

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 2 - February 4, 1863 - May 31, 1863

[leather bound journal, approximately 4" x 6.5"]

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

[front pastedown]

War is the sum of misery
Camp Laurel
May 4th/63
J B Reed
J B Reed

[front flyleaf]

**Diary of
J. B. Reed
Second Volume
commenced Feb 4th/63
At Camp Laurel
Md**

[reverse of front flyleaf]

[2]^d Vol of

J B Reed's

Diary

Commenced at

Camp Laurel Md

(Feb 4th 1863)

Respectfully Presented
To his Family.

Wednesday Feb 4th 1863

Well the old diary is full + so I commence a new volume. Last night was very cold. Mr. Quick + Mr. Yates stayed with us. This morning we tried living in the Lt's house. Moved his things. Went up town + bought some things. Got a letter from J. M. Hastings + answered it.

Thursday Feb 5th/63

Last night was very cold + today it snows very hard + is cold. A darkey [sic] came here + wanted a place to stay + so we took him on trial. Afternoon. The weather has moderated + the snow has turned to rain. Geo is quite unwell tonight. I got a letter from home + answered it. We hear rumors of defeat at Vicksburg + also at Charleston. I do not credit the report yet.

Friday Feb 6th

The mud is deep enough. Toward night it began to grow colder + froze hard at night. Our darkey does first rate. Got a letter from Willie Bougardas [sic] + one from Mary Winchell. Answered Willie's. The reported defeat at Vicksburg + Charleston is false. I think Vicksburg will be taken soon.

Saturday Feb 7th

Our Co. had to furnish thirty nine men today for guard + I went on guard. Answered Mary Winchell's letter.

Sunday Feb 8th

The sun rose this morning clear + bright + as I stood on guard I thought of my mountain home thought of the morning that I left its sheltering roof for the toil + danger of camp. How swiftly the chariot of time rolls on, almost six months since I left the parental roof, left the excellent counsel of a father, the fond love of mother, sisters + brothers. The wheels of time cannot roll too fast for me. I am looking longing + hoping that the war may close.

Monday Feb 9th

Warm + pleasant. The mud is drying up. Got a letter from W^m Leonard. A part of the party from Caroline came back today. Went up town to buy some things for Lt.

Tuesday Feb 10th

Mr. Quick came back from Fredericksburg this morning. I sent a check to father of \$19.60 + sent my old diary letters +c. I was sorry to see them start for home + I would like to go home a short time but I cant. I wrote a letter home + one to W^m Leonard, rec'd one from S M^eWhorter, drew a pair of socks from the Quartermaster.

Wednesday Feb 11th

Stormy again today. I answered S M^eWhorter's letter. Rec'd two letters from home one from Carrie one from Emery + one from Amelia Leonard. Wrote home. Carrie writes me that Uncle Romeo [Reed] is very poorly + she thinks that he will not live long. Got my foot measured for a pair of boots +sent it home. Sarah writes of a visit to a Mrs. Torrys. Well I shall be so far behind when I get home that I cant catch up, + I can only be an awkward soldier but then who cares, if I only live to get back it is all I can ask.

Thursday Feb 12th

Wrote a letter to Carrie + one to Emery. Went up town after some oysters +c. The weather continues to be very disagreeable + the mud is Oh how bad. In the evening went to an oyster supper to my old tent + had a bully time. Wrote a letter to Amelia Leonard. It commenced raining in the evening but did not rain long.

Friday Feb 13th

The sun rose clear + bright this morning. The day was splendid + the mud is drying up. It is rumored that a Pa [Pennsylvania] reg't is ordered to the Junction + if that is so we shall leave soon.

Saturday Feb 14th

St Valentines day has come again + now crowded mails + crowded post offices is the order of the day. We had Co drill today + it went off well. I wrote a letter to Uncle Camp.

Sunday Feb 15th

When I awoke this morning it was raining very hard + the mud is deep enough again. Henry Dalen [?] who was thrown out of the Co at Binghamton has come here to enlist. I think he would have done better to stay at home for he is very young to stand the hardships of our life. Wrote to Bert [?] Reed. This is a dreary day. I wonder what they are doing at home. It cleared off toward night + was real pleasant.

Monday Feb 16th

Clear + pleasant. We had Co drill in the forenoon + Battalion in the afternoon. I heard Lt Mead say something rather flattering today, he said I was the best drilled private in the Co but that is nothing. I only try to do as well as I can + perform every duty cheerfully + every soldier should do this so I deserve no praise at all. I rec'd a real good letter from Laura Hungerford + answered it. I got a comic Valentine too. But I cant imagine who it is from + I am sure I dont care.

Tuesday Feb 17th

When I woke this morning it was snowing very fast + it has snowed all day + the snow is quite deep. The day is rather dull + gloomy + the guards are having a hard time. Got my boots mended. Went up town. Got a letter from Em Wolcott + answered it. Got a valentine from Corning.

Wednesday Feb 18th

Went up town + bought some valentines + sent them to different persons. It is raining today + the mud will be deep enough. Mr. Isaac Yates started for home today, he is the last of the Co from Caroline. The news is more favorable today, a bill has been passed to enroll all the militia [sic] + call them out if needed, taking those between the ages of 18 + 35 first + the others afterward. I rather think that the war will close within a year. I rec'd a letter from John Stoddard + answered it.

Thursday Feb 19th

It is raining yet this morning + the snow is nearly all gone. The great Army bill has passed calling out 500 000 men to be drafted from those between the ages of twenty + thirty five, + all

others to be enrolled + called out if necessary. I look for an active time this spring + summer. The news from Vicksburg is favorable + I think that the place will be taken soon. Very little can be done at present on account of the weather + the roads. I got a letter from home + answered it. Our folks have got my check + the soldiers record that I sent home, but my old letters, diary +c they have not recieved [sic] yet.

Friday Feb 20th

It has cleared off again + the north wind is blowing very hard + the canvass [sic] flaps + creaks as though the tent were going to pieces. The Co are fixing the street + cleaning up generally + I hope that these precautions will be a benefit to the health of the Co. We have a good many sick now. I hope that the weather will be better now for I would rather drill + have fine weather than to lay still + have so much mud. We had dress parade tonight. It is getting colder + the wind makes everything snap. Corp [*James*] Roe was reduced to the ranks + Private Thomas Cronce promoted to his place.

Saturday Feb 21st

This has been a very fine day, but rather cold. We had Co inspection + drill + the Lt Col gave us credit for our looks +c Our Co is doing better now + I hope we will get to be No 1 of the reg't. I rec'd a letter from Albert + Dora Stoddard + answered them. I hear that Uncle Romeo is not expected to live + he may be dead by this time. How I pity his family.

Sunday Feb 22^d

As fine + pleasant as was the day yesterday, this morning when I awoke it was snowing + blowing terribly. The snow sifts through every crevice + our floor was nearly covered this morning. I was sent to Lt Col [*Isaac S.*] Catlin this morning to have a part of the guard taken off as the weather was so very bad. Yesterday + today reminds me of our life. Yesterday no cloud of sorrow rose to darken the bright sunbeams of happiness that were shed over our pathway, but ere another sun rises, before the light of the new born day is ushered into existence, the storm sweeps down upon our happy, quiet home + crushes + withers our brightest hopes + leaves nothing but the traces of its fury. I read an excellent sermon by Henry Ward Beecher. The wind howls + soars around the tent tonight + bring [sic] thoughts of home + happiness. God grant that

the storm of war may soon pass from our land. I wrote a letter home. Would that I were there to enjoy its comforts awhile.

Monday Feb 23^d

The sun rose this morning clear + bright + the earth looked beautiful in its pure robe of snow. I would that my heart was as pure as the drapery of earth. Today there are several to be promoted + among the rest I am promoted to the place of 2^d Corp. We were called out this afternoon to celebrate the birthday of the immortal Washington. We did this by firing thirteen rounds of blank cartridges + giving three hearty cheers for the Union. I rec'd a letter from home + one from Laura Lewis + answered the letter from home. They have got my diary + the other things I sent. They like my diary very much. I hope I shall soon go home to read it myself. Our folks have started a box for us + it is at the Junction now. Father is going to send my boots this week + I shall get them next week most likely. I have not rec'd any letters before from Laura Lewis. She writes a very interesting letter.

Tuesday Feb 24th

It looks stormy again. I do dread storms here. The pay + muster rolls are being made out again. We got the box from home all right + it was a good one + was gratefully rec'd by us poor sogers [sic]. Our folks sent me a lot of paper + envelopes. The box had been left out + was wet some, but no great damage done to it. I wrote home + to Laura Lewis.

Wednesday Feb 25th

The sun rose this morning clear + bright. O that the sun of liberty would arise the same. Geo is quite unwell this morning + I fear that he is going to have the fever. The work on the pay rolls goes on yet. We hear flying rumors by the papers that our troops have taken Vicksburg also that an attack on Charleston is expected soon. The snow has melted very fast today. Geo got a letter from W^m Walcott [*Reed cousin, brother of George Wolcott*]. Their reg't [*137th Regiment*] has suffered severely + his Co [*Company K*] only musters thirty seven men fit for duty out of one hundred + one + the reg't that numbered 1040 is reduced to 460 effective men.

Thursday Feb 26th

It has rained all day + the snow is nearly gone, but the mud is deep enough. The pay rolls are not finished yet. I have been at work on them all day. Geo is much better today + I hope he will be well soon. I got a letter from home + answered it. Our folks are all well + I hope they will always have good health. I never enjoyed such good health as I have for a long time.

Friday Feb 27th

Warm + cloudy. The mud is very deep. The pay rolls are not right yet. Lieut went to the Junction to get more blanks. I was ordered today to commence my duties as Corporal. I got a letter from Emery Lane, one from Laura Hungerford + one from Amelia Leonard + they were excellent ones too. Amelia has become a true christian [sic] I believe, if I may judge by her letters. I have been at work fixing up things for muster day as that is tomorrow. I hear no news from the war today.

Saturday Feb 28th

We have had muster + review + our Co appeared well. I went up town with Geo + some of the boys + we had a good time. The day is fine + the mud is drying up. I wrote to Emery Lane + to Amelia Leonard.

Sunday March 1st

It was raining this morning when I awoke, but before noon it cleared off + was very warm + pleasant. O how I long to be at home one more sabbath [sic]. How I should enjoy a ride to the church with the family + the solemn service of the house of God. Once these blessed privileges were mine but now Alas! war has burst over us with all its fury + I am a wanderer from home + friends. No longer blessed with sabbath + sanctuary privileges. No longer near those loved ones. No longer can I listen to their voices as they rise in prayer or in the sacred song of praise. But I am looking forward to a time when these blessings shall again be mine to enjoy, when the clouds of war shall have passed away. O God grant that this time may soon come. I wrote a letter to Laura Hungerford.

Monday March 2^d

This has been a splendid day + the mud is drying up. We had Co + battalion drill. I got a letter from Father + it brought the sad news that Uncle Romeo was dead. O how I pity his family. Carrie will grieve over it very hard, but we cannot mourn for him as though he died without hope for I believe he has gone to a better world where war + rebellion will trouble him no more. Father's family has again been visited by death after his absence of nearly ~~thirty~~ twenty years. I wrote a letter home.

Tuesday March 3^d

It rained some through the night but cleared off this morning + bid fair for a pleasant day, but about noon clouds arose + it snowed some + then rained. What a true picture of our life the weather is. One hour every thing is bright + joyous + life seems a happy dream + the next, rude storms of sorrow + grief are ready to overwhelm us, Our family hopes blasted + our brightest anticipations turned to the sad realities of the world.

But the world may go on
Through sunshine + storm
Bravely we'll meet its frown
And never yield
The battle field (Till the cross shall wear the crown)

Lieut has gone away tonight + I am sitting alone.

I am sitting alone
I'm sitting in my tent Mother
Thinking of friends + home
Yes thinking of the dear Mother
For I am all alone.

The shades of night have gathered around
The sun has gone to rest,
The moon is shining brightly down

And stars now gem the west.

The camp is silent now Mother
The soldier gone to rest
I bid you now goodnight Mother
For I must go to rest

But ere I go my Mother dear
I pray that angels kind
May, as you slumber, hover near
And guard thee Mother min [sic]

Wednesday March 4th

I went on guard this morning as Corp. It has been a raw windy day. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. The news is of little importance today.

Thursday March 5th

I went to bed last night + the Serg't did all the duty + woke me up at one this morning + he went to bed. There were three prisoners brought in by the patrol. I feel rather dull this morning. It is a fine day but rather cold. I sent a paper to father today.

Friday March 6th

Rather stormy + unpleasant today. I rec'd a box from home containing some dried apples + some green ones, a fine piece of dried beef + two pairs of boots, for Geo + I. I am very thankful that I have such dear kind friends. May Heaven repay them for I can never do it. I will try to do my duty as well as I can however. The boots are tip top ones + just fit.. I wrote a letter home + got one from Mary Winchell. She teaches the school on the hill this summer.

Saturday March 7th

Dull + rainy. I went up town to get some iron plate for my boots. Got a letter from John Stoddard. I have got my stripes on at last. Saw some sport boxing. Wrote a letter to Mary Winchell.

Sunday March 8th

We had no inspection, as it was very muddy. It cleared off in the afternoon + we had dress parade. Got a pass + went up town to church + had a good time. I wrote to John Stoddard.

Monday March 9th

Rather a pleasant day. Our Co are on Camp guard, but I am not. Lieut went to Washington today. I got a letter from home + one from Carrie. Poor girl how I pity her. Her heart seems almost breaking with her great sorrow + bereavement. May Heaven assist them all. Dear Aunt Priscilla is left alone as it were. I wrote home. My folks are all well. As the Lieut did not get back George stayed with me + we talked of the happy hours that have passed yes gone into eternity. O will we ever again enjoy the blessed peace + quiet of those dear old mountain homes. Ah if we return it will be as the matured men as the stern soldiers + not as the gay laughing boys that left all, out of pure love to our country. Father I pray Thee that although we can not go back as boys, that the pure principles taught us by our parents may ever be ours + we not dishonor the names they gave us.

Tuesday March 10th

Cloudy this morning + look [sic] like a storm. Samuel Bogardus + myself went on the railroad as Sergt + Corp. We took some reading along + with that + talking we passed the time until night very pleasantly. The night went off very well. We hear that the President has signed the conscription act + will soon issue his proclamation pardoning all deserters who will return to their reg'ts.

Wednesday March 11th

It snowed some through the night + was very dark. We came to camp at nine o'clock. I found a letter from Bert Reed. Got my breakfast at ten. It has cleared off + I guess it is going to be

pleasant. Wrote to Carrie. It is colder tonight + the wind howls around with a desolate wail. Seven months ago today I left home for the army how quickly time speeds on. We had a severe storm in the evening. I wrote to Bert Reed.

Thursday March 12th

Cold + blustering. I did nothing but keep fire + read some magazines. I got a letter from home, one from Em Wolcott + one from W^m Leonard. Father joked me some on my high position +c. Our folks all have bad colds. I hope they will be well soon. I wrote a letter home + one to W^m Leonard.

Friday March 13th

The weather continues to be cold. We had Co drill in the forenoon + afternoon. I rec'd a letter from Uncle Camp Reed + one from Laura Lewis. I wrote to Uncle Camp. We hear that the siege of Fort M^cAlaster [sic *McAllister*] is abandoned for the present.

Saturday March 14th

A pleasant day but rather cold. Our Co is on Camp guard. There was Co + Battalion drills but we did not go out. I wrote to Laura Lewis. Read some. Cleaned my gun + accoutriments [sic]. No news of importance from the war today.

Sunday March 15th

It was rather cold this morning but pleasant but before night it thundered quite hard + snowed + hailed very hard. Mr. Johnson Quick is in camp. He came after a boy in the 137th who is very sick + is going to take him home with him. His name is Vandemark from our town. We had inspection this morning. We hear rumors that our troops have taken some prisoners + also that the rebs have taken Fort Donelson . I am reading John Halifax Gentleman [*a novel by Dinah Craik published 1856*] + I like it first rate. I think it would be a benefit to anyone to read such a werk [sic].

Monday March 16th

This morning the snow is quite deep for Maryland + it snows some yet. Geo, Hiram + I got a pass to go to Washington. We got there about ten o'clock. Went to a Photographic gallery + had our pictures taken together for our parents. We went to the Patent office + inquired for Mr. Bond but could not find him. We then made a hurried survey of the curiosities of the Office, but could not see half there was to see. Saw some very fine models of cannon, guns, pistols + swords. The farming tools were of the greatest interest to me but the most of the machines are too costly to come into use, a great deal. Saw the robes presented to the government by Japan. They are splendid. The guns + swords presented to the U S by the Emperor of Morocco are of very fine workmanship but clumsy + not as useful or handy as our rifles + swords. The Turkish scimitars [sic *scimitars*] are beautiful but look rather unwieldy [sic]. The different kinds of shells + shot were of some interest to me. A suit of Japanese armor looked very fine, but I don't want to carry it. We saw some splendid models of ships. But the most of our time was used in looking at the clothes, camp equipage +c of Gen Washington. His clothes are old fashioned of course, short pants as breeches + vest or waistcoat of fine tanned buckskin. Cloth coat trimmed with buckskin, buttons + button holes on both sides, buttons large flat brass ones. His ~~bureau~~ bureau was splendid to me at least + his chair looked as though its owner had just left it, + there were his knives + forks pewter plates, coffee + tin pots, grid iron +c. His writing case, camp trunk, portmanteau [sic] for his marquee. His sword was a small one, + no ornaments whatever. Franklin's staff bequeathed to Washington is a fine gold headed one. Baron DeKalb's war saddle was there too, + I almost imagined that I saw the brave old veteran reeling as he met his fate. Franklin's printing press was a curiosity to me, + looked upon with veneration. The revolving turret for gunboats is an ugly looking thing. The Patent office is a splendid building. Next we went to the capitol. We went in from Penn Avenue + explored the dome first. The paintings are beautiful + lifelike. The finest painting is in the Ladies gallery leading to the Senate Chamber. It is a picture of an emigrant train. The oxen + horses look as though they could move off if one should give the word. There is the rough looking bearded man with his trusty rifle + the boy with the wonder gazing eyes, the fond mother + her babe + then the wild rocky scenery so grand + majestic. I can call the painting grand, but to portray its beauties is impossible. An attempt to describe the Capitol would be useless for it is one vast pile of marble, covering an area of three + one half acres of ground. We were obliged to leave this vast monument of a Nation's greatness, leave the

halls that have echoed to the words of the most lofty Patriotism + alas have been desecrated by the vilest ~~traitors~~ traitors of earth, for we had to be at the Depot by five P.M. Got back to camp all right + found a letter from home, one from Emery Lane + one from Savilla M^cWhorter, which last I think was written by two persons. Went to bed very tired + sleepy.

Tuesday March 17th

The snow has all gone off again. I wrote home + to Emery Lane. I sent my picture home. We had Co drill in the morning. One of our men was missing at dress parade + we found out that he had put on a suit of citizens clothes + just walked past the guard.

Wednesday March 18th

It is just seven months since I left home the last time. I would like to go back + see the folks again. Horace Smith + myself are on guard today. We went up to savage [sic] + had a very good time. The day was warm + rained some. Capt has gone after McPherson who deserted yesterday.

Thursday March 19th

When I go to camp this morning I found a letter for me from home + I answered it + wrote to Savilla M^cWhorter. It was colder this morning. We hear some talk of leaving here but I dont hardly believe we shall leave very soon. W^m Lewis was discharged from the hospital today. He has been very sick + looks rather pale yet. There is some trouble about McPherson leaving but I guess there will be nothing done. I got the tribune from home. The rebel congress begin to talk of peace propisitions [sic]. I hope that they will get enough war pretty soon to last them a while.

Monday March 20th

Rather cold + unpleasant. We had battalion drill + it went off first rate. Our Co did first rate. I got a letter from John Stoddard, he thinks that the draft will be resisted there. I hope it wont be but if it is I hope the 109th will be sent to sustain the draft + bring the copperheaded rascals to terms.

Saturday March 21st

It was snowing this morning when I woke + is a very disagreeable day. The news is that an extra session of congress is to be called. The light I believe is at last breaking + I think that six months hence will see the close of the war. I rec'd a letter from Cousin Emma Bush.

Sunday March 22^d

This has been a beautiful day but rather muddy. I wrote to Cousin Emma Bush. O how I wish I could be at home today. Sarah is to be baptized. God grant that she may have strength given her to live in accordance to the holy vows she is to take this day. We hear a report that Vicksburg is taken. I hop it is so. We had dress parade + inspection as usual. Two of the Co. Started on patrol + only went to the Depot + have been sent to the Junction as punishment.

Monday March 23^d

Warm but cloudy + it looks like rain. We had Co drill. I did some writing for Lieut. Got a letter from home + one from Amelia Leonard. No truth in the report of the capture of Vicksburg but I think it must be taken soon. I wrote a letter home.

Tuesday March 24th

Warm + looks rainy. I am on duty as Corp of the camp guard. We put on six reliefs this morning as it looks so stormy. Toward night word was sent from the store that two men were raising a row as they were drunk. We sent a guard after them + had quite a time getting them to camp. The serg't + I drew cuts to see who should stay up the fore part of the night + it fell to my lot. It commenced raining before dark + rained very hard all night. The deserted M^cPherson was brought back today by the Capt.

Wednesday March 25th

It cleared off this morning warm + pleasant. I went up town to get some potatoes. I feel rather tired + dull. I am afraid that there is going to be trouble yet about M^cPherson leaving but I earnestly hope not, for if trouble is much the innocent will suffer. We had battalion drill in the afternoon up town. I got a letter from home + answered it + wrote to Amelia Leonard. It is cooler tonight than it was in the morning.

Thursday March 26th

Clear + cold but a fine day. We had Co + battalion drill. I got a letter from Willie Bogardus + answered it.

Friday March 27th

Warmer this morning. We had Co drill + Battalion in the afternoon + fired blank cartridges. We had a hard drill. The news is favorable still. Gen Hunter is going to drill all negroes between the ages of eighteen + fifty for garrison duty. Our forces in the west have recaptured Indianola after the rebs had nearly fitted her for service. I think Vicksburg must be taken soon. It is evening + I am sitting in my tent alone. The boys are having a dance out of doors. I wish I were home tonight for it is Sister Sarah's birthday. I think I could enjoy myself in their society a while. How glad I shall be when this terrible war shall cease + the holy light of peace again bless the day.

Saturday March 28th

It was raining this morning when I woke + has rained all day. I spent the day reading + writing some. The news seems to be favorable except from Banks army which seems to be greatly demoralised [sic]+ I think this must be the fault of its officers in a great measure. I have written a few verses today + I guess I will write them in my Diary

The Soldier's Farewell

Tw'as on a bright + sunny morn
A soldier boy must leave his home
Yes leave his home the dear old home
That sheltered him in youthful years

For clouds of war had hovered dark
Over the land he loved so well
And he must leave although his heart
Was bursting at the last farewell

Father, he says my country calls
For soldiers true + soldiers brave
I hear the roar from Sumpter's walls
And I must go or be a slave

Then turning to his Mother dear
To her who loved him better far
Than life or wealth or aught beside
Ah Mother I must leave your side

Your boy must go where cannon roar
And death + carnage rule the day
But Mother I can never fear
While for your son you kneel & pray.

He grasped his brother's friendly hand
He pressed a kiss on sister's cheek
I go says he to save the land
Although this parting makes me weep

But ere I go my parent dear
I crave your blessing on my head
O let me hear your prayers once more
Thier [sic] holy influence o'er me shed

Farewell dear Father true + kind
Farewell dear Mother, we must part
Farewell Brother Sisters mine
I go though anguish fills my heart

I heard his step + he was gone
Where duty calls for noble sons
May Heaven protect him til the dawn
Of peace restores the absent ones.



Sunday March 29th

Clear + cold. One of the Corpls refused to go on duty this morning + so it brings me on comp [?] again. Well I am good for it. The day passed off quietly. I went to bed at eight.

Monday March 30th

George sat up the fore part of the night + called me at one this morning. I carried the business on until morning. all went off right. We had Battalion drill + an old one too. I am tired tonight + feel like going to bed. I got four letters, one from home with three dollars, one from Laura Lewis one from Emery Lane + one from W^m Leonard. I wrote a letter home + sent them a confederate note. They have got our pictures + think them good ones.

Tuesday March 31st

Wrote to Emery Lane + W^m Leonard. The weather has changed again + has snowed considerable but tonight the snow is going off.

Wednesday April 1st

Cold + unpleasant. Spent the day reading + writing. Wrote a letter to W^m Leonard. The news is encouraging I think. It is thought that the rebs will evacuate Richmond soon as they can get no supplies for the troops there.

Thursday April 2^d

Rather cold this morning but before night it was warm + pleasant. We had Co + Battalion drill. Got a letter from home + answered it. It seems to be the opinion that the war will close soon. God grant that it may + peace be restored again. How I would like to go home again knowing that the war was over + that I should have to leave home no more. God hasten the day, it will be

a glorious happy day to many a poor soldier weary + worn once more to get beneath the house roof + listen to the voices of loved ones, sweet as the murmur of the brooklet as it glides onward to the sea.

Friday Apl 3^d

This is a splendid morning. Spring has come at last with its beauties, the swelling bud the green grass, + God's own choir of innocent birds chanting praises to His holy name. One such morning as this is enough to make anyone a devout worshipper of the only true God. My heart this morning is overflowing with gratitude + thankfulness to the great Creator + a prayer goes from my heart that I may be better more worth to receive the blessings showered upon me. Got a pass in the afternoon + sent up town to see the men drill. In the evening went up town + had quite a pleasant time. Got a letter from Carrie one from J. S. Young + one from Mary Winchell + a paper from home.

Saturday Apl 4th

Cold + blustering this morning. I am on duty + go to Savage Station. Went up there + at about four P M it commenced snowing + snowed very hard. Geo sent my ~~din~~ supper up to me + just as soon as I opened the pail I saw some of Mother's cookies for I can tell them. I had a bully supper + went to sleep on the hard bed we fixed up.

Sunday Apl 5th

It is snowing yet this morning. Got to camp feeling rather tired. Our folks have sent us another box of goodies, + I tell you it makes us think of home. There was lots of eggs for Easter [sic] Sunday which is today + butter cake preserves + dried apples. I am glad that I have a home + dear friends if I am obliged to be away from them. I wrote to Carrie, J S Young, Mary Winchell + home. Sent the Waverly home. I am sitting here this afternoon + visions of that dear old home rise up before me + I long for the time to come when war shall cease + peace bless our land.

Monday Apl 6th

This has been a nasty disagreeable day + I feel rather mean + dull. I rec'd a letter from home + one from John Stoddard. Wrote a letter home. Cora sent me a nice little tea rose. O how I wish I

could see her again. Ah she is dear to her soldier brother's heart + he longs to press the innocent little thing to his heart once more. The attack on Charleston has commenced. God give success + may the city soon fall. Heaven help us to bring this war to a close.

Tuesday Apl 7th

The mud is drying up some. No drill today. Reports of the Capture of Charleston but nothing reliable.

Wednesday Apr 8th

Our Co is on Camp guard + I am afraid they will have a bad time for it looks stormy. I went up town a little while in the evening.

Thursday Apr 9th

Is a splendid day. H Smith + I went on guard to Contee's + had a good time, in the afternoon I strolled off + took a view of the country + I enjoyed it first rate. The mail carrier threw our mail off + I had a letter from home, one from Emery Lane + one from Laura Lewis + a paper. The night passed off pleasantly. We had an old soldier in the hut who was blind + [illegible] so we could not find out what he was.

Friday Apr 10th

Another splendid day, got up this morning, washed + made my toilet according to soldier fashion. We got back to camp about ten oclock. I wrote a letter home, went on battalion drill + dress parade + then wrote to Laura Lewis. It is a fine evening. The boys are having a dance out of doors but I have no taste for such amusements. Tonight I feel a calm peace filling my heart. Ah the skeptic may ridicule the idea of religion but I thank God that my poor sinful heart was ever brought to bow before His throne + worship the true God. We hear tonight that the attack upon Charleston has commenced. Heaven help the Union arms. We expect to hear of an attack upon Vicksburg soon. I hope that the war will soon be ended. I guess I must write to Emery yet but I feel rather tired + I believe I will give it up.

Saturday Apr 11th

Wrote to Emery + got a letter from J. M. Hastings. We had Co drill in the forenoon. We are to have review + general inspection tomorrow + we will have to get ready for it. Cleaned my gun brass, buttons, +c + I guess I am ready at last.

Sunday Apr 12th

A warm smoky day. The review went off first rate. Went up town to church with a squad + enjoyed it very well. Wrote to Hastings. It is very warm tonight + looks very much like rain.

Monday Apr 13th

It rained some last night + is cooler this morning. We had battalion drill + Capt M^cAllaster [sic] [*acted?*] Col + the drill was a short one. I got a letter from home + one from Willie Bogardas. I answered both.

Tuesday Apr 14th

A warm + pleasant day. We had drill as usual. There was quite an excitement in camp about some clothing that we is [sic - *we think is?*] made for the rebel army. A guard was placed around the house but I hear tonight that it has been taken away again.

Wednesday Apr 15

It has been a rainy gloomy day + I have done nothing but read. The news seems to be vague + unsatisfactory now. It seems as though great preparations are made to strike terrible blows but before they are struck the strength + energy are gone. It is almost discouraging but we will hope on + look for some ray of light. As the rain patters down tonight on our canvass roof my thoughts wander back to that dear old home + my heart is sad, yes sad + weary. Ah t'would be a happy, blessed time if I could visit that loved place again where in infancy a dear mother + father watched my every step, + listened for the first words as they were lisped by me. T^here was there that a love for those dear parents grew with my growth, there they taught me lessons of purity virtue + truth, taught me to love + adore my kind Creator + to look to his holy word for counsel in time of trouble. There a sisters pure love gave me strength to battle against temptation + a brothers warm affection cheered my life But Alas those happy hours have fled + I am a wanderer lonely + weary

with only the consciousness that I am performing a sacred holy duty that I owe to myself, my country + my God. But I know that a parents prayers still arise for me + that I still have the love of sisters + brother + shall I not strive to live still as I ought + keep in mind + practice those holy precepts taught me. I would that my heart were pure + free from sin as the little infant's. Heaven help me to resist every temptation + every evil influence that is thrown around me. The rain still patters down. I pity the guards but such is the life of a soldier + I am willing to bear it all if we can only accomplish our purpose + save the Union.

Thursday Apr 16th

It has been a rainy disagreeable day again + nothing to cheer the weary hours. There to be general muster saturday [sic] for the purpose of finding out our available force + the number of men required to fill the Cos to the maximum. I think we will leave here soon after this muster when our force + the condition of the reg't is known. We have heard that the 22^d Corps is to take the place of the 13th in Kentucky. I am ready to go. No letters yet tonight + I am disappointed for I expected some tonight. We hear returns from the town meetings in Tompkins Co + 6 supervisors out of 19 are Republicans.

Friday Apr 17th

Cloudy + warm. H. Smith + myself went on duty to Savage + passed the day very pleasantly. Saw some old friends at Co B. Nothing of importance happened.

Saturday Apr 18th

We got to camp about eleven this morning. There had been muster to find out the strength of the reg't. Quite a number are to be discharged for inability but I am sound I believe. There was no drill today. Geo Hi + I got a pass at five PM + went up to the pond + took a ride + had some sport. When I got to camp this morning I found out that I had three letters One from Em Wolcott, one from Mary Winchell + one from S M^eWhorter. I have just been out to listen to some singing by the Lieut Cols Lady + her Sister + it was splendid. They sang Sweet Home, Annie Laurie, I hear an Angel singing, Farewell + several other splendid pieces. From my heart I thank them, for they have brought rays of sunshine to many weary hearts, + showed that they have a feeling of respect for the poor soldier. May Heaven bless them. President Lincoln expresses his

dissatisfaction of the attack upon Charleston + I guess when another attack is made, something will be done.

Sunday Apr 19th

This has been a splendid day. I have written home, to Em Wolcott + to Mary Winchell. We had grand review this morning. Co B came down from Savage + took part. After review Geo + I got a pass + took a stroll off in the country + had a very good time. We had dress parade. I saw some peach trees almost in bloom today, this is earlier than I ever saw before. I suppose hereafter we shall have to go up toward Savage to drill. There is little prospect of leaving the railroad, for my part I am tired of this inactivity.

Monday Apr 20th

We have had a warm rainy day, nothing to do + it has been dull enough. I got a paper + a letter from home + a letter from the Manhattan fire arms Co. I wrote a letter home.

Tuesday Apr 21st

We had battalion drill. Nothing happened of importance.

Wednesday Apr 22^d

Went to Contee's on duty with Corpl Graham. Had a very good time, but did not get my supper until nine PM.

Thursday Apr 23^d

Rainy. When I got to camp I found a letter from home, one from Amelia Leonard, one from W^m Leonard + one from Emery Lane. I answered the letter from home. It does me a great deal of good to get letters from home. Sarah was baptized last Sunday. She was to have been before but something prevented. O what a pity that the desire for fame has brought about this terrible war. Wrote to Emery + W^m Leonard.

Reader! Have you paused to think
When reading glorious deeds of fame
Where hosts before the victor sink
And paves his pathway with the slain

Ah, tis a glorious thing to hear
Of deeds of glory and renown,
But to the field of strife draw near
Look o'er the rent + trodden ground.

Tis then that glory is a shame,
Your heart stand still, your blood runs cold
A scene of woe, victims of fame
And scenes of suffering untold

The ghostly mutilated dead
Forms that were once so full of life
In battles din for glory bled
And life went out in horrid strife

Then listen to the groans of pain
Of soldiers mangled by the foe
The ghostly wound, the bleeding vein
Vex the sight where'er you go

The green grass sod all stained with gore
Once fired with patriotic zeal
Alas! That heart is still for e'er
That throbbed its life out on the field

Ah! Here the Laurel's dyed with blood
The conquerors hands are stained with gore
No garlands now will desk his road
No music greet, but orphan's groan

A widow's tear will dim his fame
Tears for a husband she loved dear
Glory is but a hated name
To those whose life it has made drear

Give not to one the laurel wreath
When bought by tears + groans + sighs
Faded the flower, withered the leaf
When to obtain it manhood dies

There is a time when patriots arm
For Freedom's holy cause should strike
When traitors raise they hateful forms
And on our starry flag brings blight

Then Freemen rise, defend the right
Fight not for glory + renown
Fight not for wreath or chaplet bright
Or that for you earth's praise may sound

Go ease the burdened of his load
Go smooth the path the weary tread
Go lead the erring in the road
Of truth and virtue, pure + tried

Be true to Country, self and God
A friend to man in time of need
Then when the road of death is trod
A crown of gems shall be thy meed.

Friday Apr 24th

Rainy all day but I guess it will clear off tonight. I wrote to Amelia Leonard. Re^c a letter from Laura Hungerford, one from Laura Lewis + one from Carrie Reed. Wrote to Lara Hungerford. I got some butter + a cake of maple sugar from home today. Chas Shaw brought it for me. My Parents never forget my welfare or comfort for a moment. I thank them heartily for their kindness + I hope I may merit it. I am reading Scotts work + I like his poetry first rate. Today I have read Marmion + before I have read the Lord of the isles + The Lady of the Lake.

Saturday Apr 25th

Clear + pleasant this morning. The wind blows rather hard + the mud is drying up. We had Co drill in the forenoon. In the afternoon I went on fatigue duty. I wrote to Carrie Reed.

Sunday Apr 26th

Clear + pleasant. We had Co inspection. I wrote to Laura Lewis + wrote to a new correspondent, Melissa Stevens also to Cousin Harriet Reed.

Monday Apr 27th

Very warm. I dont feel very well today as I have a severe sore throat + cold. We had target firing in the forenoon + we made some excellent shots at half a mile. I got a letter from home with two dollars in money + some stamps. I wrote a letter home.

Tuesday Apr 28th

This is a rainy disagreeable day. We hear this morning that the paymaster is coming. At about five PM our Co was marched up to the hospital + re^c four months pay. I got a letter from J M Hastings.

Wednesday Apr 29th

It is very muddy again + I guess it will rain more. I am on guard today + shall go on the railroad. Went to Contee's. Had a very good time. I got a letter from home with a splendid tea rose in it. At nine PM we re^c written orders to keep awake + arrest all suspicious persons. We saw no one to arrest though.

Thursday Apr 30th

Got to camp at half past en AM too late for muster. This is fast + prayer day, for national sins. O that our sins as a nation were washed away + peace reign again instead of the blood god of war. I wrote home + sent a check for \$32.00 also wrote to J M Hastings + re^c a letter from him. News is favorable today Hooker is moving again. I do hope that the army of the Potomac will do something now.

Friday May 1st

Well another month has gone another May has come but I am far from the place last may found me. It is a very hot day. We had Co drill in the forenoon but a short one. The reg't is raising money to buy a sword for Col Tracy. Battalion drill in the afternoon. News has been re^c that Hooker has crossed the river.

Saturday May 2^d

A very warm day. No drill. It seems that the Col has been presented with a sword + now the money raised here is to be used to purchase a watch for him. Hiram + myself got a pass + went out into the country to see how things looked. Saw some fine places. Stopped at the hotel when we got back + got supper + it was a bully one too. When ~~we~~ we got back we found out that the watch had been presented to the Col.

Sunday May 3^d

Very warm yet. We got ready for inspection. We had service on the grounds + no inspection. At dress parade our Co turned out 73 men. A splendid saddle + pistol were presented to the Lieut Col + he made a good speech. I wrote to J M Hastings + to John Stoddard.

Monday May 4th

Warm + rainy. We had battalion but no Co drill. I got a letter from home with the sad news that Father is sick. O how I wish I could go home + see him. I would give half a life time to go home. I think I shall try to get a furlough but dont know as I shall succeed. God grant that he may soon recover his health. I wrote a letter home. The news is glorious today. Gen Hooker has taken Fredericksburg + taken a good many prisoners + Lee's whole army it seems must be taken or destroyed. Thank Heaven. The army of the Potomac has at last got a leader able to lead them + I hope that heaven may smile upon his efforts + that victory may ever perch upon his banners. The retreat toward Richmond is cut off + I cant see how the rebel army is going to save themselves. If hooker's victory is complete Richmond must fall into his hands. I wish the war might close in three months + I think it will close in a year, but we cannot tell yet.

Tuesday May 5th

It looks rainy + has rained some + is raining very hard now. We had no drill today. I wish I knew how Father is tonight. I would give all I possess to be there to see him, but it seems as though I cant get there. The news is very favorable. Hooker is doing even more than was expected.

Wednesday May 6th

Raining + unpleasant. I got a letter from home. Father is better but Cora has the scarlet fever + is quite sick. I am trying to get a furlough + I hope I shall succeed but I shall not be disappointed if I do not. I hope Cora will get well soon + I hope they may all have good health. Father writes me that has got about done sowing grain. The news is very favorable. Hooker will make a clean thing of it I guess. He has taken about 12,000 prisoners already + the number is being increased all the time. I wrote a letter home.

Thursday May 7th

The weather is very gloomy yet + it rained very hard last night. News is favorable yet Gen Stoneman advanced within five miles of Richmond + has destroyed the railroad + railroad property between Fredericksburg + Richmond also two branch roads. Sedgwick has broken the rebel line + joined Hookers forces. Major Willoughby of the 137th NYSV is wounded. Jackson

is severely wounded + last night was said to be in Washington a prisoner but the report is not confirmed + I guess it is false. Horace Smith + myself are on guard. Went to savage + had a pretty good time. In the evening 1500 rebel prisoners came through.

Friday May 8th

Got to camp all right but feeling rather dull. The news is not very encouraging, but not as bad as might be feared. Hooker has retired across the river again but from the best of military reasons. His supplies were exhausted + the river was rising so rapidly that all source of supplies was in danger of being cut off. He brought some 2500 prisoners beside those taken before. The whole rebel loss cannot be less than 30 000 + our about 15000, but the exact number is not known. I think that as soon as the river falls again + Hooker recieves [sic] reinforcements that he will make some decisive movements. He has displayed the best generalship of any man that ever has been in command. I cannot condem [sic] him yet. About noon it commenced raining + rained very hard. I rec'd a letter from Mary Winchell, one from Hastings + one from W^m Bogardas. I wrote to Mary Winchell + Munroe Hastings.

Saturday May 9th

It has cleared off again + is very pleasant. We had Co drill. I went up town in the afternoon. The news is good from the west. Our fleet has taken Grand gulf + Admiral Porter calls it the key to Vicksburg. God grant that he may use the key. Wrote to Willie.

Sunday May 10th

Again the holy light of the Sabbath has dawned bringing sweet recollections of home to the soldiers heart. Again he sees the family gathered around the family altar to render thanksgiving to God for his kind care through the labors + toils of the week. Tis a long long time since I knelt under the old home roof, a long time since the voices of loved ones greeted my ears + I expect it will be longer before I meet them again. But I feel this holy morning the influence of the earnest prayers that I know are being offered up for me the soldier boy. Wise men may reason that the bible [sic] is a well written romance, discard its teachings + even trust to their own feeble erring reason as a guide, trust in earthly wisdom, scoff at religion, + call all christians [sic] deluded fanatics yet give me the simple, humble faith taught by every work of God, give me the assistance

of God's holy spirit to aid me when sorrow + temptation assail me give me the humble trusting prayers of Parents Brother + Sisters + I am content. Tell me not that there is no master spirit, ruling guiding + guarding this grand universe. Whose hand, when the shower is past, paints the glorious bow of promise? Whose mighty arm sends the waters of each river surging into the broad ocean + from ocean into the clouds + back to river again? Tell me there are no miracles! Every day, every hour, is a witness of some mighty miracle. Is it no miracle for yon glorious orb of day to give light + heat to earth? Is it no miracle for yonder sturdy oak to put forth leaves + branches or for that little spire of grass to unfold its leaves + reach its tiny head toward heaven? Ah weak + futile are all attempts of man to try to pierce the hidden mysteries of God with human reason + wisdom. We had Co inspection this morning + service at ten A M. The sermon was excellent. It is very warm. We hear that Gen Hooker has recrossed the river + a rumor that Gens Dix + Stoneman have taken Richmond but I think it doubtful. If it is true I hope they will burn the city for it has caused us enough trouble already. I hope Gen Hooker will have good success + give the rebs all they deserve So the war may close soon. I wrote a letter to Laura Hungerford. As Sabbath evening comes I think of the times I was one of a happy circle around the fireside but those happy hours have fled. Ah will they ever come again.

Monday May 11th

There is no confirmation of the news of yesterday. I was on guard at Fort Hathaway. The fort is used as a guard house + I had six prisoners but had no trouble with them. I got a letter from home that brought the news that Cora is better. The family is quite unwell, but I hope they will be well soon. Some of the guards got a little drunk on cider. The Serg't of the camp guard passed them out before I went after them + they went to the hotel + got rather too much cider, but I managed to get along with them.

Tuesday May 12th

Very warm. I felt rather tired + old this morning. Went on Battalion drill. The news today is that Hooker has crossed the river. I hope he will have better luck than before. three or four regts of discharged men went past + we turned out to salute them as they passed. I wrote home. Toward night it clouded up + lightnined very sharp, but it has not rained any yet. I hope it wont rain enough to drive Hooker back again.

Wednesday May 13th

Very warm. We had no Co drill, but went up to the pond to go swimming. Charley Norwood + I took a ramble off through the woods up the river, found some grand scenery, + had a bully time. We had battalion + were drilled by the Major. I suppose he is a good man but he dont know much about military him. [sic] Toward night it rained very hard. I wrote several letters + got three at night but none from home. I am anxious to hear from home again.

Thursday May 14th

It rained when I woke this morning but cleared off + was very warm. I got three letters one from home, one from Cousin Harriet Reed + one from W^m Leonard. Our folks are nearly well again. Father writes me that he is raising a splendid horse for me. I hope I shall have the privilege of using him. I wrote three or four letters. Went on Battalion drill. The news is that we are to be brigaded + every Captain was ordered to report the umber of men fit for active service. Our Co has 85. I think we shall leave here soon + I am ready. Cousin Harriet writes an excellent letter + I prize her letters very highly. Uncle W^m sends word for me to stand to my post + do my duty as a man. God helping me I will try. I earnestly hope that this cruel causeless war will soon end + the weary soldier return to those who are ~~wath~~ watching + waiting anxiously for their return. O what a world of sin + sorrow this is. We had a severe thunder storm toward night. It rained very hard + is cooler tonight.

Friday May 15th

Not very warm today. We had Co + Battalion drill. I wrote some letters + got two one from Carrie Reed. The news if of little importance but I think Gen Hooker will move again soon. Corpl Charles Smith, brother to Corpl H Smith in our Co came here tonight. He belongs to the 137th + has been in hospital in Baltimore all winter.

Saturday May 16th

Cool + pleasant. Went on skirmish drill + had a good one. This afternoon I have been cleaning + varnishing my gun blacking my cartridge box +c. More old troops went past today + among them the 27th N.Y. Now news of importance today.

Sunday May 17

H Smith + myself went on guard at Savage, had a very good time. The day was very warm.

Monday May 18th

Got to camp at 10 A M + had to get ready for inspection. Went in the Color guard. The Major complimented me on the looks of my gun. Sam Bogardas + myself got a pass + went out + had a very good time. Got a letter from home + answered it + wrote to Carrie Reed. There was quite a time in + out of camp. Cos D + C are going to leave tomorrow morning + the boys have a time over it.

Tuesday May 19th

I went back to the old tent again as Lieut has gone up town to board. The two Cos D + C left at ten AM. We went out a ways with them as an escort. The news is this morning that all the troops around Washington + Baltimore + all railroad guards are to be taken away + Pennsylvania militia sent here to guard. I expect to go to the front soon now + I am ready. The weather is fine. The men are at work moving camp. We are going to build new barracks.

Wednesday May 20th

There is nothing going on in camp except Co K building barracks. I took a squad out to go swimming. I never could swim at all before. I cant much now, but if I could save my life by swimming eight or ten rods I guess I could do it. The weather is fine. Geo, Hi + myself went out to get a picture taken with W^m Lewis for his mother. I recieved [sic] a letter from home + answered it. They are nearly well again + I am very glad of it. Father gets along with his work very well but I wish I were there to help him.

Thursday May 21st

A bright beautiful morning. The earth looks truly beautiful this morning. Why is it that man cannot take lessons of peace from nature instead of rousing his worst passions to war with his brother man. No news of importance this morning. Geo + Hi went to Washington + Alf Earsley

Wm Roe + myself went fishing + had lots of fun but no fish. I rec'd a letter from Laura Lewis + answered it.

Friday May 22^d

A warm + pleasant day. Corpl Graham + myself went to Contee's on guard + had a good time. I wandered off alone toward night + gathered a fine bouquet. The 31st NY went past on their way home. The 32^d will be along soon. We hear some rumors of a victory in the west. It is said that Gov Curtin of Pa is going to raise 50000 men to do guard duty. I dont think it is fair to let the troops from one state do all the guard duty. I think we shall leave soon now. I rec'd a letter from J M Hastings + one from Laura Hungerford.

Saturday, May 23^d

Got to camp this morning at 10 oclock, feeling rather tired. We hear something about Co F going to Beltsville. The weather is very warm. The troops in the field must suffer now. Sam Bougardas + myself got a pass + went up town up met with no great adventure.

Sunday May 24^h

Very warm. This morning the Major called the men up + told them that he had taken the camp guard off + said we were to have this field as the limit of our wandering without a pass. I hope the men will live up to the rules so we will not need a camp guard. I wrote to Laura Hungerford. We had preaching after dress parade. Well another Sabbath has passed. I wish I had improved it better. I earnestly pray that God may give me grace to live nearer right. I am determined to live nearer to God than I ever have. O God give me patience + strength. It looks like a storm tonight. I wrote a letter home.

Monday 25^h

It rained some through the night + this morning it is a great deal cooler. Cos A + F are building barracks for Co F today. W^m Roe Hi Reed + myself went fishing, had some fun but very few fish. The news is good again. Gen Grant has shipped the rebs in five battles taking many prisoners + it is said that a dispatch reached Washington last night that Vicksburg was taken. It is too good to believe yet a while. We heard toward night that the 32^d NY was coming through +

we went down to the tank at 6 PM + stayed until eleven + then came back + just as we got to camp we saw the train coming. I ran down to the Railroad but did not have a chance to see any of them. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it.

Tuesday May 26th

Cool + cloudy yet. Last Sunday the mercury stood at 100° in the sun. I call that rather warm. The work of moving barracks goes on yet . The news of the Capture of Vicksburg is partly confirmed. This afternoon I had to take the place of Serg't Dean on fatigue duty building barracks. It is slow work. Without tools or anything else we need + as a consequence we did not accomplish much. No letters tonight. I am disappointed.

Wednesday May 27th

Warmer this morning + very pleasant. Geo + I went on duty as Serg't + Corpl in camp. Everything goes off well. No letters yet tonight. What is going to happen? It is rather strange that I should not get any letters in so long. The war news is good from the west but Vicksburg is not taken yet. The army of the Potomac lies idle + no prospect of a move very soon + if they do no better than they have done it is better that they lay [sic] still.

Thursday May 28th

I got up this morning at 1 o'clock AM + took Geo's place. three of the guards from Co F were drunk + I had a fine time with them. It is a very warm day again. Hi has gone to Washington. No definite news yet from Vicksburg, but it seems that Grant has besieged the city on every side + I think it must soon fall but I thought so when I commenced this Volume + it is in rebel hands yet, or we think it is. I got three letters + one of them was from Carrie + she sent me a photograph + it was an excellent one. I wrote to Carrie. Went up town in the evening. The Lieut Col who has come back again. There is talk that our Co must leave here, but where we are going is more than I can learn.

Friday May 29th

A splendid day. No news of importance except that the Rebel Johnson is on the way to reinforce the Rebs at Vicksburg. I hope Gen Grant will get possession before he gets there. I got three

letters one from home + answered it. Our folks are well + Father gets along with his work very well but I am afraid that he is working too hard. I wish I were there to help him some of the hours that I have nothing to do. I wrote home.

Saturday May 30th

Rather rainy in the forenoon. I went fishing in the morning, lost my line + then went up town + had some fun. Afternoon the drums beat + we were called out for roll call + then I + A Earsley were sent to the railroad bridge to stop all men coming into camp across the bridge. At 8 PM we were relieved. It seems that something had been stolen at Savage.

Sunday May 31st

Well another month ends today. The weather is warm + pleasant. We had inspection at ten o'clock. I had to report to the Major the names of the men I stopped yesterday. Geo + I went up town to the Episcopal church. It seems to me that there is most [sic] too much form + ceremony about their worship, but if they are sincere I suppose it is right. Well another volume of my useless life is filled + I am yet alive enjoying the best of heaven's blessings, but still seperated [sic] from those I love still a wanderer. I expect we must go to the Junction tomorrow. I shall send this home soon + I hope peace will soon bless the land that I may go home too.