

420 Normandy Circle
Nashville, TN 37209
January 28, 1993

Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

This past weekend Andy Harrell and myself were doing research on the 9th Kentucky when we came across a very interesting passage in a diary that involved the Battle of Stones River. It seems that on January 2, when the Federal forces were driven back and forced to retreat across Stones River, a great many teamsters, cooks and other blacks in the Federal army were captured and shot. When the Federals counterattacked and came back across the river, a slave that belonged to Colonel Benjamin Grider of the 9th Kentucky was able to escape before he was shot. He returned to Bowling Green with his story and told it to a man named Dillard Duncan, who then related it to Eldress Nancy E. Moore, a Shaker woman who lived at the South Union Shaker settlement in Logan County, Kentucky. This woman included the story in her diary, which covers the period from January 1863 to September 1864.

I thought you might be interested in getting this not only because it is a documentation of blacks in the Federal army at Stones River (the slave said that all of the blacks were rounded up because they were in Federal uniform), but also because of the account of an atrocity during the battle.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey B. Michael

RECEIVED
STONES RIVER
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

FEB 01 1993

Supt.	<i>msd 2/1</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Ranger	<i>MS 2/2</i>
Staff Ranger	
ENP&MA	
Adm Off	
Adm Clerk	
Chief Maint	
Maint Wkr-7	
Maint Wkr-5	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File	
Library	
Remarks:	

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THE JOURNAL

of

ELDRESS NANCY

SOUTH UNION SHAKER SETTLEMENT

LOGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

SATURDAY--JANUARY 17. 1863

Friday 23 Mercury 35 deg. above at the hour of sun rise. Cloudy. At twelve, Noon. 52 deg. above zero. Lorenzo and Jackson started again to try to sell their car load hope they'll have better luck this time. A little after 8 oclock in the morning they were all ready to start, and seemed in quite a good humor; the Lieutenant joked the brethren a little tauntingly saying you have fed some 36 men, and they are all leaving in quite a pleasant mood, and now you have that many ~~friends~~ more friends than formerly; and if any of you would come up to their camp they would treat us. Of all the poor skeletons of animals that my eyes ever saw. I think their mules were the poorest to draw such heavy loads of Hay. They were badly abused and little cared for.

Saturday 24th Mer 44 deg. above zero at the hour of sunrise. Cloudy and foggy. Elder Harvey went up to B. Green on the morning Train to see if there could be something done to stop the soldiers from making such demands on us for nothing or without paying their bill. He returned home on the evening Train. The Brigadier Gen. was very clever He said those Waggoners and Soldiers had come off down here without orders and he would arrest the officers. He said if he had sent them they would have been furnished with printed vouchers and provisions in their haver sacks. Said he would write out a safe guard and send it down to morrow as there was no time then, for the cars would start in a short time and Elder Harvey had to go on them.

Sabbath 25 Mercury 50 deg. above zero at the hour of sun rise. Cloudy, foggy and misting rain. We are told by the soldiers that Colonel Maxils regiment was divided one half at B. G. and the other at Russellville, He made a request at headquarters to have his regiment brought together either at one Town or the other. So to day the half that was stationed in Bowling Green are on their way to Russellville. They passed thro' our Village about one oclock, Just after we had commenced Church meeting, they loitered in the streets while listening to the singing and at the well getting some good water.--There were two hundred Infantry with their drums and fife and 14 waggons, ambulances etc. passed thro' our street and three hundred went down on the Train in the cars.

Monday Jan. 26 Mercury 53½ deg. above zero. Cloudy and raining to day two and two soldiers passed thro" going West. It rained all day long and thro the night it snowed a little.

Tuesday 27th Mercury 32 deg. above zero. Cloudy and gloomy weather. Continued so all day with a little spitting of snow. We hear of an awful account from Dillard Duncan. He got it from Col. Griders waiter who was at the battle of Murfreesboro. He says Col. Grider gave his purse to him with this injunction that he was killed in the battle he the waiter, should take the purse home to his mistress. But instead of his master being killed, a company of rebels dashed round and

Cicero Maxwell
26th Ky. Infantry
(mounted)

Captured near one hundred negroes and Griders waiter with the rest; They were placed in ~~the~~ out to be shot and just before his time came the Federals dashed on to them and they scattered in all directions and he made his escape thro the woods and came on to B. G. and gave the purse to his Mistress. He says there were nearly one hundred shot, that he was one of the last. It is a rule with the rebels in the South to shoot every colored person they see dressed in Federal uniform if they can. There was a boat on the Cumberland River at Harpers Shoals. The rebels shot 18 negroes that were employed on the boat and the Captain said it was all he could do to save the life of the Chamber Maid, said he had to claim her as his own property or they would have taken her, he said two of them crawled under in the wheel house and hid: but were discovered from the bank by the guerrillas and shot.

Wed. 28th Mercury 26 deg. above zero. Still spitting snow, enough fell last night to whiten the ground. Letter. By some fortunate wheel of Providence a letter from Elder Abram our Much beloved and spiritual Minister of Canterbury came safe thro to us on the 28. Jan. It was directed to E. Harvey. No regular mails come to us as yet.-- Lorenzo came home on the evening Train Had tolerable luck in making sales sold the apples for two dollars and a quarter per bushel the peaches for three dollars per bushel. sold some cloth etc. There were about thirty soldiers came down from B. Green and passed thro our village There was an off

2203 Scarlet O'Hara Circle
Huntsville, AL 35803
September 4, 1994

Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

RECEIVED
STONES RIVER
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

SEP 05 '94

Supt. *mmoa/g*
✓ Chief Ranger
Staff Ranger *mmoa/g*

ENP&MA
Adm Off
Adm Clerk
Chief Maint
Maint W-7
Maint W-5

X File
Library
Remarks:

Dear Everyone,

I apologize for not communicating with you for such a long time, but the last few months have been pretty hectic, to say the least. In April I was hospitalized for a time, during which I found out I was suffering from hypertension, or high blood pressure. Much to my surprise and consternation, and to the astonishment of my doctors, my blood pressure and heart rate had risen to a level that put me in imminent danger of having some sort of cardiac arrest. Considering that I was just short of being only 24 years old, and was only slightly overweight, no one seemed to understand why this was occurring. Anyway, coupled with my problem of being a chronic depressant, which may have been one of the central causes, this forced me to make some major changes in my life. I had to move back to Huntsville to live with my parents, who now have to measure my blood pressure twice a week, keep a record of my blood pressure and report their measurements to my doctor. My mother is an RN, which makes things a bit easier.

Well, I have made some changes and will continue to make changes to insure that I will return to and stay in a healthy state. However, I wish to continue to participate in volunteer activities at Stones River and other battlefields. So, please continue to keep me informed of volunteer events and happenings, and I will do my best to attend as many as possible. My love of history remains completely unfazed and continues to grow. I will continue my studies toward my bachelor's degree at home, attending Athens State College so that I can concentrate on school and not worry too much about bills while my folks keep an eye on me. I am continuing my extensive research on the 9th Kentucky, the Army of the Cumberland, and the western theater of the Civil War in general.

Which reminds me that I have heard unconfirmed reports from a Confederate source that the massacre of captured Federal camp servants on January 2, 1863 by Confederate troops did, in fact, take place, as well as other similar incidents that have until now escaped the notice of history. As you may remember, some time ago we discovered a report in a diary of a Shaker woman at South Union, Kentucky, near Bowling Green, of this incident. Here is a section of that text:

[January] 27th Tuesday. - Mercury 32 deg. above zero. Cloudy and gloomy weather. Continued so all day with a little spitting of snow. We hear an awful account from Dillard Duncan. He got it from Col. Griders waiter who was at the battle of Murfreesboro. He says Col. Grider gave his purse to him with this injunction that if he was killed in the battle he the waiter, should take the purse home to his mistress. But instead of his master being killed, a company of rebels dashed round and captured near one hundred negroes and Griders waiter with the rest; They were placed in line to be shot and just before his time came the Federals

dashed onto them and they scattered in all directions and he made his escape thro the woods and came on to B.G.[Bowling Green] and gave the purse to his mistress. He says there were nearly one hundred shot, that he was one of the last. It is a rule with the rebels in the South to shoot every colored person they se dressed in Federal uniform if they can. There was a boat on the Cumberland River at Harpers Shoals. The rebels shot 18 negroes that were employed on the boat and the Captain said that it was all he could do to save the life of the Chamber Maid, said he had to claim her as his propertyt or they would have taken her, he said that two of them crawled under the wheel house and hid: but were discovered from the bank by guerillas and shot.

We know that this colored servant was a slave belonging to Colonel Benjamin Covington Grider, commander of the 9th Kentucky Infantry and also commanding the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Division of the Left Wing of the 14th Army Corps on January 2, 1863. This slaves name was William, and he was about 19 at the time of the Battle of Stones River. We know that he soon after the battle became a free man, probably freed by the Grider family, whose name he later took, and enlisted in Company M of the 12th United States Heavy Artillery (Colored) in early 1863.

At first, we did not believe the story of the massacre, and only regarded the passage in the diary as important because it confirmed that there were colored men with the Union Army at that time, and that some of these were slaves belonging to loyal Kentucky officers. However, recently some of the members of the 9th attended an event in Kentucky somewhere and had a conversation with some Confederate reenactors that revealed they had knowledge of some Confederate accounts of this massacre at Stones River. We are attempting to track these down. We do know that the man who passed the