded.<sup>30</sup>

He was wounded in the battle at Bentonville North Carolina. That battle was an attempt by the Confederates to slow Sherman and his 60,000 troops down. It cost the Confederates 240 killed, 1,700 wounded and 1,500 missing. The Union army's casualties were 194 killed, 1,112 wounded and 221 missing. Confederate General Johnston's message to Lee was clear as he wrote on March 23 "I can do no more than annoy him".<sup>31</sup>

Now to head for the last on in this section lot 7 where you will find Lester C. Hildreth

# From the Front Lines

## A Soldier's account of the Civil War



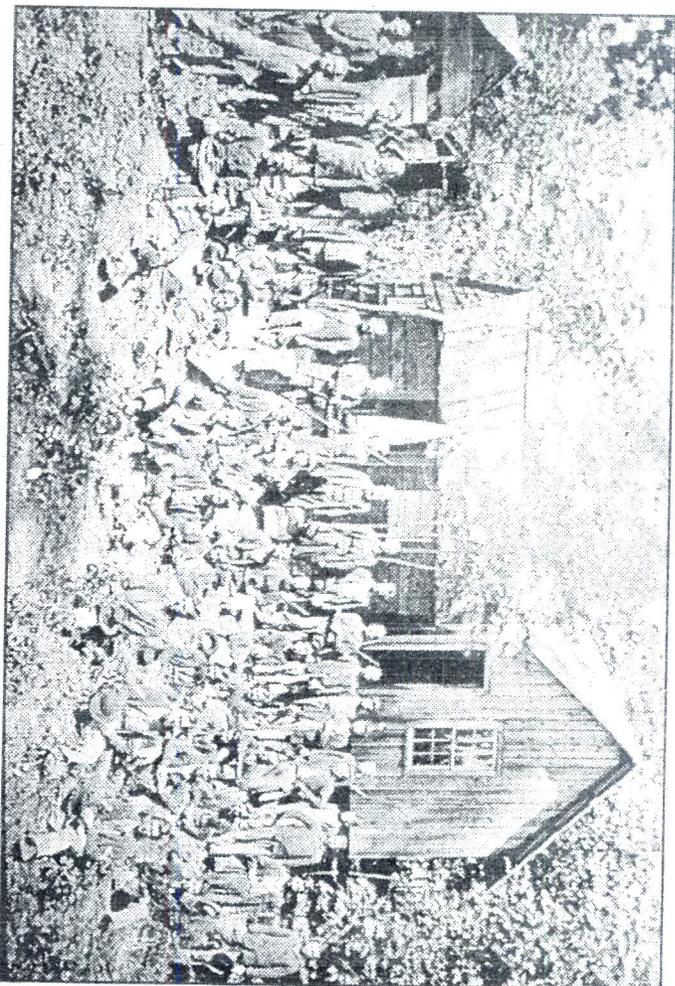
### Soldier writes about Murfreesboro battle

In recognition of the ses-  
quicentennial of the Civil  
War, the *Reminder* has re-  
printed articles and letters  
that Barry County residents  
may have read in the *Hast-*

*ings Banner* 150 years ago.  
Due to the absence of per-  
sonal letters in early 1863,  
combined with the impact of  
the Battle of Stones River,  
the *Reminder* is deviating

somewhat from its practice  
of reprinting articles that ran  
the same week or month,  
150 years ago. References to  
and reports from the battle  
of Murfreesboro, Tenn., ap-  
peared frequently in the  
*Banner* the first few months  
of 1863.

Known today as the Bat-  
tle of Stones River, the  
three-day battle took place  
about 35 miles southeast of  
Nashville Dec. 31, 1862, to  
Jan. 1, 1863. Although the  
number of total casualties  
varies among records, ex-  
pers rate it among the 10  
bloodiest battles of the U.S.  
Civil War. The Union suf-



This photo of the 21st Michigan infantry was supposedly taken in the Murfrees-  
boro era about 1863. (Photo courtesy of Stones River National Battlefield)

fered more casualties than  
Confederates — more than  
23,000 men killed between  
the two sides — however,  
the battle was considered a  
victory for the North.

The following excerpt  
was printed in the Feb. 18,  
1863 *Hastings Banner*:

#### EXTRACT FROM A PRI- VATE LETTER RELATIVE TO THE BATTLE OF MUR- FREESBORO

*I have not heard from the  
21st since the battle. I was  
taken prisoner on Wednes-  
day. Tuesday was employed  
in skirmishing. On Wednes-  
day the ball was opened by  
our right and center.  
Our brigade was on the  
right in Sheridan's division.*

*cannon in our rear; the ene-  
mies in our front, so that we  
got the music of the shells  
from both sides. After a few  
minutes cannonading, then  
came the fun.*

*A whole division of the re-  
bels made their appearance  
in front of ours, when we  
poured into them one good  
volley from all hands, which  
was immediately answered*

*"Oh such a site on the  
battlefield! I can't  
describe it. Men with  
their limbs shot off and  
their bodies mutilated  
in every way."*

Leslie Moseley,  
Co. C, 21st Michigan

*imagined from a whole fore-  
est falling to the earth  
nearly at once. After the first  
volley, the sounds of the oth-  
ers are more disconnected,  
something like a storm ap-  
proaching. On the right it  
was one incessant rear all  
day. It seemed strange to me  
that in such a storm of bul-  
lets, no more are killed and  
wounded than really are.*

*The rebels outnumbering  
us and Johnson selling his  
division, they flanked us,  
therefore being exposed to  
two fires, we had to retreat,  
and the first thing I knew,  
the boys said we were pris-  
oners. And sure enough we  
were, for the rebels were  
thick as bees around us. I  
don't think I should have  
been taken prisoner if I had*

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