

Documents
SOME CIVIL WAR LETTERS AND DIARY
OF JOHN LYMPUS BARNETT

Edited by JAMES BARNETT

John Lympus Barnett was born on October 23, 1830, near Edinburg, Johnson County, Indiana. He went with his parents to a farm near Cicero, Hamilton County, Indiana, in 1853. Before volunteering for the Union Army, he worked at many different occupations. He was graduated from a commercial school in Indianapolis. He had been a school teacher. At times, he appeared in cases as a lawyer in justice of the peace courts. He owned a daguerrotype outfit and took pictures. He owned a small hand press and printed handbills for sale in Cicero. He also assisted his father who operated a warehouse in the town. They purchased merchandise and sold it wholesale. The young volunteer was five feet, eight and one-half inches in height and weighed about one hundred forty pounds. He had dark brown hair and gray eyes.

Barnett volunteered when Lincoln called for three-year troops and became a member of Company B, Thirty-ninth Indiana Volunteers on August 29, 1861, though he was frail and not well suited for the arduous marching and fighting which would be required of him in the Union Army. The Thirty-ninth Indiana was one of the first Union regiments to enter Kentucky. This regiment was a part of the Army of the Ohio commanded by Don Carlos Buell. Buell possessed an exaggerated respect for the enemy's armies. He was most noted for his procrastination and fear of bringing on a fight. The Thirty-ninth was first a part of the Second Brigade, commanded by T. J. Wood. The Second Brigade was part of the Second Division, commanded by Alexander McDowell McCook. In November, 1861, it became a part of the Sixth Brigade, and was placed under the command of R. W. Johnson, of the Second Division.

Buell's Army of the Ohio languished in the vicinity of Munfordville, Kentucky, from October, 1861, until February, 1862. Grant's Army of the Tennessee took Forts Henry and Donelson and forced a general retirement of the enemy from Kentucky. This opened up the way to Nashville, Tennessee,

for Buell's army. The Army of the Ohio reached Nashville unopposed on March 2, 1862.

Meanwhile Grant's army was assembled on the left or west bank of the Tennessee River near Pittsburg Landing. He was preparing to attack. The enemy had gathered in large numbers at Corinth, Mississippi, an important Confederate railroad junction near the Tennessee-Mississippi line. Grant was waiting for Buell to reinforce him, as ordered. Buell moved with his usual hesitancy. Before he reached Grant, the Confederates attacked the Union forces near Pittsburg Landing, bringing on the historic and bloody battle of Shiloh.

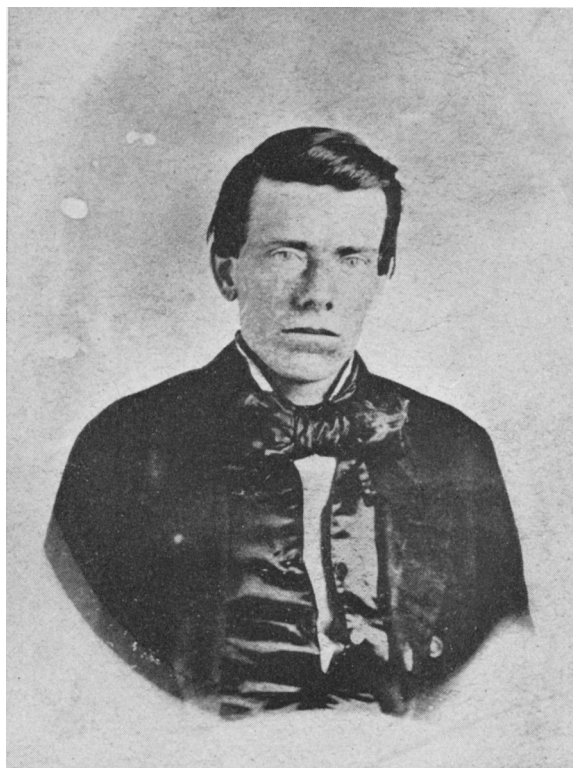
The Thirty-ninth Indiana was with the Second Division thirty-two miles from Pittsburg Landing when Grant's army was attacked on April 6, 1862. The Division made a forced march of twenty miles reaching Savannah on the Tennessee River at 11:00 P.M. that night. The men spent the night in the streets of Savannah in a pouring rain. The next day (April 7, 1862) the division arrived at Pittsburg Landing by boat from Savannah. The Second Division played a vital part in the defeat of the Confederate forces during the second day's battle. Sherman, in his official report, said: "I concede that General McCook's splendid division from Kentucky drove back the enemy along the Corinth road which was the great central line of this battle."

After Shiloh, the Thirty-ninth Indiana took part in the occupation of Corinth on May 30, 1862. The army was then separated and moved in small groups in the direction of Chattanooga, repairing the Memphis-Charleston railroad as it went. The Thirty-ninth marched across Alabama and occupied Bridgeport, near Chattanooga. The Union armies worked from June to August, 1862, repairing the railroad. Buell was ordered to occupy Chattanooga, but that order he never carried out. He allowed the Confederates, under Bragg, time to reorganize after the defeat at Shiloh and the abandonment of Corinth. In August, 1862, Bragg took advantage of Buell's folly and made a dash for the Ohio river. This compelled the surrender of much territory and brought on the celebrated race towards Louisville. Buell got to Louisville before Bragg, although he started later. In retreating, he displayed great ability. Louisville was swarming with volunteers from the farms and work benches of the

Middle West and Bragg, estimating their fighting ability correctly, gave up the idea of taking Louisville, and decided to return southward.

Buell was about to be relieved for his glaring failures but he was given another chance. He went in pursuit of Bragg. Part of his army caught up with the enemy at Perryville, Kentucky, and fought an indecisive engagement on October 8, 1862. Buell allowed a portion of his army to stand by doing nothing to assist the engaged regiments. He sent the Second Division over a road to Perryville which was twenty miles longer than the nearest road. It arrived too late to be of assistance. A military court tried Buell and he was deprived of his command. The command of his army went to William Starke Rosecrans. The Second Division, along with the remainder of the Army of the Ohio, marched back to Nashville, arriving there in November, 1862.

John L. Barnett remained with his regiment until December 26, 1862. One that day, he was ordered to go to a hospital in Nashville. He was broken in health and in a dying condition as a result of the long march from Bridgeport to Louisville and back to Nashville. His father, learning of his condition, went to Nashville to secure his release from the army, and he was discharged for disability on February 14, 1863. He left Nashville a few days later for home, where he died on February 24, 1863, the day after his arrival. Sometime before his break-down, Barnett was promoted to Sergeant. The date of the promotion is not known, but his discharge paper dated February 14, 1863, indicates that he was a First Sergeant in Company B, Thirty-ninth Indiana Infantry. His disease is recorded as "Organic Disease of the Heart." Indorsements on the face of the certificate of discharge show that he was paid in full at Nashville on February 20, 1863, and that he was in Jeffersonville, Indiana on his way home on February 22, 1863. The death date preserved by the family being February 24, he was able to make his way from the hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, to Cicero, Indiana, just in time to reach home on the day before his death.



JOHN LYMPUS BARNETT

[The Letters]

Camp [Harrison, Indianapolis]¹ Sept 12, 61.

[To W. H. Barnett:]

I am well and getting along finely. I hear from you almost every day. 4 or 5 of the Boys are on the sick list. Harvey Riggs² was here Sunday last. He spent most of the day hunting me and I went with him

¹ A piece of the letter, in the shape of a circle, has been cut out. Hence the first few lines of the letter are omitted. However, the *Indianapolis Journal* of September 11, 1861, reported that the Thirty-ninth Regiment was in camp on the site of "Camp McClellan on the Sandusky farm east of the city." The *Journal* reported that the camp had been named Camp Harrison, in honor of Col. Thomas J. Harrison who commanded the regiment. John L. Barnett had been in the army fourteen days when this letter was written. An American flag in colors is printed on the paper on which this letter was written. At the top of the staff to which the flag is attached, appears a French cap signifying freedom.

² Harvey Riggs (1831-1911) was John L. Barnett's uncle.

to Camp Dumont³ Indpls 7th Reg I believe and staid with Capt. Lambert's⁴ Co. where I saw several of my old friends. . . . We [have] drawn our Uniforms but not our arms.⁵ I was kept pretty busy whilst the Orderly was gone. At other time I have not had much to do. The prospect however is now that I will have enough to do for a while—in the shape of keeping all the Books of the Co., etc. We have to keep a descriptive Book (which is not opened yet), an order Book, a Book charging each Soldier with all he gets and also Copy in a Book all the orders from Hdqrs. Harry I wish you would try and collect \$1.00 Bal. due me from S. Bussel and the Geo. Royer a/c and the Billhymer note if you can or as much of them as you can and after paying the Boys if there is anything left (i.e.) \$1.00 or more remit it to me.⁶ I don't know that I shall need it But I dont know when we draw. I am going to get an army cot. I expect I will have enough without any of it for to answer all needful purposes. If you cant get that never mind I shall get along very well as far as money is concerned I suppose But would feel a little Better maybe with these few dimes which are my due. I have been letting a [few] of our Honest Boys have a few dimes occasionly until they could get from home. If I knew I should get to visit you I would not ask you to do any of this. If you have sold enough Brandy to pay the Boys I do not care if you let the remainder stay in the Barrel. Save what you wish to use among you unless you get as much as it cost me. But as I am nearly full [near end of fourth page of letter paper] and have no great deal to write I must close.

So Farewell

W. H. Barnett⁷
 Father Mother
 Brothers and
 Sisters

J. L. Barnett

If you write me before I do again direct to me care of Capt Neal
 39 Regt⁸

³ Camp Dumont was one of the several Civil War camps in Indianapolis. It was named for Colonel Ebenezer Dumont (1814-1871), who commanded the Seventh Indiana Volunteers.

⁴ *Terrell's Reports*, II, 44, lists a Captain Samuel Lambertson of Franklin, Indiana, as the commander of Company F, Seventh Indiana Volunteers.

⁵ The *Indianapolis Journal* of Monday, September 23, 1861, reported that "Col. Harrison's regiment of sharpshooters left Indianapolis on Saturday [Sept. 21, 1861] for Louisville, where they will be armed with surplus guns in that city." In a letter [Indiana State Library Archives] written from Camp Nevin, Ky., Oct. 23, 1861, to Governor O. P. Morton, Colonel Harrison protested against the fact that the Thirty-ninth Indiana had not as yet been armed.

⁶ These requests refer to business accounts.

⁷ William Harry Barnett (1841-1921) was John L. Barnett's brother.

⁸ *Terrell's Reports*, II, 383, lists a Captain William Neal of Cicero, who was commissioned a captain September 2, 1861. He resigned January 30, 1862.

Camp Geo. Wood Dec 29, 61.⁹Dear Father:¹⁰

Yours of some time ago came to hand all right. And although I have not much of interest to write, I pen you a few lines being happy to inform you that I am in first rate health and really hope that this may find you all in the enjoyment of that same priceless boon. You can have the money you spoke of until I return, if I ever do, so far as I know at present. Pay day will soon be here again and I intend sending some more home when I get it. This I think will be in about 3 weeks. Nothing of importance has occurred with us since my last. We have been out on Picket once only, Rosecran's brigade made a reconnaissance about 7 miles South over in Dixie some days since, but found nothing that far up. There is a body of Secesh though I suppose not far from the region they visited. Our troops are digging down the hills beyond the river so that the Artillery can pass up and down. I think when we leave here a small fight will take place the first day (there can be no possible doubt about the result). Perhaps the 2000 or 3000 Secesh may make trouble before the advance of such an army as this; when we will go I cannot tell.¹¹ A review of the Division took place yesterday, Geo. D. Prentice made a speech. I could not hear one word he said, though.¹² It looked as though there was enough Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry to drive the rebels from Secesia's inviting clime.

⁹ Camp George Wood was located about one-quarter of a mile north of Munfordsville, Kentucky. It was so named to honor George Wood, a member of the Kentucky Military Board, who lived in Munfordsville. George Wood was the father of Thomas J. Wood (1823-1906), a Civil War general.

¹⁰ Ambrose Dudley Barnett (1809-1885), then living near Cicero, Indiana. He was an officer in the Jackson Guards of Hamilton County during the Civil war.

¹¹ Twelve days before this letter was written, 3000 Confederate "cavalry and infantry" attacked the Thirty-second Indiana Volunteers near Rowlett's Station, Kentucky. The Thirty-second was commanded by Colonel (later Brigadier General) August Willich (1810-1878), and every man in the regiment was a German. Although heavily outnumbered, 3000 to 350, the Indiana Germans repulsed the enemy and its famed cavalry, the Texas Rangers. The Thirty-ninth Indiana moved forward to assist the Thirty-second but the enemy had had enough. Few Civil War stories have been told as often. Nearly every writer who ever wrote about the war in the west mentioned how Willich and his Indiana Germans whipped the Texas Rangers. An account appears in the *Indianapolis Journal* of December 19, 1861. The Second Division did not move until February 14, 1861. The "2000 or 3000 Secesh" however, made no trouble.

¹² George D. Prentice (1802-1870) was the editor of the *Louisville Journal*. His editorials exerted a powerful influence in behalf of the Union during the Civil War. Mr. Prentice visited Camp George Wood to present a flag to the First Brigade of the Second Division, commanded by Lovell H. Rousseau (1818-1869). The Sixth Brigade, of which the Thirty-ninth Indiana was a part, was too far away to hear any of the speeches. Alexis Cope, *The Fifteenth Ohio Volunteers and Its Campaigns*, 52.

I suppose you have heard of Mose Hedger's death.¹³ An affray occurred last night in our qrs, in which one Jeff Davis cut one Jack Munden's arm considerably. If he had killed him the only pity would have been this that some one might have had to suffer for it¹⁴ As it is, if Gen. McCook is sober when they are tried, I think it will come out right.¹⁵

We were out on picket Christmas eve and we were quartered in a church and spent the first night in a house since I left home. I stood sentinel my hour. Of course I lacked that much of staying in a house all of one night. This is a fine day overhead, a little muddy under foot as can ever be. We have delightful weather most of the time, when it is not muddy. Tell Mecca¹⁶ to learn to sing Dixie land good so that when I come home I can hear her sing. Tell her I hear it played every day almost, and when I come back from the war I will have to hear her sing it. Tell her I was so far off that I could not get to see Old Chris before he went round, and I am afraid he did not leave my friend much on Christmas eve night.

But my sheet is nearly full so, I must close.

I remain your son,

J. L. Barnett

Camp Stanton Tenn March 29 [1862]¹⁷

To Susan and Mary Barnett¹⁸

Dear Sisters

Yours came to hand the contents of both were read with much pleasure and I hope that you will both write again. I am glad that you all made good progress at School in acquiring a knowledge of the branches which are to add to your happiness so much in after life. Tell my friend Meck [his sister America] that I think of her every day when down in Dixie. I hardly know what has become of Jane¹⁹ for no one ever says anything about her. But I have not much time to write now. I don't suppose that you yet have such nice beautiful weather as we have. I know you

¹³ *Terrell's Reports*, V, 226, lists a Moses J. Hedger of Hamilton County, who died in Louisville on December 24, 1861.

¹⁴ *Terrell's Reports*, V, 225, lists a Thomas S. Davis and a Joshua Munden (*ibid.*, V, 226). Both were in Company B, Thirty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, and both were from Hamilton County.

¹⁵ Alexander McDowell McCook (1831-1903), then a brigadier general, was in command of the Second Division of the Army of the Ohio.

¹⁶ The "Mecca" referred to was his sister America who was three years old at the time. She is Mrs. America E. Ralston, now eighty-three years of age. Mrs. Ralston lives in Vincennes, Indiana. She furnished this letter and the diary for publication. Benjamin Franklin's picture is on the sheet of paper on which the letter was written with these words printed underneath: "Franklin—Imitate His Virtues."

¹⁷ Camp Stanton was located near Columbia, Tennessee.

¹⁸ Susan A. Barnett (1847-1864) and Mary A. Barnett (1845-1929) were John L. Barnett's sisters.

¹⁹ Lucy Jane Barnett was another sister. She is now Mrs. A. J. Forsyth, and is eighty-nine years old. Mrs. Forsyth lives at Liberty, Missouri.

have not. Meck would like to run and play with Jane and Black Sheep if She was in Dixie land these fine days. Write again.

But I must close
I remain your Brother
J. L. Barnett

Camp at Bridgeport Ala July 12 62²⁰

Dear Brother²¹

I again seat myself to pen a few lines for your perusal Hoping that Such may not be wholly void of interest to you. I believe I recd yours whilst at or near [7 ms from] Huntsville [Ala.] July 6th and came to the suburbs of that place which by the way is one of the pleasantest towns that I have seen since our embarkation for the land of Dixie and Southern chivalry. The water works which supply the city with water is a very interesting specimen of nature and art combined for purposes of public utility. Here we rested under orders till 3 oclk 7th Ins. But so far as our regt was concerned the order was countermanded with the 1st Ohio and Cotters Battery with orders for us to embark on board the cars to Stevenson and thence overland to this place which is on the banks of the beautiful and romantic Tennessee and contains 1 steam mill of moderately small calibre and some half dozen old dwellings for the most part deserted, a small depot and 2 or 3 old dilapidated village business houses— Well we remained there till the A M of the 8th. The above named 2 Corps leaving before we did. But not for the same destination. We arrived at S[tevenson] some 60 ms from Hunts[ville] about 2 oclk and rested near there till sundown and moved about 8 ms. and camped till next morning and then came some 4 ms to this place to relieve the 19th Illinois, Col Turchin (a Russian by birth).²² This [regiment] the 19th having been ordered to the rear for unmeritorious conduct A spirit of mutiny exists among them they have not gone yet I do not know what disposition will be made of them²³ Simonson's Battery

²⁰ The Thirty-ninth Indiana belonging to McCook's Division had taken part in the battle of Shiloh and the occupation of Corinth. It was then sent eastward across northern Alabama to occupy Bridgeport.

²¹ Benjamin Franklin Barnett (1842-1829) was John L. Barnett's brother.

²² Ivan Vasilevitch Turchinoff (1822-1901) was a colonel in the Russian Imperial Guards. He came to the United States in 1856 and anglicized his name to John Basil Turchin.

²³ Turchin had taken part in the brilliant campaign through Middle Tennessee under O. M. Mitchell, who commanded the Third Division of Buell's Army. This campaign gained the north bank of the Tennessee river for the Union armies. However, Buell accused Turchin of allowing his troops to "pillage" the town of Athens, Alabama, in the process of procuring rations. Both Turchin and his lieutenant colonel, Joseph R. Scott, resigned on July 5, 1862, as a protest against Buell's order sending the Nineteenth Illinois to the rear. They denied any unmeritorious conduct. Buell court-martialed Turchin August 6, 1862, and dismissed him from the army. The fact that Buell had ignored Turchin's successes in official reports, brought forth many protests from Illinois and Indiana. As a result Turchin was promoted to brigadier general on August 5, 1862, the day before he was court-

is with us Col Harrison²⁴ being the commander of the post the 39th and this Battery are to remain here as a guard—Here is where the RR crosses But the Bridges have been burned. By the way opposite us is an Island 7 ms long. The bridge on the opposite side was burned by Rebels I believe and the one on this side by Mitchell²⁵ 5 ms. above is the mouth of Battle creek and here are 6 or 7 Regts on this side and opposite it is said is a pretty large force of rebels It is generally Supposed that there is a rebel Camp just across the river from us and that they have pickets some 1200 yds at Head house on the RR. I have seen men over there But could not tell whether they were soldiers or not and it is said that they are Seen on the island 5 to 800 yds from here perhaps. I was down in bathing yest[erday] evening with several others and we had quite a conversation with a rebel across the river. I saw him But for the bushes I could not tell if he was a soldier But some of the Boys said they saw his knapsack on his back. The Illinois 19th came here about 1 wk. before we did. [They never] (nor have we) fired across at any one nor have been fired upon and are under orders, perhaps both sides, not to fire on those Supposed to be pickets, so said the Illinois Boys. 4 of these Boys went across the river a few days before we came and were taken prisoner and were released on parole. They were tired of the Service. Maj. [Illegible] of the same regt crossed over to look at an old ferry boat was taken and is now a prisoner. I expect we will remain here perhaps for months. The rest of the Division is back near Stevenson and are to go on I suppose to Chattanooga,²⁶ most of them. Health is Splendid generally and I like Soldiering here where we are nearly by ourselves better than I have for a long time. My own health is very good. We have a company fund and we are buying some corn meal at \$1.00 per bus. This we cook (ourselves) individually and it seems to me—after I bake or fry some fritters—that it is splendid eating even amongst all the dirt of camp life. The prospect for corn here is very poor though the rain of the last few days may help it out a little. Wheat was no account almost. The country here is quite poor though the scenery is beautiful. You can see spurs of the Cumberland mountains and parts of the chain from 5 to perhaps 30 ms. distant. We are said to be 2 ms from the Tenn line and 6 ms from the Georgia do. We have a splendid place to bathe and Swim and Some of the boys are trying their luck at fishing. We have good water to drink though we have to carry it Some con-

martialed. He served with distinction as a brigade commander throughout the remainder of the war. *Records of the War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XVI, Part 2.

²⁴ Thomas Jefferson Harrison (1824-1871) was a lawyer from Kokomo. He served with merit throughout the war as colonel of the Thirty-ninth Indiana Volunteers. He was brevetted a brigadier general at its close.

²⁵ Ormsby McKnight Mitchell (1809-1862) commanded the Third Division of Buell's Army.

²⁶ The Second Division, Army of the Ohio, along with the remainder of Buell's army was ordered to take Chattanooga. However, Buell's delay made it impossible.

siderable distance. It is a great deal pleasanter to be here away from So many troops than with a division or more. Pay day is not come yet. I wish it would come pretty soon though I have plenty of the one thing needful and dont suffer it to diminish much as I try to clear expenses now. But the Rebels of the country have got nearly all the change. When you write me again some of you please send me a few stamps. I sold a good part of those I got from home before, thinking I had saved enough to last till the end of the war. But they will not do unless it ends about 5 times as soon as I think it will. Send me about 15 or 25 cts worth and when I send my money home will make it all right (i. e.) if you have not collected any for me which I suppose you have been unable to do.²⁷ I have only made about \$7.00 since last pay day beside what I have spent over and above my wages. But think I can make it better next time. I have been confined so much of the time Commings²⁸ being absent sick I have had to act as orderly So that I have not had much time to be absent from Company qrs. only on business and this perhaps will continue for some time as I understand he is in Terre Haute Ind but it is now about noon and I must close and devour my corn dodger that I have baked. I dont know how good it is looks good burnt it a little and put some water in it to get the grease out before I used it. It is moderately pleasant in the shade here. We fix our beds on planks off the ground. You must know that we have lizzards frogs and every kind of insects under the shining sun perhaps to contend with. But these we are used to now. But I must close. Write soon and direct to camp at Bridgeport Ala via of Nashville Tenn.

B. F Barnett

I remain Your Brother
J. L. Barnett

Louisville Ky Sept 29, 62

Dear Father: Yours came to hand this morning and found me quite well and hope by the time this reaches you all will be well again. We are still in the City drawing clothes and will get pay today or tomorrow. We had a pretty hard march over the mountains 350 ms from Bridgeport here But are getting rested some.²⁹ I got a letter from Harvey Riggs this morning. Jefferson C. Davis killed Gen Nelson this morning.³⁰ I believe I will send you \$50.00 or \$60.00 by Exp. or other-

²⁷ This refers to business accounts.

²⁸ *Terrell's Reports* (V, 225) lists a Sergeant Sylvester W. Comings, who was discharged for disability on August 16, 1862.

²⁹ The Thirty-ninth Indiana left Bridgeport on August 21, 1862, and marched at least 350 miles to Louisville. Some who took part in the march and wrote accounts estimated the distance to be at least 400 miles.

³⁰ Brigadier General Jefferson Columbus Davis (1828-1879) of Clark County, Indiana. Killed Major General William Nelson (1824-1862) on September 29, 1862, at the Galt House in Louisville. Both were Union generals. Nelson (6 feet, 2 inches tall, weight, 300 pounds) was a martinet who had insulted Davis (5 feet, 9 inches tall, weight, 125 pounds) repeatedly. When Davis appeared and demanded an apology Nelson slapped him, provoking his own death. Davis was never punished for killing Nelson. He served with great distinction, later,

wise. Do the best you think with it. I could send \$70.00 easily enough and have enough left But think maybe can do better to keep a little more. I have not time to give you even a detail of our March now. If you have a chance send my overcoat by private hands if you have a good chance. Write me immediately if you [letter torn]

I Remain Your Son
J. L. Barnett

In Camp Near Nashville Tenn Nov 17 62³¹

Dear Sister

After having answered Harry's Letter I propose Answering yours though the night is fast wearing away. I was glad to get your letter indeed and hope you will write again. I often think of you and all and wish that I could meet you all again And hope that some time we may. But the war is not over and only 15 months of our time is out. How much is to come we know not. We only know what has passed. I can only think of home. And but for those at home I might feel less like serving my country. And I am glad whilst in my tent writing and the rain falling heavily on it that I can almost forget that I am away from those I love best.

But I have written all the news to Harry.

Mary A. Barnett
Cicero
Ind

I am Your Brother
Until Death
J. L. Barnett

John L. Barnett did not keep a diary during his service until he went to the hospital at the beginning of his fatal illness. He commenced his diary late in December, 1862, or early in January, 1863. It was written in pencil in a very small (4x2½) black, leather covered, note book. Under the impact of his final illness, his clear and readable handwriting lost much of its vigor. The last entry was made on February 18, 1863, in Nashville, Tennessee. Six days later he died at his home near Cicero, Indiana.

[The Diary]

John L. Barnett
Co B
39th Reg
Ind Vols

Came with wagon train to Nashville Dec 26th staid in tent 1 night and 2 in old dwelling came to hospital 29 [Dec. 29] No. 15 Line and Sumner Sts. My father came to see me at hospital very unexpectedly to Him in company with W. Neal, W. Good and T. Farley They were

as a division commander and as commander of the Fourteenth Army Corps of Sherman's army during its march through Georgia.

³¹ The Thirty-ninth Indiana had returned to Nashville and the next day, November 18, 1862, marched through Nashville in the direction of Murfreesboro.

all on the way to the battlefield but learning at the Military Agency that I was probably here came and found me. I was truly Glad to see the old man whom I had not seen for more than 15 months (nor any one of kin) and ever will remember with gratitude his Efforts for me. Very happy moments comparatively did his presence and conversation afford me having spent what time he could with me after exerting himself in my behalf. Good and Neal having ret'd same day and up from the Battlefield³² and anxiously awaited an opportunity to go home. My Father left me this morning about 11 ock.

Feb 16th 1863 I suppose they have gone home. May the blessings of Heaven attend him home And find all in comfort and prosperity.

[Feb] 17th a cold day yet about 12 were added to the inmates of the Hosp sick nothing of importance today—

[Feb] 18 Sunday weather has moderated some. Beautiful day was out in hall a little while for the first time—felt a little better part of the day. Limp not much improved.³³

The diary, which covers but a short period, has no entries after the first, which is not dated, until February 16, 1863. The first entry could not have been written earlier than December 30, 1862, and may not have been written until near the middle of February. The first sentence in the entry of February, 1863, is: "I suppose that they have gone home." The implication is that this entry was written very soon after the first one which ends with the sentence: "My father left me this morning about 11 ock." The diary was not continued after February 18, 1863. It seems probable that the writer, whose hold on life was very precarious and who had various things to do, could not well find the time nor had he the energy to make further entries.³⁴

³² The Thirty-ninth Indiana took part in the sanguinary battle of Stone River (or Murfreesboro), near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863.

³³ On the page of the notebook following the entry of February 18, 1863, appears a description of Sergeant Barnett's watch: "Description of my watch Jan 26 63 marked on upper side of Back outside of case 7553 on lower part 4885 marked Argent on inner case Full Jeweled J L Barnett"

³⁴ Acknowledgements are due to Mrs. America E. Ralston ("Mecca" or "Meck" Barnett) of Vincennes, Indiana, for furnishing one letter and the diary for publication; to Mr. Don C. Woods of Trafalgar, Indiana, for furnishing three letters and to Mrs. Florence Deakyne of Cicero, Indiana, for supplying one letter. Special acknowledgement is due to Mr. Henry C. Barnett, of Franklin, Indiana, for supplying one letter, for furnishing some of the information included in the introduction and for assistance in preparing the footnotes and for other aid.—James Barnett.