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Motts Corners, Town of Caroline, Tompkins County, NY
109th Regiment, Company A, New York State Volunteers
CIVIL WAR DIARY
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The Vth Vol
Of
James B. Reed's
Diary, commenced
At Alexandria, Va.
April 25th 1864

Monday April 25th

We boxed up a lot of clothing today + Expressed it home. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it.

Tuesday April 26th

Finished our preparations for leaving. The whole Reg't is together today for the first time in nineteen months.

Wednesday April 27th

Left camp at 9 A.M. + moved about a mile + pitched our tents. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it, this may be the last time I can write in a good while.

Thursday, April 28th

Left camp near Alexandria at 10 A.M. + marched to Fairfax Court House. I am rather tired + lame tonight. Got some supper + then went to sleep on the ground.

Friday, April 29th

Marched at 7 ½ A.M. We camped for the night at Manasses [sic] Junction. We have had rather a hard march today + I don't feel very well tonight.

Saturday, April 30th

Marched at 7.A.M. + camped near Warrenton Junction for the night. We were mustered for pay after we camped. Rainy tonight.

Sunday, May 1st

Marched at 7.A.M. about a mile beyond Warrenton Junction + pitched our tents + sent out pickets. I wrote a letter home but don't know whether it will ever reach its destination or not.

Monday May 2^d

Went on picket this morning. We were on the reserve. Toward night we had a severe storm.

~~Friday~~ Tuesday May 3^d

Got to camp at 9 A.M. + heard that we were under marching orders. Six days rations were given out.

Wednesday May 4th

Again on the march at 7.A.M. We marched very fast + encamped at Rappahannock Station. Just got supper ready when the drum beat + in ten minutes we were on the move again. Marched about a mile + then back again + pitched our tents again. I recieved a letter from home tonight.

Thursday May 5th

At 3.A.M. we were called out by the drums + at five A.M. we were on the road toward the Rapidan which we reached by noon + crossed soon after + out toward Wilderness Church. There was heavy firing in the front + we heard that there had been hard fighting all the afternoon. Our Brigade (The 1st 3^d Division) was sent out on picket + we had very little chance for sleep.

Friday May 6th

We were called together this morning at an early hour + marched toward the battlefield without breakfast but a little hard tack. Reached Head Quarters at 7.A.M. + were soon ordered into the woods near Wilderness Church + formed line of battle on a ridge in the woods. A rebel battery began to throw shells + wounded five of our men, but the Reg't stood their ground well. At 9.A.M. we were again put in motion + marched to another part of the woods farther south. We were marching along left in front + filed to the left through a hollow when the rebs poured a terrible fire into us + our men fell fast but we soon got into shape and returned their fire + they retired. We then ceased firing + were ordered to advance. We charged almost to their breast works + then were ordered to retire but soon formed again + charged their works laying the rebs in heaps + taking about fifty prisoners while the rest ran for life. We were then deployed as skirmishers + kept on the line under fire until 8 P.M. when we were relieved + moved off the field a short distance + although I had eaten nothing through the day I was so tired that I lay down + went to sleep without supper. Our loss was 10 killed + 68 wounded. All the boys from the hill came off unharmed + I feel to thank God for His kind care over us.

Saturday May 7th

Again we were called up at an early hour. Got some breakfast + then built a breastwork to protect our front. We just got it done when we were ordered into another position + built another breastwork. The line of battle was about eight miles long. There was heavy firing on the right + left + our forces were victorious and drove the enemy back. It is very warm and the men suffer terribly.

Saturday May 8th

At midnight of last night we were ordered to prepare quietly for a move + left our works + moved toward Fredericksburg. We got to Chancellorsville by noon + camped for the night about four miles beyond. The road has been crowded all day with troops + there seems to be a grand move on foot.

Monday May 9th

Through the night we had six days rations issued to us + at 5.A.M. we were again on the march toward Spottsylvania [sic] Court House + about noon we came in sight of the rebs. Our batteries were soon in position + pounding away. Our left was driven at first + then our Reg't was ordered in at double quick to drive them back but it was done before we

got there by the 51st P.a. The rebs threw a shower of shells among us as we were going in, but did us no harm. We soon got into line + threw up a light barricade of rails + waited for the enemy. The firing was very heavy on the right + we think our men are gaining ground. At night we strengthened our works + then by dawn on our arms to sleep. Thankful to a kind Creator for his care over us through the dangers of the day.

Tuesday May 10th

Were called up for breakfast at 3.A.M. + then went to work on the breast work + made it very strong. There has been but little firing here today, but very hot work on the right but I think it has been going well. At 5.P.M. we were ordered forward + left our breast works under a heavy fire of shells but the rebel battery was soon silenced by our guns + we went on forward in line of battle + continued changing position + marching until

Wednesday May 11th

when we were about a mile from our former position. Again we threw up breast works in the woods. It rained some in the afternoon + toward night we were ordered to fall back. We fell back about two miles + made preparations for staying all night. It rained very hard + we got wet through. We had just got our tent up when we were ordered to fall in + advance again + we started in the mud + rain + marched a little ways + then were ordered back again + lay down on the wet ground with orders to be ready to move at 2 in the morning.

Thursday May 12th

We were on the move at 3.A.M. Marched toward the scene of yesterday's fight about $\frac{3}{4}$ ^{ths} of a mile + then formed five lines of battle, ours being the last + marched to the right about half a mile, when the first line went into battle. We were under a severe fire of shells + some of the men were killed + wounded in the Reg't. We lay on the ground nearly all the forenoon while the battle raged with terrible fury. It was reported that the 2^d Corps surprised + captured 8000 prisoners at daybreak which proved true. At 2.P.M. our Brigade was ordered into the fight + we advanced farther to the left into the woods than any other line had done. We advanced to the crest of the hill when a terrible fire of musketry grape canister + shells was poured upon us + it seemed impossible for anyone to escape unhurt. We lay down on the ground + fired until our cartridges were gone + then retired leaving a skirmish line on the ground. Our loss was terrible. We had only six Cos engaged + we lost 180 men killed + wounded. Our C^o. lost 5 killed 12 wounded + one wounded + missing. Killed were John Nichols, Amos Barber, Henry Personius, Abram Seely, Geo Pierson

Wounded

W ^m . Lewis	A.C. Earsley
P Evans	D Ostrander
C. Cansdale	S. Williams
H. Beardsley	J. Graham
L Purdy	H. Todd
J Summers	C. Truesdell

Missing
Harrison, Little

It seemed wonderful that I should escape but the hand of God was over me + He is able to protect in the hour of battle as well as else where. My heart is filled with gratitude to God for His kind care over me + I pray that He will ever be near me in the hour of danger. We reformed our Reg't at the edge of the wood + threw up some slight breast works. It has rained nearly all day + the men suffer terribly. George Reed + myself lay down on the ground to rest. Our hearts filled with sadness for the loss of so many brave comrades. O Father in heaven may the time soon come when peace shall bless our land again + this terrible scene of strife be ended.

Friday May 13th

Rained all night. Today we strengthened our works, buried the dead + waited for further developments. The rebs kept quiet except a fire from their sharp-shooters + we managed to keep out of their way with a few exceptions. Our men are tired wet cold + hungry. We hear that reinforcements are coming up to help or relieve us. I hope it is true for we are nearly exhausted.

Saturday May 14th

Still rainy + muddy. Through the night the rebs kept up some fire + we were under arms all night + got but little sleep. We hear that the 5th Corps is at hand to help us. There is a report that our forces captured 15000 prisoners on the right yesterday. There is also a report that Gen Butler's troops have taken Richmond but I don't believe it. Our forces are planting artillery to shell the woods in our front. Toward night it cleared off + was quite pleasant. There was some shelling on the left + we heard that the rebs charged on our batteries + were repulsed with great loss. We hear that nearly all our wounded has [sic] gone to Fredericksburg.

Sunday May 15th

Had to keep a heavy guard up all night, but there was nothing to disturb the usual quiet. Well the sabbath has come again but O how different from what it used to be in my dear old home. But still I have reason to thank God for His kind care over me in the past days of strife + bloodshed. He has protected me so far + I will trust Him still. The day has been very quiet + no firing but sharp shooters. George Reed was taken sick + went to the rear for medecine [sic]. Hiram Reed came up today but he looks very unwell yet. I do not feel very well but I guess if I had a chance to rest I would be all right. It has rained some today + is rather unpleasant. We expect a hard day tomorrow. May God be with us + give us the victory.

Monday May 16th

Foggy this morning but pleasant at night. There was some artillery firing in the afternoon, otherwise the day passed off quietly. We heard tonight that W^m Lewis has died from his wounds. O how hard it will be for his folks. I feel almost sick tonight + I

am very weak. George is still quite sick. I hope he will be well soon. We hear that Gen. Butler has the outer works of Fort Darling + that Gen. Sheridan has the outer works around Richmond. I hope it is true. We hear that a reinforcement of 20,000 men is coming from Washington to join us. Bully for that.

Tuesday May 17th

All quiet yet this morning. I wrote a letter home today. At night we were ordered to be ready to move at a moments notice.

Wednesday May 18th

At 4 ½ A.M. the rebs opened on us with artillery, thinking I guess that we were about to move, but our batteries soon told them that we were on hand yet + thier [sic] fire soon ceased. I was detailed for picket at night. I feel very unwell.

Thursday May 19th

Our troops have been moving all night + all has been quiet in the rebel lines + I think they have left. At daylight we withdrew + followed the Corps which was moving south. Came up with the Reg't at 6.A.M. Halted + got some breakfast + then moved on south until noon + stopped + got dinner + drew four days rations. The rebs are within a little distance of us + I guess we shall entrench again. Heavy firing was heard on the right + we understand that the rebs charged some of our works + were badly whipped. At dark we moved to the left + began to throw up entrenchments. I feel very badly tonight + I am as near sick as I want to be.

Friday May 20th

We completed our works + then rested all day. I washed my shirt + socks. We learn that the rebel loss was very heavy yesterday afternoon. I wrote a letter home. I wish we could get our mail. I want to hear from home pretty badly.

Saturday May 21st

Clear + pleasant this morning. Washed my drawers but before I could get them dry we were ordered to fall in + marched a little to the right + deployed the Reg't along the breastworks. All the troops except the pickets + a strong reserve marched out. Toward night there was sharp firing to the right. The rebs charged + carried our works but were soon driven out with heavy loss.

Sunday May 22^d

We left the works at an early hour + marched south at a rapid pace until 4 P.M. when we came up with the Corps at Bulls Church. Our men are nearly worn out. It has seemed very little like sunday today. There are no rebs near us just now.

Monday May 23^d

Broke camp at 5.A.M. + marched all day. Toward night we heard firing in front + our Brigade was marched out on the line + formed in line of battle. We are near Hanover Junction on the North Anna River + the enemy is in force in our front.

Tuesday May 24th

Our line advanced about midnight + we were ordered to throw up entrenchments. We had to work until 6.A.M. There is some picket firing this morning. Toward noon the artillery began to play with pretty good effect it was thought on the rebs. We hear that Gen Warren has crossed the river on the right + Gen Hancock on the left, but hear nothing of their moves. Toward night we had a heavy shower. Our mail came tonight + it acted like a charm. Almost all the boys had letters + there were bright eyes at work eagerly reading the letters from home. I was greatly favored by receiving four letters from home + three from other sources. The folks are all well for which I am very thankful. They feel great anxiety about us here, for they have heard that our Regt was badly cut to pieces.

Wednesday May 25th

Clear + pleasant this morning. There has been some firing this morning. Heavy cannonading toward right. I guess all is going well.

Thursday May 26th

Last night at 11 o'clock we were called out to go on picket. Went to the left + worked until daylight digging pits. Had to lay very close all day on account of the sharpshooters. Were relieved at 9 P.M. + ordered to march at 11 P.M. Drew rations + moved a short distance + lay down to rest.

Friday May 27th

We started at 6.A.M. but moved only a couple of miles before noon + then marched until 12 P.M. We expect that we are going somewhere toward White house but don't know of course.

Saturday May 28th

Started again at 6 A.M. + marched very fast until noon + halted long enough for dinner + then marched on at a rapid pace until 11 P.M. We crossed the Pamunkey River at 10 P.M. We have marched 30 miles. + all are tired out.

Sunday May 29th

Very cool. We marched about three miles + then formed line of battle + began to build breast works. Got some breakfast. About 9.A.M. we were ordered to cease work + at 3 P.M. were ordered to march. Moved a short distance + encamped for the night. Just at sun set the Chaplain delivered a short discourse to the men + the holy words of the gospel never sounded sweeter to me than then. He spoke of our homes + of the loved ones there

watching for our return spoke of the enemies we had to contend with, but told us never to fear for God was on our side + I believe He is. I lay down quite early for I was tired + sleepy. Lay down to dream of home + friends. May God grant that I may return to that home + those dear friends when the storm of war shall have passed away.

Monday May 30th

I am feeling pretty well again. We are on half rations now. We were ordered to march at 5 ½ A.M. + started at that time. Moved in a Southerly direction, making long stops until 4 P.M. when we came up with our line of battle + we took a position about dark to repel an attack through the night + lay down on our arms. Our forces have driven the enemy nearly all day. We are now within about twelve miles of Richmond.

Tuesday May 31st

Drew one days rations this morning. There was some picket firing last night. The cavalry bring in the news that the rebs have retired. We hear that Gen Siegel is near with 60,000 troops. At 10.A.M. we were ordered to advance, + did so in line of battle to the brink of a ravine + threw up some works. Capt. Gorman of Co "C" was killed by a chance shot. Toward night we advanced across the ravine + lay down on our arms. The rebs threw some shells at us but no harm was done.

Wednesday June 1st

All has been quiet through the night. Our troops have thrown up works in advance of our position. I wrote a letter home. At 11 A.M. we moved to the left + threw up a strong line of works. There has been heavy firing on the right + left this afternoon + it is said that the right is gaining but the left is not doing as well. Toward night the rebs opened on us with a heavy fire of shells but too high for our works.

Thursday June 2^d

We were ordered to fall back at daylight this morning. The rebs erected works near us through the night + I guess our left is pressed very hard. About noon we were ordered to march + moved about three miles south east + formed line of battle facing the rear. The rebs have got a force in our rear. Had a heavy shower toward night. Erected works + supported a battery. The fight began at 4 P.M. and lasted until after dark.

Friday June 3^d

We were ordered to advance very early this morning + moved forward with two lines of battle under quite a heavy fire. We gained the first line of the enemy's works which they left without resistance. We were under a terrible crossfire of artillery all day + a good many were killed + wounded, but only one wounded from our C^o. Fred Lillie slightly. Toward night we were ordered to prepare for an assault on the enemy's works but the order was countermanded. At 8 P.M. we drew off to our old position. It is thought that our forces have flanked the rebs on the right.

Saturday June 4th

I feel very unwell this morning but still very thankful that God is so merciful to me, protecting my almost useless life through so many dangers. We hear that the 2^d Corps took 16 guns + 7000 prisoners yesterday. We also learn that the rebs have left the position they held yesterday. At 2 P.M. we were ordered to march. We moved off near the old battleground of Gaines-Mills to Cold Harbor + went into some incomplete works + worked on them some. The rebs threw a few shells at us but no damage was done. Wrote a letter home. We learn that a heavy reinforcement is coming to the army. Drew five days rations. It rained quite hard toward night.

Sunday June 5th

Cloudy + dull this morning. We moved a short distance to the left + stopped again. Our troops are throwing up a strong fort to oppose one the rebels have built. The day passed off quietly until after dark when the rebs made a charge on the left + a heavy fire was kept up for half an hour but we don't know the result.

Monday June 6th

Pleasant this morning. There was a detail from our Reg't to work on the fort. There was some shelling by the rebs but no reply was made by our batteries at all. We hear that the rebs did not make much in the charge last night. I am feeling unwell today but I hope I shall not be sick.

Tuesday June 7th

Toward noon today we advanced to the front lines to support the 45th P.a. We were exposed to a picket fire + one man of C^o "D" was killed + M. Freer of our C^o was wounded in the ankle. Toward night we threw up some light works. At 10 P.M. our C^o + two others were moved up to the front line of works.

Wednesday June 8th

Retired to the old position this morning. Lay in our works all day. There was little firing until 10 P.M. when there was [sic.] a few volleys. Our Reg't moved up to support the 5th P.a. + stayed a short time and then came back to our own works.

Thursday June 9th

Cloudy + cool. I wrote a letter home + recieved three from home. O how welcome they were. My folks are all well but Uncle Jacob Reed has lost his two youngest children by Diptheria. O how I pity them. Mother sent me two pairs of nice socks + a towel + some paper + all came very acceptable.

Friday June 10th

Wrote a letter home to let my folks know that I had recieved their letters + the socks. The rebs threw some shells over our works + the first one wounded four men one mortally.

We hear that Fort Darling is ours but I doubt the truth of the report. Saw some papers. The general news is good.

Saturday June 11th

Cool + pleasant. We drew some clothing today. I drew one shirt. Recieved a letter from home dated June 5th + it was a most welcome visitor as it brought the good news that my folks are well. After dark a part of the Reg't moved out to fill a space near the fort.

Sunday June 12th

A beautiful day.. Wrote a letter home. Toward night recieved orders to be ready to march at 7 ½ P.M. + about that time we moved off + marched 12 miles by breakfast time. I never suffered so much marching as I did the last four hours + Monday June 13th found unable to march any farther. I am lame all over that I can scarcely step at all. Got a pass to ride in an ambulance. The column did not move until noon, when I got into an ambulance. Through the afternoon someone took my haversack + left me rationless. Our course has been changed + we are now moving toward the James River. We kept moving until 10 P.M.

Tuesday June 14th

Moved at daylight. Got a pretty good dinner on some mutton ribs that had been thrown away + some hard tack that were given me + some tea given by the Christian Commission. We are still going toward the James River. We lay still from noon until dark + then moved until 10 P.M. and stopped until 2 A.M. of

Wednesday June 15th

when the train moved again. We reached the James River at 6.A.M. below Harrison's landing + crossed on a pontoon bridge to the south side + moved about a mile up the river + stopped for breakfast which was a slim affair. After noon I was ordered to join my Reg't + went back four miles across the river as I heard that our Division was not going to cross that night + I got there about dark + just in time to draw rations + soon after we were ordered to fall in + we marched all night + until dark of

Thursday June 16th

without stopping for coffee but once. I suffered terribly but kept up. Hundreds of men fell out + the road was lined with stragglers. We did not stop until we were in line of battle before Petersburg in some rifle pits about three miles from the place. Our forces have driven the rebs a good ways.

Friday June 17th

When I awoke this morning I was scarcely able to get up + hardly able to move after I was up. I feel very unwell. About 600 rebels came into our lines this morning + gave themselves up. I went to the rear with the Capt who was sick + stayed where our cooks were. At 2 P.M. our Division made a charge but through mismanagement it amounted to

nothing as they came out into the lines of the 2^d Corps. Our Reg't suffered terribly. George came out safe. He was in command of the C^o.

Saturday June 18th

I rested poorly last night + I feel very miserable today. The cooks were ordered to moved [sic] + we moved with them. Was examined by the Surgeon + got a pass to stay in the rear. Our forces drove the rebs back through the night + this forenoon + got possession of one of the RR.s, running into Petersburg. Wrote a letter home. George Reed was wounded in the foot tonight. I hope it will not prove serious.

Sunday June 19th

Again the holy sabbath has dawned + finds us still on the scene of strife. O God when shall this cease. I was pleasantly surprised by the receipt of a letter from home, dated June 12th. All well at home. The day passed rather quietly. I don't feel any better today + I fear it will be a long time before I am fit for duty again.

Monday June 20th

I feel no better + rather worse if anything. There are no important movements I guess. We can hear the cannon on the right. I hope we shall be successful before long + get possession of the town.

Tuesday June 21st

This morning all the sick were ordered to the Reg't to be examined by the Surgeon + it is as with great difficulty that I got there. We were examined + all that were unfit for duty were taken near the Surgeon's quarters + ordered to stay there + medicine was to be furnished us. Our Reg't drew rations of whiskey brown beans potatoes cabbage + hard tack. Our Co drew 80 potatoes for 43 men.

Wednesday June 22^d

There is some sharp firing this morning. I do not feel any better this morning + I fear I shall have the fever before I get well. I wrote a letter home today. Toward night there was heavy firing on the left. The cars seem to be running from Petersburg to Richmond all the time + I think the rebs are moving their supplies.

Thursday June 23^d

I passed a hard night last night + was in constant pain. There was heavy firing on the right + left + we hear that the 2^d Corps was rather worsted yesterday on the left.

Friday June 24th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. My folks are well yet thank God. About noon I with some others were sent to Division Hospital + recieved there.

Saturday June 25th

I feel rather poorly + I fear there is something serious the matter with me. The Surgeon gave me 10 grs blue pill + three other large pills. Got a paper from home with a bouquet in it. We get very good care here + enough to eat. The Christian Commission furnishes a great many things for us.

Sunday June 26th

I am not in quite as much pain today but weaker than ever + I am a mere skeleton but I will trust in God + I believe He will bring me through all right. O how I would like to be home today but I will put away the wish from my heart + be a soldier.

Monday June 27th

Very warm. I am feeling no better at all. We were examined toward night + my name was taken to be ~~sent~~ sent away.

Tuesday June 28th

We were called up at 3 A.M. + had breakfast at 4.A.M. + at 4 ½ we started for the Corps Hospital at City Point. We went in army wagons + were five hours on the road. It was quite cool or we should have suffered terribly + it was a hard ride after all. Our new quarters are Wall tents + our beds the ground. The Sanitary + Christian Commission brought us wine + other dainties God bless them. Saw our old Hospital Matron, Aunt Becky or (Mrs. Palmer). Geo Reed is here but I am unable to go + see him.

Wednesday June 29th

Warm again today. I think I feel a little better except the pain in my side + I have quite a hard cough which I don't like.

Thursday June 30th

I am feeling no better today. Wrote a letter home. Went to see Geo + found him pretty bad off, for his wound is bad + he has a very high fever. I have a high fever today + my cough is no better.

Friday July 1st

I was moved to the 1st Ward this morning + got a good bed + we have good nurses too. I am worse today than I have been yet + I am getting weaker all the time. George went away last night.

Saturday July 2^d

I feel no better. Toward noon the Surgeon came around + gave me a pass for the boat. I got aboard about noon + we left at 4 P.M. We did not run all night.

Sunday July 3^d

Started very early again + at 9 P.M. we got to Alexandria + about midnight I got to the Baptist Church Hospital + washed up and got some clean clothes on + went to bed.

Monday July 4th

Again the “glorious 4th” is here. I feel very weak. The Surgeon pronounced my disease General Debility. Wrote a letter home.

Tuesday July 5th

Felt better this morning but was worse before night. I have had no medicine today although some was prescribed for me.

Wednesday July 6th

I feel pretty bad. The Surgeon ordered that I should have my meals brought to me + I have fared pretty well except medicine [sic] which I did not get until 4 P.M. The weather very warm but pleasant.

Thursday July 7th

I feel a little better today, but I am very weak. We had a fine shower in the evening + I enjoyed it very much.

Friday July 8th

Still improving a little I guess. My appetite is a little better + if it was not for this weakness I should feel quite well. I wrote a letter home today. How I do want to get a letter from home. It seems like a long time since I have heard from there but I'll wait patiently.

Saturday July 9th

Very warm I went to the dining room again today for my meals. I am gaining slowly I think. We hear that 12,000 rebs have invaded Maryland, but I guess they will soon be driven out.

Sunday July 10th

Again the holy sabbath has dawned on the earth + finds me still alive by the mercies of God. O how much do I owe to my kind Creator! O Father in heaven help me to live a life devoted to Thee. I wonder what the loved ones are doing at home this morning. I fancy them at this hour gathered around the family altar offering up earnest prayers for the success of our armies + that God will protect me the wandering one + restore me once more to their fond embrace. O how I long for that time to come when the glorious sunlight of Peace shall scatter the dark clouds of sorrow that war has cast over the land + the wearied + worn soldier can return to the home he has left to defend the right. God grant that this time may soon come + this tide of slaughter be stayed.

Monday, July 11th

I wrote a letter home. I had a slight attack of Diarrhoea [sic.] today + I don't feel quite as well.

Tuesday July 12th

Rec'd a letter from home today + it was so welcome. My folks are well. Laura Lewis died of Diptheria last Thursday. How that family is afflicted. Father writes that Uncle Herman Reed is coming to see George who is in Washington + if he comes he will come + see me. Father sent me some money. I wrote home.

Wednesday July 13th

I feel better again today + I guess I am gaining slowly. Our food at the mess house is not what it should be at all.

Thursday July 14th

Rec'd three letters today that had been sent to the Reg't, two were from home. I think I am still gaining slowly.

Friday July 5th [sic - *July 15th*]

Cooler today + quite pleasant.

Saturday July 16th

I awoke this morning very sweaty + cold + I have had quite a cough all day that makes me feel weak + unwell, but I guess it is nothing serious. I am getting anxious to get well again + fit for duty.

Sunday July 17th

A clear beautiful day. We had service in the Hospital + the word of prayer + of the gospel sounded sweet to my ear. It is just a month since I have done any duty and how much longer it will be I cannot tell.

Monday July 18th

Wrote a letter home. The day has been very warm. I am feeling pretty well today + I guess I am gaining some. I am anxious to get another letter from home. I shall look for one tomorrow.

Tuesday July 19th

Very warm again. A package came for me today mailed at Washington + in it was a note that made me think that W^m Reed had come to see Geo. There was a Diary a handkerchief + some flowers + a note from Father urging me to get a furlough, but I cant see how I am to get one. The sick + wounded from NY are soon to be transferred + I may go too + then I will try to get home. Geo Harris of my C^o came to see me today. He is ~~xxx~~ nurse in the next Hospital on this street.

Wednesday July 20th

Very warm indeed. Rec'd a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed. He is well but says they are suffering for want of water + cool weather, before Petersburg. I feel pretty well today but I have no strength at all.

Thursday July 21st

Very hot. No news from home yet or from W^m Reed. Another list to transfer was taken last night but none but the wounded.

Friday July 22^d

No letter from home yet. I wrote a letter home. I am feeling pretty smart but weak yet. I have a good appetite.

Saturday July 23^d

This has been a sad day to me. I read a letter from home that brought the sad news that Cousin George Reed died in Washington last ~~Thursday~~ Friday from his wound. His brother W^m came to see him on Thursday night + got back home Sunday morning + Geo's body was expected Monday. O what a loss to thier family + to all his friends. to me he was almost as a brother. But God gives + He taketh away. O Father help his bereaved family to find consolation in Thee. Another priceless sacrifice to this terrible war. One in the prime of manhood. Loved + respected by all who knew him, with a mind pure + filled with high + holy aims for the future. The idol of a circle of fond friends + the pride of his Parents hearts, stricken down by death aye + death caused by the sins of others, caused by those who brought about this foul rebellion. O God vengeance is Thine, but I feel almost to curse those who have caused all this suffering but Thou art infinite in wisdom + Thou art their Judge. We trust that his soul is at rest in a better world above where war can never come. My folks were well. I was pleasantly surprised by a visit from Brother Hinman, my old pastor. He is laboring as an Agent for the Christian Commission. I was very glad to see him + his kind words filled my heart with cheer.

Sunday July 24th

Another sabbath, quiet + beautiful, but I am still away from the scenes I love, but still blessed by a kind Creator's hand + still improving in health. My appetite is almost ungovernable + I can eat all I can get + still not feel satisfied, but my strength is nothing as yet although I exercise all I can. We had an inspection this morning + service just before dinner + the last was short but very interesting. I spent the day in reading a part of the Memoir of Mrs. Hamlin + the Wilmot Family both of which were very interesting to me, and I also read the the [sic.] 2^d Epistle of Paul to Timothy + the Epistle of Paul to Titus. But my heart has been sorrowful when I think of my Dear Uncle's sorrowing family, + I pray that it may be the will of my Heavenly Father to spare our little family circle to enjoy each others society again, + now as the shades of night are gathering over

the earth methinks I can see my Mother's lips move in silent prayer for the safety of the wandering one. O may her prayers be answered. We hear that there ~~are~~ is something like negotiations for peace going on between the Confederate States + the United States. Also that Gen Sherman now occupies Atlanta, G.A. God grant that it may all be true + Peace soon be ours.

Monday July 25th

When I woke this morning the rain was pattering down + the streets were little rivers. After noon it cleared off + everything looked so clean + the air seemed filled with sweetness + the sunset was glorious. One of the nurses is sick + I helped all I felt able to. I am doing well. Wrote a letter home.

Tuesday July 26th

A beautiful day. This morning swept the ward + made some beds, but it tired me a considerable, but I guess it will do me no hurt. I looked for a letter from home today but none came + I feel disappointed. We hear that Gen Sherman has only the outer works of Atlanta but is sure of taking it.

Wednesday July 27th

Rec'd two letters from home this morning + they were welcome indeed. I answered them. Father sent a letter to the Surgeon requesting a furlough for me. The Surgeon examined me + said my chest was very weak + I would have to take good care of myself + said he would do all for me that he could, at least he said he could transfer me to New York where I would have a chance to get home + said he knew if I could get home it would be the best thing could be done for me, but I do not look for anything but shall be very glad if I can only get home. Took a walk down to the Potomac in the evening.

Thursday July 28th

Very warm. I don't feel as well today as usual but I guess it is nothing serious.

Friday July 29th

Warmer than ever. The Surgeon told me that it was beyond his power to give me a furlough but said he would transfer me to my own State as soon as possible. I am feeling very weak today, but not sick at all.

Saturday July 30th

This morning helped the nurses clean the ward and change the bed clothes + tired myself considerably but I guess it will do me no harm. My side troubles me a good deal lately + I have a hard hacking cough that is rather unpleasant but I trust I shall be restored to health again. The news is generally good, but there is a report that a body of rebel cavalry has possession of Chambersburg P.a. + I say let them hold it unless there is pluck enough in the people to drive them out. I received a letter from Cousin Hattie Reed with

her picture + really it is a picture of a true woman. Every feature shows it so plainly that no one needs a very close acquaintance with her to understand her character.

Sunday July 31st

Another beautiful sabbath has dawned upon the earth. I received a letter from home + answered it. My folks are well, but still very anxious for me to come home. I wish I could get home but I can see no chance at all. We had service just at evening + it was very interesting. O what would I exchange the hope I have for All of earth wealth honor power + all that earth can give would be a poor payment for the love of my Creator. So ends another month.

Monday ~~July~~ Aug 1st

Very warm. Took quite a walk before breakfast. Rec'd a letter from home which stated that they had just started a box for me from Ithaca. I hope it will come safe. Toward night forty new patients came into the Hospital + one of them was from my Reg't. The papers state that on the morning of saturday a mine was exploded under the rebel works blowing up a battery of 16 guns + destroying one whole Reg't. The 9th Corps made an assault through the breach supported by the 18th Corps the 2^d + 5th being in reserve, + carried two or three lines of the rebel works. Our loss was heavy.

Tuesday Aug 2^d

Rather cloudy + looks some like rain. The news this morning is that our forces have been driven back + all the advantage gained on saturday had since been lost. The weather continues extremely warm. Today the box that Father wrote me to look for came + in splendid condition + was all I could ask. There was a large can of strawberries, one of pickles + one of butter, a box of cookies, a large package of crackers, six lemons, a lot of splendid pears, a fine piece of dried Halibut, a nice piece of cheese, some books + magazines + some thread needles yarn + paper + envelopes. I never can repay their kindness but I hope I may live to show my gratitude. The things from home looked so much better to me than anything I can get here.

Wednesday Aug 3^d

Wrote a letter home this morning before breakfast. I am going to try to go to Washington to get my pay. Had my name put down for a pass. This afternoon I had to stand another examination + my name was taken to be transferred to the Invalid Corps. I don't like the idea at all but I cant help myself as I see.

Thursday Aug 4th

Rec'd a letter from home + the good news that my + folks are well. Had to go before the medical board today + was examined by three Surgeons + together they said I had the Liver complaint. Palpitation of the heart + my right lung diseased, but I did not find out what it all amounted to as what was to be done with me.

Friday Aug 5th

Very warm. I wrote a letter home today. Nothing of importance happened. We did not go to Washington as we expected.

Saturday Aug 6th

When I awoke this morning it was raining very hard but stopped before breakfast and in the afternoon we had a fine shower but is terrible warm yet. This has been scrubbing day again. I helped some. I wish I knew what is to be done with me. If I could only be sent to my own state to do duty I would be satisfied + shall have to be in any place I suppose. Well I have but little more than a year to serve yet and it will make but little difference. I will try to do my duty wherever I am to serve faithfully while I am a soldier but I shall be glad when my time of service expires.

Sunday Aug 7th

This has been a very warm day. There was inspection as usual. I spent today reading + writing. We had a short sermon just at evening + it was excellent. The text was Matthew 7th 7 + 8 verses.

Monday Aug 8th

Still very warm. Read a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. At last they have had a fine rain but crops have suffered a great deal and will be light. The news is good from the west + I guess our cause is progressing favorably every where.

Tuesday Aug 9th

Very warm. Went to Washington today with a squad to get my pay but failed to get it as the Paymaster was gone to the front. We took the 11 o'clock AM boat + got to Washington at 12N + took the 5 P M boat. I was very tired when I got back + my side has pained me badly all day.

Wednesday Aug 16th

Still very hot. I dont feel as well this morning. I am very weak + my side pains me badly. I wish I could get proper medical treatment but that is not possible in a hospital. We that had been assigned to the Invalid Corps were called out today to go to our new quarters but the order was countermanded + we went back to the hospital to stay another day.

Thursday Aug 11th

Left the Hospital at 10 A.M. + went to the barracks of the 100th + 112th C^{os} of the Invalid Corps on the Corner of St. Asaph + Prince S^{tr's}. I was assigned to the 100th C^o. I like the appearance of things here very well. Drew a shirt pair drawers cap knapsack + haversack today. Went to the river in the evening to bathe + when I got back was taken with a severe pain in my side. I sleep with the Orderly Serg^t.

Friday Aug 12th

My side hurt me badly all night + all day today. I got some medicine that helped it toward night. Did some washing today. Was given a pass for the remainder of the month this morning. Went to see a Comrade Dwight Ostrander, found him well. All goes off to suit me so far + I have some very pleasant comrades here.

Saturday Aug 13th

I was on duty today for the first. Everything went off well. We had a fine shower in the afternoon. I recieved a letter from home. It is very warm yet. I heard from the C^o today. W^m Roe wrote that all the C^o was killed wounded or captured in the last battle except himself, the Captain + one other officer. I am anxious to hear what has become of Hiram Reed. I hope he is safe.

Sunday Aug 14th

A very quiet day. I wrote home + spent the day reading + writing. After supper took a walk off toward my old camp. O what sad changes have taken place since our Reg't left that camp. How many brave comrades lay cold in death. I seemed to be alone.

Monday Aug 15th

Rec'd a letter from home all well at home. I had nothing to do so strolled through the town, a good share of the day. It is still very warm + rather rainy.

Tuesday Aug 16th

On guard today. Everything passed off quietly. I wrote a letter home.

Wednesday Aug 17th

Rec'd two letters from home. Went down town in the morning + did some washing. It is rather rainy today. We hear that Gen Grant has commenced digging a canal to get past Fort Darling + the obstructions in the river. The 2^d Corps is at the work.

Thursday Aug 18th

Still wet + rainy. No news of importance. Wrote a letter home.

Friday Aug 19th

Rainy all day. Spent the day reading as I went to the Library of the Christian Commission + got some reading matter. I am reading Humphries History of Africa + I find it very interesting.

Saturday Aug 20th

On guard today + had rather a rough day as it rained nearly all day. Every thing passed off well.

Sunday Aug 21st

Cloudy but cool. We had inspection this morning + the articles of war read to the C^o. Spent the day in the barracks reading + writing.

Monday Aug 22^d

Went to Washington to get pay but failed + I think I shall wait now until I am mustered again. We had a hard storm in the afternoon when I was coming to Alexandria but I was under a good shelter.

Tuesday Aug 23^d

Wrote a letter home. It is very warm again. Drew some clothing, a great coat blanket + pair of pants. We hear that our forces have possession of the Weldon R.R. + hold it in spite of all efforts on the part of the rebs to dislodge them.

Wednesday Aug 24th

This is Mothers birth day. How I would like to be at home but I am not there. I am on guard today. Very warm yet.

Thursday Aug 25th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it.

Friday Aug 26th

The day passed quietly. Nothing new or strange.

Saturday Aug 27th

It is just two years since I was mustered into the U. S. service. Passed through the form of an examination this morning. Result unknown. I pronounce it all a farce. I am on duty today.

Sunday Aug 28th

A beautiful day. Rec'd a letter from home that brought the sad news that Cousin W^m Reed was dead. He was taken sick soon after he got home from Washington with fever + inflammation [sic] of the liver. Words are weak when we try to express our sorrow or offer consolation to his friends. We have the consolation of knowing that he died happy. I wrote a letter home.

Monday Aug 29th

Nothing of importance transpired. Took a stroll around town + did some washing.

Tuesday Aug 30th

On duty at the Sickel Barracks [*Hospital*]. The duty is pretty hard there, but it went off very well. Saw one of my C^o who left the Reg't only a short time since. He says the

Reg't is nearly used up, only about forty men left for duty. We hear that all men in the 2^d Ba^{tt} V.R.C. unfit for the 1st Ba^{tt} are to be discharged + the 2^d Ba^{tt} broken up.

Wednesday Aug 31st

Relieved at 6 o'clock A.M. I feel rather dull today + not very well. My side pains me pretty badly.

Thursday Sept 1st

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. On guard again today at Head Quarters. The day passed off quietly.

Friday Sept 2^d

Nothing new. Weather warm.

Saturday Sept 3^d

On guard at Sickel Barracks. The news is good. We have official dispatches that Gen Sherman has captured Atlanta G.a. + cut Hood's army in two. Our forces have also taken Fort Morgan in Mobile harbor with 600 prisoners + 60 pieces of artillery.

Sunday Sept 4th

It rained hard through the night + I dont feel any better for getting wet. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. We had inspection today.

Monday Sept 5th

Rainy. The news of the capture of Atlanta + Fort Morgan is confirmed.

Tuesday Sept 6th

Still rainy. We hear today that the Rebel Guerilla Morgan is killed, his staff + 150 men taken prisoners. Also that the Rebel loss in the late battle near Atlanta was 3000 killed besides wounded + prisoners. We hear that the Rebel Pirate Georgia has been captured. The ball is rolling finely + I begin to believe that we can look for Peace.

Wednesday Sept 7th

A beautiful day. I was on guard at Sickel Barracks. Everything passed off well. It was rather cool at night, but it is a pleasant change from the warm weather we have had + I guess it will be welcome to the army.

Thursday Sept 8th

Another splendid day. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. A Serg^{tl} of the V.R.C. is to be shot today for aiding desertion. My folks write that Cousin Hiram Reed is sick at City Point Hospital.

Friday Sept 9th

Rec'd another letter from home. On guard at Head Quarters today. It was a pleasant day. Every thing passed off quietly.

Saturday Sept 10th

Went through the town to find a friend of mine who is sick in Hospital B Strong. His father wishes me to go + see him, but I failed to find him.

Sunday Sept 11th

A stormy day. On duty at the Barracks again + had rather a hard time.

Monday Sept 12th

It rained some but was very pleasant at night. I feel quite unwell today as I took cold yesterday I wrote to Prof A Hamilton of New York for medical advice. I hope he can help me.

Tuesday Sep^t 13th

Very pleasant. On duty at Head Quarters today. I feel better today but not as well as I wish I did. The day passed off quietly.

Wednesday Sept 14th

Very Pleasant this morning before noon it rained + tonight it is clear + pleasant again, but we are used to changes + the changes in the weather cannot be greater than the changes in our lives. Shadow + sunshine follow each other. Friends of today are gone forever ere the morrow is begun. When I think of the changes in the past two years of my life it brings sad thoughts to my mind. Those I left at their homes in the full enjoyment of life + health have fallen before the Angel of death + those who have faced the foe by my side have fallen, gloriously it is true, but we cannot feel their loss less deeply on that account. But I am thankful that I am still alive + our family circle is unbroken. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. My folks write that the quota in Caroline is filled. We hear that there has been another fight on the Weldon RR resulting in the defeat of the enemy with great loss. I guess Gen Grant will give them the final squeeze before long.

Thursday Sep^t 15th

Very pleasant. On duty at the barracks. Everything went off well.

Friday Sep^t 16th

Relieved at 8 A.M. + went to Quarters. A man was shot today just outside of the town for desertion. He advised soldiers not to follow his example. The first round failed to kill him + the reserve had to finish the work. I did not go to see the execution as I have no curiosity that way. I've seen enough men shot to satisfy me. There is no news of importance today.

Saturday Sep^t 17th

Another beautiful day. I am on duty at H^d Q^{rs}. I am not feeling very well today but guess it is nothing serious.

Sunday Sep^t 18th

Another beautiful Sabbath has dawned upon the earth. I am feeling very unwell today. We had inspection + I passed the remainder of the day in Qmasters trying to rest.

Monday Sep^t 19th

Went to Sickel Barracks on duty, but was really unable to do duty after all, but I worried the day through. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it.

Tuesday Sep^t 20th

I feel miserably today + I fear I shall have to report to the Doctor. I am anxious to hear from Prof Hamilton. We hear that Gen Sheridan has captured 5000 rebs, 16 stands of colors + all the supplies of Early's army. He is in their rear + giving them particular fits. Everything is going well with the Union Army + may God speed the cause.

Tuesday Sep^t 20th

I feel very unwell today. My Chest pains me a great deal. Passed the day as quietly as possible.

Wednesday Sep^t 21st

On duty at Head Quarters. I am really unable to do duty, but will go as long as I can. Recieved a letter from home + answered it. All well at home.

Thursday Sep^t 22^d

I reported to the Surgeon this morning + got some medicine but I feel no better since taking it.

Friday Sep^t 23^d

Excused from duty again today. I recieved an answer to my letter to Prof Hamilton of New York City. He sent me a preparatory medicine + says he can cure me, but thinks I have no time to loose [sic]. His charges are \$10.50. I answered his letter + sent him the money. I hope God will bless the means used to effect a cure. It has been a gloomy day, but has not passed unpleasantly to me.

Saturday Sep^t 24th

Rained some today. I am feeling some better today and I guess I will go on duty tomorrow. There is no news of importance today.

Sunday Sep^t 25th

I am on duty today. It is a beautiful day, clear + cool. Rec'd a package of papers from Prof Hamilton. Everything passed off quietly. We hear that Gen Sheridan attacked the enemy near Winchester at 4 o'clock A M of yesterday + routed them with great loss. We also hear that there is fighting at Petersburg. I hope Gen Grant will be successful + take the place.

Monday Sep^t 26th

Very pleasant today. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. I am feeling better today + I hope I shall not be so bad again. We signed the ~~xxx~~ pay rolls today.

Tuesday Sep^t 27th

On guard at Sickel barracks today. Everything went off well. Rec'd a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed. He is in Emory Hospital Washington sick with chill fever. I must go + see him as soon as possible.

Wednesday Sep^t 28th

I am feeling as well as usual today. Recieved a letter from home + answered it + wrote to Cousin Hiram. In the afternoon went to see a rope walker's performance, but I confess there was very little pleasure in it. I dont like to see human life risked for the hollow praise of a crowd + I dont think I shall ever go to see another. This is the first time + I think it will be the last.

Thursday Sep^t 29th

On guard at Head Quarters. Everything went off well. Rec'd a package of medicine from Prof Hamilton. I hope it will do me good. We had a heavy rain in the night.

Friday Sep^t 30th

Cold + unpleasant with some rain. I am feeling quite well again + I hope I shall regain my health. Well another month is gone + I cannot say that I am sorry for every month that passes, brings the time nearer when I can go home again.

Saturday Oc^t 1st

A cold cheerless day. On guard at Sickel Barracks. It rained nearly all day + all night. I got pretty well wet with the rain.

Sunday Oc^t 2^d

Still cloudy + stormy. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Went to church in the evening + heard a very good sermon. O how I long for the time to come when I can be at home + enjoy the privileges of home sabbath + the sanctuary.

Monday Oct 3^d

On guard at Head Quarters. All went off well. I am feeling pretty well again + I hope my health is improving permanently. We hear that there has been hard fighting around Petersburg, also near Chapin's Farm north of the James River. The 10th + 18th Corps have crossed + are within six miles of Richmond, while a body of our cavalry went to the suburbs of the city. Our forces have taken several heavy pieces of artillery + some prisoners.

Tuesday Oct 4th

Still cloudy + unpleasant, but the good news makes any weather endurable. Gen Sheridan is moving toward Richmond from the north while every thing goes on well with the Army of the Potomac + Gen Butlers command. Richmond must soon fall.

Wednesday Oct 5th

On guard at Head Qurs Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. There is very little news today but I guess every thing is going well with our army.

Thursday Oct 6th

Went to Washington today + tried to get my pay but could not get it as the office of the Pay Master General was crowded. Went to Emory Hosp to see cousin Hiram Reed + found him looking pretty bad. I think he ought to go home for he is entirely unfit for the service. Came back on the 5 P.M. boat. We hear that there has been more fighting on the James River.

Friday Oct 7th

A beautiful day. On guard at Head Quarters again. I feel pretty well tired out this morning.

Saturday Oct 8th

I am feeling some better today. We hear no news of importance except that Gen Grants forces hold their new position. I heard that Lyman Hardenburg, an old acquaintance of mine, was at Slough barracks [*General Hospital*] + went to see him + found him looking rather badly.

Sunday Oct 9th

On guard at Sickel barracks. It was very cold + we had a rough time of it.

Monday Oct 10th

Very cold yet. Rec'd a letter from home + one from Cousin Carrie Reed. Aunt Priscilla + Carrie have gone to Illinois to spend the winter. Father has written to the Surgeon in Charge of the 2^d Div Gen'l Hosp + I was called up for an examination for a discharge, but the Surgeon said he could not discharge me. I wrote a letter home.

Tuesday Oct 11th

Rather more pleasant. No news of importance. I am feeling better today than I have in a good while.

Wednesday Oct 12th

Rained some today. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home.

Thursday Oct 13th

A beautiful day. On guard at Head Quarters. Rec'd a paper from home. It is the Ithaca Journal. Old Tompkins is all alive + at work for Mr. Lincoln.

Friday Oct. 14th

Nothing new today. It must be that this quiet will soon be broken + then may God help our armies + bring this war to a close.

Saturday Oct 15th

On guard. The guard at Sickel barracks was abused last night + one man hurt. Today the guard is furnished with muskets + all goes off well. I guess we shall have no trouble.

Sunday Oct 16th

Had inspection this morning. Recieved a letter from home + answered it. My parents are very anxious that I should come home but it is impossible at present. I will try to wait patiently until my time is out + then enjoy home the better for having been deprived of it so long.

Monday Oct 17th

A beautiful day. Rec'd a pair of socks by mail from home. There was an examination today, but I do not know what is to be done with me. First Battalion I guess. I wish I could go to Elmira to do duty – + I think I shall try for it.

Tuesday Oct 18th

No news + all quiet + rather dull.

Wednesday Oct 19th

On guard today. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. The weather is pleasant + the ground is getting very dry + the roads dusty.

Thursday Oct 20th

The soldiers from New York had a chance to make out their papers for voting + I improved it. Went on Funeral escort this afternoon as pall bearer + helped to place two more of our brave boys in their last resting place. As I stood beside their graves I could not help thinking of the homes left desolate by their death. O what sorrow a few wicked men have brought upon our whole nation.

Friday Oc^t 21st

Clear + pleasant. We hear good news from Gen Sheridan again. The rebels attacked him + for a while had the advantage, but the tide of battle turned + forty three pieces of cannon, a large number of wagons + caissons + over two thousand prisoners were taken + the enemy completely routed. Hurrah for Sheridan. The guerillas still continue their attacks on the Orange + Alexandria R.R. but no great damage has been done. Some of the guerillas are captured every day nearly + those captured are made to ride on the trains every day under guard to prevent their comrades from firing into the trains. Made oath to the statement + to the power of Attorney given to my Father who is to cast my vote for me.

Saturday Oc^t 22^d

Rained some last night. I am feeling first rate now + I guess I shall regain my health. I hear that Col B. F. Tracy has got command of the 109th Reg^t again + that there is a prospect of the Reg^t going to Elmira N.Y. as he is Commandant of that post. I hope they will for the old Reg^t has suffered enough.

Sunday Oc^t 23^d

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. On guard today. The day was warm + pleasant but cold at night.

Monday Oc^t 24th

Well today begins a new year of my life. It does not seem possible that twenty three years of my life is gone but time flies rapidly. I would like to be at home today, but I shall have to wait until another year has rolled around. There is no news except the victory of Gen Sheridan is confirmed.

Tuesday Oc^t 25th

Another beautiful day. On guard at Head Qurs. Every thing passed off quietly.

Wednesday Oc^t 26th

Cool + pleasant. I have been reading Malcombs travels in Burmah + find it interesting.

Thursday, Oc^t 27th

On guard today. No news of importance.

Friday Oc^t 28th

Rec'd a letter from home and answered it. All well at home.

Saturday Oc^t 29th

A beautiful day. We hear to [sic] that the rebel army under Price has been badly handled by Gen Pleasanton's forces.

Sunday Oct 30th

Had inspection as usual. An order came to send all men home to election that could be spared from duty and I was one of the lucky ones + my furlough is made out + gone to Head Quarters. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it but not a word about going home for if I should be disappointed I dont want my folks to know it at all.

Monday Oct 31st

We were mustered for pay this morning at 7 ½ o'clock A.M. On guard today. We hear that Gen Grant is making a new movement. I hope it will be successful.

Tuesday Nov 1st

A beautiful day, but rather cold. Have been looking some for my furlough but it has not come yet. I hope I will get it for I am very anxious to go home now there is a chance. If there had been nothing said about it I should have felt perfectly contented without it.

Wednesday Nov 2^d

Cloudy + rained some. A number of furloughs have come today but I hear nothing of mine yet, but I live in hopes that will be here tomorrow anyway. Recieved a letter from home. There is to be a grand Mass meeting at Ithaca Friday of this week. How I wish I could be there. The young Ladies are to go out in uniform + I'll warrant they will make a splendid appearance. To me it would be a much more pleasing sight than any military parade, but I dont know but that the glances from their bright eyes would be nearly as dangerous to a soldier as the reb bullets. I think I would risk it though if I had the chance. I have to use all my stoicism to keep my patience today + even then I cant succeed. The fact is I want to go home now + it will be a great disappointment if I do not. But I suppose I could forego that greatest of earthly pleasures if compelled to do so. I sit here alone tonight + my thoughts go flying away to my dear old home, + to those gathered around the fireside thinking + perhaps talking of me. God grant that I may live to take my place in that circle again + enjoy their society.

Thursday Nov 3^d

No furlough yet but I hope it will be here tomorrow.

Friday Nov 4th

The long looked for furlough came today at 9 AM + at 10 AM I started for Washington. Got one months pay + then tried for transportation. Got the orders but could not get tickets + so went on to Baltimore on a special train at 10 P.M. + got there at 1 A.M.

Saturday Nov 5th

+ slept a little while on the Depot platform. Tried for transportation but as I had to take care of Calvin Genung of my Company who has lost his eyesight, I could not get it until time for the 3 P.M. Train, which was a special. We rode all night + daylight

Sunday Nov 6th

found us at Williamsport P.a. and at 3 P.M. we got to Elmira + got some supper but had to wait until 12 ½ P.M. for a train east + got to Owego at 3 o'clock A.M. of

Monday Nov 7

and took the 5 A.M. train for Ithaca + got ~~there~~ to the Depot at 7 A.M. + found Father there waiting for me + of course was glad to see me. got home at 8 A.M. and found all well + all very glad to see me. I got breakfast which by the way was rather better than I was used to. Passed the day very pleasantly + went to bed on a feather bed + was soon in the arms of Morpheus. My hardships + dangers ~~are~~ all ~~lost~~ forgotten.

Tuesday Nov 8th

Rather unpleasant. Went to Election in the afternoon + fired one more shot for the downfall of rebellion. I guess the election will go all right. At night went down to Uncle Camp Reed's + had quite a good time but it looks very lonesome there without Geo + W^m.

Wednesday Nov 9th

Went to Ithaca. It rained some + the going was bad. We hear no definite news of election yet. I got a vest some gloves + other things or rather Mother got them + gave to me. Thanks to her kindness.

Thursday Nov 10th

Went to Mott's Corners to see Aunt Sarah Wolcott + when I got there found Cousin W^m Wolcott home from the western army + looking well. Had a very pleasant time + got home + passed the evening very pleasantly at home.

Friday Nov 11th

We hear that Mr Lincoln is elected bully for that. Passed the most of the day at home. Made a couple of calls + went to Uncle Jacobs in the evening + had a pleasant time.

Saturday Nov 12th

It snowed some. Stayed at home all day except a short call at Mr. James Youngs [sic]. Passed the day very pleasantly.

Sunday Nov 13th

Very stormy but we went to church the first time I have been there in two years + three months. Heard a good sermon from Mr Warner. Passed the remainder of the day at home. very pleasantly too.

Monday Nov 14th

Unpleasant. Stayed at home all day + enjoyed myself first rate. There is no place dearer to me than home + I hope + pray that I may come back to it again + enjoy the society of friends. A Mothers love, how sweet the influence it casts around the heart, + the strong

affection of a Father is a safeguard against temptation + then the love of Brother + Sisters is O how dear to me.

Tuesday Nov 15th

Went calling down to Mr. Tucker's Mr. Vandermarks + Uncle Camp Reeds + in the evening went to Mr Lewises [sic] + had a good time.

Wednesday Nov 16th

Went to Cousin Rufus Stevens' + to Mr Hungerfords [sic] + had a very good time. We had company in the evening + all passed off very ~~quietly~~ pleasantly.

Thursday Nov 17th

Well today is the last I can spend at home this time. How quickly the time has gone by. I stayed at home all day + visited with my folks + passed the day very pleasantly.

Tomorrow I must go back to the life of a soldier. I fain would stay with those I love but stern duty calls + I must obey.

Friday Nov 18th

Rose at an early hour + prepared to leave + at 7 ½ A.M. I bid Mother + Grand Father adieu + started with Father my Brother + my Sisters for the Depot. O how hard to part with that Mother who has cherished me so long with a love greater than that for life, but I must go + the hand was pressed for the last time + the last kiss given + I was away. Bid Father my Brother + sisters good bye at the Depot + at 9 ½ A. M. started for Owego. O my Parents Brother + Sisters you little think how hard it is for me to keep this calm exterior when my heart is torn with anguish at leaving you. But I will trust in God + in the hope that your prayers may be heard + I return again when my time is out as a soldier. Got to Owego at 12 A.M. + soon left for Elmira + got there at 2 P.M. + found Cousin Ephraim Hill + his wife Mary + daughter Julia waiting to see me. Talked with them a few moments + then bid them good bye. The last friends I should see + at 5 ½ P.M. started for the south +

Saturday Nov 19

found me at Harrisburg+ at 11 A.M. Got to Baltimore + at 3 ½ P.M. started for Washington + got there so late that I had to stay at the Sanitary Home.

Sunday Nov 20th

Got to Alexandria at 8 A.M. + reported to Lieut Goss [?], who told me that I had been transferred to the V.R.C. + assigned to the 102^d Co 2^d Ba^{tt} V.R.C. + I was ordered to report there + at 1 P. M. I went there + reported + was assigned to quarters. An acquaintance of mine Corpl John Love is here too + bunks with me so it will be more pleasant, but I am very sorry to leave the old Co for I liked the men + officers first rate. But I must submit to it with as good grace as possible. I wrote a letter home today + I wish I was there to read it but I am thankful that I have been spared to see those I love once more + I pray that I may have that privelege [sic] again.

Monday Nov 21st

Rainy + unpleasant. Was on guard today. I dont like it as well here as I did with the 100th C^o but I will try to be content where I am. The day passed off quietly but we had a hard night on guard as it was cold + rained very hard.

Tuesday Nov 22^d

Very cold. Got a pass + went down town + made some purchases of brushes blacking +c. + then went to my old quarters + got the box that I brought from home + took dinner there. The news is good + great movements are on foot. Gen Sherman is a puzzle to the rebs as well as to us, but it is certain that he will make his mark somewhere. It is reported that the rebs have evacuated Petersburg but I doubt it. I wrote some letters, but have recieved none yet.

Wednesday Nov 23^d

Cold but pleasant. It froze very hard last night + the ground is frozen quite deep. I was detailed for guard but did not have to go on so I have the day to myself. I like it much better here now + I guess I shall get along well enough anyway. I hope I can pass the remainder of my time pleasantly + be discharged honorably from the service. I have the consciousness at least that I have done my duty so far + I shall try to do it the remainder of my time. Tonight after dark I was surprised + pleased by a visit from Ezra Thatcher + Alfred Earsley both of my C^o + the latter my old tent mate. Earsley stayed with me all night + we had a good time talking of old times. The last I saw of him was in the hottest of the fight at Spotsylvania. He is badly disabled having lost the use of his right hand + he has got his discharge + is going home.

Thursday Nov 24th

Earsley left me this mornings but promised to call before he went home. I was on guard + all went off well. I recieved a letter from home + answered it. It was most welcome to me. The folks are well, but very lonesome since I left.

Friday Nov 25th

This morning A C Earsley came to see me + bid me good bye + then he was off for home sweet home. I was glad that he is discharged + he is one of the many that have got justice due them. I got a pass + went down town to the old quarters + found a letter from Cousin Harriet Reed. She writes me that she is to be married soon. I sincerely hope that she may get a husband worthy of her, for I believe she is a good woman. It is a very pleasant day, but was cold last night.

Saturday Nov 26th

Did some washing today. It was quite pleasant. We hear that there has [sic] been several fires in New York City, thought to be the work of rebel sympathizers. I hope they will be caught at it.

Sunday Nov 27th

Rained some last night but today is pleasant. I was on guard today as Serg^t of the guard. All passed off quietly until night when an order came to double the guard around all Hosps + public buildings, as a plot was brewing to burn all such buildings. I recieved a letter from home today + answered it. All well at home yet.

Monday Nov 28th

Pleasant. Went down town + then fixed my coat some. News has been recieved that a large number of buildings were fired in New York saturday night. We hear that Sherman has taken Macon Ga. But no particulars.

Tuesday Nov 29th

A splendid day. Every thing is quiet + time passes rather dull. Our rations gave out today + I had to buy bread for dinner + supper, + the boys are rather savage about it, but I guess we shall live better in future.

Wednesday Nov 30th

A beautiful day. I signed the pay rolls last night. Was on guard today. A lot of the convalescents got pay today + there was plenty of "the ardent" in circulation + we had a hard time on guard + had to arrest several men.

Thursday Dec 1st

A beautiful day for the beginning of winter. Went down town to take a walk. My descriptive roll has come at last. We hear that the uniform of the V.R.C. is to be changed. We hear that all men that enlisted in 1862 are to get \$300 bounty at the expiration of the term of service instead of \$100. I recieved a letter from home yesterday + answered it. All well at home. Hiram Reed was unable to go back to Hosp when his furlough had expired so he had it extended thirty days longer. I hope he will get well again soon.

Friday Dec 2^d

Cloudy + unpleasant. Was on guard today as Serg^t. There was plenty of whiskey in circulation + I had to make two or three arrests. Had rather a hard time but got through with it all right.

Saturday Dec 3^d

Not very pleasant. Went to Sickel Barracks + got pay. The back pay does not come yet, but I guess I shall get it next pay day as my Descriptive list has come at last. I am sick of seeing drunken men. Nearly half of the 116th C^o is drunk + a part of ours. Well another week is gone + my time is so much nearer out.

Sunday Dec 4th

Clear + pleasant. Was on guard as Serg^t + had a hard days work as the Officer of the guard was sick + one Corpl + I had to do their duty + had to arrest two men + take them to the Provost Marshall. Recieved a letter from home + one from A. C. Earsley. All well at home. I began a letter home but could not finish it.

Monday Dec 5th

Finished my letter home + wrote to A. C. Earsley. I feel tired + worn out but a little rest will set me all right. We hear that Hood attacked Franklin Tenn + has been repulsed with a loss of 5000 men. A lot of the convalescents were sent away to their Reg^ts. Had dress parade tonight + the band was out.

Tuesday Dec 6th

On duty again. Every thing went off as well as could be expected. No news of importance.

Wednesday Dec 7th

Rainy. Recieved a letter from home + answered Toward night it cleared off + was pleasant but quite cold.

Thursday Dec 8th

Clear + very cold. Was on duty, but it was cold work. All went well as usual. Recieved an answer from Prof Hamilton with medicine.

Friday Dec 9th

Still very cold + the ground is frozen very hard. Went down town a little while but could see nothing so came back again + slept through the afternoon. Just at night it began to snow + stormed very hard.

Saturday Dec 10th

The snow is four inches deep this morning but it is raining some + is very unpleasant. A few pleasure seekers were out with sleighs, but it looked little like the old fashioned sleigh rides in New York. I was on guard as Serg^t again + everything passed off well. It stormed nearly all day. The officer of the guard said he would stay up until midnight + then let me try it until morning, so I went to bed early.

Sunday Dec 11th

Still stormy + unpleasant but the snow is melting. We had C^o inspection in the quarters + had white gloves issued to us. [illegible] things for winter. We hear that Gen Grant has made another movement toward the south side R.R. The 6th Corps has been sent back from the Shenandoah Valley to the army of the Potomac. I hope Gen Grant will did [?sic] the rebs out + close this cruel play and our glorious old flag float Triumphant over a free people. How dear should that Flag be to every one.

Most sacred emblem of the Free,
How dear to every heart should be
Thy mantling folds that long have soared
Over a land from Despots saved,

Who is so base who'd dare to be?
As not to strike for Liberty?
Who'd see this sacred emblem fair
Dishonored by a traitor's power?

Let Freemen rise and round thee stand
Firm as the rock a faithful band,
And never let thy sacred folds
Be trailed in dust, by traitors bold,

E'en now I see they sacred folds
Bathed in the autumn sunbeams gold,
Each star a gem of princely worth,
Each stripe the hope of all the earth,

Our starry flag shall ever ~~wave~~ be
The much loved emblem of the Free
And ever shall our motto be
Our God, our Flag and Liberty.

❧ ❧ ❧

Monday Dec 12th

Clear + very cold. I was on duty + all went off well. I wrote a letter home but recieved none in return. The news is interesting but the results remain unknown as yet. Two Corps the 2^d + 5th are on the move somewhere, but we do not know their destination. Gen Sherman is reported near Savannah.

Tuesday Dec 13th

Last night was a bitter cold night, but I was very comfortable. Went out a little while in the forenoon. Had dress parade this afternoon. We hear a report that Gen Sherman has taken Savannah. I hope it is true. No letter from home yet this week, but I hope I shall get one tomorrow.

Wednesday Dec 14th

It rained last night + is very muddy today. I rec'd a letter from home + one from Cousin Amelia Wolcott + answered them. There was a funeral today of one of the men from the Co + the whole Co attended. The usual salute was fired over the grave. The Chaplain made some remarks offered a prayer + all was over, + we went back to quarters. I hope it

may prove a good lesson to all + help us to prepare for the change that must sooner or later be ours to experience.

Thursday Dec 15th

Was on duty today as Officer of the guard. Had some trouble with one man, but he was sent away for confinement + the remaining hr of the day passed off quietly. There was a report today that Gen Sherman had taken Savannah. I hope it is true. Gen Grant has sent an expedition down the Weldon R.R. which has destroyed a great deal of the road, all stores + buildings on the road.

Friday Dec 16th

Very muddy + rather unpleasant. Got a pass + went out in the town a little while. There is no further news from Sherman.

Saturday Dec 17th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Went on guard again today, all passed off quietly. It was not very cold, but very muddy + unpleasant.

Sunday Dec 18th

Had inspection at 10.A.M. Rec'd another letter from home + wrote two letters. We hear today that Gen [*George Henry*] Thomas has taken 45 guns + 5000 prisoners from Hood, also the report has been confirmed that Sherman has taken Savannah + that he has released 40 000 Union prisoners. Bully for Sherman. It seems to me that the rebs cannot hold out much longer. Passed the day reading + writing as it was very unpleasant out of doors.

Monday Dec 19th

Rainy + unpleasant. Wrote a letter home. The news is good yet, but Sherman has not taken Savannah as has been reported but has closely invested the place + it must soon be ours.

Tuesday Dec 20th

It is just a month today since I came here. Time goes very fast. It has been a pleasant day. I am on guard + all goes well. No more news of importance but the success of our armies is cheering + it seems as though the rebs must be disheartened by so many defeats. I hope they will give up soon. President Lincoln has ordered another draft for 300 000 men + all deficiencies on the last call to be made up. Gold has fallen to \$2,10 ³/₄ .

Wednesday Dec 21st

When I got up this morning at 5 o'clock the ground was covered with snow + it was snowing very fast. The weather changed very suddenly through the night. If I were at home I would be glad to see this for I would be sure of a sleigh ride there but here it only

makes matters worse. After I went to bed tonight an order came for 50 men of the 102^d C^o to report to Cliffbourne Barracks [*Hospital, Washington*] for Garrison duty.

Thursday Dec 22^d

We packed up this morning + at 3 o'clock P.M. we started for Washington on the cars. Were landed in Maryland Avenue + marched out to Cliffbourne Barracks + got there about 7.P.M. + were quartered in a cold barrack without fire, our beds were the soft side of a board + I slept but little.

Friday Dec 23^d

Very cold + I dont feel very well. We were examined today + marked for the 1st Ba^{tt}. We dont know yet where we are going, but I think it will be north of here. I wish it might be to Elmira. I wrote a letter home + recieved one. All well except my Brother. He has the sore throat. I hope it will be nothing serious. The last news from Gen Thomas is that the total loss sustained by the rebel Gen Hood is 20,000 + nearly all his artillery.

Saturday Dec 24th

Still cold but not quite as cold as it was yesterday. I hope we shall get away from here today for I dont like the place at all + the sooner we leave the better it will suit me. I slept some better last night but it was most too cold for comfort, but I am used to it so it does not make so much difference. In the afternoon made out an application to be transferred to the 12th Reg^t 1st Batt doing duty in Elmira N.Y. + sent it to Col Wisewell Commander of the V.R.C. I hope it will go through for I would like to go there. I would be so much nearer home.

Sunday Dec 25th

Well Christmas has come again, but there is very little chance for merriment here. I wrote a letter home + recieved one from Cousin Hiram Reed. Hi has got back to Emory Hospital again + says he had a good time at home. I would like to hear how Herman is today but I hope he is well by this time. The day passed off quietly + no prospect of moving yet except an order to move quarters at roll call tomorrow morning.

Monday Dec 26th

Rainy + unpleasant. At revillee [sic] we moved to Barrack no. 6. A great many guns have been fired this morning + I guess it is for some good news. We soon heard that Savannah had been taken with 150 guns + 33000 bales of cotton only 800 prisoners were taken.

Tuesday Dec 27th

Well I have just eight months more to serve + I am glad it is no more. I wish it was much less. We expect to move tomorrow but dont know where. I rec'd a letter from Cousin Carrie Reed.

Wednesday Dec 28th

Quite pleasant. I recieved two letter from home + one of them had Sarah's + Jule's Photographs in it. There were very good indeed + I shall prize them highly. Toward night we were called out + marched to Sherburne Barracks Washington DC + were assigned to the 12th Reg^t V.R.C.

Thursday Dec 29th

We were assigned to different Companies + I with Corp Savage in Co "E" In the afternoon I was pleasantly surprised by seeing Cousin Hiram Reed walk in to see me + we had a good time talking of the past, the present + the future. I cant say that I like it very well here + I shall be glad when my time is out. I wrote a letter home + told the folks where to direct.

Friday Dec 30th

Very pleasant. We have had to throw aside everything not according to regulations + draw what we needed but all I wanted was a cap. There is lots of style here, but I suppose it is all right. At night the Orderly Serg^t called on me to help make out pay rolls + I wrote until 11 P.M. but we did not get them done.

Saturday Dec 31st

Well today is the last of 1864 + tomorrow begins the new year. We had muster + inspection + that took up nearly all day. There is no news of importance + all is quiet here.

Sunday Jan 1st 1865

Well here we are at the beginning of a new year. It is a very pleasant day but rather cold + the ground is covered with snow. We had inspection + a very good dinner. I wrote a letter home + I hope I shall get one soon for I am anxious to hear from there. I hope time will pass quickly for the next seven months for I begin to feel like going home. But I must wait. Yes wait, we are ever waiting, from the cradle to the grave, ever looking ahead, hoping that the future may bring happiness. But if we only have a sure hope of a home beyond the grave this is worth more than all the rest. I hope that health + strength + skill may be given me to perform every duty as a soldier the remainder of my time + then when I lay aside the blue I can say at least that I have done my duty to my Country.

Monday Jan 2^d/65

Pleasant but quite cold. The new men were called out this afternoon for drill. The day passed off pleasantly.

Tuesday Jan 3^d

We moved quarters today + were assigned to our places in the ranks + then divided into ~~the~~ squads. I am in the first squad but did not loose [sic] my bunk mate as all the non

commissioned officers bunk to suit themselves. Corp Love went to Alexandria + brought the rest of our things over here.

Wednesday Jan 4th

Corp Love + myself were on guard today around camp. The orders are very strict here but we got along very well + everything went smoothly but I got very little sleep through the night.

Thursday Jan 5th

Pleasant. I do not feel very well today. We had general inspection a 1.P.M. + then had to go out on dress parade. Got some bed sacks + straw to fill them I have been looking for a letter from home today but none came. I wrote a letter home. I hope I shall get one tomorrow. We hear that Gen Sherman is moving again but do not know where.

Friday Jan 6th

I was detailed this morning to take charge of the cook house, draw the rations +c + commenced my duties. It is a new place to me, but I shall do the very best I can. The day passed off pleasantly. It rained some in the afternoon.

Saturday Jan 7th

Very cold + snowed some. We had to scrub up today for inspection. I rec'd a letter from home + was very glad to hear from there. They are all well. My folks were going to send me a box but got my letter in time not to send it.

Sunday Jan 8th

A very pleasant day. We had inspection + the Col seemed well pleased with everything. I wrote a letter home today. It keeps me pretty busy here, but I like it very well as I have my nights for rest + that is worth a great deal.

Monday Jan 9th

Nothing of importance happened + everything is going off well I believe.

Tuesday Jan 10th

Very rainy all day. This is the day to draw rations. We drew our salt meat but had to wait for the rest of our rations.

Wednesday Jan 11th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. My folks are all well. We finished drawing rations. It is much colder today but pleasant.

Thursday Jan 12th

A beautiful day. Rec'd a letter from home, all well yet + I am very thankful. My time is going pretty fast now + I like my place here very well. I shall do as near right here as I can. Wrote a letter home.

Friday Jan 13th

All goes off well. Nothing of importance that I know of.

Saturday Jan 14th

We were visited today by the Col. Had to scrub + clean up for inspection of quarters + our rooms must be in order.

Sunday Jan 15th

A beautiful day. We had inspection in the forenoon + the Capt seemed to be well pleased with every thing. I received a letter from home + answered it. The folks are all well. I would like to be there. I think there would be a chance to enjoy life if I were there.

Monday Jan 16th

Nothing save the usual round of work. We had a school for the noncommissioned officers tonight which was quite interesting. There is to be a general inspection on the 19th + the Capt ordered all to be prepared for it.

Tuesday Jan 17th

We heard a report today that Fort Fisher near Wilmington N.C. is taken. I hope it is true for it is an important point to the rebs + will trouble them a great deal if they loose [sic] it.

Wednesday Jan 18th

Rather cold. We had rather a hard days work preparing for inspection. Rec'd a letter from home + one from A. C. Earsley.

Thursday Jan 19th

Very cold. The inspection went off very well + no fault was found with my part of the work. I did not go out + so had to be inspected alone. We have the news now that Fort Fisher is ours with 72 heavy guns + 2500 prisoners. Our loss was about 500 men. The works were taken by assault. The seamen + marines formed a part of the force. I wrote a letter home. It is now evening + I am here alone. I have a large kettle of beef on the stove boiling + must watch that so I guess I will write a letter or two + while I am writing the beef will boil.

Friday Jan 20th

Rec'd a letter from Mr S H Johnston an old school teacher of mine. It was a beautiful day. Nothing of importance happened. Wrote some letters in the evening.

Saturday Jan 21st

It has been a very stormy day. The rain + sleet has [sic] been falling all day. We drew rations today. I rec'd a letter from home. All well there. My folks have started a box to me. I got the receipt [sic] for it in the letter from home. We cleaned up for inspection tomorrow. We hear that Willmington [sic] is evacuated. I hope it is true. There is a precious row in the rebel Congress. I hope they will get up a fight + eat each other up, maybe that would stop the war.

Sunday Jan 22^d

Very unpleasant. We had inspection of quarters as usual and the Reg^t was ordered to go as funeral escort for Gen ~~Willecock~~ Wilcox but the order was countermanded. I had a good deal to do but found time for some reading + writing.

Monday Jan 23^d

Very rainy. The Reg^t went on the funeral escort of Gen Wilcox today. I was not obliged to go + I was very glad too for it was very muddy.

Tuesday Jan 24th

It froze up last night + today has been a very cold windy day. About 2 o'clock P.M. a fire broke out in the Smithsonian Institute and all efforts to save the building were unavailing + the main part of the building was destroyed. A few things on the lower floor were saved. One Artist, Mr Stanley [*John Mix Stanley*] who had the work of his lifetime all there + who had a chance to sell all his pictures, lost them all + he is ruined.

Wednesday Jan 25th

Still very cold. Got a pass + went down town to see if my box had come yet but it was not there. Took a look at the ruins of the Institute + got back in time for dinner. Nothing of importance happened the remainder of the day.

Thursday Jan 26th

Still very cold. I rec'd a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed today. He is with the Reg^t again. He says nearly all the old officers are gone. No news from home this week yet + no box yet. We had no school tonight.

Friday Jan 27th

Well I have just seven months to serve yet. Nothing new happened today.

Saturday Jan 28th

Had to clean up for inspection today + had plenty of work.

Sunday Jan 29th

Had inspection at 2.P.M. The day passed off quietly. I wrote a letter home + one to Cousin Amelia Wolcott. Spent the day in reading + writing.

Monday Jan 30th

Still cold. Nothing of importance is going on except that there is some talk of the Reg^t leaving here but I dont know where it will go. I hope it will be north if anywhere. We were ordered to prepare for inspection of the Reg^t tomorrow.

Tuesday Jan 31st

Well this is the last day of the month. The inspection passed off quietly + all was right in our C^o. I did not have to go out. We drew rations in the afternoon for ten days.

Wednesday Feb 1st

Very muddy + disagreeable. We cleaned up again today. One of the men in the kitchen was sick + the Capt sent another in his place. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. The box I have been looking for so long came today + was well filled with all manner of good things + we had a good time opening it.

Thursday Feb 2^d

There was no school tonight. Everything goes off well yet.

Friday Feb 3^d

Very muddy. We hear that the Vice President of the southern Confederacy with others have come within our lines to treat for Peace. President Lincoln + Sec Seward have gone to Fortress Monroe to meet them. I hope something can be done to bring about a peace.

Saturday Feb 4th

We had to work pretty hard today to get ready for inspection, cleaning + scrubbing. No news from the Peace Commissioners yet.

Sunday Feb 5th

Very pleasant. Inspection passed off well + everything was all right. We hear that President Lincoln has returned to Washington. The terms of the rebel Commissioners were such that they could not be accepted.

Monday Feb 6th

A beautiful day. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. I am not very well today, but I guess I shall be better soon.

Tuesday Feb 7th

It commenced snowing early this morning + has stormed very hard all day. I got a pass + went over to the Lincoln Hospital + found Cousin Leonard Reed there. His wound is doing well + has very good care. I hope he will soon recover. Got back at noon + worked the remainder of the day. There is no news of importance today. Gen Sherman is moving toward Charleston but it is hard work for his army as the low lands + river bottoms are all flooded + the weather colder than it has been known for many years. The

Peace Commissioners have passed through our lines on their return to Richmond. So endeth our hopes for Peace for the present but I hope it will come soon.

Wednesday Feb 8th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. We had to scrub out again today.

Thursday Feb 9th

Had school tonight + it passed off very well. No news of importance.

Friday Feb 10th

Rec'd a letter from Cousin Carrie Reed today. We drew rations again today.

Saturday Feb 11th

Pleasant. Scrubbed out again today. It seems as though it was nothing but scrub all the time here, but I shall try to get along as well as I can the remainder of my time.

Sunday Feb 12th

Cold + disagreeable. One of the men is sick today + things do not go so well but we were all right for inspection. I had but very little leisure time for reading or writing. How I would like to be at home today. I hope my life will be spared until I can go back to my home again + enjoy the society of those I love.

Monday Feb 13th

Quite pleasant but very cold at night. There is to be a general inspection the 17th + everything must be in shape. I hope I shall not have to go out but I can go if I am obliged to.

Tuesday Feb 14th

Pleasant. The Col came around today + ordered some changes to be made in the arrangements of the Kitchen furniture + the Officer of the day threatened to report me for working ha, ha. We scoured the tables benches + floor of the Dining Room. They look first rate now.

Wednesday Feb 15th

Very rainy all day. I have been at work on my accoutrements all the time I could get + we finished scrubbing the kitchen. The Capt seems to be well pleased with the tables +c. We hear a report today that Gen Sherman has been defeated, but I cannot believe it.

Thursday Feb 16th

We have been very hard at work today preparing for the inspection + I am very tired + nearly sick. No letters from home yet.

Friday Feb 17th

Very unpleasant. I went out on the grand inspection + everything went off well. One of the men of our C^o was picked to have the furlough as he had the cleanest equipments throughout of any man in the Reg^t. I got five letters today + two were from home. They are all well at home + write that the snow is very deep so the Rail Roads are blocked up + the mails delayed.

Saturday Feb 18th

Pleasant but very muddy. One of the men was taken sick + I had to get another in his place. No news of importance. It is reported that Sherman has taken Branchville.

Sunday Feb 19th

Very pleasant but muddy. I wrote some letters. We had three or four inspections + everything went off well I believe. I wish I could be at home today. I think I could enjoy it pretty well.

Monday Feb 20th

Clear + pleasant. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. Noticed the death of James Bull of C^o F 109th N.Y. Vols. I was well acquainted with him.

Tuesday Feb 21st

Another beautiful day. As pleasant as spring. The news is glorious, Charleston evacuation + our flag floating over Fort Sumpter [sic]. Everything is working well + I hope we shall soon see the end of this thing. Drew rations for the remainder of the month.

Wednesday Feb 22^d

Very pleasant until evening when clouds gathered + it began to rain. Nothing of importance happened today except that we scrubbed the floors + tables of the Dining Room.

Thursday Feb 23^d

Very rainy all day + the mud is very deep again. How I do dislike such rainy weather.

Friday Feb 24th

Clear + pleasant + the mud is drying up very fast. We hear the good news that Wilmington N.C. is in our possession with many prisoners. I wrote a letter home. I am anxious to hear from home again.

Saturday Feb 25th

Very rainy all day. We scrubbed today to prepare for inspection.

Sunday Feb 26th

A beautiful day as I ever saw. Everything goes off well. Inspection of quarters as usual and then I wrote some letters + read some. No letter from home yet. I can not see what is the matter. I wish I could be at home today to go to church with my folks, but I have six months to wait yet + that will soon pass away.

Monday Feb 27th

Very pleasant. Rec'd a letter from ~~you~~ home. all well at home. We had to prepare for muster + inspection. I have just six months to serve from today.

Tuesday Feb 28th

Rather cloudy + looked like rain. I did not go out to muster. All passed off well. We hear that there are some new movements by Gen Lee. I wrote a letter home.

Wednesday March 1st

Warm + pleasant. We had to scrub up again today.

Thursday March 2^d

It rained again today. The rebel papers say that Gen Grant is preparing for another movement + has massed all his troops near Hatcher's Run.

Friday March 3^d

Rained all day as hard as it could pour down. Rec'd two letters from home + answered them. All well at home. I think tomorrow will be a bad day for the inauguration. A part of our Regt is to go out for some purpose.

Saturday March 4th

~~Today Uncle Abe takes the Presidential chair for four years more. I wonder if today is an emblem of the next four years in our nations~~
[last page of this volume]

on back fly leaf (facing last page):

My Father's Address
Mr. Benton Reed,
Mott's Corners,
Tompkins C^o.
N.Y.

on back fly leaf (facing pastedown): Alexandria, Va. Dec 1st /64

on back pastedown:

Directions to find J B Reed
You will find James at the Baptist Church Hospital Alexandria Va. in care of the
Christian commission