

# John Whitehead Documents

Card Numbers Form

Whitehead. John M

Co. F and S. 15 Indiana Infantry.

Chaplain Chaplain

CARD NUMBERS.

1 24787321

2 24788400

3 24788414

4 24788426

5 24788439

6 24788454

7 24788472

8 24788487

9 24788502

10 24788516

11 24788531

12 24788587

13 R.P331478

14 36053630

[Numbers 15 through 50 are blank]

Number of personal pages herein 3.

Book Mark: R.P331478

See also [blank]

Letters concerning Chaplain Whitehead delivering money home to families

In camp July 27th 1/63 Wood. G. A H 128 Col. 15th Ind Vols

Asks permission that Rev. John M Whitehead have permission to go to Indiana to convey money home for the soldiers of the 15th Ind Vols. and return in 20 days.

Head Quarters 21 AC

Manchester July 28. 1863

Respectfully forwarded [illegible]

John M. [illegible]

Maj Genl [sic]

[illegible]

Recd [sic]

Hd [sic] Qrs [sic] Dept. Cumberland

Nashville July 29th/63

[Illegible writing]

Head Quarters, 2nd Brig

Pelham July 27, 1863

Respectfully forwarded I hope this permission will be granted as it is the only way many of the men can get money home to their families and it has been the custom for some time

S D Wagner

Brig Genl Comdg

Head Qtrs [sic] 1st Division

21st AC, July 24th 1863

Approved and respectfully forwarded

Th: [sic] J Wood

[illegible] Army

Head Quarters 15th Ind Vols

July 27th 1863.

Sir:

I respectfully ask; that Rev. John M Whitehead Chaplain of the Regiment, have permission granted him to proceed to Indiana, for the purpose of conveying money home to the families and friends in behalf of the soldiers belonging to this Regiment and return in twenty days.

Your Obt [sic] Servt [sic]

G.A. Wood

Col Commdng [sic] Regt

To Brig Genl. Garfield

Chief of Staff

Dept. Cld [sic]

Westville, Laporte Co. Ind.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form September and October 1862  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Sept and Oct, 1862.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station [Illegible] Ala. [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: was appointed Caplain [sic] July 9th and has never rec'd pay

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

[illegible]

Copyist.

Individual Muster-in Roll Form  
W 15 Ind.

John M Whitehead

Chaplain, Co [blank], 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Inf.

Appears on an Individual Muster-in Roll of the organization named above.

Roll dated Murfreesboro, Tenn. April 12, 1863.

Muster-in to date July 15, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When July 15, 1862.

Where Westville, Ind

Period 3 years.

Bounty paid \$ [blank]; due \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

Book mark: R.P331478

Moreland

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form November and December 1862  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Nov and Dec, 1862

Commissioned or Appointed [blank], 186[blank]. [see footnote below]

Station [blank] [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

[illegible]

Copyist.

Field and Muster Roll Form January and February 1863  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Jan and Feb, 1863.

Commissioned or Appointed [blank], 186[blank]. [see footnote below]

Station [blank] [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

[illegible]

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form March and April 1862  
W 15 Ind.

John M Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Mch [sic] and April, 1862.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville Indiana. [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

[illegible]

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form July and August 1863  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for May and June, 1863.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville Ind [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

[illegible]

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form July and August 1863  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for July and Aug, 1863.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville, Ind [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark:

[illegible]

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form September and October 1863  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Sept and Oct, 1863.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville Indiana

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse,\$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

J [illegible initial] Wise

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form November and December 1863  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Nov and Dec, 1863.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville Ind [see footnote below]

Present or absent Absent

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: At Chattanooga Tenn [sic] in charge of sick and wounded

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]



J [illegible initial] Wise

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form January and February 1864  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster Roll for Jan [sic] and Feb, 1864.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville Ind [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

JA Wise

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster Roll Form March and April 1864  
W 15 Ind

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Ind Inf

Appears on

Field and Staff Muster Roll for Mch [sic] and April, 1864.

Commissioned or appointed July 9, 1862. [see footnote below]

Station Westville Indiana [see footnote below]

Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Due Gov't, \$ [blank] for [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

[footnote: See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.]

Book mark: [blank]

JA Wise

Copyist.

Field and Staff Muster-out Roll Form  
W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Rank Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Age [blank] years.

Appears on Field and Staff Muster-out Roll of the organization named above. Roll dated  
Indianapolis Ind June 25, 1864.

Muster-out to date June 25, 1864.

Last paid to April 30, 1864.

Clothing account:

Last settled [blank], 186 [blank]; drawn since \$ [blank]

Due soldier \$ [blank]; due U.S. \$ [blank]

Am't [sic] for cloth'g [sic] in kind or money adv'd [sic] \$ [blank]

Due U.S. for arms, equipments, [sic] etc., \$ [blank]

Bounty paid, \$ [blank]; due \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse, \$ [blank]

Valuation of horse equipments, [sic] \$ [blank]

Remarks: [blank]

Book mark: [blank]

JA Wise

Copyist.

Record and Pension Office Notation Form  
W. 15. Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Chaplain, 15 Reg't [sic] Ind. Inf.

NOTATION.

Book mark: R. and P. 331478

Record and Pension Office,

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, April 7, 1898

Medal of honor awarded March 22, 1898, for most distinguished gallantry in action at  
Stone [sic] River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.

E [sic]

Copyist.

Returns Form

W 15 Ind.

John M. Whitehead

Chaplain, Co. [blank], 15 Reg't [sic] Indiana Infantry.

Appears on Returns as follows:

Oct. 1862, to June 1863, Present. Mustered into service Oct. 7, at Louisville, Ky, by  
Capt. H.C. Bankhead, U.S. Mustering Officer.

July 1863, Absent, sent North to take money home for the soldiers of the regt.

Aug. 1863, to Oct. 1863, Present.

Nov. 1863, to Jan. 1864, Absent, Recd [sic] leave of absence for 20 days, per Dept. S.F.O. 301, Nov. 19/63.

Book mark [blank]

J B Doud

Copyist.

FROM HISTORICAL SKETCH FIFTEENTH REGIMENT INDIANA VOLUNTEERS AND THIRD ANNUAL REUNION FRANKFORD, INDIANA SEPTEMBER 20-21, 1888

Promptly at 8 o'clock P.M., the boys formed line and marched to Cushwa's Restaurant where a bountiful supper was waiting, to which they sat down and enjoyed with great relish; at its conclusion a good mental feast was served up to the boys, leading off under the able and eloquent Chaplain Whitehead, followed by Captain Edwin Nicar with his graceful and winning "talk." There arose in their midst the form of Captain John Smith whose fair and jolly face was radiant [sic] with a happy smile. He spoke with words of kindness, followed with the most sympathetic and affectionate words of kindly remembrance by J. W. Hamilton.

Then came Capt. Benj. F. Hegler with that easy flow of pleasing language so constructed as to carry one back to the oft-repeated scenes of other days not covered with the silver sheen of peace yet soothing to the mind. Again the scenes are changed with the glowing pathos of Thomas Campbell ; the mind is carried to more higher and nobler themes than those fused into the elements of war. Then Captain H. K. Warren spoke in his very pleasing manner of scenes familiar to all, when all were gathered together as one family. His words brought many a pleasant remembrance back to mind.

Comrade Maxson closed the entertainment with a most fluent discourse and all went away most highly pleased that they had been permitted to live through the havoc of war and the years of peace to enjoy the pleasures of this occasion.

Of the speeches made on this occasion that of Chaplain Whitehead and of Captain Edwin Nicar are printed on other pages. It is to be regretted [sic] that all could not have been published as they were replete with many good "things."

During the forenoon of the 21st the boys collected in the Post Hall and had a very pleasant time recounting the old war life and telling pleasing stories.

By motion it was decided to hold the next reunion of the 15th Boys at Attica, Indiana, in connection with the 8th War District Veteran Association, on the 20th and 21st of September, 1889.

E. M. BURNS,

Secretary of the Association.

REMARKS OF COMRADE EDWIN NICAR.

I thank you, my comrades, for the kindness of your greeting, and beg you to believe that my heart goes out to each and every one of you in warmest affection. Were it possible to use a nearer and dearer name than comrade, I would gladly do so; but that term expresses all that the heart can feel or the lips utter, and in addressing you as my comrades I give you the full measure of all that is best in my heart.

I am grateful to Chaplain Whitehead for the complimentary manner in which he has seen fit to refer to my record as a soldier and citizen, but am inclined to think that his personal bias in my favor has led him to say more for me than any merits deserve. However, I am grateful all the same and thank him for his kind expressions.

In referring to the various members of our regiment with whom he has come in contact with since the war closed, the Chaplain has given us the pleasant information that the old 15th boys, as a rule, are doing well; that many of them have risen to high place in the "sweet conquests of peace"; that they are law abiding and honored citizens of the great republic they helped to save; that the lessons learned in following the flag have not been lost, and that, last of all, their love for each other has increased with the years of their life.

The Chaplain's modesty forbade his speaking of one honored member of our regiment, and I know you will be glad to have me supply the omission. Comrades, do you remember that Chaplain Whitehead was always at his post of duty? Do you remember how in the red front of battle he carried wounded men from the battlefield on his brawney [sic] shoulders; how his arms supported the dying soldier and tenderly laid him to rest in that sleep which knows no waking? Do you remember how he gave comfort to the mortally wounded soldier whose life's blood was fast ebbing away; how he received his last messages for the loved ones at home and faithfully delivered them to those for whom they were intended?

You do remember these, and much more, and with me you are ready to say 'May God bless and keep John M. Whitehead.' Another feature of the Chaplain's character always elicited my warmest admiration, and I trust he will take no exceptions when I say that he was of the best foragers it was ever my good fortune to meet. No turkey or chicken was safe from his raids; no roost was high enough for them to escape his acute vision; "even the sweet potatoes started from the ground" at his approach, and milk and honey were as natural to our mess chest as if they had always belonged there. I speak whereof I know, as, for a long time I was a member of the Chaplain's mess, but I will do him justice to say that he paid for all these good things in lawful money and did not attempt to palm off genuine or bogus confederate money on the guileless "Reb" of whom he purchased.

Comrades, the record of our regiment is part of the history of our country and we may all be proud of it. Standing here to-night, looking into your faces, the present fades away

and the past with its troop of tender and glorious memories is before me. The firing on the flag and the call to arms brought us together as comrades; as comrades we served faithfully in camp and in field, in advance and retreat, in charge and countercharge, on the battlefield, on the march and in the bivouack [sic], and through all, our faith in our flag and in the ultimate triumph of our cause never faltered [sic].

Time will not permit me to recite the achievements of our regiment, nor can I weary your patience with the many details of our service which came under my personal notice. Let me say however, that from the 14th of June 1861, when at Camp Tippecanoe we stood with uplifted hands and swore allegiance [sic] to our country and her flag, to the 25th day of June 1864, when after more than three years of service we ceased to exist as an organization, our record was unsullied by any act which might cause our countrymen to blush for us.

Our dead sleep in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and elsewhere, and our long list of dead and wounded attest with what fidelity we strove to do our duty. Stone [sic] River and Mission Ridge are sad yet glorious pages in our history, and are recorded in letters of living light on our hearts, never to perish while we live.

Our old division commanders, Reynolds, Nelson, Wood and Sheridan, have, with a single exception, joined the great army of the dead, while Wagner, our regimental and brigade commander long since passed to the other side. Col. Wood, our eccentric, but brave Colonel, still lives—a poor, weak old man—but with a warm regard for his old comrades that disarms all criticisms and fixes him in our hearts as one of us.

I cannot tell you, my comrades, with what impatience and interest I have looked forward to this reunion. My waking and sleeping hours have been full of the idea and meeting of the “boys”, taking them by the hand, greeting them with a ‘God bless you’, and living over with them the days when we wore the blue and followed the flag. The realization is all that I pictured it and I am gratified indeed for the privilege of being with you. How I should like to talk of the “light and shadows” of our soldier life; but others are to speak and I must not trespass too far on your good nature. Let us meet again and again; let us spur up the laggard; hold up the hands of the weak; aid the needy and each year come together in sacred and glorious reunion.

I am not ashamed of the tears that come unbidden as I look into your faces and in bidding you good night I say fervently from my heart, ‘God bless you, my comrades of the 15th Indiana.’

I thank you, comrades, for your patience and kindness in listening to me and will now give way to some other comrade.

ADDRESS BY CHAPLAIN JOHN M. WHITEHEAD.

Fellow comrades of the 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers: this is certainly a very rare occasion to me, and doubtless it is to all of you; an occasion that may only occur once

in a whole life-time. After the long period of nearly twenty-five years of separation, each of us following the peaceful pursuits of quite life in common with other peaceful citizens, we are assembled here from a dozen states to meet in the state from which we enlisted in the service of our country.

During this long time of separation a full generation of children has been born of our own and of others, who have grown up to full manhood and womanhood.

We are met, many of us for the first time, to look into each others [sic] faces as fellow comrades and talk over the thrilling battle-scenes of a generation ago—battle-scenes not printed on paper or canvas, or sham battle-scenes, but real battle-scenes where the thundering war of cannon and the sharp rattle of musketry and the flash of the keen saber and deadly, bristling bayonets were dread realities. Battle-scenes in which we were always found in the front ranks of an army numbering in its aggregate over two millions of brave soldiers; an army of the best young men of the best nation the sun ever shone upon. We were not serfs, or slaves, or hirelings, but boys from the homes of America.

I assure you that to me this is an occasion of great pleasure; once more to greet the “boys” I used to see daily, and with whom I shared with you in your hard toils, long, dreary marches; sore and sad reverses, and shouted with you when victories perched upon our banners. I have come almost a thousand miles from that great historic State of Kansas where sixty of your beloved comrades reside. And allow me to say, that for this occasion I am indebted to two of our beloved comrades of the 15th Regiment, –Capt. John H. Smith, warden of the state prison at Lansing, near Leavenworth and Hon. J. W. Hamilton, state treasurer of Kansas. - I came here as their guest. I am proud to say that they are honored and respected in the State of Kansas as good true business men, in whom the confidence of all the people rest.

Allow me to say to you and all the absent members of the 15th Indiana Regiment, I am real glad to greet you as fellow comrades. I have a right to say some things about the 15th Indiana Regiment that others might not feel free to say. My official position as your Chaplain gave me a real knowledge of the true nature and mettle of my comrades when in camp, hospital, or on long gloomy marches; also on the terrible battle-fields; I know their true nature at home and in camp life; I know their history well, and I can say truthfully, for bravery on the battle-field; for endurance in hardships, and true soldierly conduct, no regiment can be named with a better record, no truer men be found, who defended the old flag of our fathers.

I still remember one of the old “boys” who was tried as with fire and found true to the old flag and brave as was one of the little Spartan band that fought at the battle of Thermopylae; he was ever found in the battle’s front, always ready for duty let it be ever so unpleasant or dangerous. I refer to Captain Nicar who served so faithfully as our adjutant, and performed his every duty with that generous spirit that won the love and respect of all. This Regiment had no paid historian nor pet newspaper reporters to blaze

abroad every little skirmish or march and counter-march that was made; they wrote their history on bloody battle-fields, where its pages were written in the blood of our bravest and best men we left dead on the battle-field; or written from the blood of many wounded men who will carry their scars to their graves; written in the wasted forms of prisoners pent in prison pens worse than death.

Again I have a right to say something of a Regiment whose officers and men never refused to do all I ever asked of them; a regiment of men I learned to love as only soldiers inured to hardships can love each other. I have a right to say, I know you, I know your history; for I have marched with you mid-summer's hottest sun; I have camped with you in mid-winter's coldest days; in camp and on marches; when I slept on the ground with you; with tents and without tents or shelter. I have shared with you when we had full rations and when we had no rations; I have sorrowed with you when defeat was unavoidable; I have also shared with you in outbursts of joy when shouts of victory followed as the old Flag has waived over rebel fortifications and over battle-fields you [illegible page]

more clearness than I can possibly describe it; for in that tragical scene you were actors; you held the stage of that great theatre; your part was to "hold that point at all hazards." How well you fulfilled your part of that programme [sic] I will not speak of now; only by calling over the Roll Call on the bank of Stone [sic] River, January 1, 1862, when fifty of our bravest and best men lay dead on the field.

Let Captain Templeton speak; let Captain Joel W. Foster speak; yea let the dead and wounded speak; call over the roll and every alternate man was either killed or wounded. From day-light until star-light on December 31, 1862, you were on the line of battle and under a galling fire from cannon and small arms; every moment of the time your hands were on your guns and your lives in your hands. On the Friday following you were active in successfully repelling Gen. Breckenridge's forces across Stone [sic] River on our left; and on Friday afternoon from four o'clock until five o'clock the battle raged until the whole Confederate army retreated in great haste and in greater disorder and pressed close by our infantry and cavalry.

I remember well that afternoon, Friday January 2, 1863. I was assisting in the field hospital; I saw that battle clear and without any obstruction. I shall never forget when ten thousand cavalry stretched along the Murfreesboro turnpike were waiting in ranks of "Four"; when the command was carried down the line of over a mile, by a swift orderly, with the order, shouting "Forward! Forward!!" How grand as they advanced on double-quick, with the clanking of sabers and carbines. I said then as I stood in front of our hospital, "Had I the power of Joshua I would have used it and said at the last hour 'Sun stand thou still upon Gibeon and thou moon in the valley of Ajolon,' until this victory shall crown all our arms and this cursed rebellion shall close forever."

I shall never recall it. Let that old flag waive until unmolested on every battle-field and on every foot of this God-given America henceforth and forever, and the man under the



folds of that old flag who does not love it, I look on him as an enemy of my country and can only love him as an enemy and pray for him only as our blessed Master taught us to "Love your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you."

Another grander battle-field, far more imposing, was that of Missionary Ridge. Its scenery was brilliant beyond description. Off to our right stood Lookout Mountain—that old sentinel of nature's first works—rising two thousands four hundred feet above the Tennessee River which sweeps its rock-bound base; and from its summit the eye, by the aid of a field-glass, could sweep far across the hills and valleys and see into seven states. A scenery embracing mountain after mountain, rising higher and higher, until the eye passes from nature's grandest scenery up to nature's God.

Around and across the rushing waters of the Tennessee River stands Moccasin's Point, where lay our deadly batteries; and still around and across the valley farther Northward lay Waldron's ridge, whose bold, impassable, rocky sides arise two thousand feet for miles Eastward until it left the only open gap, closed by the Tennessee River, to Missionary Ridge. There around that somewhat evenly ambitheatre [sic] forum, extending some three miles from Tennessee Hill on the Northeast to Lookout Mountain on the Southwest, was the Confederate Army on that ridge with two well intrenched fortifications of earth-works giving slope below both on its top and sides, reaching around the entire ridge.

On the top of that semi-circle was General Bragg's headquarters midway on the top of Missionary Ridge with two earth-works of lines down the sides of the ridge, while in the valley below, shut up in Chattanooga, was the Army of the Cumberland in the center; reinforced by General Sherman's Army of the Tennessee on our left; with General Hooker's 11th and 12th Corps of the Potomac on the South.

Just look at those two armies for months confronting each other, with picket-men within hailing distance of each other. Three battles had been fought within sight of us or hearing distance, only a few months before;— Chickamauga, Wauhatchie and Lookout Mountain. Now we were hemmed in, with rations cut off. You remember with more keenness of memory our daily rations were extended and only given every five days and then far less than "half rations" were doled out to us. You remember when corn around the Quarter-master's market was at a premium; guards were placed over the horses and mules during their mealtime to prevent hungry soldiers from robbing them of their far less than half-rations.

Such bear starvation faced us as we never experienced before; "already," Gen. U.S. Grant says in his official report, "more than ten thousand horses and mules had starved to death in six week's time before the battle of Missionary Ridge was fought" Our Quarter-master killed our beeves to keep them from dying. We had that kind of meat dealt out to us in quantities and qualities that even appeared to shrink up in cooking it. There was not fat enough on a whole pot for a mess to grease your eye. This is not by any means an overdrawn picture before the battle of Wauhatchie was fought.

Some strange things are found in war. Just think of it; the battle of Missionary Ridge! What a name for a battle-field. "Missionary Ridge!" What a blending together of strange extremes in one strange contrast. A Ridge where the followers of a meek and lowly saviour [sic] had once established a school to teach the nation's savages the religion of the Man of Cavalry; but here now, a hundred thousand men on either side were confronting each other to see whether the grand old flag of our beloved should float on that crest or the Confederate bars and stars should supplant it. The test was made Nov. 24, 25 and 26, 1863.

The battle of Missionary Ridge will ever be regarded as one of the grandest scenes of history for numbers; the perfect ambitheatre [sic] scenes; for grandeur in victory.

From Lookout Mountain on the South-west to the river over Tunnell Hill on the North-east, inside the mountains, Missionary Ridge, the Tennessee River and the Confederate Army of lay Chattanooga and the Union Army on November 24, 1863, in line of battle, ready for the advance on the enemies [sic] works. — The battle commenced; its scenery you better understand than pen can depict.

The part you took in that grand heroic fight was directly in front of Gen. Bragg's Headquarters as your objective point. How well you performed your duty along that bloody line was seen in the fact that the Flag of the 15th Regt. Ind. Volunteers was planted first on Missionary Ridge on the fortifications at Bragg's Headquarters. It was not planted there without the costly sacrifice of blood and life of sixty per cent. [sic] of the regiment.

Our old Flag, God bless its sacred memory still. It was shot down with its brave bearers six times in succession but it rose each time in a new hand and landed triumphant at last. Its bearer, Comrade George L. Banks, of Co. "C," fell first, then another gathered it up and another, until five times it fell, then Comrade Banks raised it on high again and the sixth time it fell; when at last Lieut. Thomas N. Graham, of Co. "G," sprang to the breach, seized it, leaped across the fortifications and planted its tattered folds at Bragg's Headquarters; first flag to float along Missionary Ridge; when in a few minutes afterwards over one hundred flags waved proudly along the entire ridge. That old flag is now in the State Capital with all other Indiana flags.

Some unsanctified official usurper said to the Librarian into whose hands these flags are entrusted, "We have no room for them—throw them out and burn them—they are in our way and take up room here." The old soldier, the loyal people and Sons of Veterans say with one united voice to any one who dare lay hands on those flags: "Drop those flags," thou uncircumcised usurper who ever he may be, — the chief executive of the nation or any other man.

Some one may say who are these brave heroes of whom you are speaking? I answer that they are the boys of thirty years ago. They went from the loyal homes all over this country; from your counting rooms, colleges, schools and farms. You may select from the history of all battle-fields the most daring and brilliant acts on record and our soldiers

in putting down the late rebellion will duplicate even such acts on more than one hundred battle-fields.

At home to-day these soldiers are among our best men, filling offices in State, Nation, Military and Civil life; they stand in the front of every good work to-day. Out of near fifty of the 15th Indiana present, by request, of all who were members of any church, thirty raised their hands. God bless our soldiers.

Members of the 15th Ind. Regiment Living on September 20-21 1888, the date of the Reunion

And their residence at the present writing.

Colonel Gustavus A. Wood, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Lieut. Colonel Richard Owen, New Harmony, Ind.

Lieut. Colonel John M. Comparet, Blanco, Texas.

Major Alexander Fowler, Bronson, Kansas.

Surgeon Richard Bond, Aurora Ind.

Surgeon James R. Adams, Petersburg, Ind.

Assistant Surgeon Gideon Wonsutler, Hicksville, Ohio.

Chaplain John M. Whitehead, Silver Lake, Kan.

Hospital Steward Thomas F. Dryden, Clayton, Ind.

BAND.

Capt. George W. Warren, Evansville, Ind.

E.G. Black, Lafayette, Ind.

Otto M. F. Pfafflin, Evansville, Ind.

John D. Jones, New Harmony, Ind.

William A. Twiggs, New Harmony, Ind.

John P. Bennett, New Harmony, Ind.

William M. Bennett, New Harmony, Ind.

William G. Wheatcraft, Graysville, Ill.

COMPANY A.

Rice, Alexander A., Captain, Lafayette, Ind.

Hegler, Benj. F., Captain, Attica, Ind.

McNIGHT, John T., First Lieutenant, Adrian, Minn.

Hamilton, J. W., Corporal, Topeka, Kan.

Todd, Clayton H., Corporal, Attica, Ind.

Campbell, Thomas P., Private, Attica, Ind.

[Two images of John Whitehead—one is an image of him in uniform while the other is a post-war picture.]

Newspaper Article

## TWO TERRIBLE DAYS.

A [illegible] Chaplain Tells of the Stone [sic] River Battle.

Editor National Tribune: I joined my regiment in Verville near Tullahoma, Tenn., just before that noted continuous march, or retreat, from the Cumberland Mountains, South Tennessee, to Louisville, Ky. My regiment saw fighting at Perryville, but was not in that battle. There is a [illegible] difference in seeing and fighting a battle.

On the night of Dec. 30, 1862, at about 7 o'clock we were ordered to cross Stone [sic] River, having marched in line-of-battle from Stewart's Creek in the afternoon. We were in Gen. Crittenden's Corps, in Gen. Wood's Division, being the left wing of the army. We crossed at the ford in front of Gen. J.C. Breckenridge's Corps of the Confederate army. The camping-ground selected for us was on the side of the long hillslope about 200 yards up from the river.

As we were forming for camping we were startled. We had run into the Confederate picket [illegible]. Their lines and ours were almost together. The enemy fired volley of some 20 or 30 shots. The balls struck over our heads and came down on limbs of trees. They rattled like [missing]. We could distinctly hear the commands of officers given in low tones : Fall in, boys! Fall in! Fall in!" By the [illegible]! Steady, boys! Fall in! Fall in!" We were within 20 yards of their picket [page cuts off] We [illegible] no resistance but [illegible] countermarched and recrossed Stone [sic] River. We took our position in a little clump of trees along the cottonfield, [illegible] of the railroad. There we bivouacked and stacked arms, but did not break ranks. It was the last night on earth with scores of our regiment. Ours and the enemy's pickets were within a dozen yards of each other. Neither pressed for advance, each stood watching and listening all night without a word above a whisper. On Dec. 31 Col. Wood walked along the line of officers at 5 o'clock,

and said in a low tone of voice to each Captain: "Get your men up, and eat without kindling fires." By 6 o'clock the Confederate pickets were slowly advancing, driving ours back step by step. At daylight Gen. Bragg's entire army was rapidly advancing on our right, except Breckenridge's Corps.

At 7 o'clock the battle opened with sharp rattle of musketry by regiments, with the terrible roar of artillery. The attack on our right wing was sharp and effectual for the time. It was only checked by moving almost our entire left corps over to the center and right, when the tide of battle was turned and checked along the turnpike and railroad; but not until our army was "half face about," at 11 o'clock. Here at this time nearly 10,000 men on each side were engaged. The full force of both armies was fighting along the entire line of battle.

In the afternoon the 15th Ind. advanced, with our left resting near Stone [sic] River, with the 37th Ind. supporting Cox's battery, these covering the entire ground occupied by Gen. Crittenden's Corps in the morning. In our front, across the river, was Cobb's Kentucky battery, with parts of Semple's and Slocum's batteries. They did great damage and destruction to our army.

In the afternoon an order came to Col. G. A. Wood to "Hold that point at all hazards." It simply meant to defend that spot until overcome. Not to retreat. Not to surrender; but to die on that place. This position was the key to the whole battlefield. It must be held!

Receiving such an order, the Colonel did not hesitate, but sounded the "Attention!" We charged Jackson's Brigade, that was coming about 300 yards in line-of-battle over a little rise of ground along the right bank of the river. They were met at the crest of the hill and driven back greatly demoralized. Our men then fell back to their former line-of-battle. But soon there was an additional reinforcement to Jackson's Brigade of Adam's Brigade. A second charge was made over the same ground and the enemy driven again in confusion. Soon, from the same place, came another brigade—Preston's. Now the attacking force was 12 regiments—Jackson's, Adam's, and Preston's Brigades. A third charge was made over the same ground.

This time the 9th Ind. and parts of Hazen's Brigade flanked the Confederates. And this time they retreated in greater disorder, and gave up that "that stronghold," as Gen. Bragg called it in his official report.

In these three charges the distance was 250 yards in advance of our line-of-battle. The regiment captured more prisoners than the entire command numbered in the morning. But it was done at a terrible cost of life. Scores of men of the regiment fell dead and wounded. Brave fellows; each one was a Spartan.

Here that noble, manly model of a soldier fell mortally wounded—Capt. Templeton, Co. D. I carried him off the field. Near the field hospital I met Surgeon Youart, who administered only opiates. He bade me stay by the Captain, at his request. I received

his last request, and sent that sad message to his friends in Lafayette, Ind. He soon closed his eyes and fell asleep on the battlefield.

Here that brave and dauntless soldier, my neighbor,—Col. I. C. B. Suman,—was shot in the left arm—artery severed, another shot through the shoulder, with a third minie [sic]-ball between two ribs. I took it out, dressed his wounds, and pronounced him still worth a dozen dead men. He rode back to his command, and staid [sic] with them through the battle.

Among others I carried from the front, dressed the wounds of, or otherwise aided, were Corp'l [sic] Logan, Co. B; John Van Note; Serg't [sic] Edwards, Co [sic] K; Lemuel Sheldon and Obadiah Vaughn, Co. G; Serg't [sic] H. Tullum, Co. C; Frank and Rob Maxwell, and Christian Board, Co. G; John Long, Co. C; Serg't [sic] Matson, Co. F; Capt. Joel W. Foster, Co. G; Corp'l [sic] Douglas; George Brown; Lieut.-Col. Elias Neff; Lieut. John H. Smith, and Corp'l [sic] Calvin R. Zener.

I accompanied my Surgeon, with Assistant Hospital Steward E. M. Burns, to the field hospital. Our work commenced on a heavy task there. Soon after night Surgeon Youart and Burns were ordered to the general hospital. [sic] I was left to direct the removal of the wounded from the place. Most of the many scores of wounded were helpless. I took each no [sic] my shoulders or steadied them to the ambulances. Carrying was easier for both the wounded and for myself, and was the quicker way. I finished the work after 2 o'clock, then went to my horse, and found my blankets, haversack, rations, and canteen missing. So I lay under the open porch of an abandoned house, but soon found it was too cold to rest or sleep.

I mounted my horse and struck out to find my regiment. It was an almost forlorn hope at that dark hour of the night, with all army lines changed by the battle. But near daylight I found the regiment nearly where I left them the night before, still holding the place, though far better intrenched.

A new deal was being formed for Friday, Jan. 2. Our army took the aggressive this time by moving across the river; the Union army advancing on the corps of Breckenridge with a full reserve flanking force to support our attacking divisions, and by our front, supported by our [illegible] artillery of 48 guns, in such position as to sweep the entire hill-slope from river to crest of the hill.

Our attacking party was instructed to fall back and draw the entire corps of Breckenridge within fire from front and back. In one hour's time—from 4 o'clock until 5—the field was swept by the victorious Union forces.

The writer was in the hospital at that time, and saw the battle clearly. It has gone down into history as one of the most stubbornly and hardest-fought battles of the rebellion, not only in regard to the numbers killed and wounded, but also in grit, fight, fall-back, hold on, and victory. —John M. Whitehead, Chaplain, 15th Ind., Topeka, Kan.

(Rev. John M. Whitehead joined the army from Westville, Ind., June 9, 1862, and received his commission as Chaplain of the 15th Ind. from Oliver P. Morton. He was born March 6, 1823, at Richmond, Ind., and comes of distinguished ancestry. His great courage under fire and the magnificent service to his comrades at Stone [sic] River are the subject of many testimonials, and the cause of his receiving a medal of honor in 1898. — Editor National Tribune)

[Image of Chaplain Whitehead in uniform and picture of Chaplain Whitehead in civilian clothes are included in documents.]

John Whitehead Family History

## FAMILY HISTORY

The Rev. John Milton Whitehead, D.D.

was born near Richmond, Ind., Wayne Co. March 6, 1823

moved in Sept. 1835 with his family to Rolling Prairie, Ind., LaPorte Co.

was licensed to preach Dec. 4, 1844 at age 21

was ordained to Baptist ministry Feb. 26, 1846.

served pastorates in Rolling Prairie, Kingsbury, Door Village, and Westville, Ind.

received a D.D. degree from La Grange University in 1862

served as a Chaplain with the Fifteenth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers three years  
1862-1864

served pastorate in Kankakee, Ill. from 1864-1871

served the North Star Baptist Church in Chicago 1871-1877 which was destroyed by fire  
in 1871 in the famous Chicago fire, was rebuilt and completely paid off mortgage

served pastorate in Belvidere, Ill 1877-81

served pastorate in Goshen, Ind. 1881-86

served pastorate in Nebraska City, Neb. ca. 1886-90

served pastorate in Silver Lake, Kansas 1887-90

served as missionary in many parts of Kansas and Nebraska 1890-1908

was a member of the First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, and served in many  
capacities wherever there was need

His last official act was the baptism of his oldest granddaughter, Edith Helen Potter, in Dec. 1908.

He died in Topeka, Kansas as the result of a stroke, on March 8, 1909, 2 days after his 86th birthday.

He served for many years as Chaplain of the Senate for the State of Kansas. His office was across the street from the Capitol Building.

He was given the highest honor our country gives, The Medal of Honor, by action of the U.S. Congress in 1898.

He married Mary Jane Patterson July 4, 1847. She was his loving and faithful companion for nearly 48 years. Unfortunately she died two years before this great honor was given him, so that she was not there to share it with him. Seven children were born to them; four of them died in early childhood. Only the youngest child, Nellie Edith, married and had children. From Nellie's four children are about 70 descendants as of 1987, with more to follow in the years to come.

[Image of Chaplain Whitehead's military grave marker, with bottom portion of his privately-purchased civilian headstone visible.]

GAR Memorial Certificate

"On Fames eternal camping-ground their silent tents are spread, and Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead."

MEMORIAL

Comrade John M. Whitehead, of Lincoln Post No. 1,

Department of Kansas, G.A.R.

Comrade John M. Whitehead was born March 16th, 1823, at [blank], in Wayne County, in the State of Indiana

He enlisted as a soldier in the war for the preservation of the Union from organized slaveholders' rebellion, [at Camp crossed out] as Chaplain 15th Indiana Infantry, on the 9th day of June, A.D. 1862, and was honorably discharged therefrom as Chaplain on the 29th day of June, A.D. 1864, at Camp [blank], at [blank], in the State of [blank], and died on the 8th day of March, A.D. 1909, at Topeka, in the State of Kansas, and was buried in the Topeka Cemetery, in Shawnee County, in the State of Kan

Comrade [blank] joined Lincoln Post No. 1 on the [blank] day of [blank], 1[blank]

Honor Paid a Faithful Churchman



Newspaper Article on John Whitehead's Birthday Celebration

## HONOR PAID A FAITHFUL CHURCHMAN

Rev. J. M. Whitehead 85 Years Old.

He is Still an Active Worker.

## A DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

First Baptist Church 51 Years Old.

Members Celebrate the Two Events.

Seated under a canopy of American flags at a table in the Sunday school room of the First Baptist Church and facing no less than three hundred friends who gathered to do him homage, the Rev. John M. Whitehead, one of the oldest members of the congregation, with hair almost white and a kindly light in his eyes, watched the flickering lights of eighty-five little candles that were imbedded in the icing of a large birthday cake.

Yesterday was the fifty-first anniversary of the First Baptist church in Topeka and the eighty-fifth birth anniversary of the Rev. Mr. Whitehead is today. So the oldest members of the congregation suggested that both anniversaries be celebrated at the same time and the younger members made the plans.

Tables were arranged to accommodate three hundred members of the church. They were arranged about a table where the guests of honor were to be seated. The Rev. Whitehead in the center, Robert Stone, toastmaster, on the right and the Rev. Thomas S. Young, pastor at left.

After the luncheon was served by the ladies of the church the Rev. Mr. Whitehead was presented with a Morris chair upholstered in leather with a foot stool to match. In making the presentation talk the Rev. Mr. Young said: "On the fifty-first anniversary of our church we delight in doing honor to our friend, Brother Whitehead. Tomorrow he will be eighty-five years old and still a young man. Gladstone chopped wood when he was seventy-three years old, but not even Gladstone was more youthful and vigorous than our beloved brother whom we feast with tonight.

"He has been the father in Israel to this church. He has always given it his wisest counsel, his sympathy and his constant support. He has accomplished for us marvelous things. His presence has ever been a source of blessing and a benediction.

"To the guest of honor," he said, "we came together tonight to show to you our love and gratitude for the staunch support you have always give that which is most dear to our

hearts. We ask you not to count the candles on the cake for we would prefer to reduce the number if it would so affect the years.”

With a voice that filled the large room the Rev. Mr. Whitehead slightly bent and feeble rose to thank his friends. A streamer of bunting touched his white hair and feeling it on his temple he looked at it, caressed it in his gentle way and then smiled into the flame of candles that adorned the cake. “I want to thank you all,” he began. He hesitated, then added, “the candles will burn out with the years, but the old flag will float in the breeze forever.”

Then he told little stories of his work; how he had built a church at every place he had a call; how co-operation of the laymen and the pastor was the success of the work that had been done the past fifty-one years and that what he had done was simply his duty.

The Rev. Mr. Whitehead came to Topeka in 1888 after having done extensive evangelistic work in Chicago, all of Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska. Shortly after coming to Kansas he became state missionary and organized churches. For eight years he has been retired from active church work, but all the while has been one of the main supporters of the First Baptist church of Topeka.

Fifty-one years ago yesterday a little band of Baptists held their first services here in a dwelling house belonging to Joseph Miller that stood where the Columbian building now stands. The congregation grew as the little town flourished and the faithful little band of worshippers erected a second story to the building at 611 Kansas avenue occupied by Charles E. Wardin, jeweler.

In 1872 because of increase in membership they worshipped in the so-called Red, White, and Blue building that stood where the Cremerle building now stands. The next change was made to a new church that was built on the present site in 1874. Two years later it was dedicated and this was used for worship until the membership grew to such proportions that the present building was erected three years ago at a cost of \$57,000.

[Image of John Whitehead with the caption: REV. J.M. WHITEHEAD, The Oldest Member of the First Baptist Church]

Newspaper Article on John Whitehead's Death

### REV. J. M. WHITEHEAD'S DEATH BROUGHT TO CLOSE HIS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AS MINISTER

Rev. J. M. Whitehead, who has been a Baptist minister for the past 65 years and who is well known in Topeka, died yesterday morning at his home, 913 West Tenth street, of heart failure at the age 86 years. He had a stroke of paralysis several months ago and since then has been a sufferer from rheumatism. Rev. Mr. Whitehead was a strong and

powerfully built man and has been preaching the gospel until within a few months of his death.

Rev. Mr. Whitehead was born in Wayne county, Indiana, March 16, 1823. He received his early education in that place and at age 16, joined the Baptist church. He early showed a preference for the ministry and in the year of 1844 entered this field of work. At one town he held a number of protracted meetings which was perhaps the greatest even [sic] in his life of church work, for in four of the meetings, over four hundred people united in baptism. It showed what influence he had over the people and what a great character he really was. He has been a resident of Topeka for the past 19 years and is well liked by all of those with whom he has come in touch. For a number of years he preached at Silver Lake before retiring from the ministry. When the new Baptist church was erected in Topeka, he was instrumental in collecting the money and aiding in every way possible to see that the building was completed.

He leaves one son, two daughters and two brothers. His wife has been dead for about ten years. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the First Baptist church. He was a member of the Masons, having joined that order some time prior to 1861 and a member of the Lincoln Post. The G.A.R. will have charge of the services at the grave.

Just before adjourning for the evening recess the House Monday night adopted a resolution of sympathy to the family of Rev. Mr. Whitehead, who died Sunday morning. Rev. Mr. Whitehead was chaplain of the House for several sessions and also served in the same capacity in the Senate. He was a chaplain in the army and served with distinction. He rescued wounded men from a battle-field when the commanding officer had ordered all soldiers from the field and for this act was awarded a gold medal by Congress. The resolution was offered by Representative Robert Stone of Shawnee county and was adopted unanimously. It reads as follows:

"Whereas, the Rev. J. M. Whitehead, a distinguished soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic, and, for three consecutive sessions a chaplain of this House, died in his home at Topeka, Kan., this morning; now be it

"Resolved, by the House of Representatives that the state of Kansas in his decease has parted with a great, moral and patriotic soul;

"That the sympathies of this body be extended to his family and immediate friends, and,

"That this resolution be spread upon the journal of the House and a copy of the same transmitted to his relatives."

[Image of Rev. Whitehead as an older gentleman with caption: REV. J. M. WHITEHEAD Who Died at the Age of 86 Years.]

Letter from John Whitehead to his Granddaughter

Topeka Kansas April 28, 1903

Dear Edith H Potter

I was real glad to get a letter from you. A type written letter too. It is very nice for Edith to write Grandpa. And you are reading (Papa reads to you) history geography German Spelling etc You are learning about the Civil War. Well I will tell you something about the Battles I was in and the Generals I was under

I was in the Battle at Perryville in Kentucky This battle was fought Oct 8 1862 Gen Don Carlos Buel [sic] was the Union General Gen Braxton Bragg the Confederate Commander. This place is called Perryville and also Chaplin Hills: it is in Boyle Co Ky not far from Danville. Gen McCooks [sic] our Gen Corps done most of the fighting. I was under Gen Geo B Thomas who commanded the left Corps of our Army. McCook commanded the right Corps.

We had a fight at Stanport [sic] in Lincoln Co Ky. The Confederates were retreating as fast as possible

There was a battle at Mumfordsville [sic] Braggs [sic] army surrounds Mumfordsville ([illegible]) and starved our men out [illegible] Our men in that fort was under [illegible words] men: surrendered to Gen Hindman under Gen [illegible]

Capt [sic] Templeton died that night his people lived in [illegible]

Capt [sic] MSW Foster died that night he lived in Westville, Ind. I brought [illegible]

Gen ICB Surmon lived then in Valperiso [sic] Ind and lives there now He was Col of the Ninth Ind Reg and was made Brig Gen.

Calvin Zener was living about 2 miles from Westville He died that night

Adam Stutts lived near the above Zener 2 miles from Westville He died that night

Corp Logan lived near South [illegible]

Chris Board was living down on the [illegible] He was shot and one arm broken one lg broken and another Minnie Ball went in at his breast and come out on the left side of his back bone: start through his lungs. He was sent back and was gone to the Convalescent Camp and in 90 days he returned into camp but did not go on duty.

John C Long was shot by a shell bursting—Cut off his foot above the ankle except a piece of flesh and skin. He took out his knife and cut it off and turned the britch [sic] of his gun for an arm support used it as a crutch when I put him on my horse and carried him back to the field Hospital which are on the opposite side [illegible words]

We had to move all our wounded there that maybe Dec 31 1862

I worked all night as Ambulances came and went at 4 oclock [sic] next morning

I put the last men in the Ambulance—About 300. Then I mounted my horse struck out to find [illegible]. I found them about sun up, near [illegible] on opposite side took two miles away from where they were at 5 oclock [sic] [illegible] haversack and blankets stolen of my horse while I was moving [illegible] this night so [illegible] as help was [illegible]

Army was coming to relieve Gen Wilder: We could not get up in time to save the Fort: The surrender took place Sunday morning and we arrived in the afternoon and met 4500 of Wilder's men without any (arms, guns) My Lieut [sic] Col was among the number who was surrendered These two battles are not mentioned in some histories. Not in any general history. They are too small for some historians to give.

Our next battle was Stone [sic] River Tennessee. We, The Union Army, had taken up winter quarters three miles south of Nashville in Nov or last of Oct And we broke Camp, Dec 24th—we marched in two lines about evenly divided. Gen McCooks [sic] Corps on the right and under him was three Divisions Brig Gen Phil Sheridan [page cuts off]: Gen Davis Div. and Gen Johnsons Div [sic] forming the [illegible] corps Gen Thomas Corps [illegible] of our left, with Gen Thomas J. Wood (I was in Woods Division at the time Gen. John M. Palmer of Ill. [carat symbol with illegible words] afterward, Gen Palmer. 2. Gen Crittendens [sic] Corps—1st Div [sic] was Palmer—2nd Div [sic] Thomas J Wood 3rd Divis. [sic] Gen Van Cleve

[Key words for map.]

[image: hand drawn map by John Whitehead of the placement of troops at Stones River]

Document File Form

RP No. 331478

John M. Whitehead

Chap Co. [blank] 15 Reg't [sic] Ind. Vols.

Papers herein. / REMARKS.

501991

547345 Ret. May 10. 99.

557445 Ret. Aug. 25. 99.

567700 Ret. Dec. 15. 99

710794 Ret. Jan. 15. 03

1103453

1106597

See also [blank]

DOCUMENT FILE.

The Military Secretary's Office, War Department.

Registry Return Receipt for Medal of Honor- one side

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT sent [stamped: APR 4 1898], 189[blank].

Reg. No. 23475

From Post Office at WASHINGTON, D.C.

[Reg. Letter is crossed out]

Reg. Parcel Addressed to Rev. J M Whitehead

Post Office at Topeka, Kansas

After obtaining receipt below, the Postmaster will mail this Card, without cover and without postage, to address on the other side.

RECEIVED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REGISTERED [see footnote below] LETTER.  
PARCEL.

(SENDER'S NAME ON OTHER SIDE.)

Sign on dotted lines to the right. J M Whitehead [initials JW]

When delivery is made to other than addressee, the name of both addressee and recipient must appear.

[footnote: Erase letter or parcel according to which sent.]

Registry Return Receipt for Medal of Honor – other side

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.

A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

[stamp: WASHINGTON D.C. APR 2, rest is illegible]

Post Office Department.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Post Office at [Stamp: APR 8 PM, rest is illegible]

Name of Sender RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE  
Street and Number, or Post Office Box. WAR DEPARTMENT.  
Post Office at WASHINGTON,  
County of Washington, District of Columbia.

Medal of Honor Correspondence

Letter from John Whitehead to Secretary of War regarding Medal of Honor  
Gen. R.A. Algar

[illegible]

Colonel US Army  
Setry [sic] of War.  
D.C.

Dear Sirs I am happy and also thankful for the Medal you conferred [sic] to me. I value it far more than if it were Gold. I have ever felt that I did my duty towards those brave men who fell on the front lines, upholding the Nation's Flag at Stones River Tenn. I hold this act of yours as one I shall ever feel grateful. Please accept this heartfelt expression of thanks to you and all those who aided in conferring [sic] this valuable favor on me.

Yours Very truly

J.M. Whitehead

Late Chaplain of 15th Reg of Indiana Vols

Medal recived [sic] April 9th 1898

Leave of Absence Form  
547345. Date May 13, 1899.

OFFICIAL COPY

FURNISHED TO The Auditor for the War Department.

Hd. Qrs. Department of the Cumberland,

Nashville, Tenn., July 29, 1863.

Special Orders No. 199.

IV. Leave of absence to take to their homes monies belonging to the soldiers of his regiment, is hereby granted Chaplain Jno. [sic] M. Whitehead, 15th Ind. V.I. Twenty days. No. P.O.

By command of Maj. Gen. Rosecrans:

J. Bates Dickson, Capt. and A.A.G.

Special Orders 310

Hd. Qrs. Dept. of the Cumberland,  
Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 19, 1863.

Special Field Orders No. 310.

XIII. Chaplain J.M. Whitehead, 15th Ind. Vols., has permission to proceed to Indiana, with such monies as may be entrusted to his care for distribution to the families of the officers and men of his regiment to be absent not to exceed twenty days. This order does not authorize transportation.

By command of Major General Thomas:

William McMichael, Major and A.A.G.

Medal of Honor Letter

SUBJECT: Medal of Honor

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON,

FILE NO. R. and P. 501991.

March 28, 1898.

Rev. J.M. Whitehead

Topeka, Kans.

Sir:

You are hereby notified that by direction of the President and under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, providing for the presentation of medals of honor to such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates as have most distinguished themselves in action, a CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR has this



day been presented to you for DISTINGUISHED GALLANTRY IN ACTION the following being a statement of the particular service, viz:

“At Stone [sic] River, Tenn., December 31, 1862, this officer, then Chaplain 15th Indiana Volunteers, rendered service most conspicuous for bravery, by going to the front line of battle when the brigade was engaged in a desperate contest, and, unaided, carrying to the rear several wounded and helpless comrades.”

The Medal will be forwarded to you by registered mail as soon as it shall be engraved.

Respectfully,

R A Algar

Secretary of War.

Special Orders No. 176

No. 567700 Date December 15, 1899.

OFFICIAL COPY

FURNISHED TO The Comptroller of the Treasury.

Headquarters, Indianapolis, Ins., Aug. 13, 1862.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 176.

I. J.M. Whitehead (chaplain) of 15th Reg. Ind. Vol., will take charge of Thirty-three (33) men and Three (3) Recruits and proceed to Nashville, Tenn., without delay.

II. Upon his arrival at Louisville, Ky., he will report J.D. Fletcher, Co. A, 30th, and W.H. Cook, 60th Regt., and leave them there.

III. Upon his arrival at Nashville Tenn., he will report to the Military Commander and obtain such information as will enable him to forward the men to their respective Regt.

IV. Transportation will be furnished by the A.Q.M.U.S.A. at Indianapolis, Ind.

By order:

J.S. Simonson,

Col. U.S.A., Comdg. Post.

Application for Correcting Muster Form Front Page

APPLICATION OF

John M. Whitehead

FOR CORRECTION OF MUSTER,

As Chaplain 15th Ind. Vols.

Letter to [illegible] May 24 92

501991 [illegible]

Ref. to Sec. of War Dec 18/97

547345 herein

Rcd. [sic] by [illegible] May 13/99.

557445 herein

557445 recd [sic] by [illegible] Aug 25/99

[illegible] [illegible] Dec 1599.

7111794 [illegible words]

Jany [sic] 15, 1905 oll [sic]

1103453 herein

FILED BY

JOHN C. DERMODY

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Application for Correcting Muster Form Inside Page

Topeka Kansas Shawnee Co

913 West 10th Street May 13th, 1892.

JOHN C. DERMODY

Washington, D.C.

SIR:

I hereby appoint you my attorney to prosecute my claim for correction of muster.

I was commissioned as follows, during the war of 1861:

[written on left margin: Here state the ranks held by you.]

As Chaplain of Co. [crossed out] 15th Regiment Indiana Reg't [sic] of as Chaplain  
Volunteers, to rank from June 9th 1862

[handwritten over middle of form: I never held but one Rank I that [crossed out] was  
Chaplain]

to rank from, date of Commission June 9 1862.

I was honorably discharged June 26th 1864, at Indianapolis Indiana I was mustered by  
reasons of Regiments [sic] time of enlistment expired I was with my Regiment all the  
time after joining them at Viola Tennessee (Aug 22 1862 I think) until mustered out  
except I was twice sent home with money for my regiment: each time I had leave of  
absence 20 days I think

Respectfully,

(Sign here) John M Whitehead

Late Chaplain of 15th Indiana Reg Vols.

Post-office Address:

913 West 10th Street

Topeka Shawnee Co Kansas

War Department Receipt of Muster Change Form

Address "The Officer in charge of the Record and Pension Division, War Department,  
Washington, D.C."

Subject: Remuster [sic]

War Department,

Washington City,

May 24, 1892

Rev John M Whitehead

in care of Mr [sic] J C Dermody Atty

Washn [sic] D.C.

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary of War to acknowledge the receipt of the papers in your  
claim for recognition as Chaplain Company [crossed out] 15 Regiment Indiana  
Volunteers, from June 9, 1862 to July 15/1862, under the "Act to provide for the muster

and pay of certain officers and enlisted men of the Volunteer forces," approved June 3, 1884; section 1 of which act was amended by the act approved February 3, 1887, so as to read as follows:

That the joint resolution approved July eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy, entitled "Joint resolution amendatory of joint resolution for the relief of certain officers of the Army," approved July twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, is hereby so amended and shall be so construed that in all cases arising under the same any person who was duly appointed and commissioned, whether his commission was actually received by him or not, shall be considered as commissioned to the grade therein named from the date from which he was to take rank under and by the terms of his said commission, and shall be entitled to all pay and emoluments as if actually mustered at that date: Provided, That at the date from which he was to take rank by the terms of his commission there was a vacancy to which he could be so commissioned and that he was actually performing the duties of his grade to which he was commissioned, or, if not so performing such duties, then from such time after the date of his commission as he may actually have entered upon such duties: And provided further, That any person held as a prisoner of war, or who may have been absent by reason of wounds or in hospital by reason of disability received in the service in line of duty, at the date of commission, if a vacancy existed for him in the grade to which so commissioned, shall be entitled to the same pay and emoluments as if actually performing the duties of the grade to which he was commissioned and actually mustered at such date: And provided further, That this act and the resolution hereby amended shall be construed to apply only in those cases where the commission bears date to June twentieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, or after that date when their commands were not below the minimum number required by existing laws and regulations: And provided further, That the pay and allowances actually received shall be deducted from the sums to be paid under this act.

In reply I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that the records of this Department show that your muster into service as Chaplain 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers to date from July 15, 1862, recognized you as such from the earliest date you entered upon duty.

It will be seen therefore that your claim does not come within the terms of the law and consequently cannot be favorably entertained.

Very respectfully

[illegible stamped name]

Major Surgeon USA

Letter to War Department

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
COMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

CHESTER I. LONG, CHAIRMAN,  
EUGENE HALE,  
PORTER J. McCUMBER,  
CHARLES DICK,  
THOMAS H. CARTER,  
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE,  
DAMUEL D. McENERY,  
JAMES P. TALIAFERRO,  
JOSEPH C.S. BLACKBURN,  
JOSEPH W. BAILEY.  
RALPH H. FAXOH, CLERK.

F/L March 3, 1906.

My Dear Sir:

I shall appreciate the favor if you will advise me whether there is record of a medal granted to John M. Whitehead, chaplain, Fifteenth Indiana infantry, for bravery at Stone [sic] River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, for riding into fire and carrying eight wounded men off the field.

Very truly yours,

Chester I. Long

General F.C. Ainsworth,

The Military Secretary, War Department.

Receipt of Chester Long's Letter  
File with RP 331478

[stamp: MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE WAR DEPARTMENT MAR 5 1906  
1106597]

Washington, D.C.

March 3, 1906

Hon. Chester I. Long, U.S.S.

Asks to be advised as to whether there is record of a medal granted to John M. Whitehead, late Chaplain 15<sup>th</sup> Ind. Inf., for bravery at Stone [sic] River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862, for riding into fire and carrying eight wounded men off the field.

Letter Mar. 5-06 [illegible initials]

Received, M.S.O, Mar 4 1906

Letter to Chester Long from Military Secretary

1106597

WAR DEPARTMENT.

THE MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

WASHINGTON.

March 5, 1906.

Hon. Chester I. Long

United States Senate.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 3d instant, received to-day, in which you request to be advised relative to the award of the medal of honor to John M. Whitehead, chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, I have the honor to inform you as follows:

It is shown by the records that the Congressional medal of honor was awarded March 22, 1898, to Rev. John M. Whitehead, of Topeka, Kansas, for most distinguished gallantry in action at Stone [sic] River, Tenn., December 31, 1862, while chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers. On that occasion the officer went to the front line of battle when the brigade was engaged in a desperate contest and, unaided, carried to the rear "several" wounded and helpless comrades.

Very respectfully,

[illegible signature]

The Military Secretary.

Chester Long Inquiry Letter on John Whitehead  
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

COMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

CHESTER I. LONG, CHAIRMAN,

EUGENE HALE,

PORTER J. McCUMBER,

CHARLES DICK,

THOMAS H. CARTER,

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE,

DAMUEL D. McENERY,

JAMES P. TALIAFERRO,

JOSEPH C.S. BLACKBURN,

JOSEPH W. BAILEY.

RALPH H. FAXOH, CLERK.

CCL February 22, 1906.

My Dear Sir:

In the case of J.M. Whitehead, chaplain, fifth Indiana Infantry, I shall appreciate the favor if you will advise me of the complete military and medical history.

Very truly yours,

Chester I. Long

General F.C. Ainsworth,

The Military Secretary,

War Department.

Receipt of Chester Long's Letter

[stamp: MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE WAR DEPARTMENT FEB 23 1906  
1103453]

File with R and P 331478

U.S. Senate Feb. 22, 1906.

J.M. Whitehead Chaplain 5th Ind. Inf.

Hon. Chester I. Long U.S.S.

Requests military and medical history of above named

Letter to Hon Chester I. Long 2/23/06

[illegible initials]

Letter to Chester Long from Military Secretary

RP 331478

1103453

WAR DEPARTMENT.

THE MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

WASHINGTON.

February 23, 1906.

Hon. Chester I. Long

United States Senate.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 22d instant, received today, in which you ask for the military and medical record in the case of J. M. Whitehead, chaplain, 5th Indiana Infantry, I have the honor to advise you as follows:

It does not appear from the records that such an organization as the 5th Indiana Infantry was in the military service of the United States during the civil war.

It is shown by the records, however, that John M. Whitehead was mustered into service to take effect from July 15, 1862, as chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers, to serve for three years, and that he was mustered out with the regiment and honorably discharged the service, as chaplain, June 25, 1864. No medical record in his case has been found.

It is proper to add that, on March 22, 1898, a Congressional medal of honor was awarded to this officer for most distinguished gallantry in action at Stone [sic] River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.

Very respectfully,



[illegible signature]

The Military Secretary.

Receipt for Military Secretary Letter

Medal of Honor

Case of Rev. Jno. [sic] M. Whitehead Chaplain 15th Ind Vols

R and P 501,991

Granted Papers for signature of secretary of war June 3, 1897.

Signed Mar 23/98

To R and P.O. Mar 24/98

Letter to Charles Curtis

Sunday

Address: "Chief of the Board and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D.C."

Subject: medal of honor. 501,991.

Record and pension Office,

War Department,

Washington City,

April 4, 1898.

Hon. Charles Curtis,

House of representatives

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President and in accordance with the act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, the Secretary of War has awarded a medal of honor to Rev. John M. Whitehead, late chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, for most distinguished gallantry in action at Stone [sic] River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.

The medal has this day been forwarded to Rev. Mr. Whitehead at Topeka, Kansas, by registered mail.

Very respectfully,

[illegible stamped signature]

Colonel, U.S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Document File Form

A.G. [crossed out] R and P O. No. 501991

Papers re award of medal of honor in case of John M. Whitehead

Chaplain 15 Reg't [sic] Ind Infty [sic]

12 papers herein

Remarks Loaned to Med of Hon Bd

With R and P 331478

[stamp: CONSIDERED RETURNED OCT 27 1916]

See also

DOCUMENT FILE

The Adjutant General's Office, War Department

War Department Form for Medal of Honor

Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, Dec. 18, 1897.

Respectfully submitted to The Honorable The Secretary of War, with report inclosed.

[sic]

[illegible signature]

Colonel U.S. Army,

Chief of Office

(10 inclosures [sic].)

[stamp: Rec'd BACK MAR 28 1898]

War Department,

Office of the Secretary,

March 22, 1898.

By direction of the President a medal of honor is presented Rev. J.M. Whitehead.

At Stone [sic] River, Tenn., December 31, 1862, this officer, then Chaplain 15th Indiana Volunteers, rendered service most conspicuous for bravery, by going to the front line of battle when the brigade was engaged in a desperate contest, and, unaided, carrying to the rear several wounded and helpless comrades.

R.A. Algar

Secretary of War.

Letter to Congress from I C B Suman

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

CITY OFFICERS.

L.C.B. SUMAN, Mayor

Gen I.C.B. Suman

and Col 9th Ind Reg Ind [illegible]

Post office Valparaiso

Valparaiso, Ind., Nov 4th 1897

To the Honorable House of Representatives of the United States in congress assembled

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen:

Your Petitioner Respectfully calls your attention to the distinguish services, of the Rev John M Whitehead Late Chaplain 15th Regt Indiana Vol Inftry [sic] Espescially [sic] his services at the Battle of Stone [sic] River Tennessee as he came under my notice in that great Battle. I was very severely wounded in the Early morning of the 31st of December, having been shot through the Left arm near the Shoulder, and a second ball in my Shoulder, the wound in the arm having severed the arter [sic] and I was bleeding very profusely when this gallant chaplain came to me, bandaged my wounds, helped me to mount my horse so I could return to my Regiment in the "round Forrest [sic]" – between the Rail Road and the Pike where we held till night. Chaplain Whitehead when he gave me assistance he was as bloody as a butcher from the wounded he had cared for before he came to my assistance he seemed to be a ministering angle [sic] among the wounded of all commands yank and Johney [sic] alike. He seemed to think nothing about the danger he was in, by going from Place to Place, looking after the wounded caring for all the dead directing and assisting in their burial. I served in the army for the Preservation of the union from start to finish I came in contact with many chaplains in

my long service, and can say that the Rev John M Whitehead 15th Regt Ind Vol Inftry. [sic] was the most worthy chaplain that ever came under my notice. In camp, on the March, and especially his conduct on the Battle Field at Stone [sic] River Dec 31st 1862.

I believe the Nation owes this grand old Christian Gentleman a medal for heroism energy, and faithful services without hope of Promotion as other officers of the time. in my own old Regt I always Promoted Meriturious [sic] soldiers who erved [sic] it on the battlefield. Respectfully I C B Suman

Letter from John Comparet

Blanco-Blanco Co.

State of Texas

To the House of Congress:

Washington D C

Sir's – I respectfully ask that Our Congress in Session – give recognition- to Our Comrade J-M-Whitehead Chaplain of 15 Reg Ind inftry [sic] for deeds of Galantry [sic] and Merit – in giving Aid and Comfort to those who were wounded dieing [sic] and dead comrades – upon the battlefield at Stone [sic] River – Missionary Ridge- the 1st on Dec 31st 1862: and Jan 2 1863. He bound up their wounds and looked after those not of our Reg – but took great interest in all. And to see that there were none missing and to supply them wants – “even a cup of water”.

For this service so needful and Gallantry done which I recognize worthy of a marked distinction. Respectfully ask that a meddle [sic] of honor be awarded him, “J M Whitehead” in recognition of these meriturious [sic] deeds of Valor, upon these battle fields, in Our Countrys [sic] darkest hours. All of which I most respectfully submit for your kind and deliberate Consideration and approval.

Respectfully

Jno [sic] M Comparet late Lieut [sic] Col 15 Reg Ind Inftry. [sic]

Letter from Edwin Nicar

SOUTH BEND IRON WORKS, Props.

South Bend Ind. Oct 28. 1897.

Rso. [sic] 4 Jn. M. Whitehead

Lake Chaplain, 15th Ind. Inf. [sic] Vols.

[illegible word circled] Topeka Kan.

My dear Comrade

I have learned with much satisfaction that many of the survivors of the 15th Ind. Vols are urging your claims to the government medal which is being awarded for gallantry and distinguished service in the battlefields of the late war.

Your record at the battle of Stone's [sic] River Dec 31 1862 to Jan 2, 1863 richly entitles you to this distinction and the government will honor itself in honoring you.

As I was Adjutant of the regiment at the time I was in a position to know much that you did. I know that although a noncombatant you accompanied the regiment into action and bore your part manfully. I know that when Capt. Templeton of Co "D" was mortally wounded by the fire of the rebel battery in our front you hastened to him and bore him off the field in your arms. I know that you ministered to his wants, received his last words and having done all that could be done returned to the regiment. Owing to our exposed position and the terrible fire we were under it was impossible for the ambulances to visit us and almost equally impossible for the stretcher bearers to do effective service so that much was left to individual effort. You accepted the chances of life and death with rare courage and never faltered in the least. I know that you carried a number of enlisted men off the field and that all through the desperate fighting in which the 15th Ind held to its place on the left – losing [sic] 189 officers and men killed and wounded – out of 440 engaged – you were with us cheering the living, caring for the wounded and receiving the last messages of the dying.

I know that until midnight or after of the first days[sic] battle you never ceased in your work of mercy and I know that each and every survivor of the regiment was and is proud of your splendid exemplification of practical Christianity. I heard of similar service that you performed for members of the 9th and 40th Ind regiments which were in action near us Col Suman of the 9th has spoken to me of your help in the most glowing terms. The medal ought to be awarded to you without hesitation and if the facts are properly presented I am sure it will be. Do not hesitate to use this letter if you think it will be of benefit. I am conscious that it is but a poor presentation of what I saw and know but it is true and comes from my heart.

Faithfully your friend and Comrade

Edwin Nicar

Late 1st Lieut [sic] and Adj. and Capt. Co "H" 15th Ind. Inf. [sic] Vols.

Letter from Edward Burns

Valparaiso, Ind.

November 23, 1897.

To the War Department of the United States or to Whom it may concern:

Washington, D.C.

In the matter of the application of Rev. John M. Whitehead, late Chaplain of the Fifteenth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for a BADGE of HONOR for MERITORIOUS SERVICES on the 31st day of December, 1862, in the Battle of Stone's [sic] River, or Murfreesboro, Tennessee, I can say that my name is Edward M. Burns, I was a member of Company G of the Fifteenth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry: that I was present in the battle and had an opportunity to see what transpired within the limits of said regiment and its immediate surroundings.

The Fifteenth Indiana regiment was situated in said battle, on the extreme left, on the right bank of Stone's [sic] River, opposite Breckenridge's entire division, composed of Adams' Brigade, Preston's Brigade, Jackson's Brigade, and Hanson's Brigade: and under the murderous fire – across the River on the left – of Cob's [sic] Kentucky Battery, with two guns of Slocomb's [sic] Battery and Semple's Battery.

The Fifteenth Indiana regiment went into this engagement with four hundred and forty men, rank and file, and during the day's engagement, lost two hundred and two men, killed and wounded. It made three successive charges and captured more men than were in its own command.

At all times and under all circumstances, Chaplain John M. Whitehead was with the command during the day, and removing the wounded from the field of battle. He, being a large and robust man, would take a wounded man up in his arms or on his shoulders, and alone, would carry him from the field. He followed up the regiment in each charge and carried back with him the wounded men nearest the enemy's line.

I will here enumerate a few of the many he removed from the Field of battle; Captain Templeton, Christian Board, John Long, and Calvin R. Zener. These men were carried from the extreme advance point of the Regiment's charge to the front. Christian Board was shot through his leg and body. John Long had one leg nearly shot off and took his pocket knife and severed it entirely and left the foot on the battle field.

Toward night, on the 31st, I was ordered by the commanding officer to go with Surgeon Youart to the field Hospital and assist the Hospital Steward in caring for the wounded, and I have personal knowledge of the unreserved and untiring work of Chaplain Whitehead, throughout the night, in bringing into the Hospital, from the front, wounded men. For three days and three nights, without ceasing and scarcely any sleep, he

continued to administer to the wants of the wounded and to help with the shovel in hand to bury the dead at the Hospital.

For these worthy efforts on his part, in that noted battle, I can, and do, hereby cheerfully recommend Chaplain John M. Whitehead worthy of a badge of Honor: and do hereby petition the authority that can so award, to permit the old Chaplain to be the recipient of such honors.

(Signed) E. M. Burns

Late of Co G 15th Regt. Ind Vols and on the occasion above enumerated a Cty. [sic]  
Asst. Hospital Steward

Letter from Hulbert Fullum

Hulbert Fullum – Co. C 15 Ind Reg.

Post office, Laporte Indiana

La Porte, Indiana, October 30, 1897.

Rev. J. M. Whitehead,

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Comrade:-

I was a member of Company C, 15th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. I was present and on duty at the battle of Stone's [sic] River, Tenn., on December 31st, 1862, and January 2nd, 1863, till about 2:30 P.M. on the last date mentioned, when I was wounded and taken to the rear.

During the fighting on the 31st of December 1862, my time and attention was fully occupied by the enemy; and I now don't remember seeing you at the front during the day: but after the fighting ceased that evening, I visited the wounded of the 15th at the hospital, and in talking with them and especially the boys of Company, C, they all spoke of the daring of the Chaplain in aiding the wounded to the rear, and of his kindly ministrations to them at the hospital. Of course I cannot remember names at this late date, but I think that Lucas and Vannote of Company C – in fact, numbers of them told me that they were aided to the rear by the Chaplain and I am certain that many of the wounded who recovered and are now living, owe their lives to John M. Whitehead, the Chaplain of the 15th.

When I was wounded on the 2nd of January, 1863, I know you dressed my wounds, and I also know I would have fared badly but for you; I also know you assisted Corporal C.R. Zener of "C", from the front about the time I was taken to the rear, and gave him every attention until he died.

I know you exposed your life to aid the wounded to the rear, and your health in nursing and caring for them, and I know you were everywhere – regardless of personal danger where aid was to be given, or suffering to be alleviated; and know that at all times you were a Christian gentleman, a model soldier, and a true hero, entitled to, and receiving, the love and gratitude of every man who, in our command was wounded at that time.

In P.C. and L.

Your Comrade and Friend,

Hulbert Fullum

Late of Company C, 15th Indiana Infnt. [sic]

Letter from L J Bryant

[illegible] J Bryant Laporte Indiana

Co G 15th Ind Reg

La Porte, Indiana, October 29, 1897.

To Whom it May Concern:

I was a member of the 15th Indiana Infantry, Company G, and was acquainted with the Chaplain of the 15th, the Rev. John M. Whitehead. I was on detached service and not with the Regiment at the battle of Stone's [sic] River, Tenn., on December 31st, 1862, and January 2nd, 1863, but joined the Regiment on the 3rd or 4th of January, 1863, and on every hand I heard the heroism of the Chaplain talked about.

The men said that no one was wounded and needing aid too far to the front for the Chaplain to go to his assistance: and I know that his courage and forgetfulness of self on those trying days made him the most popular Chaplain with his Regiment in the Army of the Cumberland.

The comrades of the Regiment told me that after the severe fighting of the 31st, the Chaplain's clothing was covered with blood from carrying off from the field the wounded. They all pronounced him a hero.

Respectfully,

L.J. Bryant,

Late private, Company G, 15th Indiana Infantry.



Letter from R.H. Maxwell

Henry H Maxwell Co "G" 15th Ind Reg

Postoffice Laporte Indiana

La Porte, Indiana, Nov. 8, 1897.

To Whom It May Concern:-

I was a member of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, Infantry, and well do I remember our brave Chaplain, J.M. Whitehead, and I also well remember his bravery in caring for and looking after our wounded comrades during the three day's battle at Stone's [sic] River, Tenn. I can say truthfully his gallantry was remarkable.

(Signed) R.H. Maxwell

War Department Receipt of Whitehead's Statement

[stamp: RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE WAR DEPARTMENT DEC 16 1897  
501991]

Statement of Rev. Jno. [sic] M. Whitehead of Topeka. Kans.

late chaplain 15th Indiana Vols.

John M Whitehead's Statement

THE BATTLE OF STONE [SIC] RIVER, TENNESSEE, DEC. 31st, 1862.

Statement of J.M. Whitehead Late Chaplain 15th Ind Reg. in regards to services at Battle of Stone [sic] River Ten. Dec 31 1862

To the Honorable Body of Congressmen Of the United States, Washington, D.C:-

On the night of December 30th, 1862, the 15th Indiana Regiment Vol. Infantry, was ordered to cross Stone [sic] River; having marched from beyond Stuart's Creek; our corps was General Crittendens' on the extreme left of the army. We crossed at the ford in front of Breckenridges' corps. The river was from two to three feet deep. Some of the men took off their clothes and held them on their shoulders; but most of the men waded, the water coming up to their arm-pits, in the dead of winter.

Our camping ground was two or three hundred yards along the hillside. But as we were forming into line and position, when, behold! we ran into the Confederate picket post

and lines, and were almost together. They fired a volley of some twenty or thirty shots, not more than five rods from us. They overshot us, and the bullets rattled down on us like hail. We could distinctly hear the officers, in a low tone above a whisper: "Fall in, boys, fall in"; "By the right," "By the right", "Steady, boys, steady; steady boys". We counter-marched and crossed the river again, took our position in a little clump of trees, in front of the cotton fields east of the railroad; there we bivouacked [sic], stacked arms, but did not break ranks.

Our pickets and the Confederate pickets were within a few rods of each other; neither pressed for advance. Early on Wednesday morning, Dec. 31st, 1862, we were ordered at five o'clock to get up, eat, without kindling fires. By six o'clock the enemy's pickets were advancing slowly. Ours fell back step by step without resistance.

At the dawn or about daylight Gen. Braggs' entire army was moving on our right – except Breckinridges' corps. At seven o'clock the battle opened with the roar of artillery and sharp rattle of musketry, volley, after volley, and salvo, after salvo, until the very earth trembled as if Sinai's awful thunders were repeated.

McCooks' corps was half cut off, captured, killed or wounded. Our line was half, "face about", by eleven o'clock. With forty Thousand men on a side, with but few reserves held back on either side, thus, the terribly hotly contested battle of Stone [sic] River has gone down in history as one of the hardest fought battles of the late rebellion; not in men killed, and in wounded, but in grit, fight, and hold-on. It was twelve solid hours without a moments [sic] calmness when the dread roar of canon [sic] and musketry was not belching out continuously.

Our position was between Stone [sic] River and the railroad; directly in front of Cobb's Kentucky battery: added parts of Semples' and Slocumbs' batteries across the river. The firing from these Confederate batteries was terrible and destructive. From one of these, Col. Carashee, Rosecranes [sic], Chief of Staff, had the upper part of his head shot off as he was about to mount his horse near the little log cabin just a few rods from us.

Order came to our Col. G. A Wood, to hold that point at all hazards: that meant to simply fight till you die on that field or conquer. When he received this order, he called "attention", went through the manual of arms, then fixed bayonets, faced the enemy coming a brigade strong, ordered double-quick charged Jackson's Brigade coming down the right bank of Stone [sic] River. They were met at the crest of the hill and driven back, but they came back with the additional reenforcement [sic] of another brigade and were met, "with bloody hands and hospitable graves" [see footnote below] and driven back with greater loss; but still they came back – Jackson's, Adam's, and Preston's Brigades.

[footnote: Hon Humes Corwin in the Senate Hall at Washington D.C 1896]

Again the third charge was made. Our Regiment bringing back a greater number of men as prisoners than there were men in our entire command, when we went into battle; but this bravery was at the loss of scores of men killed and wounded. Captain Templeton, that noble officer, fell mortally wounded; I carried back the Captain to the rear and sat by him at his request and that of Surgeon Youart until he breathed his last; I copied his last message and sent it to his home in Lafayette [sic]. Indiana. Here the gallant captain of Company G, Joel W. Foster, my next door neighbor at home, fell mortally wounded by shell from that Confederate battery, with his leg mangled above the knee. The same ball ricocheted and killed Corporal Douglas of the same company and still farther on killed another man.

Here that dauntless Colonel of the 9th Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers, Colonel I.C.B. Suman, was twice shot, one ball severing the artery in the arm. When he rode from the field, bleeding his life away, I met him, bound up his wounds, and helped him on his horse; with one boot filled with blood he rode back on the field, took his command and held his position at "Round Forest". Here Lieutenant Colonel Neff of the 40th Indiana, was shot in the arm and left the field bleeding. Here Corporal Logan, Company B, fell helpless. Here Christian Board, Company G, fell shot in the arm, in the leg, and through the breast. Here John Long fell with his leg nearly blown off by a shell; he took out his knife, cut off the remaining parts, and laid the foot beside the stump by which he sat. Here Captain John M. Smith of my home town, was shot. Here George Brown fell dead, of my town. Here John Vannotte, another townsman, fell shot through the right lung, but pulled through. Here Hulbert Fullum was wounded. Here Corporal Calvin H. Zener, my fellow townsman; we carried him off the field and he was surrounded by his commanding officers and comrades. As we all knelt around him and offered up our united prayers, he talked to all his comrades like a true Christian and then said, "Now boys, let us all sing once more together", and he struck up his favorite hymn, "O, sing to me of heaven!"

In the three charges made, our Regiment lost men killed and wounded who fell two hundred and fifty yards in advance of the line of battle; brave fellows, but it cost something to check that on-tide of Kentucky's brave Confederates under their proud leader, Breckenridge.

Allow me to say that I was constantly with my Regiment during that terrible day, carrying the wounded off the field, caring for the dying, whenever they came under my notice. My Regiment kept this position during the whole day's battle. We lost every alternate man, killed or wounded, losing over two hundred; the 9th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Suman in command, lost one hundred and sixty men killed and wounded; the 40th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Blake in command, lost about the same. Other Regiments marched and counter-marched over this same field, as ordered.

Most of those whose names I mentioned, I carried off the field or bound up their wounds, and to some I did both and I can truthfully say I helped scores of others whose names I cannot now call to mind.

After night-fall when all was quiet along our front lines, an order came to my Surgeon Youart to move the wounded from the field hospital to the general hospital, which was in a large brick house two miles back to Stuart's Creek. Part of this time I was assisted by the Assistant Hospital Steward E.M. Burns; when he was ordered to the big brick hospital I was left alone to get the wounded into the ambulances. Most of them who could not walk I carried on my shoulders.

About two o'clock I placed the last man in the ambulance who was in the field hospital carried to the general hospital; when I went to my horse I did not find my blankets, haversack, or canteen; so I laid down under a porch of a deserted house but it was too cold to sleep and I mounted my horse. I rode an hour and found my Regiment holding the hotly contested ground in whose defence [sic] so many brave men had fallen the day before. I sat down with my mess-mates and ate the first food for twenty-four hours.

This brief and imperfect sketch is respectfully submitted to the Congress of the United States for its candid consideration by one who was a non-combatant, and had no line of hope for promotion in government service by Army Regulations.

I am truly yours,

John M. Whitehead

Late Chaplain of the 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers

Topeka, Kansas, December 1st, 1897.

War Department Memorandum

Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D.C."

B. Subject: Medal of honor. 501,991.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

Washington City,

March 28, 1898.

MEMORANDUM.

The Secretary of War has directed the issue of a medal of honor to Rev. John M. Whitehead, late chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, the medal to be engraved as follows:

The Congress to Chaplain John M. Whitehead, 15th Ind. Inf., for gallantry at Stone [sic] River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862.

[illegible stamped name]

Colonel, U.S. Army,  
Chief, Record and Pension Office.

War Department Letter to John Whitehead

Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D.C."

Subject: Medal of honor. 501,991.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

Washington City,

April 4, 1898.

Rev. J.M. Whitehead,

Late Chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry,

Topeka, Kansas.

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that the medal of honor which has been awarded to you by direction of the President, in accordance with the act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, as you were notified on the 22d ultimo, has this day been forwarded to you by registered mail. Upon receipt of the medal please advise this office thereof.

Very respectfully,

[illegible stamped name]

Colonel, U.S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Application for Award of Medal of Honor

[Inclosure [sic] No. 10.]

Report of Chief of Record and Pension Office on application for award of MEDAL OF HONOR to JOHN M. WHITEHEAD,

late chaplain, 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

R. and P. 501,991.

Case of JOHN M. WHITEHEAD, late chaplain, 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

APPLICATION FOR A MEDAL OF HONOR.

Under date of the 14th instant, Hon. Charles Curtis, M.C., transmits papers in support of an application for the award of a medal of honor to Rev. John M. Whitehead, of Topeka, Kansas, late a chaplain of the above mentioned regiment, for distinguished gallantry at the battle of Stone's [sic] River (Murfreesboro), Tennessee, December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863. Mr. Curtis requests that after a careful consideration of the papers a medal of honor be awarded, if possible. The following are pertinent extracts from the statements submitted in support of the application:

1. Letter from Colonel I.C.B. Suman, mayor of Valparaiso, Indiana, late of the 9th Indiana Infantry, dated November 4, 1897.

"I was very severely wounded in the early morning of the 31st of December, having been shot through the left arm near the shoulder, and a second ball in my shoulder, the wound in the arm having severed the artery and I was bleeding very profusely when this gallant chaplain came to me, bandaged my wounds, helped me to mount my horse so I could return to my regiment in the "round forrest [sic]" – between the railroad and the pike where we held till night. Chaplain Whitehead when he gave me assistance he was as bloody as a butcher from the wounded he had cared for before he came to my assistance. He seemed to be a ministering angel among [sic] the wounded of all commands, Yank and Johnny [sic] alike. He seemed to think nothing about the danger he was in by going from place to place, looking after the wounded, caring for all the dead, directing and assisting in their burial. I served in the army for the preservation of the union from start to finish. I came in contact with many chaplains in my long service, and can say that the Rev. John M. Whitehead 15th Regt Ind Vol Infty. [sic] was the most worthy chaplain that ever came under my notice. In camp, on the march, and especially his conduct on the battle field at Stone [sic] River Dec 31st 1862. I believe the Nation owes this grand old christian [sic] gentleman a medal for heroism energy, and faithful services without hope of promotion as other officers of the time. In my own old Regt. I always promoted meritorious soldiers who earned it on the battlefield."

2. Letter from Edwin Nicar, late 1st lieutenant and adjutant, and captain of Company H, 15<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteers, dated South Bend, Indiana, October 28, 1897, addressed to Mr. Whitehead:

"I have learned with much satisfaction that many of the survivors of the 15th Ind. Vols are urging your claims to the Government medal which is being awarded for gallantry and distinguished service on the battlefields of the late war.

"Your record at the battle of Stone's [sic] River Decr. [sic] 31, 1862, to Jan. 2, 1863, richly entitles you to this distinction, and the government will honor itself in honoring you.

“As I was Adjutant of the regiment at the time, I was in a position to know much that you did. I know that although a noncombatant you accompanied the regiment into action and bore your part manfully. I know that when Capt. Templeton of Company D was mortally wounded by the fire of the rebel battery on our front you hastened to him and bore him off the field in your arms. I know that you ministered to his wants, received his last words, and having done all that could be done returned to the regiment.

“Owing to our exposed position and the terrible fire we were under it was impossible for the ambulances to visit us and almost equally impossible for the stretcher bearers to do effective service so that much was left to individual effort. You accepted the chances of life and death with rare courage and never faltered in the least.

“I know that you carried a number of enlisted men off the field and that all through the desperate fighting in which the 15th Ind held to its place on the left, losing 189 officers and men killed and wounded, out of 440 engaged, you were with us cheering the living, caring for the wounded and receiving the last messages of the dying. I know that until midnight or after of the first days [sic] battle you never ceased in your work of mercy and I know that each and every survivor of the regiment was and is proud of your splendid exemplification of practical christianity. [sic] I heard of similar service that you performed for members of the 9th and 40th Ind. regiments which were in action near us, and Col. Suman of the 9th has spoken to me of your help in the most glowing terms.

“The medal ought to be awarded to you without hesitation, and if the facts are properly presented I am sure it will be. Do not hesitate to use this letter if you think it will be of benefit. I am conscious that it is but a poor presentation of what I saw and know, but it is true and comes from my heart.”

3. Letter from E.M. Burns, late of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, and acting hospital steward, dated Valparaiso, Indiana, November 23, 1897.

“The Fifteenth Indiana regiment went into this engagement with four hundred and forty men, rank and file, and during the day’s engagement, lost two hundred and two men, killed and wounded. It made three successive charges and captured more men than were in its own command.

“At all times and under all circumstances, Chaplain John M. Whitehead was with the command during the day and removed the wounded from the field of battle. He being a large and robust man, would take a wounded man up in his arms or on his shoulders and alone, would carry him from the field. He followed up the regiment in each charge and carried back with him the wounded men nearest the enemy’s line.

“I will here enumerate a few of the many he removed from the field of battle: Captain Templeton, Christian Board, John Long, and Calvin R. Zener. These men were carried from the extreme advance point of the Regiment’s charge to the front. Christian Board was shot through the leg and body. John Long had one leg nearly shot off and took his pocket knife and severed it entirely and left the foot on the battle field.

“Toward night, on the 31st, I was ordered by the commanding officer to go with Surgeon Youart to the field hospital and assist the Hospital steward in caring for the wounded, and I have personal knowledge of the unreserved and untiring work of Chaplain Whitehead, throughout the night, in bringing into the hospital, from the front, wounded men. For three days and three nights, without ceasing and scarcely any sleep, he continued to administer to the wants of the wounded and to help with shovel in hand to bury the dead at the Hospital.

“For these worthy efforts on his part, in that noted battle, I can and do, hereby cheerfully recommend Chaplain John M. Whitehead worthy of a badge of honor: and do hereby petition the authority that can so award, to permit the old chaplain to be the recipient of such Honors.”

4. Letter from Hulbert Fullum, late of Company C, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated La Porte, Indiana, October 30, 1897, addressed to Mr. Whitehead:

“During the fighting on the 31st Dec. 62, my time and attention was fully occupied by the enemy and I dont [sic] now remember seeing you at the front during the day, but after the fighting ceased that evening I visited the wounded of the 15th at the hospital and in talking with them, and especially the boys of Company, C, they all spoke of the daring of the Chaplain in aiding the wounded to the rear and of his kindly ministrations to them at the hospital. [sentences in between here are not included.] When I was wounded on the 2 of Jan., 1863, I know you dressed my wounds and I also know I would have fared badly but for you. I also know you assisted Corporal C.R. Zener of ‘G’, from the front about the time I was taken to the rear and gave him every attention until he died. I know you exposed your life to aid the wounded to rear and your health in nursing and caring for them, and I know you were everywhere, regardless of personal danger, where aid was to be given, or suffering to be alleviated and I know at all times you was a christian [sic] gentleman, a model soldier, and a true hero, entitled to, and receiving, the love and gratitude of every man who, in our command was wounded at that time.”

6. Letter, not dated, from John M. Comparet, of Blanco, Texas, late lieutenant colonel, 15th Indiana Volunteers:

“I respectfully ask that our Congress in session give recognition to our comrade J.M. Whitehead, Chaplain of 15th Reg. Ind. Inftry., [sic] for deeds of gallantry and merit, in giving aid and comfort to those who were wounded dying and dead comrades upon the battlefield at Stone [sic] River – Missionary Ridge- the 1st on Dec. 31st, 1862; and Jan. 2, 1863. He bound up their wounds and looked after those not of our Reg. but took great interest in all, and to see that there were none missing and to supply them wants, ‘even a cop of water’.

“For this service so needful and gallantry done, which I recognize worthy of a marked distinction, respectfully ask that a medal of honor be awarded him, ‘J. M. Whitehead’ in recognition of these meritorious deeds of valor, upon these battlefields, in our Country’s



darkest hours. All of which I most respectfully submit for your kind and deliberate consideration and approval.”

6. Letter from L.J. Bryant, late of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated La Porte, Indiana, October 29, 1897.

“I was on detached service and not with the Regiment at the battle of Stone’s [sic] River, Tenn., on December 31st, 1862, and January 2d, 1863, but joined the regiment on the 3d or 4th of Jan., 1863, and on every hand I heard the heroism of the Chaplain spoken of and talked about.

“The men said that no one was wounded, and needing aid, too far to the front for the Chaplain not to go to his assistance, and I know that his courage and forgetfulness of self on those trying days made him the most popular chaplain with his regiment in the Army of the Cumberland.

“The comrades of the regiment told me that after the severe fighting of the 31st the chaplain’s clothing was covered with blood from carrying off from the field the wounded. They all pronounced him a hero.”

7. Letter from R.H. Maxwell, late of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated La Porte, Indiana, November 8, 1897.

“Well do I remember our brave Chaplain, J.M. Whitehead, and I also well remember his bravery in caring and looking after our wounded comrades during the three days battle at Stone [sic] River, Tenn. I can say truthfully his gallantry was remarkable.”

8. Statement of Rev. John M. Whitehead, a chaplain, 15th, Indiana Volunteers, dated Topeka, Kansas, December 1, 1897:

“Orders came to our Col. G. A Wood, to hold that point at all hazards: that meant to simply fight till you die on that field or conquer. When he received this order, he called ‘attention’, went through the manual of arms, then fixed bayonets, faced the enemy coming a brigade strong, ordered double-quick charged Jackson’s Brigade coming down the right bank of Stone [sic] River. They were met at the crest of the hill and driven back, but they came back with the additional reenforcement [sic] of another brigade and were met ‘with bloody hands and hospitable graves’ and driven back with greater loss; but still they came back – Jackson’s, Adam’s, and Preston’s Brigades. Again the third charge was made. Our regiment bringing back a greater number of men as prisoners than there were men in our entire command, when we went into battle; but this bravery was at the loss of scores of men killed and wounded. Captain Templeton, that noble officer, fell mortally wounded; I carried back the Captain to the rear and sat by him at his request and that of Surgeon Youart until he breathed his last; I copied his last message and sent it to his home in Lafayette, Indiana. Here the gallant Captain of Company G, Joel W. Foster, my next door neighbor at home, fell mortally wounded by shell from that Confederate battery, with his leg mangled above the knee. The same

ball ricocheted and killed Corporal Douglas of the same company and still farther on killed another man.

“Here that dauntless Colonel of the 9th Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers, Colonel I.C.B. Suman, was twice shot, one ball severing the artery in the arm. When he rode from the field, bleeding his life away, I met him, bound up his wounds, and helped him on his horse; with one boot filled with blood he rode back on the field, took his command and held his position at ‘Round Forest’. Here Lieutenant Colonel Neff of the 40th Indiana was shot in the arm and left the field bleeding. Here Corporal Logan, Company B, fell helpless. Here Christian Board, Company G, fell shot in the arm, in the leg, and through the breast. Here John Long fell with his leg nearly blown off by a shell; he took out his knife, cut off the remaining parts, and laid the foot beside the stump by which he sat. Here Captain John M. Smith of my home town, was shot. Here George Brown fell dead, of my town. Here John Vannotte, another townsman, fell shot through the right lung, but pulled through. Here Hulbert Fullum was wounded. Here Corporal Calvin H. Zener, my fellow townsman; we carried him off the field and he was surrounded by his commanding officers and comrades. As we all knelt round him and offered up our united prayers, he talked to all his comrades like a true christian [sic] and then said, ‘Now boys, let us all sing once more together’, and he struck up his favorite hymn, ‘O, sing to me of heaven!’

“In the three charges made, our regiment lost men killed and wounded who fell two hundred and fifty yards in advance of the line of battle; brave fellows, but it cost something to check that on-tide of Kentucky’s brave Confederates under their proud leader, Breckenridge.

“Allow me to say that I was constantly with my Regiment during that terrible day, carrying the wounded off the field, caring for the dying, whenever they came under my notice. My regiment kept this position during the whole days’ battle. We lost every alternate man, killed or wounded, losing over two hundred; the 9th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Suman in command, lost one hundred and sixty men killed and wounded; the 40th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Blake in command, lost about the same. Other regiments marched and counter-marched over this same field, as ordered.

‘Most of those whose names I mentioned, I carried off the field or bound up their wounds, and to some I did both and I can truthfully say I helped scores of others whose names I cannot now call to mind.

‘After night-fall when all was quiet along our front lines, an order came to my Surgeon Youart to move the wounded from the field hospital to the general hospital, which was in a large brick house two miles back to Stuart’s Creek. Part of this time I was assisted by the Assistant Hospital Steward E.M. Burns; when he was ordered to the big brick hospital I was left alone to get the wounded into the ambulances. Most of them who could not walk I carried on my shoulder.

“About two o’clock I placed the last man in the ambulance who was in the field hospital carried to the general hospital; when I went to my horse I did not find my blankets, haversack, or canteen; so I laid down under a porch of a deserted house but it was too cold to sleep and I mounted my horse. I rode an hour found my regiment holding the hotly contested ground in whose defence [sic] so many brave men had fallen the day before. I sat down with my mess-mates and ate the first food for twenty-four hours.

“This brief and imperfect sketch is respectfully submitted to the Congress of the United States for its candid consideration by one who was a non-combatant, and had no line of hope for promotion in government service by Army Regulations.”

The records show that John M. Whitehead was enrolled July 15, 1862, at Westville, Indiana, and mustered into service to take effect from the same date, as chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers, to serve three years, and that he was mustered out with the regiment and honorably discharged the service as chaplain, June 25, 1864, at Indianapolis, Indiana. During the period of his service the rolls show him present, except the roll dated December 31, 1863, which shows him absent at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in charge of sick and wounded. No official mention has been found of his personal conduct at the battle of Stone’s [sic] River.

The regiment was in action at Stone’s [sic] River, Tennessee, from December 31, 1862, to January 3, 1863. It appears from the records that petitioners were members of the organizations alleged, and held the ranks stated, and all are shown to have been present on the dates mentioned except Robert H. Maxwell, who was absent sick. The records show that Colonel Suman, 9th Indiana Volunteers, Christian Board, and John D. Long were wounded in said battle, and that Captain Robert J. Templeton was killed December 31, 1862, and Corporal Calvon R. Zener was killed January 2, 1863.

[illegible signature]

Colonel, U.S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

December 18, 1897.

