By January 1, 1864, the nation was entering the fourth year of Civil War. It had survived the inexperience of a First Bull Run, the horror of a Fredericksburg, the bumbling of Antietam and the High Water Mark of Gettysburg.

On January 1, 1864, a young school-teacher in a very small town in eastern Ohio started a diary that was to live a hundred years and more and before the last entry on December 31, 1864, was to survive a bitter campaign in northern Georgia and one of the bloody battles of the war — Franklin, Tennessee, with Company B, 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, XXIII Corps, Army of the Ohio.

Greentown, Ohio, was and still is a small town on Ohio Route 8 north of Canton, Ohio, and south of Akron. Two months before, a young school-teacher, William Thompson Dougherty, had come to Greentown to teach in a small school 13/4 miles out of town. His diary recently came to light in the family papers of Mrs. Louise Armstrong, whose husband's grandfather was this impressionable, sentimental and deeply religious young school-teacher.

Extracts of the diary follow with war note preceding the actual dates or comment where appropriate or necessary.

** War note:** In the North there was cautious optimism but a realization of much war yet to be fought.
DIARY — Friday, January 1, 1864

A cold wintry day ushers in the New Year. By request of my pupils I had no school today. Glad of it too. Today has been one of the coldest I have ever witnessed. The eventful year of 1863 has at last expired and no doubt that today has been ushered in a year which shall be fraught with the greatest interest. We live in the hope that the present is the beginning of a year in which hydraheaded treason that has plunged our beloved country into the horrors of civil war shall be crushed in the earth and America shall emerge from her gloom a freer, better and happier nation. It is now the hour of rest. May this be the beginning of better days.

Saturday, January 2, 1864

Another bitterly cold day. Walked from Greentown to my school house (about 13/4 miles) and started a fire before my pupils made their appearance. But few in attendance today . . .

Sunday, January 3, 1864

'Tis Sabbath, sweet day of sacred rest from toil and care. How welcome to one who has been laboring during the days allotted to man from transacting secular affairs is the quiet Sabbath.

. . . Night has long since spread her sable mantle over surrounding objects and snow falls slowly enshrouding the earth with a mantle of white.

* * *

COMMENT: Like a voice out of the past or the memory of a long gone but fondly remembered era are the pleasures and social entertainments of a century ago — singing schools — spelling schools — family visiting — church affairs.

* * *

DIARY — Monday, January 4, 1864

. . . Attended spelling school in Greentown this evening . . .
I can scarce realize that I have been in Greentown two months . . .

Tuesday, January 5, 1864

. . . Spent the evening in writing for Literary Periodical published in Literary Society at this place . . .

Wednesday, January 6, 1864

. . . Attended Literary Society this evening and participated in discussion. The question was "Resolved that it will not pay to have a Literary Society in Greentown." Spoke on negative of the question.
Thursday, January 7, 1864
   Was engaged in teaching today . . . Spent the evening in study and solved some examples in Ray's Higher Arithmetic that were always mysterious to me before . . .

Saturday, January 9, 1864
   Another bitterly cold day. Had no school today . . . In the evening I attended singing school. Not many in attendance there on account of the cold . . .

Sunday, January 10, 1864
   . . . Greentown is a poor place in which to spend the Sabbath . . . I am certainly heartily tired of Greentown but I suppose that is all the good it will do me . . .

Tuesday, January 12, 1864
   . . . About ten o'clock in the evening I went with three other persons to help watch over the "body corporate" of Mr. Henry Lichty who departed this life today.

Saturday, January 16, 1864
   . . . On returning from school this evening I received two letters, one from R. G. Walker, the other from a Friend. Was engaged this evening in writing letters. Wrote one to my grandmother, the other to my "Friend" . . .

Tuesday, January 19, 1864
   Discovered at daylight this morning that during the night of the 18th it had been snowing a perfect avalanche rendering it almost impossible to travel on foot . . .

Wednesday, January 20, 1864
   Notwithstanding the great depth of the snow I went out to my school this morning. And such a walk I never had in all my life. I was fully an hour in travelling that distance . . .

*     *     *

COMMENT: With the poignancy and clarity of a Currier & Ives print are the words and scenes of the next several days.

*     *     *

DIARY — Thursday, January 21, 1864
   . . . Spent the evening in Mr. Shafers shop. The sleigh bells are jingling in every direction this evening. It is the most magnificent winter weather we have had in a long time.
Friday, January 22, 1864

... This evening I went in company with several other friends to Uniontown on a sleighing excursion. While there I attended a singing school. Everybody appears to have been out this evening. There is a perfect stampede of horses and sleighs in both Greentown and Uniontown. There was a large dancing party on Greentown tonight.

* * *

WAR NOTE: The war comes to a small town in Ohio in the thoughts of a restless school-teacher.

* * *

DIARY — Saturday, January 23, 1864

... Thus another Saturday eve finds one enjoying the comforts and blessings of home. Where another Saturday will find me is uncertain as I have about determined to enlist ...

Tuesday, January 26, 1864

... Closed my school today for the purpose of enlisting in the service of the United States.

Wednesday, January 27, 1864

Left my home this morning to enlist. Left Greentown about 8 ½ A.M. The day was very favorable for travelling. Arrived at Canton about 10 ½ A.M. Left Canton a little after noon and came to Alliance about an hour later. Did not enlist today as the Examining Surgeon was away ...

Thursday, January 28, 1864

... About 8 o'clock we all went to the Provost Marshall's Office. Was examined about 9 o'clock and pronounced fit for service. Shortly afterwards I was sworn and became the property of "Uncle Sam." Received my uniform a short time after.

Sunday, January 31, 1864

Once more I hail the Sabbath in my peaceful home ... Heard a sermon today on the subject of the Christian's hope. God grant that such a hope may be mine when I am far away from my home exposed to the hardships and dangers of a soldiers life.

Tuesday, February 2, 1864

... Fine times now for a soldier but we suppose another day is coming ... will have to endure hardships vast and many for the love of country. But such thoughts should not and must not discourage us. Our cause is a glorious and just one and not even the fear of death
itself should for a moment discourage us or deter us from manfully discharging our duty in defending the rich bloom of freedom so dearly bought.

* * * * *

WAR NOTE: In the western theater of the War on February 3, 1864, General William T. Sherman led an expedition out of Vicksburg and Jackson to occupy Meridian, Mississippi.

* * * * *

DIARY — Saturday, February 13, 1864

. . . Received a letter from Lieut. Everhart, Recruiting Officer of the 104th O.V.I.

Sunday, February 14, 1864

. . . As it was the last evening I had to spend at home for some time I spent the evening after Church with a very particular friend.

Saturday, February 20, 1864

Arrived at Columbus about 2 p.m. and went immediately to the Fed Barracks. Were sent to the Division of Barracks known as B. Found all the bunks filled and had to sleep on the floor. There are six two story buildings capable of accommodating 300 apiece. We occupy an upper story. About 1500 in barracks today.

Sunday, February 21, 1864

. . . Considerable excitement caused this afternoon by some soldiers attempting to release the prisoners in the guardhouse. Were dispersed however at the point of the bayonet by a detachment of the 88th O.V.I. who are stationed here for Provost guard duty.

Wednesday, March 2, 1864

. . . Were sent away from Fed Barracks this evening at 9 o'clock bound for Chattanooga . . .

Thursday, March 3, 1864

Cincinnatti, Ohio

Arrived at this place about 4 o'clock this morning . . . . We marched from the depot to the Lytle Barracks . . . proceeded to the Headquarters of the Sanitary Com. of Southern Ohio where we partook of an excellent dinner after which we went to the wharf and went on board the Brilliant at 2 p.m. bound for Louisville, Ky.

Saturday, March 5, 1864

Louisville, Ky.

. . . At 4 ½ A.M. we started for the RR depot and at daylight we glided out on our journey into the central part of “Dixie.” Our
destination was Nashville, Tenn. At this place we arrived just before dark . . .

Sunday, March 6, 1864
We are quartered in a mammoth building erected by the rebel general Zollicoffer designed for a hotel but never finished. It was confiscated by the U.S. Government and is now used for Barracks. It is five stories high and is said to contain three hundred and sixty five rooms . . .

Monday, March 7, 1864
As we are very closely confined in the barracks and do not get to see anything outside, save what we see from the windows of the building, I have nothing of interest to record.

* * * * *

WAR NOTE: On March 9, 1864, Major General Grant became Lieutenant General and on March 10 he became commander of all Union armies.

* * *

DIARY — Saturday, March 12, 1864
... About 2 ½ p.m. we packed our knapsacks, strapped them on our backs and marched to the depot. At 5 p.m. we were gliding out of Nashville bound for Chatanoogs. Rather uncomfortable riding, however, as we were put into small cars which were crowded almost to overflowing . . .

Monday, March 14, 1864
Detailed to work today . . . our work was to build a house for an old Irish lady whose home had been destroyed by government troops . . .

Wednesday, March 16, 1864
... I was called upon with three others to perform the funeral obsequies of a departed rebel . . .

Thursday, March 17, 1864
... arrived Loudon, Tenn. about sunset. Crossed the Tennessee River and come into the camp of the 2nd Mo. Vol. where we took quarters for the night . . .

Tuesday, March 22, 1864
Exchange Camp, Knoxville
Was sent out on picket this morning. Had a very unpleasant time of it as a snow storm raged all day . . .
Thursday, March 24, 1864

Was called out at 8:30 a.m. to work on fortifications . . . The fortifications on which I was at work will be of great strength when finished and command the city of Knoxville and the river for a considerable distance . . .

* * *

War Note: On April 4, 1864, Gen. Philip Sheridan took command of the Cavalry of the Army of the Potomac.

* * *

Diary — Tuesday, April 5, 1864

Keith's Hill

Nothing new today. Worked on fortification here all day.

Monday, April 11, 1864

Went over to Knoxville on a pass this forenoon to see Capt. Riddle of the 104th O.V.I. Provost Marshall to see if he would not get us to our regiment . . .

Wednesday, April 20, 1864

Camp 104th near Rogerville Station

The desired and almost despaired of end at last accomplished. Safe at Regiment. Left Knoxville on the train at 8:00 a.m. and arrived here at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 25, 1864

On the RR 6 miles above Rogerville Junction Reveille sounded at 3 a.m. and two hours later the regiment was on the march. Every one of the private soldiers were ignorant of the object of the expedition. We were under light marching orders — until after an hours march halted, stacked arms and proceeded to destroy the railroad, tearing up and burning ties, bending rails, etc. . . .

* * *

War Note: On May 3, 1864, Grant moved into the Wilderness with 119,000 men and by May 7, 17,666 are killed, wounded, or missing. In early May out of Chattanooga came Sherman to drive Joseph E. Johnston to and through Atlanta. The XXIII Corps under Major General Schofield including the 104th Ohio Infantry demonstrated at Tunnel Hill and Rocky Face Ridge near Dalton, Georgia. Johnston halted his Confederate retreat and moved back to be attacked at Resaca, Georgia, May 13-15. At Cassville, Georgia, Johnston halted on May 19-20 and then retreated to Allatoona. This was the start of Sherman's drive to split the Confederacy by capturing Atlanta. This drive was followed by his March to the Sea.
DIARY — Monday, May 9, 1864

In front of the enemy Maple Hill

This morning we again moved about 4 miles South and formed in line of battle. Skirmishers were thrown out and soon became briskly engaged. Our lines steadily advanced until the enemy opened fire on the right wing of our brigade with a battery. A battery was soon placed in position by our forces and engaged that of the enemy. For some time a brisk artillery duel was kept up which ceased about 6 p.m. Away off on a ridge to our right very heavy musketry firing was heard. At dark the firing ceased. Our regiment lay the whole time in the woods. Two men from Co. F were wounded.

Tuesday, May 10, 1864

We were aroused quietly this morning at daylight and began a retrograde movement and fell back slowly two miles. The object doubtless was to draw the enemy out of their defenses . . .

Wednesday, May 11, 1864

Shortly after noon an alarm was raised and we were drawn out in line of battle. After remaining for some time in readiness for the enemy, the latter not making their appearance, we returned to camp and put up our tents and remained during the night without further disturbance.

Thursday, May 12, 1864

The 23rd Army Corps began a movement this morning from the left wing towards the extreme right. Marched about 15 miles and encamped on a level plain about sun-down. Saw General Sherman today at Tunnel Hill . . .

Friday, May 13, 1864

Were aroused this morning at 1.30 and a few minutes after 2 A.M. we began the forward movement. At 7 A.M. we halted for breakfast after having marched ten miles. Halted and formed in line of battle shortly after noon. Late in the evening sharp skirmishing was heard in front but no general engagement was brought on . . . We are now in pretty close proximity to the rebels and a short time probably in tomorrow's sun may witness bloody scenes.

Saturday, May 14, 1864

At 9 A.M. we began to advance. Two hours later skirmishing was going on briskly. At 1 P.M. the engagement became general and all afternoon the fighting was very severe. The roar of musketry was
terrific on our right. Our brigade the 1st, 3rd Division, 23rd Army Corps was on the left of the Division and for a considerable length of time was pretty hotly engaged. We drove the enemy a considerable distance occupying and holding their first line breastworks. Our regiment was in the second line of battle and only lost 7 wounded, one of whom was from my company. At 6.30 p.m. our Corps was relieved by the 4th.

Sunday, May 15, 1864
The sanctity of the Sabbath was but poorly observed today. While friends at home were doubtless enjoying a day of quiet, sacred rest their fathers, husbands and brothers were engaged in mortal strife away in a southern clime, some of them waltering in their blood, dead, dying or severely wounded in their country's defense. Our Corps changed its position this morning and placed in order to cut off the retreat of the enemy. Our brigade occupied a ridge and constructed breastworks of timber but the enemy being defeated on our right we advanced still further forward and halted for the night in a dense forest. At midnight we were aroused by heavy firing on our right but our brigade did not sustain an attack as the charge of the enemy was repulsed.

Monday, May 16, 1864
Reg. began to move about noon. Crossed the Snake river by fording in the evening. Halted in a large field during the night after a march of about ten miles. I should have stated that when our forces moved out to bring on the battle afresh, no enemy was to be seen, they having drawn off their forces during the night. Our whole army is now in pursuit, our Corps is on the extreme left. Our march this afternoon was through a very lonely and sparsely settled country. There was no public road for a great part of the way; hence plenty of work for pioneers.

Tuesday, May 17, 1864
Rained pretty steadily for some time this morning. Began the march about 9 a.m. Halted after going 6 or 8 miles. Started out again at dark, crossed the Coosa River on a pontoon and continued our journey by night . . . . One farm or plantation that we passed we had a pretty good view of for some of the soldiers in advance of us had set fire to a large frame house and when we passed it was burning brightly shedding light a great distance around.
Wednesday, May 18, 1864

After a very wearsome night march we halted at 3 A.M. and slept until daylight when we again took up our line of march and halted in a wheat field about 5:30 P.M. and were permitted to rest and sleep . . . . We are in rather short rations at present.

Thursday, May 19, 1864

We were called up at 3 A.M. but did not commence to move until daylight. Halted at 9:30 A.M. on a splendid plantation after a march of 8 miles and remained there till 2 P.M. when we moved again. Continued the march all the remainder of the day. Formed in line of battle at 6:30 P.M. and advanced steadily for 1½ miles. Some skirmishing but no regular engagement . . .

Friday, May 20, 1864

Aroused this morning at 3.30 but did not move until 8 A.M. After marching 4 miles we formed in line of battle and so continued to advance until dark. Very sharp skirmishing but no infantry engagement, as the rebels declined a fight. Halted during the night at Cartersville. Passed through Cassville in the forenoon. Cassville has been a beautiful little village in time of peace and prosperity. Nearly all the inhabitants are gone now. There was a pretty brisk fight here yesterday between the 20th Corps and the rebel forces.

Sunday, May 22, 1864

Cartersville, Georgia

Reg. still resting here. I was in but a poor condition to enjoy myself today. The hard marching has been rather too much for my powers of endurance and I feel and have felt for several days quite ill.

* * *

COMMENT: The next day at Cass Station, Georgia, Pvt. Wm. Dougherty was hospitalized for an undetermined illness. He was sent to Kingston, Georgia, Chattanooga and finally on May 30 to Hospital No. 19, Nashville, Tennessee, where he remained until Thursday, June 2, 1864, at which time he was sent to General Hospital No. 1 at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. There are many blank pages in the Diary in June but occupying several pages is a disturbingly poignant poem, “Thoughts of a Sick Soldier.” The Diary picks up its faithful daily entries again in July but mainly concerns his apparently long, long convalescence. There are the typical lonesome, homesick thoughts of a soldier ill and away from home. As he did recover he did clerical work at the hospital to occupy his time. There is an unexplained gap
from August 15 to August 29, 1864. The Diary resumes in detail on Monday, October 24, 1864, when Pvt. Dougherty sets out for Chattanooga, Dalton, Georgia, Resaca, Georgia, and finally rejoins his XXIII Corps in Rome, Georgia, only to retrace the weary steps to Resaca, Dalton, Chattanooga, Nashville and finally Franklin, Tennessee.

WAR NOTE: On September 18, 1864, Confederate General Hood starts moving west and north from Lovejoy, Georgia, 25 miles south of Atlanta, in an attempt to lure Sherman out of Georgia.

By October 1st General Hood was west of Marietta, Georgia, and by October 5 was attacking Allatoona. Hood had drawn Sherman north but had not relieved the pressure on the heart of the Confederacy. Sherman stayed in place north of Dalton, Georgia, and assigned the task of dealing with Hood to Major General George Thomas, "The Rock of Chickamauga." To Thomas he assigned the IV and XXIII Corps. A part of the XXIII Corps was the Third Division commanded by General Jacob Cox and a part of that Division — the 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

On November 8 Abraham Lincoln was elected for a second term by a popular vote of 2,330,552 to 1,835,985 for General George McClellan (Mac to the troops).

* * *

DIARY — Tuesday, November 8, 1864

Daylight found us in Nashville and still the order did not come to disembark. I went up the street about daylight to buy some pies. We remained in Nashville until 3:30 p.m. Our regiment voted while on the train at Nashville. The vote of the 104th stood Lincoln 457, Mac 11 . . .

* * *

WAR NOTE: By November 14, 1864, General Schofield had his Headquarters and the XXIII Corps at Pulaski, Tennessee, with 25,000 infantry. On the 22nd Schofield evacuated Pulaski and was at Columbia, Tennessee, as General Hood began to exert pressure in his drive to Nashville. In order to hold the bridges over the Duck River for a possible offensive move, the Federals entrenched south of the river.

* * *

DIARY — Wednesday, November 23, 1864

Mystery increases. About 3 p.m. we received orders to strike tents and march. We did so and marched toward Columbia until 8:30 p.m. without resting at which time pickets were detailed . . . .
Unusual precaution was exhibited tonight in posting pickets. This leads me to suppose there is an enemy close at hand.

Thursday, November 24, 1864  
Columbia, Tenn.

Before daylight we were ordered to rejoin our command and march but we did not overtake the regiment until we arrived here. We found them in line of battle with light breastworks thrown up.

The mystery is now solved. The rebels are advancing against this place in force. There was some pretty sharp skirmishing this morning. One rebel Colonel was killed. We were just here in time to save this place. Co. B was out on the skirmish line today but as they were gone before I got here I did not follow. All hands busy strengthening the works.

Friday, November 25, 1864

The company came in about 10 a.m. and shortly afterward we occupied the works of Co. K which relieved ours. Near noon the rebels began to make a demonstration in our front. They planted two batteries and began to play on us but none of their shots took effect, all passing harmlessly over us or falling short. Our batteries soon engaged them and compelled them to change position. After they had done this one of our shells entered a rebel caisson causing it to explode and the rebels to skedaddle. About 10 p.m. we moved out of our position, crossed the river and spent the remainder of the 25th on the march. I did not ascertain our loss, though think it was slight.

Saturday, November 26, 1864  
Columbia, Tenn.

... At 5 p.m. we were aroused by skirmishing. We could hear skirmishing on the opposite side of the river very distinctly and at one time pretty heavy cannonading. Our wagon trains moved to the rear today and I suppose it will not be long ere we will retreat.

Sunday, November 27, 1864  
Columbia, Tenn.

We were aroused before daylight and expected to move but luckily or otherwise we remained all day. We were undisturbed all day but on the opposite side of the river, they still continue to skirmish. Tonight our whole force crossed the river leaving the town and the fort to the rebels.

Monday, November 28, 1864

We were aroused this morning at 5 o'clock and ordered to pack knapsacks and be ready to move at any moment. Accordingly at daylight we moved a short distance to the right and took up our position.
in line of battle. From our position we could distinctly see the rebels taking possession of the fort our forces abandoned. They tried several times to get their batteries into position but our artillery prevented them until about noon when they succeeded in planting one near the fort and for a time they threw in their shells pretty briskly and came near driving in our skirmishers. The 12 & 16 Ky. regiments rushed over our works to support them. Our artillery was soon brought to bear and the rebels were soon compelled to get out of their position.

For a time the roar of our artillery was terrific. The 4th Ohio Battery, the 15th Ind. Battery and the 23rd Indiana Battery were all playing at once. Our regiment was in the front line. The 15th Ind. Battery was on our immediate right and the 23rd Ind. Battery on our left.

At a brick house on our right was a section of our Artillery. Some women were detected making signals to the rebels. A guard was placed there to watch them and during the whole contest they were compelled to remain there. Nothing more of interest occurred today.

* * *

WAR NOTE: Forced out of Columbia, Tennessee, by the flanking moves of Confederate General Hood, Schofield retreated according to plan to Franklin, Tennessee. In an attempt to head him off at Spring Hill, Hood arrived with Cheatham's Corps about an hour and a half before dark. But due to some mistake the Confederates did not attack and cut the road on which Schofield was retreating. The bitter controversy of this mistake raged long after the war and the Spring Hill affair has been called one of the great lost opportunities of the entire war. Hood's flanking move has been compared to Jackson's flawlessly executed and successful flanking march at Chancellorsville but the result was far from the same.

* * *

DIARY — Tuesday, November 29, 1864 Columbia, Tenn.

Our works were finished this morning. As we feared the rebels succeeded in planting a battery on our right in a position to enfilade our lines. About 3 p.m. the ball opened in earnest and until dark there was the hottest work by far that I ever witnessed. There was no musketry save by our skirmishers but the artillery firing was terrible. The shells fell around us thick and fast. One shell bursted in the Co. to the right of Co. B killing 2 men and wounding 4. The 15th Indiana Battery was compelled to fall back bringing their guns with them. Part of the rebel force crossed the river and drove back our skirmishers
a short distance. About 8 p.m. we fell back and marched to Franklin a
distance of 26 miles arriving at the latter place a short time before
daylight on the morning of the 30th. At Spring Hill we passed within
a mile of a Corps of rebel troops that were lying on our right. An
attack at that time would have demoralized our entire Army. Plainly
may we see the hand of God manifested in this. Our boys were very
much exhausted by this march. For miles the road was lined with
stragglers. I fell out of ranks myself and it is a wonder I was not
captured. While the cannonading was progressing so fiercely today at
Columbia another very amusing fray in which the combatants took as
much interest as our boys, occurred in a tree top between a little
bird and a squirrel which attracted the attention of a great many
of the boys.

* * * *

WAR NOTE: On November 30 Hood overtook Schofield at
Franklin, Tennessee, and sent 18,000 men forward in a frontal assault
on the Union lines in an attack as spectacular and as hopeless as
Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. As one writer put it, "The annals of
war may long be searched for a parallel to the desperate charge of the
Army of Tennessee at Franklin, a charge called 'the greatest drama in
American history.'" In comparing this charge to Pickett's Charge
Stanley Horn in Army of Tennessee points out the difference. At
Gettysburg the charge was made across a mile of open ground after a
tremendous artillery preparation and against improvised fieldworks; at
Franklin the charge was made across two miles of open ground without
any artillery preparation and against carefully constructed works. Six
Confederate generals died at Franklin and five others were wounded.

* * * *

DIARY — Wednesday, November 30, 1864 Franklin, Tenn.

Among the many marks of blood with which our country's history
will be dotted, the record of this day will loom up conspicuously. Many
a peaceful home has been made desolate. Many a widow will mourn,
many tears will dim the eyes of parents and children of those who fell
during this day's bloody work.

Shortly after daylight our force went into position and commenced
to fortify. By noon very good and strong works were constructed.
We were formed in three lines. The 23rd Corps was on the left, the
4th on the right. Our regiment occupied the center of the 23rd Corps
in the second line of entrenchments. Part of the 4th Corps occupied
the line in front with works of an inferior nature. At 4 p.m. the enemy
advanced. Our skirmishers were easily driven and after a volley or two
our first line gave way and the rebels followed so closely on their heels that by the time they were over the second line of works, the rebels were in the ditch on the opposite side. For a time our second line was thrown into confusion and our officers commanding the men of the 4th Corps to fall back. Some of our boys ran back a short distance, I among the number. Other troops came to our assistance. We rallied and soon sent the rebels howling back with terrible loss. The carnage about this time among the enemy was dreadful. Time after time the rebels charged but each time were severely repulsed. A great many gave themselves up and came over our works as prisoners. The first man that came over was a lieutenant. He came over with his sword in his hand and unaware that he had surrendered I fired at him and afterwards I regretted to learn that I had killed him.

On our right the battle raged terribly. At one time the enemy drove our men out of their works but could not hold them. Cannister was used frequently by our batteries and with withering effect. Our position was a magnificent one. The ground was nearly level, unobstructed by trees or undergrowth. During the thickest of the fight Col. Sterl ordered me to go back to the rear for ammunition. This I found to be the most perilous exploit that I attempted for out behind the works the balls took more deadly effect than when up close to them. But a merciful Providence protected me and I performed my mission unhurt.

Shortly after dark the enemy left our immediate front but on the right they continued to fire until 10 P.M.

The rebel loss was extremely severe. 6,000 will hardly cover the number of killed, wounded and missing while ours will not exceed 1,000.

Immediately in front of our regiment the dead and wounded lay so thick that one could hardly step on the ground without treading on a rebel. The 104th Ohio lost about 60 men in killed, wounded and missing. Co. B lost Geo. Haynam killed, Walter R. Walker wounded and W. Smith and J. Stahl missing. It not being the intention of our generals to make a permanent stand at this place, we accordingly began to withdraw about 10 P.M. crossed the Harpeth River on the RR Bridge and took up our line of march for Nashville.

Thus terminated one of the severest contests of the war and for the time it lasted one of the bloodiest. Doubtless the same scenes will be re-enacted at Nashville but could it be so I hope I shall never behold such bloodshed again.
I should have remarked that our regiment captured 14 stands of rebel colors.

* * *

WAR NOTE AND COMMENT: Following the retreat to Nashville, Pvt. Dougherty was in the battle of Nashville on Thursday, December 15, 1864, and then as Hood’s Army of the Tennessee retreated, Dougherty and the 104th Ohio and Schofield’s XXIII Corps marched back up the Granny Pike and reoccupied Franklin, then Spring Hill and finally Columbia, Tennessee.

On the last day of 1864 Pvt. Dougherty’s final entry no doubt reflected the feelings of both sides after almost four years of battle.

* * *

DIARY — Saturday, December 31, 1864

... Eighteen hundred and sixty four is numbered with the past. We now look forward to the coming year in the hopes that it may bring with it better times. May the great God of battles grant that we may early see the day when peace, honorable and lasting peace shall crown the efforts of our armies and navies when we shall all return to that most hallowed spot on earth "Home, Sweet, Home"