

Company B, 18th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers
(Eagle Light Infantry, Captain H.C. Jackson)

This company ended up down the Mississippi and fought at Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh), where several were taken prisoner. A letter is transcribed telling of their participation in the battle and from the men taken prisoners as to what they went through. Letters received from this regiment are from Asa C. Price who was later promoted to major of the regiment. This company later moved with General Halleck's army down to Corinth.

<http://www.civilwarhome.com/shiloh.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/vick/camptrail/sites/Mississippi-sites/Corinth,siegeMS.htm>

Monroe Sentinel, December 18, 1861

A son of W.C. Green, Esq., of York in this county has enlisted in Capt. Jackson's company. This is the third son Mr. Green has furnished to this war. The government has notified Capt. Jackson that if his company is ready, it will be assigned to the 2nd Regiment to take the place of a company that has been detached from that regiment.

Oliver Hancock, 17, one of Captain Jackson's company and son of N.Z. Hancock of this village died of the measles, having been sick since Friday last. He was paid a tribute of respect by the members of the Eagle Light Infantry Company who lamented the death of their brother Hancock.

Monroe Sentinel, January 15, 1862

Lt. Boynton of Captain Jackson's company is in town on furlough.

Monroe Sentinel, February 19, 1862

The following is the roll of the Eagle Light Infantry from Green County attached to the 18th Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers now at camp in Milwaukee

Captain C.H. Jackson, Quincy, Illinois

1st Lt. T.A. Jackson, Brodhead

2nd Lt. S.B. Boynton, Monroe

1st Sgt. J. Walkley, Brookville, Ill.

2nd Sgt. H. Farmer, Spring Grove

3rd Sgt. S.S. Frow, Ogle Co., Ill.

4th Sgt. H.S. Johns, Spring Grove

5th Sgt. G.W. Holmes, Monroe

1st Corp. D. Aldridge, Monroe

2nd Corp. J.S. Show, Brodhead

3rd Corp. M.H.D. Cunningham, Blanchardville, Wis.

4th Corp. C.M. Ball, Spring Grove

5th Corp. H.B. Worcester, Harlem, Ill.

6th Corp. A. Maginis, Brodhead

7th Corp. D.A. Rogers, Monroe

8th Corp. E.J. Ellis Monroe

Wagoner J. Sanborn, Monroe

Drummer: J.L. Hunt, Brodhead

Privates:

A Adair, Monroe

F.M. Bailey, Adams

E.C. Baldwin, Brodhead

J.P. Bryant, Monroe

H.E. Bailey, Richland Co.

M. Bruner, Harlem, Ill.

M.M. Bray, Adams, Wisc.

A Beedy, Monroe

T.J. Batman, Blanchardville

E.R. Blake, Blanchardville

W. Barnhouse, Spring Grove

E. Combs, Brodhead

J. Conklin, Blanchardville

J.M. Carpenter, Brodhead

J.G. Clapp, Brodhead

C.A. Cottle, Brodhead

A E. Devereaux, Monroe

W.A. Davis, Argyle

J. Davis, Argyle

G.W. Davis, Spring Grove

A.J. Daughbenbaugh, Decatur

M.J. Death, Blanchardville

R. Dunbar, Brodhead

J. Driscoll, Brodhead

W. Benson, Moscow, Wisc.

J.A. Farmer, Spring Grove

J.A. Fitch, Brodhead

A M. Green, Green's Prairie

J. Goff, Monroe

H. Hitchcock, Brodhead

A W. Heath, Brodhead

James Hall, Brodhead

E. Hileman, Brodhead

J.W. Hill, Argyle

W. B. Hopkins, Monroe

O. (or G.) Heath, Monroe

H.H. Hopkins, Monroe

H. Hull, Brodhead

J.S. King, Brodhead

A.M. Kasson, Spring Grove
J.R. Knapp, Green's Prairie
E. Knapp, Green's Prairie
Isiah Kirby, Spring Grove
R.C. Laird, Brodhead
G.W. Loucks, Brodhead
A.J. Lucia, Jordan
Thomas Mooney, Brodhead
A.K. Marsh, Monroe
J.W. Moore, Brodhead
R. McGuire, Brodhead
W.W. Newberry, Blanchardville
N.C. Perkins, Brodhead
G.W. Phillips, Jordan
G.H. Phillips, Jordan
Asa O.(?) Price, Brodhead
F. A. Rogers, Brodhead
E.A. Sanders, Rockford, Ill.
J.Q.A. Soaper, Jordan
E. Soaper, Monroe
J.A. Steadman, Monroe
E.S. Sisson, Wyota
E. Steward, Brodhead
W.H. Spencer, Brodhead
E. Teis, Spring Grove
P. Vanerman(?), Blanchardville
Jas. Wisletts, Brodhead
A Wallace, Monroe
A Webb, Monroe
C.F. Waite, Monroe
Valentine Worley, Jordan
E.L. Wright, Brodhead
Isaac Young, Spring Grove
D. Youngblood, Jordan
J. Young, Brodhead
J.W. Chase, Brodhead

There are others not yet mustered into service. We have no men in the hospital. Everything is moving along smoothly in regards to the 18th Regiment. When we have made more advancements we will notify you further.

Regular Orderly: Col. Jas. S. Alban

Lt. Col. Bean

Adj. Parks

Major Crane

Very Truly Yours,

Thomas A. Jackson

Monroe Sentinel, March 26, 1862

The following is a list of the 18th Wisconsin Volunteers which leaves camp Trobridge at Milwaukee for St. Louis on Thursday of this week.

Colonel James S. Alban

Lt. Colonel Samuel W. Beall

Major J.W. Crain

Adj. G.L. Park

Quartermaster J.D. Rogers

Surgeon G.F. Huntington

1st Assistant Surgeon E.J. Buck

2nd Assistant Surgeon L.G. Mead

Acting Sergeant Major Joseph H. Parker

Quartermaster Sergeant Moulton De Forrest

Commissary Sergeant Wellington Kolqk

Chaplain James Delaney

The following are the commissioned officers:

Company A Captain James P. Millard

1st Lt. Edward Colman

2nd Lt. Thomas J. Petter

Company B, Captain Charles H. Jackson

1st Lt. Thomas Jackson

2nd Lt. S.T. Boynton (Green County)

Company C, Captain U.M. Layne

1st Lt. John H. Graham

2nd Lt. A.A. Burnett

Company D, Captain G.A. Fisk

1st Lt. D.W.C. Wilson

2nd Lt. Peter Sloggy

Company E

Captain William Bremmer

1st Lt. George R. Walbridge

2nd Lt. Lamon Carpenter

Company F, Captain J.W. Roberts

1st Lt. George Stokes

2nd Lt. G.A. Topliff

Company G, Captain John H. Compton

1st Lt. Frederick Case

2nd Lt. Jas. Scott

Company H, Captain D.H. Saxton
1st Lt. Sidney D. Woolworth
2nd Lt. Thomas H. Wallace

Company I, Captain A. Coleman
1st Lt. Ira Ford
2nd Lt. C.a. Southmayd

Company K, Captain William J. Kershaw
1st Lt. Alexander Jackson
2nd Lt. Phineas A. Bennett

Luman C. Lake, George William Thompson and James Washington Bennett are the names of recruits enlisted by Captain Flood this week.

Monroe Sentinel, April 16, 1862

Shiloh

Three Wisconsin Regiments in Battle
Loss of 1,000 killed, wounded and missing
Their Conspicuous Bravery Acknowledged

14th Wisconsin: Colonel Wood slightly wounded and Lt. Col. Messmore wounded; Major Hancock not hurt; was in the battle until Monday, behaved with great steadiness and bravery. Men speak in the most enthusiastic terms of the conduct of the regiments and company officers in the field. Loss thirty killed who are at Savannah. No line officers killed except Captain Waldo. Lt. Foote of Company B severely wounded.

16th Wisconsin: Col. Allen slightly wounded in the arm; Lt. Col. Cassius Fairchild severely wounded by a ball entering his thigh and remains there; Maj. Thomas Reynolds is unhurt; Captain Saxe and his orderly sergeant of Company A killed; his company suffered severely. Captain Fox of Company E slightly wounded. Captain Pease of Company D mortally wounded and since died; six privates killed and a large number wounded. Captain Train of Company F badly wounded. Captain Wheeler of Company G slightly wounded. This regiment mustered 700 on Thursday morning. The total killed, wounded and missing is 260 to 280. Our wounded in large numbers are reported to be at Savannah.

18th Wisconsin: Col. Alban shot through the lungs and died on Wednesday; Lt. Col. Beal slightly wounded. Major Crain killed on the field; the adjutant is reported killed. 200 or 300 were taken prisoner. The regiment mustered 800.

The total killed, wounded and missing in our three regiments is about 1,000.

Monroe Sentinel, April 23, 1862

The Wisconsin Troops at Pittsburg (Shiloh)

With regards to the battle we are beginning to get a more definite idea of what happened. The whole thing was an awful blunder on the part of our generals. I am told General Grant is here. He left as soon as he could after General Halleck's arrival. I learn from W.I. Munson the sutler of the 16th who was in the fight, that the following is reliable.

On Saturday, General Prentiss ordered out the first companies of the 16th for picket duty. Two companies of the Michigan 12th, and the Missouri 23rd went with them. These were Prentiss' pickets. These pickets were under Col. Moore and were out one and a half miles. At 4:30 Sunday morning, they were ordered to advance and reconnoiter. They had gone a half mile when they were suddenly upon the enemy's pickets stationed behind a fence. These pickets were in fact a force of about 3,000 men. Our men were immediately fired upon by the Rebels. This was the beginning of the great battle and they were the first victims of the great blunder.

The enemy then began advancing in force. The whole army moving in a body at that time and driving everything before it. They advanced in the shape of a 'V' in columns eight deep supported in the open rear by three heavy columns which moved from one side of the 'V' to the other as the need arose.

The Rebel army advanced rapidly driving in our pickets to the line of General Prentiss' division. The 16th had the front position. The first notice the 16th had of this advance was by Lt. Col. Fairchild riding in and arousing them by saying "Oh for God's sake, men come to our relief". This was about 6:00.

The 16th were immediately formed into a line of battle in good order about eighty rods from the regiment's tents. Col. Alban of the 18th who formed inline about the same time supported his left. At that time there was absolutely no conception of the heavy force advancing on them. About 15 minutes elapsed before the terrible reality burst upon them as the full force of the enemy revealed itself coming on slowly and steadily. The 16th opened fire when there commenced an awful fire from the Rebel works on the whole division, steadily advancing all the time.

As they advanced in the shape of a 'V' the reserve columns of the Rebels were thrown out, out flanking our forces and surrounding the 18th. Against the terrible impact the whole Rebel army, Prentiss' division, maintained a steady resistance for about an hour although slowly retreating. This was done entirely without support from artillery or from any reinforcements. It was nobly done. A portion of the 18th Wisconsin and two whole regiments of Prentiss' with Prentiss himself were taken prisoner when the Rebel flank movement was made.

Col. Allen of the 16th was too good a soldier to be caught in that way and when he found out he was out flanked he changed his front in the most scientific manner, fired and fell back in good order. He rallied the 16th eight times until he was wounded and carried

from the field. About 200 were left with Adjutant Sabin, Lt. Col. Fairchild having been previously wounded. He was in the front of the fire leading his men nobly until he was wounded. He was as cheerful as when on parade. The officers and men died well, fighting like tigers.

The loss of this regiment in killed and wounded was 261. Col. Allen had two horses shot out from under him.

The camps of the 16th and 18th were the first the enemy passed through, destroying everything except the tents.

The 18th fought in tolerable good order and great bravery until the flank movement which resulted in the capture of half the regiment. Col. Allen was wounded by a rifle shot through the lungs while gallantly leading his men about 12:00. He died Wednesday. Lt. Col. Beal was shot and carried off the field with a severe wound. Acting Adjutant Miller was killed on the field. The last effort to rally the broken regiment of the 18th was made by Captain Kershaw who rode along on the colonel's horse shouting "Wisconsin against the world, rally, men!" but it was too late.

The 14th was brought down from Savannah on Sunday night and came to the fight early in the morning. The common remark of the evening was "there goes the 14th Wisconsin Regiment", a reputation that they earned by their steady hand and fire.

A Wisconsin artillery company, Drury's, arrived on Thursday. The 1st and 10th are probably there today and also the 17th. The wounded are at Savannah.

The scant accounts we can obtain of Captain Jackson's company in the late battle at Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh Church) is to the effect that besides the wounded there are 25 men missing. But how many were killed and how many taken prisoner we have not been able to learn.

Monroe Sentinel, April 30, 1862

The 18th Wisconsin at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh)
(Captain Jackson's Company B from Green County was in this battle)

The 18th arrived at Pittsburg Landing on the Saturday before the battle. They were at once ordered out about three miles in a southwest direction to the very front of the lines. The next regiment to the left was that of General Prentiss.

On Sunday morning, tired from their labors of the previous day and not dreaming of danger, they slept late until about 6:45 when the adjutant of the division rode into camp and ordered them to fall into the line of battle without delay. This was done in about five minutes. There were nearly 900 men in good order. All of the field officers except the adjutant were present. Lt. Coleman was acting adjutant.

About 25 rods in advance of the line then formed was a deep, thickly wooded ravine which ran around in a gradual curve. Other ravines from the direction of the enemy ran into this, thus affording an excellent opportunity for the advance of a large army concealed from observation.

When formed in line, Col. Allen ordered an advance. The regiment marched off across broken ground about 25 rods. While resting here about ten minutes the order came "about face, march" and the regiment marched back to where it first formed. They again formed in line of battle.

As they were forming, his men called Lt. Scott's attention to troops partially seen through the underbrush in the ravine. The lieutenant called the major's attention to this fact. The major rode along the lines and spoke to the colonel. The colonel thought they must be our pickets being driven in. The men had made ready to fire but the major said "for God's sake men don't fire they are our men". Thus totally unexpected was the terrible onslaught which was then upon them.

The Rebels who had marched all along the ravine then advanced in a semi circle right in front and almost around them in ranks six deep. Two of them were detailed to take care of the wounded.

The regiment stood this deadly cross fire while five rounds were fired, all steady and not a man moving from the ranks. During this fire, Acting Adjutant Coleman fell, wounded in the face, and several men, killed or wounded, fell in the ranks without creating disorder.

Then the retreat was ordered. The ground that sloped from the position held by the 18th was through open timber about twenty rods in a ravine thickly wooded. Until the 18th got to this ravine, it retreated in tolerably good order, not firing until it got to the edge of the ravine. There nearly all the men turned and fired on the rebels who were in their camp and coming up in solid masses, steadily firing all the time.

This fire checked the Rebels but not for long and the regiment was forced into the ravine where it was exposed to a fire up the ravine which the left flank of the Rebels had formed around and from fire in the front. Thus exposed, the regiment had nothing to do but retreat across the ravine and up the other hill which was considerably lower than the first and the woods were open. They posted themselves behind the trees as best they could, loading and firing independent of orders, the field and line officers cheering them on.

Here, and passing through the ravine, the loss was very heavy. While thus making the best of a terrible situation, the route of the Rebel forces was marching steadily along a ravine to their left and getting in their rear.

At this time, they retreated in considerable disorder to the next ravine about 300 yards distant which was not so deep as the next one. They left this ravine and rallied on the

other side on nearly level ground. Here the enemy were close upon them and parts of companies got detached and officers too; they were fighting where they got a chance. Lt. Ford of Company I with 26 men of their own and other companies made their way to an Illinois regiment further up the ravine to the right and fought with them for an hour until they were taken prisoner.

In this fight, Captain Coleman says he made the only shot he was sure of during the day, killing a Rebel officer with his pistol. The remainder of the men got away not knowing how.

Lt. Graham of Company C with five or six men stopped to pick up the wounded, got detached, and unable to find his regiment, took a musket and fought where he could.

Soon a brigadier general rode in front and said "Wisconsin men I know your bravery and I want you to support a battery in front to your right". The 18th up to this time knew nothing about a battery and knew not where to advance to support it. In five minutes after receiving this order the Rebels, who had advanced around the ravine, as well as in front, gained the right on the regiment in mass, overwhelming it by the mere weight of its forces. This was between 3:00 and 4:00 and they had nothing to eat except some crackers and raw ham the night before and had been fighting hard for over seven hours.

From this ravine, the Rebels came up and fired rapidly and killed Col. Alban, Major Craine, Captain Compton and several other officers and privates, all dying nobly as brave men with their faces to the enemy.

In the confusion arising from the heavy loss and before they had time to even think of retreat the Rebels were right in among them taking prisoners and firing almost in their faces.

The rest of the men broke into squads and retreated as best they could, scattering and finding a place to fight, here and off among the other regiments and some going down to the Landing with as many wounded as they could carry off.

Sunday night they were with the rest of the troops, exposed to the rain, hungry and exhausted. On Monday morning up to 250 had been gathered by the remaining officers and were formed into a battalion in support of a battery. The officers were Captain Coleman of Company I, Captain Kershaw of Company K, Lt. Patten of Company A, **Lt. Boynton of Company B** (transcriber's note, Green County), Lt. Singly of Company D, and Lts. Case and Scott of Company G. They advanced early in the morning with Bell's reinforcements under no distinct command, marching along in support of the artillery, which drove the Rebels, broken by the fire and obliged to retreat fighting all the way. The ground was perfectly covered with mangled bodies.

They steadily marched thus to their own camps, finding most of their tents remaining, though terribly riddled with shot. The men were so completely fagged by the previous days' fight, lack of food, and by a night in the rain as well as by Monday's fight that they

remained in camp while the division to which they were attached, fresh and not so fatigued, advanced, slaughtering the Rebels like so many sheep. The next day was spent tending to the wounded and burying the dead.

Major Crain was killed shortly after the colonel fell, receiving eight severe wounds in the head, arms and neck. The men all testified to the bravery of the major.

Private Allen Church of Company I was wounded in the hand early in the fight and kept in the rear in the retreat and firing steadily until he was taken prisoner.

When Lt. Coleman fell, Lt. Porter of Company A stopped to pick him up and while carrying him along was hit by a spent ball. He recovered in a minute and although under severe fire, picked Coleman up again and got him off thus saving his life.

John Martin of Company I was struck by a spent ball in the head and his face was covered with blood but he remained on the field until he had fired his last cartridge.

Sgt. McIntyre of Company J was wounded and taken prisoner with five others and guarded by the Rebels in a corn crib. But the shells of the gun boats scattered the guards and he crawled out along to our lines.

Monroe Sentinel, May 21, 1862

Died, on April 18, Valentine Worley. Mr. Worley passed through the fight at the Battle of Shiloh without receiving any hurt but suddenly died of disease of the heart. He enlisted in Captain Jackson's company and was an excellent soldier and left home with his company in March. His family and his country were both dear to him. For the latter he offered up his life and for the comfort of the former he wrote 65 letters in the short time intervening between his farewell and his death. The day before his death he wrote two affectionate letters to his wife. Such affection and thoughtfulness deserves the respect of mankind. Let his memory be cherished for this virtue alone. His funeral sermon will be preached next Sabbath at 10:00 in the neighborhood of this father-in-law, Mr. Philby(?) in Jordan. He leaves a wife and five children.

Captain H.C. Jackson, Company B, 18th Wisconsin Regiment, has been commissioned major of that regiment.

Monroe Sentinel, Aug. 27, 1862

Letter From Shiloh Prisoners
Company B, 18th Regiment
Camp Benton, August 16
(Letter is from J.L. Show)

I will write a few lines for your paper—I am a paroled prisoner taken at the Battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing.

On that eventful day after ten or twelve hours of unceasing strife, we were surrounded and ordered to throw down our arms which we did with no better feelings towards the Rebels and traitors than we had in the morning. We numbered about 2,300 men. We were then marched to the rear about five miles and bivouacked for the night. Sick, wounded and entirely comfortless, we lay down on the desecrated soil of the Secesh only to be awakened at midnight by a cold rain which fell in torrents. At daylight we were given each only one cracker and a small piece of raw pork for our morning repast, which we partook of with more than ordinary relish having had nothing to eat since Sunday morning.

Such as our rations were issued to us, we formed in columns and started for Corinth, a distance of 25 miles, which place we reached at sundown after having waded through mud full six inches deep nearly the whole distance. Here we were stowed into freight cars, forty to the car and next morning at 8:00 started for Memphis where we arrived at dark the same evening. Here we were crowded into an old warehouse where we remained until 10:00 the next day when we were issued a second issue of rations consisting of one cracker and a piece of raw pork as before.

We were then loaded into the cars again and started for Mobile via Jackson, Mississippi. We arrived at Mobile at 3:00 on the morning of 10th April and were immediately marched to the landing and placed upon the decks of two small steamers and so close were we crowded that we scarce had room to sit down.

Next morning we started up river for Tuscaloosa where we arrived on the 13th. Here we landed and escorted by a heavy guard to a paper mill which we soon learned was to be our new quarters. We had not been here over two hours when one of our brave boys was shot for looking out the window. This was before we became acquainted with "Prison Rules" but by experiencing the penalty of such offenses as they were occasioned we soon learned them.

We remained here in prison until the 14th May, subsisting on corn bread and mule beef and such a scanty ration of that as would scarcely keep body and soul together. We were then put on board again and started down the river our destination being unknown but finally proved to be Montgomery where we arrived on the 16th. During this trip we were so crowded that a good many were forced into the hold of the boat at the point of a bayonet and a guard stationed to keep them there.

We remained in Montgomery several days and then were paroled and started for our lines by the way of Atlanta and Chattanooga. We arrived at the latter place on the 23rd and after stopping here several days took the cars for Bridgeport where we stopped two days waiting for the boat, subsisting in the meantime on parched corn which we jayhawked from cribs in the vicinity.

On the morning of the 2nd day the boat arrived and we embarked for Bellafonte forty miles distant. Here we were to meet the receiving officer who, to our great satisfaction

proved to be Colonel Chapin of the 10th Wisconsin. We hailed him and his guards with deafening cheers while the Secesh major looked rather and somewhat forsaken. We then got aboard the cars and left for Huntsville; arrived there the same evening and reported to General Mitchell who ordered us to be sent to the different camps to be quartered for the night.

We were received by the soldiers with many flattering remarks for the manner in which we conducted ourselves at the Battle of Shiloh. Early in the morning we were ordered to “fall in” for a march to Columbia in company with a provision train which consisted of 166 horse teams.

We marched through in three days. The distance was 75 miles. Some of the poor fellows gave out on the way and their once powerful and manly forms were now reduced to mere skeletons by the treatment we had received in the loathsome and comfortless prisons by the infernal Rebels.

We arrived at Columbia on June 3 and took the cars for Nashville. Here we were put into camp at the Fair Grounds and retained until the 30th when we were again sent forward to Louisville where we arrived on the 1st July. Here we again took the boat for Cairo and arrived there and were put into quarters at Camp Defiance where we remained until the 7th when we were ordered to St. Louis which place we reached on the 10th July.

We are now in quarters in the Benton Barracks. What the next move will be we do not know. If we are exchanged and sent back to our respective regiments we will be satisfied.

We are no less patriotic and determined then we were when we used to “double quick” through the streets of Monroe. The same objective that prompted us to leave home and friends and all the pleasurable associations of civilian life and share the rough and trying scenes through which a soldier must pass, actuates us now.

Below you will find the names of those taken with me from Captain Jackson’s Company B, 18th Wisconsin Volunteers.

Lt. T.A. Jackson, Sgt. S.S. Frowe, Corp. M.H. B. Cunningham, have been detained in Montgomery

Released on Parole:

H. Hitchcock

J.L. Show

A.J. Lucia

J.J. Bussy

H.M. Wright

C.A. Cottle

W.F. Wilder

A. J. Lucia, discharged at Nashville

John Davis, died
A.M. Green, in the hospital
R. McGuire, shot at Tuscaloosa

Very Truly Yours,
J.L. Show

Monroe Sentinel, October 22, 1862

Captain S.B. Boynton, Company B, 18th Regiment sends the following list of members of his company missing after the Battle of Corinth:

Sgt. David Aldredge
Sgt. John P. Bryant
Pte. Henderson Farmer
Pte. John Goff
Pte. Richard Dunbar
Pte. Edward F. Wait