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

*The 6th Volume
Of James B Reed's
Diary
Commenced
March 4th 1865
At Sherburne Barracks
Washington
D. C.*

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 national History. It rained nearly all the forenoon but at noon cleared off + was very pleasant. I had no chance to see the inaugural procession at all. But as I stood + listened to the boom of cannon + the strains of music + the shouts of the enthusiastic crowd as they were wafted to me upon the air of spring I could not help thinking what the past four years had been to our country what our condition was at present + what the next four years would bring forth. O war! how numerous are thy victims. Why the thousands of young men maimed + crippled for life? Why the numerous evidences of suffering + hardship Why the countless Hospitals crowded with the flower of our country stricken down by disease or the fearful wound, The one recieved on some of our bloody battle fields + the other contracted by hardship + exposure more than mortal man can bear. Why the sonless Mothers, the weeping widows, the orphaned children? Where the light + life of thousands of fire sides? Why those countless burial grounds all over the land? Answer that + all is answered. For four long weary years a steady tide of men, the noblest bravest our country could boast of, has been moving toward the battle ground of the south. But alas! where are they now? Ask the remnant of yonder battle flag for those that have fallen around its sacred folds. Many very many have fallen, but there still remains a faithful band tried + true to the old flag. But we hope the the [sic] work of the soldier is nearly finished. We can see or fancy that we can see the dawn of a brighter day for our nation, And my sincere prayer is that this cruel war may soon cease + victory perch upon our banners + the light of Peace break over the whole world never again to be darkened by war. God bless our President + give him wisdom to perform his duties. As near as I could learn the inauguration passed off very pleasantly. The procession was a large one + made a splendid appearance. Our Reg^t was kept in readiness to be called out at any time + through the day was posted as a guard around the Capitol.

Sunday March 5th

A splendid day + it ~~is~~ almost makes me homesick. Had but little leisure but took some time for reading + writing. No news of importance. All of Shermans movements seem to be shrouded in mystery to the rebs + nearly so to ourselves although his plans are probably understood by Gen Grant.

Monday March 6th

We had to scrub again today. No news of importance. I wrote a letter home. We recieved two months pay today + I sent \$20.00 home.

Tuesday March 7th

Rainy + muddy. The boys are running wild with their money + about sixty are in the guard house. I bought one volume of Headly's [sic] history of the Rebellion. It cost me \$4.00. I shall send it home as soon as possible.

Wednesday March 8th

Pleasant today. I sent my book home. I hope it will go safely for it is a splendid work + I do not want to loose [sic] it. It is very warm now + more like spring than it has been before. The birds sing merrily.

Thursday March 9th

Rainy again. We can have but one pleasant day at a time now it seems. I wrote another letter ~~at~~ home tonight. I do not see why I do not get a letter from home but I hear that the RR bridge at Harrisburg P.A. was carried away by the ice + the line to New York City is obstructed by ice in the Susquehanna~~h~~ so that the mails are delayed.

Friday March 10th

Muddy yet, but rather pleasant in the afternoon. Drew rations today. I recieved a letter from home today. All well at home + that is a very welcome piece of news to me.

Saturday March 11th

Pleasant but rather cool. Recieved another letter from home. We had to whitewash the Dining room today + clean up for inspection. We hear good news from Sheridan. He has whipped Early again + driven him to the mountains. The people of North Carolina meet Sherman with joy. We had a visit tonight from the Capt, Lieut + Mrs. Bush + Mrs. Chromy [sic]. They praised the condition of the rooms + furniture highly.

Sunday March 12th

A beautiful day. I wrote a letter home + sent my old Diary home too. I hope it will go safely. Everything goes off as usual. Inspection of quarters found ours in good condition.

Monday March 13th

At 1 A.M. this morning the long roll beat + the Reg^t turned out under arms but was soon dismissed. Have not found out the cause of the disturbance yet + guess it was nothing of importance. We had some white washing done today. There is to be a general inspection Thursday of this week+ everything must be in order. We hear that Gen Sheridan has taken Charlottesville Va + destroyed a large quantity of stores +c, + has taken 1000 prisoners + thirteen pieces of artillery. Sherman is all right yet but delayed on his march by the bad roads. The rebel Senate has passed the bill to arm the negroes by one majority. I think it will be the worst thing they could do for themselves as many of the slave owners are arming their slaves to resist the conscription.

Tuesday March 14th

Cleaned my gun preparatory to the grand inspection. It looks rainy again + is very warm.

Wednesday March 15th

Received a letter from home + answered it. Had plenty of work to do today but I guess I can have things all right. It has rained some today + I guess we shall have a stormy day tomorrow.

Thursday March 16th

Clear in the morning but very windy + disagreeable. The inspection passed off first rate. C^o "E" was all right. I am about tired out + feel almost sick.

Friday March 17th

A beautiful day. I received a letter from Father today. All well at home. The money sent home went safely. I answered the letter from home. I had to go out on Dress parade tonight for one of the Color Guard. That makes a little more for me to do but I can do it.

Saturday March 18th

Clear + pleasant. We had a hard days work again today cleaning up for Sunday. The news is good. Gold has fallen to 163 ½ + is still going down. All kinds of Mdse, is falling. Gen Sherman is at Fayetteville, + has opened communication with Willmington [sic] by the Cape Fear River. Gen Sheridan has destroyed the James River canal, the bridges across the South Anna River + has destroyed 15 miles of the Va central Rail Road. Bully for Sherman + Sheridan. There is a perfect panic in Richmond. Go it Johnnies you have nearly the full length of the rope.

Sunday March 19th

A bright beautiful day. I wrote some letters read some + had to work the rest of the time. I shall be glad when I can be free once more + act as my own judgment dictates. No news of importance today. Nothing going on in camp save the usual round of duty. I would like something exciting to vary the monotony of our life here but there is little chance for excitement here.

Monday March 20th

Still pleasant + very warm. We hear that Sheridan's advance has reached White House Landing all right, Early's force is either captured or dispersed.

Tuesday March 21st

Pleasant until evening when it rained very hard. News from New York is that all kinds of Mdse is falling rapidly. Gold is 158 and still falling. Great damage has been done all over the northern states by high water.

Wednesday March 22^d

Clear but rather cold to what it has been. The amount of property destroyed by Sheridan in his raid is estimated at not less than \$50 000 000 [sic]. Gold has fallen to 155 ½ + Mdse is tumbling very fast. Several Merchantile [sic] Firms have failed + a general rush is feared. Everything goes well with our armies + there is a prospect of the evacuation of Petersburg talked of.

Thursday March 23^d

Cold + cloudy. Toward night it rained some + the wind blew very hard. I wrote a letter home but have recieved none this week.

Friday March 24th

Cold + windy. The storm yesterday did considerable damage yesterday unroofing houses + killing some persons. Gold fell today to 148. Recieved a letter from home + answered it. My book got home safely. The water has done considerable damage in Tompkins C^o.

Saturday March 25th

Cold + unpleasant. We had to work pretty hard today. Wrote a letter for one of the men in the evening. No news today of importance.

Sunday March 26th

Was far from being a pleasant day for the wind blew very hard + was raw + chilly. I wrote to A. C. Earsley. We hear that the rebs attacked our works before Petersburg yesterday morning + took Fort Steadman [sic - *Stedman*] but were soon driven back with a loss of 3000 killed + wounded + 2700 prisoners while our loss was 800. The attack was made on the 9th Army Corps + I suppose my old Reg^t was engaged. I hope none of the boys are killed + am anxious to hear from them.

Monday March 27th

Pleasant again + quite warm. Two of our cook hands left this morning. One to go home on furlough + the other is sick. Another man was detailed + we have our wood cut by men not belonging to the cook house. We hear that Gen Grants + Lee's forces are fighting terribly around Petersburg + Richmond, but no definite news. Sherman has met + defeated Hardee + is pushing on toward Richmond. I hope our armies will be successful + crush the last spark of life out of the Rebellion. I think it is in its last struggles now.

Tuesday March 28th

Pleasant. No further news from the south. Rec'd two letters from home + answered them. All well at home. Sarah expects to teach the school on the hill this summer + I am glad for she can be at home all the time.

Wednesday March 29th

Very warm. Today there was Battalion drill + I had to report. It tired me a good deal. There is a report that Sherman has taken 7000 prisoners. I hope it is true. The rebel army seems to be discouraged. Rec'd a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed. He saw the whole of the battle of Saturday last but our Reg^t was not engaged. He says it was a terrible fight + our men whipped the Johnnies handsomely.

Thursday March 30th

It was raining this morning when I awoke + has rained very hard all day. We had to scrub today because we were prevented from doing it yesterday by the drill. The news is good. North Carolina talks strongly of Peace + one of her Representatives in the rebel Congress has taken the oath of alleigance [sic] to the United States. The soldiers of Shermans army + the rebels near them want to join forces + make war upon some foreign power. So saith [sic] report. I doubt it.

Friday March 31st

We had Regimental inspection today + it passed off very well. We drew rations after inspection. It is rather rainy + unpleasant.

Saturday April 1st

Very pleasant. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. We hear that there is fighting going on near Petersburg. Lee assaulted our lines at several different points but was repulsed.

Sunday April 2^d

A beautiful day. Nothing of importance is going on. All quiet in camp. We hear that the rebs forced the left of Gen Grants army back a short distance + then our troops drove them back + carried the works held by the Rebels + now hold them. Four battle flags were captured. I wrote a letter to Cousin Mary Hill.

Monday April 3^d

Very warm. At 11AM today it was telegraphed here from City Point Va. That Petersburg + Richmond were in our possession + about one half of Lee's army killed wounded or Captured. The 6th + 9th Corps took Petersburg + the colored troops were the first to enter Richmond after Lee had evacuated it. There was every possible demonstration of joy

exhibited by the people here. 80 guns were fired in honor of the victory. The 1st Brigade of the V R C was paraded + reviewed + I got back to camp tired + worn out.

Tuesday April 4th

All the good news of yesterday is confirmed. Lee's army is fleeing before our forces demoralised [sic] + disheartened. I recieved a letter from home + answered it. We had Battalion drill in the afternoon.

Wednesday April 5th

Pleasant. News still good + all going well. Sheridan is following Lee closely + it seems impossible for him to get away. I am very anxious to hear from the old Reg^t for I dont know but that some of my friends are killed or wounded.

Thursday April 6th

Just three months since I began work in the cook house. Rec'd a letter from Cousin [illegible] Hill, in Shermans army. He is all right yet. It rained some today.

Friday April 7th

Rainy all day. We turned over our old guns to get new ones. The news is good. Our forces have taken many more prisoners + it is thought that Lee must surrender his whole army soon. I guess the Southern Confederacy is about gone up.

Saturday April 8th

Rec'd a letter from home today. We had to scrub + clean our new guns today in the evening. I got a pass + went out visiting + had a very pleasant time.

Sunday April 9th

Cloudy + cool. I wrote a letter home today. No further news from the front, but I guess all is going well. I think a few months at most will end the Rebellion.

Monday April 10th

Very rainy. This morning the news was recieved at the war department that Gen Lee had surrendered his whole army consisting of about 40000 men. All men + Officers are paroled. Officers are allowed to retain their side arms + private horses. All munitions of war are turned over to the U. S. Government. Bully for that. Johnson is reported to be cut off + that he must surrender also. Rebellion will soon go down at this rate. Guns were fired in honor of the victory + every possible demonstration of joy manifested. I worked nearly all day on my gun.

Tuesday April 11th

Cloudy + cool No more news of importance + nothing going on in camp. It is a dull day.

Wednesday April 12th

Nothing of importance has taken place today. The people seem to be wild with joy.

Thursday April 13th

Four years ago our flag was first fired upon by the rebs at Fort Sumpter [sic]. All the City is preparing for a grand illumination tonight. Our Barracks are to be illuminated. Evening.

The whole city is one blaze of light + the joyful shouts of the crowd come to us on the evening air. Our Barracks were illuminated + made a fine appearance.

Friday April 14th

A beautiful day. We had general inspection today + it passed off pleasantly. I recieved a letter from home + answered it. Cousin Leonard Reed is very sick with typhoid fever. I fear he will not recover. In the evening the boys from the Arsenal came out in procession with torches + presented a fine appearance.

Saturday April 15th

I am at loss [sic] to know how to express my feelings today. One of the most heartless cruel + heart rending tragedies occurred last night that America has ever known. The President went to the theatre with his wife + Gen Grant was expected there also but left for Baltimore on the 6. P. M. train. About 10. P. M. a man supposed to be J Wilkes Booth went to the President's private box + shot him, the ball entering below the ear + lodging in the brain, he then jumped down upon the stage brandished a huge knife + exclaimed Death to tyranny (in latin). He then rushed out of the rear of the building + mounted a horse + rode away. The President was carried out + lived until 8 o'clock A.M. this day + then died. He was unconscious from the ~~h~~ time he was shot. About the same time, a man went to Secretary Seward's house + rushed to his room knocking the son of the Secretary down with a billy club + then assaulted the Secretary with a knife cutting several gashes in his face + throat + before leaving wounded another Son of the Secretary badly with a knife. It is thought that the Secretary + his Sons will recover. This day American has lost a father, truly a father to his country. Our joy is turned to mourning + in place of the brilliant decorations of joy + gladness over our victories our land is draped in mourning + our hearts filled with sadness. As soon as the news reached our camp the long roll was beaten + we had to turn out. We went to the Capitol + Carroll Prisons [sic] to prevent an out break there + every precaution was taken to arrest the murder [sic] but tonight he has not been found. It has been raining all day + is a gloomy time. I recieved a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed. He is all right yet having passed through the fighting before Petersburg safely. Squads of our Reg^t were sent to Baltimore to search for Booth but returned unsuccessful. It is rumored that he is captured, but not credited at all. Vice President Johnson was sworn in as President today + assumed the responsibilities of chief Magistrate of the United States. He will not be so lenient as Mr Lincoln has been + the enemy will find out that they have murdered their best friend.

Sunday April 16th

Pleasant again today. The excitement is at the very highest pitch + it is thought that the Prisons will be mobbed [sic - *mobbed*] + the rebel prisoners hung by the crowd. A report is afloat that Moseby with 25 of his men came into Alexandria + were found out + captured + the plans of Booth to join him found out + our men crossed the river found + captured Booth + Steward [sic] the one supposed to have made the assault on Sec Seward. I can not believe it yet though but hope it to be true.

Monday April 17th

The excitement is still intense. The murders [sic] have not been caught yet. It is reported that our forces have taken Mobile with a large amount of stores + several thousand prisoners. Our Reg^t has been right under arms all day. I recieved a letter from home + answered it.

Tuesday April 18th

The body of the President lay in State in the White house today. I went to see him but the crowd was so great that I could not get in. It has been a very pleasant day.

Wednesday April 19th

A beautiful day. The funeral ceremonies of the President took place today but I could not go to see it. The procession went from the White house to the Capitol where his remains will lay [sic] until Friday when it will be sent to Springfield via Baltimore, Harrisburg New York Albany, Buffalo Cleveland, Columbus Indianapolis Chicago to Springfield.

Thursday April 20th

Rainy + unpleasant. The Remains of the President lay in State in the Capitol today + our Reg^t guarded the building. About noon I went to see him + had the satisfaction of looking upon the cold remains of him who has been a father to his country. The body lay in the centre of the room under the Dome of the Capitol + was surrounded by officers of

the army [sic] + Navy. I never had seen the President before + therefore could not judge as to whether he looked natural or not but those who had seen him before said he looked perfectly natural. No further news of the murderer of President Lincoln has been recieved but the man who attempted to murder Secretary Seward is a prisoner. I cannot write of this awful tragedy as I wish I could. Its proportions are too gigantic for my pen to attempt a description so I forbear. May the ashes of our beloved President rest in peace + may his spirit ever dwell in the mansions of the blest. May God bless him who now fills the Presidential chair + give him wisdom that he may bring our nation out of the trouble that has so long threatened to overwhelm us + to finish the noble work so near complete by our dear deceased President. And may God protect him from danger + death, from disease + the hand of the assassin. And may He in his own good time bring the murderers to justice.

Friday April 21st

The remains of the President left for Springfield Ill at 8 A.M. today. Nothing of importance has occurred. I believe the men are relieved from the steady guard duty they have had to perform since the death of the President.

Saturday April 22^d

Pleasant. We had a hard days work today but got through with it. I went out + spent the evening with Mr. + Mrs. Phipps. Had a very pleasant time.

Sunday April 23^d

Clear but real cold. I volunteered to go to Baltimore today as train guard more for the ride than anything else + had a very pleasant time. Saw lots of rebs, paroled prisoners. We hear that the 9th Corps is ordered here. I would like to see my old Regt again. It seems that Gen Johnson has sent to Gen Sherman to find out what terms would be allowed him if he would surrender + they have got the Peace Question mixed up some

way with it + Gen Sherman's proceedings have been disapproved by the Cabinet + Gen Grant has gone to North Carolina to direct in person the operations against Johnson.

Monday April 24th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home, but Cousin Leonard Reed is no better yet. I hope he will recover. It is very pleasant today but a little cool. No further news that I can hear.

Tuesday April 25th

Worked on my gun all I could today. Last night I became a member of the Order of the Sons of Temperance. I hope it will be a benefit, if not to myself, to someone else. I think it is a good institution.

Wednesday April 26th

Very warm indeed. We hear that Gen Grant arrived at Raliegh [sic] in time to prevent farther damage by Sherman's [sic] agreement with Johnson. We had to scrub again today. I shall be glad when this work is over.

Thursday April 27th

Pleasant. Well four months more will end my soldiering for this term at least. The news was recieved today that the Murder [sic] Booth was captured near Acquia [sic] creek Va yesterday by a squad of the 16th N. Y. Cavalry. He was shot however before captured + lived only two hours after. His last moments were spent in blasphemy + sending word to his Mother that he died for his Country. Poor miserable wretch! He has met the just reward for his deeds And his name will ever be loaded with infamy + disgrace.

Friday April 28th

We hear today that Johnson has surrendered on the same terms that Lee did. The news is good from every point + I believe the war is virtually ended. Wrote a letter home.

Saturday April 29th

Pleasant in the forenoon. Recieved a letter from home today. In the afternoon we recieved orders to be ready to march at 7 ½ P.M. in light marching order. At the appointed time we fell in (although it rained hard as a shower had arisen toward night) + marched to the Arsenal + sat down on the wet ground to wait for orders. About 11 P.M. we were formed in line from the wharf to the gate of the Penetentiary [sic] which joins the Arsenal + at 12 a steamer ran up to the wharf + landed a party of guards with eight [sic] prisoners, who were engaged in the late murder of the President + attempted murder of Sec Seward + Sons. They were all closely ironed so it was almost impossible for them to move + over their heads a white cap was drawn so they could not see at all. I never saw such a sight + it made me think of some of the doings of the Council of ten in Venice. Gen Hancock Gen Augur + several other officers were present + searched the prisoners. After they were taken inside of the Prison a heavy guard was posted + I was on from 4 o'clock until 6 AM of

Sunday April 30th

It was a very cold night + I suffered severely. We were relieved at 1 P.M. + came back to camp + were mustered for pay. I am completely tired out. Wrote a letter home.

Monday May 1st

Muddy + rather unpleasant. The Reg^t had to go back to the Arsenal again today but I did not go as I had to stay to prepare rations for the men. I'm tired out truly + dont know when I shall get rested.

Tuesday May 2^d

Pleasant. Went to the Arsenal this morning with Rations. No news of importance.

Wednesday May 3^d

We had to scrub again today. It was pleasant and very warm. Rec'd a letter from home and answered it. All well at home. Cousin Leonard Reed is getting better. My old Reg^t is near Georgetown + I am going to try to see them tomorrow.

Thursday May 4th

Very warm. Got a pass and went up to see my old Reg^t. Got there at 10 ½ A.M. found the boys all well. Our Reg^t lost one killed and 18 wounded in taking Petersburg. I stayed until 2 P.M. + enjoyed myself first rate. Cousins Hiram Reed + W^m Reed + Uncle James Roe were well. I found out that the officers of my C^o had never recieved any official notice of my transfer to the V. R. C. + they are anxious for me to come back to the Reg^t + I shall try. Got to camp at 4 P.M.

Friday May 5th

Had to work pretty hard all day. I went to the Capt to see about being sent back to my Reg^t but it is no go I'm afraid.

Saturday May 6th

One year ago today I was in the battle of Wilderness + today the war is over, thank God. It was a very warm day.

Sunday May 7th

A beautiful day. The Reg^t is away again today and I have rather easy times. Our Orderly Serg^t got back from Springfield Ill today where he had been as one of the body guards for the remains of the President. No news of importance, but a great deal of talk about being mustered out. Well they cant muster us out too soon to suit me.

Monday May 8th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. My folks want me to let them know what day they shall meet me at the Depot. I wrote them that I would be there Sep^t 1st 9.A.M. Hope I will be there before though.

Tuesday May 9th

Rainy. We had to whitewash the kitchen today + then clean up after it, + it made a busy day for us. All sorts of rumors are afloat about mustering out, but nothing definite as yet. An order has been recieved here to report the number of men, who are willing to serve the remainder of their time after their old Reg^ts are mustered out. I guess not many will stay here if they have their choice.

Wednesday May 10th

Drew rations today + scrubbed again. I will be glad when I scrub these floors for the last time. The military Commission began the trial of the murderers of the President today.

~~Thursday~~

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. My folks seem to think that I will soon be home. I cant see it yet.

Thursday May 11th

Quite pleasant + very warm. Toward night a storm arose + it rained very hard. I cleaned my gun today. Every day drags slowly now + I am eagerly watching for the time to come when I can go home again. How much of the mercy of God has been extended to me through the past three years. Death + danger have been on every hand + yet I am spared, + only by the wonderful mercy of my kind Creator. Our work as soldiers the great work we left our homes to perform is finished + now I feel as though I ought to go home, but I dont suppose I can, + therefore I must wait as patiently as possible.

Friday May 12th

This is the anniversary of the terrible battle of Spottsylvania [sic] + brings to mind scenes of that bloody day. I can never forget it. It was very pleasant all day.

Saturday May 13th

A beautiful day. We had to scrub again today + had plenty to do. I am not feeling very well today but hope it is nothing serious.

Sunday May 14th

Pleasant. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. An official dispatch announces that Jeff Davis is captured. He was taken at Irwinville Ga. by the 4th Mich Cavalry. His game is up I hope.

Monday May 15th

Our Pay Rolls came back disapproved today + I had to help make out the new ones. Worked until near midnight. No news of importance except the capture of Jeff Davis is confirmed. The bunks were all taken out today + a general time of cleaning up carried on.

Tuesday May 16th

Worked on the rolls again today. Our Dining Room was whitewashed today.

Wednesday May 17th

Very warm. We had to clean up preparatory to general inspection which is to take place tomorrow. Helped finish the rolls today. Rec'd a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed today that shut out all hope of getting back to my Reg^t. They seem to think that they will have to stay their time out yet.

~~Friday~~ Thursday May 18th

Very warm. Inspection was at 2 P.M. + as it began to rain just as the Regt [sic] was falling out, the inspection was in quarters. Everything passed off well + we were all right as far as we know. The grand review of the armies is to take place Tuesday + Wednesday of next week. The Army of the Potomac + Sheridan's Cavalry are to be reviewed on Pa Avenue Tuesday + Sherman's Army Wednesday. It will doubtless be a grand affair. The Washington Star of this evening says that an order has been issued from the War Department to discharge all volunteers whose term of service expires on or before the 1st of Oct next. I hope it is true.

Friday May 19th

Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Father sent me some money + it came very acceptable. I went out of camp to get some Paper + Stamps. It is very warm + rainy today. The people are all wild at home + eagerly looking for me to come home.

Saturday May 20th

Very warm. We had to scrub today + draw rations for the remainder of the month + it made a hard days work. No news of importance.

Sunday May 21st

Still warm + rainy. I spent the day reading + writing. We hear today again that we are to be sent home soon. I hope so for I'm tired of this thing. It's worse in Peace to be a soldier than in war I believe. But we must as soldiers be patient + "bide our time."

Monday May 22^d

Very warm indeed. I recieved a letter from home + answered it. The Army of the Potomac is massing out east of the Capitol preparatory to the review. Many were sun struck today.

Tuesday May 23^d

I was awakened this morning by being told that my Cousin Hiram Reed was waiting to see me. I found him looking well. He took breakfast with me + soon after left for the Reg^t. After I got through work I went out + found the remnant of the old 109th. Sheridan's Cavalry was first in the column of review, headed by its commander Sheridan. Custors [sic] division wore the Custor ties + presented a fine appearance. Next came the Engineer Brigade commanded by Gen Benham. Then the gallant old 9th Corps led by Maj Gen Parke. The 9th was followed by a division of the 19th Corps. Then came the 5th Corps + last the 2^d. The column was 5 ½ hours passing one point. Cousin Hiram Reed was excused from marching with the column so he came + took dinner with me.

Wednesday May 24th

Today Shermans Army was reviewed. It consisted of four Corps + they were a noble [*Corps?*] of men, the 15th Corps took the head of the column next came the 17th then the 20th composed of the old 11th + 12th Corps of the Army of the Potomac + last the 14th Corps. Gen Sherman attended by Gen Howard rode at the head of the column + while stopping a few moments below the Capitol he shook hands with all who could get to him + bowed to the rest. Yesterday + today have been grand days in our nations history but I am not capable of describing it. I leave it for the pen of the Historian. It is expected that all men whose time expires on or before the 1st of Oct next will be discharged soon + as I am among that number I hope I shall get home soon for I am tired of soldiering.

Thursday May 25th

Pleasant. Nothing of importance is going on, all is quiet save the constant talk among soldiers about going home. Rec'd a letter from home + answered it. Father writes that the crops look promising.

Friday May 26th

It began to rain this morning + has rained steadily all day.

Saturday May 27th

Rained hard all day. We had plenty to do today. Nothing new + I see no prospect of getting home before my time is out which will be three months from today.

Sunday May 28th

It has cleared off very pleasant. The Regt was away to the prison. Rec'd a letter from Cousin [*illegible* - *see April 6, 1865, entry*] Hill, he passed over the battlefields of Spottsylvania [sic] + Chancellorville [sic] on the march from Richmond to Washington. He says hundreds lay [sic] there unburied yet. Official news has been recieved that all the Confederate forces both of the Army + Navy west of the Mississippi has [sic] surrendered. So ends the power of the so called Confederate States, Its President a prisoner its armies captured or dispersed + all is lost to them but to return to their alliegence [sic] to the government of the United States. No prospect of going home yet + this life growing more intolerable every day. O when shall I be free again? Now that the soldiers work is done I am anxious to lay aside the soldiers suit of blue + be a citizen again. But I must wait patiently.

Monday May 29th

Very pleasant. I am very unwell today hardly able to get around hope I shall get better soon. I recieved a letter from Cousin Hiram Reed today. He writes me that they expect to start for Elmira N.Y. the first of this week. How I wish that I could go with them. I think there is injustice somewhere.

Tuesday May 30th

I am better today but dont feel very well yet. No news of importance. Instructions have been sent to this Reg^t as to the manner of mustering men out of service but no time ordered. I hope that will be soon.

Wednesday May 31st

Rec'd two letters from home + answered them. The people are all well at home. We had to scrub today + draw rations too so it was quite a busy day.

Thursday June 1st

Another beautiful day. I wish it was the last that I would have to serve as a soldier, but I fear that we will have to stay our time out + although there is a great deal of talk about mustering us out of the service. It seems as though we ought to be sent home as soon as our old Reg^t's but they are going home + yet no move is made to send us home.

Friday June 2^d

Very warm + it is getting very dry too. Nothing new.

Saturday June 3^d

Had a hard days work cleaning the rooms for sunday. In the evening went to the river for a bath.

Sunday June 4th

Very warm, warmer than it has been before this year. I wrote several letters, read some, +c. We hear today that the V. R. C.s are to be kept until the expiration of their term of service.

Monday June 5th

My old Regt started for home today. How I wish I could go with them but I cannot + there is nothing left for me but to wait patiently for my time to expire.

Tuesday June 6th

No letter from home yet this week. I wrote a letter home. It is cloudy today but very warm yet + I wish it would rain some to cool the air.

Wednesday June 7th

Rec'd a note today from C. C. Meade [sic] to meet him at the Baltimore Depot tomorrow. We had to scrub today. Had a meeting tonight to make arrangements for a public meeting tomorrow evening.

Thursday June 8th

I went to the Depot but failed to see C C Meade + was much disappointed. Rec'd a letter from home. The temperance meeting was a fine thing. I enjoyed it very much.

Friday June 9th

Wrote a letter home. No news of importance.

Saturday June 10th

Rained some today. There was a riot between soldiers + negroes in town today + a part of our Reg^t went out to stop it. Several were badly hurt but none from the Reg^t.

Sunday June 11th

Cool + pleasant. I wrote some. No news of importance. In the evening attended divine service in the new chapel tent. Heard a very interesting sermon from Reverend Mr. Bass an old Chaplain of the army. There was [sic] a great many present. I enjoyed it very much.

Monday June 12th

Very warm today. I rec'd a letter from home + answered it. All well at home. One of my old schoolmates, Hannah Lewis, died lately. One after another my companions are passing away + I am still spared by God's mercy. O how I ought to improve this life. God help me to be some benefit to my fellow man.

Tuesday June 13th

Very warm + cloudy. Toward evening we had a heavy rain + it was gratefully recieved by the dry + thirsty earth. Even now as I write the rain is pattering down + if I were at home in my little room it would be sweet music to me, but here I am not satisfied. I long for the time to come when I can go home + if justice were done I should have been there before this.

Wednesday June 14th

The Reg^t was sent away today to guard the streets in town while some troops were passing. It rained some today. Lieut Meade came to see me today but he could give me very little encouragement about going home. I was very glad to see him. In the evening attended the meeting of the Sons of Temperance + had a good time.

Thursday June 15th

Cloudy today. I recieved a letter from the Executive Department of the State of New York, but that gave me but little encouragement. I wrote a letter home.

Friday June 16th

We are to have general inspection tomorrow so we have plenty to do to prepare for it. I recieved a letter from home. No news of importance only strawberries are ripe + my folks invite me to come + eat some.

Saturday June 17th

At 7 o'clock A M the Reg^t was ordered away so that ends inspection for the time. I am feeling rather unwell today but hope to be better soon. The Reg^t did not get back until 11 o'clock P.M. + then we had to get supper for the Company.

Sunday June 18th

A year ago today Cousin George Reed was wounded. We had general inspection today. I wrote a letter home. I am still unwell. I fear it will be a sickly time here.

Monday June 19th

Rec'd a letter from home. No news of importance.

Tuesday June 20th

Had to draw rations today. Rec'd a letter from home + wrote a letter in answer. Rec'd a letter from C C Meade. He writes me that there is a prospect of the 1862 men in the VRC being discharged now. I hope it is true.

Wednesday June 21st

Very warm. I am quite unwell today. We hear today that there is an order to discharge us. I hope so.

Thursday June 22^d

Still very warm. I am real sick today but hope I shall be better soon. The work has commenced today on the Rolls + I guess we shall get home soon, God grant it. I am tired + sick of this + want to be free again.

Friday June 23^d

I went to the Office this morning + worked very hard until late at night. We get along very well but it is a big job.

Saturday June 24th

Very warm. I worked on the rolls all day again, although I feel quite unwell.

Sunday June 25th

Still very warm. We had to work until 10 P.M. tonight + got done. We had to make out 70 separate [sic] Rolls + 42 discharges. I hope we can get away soon now for I am anxious to get home.

Monday June 26th

Rainy. Our papers went in early this morning but we do not know when we shall get them. Hope it will be soon.

Tuesday June 27th

Very warm. We were mustered out today at 2.P.M. + turned over our government stores. The boys are in high spirits.

Wednesday June 28th

Early this morning we went down into the City + got all our pay + then came to camp packed up our traps, settled our bills + at 3 P.M. I bid adieu to Sherburne Barracks + with a light heart + a heavy knapsack started for home called to bid the Captains people good bye + also Mr Phipps. Took the 4 ½ P.M. train + went to Laurel Md + stoped [sic] there for the night with Lieut Meade + had a very pleasant time.

Thursday June 29th

Started for Baltimore this morning at 7 o'clock. Left Baltimore at 9.20 A.M. Nothing worthy of note happened through the day + at 11 P.M. we arrived in Elmira.

Friday June 30th

Left Elmira at 2 A.M. for Owego got to Owego at 3.A.M. + at 5.A.M. I left for home. Got to Caroline Depot at 7.A.M. + washed the dust off of my face slung my knapsack shouldered my old rifle + started for Bald hill, found it hard work to get up the hill but got up to Mr. Vandemarks + left my knapsack there. When I got to Mr. Tuckers I saw

two of my old schoolmates that I had not seen for several years Chauncey + Martin Stevens. Both of them have been in the army. Stopped [sic] at Uncle Camp Reeds a few minutes + while there my brother Herman came down + we started on for home which we soon reached without another halt + once more recieved the warm earnest welcome of Mother + Sisters. Father was away but got home at noon so we were all together again. All were well except Mother + I hope she will soon be better. Sarah is teaching school up in the old brown school house where I learned my ABCs. Cousin Mary Wolcott was up here a while today. The papers came tonight but no news of importance.

Saturday July 1st

Slept in a good bed again + rested well. Rather rainy today. Went up to Uncle Jacobs in the evening a little while.

Sunday July 2d

Very pleasant. Feel pretty well today, but stayed at home all day because I had no citizen suit to wear + I am rather tired of the blue.

Monday July 3d

Went to Ithaca today + bought a suit of clothes + got home tired + hungry.

Tuesday July 4th

Another Independence day has come + finds me in rather more favorable circumstances than I was last year. Then I was in hospital sick + broken down. Now at home surrounded by the comforts of life + kind friends. Father my Brother + myself went to Ithaca today but got there too late to go with the procession. Heard the Oration which was a splendid one delivered by a Mr. Finch. After the Oration all the returned soldiers fell into line + marched to the Academy garden + there partook of a splendid dinner given by the Ladies of Ithaca, which was all that heart could wish. The dessert was ice cream + the last scene was the old Vets giving the fair ones of Ithaca [*a cheer?*], which

they did with a will. I'm not sorry that I have been a soldier, rather I am proud that I could fall in with that body of men + call myself one of them. About 4.P.M. we left for home + got there safe + sound. No war news afloat I guess. At least I have heard none.

Wednesday July 5th

A very beautiful day. Father sowed his buckwheat today. I helped him draw some stones + then worked in the garden until noon + in the afternoon I made some teeth for the horse rake. Blistered my hands nicely with the hoe, but I must get used to it.

Thursday July 6th

Finished fixing the horse rake. Cousin George Wolcott came up here in the afternoon + stayed until after tea. Went up to Uncle Jacobs with him + found Cousins Hiram + Leonard at work in the corn field. It is new business for the most of us but we will soon get broke in I guess for there is plenty to do.

Friday July 7th

Cloudy but warm. Father + Mother went to Slaterville this forenoon + Herm + I hoed corn.

Saturday July 8th

Father went to Motts Corners and was away nearly all day. I had nothing to do. Went to Uncle Camps in the evening.

Sunday July 9th

A beautiful day. Did not go to church as one of our horses was lame + we could not drive it. I spent the most of the day at home.

Monday July 10th

Ploughed + hoed corn all day, and in the Evening went down to Mr. Richard Quicks visiting + had a very fine time. Rode part of the way home on a hay rigging.

Tuesday July 11th

Quite rainy. Ground our scythes and got ready for haying.

Wednesday July 12th

Finished hoeing corn today. It is very pleasant + we expect to begin haying tomorrow.

Thursday July 13th

We began to cut grass today but worked very moderate. Father + myself cut about 1 ½ acres in all day. In the evening Cousins Hiram + Leonard Reed + their Sisters my Sisters + Amelia Leonard went to Mr. Lane's a little while + of course I went too. Found them all well except Emery. He was quite unwell. We spent the evening very pleasantly + got home safely at 11.P.M.

Friday July 14th

Very pleasant. Father Herm + myself went down to Uncle Camps to help them draw in hay + worked very moderately all day.

Saturday July 15th

Helped Uncle Camp draw hay in the forenoon + raked + drewed [sic] in four loads for ourselves in the afternoon. It sprinkled rain a little in the afternoon + just as we were drawing the last load it began to rain very hard + rained very steadily all the evening.

Sunday July 16th

Still raining + it looks dreary out of doors. Spent the day reading + writing., but I can spend a rainy day rather more pleasantly now than I could a few months ago.

Monday July 17th

It has cleared off today. Father + I have been mowing some but not work very hard.
Nothing new to be seen or heard.

Tuesday July 18th

Very pleasant. We had Uncle Camp's machiene [sic] to mow for us this forenoon + we helped Uncle Camp rake + draw in hay nearly all day.

Wednesday July 19th

Cut rye in the forenoon + began to rake hay just before dinner but it rained so we had to stop. In the afternoon we made some rake teeth + fixed the horse rake. It has rained quite hard all the afternoon + does not look much like good hay weather yet.

Thursday July 20th

Cleared off in the forenoon. Father + myself cut rye in the afternoon.

Friday July 21st

Very pleasant. We got our hay dry + drew in five loads. It was damaged some by the rain.

Saturday July 22^d

Father + myself cut rye all day nearly + got nearly done. Andrew Hamilton called to see me + took dinner with us. He saw rather easier times soldiering than I have + was away only nine months.

Sunday July 23^d

A very pleasant day. Mother's Aunt, a Mrs Jones came here last night + stayed until time for church when Father took her to her Sisters house. I went to Sunday school + was

much interested. After Sunday school the funeral ceremonies of Dewitt Quick C^o "D" 143^d Reg^t NY Inftry Vols took place. He died in US Genl Hospital in Jeffersonville Indiana. Poor boy he is gone + another of my schoolmates passed away from earth. O how we should love our dear old starry banner with the boon of Liberty purchased by the blood of our best + bravest men. Where I cannot take that old flag or advocate the principles supporting it, there I cannot go myself. He who would dishonor one star or stripe of its sacred folds is my sworn enemy + he who will try to take neutral ground + not come out boldly + defend our flag or on the other hand defy its defenders I consider he has no right to manhood. The service did not seem much like a funeral. Saw several old comrades + many strangers, for I find that our church is filled with strange faces, + many that used to meet in the house O God have gone to the unknown world. Changes are seen everywhere. Those I saw three years ago as children are now grown to manhood + the strong man who gloried in the pride + prime of manhood three years since now begins to show looks of age, his dark locks sprinkled with the silver of old age his eye is not so bright nor his step so free. My companions that I used to associate with are scattered many sleeping quietly in their graves, others have taken the cares + responsibilities of life upon themselves. Came home + spent the evening at home.

Monday July 24th

It looks rather rainy this morning.

[The diary ends here.]