

June 30, 2006

**Jim Lewis, Park Ranger
Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129**

Dear Jim,

Sorry I missed you on my trip to Stones River National Battlefield. I was looking forward to meeting you.

I want to thank you again for all the assistance and source material you sent me for my articles concerning Johann Friedrich Schloemann of Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry and his Civil War experiences, including the battle of Stones River.

A wonderful, unpublished, letter written July 12, 1863 from Murfreesboro by Schloemann to his brother in Germany was the inspiration for the articles. The original letter was in German. Enclosed is a copy of the translated letter.

I published it in four installments in the Colonel Hecker Camp #443 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Belleville, Illinois) newsletter. I am a member of this Camp. The articles are also enclosed. Hope you enjoy them.

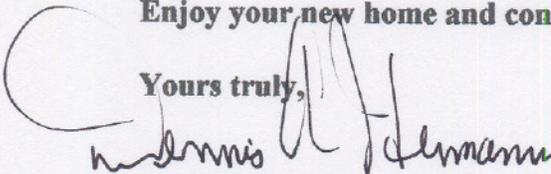
I do not have a Civil War ancestor, but I am hooked on the Civil War. For a hobby, I research, write and make presentations on the Civil War and the GAR and help individuals in finding their Civil War ancestors.

My newest presentation is the "Battle of the Bands" from Stones River. A copy of the narration is also enclosed.

Jim, you may give my address for research assistance.

Enjoy your new home and congratulations!

Yours truly,



**Dennis A. Hermann
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**Civil War
Experience of
Johann Friedrich Schloemann**

Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry

Company C, 49 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

**Dennis A. Hermann
25 Ednick Drive
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*THANKS Jim!
Dennis Hermann*

Private Johann Friedrich Schloemann

Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry
Company C, 149 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

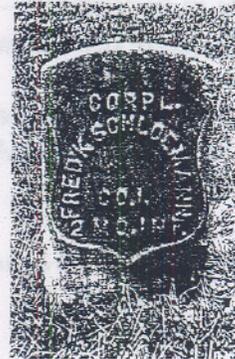
I am very excited and fortunate to be able to present to the Camp members and others interested in the Civil War the unpublished Civil War letter of Johann Friedrich Schloemann. This extraordinary letter, dated July 12, 1863 and written in German was sent to his brother, Wilhelm, in Germany.

My sincere thanks to the Schloemann family for sharing this with me and allowing me the privilege to publish this piece of history.

The Friedrich (Fred) Schloemann's letter will be continued through several issues of the "Colonel Hecker Camp #443, Sons of Union Veterans' Newsletter".

My research on Schloemann's (pronounced Schlāmān) life before, during and after the Civil War is continuing. New information will be included as determined. Any help from the membership or other will be greatly appreciated.

Brief background of Schloemann: Born December 3, 1826 in Germany. Came to America with his wife, Caroline, 1850 to 1856. Settled in the Turkey Hill area of St. Clair County, Illinois – very near Belleville. He became a farmer. Fraternal twins were born in St. Clair County 1856. Another child died at an early age. A fourth child was also born in America. Caroline born 1827, died in 1884. Fred died February 14, 1916 at his daughter's home in Belleville. Both are buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery, Belleville. He has a government headstone.



Civil War experience: Enlisted August 10, 1861 at Belleville, age 35. Mustered in September 10, 1861 at St. Louis as a private in Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry. Discharged for disability November 20, 1863 at Nashville, Tennessee. Even with a disability, he once again served the Union cause by enlisting January 23, 1865, age 38, as a private in Company C, 149 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Colonel William C. Kueffner (Brevet Brigadier General) of Belleville organized this one-year regiment. Six companies of the regiment were formed in the Belleville area with most of the soldiers being Germans. Fred mustered in February 5, 1865 and mustered out January 27, 1866.

GAR experience: Fred was one of the longest standing members of the Colonel Friedrich Hecker Post #443 Grand Army of the Republic, Belleville. He joined in the last quarter of 1887, just three years after the Post formed in 1884. His membership application information showed his age 61, born in Germany, living in Belleville, occupation farmer and the Civil War units in which he served. At his death in 1916, Fred was still in good standing – 29 years as a member. The Hecker Post had several other members who had served in the same regiments and companies as Fred. Their bonds and memories flourished.



Membership
Badge

There are many sources for the military side of the Civil War, but to get a true sense of what Civil War soldier's experienced, personal letters relate the full spectrum from camp life, rumors, hardships, concerns for love ones, terror and about every human emotion.

Fred's letter will give you a unique view of what it meant to be a Civil War soldier.

Note: The letter is shown as translated. Some parts have been omitted. Corrections will be in parenthesis – mostly names. After the section of the letter shown, I will briefly relate the military actions covered by Fred.

This section of the letter deals with the Battle of Pea Ridge March 6th, 7th & 8th, 1862 in northwestern Arkansas, and transporting the Union army in May 1862 to Corinth, Mississippi.

“Murfreesboro (Tennessee), 12 July 1863

Dear brother,

.... Dear brother, then you should do for ... our parents, what you can, since you are now the next one. Perhaps, if God wants it, I can do something for them, if I return fortunately from this war.

With the help of God the war will be finished by autumn, for the last four weeks the South States have lost plenty of people, cattle, guns and rifles. Everyone believes that it cannot last longer, for during these two years, so long as I am in military-service, they lost such an enormous amount of people during the hard battles and because of the bad living conditions which soldiers here are forced to endure.

There are no quarters for the winter or lodging like in Germany. The whole two years we did not sleep in a house, neither in winter nor summer. We have tents of hemp, and these are our dwellings. And then the marches, which we had to do during the worst wintertime or the hottest months of summer, so that sometimes you could no more babble because of the thirst. Especially during the first years, when we were in Missouri and later in Arkansas, sometimes we had nothing to eat for a whole month, no bread, no shipbiscuit (hardtack), no coffee, nothing than meat, which we shot from the farmers in the woods, pigs or cattle. Our food had to be brought by carriages over a distance of 350 miles. And the bad ways and mountains, and often the enemy came from the back and took with him carriages and food. Atlas, that was a bad year until the 6th, 7th and 8th of March 1862, when we had a hard battle for three days with the rebels.

We stood with 12,500 soldiers against 45,000 rebels. Our super-general Cordis (Union Brigadier General Samuel Ryan Curtis) already intended to surrender on the second evening. But our general Sigel (Union Brigadier General Franz Sigel) from Baden (Germany) proposed, if he could try again it with us, he would make a hole within the hostile lines. And right general Cordis (Curtis) delivered the command by letter and the next morning we started the third time. Alas, we were completely encircled, each way out was cut, and we already believed, we had surrendered. The rebels had already the mockery against our surrendered soldiers that in a few days they would be in St. Louis and that there they would drink lots of stock-beer. But general Sigel (Sigel) thought differently.



Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis
Commanding



Brigadier General Franz Sigel

He drew up his German regiments as avantgarde, and very early in the morning a terrible fight happened. But our small corps stood firm. Sigel said to us: Boys, you must have cold blood and do not shoot too high, for the reaching of our rifles is

wide. At short distance you must aim low. All our guns have been directed for a cross-fire, for the enemy stood in the woods and had good shelter in the valleys and behind big trees. On the other side we mostly stood on open field. But they have terribly beaten by the "damned de Detsch", that at two or three o'clock in the afternoon they had retire double quickly, after two of their best generals were dead and one colonel was captured. An immense number of dead soldiers and horses covered the battle-field on the side of the enemies, on our side we lost less that a third. We made much conquest of arms and ammunition. To say it short, they have been beaten so completely that they were not able to form troops correctly neither in Missouri nor in Arkansas. We had many minor fights we had with them earlier in Missouri under their commanding general Preuss (Confederate Major General Sterling Price). After the great battle we spent two months in the region, but no Preuss (Price) would come. Our division then had to march almost 30 Engl. (?) miles during May in the worst heat until the Mississippi-river. Then we went by steam-boats completely into the south to a town Chorint (Corinth, Mississippi), where a big battle was to be beaten. But when we arrived, they (rebels) already had started to retire, and we did not get any work." To be CONTINUED

Details of the Battle of Pea Ridge have been well researched and published. I suggest the excellent book by William Shea and Earl Hess, "Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West". I will relate the details concerning the 2 Mo Inf up to and in the Battle and expand on some items in Schloemann's letter.

The 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry (2 Mo Inf) organized at St. Louis September 10, 1862. It became a part of the Army of Southwest Missouri and moved to Jefferson City, Missouri. The regiment joined the campaign of Major General John C. Frémont, Commanding the Western Department, against Springfield, Missouri October 4th to November 8th. Upon this advance, Confederate Major General Sterling Price, commanding the Missouri forces, avoided the Union army by having his force evacuate Springfield and march south toward Arkansas.



General Sterling Price

On November 2nd, a change of the Union commander took place and the army quickly retraced its steps, allowing the Confederates to reoccupy Springfield. Marching to Rolla, Missouri, the army (including the 2 Mo Inf) arriving there on the 13th and went into winter camp and did duty there to mid-January 1862. On December 25, 1861 Brigadier General Samuel Curtis took command of the Army of Southwest Missouri in the Department of the Missouri.

General Curtis immediately saw the need, militarily and politically, to eliminate or force the Confederates out of Springfield and Missouri. By early January 1862, Curtis had all available forces assembled. The army was very reduced by the illness and deaths in camp. On January 10th the army pushed forward into the severe winter weather. Once again, as the Union forces approached Springfield, General Price's troops moved southwest. Springfield was in Union hands January 13th.

The cat and mouse chase continue with sporadic contact and fighting with the Confederate rear guards while moving into the northwestern corner of Arkansas.

By the 5th of March the stage, around and northeast of Bentonville, Arkansas, was set for the Battle of Pea Ridge (Confederates called it the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern).

Confederate Generals Price and McCulloch had joined forces. On the January 10th Confederate President Jefferson Davis had appointed Major General Earl Van Dorn as commander of the Trans-Mississippi Department. General Earl Van Dorn took command of the combined forces.



General Earl Von Dorn

The Union forces were strategically placed. The 2 Mo. Inf played a crucial role prior to the Confederate attack. On March 2nd Colonel Friederick Schaefer, Commanding the 2 Mo Inf, the regiment and a detachment of cavalry were ordered by General Sigel to Smith's Mill about 7 miles east of General Sigel's divisions. Their purpose was to use the Mill as an observation spot and to protect and work the mill.

The Confederates had been on the move, undetected and closing in on the federal forces. When the Confederates attacked the outposts of Colonel Schaefer after dark on the 5th, he immediately informed General Sigel of it and troop movements. This confirmed the advance of the enemy and allowed the General to prepare for an attack. The 2 Mo Inf was ordered back to Bentonville to await orders.

Now knowing the direction of the enemy advance, the Union army began concentrating, successfully, their forces in the early hours of the 6th.

General Sigel, a force of about 600 men and a six-gun battery remained at Bentonville after his divisions left. Colonel Schaefer and the 2 Mo Inf were to remain with Sigel to form part of the rear guard. For some reason the 2 Mo Inf followed another general's division toward the rendezvous location.

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This proved to be a fatal mistake for the 2 Mo Inf was ambushed on the way and lost thirty-seven men. As General Sigel and the rear guard made a dash from the oncoming enemy, they found themselves surrounded. They fought from 10:30 am till 3:30 pm when reinforcements and safety arrived with the 2 Mo Inf in the lead.

The most ferocious fighting occurred on the 7th. The left wing of the Union army, which included the 2 Mo Inf, was successful against the Confederate onslaught, but the right wing, fighting viciously, was being pushed back. Of the reinforces sent, four companies of the 2 Mo Inf were included. Running low on ammunition, artillery and men, the wing fell back in the woods and formed a defensive line and waited for the charge. The Confederates did not follow up on their success.

Schloemann pointed out in his letter that two Confederate generals had been killed.

On March 7th Brigadier General Ben McCulloch commanding the right wing of the army and the second in command, Brigadier General James McIntosh, were both killed by Union sharpshooters within 15 minutes of each other and nearly in the same location.

Brigadier General
Ben McCulloch



Brigadier General
James McIntosh



General McCulloch's brigade commander, Colonel Louis Hébert, was captured.

These loses virtually eliminated the command of the right wing and the Confederates fled in disorder.

The battle on the 8th was over before noon with the Confederates fleeing the field.

In the Battle of Pea Ridge the 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry served in the First Brigade, Second Division, First and Second Divisions Commanded by Brigadier General Franz Sigel, Army of the Southwest Commanded by Brigadier General Samuel Curtis.

The official return of casualties for the Battle of Pea Ridge for the 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry were: Killed – 2 officers, 6 enlisted; Wounded – 34 enlisted; Captured or Missing – 11 enlisted: Total - 53

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Private Johann Friedrich Schloemann Part II

Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry
Company C, 149 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

Thanks to the Schloemann family for sharing and allowing me to publish the Civil War letter of Friedrich (Fred) Schloemann. This extraordinary letter is dated July 12, 1863, written in German and sent to his brother in Germany.

Enlisting in Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois, Schloemann mustered – in September 10, 1861 at St. Louis, Missouri as a private in Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry (2nd Mo Inf) for a three-year enlistment.

His descriptive information at time of enlisting shows he was 35 years old, five feet six inches high, medium complexion, brown eyes, brown hair, occupation baker and born at Wallenback in the Kingdom of Prussia (Germany).

Schloemann and the 2nd Mo Inf were part of the two campaigns – General Fremont (October – November 1861) and General Curtis (January 1862) - to capture Springfield, Missouri for the Union and drive the Confederates out of Missouri.

After capturing Springfield, Brigadier Samuel Curtis, Commanding the Army of Southwest Missouri, pursued the Confederate army into northwestern Arkansas.

On March 6th, 7th and 8th the two armies confronted each other and fought the crucial Battle of Pea Ridge - the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River. The Union forces were triumphant, but casualties for both sides were severe.

Schloemann and the 2nd Mo Inf had “seen the elephant” (term for new recruits imagining what it would be like in battle and how they would respond). The boys did their duty and became men and veterans.

General Curtis and the 2nd Mo Inf continued to pursue their adversaries, Confederate Generals Sterling Price and Earl Von Dorn, into south central Missouri and then in Arkansas.

At Batesville, Arkansas General Curtis received orders May 6, 1862 from Major General H. W. Halleck, who took command of the Army of the Mississippi from General U. S. Grant after the Battle of Shiloh, instructing General Curtis to transfer half of his veteran regiments immediately to him (Halleck) as reinforcements. The order further stated that these troops must make a forced march to Cape Girardeau, Missouri (over 200 miles) where they would be transported by steamers to Hamburg Landing (site near the Battle of Shiloh), Tennessee.

By this time The Confederate armies under General Price and Von Dorn had crossed the Mississippi River into the State of Mississippi.

Sequence of events of the transfer:

- May 11th - Ten veteran Pea Ridge regiments, including the 2nd Mo Inf, leave their Arkansas camp to their torturous forced march to Cape Girardeau
- May 22nd - Arriving at Cape Girardeau, regiments and equipment were loaded on steamboats (2nd Mo Inf on the *Southwester*)
- May 23rd - Pushed off onto the Mississippi River
- May 25th - Arrived Hamburg Landing, Tennessee, began disembarking
- May 26th - Finished disembarking, waiting for teams and wagons
- May 27th - March to join the siege of Corinth

On May 30th the Confederates evacuated Corinth.

The same Division regiments at Pea Ridge - 2nd and 15th Mo Inf, 36th and 44th Il Inf –stayed together as a brigade in the Army of the Mississippi and pursued the Rebels toward Boonville, Mississippi. Little action occurred, and the 2nd Mo Inf went into camp near Rienzi, Mississippi.

Now we take up Schloemann's letter:

“After that we had a good time for three months, enough time to live and repose, but every day we had to build field works until autumn, when Cincinnati (Ohio) was in danger and the Missouri troops had to go there. We had an enjoyable voyage by ship and by train. We had to make an enormous detour and by train crossed our free States Illinois, Indiana and Ohio the Ohio river in state Kentucky. There the enemy stood in a distance of seven to eight miles from the river. We were immediately drawn up to the front as outpost. But when they recognized, they had mainly Missouri-troops against them, they remembered the battle of Pierce (Battle of Pea Ridge), Arkansas and they retired slowly to Louisville, Kentucky. This town is also situated on the Ohio river, 200 miles away from Cincinnati. Half of our army was brought by 81 steam-boats to Louisville as reinforcements. We spent there some weeks, then we advanced. We drove the enemy in front of us, and every day we had something to do with them up to about 80 miles before Louisville.

There a very hard battle took place on October 8th, 1862 (Battle of Perryville, Kentucky). We were the first to go into fire. Because of our arms we were used as shock troops. We were the center of the battle-line, which had a length of six or seven miles. It was 5:30 h (hour) in the morning when we came from the carriage (troop wagons), and we marched for two miles. Then the air was no more clean.

56 men dead or wounded out of 440 men before (unit strength at beginning of attack). After 5 minutes we got reinforcement by other units. The officers of the rebels had had breakfast a short time before in surrounded farmhouses, but we carried all outside, the finest ham and other things. And we sat eating between the dead men, because we were very hungry.

The man next to me who was also my closest neighbor was dead, and the man behind me got shot through his leg. And I was struck by a shot through my clothes up to my skin, after it passed the haversack and the flask. But I didn't lose a drop of blood, I only got a blue line on the left side. Then we rested and buried our dead soldiers. Until afternoon other troops were ahead, but then it was our turn again. At that time we lost another 30 comrades, a total of 86 men. The fire (firing) lasted until 1½ hours after sun-setting at the right and left side and also in the center. On our side they counted 14,000 dead, wounded and missed people (Union official report - 894 killed, 2911 wounded, 471 missing - total 4276), but the enemy's side much more (Confederate official report - 532 killed, 2641 wounded, 228 missing - total 3401). But in the evening we stood in the same place, where we started in the morning, and we thought that we have to go forward next morning.

We slept with our boots in the arm on the field. But next morning, when we advanced, the enemies had already retired and we passed the whole battlefield. There you could see our work that we did the day before. All farmhouses and stables had changed into hospitals. You could see plenty of arms and legs, which the doctors amputated the poor soldiers. The field was covered with dead men and horses and arms. We got more rifles than needed for a whole division. That was the battle near Pieville (Perryville) in the state of Kentucky.

Yes dear brother, I really see, if I would tell you everything, I would need 20 leaves (pages). The name of their super-general is Braeck (Confederate General Braxton Bragg). He is still due for us not in Kentucky, but after the battle he went with the rest of his army to the state of Tennessee (Tennesseee)."

TO BE CONTINUED

In the summer of 1862 Confederate General Braxton Bragg, Commanding the Army of the Mississippi, planned an invasion of Kentucky in concert with General Edmund Kirby Smith, Commanding the Army of Kentucky. Its purpose was to bring the neutral Kentucky into the Confederacy.



General Braxton Bragg

Several other factors led to the invasion decision. Bragg was assured Kentucky was ready to join the Confederacy and thousands upon thousands of Kentuckians would join his army resulting in an unbeatable force. Massive amounts of supplies would be available for his army and essential Union supply lines could be cut. Union troops and pressures would be drawn away from Chattanooga, Tennessee and the critical railhead there. Probably not a planned factor but significant to the results was Bragg's appearance at the inaugural ceremony for the Confederate Governor of Kentucky.

Opposing this invasion was the Union Army of the Ohio, Commanded by Major General Don Carlos Buell. (The arrival of General Buell's army as reinforcements at the Battle of Shiloh helped to turn the tide, resulting in a Union victory on the second day, April 7, 1862).

The Confederate strategy was a two-prong movement with Generals Bragg toward Louisville, Kentucky and Kirby Smith to the bluegrass area of Lexington, Kentucky north toward Cincinnati, Ohio.

On August 24th Kirby Smith left Knoxville, Tennessee and entered Kentucky. Bragg left early in September. By mid-September most of central Kentucky was in Confederate hands including Lexington and Frankfort plus victories against Union troops already stationed at Richmond and Munfordville. At this point the only effective Union force that stood between losing all of Kentucky, including Louisville and possibly an invasion of Ohio through Cincinnati, was Buell's army.

On a separate road Buell continued to follow Bragg's army as it marched toward Louisville without interference. Meanwhile, Kirby Smith continued north toward Cincinnati. He slowed, sending small forces north and remained at Lexington when the Union force from Cumberland Gap began to pursue his army.

It became a foot race. Would Buell or Bragg reach Louisville first?

Louisville and Cincinnati were in pure panic. Militia and citizens were feverishly building defensive positions. Citizens were fleeing and businesses were closing. Desperate pleas for help went out. Governors of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio were sending newly, totally untrained, regiments to the defense of the cities.



Gen. Don Carlos Buell

Veterans were needed to stem the tide of the coming onslaught of Confederates.

General U. S. Grant agreed to send one division of his veteran soldiers currently at Corinth. These were mostly the Pea Ridge veterans, including the 2nd Mo Inf.

Colonel Phillip H. Sheridan, then commanding the 2nd Michigan Cavalry, was put in charge of transporting the main body of the Grant's troops to Cincinnati. On September 7th the 2 Mo Inf left camp at Rienzi, Mississippi, marched to Corinth and boarded a train to Columbus, Kentucky. The next day the regiment embarked on the steamer, *Prairie Flower*, arriving at Cairo, Illinois on the 9th and on the same day took a train (trip described by Schloemann) to Cincinnati arriving on the 11th. Colonel Sheridan continued his trip from Cairo by steamer up the Ohio River but was recalled to Louisville just a few miles before Cincinnati.

In a personal letter dated September 28, 1862, Charles Allinger, 1st Lt. Company D, 2nd Mo Inf, describes the arrival at Cincinnati, "we had a splendid supper. I can't help thinking of those nice women and girls, some of them perfect beauties, who waited on us that evening". Allinger, like Schloemann, was from Belleville, Illinois.

Sheridan assumed command of the veteran regiments sent to Louisville, and was promoted to Brigadier General. The 2nd Mo Inf embarked the 19th on the steamer, *Florence Miller*, and arrived at Louisville on the 20th. Entering the city, the Pea Ridge veterans camped near the Asylum for the Blind on the Lexington Turnpike.

Sheridan knew he would have a Division command in the Army of the Ohio when Buell arrived at Louisville, and Sheridan wanted the Pea Ridge regiments in it. Being the Chief Quartermaster and Commissary of General Curtis's Army of the Southwest Missouri before and during the Battle of Pea Ridge, Sheridan knew what these veterans could do.

On September 25th Buell, without battling Bragg's army, won the footrace to Louisville. The difference was Bragg's, abandoning Mundfordville and veering northeast toward Bardstown. This change of direction allowed Buell a direct route on the Louisville Pike to Louisville and the prize.

At Louisville Buell refitted and reorganized his army. The Army of the Ohio then consisted of three Corps totaling 55,000 men. The 2nd Mo Inf, commanded by Captain Walter Hoppe, was assigned to the 35th Brigade, Lt. Colonel Bernard Laiboldt; 11th Division, Brigadier General Phillip Sheridan; 3rd Corps, Major General (acting) Charles Gilbert.



General Phillips Sheridan

The 35th Brigade consisted of the Pea Ridge veteran regiments of the 2nd and 15th Missouri and the 44th Illinois. The many newly formed and untrained regiments sent to Louisville were disbursed throughout the army in veteran units. The 73rd Illinois (Preacher's regiment) joined the Pea Ridge brigade.

Acting out of character, Buell quickly started his army in pursuit of Bragg on October 1st. Bragg was thought to be about 80 miles south. Each Corps took a different road south.

The thought of battle lay heavily on each soldier as he trudged forward, but another enemy was relentlessly attacking each second. During the summer and into the fall of 1862, central Kentucky was enduring a severe drought and extreme heat. It exacted a great toll on Buell's army on the march to Louisville, and now it also thirsted, for more victims.

Dust on the roads was ankle deep, swirling and covering everything. Thirst was constant. Relief was a mirage. Rivers and creeks had dried and any pools of water were vile and stagnant, but nonetheless, greedily consumed. Food became a concern. Orders of no foraging were enforced. Men dropped out of the march from heat stroke, fatigue and the stragglers stretched for miles. Skirmishes occurred, draining precious energy.

But the pursuit continued.

Bragg's army had been reported to be at Bardstown (about 50 miles southeast of Louisville). Late in the morning of October 5th as the 3rd Corps approached the village, the Pea Ridge veterans of Sheridan in their quest to do battle and capture the Confederates almost ran the last three miles, but to no avail, the enemy had vanished.

At about this same time Bragg was in Frankfort attending the inauguration of Richard Hawes as the Confederate Governor of Kentucky. Bragg was out of contact with his army and events were coming together quickly. Bragg's presence and leadership with his army were critical. It would be many hours before he took direct command.

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Captain Walter Hoppe, acting commander of the 2nd Mo Inf, stepped up and volunteered for the dangerous assignment of seizing the valley. Sheridan replied, "If you can do it, do so".

Leading the advance, the 2nd Mo Inf was supported by the 44th Il Inf and artillery positioned on Peters Hill. Flooding down the eastern slope of the hill, the Missouri soldiers immediately received fire from the hidden Confederates in the valley woods. The firing grew more intense as the blue line surged closer and closer to the woods. Volley after volley from each side was exchanged. The thrust of the 2nd Mo Inf drive, additional support from the 15th Mo Inf and several other regiments drove the Confederates out of the woods.

With the growing momentum, the Pea Ridge veterans pursued the fleeing 5th and 7th Arkansas regiments into and out of the valley.

About 10 a.m., as the Missourians continued to press the Confederates and gain more ground, 3rd Corps Commander, General Gilbert arrived at Peters Hill. Finding the hill unguarded, he immediately ordered Sheridan to fall back on Peters Hill, dig in and hold there in a defensive position. Sheridan had no choice.

The most important result of this action was the securing of pools of water and a spring. This would sustain the whole Army of the Ohio for the next few days.

The 2nd Mo Inf and Sheridan's Division dug in and watched the battle swirl around them. It was not until very late afternoon that the 2nd Mo Inf saw action again. An attempt was made by the Confederates to take Peters Hill. It was repulsed.

That night Bragg withdrew from the field.

Who won? The Union - for it was assured that Kentucky would stay in the Union.

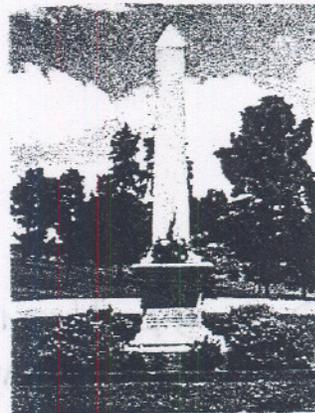
Some interesting statements were made from and about the Pea Ridge men.

F.B. James, 52nd Ohio, "brave little 'dutchmen', not one of whom seemed to be much, if any, taller than the huge brass-handled sword bayonet which dangled at their side."

Marshall Thatcher, 2nd Michigan Cavalry, "Not a waver along the line but that steady tramp! tramp! tramp! Moving on up over the hill the scattering ceased and the only sound to be heard was the muffled tread of armed men. Again the rattling fire, but not a step was broken, and now we see those men with iron nerve raise their polished arms to a level with their eyes and - Woo-o-o! As if one hand had moved the whole; and forward upon double quick they go - loading and firing at will, as they run."

A member of the 2nd Mo Inf was reported to say at the end of the engagement, "I fights mit Lyon, I fights mit Gurtis, und I fights mit Sigel but dish es hail."

In the morning engagement the 2nd Mo Inf lost as many men in about fifteen minutes than the total Confederate command did on their assault on Bottom Hill (opposite Peters Hill).



Union Monument
Perryville Battlefield

Schloemann's Company I, had three casualties – two wounded and one killed. The man killed was Mathew Kerling – Schloemann's neighbor. All three were from Belleville, Illinois.

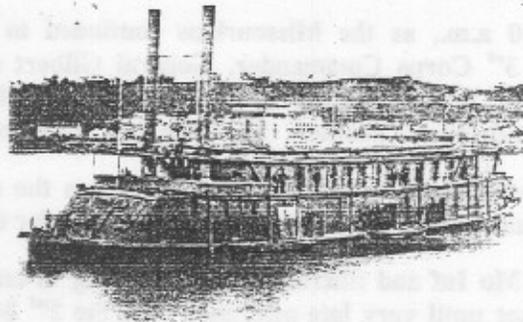
Of the Sheridan's Eleventh Division, the 2nd Mo Inf suffered the most killed - 18 including the only officer, Captain Walter Hoppe; 2nd most wounded – 51; least missing – 1; totaling 70 (former Pea Ridge regiment, 36th Il Inf had the highest with 77).

Once again the 2nd Missouri Infantry and Schloemann did their duty with distinction!

For more information on the Battle of Perryville, I suggest you read Kenneth W. Noe's book, "Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle".



Confederate General
Kirby Smith



Steamer *Florence Miller*
Converted to USS Rattler

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DENNIS A. HERMANN
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Private Johann Friedrich Schloemann Part III

Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry
Company C, 149 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

In the aftermath of the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky on the 8th of October 1862 the 2nd Mo Inf and the other survivors of Brigadier General Philip Sheridan's Division devoured their first rations in 36 hours. Sheridan's division left late on October 9th to join the pursuit of General Braxton Bragg's retreating Confederate army.

The very slow pursuit of Bragg by Union General Buell was ineffective. Arriving at Crab Orchard, Kentucky October 15th, the 2nd Mo Inf and Schloemann went into camp. Pursuit of Bragg's army was not continued in force after Crab Orchard.

With Bragg in Tennessee, Buell's army concentrated at Bowling Green, Kentucky. On October 20th the 2nd Mo Inf broke camp, arriving at that location November 1st.

Sheridan in his memoirs relates the condition of his division:
"I reached Bowling Green with a force much reduced by the losses sustained in the battle of Perryville and by sickness. I had started from Louisville October 1 with twelve regiments of infantry – four old (Pea Ridge veterans) and eight new ones – and two batteries, but many poor fellows, overcome by fatigue, and diseases induced by the heat, dust, and drought of the season, had to be left at roadside hospitals. This was particularly the case with the new regiments, the men of which, much depressed by homesickness, and not yet inured to campaigning, fell easy victims to the hardships of war."



General Sheridan

At Bowling Green General Buell was relieved of command of the Army of the Ohio.

Gathering a few personal items, embracing his family goodbye, Schloemann trekked across his farm near Belleville, Illinois making his way to St. Louis and mustered in Company I, Second Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry September 10, 1861.

Schloemann by November 1862 had faced all the hardships and dangers of mind, body and soul afflicting all soldiers in the Civil War. There were the tortures of weather from the incredible cold to the unbearable sun and heat. There were the marches that took every fiber of the body and colossal will power to endure.

The body was racked with pain, thirst and hunger. He had avoided the killer phantom in every regiment – disease. Homesickness and worry for loved ones were a continual torment. Anticipation of battle and battle brought forth feelings and actions never before conceived possible.

Schloemann had encountered two major battles during the past year – Pea Ridge and Perryville and numerous small skirmishes. He had seen and walked among the unforgettable horrors of war, the death of friends and comrades next to him and survived a miniball that entered his uniform and grazed his left side leaving a painful burse and welt. An inch to the right and Schloemann might have been one of the many Union and Confederate soldiers strewn on the battlefield of death.

In this past year he and the 2nd Mo Inf had served under five different Union Army commanders – Generals Fremont, Curtis, Halleck, Grant and Buell.

Another new commander was about to carry the army into the whirlwind of death and destruction again.

Schloemann's letter written July 12, 1863 to his brother in Germany continues.

“We went after him (Confederate General Braxton Bragg) to Nehasville (Nashville, Tennessee), the capital of the state, where you find the governor. There we remained up to the week between Christmas and New Year. Then we advanced again, because they (Confederates) stood too near. Each day we had little fights with them, but their main force lodged in the town (Murfreeseboro, Tennessee), where I am now. They retired every day until five or six miles before the town. Then the battle started seriously (know as the Battle of Stones River by the Union and Battle of Murfreeseboro by the Confederates).

Five days of hard fighting and each day stronger. Sometimes they had to retire, sometimes we. The fighting lasted three days in the old year (1862) and two days in the new year (1863). But the last day in the old year, that was the most horrible. Alas, dear brother, I cannot explain it to you well enough in this letter. I would like to be 8 days with you at home to tell it exactly.

Our battleline was broken by a negligence of one general, and we had plenty of enemies in front and on our right flank. There our division laid in a narrow district between the rocks in a wood. And we fired with whole power, the most horses of our cannons laid one on the other dead. We only had eight with us. At last came our good father Rosenkranz (Major General William Rosecrans), an old Penselvanian (Pennsylvanian) – German. He is our commanding general and he helped us with two divisions. We took a whole different position, but we had to retire one mile. The horse Rosecrans was shot down under him and his adjutant (Lt. Colonel Julius Garesche) dead. Then we found a good position behind a railway. Suddenly we saw that four trains arrived with auxiliary troops for the rebels from another army. They left the train and came round 6000 men marching over the field to attack us. But Rosecrans came with help and ordered not to leave this place. He spoke in his broken German to us: “If they come to near, use your bayonet, they cannot bear steel.”

We let them come as close as 700 to 800 steps. Then we started with fire. Our 18 cannons were charged with shrapnel and started together. One battery was firing at a time. The infantry fired as fast as they could without command. The enemies were mowed down so completely that only a few could run back. And the trains could them carry back as cripples. That gave them a hard push, but on the same day we lost all three brigade-commanders of the division.

On New Years Day all was quiet. The next two days they tried to attack once more, but they had no other possibility than to retract. From the 3rd to the 4th they retreated, but our cavalry attacked them on the way back. Yes, dear brother, in this battle no bird in the air was safe. But the battle-field, how it did look like! Five days some of our soldiers had to be bury the dead.

Afterwards we moved to the other side of town (Murfreesboro), there we remained until June 24th. Then our army advanced and had much success. As we heard they made many prisoners and conquered a lot of cannons.

Since two months I am occupied in this town as a baker in the "Post Hospital Bakery" with twelve men, day and night. I am the work leader during the day with 5 men, the others work in the afternoon until night. This town is incredibly fortified, so that no enemy can conquer it easily. And they still fortify.

Our regiment had 1000 men, when we marched from St. Louis two years ago. So fine I never saw a regiment in our volunteer army: all Germans, nice arms and beautiful suits. And now 190 men are still in duty as soldiers. The others dead, wounded or cripples. This is the situation of the army in this moment. But with the help of God we shall have finished it until autumn, I believe."

TO BE CONTINUED

On October 24, 1862 Major General William S. Rosecrans took command of the Union army. Joining the army on the 30th, he continued the march to Nashville, Tennessee, which General Buell had begun.

The 2nd Mo Inf joined the line of march, leaving Bowling Green November 4th going into camp just north of Nashville on November 7th without incident.

Also arriving at Nashville on November 7th, Rosecrans immediately began the care and rebuilding of the army. His first efforts were supplying the army's needs - food, clothing, weapons and morale. In addition he had total latitude in reforming its commands. Failing officers were weeded out and discharged or resigned and replaced with competent ones. Changing the Army of the Ohio's name, Rosecrans created the Army of the Cumberland, which consisted of three Wings. **Gen. Rosecrans**



Major General Alexander McCook took command of the Right Wing, which included Sheridan's Division and the 2nd Mo Inf. General McCook's Wing would take the full fury of the approaching battle.

Major General George Thomas commanded the Center Wing, and Major General Thomas Crittenden commanded the Left Wing.

Lincoln demanded that Rosecrans begin an offensive movement. The Union desperately needed a military victory. European support for the South loomed. Rosecrans refused to move until he felt the Army of the Cumberland was ready.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Mo Inf and Schloemann moved November 22nd to their new camp, Camp Sheridan, about six miles south of Nashville near Mill Creek.

While at Nashville, Colonel Frederick Schaefer, former colonel of the 2nd Mo Inf and their brigade commander at the Battle of Pea Ridge, returned after recuperating from an illness. Due to his illness, Schaefer was not at the Battle of Perryville. He now took command of the Second Brigade - 2nd and 15th Mo Inf and the 44th and 73rd Ill Inf - of the Third Division commanded by Sheridan.

Confederates stayed close to Nashville harassing and trying to determine Rosecrans' plans. On Thanksgiving, November 27th Colonel Schaefer once again had command of his Pea Ridge veterans. A brigade of the 2nd and 15th Mo Inf; 44th, 36th and 88th Ill Inf regiments and artillery left camp at 3 a.m. to confront the Confederates. Schloemann and the regiment were happy to have their beloved commander back.

Advancing about six miles, the expedition encountered Confederate pickets. A sharp skirmish sent the Confederates fleeing. Farther penetration south failed to make contact. The movement had an additional success. The brigade returned to camp about 3 p.m. laden with an abundance and variety of foods and other foraged items.

Rosecrans was satisfied his Army of the Cumberland was ready. In the early cold dawn of December 26th three columns of troops, 44,000 men strong, taking three different routes, left Nashville with one objective – destroy Bragg's army.

Sheridan's Division with the 2nd Mo Inf marched at 6 a.m. The mild, enjoyable weather that persisted the last two weeks suddenly converted to black cloud cover with pelting rain and a very cold, strong wind this morning of marching.

Almost immediately upon advancing, the Union army encountered Confederate cavalry and artillery. The Confederates contested the Union advance continually. The weather, cold and heavy rain, benefited the Confederates by slowing the march.



General Bragg

During this time, Bragg was pulling his army of 38,000 men together where he had his headquarters at Murfreesboro, about 30 miles southeast of Nashville.

By the 30th of December the only thing separating the armies was Stones River, a small tributary, about a mile north^{west} of Murfreesboro.

Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland occupied the west bank with his divisions facing east and positioned in a north-south line that extended three miles. Bragg's Army of Tennessee (renamed by President Jefferson Davis during his visit to Bragg's headquarters in December) on the east side of the river, faced west and extended about the same length as the Union lines.

Some artillery fire and small probes toward the enemies' lines took place that day. Both armies readied themselves. Every man knew the first light of New Year's Eve day held the collision and fury of the battlefield, determining each man's fate.

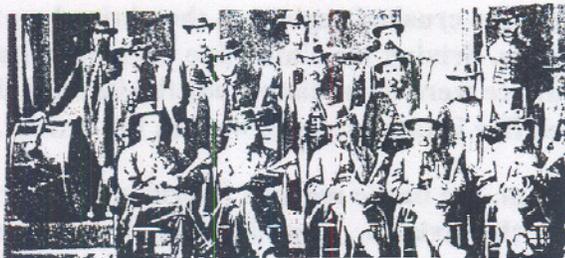
The armies laid silent and men struggled to find relief from the rain and cold. Late that night the rain stopped, the clouds gave way and the stars shown brightly.

Then one of those unique Civil War events totally out of the realm of the pending death and destruction occurred. In the still of this now beautiful wintry night a Union band began playing "Yankee Doodle". As the notes faded, a Confederate band's rebuttal was "Dixie". The challenge was answered by "Hail Columbia". The contest of the bands continued with the Confederate song "Bonnie Blue Flag".

Then the choice of a Union band was the haunting and cherished "Home Sweet Home". A Confederate soldier of the 19th Tennessee Infantry wrote, "Immediately a Confederate band caught up the strain. Then one after another until all the bands of each army were playing "Home Sweet Home". And after our bands ceased playing, we could hear the sweet refrain as it died away on the cool frosty air on the Federal side."

Not Union, not Confederate but 80,000 boys and men with a common bond were lost in thoughts of loved ones and home.

Generals Rosecrans and Bragg labored that night finalizing their attack plans for the morning. Once again the oddities of the Civil War occurred for the battle plan of each general was a mirror version of the other. Both plans were simple. Both would attack the right of the others army, gain the rear and sweep forward eliminating escape avenues and trapping the others army. Bragg was convinced Rosecrans was going to attack his left and began a buildup there.



Union Civil War Band

The right of the Union army was General Mc Cook's three divisions: the first, farthest right, second and Sheridan's third division. Sheridan joined with General Thomas's center Wing and then General Crittenden's Wing farthest north.

Sheridan had placed his first brigade, Commanded by Brigadier General Joshua Sill, in line with the second division and then his third brigade, Commanded by Colonel George Roberts. Two regiments, 2nd Mo Inf and the 73rd Il Inf, of Colonel Frederick Schaefer's Second Brigade were to the rear of their division as reserve. The 15th Mo Inf and the 44th Il Inf of the 2nd brigade reinforced Sill.

About 2 a.m. Sill informed Sheridan of sounds of movement to his front, and his fear of a concentration of Confederate troops on the right. A ride to the picket line confirmed the heavy movement of troops and artillery. Sheridan and Sill quickly rode to Mc Cook's headquarters, awakening him. Sill informed him of their findings and his apprehension. Dismissing their concerns, Mc Cook said Crittenden's planned 7 a.m. attack would take care of the Confederates and went back to sleep.



Gen. Mc Cook

Sheridan went to each of his regiments, waking each commander to make sure their men would be up and ready well before dawn.

At 6:22 a.m. December 31, 1862, line after line of 10,000 men in gray, at first silently, then on the run, emerged from the cedar woods and fog of early morning and flung its mass at the Union right. The attack came as a complete surprise. Many of the Union regiments and brigades were eating breakfast with weapons stacked. Artillery units had taken their horses far to the rear for watering.

Bragg had beat Rosecrans to the punch!

The surges crushed regiments then brigades of Mc Cook's first and second divisions, driving the Union line back upon itself. Small, brave pockets of resistance were immediately out flanked and dissolved. Within an hour of the attack five Union brigades were in full retreat.

At 8 a.m. the battle reached Sheridan's division. Three times the Confederate storm struck the division. Repositioning his troops each time, the troops and artillery fire held off the charges and inflicted severe casualties to the Confederates. At the second position the 2nd Mo Inf, 73rd Il Inf and Schloemann joined the desperate struggle to save the Army of the Cumberland.

At the last position Sheridan had Schaefer's Second Brigade and two other regiments enter the cedar woods and faced the enemy's charge. The 2nd Mo Inf held the salient of the line. Half of the 2nd Mo Inf was brigade skirmishers.

As the Confederates charged, Union artillery raked them followed by a wall of lead as a tremendous volley from Schaefer's brigade crippled the advance and resulted in the enemy's retreat.

The cedar woods were extremely thick with limestone outcrops, boulders and fallen trees making it almost impossible to move through. Into this an enemy command followed Schaefer's brigade. Through this, Schloemann and his comrades battled. Death was everywhere under the cedars. Outgunned the Confederates retired.

Union artillery once again played a pivotal roll in the armies' defense. In an hour and a half of desperate battle the artillery, and the severely depleted three brigades of Sheridan's division had fought seven Confederate brigades to a standstill.

Another attack seemed to be developing. Sheridan's soldiers still had a lot of fight left in them but not without cartridges, which were not available. The division pulled back. Schaefer's brigade broke contact at 10:45 a.m. and turned north.

Some say that Sheridan's stand saved the Army of the Cumberland and was the most determined of the war.

During Sheridan's stands, Rosecrans had determined the severity of the situation of the Army and ordered brigades from General Thomas to tie in with Sheridan's exposed right. He ordered artillery placements that would protect other exposed areas of the Army, and rallied Union stragglers and the disorganized units into line.

By noon the Union right had been forced back about three miles upon itself. A small piece of slightly elevated, wooded cedar area known as Round Forest, ("Hell's Half Acre" to the soldiers there) surrounded by open fields, became the key to the entire Union army's continued existence. Colonel William Hazen, a brigade commander in Crittenden's Wing, miraculously held the Round Forest for hours against the Confederates with only four regiments and a battery of artillery.

Rosecrans sent reinforces to Hazen. Sheridan's battle worn division came out of the cedars into the field near Round Forest looking for ammunition. Again Sheridan's brigades were put in the front line with the 2 Mo Inf at the salient. More Union troops strengthen the defensive line, and the Confederates continued to attack.

During a lull, Rosecrans with his Chief of Staff and great friend, Lt. Colonel Julius Garesche (from St. Louis), dashed their horses to Round Forest to rally the troops. A Confederate cannon shot broke through the trees barely missing Rosecrans but hitting Garesche in the face, decapitating him.

At 2 p.m. Bragg began a series of desperate, direct assaults upon Round Forest. Each had the same result. Concentrated Union artillery fire from many locations with heavy infantry fire decimated each charge. The carnage of the Confederates was overwhelming. At 3:30 p.m. the day's battle was over and the Army of the Cumberland was intact.

On New Year's Day, January 1, 1863, both armies expected the other to have left the field – both remained. Little occurred as each army recuperated from their ordeal and buried their dead. Bragg put forth a major assault of the left of the Union lines at 4 p.m. January 2nd. Gaining some initial success with the drive, concentrated Union artillery of 58 cannons and a Union countercharge forced a Confederate retreat and severe casualties within 45 minutes.

During the night of January 3rd, Bragg left the field. The Union army had prevailed.

All three of Sheridan's brigade commanders- Sill, Roberts and Schaefer- were killed. Sill, a good friend of Sheridan, mistakenly picked up Sheridan's frock during their morning meeting. By wearing the coat during battle, the Confederates, thinking he was Sheridan, concentrated gunfire on him – killing Sill immediately. For his bravery, the Confederates gave Roberts a full military funeral.

Of the 41,400 Union men engaged, 9,532 were killed or wounded. Confederates had 34,732 engaged with 9,239 killed or wounded. Out of Schaefer's Second Brigade of 1496 men 71 were killed and 281 wounded. Of Schloemann's Company I, 2nd Mo Inf, only two men from Belleville were slightly wounded.

This is the last battle and field duty that Schloemann would encounter for he stayed at Murfreesboro till his discharge for disability.

My thanks to the Schloemann family for permitting me to publish the Civil War letter of their ancestor.



Col. Garesche

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RESOLUTIONS

Expressing the THANKS of the City

To Officers and Soldiers engaged in the late battle of Murfreesboro'.

WHEREAS, a brilliant victory has recently been achieved by the brave Army of the Cumberland, under command of Major General ROBERTSON, over the enemies of the Union and Constitution, at Murfreesboro', Tenn.;

AND, WHEREAS, the Second and Fifteenth Regiments of Mo. Vol. Infantry, and Captain Hancock's Battery, of the First Regiment of Artillery, Mo. Vols., from St. Louis, have taken a signal part in the bloody contest, and have displayed heroic gallantry on the said battle field;

Be it therefore resolved, by the Common Council, that the thanks of the city of St. Louis are due, and are hereby tendered, to her sons engaged in the battle aforesaid for their bravery and patriotism, which have shed new lustre over the annals of the city of their nativity or adoption.

Resolved, That the memory of Colonels FREDERICK SCHAEFER, JULIUS P. GARNSCHKE, and other gallant men who fell to rise no more, will be revered by their fellow-citizens of St. Louis, and forever honored by their country, and that our sympathies are hereby extended to their widows and bereaved orphans.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions shall be transmitted to Colonel LAIBEL, and to the other officers in command of the St. Louis Regiments and Companies that have been engaged in battle at Murfreesboro'.

Board of Common Council,

Charles F. Feltz
1st Lieut. & Regt. Adjutant
2nd Regt. Mo. Vols.
St. Louis, January 23, 1863.

In accordance with instructions, I have the pleasure to transmit you the above copy of the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Board, of this date, tendering the thanks of this City to the officers and soldiers engaged in the late battle of Murfreesboro'.

Respectfully, your Obedient Servant,

J. H. McCreer
President Board Common Council

Private Johann Friedrich Schloemann Part IV

Company I, 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry
Company C, 149 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry

This is the fourth and final installment of Friedrich Schloemann's Civil War letter, July 13, 1863, from Murfreesboro, Tennessee to his brother, Wilhelm, in Germany.

My sincere thanks, once again, to the Schloemann family for allowing me to publish Friedrich's letter. In researching and writing based on his letter, my journey with Friedrich has become very personal. At first I only read the words of his wonderful letter. Now I feel as if I walked with him, shared his mess, experienced what he did, learned his feelings, devotion and love of family and his convictions for the Union.

I only regret, I cannot continue his story and friendship.

Through Schloemann words, we become part of his experience, both militarily and personally. We share and feel his anguish, pride of service, pain of losses of family members and comrades, his want of home and family, the nearness and reality of his possible death, constant hardships of each day and minute, the dream and purpose for an end of the war with victory and to begin life again.

We now also view the Civil War from a new perspective and understanding. We see and feel the devotion to country and sacrifices willingly made by the soldiers and families. We do and must honor and give thanks for their service to our country.

A little over two years ago, Schloemann left his family and home in Belleville, Illinois and enlisted September 10, 1861 in the 2 Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry at St. Louis, Missouri.

After marching more than a thousand miles through Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and fighting in the major battles of Pea Ridge, Perryville and Stones River, Schloemann's health began to deteriorated. He remained at Murfreesboro. His duty with the 2nd Mo Inf was almost over.

After the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862 - January 4, 1863, Union General Rosecrans fortified* Murfreesboro and began the same process that he did at Nashville of rebuilding, supplying and training his Army of the Cumberland.

*General Rosecrans put his Army to work building a massive earthen fortification that covered 200-acres. Named Fortress Rosecrans, Stones River ran through the center of it. The fortress encompassed land of the Stones River Battlefield. Fortress Rosecrans became an essential supply depot and embarking point for soldiers marching to Atlanta. Many of the earthen works can still be seen.

He again adhered to his philosophy that his army would not move until he felt it was totally ready. Accommodating Rosecrans preparations for six months, Confederate General Bragg and the Army of Tennessee lay dormant in Middle Tennessee.

By June 23, 1863, Rosecrans decided that all was at hand.

Schloemann, in his letter (Part III) stated, "we moved to the other side of town, there we remained until June 24th. Then our army advanced and had much success". Schloemann did not participate in this move.

Two corps of Bragg's army were dug in about twenty five miles south of Murfreesboro near Shelbyville. Bragg had his headquarters and supply center an additional twenty five miles southeast at Tullahoma.



Gen. Rosecrans

Rosecrans devised a strike plan that would turn the Confederate right and capture lines of retreat of Bragg's army. A feint toward Schelbyville was so successful that the Confederates there were held in place for two days, while the three corps of the Army of the Cumberland, pressed on the right gaining in many places, cutting off escape routes to Tullahoma and advancing to the Confederate rear.

Bragg and his generals were totally surprised.

Victory was in Rosecrans' grasp until June 25th the heavens opened and for three days drenching rain fell reducing the Union advance to less than a crawl.

This was sufficient time for Bragg to get his corps to Tullahoma by railcars. By the 30th, the Army of the Cumberland was near Manchester, only about twelve miles northeast of Tullahoma. Bragg hastened his Army south across the Elk River.

Rosecrans halted his advance at the Elk River, and the Army of Tennessee fell back to Chattanooga without Union pursuit.

In eleven days, traveling eighty miles, Rosecrans had cleared Middle Tennessee of Confederates with less than six hundred casualties to his Army, but the Confederate Army was not destroyed.

Schloemann's letter continues with many personal passages.

"Dear William, now I must close. What happened before with me and my family is as extensive as this. I cannot write everything in this letter. My home is in Belleville, Illinois 14 miles from St. Louis and there we have a house and a beautiful garden. We have a tenant in the house, who has to pay three dollars and a half for a month. I had the good luck with my first farm. I paid 1300\$ and I received 2600 when I sold it.

With the second farm I lost 1400\$ caused by my long illness. It was tearing gout. I could not work for a whole year. I lost one horse and some cows. The salaries for workers and for the recipes from the doctor have been still more expensive. I could not hope longer. I had to sell with 450\$ damage. I thought to work in my old profession in Belleville, but times became always worse because of the disturbances. Then I had a carriage with one horse in the town. Then died my youngest daughter Luise, my very image, she was three years old. That has driven me to the army more than anything else, and also I had to loose so much money. I struggled so much the years before my illness. But the ancient God above says at last how it will go. In the times just before my illness I didn't even avoid to work on Sunday, I had to work and that is not right. Then, in the last two years, because of my illness I saw that everything' went back like a crab, I became accustomed to drink too much. That also is not right way, and for my daughter had to die. So after the sins, the bad luck comes with force. Therefore it is good for me to go to the army.

Alas, I am not alone, who is married. The third part of our regiment is married. The army was a good possibility to survive because the need was great round St. Louis. Now I changed my way of living, no more working on Sunday, no more much drinking. If I could finish my military service finally! I have only a small but healthy family. My wife is healthy, then I have twins, you should see them, a beautiful couple, a boy with name Henry, a right straight fellow, and the girl's name is Auguste. She is like my wife: fine round and well grown. I didn't see them for one year, I am longing for them. But I adapted to this situation. Every week I receive a letter from my wife, and when I read, all are healthy, everything is o.k. for me.

Our salary is thirteen dollars a month and 3 ½\$ for clothing. At the end of the war or otherwise after three years – we had to swear for that time – we shall receive 100\$ per man. They further promised us 160 acre of land. But we are not sure that this will happen. We get money every two months and then each of the married soldiers sends home as much of it as he can miss. The others can do as they want. Many soldiers cannot make both ends meet. I usually send twenty dollars, but sometimes fifteen, for everything is so incredible expensive, tobacco and everything you need. Now I can send some more, because I don't need so much. For tobacco we have an additional occupation. Now we have to bake two oven more a day. Therefore we are paid specially. That is for one man three dollar. If that continues I'm well satisfied, because the last fifteen dollars were lost with the mail. The enemy stopped our train, destroyed it and took all with him. More than 30,000 dollar money of the soldiers were lost.

Dear brother, with that I want to close that this letter will reach you in good health. And please write back as soon as possible. But use my Belleville address for nobody knows what happens with us. And then write to me also, how Henry is doing. I know something, but not everything from this fellow from Hamburg. He was one month with me on my farm. His name is Louis Driestmann, and greetings to him, and specially greetings for your family and thousand greetings to my good old parents. I'm willing to write more now. But what should I write before. I could not write anything good and I did not want to write bad things. With a greeting for you

Your loving brother,

Johann Friedrich Schloemann

Schloemann did not perform duty for five months, which included some hospital time. Suffering from rheumatism and structural joint changes, the hospital surgeon declared that Schloemann was "incapable of performing the duties of a soldier" and issued a discharge for disability November 20, 1863.

You wonder how Schloemann coped with leaving all his friends from Belleville who remained with the regiment, adjusting to civilian life at Belleville and dealing with his disabilities.

During Schloemann's time at Murfreesboro, the 2nd Mo Inf continued to pursue Bragg's Army of Tennessee. The 2nd Mo Inf fought at the Battle of Chickamauga (Georgia) September 19-20, the siege of the Army of the Cumberland by Bragg at Chattanooga and Mission Ridge and various encounters to the end of November 1863.

In 1864 the 2nd Mo Inf did duty around Chattanooga and northern Georgia to Dalton. The regiment mustered out October 1, 1864.

In January 1865 Captain William Kueffner, a Belleville, Illinois resident, received permission to form a new infantry regiment with service for one year. Kueffner had served as a captain, commanding a company, in the "Bloody" 9 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded twice, once at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. He was transferred to the 23rd Veteran Reserve Corps (VRC) as a captain.

The VRC, formerly the "Invalid Corps" was composed of soldiers who could no longer serve in the field (wounds, etc), but wanted to continue duty in the Union army. VRC units served the very important functions as guards or on garrison duty. This allowed soldiers who were capable to be assigned to combat regiments.

Recruiting began and six of the ten companies of the Kueffner regiment were from the Belleville or the surrounding area - most of the recruits' nativity was Germany.

The reason for Schloemann volunteering for service in this regiment has not come down through the generations, but he enlisted January 23, 1865. Most recruits realized the war was just about over. Also, there was a hundred dollar bounty (bonus) paid for enlisting and a private's pay had increased from \$13.00 a month to \$16.00.

The recruits went by train to Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois. There the regiment was organized and designated the 149 Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. At Camp Butler Kueffner received his commission as Colonel of the regiment. Schloemann was a member of Company C.

The recruits received their equipment, uniforms, weapons and training.

The 149th II Inf was ^{MUSTERED} ~~muster~~ in February 11, 1865 with 983 men, and left Camp Butler February 14th for the field. By train, the regiment proceeded via Louisville, Nashville, Chattanooga to Charleston, Tennessee. The duty of the regiment was Provost Guard and railroad protection around Chattanooga. Companies of the 149th II Inf were scattered over about a 50 mile area around Chattanooga.

Protecting the railroads entailed manning specially built blockhouses located along the line, guarding bridges, patrolling the rails and scouting in the area.

Schloemann and Company C continue on to Ringgold, Georgia (about 12 miles south of Chattanooga). From March 1st to April 30th Company C was stationed at Cleveland, Tennessee (about 20 miles east of Chattanooga) protecting the railroad.

Colonel Kueffner was awarded Brevet Brigadier General for "Gallant and Meritorious Service", March 13, 1865.



The regiment was pulled together and did service at Dalton, Georgia (about 25 miles southeast of Chattanooga) from May 2nd to July 5th.

It is ironic for Schloemann. About a year earlier in 1864 his 2nd Mo Inf had been stationed in Cleveland, Tennessee and Dalton, Georgia and had done similar duty protecting railroads as he was doing. Of course in 1864 it was a shooting war. Wonder if he found any evidence that the 2nd Mo Inf had been there?

Brevet Brig Gen Kueffner

On July 6th the regiment moved to Atlanta, Georgia.

The regiment continued to do guard duty, but it would seem its' duty would be changing. In the deep South with the war over for three months, reconstruction was beginning and a return to a degree of normalcy would be attempted.

It would be fascinating talking to Schloemann about reconstruction - what he encountered, did and the reactions of the southern people.

The 149th II Inf and Schloemann mustered out January 27, 1866 at Dalton, Georgia. The regimental strength was 795 officers and men. Thirty one had died of disease.

On February 1, 1866 the regiment departed to Camp Butler to turn in their equipment, receive their final pay and their discharge document.

And just like that, it was all over and the men and Schloemann went home!

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 REPORT OF DISABILITY FOR DISCHARGE

Frederick Schlegelmann Private of Captain *Seibert*
 Company (*A*) of the *2nd* *Missouri* Regiment of United States
 was enlisted by *captain Seibert* of
 the *2nd* *Missouri* Regiment of *Missouri* at *St Louis Mo*
 on the *10th* day of *September* 186*1*, to serve *three* years; he was born
 in *Wasserkirk* in the State of *Pussia* *31* *July*
 years of age *Five* feet *six* inches high *medium* complexion, *Brown* eyes,
Brown hair, and by occupation when enlisted a *Baker*. During the last two
 years *has been suffering from rheumatism*

STATION: *Washington Tenn.*
 DATE: _____

Chas G Remington
1st Lieut & Co
 Commanding Company.

I CERTIFY, that I have carefully examined the said *Frederick Schlegelmann* of
 Captain *Seibert* Company, and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier
 because of *Arterio-sclerosis of the heart with structural changes
 of joints this soldier has done no duty for four months
 and will not be benefited by further medical treatment
 this disability must continue in summer he is not fit
 for the Enrolled Corp.*

Chas G Remington

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Brown hair, and by occupation when enlisted a *Baker*. During the last two
 and *that he is incapable of his service*

STATION: *Washington D.C.*
 DATE: _____

Chas G Remington
1st Lieut & Co
 Commanding Company.

I CERTIFY, that I have carefully examined the said *Frederick Schlegelmann* of
 Captain *Seibert* Company, and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier
 because of *Articular Rheumatism with structural changes
 of joints this soldier has done no duty for four months
 and will not be benefited by further medical treatment
 this disability not contracted in service he is not fit
 for the Enrolled Corp*

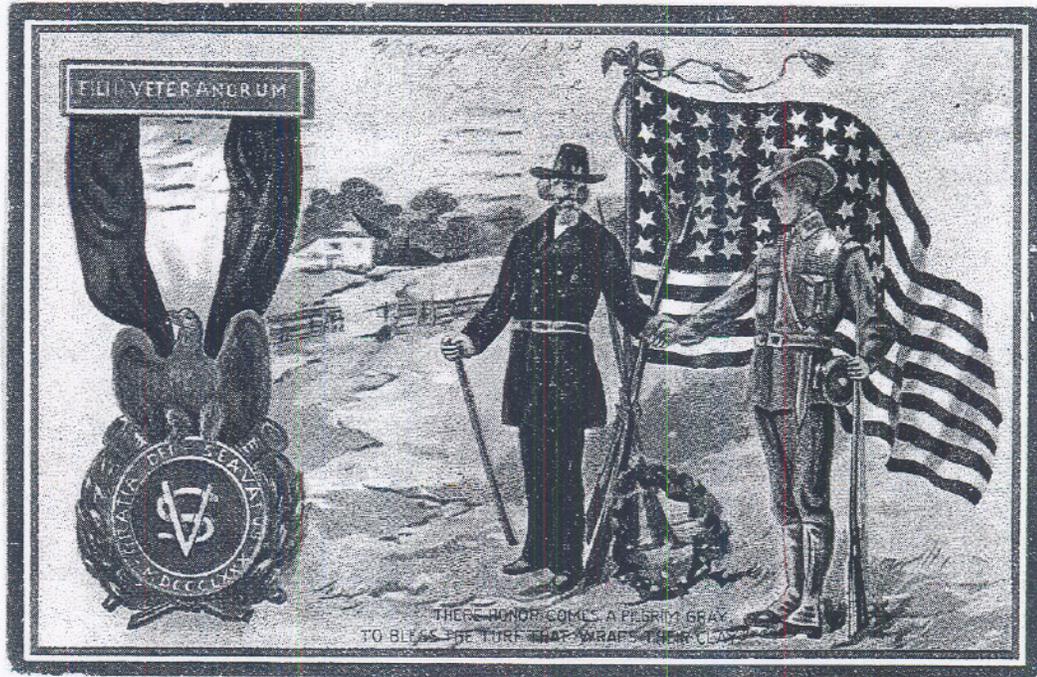
Chas G Remington

"THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN"

Colonel Hecker Camp # 443
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Bi-monthly Newsletter

Dedicated to the Memory of the Those Who
Were Part of the American Civil War 1861-1865.



MAY- JUNE 2005

A Night to Remember

Dennis A. Hermann

On the cold rainy dawn of December 26, 1862, the day after Christmas, General Rosecrans and 43,000 Union soldiers stepped off in pursuit and destruction of the Confederate Army.

Thirty miles southeast of Nashville, Confederate General Braxton Bragg was consolidating his 37,000-manned Army of Tennessee for their stand at the small town of Murfreesboro, TN.

By December 30th only the small creek called Stones River, about a mile northwest of Murfreesboro, separated the two armies.

Both armies readied themselves. Every man knew the first light of New Year's Eve day, December 31, 1862, held the collision and fury of the battlefield, determining each man's fate.

The armies lay silent and men struggled to find relief from the rain and cold. Late that night the rain stopped, the clouds gave way and the stars shown brightly.

(At this point the orchestra began very quietly playing "Home Sweet Home")

Then one of those unique Civil War events totally out of the realm of the pending battle occurred. In the still of this now beautiful wintry night a Union band began playing "Yankee Doodle". As the notes faded, a Confederate band's rebuttal was "Dixie". The challenge was answered by "Hail Columbia". The contest of the bands continued with the Confederate song "Bonnie Blue Flag".

Then a Union band began playing the haunting and cherished "Home Sweet Home". A Confederate soldier of the 19th Tennessee Infantry wrote, "Immediately a Confederate band caught up the strain. Then one after another until all the bands of each army were playing "Home Sweet Home"."

(I stopped the narration and the orchestra continued to perform "Home Sweet Home" with the music slowly became louder, and the Chorale group of 20 incredibly beautiful voices, who were placed behind the orchestra, began quietly singing the song.

Prior to the beginning of the narration about six members of the Chorale group were placed in various locations in the rear of the audience. These six began moving slowly through the audience with their voices predominately carrying the lyrics of "Home Sweet Home".

As they threaded their way through the enthralled audience and came closer to the orchestra, the intensity of the song grew and grew until the six joined the Chorale group and the full power of the music and voices engulfed all. Song ended.)

6/30/00
JIM,
I THINK YOU WILL
FIND THIS INTERESTING.
Dennis A. Hermann

"BATTLE OF THE BANDS"
STONES RIVER BATTLE

A Night to Remember

Dennis A. Hermann

I want to share with our Brothers of the Colonel Hecker Camp #443 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War the description and feelings of an incredible evening of beautiful patriotic music and song.

On May 20, 2005 The Belleville (Illinois) Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale preformed their Pop Concert, "For Our Country" to a large, eager and very responsive audience.

Formed in 1867, the Belleville Philharmonic Orchestra is the second oldest Philharmonic Orchestra in the United States. This is their 138th continuous concert season.

Several weeks before the concert Robert (Bob) Charles Howard, Director of the Philharmonic since 1995, called me concerning information on a Civil War presentation that our Camp was sponsoring. Bob was also excited to find our organization for he had an ancestor who served in a Pennsylvania regiment during the Civil War. Bob quickly joined our Camp. We are proud and happy to welcome Bob as a member!

During our conversations, Bob told me about his patriotic concert, "For Our Country". I told him of the unique "Contest of the Bands" on the night of December 30, 1862 before the Civil War Battle of Stones River.

Bob quickly saw the potential of incorporating it into the concert, and asked me to create and present a narration. I agreed and was very honored to be part of the concert.

To add to the setting and mood, two reenactors appeared in Civil War uniform and flanked the orchestra. Brent Warner of our Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was in his Union uniform bearing the thirty-four star National flag and Gale Red of the Sons of Confederate Veterans carried the Confederate First National flag.

Bob introduced the three of us making certain the audience knew our organizations, and also, proudly, his affiliation with our Camp.

I began the following narration:

"The American Civil War has raged for nearly two years.

For several months the newly appointed Union Commander, Major General William Rosecrans, reorganized, rebuilt, supplied and trained his Army of the Cumberland at Nashville, TN.

Translation of a letter from Johann Friedrich Schloemann
to his brother Wilhelm (William) in Germany.

DENNIS A. HERMANN
25 EDNICK DRIVE
SWANSEA, IL 62226-1914

Hurfreesbono, 12. Juli 1863

CO. I 2 REGIMENT MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

Dear brother,
only yesterday I got your kind letter of March 14th and through it I learned many things, some of them to my pleasure and some to my sorrow. Dear brother, I didn't expect that the red Peter was still living. I didn't hear anything about him in the 9 years that I stay here. He arrived into our family as a punishment of God (?). Yesterday I wrote him immediately a letter, because it was impossible for me to drive there myself as I'm occupied in military service and I cannot go when I want. I explained everything to him in detail, and I pictured heaven and hell to him, and I hope he will follow my opinions. Otherwise he should have no more a human feeling. Dear brother, then you should do for „Handchen“ and for our parents, what you can, since you are now the next one. Perhaps, if God wants it, I can do something for them, if I return fortunately from this war.

With the help of God the war will be finished by autumn, for the last four weeks the South-States have lost plenty of people, cattle, guns and rifles. Everyone believes that it cannot last longer, for during these two years, so long as I am in military-service, they lost such an enormous amount of people during the hard battles and because of the bad living conditions which the soldiers here are forced to endure.

There are no quarters for the winter or lodging like in Germany. The whole two years we did not sleep in a house, neither in winter nor in summer. We have tents of hemp, and these are our dwellings. And then the marches, which we had to do during the worst wintertime or in the hottest months of summer, so that sometimes you could no more babble because of the thirst. Especially during the first years, when we were in Missouri and later in Arkansas, sometimes we had nothing to eat for a whole month, no bread, no shipbiscuit, no coffee, nothing than meat, which we shot from the farmers in the woods, pigs or cattle. Our food had to be brought by carriages over a distance of 350 miles. And then the bad ways and mountains, and often the enemy came from the back and took with him carriages and food. Alas, that was a bad year until the 6th, 7th and 8th of March 1862, when we had a hard battle for three days with the rebels. We stood with 12.500 soldiers against 45.000 rebels. Our super-general Cordis already intended to surrender on the second evening. But our general Siegel from Baden (Germany) proposed, if he could try again it with us, he would make a hole within the hostile lines. And right, general Cordis delivered the command by letter and the next morning we started the third time. Alas, we were completely encircled, each way out was cut, and we already believed, we had to surrender. The rebels had already the mockery against our surrendered soldiers that in a few days they would be in St. Louis and that there they would drink lots of stock-beer. But general Siegel thought differently.

He drew up his German regiments as avantgarde, and very early in the morning a terrible fight happened. But our small corps stood firm. Siegel said to us: Boys, you must have cold blood and do not shoot too high, for the reaching of our rifles is wide. At short distant you must aim low. All our guns have been directed for a cross-fire, for the enemy stood in the woods and had good shelter in the valleys and behind the big trees. On the other side we mostly stood on open field. But they have terribly been beaten by the „damned de Detsch“, that at two or three o'clock in the afternoon they had to retire double quickly, after two of their best generals were dead and one colonel was captured. An immense number of dead soldiers and horses covered the battle-field on the side of the enemies, on our side we lost less than a third. We made much conquest of arms and ammunition. To say it short, they have been beaten so completely that

6/30/06
THANKS JIM!

horses and arms. We got more rifles than needed for a whole division. That was the battle near Pierville in the state Kentucky.

Yes dear brother, I really see, if I would tell you everything, I would need 20 leaves. The name of their super-general is Braeck. He is still due for us not in Kentucky, but after the battle he went with the rest of his troops to the state Tennessi, where we stay until now. We went after him to Nehasville, the capital of this state, where you find the governor. There we remained up to the week between Christmas and New Year. Then we advanced again, because they stood too near. Each day we had little fights with them, but their main force lodged in the town, where I am now. They retired every day until five to six miles before the town. Then the battle started seriously. Five days of hard fighting and each day stronger. Sometimes they had to retire, sometimes we. The fighting lasted three days in the old year and two days in the new year. But the last day in the old year, that was the most horrible. Alas, dear brother, I cannot explain it to you well enough in this letter. I would like to be 8 days with you at home to tell it exactly. -- Our battleline was broken by a negligence of one general, and we had plenty of enemies in front and on the right flank. There our division laid in a narrow district between the rocks in a wood. And we fired with whole power, the most horses of our cannons laid one on the other dead. We only had eight with us. At last came our good father Rosenkranz, an old Penselvanian-German. He is our commanding general and he helped us with two divisions. We took a whole different position, but we had to retire one mile. The horse of Rosenkranz was shot down under him and his adjutant dead. Then we found a good position behind a railway. Suddenly we saw that four trains arrived with auxiliary troops for the rebels from another army. They left the train and came round 6000 men marching over the field to attack us. But Rosenkranz came with help and orderd not to leave this place. He spoke in his broken German to us: „If they come to near, use your bayonett, for they cannot bear steel“ We let them come as close as 700 to 800 steps. Then we started with fire. Our 18 cannons were charged with shrapnel and started together. One battery was firing at a time. The infantry fired as fast as they could without command. The enemies were mowed down so completely that only a few could run back. And the trains could them carry back as cripples. That gave them a hard push, but on the same day we lost all three brigade-commanders of the division.

On New Years Day it was quiet. The next two days they tried to attack once more, but they had no other possibility than to retract. From the 3rd to the 4th they retreated, but our cavalry attacked them on the way back. Yes, dear brother, in this battle no bird in the air was safe. But the battle-field, how did it look like! Five days some of our soldiers had to bury the dead.

Afterwards we moved to the other side of the town, there we remained until June 24th. Then our army advanced and had much success. As we heard they made many prisoners and conquered a lot of cannons. -Since two monthes I am occupied in this town as a baker in the „Post Hospital Bakery“ with twelve men, day and night. I am work leader during the day with 5 men, the others work in the afternoon until the night. This town is incredibly fortified, so that no enemy can conquer it easily. And they still continue fortifying.

Our regiment had 1000 men, when we marched from St. Louis two years ago. So fine I never saw any regiment in our volunteer army: all Germans, nice arms and beautiful suits. And now 190 men are still in duty as soldiers. The others are dead, wounded or cripples. This is the situation of the army in this moment. But with the help of God we shall have finished it until autumn, I believe.

Dear William, now I must close. What happended before with me and my family is as extensive as this. And I cannot write everything in this letter. My home is in Belleville, Ill. 14 miles from St. Louis and there we have a house and a beautiful garden. We have a tenant in the house,