



April 26, 2005

Jim Lewis, Park Ranger
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Dear Jim,

Enclosed are multiple documents I have been able to gather regarding the life (and death) of Orlando Wells Nash, who died December 31, 1862 at the Battle of Stones River. The compelling story of local citizens travelling down to Tennessee to reclaim the body of Orlando W. Nash has been documented by two diaries and a newspaper article. One of the diaries specifically mentions the condition of the body, confirming a positive identification. Crystal Lake Cemetery records also confirm the burial in Crystal Lake on February 3, 1863.

The military records from Washington D.C. indicate that Orlando's personal effects were lost in the engagement. Which leads me to still wonder if his personal items were buried with another body, or perhaps just by themselves in the Stones River National Cemetery. Perhaps we'll never know.

On May, 22, 2005 the Crystal Lake Historical Society will be hosting a Memorial Service dedicating the newly-installed headstone for Civil War soldier, Orlando Wells Nash at the Crystal Lake Cemetery (now known as Lake Avenue Cemetery). I will forward a copy of the program booklet to you after the Memorial Service.

Thank you for your interest in our story of a young man, who lost his life serving our country. I hope to someday visit your Battlefield, and pay my respects to Orlando's "other" grave.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Kenney".

Diana Kenney, President
Crystal Lake Historical Society

A GIRL OF THE CIVIL WAR

By Martha Josephine Buck Harwood

This diary was written by Martha Josephine Buck, who lived on a farm in Algonquin Township near Crystal Lake. The Buck family moved from Elmira, Chemung County, New York to Crystal Lake in 1944. Martha provides us with a genealogical record of the Buck family, as well as a description of her life in Crystal Lake between 1844 and 1863.

The Buck family were members of the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake. In November 1863, Martha marries the church minister, Rev. James Harwood. Beginning with January 8, 1863, Martha begins to keep a detailed diary which provides us with an engrossing and lovely story of life in Crystal Lake over a century ago.

Her diary entry of February 5th 1863 provides some insight into the circumstances of the burial of Orlando Wells Nash, a Civil War soldier, who was killed at the Battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It was this diary entry which started my quest to find out more about Orlando Nash, and the discovery that his grave did not have a headstone.

The original diary is owned by Martha's great-grandson, Stanley Jones. Many thanks to Stan for permitting me to copy the diary's fragile pages and print this transcription for all to read.

Diana Kenney
Crystal Lake Historical Society

Thursday, February 5th (1863). It has been snowing nearly all day, -- and I think if we make a great deal of haste about it, we can manage to get a sleighride yet this winter. It can't be possible for it to last a great while. This has been a pretty busy week so far. I feel in my bones that it has. Tuesday the funeral of Orlando Nash took place. The corpse arrived the day before. It had been buried about 3 weeks when Mr. Brink got there. He gave \$90 for a metallic coffin and had the body taken up and brought home. It looked quite natural even after so long a time so those say who saw it. The coffin was not opened at the Church. There was a great crowd there. Mr. Harwood delivered an excellent discourse on the occasion.