

JAMES BENTON REED (b. October 24, 1841 - d. September 18, 1875)
Motts Corners, Town of Caroline, Tompkins County, NY
109th Regiment, Company A, New York State Volunteers
CIVIL WAR DIARY
August 11, 1862 to July 24, 1865

Volume I - August 11, 1862 - February 2, 1863

[leather bound, approximately 4" x 6.5"]

*transcribed by Ann Townsend,
(JBR's great-granddaughter)
Petersham, Massachusetts 2013*

**Diary of J. B. Reed
Commenced Aug 11
1862**

**J. B. Reed
Mott's Corners.
[Tomp]kins Co.**

Volume 1st
Of the Diary of
J. B. Reed
Private, Co A
109 reg't NYSV

This Volume is
respectfully presented
to my parents, brother
+ sisters

By their son + brother
J. B. Reed
Co. A. 109 regt NYSV

Mon Aug 11th 1862

I commence my diary again this morning under peculiar circumstances. I have not written in a great while for my life has been a quiet one + now a change has come. I have enlisted in the army of the U. S. to serve three years. It is hard to leave home but the Union must be preserved + I must help put rebellion down.

(Evening) We started for Binghamton at eight oclock. There were tears + groans that will be registered in heaven for the loss of sons, fathers + husbands. O God when shall war cease + our land rejoice in the blessing of peace. We arrived in Bing[hamton] at one P.M. + after numerous delays were marched to dinner. Our first dinner as soldiers. We were then marched backed to town + I was called upon to assist in making out the papers. We were quartered for the night at a hall but I had the good luck to get a bed. So ends my first day as a soldier.

Tuesday Aug 12

This has been a busy day. First we had inspection + I passed the test, next the soldiers are sworn in-to the service + lastly we got furloughs until the 20th + start for home. We came to Owego on the cars + found that we were too late for the train for Caroline + much obliged to hire a four horse team to bring us home. We arrived home about midnight + I tell you there was joy + sorrow joy that we would meet again + sorrow that we must part so soon.

Wednesday Aug 13

I helped father about haying.

Thursday " 14

Continued the haying. We have fine weather

Friday Aug 15th

Made some settlements of my business + heard that we must go to Bin[*ghamton*]

Monday next

Saturday "16th

Went to Ithaca today to get my out fit. Mother + Father presented me with a handsome Bible. God help me to live according to its holy teachings. My sisters presented me with a needle book. May Heaven bless them for their kindness. We spent the evening at Cousin John Sears' + had a pleasant time.

Sunday "17th

Sunday. Well this is the last I shall spend at home in a good while. I made several calls, went to Sabbath school, + to church in the evening. I feel no fear about going + I hope to get back again. May God grant that I + all my comrades may return safe.

Aug 18th Monday

Well today I must leave. We went to Caroline Depot at eight. But tis hard to part with friends, hard to leave the kind counsel of a dear father or mother or to leave the blessed society of brother + sisters. But the good bye was spoken + soon I was whirling away from the home of my youth leaving all that was near + dear to me for the turmoil + danger of the camp. The rest of the day passed away without anything unusual.

Tuesday 19th

Passed my first night in camp, slept on straw with my clothes on. In the forenoon we marched down street + rec'd our uniforms. The boys are all well + we hear that the President has called for 300,000 more men. We learned that we must start for some place by Monday next. There is sin of every form here. O I hope + pray that the prayers of the loved ones at home may keep me from sin + my own prayer to God is that I may live the life of a Christian.

Wednesday 20th

I was not very well last night but I am getting better today. We had inspection today + dress parade tonight. We rec'd our dress coats today. Several of the boys are unwell tonight + I hope we shall move soon My prayer still is that we shall soon put down this rebellion + return to home again.

Thursday 21st

I have felt quite well today again + I think that it is better that I was sick. We had drill this morning + this afternoon I went down town to have some photographs taken. We had dress parade this evening + as I saw those brave men "fall in" + heard the soul inspiring music I felt proud to know that I was a soldier in the grand army of America + I thank my Maker that I am an American. Several of the boys are sick but nothing serious.

Friday 22^d

It has rained some today + is cooler. I feel first rate today + I than my Creator most heartily that I am well + I pray that I may have health + strength given me to bear every thing + be spared to meet those loved ones at home. I am tired of hearing where we shall go for today I heard that we were to go to Arlington Heights. In the evening we went to a war meeting down in Binghamton.

Saturday 23^d

Was a pleasant day + I feel well again. We had a parade of the whole reg't down town + it was a splendid sight I have met several friends today + the sight of their faces sent thrilling rembrances [sic] of the loved loved [sic] ones at home.

Sunday Aug 24th

Sunday. I awoke this morning with strange feelings of gratitude + pleasure + yet I felt a feeling of sadness, for I am away from home + friends, but I thank God that I have a home + kind loving friends We had service + review.

Monday 25th

This has been a busy day. We have had drill + pay + presentation of colors for the reg't + dress parade + a new Co came in + I saw many friends.

Tuesday 26th

Was a beautiful day + all is bustle + activity in camp for we are ordered to move tomorrow but we can't tell. We were called out to hear Kate Dean [?] sing + it was worth hearing. I rec'd a letter fr [sic] home to day + it was worth more than all the money I got yesterday, for it came from kind loving parents

Wednesday 27th

Was a very warm day. We were called out to be mustered into the service of the U. S. We will not move today yet but I guess we will start tomorrow.

Thursday 28th

Cooler + cloudy. We do not start yet. Rec'd a letter from Cousin Carrie [*Reed*] + a good, warm, friendly letter just like her. Went down town + had a good time. I hope we shall start soon. The prospect looks fairer now + the President of the US thinks the crisis is passed + I hope it is not that I want to get rid of fighting, but for the sake of humanity

Friday 29th

We hear that we are to start today for Elmira None of Co. A went to breakfast this morning We were marched down town + paid \$27 bounty There was something of a row in camp tonight The boys partly tore the cook room down.

Saturday 30th

We were ordered to pack up + be ready to start by nine oclock [sic] I got ready + at seven was ordered on guard at nine the reg't started + I was posted as guard on the cars.

We passed through Union, Campville, Owego, Boston, Waverly, + at Elmira we changed cars + I am still on guard but was relieved at sundown. We rode on on [sic] + got to William's port [sic] at midnight. We slept very little + awoke on the morning of the

Sunday 31st quite tired but feeling pretty well We rode slow all night + we had not reached Harrisburg in the morning We passed Harrisburg on the west + soon came to York, + at one P.M. we arrived in Baltimore + took dinner + heard some cheering news. Our route the past two days lay through a very rough country a part of the way + part of the way was splendid country but rough or smooth it was alike beautiful to me for all was the work of my Creator's hands + yet my heart turns back to the home of my youth, the roof that shelters all that is near + dear to me. This is the holy Sabbath, but how different from those spent in the old home. There the blessed day was ushered in by prayer + praise + here by the roar of the cars + strains of martial music. But I pray thee O Father in heaven that I may be guided aright through the rough path I must tread. My orderly just called me to see a "slave" (for we are in the land of bondage now) he introduced me to a colored lady I say a lady for I think she acted like one + she said she was one of a ~~thousand~~ hundred owned by a man (shall I call him a man or a devil) on the eastern shore. God grant that slavery may soon cease to be a blot on the bright flag of America.

Monday Sept 1st

We lay ~~every~~ all night at Baltimore in the Depot + at ten A M started for Annapolis junction. We got there about noon + took dinner on the grass They are fighting some where now for we can hear the roar of the cannon all the time The boys are anxious to get into it The news is favorable our troops are gaining ground.

Tuesday Sept 2^d

The news is still favorable + the troops are pouring through. We commenced to cook for ourselves today + it went very good. A report was around that guerillos [sic] were around + our arms were distributed + five rounds of ammunition + our guns were loaded.

Wednesday Sept 3^d

We slept in peace + safety + no rebels came to disturb us although some of the boys that were out of camp said that they fired on [sic]. We had battalion drill + Co drill in the afternoon. A part of the reg't was ordered toward Washington for guard + we were ordered to pack knapsacks.

Thursday Sept 4th

Had a slim breakfast this morning, nothing but meat + coffee + got clear of drill Went out to wash clothes + said I would not wash again if I could help it. Had a good dinner. Our troops have been driven out of Virginia. It was reported that the men who left yesterday had taken six prisoners There was a call made for volunteers to guard a bridge + I volunteered but the officer said he could not take so many from one town so I had to stay. Geo [*Reed- JBR's first cousin*] + I are alone tonight, the rest of the boys are on duty.

Friday 5th

I had to go on guard today rather tiresome work. Our men brought in some more prisoners

Saturday 6th

Felt rather dull but had to drill. We drilled on loading + firing + that was some fun. More prisoners today taken by our Co. The cannon have been roaring all day again but I don't know what for.

Sunday 7th

Again the holy Sabbath has dawned upon us as clear + bright as in the land of my birth, but it is not home. We have no work to do today except dress parade in the evening.

Monday 8th

We had drill as usual + it was a very warm day. Our pickets brought in some more prisoners. I am well yet + enjoying myself greatly.

Tuesday 9th

“Hot + dry” News. Stonewall Jackson in a trap + we for bait, hope he won’t knab [sic] us. I wrote to Amelia Leonard + Mary Winchell. Went on picket at night + did not sleep much. We had a fine time however but saw no rebels.

Wednesday Sept 10th

Felt quite dull + sleepy but had to drill. Bought a revolver, cost \$10. We had target firing + Addison Payne made the best shot. We hear no definite news as yet.

Thursday Sept. 11

Rainy + dull, got clear from drill. There was a train of Artillery passed this morning. I don’t know where they were going for they were going toward Baltimore. This looks as though there was danger north. Wrote a letter to Mrs. Amonder [?] [and] Mr. Whorter.

Friday 12th

Very hot. We had drill at double quick + in the afternoon as we were drilling, an order came for us to pack up + be ready for a start in three minutes + if Co A ever was prompt it was then for in a few moments, every man had his traps ready + knapsacks on, ready to move. We got in the cars + ran six miles toward Washington + then unloaded. Then formed in + marched farther toward Washington leaving guards for the road every few rods. ~~This~~ Our business is to guard the railroad + our line of pickets extended to

Beltsville from Contee's station. Geo. [Reed] Hiram [Reed, George and JBR's first cousin] + myself were stationed at a switch near an iron foundry. We got some milk at a house near by + this with our bread made a good supper for us. We then set the guard + were relieved every two hours.

Saturday 13th

Was a very fine day, cool + pleasant. I was awakened this morning by one of the corporals telling us that one of our Co was killed by the cars. Poor Robert Sage, was struck by the cars while asleep on the track + torn all to pieces. O what a fate for one so young. He was a kind hearted boy + much loved by the Co. But his soldier life is over + may God have mercy on his soul. Stricken down in the morning of life, while his heart beat high with hopes of fame + usefulness. His poor mother's heart will be almost broken. May his parents have assistance from on high. I thank God that my life is still spared + I pray Him to keep his protecting care over me + bring me back again to join the home circle + that we may be an unbroken family again. I have not rec'd any letters from home since one of the 28th of August. Our chance for breakfast looked rather slim this morning + Geo + Hiram went over to the store to buy something to eat. While they were there a gentleman came in + found out how we were situated + said that he would look out for our breakfast + pretty soon we were invited into his house + had a good warm meal + a nice visit with two fine ladies that seemed almost like mothers to us soldier boys. They would take no pay from us. May God bless them for their kindness to poor soldier boys. At noon the rest of the Co. came from camp + brought the tents. We pitched the tents on a pleasant place + commenced getting dinner but before it was ready we were ordered to fall in for picket duty. We moved down the railroad two miles + Geo, Hiram + myself took up our quarters for the night. Hiram was quite sick in the night. I took one prisoner, a man who said he was brakeman on the cars + had been left by the train. He was quite drunk + presented a sorrowful appearance. I rec'd a letter from Cousin Carrie but none from home yet.

Sunday Sept 14th

The sun rose this morning clear + bright + it seemed to me that it cast a holy light over the world. And as I sit here with my rifle leaning against me my heart is raised in prayer

+ praise to God for his wonderful mercies to me in sparing my life to behold the glorious light of the Sabbath. I wonder what they are doing at home now. I know they are thinking of me of their soldier boy. Our prisoner turned out to be a deserter, but owing to the neglect of the guard he got away. They have been fighting all day again.

Monday 15th

I took a ramble off from camp today. Nothing of importance happened except that they are fighting again today. We hear that our troops have the advantage.

Tuesday 16th

Cloudy + looks like rain. Good news from the army. McClellan's Army has killed 15 000 rebs + taken 17,000 more. "Bully". The Co has been divided into four squads + by the division our mess is thrown out of a tent until another comes, but I would rather lay out a month than have our mess divided. Geo has charge of our squad + we shall stay together. Well we are ordered out on picket, which I like well enough. W^m Lewis + myself are posted together + we stretched up an oilcloth blanket for a tent, for it looks very much like rain. No letters yet from home. I dont [sic] know what to think about it. A letter just now would do me more good than a thousand dollars.

Wednesday 17th

It rained very hard toward morning, but thanks to our good oil cloth we kept quite dry. We hear this morning that there is to be a vote taken in the reg't to know whether we shall go into active service or stay here + guard this railroad. I am sure that I am not particular, but we can do nothing until better drilled + it would be little better than murder to take the reg't into battle now. There came very near being a smash up here on the railroad last night. Two trains ran nearly together, but no damage was done. Geo + I went out + got a real farmers supper tonight + it seemed like old times. ~~Thursday 18th~~ I rec'd a letter from home today + I tell you I was glad they are all well.

Thursday 18th

Was a fine day. We moved camp today to a better place a short distance from the old camp.

I got a letter from Father today + a good one too. I was very glad to get it, but sorry to hear that Mother was not very well. I hope she will be well soon. God grant that she may. I wrote to our folks + to Mr. J. M. Hastings. Our troops have gained another important victory. [*Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862*] Gen [James] Longstreet is a prisoner + Gen Hill is either killed or a prisoner. We have heard heavy firing again today. When I got into camp I found out that I was detailed for camp guard.

Friday 19th

Was a fine day, cool + pleasant. I think I have great reason to rejoice for I rec'd another letter from Father. Thank God for such parents + friends + although I am far from the home I love yet the sweet society of friends is not altogether denied me although our intercourse is restricted to letter writing. We have a new eating arrangement now. The men all march to a table + eat what they want + live like human beings again.

Saturday 20th

On picket again today. It looks very much like rain. We put up a shanty to keep the rain off. I did not feel very well today, I had a severe headache + a high fever. The boys got some milk for supper + I ate some + it did me good. I shall never forget the kindness of Horace Smith + Hiram Reed. They would not let me stand on guard at all. God bless them for their kindness. It does not look so much like rain tonight.

Sunday 21st

I feel much better this morning + I hope I shall soon be well. The day is splendid + all nature seems glad to hail the holy day. God grant that I may spend it aright. We went to church in the afternoon nearly three miles from camp. The meeting seemed to be a spiritless affair. When we got back to camp we found out that there had been service on the ground + that there was to be service in the evening. I attended + we had a good sermon although the preacher was an unlearned man as far as the knowledge of this world is concerned [sic], but he had the spirit + power of religion in his heart + I felt the blessing of God coming down upon my poor heart as I listened to the divine truth.

Monday 22nd

Was a pleasant day. I felt much better today. Our Orderly + Lieutenant came back last night + brought me a letter from home. How sweet to hear from the loved ones at home, but how much [xxxx] sweeter will their loved society be when we get back again. We had drill + I answered our folks' letter. I rec'd a letter from Amelia E. Leonard [*JBR married her in 1867*] + a good one too, so full of life + hope to the soldier. We had dress parade in the evening + it was a great thing. Our Capt [*Benjamin R. McAlaster*] is quite sick tonight. I hope he will be better soon, for he is so kind to us.

Tuesday 23^d

We had a drill master from Headquarters + we had plenty of drill. The Major came here + said that there must be a camp guard + so that settles that matter. I drilled all day but I did not feel like it. We had a sermon in the evening from the Rev Mr. Gregg + a good one. Several spoke after him + then liberty was given to come to the altar for prayers + a good many came + some I believe were converted. God grant that our camp may soon be a camp of prayer + the profane oath be forever hushed.

Wednesday 24th

I woke up feeling pretty bad + could eat no breakfast, but I took a dose of pills + I hope + pray that I with all the soldiers may have health + strength given me to perform every duty as a soldier + a man. I am excused from duty today + I shall be very careful until I am better.

Thursday 25th

Still sick + unable to do duty.

Friday 26th

Still unwell. We are ordered back to our old camp we packed up in the morning + then had to wait for the train until near night + when we did get to camp I was so unwell that the Lieut thought I had better go to the hospital.

Saturday 27th

I felt some better but still unable to leave the hospital.

Sunday 28th

This morning the Hospital was so crowded that I got out but I still felt very weak + to make it worse the diarrhea set in + unless it can be checked it will run me down fast.

Monday 29th

No better as I know of but I am taking medicine that I guess will help me.

Tuesday 30th

[no entry]

Wednesday Oct 1st

I am no worse today + I don't know but that I am getting better.

Thursday Oct 2^d

I was obliged to report to the hospital this morning to get clear from duty. I think I am gaining at last again + I hope I shall soon be well + able to do duty.

Friday Oct 3^d

I think I am gaining but it is very slowly. The 50th reg't of Engineers passed last night + I would like to have seen some of them. I hope I shall soon be well. Got a letter from home.

Saturday Oct 4th

I feel much better today + I think I shall soon be well if they dont put me on duty too soon. I wrote a letter home + one to Laura Hungerford today. I am afraid that our folks will be worried when they hear that I have been sick.

Sunday Oct 5th

This has been a splendid day + all nature seems to praise its Creator and why not man raise his voice in praise + adoration to the great Ruler of the universe. Ah many think it a contemptible thing to worship God, but will they not call for His aid in a dying hour. Surely I feel that it is good to serve the Lord, + although I am one of the weakest of the weak yet I feel the power of God sustaining me daily. We had service in camp + a good sermon. I feel much better today + I think I shall soon be well.

Monday Oct 6th

I feel pretty well again but quite weak. I hope I shall soon be able to drill for I expect we shall have to fight soon. We are transferred from [*Major General John E.*] Wool's division to that of [*General Nathaniel Prentice*] Banks'. The boys have to drill pretty hard.

Tuesday Oct 7th

I feel quite smart this morning. We are ordered to pack our knapsacks + be ready for a move at a moments notice our destination is not known. Some say we are to guard the railroad from Beltsville toward Washington. But it makes little difference to me, although I would rather guard railroad than to go into active service for the work is so much harder in service than in guard duty.

Wednesday Oct 8th

I am gaining very fast now + were it not that I was so weak I should be able to do duty. My appetite is good again + I begin to feel like a man. Our Co is on guard today + get rid of drill but the Battallion [sic] did not drill a great while today, what the cause was I don't know. I am very anxious to hear from home for I expect that our folks will be worried about me when they hear that I have been sick.

Thursday Oct 9th

Our reg't is ordered to move twelve miles toward Washington but I am unable to march + carry my knapsack so I shall stay here + go down with those left here to strike the tents + guard the baggage. I rec'd a letter from Mother Father + Hermy [*Herman DeCarroll Reed, JBR's younger*

brother] this morning + I tell you it was worth a great deal to me. Our folks have been to Uncle Andrew's + he wants me to write to him + I shall do so at the first opportunity. I am gaining quite fast I think + I feel almost like a man again. I rec'd a letter from Amelia Leonard + also one from W^m Leonard. W^m wants to enlist as bad as ever. The weather has been fine in Tompkins + fall crops are good. Well the old camp looks deserted + I expect to go down on the six o'clock train. We got on the train + in a short time we were at Beltsville + then we had to walk about a quarter of a mile to camp. I soon got there + lay down + rested pretty good in the open air.

Friday Oct 10th

We rec'd orders to move our camp about a quarter of a mile + so we moved + we found our tents on the ground + we put them up + tore them down + then put them up again got brush to sleep on. We fared rather slim for eatables all day + I got rather hungry. I feel pretty well only I am rather tired. Our cook tent had to be moved way off a good ways from our Co + I don't like the arrangement at all. Well we got some bread + coffee for supper + after roll call we tumbled in for the night.

Saturday Oct 11th

It rained very hard part of the night but our tent did not leak on me + I rested first rate + I feel very good today. It has been rainy all day. We hear bad news from the hospital. Allen Gee of our Co is dead. He had the fever first + just as he was getting better he was taken with the measles + soon died. He was much thought of + I pity his brother [*Reuben Gee, also in Company A*]. We also hear that Mrs. Young the mother of one of our boys is dead. God comfort the poor boy + may he learn to rely on the power of that God who is able to comfort the mourner + bind up the broken hearted.

Sunday Oct 12th

Well this the holy Sabbath + a dull rainy day. We had Co inspection + service + a good sermon from Exodus 15th + a part of the 3^d verse + it reads The Lord is a man of war. Our Chaplain gave accounts of several battles of olden time where the Lord fought for his people + also several instances where the Lord fought for the just in modern times + he thought that the Lord was on our side in this war + would help us. God grant that He may be on our side + soon bring this

cruel was to a close. O Have I spent this day as I should? If I have not may my Father in heaven forgive me + bless me + make me a better boy. There has been quite an excitement || [p.44] here by the news that a body of rebel cavalry were near here + [sic ?we were issued] forty cartridges apiece + we are ready for them if they come. I dont feel much feared though we may have to fight. Our Co was called out + every able bodied man ordered to number but when I numbered the Lieut said I was not able to march + said I must fall out, but if the rebs come here I shall fall in + do my best by the grace of God. The boys are some of them writing, some singing, some laying down, + some cracking walnuts.

Monday Oct 13th

It rained [*words crossed out*] last night very hard again. We had no drill but had to strike our tents + shake them + clean up generally. Our Co + Co F were the only Co's that were up to time + the Col complimented us for it well the rest of the day passed off with nothing of importance + after roll call we lay down to sleep but all at once one of the boys run to the tent + called out "turn out boys the long roll has beat[?]" + out we scabbled helter skelter + fell into line capped our guns expecting to fight every moment. We got into line of battle then right faced marched off on a knoll + had drill about an hour + saw no rebs + then we marched back to the parade ground + rec'd the order parade dismissed, went to bed again + lay undisturbed til morning. I stood the drill pretty well but I was pretty tired when we got into the tent but I got rested out by morning.

Tuesday Oct 14th

Looked a little like rain in the morning + did rain some. I felt no bad effects of the drill last night. The officers have to drill in the forenoon. In the afternoon we had Co drill + I stood it well but I got some tired + awful hungry. We had one of the most splendid sunsets I ever witnessed. Heard that 30,000 rebs were in M D but I don't believe it. Our pickets took two rebs prisoners. I wish I could take half a million of them + stop the war.

Wednesday Oct 15th

Was quite a pleasant day. Our Co was on guard but I was put on water guard + so got clear of other duty + shall have the night for sleep. I feel well today + I think I shall soon be tough +

healthy. Some of the boys are in the tent now. Heard from Hi [*Hiram Reed*] today, he has had the measles + has got along well with them.

Thursday Oct 16th

Was a pleasant day. I was called out very early to carry water for breakfast. I done [sic] some washing today. Also rec'd a letter from J. M. Hastings.

Friday Oct 17th

It rained very hard last night + one tent blew down, but the morning was clear + beautiful. I rec'd a letter from J. Y. Young + one from Father. I was very glad to hear from home. Our folks had rec'd a letter from me that I was getting better + it relieved their anxiety greatly. Their crops are first rate. Potatoes are a good crop + there are lots of apples. I went out on battallion drill + dress parade + it did not tire me much but I was very hungry.

Saturday Oct 18th

Got a letter from Cousin Carrie this morning + I answered it + wrote a letter to Uncle Andrew. We have no drill today for tomorrow is general inspection + we must get ready for it well my gun + brass is ready + my coat soon will be. I worked nearly all day at cleaning up brass + guns + buttons.

Sunday Oct 19th

Last night was a cold frosty night, but the morning was beautiful. The inspection turned out to be nothing but Co inspection which passed off well. We had service + a good sermon from St. John 17th + 15th. Heard from Hi today. He is gaining slowly. We hear that the 141 reg't from N Y have laid their arms + say they are going home.

Monday Oct 20th

Rather cold + we had rather slim fare for the engineer of the freight train was shot + delayed the train six hours + our rations did not get here so we had to take it as we could. We had Co drill in the forenoon but the reg't refused to go out on battallion drill without anything to eat. Got a letter from home + one from Emery [*Lane*]. I answered the one from home.

Tuesday Oct 21st

Nothing of importance happened but the regular routine of drill + other ~~other~~ duty.

Wednesday Oct 22^d

We had Co drill in the forenoon. In the morning we had a good dish of cabbage + it tasted like home. We marched a bout a mile + a half in the afternoon to a field for battallion drill + we had a bully drill + got back so late that there was no dress parade. Our Capt has commenced at the head of the list to give passes.

Thursday Oct 23^d

Our Co is on guard today + I am No 11 2^d relief. We got some molasses for our breakfast + it went good with our bread. I got a letter from home while on guard + a good one too. It was rather cold part of the night + gloves would have come very acceptable.

Friday Oct 24th

When the light came this morning it showed the ground white with frost. Well another year of my life has passed + I am 21 years old, but how different my condition from what it was a year ago, then surrounded by kind loving friends + by the comforts of a farmers life + now ~~we are~~ I am far down in dixies [sic] land a soldier in the grand army, + living on soldiers fare. But I thank God that I have loving friends if they are far away. I rec'd a birthday present from home marked a birthday present to J B Reed from his mother + opened the box + found a warm pair of socks + Father sent me a pair of gloves, + in the same box some nice butter, some dried fruit, some jelly, some nice cakes + some sugar + a letter + our folks sent me five dollars in money.

Saturday Oct 25th

We are to prepare for general inspection today. We had a good dinner + some good butter + I enjoyed it first rate. I must try + get every thing ready for inspection for Co A had not ought to be behind. There is a rumor in camp that we are to go to Port Royal + I dont care for the more I move, the more I shall see of the world. We hear that M^cClellans [sic] army is laying still for

want of clothes + shoes but it is thought that a move will be made soon, at least as soon as the Potomac rises a few feet, + then I hope they will do something

Sunday Oct 26th

It looked very much like rain + at eight it commenced raining + rained steadily all day. We spent the day in reading, writing, + eating. I wrote three letters one to home, one to Albert Stoddard one of my old scholars + one to a particular friend + I hope I shall get an answer soon. We passed the day quite comfortably in the tent. I guess if it rains long enough that the Potomac will raise enough to suit little M^c + [sic]

Monday Oct 27th

We had the pleasure of seeing the sun again but the air was keen + cold. We had battallion drill in the afternoon which passed off well. I rec'd a letter from J M Hastings + another from W^m Leonard.

Tuesday Oct 28th

It was a very cold night last night + froze quite hard. I answered the letters I got last night. Had Co + battallion drill as before + were visited by the Col of the 141st N Y + he tried to make a speech but he was so drunk that he fizzleed [sic] completely. We were formed in a hollow square Col + other officers in the centre + we did a lot of cheering for the drunken old fool, more than I want to do again. Our Co did first rate on drill + I think we are improving very fast. McClellan is moving or at least Burnside's corps + Lee is retreating as usual. Heaven only [*knows*] where this cursed rebellion will end.

Wednesday Oct 29th

The night was very cold. I heard that Nelson Jansen of the 137th reg't was dead. I was well acquainted with him + we regret his loss greatly. I feel well + really tough again + I pray God that I may have health given and to perform my duty as a soldier + a Christian. We have to march about a mile for battallion drill. I never have regretted that I enlisted in the service + as we were marching to drill I felt proud that I was among brave men ready to do service for my country. I guess we shall stay here this winter but I cant tell.

Thursday Oct 30th

Our Co was on guard today. We have ~~two six reliefs~~ four reliefs now + it makes it much better for we have now two hours on + six off instead of four off. I was at post No 1 + had lots of fun. I got a letter from home + one from Emery Lane. It has been quite cold at the north. Pa has dug his potatoes + has a fine crop. We must go on general inspection tomorrow + I must get ready. We went out + got some bricks to build a fire place in our tent for it is rather chilly sometimes. We found some grapes also. I am afraid that the Democrats will gain the day in N. Y.

Friday Oct 31st

Was a fine day. We got ready for inspection + muster. We passed muster + the Lieut Col praised the looks of the Co + the general appearance. Got a letter from Cousin Carrie + I answered Pa's letter. We built our fire place all but the pipe + we want that yet.

Saturday Nov 1st

Another month has passed + yet no prospect of the war being brought to a close. There is some prospect of the 109th going to Texas + some that we will go to Fort M^cHenery [sic] but nothing definite as yet. There was no drill. I answered Emery's letter + also Carries.

Sunday Nov 2^d

The holy Sabbath has again dawned upon the world + found us alive + enjoying the blessings of God. The world looks beautiful this morning. The trees are clad in their gorgeous robes of autumn + the breezes are playing softly among their branches. But I am far from the scenes I love, far from home + friends. But I am here because it is my duty to be here + I believe that the hand of Providence will be over me. We prepared for Co inspection + then went out + heard prayer + the articles of war read + I wish some plan might be adopted to make every officer + man live up to them, for our camp is flooded with profanity. We attended worship again in the afternoon. We had service in the woods. We had an extra supper tonight. The cooks changed coffee for fish + we had a bully supper. I wrote to three of my scholars Willie + Allie Bougardus [sic -*Bogardus*] + George Pellam. I sit in my tent this Sabbath eve as the shades of night are gathering over the earth + I look upon the calm face of the moon as she rides in splendor above

the storms + sorrows of the earth. Perhaps my Mother + Father my sisters + brother are looking on the calm face of the moon even as I + breathing a prayer for my safety. God bless + keep them + Oh Father in heaven grant that we may meet again an unbroken family upon the earth.

Monday Nov 3^d 1862

We had Co drill as usual + struck tents in the afternoon + had to fix things up pretty nice. At dress parade we were ordered to strike our tents every morning at nine + pitch them at four P M. I got a letter from J M Hastings + answered it.

Tuesday Nov 4th

We had battallion drill in the forenoon + Co drill in the afternoon + the work at the tents. We have work now nearly all the time + tonight I feel tired. I wrote a letter to our folks + I am looking for one from them but dont get it yet. We drew rubber blankets today. They are a fine thing I think.

Wednesday Nov 5th

The day was rather cold + it looked rainy. We had Battallion drill in the forenoon. We put up our tents at one o clock instead of four for it was cold.

Thursday Nov 6th

Our Co is on guard today + the north wind blows enough to go through a fellow. It rained some in the night. I got a letter from Julia [*JBR's sister*] just at night + just as I was going on guard + I could not read it until I got back to the tent.

Friday Nov 7th

I went on guard at two in the morning + it was very cold + we had a pretty hard time. When I got back I found the boys scraping the bees off a lot of honey, of course I did not ask them where they got it. I then lay down + went to sleep + when I got up the ground was white with snow + it was snowing very hard + we had a sweet time at guard mounting. I answered Jule's letter today + we cooked a lot of onions for dinner. Our fire place is worth a great deal today. The rest of the Co see now that they were behind + are some of them building fire places today. I pity the poor

soldiers who have to lay out with nothing to cover them + poor clothes. O the misery brought onto the people of this country by this terrible war.

Saturday Nov 8th

It is warmer this morning + the snow is leaving very fast. One of our Co died to day at three o'clock, Addison Payne. He had inflammation on the lungs. I was well acquainted with him. He was a noble fellow + bid fair to stand the hardships of camp life. Just in the pride of manhood healthy + strong + in a moment cut down. What a lesson to all his comrades. With a brave heart he answered to the call of his country by offering himself + his young life has been given up a sacrifice to his country + another victim has been added to the list of this cursed rebellion. I went over at night to the hospital to help lay him out, but I was sent to camp for guard + did not go back again. The Co is going to send him home as that was his request. Our Co seems to suffer the most, but I pray God that all who remain may be spared to see home + friends. We enlarged + improved our fireplace today.

Sunday Nov 9th

Again the holy Sabbath has dawned upon us + found me alive + enjoying far more of the blessings of heaven than I deserve. While others are lying on beds of pain I am well + able to look abroad over the land + see the works of God. My heart swells with gratitude to God for the many mercies + blessings I enjoy. Although I am far from the home dear to me + the friends I love, yet I thank God that I have friends + home though "far, far away." As I stood guard over the remains of my comrade this morning + looked upon his pale calm face, on that young, noble brow + saw the stamp of manhood plainly there, + knew that he was a victim of treachery my heart was filled with indignation. The sun looked calmly down upon his cold cold form but soon the scene changed for the ambulance drove up + he was carried by rough though careful hands + placed in the ambulance + soon he was on the way toward home. But when his father meets him he cannot clasp the hand of his son, neither can the kiss of his mother be responded to. Oh parents thy son is cold in death. No more will his presence cheer the home of his youth. He went forth as a thrifty plant, but the cold hand of death has withered its leaves. Horace Smith is promoted to fourth corporal from private in place of corporal [*Charles W.*] Shaw who has been taken from the Co for hospital duty + Theodore Graham is corporal in place of Corporal

[Lorenzo] Bartlett who has gone home sick. There has been some reduced to the ranks in Co's B + C for bad conduct + their stripes were taken off them on dress parade.

Monday Nov 10th

We had drill again today + struck tents. We had some sport on battallion drill. We drilled in three fields + the road + it was sport to see two or three Cos jumping fences to keep up with the rest of the reg't. I got a letter from home + answered it. Just after dark there was an alarm given but it proved to be false. There was a temperance lecture in camp tonight. I did not go to hear it.

Tuesday Nov 11th

A pleasant day though quite cool. Got a letter from W^m Leonard + answered it. We hear that all commissioned officers now absent are ordered to their commands as soon as possible to get there, + by this I think something is in the wind. Battallion drill went off better than usual today + we had quite a show coming to camp. A new mode of carrying arms was adopted + called cross arms, made from right shoulder shift by laying the piece across the shoulders + resting the left hand on the muzzle + the right on the stock, forming with the body a complete cross.

Wednesday Nov 12th

The sky looks rather stormy today + I am afraid we shall have a hard time on guard tomorrow. I got a letter from Willie Bogardus + one from Albert Stoddard. I answered Willie's letter at night. By Willies letter the people of the Bell district seem to think a good deal of me as a teacher. Willie wrote some very nice verses to me. How well I remember the times we have had together. By the way Willie writes me that Miss Teeter is not married as I had heard but well, I dont know what difference that makes to me. I should like to see Willie + talk with him again.

Thursday Nov 13th

It rained last night but is warm + pleasant this morning. I answered Albert's letter this morning. One of the Caroline boys that has been home sick came to camp this morning on his way to his reg't, Levi Young of the 64th. He has a brother [Reuben Young] in our Co. I got a letter from home + one from Mary Winchell.

Friday Nov 14th

Was a pleasant day. We went out to fire our guns + I made the best shot except the Lieutenant's. We had a hard drill in the afternoon. I answered my letter from home. George is quite sick + is going to have the quinzey [sic] + I pity him for he suffers so with it.

Saturday Nov 15th

We had Co drill in the forenoon. George is worse + I fear will have a hard time. I answered Mary A Winchell's letter. We prepared for inspection in the afternoon.

Sunday Nov 16th

Another week has passed with its labors + duties passed into eternity. How time flies. Three months ago ~~tonight~~ day I spent the holy Sabbath at home. home Ah sweet word to a soldier's ear. A part of the 50th reg't [N. Y. Engineers] passed this morning + I saw the two Snow boys [Alfred and Harrison] + Frolic [sic - Luzerne Fralick], Hiram Vandermark, Chirky [sic - Charles] Personius + James Mandeville + Capt [Walker V.] Personius. I was well acquainted with all of them + it seemed good to greet old friends again. George is some better today. Passed inspection. Wrote a letter to Amelia Leonard. Tonight I sit here in my tent + write of this poor life, hoping that the cloud of war may soon pass away + I be able to look upon my soldier life as passed + gone.

Mon Nov 17th

Rather dark + cloudy + rained before we went on battallion drill. We drilled by bugle calls in firing with blanks. I got a letter from home with two dollars in it which was very acceptable.

Tuesday Nov 18th

Rainy but we drilled as before + our guns look sweet I tell you. Answered the letter from home. Geo is nearly well again. We had quite a row this morning about bread, + a lot of the boys went to the Col + complained about their allowance + I guess things will go better now.

Wednesday Nov 19th

It rained most of the day + we had no drill but Co drill + we spent the rest of the day in reading + lounging. Tonight bought a mess of sweet potatoes for breakfast.

Thursday Nov 20th

Co on Guard + it rained nearly all day, + our tent leaked pretty much all that fell on it. Had the sweet potatoes for dinner + they were good. Got a letter from Carrie.

Friday Nov 21st

We had a fine time guarding last night. It rained some today + was real cold. Answered Carrie's letter. ~~Saturday 22^d~~ Got a letter from Emery Lane + wrote one home.

Saturday 22^d

Answered Emery's letter. Nothing of importance happened.

Sunday Nov 23^d

Cold + dreary. Had Co inspection, + the articles of war read to the reg't what is left of it. There are only five Cos left the rest are on the railroad. We rec'd orders at night to be ready to march to Laurel at seven tomorrow morning. I guess I will be ready.

Monday Nov 24th

I was ready to march at six. We started at half past seven + got to laurel at half past nine + I went on guard as soon as I got here, but was relieved + went to work. The 141st reg't left today + we take their barracks. They will need a good deal of work to make them right. I worked all day + then went on picket at night on the railroad. Got two letters from home + one from Savilla McWhorter.

Tuesday Nov 25th

We had a pretty hard time last night + I did not sleep an hour. We were relieved about nine o'clock + went to breakfast + then to work on the barracks. Co F came here this forenoon. We have got our house quite comfortable. Wrote a letter home.

~~Frid~~ Wednesday Nov 26th

It rained some last night. I slept in the new bed + if I ever rested + slept sweetly it was last night. We worked on the street + built a table. I wrote to Savilla M^eWhorter. We ate in the house tonight + it seemed like home, + tonight we soldiers are gathered around the table writing some in their diaries + some letters home.

Thursday Nov 27th

We had no duty to perform as it was Thanksgiving. Some of the boys got a box + we had a Thanksgiving supper + a very good time. The band came to serenade the Capt + Co. I got three letters, one from Willie Boug [*Bougardus*] one from Johny [sic] Stoddard + one from W^m Leonard. I answered Willie's. The Capt + Uncle James [*Roe*] came back last night + I heard right from home.

Friday Nov 28th

Went on fatigue duty in the forenoon. Co C came here today + we had to leave one pleasant house and take one to build. We worked hard all day + tonight we have got so we can stay but it will be cold. I got a letter from home one from Jos Young + one from Albert Stoddard. The letter from home gave the welcome news that a box of goodies was on the way for us + pa sent me some soap as the boys call money.

Saturday Nov 29th

Co A on guard today. We worked on our house when we had time. We had to take up a drunken man + put him in the dungeon. Got a letter from Mary Winchell + one from Emmie Wolcott.

Sunday Nov 30th

It snowed some last night. We had inspection + had to work to get ready for it. Went to church in the village which via [sic] is a very fine one. Heard a good sermon from Deuteronomy 8th 2^d. I wrote four letters one to Home, one to W^m Leonard, one to Albert Stoddard + one to J. G. Young. Another holy Sabbath has passed + I am still alive the spared monument of the mercy of God.

And have I spent this day as I should? Ah I fear I have not. O Father in heaven give me a pure heart + higher holier desires. May my life be in accordance with thy holy will.

Monday Dec 1st

It rained hard last night + this morning + today there is plenty of mud. We got a box of eatables + clothes from home today + they were thankfully rec'd. I got a new best pair of mittens + two pairs of drawers, besides lots of butter, chickens sauce apples dried fruit + cake. It is a consolation to us poor soldiers to know that we have warm hearted friends at the north. I got a letter form home with some stamps. I wrote a letter home + one to Mary Winchell. I hear by my last letter that Mr. A. Lane + Mrs. C. Stevens are joined in the holy bonds of hemlock [sic]. May they live long + enjoy life as well as is possible for mortals.

Tuesday Dec 2^d

We are on guard today. The guard was taken off at nine + put on at one. The men are building some more barracks.

Wednesday Dec 3^d

Wrote a letter home + one to cousin [Tom?] Wolcott. I have read the Presidents message + it meets my views exactly. I look for a speedy termination of the war. If the south does not fall in with the proposition of the President I think that they are rushing on to certain destruction by continuing in rebellion against the Government.

Thursday Dec 4th

I worked on a hut for the Chaplain. It has been a very pleasant day. Hi came up from the hospital + he looks quite well. Geo was on guard + I went up to Savage cross roads to take him his supper. After roll call something frightened our courageous officers + an extra guard of forty-two men was called out + I am among the rest. The most of the officers were drunk + arrested.

Friday Dec 5th

Came off guard this morning + by standing two hours in the night I got sick of going on guard today. It comenced [sic] snowing about noon + we had a splendid storm. About eight oclock in

the evening some of the boys commenced throwing snow-balls against the doors + broke one door in. We got ready in two barracks at once + at the word rushed out + after one volley of snow-balls they run [sic] before us + scattered so we could not find only one in a place. I took after a great tall fellow + after chasing him down in another Co street he turned + threw one ball at me but did not wait to get but one from me in return. The fray soon ended + we went to sleep.

Saturday Dec 6th

It is clear today but the wind howls around the barracks + goes romping off kicking up the snow + making the unfortunate guard wrap his coat closer around him + cast anxious glances toward the guard house for the relief. I sit here on the edge of my bunk + enjoy a good fire + think of home + think of those who are thinking of the soldier boy.

Dec 7th

Sunday I am on guard today + on the railroad it is very cold + it is rather tough to be out so long.

Monday Dec 8th

Cold yet. I got a letter from Carrie.

Tuesday Dec 9th

I worked on a house for the Capt + Lieut. Heard from Hi he is getting better. Got a letter from home + answered it + also answered Carrie's. It is warmer today.

Wednesday Dec 10th

On guard today. The day was pleasant but very muddy.

Thursday D [sic] 11th

Got a letter from home + one from Emery Lane. Emery's brought the news that my sister Sarah had experienced religion. God grant that it is so. I answered the letter from home. We hear that death is abroad in the land + the soldier is not the only one exposed. We heard that Burnside had opened fire on Fredericksburg.

Friday Dec 12th

Got a letter from Cousin Emma L. Bush. I had a couple pictures taken today in my uniform + with my arms + equipment on. We had battallion drill this forenoon up through the town + through the mud. Wrote a letter to Cousin E. L. Bush. We hear that Burnside has taken Fredericksburg + burned a part of it + that Franklin has crossed the river + holds the place.

Saturday Dec 13th

On guard. There is a double guard today + the orders are to let no one pass for three days to come. I guess some thing is up + there is some talk of going into Virginia. The weather is warm + pleasant, but it is very muddy. No further news from the army. I sit here alone tonight to write for a part have gone to bed + one guard + I must soon start on a lonely tramp over the railroad, but then such is the soldier's duty + although I would like to lie down to sleep I will do the duty cheerfully + sleep the harder when I get back.

Sunday Dec 14th

Another Sabbath has come. O how swiftly time flies here in the camp. We had Co inspection this morning. No church today. We heard that Burnside has driven the rebs + I hope he will continue to drive them. The day was fine. I wrote a letter home + sent my picture to them. I guess that they will see some change in my looks for I never weighed as much as I do now.

Monday Dec 15th

Today all are on guard except me as I am nearly alone. I wrote a letter to [*Geo?*] Stevens + one to Laura Hungerford. I got a real good letter from home, with a small bouquet of rose geranium. No reliable news from the army today.

Tuesday Dec 16th

Wrote a letter home. I am on guard today. Pa talks of coming to see me this winter. O how I wish he would come + how I want to see all the dear ones of home. O Father in heaven, grant that this unnatural war will soon end ~~that~~ At times I feel almost discouraged, but I believe that God is on our side + that all will be right in the end. Some of the Tompkins Co Men are here, all

strangers but Mr. Truesdell. He called to see us tonight. We hear that the Tompkins Co Bank is broken.

Wednesday Dec 17th

Rec'd a letter from Mary Winchell + one from John Stoddard. I answered Stoddard's letter.

Thursday Dec 18th

Wrote to Mary Winchell. Rec'd a letter from Laura Hungerford. I was on guard. Burnside has retreated across the river.

Friday Dec 19th

Wrote to Laura Hungerford + rec'd a letter from home + one from Savilla M^eWhorter. We hear that our loss at Fredericksburg is 18500 killed + wounded. We hear also that Burnside has resigned. I can't see how things will work. The President has called for 900 000 [?] more men + I think he will have to draft them. Later we hear that Sec Seward has resigned. I wrote a letter home.

Saturday Dec 20th

Wrote a letter to Savilla M^eWhorter. It is very cold today. I was on fatigue duty, building a house for Lieut [*Charles O.*] Mead. Horace Smith has been to Baltimore to see his brother who is in the hospital sick. He saw Charley Stoddard there sick too. I think I must write to his parents about it. O the horrors of this terrible war.

Sunday Dec 21st

Sunday has come again + it finds me well except a silght [sic] attack of sore throat. It is clear + cold today. I am on guard on the railroad. There is a petition around to have our rations raw + cook them raw.

Good night good night dear friends at home

A stranger here I roam alone

Far from the friends I love so dear

And all that used my heart to cheer

Ah friends at home I think of thee
Your soldier boy so far away
Thinks of his home + happiness
That he enjoyed in time of peace

Those happy hours are past + gone
O will they ever come again?
Will peace e'er bless our land once more?
And war + strife be known no more?

Will mothers tears be ever dried
And fathers ever cease to sigh?
O God we pray Thee haste the day
When the clouds of war shall pass away

Monday Jan 26th

Worked on Lt's house today. Got a letter from Emery Lane + one from W^m Leonard + answered them. The paymaster came into camp today + payed [sic] us. Our Co. was last + it was midnight before we got back to our bunks. I rec'd \$22.10. There was a mistake about the date of my enlistment + I lost about \$5.00 but let it go.

Tuesday Jan 27th

It is wet + rainy. The day passed all quietly + at night went out with the patrol as corporal. Had some fun but took no prisoners. W^m Lewis is no better + I fear he will have a hard time.

Virginia's soil has drank the blood
Of soldiers true + soldiers good
The breeze sighs softly o'er their graves
In the land they fought + died to save

~~Though clouds of war shall hang above~~

Though clouds o'erhang the land we love
Yet trust in God + look above
The clouds may break + pass away
And peace again will bless the day

The soldier to his home return
To bless the love of those that mourn
~~And~~ The bonds of love be bound again
And pleasure take the place of pain

Monday Dec 22^d

We had our ration dealt out raw this morning + we had some sport about it. Hi came up from the hospital today. I sold my watch for eight dollars to A [Marse?]. Got a letter from home + one from Willie Bougardus, answered Jule's letter + sent for some money. I am to cook this week + the boys do my duty.

Tuesday Dec 23^d

There is some talk of our Co being ~~detached~~ detached + sent down in Virginia. I think if we leave the reg't we shall not join it again. I bought a watch today of Don Cutter for thirteen dollars + I wrote home for some money.

Wednesday 24th

On guard today. I rec'd a letter from home. At night just as I was reading my letter the orderly came + said that I was detached for special service. Twelve men were detailed + a sergt + corp. We fell in + then found out that we were to go to Savage to keep order at a ball. We went through at double quick almost + when we got there there had been one fight. The convalescent soldiers from the hospital at the Junction were there in great numbers. The ladies part of them got mad + left + then the dance went on + we stood around out of doors a good while + then we went in the upper part of the building + I slept a few moments + then we started for camp but before we got off the row broke out afresh + we were ordered in to clear the room. The ladies all left + we formed in the back part of the room + moved forward. We drove them two thirds of the way

across the room + then the serg't made up his mind that he had no right to drive them out + we left. Got to camp about one o'clock. Well this is the first ball I ever attended + I hope it will be the last.

Thursday Dec 25th

Well Christmas has come again + I am still alive but how different is my condition from what it was a year ago + where will I be next Christmas. I went hunting in the forenoon, but shot nothing. In the afternoon went up town + looked around some. At night I wrote a letter home. Merry Christmas to all + to all good night.

Friday Dec 26th

It looks rainy today. The wind changed + our stove smoked so had to put out the fire. I got a letter from Hastings. It is raining tonight. All quiet yet in the army. Wrote a letter to Hastings.

Saturday Dec 27th

On guard today. Warm + pleasant. Lieut Mead sent for me to come + see him but I cant go for I am on guard.

Sunday Dec 28th

I had to go on patrol this morning from half past seven until half past ten. The sun rose clear + calm this morning + as I walked slowly toward Contee's I thought of the Sabbath at home. O how I would like to be home today, + go to the church with our folks. If I live to get home I think I shall enjoy its blessings. O that this war was over + we be free again. We went to church up town. Afternoon went to see Lieut Mead + he said he wanted me to take charge of his things in camp + go on + build his house + then live with him all winter. I rather think I have a job on hand.

Monday Dec 29

Dug a cellar in Lieut's house + banked it up. I find there is nothing to work with here + I dont see any prospect of there being any. ~~Tuesday Dec~~ Got a letter from home + answered it.

Tuesday Dec 30th

Worked a little at Lieuts house but it goes slowly. We are to have inspection + muster tomorrow. There was a general order to have everything bright + in order so I must brush up some. Had a battallion drill today. It rained some + is very warm. I never saw such weather for winter. News discouraging from the army.

Wednesday Dec 31st

Colder today. We had general inspection + muster. Our Co is very healthy now we have only four men in hospital. Rec'd a letter from home + one from Emery Lane. Wrote home. It does me good to get letters from home but I would much rather be at home + talk with them. Father talks of coming to see me. In the evening was called on to go down to the hotel + help arrest some drunken men. Got along without trouble.

Thursday Jan 1st 1863

Well another year has gone + a new one commenced. How time flies. I remember how well I enjoyed last New Year + where I am now + where I may be next New Year. Last New Year I was at Uncle Andrews + enjoyed it so well, + now I am here a soldier. What changes take place. The scholar or teacher of last year is a soldier now. Those full of life last year are now laid in the cold tomb. We had battallion drill in the afternoon + the Col complimented us on our healthy + fine appearance on inspection. He also read or caused to be read some very strict orders about guard duty + it all comes by a lot of lawless men who go out of camp + get drunk as [illegible] + the innocent must suffer. I rec'd a letter from John Stoddard. His brother Charley of the 137th died lately in hospital at Baltimore with fever. How that reg't does suffer. Another family must mourn the loss of their dear son. Another mother's heart filled with sorrow. O God when will this war cease + peace reign again?

Friday Jan 2^d

On guard today. Wrote a letter to John Stoddard.

Saturday Jan 3d

Went on Co drill + Battallion. We are drilling quite hard again. The Lieut Col has command of the ~~pos~~ post now instead of the Major.

Sunday Jan 4th

The first Sabbath in the new year has come. It is a dark cloudy day + the wind howls mournfully around our huts. Once I could say around my home, but Alas! I am far away now, from that happy pleasant home. Although it is not furnished with elegance, although it is nothing but a little brown cottage nestling among the trees, yet it is dearer to me than the most gorgeous palace. Yes dearer to me, for it is the home of my boyhood, the scene of all my boyish joys + pleasures. Its roof covers those nearer to me than life itself + I love them next to my God. Ah loved ones at home your soldier boy think [sic] oft of you. And as he sleeps the sleep of a soldier, visions of that happy home visit his mind. He dreams that his toils as a soldier are over + that he throws his knapsack down for the last time. Once more he feels the warm embrace of Mother + Sisters + hears the blessings of Father + Brother. In the midst of such happiness he hears the loud ~~revillee~~ revillee [sic] + springs up to find all a dream + he a soldier still. O God I earnestly + humbly pray thee to stop this murderous war + may the reign of peace again bless the land. Families be reunited + the groans of the wounded cease forever over our once happy land.

Monday Jan 5th

Worked on Lieuts house + went to cut some timber for it. Rec'd a letter from home. They sent me two dollars + there is a box coming for us. Answered their letter. We hear that Rosencranz [sic - *Rosencrans*] has whipped the rebs in Tennessee + that our men have possession of Vicksburg. This clearing the Mississippi.

Tuesday Jan 6th

Went with the teams after lumber. It rained in the afternoon. Our box came through all right. There was a letter for me + cake pies candles chicken +c. + all of the best. One cake in particular was splendid. It had nice candies on it + a wreath of myrtle around it + there was butter + pop corn + all other danties [sic] that we could ask for. It is a proof that we are not forgotten. May

Heaven shower her best blessings on them for their kindness to us poor rascals. I wrote a letter home. I expect to see father soon. I hope he will come to see me. ~~Wednesday Jan 7th~~

Rec'd a letter from Carrie + one Em Wolcott + wrote a letter home.

Wednesday Jan 7th

Rec'd a letter from J M Hastings + one from W^m Leonard. Wrote to Carrie + Em. Worked on Lieut's house. Got it all chinked but one end + ready to put the roof on.

Thursday Jan 8th

Rec'd two letters from home + very interesting ones. Our folks have been to Mr. Hungerford's visiting + *[illegible]* rec'd some rare compliments for the soldier boy. Herm sent me a diary of a weeks proceedings. Father sent me ten dollars. I wrote home + to W^m Leonard. We put the roof on the Lieut's house + he seems well pleased so far. We hear that Rosencrans is defeated but I dont believe it. Yet.

Friday Jan 9th

It snowed some last night + it is rather cold this morning. I went on drill this forenoon + we took the first lesson in bayonet drill. I like it first rate. The news of Rosencrans' defeat is contradicted + he is giving the rebs all sorts. He has driven them eight miles beyond Murfrees borough *[sic - Murfreesboro, Tennessee]* + is driving them still. We hear that Fremont is ordered to clear the Mississippi of rebs + I think if any man can do it he can, but as soon as he does something I suppose they will recall him + so all will be for nothing. Perhaps I am too faithless, but I think I have a reason to doubt the capacity of our leaders from the fact they use men + money + all to no advantage. Tonight I am reading the Psalms. The poets of modern times may try to imitate his sublime poetry, but their efforts are all in vain for the Divine inspiration is far beyond the efforts of man's feeble mind. Since I have been a Soldier I have read the New Testament + the book of Job.

Saturday Jan 10th

It snowed some last night. Went on drill this forenoon. A little girl came here this morning, the one that gets our washing + wanted bread for our washing. We get barely enough for ourselves +

I wish I could supply the needy but I am poor enough myself + placed here where I can do nothing + we get no pay at all.

Sunday Jan 11th

This has been a dark cloudy day — it is very muddy. I tried to get out to go to church but could not get a pass for the Orderly was gone. We had inspection of arms only. It rained in the evening. I went to see B [*Benajah*] Strong + [*Samuel*] J Vail [*Co. F, 109th Regiment*] + had a good visit.

Monday Jan 12th

Lieut Mead came over from town + wanted me to go + fix a pump up town. I got a pass + Hi Reed + I went over. We had quite a time. Went on Battallion. Got a pass + went up town to church in the evening + enjoyed it very much. The preacher was not afraid to talk some to soldiers. ~~Tuesday Jan~~ Got a letter from Home + one from Mary Winchell.

Tuesday Jan 18th

Wrote a letter Home + to Mary Winchell. I put the mud on Lieut's house today.

Wednesday Jan 14th

Got a letter from home + a good long one too. Father talks still of coming to see me. I answered their letter. Went on drill as I had nothing else to do + I want to improve my drill as much as I can. The boys went to church but I did not go.

Thursday Jan 15th

It looks stormy today. I went on guard as I have nothing to do. It rained in the night. I got a letter from Willie Bougardos [sic] + one from S M^sWhorter.

Friday Jan 16th

Wrote to Emery Lane + to Willie Bougardos + wrote a composition for the paper on the hill. It was real cold. We went on drill as usual. The small pox is getting quite a hold up town + we cant

get out of camp any more. Our Orderly came back today + D Cutter with him. I paid Cutter eight dollars on my watch.

Saturday Jan 17th

This morning Orderly gave me a package from home. I got a letter some books + a paper. Our folks want me to get a furlough but I dont think I can + if they see me very soon I think they will have to come here. Lieut Mead sent a requisition to me for lumber + wanted me to see to it. As there was [sic] some prisoners to take to the Junction I went as guard + presented the requisition. Wrote a letter home. We hear that there is to be a general inspection tomorrow. Got ready for inspection.

Sunday Jan 18th

Clear + Cold. Inspection passed off first rate + the Lt Col gave us a great compliment. The Lt Col inspected our tents + said that ours looked very well. But what are compliments worth when we are longing to see those our hearts hold dear, when we are longing to see the home roof + once more enjoy the blessed influence of home. But when shall this war cease + we be permitted to enjoy these blessings.

Sunday In The Army

The Sabbath morn again has come

The sun shines clear + bright

But I am far from the humble home

That used to bless my sight

The sounds I hear this morning bright

Are not what I used to hear

The song of praise sounds not from the height

Of my mountain home so dear

I only hear the drum + fife

On the clear still Sabbath air

The cry (turn out ye soldier boys)
For inspection time is near

With knapsacks packed + rifles bright
We soon fall into line
And march away to drum + fife
Until inspection's done

And when inspection time is oer
And we go back again
Not to the homes we loved of yore
When bright was friendships chain

That home I loved is far away
And the friends I loved so dear
But hope still has a feeble ray
That we may meet again.

Yes meet again when was is o'er
And peace shall bless our land again
And we can tell our hardships oer
Our pleasures sorrows + pains

When we can gather once again
Around the old hearthstone
And read + sing as we have done
In times that's past + gone

At Dress parade an order was read which gave us much sorrow. Our Orderly + Corp Cutter were reduced to the ranks for being absent without leave. I can say nothing about the justice of the order, but I can say that we never will get a better Orderly than he was. And I hope that he will

soon be placed in his old position + I think it will be done for there is not a man in the Co but that likes him + will do all for him they can. I wrote a letter to Savilla M^cWhorter. We had a good time tonight singing + it seemed almost like home but I could not hear the voices of Mother + my sisters.

Monday Jan 19th

Went on guard this morning + Hi + I were sent to Annapolis Junction with some prisoners + they were sent back with us again. We received some rather saucy talk from a citizen + we shut him up very soon. The officer of the Guard detailed two more men in our places + I guess we wont have to do any more duty today. Got a letter from Cousin Emma Bush.

Tuesday Jan 20th

Got a letter from home + answered it + answered Cousin Em Bush's letter. A lot of our boys would not go on Co drill + I suppose that they will have to go to the Junction. It looks very stormy. There were two large fires in sight one in the direction of Annapolis city + the other toward Washington. An extra guard was detailed to guard the turnpike bridge but saw nothing.

Wednesday Jan 21st

Woke up this morning + it was storming very hard + Bill Lewis was completely drowned out + the roof leaked very bad. The day has been a very dull one for it has stormed all day. I pity the guard today.

Thursday Jan 22^d

It is stormy yet + the mud is plenty deep enough. I felt rather mean today as I have a miserable cold + my head feels like a big brass kettle full of hot water, but I guess I shall be all right some time. Wish I was to home to get some ginger or mint tea. I guess that would cure me if Mother could feed it to me, but then that Mother is far away, but I know that she is thinking of me. I laid the floor to Lt's house. Tonight Geo Hi and myself sit here writing + talking of old times. I wonder if we shall ever enjoy home comforts again? I believe I shall + I hope we all shall. This afternoon three hundred cavalry passed going to Baltimore. It seems that old reg'ts are to be withdrawn + the new ones sent to the front.

Friday Jan 23^d

Woke up this morning feeling rather slim + did not rest much all night. Went to the Surgeon + was excused + he prescribed quinine the old fool. I gave the quinine away + felt much better at night. It has cleared off today + looks like better weather. Got a letter from Home + I guess Father will come to see me. Mother wrote me a real good letter + Herm wrote a diary + sent to me of a weeks doings.

Saturday Jan 24th

I feel first rate today + worked on Lt's house + got a good start. I guess I shall get it done soon. Got a letter from J M Hastings. I am sick of doings at the north. They are having a fine time electing a speaker in the House + the Dem's declare if the Republican candidate is elected they will kill him before he gets into the chair although he is a Dem [sic] but a good Union man. I guess they had better send the 109th up there to keep order. I would just like to stick my bayonet into some of those northern rebs. We hear rumors of Burnside's movements + of some severe fighting but nothing definite.

Sunday Jan 25th

Well the holy Sabbath has dawned again. W^m Lewis is quite sick + we took him to the hospital. I hope he will soon be well again. Got rid of going on inspection by taking him to the hospital. Wrote a letter home. Had dress parade. The day has been beautiful + as warm as summer. I feel well today. The sun has gone down + twilight is stealing over our little village. Here + there are groups of soldiers talking of the war + of home. Once in a while I hear a burst of laughter as some one makes a funny speech or tells a humorous story, + Alas! too often I hear the profane oath, swelling on the pure sabbath air. O how can men endowed with reason + intellect so abuse themselves + their God as to take his holy name in vain. Men that are hastening to Eternity hastening to judgement [sic], + yet so reckless. I would that they might see the error of their ways + turn to the true God. But still the laugh goes on + the horrid oath is heard. O God hasten the day when war shall cease + the evils of it be forgotten, + when the young shall be restored to the influence of home. Perhaps the prayers of some parent or the winning kindness of some sister may lead some erring soldier back to the path of duty.

Monday Jan 26th

Worked on Lt's house today. Got a letter from Emery Lane + one from W^m Leonard + answered them. The paymaster came into camp today + payed [sic] us. Our Co. was last + it was midnight before we got back to our bunks. I rec'd \$22.10. There was a mistake about the date of my enlistment + I lost about \$5.00 but let it go.

Tuesday Jan 27th

It is wet + rainy. The day passed all quietly + at night went out with the patrol as corporal. Had some fun but took no prisoners. W^m Lewis is no better + I fear he will have a hard time.

Wednesday Jan 28th

The rain has turned to snow + we are having a delightful time. Guarding is sport such weather + one of the boys on guard today who is eating his dinner just said that if he had stood guard three or four such days before he enlisted he would have stayed at home. W^m Lewis is no better. Some of our men have run away + a sergeant among the rest. Well let them slide. I am sure such men are worth but very little here. Gen Burnside has given up the command of the Army of the Potomac + Gen Hooker has taken his place. Got a letter from home + answered it.

Thursday Jan 29th

It stormed some today. The mud is very deep but it is some colder. Went up town + bought another Diary + some paper. Got a letter from J. G. Young + answered it. We hare to have general inspection saturday [sic].

Friday Jan 30th

A very disagreeable day. Went up town + took a dish of oysters + they were good. Worked some on Lt's house + got some straw. Got a letter from Carrie + answered it. Had Co. inspection but I was not here + so got clear of it. W^m Lewis is little if any better.

Saturday Jan 31st

It was cold last night + froze very hard but it was warm through the day + the mud is very deep.

Sunday Feb 1st

Well Sunday [sic] has come again but methinks it is not as pleasant as it is at the old home, that dear old home nestling between the hills. Ah I can see even now the little group gathered around the old hearth + perhaps talking of me the soldier boy. Tonight when we went on dress parade the band played that splendid piece "Glory glory to the north" Glory to the soldiers that she is sending forth" + I thought of the changes that have taken place in this once mighty nation. Ah soldiers, you may fight manfully, you may pour out your life blood as water but I fear your glory is past. American once the proudest nation on earth now your glory is humbled in the dust. This mighty Union I fear is severed never to be reunited. I fear that the broken fragments of this great republic will only be wrecks on the stream of time, only to remind the traveler that these wrecks once formed the best government on earth. But how dark looks the future when we think that this may be the case. If the bright day star of American liberty sinks in the gloom of the night every hope of liberty to the people of Europe is forever crushed out, again the dark ages will spread their gloom over the world + a second reign of terror be felt over the land. O God must this be so? Must the blood of the innocent be poured out on the green slopes of my native hills + the pure clear brooklets be crimsoned by the tide of human slaughter? Must the light of Thy truth be crushed out + the chains of the slave be rivetted [sic] anew I cannot believe it. There must be a brighter day for us. God grant that the bright sun of peace may soon rise + dispel the gloom of war + blood shed that now darkens the world.

Monday Feb 2^d

Went to work this morning + finished Lt's house. At dress parade an order was read that prohibited our wearing or having any article of citizens clothing except vests. I got a letter from home + one from Amelia Leonard + answered them. The day has been raw windy + a fair prospect of a storm. Father has given up coming to see me I guess for he talks very discouraging about it. I know it is a great undertaking for him to leave home + come so far but I cant help feeling disappointed about it for I would be very glad to see him, but I dont expect to see any of them until the time I have enlisted is past.

Tuesday Feb 3d

It is cold + stormy today. Went up town + bought some things for Lt Mead. The men from Caroline have come but Father is not among them so I must give up seeing him. I wish Times horses would run away + hasten my three years around. But that is wrong I know, for I ought to be willing to see the thing through but I get almost discouraged sometimes + I am almost afraid that our Government has seen its best days. Well I have seen an old friend Mr. Quick + A. M. Yates + M^r Krum. It seems almost like home to see old friends again + their familiar faces ring to mind other days when I was not a soldier, but when I was at home among friends. But this old book is full + I must close this volume + send it home + I hope I shall live to read it after strife + bloodshed is passed from our land. Friends at home I send this to you that you may see what your soldier boy has done since he left home. May God bless + keep you all until we meet again.

Letters rec'd

1862 Oct 3d 1 from home

" 9th 1 " Mother + Father + Herm
" 1 " Amelia Leonard
" 1 " W^m Leonard
" 16 1 " J M Hastings
" 17 1 " J G Young
" 17 1 " Father
" 18 1 " Carrie Reed
" 20 1 " Home
" 20 1 " Emery Lane
" 23 1 " Home
" 24 1 " Home
" 27 1 " J M Hastings
" 27 1 " W^m Leonard
" 30 1 " Home
" 30 1 " Emery Lane
" 31 1 " Cousin Carrie
Nov 3d 1 " J M Hastings
" 6th 1 " Sister Julia Reed
" 10 1 " Home
" 11 1 " W^m Leonard
" 12 1 " Willie Bougardas
" 12 1 " Albert Stoddard

[two pages torn out]

Letters Written

1863 Jan 30 Carrie Reed

" Feb 1 Home
" Feb 2 Home
" " Amelia Leonard