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109th Regiment, Company A, New York State Volunteers
CIVIL WAR DIARY
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transcribed by Ann Townsend
(JBR's great-granddaughter)
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[front flyleaf]

**[3]^d Vol Of
J. B. Reed's
Diary**

Commenced at
Camp Laurel Md

(June 1st 1863)

Dear Parents Brother + Sisters

You are at perfect
liberty to read this but I would
rather not have any one
else read it.

Your Son + Brother
J B Reed

Camp Laurel Md

~~May~~ June 1st/63

Well another volume of my Diary is full + I begin another. I wonder where ~~we~~ I will be when this is full. I hope the war will be ended by the time I get this full + I be permitted to return to home + friends. We were ordered to pack up this morning for the Junction. There was lots of whiskey in camp + when we fell in half of the men were drunk. We started at half past nine + got to the Junction at eleven. I stood the march well. We put up cloth tents to stay in until we get barracks built. I got a letter from home + answered it. Went swimming in the afternoon. We have a fine place to bathe.

Tuesday June 2^d

A beautiful day. I went with a working party to grind axes + then to the woods to cut timber for barracks. When I got to camp I was very tired. I cant stand it to work a bit. We went on dress parade at night + the Chaplain had the Doxology sung + he made a prayer. Our Regt is under the command of Gen Hooker now + we may be ordered away at any time. Gen Hooker now has command of all the forces in Virginia + all for the defence [sic] of Washington + all belonging to Heintzleman's [sic *General Samuel P. Heintzelman*] army. We hear good news again from the west. Rosecrans has met + defeated Bragg + is still in pursuit of him. I hope it is true + I hope he will make a complete victory of it.

Wednesday June 3^d

When I woke this morning it was raining some but did not rain long. I woke this morning feeling rather bad. I guess I have taken cold in my head as my head aches + my throat is sore some, but I guess it is nothing serious. The good news is confirmed again this morning. We went on battalion drill had a very easy drill, fired blank cartridges. I have I rec'd two letters + one of them from home + I wrote home. We put up another hut of rubber blankets today so we have plenty of room now. The Col came over to camp last night + said that the paymaster would be here tomorrow + ordered the Capts to give no paper + to have all the men black their boots + be ready to recieve [sic] their pay. Nothing new tonight.

Thursday June 4th

A beautiful day. My throat is very little if any better. Cleaned up my accoutriments [sic] + got ready for the paymaster. No drill today. The Paymaster came from Washington on the 12 o'clock train. Our Co recieved [sic] pay first. We got two months pay. No news of importance today.

Friday June 5th

I put some pork on my neck last night + it is a little better this morning but bad enough yet. Asa Snow's Son went home this morning. I sent my old Diary + some old letters by him. I hope I shall not have to write many more Volumes before the war is over but I see little prospect of its closing very soon. In the end I think the victory will be ours, but it must be a work of time + perseverance.

Saturday June 6th

Well saturday [sic] night has come again + the labors of another week are over + I am still spared, still a pensioner [sic] on the bounty of a kind Creator. I am feeling better today. My throat is not so sore but I am very hoarse yet. It has looked like showers all day but does not rain yet. The teams have been drawing timber for the barracks today. I have done nothing but clean my gun + read some. One of my friends from Caroline came here tonight Mr. J. Mandeville. He has been surveying a railroad in the Maryland mountains the past two months. I was glad to see him again but there are friends at the north that if I could see them, my joy could not be written down here with this pen prompted by my feeble brain. It seems to me that if I could be at home with the knowledge that peace was again showering her blessings over the land, t'would be little short of heaven, but it is not so. War still reigns supreme + the thundering cannon + the sharp rattle of musketry still disturb the air + the piercing shriek of agony + the groan of despair still harrow the soul, + Alas the vile traitor flag still floats where once the sacred emblem of a nation's glory + Liberty waved. The war news is still encouraging from the west. The siege of Vicksburg goes on slowly but surely + Gen Banks has invested Port Hudson + will probably take it. No moves are heard of by the Army of the Potomac. I should think something might be done this fair weather.

Sunday June 7th

A beautiful day. We had Co inspection. Nothing of importance happened.

Monday June 8th

H Smith + I went to Washington. I had some photographs taken. We went to the navy yard. Got back at 4 PM. Got a letter from home.

Tuesday June 9th

When I looked for my diary this morning I found that I had lost it so my writing will be short for I did not find it until Thursday.

Wednesday June 10th

Got a letter from home. Sent my check home tonight. We got into our new barrack tonight. It is a good one. I have worked very hard + I am very tired. The news is good from the west.

Thursday June 11th

Went to work this morning to finish our barracks, but about ten o'clock an order came to pack up with three days rations for a move. There was some work getting ready, but we were all right in a short time. Stewart's [sic - *J. E. B. Stuart*] cavalry had crossed the Potomac + he was expected through here. We went to Savage Switch + Co H went to Laurel, pickets were sent out in all directions at three PM, a dispatch was rec'd that the rebs had been driven back + so we marched back to camp. The boys were highly elated with the prospect of a fight. It rained some + got our guns rather rusty. I was rather tired when I got to camp. I guess I shall go swimming tonight.

The news tonight is good. The rebel cavalry came within three miles of Poolsville [sic - *Poolesville, MD*] + nineteen of the Junction. Col Hewitts Reg't had a fight with them, resulting in the repulse of the rebs, with a loss of nine men, while our men lost four killed + two wounded. I wish that the rebs had got near enough to have a brush with us. Our Co turned out bully. We had seventy five men out in fighting trim. We hear that the rebs were only 250 strong.

Friday June 12th

Warm + pleasant. Hi had a tooth drawn last night + had his jaw broken some. We worked on our barracks. I went on guard tonight at the Quartermaster's department. Took all the guard there + went to sleep + let them relieve themselves. I slept on a bale of hay.

Saturday June 13th

Very warm + rained a little. I was on guard all day. Wrote a letter to Carrie. We drew some clothing today. I drew a pair of pants. We drew regulation hats. They are a big thing. No news of importance.

Sunday June 14th

Warm + cloudy. We had Co inspection. The men made a fine appearance in or rather under their new hats. I wrote a letter home. Went to church + heard a very good sermon.

Monday June 15th

Very warm. Our Battalion was pretty hard this forenoon. When the battalion was dismissed the Col said that we must drill two or three hours every day at target practice + estimating distances. H Smith + myself went to Laurel + had a bully time. Got dinner at the hotel. One of Co F's men got badly hurt by the cars this morning + will probably die. After roll call tonight the drums beat to turn out + we fell out + were ordered to sleep with our clothes on + our guns loaded. Co D went out on picket toward Clarksville. The rebs are in Maryland again + we cannot tell what moment we will be attacked.

Tuesday June 16th

It looks rather rainy this morning. Well the night has passed + we are all right yet. The pickets have come in + no signs of the rebs. The news is this morning that the rebs are in Maryland in force + some are even as far as Chambersburg Pa. I would not wonder if we had a brush with them. I think they will find the 109th ready for them. I have been at work all day on the cook house. In the afternoon we were ordered to pack up everything + be ready to march at a minutes notice but no order came. At dress parade an order was read for the men to prepare for inspection tomorrow at eight AM. I worked until after roll call on my accoutrements [sic].

Wednesday June 17th

A beautiful day. I have not seen today's [sic] paper yet, but there are no rebels near us yet I guess. We went out on inspection. The Adj't said my gun was first rate. He is not well at all. I am afraid he will be very sick. I went out swimming + on target practice. Made a couple good shots. I rec'd two letters from home + one from A Leonard. Wrote home. After I got to bed a call was made for a Corpl + five men to go on picket + I volunteered. We went two or three miles from camp. I had to stay up all night.

Thursday June 18th

I got back to camp just after sunrise, got my breakfast cleaned my gun + then went to sleep + slept until near supper time. When I woke it was raining quite hard. I wrote to A Leonard. The work on the fort commenced today. It has been very warm + it is a hard time to work on the fort.

Friday June 19th

It was cloudy today. I did nothing but read + write. No news of importance. Our forces hold Md heights + Harpers Ferry yet. The siege of Vicksburg goes briskly on. The work on the fort goes on. We had thirty two men at work today. I rec'd a letter from J M Hastings + answered it.

Saturday June 20th

Still cloudy. I was detailed for fatigue duty + went to the woods. I had charge of 60 choppers + 12 hewers + it kept me very busy. We did a good deal of work. Toward night some whiskey was sent there + it made perfect fools of some of the men. I know it does more hurt than good. It rained some in the afternoon. There is some fear of an attack upon Washington by Gen Lee's command. The news from Gen Grant before Vicksburg is very favorable. I guess Vicksburg must fall soon. The rebels are making some trouble in Maryland + Pa.

Sunday June 21st

Cloudy + disagreeable. The working party has to work again today. I think it is useless but I expect the officers know. I am not on duty today. How different the holy Sabbath is regarded here + up north in my dear old home. I would like to know what the folks are doing up home

today + I wish I were there to enjoy their society a little while. Geo + I got a pass + went out a little while. At night a Co of Cavalry came here + camped in the field next our camp. About ten in the evening we had a very hard shower + it rained on me some through the canvass.

Monday June 22^d

A fine day. A Earsley + myself went out after mulberries + we found some cherries too. Fruit tastes good after being so long without it. The news is about the same as usual. No great moves have been made but a battle between Lee + Hooker is expected every day. The cavalry here had inspection + drilled some. They present a fine appearance. I got a letter from home + answered it.

Tuesday June 23^d

A pleasant day.

Wednesday June 24th

Got a letter from home + answered it. Went on guard at night. Had five prisoners to guard + they were all condemned to hard labor for their term of service.

Thursday June 25th

Very war. The prisoners were taken away at nine this morning. No news of great importance. I passed the day very easily for being on duty. Went to the depot toward night with H Smith + Corpl Kimball. The news is tonight that Lee's whole army is crossing into Maryland + a part is pushing for Harrisburg. It looks rainy tonight.

Friday June 26th

When I woke up this morning it was raining steadily. I hope it will raise the Potomac so Lee's army cant get back into ~~Maryland~~ Virginia. I cleaned my gun for the rain had beat on it + it was very rusty. It continued to rain all day. I rec'd a letter from Willie Bogardas one from Hastings + one from Lane.

Saturday June 27th

Still cloudy + some rain. The rebs are in Maryland with a large army + are advancing toward Harrisburg. I hope our officers will be sharp enough to trap Gen Lee + his army this time. I say get along with as few troops as possible for guard duty + send every available man after the rebel army + either whip them + end the war or get whipped + own the corn. I think there has been enough indecisive moves + something ought to be done to count before long. The war is drawing the very life blood from the nation + a few more bleedings + we shall be so weak that any foreign power can controll [sic] us. This war can just as well be ended this year as to drag it out to three or four. There is a lack of energy at the north + perhaps this rebel raid into Pa will awaken them to their danger + they will see the strength of our enemy. We have news tonight that Hooker's right wing is at Hagerstown. Artillery + cavalry have been passing along the turnpike near here for Baltimore.

Sunday June 28th

It was foggy this morning but cleared of [sic] + was pleasant. The Sunday papers say that the rebels are at York, fifty miles above Baltimore + also at Carlisle. When I woke this morning the band was playing Hail Columbia for revilie [sic] + I never heard music sound more sweetly than that. We got ready for inspection but there was none. Went to church + heard a very good sermon from Luke 24th + 27th. How I would like to be at home today but I am not there + it will be a long long time before I do get there. This war seems to be a lengthy concern + the end is not to be seen yet. I wrote a letter home + just as I was finishing it the long roll beat + our Co was ordered out first with knapsacks + next with blankets only. We fell in + soon a line of battle was formed + we started down the RR for Savage again. When we got there a party was detailed to work on the fortifications + pickets sent out. Col Tracy had rec'd a telegram that the rebels were upon us + that Hookers army depended on our holding the road. A stone house within the works was barricaded + every preperation [sic] made for defence sic]. At night the Cos were put in the different works. Ours was put in an earth work below the RR bridge + half of the Co kept on guard at a time. I was up until 12 o'clock. All the other Corpls had to work on the fortifications + the trees all around were felled so nothing would hinder our aim. The boys feel well + no signs of fear although we expect the rebs every moment.

Monday June 29th

When I got up this morning it was raining some. No attack yet. The defences [sic] are nearly completed + the place is very strong against cavalry. The day passed off quietly but it rained enough to make it very unpleasant. The Adjt went to Sandy springs 15 miles from here to find out something definite. He learned that the rebels with a force of 4,000 men + 18 pieces of cannon stopped there Sunday night + took some horses. The Union cavalry with a force of 1500 men were after them + three hours behind. Probably this was all that kept them from coming in here. There has been another change in the Command of the army of the Potomac. Gen Hooker has been relieved + Gen Mead [sic - *General George G. Meade*] takes his place. It seems to be poor policy to make such changes when a battle is expected every day. It cleared off tonight + was pleasant.

Tuesday June 30th

Raining again this morning. We had Muster today in the rain. No more news of importance today. I was on guard tonight. We ~~on Wed~~ moved across to the other side of the river to camp as it was quite muddy where we lay.

Wednesday July 1st

Rainy yet this morning. We were ordered to move camp down here from the Junction. The boys dont like it at all, for our barracks are just finished but such is a soldiers fate. Here today + somewhere else tomorrow. We got moved + our tents up. I rec'd a letter from home + ~~receiv~~ answered it.

Thursday July 2^d

Cloudy + rainy this morning. The news is good from all points this morning. God grant that our troops may have good success + bring this cruel war to an end. On guard at night.

Friday July 3^d

Very warm. C Norwood Hi Reed + myself got a pass + went to Savage village. Went where the boys were on picket + had a bully time. Got lots of cherries + some cherry pie. When I got to camp I found a letter from Cousin Harriet Reed.

Saturday July 4th

Well the anniversary of our nations independence has again rolled around. I have seen some changes since last year. Last year I went to a pic nic [sic] in Caroline N York + this year I went to one at Savage village. The one at Savage was a perfect failure. Got to camp feeling pretty tired. The news is good. It is reported that Vicksburg is taken also that Gen Mead has taken 20,000 rebels + cut off the retreat of Lee's whole army.

Sunday July 5th

Very warm + rainy. The river has risen very high. I hope the Potomac will rise so Lee cant get back. I wrote to Cousin Harriet Reed. We had meeting here on the ground. I wrote home in the afternoon. Went on guard at the RR bridge. About eleven PM it commenced raining + I got wet some.

Monday July 6th

It rained very hard + the river rose 5 or 6 feet. I felt tired + sleepy this morning. The news is good this morning but not so grant as was reported. Gen Mead has whipped the rebels soundly + they are flying a demoralised [sic] rabble toward the Potomac. That river is so high they cant cross it now + our troops have destroyed all their pontoons. I wrote a letter home + rec'd one. Our folks write that Mrs Louisa Quick is dead. After an illness of four days the Diptheria did its work + took the fond wife from the toils + sorrows of earth to a happier world. She will be deeply mourned by all who knew her, for she was an excellent woman + a Christian. Well we poor soldiers are not the only ones exposed to death. All must die sooner or later.

Tuesday, July 7th

Very warm. I went off + got some cherries. News still good. At night got news that Vicksburg was captured the 4th of July. Thank God for that. Reinforcements have been going to Gen Mead by this RR today.

Wednesday July 8th

Rainy this morning. The news of the Capture of Vicksburg is confirmed. I rec'd a letter from L Lewis. The news tonight is first rate. At 4 PM yesterday Gen Mead came up to the rebs at the

river. They were trying to ferry some wagons over on a couple of scows. Gen Mead began the attack + we have heard the roar of cannon ever since. The rebs are completely routed + are throwing down their arms + hiding in the mountains. Another victory is reported in the west. I believe that the hand of God is with us + that He will soon bring this cruel war to an honorable end.

Thursday July 9th

Very warm indeed. One of our boys that has been gone two days came back last night. He had been robbed of his money + watch by three men + kept until ~~the~~ last night + sent to camp. Eleven of us started after them + got track of them about noon + just then Corpl Todd came up with us + said that Capt ordered us back to camp + so we went + when we got there we found out that only one was sent for + the rest of the order false.

Friday July 10th

We started again this morning with six men + followed the robbers all day to a place called Carlington. We marched 25 miles today + it was very hot all day. Got our supper at a farmhouse + slept in a tobacco barn. I slept very well for I was tired + sleepy.

Saturday July 11th

We went to a second farmer this morning + told him we wanted some breakfast + we got some corn bread butter + milk. Northern people would be ashamed to place such victuals before a man, but they are nothing but beasts here. We made up our minds that a farther chase was useless as the robbers were a day ahead of us, so we started back to camp. The robbers were stragglers from the Rebel Lee's army. We go some more corn bread at a store for dinner + at 4 PM got to camp where I found two letters waiting for me + one of them from home. In the three days we marched about sixty miles. Today was the warmest day I ever saw but I stood it very well.

Sunday July 12th

We had inspection. My gun looked rather rusty. I wrote a letter home + one to Emery Lane. We are having a hard shower today. A reinforcement of 20,000 men is going through here from Gen Dix' army to join Gen Mead. Two trains ran together last night at Laurel + wounded about 30

men. A desperate battle is expected soon between Lee + Mead + I hope + pray that we may be victorious. I earnestly hope that this war will soon end + peace scatter its blessing over the land again.

Monday July 13th

It rained some through last night + at six AM it began to rain very hard + the river rose about 12 ft + washed our cook tent down + we lost the beans + rice. Had a slim breakfast of bread + raw pork. The ~~wat~~ water carried everything before it. The big arched RR bridge at Laurel went away with Jerry Reed of Co K on it. A great deal of damage was done. I never saw such a flood. I was wet all day. We sent to Savage village + got crackers + cheese + had coffee + fried meat + potatoes + we made a bully meal of it I reckon. I was on guard at night but had a very easy time + slept enough.

Tuesday July 14th

It was quite pleasant. I cleaned my gun some + we struck our tent + spread our things out to dry + then went to work to fix our tent. We drove four stakes to form a square as large as the tent + boarded it up about four feet high + set the tent on this + made bunks + now we have a very comfortable place to live in. I wrote home. Went swimming. The news is good yet. Lee is still on this side of the river + Gen Mead is preparing to strike a terrible blow at him + I see nothing to save his army. His pontoons are destroyed, his army reduced + ours increased + defeat must be the result to them.

Wednesday July 15th

Very warm. I began to clean my gun before breakfast + worked until noon + then it was not very clean. The news this morning is not quite as good. Lee has crossed the Potomac + is off again. We hear a report however that Port Hudson has fallen also that the siege of Charleston is going on with vigor. Gen Sherman met Joe Johnson + defeated him + took 2000 prisoners. The rioters in New York are raising fun. Two Reg'ts went past here today for that place. I wish we were ordered there. I would like to shoot some of those worse than rebels. At night one of the boys + myself went down to Laurel to see the ruins of the bridge. It looks pretty bad. The new one will be ready to run over in a short time. We rode up on the train + had a very good time.

Thursday July 16th

We hear this morning that the Paymaster is coming today. We got ready for inspection. It was very warm + cloudy. We went to the Junction to get our pay + recieved it. After we got back the Adjut came + we had inspection. I recieved a letter from home. Our folks are well + doing first rate. The news is good yet although Lee has escaped but Mead is after him. Port Hudson is taken. I wrote home + sent my Check (No 6) Date July 13th. It rained very hard in the evening. I hear that W^m Wolcott is wounded.

Friday July 17th

Cloudy + cooler. The news is first rate yet. The attack upon Charleston has commenced. Admiral Dalgrhen [sic *Adm. John A. Dahlgren*] took command on wednesday [sic] + began the fight friday [sic]. Bully for him. Gen Grant took Vicksburg about noon July 4th + at 4 PM started 40,000 men after Johnson + a reinforcement to Port Hudson. The rioters in New York are being handled severely + the draft will take place as soon as quiet is restored. I believe the war will soon be brought to a close now. God grant that it may be for I am tired of it.

Saturday July 18th

A beautiful day. Well it is just 11 months today since I left home but it seems much shorter. Time flies swiftly + it seems like a dream, but I see it is a sad reality. When the thunder of cannon shake the air it tells me too plainly that I am a soldier + that brave noble men are bleeding + dying for country + Liberty but thank God the clouds look lighter + I think we are gaining ground very fast. Charley Norwood, [*Horace?*] Smith + myself got a pass to go to Savage village to get our boots mended but could not get it done. Smith started for camp but Norwood + I made up our minds to have some fun so we went to the river. I waded it + Norwood got a chance to ride across on a drovers horse + then we went to a grocery + ordered dinner + in due time it was ready + it was a bully one too + we did ample justice to it. We then went to Savage Village + found Smith + Earsley there + had lots of fun. Ate plenty of fries + then went to camp tired + ready to rest. I found a letter from Willie Bogardas + one from Carrie Reed. Bert Reed has at last got married to Miss Diantha Hill. Bully for him. Long life, peace + happiness be to him and his Lady. I wrote to Carrie.

Sunday July 19th

A beautiful day. I wrote home + to Willie B. + spent the rest of the day until evening reading + then Corpl Cronce + myself went out for a walk + went as far as Savage Village + had a very pleasant time.

Monday July 20th

Very warm. The news is good. The siege of Charleston is going on briskly + the place must soon fall. Our troops are gaining smaller victories every day. The riots in New York have been put down. North Carolina is talking strongly of a reconstruction of the Union + other states will follow. Hi + I went to Laurel to see W^m Lewis + we found him pretty sick but not dangerous. We got dinner at the Hotel + a bully one too. When I got to camp I found a letter from Laura Hungerford waiting for me but none from home. I wrote home + answered Laura's letter + then went swimming. No news tonight.

Tuesday July 21st

Pleasant. I wrote to Em Wolcott. Co B went to the Junction this morning + Co I recieved orders to go. We expected to move into Co B's quarters + cleaned out their cook house + then found out that we should have no boards to fix the barracks so we are to stay where we are. I get no letters from home yet. I don't see why it is. Our Orderly starts for Elmira tonight as he is one detailed to go there to tend to the drafted troops. I wish I were going but I cant + I must be content I suppose. The news is good yet.

Wednesday July 22^d

The news is good. The prospect is that Gen Sherman will take all of Johnson's army. Morgan's force in Ohio is captured with the exception of himself + a small squad + he will probably be taken. The number taken is 4000. The New York rioters are quiet. Last news from Charleston state that a combined attack upon Fort Wagner was going on. The Monitors have proved to be proof against the enemy's shot so far. I think Charleston must fall + very soon too. The rebels seem to be discouraged.

Thursday July 23^d

Very very warm. I dont feel well today at all but guess I'll be right in a day or two. The news continues to be encouraging. Everything is working well. It is expected that Mead will bring Lee to battle near Winchester. I recieved a letter from home tonight. All well. Wrote home. Father writes me that they expect the draft will be resisted in Ithaca. I wish the three Cos from Tompkins could only go there. I would like to shoot some of those black hearted villains. Father writes that his grain and grass looks remarkably well + promises well for an abundant harvest. I wish I were there to help gather it, or even to help him some of these hours + days that I do nothing, but it cannot be so at present but I think we shall have a chance to go home within a year at most + then I'll make up for lost time. Wont I dive into Mother's pie + cake though?

Friday July 24th

Cloudy this morning. I feel some better but rather weak. I would like to breakfast at home this morning, for my appetite does not crave pork + bread but I guess I'll eat that or nothing. Geo Hiram + myself got leave of absence to visit Washington tomorrow. I rec'd a letter from J M Hastings.

Saturday July 25th

Very warm Started for Washington at 9 o'clock AM. Had some business to tend to for one of our men who has been discharged. Got a picture taken of all three for Cousin Harriet Reed. The news is that our troops have entire possession of Morris island. If that is so Sumpter [sic] must soon fall. We got to camp about 8 PM tired enough.

Sunday July 26th

I had to go on guard this morning at one o'clock. I read some + passed away time as best I could. It was a beautiful day. I got Corpl Hollister to take my place + I with Corpl Bogardus went up to Savage to Church. We went + got some pie before church + then went to meeting. It was a funeral. After church we strolled off + got some more pie + got in company with some ladies + had a good time. I wrote home + to J. M. Hastings. We had a very hard shower + thunder + lightning. I would like to be home tonight I reckon.

Monday July 27th

Cloudy + rained some. We had inspection this morning as we had none yesterday. I bought a watch this morning. Got a letter from home + answered it. The news is good. Morgan is captured at last. The rebels have lost ½ of their army in the last two months + they have only 200,000 men now + can raise only 70,000 more new troops. They must soon yield to the federal government. I hope that we may come out of this fiery trial purified + made better as a nation. I heard a man say the other day that before the fall of Adam the world was perfect. No loathsome swamps, no malaria floating in the air of evening, no thunder + lightning, but all was quiet all harmony. I have thought of this beautiful world + compared it with the stormy tempestuous sea that the mariner in this life must guide his frail bark over + I thank God for the world as it is. Were there no storms in life, no clouds we should forget to look to God, forget that there was any place of refuge. When storms arise + tear us from home + friends sever the closest bonds of love + unity we are constrained to look for help + when the storm is past the sun shines brighter than ever before + again our hearts turn to the Author of all good + we bow with gratitude before His throne.

Tuesday July 28th

Very warm. I helped carry some timber to make a table + a party was detailed to put up our stove + get ready to use it. I hope we shall live better now. Well we got our supper cooked on the new stove + I reckon its some better. The news is that our troops have not taken Fort Wagner as was reported but an assault was made upon that place + our troops were repulsed. The news is good from other quarters. We recieved a circular from Capt H S Krum who has opened a recruiting office in Ithaca for the 12th [17th?] cavalry. Capt H. S. Krum was our Orderly Serg't + I wish him luck + God Speed. There is some prospect of Geo Wolcott going with Capt Krum.

Wednesday July 29th

Our new cooking arrangement goes first rate. I rec'd a letter from home + one from Willie Bogardas. I wrote home. The draft in Tompkins has taken place + from our district are drafted Rufus Stevens James Vandemark, Isaiah Vandemark, Emery Lane, David M^eWhorter + in other parts of the town + Co I know a great many who are drafted. Sarah writes me that she is

appointed collector for the Soldiers aid society + that she is going to [illegible] to see what she can do. I was on guard at night. It is just one year tonight since I enlisted, how time flies.

Thursday July 30th

I went on guard at one this morning. A little after 4 oclock it began to rain + rained very hard until 6 A.M. I wrote to Willie Bogardas. Willie sent me his Photograph yesterday + it is very natural. The news is favorable today but of no great importance. Since morning it has been very pleasant. I hope the army will be handled efficiently this fall + bring the thing to an end. It seems as though it had lasted long enough.

Friday July 31st

Cloudy + rained a little in the forenoon. Our Co had to go to the Junction to drill this forenoon. Col Tracy said that no more paper would be granted in ten days. He wants to find out what the cause of so much sickness is. I cleaned my gun when I got to camp. Rec'd a letter from Carrie Reed. The news is of little importance at present. We hear however that Gen Mead is laying pontoons across the Rappahannock but it is expected that there will be a general battle very soon. Our cavalry will harass Lee + our main army follow him to the rebel capital I hope + only leave the ashes of that nest of rebellion.

Saturday August 1st

A bright beautiful morning this is. We went in swimming before breakfast + found it pleasant. No drill today. I worked some on my gun + went berrying.

Sunday Aug 2^d

Very warm. The mercury rose to 110°. We had inspection in the morning. I wrote a letter home + one to Cousin Carrie. The rest of the day was spent reading. The mosquitoes are very thick now + almost eat us up.

Monday Aug 3^d

Another hot day. The sky looks like brass. I hope there will be no drill while it is so very warm for I think it will hurt the men more than it will do good. We went on drill + it was very warm.

Some of our men are to be tried by court martial today. I had to go on guard at night. I rec'd a letter from home one from Hastings + one from Laura Lewis. I wrote home + to Hastings.

Tuesday Aug 4th

Got up this morning at one o'clock + wrote a letter to Laura Lewis, put in the relief at 4 o'clock + then I went to sleep until roll call. It has been very warm again today, almost unbearable. Lieut C C Mead was married this morning at 7½ AM to Miss Belle Cole of Laurel + started on his wedding tour at 9 AM. The news is still encouraging although it is reported that Banks has met with a defeat with the loss of 6,000 prisoners. Rather doubtful I think.

Wednesday Aug 5th

I felt rather unwell + did not go on battalion drill. We got some cedar trees to shade our tent. I rec'd a real good long letter from home + answered it. The news is good yet. Cousin Geo Roe was drafted + volunteered before he was notified + came here today + joined our Co. Bully for him.

Thursday Aug 6th

This is the day for thanksgiving for the recent victories gained by our troops, may it be sincere. My heart is filled with gratitude to God for his mercies to us. Our cooks or rather the wife of one of the cooks made some fried cakes for us + at supper she got three rousing cheers for it. It is still very warm. There is a great deal of sickness in the Reg't. Two men have died within two days + another is not expected to live.

Friday Aug 7th

We had battalion drill this morning but it was an easy one. The day was rather warm. I went + got some berries in the afternoon. We hear no news today as there was no papers printed. Hiram came back from the hospital tonight looking rather slim. I fear he will not get well very soon + I do not think that he will ever be fit for duty as a soldier. I wish he could be discharged or have a furlough but I see no prospect of either just now.

Saturday Aug 8th

I cleaned my gun. The day was very warm. S Bogardus + myself calculated to go + be initiated in the mysteries of the Sons of Temperance but about 4 o'clock PM I was taken suddenly with pain in my head + bones + I had every symptom of fever. I grew rapidly worse until night.

Sunday Aug 9th

I passed a hard night + did not sleep much. I feel no better this morning + it is a great undertaking to go to the cook house. I sent to Laurel for some quinine + this afternoon I feel some better although my back pains me very bad. I tried to write a letter but had to give it up. Dr French came to see me in the evening + he said it was an attack of fever but said I was treating it right + thought my symptoms were favorable.

Monday Aug 10th

I rested very well last night + I feel much better this morning if my back + head did not ache I should feel very well. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. How worried my folks will be when they hear that I am sick but they may as well know just how I am as for me to tell them that I am well when I am not.

Tuesday Aug ~~10~~th 11th

I think I am gaining slowly + I have some appetite. It is just a year since I left home for the army. It is terrible warm + the poor fellows in hospital must suffer for it is crowded. I got some eggs this afternoon + I had one for supper + I had some toast. Wes Graham very kindly gave me some butter. In the north this would seem a small favor but here it is something a soldier is not used to. Generally he must pay four times the worth of an article to get it. I hope I shall soon get well again + able for duty for I know the anxiety of the friends at home. The news is very good from Charleston. No news of importance from other places.

Wednesday Aug 12th

We had a nice little shower last night + it cooled the air a little. I feel pretty well this morning again my headache is nearly gone + also the fever. I thank God for it most heartily for His many blessings + mercies to such an unworthy creature as I am. We hear today that the mercury stood

at 130° yesterday in the sun + that at midnight for several nights lately it has stood at from 88° to 90°. This is warmer weather than I ever saw before + is rather too warm for comfort. The news is not very exciting at present but very encouraging to us. The conscripts are going to the army of the Potomac at the rate of 1000 a day now + that number will soon be increased. I rec'd a letter from home + Father writes that Mother + Cora are sick. I wish I could be there to see them but I cannot. I hope + pray that they may soon recover + our family circle spared until we can meet again. I wrote a letter home.

Thursday Aug 13th

I feel pretty well this morning except quite a headache. The weather is cooler this morning + it rains a little once in a while. Hi went to the hospital last night to get a certificate of disability for duty to get a furlough but did not succeed as the Surgeon had recieved ~~little~~ different orders but Lieut Mead is going to try and get a furlough for him + I hope he will get it for he is not fit for duty + I fear will not be while he stays here. I ~~feel~~ feel much worse tonight + I fear I shall have a hard time of it. My head aches very badly + I have a high fever again. I guess I shall go to hospital ~~at~~ tomorrow.

Friday Aug 14th

I feel a little better this morning but I dare not trust to my own skill any longer. I went to the hospital at eleven AM. Dr Johnson prescribed Quinine + whiskey. The hospital is crowded.

Saturday Aug 15th

I feel much better this morning + I hope I shall soon be well again. I got some peaches to eat today. Geo came to see me in the afternoon. The day passed off quietly + tonight I feel stronger than I have before since I have been sick. There is a report that Fort Sumpter has fallen. God grant that it ~~xxxx~~ may be so I wish I could hear how Mother + Cora are tonight. I wish I were there with them but that is impossible so I must be content.

Sunday Aug 16th

Sunday morning has come again bright + pleasant but very warm. It finds me still gaining. I hope I shall soon be well. I hear this morning that our Co must go to the Junction again. I think that this is rather too hard on us but we have got to stand it. I wrote home today.

Monday Aug 17th

I am still gaining. I heard this morning that the Co was moving to the Junction. I got a letter from home + our folks tell me that Cora is better. I hope she will get well.

Tuesday Aug 18th

I feel quite smart this morning. Well it is just a year ago today since I left home the last time but the time has passed very quickly. I wish I could be where I was a year ago this morning but I cant be, all I can do is to wish + wait for the war to close. We hear from North Carolina that a part of the State has denounced the power of the southern Confederacy. Good. We also hear that our Reg't is ordered to be ready to start for New York city at six hours notice. Ah yes think we are very likely to go.

Wednesday Aug 19th

I feel pretty well this morning. Last night I had an introduction to Lieut Mead's wife + quite a talk with her. S Frazier was discharged this morning from hospital so it leaves me alone on this floor that is I am the only one from our Co. There are three upstairs though I hope I shall not have to stay here much longer for it is very lonesome here. I rec'd a letter from home tonight. Cora is well again. E. A. Lane goes with Capt Krum as 3^d Serg't. I wrote home.

Thursday Aug 20th

I feel real well this morning. No news of importance. Some of the boys came to see me today.

Friday Aug 21st

I feel well this morning + I think I might go to my Co. Geo Roe came here last night sick with fever. I hope he will get well soon. I got my discharge from hospital this morning. Went up town a little while + went to camp at Annapolis Junction at 2 P.M. Found the boys all right.

Saturday Aug 22^d

I feel quite well. There was general inspection today. I got a letter from home. Our folks sent me \$2.00 + it came very acceptable for I am nearly broke. I went out in the grove to read a while + Hi went a little farther + bought some butter. It is rather hard to live on bread + coffee +c. when we get mostly bread + coffee. How I wish I could be home a short time until I get well at least but I cant do it so there is no use of wishing but I hope there will be a time when war will cease + I can be free again.

Sunday Aug 23^d

A very beautiful day but very very warm. I feel pretty well today. I went out in the grove + wrote a letter home + read some. I wish my folks could have looked into my tent + seen Hi + I eat our supper. We had some tea, some toasted bread + butter. It tasted very good to me as a soldier but would have been rather dry at home but I must be content with soldiers fare yet a while. The band is playing sweet music + I must go + listen to it.

Monday Aug 24th

A beautiful day. We had a cool breeze all day. I do not feel as well today. I recieved a letter from Laura Lewis. The news from Charleston is good. The walls show the effect of our shot + shell.

Tuesday Aug 25th

I feel quite well again. The news is good. Rosecrans is fighting Johnson + Bragg with success so far. News from Charleston still good. Probably Sumpter is ours now. Gen Gilmore has batteries planted to shell the city. Fort Gregg is silenced. The fire from the heaviest guns has not commenced yet. Non combatants have been ordered to leave the city.

Wednesday Aug 26th

The weather changed very quickly last night + this morning it was very cold for summer. Overcoats were comfortable. The news from Charleston is good. Fort Sumpter has suffered

terribly from the fire of the land batteries + the iron clads. I dont feel very well today + I gain very slowly.

Thursday Aug 27th

I am some better this morning. It is rather cold yet. The news is good. The conscripts for our Reg't got here tonight. They are a tough strong looking lot of men.

Friday Aug 28th

I feel quite smart this morning + I hope I shall soon be able to do duty.

Saturday Aug 29th

No letters from home yet. I feel about the same but do not gain very fast. We hear reports that Sumpter + Wagner are taken.

Sunday Aug 30th

A beautiful day. We had service at the Col's house + a very good sermon. I wrote home + to Laura Hungerford. I have been reading Sibyl Monroe + after reading how patiently she bore her trials it gives me strength to bear mine.

Monday Aug 31st

We had general muster this morning for pay. I gain very slow if at all. Today I got a box of things from home + it brought back fond memories to me + I thought of my dear old home. God grant that I may be permitted to return to its roof + to the warm love of those dear friends I have left behind. I got some nice jelly dried beef pears cake dried apples + crackers + then a nice shirt, collar + handkerchief + some paper. Mrs Lewis sent each of the hill boys a towel + a very nice one too. O how can I repay these dear friends for such kindness to me a poor solder. I feel better tonight. I wish I were well + able to do duty again + I hope it may please God to restore me to health again soon. Geo Roe came back from the hospital tonight. I got a letter from home tonight + answered it.

Tuesday Sept 1st

I believe that I am gaining some. Chas Smith + Bowne Yates came here from Alexandria last night. The [sic] are discharged + are going home. They are pretty well broken down. No news of importance.

Wednesday Sept 2^d

I feel quite smart. The boys are building barracks but I cant help much. We got ours so we moved in at night. We have twelve in ours but they are a very good lot of boys. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Father has finished his haying + harvesting. The drafted men of Caroline ~~go~~ went to Owego for examination last monday [sic].

Thursday Sept 3^d

We worked on our house all day + got it most done. We got some straw to sleep on + I guess it will be some better. The boys have found some plant down the river that we are going to get for floor. No news today. I feel real well but have the inflammation in my left eye + that isnt [sic] very pleasant.

Friday Sept 4th

Cloudy + looks some like rain. I went out this morning to get bread with a squad but met the wagon on the way so were saved the trouble. My eye is better I guess. We dug some ditches around the tent, leveled the floor +c. A Earsley + H Reed went out to get some grapes + found some nice ones. I got a letter from Carrie Reed.

Saturday Sept 5th

Nothing of importance today. It is very warm.

Sunday Sept 6th

Got ready for inspection this morning but there was none + there was no church either. I wrote home + to Carrie Reed. It is a beautiful day. On such days as this the earth looks as though it must be pure ~~land~~ and free from sin but we have only to visit the camp the city + even in the country to find sin + sorrow in their most revolting, heart breaking forms. We look upon a body

of fine looking men + it would seem that they were capable only of deeds of honor + philanthropy, but a word a wave of a sword + the stern order to the charge + they are transformed from men created in the similitude of God into demons of wrath + vengeance. And such is human life. Only a few short hours are needed to change the placid course of life into a raging sea, where hope + happiness are forever lost + black despair takes their place.

Monday Sept 7th

I went on duty this morning for the first time in a month. Went to Savage bridge with three men to guard. I boarded with a soldier's family + lived first rate. It was very warm + cloudy.

Tuesday Sept 8th

I slept but very little last night on account of the mosquitoes [sic]. Everything passed off quietly. Got to camp about nine AM. Found a letter from home. Father says he has ripe corn now. I wrote home. There was quite an excitement in camp this afternoon occasioned by a man getting drunk + running the guard. He was soon caught + ~~put~~ put in irons. He was one of the substitutes.

Wednesday Sept 9th

Cloudy this morning. Hi saw the Surgeon yesterday + then went to the hospital for examination + the Surgeon found out what is the matter + thinks he can cure him. I hope he can. It rained some today. No news of importance. I mended my coat. Rec'd a letter from Laura Lewis.

Thursday Sept 10th

Cloudy + ~~cool~~ cool. The news is good today. From rebel sources we hear that Rosecrans has possession of Chattanooga, also that Gilmore has taken Fort Wagner + Battery Gregg. I rec'd a letter from home one from Hastings + one from Willie Bogardas. Our folks think that I am gaining very slowly but I feel well now. I wrote a letter home.

Friday Sept 11th

Well it is 13 months since we first went to Binghamton. It is still cloudy + looks like rain. We have seen official dispatches that the rebel reports of yesterday were true also that the advance

guard of Burnside's army had taken Cumberland gap without firing a gun. They took over 2000 prisoners + some cannon.

Saturday Sept 12th

I went on guard down to Savage bridge. It rained some in the evening. We had a rather late dinner. The news is still very good. Lee is expected to make another raid into Maryland or Pennsylvania [sic].

Sunday Sept 13th

It rained very hard this morning + we got quite wet. Got to camp about nine A.M. It is a wet disagreeable day. Soldiering is not very pleasant business such as this is [sic], but we cannot have our choice always. I wrote home.

Monday Sept 14th

I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Our folks write that Emery Lane + Melissa Stevens are married + that W^m Leonard has gone with Lane + joined the cavalry service. It will kill his mother, for she put all dependence in him. I am very much surprised to hear that Emery + Melissa are married. Ephraim Hill's folks + Aunt Priscilla Reed are out visiting at our house. I would like to see them.

Tuesday Sep't 15th

On guard again today + I don't feel much like it. I was on first Relief of camp guard. The day passed off quietly. At night each relief had coffee + bread before going on.

Wednesday Sep't 16th

I feel tired + sleepy this morning. The Co are building the street + it looks first rate. It rained some today.

Thursday Sept 17th

I feel better this morning. The news is good. From Charleston we learn that a part of James Island is in our possession + Fort Moultrie has raised a white flag. Gen Meade has had a fight

with Lee + has drive him. Rosecrans + Burnside are doing well in the southwest. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it.

Friday Sept 18th

A rainy disagreeable day. part of our tent blew down + I got rather wet fixing it. We rec'd our pay today + settled up with the government for clothing. I only rec'd \$14.85 + that all in a check No 695. Date Sep't 18th/63.

Saturday Sept 19th

Cold + stormy. The RR bridge at Laurel has gone again + the trains are laying here at the Junction. We hear that the rebs are evacuating Richmond. We got a stove today but could get no pipe, so we built a fire on the ground in the tent.

Sunday Sep't 20th

Colder yet. The wind blows _ it is very uncomfortable. We built a fire on the floor again. How I wish I could be at home now. I think I should enjoy life better than I do here. I wrote to Uncle John Reed as he had requested me to do so. I wrote home. We had dress parade.

Monday Sep't 21st

I went on fatigue duty today + worked pretty hard + found myself rather tired at night. We hear that Gen Rosecrans has had a fight with Bragg. The result not decisive yet. I rec'd a letter form home + answered it.

Tuesday Sep't 22^d

We sent for lumber to Baltimore yesterday + it came this morning. Today we have been at work on our house. We put in a floor + fixed up generally. I think we have quite a comfortable place to live in now. The result of the great battle is not known yet. We bought a chicken pie in the tent today, but it was not such a one as I have eaten at home, but we cannot choose.

Wednesday. Sep't 23^d

There was frost this morning + it is quite cold. We had some sweet potatoes for breakfast this morning + they were very good. We hear good news from Rosecrans today. He has driven them back + will give them a sound thrashing before he is done. We began to level the ground for our Co cook house today. I rec'd a letter from Carrie Reed. For reasons unknown to myself I feel very lonesome tonight. I wish I could sit down + talk with the folks at home tonight but I cant, so what is the use of wishing. But I believe the time is not far distant when I can again enjoy the society of friends.

Thursday Sept 24th

Clear + pleasant but cold for this time of year. I went to Laurel today + got the cash on my check, got some stove pipe + other things too numerous to mention. Went to see the boys in hospital. They seem to be getting along well except Corpl Bogardus. He is bad off. He with M^cDaniels + Beech are going to start for home tomorrow. Tonight As I got off the train a gentleman asked if I knew a Mr Toby that had lately joined our Reg't from Steuben Co. I did not, but upon inquiring I found out that one of this party (for there were three of them) was a Mr Hill, brother to E Hill my cousin, + the others were near neighbors to Uncle Romeo Reed, or now to Bert Reed. It was a pleasant surprise to me. I only had a few minutes to talk with them. I wrote a letter home tonight, but rec'd none, + I feel rather disappointed. The news is good yet today. All goes off well, but there has been very hard fighting. Gen Meade's army is reported to be across the Rapidan. The English government has refused to let the iron clads, building in their ports leave, for they are plainly destined for the Rebels.

Friday, Sept 25th

I went on fatigue today in the woods to cut timber for a mess house + I was very tired when I got back.

Saturday Sept 26th

It was a very cold night last night. I do not feel very well today. I wrote to Carrie Reed. Went to the woods to help draw timber. No letter from home this week except one monday [sic]. The 11th + 12th Army Corps are going past here to reinforce Gen Burnside.

Sunday Sept 27th

Again the bright beautiful Sabbath has dawned over our land, but alas it still finds our land the scene of a terrible strife, the hand of brother is raised against brother. O how long must this horrid strife last? how long the wails of sorrow + anguish float on the evening breeze? We had church at the Col's house, + a very good sermon from Hebrews 11th + 30th. I wrote a letter home + "wished that I were there."

Monday Sep't 28th

A beautiful day. We had Battalion drill this forenoon. The men are fixing the street some. We hear that Gen Rosecrans has been reinforced + is now able to resume the offensive. The rebels have about 100000 men. Our loss in the late battle was 1,700 killed + 8000 wounded. The enemy took 50 pieces of artillery. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. I have lost one letter from home, for Sarah said that she wrote a week ago yesterday.

Tuesday Sept 29th

On guard today at the water gap, where the water carriers pass. Tonight I rec'd the lost letter. It had been to the 107th Reg't.

Wednesday Sept 30th

Rather unpleasant this morning but cleared off toward noon. No news of importance. I rec'd another letter from home + answered it. All well at home. Well another month has passed away + I am still spared by the kind hand of Providence. Fourteen months I have been a soldier. I hope there will be a change for the better before the same time rolls around again.

Thursday Oct 1st

Damp + foggy this morning. No news of importance.

Friday Oct 2^d

It rained nearly all day very hard + the water rose very high. Our tent leaked very badly. The guards sit + take it patiently.

Saturday Oct 3^d

I went on guard. The day was very pleasant. The news is favorable.

Sunday Oct 4th

A splendid day. I came off guard at nine A.M. Wrote a letter home. There seems to be some prospect of our leaving here pretty soon if we may judge by the rumors afloat. Our Capt gave orders that all unserviceable canteens + haversacks should be returned tomorrow + the men get new ones. At dress parade we rec'd orders to be ready to march at six hours notice as the Reg't is under marching orders. We have no idea where we are going. I am afraid that my folks will start that box to us after we are gone.

Monday Oct 5th

We had drill as usual. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. My folks write that they are going to start a box soon. We hear all sorts of stories about where we are going but nothing to be relied on. The Quartermaster is packing the stores ready for a move.

Tuesday Oct 6th

This morning we rec'd orders to come out for drill with dress coats on, as we were to march to Laurel for a holiday. We marched down + the Lieut Col let us go where we pleased from 12 N to 2 PM. I went up town to get something to eat. At 2 PM we fell in again with the two Co's there + went up to the drill ground + had a hard drill + then marched to camp. We got there at 6 P.M. tired + hungry + sick of such holidays at least I dont want to see many such. No more news about leaving but I guess we shall go this time.

J. B. Reed

Wednesday Oct 7th

Quite cold. The boys feel rather lazy this morning after our holiday. We had Battalion + Co drill. Lieut King + Orville Ensign of the 137th came here today. They had been home. They have seen hard times. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Julia writes the glad news that she has espoused the cause of Christ + enlisted under His banner. O how glad I am. We hear

tonight that we are to move tomorrow or next day to Mason's Island below Washington. I dont think we shall stay there long but we may. The Col has sent to Baltimore for cars to carry us to Washington. We hear also that one Co is to stay here + one to Beltsville + that ours is to stay here. I hope we shall for I know that we shall not have as good quarters on Mason's Island as we will have here.

Thursday Oct 8th

Rainy + unpleasant. I went on guard. We hear no more definite news of leaving but we expect to go soon. I got some things ready to ~~go~~ send home as I cannot carry them. A part of the day was rainy + unpleasant, but the night was clear + pleasant but cold. I arrested a man who ran the guard but was stopped before he got out of reach.

Friday Oct 9th

I dont feel first rate today. I had some cold + found an addition to it last night but it is nothing serious I guess. I rec'd a letter from Cousin Em Wolcott + one from Cousin Helen Sears. We drew clothing today. I drew a pair of shirts. We hear now that we are to leave next monday [sic] for Mason's Island. Well I am ready to go. I feel better tonight + I guess I shall be all right soon.

Saturday Oct 10th

We hear today that must pack up for a move tomorrow. Geo Hi + myself packed up a box of clothing that we did not need + started it home. I wrote a letter home.

Sunday Oct 11th

We got ready for inspection but there was none + about 10 AM we rec'd orders to commence packing up our lumber +c to move. We worked very hard until late at night. Got rations for tomorrow + orders to be ready to move at 7 o'clock. We had to sleep in our dismantled huts, but we managed to sleep very well.

Monday Oct 12th

We were called out this morning at 3 ½ AM for roll call + breakfast. We filled our canteens + finished lading our camp equipage on the cars + at 7 ½ AM fell into line + were inspected to see that everything was all right + that there was no whiskey aboard. We then marched to the cars + got started at about 9 ½ AM. We had to wait for other trains so we did not get to Washington until about 2 P.M. We were then formed in line + marched down Pennsylvania [sic] Avenue + out through Georgetown across the Acqueduct [sic] bridge to the Va side of the Potomac + then across another bridge to Mason's Island where we came to a stop at about 5 PM. We marched about six miles + I was somewhat tired but not used up by any means. The size of our Reg't was a cause of some wonder as we passed through Washington. Some thought there was a Brigade. Our Co had about 75 men fit to march. Two Cos K + G are left on the road but I think they will soon be relieved. We took possession of some empty tents at night + just as I got to bed the Orderly came + said I was detailed to take a squad of men + unload a wagon train. Now I call it rather rough on a fellow to call him out after he is in bed but there is no rest for the wicked + so I got up + worked about two hours + as good luck would have it I found a barrel of sugar + some bread + I satisfied the cravings of my stomach therewith + retired to my downy couch on the ground to dream of home + scenes of other days when the sun shone brightly o'er a land of peace + prosperity before hard tack + dirt beds came in fashion.

Tuesday Oct 13th

I woke this morning feeling a little sore, but still in good order for anything. I rec'd a letter from home last night + answered it today. More baggage came in today + the troops that were here left. Hi got to camp about night. He had been guarding the cars as he could not march. I did very little today. I went around on the Island some. It is about ¾ of a mile long + ¼ of a mile wide of dry ground but there is a big marsh on one side + one end. There is but one house on the island + that was built + owned by Mason the father of Mason of the firm of (Mason + Slidell). The island is directly opposite Georgetown + at the foot of Arlington Heights. I should think it was a very unhealthy place. We hear from the front that there has been some quite severe skirmishing. Our loss is quite severe, over two hundred wounded were brought to Washington today. Lee seems to be threatening Mead's flank.

Wednesday Oct 14th

The news is good this morning. Gen Meade has frustrated Lee's plans + is now trying to chase him into a general battle. The men are at work clearing the ground for the camp. I hear we are to have about 80 tents to a Co. This afternoon we moved our tents + established the camp. I rec'd a letter from home today. All well at home.

Thursday Oct 15

I wrote a letter home + several other letters. The news is rather encouraging today. The 2^d Corps had a fight with the advance of the rebs + repulsed them, taking 500 prisoners + 5 cannon. The weather is cloudy + unpleasant. Our Reg't is again under marching orders.

Friday Oct 16th

I was on guard. It was very rainy all day + the work was hard for it is a mile from No 1 Post to the farthest one from the ~~xxxx~~ guard house. Seven Co's (all here but ours) have orders to put their overcoats in their knapsacks blankets outside, take three days rations + be ready to march at half an hours notice. The day passed off + no order to go. Our Cap't + Geo Reed expect to go with other Co's. I would a great deal rather go than to stay here, + I hope some way will be found so our Co can go.

Saturday Oct 17th

I got along very well through the night although it was quite dark + muddy. The sun rose this morning clear + bright + the day is splendid. This is a beautiful place in fine weather. This morning as the sun rose the sails of the vessels in the harbor rose one by one as if by magic + shook out thier [sic] snowy folds to the clear sunlight. Here + there a steam tug went sputtering along, while some of the beautiful schooners took up their anchors + moved slowly toward the Chesapeake like a thing of life, the clear morning air filling the sails + shaking out the folds of our dear old flag. We just rec'd orders to pack our knapsacks + be ready to march at half an hours notice. I am ready. We dont know where we are going but we are ordered to make room for shelter tents on our knapsacks. We are to carry three days rations. Well as I dont know where I shall be tomorrow + as I have bought a new Diary I will close the old one + begin on the new.

Dear Mother,

I entrust this part of my diary with the other volumes I have sent home before. You + the rest of the family are at perfect liberty to read them all, but I would rather that you should be the only ones. Perhaps I shall have no chance to write before we are ordered away from here for you will see by my diary of today that we are under marching orders. Where we are going or what we are to do I cannot tell. We are to take ~~our~~ shelter tents + leave all unnecessary clothing behind, even our dress coats. We may not go at all, but I think we shall very soon too. Dont be worried m[ore?] than you can help about [me?] for we shall come out all right I think. I am willing to risk myself in the hands of Him who presides over the destinies of the most humble of His creatures as well as over nations. I am well at present except a slight cold, which will not amount to much I guess. Well I will stop for the present.

My love to all,

From

Your

Son + Brother

James B Reed

To His

Parents Brother + Sisters,

Mrs. Maria Reed

Mott's Corners

Tompkins Co, N.Y.