



William S. Bracken, Sergeant, Co. B, 97 OH Infantry, US

1842 Born in Pennsylvania to Thomas and Maria Bracken.

1850 September 11: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Cecil Twshp., Washington County, PA showed eight year old William living with his parents and siblings. His father was listed as a sawyer.

1860 June 9: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Spencer Twshp., Guernsey County, OH showed eighteen year old William living with his parents and siblings. He, his older brother, John, and his father were all listed as “farm laborers.”

1862 August 6: Bracken and his brother John enlisted in the U.S. Army. They were

¹ Photo courtesy of Mark Weldon

both mustered into Co. B, 97th OH Infantry.

97TH REGIMENT
OHIO VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY OFFICERS.
Captain—GEORGE EGAN, 3d Ohio.
1st Lieutenant—GEORGE HULL, 13th Mo.
2d Lieutenant—F. GIGER, 3d Ohio.

The Officers of this company have been in the service of the United States.

\$25, one-fourth of Bounty Money,
paid in advance.


One month's Pay paid in advance.
\$2 BOUNTY FOR EACH RECRUIT.

The Bounty Committee have a large amount of Funds in their hands which will be divided equally among the four companies to be raised in this county.

RECRUITING OFFICE in the Court House building, under the Auditor's office.
Muskingum Co July 29, 1862.

97th Ohio Regiment.
CALL FOR TROOPS.

Recruits Wanted for three years
service!



**One month's pay and \$25 of
their Bounty in advance.**

THE undersigned has been authorized to recruit for the 97th Regiment under the late call of the President, for the three years service.

Those who enter the service now will draw one month's pay in advance.

Office on Fifth Street, opposite the Zane House.
JOHN C RANDALL,
Zanesville, July 19. Recruiting Officer, U. S.

1863 January 10: Just five months after they joined the army John Bracken died of Rubella in Nashville. He was being treated in U.S. Gen Hosp #14. U.S. Soldiers that died in Nashville were buried in local cemeteries and later removed to the Nashville National Cemetery.

² The Zanesville Daily Courier, Zanesville, OH, Thursday, 14 Aug 1862, pg. 2(accessed newspapers.com)

February 28: Appointed Corporal.

March 29: A comrade from the 97th wrote a letter home. It gives a good understanding of the 97th's activity and soldier morale.

We are under marching orders now. There was a Brigade of our men who went out on a scout a few days ago, and the word came in to-day, that they were in contact with the rebel cavalry, and if they did not get reinforcements soon, they would have to surrender to the rebels, and old Rosy sent out two more Brigades and a lot of cavalry to assist them. We was ordered to prepare three days rations and be ready to move at a moments warning, but we have not been called out yet, and I hope we will not be for a while. This war is a terrible thing, but the Union soldiers are all united and are determined to put down this rebellion, let it cost what it may, and hope that it may be the motto of the people at home to put down the rebellion at all hazards. There is a great deal of talk about the traitors of the North, but I hope and pray that the Democracy of Ohio won't disgrace the Democrats who are in the army so much as to rebel against them, and against their homes. One half of this army are Democrats and will fight till the last man is killed before they will give up to the rebels. The majority of our best Generals are Democrats. General Rosy himself is a Democrat. We hope the reports are not true, and that our friends in the North think too much of their homes and families to turn tory to them. If they will turn out like men and shoulder a musket, we can soon fetch this rebellion to a close, and then they may be honored by generations to come, but if they resist, it will be a disgrace to them the longest day they live.

The best and only way that I can see is to turn out and whip the rebels till they are glad to yield to our government. To talk of a compromise is nonsense, unless the rebels will give up at reasonable terms, then it might do, but they wont do that. I will have to close as it is late.

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³ The Zanesville Daily Courier, Zanesville, OH, Thursday, 9 Apr 1863, pg. 2 (newspapers.com)

1864 November 30: William Bracken was killed in action at the Battle of Franklin in Lane's brigade, Wagner's division.