

Wabash IN *Wabash Weekly Intelligencer*, 25 July 1861:

Wabash Boys Wounded.

Our Wabash boys [of Company E, "Relief Company No. 1," 8th Indiana Volunteer Infantry] were in the midst of the late battle at Rich Mountain. They stood fire like vet[e]rans[,] fought like heroes and lost not a man! They following brave fellows were however wounded:

Lemuel Cusick, wounded in the breast and arm.

Jacob Sailors, wounded in the arm.

James Barroth, slight wound in the arm.

Jesse King, slight wound in the thigh.

Cusick's wound is said to be severe but there is no doubt but what he will recover.

Later.

Since the above was written and put in type we have been favored with the perusal of a long and interesting letter from Capt. [Charles S.] Parrish, addressed to Hon. J. D. Conner, dated July 15th, at Beverly, Va. We learn from this letter that only a part of Capt. P's company was engaged in the battle; that our boys behaved nobly, not a coward being among them. Capt. Parrish says that Joel Emmett was killed as the company was rushing down the hill to charge the enemy's batteries. He died almost immediately after being shot. He was a good man, and a soldier, always prompt in the performance of duty. *In the action he [Capt. Parrish] observed him [Emmett] loading and firing with coolness and activity. When the troops were lying down on the ground the Captain cautioned them to remove the plugs from their guns. Emmett said to him, "Cap, I have one at the bottom of my gun that I want to get rid of."*

Cusick was shot through the fleshy part of the breast and arm. He and Sailors will be all right again in 30 days.

James Barroth and King although wounded have been on duty ever since the battle. The wounds of course, must be very slight ones.

The boys who were not in the fight were either on the sick list or performing guard duty. The Captain did his utmost to get them relieved so that they could be with the rest, but he could not succeed. Many of them he left on their post of duty with tears in their eyes because they could not join the expedition.

Frank Burs [?], A. N. Hoke, and Hipple were left in the hospital at Buckhannon.— The Captain says that he had just heard from them and they were recovering rapidly and would return home with the company.

Here is a list of those who were engaged in the battle:

Par[r]ish, Capt.; Thompson, [Joseph M.,] 1st Lieut.; Daily[,] 2d Lieut.; Warner, [Elmer B.,] O[r]derly. S[ergeant]., Lawshee[,] 3d Serg't; Williams, 4th Serg't; henley, Corp.; Bryant, Corp.; Lawrence, Busick, James Berroth [sic], wounded; Jacob Berroth [sic], Coburn, Cusick wounded, Cown, Dewland, J. Emmett killed, Faible[,] Hutchins, Harlow, Hess, Herneise, Hudson, Harlan, Jones, King wounded, Letherland, McGinnis, Miller No. 1, Miller No. 2, O'Brien, Polk, Stewart, Stout, Snyder, Sailors wounded, Wheeler, Wilson, Renicker, Harrison, of company E, 8th [Indiana] Regiment.

1 August 1861:

The volunteers, from Wabash county, who went to the wars under Captain C. S. Parrish and Col. [William P.] Benton, and who fought the rebels so gallantry at the battle of Rich Mountain, returned home last Saturday morning [28 July]. Almost every man, woman and child in Wabash together with a great many people from the country, assembled at the depot to give the boys a soul cheering welcome, and they did it. When the train arrived and the boys had filed out and formed into line, with the same flag that the ladies of Wabash had presented them a few months before, a shout arose from the multitude that made the

welkin ring. Everything like a ceremonious reception was dispensed with and as soon as the people could get to the boys they took possession of them.

This greeting was one of the most touching and beautiful sights that we ever beheld. Some hugged the boys; some kissed them, all who could get near enough shook them by the hand until they were nearly shaken to pieces. It was the perfect outgushing and overflow of hearty and genuine friendship and gladness. The boys felt glad that they were again among their friends, and everybody rejoiced to see them. A sumptuous dinner had been provided for them at the Indiana House. After the dinner had been disposed of in a manner that was perfectly satisfactorily to all, the boys were turned loose on the town, and during the afternoon they were the observed of all observers. Wherever one of them stopped a crowd of people immediately gathered to hear him talk and to examine his musket and the various curiosities which he had brought home with him. Almost every one had some memento of his campaign among the rebels of Western Virginia.—

One had a huge bowie knife which he had taken out of the belt of a dead rebel. Another had a letter taken from the side pockets of a rebel officer who was killed. The letter is from his wife and expresses the hope that would succeed in killing a large number of Yankees. The ball that killed her husband went through her sanguinary letter, and his own heart's blood dyed her writing. Lieutenant Thompson had with him a shell for a six pound cannon. The shell was found in the ammunition box of the rebel artillery. It was as perfect as it had come from the hands of the maker, and to those who had never seen one of these destructive missiles it was quite a curiosity.

The guns—beautiful Springfield rifled muskets—which the boys brought home with them, were likewise curiosities to those who had never seen one.

All the boys who left here three months ago returned with the company, except Emmett, who was killed, and Cusick, who was severely wounded. Cusick was left at Beverly, in the hospital, and hopes were entertained of his final recovery. Some of the volunteers stopped off at various points to visit their friends and only 65 returned to Wabash.

They have not yet been paid off and mustered out of service. They return on Monday or Tuesday next, to Indianapolis, for that purpose. Next week a recruiting office will be opened here and the company will be reorganized again for the three year's service. Some of the boys will remain at home but the most of them will again volunteer. They are bound to see this war through. All the privates speak in the highest terms of their officers. They say that their kindness, patience and forbearance will ever be remembered by them.

We almost forgot to say that the men and officers were in splendid condition. All were in excellent health, except Sailors, who was wounded, and all were in the best of spirits. They were very considerably browned by exposure to the sun and weather but their general health and spirits were excellent. A number of the boys told us that they had not been sick a day since they left Wabash. While they were in Virginia they had some hard marching, some hard fighting, plenty of hard labor, and not the best of grub. But they went through it gloriously, and many of them are in better health now than they have been for years. This is particularly the case with Captain Parrish, Lieut. Thompson and Mr. Van Buskirk, the Engineer.

8 August 1861:

[Reprinted extract from Indianapolis *Daily Journal* about injury of Lieutenant Colonel J. R. M. Bryant, 10th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, at Rich Mountain when a round from the Confederate 6-pounder exploded near him]

"His first and greatest injury was produced by the explosion of a bomb immediately over his head, and not more than two feet from it, during the battle, the concussion of which paralyzed him; and in falling he pitched down the hill and struck a rock, inflicting another but less serious injury...."

(Note: J. R. M. Bryant survived his injury and returned to Indiana. However, he never returned to the field and never fully recovered, dying in the Williamsport IN home of his daughter in January 1866. Bryant may have been the oldest man in the engagement—he was aged 60 when he received his commission.)