

Notes Made From Diaries & Letters To Determine Tabler's Personality

1. Letter written 11/7/64, addressed to "Dear Cousin" – This would probably be a child of a brother or sister of Edward's mother, since I know of no siblings of the father in the region. Therefore, the cousin is probably a CRYDER, and probably a male.
2. Tabler's belief that Hood had 30,000 men is more conservative than Smith's figure of 65,000 on page 183 of PRIVATE SMITH'S JOURNAL. Tabler is **careful, wary of wild rumors**.
3. Tabler asks who has voted for whom – could this be an ignorant question ? – or did a secret ballot not exist at that time ?
4. Tabler refers to the voting in "... the town and county ...". What town ? It might be natural to refer to the county seat, Morris, Illinois.
5. Letter written 11/12/63, addressed to "Dear Brother" – Later in the letter he addresses "Nathaniel". He has apparently heard from his brother Joseph. He seems to take **a somewhat fatherly tone about Ezra**, his younger brother.
6. There is evidence that Tabler was **loyal to Rosecrans**, and this may explain why he says things have been better since the arrival of "General Hooker **and others**". He does not mention Grant at this particular place, and never mentions Sherman, and I don't believe this omission is accidental, since Grant assumed command a month before this letter was written.
7. Tabler was no "fox-hole Christian" – his **piety is obvious** from his first day of service. His piety is so outstanding that one might have predicted he would have entered the ministry, had he lived a little longer.
8. Tabler's reference "... never mind the fingers ..." doubtless refers to a remark by Nathaniel that harvesting 2000 bushels of corn had been hard on his fingers. Throwing dry corn ears onto and off of the wagons by hand was notoriously hard on the fingers of the men doing that work ! His reference "... left again without any hope ..." seems to refer to a previous poor crop-year.
9. I'm not sure who the "... dear little girl ..." is. Anna Belle is recorded as born sometime in 1862, and would have been less than two years old at the time of this letter, probably too young to have been talking about becoming an angel.
10. I think I see, in Tabler's writings, **a progressive growth in his racial tolerance**. He writes "Niggers coming in." in 9/5/62, before he had any experience with Negro troops, and then on 11/8/63 he says that enemy siege guns caused no casualties that day – "... but a Negro killed." On the same day he writes that he attended "... a meeting of the Black man: the other the soldiers." This last entry seems to be almost a stammering statement in writing ! Then in this letter of 11/12/63, he writes about an ongoing religious revival this way: "Shoulderstraps and all are

engaged in the work. Catholic as well as Protestant, Negro & White Man.” Finally, in this same letter he defends his friend “Mr. P.”, who is doubtless Luther Parks. We cannot know the basis for the neighborhood’s criticism of Mr. Parks, but it is highly suggestive that Smith reported on 11/27/63 that Sgt. Parks was promoted to Lieutenant that day, and assigned to a company in the 13th US colored troops. It was not uncommon for white soldiers and civilians to heap scorn on white officers who accepted such assignments. (Incidentally, Parks and many of his men were slaughtered in a gallant charge on Peach Orchard Hill, in the battle of Nashville 12/16/64.).(Cite Mel Follett here.)

11. The letter of 11/12/63 is written on unlined paper, and Tabler tells his brother, Nathaniel L. Tabler, that he might write more but the lack of lines bothers him. This detail, by itself, might mean little or nothing about Tabler’s personality – after all, the lack of lines would bother most people, some more than others – but when taken with all the characteristics we can see in Tabler’s writings, I think it is emblematic of **a sort of careful reserve**.

12. The letter of 3/15/63 was written after the actions at New Madrid, Corinth and Stones’ River. Rosecrans is preparing for the Tullahoma campaign. Tabler’s letters are to his older brother, Nathaniel L. Tabler, and a cousin. I would guess that the cousin was a child in his mother’s family, a Cryder. Tabler’s mother died when he was nine years of age, and his father remarried. His father seems to be a somewhat distant, patriarchal figure in Tabler’s life.

13. At the end of the 3/15/63 letter Tabler mentions friends of “Platwill”. This is probably Plattville, which was 12 miles north of Tabler’s home in Aux Sable, via Tabler’s Road.

14. 1/1/62 Tabler has apparently purchased a diary at the very beginning of his enlistment. This contrasts with Melville Cox Follett, for example, who began his record in a diary left behind by his buddy, Tom Sandle. Tabler seems to be **circumspect and historically-conscious**.

15. 1/6 Hardly any soldier at first liked drilling, although many liked drilling well later on, but Tabler says it is the duty of a soldier, and I think it is not accidental that he uses the word “duty” here. Tabler is **outstandingly dutiful**.

16. 1/7 Tabler’s health starts to fail, and he complains at 1/11 about “... sleeping on these boards.” Smith, page 12, says the soldiers of the 51st Ill. slept in two-story bunks, each bed designed double for two men. He mentions, page 11, that each man was issued a blanket, and that most of the men paired off in couples, placing one blanket underneath and one on top. My hunch is that Tabler slept alone, when possible.

17. 1/13 “The boys dancin & raising the old Scratch”. Tabler sounds **somewhat aloof** here. It could very well be that he was not participating simply because he was feeling poorly. But this seems to be a pattern of behavior for him, even when he was in

good health. In addition, we can see Tabler more clearly in the activities he does record later on.

18. 1/19 Tabler did not go to the lake shore and fire guns. Such activity was probably officially sanctioned, so Tabler's exclusion was due to poor health. The guns were probably loaned to the soldiers – not issued to them. Poor health seems more likely as an explanation, when we see that he specifically specifies that reason for not escorting the Leadmine Regiment to town.
19. 1/25/62 “... had a fight and much noise in which I took no part.” Again, his **aloofness** may have been largely due to declining health, but his note sounds critical, not reluctant or envious at being left out.
20. 1/31 Often, the end of the month is occasion for reflection and summing-up. Tabler is serving The Cause – preserving the Union. He is **idealistic, perhaps even philosophic**.
21. Many times we can know something about a man by what he does NOT say, and this question arises about Tabler's failure to report the death and military burial of a soldier in Company 'C' of the 51st. This was reported by Smith, page 17, on 1/18/62. Tabler was in Company 'K', and not in Smith's Company, but can this fact fully explain his silence ? (Some things he does NOT mention: his mother, Smith's story of near mutiny about poor muskets, prostitutes, card- playing, deaths of comrades, Illinois, executions, Chickamauga.).
22. 2/6, 2/8 Was Mr. Crany a doctor ? Tabler says he was under Crany's care, and then that “the doctor” thinks he will recover. Are they one and the same ?
23. 2/9 “... sister-in-law's sister ...” Can I identify this person ? The sister-in-law would be the wife of one of Tabler's brothers ...
24. 2/12 As soon as he can be up and about, Tabler visits Father, the family, and then the school house. This may be significant – Luther L. Parks, who recruited Tabler, was a teacher. It is possible that Parks was teacher at Tabler's school. Tabler may have been a **scholarly type** of man.
25. 2/13 Tabler's sick furlough was about ten days, the only furlough recorded during his enlistment. Can I determine whether Tabler had to go to Morris to receive his letter from the Captain ? Also, did he have to go to Morris to board the train ?
26. 2/16 Tabler's first impression of Cairo, Illinois, seems to be that it is a sea of mud. “Saw sights already”. Of course, one of the motivations to join the army of many farm boys, was to “see the sights”. But one wishes Tabler had been a little more

specific.

27. 2/19 They received their arms at Cairo, before they crossed the Ohio River, by steamboat, to the Kentucky Shore. But it is strange that Tabler does not mention the soldiers' near mutiny over the poor rifles issued. (Smith, page 19-20).
28. 2/21 Camp Cullum is a nicer place than Cairo. Both Tabler and Smith seem pleased with their first camp.
29. 2/29 Tabler's note sounds like he was mustered in at Camp Cullum. (He was, See Itinerary and Muster Roll.)
30. 3/1/62 The cold bothers him, but through the rain and the cold he still gathers strength, even though he reports diarrhea on 2/26, 3/12, 3/17 and 3/21.
31. 3/15 "The Stars & Stripes were floating over it." Flags were very important to soldiers. At the start of the Civil War, Old Glory contained 34 stars, including those representing the seceding states.
32. 3/31 "I have stood the times about as well as any of them." This spiritless attitude contrasts sharply with Benjamin T. Smith's at this point in time, who mentions the great earthquake of 1811, and names Genl. Paine and Lt. Col. Bradley. (Of course, it must be remembered that Smith is writing his journal much later than any actual diary entries he made at the time.). Nevertheless, Tabler seems **content to be more or less average**.
33. 4/8 Tabler does not see this scene as a glorious victory. It's a miserable scene – night duty in a cold rain, and half the prisoners sick...There is a direct contradiction here, to Smith's statement that it was a "... clear frosty night ...", but when it comes to accuracy, Tabler is more **reliable**.
34. 4/11 "I feel able to do my duty." This recalls an earlier remark, "Drill is a soldier's duty.", and a later remark in a letter, "Done my duty best I knew how." Tabler's highest ambition as a soldier seems to be simply to do his duty.
35. 5/23 Tabler's expression is remarkably matter-of-fact, even when he is being shot at. He merely stands behind a tree, as the enemy fires two shots at his picket position. And again, at 8/30, "... got shot last night near the eye with a shotgun...". He's certainly not one to make a fuss about a little thing like that ! He is described as "**steady**" in his obituary.
36. 5/31 Tabler, like most soldiers, was **keenly interested in events on other war fronts**. Fair Oaks meant 790 Union men killed and 3,590 wounded.

37. 6/6/62 Tabler hears, or reads that Memphis has surrendered. He subscribes to three papers that we know of so far: Cincinnati Paper (8/30/63), Nashville Weekly Press (11/14/63), and New York Independent (Letter of 11/12/63). **He's a reader.**
38. 6/5 "My health is good." This sounds like the most positive statement so far concerning his health.
39. 6/11 "Total eclipse of the moon." Tabler does not have an almanac in the 1st diary, in which this notation is made, so he may have actually observed this eclipse. But he does have an almanac in the 2nd diary, so other soldiers may have had almanacs at this time, and word was passed around. In any case, Tabler is an **OBSERVER**.— has shown an interest in farm affairs, politics, the draft, distant battles, church affairs, and perhaps celestial events.
40. 6/13 Tabler seems to show an uncharacteristic uncertainty at this time: "Marching orders some place" (6/10), "All is well, I believe." (6/13), "I'm on guard & feel well I believe." (6/15) – doesn't he know how he feels? – "All well I believe" (6/16).
41. 6/18/62 Tabler apparently has diarrhea from 6/18 to 6/23. But much comforted by church meeting.
42. 6/30 News of distant battles seems to be uppermost in his mind at this time: Mechanicsville, Richmond, Gainesville, Chickahominy.
43. 7/31/62 The entries for the entire month of July sound dispirited. "Uncle Sam is not doing much at present here ..." (7/16), "... guarding a bridge ... God knows how long we will remain here ...". Tabler's monthly summary is fatalistic – "I feel I must live and learn."
44. 8/4 "Our little fortification", 8/8 "Our small fort". This type of expression says something about Tabler, but I'm not sure just what as yet. It's **a sort-of relaxed expression of affection, or perhaps of condescension ...**
45. 8/9 "Bridge burned again", and 8/10 "Bridge repaired again" – a sense of the futility of his present assignment, or perhaps **a touch of humor.**
46. 8/18 "A set of rowdies are on my bunk." This is definitely a laid-back, **aloof amusement.** "I am getting stout again" 8/20.
47. 8/30 "... got shot last night near the eye with a shot from a shot gun ..." This phrasing seems to indicate that a single pellet grazed him near the eye. (It seems fairly certain that the circumstances surrounding this incident are detailed in Smith, pages 44-45.)

48. 9/5 “Niggers coming in” This must refer to camp followers, too early for Negro troops.
49. 9/28 “... haven’t heard from home yet.” This is surprising – why hasn’t this soldier heard from home for nine months ? Smith received a batch of letters on his return to Cairo, after the Island #10 surrender. (Page 34).Then he receives another letter, telling of his mother’s death, after he has landed near Shiloh, and before the Corinth siege. This was about April 22. (Page 36) Tabler had not heard from home 10/2, 10/15, 10/24, 11/2, 11/4 and finally received ten letters on 11/12. (Coincidentally, Smith also got ten letters that day.) (Page 56) Smith remarks at that place that there had been no mail for some time.
50. 10/4 “... guerillas getting used up by the 1st team.” What does Tabler mean by “the 1st team” ? Smith speaks of driving off “Bush-whackers” (page 49). Could these mounted infantry have been considered the “1st team” ? He probably meant the First Brigade, including the 36th Illinois Infantry Volunteers.
51. 10/6 “... on picket & a beautiful night.” Many men seem insensitive to **beauty**. Tabler appreciates the clear starry sky. When there is no light nearby, the planets and stars can seem unbelievably bright and close.
52. 10/10 Tabler reports the arrival of a supply wagon train of 1700 wagons. But, by 10/19 he is still on half rations.
53. 10/31 Tabler reports that one man’s rations consists of 1/4 pound of fresh beef or 3/4 pound of bacon. If we moderns wish to clearly visualize what this means, we should cook a 1/4 pound of beef, and imagine it as a day’s ration of meat !
54. 11/12 He got ten letters today. (Oh, that we still had those letters !)
55. 11/23 “Just lollygagging.” Rosecrans has replaced Buell, and is preparing to drive the Rebels south.
56. 12/6 Tabler misses his friend, Mr. Parks, supposes him captured. The actual story is told in Smith’s Journal.
57. 12/27 He mentions a place called “Tupello”, which I have not been able to locate. Another place name he uses, that I have not located, is “Myrta”.
58. 12/31 Tabler does not wax eloquent, even for his experience at the Stone’s River battle. This is Tabler’s first major battle, but he is **a man of few words**. Or am I making too much of this ? – Perhaps his succinctness is merely the product of his limited diary space ?

59. 1/1/63 Tabler ends the 1st diary with diary entries and clothing price lists, and a Company “K” muster list. He notes “Edward L. Tabler, on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, Camp Big Spring, Tishamingo, Mississippi. These entries pose three questions for me : 1) Did soldiers have to purchase their clothing ? How could they afford to, on \$13 per month pay ? If they did not have to pay for clothing, then why the price lists ? 2) How would a private go about acquiring a Company Muster List ? 3) **Were the last entries made at the end of a partially blank diary, and at the time Tabler was guarding the railroad ?** See entry at Bridgeport in 2nd diary.
60. (Tabler’s birthday was September 21st.) See 9/23/63, Fall Equinox.
61. 1/1/63 Tabler made notes for January at the end of the 1st diary, but he repeats January in the 2nd diary. The 2nd diary is far superior to the first, because Tabler began, on 8/17/63, to rewrite the whole diary, apparently consulting notes from an original.
62. 1/8 Tabler especially disliked camp guard duty. (Was picket duty more interesting ?)
63. 1/9 “I have been blessed with health & strength all along ...”. What can he mean ? Most readers would question this statement, having read the 1st diary.
64. 1/13 Tabler incorrectly assumes that Stone’s River was named because it was stony. Actually, the river was named for a man by that name.
65. 1/14 This entry, and the next, seem to show **a rare instance of temper**. “We must grin and bear it ...”. “... cold, wet, hungry & mad ...”. Since Tabler is rewriting this diary, he can display his vocabulary.
66. 1/17 “... the long lonesome hours ...” This entry, and the next, regarding the neglect of the Sabbath Day, shows an unusual degree of discouragement.
67. 1/21 “ My health is good ...”. Tabler and his buddies begin to revive in spirit.
68. 1/25 Tabler really misses Sunday meetings ! The Chaplains have gone on furlough.
69. 2/2/63 “A monstrous pile of hard bread...” Rosecrans begins preparation for the Tullahoma Campaign.
70. 2/7 “... **an intellectual improvement** ...”. This remark gives us a clear glimpse into Tabler’s mind.
71. 2/9 “I have nothing to say, but I must fill up with something.”. He’s obviously bored,

but why does he feel he must fill every diary-date ? He's embarrassed that his state of mind does not allow him to make any interesting observations.

72. 2/12 “... a very irksome task indeed ...” He's complained about guard duty, and now it's foraging – Does Tabler, after the Battle of Stone's River, feel he now has the privilege freedom of a veteran ?
73. 2/14 Tabler speaks of dog-tents here, but he spoke of Sibley tents at 1/22. Were the Sibleys replaced at this time ? – or were the dog-tents used on picket duty, while the Sibleys remained back at camp ?
74. 2/15 Tabler takes a stroll off through the woods with Edward Burns and Frederic Thompson. I wish he had said a little more about the nature of this stroll. Burns was 32 when he enlisted, eleven years Tabler's senior, and an engineer. Tabler calls him “my old pard” at 2/17 and 4/29. Burns and Thompson, each at 5'-8" are two inches taller than Tabler. Thompson was a student, when he enlisted, and is three years older. So, Tabler is definitely the junior member of this group.
75. 2/21 “... my beloved country ...”. It's easy to forget that many soldiers, on both sides, did indeed love their country.
76. 2/22 Washington's birthday remembered. “... **a warm discussion or two** ...”.
77. 2/24 A vivid description of foraging.
78. 2/27 “This may not be very interesting to my readers ...”. Some people keep diaries, knowing that they do not intend for anyone to ever read them. Being intended to be strictly private, the writer of such a diary may possibly be more candid. But Tabler thinks that someone may someday read what he writes, and this affects the degree of his frankness. We must read between the lines, and take note of what he does NOT say.
79. 3/1/63 Tabler notes the first time he got to ride one of the wagons, instead of having to trudge along on foot.
80. 3/2 It's amazing that Tabler can send \$30 home – out of four month's pay – only \$52 ! “The boys get tight.”. There are indications that Tabler's fellows characteristically get drunk on paydays. (See 3/2/63 in Mel Follett's diary.) Whether the 51st was any different, in this respect, from most other regiments – is unclear. But Tabler does not participate in such revels. **He's probably a teetotaler.**
81. 3/3 It's not clear if Tabler participated in the election of honor men. (Can I find a list of the elected men ?)

82. 3/7 “... we drew D. Rations ...”. What does the letter “D” mean here ? Is it a name for the rations – such as the World War II “C” rations ? Or is it an abbreviation for “damned” ?
83. 3/16 He supposes the rebels are “... all right on the goose ...”. A cant phrase of Southern sympathizers was “Are You All Right On The Goose?”. I haven’t yet been able to find the appropriate answer.
84. 3/17 Since Companies H and K are being combined, losses must have been substantial.
85. 3/18 “... tired & sleepy & fatigued & jaded out ...” A warm cup of coffee was really welcome. I like coffee merely warm – some like it hot...Does this say something about a person ?
86. 3/20 The 51st and 42nd make camp together – a “pretty” camp. I need to collect examples of Tabler’s **sense of beauty**. Also, this close connection between these two regiments may open another window for my research. Mel Follett was in the 42nd.
87. 3/23 The whole division on parade – “... the scene was a delight ...”. Tabler must have been in the parade, and yet he reports it **as an observer**. I think this is a mental habit with him.
88. 3/24 A bunk of barrel staves – he’s mentioned a bed of feed sacks and a bed of straw. I must make a list of his bedding materials.
89. 3/25 H.A. Buck, formerly Orderly Sgt., now commands Company K. He was a lawyer before enlisting, and was killed at Chickamauga 9/19/63. Tabler writes of the boys enjoying themselves playing ball and pitching horse-shoes. Here again, his language is that of **an observer** – didn’t he play with them ?
90. 3/26/63 The whole brigade goes on picket – perhaps 1,000 to 2,000 men – half on duty at a time, half resting. Tabler notes once again “... a beautiful grove ...”.
91. 4/1 “April Fool, hee hee.” He didn’t celebrate April Fools Day last year, probably because he was in poor health then, and untested in battle. Now he’s feeling pretty good. But he also does not observe Fools’ Day in 1864. Capt. McWilliams commanding ..(Can I identify McWilliams ?) Capt. John G. McWilliams, Co. E.
92. 4/2 “... a grand ... drill this clover field ... a grand sight ...”. Here Tabler shows his **sense of beauty**, and his farmer’s eye for agricultural detail. But, again, his **OBSERVER’S stance** makes it almost seem that he was not in the grand drill ! Could a participant appreciate the grandeur ?

93. 4/4 “... utmost tranquility reigns ... trees put forth their green leaves ... all Nature smiles ...”.
94. 4/5 “... usual routine: inspection of person ... whomsoever, nevertheless, notwithstanding...”. Tabler has a **gentle sense of humor**, it doesn’t seem as vigorous or raucous as Smith’s, for example.
95. 4/6 “... a beautiful place for drilling ...” He says “for drilling”, but it sounds like he was feeling, not so much a sense of utility, but of beauty, period.
96. 4/7 “... battalion drill ... you may wish to know what it is ...”. Tabler is conscious, once again of his potential reader. Tabler is a **READER**, and as is so often, a reader may contemplate being a writer.
97. 4/8 If Battalion Drill involves the whole Regiment, how is it that Company ‘K’ is grading up their street ? Also, since Tabler is in Company ‘K’, how could he be drilling WHILE Company ‘K’ was grading ? Tabler’s **OBSERVER’S stance** often makes it difficult to know whether he was physically present in an event.
98. 4/9 Does Tabler know about “the Old Crane” personally, or is this a reference, conscious or not, to something he has read ? His view of the Army, part on watch, part relaxed – is vivid. Again, the OBSERVER. In fact, in spirit, **Tabler seems to be the Old Crane !** (Perhaps I could determine the Cranes’ habitat range, to see if Tabler may have seen the Old Crane.) As I contemplate Tabler’s literary bent, the question comes to mind – why was Tabler not married at age 21, when he enlisted , and I’m drawing on my experience of my uncles, prior to World War II. Tabler never mentions a romantic connection, such as that of his younger brother, Ezra. “That girl & them mules.”. Was Nathaniel Levy Tabler , his older brother, married at the time ?
99. 4/10 “... shrill sound of insects ... croaking of the monster Bull Frog ... weather clear, warm and pleasant” Halcyon days !
100. 4/11/63 Tabler’s April diary entries in 1863 constitute a rather complete description of life in Rosecrans’ army at that time.
101. 4/17 Tabler says that General Sheridan was given, at this time, a beautiful sword, saddle and pistols, and that he went to see them. Roy Morris Jr., in his book SHERIDAN, gives an account of this event on pages 116-117, but he does not mention the saddle, and he says that Sheridan received a glass and silver wine set, worth about \$2,000. Morris cites the O-R, Sheridan’s own memoirs, and MOLLUS. But neither the O-R nor Sheridan’s memoirs mention the gifts, and the

MOLLUS reference mentions only "... a beautiful service of silver ...". I telephoned Morris to ask for his sources on the incident, but he was unable to recall them. Obviously, Morris did not invent his details, but his sources are apparently lost.

102. 4/18 "... had Battalion Drill for dinner and Dress Parade for supper, suitable for a soldier, or any other man who can't help it.". I need to collect these instances of Tabler's **sense of humor**.
103. 4/19 Can I identify the colonel of the 73rd regiment who preached the sermon ? "... this is a **smart man** ...". I'm inclined to invoke the canard, "It takes one to know one." Col. James F. Jaquess, 8/21/62.
104. 4/21 What are Quaker Guns ? Tabler says the Rebs think they are cannons. They were logs attached to wheels, sometimes accompanied with straw dummies.
105. 4/24 "I don't know what to write for this day's transaction ... this is an old story but it's new ...". Tabler is obviously bored here, but I don't know what he means when he says the old story is new.
106. 4/26 "... those letters I should have wrote ...". Things are so relaxed he can now afford the luxury of feeling guilt about not writing letters. The boredom he shows, during this period, probably makes him also reluctant to write home. He feels he has nothing of interest to say.
107. 4/27 The Sibley tents are taken from them, and replaced with shelter tents, which are carried in halves by two men and assembled when camping. Does Tabler's regiment still have dog-tents while on picket ? At first, Tabler doubts the value of the new tents. "...We felt rather cheap."
108. 4/28 "... our little tent ... withstood nobly ... came off conqueror ... two lonesome, weary subalterns ...". Tabler sounds here **almost cute**. Not only is the word "subaltern" considerably above the average soldier's vocabulary, but it is even questionably elevated for Pvt. Tabler's rank.
109. 4/29 "Our camp field of little tents look beautiful.". Tabler may be a practical man, but his observations are focused on the aesthetic and the emotional, for the most part, rather than the utilitarian. While Washington frets and stews, Rosecrans prepares, and the boys enjoy themselves !
110. 4/30 "... on post under a large, nice Peach Tree with no fruit on it ...". I need to make a collection of Tabler's vivid descriptions of his picket posts. At 5/13 he calls the tree "barren". His farmer's experience is in constant evidence.

111. 5/1/63 “... the result I am loath to make known.”. Is this an instance where the aspiring author overreaches his vocabulary ? There is no indication that he knows the result, but is reluctant to make it known.
112. 5/2 “Co. K was the most respectable looking Company in the Regiment.”. Unfortunately, Tabler doesn’t tell us whether this was an official opinion. If it was subjective, it indicates a degree of pride in his unit.
113. 5/5 Here we learn that the clover drill field, mentioned at 4/2, is 80 acres in extent.
114. 5/6 “Enclosed our camp with Cedars ...”. One can imagine that Washington would be having fits, if the authorities there knew this little detail. Still, if the Army is not ready to move, it’s good to keep the men busy – whatever the activity, so long as it is not destructive.
115. 5/9 “... sent my dress coat to Nashville for storage ...”. Why did Tabler do this ? He has further Dress Parades at 5/14 etc. It must be that Dress Parades do not require Dress Coats.
116. 5/11 “... highly honored ... Chicago ladies ... first I’ve seen of the fair sex of the North, since I left home. Here Tabler sounds **chivalrous**. Northern soldiers often made derogatory remarks about Southern women, unfairly contrasting the legendary upper class ladies with the poor lower class women they met on the march.
117. 5/13 “The large nice Peach Tree” has now become “ the Old Barren Peach Tree”, and Tabler had to get up in a hurry, spends picket duty time “in the utmost care”, and returns to camp “worn with care”. He’s getting sick ...
118. 5/15 “This is a day for all Creation, including the rest of mankind .” What does this mean? The “rest of mankind” would be those not in the Army. “Weather warm” doesn’t sound like it is glorious weather. Perhaps he is using some common expression ... “Well, if this isn’t a day for all creation !”???
119. 5/16 Tabler understands that the new officers must be drilled. His casual remarks are revealing : he referred to their defeat at Franklin, and here he calls Stone’s River “the great battle”. Not surprising, of course. Like most Westerners, if he respected Authority, he was not awed by it.
120. 5/18 It sounds like Tabler was unable for duty because he was constipated. He thinks his condition was caused by his eating too much
121. 5/19 He remarks that Murfreesboro has become a supply distribution center for the

whole army.

122. 5/21 “Well I don’t know who I will write for today ...”. This is an important question. Tabler’s ideas, about who will read this diary, have shaped the content.
123. 5/23 Can I research his assertion here, that the 4th Regular Cavalry captured 200 men & 400 horses ? Yes, the O.R. is amusing. Probably 80 men and 300 horses.
124. 5/24 The rumored “great battle in Mississippi” was Vicksburg. (See 5/26).
125. 5/25 “ I sweat like a pack mule.”. This farm boy feels like Lincoln, who said his father taught him to work – but never taught him to like it.
126. 5/26 “A few shots fired, but not at the enemy.” They probably should not have done it, but pickets often fired at small game, or at a tree. BOREDOM was the fate of the soldier, most of the time.
127. 5/28 Anyone who has spent time in a dog-tent, knows it gets hot when the sun shines on it. If it cannot be pitched in the shade of a tree, then a shack over it will give shade. As Washington fumes, Rosecrans doggedly prepares.
128. 6/1/63 “... my post in a wheatfield with no fence around it.” On 5/30 his post was “... on the Pike by the brick house.”. On 4/30 his post was under a “... large nice Peach Tree with no fruit on it.”. I need to collect these post descriptions. He says it was a wheat field, but I cannot be sure whether there was a crop standing. He could have seen stubble. If there was a standing crop, the lack of a fence would naturally catch the eye of a farmer. Were there no livestock present to damage the crop? Was the farmer too poor to fence the field? See note 194.
129. 6/3 Orders to get ready to march, but they did not march until 6/24 ! “... 3 days rations in Haversacks, 4 in Knapsacks, and 5 in the wagons. The Haversack was the soldiers’ purse – one strap over the right shoulder, the sack worn on the left hip – and much smaller than the two-strap Knapsack, worn on the back.
130. 6/6 Tabler is appointed to cook for his mess for one week. He’s heard about “Unconditional Surrender Grant”. Grant got that title at Fort Donelson. (Tabler began rewriting the 2nd diary at Bridgeport, August 15 - 17, 1863.
131. 6/7 “... the earnest occasion ...” Tabler witnesses 24 late converts putting on Christ’s Uniform in the Army. He himself was no late convert or fox-hole Christian. He was a **devout Christian** from the beginning.
132. 6/9 Apparently, 12 days rations were used up in 6 days. Perhaps this was done to

compensate for a lack of bacon for two days.

133. 6/11 A rumor that Vicksburg has fallen, but this did not happen until 7/4.
134. 6/13 Twenty-four baptisms on 6/7, and now twenty-five more. Religious revival.
135. 6/14 Soldier from the 27th Illinois killed by a falling tree limb. (Can I identify him ?)
136. 6/15 Tabler tells of Sgt. Hills being wounded, captured and paroled – which is not found in official documents. See letter about Sheridan’s beautiful sword, saddle and pistols. Charles H/E Hills.
137. 6/16 Tabler hears of Lee’s invasion of Pennsylvania, which occurred 6/15 to 7/15.
138. 6/17 Even though Tabler’s Company K had the best looking arms and equipment in the regiment on 6/16, he still says “... nothing of importance to note down today.”. Now he says “... nothing to tell you of today.”, even though there was some firing on the outpost. This gives us some gauge of Tabler’s boredom during this period of Rosecrans’ preparation for the Tullahoma Campaign. Furthermore, his resigned **sense of humor** shows – “ It rained on Edward L. Tabler, Co. K, 51st Ill. Vol., but did not hurt him, as he has got used to it.”.
139. 6/18 “... the Yankees have been growing too fat and saucy for the last four or five months.” This entry startles the reader, when he realizes the Army has been camped at Murfreesboro that long ! Five months !
140. 6/19 “... the stealthy enemy ...”. **SENSE OF HUMOR ?** He meets dewberries for the first time. His remark that he is in the service of the United States contrasts with the attitude of some soldiers that they were serving their home state. He never mentions the State of Illinois.
141. 6/20 The 88th relieves the 51st from picket duty. Can I find Camp Shaeffer on the internet ? Not so far – Camp was named for Col. Frederick Shaefer, 2nd Brig., 3rd Div. Killed at Stones River. (He was in the 2nd Missouri. Hard to find !)
142. 6/21 The revival continues with 16 more baptisms. Tabler uses the word “solemn” twice in this entry.
143. 6/22 Can I get a book about General McCook ? Lots of info on the net, but no book. His story seems dull , anyway.
144. 6/23 It’s interesting how word got around in Tabler’s army – he knows, for instance, that Rosecrans purpose will be to drive the Rebels out of Tennessee.

145. 6/24 “... our division and our brigade in the lead ...”. Morris’ SHERIDAN says, at one place, that Sheridan’s Division was in the lead “as usual”. Tabler’s division drove the enemy slowly through Liberty Gap, until relieved.
146. 6/25 Evidently it was Davis’ and Johnson’s Divisions which finally drove the Rebs from “the gap”. I assume “the gap” was Liberty Gap. Tabler’s “Millersville” is apparently “Millersburg” in Sheridan’s Memoirs, and is probably modern-day Plainview.
147. 6/27 Apparently, Tabler marched through Hoover’s Gap, but his Division did not fight there – he saw the graves, as he passed along, the 51st Regiment halting at Beech Grove to guard the supply train.
148. 6/28 “... fled like panting cattle for the river (Duck Run)...”. Colorful phrase. Farmers know how thirsty cattle will rush to water.
149. 6/30 “... a nest of leaves ...” I must collect a list of his bedding materials. At 1/7/62 it was bare bunk boards, barrel-staves at 3/24/63, feed-sacks and straw elsewhere.
150. 7/1/63 Tabler is on half-rations, preference being given to those on the front line. Tabler is aware that Rosecrans is using the flanking maneuver.
151. 7/2 Tabler in pursuit of the enemy, wades the waist-deep Elk River.
152. 7/3 He wades two more rivers this day. (Can I identify them ?)
153. 7/4 He notes the July Fourth commemoration here, as he did also in 1862. Apparently, this army made a practice of firing an artillery salute on July Fourth. Tabler has twice mentioned the deserters surrendering during this Tullahoma Campaign.
154. 7/5 Tabler knows the Federals are flanking the Rebs, but he regrets the fact that the enemy escapes.
155. So far, I’d say the most important things to consider about Tabler are: 1) His mother died when he was 9 years old; 2) He was unmarried at age twenty-two.
156. 7/6 “... slept on a rail ...” So far he’s slept on feed sacks, leaves, barrel staves, straw, the cold ground. He mentions a “boiling spring” somewhere about a day’s march of Cowan. “Barcheby” is Tabler’s misspelling of Beersheba Springs.
157. 7/7 He hears of Vicksburg’s surrender, which occurred 7/4
158. 7/9 His notes, on the University of the South Corner Stone, begin here. Sheridan’s men

may have known that it was Polk who attacked them at Stone's River, and that it was Polk who laid the Corner Stone. "... a march too such as you don't read of ...". Few men would have described that terrific double-teamed haul up Cumberland Mountain as something you don't READ of. **This is the talk of a READER** and an aspiring writer !

159. 7/10 "... Companies K&H got lost on the railroad but came out all right in the end ...". **What was the railroad ?** Compare this incident with a similar one in Sheridan's Memoirs. This reference, to Murrell killing Woods and throwing him over a precipice here, has motivated a tremendous amount of research ! While it might not be the exact place where Tabler notes the Murrell incident, Benjamin T. Smith, at his entry for 7/19/63, describes "... towering up to a great height was a wall reaching to the mountain top ...".
160. 7/11 "... there is but our brigade on this mountain, the others being left back at Cowan...". The Corner Stone was destroyed by someone in the four regiments: 22nd, 27th, 42nd or the 51st. Suspicion should focus on the 42nd and 51st, most likely the 51st.
161. 7/12 He hears that Mead is routing the enemy. Since the 22nd & 27th advanced four miles, to clear the road, suspicion is lessened on them.
162. 7/14 Tabler gets full rations first time in 20 days. That would be since 6/24, when his division began fighting in Liberty Gap.
163. 7/15 "... some long fingered, pilfering thief ..." Tabler condemns the Cornerstone's destruction. "... whatever was in it is done gone up ..." Probably burned ? Would the culprit have also burned the Bible ?
164. 7/17 Sheridan offers a sword for the man who upset the Corner Stone. This is important. Southerners are inclined to think this act was characteristic of Union Soldiers, and probably condoned by the officers. There is no indication that the offered sword was the jeweled sword mentioned at 4/17. Tabler mentions berries at 7/11, 7/13, 7/15, 7/17, 7/24 and 7/28 – perhaps other places as well.
165. 7/20 "Here's your mule.". Tabler mentions two expressions common at the time – "Are you all right on the goose ?" being the other.
166. 7/21 Tabler gets some soap, and washes his shirt for the first time since Camp Shaeffer at Murfreesboro. That would be at least a month. He mentions the beautiful Barchaeby Springs. **SENSE OF BEAUTY** again.(The springs are actually BEERSHEBA SPRINGS.)

167. 7/22 Tabler learns of the death of his friend, Mr. Hunt, of the 36th Illinois. The news was sent by Mr. Parks via a payroll guard detail from the 51st Regt. I should get the 36th Muster Rolls. **Identify Hunt.**
168. 7/23 "... the Corner Stone, being marble, the boys are pecking it all to pieces, and making trophies of it.". Once again, Tabler represents himself as **standing aloof**. He's paid four month's pay, and sends his money home. It's not clear whether he sent ALL of it, but knowing Tabler a little bit, as we now do, it's perfectly possible! The Chaplain, Mr. Raymond, is Lewis Raymond, from Peoria, Illinois, who served 10/1/61 to 11/6/64. See 158, 160, 163, 164, 171 re this.
169. 7/24 Since their knapsacks are back in Murfreesboro, the men have no tents and other necessities. They have been camping in the open all this time ! Some berries "... to concentrate his hunger ...". Sheridan's Division cannot advance until the railroad is repaired, so rations are reduced.
170. 7/25 "... this beautiful morning ..." His sense of BEAUTY is not quenched by short rations. "Deserters keep coming." It's easy to forget that Rosecrans' army is still pursuing the enemy. "... spending my time in reading ...". Tabler was certainly not the only soldier to spend considerable time reading, but it does seem that one of Tabler's outstanding characteristics is that he is a **READER**.
171. 7/26 "... the 26th Day of Our Lord ...". Tabler is probably keenly aware that his dates are
are
In the year 1863 A.D. – ANNO DOMINI, the Year of Our Lord. "... the great shed or workshop ...". How large was the workshop ?
172. 7/27 Tabler pays the Chaplain a half-dollar, because the Chaplain said it was customary to defray expenses. I wonder how many half-dollars the Chaplain collected at this time. Would Tabler have specified his motive for the contribution if he had not felt a slight surprise ?
173. 7/28 He goes berrying with Cpl. Riley, and eats berries until hard crackers and bacon are no enticement. Cpl. Riley was Martin V. Riley, age 23 at enlistment, sandy hair, blue eyes, 5'-9", farmer from Maryland. Possible friends are Edward Burns, Fred Thompson, Martin Riley, and Rob Bradshaw, of the 36th Regiment.
174. 7/29 His picket post under "... a great Chestnut tree ...". See 4/30, 5/13, 5/30, 6/1/63, 8/30. I want to collect his descriptions of picket posts.
175. 7/31 Tabler arrives at Bridgeport, which he indicates the Rebs had burned, including the bridge. Feds and Rebs chat across the Tennessee River. There is some confusion here, about Tabler's route from University Station to Bridgeport. It's caused by three statements: 1) He says, at 7/30, that they marched 18 miles to Battle Creek,

which seems to indicate they approached Bridgeport from the North; 2) He does not mention going through Stevenson en route, which argues for the northern route; 3) But he says he passed through Lost Cove, which is on the southern route, through Stevenson. Furthermore, Smith says, page 84, that the Army passed through Tantalou and Anderson, and went into camp at Stevenson. The Adjutant General's report simply says " July 30th, Moved to Bridgeport." See 183 "**back** at Stevenson"

176. 8/1/63 The Feds and the Rebs talking back and forth across the river. See 175, 177.
177. 8/2 When cars come into Bridgeport, the Rebs are indignant. They must have been surprised that the railroad was repaired so quickly. They actually left their defenses to see what the Yankees were doing.
178. 8/3 A day of rejoicing, their knapsacks come through from Murfreesboro. Tabler has a blanket to lie on for the first time since Murfreesboro.
179. 8/4 Got two teeth pulled, which had been bothering him for six months. (I don't remember him mentioning a toothache six months ago. He reported a toothache 7/9/62.) They cut poles to fix shade over their tent-street.
180. 8/5 Tabler says the bridge at Bridgeport is 600 yards long. How did he know ? See 188, 191, 197.
181. 8/6 A deathlike silence reigns throughout the camp. The Reb pickets won't talk with the Feds anymore – afraid of being shot. See 175, 177.
182. 8/7 Rosecrans visits the first time. "...on his little dummie ..." While the Dummie was, indeed a diminutive steam engine, I still think this remark shows an amused sense of aloofness.
183. 8/8 First and third brigades of Sheridan's Division now at Bridgeport, the second brigade back at Stevenson.
184. 8/9 General Anderson's mother given safe passage. This is probably James Patton Anderson, his wife Etta Adair. I must get his biography by James W. Raab. Is this incident recorded anywhere else ? Got this book, and a great deal more – quite a story !
185. 8/11 "... three days rations in haversacks, four or five on the wagon, and two pairs of shoes about the person."
186. 8/14 Their lieutenant has his pants stolen, along with \$25 in them. This was very

probably Lt. Otis Moody, who was killed at Chickamauga 9/19/63. He was 32, 5'-8 3/4", black hair, hazel eyes, unmarried, a builder by trade, from Hamshire, Massachusetts. He was recruited by Col. Cummings, at Chicago, for a 3-year term. I have not been able to locate "Hamshire, Mass."

187. 8/17 "Commenced writing up this book this day, the 17th, 1863. Hope I may not be laboring in vain. I consider in future it may be of some interest to me." Apparently, Tabler wrote this diary while at Bridgeport, probably referring to notes made earlier.
188. 8/21 How would Tabler know that Rosecrans, Stanley and McCook rode down river about five miles ? And how would he know that the purpose of the ride was to select a crossing place ? The grapevine must have been rather efficient ! See 180, 191.
189. 8/25 Jasper was about twelve miles up the river from Bridgeport. Apparently, Tabler hears a false rumor that Charleston, South Carolina has fallen. Charleston did not fall until 2/17/65.
190. 8/26 Tabler's note about lumber on the train reminds me of a story about a conductor giving the army trouble at this point. Was it the OR ? Or Sheridan's biography ?
191. 8/27 How would Tabler know that the Superintendent of the Confederate coal mine was "... a very intelligent man." ? He must have heard him talk, perhaps talked with him. This shows what Tabler thought of himself – "It takes one to know one." See 180, 188, 197, 199.
192. 8/28 Two dummies bring three or four Major Generals. Tabler sounds somewhat flip in this entry. Was it three or was it four ? Didn't he know – or didn't he care ? What is the mood expressed by his "Ect. Etc. Etc.?" (Tabler, of course, meant " Etc." throughout.) Were things so "lively" he could not comprehend it in detail ? Or was it that the diary's constricted space prevented a coherent summary ? Can I get diaries or letters from the 22nd and 27th Infantry regiments ?
193. 8/29 By now, it's not surprising that, in the midst of all this activity, Tabler is READING ! Can I identify the two cavalry regiments which forded the river at this time?
194. 8/30 "... four pontoons from Stevenson." I should make a collection of his descriptions of his picket posts . Here it is "a large rotten log". I remember a barren peach tree, a brick house, and a walnut tree, a chestnut tree at 7/29. He gave fifteen cents for a Cincinnati paper – and I remember he sold papers to Capt. Rose for ten cents. **FRUGAL** ! So now he has mentioned three newspapers he gets: New York Independence, a Nashville Paper, and the Cincinnati paper. COULD I GET

COPIES OF THESE, AND SEE WHAT TABLER WAS READING ? See 128.

195. 8/31 28 pontoons this time. Was Chattanooga evacuated this early ? No, not until 9/7-9/9. His Possum story shows **a self-deprecating sense of humor.**
196. 9/1/63 Tabler has a little experience as orderly for the Courts Martial, because he hurt his hand loading bridge timber, but he makes no further comment about the experience.
197. 9/16 Tabler says he put up for the night "... within twelve miles of Lafayette." This is accurate, but I'm wondering how a private would know this - Did he have a MAP Or, did the General take care to inform the men where they were ? Or, was it simply the grapevine ? (See the article on MAPS in The History of The Army of The Cumberland.) Also, he knew that Negley was engaged there – marvelously well informed ! But why "... the other day." ? Didn't he know the exact day ? See 180, 188, 191.
198. 9/18 "... the night dark ..." An ephemeris states there was a 30% crescent moon that night. But it may have been cloudy.
199. 9/23 "Days & Nights equal" He's referring to the Autumn Equinox, not the actual length of daylight. This is the second astronomical observation he's made – the other was a total lunar eclipse. The equinox observation might indicate that his observations were taken from an almanac – but he might simply have known that the equinox happens about this time each year, since his birthday was 9/21. He knows that they have a signal on top of Lookout Mt. – his knowledge of his general situation is impressive. See 39, eclipse at 6/11/62.
200. 9/24 The Rebs draw off again "... with bellies full ..." This pugnacity is a little unusual for Tabler. Tabler mentions Rosecrans favorably here, and at 9/27.
201. 9/28 "... our little tents ..." Tabler writes of "... my little tent ..." at 10/14; "... our small tents ..." at 10/22. This may especially affect me, because of my pleasant experiences with my uncles, when I was a young boy. But it also seems to say something about Tabler – an attitude of **DETACHMENT**, a sort of **FOND CONDESCENSION.**
202. 9/29 "... worked all day on half rations, at the rate of 13 dollars a month ..." His idealism has temporarily, at least, evaporated. No reference here of "The Cause". Pickets don't merely hide here – they "... keep themselves secreted ..." This sort of somewhat stilted language underlines the fact that Tabler is **a READER who aspires to higher intellectual attainment.** See 70, 210.
203. 9/30 "... a lucky day for me ..." The READER gets to READ. I can't interpret the "C"

in "... reading, writing, resting & C. ...".

204. 10/1/63 Tabler finds hospital duty "loathsome". A vivid description of the plight of the wounded. It's interesting that Tabler does not mention CHICKAMAUGA as a battle. Not until 11/27 does he use the name of the creek, but only as a location.
205. 10/5 "Bumproof" was Tabler's spelling of "bombproof".
206. 10/11 Tabler often visited the 36th Illinois Infantry Volunteer Regiment, because there were a good many men from his hometown in that regiment. In addition, he had reason to look up to those more experienced soldiers. The 36th is definitely one likely candidate for Tabler's expression, "the first team". Hunt and Rob Bradshaw. See 167.
207. 10/12 "Our General". Tabler's regiment was commanded by Major Charles W. Davis, at Chattanooga, his 3rd brigade by Col. Charles G. Harker, and his division by Major General Phillip Henry Sheridan. What does Tabler mean by "... in a feeble manner.?" (Few sharpshooters trying ? Only an occasional shot ?)
208. 10/13 "The name of the camp is Little ..." Taber's spelling of "Lytle". Gen. William Haynes Lytle commanded the First Brigade, 3rd Division, XX Corps, and was killed at Chickamauga September 20, 1863. Tabler doesn't say the word "Chickamauga", just "killed here". Perhaps the Anderson/ Lytle story could be told here.
209. 10/14 "... my little tent ..." Tabler often uses this description of a "dog-tent". Of course, the tent was indeed little, but I think Tabler's description carries more meaning than a simple factual reference. (Too bad he doesn't name the friend !)
210. 10/16 "... the fray ..." and "... the Rebel Tyrants ...". Sometimes Tabler's choice of words seems almost precociously juvenile. A READER often sounds like **a talking dictionary**, and is often accused of "showing off". See 70, 202.
211. 10/18 It would be interesting to know if Tabler personally engaged in throwing sticks and stones at the Rebs. I get the feeling that he was usually an OBSERVER, but even a normally aloof man sometimes descends to frivolity.
212. 10/19 Note how Tabler includes the Rebels in his phrase "... between the boys ...". Tabler **never evinces HATRED**. He is emotionally generous.
213. 10/20 Tabler notes that his XX Corps is located to the approximate center of the Army, and his 3rd brigade on the right of the Corps.

214. 10/22 “... our small tents ...” and at 10/14 “... my little tent ...” I am undoubtedly reading my own experience into this reference – As a boy, I lived many joyous hours with my uncles, in a “pup-tent”. But, still, I think this expression says something about Tabler – there’s **an attitude of detachment**, of a sort of **fond condescension**.
215. 10/24 “schebongs” is Tabler’s spelling of “shebangs”. One internet source said the word originated in 1869, but here it is, six years earlier. The Online Etymological Dictionary shows the origin as approximately 1862, so Tabler’s use of the word is very close to its origin ! Tabler says the shebangs were being built “... with great contention, every man being his own boss.” This raises two questions : first, why were the men left to this task without supervision ? Second, doesn’t this remark indicate that **Tabler liked law and order more than most men** – I recall his complaint in a letter that the absence of lines bothered him. Also his need to fill every diary date with something, even if he had nothing to say.
216. 10/25 “... worked all day hard without anything to eat ...”. Is this possible ? I believe I could never have done it, even in my prime, on the farm. I would faint, I believe. Can an animal do it ? If it is possible, Tabler is, once again, simply accurate.
217. 10/26 “... the notorious sheet, the Chattanooga Rebel ...”. The use of the word “sheet” indicates a **READER’S** expression of scorn – not so strong as “rag”. He says the editor’s home was torn down, but I’d like to be able to test Tabler’s accuracy again, and determine whether it was the editor’s or the publisher’s home. Henry Watterson was editor 1862 - 1863, and Frank M. Paul was publisher. See Cozzens, page 36, which seems to support Tabler.
218. 10/27 Both Smith and Tabler mention the contest for the point of Lookout Mountain.
219. 10/28 Smith says supplies came through, but on 11/2 & 11/3 Tabler is still hungry. Apparently, headquarters got first pick of the supplies.
220. 10/29 “Last night I was startled ...”. This, from a man who has recently endured Chickamauga – the cannons must have been loud and sudden indeed. See Smith and Sheridan on this.
221. 10/30 “... acting Brigadier General Walworth ...”. Col. Nathan H. Walworth was temporarily put in command of a demi-brigade. Bradley was wounded. Tabler says two Richmond guns are on Lookout. Smith says they are lucky the Rebs have only two of those guns, or they would pulverize Chattanooga. Tabler writes of “... a continual fire all day.” and Smith says the barrage “... continued at intervals of every half hour.”
222. 11/1/63 “ ... to hear a Mr. Murdock read and talk to the boys.” James E. Murdock, the

actor, is highly praised by Sheridan. (Page 163) Later, Murdock made the poem "Sheridan's Ride" a national hit. Smith says Sheridan's headquarters were in "... one of the large houses." Sheridan, page 163, praises Murdock highly.

223. 11/5 "... having nothing to eat, the C. detail would not work ..." The "C" is probably short for "construction". It's surprising this little mutiny didn't happen sooner ! But now I think the "C" is for Company C, Smith's Company.
224. 11/8 I think I see a gradual shift in Tabler's views of Negroes: from "niggers" at 9/5/62, to the almost stammering reference here to "the Black Man", to his letter on 11/12/63 where he says the revival includes "Negroes and White Man".
225. 11/9 "... pretty well yankee'ed over ..." This may be an original expression, but what sentiment does it indicate ? Does it mean that most Confederate supporters have fled, or been suppressed in their expressions of partisanship ? And does Tabler view this ambivalently ? This may bear on his generosity of spirit.
226. 11/13 Smith, page 72, reports the execution of a bounty-jumping soldier, and Sheridan, page 163, reports the execution of deserters on this date – but Tabler, who very probably witnessed the event, does not report it. This shows a very important characteristic of Tabler's writing. He consistently fails to report details which reflect unfavorably on the Army – for example, prostitution and gambling card games, which have been reported as very common.
227. 11/14 Tabler subscribes to The Nashville Weekly Press, gets paid \$52 and sends \$40 home ! A FRUGAL READER.
228. 11/15 Tabler reports Chaplain of 125th Illinois killed by artillery. This is Levi W. Saunders, from Vermillion County, but one internet source says he was killed 11/17 at Caldwell's Ferry, TN. If this date is correct, it raises the question of accuracy, since Tabler rewrote this diary, beginning 8/17/63. Also, his note about the pontoon bridge, on 11/16, differs greatly from the official account. Of course, Tabler was not stationed at the exact site of the attempted bridge. "Wrote a long letter home to my brother." This note refers to Tabler's letter dated 11/12/63. Of the three letters I have, two are on one sheet of 8x11 sheet of paper, but this one is on two sheets, thus the adjective "long".
229. 11/17 "The rebels are in plain view 40 rds. distant." Taking a rod as 16.5 feet, the enemy was 660 feet away.
230. 11/18 Tabler doesn't say why his letter came back The "cracker line" had been opened near the end of October, but perhaps mail was less urgent than food. Why would Tabler note the water-pail accident ? These were boring times. Such a mistake

- might have been cause for teasing.
231. 11/19 Fort Wagner, named for General George Day Wagner.
232. 11/22 Rations are plentiful now. Smith mentions turkey for Thanksgiving. Tabler notes cooked rations and two days meat on 11/20 & 11/21. Sheridan takes credit for supplying his troops.
233. 11/23 Tabler says they captured an entire regiment, in their initial attack. Then he describes the attack on Missionary Ridge with admirable succinctness. It's interesting that he does not mention Grant here, nor Sherman, but he does credit General Hooker with taking Lookout Mountain and a large number of prisoners.
234. 11/26 Tabler notes their nighttime pursuit of the Rebs to Chickamauga Creek. That must have been a sweet revisiting of that creek, but Tabler does not gloat. At 11/27 he mentions "... various reports of our great victory." He probably does not mean variant accounts, but reports from the different parts of the campaign.
235. 11/28 Tabler notes a march from morning until late at night, twelve miles through mud and rain. There was much concern over Longstreet's siege of Knoxville and Burnside.
236. 12/4/63 Tabler notes they had nothing to eat but some fresh mutton and a few frozen potatoes, scratched out of the ground with his bare hands ! Question: Why didn't he use his bayonet, for pity's sake ! It is known that Sheridan's men suffered terribly on this march, but was Tabler completely unequipped ? It's hard to believe that a man of his nature was exaggerating here.
237. 12/7 Tabler and Smith report reaching Knoxville vicinity the same day, but what a contrast in the two journeys ! Smith is mounted, and spends the nights in houses ! While Smith is visiting Fort Sanders with Sheridan, Tabler is almost starving on one pint of flour for the day's rations.
238. 12/12 Both Tabler and Smith thought the fort's name was spelled with a "u" – Saunders. Once again, Taber's note seems to hint that Tabler stood aloof as the "... boys visiting Fort Saunders". Didn't he visit the fort too ? Now that he is allowed to go into town, things are much better – he buys the makings of a good dinner from a good Union man named Colburn, and gets his shirt washed by a Negro washerman.
239. 12/15 Still, it's no picnic – "... no mail, no rations, no nothing ... yet good health, the boon of life." Tabler must have been **physically tough**.
240. 12/16 Tabler says he rode 18 miles on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad and "footed" the last 10 miles to Strawberry Plains – which differs from Smith, page

130, who simply says his division marched to Strawberry Plains.

241. 12/18 "... shot at 4 or 5 pigs and got only one of them." Was this normal accuracy ?
242. 12/20 Tabler's company K reported 32 men for duty at 1/62, but now they report only 5, and companies G, H, and K are now combined under one officer. (Can I identify this officer ?)
243. 12/25 Tabler and his buddies are suffering, nevertheless "Spent the day in the Old Shebang, reading my paper." If there are no supplies, surely there would be no mail deliveries, or would there ? Perhaps Tabler had carried it with him from Chattanooga ? If so, this would raise the question of how much soldiers would pore over old newspapers.
244. 12/27 Here is a note re the 42nd's assignment to guard a mill in the country. (Check this in other sources.)
245. 12/28 This is the first mention that I remember of recruiting for veterans. He mentions it again at 12/31, 1/4/64 and 1/6. Tabler reenlists as a veteran – RELUCTANTLY. On 1/6 he writes, "A great excitement raised about the veterans. Co. K all depending on me, and after much persuasion, and many promises, I enrolled as a veteran, being promised light duty during my time of enlistment."
246. 1/15 The latter half of January was consumed by Tabler's unit returning to Chattanooga.
247. 2/2/64 "The company was examined for the veteran service, several rejected, and I with the rest." THIS IS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO ME. Why was Tabler rejected ? I suspect it was because of his reluctant attitude. My birthday is February 2nd, Candlemas, and Groundhog Day.
248. 2/4 "Went upon Lookout Mountain and was well pleased with the scenery which presented itself." (Oddly stilted language.)
249. 2/7 "Getting ready to go north. My lot cast here." Then on 2/8 "The Regiment mustered into the veteran service." And on 2/10 "The Regiment started north." Tabler's entries at this time show that it was not pleasant to be left behind by his regiment.
250. 3/9 "Moved to the U.S. Sanitary Garden and put up camp and commenced gardening." Then at 3/17 "Nothing going on in the U.S. Garden but work." The United States Sanitary Commission was the precursor to the American Red Cross. Tabler worked in the garden until April 18th, and reports only three points of interest : Veterans going to the front at the rate of a thousand per day (3/14), a foot of snow on 3/22

which struck Tabler as very strange, and the fact that a Negro detail was working in the garden.

251. Tabler's Regiment left for the front, according to the A.A.G., on March 28th but Tabler did not rejoin his Regiment until April 18th .
252. 4/18 "Putting up the Garden's tent and returned to the Regiment." 4/19 "Promised a position in the Commissary Department." 4/24 "Carried the mail to and from Brigade Headquarters." 4/25 "Went and returned with the mail again." 4/30 "Issued five day's rations to the Regiment." Tabler is apparently in the Commissary Department now, carrying mail and packing up baggage etc.
253. 5/9 "Cannonading commenced in our front, and some wounded coming in ...". It sounds like Tabler is serving in the rear of the front lines. On June 1st, he is still delivering mail to the front lines.
254. 6/3 "Heavy skirmishing going on in front, and **the bullets falling around our tent**. The Rebs made a charge and drove in our skirmishers, but were driven back by the 51st, who deployed in fine order." 6/19 "Woke up and found that Johnny's gone again from our front. But we did not go far before overtaking them again, when a great artillery duel took place, and **a shell from the Rebs went through my tent**." Tabler's style of writing is so detached, it's difficult to decide whether he was in the tent when the shell went through it !
255. 6/23 Tabler's diary entries end just before the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, but at the end of the diary he has most of the month of January recorded in reverse order. These entries are probably the original entries, written in reverse because at the time he didn't know how much material he would write, before continuing the main body of the diary. This probably explains why he missed January 9th in the main body of the diary. It's interesting to compare the entries from the two places. First of all, we can plainly see the confusion of dates resulting from the omission of January 9th. Secondly, his original entry for January 6th makes even clearer his attitude towards reenlisting as a Veteran. "A great cry about Veteran troops. Co. K all went in, but myself, and after some persuasion and promises, enrolled my name as a Veteran." Tabler's **aloof attitude** is nowhere more clear than here. The Muster Roll for Co. K shows only nine Veterans, Tabler's name not included. Tabler stated at 2/2/64 "The Co. was examined for the Veteran service, several rejected, and I with the rest." It's impossible to interpret the exact meaning of his word "several", but it could mean as few as four rejected. If that were the case, Co. K, was reduced from the fifty-odd members, recorded at the end of the first diary, to a minimum of perhaps thirteen ! Thirdly, Tabler mentions, in the original entries, that two new flags have been received – probably Regimental flags.
256. End Tabler carefully lists the price of clothing again, which can be compared to the list

at the end of the first diary.

257. End Tabler's notes on Rosecrans' farewell speech, helps to correct the impression I got from some historical accounts that Rosecrans left the Army of the Cumberland quietly – almost sneaked away. He merely refrained from protesting his removal. Since we all hear, to a great extent, what we want to hear – Tabler's notes on the speech probably reflects his own opinions regarding politicians during wartime.