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LETTER FROM SGT. GANUM VINEYARD AT THE BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO TO HIS WIFE IN GRAINGER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

*Donated to the McClung Historical Collection
by Elaine E. Davis and Joe Urso
1405 Chert Pit Road
Knoxville, TN 37923*

Ganum M. Vineyard, the son of Martin and Jane Nance Vineyard, was born 1826 in Grainger County, Tennessee. He married Margaret Catherine Skeen, who bore him three children: William A. (born 1854), Horace K. (born 1855), and John C. (born 1857). Margaret died between 1857 and 1859. Ganum then married Nancy Perrin on November 14, 1859. They lived in the Tampico community of Grainger County. On September 20, 1860, Elkanah Vineyard, great-grandfather of Elaine E. Davis, was born to them.

Ganum enlisted in the 12th Tennessee Cavalry (Day's Battalion), Company E, on November 20, 1862, in Grainger County. He left Nancy to care for four small children during his service. He attained the rank of

sergeant and participated in the battles of Stones River (Murfreeseboro), Chattanooga, and Chickamauga, among others, before being discharged in 1865. Ganum's two brothers, Jacob and Daniel, also served in the Confederate Army and were killed during the war. It was immediately after the Battle of Stones River that this letter from Ganum to his wife Nancy was written.

He and Nancy had another son, Alonzo, born in 1863. Ganum died in Grainger County on June 6, 1871, at the age of 45. Nancy survived him and raised his children. There are many spelling variations of Ganum's name in different sources: Ganium, Gainam, Ganaam, etc.; however, his military service records have his name recorded as Ganum M. Vinyard.

Jan. 4, 1863

Dear friend one time more I have concluded to write you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am only tolerably at this time hoping that I would hear from you. I wrote nearly a letter to you several days ago but the big fight coming off and making preparation for the same occupied all my time. The battle of Murfreeseboro on Stone River occurred on the 30 & 31st of December. We whiped the federals on that occasion and captured 7 or 8,000 men. I do not know how many was killed or wounded on either side but one thing is admitted on all sides we killed 4 to 1 and wounded as many. I say we done so for I was in the fight and saw the cannon belch forth death and destruction. Although I was not in the fight where it was the hottest, but the balls whistled thick and fast around me. We charged the enemy with our little company of about 40 men who were 10 to 1, but it had almost been our last charge for we were nearly surrounded. We lost 3 men. 1 killed and 2 taken prisoners an had 1 horse killed, 2 lost and several wounded, and the clothes of several men were cut. We are now due at Shelbyville but

LETTER FROM SGT. GANUM VINEYARD

it is said that we will _____ for some say to Mississippi and some say to Chattanooga and some one place and some another. I do not know where we will go. I have seen vary hard times.

I never left horse during the battle. I lived nearly 3 days on parched corn. We are kept continually on the march. I have nearly ruined my horse _____ he having the distemper at the time of the battle. I ran him nearly all day on Wednesday of the fight. I think I will loose him in a day or 2. I would hope not yet. I think it will be _____. I cannot tell when we will be at home whether ever or not. I think _____ Providence should _____ in my favor. The talk is that we will make a stand at this place but I cannot tell much about it. I hope my friends at home will remember me when they pray to God. I try to pray to God everyday and ask him to protect me & mine. I hope you will try and do the best you can for yourself and the children. Try and raise them right whether I ever come home any more or not. I would like to see you all at least once more, but time will determine. I have wrote several letters to you and have received no letter from you. Do you never write to me or do they never come? Tell John Perrin that Andrew was well about 10 days ago. He was not in the fight. Tell Thomas E. Gaines to write to me. Also T. Vineyard and any and all of my friends to drop me a line or two. We had heard here that the Yanks have destroyed the Salt Works also burned Loudon bridge and to J. C. When you write to me address your letter to G. Vineyard, care of Capt. Hardy, McCown Division

near Winchester, I want you to write to me about Jacob & Daniel where they are. I have heard that they have gone to Mobile. Keep this letter until you hear from me again. Cheer up my dearest and live in hope, pray in hope, and toil in hope. There is goodly land for all the good. I hope to meet all my friends in that good country. Many of us have a very hard time of it, our officers care but little for us and frequently curse us for almost nothing. But we bear it as best we can. I will write again after a while. Should I ever get home I will be able to tell you many things about which I will not write. I must close for the present hoping to see you once more. I remain your husband.

G. Vineyard

To Nancy
Vineyard

[Round Postmark stamped Shelbyville TN JAN 6]

due

Mrs. Nancy Vineyard
Grainger County
Tampico P.B.

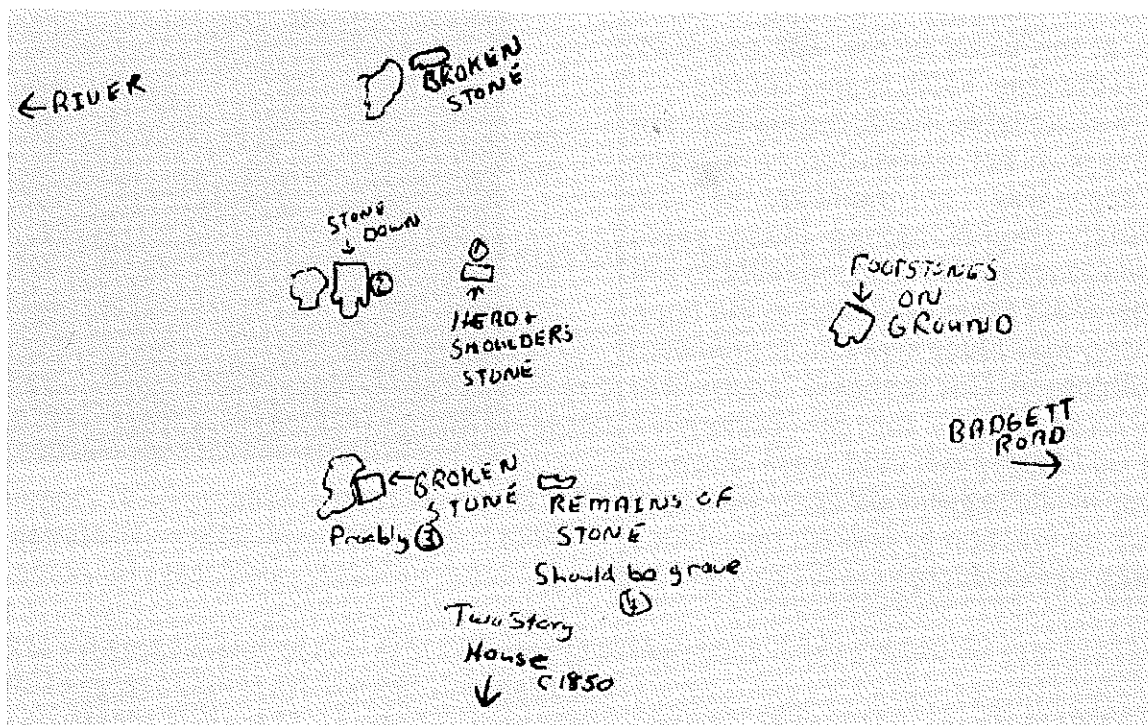
G. Vineyard
member of co. C
Adrians Battalion
P.R.

TWO KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, CEMETERIES

Robert McGinnis
James White's Fort On-Site Director
205 E. Hill Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37915
phone: 865-525-6514
e-mail: RMcgi81640@aol.com

Bearden Cemetery

Located off Badgett Road in West Knox County, the cemetery is on property belonging to the Knoxville Boat Club (1994). It is located in a copse of trees about one hundred feet from the banks of the Tennessee River (Fort Loudon Lake). There are four graves on which stones were found with partially readable inscriptions and at least two others with unreadable stones. This cemetery may be connected to the Bethesda Methodist Church for which the Bearden family deeded land. The existing stones are almost unreadable and, in a few more years, will be impossible to read.



Copied by Robert McGinnis in May 1979 and rechecked, mapped, and photographed in February 1994.