

## ***FEBRUARY 1862***

*February 1, 1862* - "I feel some embarrassment with regard to the course to be pursued towards those privates absent without leave from this command." Gen. Crittenden's report to Gen. Johnston relative to defending the Upper Cumberland region

DIVISION HDQRS.,

Gainesborough, Tenn., February 1, 1862.

Gen. A. SIDNEY JOHNSTON,

Cmdg. Department of the West:

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I am unable as yet to make out and transmit to you my detailed report of the engagement on the 19th of January. This delay is owing to the delay of the officers of the command in sending up their reports.

I would suggest that this command be re-enforced by several well-drilled regiments at an early day.

Inclosed I send you a sketch of the section of the country. You will see that this position of Gainesborough can be turned by the enemy, and in many respects it is an unfavorable point. I cannot occupy Livingston or any point on the road from Livingston to the Walton road for want of transportation to carry supplies to the camp from the river.

I submit to you, then, the propriety of occupying Chestnut Mound. To that point supplies can be easily hauled from river landings, and it is connected with Nashville, and also with Carthage, by a turnpike. Supplies of corn are abundant on Caney Fork, and could be brought down to a landing on the turnpike near to Chestnut Mound.

I feel some embarrassment with regard to the course to be pursued towards those privates absent without leave from this command. The non-commis-

sioned officer absent without leave I shall reduce to the ranks, and I will have the officers so absent proceeded against with the utmost rigor.

Capt. Morgan, a volunteer aide on my staff, bears this to you. He also bears an order from me, for publication in the journals of Nashville and Knoxville, commanding all absent from this command without leave to report themselves at these headquarters immediately.

Being fully aware of the charges which have been made against me by fugitives from this command I have demanded a court of inquiry, and feel satisfied that an investigation will establish the facts that the battle of Fishing Creek and the subsequent movement were military necessities, for which I am not responsible. I feel assured that I shall have no difficulty in defending my conduct throughout these affairs.

I remain, yours, &c.,

G. B. CRITTENDEN, Maj.-Gen., Cmdg.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 855.

### **February 2, 1862 - Skirmish in Morgan County**

#### REPORTS.

No. 1.-Col. D. Leadbetter, C. S. Army.

No. 2.-Lieut. Col. J. W. White, First Tennessee Cavalry [C. S. ].

No. 1.

Letter of Col. D. Leadbetter, C. S. Army.

HDQRS., Knoxville, Tenn., February 5, 1862.

SIR: I send herewith an extract from a report of Lieut.-Col. White, First Regt. Tennessee Cavalry, from which it appears that a part of that regiment had a skirmish with the traitors of Scott and Morgan counties on Sunday, the 2d instant, capturing 1 prisoner, 4 horses, 2 Minie muskets, and 1 navy revolver, killing the enemy's leader (Duncan) and perhaps 5 others. I inclose herewith some papers found on the body of Duncan.

The cavalry, while expecting orders to join Gen. Crittenden, have been directed to scour the counties of Scott, Morgan, and Campbell, for the purpose of putting down rebellion, as well as to give prompt notice of any forward movement of the enemy's army. Half of the company of sappers and miners, organized by Maj. Lea, has been ordered to Cumberland Gap, while the other half, protected by the cavalry, will endeavor to obstruct the passes leading through the mountains from Kentucky to Jacksborough. I have no doubt that the enemy will attempt an advance on Knoxville at an early day.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

D. LEADBETTER, Col., Provisional Army Confederate States.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. J. W. White, First Tennessee Cavalry [C. S. A. ].

HDQRS. FIRST TENNESSEE CAVALRY REGIMENT, Camp Schooler,  
Morgan County, Tenn., February 3, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a portion of our regiment engaged the enemy on yesterday at about 12 o'clock 13 miles northwest of this place. A running fight for nearly an hour ensued in the mountains. The enemy's force is variously estimated from 100 to 300, armed with Minie muskets and rifles.

We killed their captain, and, from the best information, 5 others; captured 4 horses, 2 fine Minie muskets, 1 Colt's navy pistol, a small quantity of ammunition, and 1 prisoner.

Inclosed I send you certain papers found by me on the person of their dead captain. It gives me pleasure to say that we lost only 1 horse killed and a few slight scratches. Our men all acted bravely for raw troops. I cannot forbear to mention the gallant conduct of Capt. Brown, of Company C, and Sergeant Reagan, of Company F.

I am satisfied that the Federal Army in force is approaching us; I think by way of Williamsburg, Ky., through Chitwood's Gap. It is raining and the waters are up, so we cannot well get out of here; but I will move Capt.'s McKenzie's and Gorman's companies, if possible, to-morrow on Jacksborough.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your, &c.,

J. W. WHITE, Lieut.-Col., Cmdg. First Tennessee Cavalry.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 118-119.

Lt. Col. White Among the Lincolnites.

A skirmish occurred in Morgan county, on Sunday [2nd], between Lt. Col. White's cavalry company of Hamilton county, and a body of Lincolnites.

From Lieut. Atkinson, who was in the fight, we learn the following particulars. About 12 o'clock a force under Lt. Col. White, of Tennessee cavalry, encountered a body of Lincoln infantry whose members were variously estimated at from one to three hundred. The enemy were on a mountainside and deemed themselves inaccessible. Lt. Col. White ordered thirty men armed with Tennessee rifles, to dismount and act as infantry. These led by him advanced first. Lt. Col. White ordered them to reserve their fire till very near the enemy. They fired two or three times, when our cavalry charged up the steep hillside.

Capt. Duncan, of the Unionists, rallied his men twice, but they finally fled in great disorder. Capt. Duncan was shot through the head by J. Roberts, a youth fifteen years of age, whose brother was recently killed in Kentucky. The enemy scattered among the woods and ravines, and finally reached inaccessible cliffs. Seven dead bodies of the Lincolnites were found. A negro named Jack, belonging to Capt. McClung, killed one of the enemy in the fight. We lost one horse,

and have here in prison one of the enemy. We found letters which state that in twenty days East Tennessee will be overrun and desolated. *Knoxville Register*, Feb. 5

Chattanooga *Gazette*, February 13, 1862.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT MOVEMENT."

Skirmish in Northeastern Tennessee—Probable Advance of Gen. Schoepf

The *Norfolk Day Book*, of Thursday, has the following:

Knoxville, Tennessee, Feb. 5.

On Sunday, Lieutenant-Colonel White's Cavalry encountered a force of Lincoln's Infantry in Morgan County, Tennessee, on the mountainside. The Lincoln force was estimated at from one hundred to three hundred. White charged upon the enemy. Capt. Duncan rallied his men twice, when he was shot through the head and killed by J. Roberts, a lad, fifteen years old. The Kentucky unionists were taken completely routed, and fled in confusion, leaving seven of their dead upon the field.

[From the above dispatch it looks as though the advance of General Schoepf's brigade had penetrated into Tennessee. The latest news from the West of movements in that direction is up to seven days, not to the date of the above rebel dispatch, at which time the brigade of Gen. Carter had left its position on the Cumberland River, in Kentucky, and had taken up the march for Cumberland Gap, and Barboursville while the brigade of Gen.'s of Gen. Schoepf was on the event taking up its line of march for Tennessee, via Monticello. It is quite likely that the advance of the latter column may have reached Morgan County. The rebellion in Tennessee is been pricked simultaneously at a number of points. Ed. *Times*.]

New York *Times*, February 9, 1862.

**February 2, 1862 - "We was without rations for three days, and when we did get something to eat, it was parched corn." Nobel L. Stone, Co. A, 37th Tennessee Infantry, C. S. A., in Jackson County, to Solomon Stone**

A Friend

State of Tennessee

Jackson County

2 February 1862

Dear Father: I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hoping these lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. I have nothing of interest to relate. I am quite well. We have had a hard time in our retreat from Mill Spring to this place. We lost a great deal of clothing, food, horses, wagons, and ammunition, and various artillery of importance—all to the hands of the Yankees. We was without rations for three

days, and when we did get something to eat, it was parched corn. And then in another day or so we killed a beef. Everyone skinned his own piece and boiled it on the coals-eat hearty without bread, it being perfectly fresh without salt. I never did eat hearty before in my life. I can say I have seen the elephant. I thought I would tremble to face the broad mouthed cannon. I send you \$5.00 by John Clark. If we stay here, which I have no idea but what we will, I want you to come and see me. It won't take more than \$5.00 to come. You can ride here in three days. If you don't come, be sure and write, and tell Melviry that I am well. Tell her to write and write yourself.

Goodbye,

N. L. Stone

To Solomon Stone

MSCC/CWRC<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Motlow State Community College/Civil War Research Center. Hereinafter MSCC/CWRC.

***February 4, 1862 - Reconnaissance to Fort Henry***

No circumstantial reports filed.

***February 5, 1862 - "Flag Presentation."***

Wednesday [5th] was quite a gala day in town in virtue of the ceremony of the presentation of a fine flag to Col. Quarles' regiment (the 42nd, Tenn.) and one to Capt. Hubbard's company, of that regiment.

The first was made and given to the regiment by the Young Ladies Juvenile Relief Society of this city; the other was the personal gift of Miss Nannie Garland, of our town. In compliment of whom Capt. Hubbard's company is named-the "GARLAND GREYS "-

Before 11 o'clock a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen had assembled at the Public Square to witness the ceremony, and about 12 o'clock Col. Quarles' regiment came into town-600 or 700 strong-and took position on the Square. After some brief evolutions they opened ranks, and received the ladies composing the Society, and the interesting ceremonies of the day were entered upon.

Hon. G. A. Henry<sup>NOTE 1</sup> appeared upon the portico of the Bank of Tennessee, and taking the regimental flag in his hands proceeded to present it formally, on behalf of the Society. His speech was chaste, forcible, eloquent—just such as he makes. He reviewed briefly the animus that incites each party in this contest, the magnitude of the interests involved in the conflict, and the certainty, from all precedent, of our triumph, if we shall prove true to ourselves. In delivering the flag, he appealed to the Tennesseans and Alabamians, by all their past

valor and historic glory as soldiers, to stand by, and defend it till the last man had fallen!-This portion of his speech was eloquent and impressive in the extreme, and the loud and prolonged cheers of the soldiers, fully attested their resolve to bring their flag out of battle, covered with glory, or to *die under it!* Lieut.-Col. Walton received the flag, in behalf of the regiment, in one of the neatest and most appropriate little speeches we ever listened to. It was a model effort of the kind-alternating with strains of eloquence and humor, that took the crowd along with every word.

This being over, Company A-the "GARLAND GREYS "-was marched out of the ranks, and Hon. G. A. Henry proceeded to present them, on Miss Garland's behalf, the beautiful flag that her fair hands had wrought. After a merited compliment to her (and he did not say half enough,) he appealed to both their gallantry towards woman, and their patriotism, toward country, to defend that flag till every arm was rigid, and every heart still, in the palsy of death!

The flag was received by Capt. Hubbard, on behalf of his company, in a brief, but pointed and forcible speech. After a courteous acknowledgment of the compliment paid the company, in the gift of the flag he uttered, for himself and his company, their pledge that it should never trail nor be dishonored till the last man of the Garland Greys had found his final discharge on the field of battle!

These ceremonies were very interesting throughout, and when they were concluded, loud calls were made for Col. Quarles, but he excused himself, saying that notwithstanding his previous calling (i.e. Lawyer) he intended to make no more speeches till this war was over-that till then, *action*, not words-the *sword*, not the pen, was the rule of his life. After all the speaking was done, the regiment was put through a pretty severe course of drill by Col. McGinnis, which proved of great interest to the lookers-on, and then took up the line of march for camp.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

**NOTE 1:** Gustavus Adolphus Henry (1804-1880). A Kentuckian by birth and education (Transylvania University 1825) he served in the Kentucky legislature from 1831 to 1833 before moving to Clarksville in 1833. In Clarksville he developed a law practice and several commercial and civic concerns, including the establishment of two insurance firms and aiding as a trustee of two private schools. He served too as a senior warden and vestryman in the Episcopal church in Clarksville.

In politics he was a Whig, and soon became the leader of the Tennessee Whigs. Henry served as a Whig elector in the 1840s and the 1850s and was elected to the state house of representatives in 1851. In 1853 he became the Whig candidate for governor running opposite Democrat Andrew Johnson. Johnson won by a slim 2,000-vote margin.

As the crisis of disunion approached he favored a more rational course than secession. He helped form the Constitutional Union Party and pushed John

Bell for President. Bell won his home state and no others.

With secession he followed a characteristic Whig pattern, at first opposing secession but reversed allegiance with the threats of a Northern onslaught of the southland. In May 1861, Governor Isham G. Harris, in an endeavor to solicit other Tennessee Whigs, selected Henry as a commissioner to meet with Confederate leaders and enter the Volunteer State into a so-called "military league" with other southern states. This was prior to secession, and in the ensuing month Tennesseans endorsed by a large majority the coupling of the state and the Confederacy. Henry, the "Eagle Orator," then was chosen by legislators as one of the state's two senators.

As one of Tennessee's Confederate senators Henry was consistent in his presence and tirelessly supported President Davis. Like other Tennesseans in the Congress, he was an "ultra-nationalist," and ironically had little sympathy for the state rights position, said to be a cause for secession, voiced by some from the Deep South.

With the conclusion of the war Henry returned to his law practice in Clarksville. While he was not active in politics he did engage in some organization work with the Democratic party. At the age of 70, in 1874, he was picked as chairman of the state Democratic convention. He died on September 10, 1880, at his Clarksville home, Emerald Hill, and was interred in Greenwood Cemetery.

### ***February 5, 1862 - Gideon J. Pillow Arrives in Clarksville***

"Gen. Pillow."

This distinguished leader arrived here on Wednesday night, and it was reported that he had come to take command of this post, but we presume that this is not so, since his services would be too valuable at points where active hostilities are imminent, to allow of his remaining here.

The withdrawal by Gen. Pillow of his resignation,<sup>NOTE 1</sup> which he tendered to the War Department about a month ago, is a source of gratification to every one.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

**NOTE 1:** Pillow was fond of tendering his resignation. His skills at constructing earthenwork fortifications were certainly exceeded by his skills at resigning. See: *OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 3, pp. 317-318, Vol. 7, pp. 309, 320; Vol. 52, pt. II, pp. 256-258.

### ***February 6, 1862 - Capture of Fort Henry***

No. 1

SAINT LOUIS, January 30, 1862.

Brig. Gen. U. S. GRANT, Cairo, Ill.

Make your preparations to take and hold Fort Henry. I will send you written instructions by mail.

H. W. HALLECK, Maj.-Gen.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, Saint Louis, January 30, 1862.

Brig. Gen. U. S. GRANT, Cairo, Ill.

SIR: You will immediately prepare to send forward to Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River, all your available forces from Smithland, Paducah, Cairo, Fort Holt, Bird's Point, &c. Sufficient garrisons must be left to hold these places against an attack from Columbus. As the roads are almost impassable for large forces, and as your command is very deficient in transportation, the troops will be taken in steamers up the Tennessee River as far as practicable. Supplies will also be taken up in steamers as far as possible. Flag-Officer Foote will protect the transports with his gunboats. The *Benton* and perhaps some others should be left for the defense of Cairo. Fort Henry should be taken and held at all hazards. I shall immediately send you three additional companies of artillery from this place.

The river front of the fort is armed with 20-pounders, and it may be necessary for you to take some guns of large caliber and establish a battery on the opposite side of the river. It is believed that the guns on the land side are of small caliber and can be silenced by our field artillery. It is said that the north side of the river below the fort is favorable for landing. If so, you will land and rapidly occupy the road to Dover and fully invest the place, so as to cut off the retreat of the garrison.

Lieut.-Col. McPherson, U. S. Engineers, will immediately report to you, to act as chief engineer of the expedition. It is very probable that an attempt will be made from Columbus to re-enforce Fort Henry; also from Fort Donelson at Dover. If you can occupy the road to Dover you can prevent the latter. The steamers will give you the means of crossing from one side of the river to the other. It is said that there is a masked battery opposite the island below Fort Henry. If this cannot be avoided or turned it must be taken.

Having invested Fort Henry, a cavalry force will be sent forward to break up the railroad from Paris to Dover. The bridges should be rendered impassable, but not destroyed.

A telegram from Washington says that Beauregard left Manassas four days ago with fifteen regiments for the line of Columbus and Bowling Green. It is therefore of the greatest importance that we cut that line before he arrives. You will move with the least delay possible. You will furnish Commodore Foote with a copy of this letter. A telegraph line will be extended as rapidly as possibly from Paducah, east of the Tennessee River, to Fort Henry. Wires and operators will be sent from Saint Louis.

H. W. HALLECK, Maj.-Gen.

No. 2.

Report of Flag-Officer A. H. Foote, U. S. Navy, commanding naval forces on the Western waters.

CAIRO, ILL., February 7, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the 6th instant, at 12.30 o'clock p. m., I made an attack on Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River, with the iron-clad gunboats *Cincinnati*, Commander Stembel; the flag-ship *Essex*, Commander Porter; *Carondelet*, Commander Walke, and *St. Louis*, Lieut.-Commander Paulding; also taking with me the three old gunboats, *Conestoga*, Lieut.-Commander Phelps; the *Tyler*, Lieut.-Commander Gwin, and the *Lexington*, Lieut.-Commander Shirk, as a second division, in charge of Lieut.-Commander Phelps, which took position astern and inshore of the armed boats, doing good execution there during the action, while the armed boats were placed in the first order of steaming, approaching the fort in a parallel line.

The fire was opened at 1,700 yards' distance from the flag-ship, which was followed by the other gunboats, and responded to by the fort. As we approached the fort under slow steaming till we reached within 600 yards of the rebel batteries the fire both from the gunboats and fort increased in rapidity and accuracy of range. At twenty minutes before the rebel flag was struck the *Essex* unfortunately received a shot in her boilers, which resulted in wounding, by scalding, 29 officers and men. . .

The *Essex* then necessarily dropped out of line astern, entirely disabled, and unable to continue the fight, in which she had so gallantly participated until the sad catastrophe. The firing continued with unabated rapidity and effect upon the three gunboats as they continued still to approach the fort with their destructive fire until the rebel flag was hauled down, after a very severe and closely contested action of one hour and fifteen minutes.

A boat containing the adjutant-general and captain of engineers came alongside after the flag was lowered, and reported that Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, the commander of the fort, wished to communicate with the flag-officer, when I dispatched Commander Stembel and Lieut.-Commander Phelps, with orders to hoist the American flag where the secession ensign had been flying, and to inform Gen. Tilghman that I would see him on board the flag-ship. He came on board soon after the Union had been substituted for the rebel flag by Commander Stembel on the fort and possession taken. I received the general, his staff, and 60 or 70 men as prisoners, and a hospital ship containing 60 invalids, together with the fort and its effects, mounting twenty guns, mostly of heavy caliber, with barracks and tents capable of accommodating 15,000 men, and sundry articles, of which, as I turned the fort and its effects over to Gen. Grant, commanding the Army, on his arrival in an hour after we had made the capture, he will be enabled to give the Government a more correct statement than I am enabled to communicate from the short time I had possession of the fort The

plan of the attack, so far as the Army reaching the rear of the fort to make a demonstration simultaneously with the Navy, was prevented by the excessively muddy roads and high stage of water, preventing the arrival of our troops until some time after I had taken possession of the fort.

On securing the prisoners and making necessary preliminary arrangements I dispatched Lieut.-Commander Phelps, with his division, up the Tennessee River, as I had previously directed. . . and so far render the bridge incapable of railroad transportation and communication between Bowling Green and Columbus, and afterwards to pursue the rebel gunboats and secure their capture, if possible. This being accomplished and the Army in possession of the fort. . . I left Fort Henry in the evening of the same day, with the *Cincinnati* and *St. Louis*, and arrived here this morning.

The armed gunboats resisted effectually the shot of the enemy when striking the casemate. The *Cincinnati* (flag-ship) received 31 shots, the *Essex* 15, the *St. Louis* 7, and the *Carondelet* 6, killing 1 and wounding 9 in the *Cincinnati* and killing 1 in the *Essex*, while the casualties in the latter from steam amounted to 28 in number. The *Carondelet* and *St. Louis* met with no casualties. The steamers were admirably handled by their commanders and officers, presenting only their bow guns to the enemy, to avoid exposure of the vulnerable parts of their vessels. Lieut.-Commander Phelps, with his division, also executed my orders very effectually, and promptly proceeded up the river in their further execution after the capture of the fort. In fact, all the officers and men gallantly performed their duty, and, considering the little experience they have had under fire, far more than realized my expectations.

Fort Henry was defended with the most determined gallantry by Gen. Tilghman, worthy of a better cause, who, from his own account, went into the action with eleven guns of heavy caliber bearing upon our boats, which he fought until seven of the number were dismantled or otherwise rendered useless.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. H. FOOTE, Flag-Officer, Cmdg. U. S. Naval Forces Western Waters.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI, Saint Louis, February 9, 1862.

I have this moment received the official report of your capture of Fort Henry, and hasten to congratulate you and your command for your brilliant success.

H. W. HALLECK,

Maj.-Gen., Cmdg. Department.

Flag-Officer A. H. FOOTE, Cairo.

No. 3.

Reports of Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant, U. S. Army, commanding land forces of the expedition.

HDQRS. DISTRICT OF CAIRO, Fort Henry, February 6, 1862.

Fort Henry is ours. The gunboats silenced the batteries before the investment was completed. I think the garrison must have commenced the retreat last night. Our cavalry followed, finding two guns abandoned in the retreat.

I shall take and destroy Fort Donelson on the 8th and return to Fort Henry.

U. S. GRANT, Brig.-Gen.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 122-124.

U. S. GUNBOAT *CONESTOGA*, Fort Henry, Tenn., February 6, 1862. SIR: In conformity with your directions, the division of gunboats under my command, consisting of the *Tyler*, Lieutenant Commanding Gwin; *Lexington*, Lieutenant Commanding Shirk, and this vessel, in the attack of this morning on this work, took up a position upon the left bank of the river and opened fire with shells immediately after your first gun was fired and continued firing till the rebel flag was hauled down, having succeeded in throwing shells without firing over your flagship or over the other iron-plated boats in close contest with the fort. There were fired from this vessel 75 32-pounder shells, 14 12-pounder rifled shells, and 2 round shot. No injury was done either of the vessels and no casualties occurred, though we were at times exposed to the ricochet of the close fire upon your vessel, as well as to the direct fire of a 32-pounder rifled piece till it burst. The commanders of the *Tyler* and *Lexington* handled their vessels with excellent judgment. I enclose their reports. The officers and crew of this vessel displayed coolness and an admirable spirit in this action.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. L. PHELPS, Lieutenant, Commanding, U. S. Navy.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 542-543.

***February 6, 1862 - February 10, 1862 - Pursuit of Confederate steamers by U. S. N.***

U. S. N. Lt. S. Ledyard Phelps, pursued Confederate steamers destroying Confederate stores on the Tennessee River subsequent to the fall of Fort Henry. U. S. S. *Lexington*, *Tyler*, and *Conastoga*.

Report of Lieutenant S. L. Phelps, to Flag-Officer A. H. Foote, U. S. N., relative to naval operations on the Tennessee River, February 6-10, 1862:

Soon after the surrender of Fort Henry, on the 6th, I proceeded. . . up the Tennessee River with the *Tyler*, Lieutenant Commanding Gwin; *Lexington*, Lieutenant Commanding Shirk, and this vessel (*Conestoga*), forming a division of the flotilla, and arrived after dark at the railroad crossing, 25 miles above the fort, having on the way destroyed a small amount of camp equipage, abandoned by the fleeing rebels. The draw of the bridge was found closed and the machinery for turning it disabled. About 1 1/2 miles above, were several rebel transport streamers escaping upstream. A party was landed in one hour I had the satisfaction to see the draw open. The *Tyler* being the slowest of the gun-

boats, Lieutenant Commanding Gwin landed a force to destroy a portion of the railroad track and to secure such military stores as might be found, while I directed Lieutenant Commanding Shirk to follow me with all speed in chase of the fleeing boats. In five hours this boat succeeded in forcing three rebels to abandon and burn three of their boats, loaded with military stores. The first one fired (*Samuel Orr*) had on board a quantity of submarine batteries, which very soon exploded; the second one was freighted with powder, cannon shot, grape, balls, etc. Fearing an explosion from the fired boats (there were two together), I had stopped at a distance of 1,000 yards; but even there our skylights were broken by the concussion; the light upper deck was raised bodily, doors were forced open, and locks fastenings everywhere broken.

The whole river for half a mile around about was completely beaten up by the falling fragments and the shower of shot, grape, balls, etc. The house of a reported Union man was blown to pieces, and it is suspected there was design in landing the boats in front of the doomed home. The *Lexington* having fallen astern, and without a pilot on board, I concluded to wait for both of the boats to come up. Joined by them we proceeded up the river. . . Gwin had destroyed some of the trestlework at the end of the bridge, burning with them a lot of camp equipage. I. N. Brown, formerly a lieutenant in the Navy, now signing himself "Lieutenant, C. S. N.," had fled with such precipitation as to leave his papers behind. These Lieutenant Commanding Gwin brought away and I send them to you, as they give an Official history of the rebel floating preparations on the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee. "Lieutenant" Brown had charge of the construction of gunboats. At night on the 7th we arrived at a landing in Harding County, Tenn., known as Cerro Gordo, where we found the steamer *Eastport* being converted to a gunboat. Armed boats' crews were immediately sent on board and search made for means of destruction that might have been devised. She had been scuttled and the suction pipes broken. These leaks were soon stopped. A number of rifle shots were fired at our vessels, but a couple of shells dispersed the rebels. On examination I found that there were large quantities of timber and lumber prepared for fitting up the *Eastport*; that the vessel itself, some 280 feet long, was in excellent condition and already half finished; considerable of the plating designed for her was lying on the bank and everything at hand to complete here. I therefore directed Lieutenant Commanding Gwin to remain with the *Tyler* to guard the prize, and to load the lumber. . . while the *Lexington* and *Conestoga* should proceed still higher up.

Soon after daylight on the 8th we passed *Eastport*, Miss, and at *Chickasaw*, farther up, near the State line, seized two steamers, the *Sallie Wood* and *Muscle*. . . We then proceeded. . . entering. . . Alabama and ascending to. . . the foot of the *Mussel Shoals*. . . Some shots were fired from the opposite side of river below. . .

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We returned on the night of the 8th to where the *Easport* lay [Cerro Gordo]. The crew of the *Tyler* had already gotten on board of the prizes an immense

amount of lumber. . . The crews of the three boats set to work to finish the undertaking, and we have brought away probably 250,000 feet of the best quantity of ship and building lumber, all the iron, machinery, spikes, plating, nails. . . belong to the rebel gunboat, and I caused the mill to be destroyed where the lumber had been sawed.

Lieutenant Commanding Gwin in our absence had enlisted some 25 Tennesseans, who gave information of the encampment of Colonel Crews' rebel regiment, at Savannah, Tenn. A portion of the 600 or 700 men were known to be "pressed" men, and all were badly armed. . . I determined to make a land attack upon the encampment. Lieutenant Commanding Shirk, with 30 riflemen, came on board the *Conestoga*, leaving his vessel to guard the *Easport*. . . Gwin took command of this force when landed, but had the mortification to find the camp deserted. The rebels had fled at 1 o'clock in the night. . . The gunboats were then dropped down to a point where arms gathered under the rebel "press law" had been stored, and an armed party under Second Master Goudy, of the *Tyler*, succeeded in seizing about 70 rifles and fowling pieces. Returning to Cerro Gordo, we took the *Eastport*, *Sallie Wood*, and *Muscle* in tow, and came down the river to the railroad crossing. The *Muscle* sprung a lead, and all efforts failed to prevent her sinking, and we were forced to abandon her, and with her a considerable quantity of fine lumber. We are having trouble in getting through the draw of the bridges here.

I now come to the, to me, the most interesting portion of this report. . . We have met with the most gratifying proofs of loyalty everywhere across Tennessee. . . Men, women, and children several times gathered in crowds of hundreds, shouted their welcome and hailed their national flag with enthusiasm there was no mistaking. It was genuine and heartfelt. Those people braved everything to go to the river bank, where a sight of their flag might once more be enjoyed, and they had experienced, as they related, every possible form of persecution. Tears flowed freely down the cheeks of men as well as of women, and there were those who had fought under the stars and stripes at Moultrie, who, in this matter testified to their joy. This display of feeling and sense of gladness at our success. . . I would not have failed to witness. . . In Tennessee the people generally in their enthusiasm braved secessionists and spoke their views freely. . . We were told, too, "Bring us a small organized force with arms and ammunition for us, and we can maintain our position and put down rebellion in our midst." There were, it is true, whole communities who, on our approach, fled to the woods, but these were where there was less of the loyal element and where the fleeing steamers in advance had spread tales of our coming with fire-brand, burning destroying, ravishing, and plundering.

S. L. Phelps, Lieutenant Commanding, U. S. Navy

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 571-574.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** See also: *OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 153-156.

**February 7, 1862 - The Confederate steamers *Orr*, *Appleton Belle* & *Lynn Boyd* burned on the Tennessee River, at the mouth of the Duck River, to prevent their capture by Federal gunboats**

PARIS, TENN., February 8, 1862—11 p. m.

Maj.-Gen. POLK:

No further news from Donelson. Three of our steamers, viz., the *Orr*, *Appleton Belle*, and *Lynn Boyd*, were burned yesterday morning by our men to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy; all on board escaped safely. Five hundred Federal infantry and three transport boats are at the bridge, burning and destroying all the houses this side of the river. The bridge is now on fire. The condition of the roads prevented our bringing but few tents, without flies, but few cooking utensils, no extra clothing. The lives and health of the men require that we should have some more necessaries if we are to remain here along. We leave in the morning and will camp a few miles east of this place, and will scout continually towards the river. The rolling stock on the railroad all safe.

J. H. MILLER, Lieut.-Col.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 864.

HDQRS. FORT DONELSON, February 10, 1862.

Gen. FLOYD:

I am apprehensive, from the large accumulations of the enemy's forces in the neighborhood of Fort Henry, that he will attempt to cross the country south of my position and cut my communication by river, thus depriving me of supplies from above. The country south of me is exceedingly broken and rugged, so much so as to be nearly impracticable for a march, but they may possibly make it passable. His difficulty will be in procuring supplies for his forces, which is one almost, if not altogether, insurmountable. I think that is my safety.

The conflict yesterday between our cavalry and that of the enemy resulted in 3 of ours wounded and 20 taken prisoners by being thrown from their horses and in 3 of the enemy killed and 6 mortally wounded. Three of their gunboats have gone up Tennessee River above the bridge. The steamer *Eastport*, which we were converting into a gunboat, was burned and sunk, as was the steamer *Sam. Or[r]*, by our friends, to keep them from falling into the hands of the enemy. They have destroyed the high trestle work on the west bank of Tennessee River, but have not damaged the bridge.

I am pushing the work on my river batteries day and night; also on my field works and defensive line in the rear. In a week's time, if I am allowed that much, I will try very hard to make my batteries bomb-proof. I am now raising the parapets and strengthening them. I got my heavy rifle gun, 32-pounder, and my 10-inch columbiad in position to-day, and tried them and the other guns in battery. The trial was most satisfactory. I need two additional heavy guns very

much, and if I am not engaged by the enemy in three or four days I shall apply for the 42-pounders at Clarksville.

It is certain that if I cannot hold this place, the two 42-pounders at Clarksville will not arrest his movement by Clarksville. Upon one thing you may rest assured, viz.,: that I will never surrender the position, and with God's help I mean to maintain it.

I send up the *Hillman* for a boat load of flour and meat. Let her bring a full load. You will please give orders accordingly to the commissary of your post. I shall continue to draw supplies of subsistence to this place until I have a heavy store on hand.

I have established a line of vedettes on the east bank of the Cumberland to within 8 miles of Smithland, so that I will be posted to the movements and advance of the enemy.

I hope you will order forward at once the tents and baggage of the troops of Gen. Buckner's command, as they are suffering very much for most of them this cold weather.

I must request that you will forward this letter after reading it to Gen. Johnston. My engagements and duties press me so much that I cannot address you both and, knowing his anxiety, I am anxious to place before him the intelligence contained in this letter.

With great respect,

GID. J. PILLOW, Brig.-Gen., Cmdg.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 870-871.

***February 7, 1862 - Capture of C. S. S. Easport at Cerro Gordo, in Hardin County on the Tennessee River by U. S. N.***

•*See February 6, 1862-February 10, 1862-Pursuit of Confederate steamers by U. S. N.*

***February 7, 1862 - Governor Isham G. Harris announces the fall of Fort Henry to Confederate authorities in Richmond by telegraph***

NASHVILLE, *February 7, 1862.* Fort Henry fell yesterday. Memphis and Clarksville Railroad bridge over Tennessee destroyed. Lost all the artillery and stores at Henry. General Tilghman, Major Gilmer, and about 80 men taken prisoners; balance of force fell back to Fort Donelson, on Cumberland River.

A large increase of force to defend this [State] from Cumberland Gap to Columbus is an absolute and imperative necessity. If not successfully defended, the injury is irreparable.

ISHAM G. HARRIS.

Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, p. 552.

**February 7, 1862 - Telegraphic report of Brigadier-General Tilghman, C. S. Army, commanding at Fort Henry, Tennessee**

FORT HENRY, TENN., February 7, 1862.

Through the courtesy of Brigadier-General U. S. Grant, commanding Federal forces, I am permitted to communicate with you in relation to the result of the action between the fort under my command at this place and the Federal gunboats on yesterday. At 11:40 o'clock on yesterday morning the enemy engaged the fort with seven gunboats, mounting fifty-four guns. I promptly returned their fire with eleven guns, bearing on the river. The action was maintained with great bravery by the force under my command until 1:50 p. m., at which time I had but four guns fit for service. At 1:55 p. m., finding it impossible to maintain the fort, and wishing to spare the lives of the gallant men under my command, on consultation with my officers, I surrendered the fort. Our casualties are small. The effect of our shot was severely felt by the enemy, whose superior and overwhelming force alone gave them the advantage.

The surrender of Fort Henry involved that of Captain Taylor and Lieutenants Watts and Weller and one other officer of artillery; Captains [J. A. ] Hayden and Miller of the Engineers; Captains H. L. Jones and McLaughlin, Quartermaster's Department, and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General McConnico and myself, with some 50 privates and 20 sick, together with all the munitions of war in and about the fort. I communicate this result with deep regret, but I feel that I performed my whole duty in the defense of my post.

I take occasion to bear testimony to the gallantry of the officers and men under my command. They sustained their position with consummate bravery as long as there was any hope of success. I also take great pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy and consideration shown by Brigadier-General U. S. Grant and Commodore Foote and the officers under their command.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LLOYD TILGHMAN, *Brigadier-General, C. S. Army.*

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 552-553.

**February 7, 1862 - Inflation of the currency: Bank of Tennessee "Change Notes."**

The Bank of Tennessee has already issued over \$80,000 of its Change Notes, and the demand seems to be as great as ever. A proposition is now before the Legislature to authorize the Branches of the Planters' and Union Banks to issue checks on their respective parent Banks in this city, in denominations less than one dollar, to circulate as Bank Notes. It has received the approval of the Com-

mittee on Banks in the House of Representatives, and will probably become law.

We learn from our exchanges that the notes of the Central Bank of Tennessee are in circulation. This Bank exploded some five or six years ago, and is still worthless. Keep a look out for this issue.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

**February 7, 1862 - "Rain and Mud."**

For about one month past we have had rain almost every day. Such a continuous and persistent "spell" of bad weather has not occurred for years so the old folks say. One result of it is a condition of our streets, such as was never known before. The accumulated dirt and filth of some two years has been chemically rendered into slosh, so that Franklin street is as terrible to one, wanting to cross it, as Styx is to a ghost without Charon's fee. While we write, however, a gleam of sunshine has broken upon our mud-stricken city, which, we hope, is an omen of dryer times.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

**February 7, 1862 - "Dim Lights."**

It seems to us that the public lamps have of late been put on short allowance of gas. The streets do not appear to be as well lighted as usual. If there is a stroke of economy, in the worshipful gas company, we could suggest a little advance in the price and a return to the old allowance. In these times of mud and slosh we must have light.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

**February 7, 1862 - Fort Henry and Yankee Lies**

•*See February 7, 1862--Governor Isham G. Harris announces the fall of Fort Henry to Confederate authorities in Richmond by telegraph*

Too Fast.—Some sharp correspondent of a Cincinnati paper, writing from Cairo, at a the time of the gun-boat expedition up the Tennessee river, said that, after a pretty sharp cannonading in which the Lincolnites did immense execution with shot and shell, Fort Henry and its garrison of 3,000 men were incontinently surrendered to the invincible armada of the Union!

Such is a fair specimen of the way the Lincolnites lie about every military movement they make. Gulliver isn't a touch to their newspapers for profound and voluminous lying.

Official News.- For two three days past we have been receiving very important news of the movements of the Lincolnites about Forts Henry and Donelson. On Tuesday the gunboats approached to within three miles of Henry conveying

three transports, and landed troops on the Tennessee side. Some thirty shots were exchanged with the gunboats, without any serious damage to it. It is believed that one of the boats was crippled by our guns.

At the same time a fleet of gunboats and transports came up Cumberland river, and landed troops about 18 miles below Fort Donelson. The troops landed are said to be principally cavalry, and the number is variously estimated at from 4,000 to 16,000.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

### **February 7, 1862 - Report on the funeral of General Zollicoffer**

The remains of the late Gen. Zollicoffer reached Nashville on the 1st inst. and were received at the depot by a large concourse of citizens. The body was placed in state in the Representative Hall of the Capitol, where it remained until the next day, when the funeral ceremonies took place, Bishop Otey and other officiating. The concourse of military and citizens that attended the remains to the grave was the largest ever seen in Nashville.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 7, 1862.

### **February 7, 1862 - The muck of Memphis**

Mud! Mud!-Everywhere; mud is predominant. Efforts are made, in a despairing way, to keep the crossings of the main streets in a passable condition, but they much resembled the attempts of the angry old lady who strove to keep the waters from the tide entering the house by strenuous exertions with a broom. The ladies are prisoners as close as the houris in a Turkish harem, like the caged parrot, they "can't get out;" and the men have the streets to themselves, which is no improvement to the appearance of "all out doors" in Memphis. Hurry on those street railroads. Ladies, why don't you rebel, and-declare that not a lord of creation shall have another smile or ladies' favor until they are making a "long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether," to have street railroads, so that, spite of the mud, you could have the liberty of the streets, shew your new bonnets, and do your shopping. How many stores, that for the last two weeks, have been bare of business as heaven is of visitors from Chicago, could have been making money if the railway cars came rolling up Main street every half hour pouring down customers at their doors. The aldermen are busy discussing a plan to build a hall for themselves, which they can do very well without; let some attention be bestowed, and without delay, on what the citizens require as a necessary thing for their business, and the ladies an absolute requirement for their comfort. The street railway will cost the city nothing, on the contrary, it will pay largely toward the city taxation. The money is ready, the material is ready, only let the City Council say the word and we shall have street railways in a trice, and then a fig for the mud.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 7, 1862.

**February 8, 1862 - Destruction of Memphis & Bowling Green Railroad bridge over Tennessee River near Fort Henry by U. S. N.**

U. S. Gunboat *Carondelet* Fort Henry, Tennessee River, February 8, 1862.

Sir: I have just returned from destroying the bridges of the Memphis and Bowling Green Railroad (up this river), where I was instructed to proceed by General Grant on the 7th instant. Colonel [J. D. ] Webster, with other officers, and two companies of sharpshooters, accompanied me to do the job.

We found the place deserted by rebel troops, who left their tents, wagons, etc., some of which we brought here.

~ ~ ~

Most respectfully, your obedient servant

H. Walke, Commander, U. S. Navy

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, p. 575.

**February 8, 1862 - "My anxiety about Frank is intense;" apprehension about the future in Nashville**

Nashville Feb 8th 1862

Dear Bettie

I received your letter of the 2nd this morning. I am glad to hear Rebecca is well but sorry Mr Kimberly is suffering with rheumatism. I have nothing to write you this week dear Bettie but painful news. Fort Henry has been taken by the Federal troops with a loss on our side of three or four killed and eighty taken prisoners. Our men retreated in good order, saved their guns I am glad to say, instead of throwing them away as in the disgraceful stampede of Fishing Creek. Our field pieces however we were obliged to leave. My anxiety about Frank is intense. He is at Fort Donelson (11 miles from Fort Henry) where a desperate battle is hourly expected. It is thought they may now be fighting there. The battle must be a hard fought and decided one but it is believed we have the force and bravery concentrated there to be victorious. That we may have, and I pray God that we may repulse them or Nashville is gone. Nashville is thought by many of our most reliable people to be in imminent danger. If they come and we can't defend ourselves we are prepared to welcome them to a pile of ruins, our people would immediately fire every place that could afford them quarters or in any way benefit from them. If they come I hope to be able to entertain a large number. I would with pleasure give each a cup of coffee and I think it would be the last any of them would ever drink. I think Nashville [is] in great danger and have wished very much to send your portrait together with the two of Henry to Chapel Hill, but Mr. Sehon advised me not to do it, as it could not be done but with great difficulty, and probably in the present disturbed and burdened State of the roads they could not reach Chapel Hill safely.

I can think of nothing but dear Frank and his danger. Ma is nearly crazy about him and on her account I have to appear hopeful but I feel more gloomy than I have ever felt about the war. It is seriously believed that Gen Johnston will soon order from Nashville to some safer point all the Government Stores, the Quartermasters stores, the Ordnance and Commissary's, when of course Mr. Sehon will have to go. But I should regret that only on account of the circumstances being such as to render it impossible to retain the supplies in Nashville. As far as I am personally concerned I would thank Heaven that I could leave Nashville to go any where upon the face of the habitable globe that I could board until the war is over and we can go to housekeeping. As long as Mr. Sehon is in the Army and may any moment have to leave it is useless to think of commencing housekeeping. I have been so dissatisfied that Mr. Sehon determined to risk it and rent a house, but on mentioning to some of his friends his expectations, he was told [by] men of influence & other officers that it would ruin him in the estimation of the officers in the Army, that it would look to them as though he was determined to settle down with no expectation of being ordered away. He told me this but was still willing to do any thing to make me feel satisfied. Of course I say nothing more about housekeeping as I will never do any thing that will make me feel that my course has done my husband an injury, but daily I become more restless and dissatisfied. In comparison with myself I consider you blessed in having a home of your own. I would I assure you joyfully exchange circumstances for the war.

You ask if your enema is safe. Yes perfectly and if you are willing to trust it by express I will send it to you. Tell me in your next about the vaccine matter. I do not know that there is any in Nashville, but I will try to get some from one of the physicians.

Your affectionate sister

A. [nnie] M. S. [ehon]

Kimberly Family Correspondence

**ca. February 8, 1862 - Seizure of wheat and flour by U. S. S. Tyler at Clifton**

Excerpt from the Report of Lieutenant. Gwin, U. S. Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Tyler*, regarding the cruise of that vessel on the Tennessee River, February 6-10, 1862, relative to the seizure of wheat and flour at Clifton, ca. February 8, 1862

Sir:

~ ~ ~

Learning that a large quantity of wheat and flour was stored in Clifton, Tenn., intended, of course, to be shipped to the South, a large portion of it having been bought for a firm in Memphis, on my way down I landed there and took on board about a thousand sacks and 100 barrels of flour and some 6,000 bushels

of wheat. I considered it my duty to take possession. . . to prevent its being seized by the rebels or disposed of in rebel country.

~ ~ ~

Wm. Gwin, Lieutenant Commanding.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, p. 634.

**February 9, 1862 - Brigadier-General Gideon J. Pillow pledges "Liberty or death" in defense of Fort Donelson**

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 1. HDQRS., Dover, Tenn., February 9, 1862.

Brig.-Gen. Pillow assumes command of the forces at this place. He relies with confidence upon the courage and fidelity of the brave officers and men under his command to maintain the post. Drive back the ruthless invader from our soil again raise the Confederate flag over Fort Henry. He expects every man to do his duty. With God's help we will accomplish our purpose. Our battle cry, "Liberty or death."

By order of Brig.-Gen. Pillow:

GUS. A. HENRY, JR., Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 867-868.

**February 9, 1862 - Amphibious assault on Confederate camp of instruction near Savannah**

•*See February 6, 1862-February 10, 1862-Pursuit of Confederate steamers by U. S. N.*

**February 10, 1862 - Confederate East Tennessean J. G. M. Ramsey to Jefferson Davis relative to 100,000 hogs and fears of a Federal invasion of East Tennessee**

KNOXVILLE, February 10, 1862

HON. Jeff. Davis

HON. Sir, etc:

Let me suggest that your Government has the meat of 100,000 hogs at several points along our railroad from Bristol to Chattanooga. If East Tennessee is invaded (which I fully believe can be done in any forty-eight hours under an enterprising leader and a force of cavalry) these stores. . . ought to be sent to upper Georgia, or certainly to Chattanooga, by steam boat or rail, or both, or some one should be authorized to burn and destroy it rather than allow the enemy to get it. Let me suggest, too, that the forces here be not removed to any point out of East Tennessee. I hear that Colonel [James W. ] Gillespie's regiment expects in a few days to join General Crittenden's headquarters via Nashville. When he take thus one-third of our small force from this point it will invite the enemy to make an immediate raid upon us, capture this post, take

possession of our roads, bridges, and supplies. Can you not therefore countermand any order by which Colonel [James W. ] Gillespie, or any other commander here in East Tennessee, is directed to march his troops out of this threatened section? I hope a former suggestion has been received and acted upon, viz.,: to send some efficient commander to this point. We, the secessionists not regularly enrolled, have determined to act as minutemen when the invasion takes place, and there is no one here fitted by experience and position. . . to rally around. The country is perfectly defenseless, not troops enough to guard the public stores, below 3,000 men all told, and one fourth of these unarmed, and these not concentrated, but at Cumberland Gap, or at our bridges, or scouting near the largest passes across the mountain. Then, two-thirds of the masses are either hostile or neutral, If Floyd or even Colonel Vaughn was her to issue orders and get us organized we can do something to repel a small invading force. As it is, we cannot see what to do or where to go. Do have some efficient and enterprising officer sent her at once and re-enforcements and private citizens can form a nucleus around which we can rally. I have not the first doubt of your ultimate success, but this valley, these railroads, it seems to me, ought to be specially guarded. God is on our side, but the instrumentality of man is to be resorted to also.

In haste, your obedient servant,

J. G. M. Ramsey

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 52, pt. II, pp. 267-268.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Davis ordered his secretary of war to acknowledge the letter and "Assure that all and more than is suggested has been directed, of which he will be further advised by the Secretary of War."

### ***February 10, 1862 - Raid near Morgan County***

Report of Captain William L. Brown, 1st Tennessee Cavalry Regiment on the February 10, 1862 raid near Morgan County.

HEADQUARTERS, C& [SCHOOLER, TENNESSEE], February 11, 1862.

Sir: I have the honor to report to you that we sent out eight of my men last night to catch some men that had just returned from the Lincoln army.

The boys surrounded the house and demanded entrance. They refused to open the door until they had got their guns, cartridge boxes, equipments, etc., and then said to our boys, "Now, d\_\_n you, open the door and come in, we are ready for you," whereupon Maston Henry stuck his gun through the crack and shot one of them, named Billy Wilson, through the head, killing him instantly. The other then surrendered; we took him prisoner.

We got two fine northern muskets, cartridge boxes, etc. I start the prisoner to Nashville this morning.

I send you a Yankee watch chain, taken from the man killed, with a piece of a southern man's skin tied on the end, so says the prisoner.

I am anxious to have you with us.

Very respectfully, William O. Brown, Captain, Commanding Second Squad,  
First Tennessee Regiment Cavalry

*Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies,*

Ser. I, Vol. 1, p. 520. **NOTE 1**

**NOTE 1:** *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, (Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1994). [Hereinafter: *SOR*, Ser. \_\_, Vol. \_\_, etc.]

**February 10, 1862 - Partial destruction of bridge over the Tennessee River by Federals**

CAMP TWELVE MILES EAST OF PARIS,

February 10, 1862—1 p. m.

Maj.-Gen. POLK:

SIR: One hundred feet of the trestle work on each side of the bridge over the Tennessee River had been destroyed by the enemy. Heavy firing has been heard this morning in the direction of Fort Donelson. I am now on my way to execute your orders in respect to the bridges and trestle work between Paris and the river. I still think it unnecessary, as we could destroy it at any moment. A large quantity of wheat and flour can yet be gotten away, and the people are relying upon the railroad to remove their things. Please reply immediately.

J. H. MILLER, Lieut.-Col., Cmdg.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 872.

**February 10, 1862 - Anticipating the future: joint resolution to provide for the removal of the Seat of Tennessee's Confederate Government**

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the Governor and heads of Executive Departments may, at any time during the existence of the present war, by proclamation of the Governor, temporarily change the Seat of Government, remove the papers and records in the Executive Departments; and the Governor, by proclamation, shall convene the Legislature, when he deems it necessary, at the place determined upon as the temporary Seat of Government for the State of Tennessee.

Edwin A. Keeble, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Edward S. Cheatham, Speaker for the Senate

Adopted February 10, 1862.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

*Public Acts of the State of Tennessee for 1861-1862*, p. 90.

**NOTE 1:** Given that Fort Donelson would fall in just six days it seems propitious that the political leaders of the state were so far sighted as to prepare for this contingency when they couldn't even get enough arms for Tennesseans who volunteered or were drafted to fight.

### ***February 10, 1862 - Bordello Affair in Memphis***

Shooting at a Woman.-The name of "Big Mary" is notorious from the frequency with which the owner of it appears at the Recorder's and Magistrate's courts. On Monday [10th], a man with whom she cohabits entered her house, on Gayoso street, and found a man occupying the place in a manner he considered an infringement upon his own rights. He commenced an attack in a manner that lead the intruder to pick up his boots, and other personal property, and run off in his drawers. The man sent a "leaden messenger" from his pistol after him, which failed to reach the aim. He then turned on the unfaithful Big Mary, and fired at her three times. The last ball struck her on the right side of the head, grazing the skull, and causing the loss of considerable blood. The injury, however, is not serious. The man, who probably believed he had killed her, fled, and has not yet been arrested.

*Memphis Daily Appeal*, February 13, 1862.

### ***February 11, 1862 - Destitute Confederate soldiers and their families to be provided for by the State of Tennessee; the Volunteer State's Civil War welfare system***

CHAPTER 52. An Act to provide for the families of Indigent Soldiers.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the sum of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually, for the years 1862 and 1863, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the relief of the families of indigent soldiers now in service of the State of Tennessee, or the Confederate service from this State.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That to raise said fund the whole amount of revenue now in the treasury, or which may hereafter be paid into the treasury, for the above named years, from any and all sources for common school purposes, except the sum of one hundred thousand dollars per annum, and all property and monies accruing to the school fund from escheats, and two thousand dollars in lieu of land tax, is hereby appropriated; and there is hereby levied an annual tax for the years 1862 and 1863, of nine cents on each one hundred dollars' worth of property in this State, now subject to tax by law; twenty-five cents on each one hundred dollars worth of merchandise purchased for sale, whether in or out of the State, and twenty-five per cent additional tax upon all other privileges; said tax to be collected and paid into the treasury of the State,

as the other revenue of the State now is, by the Revenue Collectors of the several counties, for which said Collectors shall received one-fourth of the commissions allowed them for collecting other taxes.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That said fund shall be paid by the Treasury, quarterly in advance, out of any monies, not otherwise appropriated, to the order of the County Trustees for the several counties of this State, in proportion to the number of indigent families, and the number in each family, to be ascertained as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That the Judge, or Chairman of the County Court, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and their successors in office, for each county, be and they are hereby constituted a "Board ex officio," one of who shall be Secretary for each county to be called the "Board of Relief," for the families of indigent soldiers, whose duty it shall be to appoint one of more Commissioners in each Civil District in the county, or each ward in any city, but not to exceed three in any one district or ward, and to perform such other duties as are imposed by this Act, and in the event of the failure or refusal of the above named officers in any county to act on said Board, the Governor of the State shall appoint three citizens of such county, who shall constitute the Board.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of such Commissioners in each civil district or ward to ascertain the number of indigent families, and members of such families of soldiers in the service from their respective districts or wards, as soon after the passage of this act as possible, and quarterly thereafter, and make respective reports, on oath to said board by the first day of March, or as soon as practicable, and quarterly thereafter; and it shall be the duty of said Board immediately to report the whole number of indigent families, and members of said families, of soldiers in the service from such county, to the Treasurer of the State, which shall be filed in his office.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the County Trustee to pay over monthly, upon the warrant of the Chairman of said Board, countersigned by the Secretary, to said Commissioners in each district or ward, to be ascertained by said Board which shall be applied by such Commissioners to the support of such indigent families, having due regard to the number in the families, their condition and necessities.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Commissioners to make quarterly settlements, on oath with said Board, showing the evidences of the disbursement of the funds so audited to them; and it shall be the duty of said Board to keep a record of such settlements in a well bound book, to be kept for that purpose.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, That the County Trustees of each county in this State are hereby required to enter into bond and security, to be approved of by the County Court, for the faithful performance of the duties required by this Act; and said Trustees shall receive one-half of one per cent. on the sums

received and paid out by them, as compensation for the services herein required of them.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted, That the families of soldiers who are killed, or who die while in the service, shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act, for the time that said soldier had enlisted, and the families of widows, who have sons in the service, upon whose labor said families are dependent, are also entitled to its benefits.

SEC 10. Be it further enacted, That to meet the exigencies of the present year, the Governor is hereby authorized to borrow, for the use of the Treasury, the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars from the Bank of Tennessee, and to issue Coupon Bonds to the President and Directors of said Bank, to the amount so borrowed, having ten years to run, with the privilege of payment at any time within that time, and bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable on the first day of January and the first day of July of each year, at the counter of said Bank, at Nashville, which sum shall be apportioned and paid out by the Treasurer to the several County Trustees as provided in this Act.

SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, That if any of the County Courts of this State have borrowed or otherwise raided, or expended money for the purpose of supporting the families of indigent soldiers, for the present year, it shall be lawful for said Board appointed under this Act, to reimburse the counties for monies so expended, out of the money received under the provisions of this Act. And it shall be also lawful for such County Courts of this State as have levied a tax for the year 1862, for the purposes aforesaid, to rescind the order or Act levying such tax.

SEC. 12. Be it further enacted, That this Act will take effect from and after its passage.

EDWIN A. KEEBLE, Speaker of House of Representatives.

EDWARD S. CHEATHAM, Speaker of the Senate

Passed February 11, 1862.

*Public Acts of the State of Tennessee. . . 1861-1862, pp. 66-69.*<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** *Public Acts of the State of Tennessee, Passed at the First & Second Sessions of the THIRTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, For the Years 1861-62, (Nashville: Griffith, Camp & Co. State Printers Union and American Office, 1862), pp. 66-69.*

### **February 11, 1862 - Shaming young men into joining the Confederate army**

A "Broomstick Battalion."-We learn from a lady friend that a project is on foot among the gentler sex of Memphis, to organize a "broomstick battalion" for the especial protection of such young gentlemen as are indisposed to enlist in the military service for the protection of their country. Nice young men that attend

"small tea parties," wear kid gloves, and have their hair dressed five or six times a week by the barber, will receive their particular attention.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 11, 1862.

**February 11, 1862 - Private in the 5th Iowa Cavalry Charles Alley's impressions of Fort Donelson**

We arrived here on Tuesday last [11th] and landed the same day. The cannon of the "Fort" looked black and gloomy at us but they are harmless now. The "Fort" is a space of several acres enclosed by a ditch about 15 feet wide and 8 or 10 deep. The river was very high, over the low grounds, and the lower part of the fort was overflowed. There were 17 guns in the works, one a 128 pounder, one a rifled gun which burst. A smaller ditch was carried out I think not less than a mile and a half from the river. Then a piece of woods not cut down, then about forty rods wide of timber cut down so as to stop cavalry or artillery, and to be difficult for infantry. A great deal of labor to be lost in an hour. We encamped on a gentle rise a short distance south of the fort. We had clear a place for our camp, but the rebels had cut down all the heavy timber for us, thereby saving us some hard labor. The weather was fine.

Civil War Diary of Lieutenant Charles Alley, Company "C," 5th Iowa Cavalry<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Civil War Diary of Lieutenant Charles Alley, Company "C," 5th Iowa Cavalry, TSLA Civil War Collection, typescript. [Hereinafter cited as: Alley Diary. If not otherwise designated, the entry is date specific.]

**February 11, 1862 - Cavalry Skirmish near Joel Boyd's**

•*See February 12, 1862--Letter from H. C. Lockhart to his wife, Kittie E. Lockhart, relative to anticipation of the battle of Fort Donelson*

**February 12, 1862 - Letter from H. C. Lockhart to his wife, Kittie E. Lockhart, relative to anticipation of the battle of Fort Donelson**

Fort Donelson, Feby 12, 1862

Mrs. "Kittie" E. Lockhart

My dear Wife:

I again have an opportunity to writing to you by Mr. Lewis T. Hughes which I gladly embrace[.] I have nothing of very great importance to add to what I stated in my letter of the 10th inst. except that our cavalry had a skirmish with the Federal Cavalry near Joel Boyds on yesterday and took one prisoner and perhaps killed one or two, but it is reported that after that that the Federal[s] slipped upon two of our picket guards, and took them prisoners. I see one of out Pickets that has been stationed at Eddyville (Kentucky) came in this morn-

ing and reported that 2 gunboats passed there last night [at] 7 or 8 o'clock on their way of the river it is not 12 o'clock M. and the smoke of the boats are now in sight. If my Hughes does not leave until evening I will try and give you an account of what they do. We are pretty largely re-enforced and if they do not look sharp we will give them a good drubbing if they come upon us by land. tho' I must confess that I have not much confidence in the capacity of our heavy guns to compete with those they have on the gunboat. You may congratulate yourself upon having left Dover when you did, for every single citizen has been ordered away but "old men" Cook and Old Man Settle<sup>NOTE 1</sup> and the town is utterly demolished and robbed. <sup>NOTE 2</sup> I would not have had you there amid the jam and bustle for anything conceivable. Fortune may will that I shall not see you again, but I am hopeful that I will, if I should not[,] if I should not it will gratify me to know that you will be prudent enough to keep yourself as far away as possible from the scene of strife.

Your affectionate husband,

H. C. Lockhart, Lt. Col., 50th Regt. Tenn.

My dear Wife:

Since writing the above, the gunboats came up in sight and fired on our batteries several times but did not do us any damage, at the same time there was a heavy skirmish on land in the directions of Rosemont's and Hinson's between our cavalry and theirs (as I suppose)[.] There can be no doubt, the intend attacking us immediately both by land and water and I do not think it will be longer off than tomorrow.

The Gun Boats did splendid shooting. we did not fire on the boats, we did not wish them to learn the range of our guns, after the Gunboats retired, we fired our rifle cannon and made an admirable shot. Tomorrow will bring great events in this vicinity in my opinion.

I hope for the best. We must succeed!

May God bless you! Now 3 o'clock P. M.

Your affectionate husband,

H. C. Lockhart

W. P. A. Civil War Records, Vol. 4, pp. 84-85.

**NOTE 1:** Not identified.

**NOTE 2:** This appears to mean that a mob of soldiers and/or civilians burned and looted Dover, or perhaps some nearby temporary settlement of sutlers and camp followers. A study of the *Atlas* indicates there was no nearby town. There is no reference to this in the *OR*, and so the matter remains unsubstantiated. After taking the fort Grant issued orders prohibiting such conduct: GEN. ORDERS, No. 3. HDQRS. DIST. OF WEST TENNESSEE, Fort Donelson,

February 18, 1862. All commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates are prohibited from entering the town of Dover or any houses therein situated without permission in writing of their regimental commanders. All captured property belongs to the Government, and no officer, non-commissioned officer, or private will be permitted to have or retain possession of captured property of any kind. Any officer violating the above order will be at once arrested. Any non-commissioned officer or private will be arrested and confined in the guard-houses, and all captured property taken from them and turned over to the district quartermaster. Col. Leggett is hereby appointed to see to the strict enforcement of the above, using his whole command for that purpose, if necessary. By order of Brig.-Gen. Grant: *OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 633.

### **February 12, 1862 - Destruction of Confederate Steamboats on the Tennessee River**

[Extract from the *Richmond Dispatch*, February 12, 1862.]

MEMPHIS, *February 11.*-There has been a heavy loss of steamboats on the Tennessee River, in consequence of the invasion by the Federal gunboats *Lexington*, *Conestoga*, and *Sam Orr*. On Saturday the *Appleton Belle* and *Lynn Boyd*, Confederate boats, were burned by our troops at the mouth of Duck River. The *Sam Kirkman*, *Julius*, and *Time*, also Confederate boats (the latter with 100,000 worth of Government stores), were abandoned and burned at Florence on Saturday. The steamer *Dunbar* was sunk in Cypress Creek; the *Eastport* was sunk. The *Cerro Gordo* and *Sallie Ward* were the only Confederate boats captured by the Federals. The *Robb* escaped.

The Federal gunboats have left the river, but were expected to return. They took 20,000 pounds of salt pork from Florence, but refused to touch private property, not even cotton.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 822-823.

### **February 12, 1862 - Some Confederate press reports concerning the war in Tennessee**

[Telegram]

BALTIMORE, February 12, 1862.

The following dispatches relate to Federal movements in Tennessee. The Southern papers contain following interesting items:

~ ~ ~

SAVANNAH, HARDIN COUNTY, TENN., February 10.-About 10 o'clock yesterday the railroad bridge over the Tennessee River was held by 250 Federals. The work had not been injured by the enemy. They say that within two weeks they will have possession of the entire road.

NASHVILLE, February 10.-Passengers who arrived here this evening by steamboat state that our scouts report that the Federal infantry and cavalry

were within 4 miles of Fort Donelson on yesterday. Other passengers say that the Federal gunboats were in sight of the fort on yesterday. A private dispatch from Clarksville to-day says that Fort Donelson is safe and can not be taken. The Federals destroyed several spans of the bridge at Florence connecting with Tusculumbia. There were six steamboats at Florence, two of which were captured. The other four were set on fire and burned by the citizens of Florence. A private dispatch received this evening from Decatur says everything is quiet. The trains will run regularly on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

~ ~ ~

FULTON.

Captain Fox.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 578-579.

**February 12, 1862 - Cavalry Skirmish near Rosemont's and Henson's**

•*See February 12, 1862--Letter from H. C. Lockhart to his wife, Kittie E. Lockhart, relative to anticipation of the battle of Fort Donelson*

**February 12, 1862 - February 16, 1862 - Siege & capture of Fort Donelson**<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

Report of Col. A. Heiman, Tenth Tennessee Infantry, commanding brigade.

RICHMOND, VA., August 9, 1862.

SIR: My imprisonment since the surrender of the troops at Fort Donelson has prevented me from reporting the operations of the brigade under my command during the action at Fort Donelson before now. In the absence of Gen. Pillow, who commanded the division to which my brigade was attached, it becomes my duty, and I have the honor, to submit to you the following report:

After the battle of Fort Henry, on February 6 last, I was directed by Gen. Tilghman, then in command of the defenses of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, to retreat with the garrison of the fort by the upper road to Fort Donelson. The garrison consisted, besides the company of artillery which was surrendered with the fort, of two, the first commanded by myself and the second by Col. Drake, consisting of an aggregate of about 2,600 men. After a very tedious march we reached Fort Donelson at 12 o'clock at night, where Col. Head, of the Thirtieth Tennessee, was in command during the absence of Gen. Tilghman. Expecting the arrival of Gen. B. R. Johnson and other general officers in a few days I did not assume command, which would have been my duty, being next in command to Gen. Tilghman.

Gen. Johnson arrived on the 8th, Gen. Pillow on the 9th, Gen. Buckner on the 12th, and Gen. Floyd on the 13th of February.

The brigade assigned to my command consisted of the Tenth Tennessee, Lieut.-Col. MacGavock; Forty-second Tennessee, Col. Quarles; Forty-eight Tennessee, Col. Voorhies; Fifty-third Tennessee, Col. Abernathy; Twenty-sev-

enth Alabama, Col. Hughes, and Capt. Maney's light battery, amounting in all to an aggregate of about 1,600 men.

This brigade formed the right of Gen. Pillow's division, and was in line on the left of the division of Gen. Buckner, who commanded the right wing.

The ground I occupied in line of defense was a hill somewhat in the shape of a V, with the apex at the angle, which was the advance point as well as the center of my command, and nearly the center of the whole line of defense. From this point the ground descended abruptly on each side to a valley. The valley on my right was about 500 yards in width, and divided my command from Gen. Buckner's left wing. The one on my left was about half that width, and ran between my left wing and the brigade commanded by Col. Drake. These two valleys united about half a mile in the rear. The ground in front of my line (2,600 feet in length) was sloping down to a ravine and was heavily timbered.

We commenced digging rifle pits and felling abatis on the 11th, and continued this work during the following night, under the directions of Maj. Gilmer and Lieut. Morris, engineers, the latter belonging to Gen. Tilghman's staff. The pits were occupied by Lieut.-Col. MacGavock's regiment on the right, Col. Voorhies' regiment on the left, Col.'s Abernathy's and Hughes' regiments and Maney's battery in the center. Col. Quarles' regiment I held in reserve, but several of his companies also had to occupy the pits, the other regiments not being sufficient to cover the whole line. Col. Head, of the Thirtieth Tennessee Regiment, occupied the valley between my command and Col. Drake's brigade. I was afterward informed that this regiment was also placed under my command, but, the colonel not having reported to me, I did not know it.

In the mean time the enemy commenced forming his line by investment and his pickets were seen in every direction. Early on the morning of the 12th he had two batteries placed in range of my position, one on my left and front, and the other on the other side of the valley, on my right. Both were in the edge of the woods and under cover, while Capt. Maney's battery, on the summit of the hill, was entirely exposed not only to the enemy's artillery, but also to their sharpshooters. No time could yet have been spared to protect his guns by a parapet; besides, we were ill-provided with tools for that purpose. However, our battery had some advantage over the battery on my left in altitude, and had also a full range of a large and nearly level field to the left, which the enemy had to cross to attack Col. Drake's position or my own from that direction. In that respect and some other points the position of my battery was superb.

The enemy's battery on my right had only range of part of my right wing, but was in a better position to operate on Gen. Buckner's left wing. Both batteries opened fire at 7 o'clock in the morning and kept it up until 5 o'clock in the evening, firing at any position on our line within their range. Their fire was returned by Maney's battery, Graves' battery of Col. Brown's command, and a battery at Col. Drake's position. The enemy's guns were nearly all rifled, which gave them a great advantage in range and otherwise. However, with the excep-

tion of the loss of two artillery horses, my command met with no other serious casualties on that day.

At night I strengthened my pickets and directed Lieut.-Col. MacGavock to throw a strong picket across the valley on my right. There were no rifle pits or any other defenses in that valley, although a road leading from Dover to Paris Landing, on the Tennessee River, runs through it Col. Cook, of Col. Brown's brigade, co-operate with Lieut.-Col. MacGavock in guarding this point afterwards. Strong parties were kept at work during the whole night in improving the rifle pits and felling abatis.

Daylight next morning (13th) showed that the enemy was not idle either. During the night he placed another battery in position on my left, and the one on my right and center and on Capt. Graves' battery. He had also thrown across the main valley two lines of infantry (advance and rear), about three-quarters of a mile from our line, and the firing of all his batteries was resumed early in the morning and was promptly answered by our batteries. One of the gunners had both his hands shot off while in the act of inserting the friction primer.

At about 11 o'clock my pickets came in, informing me of the advance of a large column of the enemy. Having myself been convinced of that fact, and finding that they were deploying their columns in the woods in front of my right and center, I directed Capt. Maney to shell the woods, and use grape and canister when they came within the proper range, which was promptly executed. Capt. Graves, seeing the enemy advancing upon my line, with excellent judgment opened his battery upon them across the valley. In the mean time their sharpshooters had approached my line through the woods, fired their rifles from behind the trees, killing and wounding Maney's gunners in quick succession. First Lieut. Burns was one of the first who fell. Second Lieut. Massie was also mortally wounded; but the gallant Maney, with the balance of his men, stood by their guns like true horses, and kept firing into their lines, which steadily advanced within 40 yards of our rifle pits, determined to force my right wing and center. Now the firing commenced from the whole line of rifle pits in quick succession. This constant roar of musketry from both lines was kept up for about fifteen minutes, when the enemy were repulsed; but they were rallied, and vigorously attacked us the second and third time, but with the same result, and they finally retired. They could not stand our galling fire. The dry leaves on the ground were set on fire by our batteries, and, I regret to state, several of their wounded perished in the flames. The pickets I sent out after their retreat brought in about 60 muskets and other equipments they had left behind. I learned from two prisoners who were brought in that the attack was made by the Seventeenth, Forty-eighth, and Forty-ninth Illinois Regiments, and have since learned from their own report that they lost in that attack 40 killed and 200 wounded.

Our loss I cannot accurately state, nor am I able to give the names of killed and wounded, as subsequent events prevented me from getting reports of the different commanders; but I am sure that my loss is not over 10 killed and about 30

wounded, nearly all belonging to Capt. Maney's artillery and Col. Abernathy's regiment, which was at that time under the command of Lieut.-Col. Winston. The firing from their batteries continued all day.

Late in the evening Gen. Pillow re-enforced me with section of a light battery, under Capt. Parker. The night was unusually cold and disagreeable. Snow and sleet fell during the whole night; nevertheless we constructed a formidable parapet in front of the battery, in which I was actively assisted by Maj. Grace, of the Tenth Tennessee. This hard and most unpleasant labor was chiefly performed by Col. Quarles' regiment. It was a horrible night, and the troops suffered dreadfully, being without blankets.

Next day (14th), finding the enemy again in line across the valley, and believing that he would attempt to force my line on my right, I directed Capt. Maney to move a section of his battery down the hill, in range of the valley. The advance of the enemy towards this direction would then have been checked by Graves' and Maney's batteries, and the fires of MacGavock's and Cook's regiments from the right and left; but no demonstration was made in that direction, although I considered it the weakest point in our line. During the whole day my command was exposed to a cross-fire of the enemy's batteries and were much annoyed by their sharpshooters.

At 11 o'clock at night I was summoned to attend a consultation of general officers at Gen. Floyd's headquarters. The general opinion prevailed that the place could not be held against at least treble the number of our forces, besides their gunboats, and that they could cut off our communication at any time and force a surrender; therefore it was agreed to attack the enemy's right wing in force at 4 o'clock in the morning, and then to act according to circumstances, either to continue the fight or to cut through their lines and retreat towards Nashville. Gen. Buckner was to move a little later and attack the enemy's flank at the moment he gave way to our forces in his front. I was directed to hold my position. Col. Bailey was to remain in the fort (near the river), and Head's regiment was to occupy the vacated rifle pits of Gen. Buckner's command. I doubted very much that these positions, isolated as they were from each other, could be held if attacked, and I stated my fears to Gen. Floyd, who replied, if I was pressed to fall back on the fort or act as circumstances would dictate.

At the appointed hour on the 15th the different brigades moved to their assigned positions. Maj. Rice, aide-de-camp to Gen. Pillow, brought an order to me from Gen. Buckner to send a regiment forward and hold the Wynn's Ferry road until the arrival of Gen. Buckner's division. This duty I assigned to Col. Quarles' regiment, which returned after the fulfillment of this order. Maj. Cunningham, chief of artillery (directed by Gen. Floyd), reported to me that two light batteries were at my disposal. Having more guns than I could use to an advantage, and not a sufficient number of gunners to work them, I respectfully declined the offer, but requested him to send me efficient gunners for at least one battery. This was done. Maj. Cunningham came with them and remained with me for some time. During the day my guns were used to the best

advantage, and at one time with excellent effect, against the enemy's cavalry, who immediately after were pursued by Forrest's cavalry.

About noon I was directed by an aide-de-camp of Gen. Buckner to guard the fire of my battery, as he intended to send a column to charge one of the enemy's batteries. Seeing these regiments pass my left in the open field, and being aware that my left wing could not be attacked at that time, I sent two regiments from my left (Col. Voorhies' and Col. Hughes') to their support; but before they reach the ground the three attacking regiments were withdrawn. The battery was not taken, and my regiments returned. Early in the evening the different troops were ordered back to their respective rifle pits, but the fighting continued at different points until night.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of the 16th Lieut. Moorman, aide-de-camp to Gen. Johnson, brought the order to vacate the rifle pits without the least noise and to follow the movement of the troops on my left, stating at the same time that it was the intention to fight through their lines before the break of day. All the forces were concentrated near Dover, under the command of Gen. Johnson. In the mean time white flags were placed on the works of our former lines, and by the time the sun rose above the horizon our forces were surrendered.

Much credit is due to Capt.'s Maney and Parker, of the artillery, for their gallant conduct during the action, as well as to many other officers and men, whom, in the absence of reports from their respective commanders, I am unable to particularize; but it gives me great pleasure to state that, with very few exceptions, they all have done their duty like brave and gallant soldiers.

To Capt. Leslie Ellis, acting assistant adjutant-general, and my aide-de-camp, Capt. Bolen, I am particularly indebted for their untiring exertions in assisting me in the performance of my duties. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
A. HEIMAN, Col., Cmdg. Brigade.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 366-370.

**NOTE 1:** Colonel Adolphus Heiman of the 10th Tennessee Infantry gave two accounts of the fall of Fort Donelson, one formal, the other not.

Below I furnish Col A Heiman's Report of the battle at Ft. Donelson in verse.<sup>NOTE 1</sup> Its chief merit is lost to those who do not hear him read it.

Pillow and Floyd, two Generals of might  
Came to Donelson the Yankees to fight.  
Pillow said he is a Hero  
And would drive them back to Cairo,  
The Cumberland and Tennessee  
From Hessians I will free—  
In fact I am the man for the crisis  
If you only follow my advices—

With Johnson on my left, and Buckner on my right  
 I shall give them a Devil of a fight—  
 Gideon, said Floyd, I'll make you understand  
 That these troops here are under my command,  
 Besides your are too big for your britches,  
 This you have shown by your ditches—  
 Ah! Cried Pillow, do you mean at *Camargo*      NOTE 2  
 On this unkind hint I shall lay an Embargo—  
 But let this pass, we must have no contentions now,  
 Or we will not gain fresh laurels for our Brow.  
 With pick, shovel, and spade  
 Lines of rifle pits were made.  
 And a consultation was held of Cols. & Gens wise  
 On the 15th of Feb. by daylight in the morning  
 The Rebels gave them a Hell of a storming,  
 They were driven back from their position  
 And our affairs were thought to be in the best condition—  
 Now our Generals put together their wits  
 And ordered the troops back to their rifle pits—  
 Said it was no use to hold out any longer,  
 The enemy is by great odds the stronger—  
 They will cut off our communication  
 And that will be followed by starvation.  
 Gideon said Floyd, I cannot, I will not surrender  
 And he felt his neck and pulled his suspender—  
 Ah Ha! said Pillow, you are afraid of the halter—  
 Now did you ever know me to falter—  
 But like yourself, surrender I will not,  
 Let us try and fix up a great plot—  
 Give the command over to Buckner and let us be smart,  
 Let his surrender while we depart—  
 And so they did,  
 With kin and kith  
 and during the night  
 They took to flight  
 Said now all is over  
 We are the Heroes of Dover—  
 Make defences, that was the order given  
 That the enemy from our lines may be driven.

*Pen and Sword*      NOTE 3

**NOTE 1:** Heiman's other account of the fall of Fort Donelson was composed while he was a prisoner of war at Fort Warren, Boston Harbor. On April 23, 1862, his subordinate Lieutenant-Colonel Randal McGavock of the 10th Tennessee Infantry Regiment noted the doggerel in his diary.

**NOTE 2:** Camargo is located in Northern Mexico, just south of the Rio Grande River. It was a supply base for the U. S. Army in the initial phases of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). During the conflict Gideon J. Pillow, at best a military novice, was made a brigadier general by his good friend, erstwhile law partner and fellow Tennessean President James K. Polk. While stationed at Camargo Pillow directed the building of earthen fortifications which included a trench, or "ditches" as Heiman called them. Pillow's efforts amused West Point graduate, Lieutenant. Cadmus M. Wilcox, a qualified military engineer. Wilcox wrote of his encounter with Pillow's project: "While detained at Camargo I saw what was reported at the time in the newspapers as General Pillow's fortifications, with the ditch on the inside. Being recently from West Point, with our minds full of what the text books prescribed in such cases, I and my classmates were greatly amused, and one, Lieut. James Stuart, of South Carolina, mounted on a Texas mustang, and riding at a fast gallop, leaped both parapet and ditch." As cited in George Winston Smith and Charles Judah, eds., *Chronicles of the Gringos: The U. S. Army In the Mexican War, 1846-1848; Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Combatants*, (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1968) p. 24, from: Cadmus M. Wilcox, *History of the Mexican War*, ed. Mary R. Wilcox, (Washington: Church News Publishing Co., 1892), pp. 113-114. Thus, Pillow had built the fortifications backwards. The story of "Pillow's earthworks" must have been fairly well known, hence Heiman's satirical reference to ditches, etc. Moreover, the following story indicates Pillow's ineptitude for military fortifications was widely known: "Gen. Gilmore on Folly Island [S. C. ]-A little incident has been told us which has not so far as we have seen, found its way into the papers, and which is illustrative of the character of Gen. Gilmore. It appears that under the regime of Gen. Hunter, fortifications had been constructed on Folly Island-an ominous name, by the way. Instead of being on the north side of the island and pointing towards the rebel works, these fortifications on the Gen Pillow Plan - were on the *south* side and pointed directly away from the enemy! Gen Gilmore, on taking command, immediately visited the island and discovered how the land lay. Turning to one of his engineers he inquired: 'Have you got this island moving on a pivot?' There was no answer to the question, but the hit was appreciated, and Gen. Hunter's stronghold on the south side was neglected from that time." See: Nashville *Daily Press*, September 5, 1863.

**NOTE 3:** Jack Allen, Herschel Gower, eds., *Pen and Sword: the Life and Journals of Randal W. McGavock*, (Nashville: Tennessee Historical Commission, 1959), pp. 616-618.

### **February 13, 1862 - "Sweethearts vs. War"**

Oh, dear, it's shameful, I declare  
To make the men all go

And I have so many sweethearts here  
Without a single bean  
We like to see them brave, 'tis true,  
And would not urge them stay  
But what are we poor girls to do  
When they are all away?  
We told them we could spare them here  
Before they had to go  
But bless their hearts we won't aware  
That we would miss them so  
We miss them all in man ways;  
But truth will ever out.  
The greatest thing we miss them for  
Is seeing us about.  
On Sundays when we go to church,  
We look in vain for some  
To meet us, smiling on the porch  
And ask to see us home.  
And then we can enjoy a walk  
Since all the beaux have gone.  
For what's the good (to use plain talk),  
If we must trudge alone?  
But what's the use of talking thus,  
We'll try to be content,  
And if they cannot come to us  
A message may be sent  
And that's our comfort anyway  
For though we are a part  
This is no reason why we may  
Not open heart to heart.  
We trust it soon may come  
To a final test  
We want to see our Southern homes  
Secure in peaceful rest  
But if the blood of those we love  
In freedom's cause must flow  
With fervent trust in God above  
We bid them onward go.  
And we will watch them as they go  
And cheer them on their way  
Our arms shall be their resting place,  
When wounded sore they lay;  
Oh if the sons of Southern soil  
For freedom's cause must die,  
Her daughters ask no dearer boon

Than by their side to lie.

Chattanooga *Advertiser*, February 13, 1862

**February 13, 1862 - Social outcasts in White County, excerpt from the journal of Amanda McDowell**

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. . . There were two girls here<sup>NOTE 1</sup> today trying to rent a house; their parents are dead and they wish to stay together. They have a sister in the neighborhood who has been under a very bad character for years; she is going to live with them if they get a house. Not liking the prospect, Father did not let them in; neither would Mr. Stone, whom Father went to see for them, let them have his mountain house. . .

*Diary of Amanda McDowell.*

**NOTE 1:** At the Cumberland Institute in the Cherry Creek community.

**February 13, 1862 - The ball at Fransioli's in Memphis**

Serious Affray.-On Wednesday [13th] night a number of abandoned persons of both sexes had a ball at Fransioli's place in Fort Pickering. At two o'clock in the morning a quarrel arose and a fight followed, in which a considerable portion of those present participated. A number of pistol shots were fired and some four or five persons were wounded. We were unable to learn whether any of the wounds were likely to prove fatal. One man was shot through the cheeks, and another received a bullet in his leg.

*Memphis Daily Appeal*, February 14, 1862.

**February 14, 1862 - Skirmish near the Cumberland Gap**

REPORTS.

No. 1.-Brig. Gen. S. P. Carter, U. S. Army.

No. 2.-Col. James E. Rains, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. S. P. Carter, U. S. Army.

HDQRS. TWELFTH BRIGADE, Camp Cumberland, February 14, 1862.

CAPT.: A reconnaissance was made to-day by a company of First Battalion Kentucky Cavalry, under the immediate command of Lieut.-Col. Munday. Lieut.-Col. Munday reports that he advanced quite close to the Gap; attacked the enemy's cavalry picket; killed 5, wounded 2, and took 2 prisoners, 8 horses,

7 sabers, and 5 double-barrel shot-guns. No one was injured in the colonel's command.

Our party advanced so near the enemy's defenses that they got within range of their batteries, which opened on them, when they returned to camp.

Respectfully, &c.,

S. P. CARTER, Acting Brig.-Gen., Cmdg. Twelfth Brigade.

Capt. J. B. FRY,

Assistant Adjutant-Gen., and Chief of Staff.

No. 2.

Reports of Col. James E. Rains, C. S. Army.

HDQRS. CUMBERLAND GAP,

February 14, 1862.

SIR: I am convinced that the enemy will attack us at this place within a week. An attack to-morrow is probable. Their cavalry drove in our pickets to-day about 3 miles in advance of us. The force, seven regiments, are reported to be at Cumberland Ford, 15 miles in front. The force we have cannot hold the place, being insufficient to man the works. The strength of the position has been greatly exaggerated. On the Kentucky side it is naturally very weak and difficult to defend. It has been our policy to give currency to a different opinion of the place, and hence the error. It will require two regiments, in addition to the two now here, to resist the force menacing us. The position should never be abandoned. Its strategic importance cannot be exaggerated. On the Tennessee side it is naturally almost impregnable and art can make it completely so. If abandoned, it cannot be easily retaken.

Can re-enforcements be sent us?

Respectfully,

JAMES E. RAINS, Col., Cmdg. Post.

Gen. S. COOPER.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 417

**February 14, 1862 - Reconnaissance and attack-Fort Donelson, U. S. N. ships shell Fort Donelson**

No circumstantial reports filed.

**February 14, 1862 - A pro-Confederate White County woman's opinion of one of Champ Ferguson's men**

. . . [Mr. Potter] and Father had quite a pleasant conversation, and he plays the fiddle like everything. I guess he is one of Ferguson's men. If he is I care noth-

ing about his acquaintance for I have very little faith in the principles of a man that will countenance Ferguson, let alone one who will aid him in his murdering and plundering.

Diary of Amanda McDowell.

**February 14, 1862 - A dollar short and an hour late; the defense of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers**

When months ago, we urged the vital importance of adequate defences on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, as the keys to the South-west and the necessity of preserving the bridges across those streams as the means of intercommunication between our armies as well as a channel of commercial intercourse, we were denounced as a croaker—a pretender to knowledge out of our line. In vain we fortified our position, by quoting from Northern journals, article after article, urging upon the Lincoln Government the importance of possessing those rivers as highways leading into the South. Appeals and arguments were alike unheeded, until the course of events began to awaken the authorities to truths that should have been palpable from the beginning, and when so awakened, a system of fortification was commenced as little calculated for defense against iron clad gunboats as a pop gun against a pork of artillery. This is no idle opinion, but a fact clearly and painfully demonstrated by experiment within the last few days; and we invite attention to it now, not as a fault-finder, but with the hope of awakening the people, and the authorities to the necessity for wiser counsels and more energetic measures for the defense of our common country.

If it be true, that the gunboats are impervious to any projectile at our command, and that we had not the means of building similar ones with which to encounter them, then, the facts ought to have been known long ago to those skilled in such matters, and, instead of spending time and money upon fortifications and heavy artillery, it would seem the wiser course to have thrown effectual obstructions into the rivers—if this were practicable, and if not, then to turn their attention to the protection of the interior, leaving the river settlements to the chances of low water and the policy of the enemy. To this, it has come at last, and the utter inadequacy of our defenses can only serve to bring reproach upon Southern skill and energy, and to stimulate the Yankees to persevere in a struggle that threatens to bring them in contact with such trivial objects to ultimate success. An indefensible fortification requires much time and money for its erection for its defense, troops are diverted from points where they might render efficient and valuable service, their lives and liberty are hazard without a probably equivalent, the armaments of such fortifications are at the mercy of the enemy, and with the loss of all these, goes the loss of prestige—a most valuable consideration.

We make these remarks in no querulous spirit—It may be that the parties concerned have done the very best they could, under the circumstances, and if other could have done better, it is the country's misfortune that they were not

vested with the power. Our young government has very much to do, and little to do with, and with this fact before us, charity would prompt us to ascribe to absolute necessity much that wears the semblance of neglect or incompetence, and patriotism should prompt the people to make upon up for such short-comings by increased zeal and energy. Every reverse ought to infuse new ardor into the popular heart, and every blunder teach additional wisdom to those in authority.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 14, 1862.

**February 14, 1862 - Notes from the Clarksville *Chronicle***

A Poor Return.-A friend of ours a few nights ago, took some half-a-dozen soldiers to his house to sleep, and when they left, next morning, one of them carried off a pair of fine pistols belonging to the gentleman who had so kindly entertained them! A poor return for hospitality!

Insurance.-Our town is almost defenseless now against fire, and every one, who owns a house, ought to keep it insured. It is vastly comfortable, after having your house burned, to receive from an insurance company money enough to build another, and this one may do by the payment of a small sum annually. The Northern insurance companies, that used to do a large business here, are now driven out, but good Southern ones have taken their place.

Mr. S. S. Williams is agent for an excellent Richmond company, and Mr. D. N. Kennedy and Mr. H. H. Poston are likewise prepared to afford you reliable insurance.

Bad Conduct.-We have heard frequent complaints, of late, of bad conduct on the part of soldiers and teamsters about here, which we think calls for prompt action by their officers. They burn all the fences, about their camps, we are told-not only rail-fences, but paling and plank fences around private yards. They have done this, a friend tells us, repeatedly, in and about New Providence. Here they burned a large lot of new shingles and plank, belonging to one of our citizens, and just "cleaned out" the lumber-yard of a saw mill. In another case they went into a man's yard, and killed a dozen more chickens besides killing two hogs, that cost him \$35.00. We have heard, too, of their going to houses and frightening women and children almost out of their life.

These things ought to be stopped. People will not, and ought not be subject to such outrages.-The people have uniformly treated the soldiers with great kindness and the officers in charge ought to punish, with the utmost severity, any outrage or trespass, on the person or property of citizens. If the people take this protection in their own hands, very deplorable consequences may follow.

Clarksville *Chronicle*, February 14, 1862.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** This is the last number of the Clarksville *Chronicle* until July 1865.

**February 14, 1862 - Fort Pickering Fracas**

The Fort Pickering Affray.-Cornelius Martin, C. Brophy, H. Morris and Melinda St. Clair were examined before Recorder Moore yesterday at Fort Pickering at 2 o'clock on Thursday morning. All were fined, and the two former are now in jail. We learn that the outrage did not occur at Fransioli's as had been reported to the police, but at a boarding house in his neighborhood, kept by Mr. Smith. A number of respectable ladies and gentlemen were having a ball there, when a company of worthless characters, male and female, entered the ball room. In the attempt to get rid of the intruders pistols were fired and four or five persons were wounded. A respectable lady who was present was shot above the ankle.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 15, 1862.

**February 14, 1862 - February 16, 1862 - The battle of Fort Donelson; the account of a member of the 5th Iowa cavalry**

Four volunteers were called for from a Co. to form a scouting party, it was said. I was one from our Co. After we reported we found we were for picket guard. Several of the men grumbled at this, vowing that they would not have volunteered if they had not expected a chance for a shot at some rebels. The moon was shining brightly and the stars twinkling merrily as we rode out of camp. The night passed calm and peaceful. One could hardly feel that within a few miles of here was a hundred thousand men, breathing out threatenings and slaughter against one another. It was my first night all awake, and I was pretty sleepy towards morning. We were relieved at nine o'clock. Then 120 men started to scour the country. They found no rebels. That morning the attack commenced on fort Donaldson by our troops. Every once in a while we could hear the booming of the great guns. Our boys went within three miles of the fort. They all wanted to go and join in the melee. The officers said they were afraid to go nearer for fear the men would run off of themselves, they were so eager. In the evening we got orders for our first battalion to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice. Next morning I felt unwell and ate nothing, but said nothing as I thought a ride would stir me up, and we all expected to go to the fort. We were kept about an hour on horseback in the bitter cold—and it was cold—and then came orders to cross the river. When we came down the boat was so busy crossing troops to go to the fort we had to stay till near night and then stop on the boat. I don't know when I felt so miserable, could eat no dinner, a cracker for supper. Next day I was better, a cracker and some cold fat meat for breakfast, then ashore. The sun came out warm and we began to feel comfortable, but what a time on our brave men fighting at fort D. I have heard that many wounded froze to death. How horrible, such is war. And still the roaring of cannon can be heard continually. Our Nebraska boys are there, many of my acquaintances from Nemaha Co[unty]. May God watch over them. A number of our men were out at once on a scouting expedition, 1200 rebel cavalry being reported near. They saw none. At night 4 men from a

Co. were detailed as pickets. Yesterday 100 men went on a foraging expedition. They got back at night, bringing in corn fodder, etc., hogs, chickens and so on and very merry over the misfortunes of the search. We heard no firing since morning. At night word was brought that fort D. surrendered at 10 o'clock. Three generals, a large number of officer and 10,000 men captured. So the good cause prospers. Last night it rained, and clouds, water and mud are the order of the day. But the sunny south will, I hope, soon vindicate its rights in this respect.

Alley Diary

**February 15, 1862 - General A. S. Johnston requests arms be sent from New Orleans to Murfreesborough**

EDGEFIELD, TENN., February 15, 1862.

Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN:

I learn 15,000 arms have run the blockade on the steamship *Victoria* at New Orleans. I request that they may be immediately sent to me at Murfreesborough, Tenn., where there will be an agent to receive them, suggesting that they may be placed in charge of special messenger, with power to impress all passenger locomotives on the rail roads, by which means they can be sent in less than half the time that freight engines would deliver them. I also wish to ascertain what kind of guns they are, their caliber and character, so as to have proper ammunition prepared here at Nashville by the time they arrive. The men to use them can be found, and in the presence emergency they may be of vital importance.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

A. S. JOHNSTON, Gen., C. S. Army.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 833.

**February 15, 1862 - Governor Harris's assessment of situation after first attack on Fort Donelson**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Nashville, Tenn., February 15, 1862.

Gen. JOHNSTON:

MY DEAR SIR: Gen. Pillow's dispatch after the battle of to-day shows that the enemy is being re-enforced and will probably attack us again. (A copy of this dispatch the operator informs me he sent to you.)

Will you pardon me, my dear sir, for suggesting and respectfully urging the immediate re-enforcement of our gallant and glorious little army there to the extent of our ability. A few thousand men thrown to their aid immediately may turn the scale and make our victory complete and triumphant.

If there is anything that State authorities can do to aid this or any other matter they are at your command.

Respectfully,

ISHAM G. HARRIS.

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 833.

**February 15, 1862 - A Federal officer's description of the battle at Fort Donelson**

The men took their arms, officers loosened their pistol holsters. I looked up my cavalry sabre, unbuttoned my great coat so that I could quickly throw it off, and I took my place beside the lieutenant-colonel with whom I was to act. Then there came a painful, unpleasant pause; we heard nothing-saw nothing-yet knew that something was coming; what that something was no one could tell. A messenger came from the general-we were to move to the left and support the Second Iowa. We supposed the rebels were crossing a little higher up, and that the gap between us and the Second was to be closed. The colonel gave the order "left face," "forward march," and the regiment passed along through the thick trees in a column of two abreast. But the Second were not where they had been in the morning; we marched on, but did not come to them. In a few moments we passed their camp fires-a few more, and we emerged on an open field.

At a glance, the real object of the movement was apparent. It came upon us in an instant. Like the lifting of a curtain. The Fourteenth [Iowa] were hurrying down through the field. The Second, in a long line, were struggling up the opposite hill, where two gullies met and formed a ridge. It was high and steep, slippery with mud and melted snow. At the top, the breastworks of the rebels flashed and smoked, whilst to the right and left, up either gully, cannon were thundering. The attempt seemed desperate. Down through the field we went, and began to climb the hill. At the very foot I found we were in the line of fire. Rifle balls hissed over us, and bleeding men lay upon the ground, or were dragging themselves down the hill. From the foot to the breastworks the Second Iowa left a long line of dead and wounded upon the ground. The sight of these was the most appalling part of the scene, and, for a moment, completely diverted my attention from the firing. A third of the way up we came under the fire of the batteries. The shot, and more especially the shell, came with the rushing, clashing of a locomotive on a railroad. You heard the boom of the cannon up the ravine-then the sound of the shell-and then *felt* it rushing at you. At the top of the hill the firearms sounded like bundles of immense powder crackers. They would go r-r-r-rap; then came the scattered shots, rap, rap-rap-rap; then some more fired together, rrrrrap. This resemblance was striking that it impressed me at the moment.

The bursting of shells produced much less effect-apparent effect, I mean-than I had anticipated. Their explosion, too, was much like a large powder cracker thrown in the air. There was a loud bang-fragments flew about, and all was

over. It was so quickly done, that you had no time to anticipate or think-you were killed or you were safe, and it was over. But the most dispiriting thing was that we saw no enemy. The batteries were out of sight, and at the breastworks nothing could be seen but fire and smoke. It seemed as though we were attacking some invisible power, and that it was a simple question of time whether we would climb that slippery steep before we were all shot or not. But suddenly the firing at the summit ceased. The Second Iowa had charged the works, and driven out the regiments which held them. Then came the fire of the second upon our flying foes, and the loud shouts along the line, "Hurrah, hurrah, the Second are in-hurry up boys, and support them-close up-forward." We reached the top and scrambled over the breastwork. I saw a second hill rising gradually before us, and on the top of it a second breastwork-between us and it about four hundred yards of broken ground. A second fire opened upon us from these inner works. We were ordered back, and, recessing those we had taken, lay down upon the outer side of the embankment.

The breastwork that sheltered the enemy now sheltered us. It was about six feet high on our side, and the men laid closed against it. Occasionally a hat was pushed up above it, and then a rifle ball would come whistling over us from the second intrenchment. The batteries also continued to fire, but the shot passed lowered down the hill, and did little execution. Having no specific duty to discharge, I turned as soon as our troops reached the breastworks, and gave my aid to other wounded.

A singular fact for which I could not account was that those near the foot of the hill were struck in the legs; higher up the shots had gone through the body and near the breastworks, through the head. Indeed, at the top of the hill I noticed no wounded; all who lay upon the ground were dead. A little house in the field was used as a hospital. I tore my handkerchief into strips, and tied them round the wounds which were bleeding badly, and made the men hold snow against them. I then took a poor fellow in my arms to carry to the little house. "Throw down your gun," I said, "you are too weak to carry it." "No, no," he replied, "I will hold on to it as long as I am alive." The house happened to be in the exact line of one of the batteries, and as we approached it, the shot flew over our path. Fortunately, the house was below the range, but one came so low as to knock off a shingle from the gable lend. For a few minutes we thought they were firing on the wounded. We had no red flag to display; but I found a man with a red handkerchief, and tied it to a stick, and sent him on the roof with it. Within the house there were but three surgeons at this time. One of them asked me to take his horse and ride for the instruments, ambulances, and assistants; for no preparations had been made. It was then I passed Major Chipman carried by his soldiers.

When I returned, the ambulances were busy at the work; numerous couples of soldiers were supporting off wounded friends, and occasionally came four, carrying one in a blanket. The wounded men generally showed the greatest heroism. The hardly ever alluded to themselves, but shouted to the artillery that we meant to hurry forward, and told stragglers that we had carried the day. One

poor boy, carried in the arms two soldiers, had his foot knocked off by a shell; it dangled horribly from his limb by a piece of skin, and the bleeding stump was uncovered. I stopped to tell the men to tie his stocking round the limb, and to put snow upon the wound. "Never mind the foot, captain," said he, "we drove the rebels out, and have go their trench, that's the most I care about." Yet I confess the sights and sounds were not as distressing as I anticipated. The small round bullet holes, though they might be mortal, looked no larger than a surgeon's lanced might have made. Only once did I hear distressing groans. A poor wretch in an ambulance shrieked whenever the wheels struck a stump. There was no help for it. The road was through the wood, the driver could only avoid the trees, and drive on regardless of his agony.

You will perhaps ask how I felt in the fight. There was nothing upon which I had so much curiosity as to what my feelings would be. Much to my surprise I found myself unpleasantly cool. I did not get excited, and felt a great want of something to do. I thought if I only had something-my own company to lead on, or somebody to order, I should have much less to think about. There seemed such a certainty of being hit that I felt certain I should be, and after a few minutes had a vague sort of wish that it would come if it were coming, and be over with. The alarming effect of the bullets and shells was less that I supposed it would be, and my strongest sensation of danger we was produced by the sight of the dead and wounded. The thing I was most afraid of was a panic among our men, and when the Seventh Illinois was ordered to fall back down the hill, I so much feared that the men might deem it a retreat that I entirely forgot the firing, and walked down in front of them to their major, so that any frightened man in the ranks might be reassured by our "matter of course" air. . .

Nott, *Sketches of the War*, pp. 30-35.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Charles C. Nott, *Sketches of the War: A Series of Letters to the North Moore Street School of New York*, (NY. T. Evans, 1863, rpt Paris, TN, The Guild Bindery Press, n.d.) [Hereinafter cited as:Nott, *Sketches of the War*.]

**February 16, 1862 - Fall of Fort Donelson**<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

RICHMOND, VA., March 12, 1862.

[To Gen. A. SIDNEY JOHNSTON?]

MY DEAR GEN.:. . . I avail myself to write you an unofficial letter. We have suffered great anxiety because of recent events in Kentucky and Tennessee, and I have been not a little disturbed by the repetition of reflection upon yourself. I expected you to have made a full report of events precedent and consequent to the fall of Fort Donelson.

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In the mean time. . . You have been held responsible for the fall of Donelson and the capture of Nashville. 'Tis charged that no effort made to save the stores at Nashville and that the panic of the people was caused by the army. Such rep-

resentations, with the sad foreboding naturally belonging to them, have been painful to me and injurious to us both; but, worse than this, they have undermined public confidence and damaged our cause.

A full development of the truth is necessary for future success. I respect the generosity which has kept you silent, but would impress upon you that the subject is not personal but public in its nature; that you I might be content to suffer, but neither of us can willingly permit detriment to the country.

As soon as circumstances will permit it is my purpose to visit the field of your present operations; not that I should expect to give you any aid in the discharge of your duties as a commander, but with the hope that my position would enable me to effect something in bringing men to your standard.

With a sufficient force, the audacity which the enemy exhibits would no doubt give you the opportunity to cut some of his lines of communication, to break up his plan of campaign, and, defeating some of his columns, to drive him from the soil as well of Tennessee as of Kentucky. We are deficient in arms, wanting in discipline, and inferior in numbers. Private arms must supply the first want; time and the presence of an enemy, with diligence on the part commanders, will remove the second, and public confidence will overcome the third. Gen. Bragg brings you disciplined troops. I suppose the Tennessee or Mississippi River will be the object of the enemy's next campaign, and I trust you will be able to concentrate a force which will defeat either attempt.

The fleet which you will soon have on the Mississippi River, if the enemy's gunboats ascend the Tennessee, may enable you to strike an effective blow at Cairo; but to one so well informed and vigilant I will not assume to offer suggestions as to when and how the ends you seek may be obtained.

With the confidence and regard of many years, I am, very truly, your friend,  
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 258.

**NOTE 1:** Because the Fall of Fort Donelson falls into the category of a large battle it will not be covered in any great documentary detail. There are secondary works enough to provide analysis and narration for this event, and to do so here would not only be presumptuous and would add but little to understanding the event.

However, the letter from Jefferson C. Davis, apparently to General A. S. Johnston, seems to find the Confederate President trying to distance himself from the defeat at Fort Donelson and the occupation of Nashville.

### ***February 16, 1862 - Burning of railroad bridge over the Cumberland River by Confederates at Clarksville***

A. H. Foote, Flag Officer of Naval Forces, reported on February 20:

The rebels have retreated to Nashville, having set fire, against the remonstrance of the citizens, to the splendid railroad bridge across the Cumberland river.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 644.

**February 16, 1862 - Destruction of Tennessee Ironworks on the Cumberland River by U. S. S. St. Louis**

No circumstantial reports filed.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** According to Long, *Almanac*, p. 172, *OR*, I, 7, 423, 645, indicates rolling mills belonging to "Hon. John Bell" which was "a short distance above fort Donelson" had been burned, by a U. S. N. gunboat, or mortar boat. The letters, from Foote, do not use the name "Tennessee ironworks." *Dyer's Battle Index for Tennessee* does not mention it. Long, *Almanac* contends it was the *St. Louis*.

**February 16, 1862 - Report of the ad hoc Committee of the General Assembly to ascertain the wishes of Governor Harris relative to the advance of Federal forces and changing the venue of the state Confederate government**

It was the intention of the Governor to convene the Genl. Assembly in the City of Memphis on the 20th instant. When on motion the House adjourned to meet upon the call of the Governor.

*House Journal*, p.p. 422-423.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** *Messages of the Governors*, p. 364.

**February 16, 1862 - Governor Harris' proclamation to the members of the General Assembly of Tennessee relative to the advance of Federal forces and changing venue of state Confederate government**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Nashville, Tenn., February 16, 1862

The Members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee will assemble at Memphis, Tennessee, on Thursday next, the 20th instant, for the dispatch and transaction of such business as may be submitted to them.

*House Journal*, p. 423.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** *Messages of the Governors*, p. 364.

**February 16, 1862 - Annie M. Schon's letter to her sister, relative to the invasion of Nashville**

Nashville Feb 16th/62

My own precious sister,

I have but a few moments to write, and as this may be the last opportunity I will ever have to write to you I will tell you of our wretched situation. You need not expect to hear again from me as I suppose in a few hours we will be entirely cut off from all communication with our beloved, oppressed & almost crushed South. We are in hourly expectation of hearing the approach of the Northern Army. Mr. Schon, Capt Wright and all our Government officers fly to night for their lives with Gen Johnston's immense army which is here from Bowling Green and is retreating as fast as possible Southward. O my sister I cannot tell you how my heart is almost breaking to part from my precious Husband who is far more than life to me. Without him I would pray, pray for death, pray that God would take me from this prison world to my husband in Heaven for I know he will be there if he falls, he is so good so pure so noble. But oh God defend us spare us and avert the calamities we so much dread. Mr. Schon will take this with him & mail it. I dare not say where they are going to, but it is where I can follow him and no power on earth could keep me from going to night with my darling husband but the fact that he must fly for his life on horseback and I being with him would retard his progress. I might be the means of his being taken. We received the news this morning and I expected to be able to go with him until a few hours ago when Mr. Schon told me he would have to go on horseback. My dear sister I hope that I am not asking too much of you when I make this request. Keep posted as to the whereabouts of Gen Johnston's Army and if anything should happen to Mr. Schon and you can hear of it, do all in your power for him. I will be cut off from all communication from him and I dread that I may be allowed to pass to him. If you will do this my dear sister I can never repay you for your kindness, will thank you Bettie to my dying hour and bless you for any kindness to my precious darling. O God to think of our situation! But I still hope for & trust in God and I believe he will animate our brave defenders with a superhuman power and we will yet drive from our soil the hated invaders whose tread [unclear] profanation, but this is an hour to try men's souls—Fort Donelson has been taken by the enemy. Frank was there and covered himself with honor but his bravery cost him a wound; he was wounded in the leg slightly—a flesh wound only, you must not be uneasy. We can hear nothing from our forces there but I suppose he is a prisoner. You must not be unhappy about him. His wound is slight, only a flesh wound. I wish I had time to tell you of his noble conduct but I can not now. I pray I may soon be able to follow my husband when I can write you fully. Will is at Cumberland Gap, was not with Gen Zollicoffer. I will try dear Bettie to take care of all the little things we value so much, the portraits your bonnet box with its contents and those things for which no money could repay us. Goodbye my darling sister, probably the last goodbye but may God protect us and if we never meet on earth may we meet at last in Heaven where all is happiness, strife & turmoil never come, no breaking bleeding hearts are there. May God bless you. Your husband and your precious little children is the prayers of your loving sister

Annie M. Schon

Kimberly Family Correspondence. <sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** As cited in: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/imls/kimberly/kimberly.html>. [Herein-after cited as Kimberly Family Correspondence.]

**February 16, 1862 - "[T]hey have chosen out one hundred men out of our regiment to go to night up to the [T]ennessee River and cut down the bridges on the railroad I feel in hopes that the tide of war will change." Letter of Captain Peter March, 47th Tennessee Infantry, to Sousan [Marchant]**

Camp Trenton

Feb 16/62

Dear Sousan, Received your welcome letter on this evening an was glad to hear from you that you were all tolerable well an I am glad to inform you that I well, this evening I suppose you home heard of our defeat at fort henry it was true but our loss was trifling they have bin fighting of at fort donelson for four days yesterday our boys went out of the fort and fought them on the on the open field whipt them and drove them at the pointe of the bayonet the yankeys gave way and retreated beyond their encampment we have not got the full details of the fight but I suppose it was terrific the loss on both sides was grate we took over one thousand prisoners and two batteries and a large amount of small arms tents and other military stores I regard it as a test battle it is thought that they have given it up they now expect that they will come down the railroad to Memphis they have chosen out one hundred men out of our regiment to go to night up to the Tennessee river and cut down the bridges on the railroad I feel in hopes that the tide of war will change I think their will be some hard fighting this spring but i hope it not last longer our troops at fort donelson is said to be in high spirits and I can perceive that our boys here is getting in the tune to fight the report of fort henry is still dishartning them save to stimulate them to a willingness to go eny whare I do not think we will leave here for some time though we will be at our countrys call theres a consderabele stir now with the boys geting ready to go when the train comes they expect it in an hour I would be willing to go with them if it was nessery but there was enuf that was willing to go I do not supose they will be gone more than two days you must right as soon as you can very affectionately yours

P Marchant

Letters of Captain Peter Marchant, 4th Tennessee Infantry

**February 16, 1862 - Wealthy citizens aid volunteer families**

Soldiers' Families-Our wealthy citizens are determined that the families of soldiers now in the war from our city, and of those who may go, shall be adequately provided with the necessaries of life. We conversed yesterday morning

with an influential gentleman of this city, who went out with a subscription book on Friday and obtained eleven thousand dollars for this object. Last evening the fund amounted to fifteen thousand dollars. It is intended to create a fund of fifty thousand dollars, which will be dispensed by a committee among the families of soldiers requiring assistance in their husbands' absence. The wealthy people of the city are called upon, individually, to contribute to this object. Many of them are so situated that they cannot themselves go into camp; they must help to support the families of those who shed their blood to save their country and the property of the rich man from the invader. Women and children must not want while their husbands and fathers are sharing the dangers and fatigues of war. Let those who have the means contribute, and with no niggard hand, to this fund.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 16, 1862.

### **February 16, 1862 - Widows, orphans and the Home for the Homeless in Memphis**

Soldiers' Widows and Orphans.-As the war progresses, and especially that portion of it in which our own Memphis people are engaged, there will be widows and orphans left without a protector. Such will be a sacred legacy left by their heroic sires for a grateful people, who treasure the memory of the brave, to support, to shelter from want, to educate, and to set them out in life under circumstances worthy of the honored names of the patriotic dead. We learn with pleasure that the ladies of the Home for the Homeless at their late meeting adopted a resolution that their institution would take charge of the widows and orphans of slain soldiers, provide them with a comfortable home, with education, and start the young persons in life in a way to become prosperous citizens. To do this the wealthy, for whom the patriotic soldier is fighting, must provide this valuable institution with the means of carrying out their benevolent intentions. We know of no better way than that proposed by the ladies of making provision for the destitute widows and orphans, left a legacy to a grateful country. Shall not steps be taken to provide the necessary funds?

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 16, 1862.

### **February 16, 1862 - A method for providing for soldiers' families in Memphis**

The Way to Provide for the Families of Our Soldiers.

Editors Appeal:; I notice that subscriptions are on foot to raise a fund of \$50,000 or \$60,000, to support the families of such men as will shoulder the musket and go into active service when they feel certain that their families will not be left to want and privation. The object of this subscription is to afford a permanent, not a temporary support for those dependent upon husbands, fathers and brothers whom this war may have called to the field; and looking to the expenditure of the money voted by the county court, it is evident that the \$50,000 or \$60,000 sought to be raised, will last only about one year, if disbursed as the county fund has been disbursed. As our enlistment are all now

for the war or for two years, the relief should continue for that period; and, in order to render it thus permanent, I propose to be one of a hundred gentlemen who will obligate themselves to pay each \$50, monthly, for the two years or for the war, for the use of the families of such volunteers as need assistance. The money to be employed in purchasing provisions by the wholesale and distributing them to the needy, through the instrumentality of a free market as has been done in New Orleans. Let the market be regulated by a directory who shall inquire into the necessities of each applicant, and let the directory issue weekly tickets for the provisions necessary for their support. Food is the important item, for work is so abundant here, that any family, if in health, can get clothing by work. The county court might also make a subscription for the same purpose; and in this way a fund of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month might be raised, and our gallant soldiers feel at ease about the welfare of those whom they have left behind them.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 16, 1862.

**February 16, 1862 - February 25, 1862 - the "Great Panic" in Nashville, evacuation by Confederates and occupation by Union forces**

Governor Harris' orders regarding Home Guard resistance to Federal forces approaching Nashville:

EXECUTIVE HDQRS., Nashville, Tenn., February 16, 1862.

Col. CLAIBORNE:

You will call out the entire force under your command and apply to the military storekeeper at the capital for arms. When armed, call upon the ordnance officer at Nashville for ammunition and accouterments, and hold your command subject to the orders of Gen. Johnston.

Impress upon your soldiery that the Revolution of '76 was won by the Tennessee rifle, and that we fight in defense of our homes and all that we hold dear.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

By order of Isham G. Harris, Governor, &c.:

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 887.

**NOTE 1:** Shortly thereafter Harris left Nashville, declining to stay and fight for all he held dear. The home guard thereafter was put to work removing the military wares in the city.

PADUCAH, February 21, 1862.

Gen. CULLUM:

From information gleaned in Clarksville we believe the panic in Nashville is very great, and that the City will be surrendered without a fight if a force pro-

ceeds at once against it. Gen. Johnston is reported to be gathering his scattered forces at Columbia.

S. L. PHELPS.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 648-649.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., March 22, 1862.

SIR:

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I arrived at Nashville on a steamboat, together with a portion of the command rescued from Fort Donelson, consisting of parts of the various regiments from Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee, at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 17th of February. Immediately on coming within view of the landing at the City I beheld a sight which is worthy of notice. The rabble on the wharf were in possession of boats loaded with Government bacon, and were pitching it from these boats to the shore, and carrying what did not fall into the water by hand and carts away to various places in the City. The persons engaged in this reprehensible conduct avowed that the meat had been given to them by the City council. As soon as practicable I reported to Gen. Johnston for duty, and on the same day I was placed in command of the City, and immediately took steps to arrest the panic that pervaded all classes and to restore order and quiet. One regiment, the First Missouri, Lieut.-Col. Rich, together with a portion of Col. Forrest's and Capt. Morgan's cavalry, were added to my command, and these were principally occupied in guarding public warehouses and the streets of the City. The only other force which I could use for the purposes above mentioned were the fragments of regiments that I had brought with me, and all of which were well-nigh totally exhausted from the exertions and fatigues to which they had been subjected on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th days of February.

I immediately stopped the indiscriminate distribution of public stores by placing guards over them, and, having thus secured them from the grasp of the populace, I commenced the work of saving the stores that were in the City. Day and night the work was continued, being only temporarily stopped at times for the purpose of feeding the teams that were at work transporting articles of Government property from the wharves and store-houses to the railroad depot. My men worked incessantly with commendable perseverance and energy under my immediate supervision. Owing to the exhausted condition of the men thus engaged, it became absolutely necessary to force the able-bodied men who were strolling about the City unoccupied to assist in the labor before me. . . . During the interval between the morning of the 17th and the evening of the 20th of February trains were loaded and dispatched as fast as they arrived. Much more could have been saved had there been more system and regularity in the disposition of the transportation by rail. Several trains were occupied in carrying off sick and wounded soldiers. The weather was exceedingly inclem-

ent during the entire time occupied as above mentioned, and there was an excessively heavy rain on the 19th of February.

As the moment for destroying the bridges had been left to my discretion up to a certain period, I allowed them to stand until a large amount of transportation, a large number of cattle, and some troops had been brought from the north side of the river. At 10 o'clock on the evening of the 19th the destruction of the suspension bridge was commenced; the wood work was burned and the cables on the south side were cut. At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 20th the railroad bridge was destroyed. . .

During the period embraced by this report Col. Forrest and Capt. Morgan, with their cavalry, rendered signal and efficient service in dispersing the mobs which gathered in the vicinity of the warehouses containing Government property, and which often had to be scattered at the point of the saber. I had succeeded in collecting a large amount of stores of various kinds at the depot, but as I had control of the transportation by rail, and hence obliged to await the action of others, much that would have been valuable to the Government was necessarily left at the depot. Among the articles saved were all the cannon, caisson, and battery wagons of which we had any knowledge.

At 4 o'clock p. m. on the 20th February I started with my staff for Murfreesborough, which point I reached on the morning of the 21st, where I reported to Gen. Johnston in person.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD, Brig.-Gen.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 427-429.

Rejoice with me dear grandma!<sup>NOTE 1</sup> The glorious Star-spangled Banner of the United States is again floating above us! O, how we have hoped for, longed for, prayed for this joyous day! I am wild, crazed almost, with delight. I am still fearful that I shall awake, and find our deliverance, our freedom, is all a dream. I cannot believe that it is a positive fact, it has come upon us so unexpectedly, this successful move of the Union army. Grandma, I cannot write connectedly at all. . . So great is my ecstasy, I cannot sit still-I cannot keep my eyes on the paper-indeed, I cannot do anything but sing, whistle, or hum "Yankee Doodle," "Hail Columbia," "The Star Spangled Banner," and feast my eyes on those victorious colors.

. . . The morning that Fort Donelson surrendered, there seemed to be such an intense feeling of bitterness here against the Union men! The papers (how little did they imagine that *that* would be their last issue!) came out on that Sunday morning with maledictions and threats the most inhuman against them, saying that if such a *fiendish villain* remained in our midst, he must and should be dealt with instantly as a traitor of the deepest dye.

We have had so much to bear since I wrote you! My father and brother have been taunted, sneered and hissed at, threatened by everyone, until endurance

was becoming impossible. But *nothing* (I am *so* proud to say it, and thank God for it), nothing could make them play the hypocrite. They believed the Federal cause was just and right, and they would, in spite of our prayers and tears, express their opinion openly, and denounce secession boldly. We have been warned since Zollicoffer's death, that there was imminent danger here for them; and the hatred towards Union men was becoming so intense that both ma and I have been in an agony of suspense.

For my idolized brother I have felt more keenly than for than anyone else. . . Being drafted, he procured a substitute; and though displaying so much moral courage, he has been hissed at as a coward ever since, until he would vow to escape and join the Federal army, and several times endeavored to do so; but pa, discovering his plans, prevented him from it. . . The cloud was lowering over us, growing darker and darker day by day, and I thought the silver lining never would appear; *but it is here!* . . .

Can you wonder that, in the state of feeling I was in that Sunday morning, dear grandma, when Tom knocked at the door, and called out to me that Fort Donelson was surrendered and the Federal army would soon be in Nashville, I became perfectly frantic with joy?

I ran screaming over the house, knocking down chairs and tables, clapping my hands, and shouting for the "Union" until the children were terrified, and ma and pa thought I was delirious! I rushed to the parlor and thundered "Yankee Doodle" on the piano in such a manner as I had never done before. I caught little Johnny up in my arms, and held him over the porch railing upstairs until he hurrahed for the Star-Spangled Banner, Seward, Lincoln, and McClellan! The little fellow thought his sister was going to kill him, she looked so wild, and would not come near me again for several days.

Just in midst of these rejoicings, intelligence came that Johnston's army from Bowling Green had evacuated the place, and was even then passing on the turnpike to Nashville. Could it be possible? Yes, indeed! There they were retreating most valiantly. Grandma, you never saw such a frightened set of men! They could not get over the river fast enough! I never bade the Southern army "God-speed" but that once, and then I did it with my whole heart. May their present advance be as successful even to the Gulf of Mexico itself.

If you could have seen Breckinridge! the meanest, the most downfallen looking specimen of humanity imaginable. The army did not stop in Nashville *one day*, but went on as swiftly as possible. The citizens here were mortified and exasperated to the quick by this surrender. Floyd remained in Nashville a few days after his *brave* escape from Fort Donelson. After the army had gone, and the city had sent commissioners to surrender, he had both bridges destroyed, though he could give no reason for it, and though it was against the prayers and protestations of the citizens. He is a wicked wretch. Is it wrong to wish that he may soon meet the fate he deserves?

It was not a week until after [Ft.] Donelson's fall that the Federals came in. We, whose *all* depended upon their speedy arrival, had begun to think that they were not coming, after all, and *our* freedom was not yet at hand; but on a Sunday afternoon, my brother came in, the picture of happiness, with the intelligence that Buell would be here in a few days; that he had ridden up and met his advanced guard; and that now at last we could rejoice. Buell came in at night. The troops were in perfect discipline, and completely amazed the poor duped people here by their orderly behavior. For the people believed that the soldiers would not stop till they had *murdered the women and eaten the children*; but when it was seen that they took nothing without pay, the people were rejoiced to *sell*, for money of any kind has long been a marvelous sight here.

But, O, grandma, I have not told you what did *me* more good than anything else—the *panic* here on the 16th [of February]. Away flew the citizens without stopping for anything! The brave city regiments [i.e., home guards] who on the 15th took their stand on the square with Andrew Ewing at their head, and vowed to die there, fighting even against myriads of the "barbarians," should they ever reach Nashville, heard at twelve o'clock on the 16th of the surrender of Donelson, and at eight o'clock in the evening of that same day, not one of the gallant determined braves was to be found within miles of Nashville. Didn't I clap my hands and shriek for joy when it was told on Monday that not one editor remained in our city! that their wicked threats had been published for the last time here?

This town is almost deserted, so many families have left their homes, and fled, panic-stricken, away. It is so distressing to think of the sufferings they have brought upon themselves so needlessly. The Federals have interfered with no one whatever, and have behaved much better than the rebel army. The Governor and Legislature left the very day Donelson surrendered. May they never return!

Grandma, you will think me a heartless girl to write thus, and I know it is wrong, but you would excuse me if you knew what we had to contend with. I speak the truth when I say that, notwithstanding our former social position and popularity here, there is not now one family of all our friends who would cross our threshold, or bid us welcome to theirs. My noble uncle is always an exception. He and pa have stood firmly together, enduring the tempest, and nothing now should ever divide us. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, too, has never faltered in his allegiance. When the death of his only son [a Confederate soldier] was told to him, his exclamation was, "Would to God he had died in a nobler cause!"

But I tremble when I think of the possibility of a reverse—that the Confederates should ever get back here. Then *our* doom is spoken—either flight—beggary—or remaining, death.

O that the United States troops would push onward rapidly, and make an end to the rebellion while the Confederates are quaking with fear and dismay. Give them no time to rally.

Now that the railroad and telegraph will soon be opened, we will be again in a civilized country; and surely we have cause to rejoice, for we have been living in utter darkness a long, weary time. If you could see my father it would do you good. He looks happy again! The gloomy, sad brow of two weeks ago is once more smothered with content! Three cheers for the sight of the old banner.

"MAGGIE!" *Maggie Lindsley's Journal*, pp. 5-9.<sup>NOTE 2</sup>

**NOTE 1:** This letter was written by Margaret ["Maggie"] L. Lindsley, daughter of Adrian Van Sinderen Lindsley, Postmaster and attorney in Nashville. She and her family strongly supported the Union. In this letter, published without her permission in the *New York Independent*, May 1, 1862, under the title "A Young Lady's Letter." In it Maggie describes her joy at the Union victory at Fort Donelson, the re-introduction of the United States flag in Nashville, the chaos in the city as the great panic took place, and the occupation of the city by Federal forces.

**NOTE 2:** "MAGGIE! *Maggie Lindsley's Journal: Nashville, Tennessee, 1864; Washington, D. C. 1865. Including Letters written to her in 1862 from Professor Benjamin Silliman of Yale College*, (Privately Printed, 1977). [Hereinafter cited: as: *Maggie Lindsley's Journal*. See also: *Anecdotes*, pp. 267-268.]

Aunt Nanny's description of the fall of Nashville

Aunt Nanny, the former housekeeper of the rebel banker who owned this residence, has just been giving me a highly interesting account of the scenes here when it became known that our forces were coming towards Nashville. It was on Sunday morning the news reached the With citizens, when they were on their way to church. And the streets were soon filled with half-crazed people flying here and there, women and children and even men running out of breath, and screaming, "The Yankees are coming," while the less excited ones were securing every possible conveyance to use for flight.

"We colored folks," said Nanny, "knew it in the night, and all de mornin' while de white ones was so quiet a putin' on dere finery for church, we knew it wouldn't last long., An' we was all so full wid de great joy, dat we'se a sayin' in our hearts all de time "Bless de Lord," "Thank de good God," for de "day of jubilee has come!"

"But we was mighty hush, an' put on just as long faces as we could, and was might 'sprized when they told us of it. An' missus she come runnin' back from the street wid' her bonnet on her neck, an' the strings a flyin', and she come to the kitchen and put up both arms and she said:-

"Oh, Aunty Nanny, we'll all be killed! The Yankees are coming! They'll hang or cut the throat of every nigger that's left here!"

"An' after that she tried to have me go south with her, but I told her I'd risk the Yankees a killin' us, and I wouldn't go."

Powers, *Pencillings*, pp. 70-71. **NOTE 1**

**NOTE 1:** Elvira J. Powers, *Hospital Pencillings ; Being a Diary While in Jefferson General Hospital, Jeffersonville, Ind., and Others at Nashville, Tennessee, As Matron and Visitor*, (Edward L. Mitchel: 24 Congress Street: Boston, 1866) pp. 14-19. [Hereinafter cited as: Powers, *Pencillings*.]

"A REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE"

A gentleman who left Nashville shortly after the battle at Fort Donelson communicates to the *Mobile Tribune* an interesting account of the evacuation and surrender of the city, a portion of which we append:

"The fight at Fort Donelson, on the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth of February, was of intense concern to us, and each day's work down there wound up with the statement that the fight would be renewed to-morrow. The fears that had been well-nigh dispelled by the way Fort Donelson was holding out. It was better located, and stronger in men and guns. Pillow, Floyd, and Buckner were there. Pillow had said 'Let come what might, her never would surrender the place,' and Nashville felt that we could not afford to lose the battle. Saturday's [15th] work was glorious. Our citizens shouted over it. Many were saying: 'I never liked Pillow, but forgive him now-he is the man for the occasion.' A sober, modest citizen, an Old Line Whig and ex-Governor, was heard to say, Saturday afternoon, on being asked how the fight went on: 'First-rate; Pillow is giving them h\_ll, and rubbing it in.'

"The despatches closed on Saturday as they had for three successive days before-'The enemy are expecting large reenforcements,' but we slept soundly, and expected to have great news on the morrow. About nine o'clock Sunday [16th] morning, I rode out into the country seven or eight miles, and leaving the turnpike, dined with a friend in one of the quiet and luxurious farmer-homes of Middle Tennessee. Returning leisurely, I struck the pike about four P. M., and as everybody and met in the morning and asked me the latest news from the city, I asked the first man I met, 'Any news?'-prepared to hear only of victory.

"News! What's the last you've heard'

"Last night's despatches.'

"None since? The latest out, and plenty of it. Fort Donelson has fallen, and Nashville is surrendered! They say the white flag is waving now on the capitol, and the gunboats will be up before sundown.'

"I thought he was hoaxing me, but quickened my pace. The next morning [17th] confirmed it all and more. I saw there was literally a cloud of witnesses, pouring along the turnpike leading to Franklin. Convalescent soldiers, quitting the hospitals, were waddling along with their scanty baggage. Travellers, in

groups and squads, had left the hotels, carrying carpet-bags and satchels, and saddle-bags in hand. The family of the owner of the omnibus line were rolling out in those vehicles. Double and one-horse carriages were full of living freight. On reaching the tollgate, on the top of the hill overlooking Nashville, I strained my eyes to see the white flag on the capitol. The tall flag-staff was naked. There was no flag of any sort on it.

"Passing down Brown Street by the Nashville and Decatur [rail]road, the first man I saw was Gov. Harris, about to leave on a special train, with the Legislature and archives of the State. The town was in commotion. Over the wire bridge the spans the Cumberland, Gen. Johnston's army were passing, taking the direction of the Murfreesboro turnpike. The train of wagons and soldier reached out of sight, and did not get over that night. The sight of a withdrawing or retreating army is very disheartening.

"My residence is in Edgefield, a little village separated from Nashville by the Cumberland River. For several days Gen. Johnston's headquarters had been established on that side of the river, and near me. The lady with whom he and his staff took their meals is my neighbor and friend, and tells me that the General opened the news to at the table in these words"

"Madam, I take you to be a person firmness, and trust your neighbors are. Don't be alarmed. Last night, my last despatch, up to twelve o'clock, was favorable, and I lay done expecting a great victory today; but this morning at four o'clock I was waked by a courier with the news that our forces at Fort Donelson were surrounded, and must surrender. They are not made of steel. Our soldiers have fought as bravely as ever soldiers did; but they cannot hold out day after day, against fresh forces and such odds. I cannot make men. Stay at home. Tell all your friends from me to stay at home. I cannot make a fight before Nashville, and, for the good of the city, shall retire. I know Gen. Buell well. He is a gentleman, and will not suffer any violence to peaceable citizens, or disturb private property.

It might have been well if the General had issued a proclamation. He and staff crossed the bridge that night at eleven o'clock. Gen Breckenridge followed, and your corresponded followed soon after.

"The question has often been asked: 'Why didn't the people of Nashville make a stand? What! give up their city without striking a blow?'

"The people were astonished and indignant at the way they were handed over to the enemy's mercy and occupation. But what could they do? When generals, and armed and drilled soldiers, give up and retire, what can unarmed and undisciplined citizens do before a foe advancing by land and water?'

'Throw brickbats at them,' said one. Indeed! that would be well enough, if the enemy would deal in the same missiles.

"The bones of Gen. Jackson, the defender of New-Orleans, must have turned in his grave, at the Hermitage, a few miles away, at such a surrender.

"A few months before, on urgent call, every man who had a rifle or double-barrel gun, had brought it forward and given it up for army service. Not fifty serviceable guns could our citizens have mustered. No, not even pikes, though they have just enrolled themselves and resolved to have them made, and if Gen. Johnston made a stand before the city, they were resolved to stand with him. Such of them as were not willing to be surrendered to the uncovenanted mercies of Lincolnism, with the prospect of having the oath tendered them or the bastille, followed the retiring army.

"After taking my family as far as Decatur, I returned to Nashville on Wednesday. The stores were closed and bolted; the streets deserted, save by a guard here and there, and a press-gang taking up every man they could find, and sending him to load government pork into barges, upon which it was being taken up the river, and put out of the enemy's way. Had a stand been made before the city, or even a feint of a stand, no doubt all the government stores could have been removed safely. As it is, vast amounts have been thrown away, wasted, given out, both from the quartermaster's and commissary's departments. At one time the doors were thrown open to whomsoever would, under the impression that they had better let the poor have these provisions than the enemy, who was expected instantly. A friend saw quantities of meat lying on the roadside, where persons, having overloaded their carts, had thrown it down. Barrels of flour, sacks of coffee, tierces of lard and meat, were rolled into private houses and back-yards, with hundreds of boxes of candles, belts of cloth, etc. Afterwards this order was countermanded, as the enemy was not exactly at the door, and a guard placed over the stores, and an effort made to get them off by railroad and boat. Private carriages, hacks and carts, were stopped in the street and pressed into service, and some of my friends had to get their baggage to the station in wheel-barrow. Advantage was taken of the confusion and dismay of the hour for private injustice and irresponsible oppression. The selfishness developed in such a crisis is humiliating

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The opinion prevails there that Nashville will be burnt, first or last-if not when we leave it, then when we drive the enemy out of it. For Tennesseans are resolved that the enemy shall nor rest on their soil. Gen. Floyd and staff left Thursday [20th] morning, and it was understood that Capt. John H. Morgan, with his company, would retire slowly, as the enemy in force entered. The Louisiana cavalry, Col. Scott, were near Franklin, on their way to the vicinity of Nashville, where they will act as scouts and hold the enemy closely in bounds.

"As far out as Brentwood, Franklin and Columbia, some people are leaving their homes and sending off their slaves. Others, deeply-committed Southerners, stand and risk the consequences. They look for inconveniences and heavy losses, staying or going.

"In reply to the question often asked, whether any Union element has been developed by these events: There was always some of this element in Nashville, but in very inconsiderable proportion to the population. Let Unionists

show their hands and heads now; it is hoped they will. We have friends enough to watch them; and when the tide of war rolls back, the country will finally be purged of them, for they will have to leave with the Lincoln army.

"The great mass of Tennesseans, especially Middle and West, are sound to the core, and thoroughly aroused for the first time. They chafe under the humiliation and disgrace of the surrender of their capital. Those that can will move their families out of the reach of immediate harm, and return to face the foe on a hundred fields. The greater battles of the war are to be fought in the West. This is just the beginning. The people realize now what is at stake, and they will measure out wealth and blood without stint."

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, pp. 211-212.

Observations from the Cumberland river as the U. S. S. *Conestoga* entered Nashville.

The river-banks, and the country adjoining, from Donelson up to Nashville, are of a most charming character. The bluffs on either side, are broken, now towering up three hundred feet, a square, solid wall of rock, again isolated conical peaks, whose tops are green with cedars; here and there sweeping back from the river, in an irregular semi-circle, leaving a rich bottom, in which nestles a comfortable farm-house, surrounded with orchards and springing fields of winter grain. The air was warm and delicious; birds chirped and twittered among the boughs, which already are half concealed by the bursting buds and green young leaves of spring. Tennessee many, judging from the glimpses caught from the river, be well termed the "Garden State," for never were there scenes better calculated to give pleasure to the lovers of the beautiful or the utilitarian, than those which, spread away on either side of the Cumberland.

Six miles below Nashville we reached Fort Zollicoffer. It is located on the west bank of the river, some sixty feet above the water, and is mounted with eight guns—thirty-twos and sixty-fours. Although the guns are mounted, the Fort is unfinished, being nothing more as yet than a series of breastworks—one for each gun. Two additional guns have been thrown down the bank and lie close to the water's edge—one or two others are supposed to have been thrown in the river, while the balance are indifferently well spiked. The rebels who constructed the Fort evidently knew but little of the existence of gunboats, or else they would have placed the pieces in quite a different position. The guns stand nearly on a line with the river, thus exposing them to our enfilading fire from the gunboats. The gallant Commodore Foote, with his fleet, would have swept the whole batter out of existence in half an hour; but they were evidently intended to operate against transports carrying troops, in which case they would have answered admirably.

Soon after passing Fort Zollicoffer the magnificent state house, situated upon the highest hill of Nashville, came into view, with the glorious old flag waving proudly from a staff upon the roof. A little further, and the lofty piers of ruined

bridges become visible—a few minutes later, and the Conestoga was fast at the wharf at the foot of one of the main Streets of Nashville

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*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, p. 207.

#### The Great Panic-Its Rise and Progress

Before ten o'clock Sunday (16th) morning a rumor, vague and indefinite, it is true, the Fort Donelson had surrendered, and that the entire Confederate force had been taken prisoners, had found its way into the streets of the city, and was spreading with a rapidity which only such rumors can spread. It was the rebound which was least expected by the great mass, and assumed the most terrible proportions as it traveled. This rumor was accompanied with the statement that General Buell, with thirty-five thousand men, was then at Springfield, only twenty-five miles distant, and that a fleet of Federal gunboats had passed Clarksville and would reach here by three o'clock in the afternoon, by which time Buell's army would arrive in Edgefield, when the city would be shelled, without notice, and laid in ashes. These rumors created a consternation, which it would be impossible to portray. A reign of terror and confusion ensued, the like of which was never witnessed in Nashville. "How is this?" asked a gentleman we met as we were going up town to learn the facts in regard to the rumors alluded to. "We whipped the enemy badly all day yesterday" he continued, "and now, so early in the morning, it is announced that all is lost." We assured him that the affair was as much a mystery to us as to him, when, with exclamation, "I can't understand it!" he hurried to his home to quiet, if possible, the "better-half."

We found the town in a perfect tumult—a furor that lashed into a phrenzy those who were regarded perfect models of the calm and passionless—and the wave was spreading with fearful rapidity. Not a man was there in all the goodly city who stepped forth to tell the people that there was no cause for the alarm to which they had given way. It was understood that the intelligence of the fall of Fort Donelson had been communicated to Gov. Harris by Gen. Johnston, and that it was from the former the rumor proceeded. His office at the Capitol was besieged by anxious inquirers, and he was appealed to, through one of his aids, to issue a proclamation setting forth the facts as far as they were in his possession, which, of itself, would quiet the people that if left the victims of conjecture, the most wild and improbable stories would obtain, causing a panic whatnot a parallel, because without a sufficient cause, while a simple statement of the facts as they really existed, without any attempt at explanation, would have a tendency to allay the excitement that then existed. The Governor, however, declined to issue a proclamation. Some thought that Gen. Johnston should issue a proclamation, others that the Mayor should, and still others that the editors of the respective papers, who were proficient in "Making the worse appear the better part," should issue extras assuring the people that matters were not half so bad as they appeared. Nothing, however, was done to quiet the people who were almost deranged with excitement, and hundreds were seen hurrying

to and fro, preparing to flee, as for dear life, before the approach of an enemy they feared but little less than if they had been semi-barbarians.

The services at the churches were generally discontinued, in consequence of the excited state of the public mind, and, unfortunately, some of the pastors, in dismissing their congregations, added to the intensity of the excitement instead of allaying it. Many of those who attended one of the churches, misapprehending, perhaps, the purport of what the pastor said, returned home and reported that he had advised his hearers to quietly retire from the city for fear of an insurrection. We cannot think that such advice was given, but he was so understood by a number of his congregation, and it produced the most painful apprehensions in the minds of those who heard him as well as those to whom they communicated their impression of what he said. A moment's reflection, however, should have satisfied every one that there was no danger to be apprehended on this score from the servile or any other portion of our population.

About this time (say eleven o'clock) a report was put in circulation, as coming from Gov. Harris, that the women and children must be removed from the city within three hours, as at the expiration of that time the enemy would shell the place and destroy it. This outrageous story created the most terrible alarm wherever it went, and it spread like wildfire. We met this rumor on our return from the capitol, and it is due to Gov. Harris to say that he never intimated any such thing. There is no doubt, however, that this rumor hurried hundreds from the city, as the contradiction traveled much slower than the original story. Men and women were to be seen running to and fro in every portion of the city, and large numbers were hastening with their valuables to the several railroad depots, or escaping in private conveyances to some place of fancied security in the country. The hire of private conveyances was up to fabulous prices, and it was only the wealthy that could enjoy the luxury of a ride on that day. Large numbers, in their eagerness to escape from the city, left on foot carrying with them such articles as they wished to preserve, either as mementoes or for their comfort, and of course these must necessarily have been few.

Upon the receipt of the intelligence of the capitulation of Fort Donelson, Gen. Johnston advised Gov. Harris to remove the archives of the State to some place of safety, as it might become necessary to evacuate Nashville. In accordance with this suggestion, the archives were packed up and shipped in a special train during the afternoon to Memphis, whither they were accompanied by the Governor and heads of departments. The Legislature met at an early hour of the morning, and went through the formality of adjourning to meet upon the call of the Governor, and the following notice was served on the members:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NASHVILLE, FEBRUARY 26, 1862.

The members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee will assemble at Memphis, Tenn., on Thursday next, the 20th inst., for the despatch and transaction of such business as may be submitted to them.

ISHAM G. HARRIS

This temporary removal of the set of government was done in accordance with a resolution adopted by the two houses of the General Assembly in secret session a few days previous.

We were at the Capital a short time before the Legislature met. Messengers had been sent around to hurry up the laggard members, and as those who were present strolled about "from pillar to post," from door to window, eagerly gazing for the appearance of some fellow-member, so as to get a quorum. Their faces resented the most interesting study we have ever beheld in human nature. The actions of all told how eager they were to get away from "the doomed city." We have heard of "long faces," but that scene beat anything we had pictured from the most extravagant stories. Anxiety and fear struggled for the mastery in almost every countenance, and in one or two instances where the latter had manifestly asserted its supremacy, that "pallor which sets upon the brow of death," was but too visible where the ruddy glow of excellent satisfaction was marked the day before.

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It is said the members of the Legislature presented rather a ludicrous appearance as they trudged off toward the depot of one or the other of the railroads, each one with a trunk on his back or carpet sack and bundle in hand. As it was next to impossible to procure a vehicle to convey one even to the depot, those who chose not to witness the promised exhibition of fire-works by Gen. Buell and Com. Foote, "stood not on the order of their going."

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The movements of the Governor and Legislature had a tendency to increase the excitement, while the passage through the city at an early hour in the day of a large portion of Gen. Johnston's army from Bowling Green, was another incentive to the growth of the panic which continued to spread until it seemed to have seized upon almost every one. Go where a person would, the question met him at almost every other step, "What are you going to do?" or, "What shall I do?" To the former, the most frequent reply was, "I don't know," with here and there an exception, "I shall stay and take care of my family." Very few appeared inclined to give advice in the midst of such a panic, even to their most intimate friends, so that the second question was rarely answered, and each man was left to decide for himself whether he should leave the city, and go, he knew not where, nor for why, or remain and take his chances with those who had prudence enough to stay quietly at home, and those, less, or perhaps more, fortunate, who could not get away.

Every available vehicle was chartered, and even drays were called into requisition, to remove people and their plunder, either to the country or to the depots, and the trains went off crowded to their utmost capacity, even the tops of the cars being literally covered with human beings. It was a lamentable sight to see hundreds of families thus fleeing from their homes, leaving nearly everything

behind, to seek protection and the comforts and luxuries they had abandoned among strangers.

A large number of citizens left the city from fear of fire. They had been led to believe that the town would be shelled during the afternoon or night at farthest, and reduced to heap of ruins. These went only a short distance into the country, and returned as soon as they felt they could do so with safety.

No effort was made to allay this frightful panic. Had a proclamation been issued by some of our authorities, civil or military, stating the facts as they existed, so far as known, that of itself would, in all probability, have assured the people, and reason might have assumed its place again before the scenes we have referred to, and other over which a mantle should be drawn, were enacted. There may have been "a military necessity" for the course that was pursued in this matter, but the people were wholly unable to appreciate such reticence, when a few words would have gone far toward quieting their fears.

Early in the day the yellow flag was hoisted over a number of buildings occupied as hospitals. Over one business house we noticed the British flag floating. The Band of Tennessee, with its effects, was removed to Columbia, and several of our bankers gathered up their specie and other valuables and carried them to some point which they regarded as more secure than Nashville. The Planters', Union, and City Banks were the only ones that remained, but whether they retained their specie is not know to the public.

Much anxiety was manifested to know Gen. Johnston's purposes in regard to holding the city, many favoring and others opposing such a policy. So clamorous were the people upon this point, that, during the afternoon, Gen. Barrow, the Senator of Davidson county, who had remained at home to share with his people the fate that might befall them, in company with Mayor Cheatham, visited Gen. Johnston at his headquarters in Edgefield to ascertain what he should do in his behalf. Gen. Johnston informed them that his army was not then in a condition to make a stand here, and that he should make no effort to defend the city. On their return, Merrs, Barrow and Cheatham addressed the crowd assembled upon the Public Square, informing them that they had Gen. Johnston's assurance that he would not hazard the safety of the city by attempting to hold it, and they advised the people to remain quietly at home in the pursuit of their ordinary avocations, and expressed the conviction that they would not be molested. Mayor Cheatham also stated that upon the approach of the Federals he should, in company with a committee of our wisest, most discreet citizens, go out under a flag of truce to meet the commanding General and make a formal surrender of the city, and that he should negotiate for the best possible terms for the protection of the rights and property of the citizens. He further stated that the provisions of the commissary stores, which could not be removed by the Confederate authorities, would be distributed among the people, so that there need be no fear of suffering for the want of the necessaries of life by those thrown out of employment by the state of things now upon us.

These assurances quieted somewhat the minds of the people, especially those who feared the shock of a battle in the immediate vicinity of the city.

Three o'clock came, and still time sped on, but neither Gen. Buell's army nor the gunboats . . . had arrived. By this time the people began to understand that Gen. Buell's army could not, by any possibility, have got to Springfield, so that the fears of danger from that force were quieted. It was given out as coming from a high official, that the gunboats would reach here about twelve o'clock that night, and this was used to keep up the panic.

Great fears were entertained that the torch would be applied to the city during the night, and an urgent appeal was made to Gen. Johnston for protection against incendiaries. A regiment of Missouri troops was detailed to guard the city, and faithfully did they perform the duty assigned them. The night was passed in a degree of quiet which was surprising as well as gratifying.

Thus passed the most exciting Sunday we ever witnessed in Nashville.

Monday morning, the 17th, came but it brought no gunboats or Federal troops. It had rained considerably the previous night and the streets were full of mud, yet the Confederate troops continued to pour in in continuous stream, and the city was soon filled with soldiers, wet, hungry, and worn out by long and continuous marches. As the day wore away they gradually fell back Southward, so that comparatively few remained in the city over night.

The excitement of the previous day had abated but little. Business of all kinds was suspended and the stores and shops closed. Almost every body seemed to be upon the streets hurrying to and fro, many seeking friends to advise with, while perhaps the same friends were out upon a similar mission; others were to be seen congregated in little groups upon the corners discussing the probabilities of the future, or listening to the miraculous stories of some soldier who had escaped from Fort Donelson, and . . . had made their way to this city. Some of them told wonderful stories. We recollect encountering one in our perambulations, who professed to have followed Gen. Floyd through his campaign in Western Virginia, and his graphic descriptions of how his chieftain eluded the plodding Rosecrans formed quite a spicy little episode in the panic of that day. A "Maury county boy" was entertaining an interested crowd on another corner with the daring exploits that were performed at Fort Donelson, and wound up by declaring that he could have walked upon the bodies of dead Yankees for acres without ever touching the ground.

Many who were wealthy removed themselves and what property they could take with them out of town, while the thousands of poor had no alternative but to remain and make the best disposition of themselves they could, as there was no possibility of getting out of town, except at enormous cost, the military authorities having taken charge of all the railroads leading out from the city, and the owners of vehicles refused to hire them out, unless the hirer would pay a price approximating the cost of carriages and horses. Notwithstanding these

exorbitant demands, large numbers paid the price and left the city, seeming with no object in view except to get out of Nashville.

Of course, the city was filled with rumors of every conceivable description, and it would have been perfect folly to have attempted to glean a grain of truth from the reports which one would meet at every corner, yet thousands seemed to believe everything that was told in regard to the numbers and rapid approach of the Federals. . . .

At one time it was asserted with a degree of confidence that almost inspired belief in the sincerity of the narrator, that the gunboats were only a few miles below the city, then another would assert, in terms equally as positive, that there was not a Federal soldier in Gen. Buell's army this side of the Kentucky line, nor a gunboat this side of Clarksville. It was evident that not a few were trying to "play upon a harp of a thousand strings."

*The Great Panic*, pp. 5-15.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** *The Great Panic: Being Incidents Connected with two weeks of the War in Tennessee.* By an Eye-witness, (Nashville: Johnson & Whiting, Publishers, 1862; rpt. Charles Elder Bookseller, Nashville, 1977). [Hereinafter cited as *The Great Panic*.] (The eye witness was Nashville newsman John Miller McKee with the *Union and American*.)

**February 16, 1862 - February 27, 1862 - Life in Nashville during the first week of occupation, from the pen of a New York Times war correspondent.**

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Up to Sunday morning, the sixteenth inst., the day upon which Fort Donelson surrendered, the impression was prevalent in Nashville that the "Yankees were being "cleaned out" in the usual wholesale slaughter, buncombe style, customary in the cases of the gallant sons of chivalry. Saturday [15th] a dispatch was published [in Nashville] as follows:

ENEMY RETREATING!-GLORIOUS RESULT!!-OUR BOYS FOLLOWING AND PEPPERING THEIR REAR!!-A COMPLETE VICTORY!

Gen. Pillow also sent up a despatch:

"ON THE HONOR OF A SOLDIER THE DAY IS OURS!!"

Pillow, however, failed in his prognostication. His "honor" apparently, is not worth speaking of. The only "despatch" that he can pride himself on is the despatch with which he, in company with the valiant Floyd, got himself out of Dover, danger, and the range of Yankee bullets.

The despatch of the other sanguine individual is also liable to objection, both on account of its lack of truthfulness and its inelegant allusions. Instead of picking the Nationals, the rebels became the recipients of the condiment above name, both in from and "rear," which, in addition, being thoroughly punched in

by the bayonets of the veteran Smith's division, they were glad to get out of their pickle by a surrender.

Cave Johnson was also seized with the prevailing hopefulness and the despatch-mania, and from the safe distance of Clarksville, cheered the rejoicing spirits of Nashville as follows:

"The fighting on yesterday was mainly between two gunboats and the Fort. Boats greatly damaged and retired. Three out of seven in this river are believed to be disabled. Firing kept up all day on our line without loss on our side. We hear firing again this morning. They have had large reinforcements. Their whole force supposed to be near one hundred thousand. Our officers feel confident of success, and our troops equally so, and cannot be conquered. A Virginia regiment, McCaustine, took one of their batteries night before last without any loss on our side. Reports of the capture of Russelville and Elkton, not believed. Their whole loss, it is thought, exceeds one thousand."

"CAVE JOHNSON."

Of course the virtuous and Christianly traitors of Nashville were highly delighted Sunday [16th] morning, to receive these encouraging assurances of the thrifty progress of rebellion. They were mingling this glad intelligence with their devotions—indulging in cheerful anticipations of the future of Dixie, while they gave vent to Old Hundred and other Te Deums, when suddenly the delicious union of religion and rebellion was strangled as mercilessly as one throttles a litter of blind puppies, by the advent of the gallant Floyd, who commanded the vanguard of the retreat from Donelson.

Old Hundred was dropped instanter -devotion was silenced-and if the name of Him they had meet to worship was again mentioned in the course of that memorable Sunday, it was generally with the addition of an emphatic "d\_\_n."

Harris instantly convened his Legislature, but, finding no parliamentary remedy against the approach of Yankees with rifles and armored gunboats, they adjourned without calling for the nays, and took a special train for Memphis.

Before night, [General] Johnston, with his retreating hordes from Bowling Green, entered the city and struck straight south for Dixie. This added to the general panic, and when a rumor became current that the dreaded gunboats had taken Clarksville and were advancing up the river, the excitement grew to be tremendous.

To save the trouble of writing, I take the remainder of the account from an extra of the *Republican Banner* issued this morning.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

"Such hurrying to and fro was never seen. Before nightfall hundreds of citizens with their families were mankind their way, as best they could, for the South, many of them having no idea why they were thus recklessly abandoning comfortable home or where they were going. About night it was announced that the military authorities would throw open the public stores to all who would take them.

"The excitement continued through Sunday night, constantly gaining strength, aided by the destruction of two gunboats at the wharf, which were in process of construction, to fine New Orleans packets, the James Woods and James Johnson, having been taken for that purpose. The retreating army of Gen. Johnston continued its march, encamping by regiments at convenient points outside of the city.

"Monday [17th] morning the drama opened in the city intensely exciting. The public stores were distributed to some extent among the people, while the army and hospitals were making heavy requisitions, and pressing all vehicles and men that they could, to convey their supplies to their camps. At the same time considerable quantities were removed to the depots for transportation South. Evening came and no gunboats and no Federal army from Kentucky. Gen. Johnston left for the South, placing Gen. Floyd in command, assisted by Generals Pillow and Hardee. The apprehensions of the near approach of the enemy having been found groundless, it was determined by Gen. Floyd that the destruction of the stores was premature, and an order was sent to close the warehouses, and a force detailed to collect what had been given out. This was done as far as practicable; but on Tuesday [18th] the distribution commended again, and continued with more less restrictions, under the eye of the most judicious citizens, until Saturday morning. Tuesday night the wire bridge and railroad bridge across the Cumberland were destroyed in spite of the most earnest and persistent remonstrances of our leading citizens. The wire bridge cost about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and a large portion of the stock was owned by the lamented Gen. Zollicoffer, and was the chief reliance for the support of his orphaned daughters. The railroad bridge cost two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and was one of the finest draw-bridges in the country.

"The scenes which were enacted during the following days up to Monday morning, the twenty-fourth, beggar description. The untiring energy of the Mayor and city authorities, who throughout this whole affair acted with a prudence, zeal and devotion to the city which cannot be too highly commended, was inadequate to keep down the selfish and unprincipled spirit of mammon, which run riot, grasping from the mouths and backs of suffering widows and orphans and the poor pittance of meat and clothing which was left them as indemnity for months of toil with their needles, and the sacrifice of husbands, sons and brothers in defence of the Southern Confederacy. Through the efforts of the Mayor, however, a plan was adopted on Saturday by which most, if not all of these poor and unprotected creditors of the government were fully secured by quartermaster and commissary stores.

"Here was an entire week of panic and confusion, during which millions of dollars' worth of property was lost to the Southern Confederacy, and wantonly destroyed, all of which might have been quietly and safely removed, had the panic-stricken leaders been able to maintain their equanimity in the face of a vague and unauthentic rumor that the enemy were near at hand. Comment upon such management is unnecessary in these columns-it can be heard loud and unsparingly from every mouth in the land."

Sunday morning a small advance of Gen. Buell's column arrived and took possession Edgefield, a small town opposite Nashville. Nothing was done until Monday evening, when Genl Buell arrived at Edgefield, and was immediately visited by a committee from Nashville, headed by Mayor Cheatham. The hour for a formal interview was fixed at eleven A. M. Tuesday, before which time Gen. Nelson arrived with his column on transports, accompanied by the gunboat *St. Louis*.

At the appointed hour the Mayor and some ten citizens waited on Gen. Buell and surrendered the city, receiving assurances that the liberty and property of all citizens would be sacredly respected.

The interview passed off pleasantly, and resulted in the issuing of the following proclamation by the Mayor [February 26, 1862, Wednesday]:

#### PROCLAMATION

The committee, representing the city authorities and the people, have discharged their duty by calling on Gen. Buell, at his headquarters in Edgefield, on yesterday. The interview as perfectly satisfactory to the committee, and there is every assurance of safety and protection to the people, both in their persons and in their property. I, therefore, respectfully request that business be resume, and all our citizens of every trade and profession, pursue their regular vocations.

The county elections will take place on the regular day, and all civil business be conducted as heretofore; and the Commanding General assures me that I can rely upon his aid in enforcing our police regulations. One branch of business is interdicted-the sale or giving away of intoxicating liquors. I shall not hesitate to invoke the aid of Gen. Buell in case of the recent laws upon this subject are violated.

I most earnestly call upon the people of the surrounding country, who are inside of the Federal lines, to resume their commerce with the city, and bring in their market supplies, especially wood, butter, and eggs, assuring them that they will be fully protected and amply remunerated.

R. B. Cheatham, Mayor

February 26, 1862

Of course, Floyd, Pillow and Co. long ere the National troops had possession, were long miles away from the vicinity of Nashville. No prisoners, save one, were captured, and no stores of any amount, as the latter were all taken possession of by the mob. There were a large number of guns in the city, but they were either spiked, thrown in the river, or placed on the bridges before they were fired. The two gunboats, alluded to in the *Banner* extra, were also partially burned, and sunk close by the railroad bridge, but fortunately not in a position to interfere with navigation. Several fine steamers were captured, the rebels leaving in such a hurry that they had not time to burn them. Among them were the *J. H. Baldwin*, *Charter*, *B. M. Runnion*, *W. V. Baird*, and two others.

About half of them are side-wheelers and first-class boats. The *Baldwin* was captured yesterday. She had been somewhere up the river, and not knowing the important changes which had occurred in Nashville during her absence, came unsuspectingly into the national net, and was taken.

I have spent a good deal of time to-day in conversing with the citizens and found but little Union sentiment. Men asserted that they were not citizens of the United States—didn't want any protection from the government, and in several cases even refused to sell any good to the soldier or officers. One man said he was a Union man, but never dared to say so for fear of being hung; another said the only two nights' sleep he had had in weeks were since the arrival of the National army. Another individual assured me, with a very haughty air, that there were no Union men in Nashville except among mechanics and laborers; no gentlemen, he said, were anything but secessionists, or rebels, if I liked the term any better.

The fact is, that the masses have been so lied to and misled about the purposes of the Government, that they listened with incredulity to the assertion that we do not come for the purpose of stealing their "niggers," and other property. As soon as their minds are disabused of these kindred lies, they will be prepared to return to their first love—the Union. They admit that our troops behave in a manner as entire unexceptionable as it is unexpected. Hence it may be inferred that this believe will ripen, ere long, into a substantial loyalty.

At present an air of gloom hangs heavily over the whole city. The stores are closed almost without exception, and the inhabitants gather in sullen knots to talk over the new order of things. One thing they all agree upon; and that is, that the destruction of the suspension and railroad bridges was a most cowardly and wanton outrage upon the city. This wholesale destruction, when compared with the manner in which the National troops disabled, without destroying, the bridges on the Tennessee [river], invites a comparison between the two forces that must result favorably to the latter.

Gen. Grant and staff came up here to-day from Clarksville, and spent several hours in looking around the city. Among other whom they called upon was Mrs. Polk, the widow of James K. Polk, formerly President of the *whole* United States. The residence of the relict of the late President is a handsome brick mansion, on a fine street, and shows by her surroundings that she is a woman of taste. A large yard lies between the street and the house, which is filled with clumps or the trim and elegant cedar, stately magnolias, all green as in summer, while here and there daffodils and other plants have pushed forth their leaves and flowers with all the richness and beauty of a Northern mid-summer. In one corner, surrounded by emblematic evergreens, is a tasteful, costly tomb, beneath which sleeps the once powerful chief of a then united nation.

Mrs. Polk is a well-preserved lady of perhaps fifty years of age. She received her visitors courteously, but with a polished coldness that indicated sufficiently in which direction her sympathies ran—she was simply polite and ladylike; in no

case patriotic. While she discreetly forbore to give utterance to any expression of sympathy for the South, she as rigidly avoided saying anything that might be construed into a wish for the success of the Government. She hoped, she said, that the tomb of her husband would protect her household from insult and her property from pillage; further that this she expected nothing from the United States, and desired nothing.

Soon after this her visitors left, satisfied that Ephraim was joined to his idols, and might as well be "let alone." As the widow is of more than ordinary intelligence, and owes the ample fortune which smoothes the declivity of her old age to the Government, it is somewhat strange that she should be at once so blindly ignorant of the true character of the present war, and so ungrateful.

The ladies of Nashville—that is, the few of them who have not struck for the warmer and less Yankee-haunted portions of Dixie—are, of course, as full of treason as they are, in occasional cases, of loveliness. I have seen only two cases of women who are loyal and both of these are among what might be called the "lower walks" of social life. One of these was a bare-armed, bare-headed female that issued from a shanty on the bluffs as we passed along the front of the city, and commenced waving her hands wildly up and down, at the same time *teetering* violently on her toes, like some devotee before the altar of an Aztec idol. She continued this demonstrative but original welcome, till a couple of other females issued from the same shanty and forcibly carried her indoors. It maybe suspected that her loyal recognition sprang rather from whisky than patriotism—a suspicion that my own mind is not altogether free from, as I have carefully reflected upon this singular and almost isolated case of Union feeling.

The other case was also that of an Irish lady, and seemed more the result of genuine loyalty than of stimulants. As Gen. Grant and staff were riding through the city, a woman rushed out from a house, and throwing up her hand in the style adopted by cruel parents when they say: "Bless you, my children," in fifteen-cent novels, exclaimed: "God bless ye, gintlemen! Success go wid ye! Arrah, git in there, ye Thafe, and don't be boderin' the life out o' me!" The last remark, I must say, was accompanied by all resounding slap, and was addressed to a dirty faced gossoon that thrust his unkempt head beyond the doorway—and not, as may be surmised, to the Illinoisian hero. The youth set up one of those vigorous howls so peculiar to offended juvenility, and amid a chorus of slaps, blessings, and the roars of the suffering infant, the General turned a corner and disappeared.

A little further, and the party passed slowly by a costly carriage, out of one of whose windows was thrust the head of an elegantly-dressed lady. She was giving some directions to the liveried darkey that held the reins; but looking up as the party passed, she caught sight of the Federal uniforms. With a "baugh" as if she had swallowed a toad, she spat toward the ground, and with a contemptuous and expressive grimace of disgust upon her features, drew in her head, and threw herself back in her carriage. Quite possibly such movements are the very

height of Southern breeding-further North, in the land of Yankees and wooden clocks, a woman who would perpetrate an act of the kind, under similar circumstances, would be regarded-well, to use a convenient everyday expression, as "no better than she should be"-a somebody closely akin to, if not the identical scarlet feminine spoke of in Revelation.

Occasionally I met other specimens of Nashville ladies, who, in many cases, supposing me to be a soldier, from the possession of a blue overcoat, described upon meeting a wide semicircle of avoidance, swinging, as they did so, their rotund skirts with a contemptuous flirt far out, as if the very touch of a blue coat would be contamination. And then the angle at which the noses of the naughty darlings went up, and the extent to which their lips went down, were not the least interesting portion of these little by-plays, and assisted materially in showing the exquisite breeding of these amiable demoiselles.

A more cynical observer than myself would, perhaps, assert that all this flirting of dresses was mainly gotten up for the better display of pretty ankles, and those to whom nature had not been kind in this respect, were among those who omitted from their performance, to give their rustling silks the outward sweep. Possibly this view may be true, but I will not be uncharitable enough to endorse it.

It is not probable that our soldiers will allow these evidences of disdain to affect them to any great extent. At present, there are but few ladies in town; hundreds have fled in horror from the approach of the ruthless Hessians of the North; others, unable to leave, have put triple bars before their doors and windows, and hide at once their fears and beauty behind those protections. In view of these facts, those who now wander through the streets are not formidable as to number, and they will, doubtless, soon become, to some extent, civilized.

The rebels had stores here in unlimited quantities, none of which they were able to take away. All, after several days of riot, which, in terror, almost exceeded the three days in Paris, in 1848, were divided among, or rather seized by, the mob. There were, in addition to the food, several hundred barrels of whisky, the heads of which were knocked in, and the contents allowed to mingle with the waters of the Cumberland.

About one hundred of our prisoners, who were captured by the rebels at Donelson, were found at this place upon the arrival of our troops-all of them were either sick or wounded. That they were glad to once more find themselves among friends, will not be doubted.

It is not known precisely to what point the enemy is retiring, but it is generally believed that they are concentrating at Chattanooga, in this State. I doubt very much their making any more stand of any magnitude at any point where they can be reached by gunboats."We can whip you even-handed," said a Fort Donelson prisoner to me, "on land, but d\_\_n your gunboats!"

The water is very high in the Cumberland River; higher, in fact, than it has been in many years. This has favored the gunboats, and to their prestige we owe

much in gaining Nashville so easily. Said a citizen an hour since: "I think the Old *Monster* has sent this high water on us; if it hadn't been for that, the gun-boats couldn't have come up, and you wouldn't have got Nashville without a big fight!" Doubtless this is pretty much so. The ground around Nashville is broken and covered with timber, and could have been defended for weeks by a determined moderate-sized army.

No movements of great importance need be anticipated at this place within a short time. Gen. Smith's division has reached here from Clarksville, and has taken quarters in the suburbs of the city. Several skirmishes have taken place between our pickets and guerrilla parties of the enemy, but it is believed that no considerable force of the enemy is within fifty miles of Nashville.

Galway.

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, pp. 207-211.

**NOTE 1:** It is not clear what date "this morning" was. The piece was written on February 27; then again he may be referring to February 16 or maybe 17. The extra is not extant.

**February 17, 1862 - John B. Hamilton, at Mill Creek, Nashville environs, to his wife, relative to Fort Donelson fiasco**

Feb. 17, 1862

Dear Wife,

I am at cousin Lizzie's-Staid here last night-Our army (from Bowling Green) are now crossing the [Cumberland] river-and will be all day (perhaps). The cavalry got over at dark last night, crossing on the R. R. Bridge-

Our arms have met a reverse at Ft. Donaldson. Our troops are in retreat for this place. If the Gun Boats get up here, Nashville will be surrendered, I think. If they cannot get up we may make a stand near this-

We are camped at Mill Creek 4 miles out on Murfreesborough Pike-Should we move from there, we will go, I think, towards Murfreesborough.

If I *knew how* to get them to me I would send for Peter or John Turley. Take things a calm as you can."all things are not deth." My helth tho poor, is better-The Boys are well.

I am going to camp this morning. will write as often as I can-but if all communication for a time shall be cut don't suffer yourself to fret & grieve still have an abiding faith in the God of *all* Good & justice.

These clouds that soon blow by & we shall have a calm

It is raining this morning-If it shall *continue* it will raise the water & the Gun Boats up-as it *now* stands we *think* they cannot come.

Our killed at Donaldson is reported at 500-that of the enemy 1,000-

We brought all the dead from the field. Such is my information-I saw McMeans in charge of Col Brown's (3d Ten. Regt. ) Waggon's crossing last night. The Regt would get about Charlotte last night.

Our forces from Bowling Green inform us to 25,000 respects to Ma & all the rest. . .

Yours Truly,

J. B. Hamilton

Hamilton-Williams Family Papers.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Hamilton-Williams Family Papers, mfm 1303, Box 1, folder 15, TSLA.

***ca. February 17, 1862 - News of the fall of Fort Donelson reaches Murfreesboro, excerpt from the diary of John C. Spence***

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Our town was quietly reposing, not dreaming that an army would tread out quiet streets, or that we should have any thing to molest us in our every day avocation. But, merely to speak of war as a thing that was raging in other parts of the country and not likely to ever reach us-these and similar feelings were in the minds of all.

When one morning, early, our ears is greeted by the sound of the horses hoof, the roll of Artillery wagons and trains, the heavy tread of the retreating soldier and cavalry in our midst. If dreaming, we are now awakened to a new sense of feeling, that war is spreading its baneful effects through the land and its future effects to be dreaded.

Spence, *Diary*.

***February 17, 1862 - February 20, 1862 - Awkward allocation of Confederate army stores to the public in Nashville; steam fire engine disperses mob***

**DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC STORES-SUBSIDENCE OF THE PANIC.**

. . . . During the morning of Monday the 17th, a small portion of the public stores was distributed, but an order from Gen Floyd was soon promulgated countermanding the distribution, and many a "poor, lone woman" and not a few men, who had reached the scene "just in time to be too late," turned away grievously disappointed. It was announced as the determination of Gen. Floyd, who was in command of the post, to ship off the stores for the use of the army, and impressments of wagons and men were extensively made with the view of getting the provisions and other stores, not needed for the hospitals, to the railroad depots and placed in the cars, and large amounts were sent off during the day.

The timid were not yet assured that a battle would not be fought on the opposite side of the river, and their fears were heightened by rumors that Generals Johnston, Pillow and Floyd had determined to make a stand a few miles out of the city, and the counter-marching of troops, in the rain which continued to pour down most of the forenoon, gave color to these rumors. So general had become the conviction that a battle was to be fought almost upon the confines of the city, and that it would be necessary for the women and children to seek safety in flight from the impending conflagration which was to sweep Nashville, "at one fell swoop," from the face of the earth, that it became necessary for Gen Barrow and Mayor Cheatham to again confer with Gen. Johnston, to ascertain whether he had changed his purposes with regard to Nashville. Upon their return they each briefly addressed the eager crowd assembled upon the Public Square, stating that they had the assurance of Gen. Johnston, that, at a council of war held that morning, Generals Pillow and Floyd fully agreed with him that, under the circumstances and in the condition of the Confederate troops, it would only be hazardous but impolitic to make a stand here, and that the Confederate army would retire before the arrival of the Federal troops, and leave the city to be quietly turned over to Gen. Buell. Thus was removed all fear of danger to the safety of the city from an apprehended collision in the immediate vicinity.

During his remarks Mayor Cheatham stated that the remainder of the public stores would be distributed to the people under the supervision of competent and reliable gentlemen to be designated by himself, who would see that a fair and equitable distribution was made, so that every body in the city who needed would get a fair proportion. This was done, he said, to prevent parties from getting more than they needed, while others, who, really were in want, would perhaps get none. This announcement was satisfactory to the crowd and they quietly dispersed.

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#### DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC STORES RESUMES.

The morning of Tuesday, the 18th, dawned cloudy, damp and chilly, but with it came no intelligence of the gunboats, except a repetition of the idle rumors of the previous day.

The distribution of the Government stores was again commenced, and large amounts of various kinds were given out during the day. This distribution created much excitement and serious fears of a riot were entertained. Indeed, it was all the Mayor and city police, in connection with the military, could do to keep even an approach to order in one or two localities. A good deal of stores, especially in the Quartermaster's department, was turned over to thousand of poor women who had labored faithfully for the Confederate Government for months past, in satisfaction of the balances due them. The rush made to the Quartermaster's store by hundreds of women and men, who hoped to get a portion of the good distributed, was closely akin to a mob, and the wonder is that many were not seriously injured.

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## DISTRUBUTION OF STORES - REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT - ALMOST A RIOT-DISSATISFACTION.

The distribution of provisions and other government stores was resumed Wednesday [19th] morning, but was shortly afterwards suspended by order of Gen. Floyd, who it appears came to the conclusion that the Federals were not as near Nashville as been supposed, and that these supplies could yet be shipped off for the use of the Confederate army. Squads of cavalymen were stationed in front of each store to keep off the crowds of people who had been drawn hither in expectation of getting a portion of what was to be distributed. They had come, some with wagons, some with wheelbarrows, some with baskets, and others, perhaps the largest portion, without anything, hoping to get a piece or two of meat and which to feed their little ones during the period they would be unable get employment, consequent upon the deranged condition of affairs in Nashville. It was a matter of with those who witnessed the conduct of these soldiers, that large numbers of women and children were not seriously injured, if not killed. Most of them were mounted upon spirited horses, and they would charge into the crowds at full speed, brandishing their swords or flourishing loaded pistols already cocked. It was painful to witness these exhibitions of recklessness on the part of men unused to the exercise of authority. We have often heard it said of a man, "He swears like a trooper," but we are forced to admit, after hearing a trooper swear, that the simile lacks an expressiveness. Such conduct was reprehensible to the last degree, and we feel satisfied the perpetrators would have been severely punished had the attention of the commanding General been directed to this matter.

A vigorous effort was made to get the provisions and other stores transferred to the railroad depot, and a large number of wagons from both the city and the surrounding country were impresses into service, as were numbers of the citizens of Nashville. There was no system, however, in what was done, and everything went on pell-mell, and the consequence was, much remained undone that might have been accomplished.

The impression got out and prevailed pretty generally Friday [20th] morning that the goods and clothing in the Quartermaster's department, on the corner of Front street and the Public Square, would be distributed that day to the poor and needy. It is said, however, the intention was to distribute what remained of these stores to those who had been working for the Confederate Government, especially the women, and had not been paid, as compensation for their services. The rumor attracted an immense crowd, and it was a motley one. All ages, color and sex were drawn thither in the hope of sharing a portion of the spoils. Hundreds of voices would demand that the doors be thrown open and free access given to everybody. The excited crowd swayed two and fro, and grew more clamorous from the promised distributions.

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As the door would open for one or two of the beneficiaries to pass in or out, the crowd would make a surge before which it seemed almost impossible to stand, and it really appeared a miracle that in that wild commotion . . . limb and life escaped. The efforts of the police and military to preserve order were of no avail, and a serious riot was imminent. The Mayor appeared and appealed to the crowd to disperse, but his appeal was unheeded, and the impatience of the multitude was almost ready to break forth in that wild spirit. . . .

It was a critical moment, and luckily the Mayor bethought himself an expedient which proved more effective than the bayonets of the soldiers. He ordered out the steam fire engine, and soon the muddy waters of the Cumberland were poring down like an avalanche upon the excited populace. The effect was magical. Two or three men were knocked down by the powerful stream, many were thoroughly drenched, while others were well sprinkled, whereas those who escaped laughed most heartily. The passions of the people, wrought almost to "democratic phrensy " were cooled down, everybody was soon in a good humor the crowd was dispersed, and a disgraceful riot prevented. So much for cold water!

It was highly honorable in those having charge of these stores that they made an effort to turn a sufficiency of them over to those who had worked for the Confederate Government to compensate them for their services, and it is to be regretted that a number of poor women, who had toiled for the Government for weeks and months, failed to get their pay. They represent that they made the application before the hour of distribution arrived, but because they were unwilling to risk limb and life in the excited crowd that besieged the building, or from some other cause, they received nothing, and now hold remembrances of the Confederate Government in the shape of little bills, while others, "well to do in the world," who had no little bills or claim of any character, have remembrances of the same Government in the shape of piles of clothe, and provisions, and groceries, sufficient to last them a year or two.

The plan for distributing the provisions and other stores among the people, so that the poor and needy should be supplied, was admirably conceived, but unfortunately it failed in the execution, and the consequence has been very great dissatisfaction and the charge that favoritism was shown, that parties who really needed nothing got considerable quantities of valuable stores, while hucksters and even merchants were enabled to lay in supplies for which they can find no use in their own families. What truth there may be, or whether any, in these complaints of course we do not know.

*The Great Panic*, pp. 18-19, 21, 23-28.

**February 17, 1862 - February 28, 1862 - Confederate withdrawal from Murfreesboro and Middle Tennessee**

HDQRS. WESTERN DEPARTMENT,  
Edgefield, February [17, 1862].

Maj.-Gen. CRITTENDEN, Cmdg. Chestnut Mound:

Gen. Johnston directs you to move your command to Murfreesborough (instead of Nashville) without delay. Press all the wagons you need. Fort Donelson has fallen, and Gen. Floyd's army is captured after a gallant defense.

Respectfully,

W. W. MACKALL.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 889.

MURFREESBOROUGH, [February] 24, 1862.

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS:

My movements have been delayed by a storm on the 22d washing away pike and railroad bridge at this place. Floyd, 2,500 strong, will march for Chattanooga to-morrow to defend the central line. This army will move on 26th, by Decatur, for the valley of Mississippi; is in good condition and increasing in numbers.

A. S. JOHNSTON, Gen.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 905

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 39. HDQRS. WESTERN DEPARTMENT, Murfreesborough, February 27, 1862.

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2. The army will move to-morrow morning at sunrise for Shelbyville.
3. The order of march and the marches will be as follows:
  - 1st. Wood's brigade, snappers and miners, 15 miles on Shelbyville road.
  - 2d. Wood's brigade, snappers and miners, 15 miles on Shelbyville road.
  - 3d. Crittenden's division, 12 miles on the same road.
  - 4th. Breckinridge and Texas Rangers, 7 miles to Hindman's first encampment.
  - 5th. Hardee, with Bowen's brigade, will cross the bridge over Stone's Creek.
  - 6th. All unattached companies, battalions, or regiments will be put in march by Maj.-Gen. Hardee in advance of Bowen.
  - 7th. The colonels of regiments will place all spare wagons at the disposal of the chief quartermaster.
  - 8th. The brigadiers and colonels will restrict their officers and men to the smallest possible amount of baggage, and turn over surplus transportation to the chief quartermaster.
  - 9th. Maj.-Gen. Hardee will assume command of all the cavalry in rear of the army, prescribe the time and manner of their movement, and direct them to destroy all the bridges after they pass over.

10th. The chief quartermaster will turn over all surplus transportation to Maj.-Gen. Hardee.

[By command of Gen. Johnston:

W. W. MACKALL, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.]

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 911.

CIRCULAR. ] HDQRS. WESTERN DEPARTMENT,

Murfreesborough, February 28, 1862.

The columns will resume the march to-morrow morning in the same order, and continue it from day to day by Shelbyville and Fayetteville to Decatur.

The marches will be so arranged as to make about 15 miles a day so long as the roads permit.

By command of Gen. Johnston:

W. W. MACKALL, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 912.

***February 18, 1862 - General Orders, No. 3, prohibiting Federal soldiers from looting Dover, Tennessee***

GEN. ORDERS, No. 3. HDQRS. DIST. OF WEST TENNESSEE, Fort Donelson, February 18, 1862.

All commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates are prohibited from entering the town of Dover or any houses therein situated without permission in writing of their regimental commanders.

All captured property belongs to the Government, and no officer, non-commissioned officer, or private will be permitted to have or retain possession of captured property of any kind.

Any officer violating the above order will be at once arrested. Any non-commissioned officer or private will be arrested and confined in the guard-houses, and all captured property taken from them and turned over to the district quartermaster.

Col. Leggett is hereby appointed to see to the strict enforcement of the above, using his whole command for that purpose, if necessary.

By order of Brig.-Gen. Grant

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, page. 633.

***February 18, 1862 - Report on arms shipments in East Tennessee***

The Knoxville *Register* says that Capt. Storms, who had been commissioned by Gov. Harris to collect arms in Blount county, has delivered three wagon

loads of guns at the armory in Knoxville, and have several loads yet to transmit. In addition to this he has armed a company, raised in Blount, for the Confederate service. Besides the firearms captured by Capt. Stephens, he also has a two horse wagon load of the most dangerous looking bowie-knives we have lately seen. These arms have been principally taken from disaffected men in Blount county, many of whom, we learn, are now making their way to the mountains to join the Lincoln army.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 18, 1862.

**February 18, 1862 - Nashville's railroad and suspension bridges destroyed by Confederate authorities**

It was known to a good many citizens on Monday [17th] that the destruction of the railroad and suspension bridges had been determined on as a military necessity, and this work was expected to have been accomplished Monday night, but for some reason, satisfactory it is presumed, to the authorities, it was not done. The fact became general known on Tuesday [18th], and urgent appeals were made to Gen. Floyd (Gens. Johnston and Pillow having left the city) to spare the suspension bridge, as it was of the highest importance to the people of Nashville to have uninterrupted communication with the other side of the river, from whence, for a time at least, they would have to draw all their market supplies. His uniform answer was, that the destruction of both bridges was regarded as a military necessity, and that it was his imperative duty to put into execution the plans agreed upon.

Tuesday night the torch was applied to the railroad bridge and in a short time all that remained of that splendid structure were the naked pillars and abutments and a few smoking fragments of timber. The precaution had been taken in this instance to prevent the fire-bells giving the alarm, so that the burning of the bridge was witnessed by comparatively few persons, and the event did not arouse the fears of those who had expected general conflagration. This bridge was one of the finest draw-bridges in the country, and was built for the joint use of the Louisville and Nashville and Edgefield and Kentucky railroads, at a cost of about \$250,000. The funds to build it were loaned the two companies by the State of Tennessee under the general internal improvement laws. . . .

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The wires of the suspension bridge were cut about the same time that the railroad bridge was fired, and the morning revealed a complete wreck of this magnificent structure. . . .

*The Great Panic*, pp. 21-23.

**February 18, 1862 - February 22, 1862 - "Rain, sunshine and frost alternate here." Iowa cavalryman Charles Alley's impressions of Fort Donelson environs.**

Rain, sunshine and frost alternate here. Monday we staid in camp. Tuesday [18th] we went out on a foraging expedition, Uncle Sam footing the bills, orders having been given not to take anything without paying for it. The country is rolling, most of the hills are very steep and rocky. The soil looks to me very poor, and none of that scarcely except on creek bottoms. The roads miserable, streams not bridged, and in some places the roads following their courses. Log houses and very poor ones at that, the people about as mean looking as their dwellings and nothing looking well, only the slaves, who generally look pleased and happy. Wednesday [19th], rain cold and chilly, at night, frost. Thursday [20th] cold and disagreeable. Friday [21st] fine. Another foraging expedition. Took a different road. Country worse than before, nothing good about it that I can see except the timber and maybe the stone if the latter was not so abundant as to be a plague. Got back to about bed time and then it commenced to rain. Kept it all night and all day, tin now (two o'clock). When there seems a chance for sunshine, a great many of our men are sick. Thank God I still keep well. May I praise Him for his Goodness to me. A few negros came into camp yesterday and day before. I trust they may soon be all free. No other union about.

Alley Diary, entry for February 22, 1862

**February 19, 1862 - Excerpts from Governor Isham G. Harris' proclamation to the people of Tennessee upon his arrival in Memphis after abandoning the capitol at Nashville**

As Governor of your State, and commander in chief of its army, I call upon every able bodied man of the State, without regard to age to enlist in its service. I command him who can obtain a weapon to march with our arms. I ask him who can repair or forge an arm, to make it ready at once for the soldier. I call upon every citizen to open his purse and his storehouses of provision to the brave defenders of our soul. I bid the old and the young, wherever they may be to stand up as pickets to our struggling armies. . .

To those who have not enlisted for the war I appeal, go cheer your brethren already there. Your native land now calls upon you, you have only waited until you were needed. The Confederate government calls upon me to raise thirty regiments. . .

Let not a day pass until you are enrolled. Let the volunteer in the field re enlist. Let him who can, volunteer for the war. Let those of whom imperative obligations demand a shorter term of service muster as a militia man.

Memphis *Appeal*, February 20, 1862.

**February 19, 1862 - Governor Isham G. Harris' Proclamation to the People of Tennessee**

Executive Department, February 19, 1862

The fall of Fort Donelson, so bravely and so gloriously defended, and accomplished only by vastly superior numbers, opened the approaches to your State, which is not to become the grand theatre wherein a brave people will show to the world, by their heroism and suffering, that they are worthy to be, what they have solemnly declared themselves to be, *freemen*.

Tennesseeans, the soil of your state is polluted with the footstep of the invader. Your brethren of the advance guard have fallen-nobly yielding life in the endeavor to secure for you and your children the priceless inheritance of freedom. The tyrant and the usurper marches his hosts upon your homes. They come flushed with temporary success and confident in the numbers, yet relying upon your tame submission, the hour is full of trial and danger, yet it is such, in the providence of God, as will test our manhood and or spirit. Let us, as one man, rally to meet the responsibilities thus cast upon us to repel the invader and maintain the assertion of our independence.

As Governor of your State, and Commander-in-Chief of its army, I call upon every able-bodied man of the State, without regard to age, to enlist in its service. I command him who can obtain a weapon, to march with our armies. I ask him who can repair or forge an arm, to make it ready at once for the soldier. I call upon every citizen to open his purse and his storehouses of provisions to the brave defenders of our soil. I bid the old and the young, wherever they may be, to stand as pickets to our struggling armies.

To our soldiers, the gallant volunteers who are already enlisted in the defence of our cause, I appeal. Your discipline, your skill, and your courage, constitute the hope, the pride, and the reliance of your State. Amid the thickening perils that now environ us, undismayed and undaunted, re-volunteer, and from the ashes of our reverses the fire of faith in the liberty for which we strive will be rekindled. You have done well and nobly, but the work is not yet accomplished. The enemy still flaunts his banner in your face; his foot is upon your native soil; the echo of his drum is heard in your mountains and valleys; hideous desolation will soon mark his felon track, unless he is repelled. To you who are armed, and have looked death in the face, who have been tried and are the "Old Guard," the State appeals to uphold her standard. Encircle that standard with your valor and your heroism, and abide the fortunes of war so long as an enemy of your State shall dare confront you. The enemy relies upon your forfeiture in you want of endurance. Disappoint him!

To those who have not enlisted for the war, I appeal. Go, cheer your brethren already there. Your native land now calls upon you; you have only waited until you were needed. The confederate government calls upon me to raise thirty-two regiments. You will be armed. Come, then, it is for your independence, your homes, your wives, and your children, Tennesseeans, you are to fight. Who will, who can, remain idly at home? Will you stand still and let others

pour out their blood for your safety? Patriotism and manhood would alike cry out against you.

Let not a day pass until you are enrolled. Let the volunteer in the field reenlist. Let him who can, volunteer for the war. Let those of whom imperative obligations demand a shorter term of service, muster as militia-men.

Tennesseans! you have a name in history; you have a traditional renown; shall these be forfeited in the day of your country's trial? Shall the black banner of subjugation wave in triumph over your altars and your homes? Shall there breathe between you and your God an earthly master, before whom your proud spirit shall quail and your knees be made to tremble? By the memory of our glorious dead-by the sacred names of our wives and children-by our own faith and our own manhood, no! Forbid it, sons of Tennessee; forbid it, men of the plains and of the mountains. I invoke you now to follow me; I am of the army of Tennessee, determined upon the field to stake the honor and name of that army of which you have made me commander-in-chief. It is there that I will meet with you whatever may threaten or imperil the fair fame of either. In view of the exposed condition of your capital, and by authority of a resolution adopted by the General Assembly, I have called the members of the Legislature together at this city.

It was a duty I conceived I owed you to remove, whilst it could be done in perfect safety, the archives of the State. This is not a fit occasion to inquire how your capital became so exposed. A series of reverses, not looked for, made the way to Nashville comparatively easy in the enemy. Temporarily and until our armies have made a stand, the officers of state will be located in Memphis.

Leaving the officers of state to the immediate discharge of their duties, I repair to the field, and again invoke you to follow me to the battle wherein the fortunes of all are to be lost or won. Orders to the militia will be issued with this proclamation, designating the rendezvous, and giving such other directions as may be necessary and proper. I am pleased to accompany this proclamation with the assurance that active aid and heavy support will be given you by the Confederate government.

Isham G. Harris

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, p. 194.

**February 19, 1862<sup>NOTE 1</sup> - Governor Isham G. Harris' General Orders to the Tennessee Militia**

*To the Commanders of the Militia:*

1. The State of Tennessee has been invaded by an enemy that threatens the destruction of the rights and liberties of her people-to meet and repel which you are required to call at once to the field the whole effective force under your command that is our can be armed, which you command that is or can be

armed, which you will immediately organize and march to the rendezvous hereafter designated.

2. You will make vigilant efforts to secure for the troops under your command every available weapon of defence that can be had.

3. The militia in the First division, from the counties above and adjoining Knox County, will rendezvous at the city of Knoxville. The militia from the counties in this division south of Knoxville will rendezvous at Chattanooga. The militia of the second and Third divisions will rendezvous at General A. S. Johnston's headquarters. The militia in the Fourth division, from the counties, from the counties of Henry, Weakley, Gibson, Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman and Madison, will rendezvous at Henderson Station, and those from the other counties of this division will rendezvous at Memphis.

4. The general officers will make immediate arrangements for the transportation to and the supply and subsistence of their commands at said rendezvous. All receipts and orders given by them for such purpose will be evidence of indebtedness upon the part of the State. They will, by proper orders, consolidate squads into companies.

5. Thorough and efficient drill and discipline of the forces must be enforced by all commanders.

6. Regular and constant reports must be made by officers commanding divisions, posts and detachments to the Commander-in-Chief.

7. R. C. Foster, of the county of Davidson, is appointed Acting Major-General for the Second division of the Tennessee militia.

8. Edwin H. Ewing, of the county of Rutherford, is appointed Acting Major-General for the Second division of the Tennessee Militia.

9. Lucius J. Polk, of the county of Maury, is appointed Acting Brigadier-General for the Twenty-fourth brigade of Tennessee militia.

10. As rapidly as it can be done after proper arrangements are made, as ordered herein, the forces hereby called out will be removed to their respective rendezvous.

The Commander-in-Chief relies upon your activity and promptness in the execution of this order. It is your attention to duty that will make efficient soldiers of you commands. By command of

Isham G. Harris

W. C. Whitthorne, Adjutant-General.

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, p. 193.

**NOTE 1:** See also *Memphis Appeal*, February 20, 1862

**February 19, 1862 - February 20, 1862 - Federal occupation of Clarksville by U. S. Navy**

FEBRUARY 19, 1862.-Clarksville, Tenn., occupied by United States forces.  
REPORTS.

No. 1.-Flag-Officer Andrew H. Foote, U. S. Navy.

No. 2.-Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant, U. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Flag-Officer Andrews H. Foote, U. S. Navy.

U. S. FLAG-STEAMER *CONESTOGA*, Fort Donelson, February 20, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that I left Cairo with the *Conestoga*, Lieut.-Commander Phelps, on the 18th instant, having previously dispatched the gunboat Cairo, Lieut.-Commander Bryant, and six mortar boats, in charge of Lieut. Bishop and Lieut. Lyford as ordnance officer, for Fort Donelson.

Yesterday (on the 19th instant) I came up the river on an armed reconnaissance with the *Conestoga* and Cairo, having Col. Webster, of the Engineer Corps, and chief of Gen. Grant's staff, on board. On nearing Fort Defiance, near Clarksville, we found a white flag displayed, and on landing found the fort deserted. Lieut.-Commander Phelps and Col. Webster took possession of the fort, the former hoisting the American flag. There were three guns mounted on this fort, three in the fort near the City, and two in a fort a short distance up the Red River.

On reaching Clarksville I sent for the authorities of the City, and soon after the Hon. Cave Johnson, the mayor, and Judge Wisdom came aboard, stating that the rebel soldiers had left the City, and with the portion of the defeated army which had escaped from Fort Donelson, had fled to Nashville, after having wantonly burned the splendid railroad bridge near the City, against the remonstrance of the citizens. I further ascertained that two-thirds of the citizens had fled from the place panic-stricken. In short, the City was in a state of the wildest commotion from the rumors that we would not respect the citizens either in their persons or their property.

I assured those gentleman that we came not to destroy anything but tents, military stores, and many equipments. With this assurance they earnestly impertuned me to issue a proclamation embodying my views and intentions to the citizens, that the confidence and quiet of the community might be restored. I was constrained, contrary to my predetermination of never writing such a document, to issue the proclamation of which the inclosed is a copy.

I leave this morning with the *Conestoga* to bring up one or two ironclad gunboats with the vessel and six mortar boats, and then proceed with all possible dispatch up the Cumberland River to Nashville, and, in conjunction with the army, make an attack on Nashville. The rebels have great terror of the gun-

boats, as will be seen in their papers. One of them a short distance above Fort Donelson had previously fired an iron-rolling mill belonging to the Hon. John Bell.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. H. FOOTE, Flag-Officer, Cmdg. Naval Forces Western Waters.

P. S. -I write in great hurry, as mail-boat is waiting.

[Inclosure.]

PROCLAMATION.

To the Inhabitants of Clarksville, Tenn.:

At the suggestion of the Hon. Cave Johnson, Judge Wisdom, and the mayor of the City, who called upon me yesterday, after our hoisting the Union flag and taking possession of the forts, to ascertain my views and intentions towards the citizens and private property, I hereby announce to all peaceably-disposed persons that neither on their persons nor in their property shall they suffer molestation by me or the naval force under my command, and that they may in safety resume their business avocations with the assurance of my protection.

At the same time I require that all military stores and army equipments shall surrendered, no part being withheld or destroyed; and, further, that no secession flag or manifestation of secession feeling shall be exhibited; and for the faithful observance of these conditions I shall hold the authorities of the City responsible.

A. H. FOOTE, Flag-Officer, Cmdg. Naval Forces Western Waters.

U. S. FLAG-STEAMER *CONESTOGA*,

Clarksville, Tenn., February 20, 1862.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 422-423.

**February 20, 1862 - Brigadier-General John B. Floyd's report**

NASHVILLE, February 20, 1862.

The gunboats landed at Clarksville yesterday at 3 o'clock. The bridges here were destroyed this morning. I am still attempting to get trains off, but the difficulties are immense. The troops will all leave here to-day.

JOHN B. FLOYD, Brig.-Gen., Cmdg.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 894.

**February 20, 1862 - Letter from William Epps Newell<sup>NOTE 1</sup> in Clarksville to his daughter Sallie Ann Newell then visiting friends in Mississippi**

Clarksville, Tenn.

Feb. 20th, 1862

The day after the arrival of the Federal Gun Boat at this place

My dear Daughter-

I write by Mr. T. D. Leonard of this place, who has charge of the remains of an officer of the Confederate Army, who was killed at the Battle at Fort Donaldson, on the Cumberland River, two miles below Dover. He is taking it to Marshall County in this state. The wife of the officer is also in attendance. I do not recollect their names. This letter is directed to be mailed at some place where the mails are being carried South. I do not know when the mails will be rec'd. again at this place from any direction.

At the commencement of the Battle at Fort Donaldson the Citizens of this place commenced moving from Town in every direction and are keeping it up to this time. Not more than half of the Families have remained.<sup>NOTE 2</sup> (Mrs., Jones is here and probably will remain.)

Many amazing incidents and so many sad, has transpired during the excitement. Majr. Bailey's, Mr. Faulks and Judge Kimbles's families have moved to the Country.

As to a correct statement of the Battle, as yet it is impossible to arrive at the facts. The fighting commenced on Thursday and was kept up until Sunday morning almost without ceasing. From the best information I can get, our killed does not exceed 300 and the wounded from 700 to 1,000 whilst the enemy's top in killed must reach several thousand, probably 7,000 and their wounded as many as many in proportion to ours. Our force was 15 or 20,000 and that of the enemy at least 75 or 80,000 according to their own report, and from the best calculation we can make they have in the field, at all their posts and in their navy, between 6 and 700,000 men, but with all the advantages they had in the fight at Dover, our forces drove them back and wound up each day's fight with a victory until Saturday night, when the demonstration of their overwhelming numbers were known to our Generals. At 2 o'clock Sunday morning they held a Counsel of War and in consequence of our soldiers being worn out for want of sleep and nourishment, they agreed to surrender, Floyd and the most of his brigade making their escape. Pillow and his Staff also escaped.

The number of our officers and soldiers taken prisoners are between 8 and 10,000, among whom are Jas. E. Bailey, & W. A. Quarles, both of whom are Col's. and a great many other of our town and county. Mr. A. Robb was mortally wounded and brought home and died in a few hours after his arrival.

You can't imagine the sad appearance of our City. All the dry goods merchants have left except the Coulters. Goods are enormously high and very scarce, Calico selling at \$1.00 per yard. Brown sugar is selling today at 20 [cents] pr. pound, and all other Southern products about in proportion.

(Soph is just recovering from the measles and Rosie, Lela, Jonnie and Tommie are just taken it and are quite sick and fretful. The balance of us are well.)

Enclosed you will find Commander Foote's proclamation to the Citizens of our City. You can judge of the grace we take it. (Your Mama and the children send their love to you, Uncle and his family.) If I meet with an opportunity I will send you some money. Nearly all we have is in Southern tind.<sup>NOTE 3</sup> and I fear will be of little or no use to us here much longer. I will try and make the best disposition of it I can. I do not know when if ever I can leave Tennessee, nor do I know but that it is about as good a place as we could find at present. We will write to you every opportunity. Say to your Uncle Henry I will write to him soon.

My love to him and the children and for your self the affection of your Father.

W. E. Newell

W. P. A. Civil War Records, Vol. 3, pp. 116-117.

**NOTE 1:** William Epps Newell was born in 1806. He was Montgomery County Court Clerk when the war broke out. He was too old to serve in the army. He was a wealthy man, owning and operating three iron furnaces in Stewart County, at Blooming Grove, Yellow Creek, and one near Dover. He was likewise a breeder and trainer of race horses. He died in 1867, while training one of his horses. He is buried at Riverview Cemetery in Clarksville.

**NOTE 2:** Clarksville experienced a "great panic" similar to that in Nashville.

**NOTE 3:** Most likely "Southern tender."

**February 20, 1862 - Report concerning Federal possession of Clarksville and status of Confederate Army**

Report of Flag-Officer Foote, U. S. Navy.

U. S. Flag-Steamer *CONESTOGA*, Clarksville, Tenn., February 20, 1862. We have possession of Clarksville. The citizens being alarmed, two-thirds of them have fled, and having expressed my views and intentions to the mayor and Hon. Cave Johnson, at their request I have issued a proclamation, assuring all peaceably disposed persons that they may with safety resume their business avocations, requiring only the military stores and equipments to be given up, and holding the authorities responsible that this shall be done without reservation.

I left Fort Donelson yesterday with the *Conestoga*, Lieutenant Commanding Phelps, and Cairo, Lieutenant Commanding Bryant, on an armed reconnoissance, bringing with me Colonel Webster, of the Engineer Corps, and chief of General Grant's staff, who, with Lieutenant Commanding Phelps, took possession of the principal fort and hoisted the Union flag. A Union sentiment manifested itself as we came up the river. The rebels have retreated to Nashville, having set fire, against the remonstrance of the citizens, to the splendid railroad bridge across the Cumberland River.

I returned to Fort Donelson to-day for another gunboat and six or eight mortar boats, with which I propose to proceed up the Cumberland. The rebels all have a terror of the gunboats. One of them, a short distance above Fort Donelson, had previously fired an iron-rolling mill belonging to Hon. John Bell, which had been used by the rebels.

ANDREW H. FOOTE, Flag-Officer, Commanding Naval Forces, Western Waters.

Hon GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

[Endorsement]

HEADQUARTERS, Cairo, Ill., February 28, 1862.

Respectfully forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy.

GEORGE W. CULLUM, Brigadier-General, Chief of Staff and Engineer.

[Telegram]

[FEBRUARY 20, 1862.]

From information gleaned in Clarksville, we believe the panic in Nashville is very great and that the city will be surrendered without a fight if a force proceeds at once against it. General Johnston is reported to be gathering his scattered forces at Columbia.

S. L. PHELPS.

General CULLUM.

[Telegram]

CLARKSVILLE, February 19, 1862.

Gunboats coming; they are just below point; can see steamer here. Will try and see how many troops they have before I leave. Lieutenant Brady set bridge on fire, but it is burning very slowly and will probably go out before it falls.

W. H. ALLEN.

General J. B. FLOYD.

Any orders for me? Answer me promptly, if you please, for next ten minutes, as I will have to go in a hurry when I go.

[Telegram.]

NASHVILLE, February 19, 1862.

The enemy landed at Clarksville from three gunboats at half past 4 o'clock to-day.

JOHN B. FLOYD, Brigadier-General.

General JOHNSTON.

[Telegram.]

MURFREESBORO, February 20, 1862.

The gunboats landed at Clarksville yesterday at 3 o'clock. The bridges here were destroyed this morning. I am still attempting to get trains off, but the difficulties are immense. The troops will all leave here to-day.

JOHN B. FLOYD, Brigadier-General, Commanding.

General JOHNSTON.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 618-621.

**February 20, 1862 - Message of Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris to the General Assembly in Memphis; Placing the blame**

Executive Office, Memphis, February 20, 1862

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: Under your joint resolution, adopted the tenth of Februarys, inst. providing "That the Governor and heads of Executive Departments may at any time during the present war, by proclamation of the Governor, temporarily change the seat of government, remove the papers and records in the Executive Departments, and the Governor, by proclamation, shall convene the Legislature, when he deems it necessary, at the place determined upon as the temporary seat of government," and the report of a Legislative Committee from the House, which called upon me upon the sixteenth inst. to inform me that the Legislature was ready to meet at such a time and place as I might designate, I deemed it my duty to remove the records of the government to and convene the Legislature at this city, for the following reasons: The disaster to our arms at Fishing Creek had turned the right flank of our army, and left the country from Cumberland Gap to Nashville exposed to the advance of the Union army.

The fall of Fort Henry had given the enemy the free navigation of the Tennessee River, through which channel he had reached the southern boundary of the Tennessee, and the fall of Fort Donelson left the Cumberland River open to his gunboats and transports, enabling him to penetrate the heart of the State, and reach its capital at any time within a few hours, when he should see proper to move upon it.

Immediately upon hearing of the fall of Fort Donelson, I called upon Gen. Johnston and rendered to him all the resources of the State which could be made available, with my full cooperation in any and all measures of defence for our State and capital. Gen. Johnston informed me that, under the circumstances which surrounded in, with the small force then under, he regarded it as his duty to the army he commanded and the government he represented, to fall back with his army south of Nashville, making no defence of the city, and that he would, and that he old do so immediately upon the arrival of the army from Bowling Green. The necessity for this retrograde movement, I am certain, was deeply regretted by Gen. Johnston. None could have deplored it more seriously than myself.

You have for months past witnessed the constant and earnest efforts which I have made to raise troops, collect arms, and prepare them for the defence of our long line of frontier, but it is evident that the country has not been sufficiently aroused to a full sense of the dangers with which it was menaced. While it is true that Tennessee has sent large numbers of her sons to the field who are performing their duty nobly, and her people have shown a high degree of energy in developing all the resources of the State, which could aid the government in this struggle, it is equally true that is scarcely a locality within our limits which could not have done, and which cannot now do, more. Many weeks before this crisis in our affairs, Gen. Johnston sent a highly accomplished and able engineer, Major Gilmer, to Nashville, to construct fortifications for the defence of the city. Laborers were needed for their construction. I joined Major Gilmer in an earnest appeal to the people to send in their laborers for the purpose, offering full and fair compensation. This appeal was so feebly responded to that I advised Gen. Johnston to impress the necessary labor; but owing to the difficulty in obtaining the laborers, the work was not completed—indeed, some of them but little more than commenced—when Fort Donelson fell. <sup>NOTE 1</sup>

Under the act of May sixth, 1861, I raised, organized, and equipped a large volunteer force, but under the Military League and the act of the General Assembly, it was made my duty to transfer that army, with all of our munitions, to the government of the confederate States, which I did on the thirty-first day of July, 1861.

Since that time I have had no authority or means of subsisting a State army, being only authorized to raise, organize, and put into the field such troops as were demanded of the State by the government of the confederate States, that government having control of the defences of the State, as well as our munitions and means of defence.

Since the passage of the act of May, 1861, I have organized and put into the field for the confederate service, fifty-nine regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, eleven-cavalry battalions, and over twenty independent companies, mostly artillery. The confederate government has armed about fifteen thousand of these troops, but to arm the remainder of this large force, I have had to draw heavily upon the sporting guns of our citizens.

Having bent every energy to fill the requisitions made upon me by the confederate States for troops, when Fort Donelson fell there was not a single organized and armed company in the State, subject to my command, the only force under my control being an undisciplined, unarmed militia, which, under our inefficient and sadly defective militia system, I have had no power to discipline, drill and prepare for service in the field. Under these circumstances, when the confederate army fell back from the capital, leaving it exposed to the assault of a large army of the enemy, it would have been worse than folly in me to have attempted its defence.

There was no alternative left but for the officers of the government to remove the public records to a place of greater security, or allow themselves and those

records to fall into the hands of the union army, resulting in the subversion of the State government and the establishment of a military despotism or a provisional government, under Federal authority, over the people of the State. I could not doubt or hesitate as to do my duty under such circumstances.

Having assembled here, at a time when a part of our territory is overrun, and other portions seriously threatened by the invader, the one great duty which devolves upon us is the immediate adoption of such measures as will concentrate every possible energy and all the resources of the State in a determined effort to drive back the invader, redeem every inch of our soil, and maintain the independence of the State.

By a majority approximating unanimity, we have voted ourselves a free and independent people. Shall we falter now in maintaining that declaration any cost or at any sacrifice? The alternative presented to us is the maintenance of our independence, however long or bloody the struggle, or subjugation, dishonor, or political slavery. I trust there are very few Tennesseans "who can long debate which of the two to choose."

The apprehensions which I expressed, and the dangers of which I warned you, in my special message of the first instant, have been fully realized by the country, and the necessity for prompt, energetic, and decided action is even more imperative now than at that time.

I now respectfully repeat to you the recommendation of that message, and earnestly urge that you so amend our militia system as will not only enable the Executive to fill promptly all requisitions made by the confederate government upon Tennessee for the just proportion of troops, but also give full power to discipline and prepare for efficient service in the field the whole military strength of the State, classifying the militia so that the burdens of our defence will fall upon the young and vigorous, who are best able to bear them. I also recommend that you authorize the organization of a part of the militia into cavalry and artillery corps, as well as infantry, and in all instances where it is deemed proper to call out the militia, authorize the reception of volunteers in lieu of the militia, so far as they may present themselves; and for the present defence of the State, I recommend the passage of a bill authorizing the raising, arming, and equipping of a provisional army of volunteers, appropriating ample means for this purpose.

Believing that at least one fourth of the present militia strength of the State can be armed by collecting all the sporting-guns in the country, I have ordered that proportion be placed in camp immediately. Appropriations to equip, pay, subsist, and clothe this force while engaged in the public defence will be necessary.

While there is much to regret in the past, there is much to hope in the future. Our fathers in the first revolution experienced more serious reverses and many darker hours than any we have known, yet they did not falter until their independence was achieved. Tennessee holds her fate in her own hands; a fixed an

unalterable resolve, a bold, firm and united effort to maintain our independence at any and all hazards, gives us the means of repelling the invader at once. The confederate government is sending her legions to our aid, our sister States of the South are rallying their gallant sons to the rescue.

Let Tennessee remember that the invader is on her soil; that the independence and freedom of her people from tyranny and oppression are involved in this struggle, and, putting forth her whole strength, act as becomes the high character for her on other fields.

Respectfully,

Isham G. Harris

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, pp. 202-204.

**NOTE 1:** What the governor meant was that slave owners would not do the patriotic thing and provide the state with their slaves to do the work of building the fortifications. The slave owners who had the very most to lose if the Confederate cause failed, wouldn't help the cause.

***February 20, 1862 - Loyalty in the Dover environs after the fall of Fort Donelson; an Excerpt from a war correspondent's report***

Correspondence of the Cincinnati *Commercial* Dover, Tenn., February 20, 1862

. . . I have for two days been in search of the aborigines of this God-forsaken land, and have rode about thirty miles for that purpose. I have been quite successful, having discovered at least twenty. The first one was a man by the name of J. B. Bates, who says he has been a resident of Dover since 1836. I said to him, Mr. Bates, please tell me candidly whether you think the majority of your population are glad to see that old flag again, (pointing to the stars and stripes on the Fort). Sir, said he, there is not a man, woman or child in all this county but that is shouting for joy because it has come back again. They would do anything in the world to have an end of this bloody strife. Others who have been fighting in the rebel army told me of the ways and means they had used to get a discharge from a service they never liked. One man told me that for two months he ate barely enough of his rations to keep him alive, till he created the belief that he was getting the consumption when he received a written discharge from his Surgeon. The natives for two days have been coming up to the opposite side of the river in considerable numbers, and General Grant has given out word that all loyal citizens are at liberty to return again to their occupations, and pursue them unmolested. The facts about the population here are these: They will be about the loudest for and work the hardest for the party who will first put an end to the war. Their mental caliber, as a general thing, is not quite equal to a ten inch Columbiad. Mr. Briggs tells me that when Pillow

made his escape, he swam the river with his horse, and that some of his own men shot at him. Alas for poor Pillow! "Who so base as to do him honor?"

Daily Missouri *Republican*, February 27, 1862.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

NOTE 1: As cited in: <http://www.uttyl.edu/vbetts>.

### **February 20, 1862 - Modish Memphis**

Stylish Memphis.-A correspondent of the New Orleans *Crescent* writes to that paper as follows:; Visiting Memphis a few days ago, for the first time in ten years, I was greatly surprised at the expansion of the place and its stylish improvements, as well as at the great amount of military and civic business transacting. The quantity of sugar and molasses there is positively tremendous; the whole landing is covered, and the streets and warehouses fairly glutted with the saccharine. Of course, you understand this-the blockade and the gorge of the railroads. The draymen of Memphis are getting rich under the sweet pressure. They get five and sometimes as high as ten dollars a load for hauling sugar from the landing to the Charleston depot, such is the anxiety of shippers to get ahead of each other. The shinplasters and checks of Memphis are various as those of New Orleans. Brass dray checks appear to be the favorite circulating medium. The Planters' Bank shinplasters it from five dollars down to five cents. And you will smile to hear that the clipped bills and checks and the omnibus tickets of New Orleans are as good currency as any in Memphis. At least I took them and passed them without trouble. These are bully times. From the Crescent City to the Bluff City, and even up to the very gates of Cairo, every man appears to be his own banker.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 20, 1862.

### **February 21, 1862 - U. S. forces go up the Cumberland River.**

UP THE CUMBERLAND.

Trip of the *Conestoga* to Clarksville.

U. S. Gunboat (Flagship) *Conestoga*,

Clarksville, Feb., 21, 1862.

Correspondent of the New York *Times*.

Yesterday morning, Com. Foote proceeded up the Cumberland in this boat; accompanied by the gunboat *Cairo*, carrying fifteen heavy pieces. At 10 A. M., we passed the Cumberland Iron Works, owned in part by Hon. John Bell. His two partners went down as prisoners on Tuesday [18th] on the *St. Louis*. The contracts for supplying guns and iron sheathing were found, the mills set on fire; and as we came up, nothing remained by the chimneys and machinery amid the dying embers. These fine works cost a quarter of a million dollars.

At 3 P. M. to-day, we reached "Linwood Landing," about two miles below the city of Clarksville, and as we rounded the point, we discovered a white flag flying on Fort Severe, located on top of a high hill, at the junction of Red River with the Cumberland. Our men were ordered to the guns, and we proceeded slowly up to Red River landing. As we rounded the bend in the river under the fort, no flag appearing on the on the fort on the opposite side of Red River, one of the officers waved his handkerchief, and in less than ten seconds, one nearly covered with mud went up, having blown down in the storm. We now discovered smoke rolling up from the railroad bridges over the Cumberland and Red Rivers, which had been set on fire by the rebels as soon as we came in sight. A force of marines were taken to the for, the Stars and Stripes run up, and the place left in charge of Sergeant Chas. Wright, while the boats proceeded to Clarksville landing.

White flags were flying all through the town, and the boat was literally beset with people as soon as we reached the shore. As the Commodore's flag was wet with rain, it looked dark colored, and one of the frightened people exclaimed: "See there-they have got the *black flag* up;" another, pointing to the *Cairo*, asked what that thing was; on being told it was a gunboat he said "he'd be dog-on-ed if they weren't the very devil." One man thought if they had their artillery there, they would clean out our craft in about five minutes. On being told that the flagship was the *Conestoga*, they said they had heard of the "Pirate" before, when she carried of their Government stores from Florence. Coffee is worth \$1 a pound, and salt \$15 a sack. Full two-thirds of the people had deserted the place. They have no money but Jeff Davis notes and shinplasters. The Bank of Tennessee is issuing notes of denominations of 5 cents upwards. They wanted to see a Treasury Note, and I passed out a \$10 bill to them, which was examined with a great deal of curiosity. They inquired who the portrait was designed for, and on being told it was Mr. Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, the curiosity went up to fever heat, and one man who had seen him said it was the most correct likeness he had seen, and more than all, that it was a better job of engraving and printing than the Confederates had got, and finally offered to exchange with me for one of the Confederate bills, which favor I most respectfully declined. Fort Severe is a fine fortification, admirably located, but it is not finished, having but two 12-pound guns in position, and a 42-pounder ready to go to its place.

Fort Clarke is a low affair, mounting two 24-pounders and one 32, they are all smooth bores; the old fashioned guns from the Norfolk Navy-Yard. The powder we found was so poor that the commander said it would not pay to bring it away, so he ordered it pitched into the river. At noon we again headed down, probably for Fort Donelson, to get a force of mortar-boats and additional gun-boats, and before this reaches you we shall be in possession of Nashville.

#### A VISIT TO CLARKSVILLE

The following is an extract from a private letter from an officer in Gen. Grant's Army, to his father in St. Louis, it is dated: Fort Donelson, February 21, 1862

~ ~ ~

I was up to Clarksville yesterday with the General. There are two little forts there which the enemy abandoned, leaving the guns, five in number, unhurt; also, a considerable amount of stores. Clarksville is a very pretty place, of about 6,000 inhabitants, when they are at home; but much less than one-half of the population had deserted the place. All the business houses and shops are closed. The people are in great fear that our army will plunder and destroy their property, although we have given them all assurances they would not be injured. The citizens themselves destroyed all the liquor of every kind they could find, fearing that our troops would get it, and, in consequence, become uncontrollable. We are very glad, of course, that they did; but some of them also destroyed considerable amounts of other property, preferring that to letting it fall into our hands, supposing that we would take it. Had they preserved it, it would not have been touched.

We could have speedily reduced the forts, but the citizens compelled the forces there (if they needed any compulsion) to evacuate them, and leave the public stores, knowing that if a battle was fought there the town would be greatly damaged, if not almost destroyed; besides the loss of large amounts of property by the [Confederate] troops, which they will avert by the course taken. We have had a gunboat lying in town for three days, and to-day sent up some regiments of troops. Gen. Grant and staff will remove therein a day or two. The citizens are all secesh. It was evident that they all smothered their real feelings; it could not have been expected that it would be otherwise, as that town raised a regiment for the war, which was taken by us at this place, and everybody had relations and friends among our prisoners.

New York *Times*, March 4, 1862.

Observations along the Cumberland River from Fort Donelson to beyond Clarksville according to the New York *Times*.

Nashville, Tenn., Thursday, February 27, 1862.

Tuesday, the gunboat *Conestoga* was ordered to proceed from Cairo to this place, for the purpose of conveying orders to such of the gunboat fleet, as might be up the Cumberland River. The substance of the order was, I suppose, that all the boats which could be spared, should, together with the mortar-boats, report immediately at Cairo, with a view to operations down the Mississippi River.

~ ~ ~

Fort Donelson, as we passed it, seemed more formidable than ever; its peculiar characteristics are such that, like a master-piece in painting, or an extended view of some grand mountain scenery, it cannot be appreciated at one view, but becomes huger and more formidable in proportion as one examines it. Why such a position was ever surrendered to less than one hundred thousand, and before it had been besieged six months, is a mystery for the most impenetrable character. With ten thousand Yankees behind the works, and an ample supply

of food and munitions, all the rebels this side of Hades cannot take the Fort within the next decade. There was one pleasing difference between the Fort as we saw it this time, and on the Thursday which preceded its capture; the Stars and Stripes were floating gaily from the loftiest bastion of the works; companies in blue were manoeuvring about the grounds; brass band enlivened the air with everything but "Dixie;" clean white tents, and fine-looking soldiers covered the surroundings of Dover, and, in short, everything appeared as though determination, enterprise and a go-ahead-ativeness had got possession of the place.

All the way up to Clarksville we found evidences of loyalty among the scattered residences along the banks of the river. Beyond this, however, there seemed to be a decided change. The people were just as plenty, and expressed just as much curiosity to see us, but instead of waving hats and handkerchiefs, they stared at us in sullen silence. They seemed benumbed, stupefied at the change, as though they hardly yet appreciated the fact that it was the Stars and Stripes, instead of the stars and bars, that hung from our flagstaff.

Even the Negroes, usually so demonstrative, stood like ebony statues of astonishment and stupidity and gave their supposed deliverers never a cheer. One old fellow did indeed get up a little enthusiasm, he was, however, a long distance from any house, and only ventured to shake his battered hat from behind the protection of an oat-stack. The only other case, in which a sign of welcome was vouchsafed, was that of a pretty Miss, of some seventeen or thereabouts, who leaned over the balcony of an aristocratic house below Nashville, and shook a delicate white *mouchoir* and her pretty curls at us as long as we remained in sight. Whether she did from patriotism, for fun, or because her romantic nature was impressed with the quantities of gold lace that so plentifully bedecked our gallant officers, is more than I can tell. Probably it was simply one of those impulses, to which "gushing" girlhood is liable, and hence cannot logically be constructed as an evidence of public sentiment in that neighborhood.

It was more than probable that in a week or so, there will be a marked difference. They have so long been lied to, and deceived by the political, religious and editorial scoundrels of the South that they dread our coming as they would the advent of a pestilence. The following is a specimen of the pabulum upon which the masses of the South are fed. It was taken from the Nashville *Banner of Peace* published by the Reverend (lying) W. E. Ward<sup>NOTE 1</sup>:

"We have felt too secure, we have been too blind to the consequences of Federal success. If they succeed, we shall see plunder, insult to old and young, male and female, murder of innocents, release of slaves, and causing them to drive and insult their masters and mistresses in the most menial services, the hand laid waste, houses burned, banks and private coffers robbed, cotton and every valuable taken away before our eyes, and a brutal, drunken soldiery turned loose upon us. Who wants to see this? If you do not believe, you will see it; look at Missouri."

As soon as our troops have occupied the country for a few weeks, and by their action given the lie to such assertions as the above, the latent Union sentiment, in this portion of the State, will develop itself to an extent that will overwhelm the traitors beyond redemption. Another week will witness a change of the greatest magnitude.

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, pp. 206-207.

**NOTE 1:** Neither Ward nor the Banner of Peace are identified.

**February 21, 1862 - Relief fund for soldiers' families established by Memphis city council**

Soldiers' Families.-The subscribers to the fund of the association for the relief of the needy families of soldiers in the army, held a meeting yesterday at the Merchants' Exchange, T. A. Nelson in the chair, and W. O. Lofland, Esq., secretary. The chairman announced that \$30,000 was already subscribed toward the fund. The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Nelson, were adopted:

Resolved, That the subscribers to the fund in aid of the needy families of soldiers, in the service now, form themselves into an association to be called the "Association for the Relief of Needy Families of Soldiers in the Service."

Resolved, That a committee of twelve be appointed whose duty it shall be to solicit subscriptions from the citizens of Memphis, and of Shelby county, for the purpose of carrying out the object of the association.

Resolved, That it is with pleasure that we now announce to the soldiers who have families entitled to aid from this society, that the subscriptions already amount to more than \$30,000, and it is confidently believed that the patriotic and liberal citizens of the county will as soon as called on, increase the amount to \$100,000.

Resolved, That we feel warranted in assuring our brave men who may enlist in the army, or those who may re-enlist, that their families shall be cared for, and not permitted to suffer while they are absent.

Resolved, That the affairs of the association shall be managed by a board of five directors, who shall adopt such rules for their government and for carrying out the objects of the association as they may think best. And that they be authorized to employ such assistants as may be necessary, and to call on the subscribers to the association for installments, from time to time, as necessity may require.

Resolved, That the election of directors be held between the hours of 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 P. M. at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, 21st inst., under the supervision of the secretary of the Chamber, and that each subscriber be entitled to one vote for every one hundred dollars subscribed, and that each subscriber, if less than \$100, be entitled to one vote.

Resolved, That the city papers be requested to publish, from time to time, a list of those who have so generously contributed to the association.

Resolved, That in the event of the disability or resignation of any of the directors, the remaining directors shall fill the vacancy.

Resolved, That the five directors of the association shall be chosen only from the subscribers to the fund.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 21, 1862.

**February 21, 1862 - "I come with an appeal from my bleeding country to lay it at the feet of the young men of my disgraced city." An exhortation to convince young men to join the Confederate army**

An Appeal from a Lady.

Editors *Appeal*: I hope you will not think me bold-boldness I deprecate above all other things in women, but the want of it in man I deplore.

I come with an appeal from my bleeding country to lay it at the feet of the young men of my disgraced city. In the name of my God, in the name of scores I have seen die in those hospitals without hearing a murmur drop from their pallid lips; in the name of those, the thought of whose hideous, ghastly wounds still sicken the souls of delicate women who attended upon them; in the name of those whose smoking blood, made the sun lurid for three long days at Donelson, and the scent of which birds of prey and the wild animals still snuff from afar; in the name of pride of manhood and honor hereafter, what are young men doing in Memphis at such a time as this? What! do they intend to let band after band of gallant men from their neighbor States, yes, and band after band from the far frontiers of Texas, toil and travel worn, file through these streets on their onward march to drive back a foe, whom they must have made up minds to receive and acknowledge as masters or they would not be here?; And are you really willing, my countrymen, to be slapped in the face, snubbed, pricked with bayonets, hustled from the sidewalks and insulted by every epithet that a gloating, jubilant Yankee can manufacture, and justly heap upon the head of cowardice? And this, too, day after day, and perhaps months and years before the very jaws of bright and lovely ones whose smiles you have so often sought. think of those lovely ones gulping down the indignation they dare not utter as the rude slur and offensive words of hatred, and abhorred hirelings meet them at every turn-their watchword, beauty and booty! Young men, come out from behind the counters. Get from behind molasses and sugar casks. Take the pen from behind your ears. Wash the ink from your finger tips. Stave the ledger across the counting-room. Grasp your musket, or what is better, your cold steel, and be off. The very sight of a broad-clothed, frangitanni perfumed, macassar-haired, rigorous, tall young man behind a counter, is a blasting mildew to the eye-balls of patriotism! I have ever been an admirer of perfect manhood when I could think what a noble spirit must actuate such a form, but now I am ashamed to look you straight in the face as you measure my tape, for fear you will divine my thoughts and blush. I am afraid to mention the names of our brave soldier boys for fear it will give you offense. Young men,

from behind those orange stalls, their cigar stands, at their desks, in their bar-rooms and restaurants, in their buggies and on their fine horses, for the love of heaven come out! The sight of your bright, happy faces makes my heart sick. Heads of firms! there are plenty of young women who in this emergency, could make excellent clerks and need your money. Take them to sell your dry goods and cease making counter-hoppers of your young men when you could make soldiers of them. Every young relation I have on earth is in the field. Had I one to hold back I should weep over his disgrace and forget the ties that bound him to me. Married men may have some excuse for not going off-wives and young children are clogs upon their efforts. But if there be any here, who from fear, or the doubly accursed love of gold, would not lay the city in ruins, and fight over its ashy altars ere the polluting footstep of the foe should deface it, let them be accursed-may their wives and children turn in loathing from them, and let history say for them molasses and sugar, sacks of coffee and salt, dry goods, rents and lawyer's fees push their souls out of their bodies, so deep into the unfathomable depths of oblivion that the light of honor has never been able to decipher their records. Young men! infamy lingers in the atmosphere of Memphis. Glory and honor beckon from afar. women and children are wandering homeless through the land. Widow's wails are rising to heaven. Mangled men are writhing under the knife of the surgeon. A voice is heard! Streaming eyes and bloodstained are appealing to you-'tis the voice of your country! 'Tis the streaming eyes and bloody hand of your native land that beckon. Will you linger?

Thiste.

Memphis *Daily Appeal*, February 21, 1862.

**February 22, 1862 - U. S. martial law proclaimed in West Tennessee**

GEN. ORDERS, No. 8. HDQRS. DIST. OF WEST TENNESSEE, Fort Donelson, February 22, 1862.

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Tennessee, by her rebellion, having ignored all laws of the United States, no courts will be allowed to sit under State authorities, but all cases coming within reach of the military arm will be adjudicated by the authorities the Government has established within the State.

Martial law is therefore declared to extend over West Tennessee.

Whenever a sufficient number of the citizens of the State return to their allegiance to maintain law and order over this territory the military restriction here indicated will be removed.

By order of Brig.-Gen. Grant:

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 655.

**February 22, 1862 - Opinion of one Warren county Confederate woman on Fort Donelson, an excerpt from the War Journal of Lucy Virginia French**

I cannot remember that I have ever experienced a more gloomy week than that which is just past. On Sunday evening last [16th] when we were all confident of victory at Fort Donelson, the news came that at last we were completely overpowered-that hundreds were killed and thousands made prisoners-that Nashville had surrendered unconditionally-the Federals have taken possession and that our Bowling Green army had fallen back to Murfreesboro! A deeper shock I never felt,-I gave up the Confederacy as lost. All this week we have been in a state of the utmost anxiety and suspense-not a mail has reached us from any point, and we are dependent altogether on rumors,-of which there are a thousand and all conflicting. Today it seems that we met with disastrous defeat in the end at Donelson by the enemy's overpowering numbers surrounding our men, who fought bravely and well. Gens. Floyd and Pillow escaped with some of the troops,- but Buckner is a prisoner. It is now contradicted that Nashville surrendered, and sent a boat of truce with a flag on it down the Cumberland to meet the enemy and give up the city (!) as it was at first reported-but it is certain that our troops from Bowling Green have fallen back to Murfreesboro, and they have burnt the bridges, steamboats, etc. at Nashville and not a Yankee near them! Oh! it is disgraceful! Gov. Harris who rode around town alarming the city by saying "Every man must take care of himself; I am going to take care of myself"-Flee-but seeing his mistake has now it is said returned,-saying he is going "to fight to the death" and that he only ran off to carry away the archives of the State. Well, any excuse I suppose is better than none-but, the fact is that he and Gen. A. S. Johnson have disgraced themselves and Tennessee by their inefficiency and cowardice. A rumor has been heard that our army would fall back to Chattanooga! I think they had better if Johnson is to command them, fall down into Mexico at once, and be done with it.-To add to our gloomy feelings the weather has been raw and rain is pouring continually. I never have seen our little river so high and turbid. Today has been a continuous pour of sheets of rain, with high boisterous winds-not a gleam of sunshine except as the sun sank for a few minutes he left a parting light upon the hills. This is the anniversary of the birth of our Great Washington and set apart for the inauguration of Jefferson Davis whom some style the "second Washington." Will he prove himself such? That remains to be seen. If this day is to be ominous of our political future, it will be gloomy indeed. I have been sick all day with one of my dreadful headaches which added to other dark clouds around me to make me desponding; Still, I confess I have much to be thankful for, my children are well-my husband is still with us-may God preserve us thus in peace at home.

War Journal of Lucy Virginia French<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** TSLA, Diaries, Memoirs, etc., French, L. Virginia (Smith), War Journals, AC nos. 89-200 and 73-25. [Hereinafter cited as War Journal of Lucy Vir-

ginia French.]

**February 22, 1862 - "Anarchy, confusion and terror reign supreme, in the community whose boasted chivalry is known throughout the land."**

Amid the excitement, confusion, and chaos of rumors which have fill the country during the week, it is impossible to determine what is truth and what is falsehood. It is a well established fact, however, we suppose, that Gens. Pillow and Floyd escaped from Fort Donelson before the surrender of that post. What became of Gen Buckner—whether he was killed or taken prisoner—we do not know. Cols. Head's and Bailey's regiments were supposed to be mostly prisoners. Col. Head himself escaped. Lt. Col. Alfred Robb, of Bailey's regiment, was mortally wounded on Saturday and died at his home at Clarksville on Sunday. The number of killed and wounded is variously estimated, and was very great, the Federal loss being much the largest. We hope to be able, before long, to give our readers a full account of this great battle, with the particulars in detail.

It is needless to try to conceal the fact that a panic, such perhaps the antecedent history does not record, has seized the civil authorities of this State and the citizens of Nashville and Clarksville, since the surrender of Fort Donelson, if the accounts which reach us are true. We are told that the Governor left on Sunday for a more southerly locality, followed by the Legislature, while thousands of citizens are imitating their example. Government stores and public property to the value of millions of dollars have been abandoned and left to the mercy of the excited crowds of the stricken city. Anarchy, confusion and terror reign spurred, in the community whose boasted chivalry is known throughout the land. If the army in the vicinity has not been infected, it is a miracle of wonder. Could any material benefit in our judgment accrue from a suppression of these facts, they could not have appeared in our columns, but as they are common gossip upon the streets and in the highways and byways, we can see no impropriety in their publication.

The country has been full of strange rumors during the week, many of which have proved to be true. Had a prophet fore told, one week since the events that have transpired, he would have been set down as a crazy loon or a demented fanatic, and fit only for a straight jacket or a halter. Truly we have fallen upon strange times and no one can tell what a day may bring forth. Let us, however endeavor to submit cheerfully in whatever fate the dispensations of Providence may consign us, and still continue to pray and hope for the return of peace and the happy days we once enjoyed.

Springfield *Speculator*, February 22, 1862.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** As cited in *Winds of Change*, pp. 41-42.

**February 23, 1862 - Confederate Orders No. 3 forbidding impressing of civilian property without written orders**

ORDERS, No. 3. HDQRS. WESTERN DEPARTMENT, Murfreesborough, Tenn., February 23, 1862.

Under great necessity temporary possession may be taken of wagons, teams, and other property of our citizens for the use of the army; but this authority can be exercised by chiefs of the army alone.

It is positively prohibited to any officer to seize, take, or impress property of any kind except by written order of the commanding general or division commander, and this authority must be exhibited to the party from whom the property is taken.

Officers or soldiers violating this order will be arrested, proceeded against, and punished as plunders and marauders.

By command of Gen. Johnston:

W. W. MACKALL, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 903.

**February 23, 1862 - February 25, 1862 - Approach of federal forces to and occupation of Nashville**

FEBRUARY 23-25, 1862.

Col. J. Ammen's diary of movement from Paducah, Ky., to Nashville, Tenn.

[Extracts.]

February 23.-Our fleet [at Paducah] has orders to raise steam to follow the *Diana*, the flag-boat and headquarters of Gen. Nelson; destination not named. Eight a. m. the *Diana* starts up the Ohio; the other boats follow at intervals. *Diana* steams up the Cumberland; other boats follow; and now we conclude that this division is bound for Tennessee-Nashville, &c. Pass Fort Donelson in the night; do not stop.

Land at Clarksville, Tenn., about 8 a. m., 24th. Call on my old friend and brave soldier Gen. C. F. Smith, who is in command at Clarksville. In 1837 we were stationed at the same post, lieutenants U. S. Artillery, and have not met since that time until this morning. We both forgot that we are gorging old, and met as young lieutenants of the Regular Army.

February 24.-About noon the *Diana* steamed up the Cumberland, and the *Woodward* followed near; the other boats started in turn. The river is high, the night dark, and the rebels may have batteries on the banks as they had below. We proceed slowly and with caution; one gunboat in advance, just before the *Diana*. The boats run against the trees in the dark; no serious injury. On we go, and would not be surprised the receive a shot from shore.

February 25.-Dawn; something like a battery on the bank a mile or more up the river is observed. The *Woodward* is signaled to come up to the *Diana*. Gen. Nelson orders me to land with some companies and make a reconnaissance. When we reached the battery (Fort Zollicoffer, 5 miles below Nashville) the rebels had deserted the place. The fires had not yet completed their work of burning gun-carriages, &c. Twelve large cannon dismantled; four 6-pounders, all spiked; cannon-balls and shells in large quantities and railroad iron; fort leveled. After this examination we proceeded to the city and the Tenth Brigade took position on the public square. Gen. Nelson crossed the river to meet Gen. Buell, Mitchel, &c., and remained absent until towards evening. I was the senior officer in Nashville.

About noon the mayor, &c., called on me to furnish them a pass to Gen. Buell, to enable them to ask for terms of surrender. The rebels forces retired as we entered Nashville. Some of our troops occupied positions on the suburbs. During the day many persons called on me and professed that they always had been Union men; told who were rebels, &c.; mutually accused each other; and some informed me where Confederate provisions and clothing had been stored. The places were examined, and tons of salt pork were found, flour, forage, &c., but not much clothing. The manufactory for small-arms and the material in the building were taken possession of.

In the evening we marched to a large spring near the Fair Grounds, east side of the city. Troops are crossing the river and taking position on the different roads. There are some good Union men, but many more rebels; not a few that were pressed into the rebel service, as they claim.

Hard to believe all they say.

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*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 659-660.

Official Report of Lieut. Bryant.

Nashville, February 25, 1862

Flag-Officer A. H. Foote, Commanding Flotilla Western Waters:

Sir: Uncertain that my letter of the twenty-third instant reached you, I repeat that I departed from Clarksville for this point by the request of Brig.-Gen. Smith, commanding at Clarksville, and arrived here this morning, preceded by seven steamboats conveying an army commanded by Brig.-Gen. Nelson.

The troops landed without opposition. The banks of the river are free from hostile forces. The railroad and suspension bridges here are all destroyed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. Bryant, Lieutenant Commanding

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, p. 205.

**February 23, 1862 - February 25, 1862 - Evacuation of Nashville**

•*See February 16, 1862-February 25, 1862-the "Great Panic" in Nashville, evacuation by Confederates and occupation by Union forces*

REPORTS, ETC.

No. 1.-Hon. Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War.

No. 2.-Brig. Gen. D. C. Buell, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.

No. 3.-Col. James Barnett, U. S. Army, of ordnance captured.

No. 4.-Gen. A. Sidney Johnston, C. S. Army, commanding Western Department.

No. 5.-Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, C. S. Army.

No. 6.-Col. Nathan B. Forrest's responses to interrogatories of Committee of Confederate House of Representatives.

No. 7.-Col. Leon Trousdale's responses to interrogatories of Committee of Confederate House of Representatives.

No. 8.-Memorandum of Col. W. W. Mackall, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

No. 1.

Report of Hon. Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February 25, 1862.

Nashville was taken possession of to-day. The mayor, accompanied by committee of citizens, met Gen. Buell this morning on the north bank of the Cumberland. Interview entirely satisfactory to all parties. One gunboat and twelve steamers at the wharf. Troops passing the river in good order.

THOMAS A. SCOTT,

Hon. E. M. STANTON.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. D. C. Buell, U. S. Army, commanding Department of the Ohio.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February 26, 1862.

I arrived opposite the city with Mitchel's division, about 9,000 effective, on the night of the 24th. The enemy's cavalry were still in the city in small force. I did not intend to cross until I could do so in sufficient force to run no great hazard, but during the night Gen. Nelson arrived with about 7,000 men, and landed before I was aware of it. I deemed it unadvisable to withdraw them, lest it should embolden the enemy and have a bad effect on the people, and so determined to cross with all the force at hand, and we are now crossing and taking a position some 4 or 5 miles out in the direction of Murfreesborough. The diffi-

culty of crossing the river is very great. Notwithstanding we have steamers, the want of fuel for them is a most embarrassing matter. Our force is too small, and offers a strong inducement to the enemy, only 30 miles distant, with some 30,000 men, to assume the offensive; but I have deemed it necessary to run the risk. I have dispatched steamers to bring up the force at Clarksville, and our troops are moving on from Bowling Green as rapidly as possible, but it must be two or three days before we will be able to show much force. Gen. Thomas' division ought to be here by water by the 13th of March. The troops from Clarksville may be here to-night. McCook's division will, I hope, be up to the river to-morrow, and will then have to cross. If the enemy advances, as said to be intention, we will probably meet him to-morrow. It is said here that the enemy has either evacuated Columbus or is doing so. There are no violent demonstrations of hostility, though the mass of the people appear to look upon us as invaders, but I have seen several strong indications of loyalty in individuals.

D. C. BUELL, Brig.-Gen.

Maj. Gen. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN.

No. 3.

Report of Col. James Barnett, U. S. Army, of ordnance captured.

HDQRS. FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, Nashville, Tenn., December 5, 1862.

GEN.: Below is a report of the number and caliber of guns, mounted and dismounted, at Nashville, which were captured from the enemy:

No. 1, 24-pounder iron gun, mounted on bank of river near reservoir.

No. 2, 32-pounder iron gun (Parrott), mounted on corner of reservoir.

No. 3, 24-pounder iron gun (smooth bore), mounted on Lebanon pike.

No. 4, 32-pounder iron gun (Parrott), mounted on end of Summer street.

No. 5, 32-pounder iron gun (Parrott), mounted at Gen. Palmer's headquarters.

No. 6, 24-pounder iron gun (smooth bore), mounted under Saint Cloud Hill.

Nos. 7 and 8, 24-pounder iron guns (smooth bore), mounted on Fort Negley.

No. 9, 24-pounder iron gun (smooth bore), mounted at railroad tunnel.

No. 10, 24-pounder iron gun (smooth bore), dismounted at Fort Negley.

No. 11, 32-pounder howitzer (iron), mounted at old Lunatic Asylum.

No. 12, 32-pounder iron Parrott, mounted on floating bridge.

Dismounted at ordnance depot: one 100-pounder columbiad, two 32-pounder rifled iron guns, five 24-pounder carronades, and twelve 6-pounder iron guns, unserviceable, spiked; three 24-pounder iron smooth bores and one 18-pounder iron smooth bore, serviceable, and four 6-pounder iron guns, unserviceable.

Of the guns at the ordnance depot there are but three 24-pounders and one 18-pounder iron smooth bores that are considerable safe.

Very respectfully,

JAMES BARNETT, Col., and Chief of Artillery Fourteenth Army Corps.

Maj. Gen. W. S. ROSECRANS, Cmdg. Fourteenth Army Corps.

No. 4.

Report of Gen. A. Sidney Johnston, C. S. Army, commanding Western Department.

HDQRS. WESTERN DEPARTMENT, Murfreesborough, Tenn., February 25, 1862.

SIR: The fall of Fort Donelson compelled me to withdraw the remaining forces under my command from the north of the Cumberland and to abandon the defense of Nashville, which but for that disaster it was my intention to protect to the utmost. Not more than 11,000 effective men were left under my command to oppose a column of Gen. Buell's of not less than 40,000 troops, moving by Bowling Green, while another superior force, under Gen. Thomas, outflanked me to the east, and the army from Fort Donelson, with the gunboats and transports, had it in their power to ascend the Cumberland, now swollen by recent flood, so as to intercept all communication with the South. The situation left me no alternative but to evacuate Nashville or sacrifice the army. By remaining the place would have been unnecessarily subjected to destruction, as it is very indefensible, and no adequate force would have been left to keep the enemy in check in Tennessee.

Under these circumstances I moved the main body of my command to this place on the 17th and 18th instant, and left a brigade under Gen. Floyd to bring on such stores and property as were at Nashville, with instructions to remain until the approach of the enemy, had then to rejoin me. This has been in a great measure effected; and nearly all the stores would have been saved but for the heavy and unusual rains, which have washed away the bridges, swept away portions of the railroad, and rendered transportation almost impossible. Gen. Floyd has arrived here.

The rear guard left Nashville on the night of the 23d. Edgefield, on the north bank of the Cumberland, opposite the city, was occupied yesterday by the advance pickets of the enemy.

I have remained here for the purpose of augmenting my forces and securing the transportation of the public stores. By the junction of the command of Gen. Crittenden and the fugitives from Fort Donelson, which have been reorganized as far as practicable, the force now under my command will amount to about 17,000 men. Gen. Floyd, with a force of some 2,500 men, has been ordered to Chattanooga, to defend the approaches towards Northern Alabama and Georgia and the communication between the Mississippi and Atlantic and with the

view to increase his forces by such troops as may be sent forward from the neighboring States.

The quartermaster's, commissary, and ordnance stores which are not required for immediate use have been ordered to Chattanooga, and those which will be necessary on the march have been forewarned to Huntsville and Decatur. I have ordered a depot to be established at Atlanta for the manufacture of supplies for the Quartermaster's Department and also a laboratory for the manufacture of percussion caps and ordnance stores, and at Chattanooga depots for distribution of these supplies. The machinery will be immediately sent forward.

Considering the peculiar topography of this State and the great power which the enemy's means of transportation affords them upon the Tennessee and Cumberland, it will be seen that the force under my command cannot successfully cover the whole line against the advance of the enemy. I am compelled to elect whether he shall be permitted to occupy Middle Tennessee, or turn Columbus, take Memphis, and open the valley of the Mississippi. To me the defense of the valley appears of paramount importance, and, consequently, I will move this corps of the army, of which I have assumed the immediate command, towards the bank of the Tennessee, crossing the river near Decatur, in order to enable me to co-operate or unite with Gen. Beauregard for the defense of Memphis and the Mississippi.

The Department has sent eight regiments to Knoxville for the defense of East Tennessee, and the protection of that region will be confided to them and such additional forces as may be hereafter sent from the adjacent States. Gen. Buckner was ordered by the Department to take command of the troops at Knoxville; but as he was at that time in presence of the enemy, the order was not fulfilled. As it would be almost impossible for me under present circumstances to superintend the operations at Knoxville and Chattanooga, I would respectfully suggest that the local commanders at those points should receive orders from the Department directly or be allowed to exercise their discretion.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. S. JOHNSTON, Gen., C. S. Army.

Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

No. 5.

Report of Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, C. S. Army.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., March 22, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report in regard to the movements, disposition, and transportation of my command from the date of my arrival at Nashville until I reported to Gen. A. S. Johnston, at Murfreesborough.

I arrived at Nashville on a steamboat, together with a portion of the

command rescued from Fort Donelson, consisting of parts of the various regiments from Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee, at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 17th of February. Immediately on coming within view of the landing at the city I beheld a sight which is worthy of notice. The rabble on the wharf were in possession of boats loaded with Government bacon, and were pitching it from these boats to the shore, and carrying what did not fall into the water by hand and carts away to various places in the city. The persons engaged in this reprehensible conduct avowed that the meat had been given to them by the city council. As soon as practicable I reported to Gen. Johnston for duty, and on the same day I was placed in command of the city, and immediately took steps to arrest the panic that pervaded all classes and to restore order and quiet. One regiment, the First Missouri, Lieut.-Col. Rich, together with a portion of Col. Forrest's and Capt. Morgan's cavalry, were added to my command, and these were principally occupied in guarding public warehouses and the streets of the city. The only other force which I could use for the purposes above mentioned were the fragments of regiments that I had brought with me, and all of which were well-nigh totally exhausted from the exertions and fatigues to which they had been subjected on the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th days of February.

I immediately stopped the indiscriminate distribution of public stores by placing guards over them, and, having thus secured them from the grasp of the populace, I commenced the work of saving the stores that were in the city. Day and night the work was continued, being only temporarily stopped at times for the purpose of feeding the teams that were at work transporting articles of Government property from the wharves and store-houses to the railroad depot. My men worked incessantly with commendable perseverance and energy under my immediate supervision. Owing to the exhausted condition of the men thus engaged, it became absolutely necessary to force the able-bodied men who were strolling about the city unoccupied to assist in the labor before me. I was greatly assisted in this arduous duty by the energy of Col. Wharton, whose brigade was principally engaged and who promptly executed the orders issued by me. I likewise would express my appreciation of the valuable services of Maj. J. Dawson, of Gen. Hardee's command, of Lieut.-Col. Kennard, and of Capt.'s Derrick, Ellis, and Otey, of my staff. I finally succeeded in loading all the cars standing at the depot at about 4 o'clock on the evening of the 20th of February.

During the interval between the morning of the 17th and the evening of the 20th of February trains were loaded and dispatched as fast as they arrived. Much more could have been saved had there been more system and regularity in the disposition of the transportation by rail. Several trains were occupied in carrying off sick and wounded soldiers. The weather was exceedingly inclement during the entire time occupied as above mentioned, and there was an excessively heavy rain on the 19th of February.

As the moment for destroying the bridges had been left to my discretion up to a certain period, I allowed them to stand until a large amount of transportation, a large number of cattle, and some troops had been brought from the north side

of the river. At 10 o'clock on the evening of the 19th the destruction of the suspension bridge was commenced; the wood work was burned and the cables on the south side were cut. At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 20th the railroad bridge was destroyed. I was greatly aided in this work by Lieut. Crump and Lieut. Forsberg, of the Engineers.

During the period embraced by this report Col. Forrest and Capt. Morgan, with their cavalry, rendered signal and efficient service in dispersing the mobs which gathered in the vicinity of the warehouses containing Government property, and which often had to be scattered at the point of the saber. I had succeeded in collecting a large amount of stores of various kinds at the depot, but as I had control of the transportation by rail, and hence obliged to await the action of others, much that would have been valuable to the Government was necessarily left at the depot. Among the articles saved were all the cannon, caisson, and battery wagons of which we had any knowledge.

At 4 o'clock p. m. on the 20th February I started with my staff for Murfreesborough, which point I reached on the morning of the 21st, where I reported to Gen. Johnston in person.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD, Brig.-Gen.

H. P. BREWSTER, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

No. 6.

Col. Nathan B. Forrest's responses to interrogatories of Committee of Confederate House of Representatives.

Interrogatory 1st. I was not at the city of Nashville at the time of its surrender, but was there at the time the enemy made their entrance into that part of the city known as Edgefield, having left Fort Donelson, with my command, on the morning of its surrender, and reached Nashville on Tuesday, February, 18, about 10 a. m. I remained in the city up to the Sunday evening following.

Interrogatory 2d. It would be impossible to state, from the data before me, the value of the stores either in the Quartermaster's or Commissary Departments, having no papers then nor any previous knowledge of the stores. The stores in the Quartermaster's Department consisted of all stores necessary to the department—clothing especially, in large amounts, shoes, harness, &c., with considerable unmanufactured material. The commissar stores were meat, flour, sugar, molasses, and coffee. There was a very large amount of meat in store and on the landing at my arrival, though large amounts had already been carried away by citizens.

Interrogatory 3d. A portion of these stores had been removed before the surrender. A considerable amount of meat on the landing, I was informed, was thrown into the river on Sunday before my arrival and carried off by the citizens. The doors of the commissary depot were thrown open, and the citizens in dense crowds were packing and hauling off the balance at the time of my

arrival on Tuesday. The quartermaster's stores were also open, and the citizens were invited to come and help themselves, which they did in larger crowds, if possible, than at the other department.

Interrogatories 4th and 5th. On Tuesday morning I was ordered by Gen. Floyd to take command of the city, and attempted to drive the mob from the doors of the departments, which mob was composed of straggling soldiers and citizens of all grades. The mob had taken possession of the city to that extent that every species of property was unsafe.

Houses were closed, carriages and wagons were concealed to prevent the mob from taking possession of them. Houses were being seized everywhere. I had to call out my cavalry, and, after every other means failed, charge the mob before I could get it so dispersed as to get wagons to the doors of the departments to load up the stores for transportation. After the mob was partially dispersed and quiet restored a number of citizens furnished wagons and assisted in loading them. I was busily engaged in this work on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I transported 700 hundred large boxes of clothing to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad depot, several hundred bales of osnaburgs and other military goods from the Quartermaster's Department, most, if not all, of the shoes having been seized by the mob. I removed about 700 or 800 wagon loads of meat. The high water having destroyed the bridges so as to stop the transportation over the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, I had large amounts of this meat taken over the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad. By examination on Sunday morning I found a large amount of fixed ammunition in the shape of cartridges and ammunition for light artillery in the magazine, which, with the assistance of Gen. Harding, I conveyed over 7 miles on the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad in wagons, to the amount of 30 odd wagon loads, after the enemy had reached the river. A portion was sent on to Murfreesborough in wagons. The quartermaster's stores which had not already fallen into the hands of the mob were all removed, save a lot of rope, loose shoes, and a large number of tents. The mob had already possessed themselves of a large amount of these stores. A large quantity of meat was left in store and on the river bank and some at the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad depot, on account of the break in the railroad. I cannot estimate the amount, as several store-houses had not been opened up to the time of my leaving. All stores fell into the hands of the enemy, except forty pieces of light artillery, which were burned and spiked by order of Gen. Floyd, as were the guns at Fort Zollicoffer. My proposition to remove these stores, made by telegraph to Murfreesborough, had the sanction of Gen. A. S. Johnston.

Interrogatory 6th. No effort was made, save by the mob, who were endeavoring to possess themselves of these stores, to prevent their removal, and a very large amount was taken off before I was placed in command of the city.

Interrogatory 7th. It was eight days from the time the quartermaster left the city before the arrival of the enemy, commissaries and other persons connected with these departments leaving at the same time. With proper diligence on their

part I have no doubt all the public stores might have been transported to places of safety.

Interrogatory 8th. Up to Saturday the railroads were open and might have been used to transport these stores. Saturday the bridges of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad gave way. Besides these modes of conveyance, a large number of wagons might have been obtained, had the quiet and order of the city been maintained, and large additional amounts of stores by these means have been transported to place of safety.

Interrogatories 9th and 10th. I saw no officer connected with the Quartermaster's or Commissary Departments except Mr. Patton, who left on Friday. I did not at any time meet or hear of Maj. V. K. Stevenson in the city during my stay there.

Interrogatories 11th, 12th, and 13th. From my personal knowledge I can say nothing of the manner in which Maj. Stevenson left the city.

Common rumor and many reliable citizens informed me that major Stevenson left by a special train Sunday evening, February 16, taking personal baggage, furniture, carriage, and carriage-horses, the train ordered by himself, as president of the railroad.

Interrogatory 14th. All the means of transportation were actually necessary for the transportation of Government stores and sick and wounded soldiers, many of whom fell into the hands of the enemy for want of it, and might have been saved by the proper use of the means at hand. The necessity for these means of transportation for stores will be seen by the above answers which I have given. I have been compelled to be as brief as possible in making the above answers, my whole time being engaged, as we seem to be upon the eve of another great battle. The city was in a much worse condition than I can convey an idea of on paper, and the loss of public stores must be estimated by millions of dollars. The panic was entirely useless and not at all justified by the circumstances. Gen. Harding and the mayor of the city, with Mr. Williams, deserve special mention for assistance rendered in removing the public property. In my judgment, if the quartermaster and commissar had remained at their post and worked diligently with the means at their command, the Government stores might all have been saved between the time of the fall of Fort Donelson and the arrival the enemy at Nashville.

Respectfully, submitted.

N. B. FORREST, Col., Cmdg. Forrest's Brigade of Cavalry.

No. 7.

Col. Leon Trousdale's responses to interrogatories of Committee of Confederate House of Representatives.

RICHMOND, VA., March 11, 1862.

SIR: Herewith I hand you my answers to the interrogatories propounded to me by the committee and transmitted to me by you.

Very respectfully,

LEON TROUSDALE.

To the CLERK of the Special Committee on the Recent Military Disasters of Forts Henry and Donelson.

Answer to interrogatory 1st. I am a resident of Nashville, and my occupation is that of editor and publisher of a public journal.

2d. I left the city of Nashville about 9 o'clock on the morning of February 23, just one week after the surrender of Fort Donelson.

3d. Gen. A. Sidney Johnston arrived at Nashville and took quarters in the village of Edgefield, on the opposite bank of the Cumberland River, a few days before the fall of Donelson; the precise date I do not recollect. His forces were left in the rear, and did not reach Nashville until Sunday, February 16, when they passed through the city and marched in the direction of Murfreesborough. I understand that the last brigade passed through the city on Monday. Gen. Floyd's brigade afterwards arrived from Donelson.

4th. The advance of Gen. Buell's forces arrived at Edgefield, opposite Nashville, on Sunday morning, February 23.

5th. The first report of Gen. Buell's expected advance was promulgated in the city on Sunday morning, February 16, accompanied by intelligence of the surrender of our forces at Donelson and the announcement that Gen. Johnston had determined not to make a stand for the defense of Nashville, which was verified during the day by the movement of masses of Confederate troops through the city in a south-easterly direction, on the Murfreesborough turnpike. The proximity of Buell's forces, as reported, however, was discredited during the day. As before stated, the enemy's advance did not reach the Cumberland at Nashville until the 23d.

6th. The citizens of Nashville were started and confounded by the intelligence, and by the announcement, said to have been made as the opinion of Gen. Johnston, that the gunboats would probably arrive in six hours, accompanied, as it was, by his expressed determination not to make a stand for the defense of the city. Large numbers of citizens had been drilling in companies and squads for several days, with the design of aiding the Confederate forces in making such defense as might be resolved on by the general commanding. They could now do nothing but fly from their homes or submit to the Federal despotism—virtual prisoners within the lines of the enemy, unable to write, speak, or act in any manner not in accordance with the will of their despotic enemies. Thousands chose the former alternative, however hard, and left their beautiful city, "fugitives, without a crime."

7th. I know nothing of the strength of Gen. Buell's army, now at Nashville, but I have heard it estimated, by persons from that vicinity, at 15,000 men.

8th. I do not think that Nashville could have been successfully defended after the surrender of Forts Henry and Donelson, in the incomplete state of the fortifications near the city, and with the rear and flank of Gen. Johnston's forces exposed, in consequence of the enemy having command of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. But I believe that those great disasters might have been prevented by energy and promptness; and, having occurred, that the enemy might have been checked in his advance by a proper demonstration.

No troops ever fought with more gallantry and endurance than the Confederate forces at Donelson, and I have been led to believe that moderate re-enforcements in season would have secured for them the fruits of their valor and patient sacrifices. An early attention to the fortifications on the Tennessee and Cumberland and greater enterprise in panning and perfecting them, I am satisfied, would have insured a different result.

9th. I learned from officers who were with the rear guard of our army at Bowling Green that large amounts of pork and some unopened boxes of Enfield rifles and Colt's navy pistols were left at that point, in consequence of the enemy shelling the town before they could be removed; but they were burned or otherwise destroyed, as best they could be, by Gen. Hardee. Less than \$1,000,000, I was informed, would be the loss of stores at Nashville. Gen. Floyd and Col. Forrest exhibited extraordinary energy and efficiency in getting off Government stores at that point. Col. Forrest remained in the city about twenty-four hours, with only 40 men, after the arrival of the enemy at Edgefield. There officers were assisted by the voluntary efforts of several patriotic citizens of Nashville, who rendered them great assistance. Among these I remember Messrs. John Williams, J. J. McCann, H. L. Claiborne, and R. C. McNairy.

No. 8.

Memorandum of Col. W. W. Mackall, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

Gen. A. SIDNEY JOHNSTON:

GEN.: I heard you give the order to Gen. Floyd to take command of the city of Nashville. You said:

I give you command of the city. You will remove the stores. My only restriction is, do not fight a battle in the city.

W. W. MACKALL, Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 424-433.

### **February 24, 1862 - A call to arms in Jackson following the fall of Fort Donelson**

. . . The Governor has called upon every man able to bear arms for service as soon as possible. As he has commanded the militia to come out, companies are being formed. Mr. Bond is trying to get up one exclusively of married men. I have joined with him. The paper today stated that the Federals marched into

Nashville on yesterday. . . There is no disguising the fact that we are in anything but a pleasant situation. There are not men enough in the field & TO DRIVE THE ENEMY. They have overwhelming force and they must be driven back or we are a ruined people. . .

Robert H. Cartmell Diary.

**February 25, 1862 - Federal reconnaissance on Cumberland river near Nashville**

•*See February 23, 1862-February 25, 1862-Approach of federal forces to and occupation of Nashville*

**February 25, 1862 - Occupation of Nashville by Federal forces**

•*See February 16, 1862-February 25, 1862-the "Great Panic" in Nashville, evacuation by Confederates and occupation by Union forces*

**February 25, 1862 - Circular, Confederate Headquarters, Western Department, relative to preventing harm to civilians**

[CIRCULAR. ] HDQRS. WESTERN DEPARTMENT,  
Murfreesborough, February 25, 1862.

The commanders of brigades are reminded that the citizens must not be stripped of every means of support, even for the necessities of the army; and on the appeal of any citizen that his means are reduced to the wants of his family, they will at once, by authority of Gen. Johnston, order an investigation, and if the complaint is verified, they will give the former a safeguard.

By command of Gen. Johnston:

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 908.

**February 25, 1862 - "Our army surgeons, prescriptionists, hospital stewards, nurses, and the attendants of all classes, fled at the approach of the Federal transports, and left us entirely alone to whatever fate might befall us." A convalescing Tennessee Confederate's impression of the Federal occupation of Nashville from the Ensly Hospital**

When Fort Donelson fell into the hands of the Federal troops, I was lying in the hospital at Nashville, sick from a severe attack of pneumonia. It was a large and commodious brick building, two stories high, situate near and fronting Cumberland river, and had but recently been converted into what was known as the Ensly Hospital.

My cot on which I was lying was near a window, which commanded a fine view of the river, as the transports crowded with troops came up the river, within sight of the city. As the transports approached the city, the troops wearing the blue uniform, with their banners flying, the Stars and Stripes proudly

floating in the breeze from the mast-heads of all the vessels, the bands playing Yankee Doodle, and various national airs, presented quite an imposing appearance. As the steamers rounded in for the landing, all the bands on board struck up Dixie, and filled the air with music for several minutes.

As soon as the troops disembarked they took immediate possession of the city, with, of course, the hospitals and sick included. Everybody fled from the hospitals who were able to do so before the Federal troops entered the city. Our army surgeons, prescriptionists, hospital stewards, nurses, and the attendants of all classes, fled at the approach of the Federal transports, and left us entirely alone to whatever fate might befall us. We were all too sick to make even an effort to escape, but contented ourselves the best we could under the circumstances, and remained.

Sentinels were immediately placed inside and around the hospital, one at the entrance of the stairway, at the foot of the stairs on the ground, another at the top of the stairway on the inside, near the entrance to my ward. These sentinels were relieved from guard duty every two hours. We were not left long without attention, for the ladies of Nashville came into the hospital at once, took full charge of the sick, and soon made us feel very comfortable and as though our own mothers had suddenly appeared in our midst; they soon materially improved our condition in many respects, and made strenuous efforts to have us removed to their private residences, but the Federal authorities would not allow it, and we had to remain in the hospital.

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John M. Copley, *A Sketch of the Battle of Franklin*, pp. 14-16.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** John M. Copley, *A Sketch of the Battle of Franklin, Tenn.: With Reminiscences of Camp Douglas*. (Austin, Tex.: Eugene von Boeckmann, 1893), pp. 14-16. [Hereinafter: Copley, *Sketch*.] Electronic Edition. As cited in: <http://docsouth.unc.edu/copley/menu.html>.

***February 25, 1862 - February 26, 1862 - Confederate reconnoitering missions from Clifton, Saltillo, Savannah and Hamburg***

HDQRS. FIFTY-SECOND Regt. TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS, Henderson Station, February 26, 1862.

Gen. DANIEL RUGGLES:

Your note of yesterday was carried by here and returned by train last night, else would have been sooner answered.

I cannot report with certainty whether there are any cavalry on the Tennessee River. I shall learn with certainty to-day. On yesterday morning I sent men to Clifton, Saltillo, Savannah, and Hamburg. I have 100 cavalry reconnoitering in the neighborhood of those places. From the best information I can gather I think they have a few infantry at Clifton, Saltillo, and Savannah, who have

pressed horses into service and are scouring the country. If the report be true, I should be in a bad condition to meet them, having only 100 available or rather effective shot-guns; still if there be not more than 500 I shall try them. I shall keep you advised.

Respectfully,

B. J. LEA, Col., Cmdg.

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 910.

**February 26, 1862 - Condition of 52nd Regiment, Tennessee Volunteers, C. S. A.**

HDQRS. FIFTY-SECOND Regt. TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS, Henderson Station, February 26, 1862.

Brig. Gen. DANIEL RUGGLES:

DEAR SIR: Yours of this date received. In answer I have to say that I have under my command the Fifty-second Tennessee Regiment, of which I am colonel, numbering 760 men, of which 260 are sick; we have arms except 100 double-barrel shot-guns; Capt. C. S. Robertson's cavalry company, numbering 140 men, rank and file, armed with double-barrel shot-guns and sabers; about 251 of the Fifty-first Tennessee Regiment, under command of Lieut.-Col. Chester, for whom he has secured about 100 common sporting rifles, repaired and cleaned. They are all stationed at this place. I send out Capt. Robertson's cavalry every few days to scout the country from Clifton to Savannah. From scouts returned this evening I am reliably informed that no Federal cavalry has been sending guards in the direction of Savannah by Purdy.

Any suggestions you may make or commands to give will be gladly received and promptly executed. Can you by any possible means secure for me the musket or rifle with bayonets?

Very respectfully,

B. J. LEA, Col., C. S. Army, Cmdg.

OR, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 910.

**February 26, 1862 - Confederate reconnaissance to and about Nashville including destruction of the *Minna Tonka* NOTE 1**

FEBRUARY 26, 1862.-Scout to Nashville, Tenn.

Report of Capt. John H. Morgan, Kentucky Cavalry.

BUCHANAN, TENN., February 27, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on yesterday, the 26th instant, left camp with 12 men for Nashville. About 300 yards this side of last toll-gate towards town I left this pike and crossed through Mr. Tribe's farm to the Lebanon pike. Left one man near pike to bring us intelligence of the enemy if any should

come along the pike. We then followed the Lebanon pike until we reached the City. When inside the City limits found the pike covered with water, it having been backed up by the great rise in the river. Just at that point met a farmer, who said he was a Union man. Pressed him in and made him guide as over the backwater. He took us for Federals, as he afterwards told me. We proceeded into the City on Front street as far as the water-works, and there saw a steamboat—the *Minna Tonka*. She laid about 300 yards out in the vast field which covered the whole valley. She was chained fore and aft to trees. She laid not over 500 yards above the gunboats and their large fleet of transports. Could see the soldiers distinctly sitting upon the boats, and they were full of them. Young Buckner, Warfield, and Garrett took possession of a skiff and made oars of a piece of plank fence; boarded the steamboat; found several men on board who seemed preparing to get up steam to drop down the stream to the gunboats; made the crew leave in a boat, and set fire in several places to the steamer, and reached the shore in safety. The troops in the transports could see what we were doing. My orders were to fire the boat, and then cut her loose and let her drop down stream and set the other boats on fire, but this I found impossible to do, on account of the steamer being so securely moored with chain cables. At least 2,000 citizens gathered around us while we were waiting for the boys to get back from the steamer. They begged us to leave; told us the Federal cavalry were scouring the City; that a large party of cavalry had just passed through the street we were on. Sent all my men but 5 out the pike, with direction to halt at the cemetery. Remained with the 5 men about thirty minutes, until I saw a large body of cavalry going out Murfreesborough pike at a rapid rate; then started after my command. When we were half way through the water that was upon the pike a large body of Federals rode after us until they reached the water, when they halted, much to my satisfaction. We then retraced our steps back to this pike; reached our man who was standing picket just before sundown. About three minutes before we reached him he said seven officers—and one of them a general—had passed through and stopped at the gate where he was standing, not 20 yards distant. He was in a clump of cedars. When we reached him the officers were not over 700 yards distant. Kept our position about an hour. A Mr. James came out and informed us that there were men encamped at the toll-gate that had refused him a permit to leave the City, but he walked along with them as they came out, and as they were going into camp he passed along. He had just left when another man rode up. I halted him. He asked me if I was one of our pickets. I replied, if he meant Federals, we were. He said that was what he meant. I then asked him for his pass. He pulled out one from Gen. Mitchel, allowing him to pass and re-pass the lines. He did not want me to keep it, but I told him it might be forgery, and that I wished to take it in and see if it was all right. He has been professing to be a Southern-rights [man]; he is a Lincolnite. Lieut. West and myself then rode up to the toll-gate. I asked the man who lived there who were those officers who had just passed through. Said he did not know, but that they were looking out for a place to camp. While talking heard a body of cavalry approaching. We fell back to the place where our men were. I waited a few minutes. The night being very dark, could not see more

than 50 yards ahead of us. While sitting listening I heard the clink of sabers about 60 yards from us. They had left the pike and were riding on the dirt alongside of the pike to keep their horses from making a noise. We were close to the fence behind cedar trees. They rode up within 50 feet of us and stopped about five minutes. I dismounted and took a shot-gun and started for the fence, where I could easily have killed two or three of them. Just as I was raising to put my gun through the fence they called to each other to fire, which they did and ran for the City. We returned the fire. One of my men (Peter Atherton) was severely wounded, being shot through the thigh. Reached camp at 12 o'clock last night.

Respectfully,

JOHN H. MORGAN, Cmdg. Squadron.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 434-435.

**NOTE 1:** The situation in Nashville soon after the Confederate withdrawal and the Federal occupation was chaotic. It was so chaotic that a young captain of the Confederate Kentucky Cavalry, could enter the City and cause some destruction to the enemy. This is most likely the most famous story about Tennessee's John Hunt Morgan, a story that sets the tone for his almost brash, dashing, and spontaneous actions throughout the war. Indeed it seems as though this one action provided a stereotype for future Americans, an archetype that tends to obscure the true nature of the Civil War in Tennessee. It is also a thrilling story. The Minna Tonka (or Minnetonka) was a Confederate mail packet on the Cumberland River and not, until its abandonment and subsequent capture, a United States ship.

***February 26, 1862 - Report on preparations for Confederate guerrilla attacks on Tennessee River traffic***

We learn that some of our citizens are preparing for effective service on the Tennessee River. They will go out in squads of not more than five or six. Each man is a practised shot, with a rifle at long range, and each will go prepared with not less than one hundred rounds. They will take with them nothing but ground coffee, relying upon the citizens and their guns for food. They propose in these small squads to guard the Tennessee River. They will take their opportunities from behind trees, log, and in the narrow bends of the river, to pick off the Lincoln pilots. They can plank a Minie-ball in a sheet of foolscap paper, at a distance of six hundred yards; and we venture the assertion that such a corps of sharpshooters will be as great a terror to the enemy's boats as our gunboats were at Fort Donelson.<sup>NOTE 1</sup> Let each county bordering on the Tennessee River, I West-Tennessee, send a squad of such men on this duty, and the pilots will soon refuse to ascend a stream where death awaits them behind any big tree. A man may face a known or seen danger, but when he cannot divine how,

from what quarter, and at what moment the arrow may be sped, he will shrink from it with an unaccountable dread.

Memphis *Avalanche*, February 26, 1862.<sup>NOTE 2</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Since there were no Confederate gunboats at the battle of Fort Donelson it is difficult to understand what was meant by this.

**NOTE 2:** As cited in *Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, p. 81.

**February 26, 1862 - GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 14, relative to granting passes to civilians seeking fugitive slaves and necessity of refusing sanctuary to fugitive slaves**

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 14, HQDRS. DIST. OF WEST TENNESSEE

Fort Donelson, February 26, 1862

General Orders, No. 3, of the series of 1861, from Headquarters Department to the Missouri, are still in force and must be observed.

The number of citizens who are applying for permission to pass through the camps to look for their fugitive slaves proves the necessity of the order and its faithful observance. Such permits cannot be granted; therefore the great necessity of keeping out fugitives. Such slaves as were within the lines at the time of the capture of Fort Donelson and such as have been used by the enemy in building the fortifications or in any way hostile to the Government will not be released or permitted to return to their masters but will be employed in the quartermaster's department for the benefit of the [United States] Government.

All officers and companies now keeping slaves so captured will immediately report them to the district quartermaster. Regimental commanders will be held accountable for all violations of this order within their respective commands.

By order of Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant, commanding

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 667.

**February 26, 1862 - Brigadier-General Gideon J. Pillow reports to Richmond relative to his statement on the fall of Fort Donelson and his judgment for a "remedy for existing condition of things."**

MEMPHIS, February 26, 1862.

(Received Richmond, February 27, 1862.)

J. P. BENJAMIN:

Great excitement here and depression in public mind. To correct misapprehension and explain necessity which compelled capitulation at Donelson I have had my official report published. My judgment is that there is but one remedy

for existing condition of things; that is, abandon sea-coast defenses except New Orleans; concentrate all the forces in Tennessee; drive the enemy north of the Ohio River, and press invasion of Ohio, Indiana. That means will draw enemy's forces back and relieve the heart of country, and give up control of interior rivers until we can get power on water-causes. Enemy can inflict no great calamity on sea-coast.

If we do not relieve heart of the country, Mississippi River will be opened, and then cause of South is desperate.

GID. J. PILLOW, Brig.-Gen., C. S. Army.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, pp. 908-909.

### **February 26, 1862 - General Buell's Order Regarding the Occupation of Nashville**

The following is the order of Gen. Buell to his soldiers when that officer entered Nashville:

General Orders, No. 13.

Headquarters Department of the Ohio,

Nashville, Tenn., February 26, 1862

The General Commanding congratulates his troops that it has been their privilege to restore the national banner to the capital of Tennessee. He believes that thousands of hearts in every party of the State will swell with joy to see that honored flag reinstated in a position from which it was removed in the excitement and folly of an evil hour; that the voice of her own people will soon proclaim its welcome, and that their manhood and patriotism will protect and perpetuate it.

The General does not deem it necessary, though the occasion is a fit one, to remind his troops of the rule of conduct they have hitherto observed and are still to pursue. We are in arms not for the purpose of invading the rights of our fellow countrymen anywhere, but to maintain the integrity of the Union and protect the Constitution under which its people have been prosperous and happy. We cannot therefore look with indifference, on any conduct which is designed to give aid and comfort to those who are endeavoring to defeat those objects; but the action to be taken in such cases rests with certain authorized persons, and is not to be assumed by individual officers and soldier. Peaceable citizens are not to be molested in their personal property. All wrongs to either are to be promptly corrected, and the offenders brought to punishment. To this end all persons are desired to make complaint to the immediate commander of officers or soldiers so offending, and if justice be not done properly, then the next commander, and so on until the wrong is redressed. If the necessities of the public service should require the use of private property to public purposes, fair compensation is to be allowed. No such appropriation of private property is to be made, except by the authority of the highest commander present; and any other officer or soldier who shall presume to exercise such privilege shall

be brought to trial. Soldiers are forbidden to enter the residences or grounds of citizens on any plea without authority.

No arrests are to be made without the authority of the Commanding General, except in case of actually offence against the authority of the Government; and in all such cases that fact and circumstances will immediately be reported in writing to headquarters through the intermediate commanders.

The General reminds his officers that the most frequent depredations are those which are committed by the worthless characters who straggle from the ranks on the plea of being unable to march; and where the inability really exists, it will be found in most instances that the soldier has overloaded himself with useless and unauthorized articles. The order already published on this subject must be enforced.

The condition and behavior of a corps are sure indication of the efficiency and fitness of its officers. If any regiment shall be found to disregard that propriety of conduct, which belongs to soldiers as well as citizens, they must not expect to occupy the posts of honor, but may rest assured that they will be placed in position, where they cannot bring shame on their comrades and the cause they are engaged in. The Government supplies with liberality all the wants of the soldier. The occasional deprivations in hardships, incident to rapid marching, must be borne with patience and fortitude. "Any officer who neglects to provide properly for his troops, and separates himself from them to seek his own comfort, will be held to a rigid accountability.

By command of Gen. Buell

*Rebellion Record*, Vol. 4, pp. 205-206.

**February 27, 1862 - Letter from Levina A. Martin [Graysbury, Washington County] to her husband James Martin, location unknown, relative to conditions at home and new role for women in husband's absence**

Graysbury Tenn Feb the 27 1862

Dear James I received your letter dated the third the first of this week & was happy to hear from you one time more[.] it being the third letter I have received from you I never heard from you while you was at Tuskaluso

We are all well at present except Mother[.] she is very poorly & has been sick for the last five weeks not able to get out of the house since she was first taken her disease is Diptheory & Rhumatic pains their is a great deal of Sickness in this Country & Several has died Sudenly Frank Mahony fell dead at pleasant grove last Friday a week ago also Isaac Collet was found dead a short time ago Old Samuel Sherfey fell from a horse & died the next day Salley McAll is dead also John & Rollen P. Mury Severe Baskets little boy fell in the creek a few days ago & was drowned & a great many more that I will not name[.]

You want to know wat has become of me since you left well me & the children has been at paps the most of the time[.] Green Pain came over & went home

with him & stayed two week I also took Virgey to Doc Mahoney & kept her their a wile for him to doctor her but I dont see that he done her any good[.] she is as lame as ever[.] She want to see you very bad[.] John is fat & saucy with as curley a head as Jesse Duncan ever had[.] Your hourse is not got well yet[.] he has not been fit to sue any Since he got hurt & I dont know whether he ever wil be again or not[.]

you want to know what has become of your goods note & accounts[.] I sold some of the good[s] for the money & the rest was taken away from my house & that is as far as I can tell you about thim we collected Something about three hundred dollars in Money but had to pay it out again so I hav not got but three dollers now[.] Your accounts is nearly all Settle by note & I woulden give much for them the way things is here at present for we are looking for hard times in East Tenn

the excitement is very high hear at this time God only know what one more week my bring[.] you said you was looking for a petition their has been one sent about six weeks ago to Jefferson Davis the President of the Confederate States of America but we have not heard anything from it yet[.] I wrote to you on the 27 day of last month & told you all about it in the letter but I did not direct it to the Care of the Capt of the post but I want you to get some person to go to the Post office in the Town & get the letter I wrote to know about W. Sqibbs & your dealing what he was to giv per bushel for those round peaches he thinks 621/2 and I contend for 75 also the butter he thinks 121/2 & I think it was 15 cts per lbs[.] writ to me & tell me about it[.] W. H. Swaney is at work at Birtse on his mill So I will have to bring my letter to a close by begging you to writ me as soon as this comes to hand please excuse haste & look over mistakes so no more but remain

Your affection wife untill death

Levina A. Martin

W. P. A. Civil War Records, Vol. 1, p. 134.

**February 27, 1862 - Report of Flag-Officer Foote, U. S. Navy, regarding the condition of affairs in and near Nashville**

CAIRO, February 27, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to forward a communication just received from Lieutenant Commanding Bryant, the substance of which I have just telegraphed.

The captain of the steamer who brings the dispatch says that 6 miles below Nashville there was a battery on a high bluff which had mounted 15 guns, but several of them were thrown into the river before the Cairo arrived. He also reports that a strong Union feeling was manifested in and near Nashville, and that Governor Harris, after vainly attempting to rally the citizens and others, left on Sunday morning for Memphis. He also states that the gunboats are the terror of the people at Nashville and at all points on the Cumberland River, and

that on hearing of my arrival, supposing that the gunboats would proceed immediately to Nashville, the army retreated panic stricken. The unusual high water of the river, enabling the boats to ascend the river, was providential.

I have the honor to be, in a hurry, your obedient servant,

A. H. FOOTE, Flag-Officer, etc.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure]

GUNBOAT *CAIRO*, Nashville, Tenn., February 25, 1862.

SIR: Uncertain that my letter of the 23d reached you, I repeat that I departed from Clarksville for this point by the request of Brigadier-General Smith, commanding at Clarksville, and arrived here this morning, preceding seven steamboats, conveying an army commanded by Brigadier-General Nelson. The troops landed without, opposition.

The banks of the river are free from any hostile force. The railroad and suspension bridge here are destroyed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. C. BRYANT, Lieutenant. Commanding.

Flag-Officer A. H. FOOTE, Commanding Flotilla, Western Waters.

*Navy OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 22, pp. 639-640.

### ***February 27, 1862 - A report regarding a "most formidable weapon" in Carter county***

The Knoxville *Register* has the following:

Jas. P. Taylor, of Carter county, a son of Rev. N. G. Taylor, has invented a most formidable weapon in the shape of a rifled carbine, which may be discharged forty times per minute. The loads are contained in slides which move from right to left-every pull of the trigger presenting a fresh load to the barrel. As many of these slides, containing ten or fifteen loads, as can be conveniently carried on the person, may be successively and rapidly discharged. The gun was exhibited in our office yesterday, and was also submitted to the inspection of Col. Leadbetter and others military gentlemen. We have not heard the opinion of others, but from our limited mechanical knowledge we think it may, with little information, fulfill the expectations of the inventor, and be made the most efficient and destructive weapon known to modern warfare. The inventor is but seventeen years of age and this first effort of his inventive genius certainly gives promise of great future usefulness.

Mr. Taylor has taken steps to obtain a patent for the inventor. He may congratulate himself that the war which stimulated him to this exercise of his genius will also secure him the benefit of it-for if he were in the old Union some Yankee would be sure to steal it, and make a fortune out of it. The gun which Mr.

Taylor exhibited here was made, after his model, by L. L. Lewis, on Watauga river, in Carter county.

Natchitoches [LA] *Union*, February 27, 1862.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** As cited in: <http://www.uttyl.edu/vbetts>

**February 28, 1862 - State of General P. G. T. Beauregard's health**

JACKSON, TENN., February 28, 1862.

Gen. S. COOPER, Adjutant and Inspector Gen., Richmond, Va.:

I am in despair about my health-nervous affection of throat. Bragg ought to be sent here at once. I will, when well enough, serve under him rather than not have him here. Re-enforcements are arriving.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 7, p. 912.

**February 28, 1862 - Excerpts from a letter by Surgeon William M. Eames (U. S. ) to his wife in Ohio, relative to conditions in Nashville after a week of occupation**

Camp 4 miles beyond Nashville, Tenn. Feb. 28

Friday 11 A. M.

Dearest wife,

You see by the above date that we have got through the rebel city of Nashville & are now we are encamped on a pleasant hill on the road to Murfreesborough where the rebel army is supposed to be fortifying-about 40 miles from here. It is a very fine spring-like day & the last day of the winter months tho, we have had no weather like winter for a long time. The weather seems like what we get in May & the grass is springing up green & the buds begin to swell. The birds sing gaily among the trees & our camp begins to look cheerful once more. For the past few days we have had very hard times & the men have been sick & discouraged & everything has had a gloomy aspect, owing to rainy weather-want of good ratios & tents to sleep under. It has rained at least half the time & the men have been drenched & soaked, & have had to wade thro, deep water & then lie down on the damp ground with no covering but the cloudy or cold regions above with nothing to cook their scanty food in & I have often been pained to see them toasting their slice of stinking ham on a stick as their only supper or breakfast with sometimes a little parched corn-roasted on the cob. The bridges have all been destroyed by the rascals: our teams of course hindered with all the cooking utensils, provisions—tents, bedding, etc. The Cumberland River is high above the banks & now fills many cellars & covers the houses even to the eaves. The river runs past the city with a deep angry current but our men are now all carried over & nearly all their teams which have kept

along with the Reg[iment] since we left Bowling Green. Our team with 4 others was sent back from B. to Munfordville for provisions & we have not seen them since consequently we are without means of transportation save what we can carry in the room of two men in one of our ambulances. Our boxed of medicines were left & nearly all our necessary articles but we still keep along. I have not been in Nashville much except to pass through it on our way out here- But I saw enough of it to conclude that it was at least half union in sentiment & that very many were heartily glad to see us come to relieve them from the southern tyranny which has so long ruled over them. I saw the public square in which Amos Dresser<sup>NOTE 1</sup> received his whipping & the very beautiful State House & many buildings with a yellow flag flying-revealing the fact that they were occupied as Hospitals. I suppose there are many hundreds of poor secession soldiers-sick & wounded now in the city besides 200 of our own soldiers who were wounded at the fight at Fort Donaldson & then captured & brought here where they were recaptured by our men. We took vast quantities of rebel stores with the city-estimated at more then 2 million dollars worth.-including all kinds of provisions & camp equipage-tents, etc., four steam engines (Locomotives) & several passenger cares & freight cars. Large quantities of rebel arms-some finished & some in their workshops partly done-Cannon in their foundries & tons of shot & shell & other ammunition-medical stores-etc. etc. besides three steamboats-one of which the rebels burned after we had got possession of it. <sup>NOTE 2</sup> Our army here is now very large & every day increasing. Nelsons division came down on the Ohio & up the Cumberland on boats the day we came into the place. He first raised the Stars & Stripes over the capital building. After it had waved a short time a citizen<sup>NOTE 3</sup> of Nashville came to him & requested that the flag he owned<sup>NOTE 4</sup> should be raised in its stead. He said he had used his flag to sleep on all the time since the reign of terror commenced & now he wanted the same flag to wave over the State-house-& it does. Long may it wave.

. . . Two of [General U. S Grant's] gunboats are here & they are ugly looking customers. Not less than a dozen large size Steam boats are lying at the wharves or engaged in carrying over troops & wagons. Several Regts of Cavalry & Batteries of Artillery are here, but our Division is still ahead of all & we can look out on the enemies country just beyond us. Their pickets came up close to our lines & two nights ago they commenced firing on our pickets & lost three of their men. We have taken several prisoners & more are being found every day in the city. I am quite well today & have but little diarrhea. Appetite first rate. Rob is also well & all the rest of my crowd.

~ ~ ~

Yours as ever,

Wm. M. Eames

William Mark Eames Papers<sup>NOTE 4</sup>

**NOTE 1:** Amos Dresser, as a student at Oberlin College in the early 1830s, determined to sell Bibles in Mississippi to finance his schooling. When he arrived in Nashville he was arrested and publicly whipped by a committee of prominent town citizens because of his abolitionist views. [www.oberlin.edu](http://www.oberlin.edu)

**NOTE 2:** The *Minna Tonka*. See above.

**NOTE 3:** William Driver.

**NOTE 4:** The original "Old Glory."

**NOTE 4:** William Mark Eames Papers, TSLA Civil War Collection, XI-M- AC. NO. 91-036, MF 1306, mfm 1302. [Hereinafter cited as : William Mark Eames Papers.]

### ***February 28, 1862 - April 8, 1862 - Operations at Island No. 10***

FEBRUARY 28-APRIL 8, 1862.-Operations at New Madrid, Mo., and Island No. 10, and descent upon Union City, Tenn.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN TENNESSEE.

(February 28- March 23, 1862, activities in Missouri.)

March 15-April 7, 1862.-Siege and capture of Island No. 10.

March 30-March 31, 1862.-Descent upon Union City, Tenn.

April 8, 1862.-Garrison of Island No. 10 surrendered at Tiptonville, Tenn.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 8, pp. 76-77.<sup>NOTE 1</sup>

**NOTE 1:** There are a total of forty-four reports on the siege and surrender of Island No. 10. It is not essential to present them all here.

FEBRUARY 28—APRIL 8, 1862.-Operation at New Madrid, Mo., and Island No. 10. &c., and descent upon Union City, Tenn.

Report of Col. James D. Morgan, Tenth Illinois Infantry, commanding brigade, of operations March 12-13.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, FOURTH DIVISION, Camp near New Madrid, Mo., March 15, 1862.

In compliance with the order of Gen. Stanley of this date, I herewith make report of the part taken by my brigade in the action at the trenches before New Madrid on the night of the 12th and during the 13th instant:

At 5.30 p. m. March 12 I received orders from Gen. Paine, commanding Fourth Division, to report at Gen. Pope's headquarters with my brigade at sundown and there await further orders. Reporting at the hour indicated, I received order from Gen. Pope to march my brigade, consisting of the Tenth Illinois, under

Lieut. Col. John Tillson, and six companies of the Sixteenth Illinois Volunteers, commanded by Col. R. F. Smith [and to whom I am much indebted for prompt and efficient aid], under the direction of Col. Bissell, chief of engineers, and Maj. Lothrop, chief of artillery, to such point as they might designate near New Madrid and assist in erecting such works as they thought proper to construct. We arrived near the ground at 9 p. m., when the Tenth Illinois, by order of Col. Bissell, was thrown forward as skirmishers to secure the line of proposed operations, in securing which we reached the outer line of the enemy's pickets, who fired and withdrew. Moving cautiously forward beyond their, abandoned pickets post, two companies, A and B of the Tenth Illinois, were thrown yet farther forward as front and flanking skirmishers and pickets guard, with strict orders to return no fire if fired upon, which order and a similar one to the whole command was implicitly obeyed, although we were repeatedly fired upon during the night by the enemy's pickets, who occupied a line not more than 400 yards from our own line of operations. Six companies of the Sixteenth Illinois and the remaining eight companies of the Tenth Illinois were detailed as working parties, under the direction of Col. Bissell, serving the entire night, officers and men working with a will. By daylight four siege guns had been placed in position and trenches and rifle-pits constructed sufficient to protect the whole command. Soon after daylight our pickets were called in and our first gun fired, which was immediately returned, and thence during the whole day the firing from the rebel fortifications and gun-boats was kept up with spirit and determination. Their guns were well served, aim and range accurate. At sundown the firing ceased, when the men, although wearied with labor and loss of rest, cheerfully and with spirit worked to extend and strengthen the line of defenses. Company E, of the Tenth Illinois, and part of two companies of the Sixteenth Illinois were advanced as pickets with instructions to watch and report the movements of the enemy in front. They reported continued movement and stir of the enemy during the entire night, both in the fort and on the gun—boats and steamers, but whether they were being reinforced, were strengthening their position, or purposed an evacuation of the place could not be ascertained. A violent rain set in at 11 o' clock, continuing almost without intermission the balance of the night. About 4 a. m. I was relieved by Gen. Stanley, with order to return to camp. In conclusion I will only add that great credit is due to officers and men for the promptness and coolness with which the works were constructed and defended. I have to mourn the loss of a valuable and efficient officer, Capt. Lindsey H. Carr, Company H. Tenth Illinois, who was killed while on the picket-line early on the night of the 12th. Private Blockson, of Company G, Tenth Illinois, was slightly wounded.

I am, with much respect, &c.,

JAMES D. MORGAN, Col., Cmdg. First Brigade, Fourth Division.

*OR*, Ser. I, Vol. 53, pp. 453-454.

