

The Civil War Diary

of

John Sebastian Winterbottom

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**Transcribed by Sharon LaBouff, great-great granddaughter
and by John J. Huber, great grandson**

**Edited by Carol L. Huber, great-great granddaughter
with notes by the late Clare Mooney Stone, granddaughter**

Note: This version of JSW's diary was transcribed and edited from often illegible copies of the original diary. The current location of the original diary is unknown. CLH, November 2011

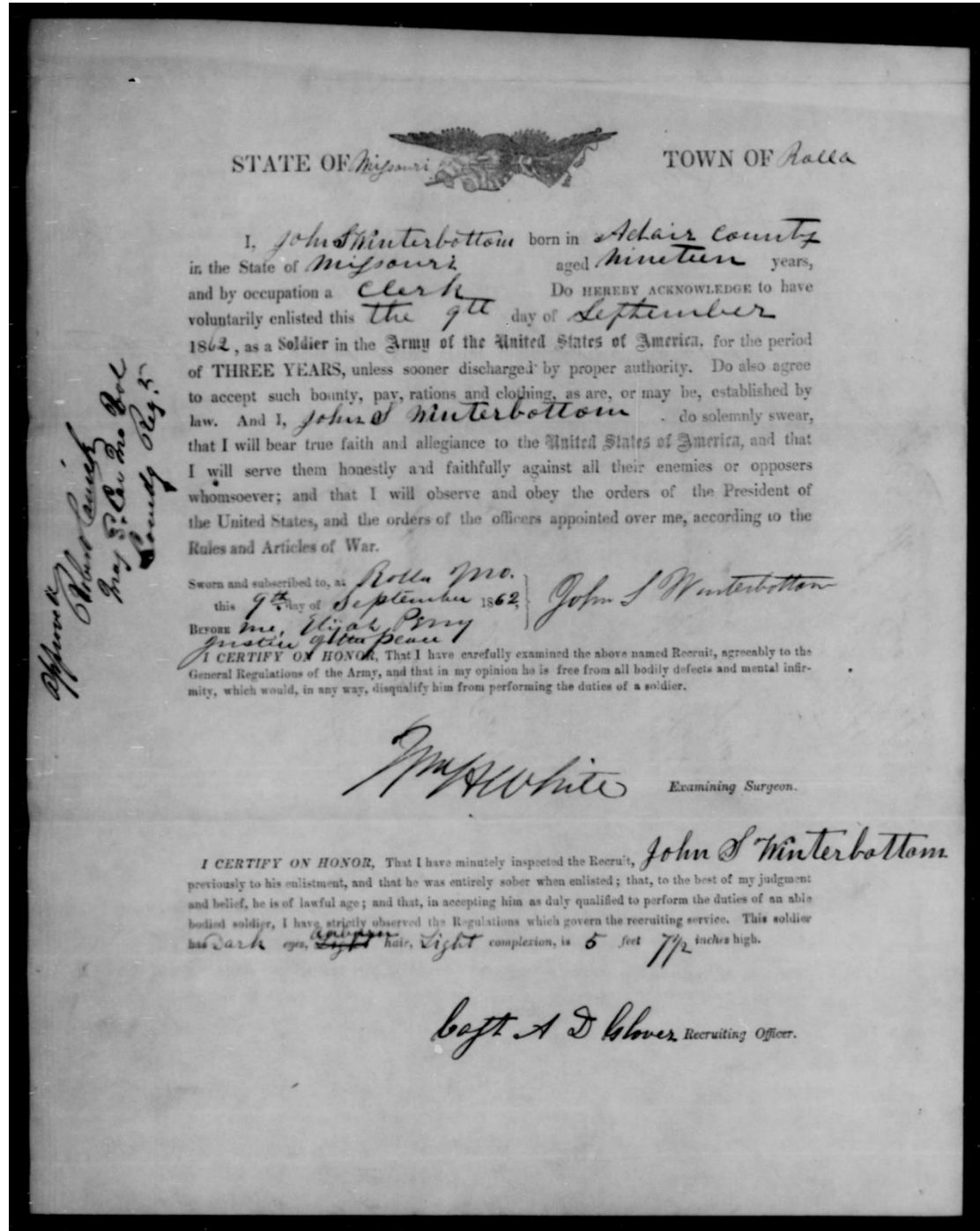
Notes by Clare Mooney Stone:

John Sebastian Winterbottom was born 20 April 1843 in Adair County, Mo., and died 11 February 1911 in Rulo, Ne. He was married in Quincy, Il, on 18 October 1865 to Janet Clare Thomson, who was born 23 June 1846 in Louisville, Ky., and died 11 October 1920 in Rulo, Ne.

JSW entered the Jesuit College, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., in 1858 and listed with the students "eminently distinguished for Good Conduct and observance of Collegiate Discipline" during the Session Senior Department 1861.

He enlisted in Co. B, 3rd Missouri Cavalry at Rolla, Mo., on September 9, 1862, as a Private; promoted to Corporal and RQM Sargent, mustering out at Little Rock, Ar, on June 14, 1865.

John and Janet were united in marriage at Quincy, Il., on the 18th of October 1865 by Rev. McGary. They lived in Edina and in Jackson, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo, where their first son John William was born. A short while later they moved to Rulo, Richardson County, Ne., where their nine other children were born and raised.



Janet was the third of four children born to an English mother, Mary Webb, and a Scottish father, Dr. John W. Thomson. She was born in Louisville, Ky., on June 23, 1846, and the only one to survive childhood. The Thomsons resided in Bardstown, Ky., Edina, Mo., Louisville, Ky., and after the Civil War settled in Rulo, Ne.

W. | **3 Cav.** | **Mo.**

John W. Winterbottom

Capt., Co. B, 3 Reg't Missouri Cavalry.

Appears on
Company Muster Roll
 for *Sept. & Oct.*, 1862.

Present or absent. *Present*

Stoppage, \$ *100* for

Due Gov't, \$ *100* for

Valuation of horse, \$ *100*

Valuation of horse equipments, \$ *100*

Remarks: *To be paid from date of enlistment.*

Enrolled Sep. 9/62 at Rolla, Mo. for 3 yrs. mustered in Dec. 7/62 at Rolla, Mo.

General Notation 468 A 1880.
 Book mark:

John W. Thomson

(356) Copyist.

Notes from Ancestry.com:

More About JOHN SEBASTION [sic] WINTERBOTTOM:

Fact 1: Bet. 1853 - 1863, Spent at Edina, Knox Co, MO. Educated at Jesuit's College, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO

Fact 2: Bet. 1863 - 1865, Enlisted in Company B, 3rd Missouri Cavalry and served until the end of the Civil War in the capacity of Quartermaster Sergeant.

Fact 3: Bet. 1863 - 1865, When the regiment was mustered out, he was entrusted with the regimental flag, which he has kept intact, prizing it so highly that it will be buried with him. He was a member of Trego Post 166, Grand.Army of the Republic. and was post commander at the time of his death.

MAR. 17

8084528

1891

Recruit of Original Co B
Was Private from enrollment
to May 18/63, then Corp
to Feb 22/65, then
P. Q. M. Seryt, vice
D. S.

W 1 3rd Mo.

John S. Winterbottom
Rank P. Q. M. Seryt Reg't Missouri Cav. Vol.
Appears on Apr 19/65

Field and Staff Muster-out Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Little Rock Ark, June 14, 1865.

Muster-out to date June 14, 1865.

Last paid to Oct 28, 1865.

Clothing account:

Last settled Dec 31, 1864; drawn since \$ 30 1/100

Due soldier \$ 100; due U. S. \$ 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ 100

Bounty paid \$ 25 1/100; due \$ 75 1/100

Remarks: Retained in Service
after expiration of Original term
of Service of Reg't by S. O. No. 70
Hd. Qrs Dept. Ark. Dated
March 1/65. App'd by Sec of War May 10/65
over

Book mark:

J. W. Incker

Early in the morning of the 9th of September 1862, I bade adieu to St. Louis and to one very dear to me there, and started for Rolla to enlist in the 3rd Mo Cavalry.

I was accompanied by an only companion, Henry G. of Edina. After a tedious ride of about eight hours on the cars through a rough and broken country we arrived at Rolla, a log city of about 1000 inhabitants situated on the highest elevation of the Ozark Mountains and important only as a military outpost.

After landing from the cars we had to walk some three miles to where the Regiment was encamped. We arrived there about sunset and was [sic] cordially welcomed by many of our old friends and acquaintances. The next morning we enlisted in Co. B. Capt. Glover commanding with John M Yates and John G [?] Agnew as our 1st and second Lieutenants. The Company was then full but the Captain transferred several men to Co. H in order to give place for us. A portion of the Regt was absent at this time on a scout under Capt Howland of Co. A. They returned in about a week, having been down on Spring Valley almost to the Arkansas border. They encountered and dispersed a few bands of guerrillas, killing eleven of them, and capturing a number of horses.

About the last of Sept. we moved to Camp Meagher, five miles southwest of Rolla.

Shortly after this, Companies C. D. E. H. I & G [?] were detached from the Regt and sent to Houston in Texas Co [Missouri] where they joined the command under Davidson and Warren and in December made an expedition down to Batesville Arkansas, and shortly afterwards they returned to Hartsville where they [unclear] Marmedukes [sic] command with heavy loss. It was here that Capt. Black of Co C, who had command of the detachment, distinguished himself. Capt. Bradway [?]¹ of Co.E was killed a short-time before the battle in a skirmish with some bushwackers.

Very little of interest occurred during our stay at Camp Meagher beyond the regular routine [sic] of camp life, except an occasional scout or train escort to Waynesville, 35 miles South west of here. But this was a mere pass time and pleasant trips, as game was abundant we would generally hunt all the way there and back, occasionally coming to the road to find where the train was, and where it would camp that night. When in camp having very little duty to do, I spent the most of my time in hunting and would often ramble off six or eight miles by myself in search of turkeys and deer. There was little or no danger to be apprehended from guerillas for the 3rd Mo, shortly after their arrival at Rolla had scouted the country so thoroughly and killed so many Rebels that they durst not return within twenty miles of our post.

The country around Rolla, is rough and mountainous, with very little good land for agricultural purposes except on the large streams, but rich in mineral production.

Large caves abound in the many places in the mountains, whilst exploring one of these one day with Henry G. our light went out, after we had penetrated about three hundred yards into the cave, and in endeavoring to retrace our steps we lost our way and after crawling around for some time we found ourselves back at the place where our light had went out. Another attempt resulted in bringing us back to the same place. We then sat down and studied over all of the turns which we had made in entering. We then struck out again and after crawling on our hands and knees through mud and occasionally [sic] coming in contact with a sharp angle in the rocks, we were once more gladdened with the light of day and emerged from the cave, muddyer [sic] if not wiser men.

About the 1st of November, Major Carrick took command of the Regiment, and we shortly afterwards moved up to Camp in the Woods, one and a half miles south West of Rolla where we went into Winter Quarters. Here two more companies, L & M, formerly of Bowens Battalion

were attached to our Regt. Co M remained in St Louis all winter as Gen Curtis' body guard. We were quartered for the winter in Sibley tents, which we made very comfortable by raising them off the ground and banking them up with dirt. We spent the Winter very pleasantly, having little duty to do. A great deal of our time was occupied in drilling. In December the greater portion of the Regt started on a scout down on Sinking and Currant [sic] Rivers, then [?] Col Glover was in command. They were gone near a week, and succeeded in dispersing several gangs of guerillas and killing five or six of their number.

I was taken sick about this time and spent several weeks in the hospital at Rolla. Whilst we were encamped here we heard of the capture of a small portion of Co. H who were guarding a train down in Texas County. They were all paroled by the Rebel General Burbridge.

About the middle of January [1863] Marmeduke [sic] commenced a raid into Mo, and great fears were entertained that he would reach Rolla. Several Regiments of Infantry were sent up from St. Louis, but we soon heard of Marmedukes failure at Springfield and his defeat at Hartsville, which relieved Rolla from all danger.

During the winter several changes took place in the Regt. Major Carrick was promoted to Lieut Col. and Capts. Glover and Howland to Majors. Sargt [sic] Hickman of Co B was promoted to 2nd Lieut. and Lieut Yates became our Captain. Shortly after Major Glover's promotion he was presented with a splendid sabre by the members of his old Company.

In the latter part of February, the Regt started on a scout in order if possible to intercept Porter who was trying to make his way south. But owing to not receiving the news soon enough, they failed to intercept him and he passed near Waynesville having a slight skirmish with a portion [unclear] Regt of Militia who were stationed there.

Little of interest occurred, beyond the regular routine [?] of camp life, drilling, picket duty with an occasional scout or escort to Waynesville until the 1st of March when my Diary opens.

Head Quarters 3rd Cavly Mo [unclear]
Camp in the woods near
Rolla Mo.

Sunday March 1st 1863

Co. B. was detached from the Regt and ordered to Salem, 25 miles South East of Rolla. Broke up camp early in the morning and started, traveled 12 miles over bad roads and camped for the night at the Halfway house. Weather warm and pleasant.

Monday March 2nd 1863

Resumed our march early in the morning and when within seven miles of Salem, we were overtaken by a messenger with orders for us to return. Arrived at Camp in the woods late in the evening during a snow storm, and found everything in confusion, the Regiment under marching orders to Pilot Knob.

Tuesday March 3rd 1863

Spent the day in refitting [sic] our camp, pitching tents &c. Weather cool.

Wednesday March 4th 1863

Nothing of importance during the day. Spent the evening in writing letters.

Thursday March 5th 1863

On camp guard, weather cold and windy.

Friday March 6th 1863

Weather cold; went up to Rolla in the evening. About dark a rain storm set in which turned to snow during the night.

Saturday March 7th 1863

Nothing of importance, snowing and raining all day.

Sunday March 8th 1863

Quartermaster Sergt William Wylie of Co. B returned from N. E. Missouri.

Monday March 9th 1863

Weather fine, nothing of importance.

Tuesday March 10th 1863

Weather beautiful and springlike.

A grand ball comes off in Rolla tonight given by the citizens to the officers of the 3rd Mo Cavalry. Co Bs string band was in attendance and music and wine flowed plentifully. The majority of the officers returned to camp in quite a merry mood.

Wednesday March 11th 1863

Weather warm and pleasant, nothing of importance during the day.

Thursday March 12th 1863

Lieut Agnew, with twenty men, myself among the number, were detailed to escort a train to Waynesville. The roads were very muddy. My horse fell down with me and floundered in the mud. We camped for the night at Little Piney.

Friday March 13th 1863

Moved out again at 8 oclock A.M., arrived at Big Piney at noon, crossed it and camped for the night on the Gasconade, five miles beyond. Lieut Agnew and Sergt Wetherbee went on to Waynesville the same evening and escorted the train all night.

Saturday March 14th 1863

Started back at 8 a.m. Stopped for dinner at Little Piney. Arrived at Camp in the Woods at 4 P.M. During our absence Major Glover had returned from St. Louis.

Sunday March 15th 1863

Inspection at 10 A.M. Weather bright and warm as June. The Members of Co. B today presented Maj Glover with a magnificent sabre. The presentation was made by Sergt Keck.

The Major made a brief and eloquent response.

Monday March 16th 1863

Weather beautiful, with every indication of opening spring.

Tuesday March 17th 1863
Nothing new, weather fine.

Wednesday March 18th 1863
On camp guard, weather cold and chilly. Nothing of importance during the day.

Thursday March 19th 1863
Relieved off guard at 9 a.m. weather fine. Spent the evening in hunting

Friday March 20th 1863
Weather continues warm and pleasant. Dress parade in the evening.

Saturday March 21st 1863
Nothing of importance during the day. Ordered to be ready to escort train to Waynesville in the morning.

Sunday March 22nd 1863
Lieut. Hickman with 20 men started to Wanesville [sic]. Arrived at Big Piney late in the evening and camped there for the night, shortly after dark it commenced raining and continued all night.

Monday March 23rd 1863
Left camp at half past seven, and arrived at Wanesville all safe by eleven.
Started back the same evening and camped for the night within 8 miles of Rolla. Rained hard all night but we fared well, as we quartered in a large barn with plenty of straw for bedding.

Tuesday March 24th 1863
Rose early after a refreshing sleep, and started for Camp, weather cold and disagreeable. Arrived at Camp at 10 A.M. Dress parade in the evening. Ordered to be ready to march at seven in the morning.

[Gap appears here in the daily notes; next two entries transcribed by Clare Mooney Stone]

Thursday March 26 1863
Resumed our march at 7 a.m. Passed through Salem a neat little town of near 500 inhabitants about noon and camped on the Merringo [?] about nine miles beyond. The country through which we passed like that around Rolla is rough and mountainous, covered with a thick growth of black jack or dwarf oak, the soil in the Merrimac valley is very rich and we found forage abundant.

Friday March 27 1863
Left camp at 7 a.m. and at 10 a.m. it commenced pouring down rain and continued all day. And to make the thing worse, through the fool-hardiness and ignorance of Lt. Col. Carrick who knew nothing of the country and would not employ a guide, we lost our road and had to turn back three different times. After wandering about all day we found ourselves at night four miles nearer

Rolla than we were in the morning. We lay down to sleep that night wet, cold and hungry and thoroughly disgusted with the conduct of our Lieut. Colonel.

[Another gap in diary; page missing in copy]

Monday March 30th 1863

Resumed our march early in the morning and at 10 A.M. arrived at Caladonia [sic], a beautiful town of about 800 inhabitants situated in one of richest vallies [sic] of South East Missouri. It is surrounded on all sides by magnificent fields of wheat, orchards &c. The buildings are all of a superior class, and everything betokend [sic] ease and plenty before the war, which has played sad havoc with many splendid farms. We did not halt long in Caladonia but passed on through, and camped for the night within seven miles of Pilot Knob. The roads over which we passed today were terrible muddy, and we made but slow progress. We found forage in abundance.

Tuesday March 31st 1863

Early this morning we struck some very rough country and soon came in sight of the far famed Pilot Knob and Sheppard Mountain soon loomed up before us. The country here presented the wildest and most picturesque scenes that I had ever beheld. At 11 A.M. we entered Pilot Knob, a small town situated at the foot of the mountain from which it takes its name. It is the terminus of the Iron Mountain Rail Road, and is very important as a military post. There have been some very extensive iron works here but they are in a state of decay. We did not stop in Pilot Knob but passed on through the beautiful villages of Ironton and Arcadia. The former is situated in a valley at the eastern base of Sheppard Mountain, and is a business place of some importance. The beautiful village of Arcadia is situated in the valley of the same name, and is a very pleasant summer resort. The scenery around here far surpasses in variety and loveliness [sic], any that I had ever beheld in South Missouri. After passing through Arcadia we turned south west and soon came to the camp of the 3rd Iowa Cavly with the other portions of the 3rd Missouri. This was three miles distant from Pilot Knob, on the north fork of the Black Water a clear and rapid stream. We were cordially greeted by our old comrades, and settled down into the minotomy [sic] of camp life once more.

Wednesday April 1st 1863

Busy all day in clearing off camp ground, pitching tents &c. Today we received the sad news of the death of our much beloved orderly Sergt. James H Vestry whom we had left sick in the hospital at Rolla. Weather warm and beautiful.

Thursday April 2nd 1863

Went hunting over the mountains this morning. Weather delightful. I met with pretty good success and returned in the evening well pleased with my excursion.

Friday April 3rd 1863

Guard, weather [illegible] Walcott of Co [unclear] has arrived from home having been on furlough.

Saturday April 4th 1863

Co. B ordered on a scout in the evening. Reported at headquarters at Pilot Knob and was sent

back to camp to await further orders.

Sunday April 5th 1863

This is Easter Sunday, and Oh, what a bright and glorious day. How fondly the soldiers [sic] memory turns to home, and the loved ones there.

In the evening we received orders to be ready to march at a moments [sic] warning.

Monday April 5th 1863

Today, with several companions I visited the far famed Pilot Knob, and climbed to its highest summit.

The scene which here presented itself to our gaze, was truly magnificent.

The day was soft and hazy one of those so common to a southern spring. Our view to the north, west and south west was obstructed by rough and craggy mountains covered with a stunted growth of oak with here and there a pine looming up in its magnificent grandeur. But the most beautiful scene was to the east and south east where stretching away as far as the eye could see was one continued roll of hill and mountains that in the hazy distance resembled the waves of the ocean.

To the right of us and almost at our feet was situated the busy little town of Pilot Knob, with its depots and supply trains, whilst to our left lay the neat dwellings and store houses of Ironton, and a little farther to the left reposes the beautiful village of Arcadia, with its neat dwellings and magnificent flower gardens. After carving our names on a tree at the summit we descended the mountain on the west side where the Iron mine is situated. It was the richest that I had ever seen, the ore yielding from eighty to ninety percent of pure Iron and the supply seems almost inexhaustable [sic] for the whole mountain is composed of that Iron ore.

Tuesday April 7th 1863

Co. C. presented Captain Black the Hero of Hartsville, with a beautiful sabre. The Captain responded in a few appropriate remarks. Doctor Granger then made an eloquent speech suited to the occasion.

Wednesday April 8th 1863

Nothing of importance weather fine.

Thursday April 9th 1863

Today I took a stroll up on Sheppard Mountain and visited the Iron mines there, they are not so rich or [illegible] and are entirely deserted. I brought back to camp with me several pieces of magnetic ore, that I had succeeded in breaking from a large lump that would weigh near a thousand pounds. This magnet was so strong that at the distance of two or three feet, a steel pen would jump from a mans [sic] hand and attach itself to the lump of ore.

Friday April 10th 1863

Muster at 10 a.m. by Gen Davidson. Weather windy.

The 3rd Mo made a splendid appearance.

Saturday April 11th 1863

Nothing of importance weather cool.

Sunday April 12th 1863

Inspection at 10 a.m. weather cloudy and cold

Monday April 13th 1863

Raining and disagreeable. We signed the pay rolls in the evening.

Tuesday April 14th 1863

Still continues raining, weather very disagreeable.

Wednesday April 15th 1863

Cleared off this morning and continued fine all day, nothing of importance transpired.

Thursday April 16th 1863

Weather very [illegible] Co B started home on furloughs.

Friday April 17th 1863

Grand review and inspection at 9 a.m. by Gen Davidson, all went off well!

Saturday April 18th 1863

Severe storm of rain and hail in the evening.

Sunday April 19th 1863

Weather fine, nothing of any importance transpired during the day.

Monday April 20th 1863

This is my Twentieth [sic] Birthday.

The weather is beautiful and nothing of interest occurred until shortly after dark, when we received news that the 3rd Mo. State Militia who were on outpost at Patterson a small town 30 miles south of here, had been attacked by Marmeduke, terribly cut up and a large portion of them captured.

And also that Marmeduke was moving on this place. We received orders to immediately remove camp to Pilot Knob, which we did and then reconnoitred [sic] and threw out string pickets. The 3rd M.S.M. came straggling in until after midnight when their train arrived all safe.

We then lay on our arms for the balance of the night, under the guns of Fort Swimmer [?], ready for any emergency.

Tuesday April 21st 1863

Great excitement [illegible] Col Glover arrived from St. Louis in the evening with two pieces of Artillery. He immediately called on the 3rd Iowa and 3rd Mo. to follow him and we started on a reconnaissance towards Patterson.

We rode until 3 a.m. when we had to stop for the artillery to come up it having broken down twice.

Here we heard that Marmeduke was only 12 miles distant.

Wednesday April 22nd 1863

As soon as the artillery came up, resumed our march. At 10 am met 20 or thirty of the Militia who had been paroled by the Rebels. We pushed on a few miles farther without finding any enemy, when we were overtaken by a messenger with orders from Gen Davidson for us to return immediately. Marmeduke had taken another course and it was feared he would attack Pilot Knob, arrived at camp at 5 P.M. and found that heavy reinforcements had been sent down from St. Louis.

Thursday April 23rd 1863

At 9 a.m. the Regt was ordered out with one days [sic] rations, but by the time we had got ready, the order was contramanded. We unsaddled and commenced getting dinner. About noon the pickets on the Caladonia road [illegible] coming [illegible] and saddled [illegible] was [illegible] and in ten minutes the 3rd Mo were all saddled, mounted, and in line of battle, beating an infantry Regt out that was camped along side [sic] of us.

The alarm was soon found to have been occasioned by a large force of cavly under Gen Vandiver who had come from Rolla to our assistance. We greeted them with hearty cheers, and had a good laugh over our false alarm.

Thursday [?] April 24th 1863

On Patrol Guard 8 miles from town on the St Genavive [sic] road.

Captured two spies, and shot at another man who made his escape leaving his horse in our possession.

In the evening the Regt received orders to be ready to march with three days [sic] rations at a moments [sic] warning.

Friday April 25th 1863

At 3 P.M. an expedition for the pursuit of Marmeduke, consisting of about three thousand cavalry and several batteries of Artillery, all under command of Brig. Gen Vandiver, started out taking the road to Fredericktown. Traveled until 3 o'clock next morning when we stopped to rest, being then within three miles of Fredericktown.

[Dates illegible]

[Illegible] passed through Fredrickton, a neat town of about 700 inhabitants and containing many beautiful dwellings, several churches, &c. Here we learned that Marmeduke was nearly two days [sic] march ahead of us. We rode hard until 11 a.m. when we arrived at Payton [?] Post office, here we halted to feed, when we heard heavy cannonadry [?] in the direction of Cape Gerardeau [sic], forty five miles distant. We immediately pushed forward as fast as possible, the rebels having obstructed our road by falling trees across it. At 9 P.M. we were within a few miles of Jackson where we captured a couple of Rebel Officers who were secreted in a house. Presently the artillery opened again immediately in our front, and was followed by several vollies [sic] of small arms. As our Regt was in the rear we did not know the meaning of this but soon learned that our advance had, encountered the rebel pickets, surprised and captured twenty of them and eighty horses. Here we were delayed several hours by the breaking down of a cassion, as soon as that was repaired, we plunged ahead through mud and darkness so intense that we could not see our file leaders, we continued to flounder along in this way for a mile or two farther, the rain falling in torrents, when two more of our cassions became almost hopelessly mired down, here we had to stop and dig them out. We then pushed ahead and crossed a large

stream with very steep banks. About 4 o'clock in the morning we were greeted by the light of camp fires, and found that the advance had halted till daylight. As soon as we had halted I tied my horse to a fence and laid down in a hog trough where I slept sweetly for about an hour when some one waked me and I found the command ready to start.

Monday April 27th 1863

I mounted my horse without having any breakfast and without having eaten anything scarcely since we left Pilot Knob.

Tired, wet, hungry and sleepy, I did not care for anything. The rain had ceased and the sun shone bright and warm. At about 6 a.m. a portion of Co. F had a slight skirmish with some rebels wounding one. At seven a.m. came in sight of Jackson and the rear of the Rebels. The artillery immediately opened on the town and shelled it for half an hour. The 3rd Mo was thrown out on the left to support a battery. At half past seven we took possession of the town, the Rebels having retreated, leaving a great many wounded behind. Here we learned of their disastrous [sic] attack on Cape Gerardeau from where they had retreated to this place and were just issuing rations to their men, when our artillery opened on them, and they abandoned every thing and put out as fast as their jaded horses could carry them. Our advance pursued them as fast as possible every now and then capturing [illegible] broken down horses, old clothing, hats, caps, &c. We continued the pursuit vigorously until noon, when we came to a deep and impassible stream over which the Rebels had partially burned the bridge and we had to stop until it was repaired.

We had halted at the house of a wealthy Unionist, they appeared glad to see us and a young lady there distributed a barrel of soda crackers to our Regt., they were very acceptable. At 1 p.m. the brige [sic] was completed and we again passed on, and at 4 p.m. overtook the Rebels at the crossing of the White Water. Here an artillery duel ensued which lasted about two hours.

Several cavalry charges were made by the Texan Rangers but they were handsomely repulsed. Our loss was had 1 man killed and four wounded, we captured a number of prisoners but the Rebel loss was not known. They succeeded in cross in the White Water, and turned their artillery on the bridge which they soon battered down, so that we could not pursue them farther until it was repaired. It was here that we lost a splendid opportunity of capturing Marmeduke and his whole command through the tardiness of McNeal, who was to have come up on the other side of the stream and prevent his crossing, but he arrived too late. He came in the evening with eighteen hundred cavalry and eight pieces of artillery. As it would occupy all night to repair the bridge, we went into camp and remained there until morning. It rained hard all night.

The country through which we had passed today was splendid, as good as I have ever seen anywhere. The timber could not be surpassed, the greater portion of it was composed of a splendid growth of white oak and poplar, many of them six feet in diameter.

The town of Jackson is principally settled by Germans [sic], and is the most thriving [?] place I have seen in south Mo. The houses are mostly brick and the town presents a splendid appearance.

Tuesday April 28th 1863

Our rations were now completely out and we had to wait till 11 O'clock a.m. for the supply train which was coming up from Cape Gerardeau and for the bridge across White Water to be completed. We drew two days rations, and again commenced the pursuit; immediately after crossing the river we struck an almost impassable [sic] swamp, but after several hours tedious wading and stumbling over roots, logs and cypress trees [?] with mud almost belly deep to a

horse, we at length struck high ground and here we found the deserted camp of the Rebels the previous night. We now pushed ahead with renewed vigor, McNeal in advance. About dark we arrived within two miles of the Castor, a large stream which it was supposed the Rebels could not cross in the night. Here we formed in a line of battle and awaited the coming of dawn to attack them and to allow our artillery time to come up.

[Wednesday April 29th 1863]

As soon as day commenced to break, we pushed our lines to the river, but found that through some means the Rebels had succeeded in crossing the main portion of their army over the river. Our advance had a skirmish with the rear of the rebels, at the ford. Captured a considerable number and scattered the rest in every direction.

We then got a battery of rifled [?] guns in position and opened on the Rebels who were formed in line on the other side of the stream, and after about half an hours shelling they retreated leaving fifteen or twenty dead and wounded on the field. At 2 P.M. we succeeded in swimming the river and pushed on towards Bloomfield six miles distant. At 4 P.M. the 1st Wisconsin cavalry, charged on the rebels rear near Bloomfield, but were forced to retire with a loss of one man killed and three wounded.

Night coming on, we formed in line of battle and lay there all night, picket skirmishing was kept up nearly all night.

Thursday April 30th 1863

At sunrise McNeils Batteries opened on the Rebels in Bloomfield and soon drove them from the town with some loss. One of our shells past [sic] through the cupalo [sic] of the court house. We now threw out a strong skirmish line and advanced, meeting with no opposition. At 11 a.m. passed through Bloomfield, the county seat of Stoddard County, and formerly occupied by McNeils command of militia. It is situated on a ridge between two immense swamps, and [illegible] a place of some importance and is now badly torn up. Situated as it is, it commands the only practicable rout [sic] from Arkansas to South Mo. It has been the scene of several skirmishes between the militia and Rebels.

After passing through Bloomfield some 7 or eight miles we stopped to rest our horses and organize our forces. Col Glover was placed in command of our Brigade consisting of the 1st & 3rd Iowa [?] and 3rd Mo, with one Battery of Artillery. At 5 P.M. we again moved on and traveled until 10 oclock at night when we stopped to feed, remained here about an hour and a half, and again pushed forward through an almost impassable swamp, our road obstructed with fallen trees. At 4 A.M. we halted for a short time for the artillery to come up. As we were all very tired and sleepy, we piled down in the swamp like hogs and slept soundly for about an hour when we were again aroused and ordered to mount and push forward. Just before day we crossed the line of the Cairo and Fulton Rail Road, which has been surveyed and cut out, but the rails nor ties had never been laid down.

The country through which we had passed today was with the exception of the narrow ridge on which Bloomfield is situated one continued swamp of cypress and gum. The land on the ridges is good and the timber is excellent.

Friday May 1st 1863

Shortly after daylight our ears were again greeted with several sharp volleys of musketry in the extreme advance, and in a few moments more the artillery commenced hurling its deadly

missiles at the rebels where they had camped for the night. [Illegible] got a battery into position and opened on them a terrible fire which dismounted one of their guns. They replied briskly at first but with no damages to us. Our Regt was formed on the right sheltered by a narrow strip of woods, over which the Rebels were throwing their shells. We were immediately dismounted, and commenced a flank movement to turn the Rebels right but they discovered it too soon and retreated, our boys following them upon foot, and skirmishing with them all the time. After we had followed them this way for several miles we again mounted and the 3rd Mo under Col Glover, took the advance and prepared to charge the enemy the first opportunity that offered.

After mounting we rode leasurly [sic] along for several miles without seeing any sign of an enemy. The [unclear] was to charge by fours, with revolvers drawn, and after delivering our fire to break to the right and left and reform in the rear. Co C and E had the advance and B came next.

After marching leasurly for about three miles we discovered a few Rebels ahead of us.

We immediately commenced the charge with a most terrific [sic] yell, sweeping everything before us. [J]ust as we passed by a log cabin that stood on the side of the [word missing], some Rebels who were concealed in the house poured a volley into our advance and Lieut Kirkpatrick of Co C and his horse both fell together. The Lieut was severely wounded and his horse was killed. But we scarcely [?] stopped to notice this but pushed on after the retreating Rebels, several of whom had already been killed. Two were lying in the centre of the road and the whole command dashed over them.

A few hundred yards farther we came onto a Regiment of Rebels in line of battle.

They poured a terrible fire of musketry into us but could not check us. We cut right through them scattering them in every direction and capturing a number of prisoners, Major Morgan among the rest, but he afterwards escaped. Another hundred yards brought us to where the Rebels had planted a battery of artillery, but on hearing our yell had hurried it away to the rear.

We next encountered Carters Brigade of Texan Rangers, posted on the crest of a ridge in the form of a V. or crescent so as to pour a cross fire into an [?] approaching enemy. With a terrific yell we made for their centre amidst a shower of buckshot and musket balls, but finding it to [sic] strong to break by a charge we halted and commenced pouring in a deadly fire from our pistols, and when they were empty, and the most of us had fired several rounds from our rifles, we endeavored to retreat to the rear and give the other companies a chance. The rebels were already in disorder and running. But the ground was such that it was impossible for us to retire without crowding the other companies back with us, so we all fell back a short distance to an open field, and there dismounted and advanced again, but the Rebels were gone only a few had followed us back and nearly all of those were either killed or captured. We continued the pursuit on foot for several miles but could not overtake them. We then mounted and continued the pursuit, having lost in this engagement seventeen men killed and wounded, five of the number were of Co. B. James Wamsley, Jerry Fray, Wm Vandiver, Julias Kremling and Thos Alverston. Capt Mitchel was captured. The Quartermaster Sergt of the Regt John Allen was killed in the charge. About thirty Rebels were left on the field, but the greater portion were carried off.

The ground over which the charge was made was the most favorable that the Rebels could have wished. The road was so narrow that it barely admitted a set of fours, on either side of it was a ravine forty or fifty feet deep. We did not overtake the Rebels again until we had passed through the small town of Four Mile, and when within three miles of the St Francis River, they again made a desperate stand in a strong position behind temporary breastworks.

Here the 2nd MSM formed for a charge but the Rebels opening on them a terrible shower of grapes [?], they were forced to retire. We then got several batteries into position and a brisk cannonade was kept up on their levies [?] till night closed the contest.

Skirmishers were thrown out and we lay in line of battle all night. The boys were so completely worn out that nothing could keep them awake. I laid down that night on the soft side of some sharp edged fence rails, and enjoyed the sweetest nights [sic] sleep that I had ever experienced. Skirmishing continued all night.

[Saturday May 2nd 1863]

Early in the morning our batteries again opened a terrible fire on the Rebel works, and they were forced to abandon them. [W]e followed them up closely, shelling their rear all the time, and picking up prisoners by noon. [T]he Rebels were all [unclear] across the River, and they commenced throwing up breastworks to prevent our crossing. But we had no notion of following them farther for we were entirely out of rations, and did not have force enough to proceed farther, as ours was inferior to the force we were [?]ing, they being 7000 strong.

So getting two batteries in a position on a high bluff, we gave them a parting salute, which they will long remember, and then abandoned the pursuit and started back.

Camped for the night 9 miles north of our last nights [sic] encampment. It rained hard all evening and all that night.

Sunday May 3rd 1863

Traveled all day over a rough and broken country and camped for the night 11 miles from Bloomfield. We were now entirely out of rations and had to forage off the country, but we were lucky and fared very well that night. Here one of our wounded men, Turk [?] Collier of Co K [?] died and we buried him with the honors of war.

Monday May 4th 1863

Reached Bloomfield at 11 a.m., remained there till about 3 p.m. Sent our wounded all on to Cape Gerardeaux [sic] with McNeals command. Camped for the night 9 miles beyond Bloomfield. Rained hard all night. No supper, nothing to eat.

Tuesday May 5th 1863

Arose early, wet, cold and hungry. One of the boys gave me a piece of corn cake, and on that I made my breakfast.

At six am Boots and saddles sounded and we again moved out. About 8 am. we came to Duck Creek, a deep and rapid stream, which we had to swim. Got across all safe and struck into an almost impenetrable [sic] swamp. We floundered along for eight or nine miles through this. In many places the mud and water was up to our saddle skirts, but at length we emerged once more onto high and dry land. The commander immediately sent out foragers ahead of the command to procure provisions but the country was so poor and thinly inhabited that it was almost impossible to find anything. The evening was very cold and we went-into camp late, at a little villiage [sic] called Heogeye [?] I had succeeded in getting a little meal and some bacon. The meal we baked on boards reared up before the fire, after the fashion of the Rebels, but for all that we relished our supper wonderfully.

Wednesday May 6th 1863

Weather cold and disagreeable. Crossed the Castor River early in the morning and followed up the Castor Valley for eight or ten miles, when we again left it and struck into a broken and hilly country, covered with oak and pine. Camped for the night on the old Battle field of Fredrickton where Jeff Thompson got so badly whipped more than a year ago.

Found forage and provisions plenty and the boys fared very well that night, but unfortunately I was sick and could not eat anything.

Thursday May 7th 1863

Weather still cold, arrived at Pilot Knob at 1 P.M. without any incident worthy of notice, having been absent thirteen days.

Friday May 8th 1863

Moved back to our old camp, west of Arcadia.

Saturday May 9th 1863

Occupied all morning in clearing off a camp ground, pitching tents &c. Weather very warm. In the evening, we went up to Arcadia to be paid off, received four months wages.

Sunday May 10th 1863

Inspection at 10 A.M. weather warm and pleasant.

Monday May 11th 1863

Weather fine, nothing of importance. Maj. Howland is now commanding the Regt. Col. Glover is commanding the District of Pilot Knob.

Tuesday May 12th 1863

Weather fine. Spent the day in hunting among the mountains.

Wednesday May 13th 1863

On guard. Raining nearly all day. No news of any importance.

Thursday May 14th 1863

[Illegible] Drill, two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. A portion of Co. G [?] started on a scout.

Friday May 15th 1863

Weather very warm, nothing of importance.

Saturday May 16th 1863

On Patrol guard up at Middle Brook, a small station on the Rail Road 3 miles North of Pilot Knob.

In the evening, I with several companions rode up to Iron Mountain and visited the extensive Iron works there.

Here we witnessed the opening of the furnace and the letting out of the stream of lava into the moulds. To me it was a grand sight as I had never witnessed anything of the kind before.

It ran through the channels formed for it in the wet sand, steaming, hissing and throwing

jets of fire and melted iron all over the house [?]. The heat was so intense that I had to retreat to the door, but those who were used to it did not appear to mind it at all.

Sunday May 17th 1863

Went hunting early in the morning with an old citizen. Killed six squirrels in less than an hour, game being very abundant. Returned to Middle Brook by nine o'clock, and we were relieved at 11 a.m. Weather very warm.

Monday May 18th 1863

Drill morning and evening, weather hot.

Tuesday May 19th 1863

Nothing of importance during the day.

Wednesday May 20th 1863

Spent the day in hunting, had good success.

Thursday May 21st 1863

On Picket, S.E. of Arcadia on the Fredrickton Road. Had a very pleasant post, with plenty of good things to eat. A kind lady, who lived near, furnished us with all the fresh milk we wanted. I shal [sic] long remember her kindness.

Friday May 22nd 1863

Relieved off picket at 11 A.M., returned to camp and I signed the pay rolls in the evening.

Saturday May 23rd 1863

The Paymaster came out to camp and paid us two months wages.

Sunday May 24th 1863

Capt Mitchel of Co K, who was taken prisoner by the Rebels in the charge at Chalk Bluffs, arrived in camp having been paroled. He was treated very well with the exception of having to walk most of the time. He says that if we could only have followed up our advantage when we broke the Rebe [sic] lines in the charge, we would have captured their whole force, they had abandoned their artillery and everyone was rushing pell mell for the river. Two [illegible] of Co B died in hospital this evening.

Monday May 25th 1863

Great rejoicing in camp over the glorious news from Vicksburg.

Tuesday May 26th 1863

Weather hot, heavy shower of rain in the evening.

Wednesday May 27th 1863

Rain all evening; nothing of importance in camp.

Thursday May 28th 1863

Spent the morning in rambling through the mountains in search of game, and to relieve the dreary monotony of camp life.

Friday May 29th 1863

Went up to Ironton. The 1st Nebraska Infantry arrived today from Cape Gerardeaux.

Saturday May 30th 1863

Rained nearly all day, no news in camp.

Sunday May 31st 1863

Inspection at 10 A.M. In the evening Maj Howland with three hundred men was ordered to march to the relief of Patterson which was then threatened. Started at 7 P.M. Rode hard nearly all night, at 3 A.M. reached Patterson and rode right into the encampment of the 13th Ill. Cav without ever having been challenged by a picket or camp guard. We found them nearly scared to death and momentarily expecting an attack.

We immediately sent out pickets and all remained quiet during the rest of the night.

As soon as we could have the facts of the alarm it proved to be these, that the day previous, whilst a portion of the 13th Ill. Cav and 3rd M.S.M. were on a scout, whilst they were eating breakfast one morning, with their horses unsaddled, they were surprised by a band of guerrillas and after a short resistance retreated leaving their horses in the possession of the Rebels. [I]n the fight, they lost a major and 3 men wounded.

Monday June 1st 1863

Early in the morning, Commands A and D [?] were sent out to reconnoitre [sic]. The balance of our command remained in Patterson all day, and camped there for the night. There were only a few of the buildings in this little vilage [sic] left standing, the rest having been burnt by the 3rd M.S M. when they were forced to abandon it in April last.

About three hundred yards south of the town on a commanding eminence is situated a small fort about sixty yards square. This was partially destroyed by the Rebels when they occupied the place. The country around Patterson is rather poor, being composed for the most part of rocky hills covered with pine, and a stunted growth of oak. During the night a terrific thunder storm came up, and it burst forth so fierce and sudden that most of the boys sprang up, supposing we were being fired upon by Rebel Artillery. Continued to rain hard all night.

Tuesday June 2nd 1863

The morning opened bright and beautiful.

Remained in camp all day awaiting the return of the reconnoitring party.

They came in late in the evening having been down almost to the Arkansas Border without finding any enemy.

Remained in Patterson all night, weather cloudy and cold.

Wednesday June 3rd 1863

Started back to Pilot Knob, when five miles from Patterson we came to Stony Pass where the militia [sic] had the fight with the Rebels. The trees bore the marks of the contest. This is one of the strongest natural positions that I have ever seen. It is a narrow gorge through the mountains. The road is very narrow and rough and on either side is a deep ravine. This pass is about ¼ of a mile in length, and a battery of artillery could hold it against 10,000 men, unless a flank movement was attempted. Two miles beyond this is a long narrow bridge over a deep stream. The militia in their retreat had destroyed this bridge to prevent the Rebels from following them any farther. About 4 miles beyond this we met the train of the 3rd M.S.M. moving back to Patterson.

We arrived in Camp Summer, at 4 P.M. and enjoyed a hearty supper and good nights [sic] sleep.

Thursday June 4th 1863

Cloudy and raining all day. Nothing of any importance transpired.

Friday June 5th 1863

On camp guard, nothing new.

Saturday June 6th 1863

The furloughed men of Co. B returned from home. Regt received marching orders but they were contramanded before night.

Sunday June 7th 1863

Inspection at 10 A.M. Raining all day.

Monday June 8th 1863

Rain, rain, nothing but rain, and mud.

Tuesday June 9th 1863

Still cloudy with occasional showers.

Wednesday June 10th 1863

For a change we had a little rain today.

Thursday June 11th 1863

Clearing off with occasionally a light shower.

Went to town in the evening.

Friday June 12th 1863

Weather warm and pleasant.

Saturday June 13th 1863

Grand Review and Inspection of Davidsons Cavalry Division.

Sunday June 14th 1863
Inspection at 10 A.M. weather fine

Monday June 15th 1863
Nothing of importance. Spent the day in fishing but with little success.

Tuesday June 16th 1863
Weather very warm, no news.

Wednesday June 17th 1863
Drew [illegible] tents and commenced preparing for a campaign.

Thursday June 18th 1863
On Picket. Heavy rain all evening.

Friday June 19th 1863
Relieved at 12 [missing] M. Weather very warm.

Saturday June 20th 1863
Moved camp a short distance west, to give room for the 3rd Iowa cavalry.

Sunday June 21st 1863
Grand Inspection and review by Davidson

Monday June 22nd 1863
Three hundred men of the 3rd Mo were detailed for Picket guard. Went up and reported and were sent back to camp.

Tuesday June 23rd 1863
Grand inspection and review by Gen Schofield and Lady. Co. B was lucky enough to be on picket, in the evening it commenced raining and continued all night.

Wednesday June 24th 1863
Review and inspection. The boys now thoroughly hate Gen Davidson. It rained all day.

Thursday June 25th 1863
Drew new saddles and equipment and in the evening we turned over our old Sharps Rifles.

Friday June 26th 1863
Received Sharps Carbines with new accoutrements throughout.

Saturday June 27th 1863
Lieut Col. Carrick was dismissed from the service, thoroughly hated by the greater portion of the Regt. After night, some of the boys in the Regt decoyed him out of the house in which he was staying and gave him a most unmerciful pounding. They escaped to their quarters without being detected.

Sunday June 28th 1863

Busy preparing for the campaign. Rain nearly all day and night.

Monday June 29th 1863

Co. M arrived from St Louis and joined the Regt. We signed the pay rolls again this evening.

Tuesday June 30th 1863

This morning we mustered and went up to Arcadia to be paid off, but they were not ready and we returned to camp. after supper we went up again, and received pay up to date. On our return to camp we received orders to be ready to march at 9 O'clock on the following morning.

Wednesday July 1st 1863

Broke up camp early in the morning and at 9 AM moved up to Arcadia where we joined the balance of our brigade and halted for review. The Cavalry division consisted of three Brigades in all near 7000 men. The 1st Brigade consisted of the 1st, 2nd & 7th Mo Cavly, with Lovejoys Battery of light artillery under command of Col Merrill. The 2nd Brigade was commanded by Col Glover and composed of the 1st Iowa, 3rd Mo, and 11th Ill Cavly with heavy Battery of [illegible] rifles and 2 heavy [illegible] the 2nd Mo Battery, and a battalion of the 24th Mo Infantry with a pontoon [?] train all under command of Col. Caldwell of the 3rd Iowa cavalry. Our supply train consisted of 280 wagons besides the the Regtl trains. At about 12 [missing]m, commenced moving out. The 3rd Mo. was detailed as rear guard and we did not leave town till near sundown. At about 10 PM we camped for the night five miles out on the Fredrickton road.

Thursday July 2nd 1863

Passed through Fredrickton at 4 P.M taking a road leading almost due south. Camped for the night 10 miles beyond.

Friday July 3rd 1863

Marched hard all day and went into camp after night on the Castor River, a terrible storm of rain fell during the night.

Saturday July 4th 1863

Remained in camp all day to rest our horses, dry our clothing &c. We were camped in an orchard and had all the green apples that we wished to cook and eat. Weather very warm.

Sunday July 5th 1863

The 3rd Mo was detached from the command and sent on ahead to repair roads, build bridges &c. We travled [sic] hard all day the most of the time through a large pine Forrest[sic], occasionally crossing a rich and narrow valley, through which flowed bright and rapid streams. Late in the evening we came to the Mingo swamps and camped for the night on a river of the same name. I was detailed for picket that night, and whilst on post, I was attacked by millions of mosquitos [sic], and a terrible battle ensued, in which hundreds were killed, but thousands were ready to take their places, and I was heartily glad when morning came.

Monday July 6th 1863

Busy all day in building a bridge over the Mingo. By 5 P.M. it was completed and we again moved on. Rode until 12 P.M. and camped for the night within 9 miles of Bloomfield.

Tuesday July 7th 1863

Arrived in Bloomfield at 10 A.M. during a heavy rain, and went into camp [illegible] to await the commanding [illegible]

Wednesday July 8th 1863

David Blines [?] of Co B, whilst out foraging, was captured by the Rebels.

Gen Davidson and staff came in during the evening.

Thursday July 9th 1863

Moved camp over to the West side of town, we were out of rations and had a great deal of guard duty to do.

Friday July 10^h 1863

Out foraging, with train, Capt Yates in command. Went out about 12 miles into the country, loaded our train with forage and returned. [D]uring our absence the 8th Mo. and 3rd Iowa cavly had arrived.

Saturday July 11th 1863

The supply train came in today. [I]t was a great relief to us as we had been out of rations for three or four days.

Sunday July 12th 1863

General inspection at 2 P.M. at which Davidson gave the 3rd Mo. the praise of being the best Regt for outpost duty that he had ever seen. We were ordered to have three days rations in our haversacks and [illegible] issued [illegible] the Regt commissary [?]

Monday July 13th 1863

Drill morning and evening, weather very warm, and sultry.

Tuesday July 14th 1863

Commenced throwing up fortifications around Bloomfield, in order to enable a small force of militia to hold the place after we leave. Co B was out foraging today.

Wednesday July 15th 1863

Gen Davison left for Cape Gerardeau.

Thursday July 16th 1863

Nothing of importance weather warm.

Friday July 17th 1863

Ordered to be ready to march at 7 a.m. on the morning of the 18th. In the evening [h]ours, the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Mo was sent on picket, on the Chalk Bluff Road.

Saturday July 18th 1863

We did not march this morning as was expected. We were relieved off picket at 3 p.m. and returned to camp. Dress parade at 6 p.m. Col Glover made a short speech to us and we were again ordered to be ready to march at 7 o'clock the next morning.

Sunday July 19th 1863

Early this morning we bade adieu to Bloomfield and again took up our line of march to the land of Dixie, passing the same road over which we had chased Marmaduke near three months ago. The fences were all thrown down, just as we had left them. We camped for the night 13 [?] miles South of Bloomfield.

Monday July 20th 1863

Traveled hard all day, in the evening we passed over the old Battle ground of Chalk Bluff and visited the graves of some of our old companions. [T]he trees yet bore the scars of many a bullet, we camped for the night within 9 miles of Chalk Bluff.

Here in an old field, we found one of the finest patches of blackberries that I have ever seen and on these we made an excellent supper.

Tuesday July 21st 1863

Reached Chalk Bluff on the St. Francis River at 1 P.M. The pontoon [?] was already laid and we crossed over into Arkansas. Traveled till sundown and camped for the night 5 [?] miles south of Chalk Bluff.

Wednesday July 22nd 1863

The 1st Mo Cavlry had had a slight skirmish, killing two Rebels and capturing several horses.

The country here is similar to that around Bloomfield, the soil being black and sandy. [T]he timber is good.

Thursday July 23rd 1863

The 3rd Mo took the advance today, Co. F being the advanced guard. When near Scottesville [?] they were fired upon by about 20 rebels under Jeff Thompson. Co. F returned the fire and the Rebels whirled and fled, leaving five guns behind them. Companies B and C were immediately ordered to the front, and we ran them through Scottesville [?] and about five miles beyond when they scattered in every direction and escaped. Here we halted till the [illegible] and came up and camped for the night.

The country over which we passed today is as much the same as yesterday, a narrow ridge bordered on either side by impassable swamps. We [word crossed out] now on Crawleys Ridge which is about the only practical throughfare for an army through Eastern Arkansas.

Very little of interest presented itself on the route today, the country over which we passed being much the same as that already described. We camped for the night at Gainsville a small village of no importance. Here Wm [?] Brown a member of Co B, whilst out foraging came across a Rebel soldier with an old shotgun. Took him prisoner and brought him into camp.

Friday July 24th 1863

Early in the morning we again moved out the main columns taking the road to Greensborough,

whilst the 2nd Brigade made a detour toward Pochahontas .

We captured a few prisoners on the route and rejoined the command at Greensborough, the county seat of Craig County, Ark. It has been a town of some importance but is badly delapidated, the country around it is rather [illegible]

Saturday July 25th 1863

[Illegible] toward the arrival of the 13th Ill? [illegible] through with the [illegible] Bloomfield. They [illegible] in the evening and [illegible]

Sunday July 26th 1863

Passed through Jonesborough [Jonesboro], a small and thriving village and went into camp 8 miles beyond, the main portion of the army being in advance of us. The weather was extremely warm and just at dark as we had pitched our shelter tents and prepared for a good nights [sic] rest, an order came for us to move forward and overtake the balance of the command.

We rode hard all night over a rough broken country, and just as day was breaking came in sight of their camp fires at the small town of Bolivar [?]. Here we learned that the 2nd Mo had had a slight skirmish.

Monday July 27th 1863

As soon as we halted I threw myself down on a log and slept soundly for several hours. I do not believe that I was ever so sleepy before in all my life although I had slept in the saddle whilst riding along nearly all night. We did not leave here until 10 A.M., the 3rd Mo being [illegible] guard. About [illegible] we passed through Herrickburgh [Harrisburg?], the county seat of Poinsett Cty. We camped for the night on Sugar Creek.

Tuesday July 28th 1863

Traveled about 14 miles today over bad roads and camped for tonight on the plantation of a Rebel Colonel. Here we heard that Price was marching to attack us with 8000 men. We were now only a few miles from Wittsburgh on the St. Francis River. The advance of the column occupied that place.

Wednesday July 29th 1863

Early in the morning we commenced throwing up fortifications, but luckily I was detailed for Picket and escaped the work. In the evening the steamer Rose Hamilton [?] came up to Wittsburgh with supplies.

Thursday July 30th 1863

Relieved at 4 P.M. found all quiet in camp and the fortifications almost completed. We were camped in an open field in the river bottom and the heat was terrible. In other respects we fared well as Roasting ears and fruit was plentiful.

Friday July 31st 1863

Still in camp. I spent the morning in writing letters home as the boat was to leave in the morning with all of the sick or inservicable men.

Saturday August 1st 1863

At 7 A.M. we again took up our line of march southward. Passed through Wittsburgh a shipping point of some importance, situated on a high bluff. [T]he country around it is very rough and broken. At 2 P.M. we went into camp on a large plantation belonging to Ex-Governor Harris [?], 8 miles south of Wittsburgh.

Sunday August 2nd 1863

Travelled about 18 miles today over a good country, crossed the line of the Memphis and Little Rock Rail Road, and camped for the night on a small stream.

Monday August 3rd 1863

Moved out early taking a North westerly direction, the 2nd Brigade in advance. About 9 A.M. a Captain of the 1st Iowa, who was in advance and acting as scout, was killed by some Guerrillas. Two of the gang were caught and killed, and several houses burned. About noon we came to the Languile River, here a false alarm was raised. [W]e threw a battery into position and formed in line of battle in a Peach orchard, but as we could not find any Rebels to fight, we attacked the peaches, which were excellent, and the whole of them were soon annihilated. Here we went into camp to await the arrival of the Pontoon as it was impossible to cross the artillery without it. At 5 P.M. the 3rd Mo. was sent ahead to reconnoitre. When about 5 miles from the river we discovered a few Rebels who immediately fled into the swamps. Night coming on we pushed ahead through the darkness.

About 8 P.m. the advance came onto another squad of Rebels and poured a volley into them, but in the darkness they escaped. We pushed forward until about 12 P.M., when we came to the town of Mariana, where we had a little skirmish, and the Pickets were fired upon several times during the night.

Tuesday Aug 4th 1863

The Regt remained in camp. Capt Reed, with the 2nd Battalion was sent out to Moro, a small town 15 miles West of Mariana. On the road there we captured several Rebel Prisoners. [illegible] dashed into town scattering [illegible] Rebel Cavalry and capturing several prisoners.

At about 4 P.M. we started back and arrived at Mariana at 11 P.M. bringing with us 10 prisoners, a large number of guns, horses &c.

Wednesday Aug 5th 1863

The whole Regt. now marched to Moro where we were joined by the 1st Brigade and the balance of the command. Late in the evening Lieut. Agnew with a portion of Co B was sent out on the road toward Memphis with a flag of Truce. The Balance of the Regt, together with the [illegible]th Ill, and two howitzers were sent off through the swamps towards Colton [?] Plant. When about three miles out we came to a bayou it was impossible for our train to cross, so taking three days rations in our haversacks we left them, and floundered on for several hours through the worst swamps I ever saw. [I]n several places the horses had to swim and it was almost impossible to get our two little howitzers along. Presently we struck a beautiful prairie, the first that I had seen for more than a year. Here we had an exciting moonlight chase after [illegible] Rebels but they plunged into the [illegible] escaped.

Thursday Aug 6th 1863

At daylight we found ourselves on a beautiful prairie, and here we halted for a few moments rest, and let our horses graze. By sunrise we were again in the saddle. A short distance from here the road left the prairie and ran through a low swampy tract of Timber land. A few miles farther brought us to the Cache River which we crossed on a rude and dangerous bridge. After crossing this we had to wade through two miles of the worst swamp I ever saw. [I]n many places there was no sign of a road and we had to flounder along over logs, roots, and cypress [illegible] as best we could, many of the boys horses fell down with them and rolled them in the mud, to which there appeared to be no bottom. How it was ever possible for an army to cross here I can't imagine but yet Holms [?], after his defeat at Helena, managed to cross the remains of his force by swimming and pulling the wagons through by hand. Citizens say that he lost near a hundred men in this undertaking. We reached Colton plant, a neat little place about noon and found a few Rebel Soldiers in hospital there. We camped here [illegible] the swamp, for the night.

Friday August 7th 1863

Retraced our steps to the edge of the prairie, where we took the road to Clarendon on White River 23 miles distant. We rode all day over miserable bad roads, through a level swampy country, covered with a thick growth of Pine. At Sundown, we arrived at Clarendon and found four companies of the 7th Mo Cavly there. [T]hey had captured a ferry with a boat load of Rebels. Clarendon, the county seat of Lawrence County, has been a place of considerable importance, but is nearly ruined by the war.

Saturday August 8th 1863

In camp at Clarendon. Our Pickets today captured and brought in a number of Rebels with their arms &c.

Whilst out foraging today, a kind lady presented me with a haversack full of excellent tomatoes. They were very acceptable, and I shall long remember the Widow Harve's [?] kindness. In the evening Gen Davidson arrived and we moved camp up into Cache River 2 1/2 miles north of town.

Sunday August 9th 1863

In camp on Cache River. Two gunboats came up to Clarendon today and went up the river. Weather very hot.

Monday August 10th 1863

In camp nothing of importance.

Tuesday August 11th 1863

Weather very hot and disagreeable nothing of importance during the day.

Wednesday August 12th 1863

Mounted skirmish drill in the evening. [W]eather extremely hot. [T]he boys spend most of the day in the river, which is full of bathers all the time.

Thursday August 13th 1863

On Picket guard, on the Memphis road. All passed off quietly.

Friday August 14th 1863

The gun boats that went up White River returned today, having had an engagement with Marmedukes cavalry at West Point on the Little Red, where they captured the steamer Blue Wing [?] They then travelled [?] up to Ferry [?] Landing and captured the steamer Tom Suggs [?] and destroyed a Rebel Pontoon after a slight skirmish with some Rebel cavalry.

Saturday August 15th 1863

Co B. on Forage escort, returned heavily laden. Four Regiments of Steels Command came in this evening with a supply train.

Sunday August 16th 1863

The 3rd Battalion and a portion of the 2nd started on a scout.

Monday August 17th 1863

A large row of buildings on the levey [sic] in Clarendon were accidentally burned last night. Weather very warm.

Tuesday August 18th 1863

Everything being ready, we crossed the River at Clarendon. Co A, B, & C were detailed to work on the road which we had to corduroy for three miles. We went into camp for the night, four miles from Clarendon on a ridge where Hinderson [?] had thrown up earthworks to oppose Curtis. Several gun boats had come up to Clarendon this evening.

Wednesday August 19th 1863

A Rebel Major with five [illegible] came in today and turned surrendered to the pickets. They brought their men and horses with them.

Thursday August 20th 1863

Co B on Forage escort. Returned about noon with a good supply. A portion of Co L who were out foraging chased thirty Rebels from a house and captured their morning report Book.

Friday August 21st 1863

Today the boys have got a good joke on the Merril Horse, which is a very stylish Regt and have all along shown the white feather.

The Regiment was sent out to Reconnitre on the prairie. After proceeding some distance they discovered a single Rebel in the road about a quarter of a mile distant. [T]hey immediately got a Howitzer in position and fired on him, and after a few shots drove him from his position. Another good one is told of Col Merrill. On crossing the river he went to Gen Davidson and asked him how far out he should post his pickets. The General told him to go as far as he thought safe and then climb the biggest tree that he could find and as far as he could see the 1st Iowa or 3rd Mo out foraging alone and without anything but side arms. He thought he might venture to post his pickets out that far.

Saturday August 22nd 1863

Steele having arrived and everything being ready, we broke up camp and started on our march

for Little Rock, the infantry going by the Way of Duvalls Bluff.

As soon as we struck the prairie, which is the most level that I have ever seen, the Cavalry Division formed in three columns two hundred yards apart. Whilst marching along thus we were drilled in nearly all the maneuvers of the Co, Battalion, and Regiment. The 3rd Mo was in the advance of the 2nd Brigade, which composed the right column. The 1st Brigade occupied the left, and the 3rd Brigade with the artillery pontoon and supply trains formed the centre column. It was several hours before we got stretched out on the prairie but when we did, it was one of the grandest scenes I had ever beheld. [S]tretching away for miles to the rear was three lines of cavalry with their bright uniforms, flags flying and arms glistening in the morning sunlight. And then in the rear came the artillery and trains trailing away as far as the eye could reach, presenting in the distance a bright and pleasing appearance.

Saturday August 22nd 1863

About 11 a.m. we had a most exciting deer chase. [T]he advance had scared up five large deer and they came dashing down between the columns of the 2nd and 3rd Brigade and when near the rear of our Regt, they broke through our lines by running under the horses or dodging between the sets of forms in spite of numerous blows from sabres which they received. [I]t was now impossible to keep the boys in ranks. [A]bout twenty of them drew their sabres and took after the deer and after an exciting chase of about half a mile they were all overtaken and cut down. During the remainder of the day five or six of the deer were killed by the different Regiments in the same manner. The weather was very warm today and we suffered much for water. Camped at night on the edge of the prairie over a mile from any water.

Sunday August 23rd 1863

The command remained in camp today. About noon the 3rd Mo was sent back to our old camp to bring out a forage train. We returned with the train about 2 a.m. of the 24th.

Monday August 24th 1863

Traveled all day [illegible] beautiful level country and camped for the night in the edge of the woods [illegible] miles from Brownsville. Found water very scarce and had to place guards over it to keep men from watering their horses in the small pool. Here one of the guards of the 3rd Mo shot a man belonging to the 1st Iowa cavalry for riding his horse into the water, and when he ordered him out, he attempted to draw his revolver when the guard shot him, killing him instantly.

Tuesday August 25th 1863

As we expected a fight near Brownsville, we corralled our train this morning and leaving the 10th Ill to guard it, started out, this time moving in single column, the 1st Brigade in advance.

About 9 A.M. we crossed the Rail Road, and shortly afterwards the advance engaged about 2000 Rebel Cavalry with a battery of artillery posted in the edge of the woods. Here the first Brigade immediately got a battery in position and soon silenced the Rebel Battery. Co B of the 3rd Mo was here thrown out as skirmishers across the prairie on their right we moved one way until we came to the woods where we were drawn in. By this time the artillery had shelled the Rebels out of Brownsville, which we occupied without opposition. The 1st Brigade pinned the Rebels to a bayou 4 miles beyond, where, if the Merrill Horse had done its duty, we would have captured their artillery. Brig Gen Burbride [?] of Marmadukes command was captured in

Brownsville by his own brother who is a Captain in the 8th Mo Cavalry. Camped in Brownsville during the night. We found it a neat little town of about four hundred inhabitants, only very few of who had remained. It contains a neat little church, school house &c. The land around here is very poor, being nothing but a white oak swamp. The prairie land is said to be worthless.

Wednesday August 26th 1863

The 1st Iowa and 3rd Mo with two small howitzers started on a reconnoissance [sic] towards Bayou Meto, 12 miles distant. Met with no opposition until within 4 miles of that place when the 1st Iowa who were in advance had a slight skirmish in which they killed a Rebel Captain and [illegible] two miles further out the advance came in sight of a force of Rebels estimated at 8000. We immediately formed in line of battle and opened on them with two small howitzers. They replied with one small Rifled gun, the first shot from which struck one of our gunners in the breast, killing him instantly. After exchanging about a dozen shots with them, we retired unmolested having accomplished our purpose. We went into camp for the night 5 miles West of Brownsville on the edge of a large prairie, the main command being camped in Brownsville.

Thursday August 27th 1863

Today the 2nd Brigade moved out and engaged the Rebels three miles from Bayou Meto where skirmishing commenced at about 9 A.M. Hawks [?] Battery was immediately thrown into position and commenced shelling the Rebels furiously and soon drove them from their position. We then advanced, the 3rd Mo being dismounted to support the battery and thrown out through the woods on the right and left as skirmishers. After advancing about a quarter of a mile we again came in sight of the Rebels and opened on them again with artillery, which soon put them to flight. We followed after and a little farther on, one of co H [?] was shot by an orderly belonging to the 1st Iowa, who said he mistook him for a Rebel. He put 3 balls in him killing him almost instantly.

We met with little opposition for about two miles farther where we came in sight of the Rebels behind earthworks. We advanced cautiously until within two hundred yards, when our skirmishers raised a yell, dashed forward and carried the works by storm and without loss. The Rebels now fell back and formed on another hill about 400 yards distant in open view, when they opened on us with two guns. Gen Davidson came up just at this time and superintended the planting which soon commenced pouring canister and shells into the Rebels lines. About this time Davidson made use of a curious strategy, he mounted four or five drummers and had them ride from the rear to the front four or five times beating the long rolls. By this the Rebels were led to believe that we had a Brigade of Infantry with us.

In the course of half an hour our battery had driven the Rebels from their position and they immediately retreated across Bayou Meto and fired on the bridge.

As soon as Davison saw the smoke he ordered the 1st Iowa to charge the Rebels and if possible save the bridge.

They did so and when within three hundred yards of the bridge they received a terrible fire of canister and musket balls that played havoc in their ranks but nothing daunted, they dashed on to within fifty yards of the bridge. When seeing it was impossible to save it, they retired amidst terrible shower of grape and canisters.

Two batteries were now ordered to the front and the 3rd Mo was to support them and act as skirmishers on the right and left. The batteries took position on the crest of a ridge in an open field, about six hundred yards distant from the Rebel position. Here a terrible artillery fire was

kept up, the Rebels replying briefly firing muskets but with little or no danger to us. Our skirmish lines we now pushed forward to the banks of the bayou on the right and left, where a lively skirmish ensued with small arms in which several of our men fell. The artillery fire was kept up with unabated fury until near sundown when the Rebels batteries were entirely silenced and the Rebels fell back to their main line of works five miles from Little Rock.

We now returned to our old camp near Brownsville, having driven a force four times our number three miles, capturing a line of rifle [illegible] and earth works with a large amount of small arms, twenty or thirty prisoners. The Rebel loss is variously estimated at from 150 to two hundred. The casualties on our side were 5 killed and 29 wounded. Our Regt lost three killed and two wounded. The 1st Iowa suffered most in the charge. During the night several deserters came in and gave themselves up. Heavy rain all night.

Friday August 28th 1863

In camp near Brownsville this morning. I was taken sick with the Ague. Nine hundred of our Brigade reported sick with the Ague this morning.

Saturday August 29th 1863

The 3rd Brigade made a reconnaissance beyond Bayou Meto on the Shallow Ford road. Formed the evening force and returned without loss. Ordered to be ready to march at a moments [sic] warning. Nearly two thirds of the boys are now sick with chills and feavers [sic]. We have to carry all the water we get from a cypress Bayou more than a mile distant. In order to get to the water, we have first to clear away a green scum which is nearly an inch thick. And this is the best water that the country offers for miles round.

Sunday August 30th 1863

The 1st Mo and a portion of the 3rd went within five miles of Little Rock having a skirmish with some Rebels, killing three of them and losing two men wounded.

Monday August 31st 1863

[Illegible]

Tuesday Sept 1st 1863

Last night the 3rd Mo charged the Rebel Pickets and drove them out. One of the Rebels [illegible] jumped to his mule and tried to [illegible] away without untying him from the tree in which he was fastened. After kicking and spurring and hollering to his companions to rally round their chief until our boys were almost onto him, he jumped off into the brush and made his escape. The boys brought in the mule, along with a large [illegible] of hard black looking bread which they presented to Gen Davidson.

Wednesday Sept 2nd 1863

All the men fit for duty in the Division started on an expedition with four days rations taking the road to Austin.

Thursday Sept 3rd 1863

Gen Steel and Rice, with one division of Infantry moved out toward Bayou Meto. In the evening we moved camp nearer town.

Friday Sept 4th 1863

The Co [illegible] a few of them had made a push to within a few miles of Little Rock, killing several Rebels. In another they captured a large amount of small arms and [illegible] stores. In the evening moved back to our old camp and the Infantry returned from the Bayou.

Saturday Sept 5th 1863

In camp, shaking with the ague, weather very hot.

Sunday Sept 6th 1863

Today I was so sick that I had to be taken to the Hospital.

Monday Sept 7th 1863

Still in Hospital, weather extremely hot. Steel with the Infantry moved on to Bear Skin taking the Shallow Ford Road

Tuesday Sept 8th 1863

Received orders to move forward. A portion of the sick were sent up to Brownsville, but as I preferred going on, I was crowded into an ambulance and we started. After traveling about three miles, I was taken [illegible] the night [illegible] miles from Brownsville.

Wednesday Sept 9th 1863

Moved to the encampment of the main army on Bear Skin Lake three miles from the Arkansas River and fifteen from Little Rock. Here we found Gen Steel with 10000 [?] Infantry and twenty-eight pieces of artillery. Co B was sent back to Brownsville with all the wagons and ambulances, to bring up the sick.

Thursday Sept 10th 1863

Early this morning the army advanced on Little Rock. The Cavalry Division moved direct to the river for the purpose of crossing, but they encountered a Rebel Battery behind a cotton fort, which commanded the crossing. Hawk's Battery was immediately got into position in a corn field about 800 yards distant from the Rebel Battery, and a most terrific artillery duel ensued. But in the course of two hours, our battery had completely demolished the Rebel post, silenced their guns and drove them [3 lines not clear] pushed forward toward Little Rock. Steel moving up with his Infantry on the opposite side of the River at the same time and keeping [illegible] on our colors which we carried along the road. Every time that Steel could catch sight of the Rebels, He would open [?] fire on them across the river, which did considerable executions. We continued to press forward, brisk skirmishing going on all the time. About 11 a.m. the Rebels made a charge on a Battalion of the 10th Ill Cavly, supporting two mountain Howitzers which they succeeded in capturing and bearing off. A running fight now ensued for several miles until our forces came in sight of Bayou Fourche, behind which the Rebels had thrown up temporary works.

Here an obstinate fight ensued for several hours when about 3 P.M. the Rebels were driven from their positions and did not make another stand but retreated precipitately [?] through South [lines unclear] Little Rock the capital of Arkansas. The price of our victory [illegible] pieces of artillery Two One hundred pound size guns, 3000 stand of small arms and [illegible] of

ordance [illegible] The large Rebel-gun boat [name?] was aground opposite [illegible] burned by the Rebels—they [illegible]ed their pontoons and partially burned a lot of cars and two locomotives, also a great many private dwellings and an immense amount of cotton. I do not know the exact amount of prisoners captured but will probably come out to several hundred. Lieut Reed was killed by a shel [sic], and Sargt Buttes [?] mortally wounded and several others slightly. I do not think the total loss in the Brigade will amount to more than 25.

I was still in Hospital and very sick, we remained in our camp of the night previous.

[Illegible] arrived [illegible] quiet in the city. The Rebels had retreated on the Benton Road leading South West. The 1st Brigade had pushed [illegible] 12 miles frequently [illegible] without [illegible] of the train and artillery, which they could have easily captured if the Merrill [illegible]. When twelve miles out, the Rebels made a stand and a lively skirmish ensued, when Merrill gave up the pursuit and returned to Little Rock.

We found our Regiment and camped four miles below the city on the river near Bayou Fourche. Arrived in camp about 4 P.M. sick and very much exhausted with my ride.

Saturday Sept 12th 1863

In camp below Little Rock. I feel much better today. We have nothing but sweet potatoes to eat but plenty of them. This is the best country for the production of that vegetable that I have ever seen.

Sunday Sept 13th 1863

[Illegible] the Rebels had burned several others below here.

Monday Sept 14th 1863

I visited the city today and learned that Col Cloud [?] with sixty men had just come in from Fort Smith, that place having been captured about the same time as [illegible]. Little Rock is a very neat city of about 8000 [?] inhabitants. Its streets are wide and well shaded, and the buildings as a general thing are good, although somewhat out of repair. It contains Four churches, one convent, and several public schools besides St John's College, a splendid building not yet completed and now occupied as a hospital.

The State House and other public buildings are in a very bad state of decay, although somewhat renovated since we took possession. The stores are all empty, they could not all together muster enough to stock a common country store in North Mo. Guards are stationed all over town and everything remains peaceable. A great many citizens are seen on the streets [illegible] through which we had passed. The greater portion of the working class are foreigners, Irish and Germans the latter generally [illegible].

Tuesday Sept. 15th 1863

Today I had an opportunity of observing the activity around camp, which was situated on the edge of a large plantation on which stands a neat dwelling, evacuated by its owner, leaving everything behind him. It was here that Price had his Head Qtrs. during the time of the fight until he found it pretty hot Quarters and had to leave. [T]he house is pierced in several places by shells, one of which is said to have killed three orderlies. [T]he side of the kitchen is all spattered with blood, and several of the shade trees in the yard are torn by shells. The land around here is excellent, being composed of a rich sandy soil, particularly adapted to raising cotton and sweet potatoes, the latter of which are abundant and now form almost our only article

of food.

Wednesday Sept 16th 1863

Two hundred Rebels came in and gave themselves up. The health of the Regt is now improving.

Thursday Sept 17th 1863

Rained nearly all day and night.

Friday Sept 18th 1863

Received news that the Rebels had made a dash into Brownsville, killed one of Co H [?] and wounded one of Co F, who was sick in hospital.

Saturday Sept 19th 1863

Nothing of importance today.

Sunday Sept 20th 1863

Weather warm and pleasant. Out of rations but have plenty of sweet potatoes.

Monday Sept 21st 1863

Today a large supply train came in from Duvalls Bluff with rations. We hailed it with joy.

Tuesday Sept 22nd 1863

Went up to the city again today and found the appearance of things greatly improved. They are also fast organizing a force of loyal militia.

Wednesday Sept 23rd 1863

Lieut. Col Black started to St. Louis.

Thursday Sept 24th 1863

Nothing of importance, weather fine. The health of the Regiment is fast improving.

Friday Sept 25th 1863

James H. Wamsley of Co B, who was wounded at Chalk Bluff and had been at home on furlough, returned to the Regiment. Late in the evening, Co B was sent on picket out on the Benton Road.

Saturday Sept 26th 1863

Still on picket. A large number of Rebel Deserters came in and gave themselves up.

Sunday Sept 27th 1863

Still on picket. The country around here is rough and broken and covered with a thick growth of pine. There are a great many grape vines on the rocky hill sides. [T]he large Muscatine grape grows here in abundance. I gathered a haversack full off of one small vine. Relieved at 1 P.M. and went to camp.

Monday Sept 28th 1863
Nothing of importance, weather fine.

Tuesday Sept 29th 1863
The rail road is now in operation to Duvalls Bluff, a train of cars came over today.

Wednesday Sept 30th 1863
Raining. Weather cold and disagreeable. A train left for Duvalls Bluff in the morning and returned in the evening.

Thursday Oct 1st 1863
Weather clear and pleasant.

Friday Oct 2nd 1863
Spent the morning in skiff riding up and down the river.

Saturday Oct 3rd 1863
Weather cold and disagreeable.

Sunday Oct 4th 1863
Nothing of importance during the day.

Monday Oct 5th 1863
Detail for two hundred men from the Regt. with five days rations, to go on a scout, Maj. Lennon in command. Crossed the river at 5 P.M. and traveled in a N.W. direction until 10 P.M. when we went into camp, twelve miles from Little Rock.

Tuesday Oct 6th 1863
Weather cold and [illegible]. Traveled thirty-two miles over a rough, rocky mountainous country devoid of any objects worthy of notice. Camped for the night at the house of a Rebel and as we had brought no meat with us, some of the boys got into the old fellows smoke house, and commenced carrying out some bacon for their supper. Major Lennon seeing this rushed out and struck one of Co M [?] with his sabre and ordering him to take it back. He replied by striking the Major over the head with the side of bacon, and then prepared to draw his revolver in case the Major advanced on him, but he was prudent enough not to attempt it, and returned his sabre and walked off.

Wednesday Oct 7th 1863
Traveled fifteen miles in a northern direction, charged into the town of Quitman and captured several Rebels, two of whom Major Lennon swore into the Reg. We also received several other recruits from the Mon[illegible] Feds. Camped here for the night

Thursday Oct 8th 1863
We struck out from Quitman in a SW [?] direction to the house of a Rebel Colonel where we expected to find some Rebels.

But through the negligence of Major Lennon they were permitted to escape. Capt Yates

with eight or ten others of Co B pursued them for four or five miles occasionally catching sight of them but at length losing all trail of them we were compelled to give up the chase.

Just as we were starting out after the Rebels, Corp. Geo. Senick [?] of Co B was wounded in the leg by the accidental discharge of his revolver. Camped on this plantation for the night, expecting an attack from a force of five hundred Rebels who were said to be in the neighborhood.

Friday Oct 9th 1863

The night passed off quietly, and in the morning Maj. Lennon freed all of the old col. negros, loaded them our wagons and started back to Quitman, where we arrived about 2 P.M. and camped for the night. Out of rations but found plenty of mutton and sweet potatoes.

Saturday Oct 10th 1863

Early in the morning, Co K/R [?] was sent out to a steam mill to procure some meal and as soon as they returned we started back to Little Rock with a full cargo of Negros. Traveled hard all day over rough mountainous country and stopped for the night at our old camp ground of the 6th Wisc. [?] forty five miles from Little Rock. Here we met about a dozen of the 106th Ill Infantry mounted and in search of some horse thieves.

Sunday Oct 11th 1863

Traveled only eight miles today and camped for the night to await the arrival of some more negros. As we were out of rations the boys became very much incensed at staying out to [sic] long unnecessarily and after night held a meeting and determined to start to camp in the morning. Our officers all joined us in this. I was on picket tonight, all quiet.

Monday Oct 12th 1863

Early in the morning some one [sic] got a bugle and sounded boots and saddles, all saddled up and ready to start when Major Lennon came out of the hotel [?] and wanted to know what was the matter, when the boys told him they were going to camp [?]. He was very angry at first but as he saw he couldn't help himself, he let us go, keeping Co A [?] with him as a body guard. Capt Yates now took command and we pushed on to Little Rock, a distance of thirty five miles. We arrived in camp about dark where we learned with regret that one of our old companions, Jeramiah Fray of Co B. had died in our absence. He was a noble soldier and a true friend.

Tuesday Oct 13th 1863

Major Lennon returned with his negro train and a few mountain [?] Feds.

Wednesday Oct 14th 1863

Commenced clearing off a camp ground and cutting logs to build Winter Quarters.

Thursday Oct 15th 1863

Today we were paid off again for two months.

Friday Oct 16th 1863

Orders came today to stop work on our Winter Quarters until further orders.

Saturday Oct 17th 1863

Nothing of importance during the day. Weather fine.

Sunday Oct 18th 1863

Received orders to resume building Winter Quarters.

Monday Oct 19th 1863

David Blines of Co R returned, being exchanged and having been a prisoner with the rebels for three months.

Tuesday Oct 20th 1863

General review at 1 P.M. Weather pleasant.

Wednesday Oct 21st 1863

At work on Quarters, weather fine.

Thursday Oct 22nd 1863

Cold and raining all day and night.

Friday Oct 23rd 1863

Nothing of importance, weather disagreeable

Saturday Oct 24th 1863

Today it cleared off and remained fine. [Illegible] sick with the ague again.

Sunday Oct 25th 1863

Today we learned that Morgan [?] with 6500 men had attacked Pine Bluff garrisoned by about 1700 men of 1st [illegible] and the Kansas Cavly, with one battery of artillery. All under the command of Col Clayton, who blockaded the streets with cotton bales and prepared for a vigorous defense. The fight lasted about five hours, and was of a most desperate character.

The Rebels made several desperate charges on the cotton fort but they met with such a terrible fire of grape canister and rifle balls, that they could not stand it and broke and run [?] setting fire to a large portion of the town which was destroyed, during the engagement, the Rebel shels [sic] several times set fire to the cotton bales, but the flames were immediately put out by negros, who were kept busy carrying water for that purpose.

The rebels lost here several hundred men whilst our loss was very light in proportion. In the evening all the available men in our Regt. and the greater portion [page cut off]

Monday Oct 26th 1863

Nothing of importance.

Tuesday Oct 27th 1863

A large detail with all of the Regtl Train went out to a saw mill after lumber.

Wednesday Oct 28th 1863

The trains came in this evening, loaded with lumber.

Thursday Oct 29th 1863

Our Winter Quarters, being now completed, we moved into them. Rained all night.

Friday Oct 30th 1863

Cold and raining all day.

Saturday Oct 31st 1863

Weather disagreeable, mustered for pay.

Sunday Nov 1st 1863

Today I attended Church at Little Rock. Weather fine.

Monday Nov 2nd 1863 Political speaking in the evening by Dr. Granger, Major Glover and others. As they are all conservatives, their speeches did not have much [page cut off]

Tuesday Nov 3rd 1863

Election Day. The radicals carried the day by 245 [?] majority. The conservative vote of the Regt was only 25 [?], principally officers who were influenced by Col Glover whose star of glory is fast declining.

Wednesday Nov 4th 1863

The expedition which started to Pine Bluff, returned, having chased Marmaduke through Tulip and Princeton and Arkadelphia and to within a few miles of Camden. They had several brisk skirmishes with the Rebels but without loss. At Arkadelphia, they destroyed some extensive salt works.

Thursday Nov 5th 1863

Nothing of importance.

Friday Nov 6th 1863

Signed the Pay Rolls.

Saturday Nov 7th 1863

Busy making boards for cook house.

Sunday Nov 8th 1863

Weather fine, went down the river in a skiff to gather Pecans, returned well loaded.

Monday Nov 9th 1863

Received orders to be ready to march at a moments warning to Jacksonport.

Tuesday Nov 10th 1863

On Forage escort, forded the river five miles below here and loaded our wagons 6 miles beyond and returned to camp arriving there after night.

Wednesday Nov 11th 1863
Nothing new, weather fine.

Thursday Nov 12th 1863
Preparing to leave for Jacksonport.

Friday Nov 13th 1863
Our departure is postponed till Monday.

Saturday Nov 14th 1863
Nothing of importance, weather cool.

Sunday Nov 15th 1863
Attended church at Little Rock. Ordered to be ready to march at 7 O'clock in the morning.

Monday Nov 16th 1863
Broke up camp early and started, delayed several hours at Little Rock. Capt Yates, Lt. Agnew, Sergt Downing [?] and [?] Vandiver started to St. Louis at 12 AM. We bade adieu to Little Rock and took up our line of march for Jacksonport. Camped for the night on the old Battle ground at Bayou Meto.

Tuesday Nov 17th 1863
For several miles this morning, our road lay through a wet, level, swampy country but when within a few miles of Austin we struck the sand ridges and the land here is good. At 1 PM, we passed through Austin, a small place of about 200 inhabitants, the 8th Mo. Cavly are stationed here. We camped for the night on the edge of a swamp 8 miles beyond Austin. Found plenty of corn and sweet potatoes.

Wednesday Nov 18th 1863
With great difficulty [sic], we managed to get our train across the swamp and soon came to the small town of Stony Point [?] where we learned that a company of Mountain Feds and [?] Arkansas Militia had just passed on in advance of us. When about seven miles north of Stony Point we heard firing ahead and in a few minutes the remnants of the company of Mountain feds came tearing back with McRay on their heels and firing [copy illegible]. By this time, Co E [?] which was in the advance had dismounted and formed in line and as the Rebels came up, they poured a destructive volley into them where they in turn whirled and fled, closely pursued by our cavalry. Co E [?] had killed several horses and wounded a few Rebels, and we captured one or two prisoners. From the Militia we learned that they had been drawn into an ambush of about five hundred Rebels, and bushwhacked for three or four miles on their retreat. They lost eight men killed and wounded. Several of their men were killed after they were prisoners. We did not encounter the Rebels any more for about six miles until we came to a bridge over a deep Bayou, where McRay intended to make a stand. We had a battery of four Mountain Howitzers attached to the Regt, two of which we immediately got into position and after about a dozen rounds the Rebels fled in every direction and we pursued [?] our way to within 4 miles of Searcy unmolested [?] and camped for the night. One Battalion was sent on to Searcy and charged into the place capturing several Prisoners among the dead Mc Rays' Quarter Master.

Thursday Nov 19th 1863

Early in the morning we passed through Searcy, a town of about 1000 inhabitants. It contains several good substantial buildings, a church, a seminary, and several public schools one of which was in operation, the first that I had seen in Rebeldom. This is a great shipping point for cotton. Brig. Gen McRays home is here and this is generally considered one of the worst rebel holes in the state. The land for eight or ten miles around Searcy is good and the country is the richest that I have seen in Arkansas.

We crossed the Little Red River 2 1/2 miles North East at Searcy Landing. The river is only 150 yards wide and being low was easily forded. We camped for the night twelve miles beyond, Co B on picket, cold and raining all night.

Friday Nov 20th 1863

This morning the weather is cold and gloomy. After standing a miserable night on Picket we started on about 7 A.M. and soon after ascending and descending some very steep hills, we came to a [copy illegible] at Stony Point [?]. It is a narrow gorge coming down from the top a mountain, [copy illegible] at the road [copy illegible] and is one of the roughest [?] I have ever seen. After several hours hard labor, we succeeded in getting our train on to the mountain and again moved on, the road following the crest of the mountain which ran in a N.W. direction. Late in the evening we passed through the small village of Fairview and camped for the night in the midst of a pine forest four miles beyond.

Saturday Nov 21st 1863

Moved out early in the morning and after traveling seven miles over a rough and broken country we descended into the White River bottom, 12 miles west of Jacksonport. A few miles further on we halted for a short time near a grave yard and whilst there some of the boys discovered the grave of the notorious Rebel, Col [Joseph C.] Porter of N.E. Mo who was mortally wounded by a shell in the battle of Hartsville Mo.

We were now in what is called the Oil Trough Bottom, and it is one of the nicest portions of Arkansas. Forage here is abundant. At 3 PM, we arrived at the river opposite Jacksonport and were fired at from the opposite shore by a band of guerillas under Bill Moore, a son of the old fighting Colonel of the 21st Mo. Our boys immediately returned the Rebels fire with their carbines, wounding a Lieutenant and one man. Maj. Lennons Battalion now crossed over and drove the Rebels from the town. The rest of the Regt camped on the west bank of the river and waited till morning to cross over. Co B was on camp guard tonight, weather cold and disagreeable.

Sunday Nov 22nd 1863

Busy all day in foraging and the [illegible] of the Regt [illegible]. Two companies of Rebels charged on our pickets but were repulsed. Four drunk Rebels rode up to Co H who were on picket and ordered them to surrender. They replied with their carbines and wounded one rebel severely, the rest made their escape.

Monday Nov 23rd 1863

We found Jacksonport, a town of considerable importance, situated in a large bend of the river and surrounded on all sides by swamps and cane breaks.

Jacksonport has the name of being one of the hardest places in Arkansas for drinking, gambling, rowdyism &c. It contains several good stores one small church, &c.

Tuesday Nov 24th 1863

Co M & B under Lt Williams started on a scout out to Elgin on Black river 10 [?] miles distant where we destroyed a ferry and brought in several [illegible] loads of wheat &c.

Wednesday Nov 25th 1863

Capt. [illegible] Battalion started on a scout in the direction of Memphis [SE]. Went about fifteen miles, through swamps down the river and finding no Rebels, we returned.

Thursday Nov 26th 1863

Fifteen of Co B. on picket, the rest on Forage escort.

Friday Nov 27th 1863

On forage Escort, weather cold and raining, loaded our train about four miles N.E. of Jacksonport and returned.

Saturday Nov 28th 1863

Nothing of importance.

Sunday Nov 29th 1863

Went fishing and caught several fine catfish.

Monday Nov 30th 1863

On Forage Escort, weather cold.

Tuesday Dec 1st 1863

The steamer, Rose Hambelton [?] came up today from Duvalls Bluff. No news.

Wednesday Dec 2nd 1863

Capt. Mitchell with one Battalion crossed White River and started to Batesville. Traveled up on the south side of the river until we came to the head of Oil Trough Bottom, when forded White River at [illegible] Landing where we had a slight skirmish with some Rebels, capturing several, camped for the night seven miles east of Batesville. Here we captured a Rebel Major and a Quartermaster.

Thursday Dec 3rd 1863

Left camp quietly at 4 A.M. and started for Batesville, and came in sight of it just at daylight. We immediately drew our revolvers and charged into town surprising a small squad of Rebels who were there, capturing several and killing a guerrilla by the name of Massey after a desperate hand to hand fight in the middle of White River.

We also captured about 20 guns, a large lot of percussion caps &c. [Illegible] town myself and several others took breakfast at the house of the Rebel Col. Shaffer. They were [illegible] Rebels but treated us with courtesy, and I must say that I have found the ladys [sic] of Batesville the most refined well educated, polite and agreeable of any in Arkansas. They are

mostly from the north, and the society is better than any I have seen since leaving St. Louis. Batesville is a town of near 2000 inhabitants and occupies one of the most beautiful and healthy situations I have seen. It is situated on a gentle slope, rising gradually from the river, and is surrounded by some beautiful and picturesque scenery. The country around it, except the White river valley, is rough and broken. We left Batesville at noon and took a road leading N.E. to Sulphur Rock, two [?] miles distant. We passed through here at 3 P.M. picking up prisoners all the time, camped for the night 9 miles West of Jacksonport. On picket during the night.

Friday Dec 4th 1863

Started out early in the morning traveling six miles through a bad swamp when we came to Penchet [?] Bluffs on Black river where we crossed that rapid and dangerous stream on a little ferry boat, which we then took down to Jacksonport, where we arrived at 3 P.M. and found the place in a great state of excitement. The Rebels had just sent in a flag of truce and our officers are expecting an immediate attack.

About 20 Rebels attacked the house of a rich unionist 10 miles West of here, by the name of McGuire. He killed two of the Rebels and then made his escape with a slight wound. The Rebels then burned his house, which was the finest in the country.

Saturday Dec 5th 1863

Capt Mitchel with one Battalion started on a scout. Went fifteen miles up Black river to the little town of Jefferson and then returned.

Sunday Dec 6th 1863

Co G and B in forage escort, crossed over White River and went up to McGuires, loaded our train and camped for the night.

Monday Dec 7th 1863

Started back early this morning, bringing with us McGuire's family, Negros, and all the property they had saved from the fire. Arrived in camp at 12 M, raining all evening.

Tuesday Dec 8th 1863

Nothing of importance.

Wednesday Dec 9th 1863

Weather cold and raining.

Thursday Dec 10th 1863

Co B on Picket weather very disagreeable

Friday Dec 11th 1863

Nothing of importance

Saturday Dec 12th 1863

On Picket. Heavy rain and thunder

Sunday Dec 13th 1863

After coming off post last night, I had lain down on some bark and went to sleep. On waking up this morning I found [illegible] all [illegible]

Monday Dec 14th 1863

Started on a scout, traveled 12 miles S. E. through swamps. Captured a Rebel Major, Payne, a Captain and several prisoners, guns and a large amt of medicines, at a house where we went into camp for the night.

Tuesday Dec 15th 1863

Started back and arrived in camp at 2 P.M. River is moving fast.

Wednesday Dec 16th 1863

Ordered out with three days rations, but the order was countramanded. Raining hard all day.

Thursday Dec 17th 1863

Nothing of importance

Friday Dec 18th 1863

Capt Avery with Co's B. K. I. & G. and Capt. Berry's Co of Mountain Feds started on a scout into Northern Arkansas, with five days rations. Crossed Black River at the mouth, struck north and camped at Capt Berrys 15 miles N.W. of Jacksonport.

Saturday Dec 19th 1863

Traveled 17 miles over a rough broken country with here and there a good farm. About 2 P.M. we came to Smithville and immediately charged the town capturing several Rebel officers.

After leaving Smithville we traveled S. E. for several miles in hopes of finding a band of Rebels who were said to be in this neighborhood. [H]ere a portion of the command went into camp, and the rest of it scouted around all night but could not find any Rebels.

Sunday Dec 20th 1863

Came back through Smithville, which is a small place of no importance. Here we stopped for dinner, and after that moved on 12 miles in a N.W. Direction the most of the time following an obscure trail through the mountains and many times leaving the road entirely and taking through the woods. Camped for the night another 10 miles at Evening Shade.

Monday Dec 21st 1863

At noon we arrived at Evening Shade, a very small village situated on a small stream and surrounded on all sides by rocky mountains covered with a thick growth of Pine. Here the command scattered, to meet the next day at H[illegible] Cross roads. Co B under Sergt Yancy struck South West. Captured two Rebel Captains and camped for the night at Major Linns [?].

Tuesday Dec 22nd 1863

Nothing of importance.

Wednesday Dec 23rd 1863

Rejoined the command at H[illegible] Cross roads traveled about 8 miles and camped for the night 5 miles from Sulphur Rock. Being out of rations we scattered out to the different houses around, where we got our suppers and remained for the night. I had charge of a squad of four men who had been acting as an escort for Mr. Baxter [?] who was recruiting for the 4th Arkansas [illegible] the night at the house of Mr Rogers a number of Capt Berry's Co. This was three miles from the main command. About dark one of Mr. Rogers Neighbors came in he having been taken prisoner by the Rebels. He told Rogers that they had released him on condition that he would return home and get all the information he could in regard to stragglers in the rear of our command, and that they would be at his house by midnight. As soon as I heard this, I sent word to Maj. Avery and asked him to send me a few more men, which he did, by sending me about 10 men of Co B, our force now amounted to about 15 men. We immediately marched to the home of the man who had brought the information and concealed ourselves to await the arrival of the Rebels. But after waiting here till long after midnight, we concluded they would not come, so we went back to Mr Rogers, placed a guard and then most of the boys lay down.

I did not go to sleep but was sitting in the house before the fire when one of Mr Rogers Boys who had volunteered to stand sentinel for us came in and told me he had just heard a gun fire in the direction of camp. I walked out of doors and listened but as I could hear nothing more, I concluded it was some of the sentinels at camp, and paid no more attention to it. I then relieved the boy who was very cold and walked up and down in the yard till near morning, we were not disturbed.

Thursday Dec 24th 1863

Just as we had finished breakfast in the morning, and was mounting our horses to join the command, when a boy came up from camp and informed us that one of our boys had been killed at a neighbors house last night, and Oh, how terribly we were shocked when we found it was one of our most loved companions, Corp Martin Holmes of Co B. He with four others had been staying at a home about 2 miles from the command when about [illegible] house was surrounded by a band of about 20 Rebels. Three of them had crawled up to within 15 feet of John Harris who was on guard and standing before a fire near the stables. They leveled their guns on him and ordered him to surrender, but quick as thought he whirled on them, fired his carbine right in their faces and then jumped over a fence and escaped to the woods, and soon gave the alarm in camp. As soon as the guard fired, Corp Holmes sprang out of the door with his revolver in his hand to see what was the matter, he had no sooner touched the door step when a rebel who was standing behind the corner of the house fired at him and shot him through. They then ordered the other boys to surrender, but they would not do it and opened such a fire on the Rebels that they soon drove them away, taking with them all of the boys horses. In a few moments Co B came tearing out from camp and scouted the country for miles around in every direction but [illegible] Holmes died in a few hours after he was shot and they buried him there. We then returned to Jacksonport which we reached at 3 P.M.

Friday Dec 25th 1863

Christmas!

Co. B. this morning asked permission to go and bring in the body of their loved comrade. It was granted and we started at about 8 AM. When near Sulphur Rock we ran into a squad of Rebels, wounded Lt. Burnett, captured his horse, hat, and pistols. He jumped off in the brush

and escaped with his arm broken.

We camped within a quarter of a mile where Holmes was buried. Cold and raining during the night.

Saturday Dec 26th 1863

Early in the morning we disinterred the body of our comrade, placed it in a coffin and started back.

We arrived in Jacksonport late in the morning during a heavy rain and found that a boat had arrived bringing orders for us to winter at Searcy.

Sunday Dec 27th 1863

Today we performed the last sad rites for our departed comrade, we laid him in a soldiers grave, far away from home and kindred but yet he is not forgotten.

Monday Dec 28th 1863

Raining all day, the Boat started up to batesville but the water being too low, she returned in the evening.

Tuesday Dec 29th 1863

Raining and cold.

Wednesday Dec 30th 1863

Nothing of importance, wet and disagreeable

Thursday Dec 31st 1863

The boat left today taking down with it a company of Negroes that we had organized. It was raining in the morning, but soon turned to snow and ice, the weather becoming intensely cold with a sharp piercing wind from the N.W. that no man could face for five minutes. I shall never forget this day and night. I volunteered to go on picket with nothing to eat, and nearly froze to death. This was the [illegible]

Friday Jan 1st 1864

New Years sun rose clear and cold. Oh, how glad we all were to see its genial rays after passing such a terrible night, at last. One Company of the 11th Mo Cavly. arrived today from Batesville. We received orders to be ready to cross the river but the ferry rope breaking and the Ice running so heavy that we could not repair it, we had to wait.

Saturday Jan 2nd 1864

Cold and cloudy, Co B on picket. Ice still running heavily.

Sunday Jan 3rd 1864

Weather cold. Ice same as yesterday.

Monday Jan 4th 1864

On Picket weather clear and cold.

Tuesday Jan 5th 1864

Relieved off Picket at 12 [missing]M by the 11th Mo, who had all arrived from Batesville.

Wednesday Jan 6th 1864

Detailed to haul [illegible] weather very cold [illegible].

Thursday Jan 7th 1864

On Forage Escort. Went out to Bru's [?] Point 14 miles distant, and did not get back until long after night snow covered with a sharp crust and about six inches deep, weather bitter cold.

Friday Jan 8th 1864

This morning we found the river blocked up tight and frozen over, I spent the principal part of the day in skating. One Co was detailed to cut a passage for the ferry but they could make no headway it would freeze over again as fast as they could cut it out.

Saturday Jan 9th 1864

On picket weather clear and very cold, in the evening we received an order to be ready to cross the river in the morning on the ice.

Sunday Jan 10th 1864

Packed up early and were all across the river safely by 11 A.M. The wagons all heavily laden was driven across by hand, moved out to the head of Oil Trough Station [?] and camped sleeping [?] on the snow [illegible]

Monday Jan 11th 1864

Passed over some very difficult and slippery roads and camped for the night 5 miles beyond Fairview. Again our bed was of snow and I must say that I never enjoyed a much better nights sleep.

Tuesday Jan 12th 1864

With great difficulty we descended the Stony Cross [?], and climbed the mountain beyond. Without further incident we arrived at Little Red River late in the evening, entirely out of rations, but we did not starve by any means for the country around yielded us an abundant supply. We found the ice not sufficiently strong to cross the train and we had to go to work and cut a passage for the small flat boats that answered the purpose of a ferry.

About 12 P.M. it was completed and some of the companies commenced crossing.

Wednesday Jan 13th 1864

Still crossing very slowly. Co B being the rear did not get [illegible] until late in the [illegible]. The advance guard had a slight skirmish with some Rebels near Searcy in which one of Co G was wounded.

Co B took up their quarters in Wilson & Booths old store and Blackwell & Co Fancy store.

Thursday Jan 14th 1864

Co B, M & I started on a scout with two days rations, Capt Kirkpatrick in command. We passed

through West Point, 9 miles below here. [I]t is a business place of some importance for the Shipping of cotton. It is about as large as Jacksonport and contains many good houses. We followed down the bank of Little Red river for six miles farther when we left it and took off through a swampy country to the South east. We traveled ten miles through an almost uninhabited swamp and at length struck White River at a place called Negro hill, here we camped for the night in a heavy rain but we soon found comfortable quarters in an old deserted [illegible]

In the dwelling house was found two revolvers and three or four guns.

This was a regular rendezvous [sic] for Rebels, and as we were very hungry and found plenty of everything here in the shape of eatables, we fared excellent, in fact I have never fared better in all my soldier life.

Friday Jan 15th 1864

As I woke up this morning I chanced to discover directly over me a trap door leading into a loft, and I immediately determined to see what was up there. So up I goes and pushing open the trap door I discovered a large mail sack filled with Rebel mail. It was not locked, and the contents was soon emptied on the floor of the loft, and a score of boys crowded around, eagerly examining the mail. The letters were nearly all for the 7th & 8th Ark Infantry and had been written some five months previous. At 8 A.M. we started back and at West Point, the command separated one half going back the latter under the command of Lt Hyat. We arrived in Searcy late in the evening and met with a most agreeable surprise by the receipt of a large mail which the 1st Nebraska Cavly in charge of a train going to Batesville, had brought through from Little Rock.

Saturday Jan 16th 1864

Lt Hyat with the remainder of the scout came in and reported having run into the Rebels seven miles south of West Point, killing one of them and mortally wounding Capt. Poe.

Sunday Jan 17th 1864

Co B on Picket [illegible]. Continued raining all day and at night commenced snowing.

Monday Jan 18th 1864

Co B Detailed to escort Capt Crabtree, the Provost Marshal, down to parole Capt Poe, found him badly wounded and not expected to live. After [illegible] started back to camp which we reached after [illegible]

Tuesday Jan 19th 1864

Spent the day in writing letters in the Seminary, which is deserted. [W]eather warm and beautiful. Received orders to be ready to march at 7 in the morning for Little Rock.

Wednesday Jan 20th 1864

Broke up camp and started at about 8 A.M. Found the roads very muddy, only traveled 9 miles today and camped for the night on the ground where we had the skirmish with Gen McRae on 19th of Nov.

Thursday Jan 21st 1864

Traveled 16 miles over miserable bad roads and camped for the night at Austin. The 8th Mo had left this post several days previous and gone to Duvalls Bluff.

Friday Jan 22nd 1864

Started early and struck west in order to avoid the Bayou Meto Swamps. Traveled 15 miles over a rough broken country and at 2 P.M. camped at the Widow [illegible] sixteen miles from Little Rock. Here we heard that [illegible] had lately attacked Pine Bluff and got whipped.

Saturday Jan 23rd 1864

Started by daylight, and a few miles march brought us to the foot of a mountain very difficult of ascent. But when we had reached the top, one of the most beautiful landscape scenes spread out before us that I ever beheld. [A]fter descending this mountain we had some other very difficult hills to climb. When within 8 miles of Little Rock we met a forage train belonging to the 56th Ill. Infantry. We traveled on five miles farther and camped about 2 P.M. 3 miles from Little Rock. Here we had an amusing chase after a coon which had been attracted from his den in a large oak by the noise and confusion underneath. I immediately got a hatchet, and climbing into the tree cut the limb off and [illegible] came tumbling down in the midst of three hundred men and a large bull dog, he had no sooner struck the ground than he was off running between the mens legs so that the dog could not get at him. After a most amusing chase of about fifteen minutes in which several of our officers were tumbled in a ditch, the coon was at length killed and carried off by old Brig, the teamsters [?] dog.

Sunday Jan 24th 1864

Started at 3 A.M. and arrived at the river by Sunrise. Commenced crossing in a little hand ferry and by night about half of the Regt were over. Went into camp below the city occupying the 11th [?] Ill. old Quarters.

Monday Jan 25th 1864

The remainder of the Regt got across late in the evening, weather fine.

Tuesday Jan 26th 1864

Two Squadrons and Regt train started out after forage taking 4 days rations, Capt Yates in command.

Wednesday Jan 27th 1864

Co B ordered to prepare for a march with fifteen days rations. Got ready and the order was countermanded.

Thursday Jan 28th 1864

Capt. Yates with forage train returned. He had to go 35 miles after corn and found it scarce at that.

He brought in two prisoners with him belonging to Co. A 11th Ark. Jasper Vandiver [3 Mo-Co B] and Blades returned from St Louis. Gen Davidson was to have made a speech to us today but did not come.

Friday Jan 29th 1864

General Inspection at 10 A.M. Ordered to practice target shooting.

Saturday Jan 30th 1864

Co B, I & G, under command of Capt Wilcox started on a reconnoitering expedition West of Little Rock. It commenced raining about dark and continued nearly all night. We were delayed at Division Head Quarters until 11 PM. waiting for reinforcements and a guard. Traveled about 9 miles on the Maumelle road and camped till morning.

Sunday Jan 31st 1864

Started early and traveled west for thirty miles, through an uninterrupted succession of Pine clad hills. The country is the poorest that I have ever seen and almost entirely uninhabited. We arrived at a mill on the little Maumelle river where we expected to find Rebels but was disappointed. After feeding our horses and resting for a little time we started back, traveled about six miles and camped at about 9 PM, rain all night.

Monday Feb 1st 1864

Started back to camp where we arrived at three P.M. Weather cold and very windy

Tuesday Feb 2nd 1864

Nothing of importance

Wednesday Feb 3rd 1864

Today we were paid off for four months

Thursday Feb 4th 1864

Co B and C started out on forage escort, with the 10th Ill and our train, crossed the river at Little Rock. Camped 10 miles out, on the military road.

Friday Feb 5th 1864

Went out 11 miles farther on the Military road to Batesville, loaded our wagons and returned to within three miles of our former camp.

Saturday Feb 6th 1864

Arrived at the river at 12 PM, but did not get across till nearly night. Weather chilly

Sunday Feb 7th 1864

All the available men in the Regt started on a scout with five days rations.

Monday Feb 8th 1864

Six or seven recruits arrived from Knox Co for Co B and several others for Co A and other companies. Weather warm and pleasant.

Tuesday Feb 9th 1864

Nothing of importance weather fine.

Wednesday Feb 10th 1864
Inspection.

Thursday Feb 11th 1864
Nothing of importance.

Friday Feb 12th 1864
Weather fine

Saturday Feb 13th 1864
Went up to the city, rain all night

Sunday Feb 14th 1864
Rained all day and night

Monday Feb 15th 1864
The Regt returned at 2 A.M. from a scout out to Hot Springs. They had been absent eight days and had traveled over 200 miles. They were Bushwhacked six times in the mountain passes. Three of Co M were wounded. [T]hey killed three Rebels and burned all the houses around there. When about 15 miles from here they found a man lying dead by the side of the road, supposed to have been [illegible]

Tuesday Feb 16th 1864
Grand review of the Brigade by Gen Steel & Carr [?]. A salute of 13 guns was fired by the 2nd Mo. Battery.

Wednesday Feb 17th 1864
Weather clear and cold.

Thursday Feb 18th 1864
Weather cold and cloudy

Friday Feb 19th 1864
In the evening 30 men of Co B were ordered out with 5 days rations Lt Coan in command. Reported at Brigade Hd. Qrs and returned to camp to start in the morning.

Saturday Feb 20th 1864
Crossed the river at 12 [missing]M and started out with Brigade Forage train. Camped 8 miles out.

Sunday Feb 21st 1864
Traveled about 30 miles over a rough country and camped for the night at Elpaso, a small town situated at the Peach Orchard gap. Saw several groups of deer [illegible]

Monday Feb 22nd 1864
Loaded up at Warners [?] and started back. Camped for the night within 16 miles of Little Rock

weather very warm.

Tuesday Feb 23rd 1864

Started by sunrise. Saw a fine herd of deer near the road, got a shot at them as they were running but suppose I did not hit any.

We met a large scout coming out, said to be going to Batesville. Arrived at the river at 3 P.M. and crossed on the steamer Leon [?] just up from Pine Bluff.

Wednesday Feb 24th 1864

Thirty men of Co B went down the river to guard a fleet of transports lying 12 miles below here.

Thursday Feb 25th [no year included]

Nothing of importance

Friday Feb 26th 1864

Weather warm

Saturday Feb 27th 1864

Nothing of importance during [illegible]

Sunday Feb 28th 1864

Went up to the city to church. The boys returned this evening from guarding the boats.

Monday Feb 29th 1864 [leap year!]

Snowing and hailing all day and night.

Tuesday Mar 1st 1864

Weather warm, snow nearly all went off.

Wednesday Mar 2nd 1864

Co B on picket. One gun boat and four transports came up the river which is rising fast.

Thursday Mar 3rd 1864

Nothing of importance

Friday Mar 4th 1864

Weather fine river rising very fast.

Saturday Mar 5th 1864

Nothing of importance

Sunday Mar 6th 1864

Went up to the city to church

Monday Mar 7th 1864

Nothing of importance

Tuesday Mar 8th 1864
Co B on Picket

Wednesday Mar 9th 1864
Commenced raining at 3 P.M. and continued all evening.

Thursday Mar 10th 1864
Ordered to drill twice a day.

Friday Mar 11th 1864
Capt Wilcox with 100 men started out to move in a Union Family, arrived at our destination 30 miles West of Little Rock late in the evening and camped there for the night.

Saturday Mar 12th 1864
Spent the forenoon in scouting. Started back at 12 [missing][M, bringing with us six Rebels that we captured. Camped for the night within 15 miles of Little Rock. False alarm during the night.

Sunday Mar 13th 1864
Arrived at Little Rock at 1 P.M. Found that the troops here were all under marching orders, to start the next morning.

Monday Mar 14th 1864
The order to march is countermanded for 10 [?] days.
Grand review and Inspection by General Carr.

Tuesday Mar 15th 1864
Weather cold, nothing of importance

Wednesday Mar 16th 1864
Thirteen men of Co B. detailed for outpost on Pine Bluff road 10 miles from Little Rock. We are to remain seven days.

Thursday Mar 17th 1864
Weather fine. Went hunting.

Friday Mar 18th 1864
Nothing of importance

Saturday Mar 19th 1864
Weather cool spent the day hunting.

Sunday Mar 20th 1864
Nothing of importance

Monday Mar 21st 1864

Went into camp for rations. Had to swim Bayou Fourche coming back

Tuesday Mar 22nd 1864

Relieved in the evening and ordered to be ready to march at seven in the morning. Spent the greater portion of the night preparing for a campaign.

Wednesday Mar 23rd 1864

Broke up camp at 7 A.M. and marched to town. Four companies were [illegible] detailed for Pickets and the rest went into camp near town to await the departure of the train.

Thursday Mar 24th 1864

Left camp at 11 A.M. and moved out, Co B. rear guard of train. Commenced raining at 1 P.M. and continued till nearly night.

We traveled sixteen miles and at 10 P.M. camped for the night.

Rain still continues.

Friday Mar 25th 1864

The advance guard of the army had a slight skirmish this morning 8 miles beyond Benton. We traveled about 15 miles today when we caught up with the rear guard of the Cav. Div. and went into camp for the night.

Saturday Mar 26th 1864

Traveled till noon and camped at Rockport [?], a small town on the creek—here we captured a few prisoners.

Sunday Mar 27th 1864

Easter Sunday. Spent the forenoon in laying a pontoon bridge across the Ouachita.

Traveled 10 miles and camped, skirmish in north with the advance guard.

Rain nearly all night.

Monday Mar 28th 1864

Some little skirmishing. Co B on duty collecting Beef cattle for Brigade Commissary. Camped within 9 miles of Arkadelphia. The country over which we passed from Little Rock to this place has been very poor, one unbroken stretch [sic] of Pine clad hills.

Tuesday Mar 29th 1864

Weather cold. Third Mo. detached from Brigade and sent out to the westward to intercept the retreat of the Rebels from Arkadelphia to Washington.

At 4 Pm. we arrived at Holly Wood, a small town 10 miles west of Arkadelphia, where after a short skirmish we captured seventeen Rebels and a Rebel dispatch bearer with a dispatch stating that they had been fighting the Feds at Arkadelphia all morning but were falling back. Here we went into camp for the night.

Wednesday Mar 30th 1864

This morning we sent out several miles from town and destroyed a Rebel armory, with a large

number of guns.

In the evening we got news that several of our men had been poisoned at Arkadelphia, by the citizens. Reced orders to move camp to within three miles of Arkadelphia. The country around here is rich, being composed of a loose sandy soil that yields well. We found large amounts of cotton stored away around here.

Thursday Mar 31st 1864

Moved camp in towards town, bringing with us twenty-five prisoners, forty Negro recruits and a large number of horses mules &c.

Friday April 1st 1864

Early in the morning, the command came moving out and we again took up our line of march. Camped two miles beyond HollyWood. Co B on picket. Three squadrons of the 3rd Mo went out to reconnoiter and drove in the Rebel Pickets five miles beyond here. Pickets firing during the night.

Saturday April 2nd 1864

My horse gave out this morning and I was compelled to leave him and take another, not much better. Traveled eight miles on the Washington road, skirmishing all the way. We now turned off at a right angle to the south, here the 1st Iowa Cavly became hotly engaged with about a thousand Rebels, who had collected to prevent us from crossing the little Mo, at the Washington ford [?]. In this skirmish, the 1st Iowa lost eight men. We are now on the road to Camden. When about 3 miles from the Washington road, the 1st Iowa who are in the advance saw some rebels run from a house and immediately fired at them but unfortunately just as they fired a woman ran out of the house and one of the balls struck her in the breast, wounding her seriously. Four miles farther on we came to the small town of Oakalonia [?], where we had a skirmish with a large body of rebels who fell back across the Little [illegible] at the ford of [illegible]

Sunday Apr 3rd 1864

Heavy skirmishing in front a short distance beyond the ford. And also in rear beyond Oakalonia. The Rebels under Shelby 5000 strong had attacked the train three times and came near capturing it, it being only defended by 3 Regts of Infantry and a section of artillery. The Rebels were finally repulsed after several hours of the most desperate fighting. Our loss is said to be sixty-eight killed wounded and missing.

The Rebel loss is much greater than ours. At one time the Rebels made a most desperate charge on our two guns, and in spite of the terriffic [sic] shower of grape and canister which mowed them down but could not check them, and they almost had their hands on the guns when the 50th Indiana poured a deadly volley into them and then followed it up with a desperate [illegible] charge which scattered them in every direction and the artillery again poured in its deadly [illegible] into the retreating Rebels. They were satisfied with this and let our train alone.

At noon, a Brigade of infantry and our Brigade of Cavly. started back to Holly Wood. At Oakalonia, we shelled a few Rebels away from our advance and moved on. Traveled till 10 P.M. and camped for the night, on the battleground at the forks of the Washington and Camden roads.

A very heavy rain and hail fell this evening.

Monday April 4th 1864

Third Mo. and 10th Ill. sent out to reconnoitre on the Washington road. Went about five miles westward, when the 10th Ill. was fired upon by about thirty Rebels without harm.

We then returned to the command and moved to Holly Wood.

Found the road for the first five miles literally strewn with Shelys dead horses. The trees were also terribly cut up with the Rebel artillery and ours. Arrived at Holly wood in the evening and camped for the night.

Tuesday April 5th 1864

Remained in camp at Holly Wood. Capt Wilcox with 3 squadrons was sent out, on the Fort Smith road, to learn the whereabouts of Thayer. He returned to camp about noon having heard nothing of him. We then started back to the army on the Little Mo, where we arrived late in the evening.

On the 4th first [?], the Rebels had attacked our forces at the ford, and after several hours hard fighting they were severely repulsed, and retreated to the hills several miles distant where they commenced fortifying. During the fight the gallant Gen Rice who is always in front, was wounded in the head, but not seriously. He rode back to the hospital got his head bandaged, lit a cigar [sic] and returned to the front, being gone not over fifteen minutes.

This evening Marmaduke's Adj General with 300 men came in and gave themselves up.

Wednesday April 6th 1864

Early this morning the army moved across the Little Mo. 3rd Mo Cav with 10th Ill dismounted, skirmishers in advance. Heavy skirmishing all the time about 10 A.M. we came to the Rebel fortifications on the crest of the hills, which we flanked and carried without loss.

After pursuing the rebels about a mile farther, the 3rd Mo was sent out to the right to try and overtake a Rebel train, went out about two miles and seeing nothing of the train, we returned and went into camp. Our foragers had a slight skirmish with the Rebel Pickets which they drove in. Patterson of Co P. [?] had his horse wounded.

Thursday April 7th 1864

Myself with six men of Co B. five from Co I [?] and twelve from the 1st Iowa Cavly, all under charge of Sergt. Stearns [?] were detailed to furnish Beef cattle for the Brigade. Remained in camp all day. Heavy rain during the night

Friday April 8th 1864

Our squad captured two wagon loads of bacon in the swamps. Also two Negroes which we pressed into service to cook for our mess.

Saturday April 9th 1864

Gen Thayer arrived with 5500 men mostly Negroes and Indians.

Our command now amounts to near 13,000 men.

The Rebels charged our Pickets three times this evening, and were repulsed, with the loss of four men killed. None of our boys hurt.

Sunday April 10th 1864

Weather clear and warm. The army commenced advancing at 12 M. Four miles out, we struck

the edge of the prairie and immediately skirmishing commenced, with the Rebels who were formed in line on the crest of a ridge. Our squad came into the prairie first being in advance and on the extreme left of our skirmish lines. We were the first to open the engagement with Rebel skirmishers whom we drove back, and captured 200 head of beef cattle from them. We now drove our cattle into the timber and there corralled them.

About 6 P.M. the artillery opened its deep thunders, and fighting commenced in earnest. The rebels replied briskly from two batteries but their fire was too high, the most of their shells passing clear over our boys, and bursting away back in the rear, within a few yards of our corral.

By the time darkness had fairly set in our boys had driven the Rebels from the crest of the ridge out into the open prairie. About 10 P.M. the Rebels made a charge on one of our batteries, but when within fifty yards of the guns, their ranks were swept by a hurricane of grape and canister, and at the same instant, 2 reg's of infantry arrived up of the side of the battery [illegible] Skirmishing continued for about an hour, when the Rebels retired and our boys rested where they were till morning. Our loss today was light. The Rebels are supposed to have lost about fifty men in the charge.

Monday April 11th 1864

This morning we found the Rebels in line of battle on the opposite side of the prairie skirmishing unexpectedly [?] and as soon as Thayer came up, our whole line, some three miles long, advanced across the prairie the Rebels gradually falling back to their works on the other side. The 3rd Mo with Co K's Howitzer Battery occupied the extreme right and was almost the only Regt cavalry engaged. Shortly after noon they commenced a flank movement to the right and at 4 P.M. they had gained the extreme right of the rebel works and after about 2 hours shelling we drove them from there to the woods beyond [illegible] for the night.

Tuesday April 12th 1864

Early this morning the whole line swung round to the right and soon carried the Rebel works almost without opposition, the bulk of the Rebels having retreated towards Washington.

We immediately whirled right about and started for Camden. Traveled about eight miles and camped for the night. The greater portion of the army were out of rations and had to subsist off the country. The infantry suffered terribly. The cavalry being always in the advance fared much better, although we only drew about one cracker for two days. The infantry boys always watched eagerly for us to pass, when they would beg a little piece of meat, or a little meal, or even an ear of corn to roast for their suppers. We always devided [sic] with them to the last mouthful and if we knew where there was anything to be found would always tell them [cut off]

Wednesday April 13th 1864

Traveled about 13 miles over bad roads. The Rear guard consisting of two Regiments of infnry. Negroes and one battery, were attacked by Shelby at Moscow. The Rebels were defeated with heavy loss and driven back across the prairie.

Thursday April 14th 1864

Slight skirmishing in the advance in which one of our scouts was killed. Camped for the night within 18 miles of Camden.

Our squad camped at a house occupied as a Rebel commissary. From this we drew enough rations of Sugar, Bacon, meal and molasses to last us for a week.

Friday April 15th 1864

Heavy skirmishing with Shelby at the Land Hills. He escaped a very strong position and had two batteries, which opened [unclear] fire [cut off] immediately threw their Howitzers into position and replied to the Rebels briskly until a battery of rifled guns came up and took their place. A shell [sic] had already struck one of our pieces and came near dismounting [?] it, at the same time taking off the leg of one of Co C, killing him almost instantly. After an artillery duel of near three hours, the Rebels were driven from their position with the loss of one gun which was burst by one of our shells striking it in the struggle and bursting it all to pieces. Our loss in this engagement was three killed and seven wounded. The Rebel loss was not known but was supposed to be heavy in [illegible].

The 3rd Mo soon took the advance again and went on into [illegible] without opposition. [illegible]

Saturday April 16th 1864

This morning we learned that the Rebels had again attacked our rear guard, and again met with a handsome defeat. The Rebels charged our pickets today and were repulsed with a loss of three killed and four wounded.

Our Brigade went down the river after a steam boat, and returned at 1 A.M. bringing with them the splendid side wheel steamer Homer [?] loaded with 5000 bushels corn.

Camden is situated on a high bluff on the West bank of the Ouachita River. It is a neat little city of about 2600 inhabitants and has been a very important business place for the cotton trade, it has also been a [illegible] slave market. It is better fortified by natural [illegible]

Sunday April 17th 1864

A Rebel Major came in today and gave himself up. Weather warm and raining. Co E, who are on picket were charged on tonight, and lost 1 man killed and two prisoners, but they afterwards escaped and came in three of the Rebels were wounded.

Monday April 18th 1864

One Brigade of Cavalry & a Regt of Infantry crossed the river on the pontoon and went out to learn the whereabouts of the supply train which was coming in from Pine Bluff. Heavy cannoning in the direction of Washington.

At 3 P.M. news came in that Shelby had captured a forage train of 12 [?] wagons that were sent out this morning. Escorted by two Regts of Negroes and a portion of the 18th [?] Iowa and five pieces of artillery. Charging the Rebel [illegible] battery. Our boys [illegible] for several hours. But the struggle was vain the Rebels outnumbered them five to one. And all those who could not make their escape were forced to surrender. The Battery boys spiked their guns before they surrendered and this so enraged the Rebels that they shot the greater portion of them. The Rebels hoisted the Black Flag and would take no prisoners. The Negroes fought desperately to the last, using their bayonets like pitch forks. All who could not make their escape were murdered. A great many are coming in all the time and our loss can not be definitely ascertained. The loss of the Rebels is said to be terrible.

Tuesday April 19th 1864

The negroes are still coming in many of them severely wounded. One poor fellow came in with

both arms broken and brought his [illegible] is said to have been wounded in the arm. Our total missing now will probably amount to 300.

Wednesday April 20th 1864

Today is my 21st birthday, I was relieved from Brigade Commissary [?] and spent the day in camp. The Regt is all out on the other side of the river escorting a forage train. Weather is warm, the trees have all put forth their leaves and all nature seems lovely.

Thursday April 21st 1864

The Regt returned with forage. The long expected supply train came in today, bringing with it a large mail. I received a letter from J—

This was most welcome.

Friday April 22nd 1864

Co B & I [?] of the 3rd Mo started out on a most perilous expedition. They went down the river 27 miles and captured and burned a ferry boat within a quarter of a mile of a brigade of Rebel Cavalry [illegible]

Saturday April 23rd 1864

On camp guard, the balance of the squadron on picket. 1st Iowa Veterans preparing to start home. At 3 P.M. the Rebels commenced shelling our pickets. But we soon got two howitzers in position and after firing about twenty rounds, drove the Rebels away.

Sunday April 24th 1864

Weather clear and cold. Veterans started back with train.

Monday April 25th 1864

Today we got news that the Veterans with the train when twenty five miles out, were attacked by 6000 Rebels and after a desperate resistance of three hours, they were forced to surrender. The 1st Iowa Cavly were in the rear and dismounted. A Regt of Rebel Cavalry came charging down on them but they repulsed them with heavy loss and started back to Camden. The Rebel [illegible]

[Page missing]

army and then pushed on more [unclear] to the advance to rejoin our Regt. We had not gone more than a half a mile when the Rebels opened on the rear with artillery. Brisk skirmishing was kept up till near night at about five P.M. we rejoined our Regt at the Saline, and found them ready to start to Little Rock. They would not let me go with them as my horse was nearly give out. All of the serviceable Cavalry were across the river by dark. All of the Infantry and Artillery except our Howitzer Battery remained on the south side until morning. I got across at about 8 P.M. and after wading the mud which was more than Knee deep for near a mile, I came to a bayou that was very difficult to cross and here with six or eight others we camped for the night. At 11 P.M., one of the most terrible rain storms that we have ever seen [illegible]

Saturday, April 30th 1864

Skirmishing recommenced early this morning, and at 7 A.M. the engagement became general. The musketry firing was the most incessant and terrific that I have ever heard, for five hours it was one continued roll, with now and then a surging volley as some new Regiment came into action. At 8 A.M. the Rebels made several desperate charges, but were severely repulsed. At 9 A.M. they opened on us with the Lord [?] Jack Battery of four guns. [T]he ground we occupied was such that we could not use our artillery at all. The Rebels did not to fire more than six or eight shots with their artillery before the 2nd Kansas Colored & 29th Iowa came sweeping down on them with a terrific yell, and captured all four of their guns. The Negroes were furious and showed them no regard. The Rebels were afraid to [illegible] About 11 A.M. the Rebels made three desperate efforts to turn our left, but were each time repulsed with heavy loss. They then hurled Division after division against our center but the[y] could not break our lines, nor drive thru one foot. Our boys fought with a desperation seldom equalled and never surpassed. At 1 P.M. the Rebels gave way and fled, pursued by our boys for several miles, when they returned and crossed the river in safety. The Rebels had engaged Eight Brigades of Infantry, more than ten thousand men, whilst our force did not number more than six thousand. The Rebels lost in this engagement 1700 [?] men, with two generals and about 8 or ten Cols killed and wounded. Our loss is between eleven & twelve hundred. Gen Price was wounded in the ankle. After burying the dead we moved out far beyond the river and camped for the night. The Rebels [illegible]

Sunday May 1st 1864

Early this morning we burned all of our train except the ordinance and hospital trains, the roads being so that we could not get them through quick enough. The Rebels were already marching on Little Rock. Traveled hard all day and a portion of the night, halted about 10 P.M. thirty miles from Little Rock and remained here till daylight. Out of rations, no supper.

Monday May 2nd 1864

Started early this morning, having breakfasted on a little parched corn. Had not gone more than a mile when my horse gave out, and I was compelled to leave him, giving my saddle and equipments to one of the 1st Iowa boys who was riding a mule without a saddle. I now trudged along on foot being very weak, and the weather awful warm. About 13 miles from Little Rock we met a portion of our Regt who had got out the day before. [illegible] eat anything, and staggered along for nine miles farther, and having got within the pickets I laid down beside of the road completely worn out, and determined to remain there till morning, but as our train was passing, one of the teamsters took me in his wagon, and carried me to town, where I was heartily welcomed by some of my comrades who had not been on the campaign. I shall never forget this days march.

Tuesday May 3rd 1864

This morning I could scarcely walk but managed to get over to the Regt who were camped in the 77 Ohio's barracks. In the evening we moved camp out on the Pine Bluff road.

Wednesday May 4th 1864

One hundred and fifty men from the 3rd Mo and a few from the Regt stared out on a scout.

Thursday May 5th 1864

In shelter tents today.

The scouting party [illegible] two Rebels and brought in some prisoners. They report Price at Princeton with the greater portion of his cavalry on this side of the Saline.

Friday May 6th 1864

Weather very warm.

Saturday May 7th 1864

Moved out to old camp Texas four miles out on the Benton Road.

Sunday May 8th 1864

Cos B I E & M went out to the Hurricane after Gen Carrs carriage which had been broken down and left there on our return from Camden.

They returned late in the evening.

Monday May 9th 1864

Rained all day.

Tuesday May 10th 1864

A scout went out to Benton

Wednesday May 11th 1864

The scout returned having captured a rebel spie [?]

Thursday May 12th 1864

Nothing new, weather fine.

Friday May 13, 1864

Weather warm and sultry.

Saturday May 14th 1864

Nothing of importance

Sunday May 15th 1864

Went up to the city and attended church.

Monday May 16th 1864

Weather very warm. No news.

Tuesday May 17th 1864

Heavy rain and thunder storm.

Wednesday May 18th 1864

Nothing of importance

Thursday May 19th 1864
Weather very warm. A great many sick in the Hospital

Friday May 20th 1864
On Camp guard.

Saturday May 21st 1864
Two Negros came in from the Rebels, they report Price at Camden.

Sunday May 22nd 1864
Nothing of importance

Monday May 23rd 1864
Weather fine.

Tuesday May 24th 1864
Weather very warm and sultry

Wednesday May 25th 1864
Rebel Major Cobbel [?] came in under a flag of truce

Thursday May 26th 1864
Warm and sultry, slight shower in the evening.

Friday May 27th 1864
One hundred men from the 1st Iowa and 3rd Mo went down to White Bluff on the Arkansas river.

Saturday May 28th 1864
The scout came in from White Bluff today, having found no Rebels.

Sunday May 29th 1864
All of the available men in the Regt started out on a scout with 3 days rations.

Monday May 30th 1864
Nothing of importance, weather hot.

Tuesday May 31st 1864
The scout returned from Jenkins Ferry. They ran into a few Rebels and captured several. As they were coming back, six hundred Rebels undertook to cut them off but as soon as they saw our men coming down on them they turned and ran themselves.

Wednesday June 1st 1864
Slight shower in the morning [illegible]

Thursday June 2nd 1864
Four men of Co B, who were patrolling out on the Benton road, were bushwhacked by about 20

Rebels and Thos Debord was severely wounded, J.S. Cupp escaped, David Blines was taken prisoner but escaped. Polk Debord was captured and afterwards paroled, with one of Co G by Frank Robinson, formerly of Edina, and a stated thief and ruffian. Polk Debord narrowly escaped being killed when they were fired upon, by throwing himself flat on his horse, the balls passed over him. Thos Debord was wounded in five places. A musket ball and 3 buckshot in the left shoulder and buck shot in his leg. His horse was wounded in near twenty places.

Immediately all of the men in Co B who could get a horse, rode out in pursuit of the Rebels. As Jasper [unclear] was riding along a [unclear] road, a Rebel sprang out from behind a tree and fired at him [illegible] As the boys were returning a Rebel sprang out from behind a tree, at the side of the road, and presenting his revolver to Geo Walcott's head, said "die d-m you" and fire,d but just as he was in the act of pulling trigger, Walcott through [sic] up his hand and shoved the pistol aside so that the powder only burnt his face. He immediately drew his revolver and fired at the Rebel just as he sprang into the brush. He then jumped off his mule and pursued him up a steep hill, and when within a few feet of him, snapped his revolver at him three times before he discovered that it was not loaded. He then threw his Revolver with all his force and, struck the Rebel in the back of the neck, making him yell pitiously.

He then tried to spring onto him, but slipped and fell, and the Rebel escaped. Walcott was way in advance of the other boys who could not get up in time.

Friday June 3rd 1864

Co B on picket. [unclear]

Saturday June 4th 1864

Picket firing during the night.

Sunday June 5th 1864

Tonight the pickets were again fired on. Raining all evening.

Monday June 6th 1864

Grand review up town by Maj. Gen Sickles. Artillery firing nearly all day.

Tuesday June 7th 1864

Review still continued.

Wednesday June 8th 1864

Sunshine and showers during the day.

Thursday June 9th 1864

Drew clothing today.

Friday June 10th 1864

Raining, no news.

Saturday June 11th 1864

Review of non-commissioned officers by Maj. Lewis who made a speech to us.

Sunday June 12th 1864
Occasional showers

Monday June 13th 1864
[illegible]

Tuesday June 14th 1864
Weather very warm. Had an excellent lot of Huckleberry pies for supper.

Wednesday June 15th 1864
Heavy rain durring [sic] the day.

Thursday June 16th 1864
Weather very warm, sickness continues to increase.

Friday June 17th 1864
On Picket.

Saturday June 18th 1864
Capt Jacobs of Co I arrived in camp having made his escape from the Rebel Prison [unclear] at Camp Ford, Texas.

Sunday June 19th 1864
Attended church in the city

Monday June 20th 1864
News came in this evening that the Rebels had attacked Pine Bluff and Brownsville and were defeated absolutely.

Tuesday June 21st 1864
A scout of 100 men started out with 3 days rations.

Wednesday June 22nd 1864
The scout returned, a portion having [illegible] Saline [illegible]

Thursday June 23rd 1864
A melancholy accident occurred in Co B. Garret Vandiver, had his chin and jaw all shattered by the accidental discharge of his rifle.

Friday June 24th 1864
Weather extremely warm, heavy thunder storm and shower in the evening.

Saturday June 25th 1864
Weather hot, no news.

Sunday June 26th 1864
Gen Carr defeated Shelby at Clarendon and captured some artillery.

Monday June 27th 1864
Nothing of importance.

Tuesday June 28th 1864
Price is reported marching on Little Rock.

Wednesday June 29th 1864
Good news from Carr, he had defeated the Rebels, captured half their artillery and was still pursuing Shelby.

Thursday June 30th 1864
Nothing of importance.

Friday July 1st 1864
[illegible]

Saturday July 2nd 1864
Price's Adj't Gen came in with a flag of truce. Co B turned over all their government horses to Co E.

Sunday July 3rd 1864
Nothing new.

Monday July 4th 1864
Dress Parade, reading of the declaration of Independence, & speeches by Maj. Lewison [?], Lt.Col. Black and others. Also a salute from Fort Steele.

Tuesday July 5th 1864
The dismounted men, started to Duvalls Bluffs after horses

Wednesday July 6th 1864
Nothing of importance

Thursday July 7th 1864
Light showers, very hot.

Friday July 8th 1864
The boys returned from Duvalls Bluffs bringing in about a hundred serviceable horses. Signed the pay rolls for May and June.

Saturday July 9th 1864
Weather hot.

Sunday July 10th 1864
Weather hot, light showers at night

Monday July 11th 1864
Regimental inspection at 10 A.M.

Tuesday July 12th 1864
Drew horses for a portion of each Co.

Wednesday July 13th 1864
Eight men of Co I who were patrols on the Benton Road, were bushwhacked at day light this morning, and lost 1 killed and 3 wounded, one of them in six places. There were about fifty Rebels. A scout was immediately sent out, but could find nothing of them.

Thursday July 14th 1864
A scouting party of the 4th Ark. were fired upon out on the Benton Road and lost 1 killed and 11 wounded

Friday July 15th 1864
On Picket on the Benton Road, out of the pickets fired at 3 Rebels. All quiet the rest of the night.

Saturday July 16th 1864
Went up town in the evening.

Sunday July 17th 1864
[Illegible] Duvalls Bluff [illegible]

Monday July 18th 1864
Co B. sold their private horses to government. Received orders to prepare for a march.

Tuesday July 19th 1864
Thos Elston [?] of Co B, died in Hospital after a short illness.

Wednesday July 20th 1864
Attended the funeral of our departed comrade, at 10 A.M. and laid him in the cold and silent grave with many regrets for a loved companion and a constant friend.

Thursday July 21st 1864
Seventy five men from the Regt started to Duvalls Bluff after horses.

The guns on Fort Steel boomed forth the melancholy news of the death of the Brave and gallant Genl [Samuel Allen] Rice at his home in Iowa.

Friday July 22nd 1864
Nothing of importance.

Saturday July 23rd 1864

The boys came in from the Bluff today with new horses [illegible]

Sunday July 24th 1864

Capt. Eng. with 100 men started to Benton at daylight. 200 of the First Iowa had already gone out ahead of us and taken the road to Jenkins Ferry. As soon as we came to the edge of Benton we charged down the main street and gave chase to five or six Rebels who jumped on their horses and tried to make their escape, but one of them who rode a large dunn horse was overtaken and shot by Geo Lucas of Co C, but as this seemed to have little effect on him, Lucas, whose revolver was empty, now struck him a terrible blow over the head with his revolver, fracturing his skull and killing him instantly. On examining some papers found on his person it was discovered that, he was Brig. Gen A.M. Holt [?]. We took him back into town, and the citizens made a terrible ado over him.

About [illegible] we started back and [illegible]

Monday July 25th 1864

Waited for the 1st Iowa until 10 AM and as they did not come, we started back to camp. On the road we met the 1st Mo, with four wagons coming out after some refugees. Arrived in camp at 12 M.

Tuesday July 26th 1864

Maj Gen Sibley and several other Rebel officers came to our lines with a flag of truce, bringing with them Lt Nugent of the 1st Iowa Cavalry for exchange.

Wednesday July 27th 1864

The veterans of the 3rd Mo. started home on furlough.

Thursday July 28th 1864

On camp guard.

Friday July 29th 1864

Nothing of importance

Saturday July 30th 1864

Weather warm, no news.

Sunday July 31st 1864

Went up to church.

Four companies of the Regt were paid off today. Heavy thunder storm in the evening.

Monday Aug. 1st 1864

On Picket on the Benton road. Slight showers in the morning.

Tuesday Aug. 2nd 1864

Relieved at 8 A.M., weather warm.

Wednesday Aug 3rd 1864

Went out into the country after vegetables [sic], got all of the watermelons apples & green corn that we wanted.

Thursday August [sic] 4th 1864

Nothing of importance.

Friday August 5th 1864

We were paid off in the morning for 24 months. In a few hours afterwards we received orders to be ready for an expedition [sic] with all of our available mounted men at a moments warning. Shortly afterwards we started for Little Rock, 230 strong and under command of Capt Avery. Laid [?] on the streets all night waiting to be ferried over.

Saturday Aug. 6th 1864

Crossed the river about daylight and at 8 A.M. [illegible] and 3rd Mo. Cavalry with 4 pieces of the 5th Ohio Battery, and two mountain Howitzers. Our train consisted of about 30 wagons carrying 10 days rations. The expedition [sic] was commanded by Brig. Gen West. 3rd Mo was rear guard. Crossed Bayou Meto at 4 P.M. and at 10 P.M. came to a bayou 8 miles from Austin which we could not cross with the train until morning.

Sunday Aug. 7th 1864

Arrived at Austin at noon, roads miserable bad. The 3rd Mo. now took the advance, and we pushed on to Stony Point, where we were joined by the 11th Mo, 3rd Mich, 3rd Miss, and 8th Mo. Cavly. with a small detachment of the 1st Nebraska Co. and 22nd Ohio mounted Infantry all from Brownsville and Duvalls Bluff. This increased our forces to over four thousand men

We now moved on to Bull Bayou 2 miles beyond Stony Point where our advance had a slight skirmish. We camped for the night [illegible]

Monday Aug. 8th 1864

Started early and at 11 A.M. came to the Bayou Bridge 6 miles south of Searcy. Here our Brigade made a detour to the left and crossed the Bayou at a mill four miles above, and came into Searcy from the north side. Camped for the night at Searcy Landing. 3rd Mo. crossed over and stood picket. Our foragers had a little skirmish with some Rebels.

Tuesday Aug. 9th 1864

This morning, we took the road to Augusta. Our Brigade moved out a short distance on the Jacksonport road and then rejoined the [word missing?]. Traveled till 1 P.M. and camped for the night in the midst of a large swamp on a Bayou seven miles from Augusta. The foragers from the 3rd Mo. discovered a large Rebel salt work, and a party was sent out to destroy it.

Wednesday Aug. 10th 1864

[Illegible] a scout. Traveled westward through a swamp. We then crossed the Searcy and Grand Glaize Road and followed an obscure Indian trail for about 12 miles ththrough [sic] an uninhabited tract of highland. We then emerged into the Searcy & Denmark Road, and soon passed through the little town of Denmark, where there had been several thousand Rebels the day previous. We went three miles north of Denmark and then turned back and took the road to

Grand Glaize, followed that for six miles over a hilly country and then turned to the right and camped for the night 13 miles west of Augusta, having rode over fifty miles today.

Thursday Aug. 11th 1864

In the saddle by six O'clock and started for Augusta Landing, supposing the command to be there. Arrived within two miles of the place, where we were overtaken by an orderly with orders for us to join the command and the Regt. where we had left them. Traveled [?] for four or five miles this morning [illegible]

Friday Aug. 12th 1864

Started back towards Searcy, found the swamp almost impassable. Camped for the night at Searcy Landing. Had an inspection of Horses and Arms. Drew four days rations and prepared to cut loose from our train, which was to start for Little Rock in the morning with all the dismounted men and serviceable horses.

Saturday Aug. 13th 1864

The train started back to Little Rock. The 8th Mo. were sent out on a scout towards Denmark. Met a force of Rebels and had a skirmish and sent in for reinforcements. The 3rd Regulars were sent out to their assistance. Co C and E of 3rd Mo were sent down [?] to Poplar Bluff four miles below here. We then formed a line of Battle on the south side of the Little Red, and remained there till 10 P.M. [?] When we again took up our line of march, passed through Searcy and took a road leading west. Traveled 10 miles and camped at the foot of [illegible]

Sunday Aug. 14th 1864

A small squad of the 8th Mo. came in this morning, having been out on a scout. As they were coming back, they had to cut their way through a body of Rebels who tried to cut them off. The command remained in camp all day. At 1 P.M. a squad of the 8th Mo. foragers, were fired upon by about 30 Rebels at a house $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from our picket post, and were driven in. [T]he Rebels followed them to within sight of our pickets, and after firing a few shots at our [unclear], scattered in every direction.

In less than 15 minutes the 3rd Mo. were saddled up and out after them, but the search was useless, they had fled into the swamps. A dispatch arrived from Little Rock this evening.

Monday Aug. 15th 1864

The 3rd Regulars came in early this morning bringing with them few prisoners.

We were in the Saddle by 7 A.M. and started back, taking the road through Searcy to Little Rock. [illegible]

Tuesday Aug. 16th 1864

Arrived at Austin about noon, where Gen West with his escort, left us and took the road to Brownsville. We then pushed ahead and camped for the night on the old Battle Ground of Bayou Meto. Rain all night.

Wednesday Aug. 17th 1864

Arrived at Little Rock at noon, crossed the River on the new Pontoon Bridge which is now completed.

Thursday Aug 18th 1864

On outpost duty, a reconnoitering party of 400 men started out on the Benton Road. Continued raining all day. Shortly after night a dispatch came in from Benton for reinforcements, they had had a skirmish with a body of Rebels in Benton. The 3rd Mo. who were in the advance charged them and drove them out of town and across the Saline River, where there was a Rebel force reported to be [?]000 strong. Sargt Weather [?] of Co B had a large ring shot off of his finger [illegible]

Friday Aug 19th 1864

All of the mounted men of the 3rd Mo started out to Benton to reinforce our boys. Rain nearly all day.

Saturday Aug 20th 1864

John Grie [?] of Co. B returned from the scout at Benton early this morning with a dispatch. They had had some little skirmishing.

At about 9 P.M. the scout came in from Benton

Sunday Aug 21st 1864

On Picket everything quiet, weather fine.

Monday Aug 22nd 1864

Today a big scare was got up in camp by a squad of the [unclear] who were engaged out at a [unclear] when a squad of Rebels charged on them [unclear] rest of and wounded one of them, the rest [unclear] tearing into town and reported the whole Rebel army right on us, we were immediately ordered to saddle up and sent out reconnoitering parties on the Benton [illegible]

Tuesday Aug 23rd 1864

A scout from the 3rd Mo went out to Benton, weather fine and warm. A flag of truce started for the Rebel lines.

Wednesday Aug 24th 1864

Went up to the city to have some Photographs taken.

Thursday Aug 25th 1864

News came into camp that the Rebels had captured two companies of the 54th Ill. at Ashley station, burned the station house, a lot of hay &c and torn [?] up the railroad.

Friday Aug 26th 1864

The scout returned from Benton today, they saw a few Rebels but could find no large force. All of the available mounted men of the Regt ordered to be ready [illegible] to march at [unclear] O'clock tomorrow morning with five days rations.

Saturday Aug 27th 1864

[Illegible] to organize our force which consisted of detachments from the 3rd Wis., 10th Ill, 1st Mo, 3rd Mo, 1st Iowa and 4th Ark. Cavly. Four pieces of artillery of the 5th Ohio Battery and two

howitzers. In all not over two thousand men. The 3rd Mo took the advance. When within a few miles of Austin, we came on the pickets of the 9th Kansas who had been scouting around Austin, and had had a fight with a Regt of Rebels at the bridge over Bull Bayou losing two/ten [?] men killed and wounded. The Rebels were driven away from the bridge and left two men dead on the field. After halting our horses to feed, we again pushed ahead. At Austin we were joined by several Regts from Duvalls Bluff, here we sent two pieces of artillery back to Brownsville with a detachment of Infantry, and again pushed ahead, Gen West in command. We camped for the night at the bridge over Bull Bayou where the Kansas boys lost the fight. The [unclear] on picket [illegible]

Sunday Aug 28th 1864

We remained in camp until noon when the command moved on to Searcy and left us here to guard the Bridge until our supply train could come up. About one P.M. a terrible storm came up and it poured down rain for several hours.

All quiet during the night.

Monday Aug 29th 1864

Still in camp. Went on picket again at 12 M. The train arrived late in the evening and camped for the night. A small squad of Rebels charged on one of our picket posts during the night but were repulsed without loss.

Tuesday Aug 30th 1864

This morning we pushed on to Searcy Landing where we joined the command and camped for the night. Heavy rain all day. The command whilst in camp [unclear] had lost several men killed and wounded by Bush wackers whilst out foraging

We drew five days rations and [illegible]

Wednesday Aug 31st 1864

The train started back, and the command crossed the river, rode hard all day, and camped for the night at Grand Glaize on White River, having marched over thirty miles today.

Thursday Sept 1st 1864

Remained in camp till 10 A.M. when moved Westward on the road to Fairview. When within five miles of that place the 4th Ark. who were in advance had a skirmish with some Rebels, and lost one man taken prisoner. Later in the evening we captured a Rebel dressed in our uniform, he was afterwards shot by some of our men. Camped for the night 4 miles south of Fair View on the Little Rock and Batesville road. We learned that Shelby had retreated across White River. Shortly after we had gone into camp a false alarm was raised and we were in line of battle in fifteen minutes but no enemy appeared. Co B on picket. The night passed [unclear] very quietly.

Friday Sept 2nd 1864

Early in the morning a small squad of Co B. went out to a house about a mile from our post, here they learned that there had been thirty Rebels there that night, and as our boys were leaving they saw a squad of Rebels who immediately ran for dear life. We moved out at 9 A.M. and took the road for Little Rock. About noon, we came to the bluffs on the Little Red. The scenery here is

among the most grand and magnificent I have ever beheld. Stretching [sic] away to the south as far as the eye can see, is one continued hill, or roll of hills, which in the distance resemble the swells of ocean broken here and there by abrupt peaks, rising far above the rest and the most prominent is the round mountain, on the rampart [?] of which is situated a beautiful lake.

We descended the steep bluff with difficulty crossed the Little Rock, and spent the night [illegible]

Saturday Sept 3rd 1864

Moved out early and traveled till noon over a hilly and very picturesque country. Stopped at noon to feed, on one of the largest Plantations in Arkansas. The weather is almost as hot as yesterday. After an hours rest, "To Horse" was sounded, and we moved on until near sundown, when we went into camp for the night four miles N.W. of the Bridge over Bull Bayou. This evening we captured a dispatch bearer from Price to Shelby. [T]he dispatch stated that Price intended to cross the Arkansas above Little Rock and join his forces to Shelbys and together they could raid Missouri.

Sunday Sept 4th 1864

Passed through Stony Point and Austin and camped for the night 4 miles south of Austin. The General with his escort and all the sick went on into Brownsville, and took the camp [unclear] Little Rock [illegible]

Monday Sept 5th 1864

Started before daylight and by 7 A.M. we had reached Bayou Meto. We arrived at Little Rock at 11 A.M. Found the greatest excitement presiding in the city. Price reported within a few miles of here. When we arrived at camp out on the Benton Road, we could hear the notes of the fiddle and the banjo, as usual, and not the least sign of fear or excitement.

But shortly after we had arrived "To Arms" was sounded, and a few of the boys fell out in line, but I had just commenced writing a letter to Jennie and was determined not to stop, till I knew there was real danger at hand. But before I had finished my letter, news came in that the 200 [?] Regulars who had been scouting out toward Benton had been attacked 8 [?] miles from here and were nearly all captured. "To Arms" was again sounded and we were soon in line but were ordered back to pack up every thing and have them ready to send to town [illegible] The horses of the Regt [illegible] -ned to come in without riders, and some with men on them without hats or guns, and nearly scared to death. Presently a portion of the 1st Mo, who were out with them came in in good order and from them we learned the straight of the ridiculous affair.

At the time the Rebels made the attack, they were at a halt and many of the men were off their horses and lying down resting with their horses grazing loose when the Rebels came dashing down on them. The 3rd Regulars sprang for their horses and put out, but the 1st Mo formed and checked the advance of the Rebels at first but as they were unsupported the Rebels gradually pressed them back, but in good order and fighting all the time to within a short distance of our line when the Rebels gave up the fight. Some ten or twelve of the Cavalry regulars were captured.

Our Regt and the 1st Iowa now saddled up and [unclear] a line of Rebels. All of our company set out to town but [illegible] hold our position as long as possible [illegible]

Tuesday Sept 6th 1864

All quiet this morning, a scout sent out to Benton with two days rations. Price is reported to have crossed the river at Dardanelle, where there was no force but the 3rd Ark. Cav. to oppose his crossing. [T]hey fought him as long as they could and then retreated.

Wednesday Sept 7th 1864

The scout came in from Benton. They could find no enemy. The [unclear] is now over and all of our camp equipage was brought back from town this evening.

Thursday Sept 8th 1864

Weather Cool and [illegible]

Friday, Sept 9th 1864

On picket. Weather clear and [illegible]

Saturday Sept 10th 1864

Today is the anniversary of the capture of Little Rock.

Sunday Sept 11th 1864

Weather fine. Spent the forenoon writing a letter and the evening in playing chess [illegible]

Monday Sept 12th 1864

Nothing of importance weather fine.

Tuesday Sept 13th 1864

On Picket on the Benton Road. Had a severe attack of the ague in the evening with a high fever all night.

Wednesday Sept 14th 1864

An escaped prisoner belonging to the 36th Iowa came in having made his escape from Camp Ford Texas on the 8th of last month. He was nearly naked and almost starved to death.

Thursday Sept 15th 1864

A scouting party of the 4th Ark. Cav. came in from Cedar Glades yesterday evening, and reported having seen Capt Reed, who had made his escape from Camp Ford Texas. He was taken sick at Cedar Glades and could get no farther.

A scout started out to Cedar Glades this morning, after Capt Reed and [unclear] then went out on the Benton Road to reconnoitre.

Friday Sept 16th 1864

The Reconnoitering Party returned without [unclear]

Saturday Sept 17th 1864

The scout returned from Cedar Glades having had a skirmish with some Rebels there, they brought Capt Reed in with them. [T]hey had found him hid away in the mountains where he had been secreted for several days by some good union families. He was pale, ragged, and

emaciated. [T]he boys scarcely knew him, he had remained alive all the way from Red River on foot through swamps and over mountains and encountering the most unheard of hardships.

Sunday Sept 18th 1864

Still in hospital but feeling much better. Spent the forenoon in writing a letter to Jennie. Weather pleasant.

Monday Sept 19th 1864

All of the dismounted men started to Duvalls Bluff. As I felt pretty well I had started to go along. Capt Agnew went in Command of the detachment [illegible]. The greater portion of the command lay on the levee [sic] all night waiting for a boat to take us down to our camp four miles below here at the Cavalry depot. About 11 P.M. a portion of the boys got on the boat and started down, just as she got into the middle of the stream, a bugler of Co L. fell overboard and was drowned.

Tuesday Sept 20th 1864

Early this morning we got on the boat and ran down to the Cavly. Depot, where the Merrill Horse, had been encamped for some time. We took up our camp on a high bluff, and was busy all evening patching tents &c. A portion of the 3rd and 4th Ark. Cav. came in in the evening and went into camp.

Wednesday Sept 21st 1864

A detachment of the 1st Mo. came in today. Seargt Downing [?] of Co B started back to Little Rock to be [illegible]

Thursday Sept 22nd 1864

Went fishing in the morning and caught a fine fish. Capt [?] Tripet [?] arrived from Little Rock today on his way home, having resigned. The body of Co L Bugler was found by some of our boys today lodged in a drift above here.

Friday Sept 23rd 1864

Went fishing in the morning. Nothing of importance weather fine.

Saturday Sept 24th 1864

Steamers Mathe & Emina [?] [illegible] came up.

Sunday Sept 25th 1864

Steamers Havana and Reserve went down the river, weather fine.

Monday Sept 26th 1864

Steamer Ella came up, no news.

Tuesday Sept 27th 1864

Nearly all of the Regt are at work cutting timber to build stables. Rain all evening.

Wednesday Sept 28th 1864

Still raining. Cleared off in the evening. Steamer Ella went [illegible]

Thursday Sept 29th 1864

Heavy storm last night. The steamer Homiya [?] came up.

Friday Sept 30th 1864

On Picket, raining all day and night weather cold, chilly and very disagreeable.

Saturday Oct 1st 1864

Relieved off picket at 7 AM. Weather fine. Went fishing but took a chill and had to come back. Ninety more of the Regt came over from Little Rock and went into camp. Capt Yates now took command of the detachment. The gun boat No 38 came up this evening.

Sunday Oct 2nd 1864

Today I am confined to my bed by a very severe chill and fever [sic].

Monday Oct 3rd 1864

Very sick today, had to go to the hospital. A portion of Co A came over from Little Rock today.

Tuesday Oct 4th 1864

In hospital, weather cold and chilly

Wednesday Oct 5th 1864

Still in hospital but my health much [illegible]

Thursday Oct 6th 1864

This morning I left the Hospital and came to quarters. Gunboat No. 28 came up this evening.

Friday Oct 7th 1864

Nothing of importance weather fine.

Saturday Oct 8th 1864

Steamers Delaware and Ennsia [?] No 2 came up loaded with troops. The gunboat No 28 went down this evening. [W]eather cool.

Sunday Oct 9th 1864

Weather clear and cool. Steamer Sallie List came up.

Monday Oct 10th 1864

The U. S. Hospital Steamer, D. A. January and Gunboat No 6 came up. Delaware and Ennsia No 2 passed us [?].

Tuesday Oct 11th 1864

Steamer Counsvercial [?] came up.

Wednesday Oct 12th 1864

A tow boat with two barges loaded with forage arrived and unloaded at the Cave [?] depot.

Thursday Oct 13th 1864

Steamer Rose Hamilton came up with a cargo of horses for us. [illegible]

Friday Oct 14th 1864

U.S. Hospital steamer D.A. January went down with a load of sick to take up north.

Saturday Oct 15th 1864

Another detachment of 3rd Mo. came over from Little Rock.

Sunday Oct 16th 1864

Marmora [?] passed down, no news

Monday Oct 17th 1864

The steamers Eclipse and Tycoon came up with cargo of Horses for Cavly Depot. The 3rd Ark were immediately mounted and sent back to Little Rock.

Tuesday Oct 18th 1864

Prairie Rose came up loaded with troops.

Wednesday Oct 19th 1864

Today I was taken very sick again.

Thursday Oct 20th 1864

I feel no better today, weather very chilly

Friday Oct 21st 1864

I was again confined to my bed all day.

Saturday Oct 22nd 1864

[Illegible] better today [illegible]

Sunday Oct 23rd 1864

Received some sad news from home, Father is very sick. I immediately applied for a furlough.

Monday Oct 24th 1864

Started to Little Rock to try and get a furlough. Raining and cold. Met Gen Herron [?] Steel and five other generals at Brownsville station.

Tuesday Oct 25th 1864

Succeeded in getting my furlough made out sent to Hd Qtrs for approval.

Wednesday Oct 26th 1864

Remained in camp waiting to hear from my furlough.

Thursday Oct 27th 1864

The 180 [?] men of the Regt were relieved and started for Duvalls Bluff. I accompanied them.

Friday Oct 28th 1864

The 62 [?], 3 and 4 men of the Regt ordered back to Little Rock

Saturday Oct 29th 1864

We took the morning train [illegible]

Sunday Oct 30th 1864

In camp on the Maumelle Road one and a half miles West of Little Rock. Raining all day.

Monday Oct 31st 1864

Commenced building Winter Quarters.

Tuesday Nov 1st 1864

Continues to rain all day, weather cold.

Wednesday Nov 2nd 1864

Busily at work on Winter Quarters. Raining all the time.

Thursday Nov 3rd 1864

Seventy five men from the Regt, under command of Lt. Yancy started to Duvalls Bluff after Horses, weather very cold and raining. Arrived at the bluff after dark, and had to carry our saddles on our backs a mile and a half through mud knee deep. I managed to wade along for several hundred yards when I got stuck in a mudhole and decided to go no further until daylight. Accordingly myself and several others crawled into a forage house and slept there all night weather very [unclear]

Friday Nov 4th 1864

Arrived at our old camp early in the morning and got a good breakfast. We drew a splendid lot of 87 Horses and remained in camp all day and night, weather clear. Heavy frost during the night.

Saturday Nov 5th 1864

Early in the morning we mounted our horses and started back to Little Rock. Camped for the night at Brownsville station having traveled 35 miles.

Sunday Nov 6th 1864

Passed through Brownsville and took the old road to Little Rock, where we arrived at 3 P.M.

Monday Nov 7th 1864

Ordered to have all of our serviceable horses shod and ready for a fifteen days scout in the morning.

Tuesday Nov 8th 1864

This is Election day. Reville [sic] was sounded at 3 A.M. in order to be ready to start on the scout by daylight, but did not go until late and all of the boys had asked to vote before going. I was sick and could not go.

The election passed off quietly in this portion of the Regt. McClellan only received 11 votes, Glover and Price 3 each whilst Lincoln received 202 Fletcher 203 and Benjamin 99.

Wednesday Nov 9th 1864

Myself with four others were detailed to make boards for Reg. Quarter Master.

Thursday Nov 10th 1864

Sergt. Keck [?] went to Duvalls Bluff and I was left in command of the Company.

Friday Nov 11th 1864

Nothing of importance, weather fine

Saturday Nov 12th 1864

Sergt. Keck returned from Duvalls Bluff bringing the official vote of that portion of the Regt, it was the same as here, they gave an enormous Radical majority.

Sunday Nov 13th 1864

Weather warm and pleasant. I was taken sick with ague again.

Monday Nov 14th 1864

Nothing of importance. Weather warm and pleasant.

Tuesday Nov 15th 1864

The scouting party returned today having been up near Dardenelle. [T]hey found no enemy.

Wednesday Nov 16th 1864

Weather cold and raining.

Thursday Nov 17th 1864

Another squad started to Duvalls Bluff after horses.

Friday Nov 18th 1864

Nothing of importance

Saturday Nov 19th 1864

Weather continues cold and rainy. River running fast, boats can run up to Lewisburgh.

Sunday Nov 20th 1864

Weather clear and pleasant. Lt. Col. Reed returned to the Regt. having been at home on sick leave.

Monday Nov 21st 1864
Weather very cold, nothing of interest

Tuesday Nov 22nd 1864
Nothing new, weather cold.

Wednesday Nov 23rd 1864
Commenced work gathering [unclear]. Weather very cold

Thursday Nov 24th 1864
Regtl. Commissary Sergt, Richard Holliday, was reduced to the ranks at his own request and went to Duvalls Bluff in order to be mustered out with his old company.

Friday Nov 25th 1864
Sergt Miller of Co B came up from Duvalls Bluff, after the rolls of Co B. [T]hey expect to be mustered out tomorrow. Weather cloudy with frequent showers.

Saturday Nov 26th 1864
Today the time of service of the old portion of the Regt expires. Three years ago today, the 3rd Mo was mustered into the service of the United States.

Sunday Nov 27th 1864
Went up to the city to church.
Late in the evening my furlough that I had sent in just a month ago, returned from New Orleans, dis approved by order of Gen Canby.

Monday Nov 28th 1864
Weather cold and raining, nothing new

Tuesday Nov 29th 1864
A scout started out to Saline River with [illegible]

Wednesday Nov 30th 1864
The scout returned, having went beyond Benton, and meeting with a far superior force of Rebels after some skirmishing they returned, bringing with them a notorious rebel by the name of Webt/Mebt/Melt [?].

Thursday Dec 1st 1864
Weather cold and raining, no news.

Friday Dec 2nd 1864
A flag of truce under Command of Capt Grover, started to Camden.

Saturday Dec 3rd 1864
Good news from Sherman, papers just arrived contain the glorious news of the capture of Macon and Milledgeville [?]

Sunday Dec 4th 1864
Went up to the city to church

Monday Dec 5th 1864
Seven men of Co D and one of Co A were mustered out today

Tuesday Dec 6th 1864
Frank Pear [?] of Co B. mustered out. Wm. Rich, R.S. Sergt received a discharge. The old portion of the Regt at Duvalls Bluff are reported to be mustered out and have started home. Weather warm [?]

Wednesday Dec 7th 1864
A scout started out with two days rations, weather cold and very windy

Thursday Dec 8th 1864
Weather very cold and disagreeable

Friday Dec 9th 1864
Nothing of importance

Saturday Dec 10th 1864
Weather very cold, nothing new

Sunday Dec 11th 1864
A scout started out with five days rations. The ice in the river broke the Pontoon Bridge loose.

Monday Dec 12th 1864
Lieut. Clayton died of wounds received in the fight on the Hurricane last October. One of Co E was also wounded in the arm but has recovered. Capt Grover with flag of truce came in from Camden.

Tuesday Dec 13th 1864
Nothing new weather moderating.

Wednesday Dec 14th 1864
Weather pleasant.

Thursday Dec 15th 1864
Inspection in the evening [illegible]

Friday, Dec 16th 1864
Gen Steele is relieved from command of this Department and Gen. Reynolds takes his place.

Saturday Dec 17th 1864
A large fire broke out in Little Rock just before daylight, and destroyed considerable property.

Heavy rain all night. Dress Parade this evening. Geo. Lucas, a private of Co C, was presented with a splendid medal awarded him by Congress for his bravery.

Sunday Dec 18th 1864

Went up to the city to church

Monday Dec 19th 1864

Raining and cold.

Tuesday Dec 20th 1864

Five of Co B were mustered out, very cold and wet, rain turned to sleet and snow during the night.

Wednesday Dec 21st 1864

The scout that started out on the 11th returned today having escorted a train to Lewisburgh. The River raised 13 feet last night and again swamped Pontoon Bridge and [illegible]

Thursday Dec 22nd 1864

A salute was fired from Fort Steel today in honor of the capture of Savannah [sic].

Friday Dec 23rd 1864

Weather clear and cold, river very high.

Saturday Dec 24th 1864

Went down to the city in the evening and staid [sic] all night with the boys at the ambulance corps.

Sunday Dec 25th 1864

This is Christmas Day. I attended church at 5 A.M. and returned to camp at 9. A portion of Co. B on picket, weather damp and cloudy.

Monday Dec 26th 1864

Considerable excitement in camp about going to St. Louis.

Tuesday Dec 27th 1864

Co H & I turned over their arms, as they are to be mustered out on the 1st of Jan.

Wednesday Dec 28th 1864

Weather pleasant. I received a most welcome letter from Jennie.

Thursday Dec 29th 1864

Weather cool, no news.

Friday Dec 30th 1864

Weather [illegible] and cold

Saturday Dec 31st 1864

Forty of Co. I and a large number of Co. H. were mustered out of service.

1865

Sunday Jan 1st 1865

Weather clear and pleasant, attended church at Little Rock. A very destructive fire took place in Little Rock last night. The 13th Kansas in charge of a Battery came down from Fort Smith. The levee [sic] is crowded with boats, up from Memphis.

Monday Jan 2nd 1865

Nothing of interest, clear and warm.

Tuesday Jan 3rd 1865

Weather hot as in June.

Wednesday Jan 4th 1865

Raining all day and night.

Thursday Jan 5th 1865

Commenced snowing and continued till noon when it cleared off.

Friday Jan 6th 1865

Weather clear and cold, no news.

Saturday Jan 7th 1865

No news, weather cloudy.

[illegible]

Monday Jan 9th 1865

Friday I finished [unclear] mule stables and was detached as clerk and Regl Quartermaster Officer. Snow and rain all day and night.

Tuesday Jan 10th 1865

[Unclear] inches of snow on the ground this morning but it soon melted off.

Wednesday Jan 11th 1865

Weather fine, no news.

Thursday Jan 12th 1865

The dismounted men of the Regt started out with 8 days rations to escort a boat up to Fort Smith.

Friday Jan 13th 1865

Weather warm and pleasant. Mr. Debord, of N. W. Mo. Arrived today.

Saturday Jan 14th 1865
Weather fine, nothing of importance.

Sunday Jan 15th 1865
Mr. Debord started home again having failed in getting his son discharged.

Monday Jan 16th 1865
Maj. Mitchel started home he has resigned. Grand review this morning.

[illegible]

Wednesday Jan 18th 1865
Weather very beautiful. One of Co E [?] arrived from Camp Tyler Texas having been a prisoner since the Camden Expedition.

Thursday Jan 19th 1865
Weather warm and pleasant.

Friday Jan 20th 1865
Six more of our boys were mustered out.

Saturday Jan 21st 1865
Raining and very disagreeable.

Sunday Jan 22nd 1865
An expedition consisting of six Regts of Infantry, 3 of Cavalry, and some artillery started out on the Pine Bluff Road, Gen Carr in Command.

Seventeen of the 3rd M. S. Cav. were captured on picket last night by a small squad of guerrillas. A boat came down the Ark. today and reported that the Rebels had attacked our boys at Dardanelle, and got whipped, but afterwards they captured and burned the old steamer Chippewa above Dardanelle.

Monday Jan 23rd 1865
Several more of our prisoners returned from [illegible]

Tuesday Jan 24th 1865
A portion of Co H [?] returned from Dardanelle. They report having had a pretty severe little fight there lasting some four hours. Our force there consisted of 350 men and two pieces of artillery, all under command of Capt Jenks of the 1st Iowa. These Rebels were 1500 strong and commanded by Gen Cooper, with four pieces of artillery. Our boys fought from behind a stockade and terrible execution [sic] with their Sharps Carbines. After about four hours fighting the Rebel Battery was silenced by our guns and they retreated leaving near a hundred men dead and wounded on the field, the loss on our side was very light on account of being protected by breastworks. Here the 3rd Regulars again showed the White feather. Out of their officers when the fight commenced, [illegible]

Wednesday Jan 25th 1865

Received orders to be ready for field service by the 1st of Feb. Our Brig. to consist of the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 8th and 11th Mo. Cavly. Late in the evening Officers call was sounded and we received orders to turn our horses over to the 3rd Wisconsin.

Lieut Morton Roberts Quartermaster resigned today.

Thursday Jan 26th 1865

Weather clear and cold, no news.

Friday Jan 27th 1865

The rest of our boys returned from Dardanelle. Weather cold.

Saturday Jan 28th 1865

Busy all day in turning over property to Lt. Griggs who succeeded Lt. Roberts in the Q. M. Dept.

Sunday Jan 29th 1865

Attended church in the city this morning, and spent the evening in rambling over the mountains.

Monday Jan 30th 1865

Sergt Keck & Wm. Brown of Co B. were mustered out. Weather [cut off]

Tuesday Jan 31st 1865

The [illegible] of the 1st Iowa left today for Memphis. R. Q. M. Sergt Hunters [?] term expires today, his papers are sent in but not yet heard from. We turned over all of our horses to the 3rd Wis. except those of the Non Com [?] Staff which are noted [?].

Wednesday Feb 1st 1865

Cloudy, nothing of importance

Thursday Feb 2nd 1865

Richard Barnes and Newton Vandiver of Co B were mustered out, also six from other companies. The 11th Mo Cav came over from Duvalls Bluff today and moved into the 1st Iowa's quarters.

Friday Feb 3rd 1865

Sergt Hunter was mustered out today. I went up to the city in the evening and whilst there a Drunken man from our Regt unhitched my horse and rode him off, so I had the pleasure of walking back to camp through the mud.

Saturday Feb 4th 1865

Commenced sleeting and snowing this evening.

Sunday Feb 5th 1865

The 8th [illegible] moved over from Brownsville, cold and stormy all day. Maj. [illegible] arrived from St. Louis.

Monday Feb 6th 1865

Weather cold. River rising fast.

Tuesday Feb 7th 1865

Nothing of interest weather cold.

Wednesday Feb 8th 1865

Sergt Hunter was paid off today and started home.

Thursday Feb 9th 1865

Weather clear and warm, no news.

Friday Feb 10th 1865

Last night a band of Rebels, surprised and captured thirty of the 3rd Regulars who were on picket on the Benton Road. A scout was sent out from the 3rd Wis but could find nothing of the Rebels.

Saturday Feb 11th 1865

Weather fine, went up to the city.

Sunday Feb 12th 1865

Attended church in the city this morning, and spent the evening in rambling among the mountains. Weather beautiful and spring like.

Monday Feb 13th 1865

Cloudy and raining all day. Robert Brooking of Co B [illegible]

Tuesday Feb 14th 1865

Cold, wet and gloomy, rain and sleet all day. No news.

Wednesday Feb 15th 1865

Turned over all of our surplus property. Ordered to drill 4 hours each day.

Thursday Feb 16th 1865

Twelve Rebel deserters came in from Washington. When two miles out beyond our pickets they report being stopped by two soldiers in our uniforms who took their revolvers from them (the Rebels) and sent them on into town.

Friday Feb 17th 1865

Nothing of importance, weather fine.

Saturday Feb 18th 1865

Inspection of train and equipments

Sunday Feb 19th 1865

One hundred and fifty of our Regt detailed as chain guards in place of the Infantry who have been sent down the river. I attended church this morning, weather beautiful.

Monday Feb 20th 1865
Weather clear and warm, no news.

Tuesday Feb 21st 1865
One hundred and fifty men detailed for outpost duty on Benton Road with 10 days rations.
Weather cloudy and rain.

Wednesday Feb 22nd 1865
Rain continues. A salute was fired in honor of Washington's Birthday. This evening I was promoted to Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant.

Thursday Feb 23rd 1865
Still raining, but ceased about noon and commenced turning cold.

Friday Feb 24th 1865
Rain still continues with high wind. River rising fast.

Saturday Feb 25th 1865
Ceased raining, but continued to blow a perfect hurricane all day and night.

Sunday Feb 26th 1865
Went to the city this morning to church. The Steamer Argosey had just arrived from St. Louis with Lieut. McAfee [?] as a passenger. Weather clear and beautiful.

Monday Feb 27th 1865
Today [illegible] of the capture of [illegible] and [illegible] by [illegible].

Tuesday Feb 28th 1865
Busy all day turning over property to Lieut. McAfee who now takes charge of the QM Dept.

Wednesday Mar 1st 1865
Lieut. Hartman [?] with a detachment of Co. L., who went up the river on the 18th, returned this evening having been as far as Port Gibson in the Indian Nation. They report having a very pleasant trip, saw no Rebels.

Thursday Mar 2nd 1865
Rain still continues. Our men were relieved from outpost duty today.

Friday Mar 3rd 1865
Raining. River very high, several boats arrived from St. Louis.

Saturday Mar 4th 1865
Received news of the fall of Wilmington.

Sunday Mar 5th 1865
Nothing new, weather fine

Monday Mar 6th 1865
Co K was mustered out and went home.

Tuesday Mar 7th 1865
Today we drew our supplies for march.

Wednesday Mar 8th 1865
Heavy rain last night, accompanied by a terrible wind and hail storm. Weather warm during the day but at night turned cold and commenced raining.

Thursday Mar 9th 1865
Weather cold and cloudy.

Friday Mar 10th 1865
Nothing of importance, weather fine.

Saturday Mar 11th 1865
Forty of the 3rd Wis. who were scouting near Clear Lake ran into an ambush of 200 Rebels and were badly cut up. Only 18 made their escape. Capt Giesler [?] their commander was killed.

Sunday Mar 12th 1865
Inspection at 10 A.M. by Gen West. The Regt was in excellent trim and the General pronounced it the best in the Cavalry Division.

Monday Mar 13th 1865
Went to the city in the morning on business, weather fine.

Tuesday Mar 14th 1865
Light showers in the afternoon

Wednesday Mar 15th 1865
Still raining. Went into town in the evening [illegible] supply of clothing. Raining all the time and very cold. Got gloriously wet.

Thursday Mar 16th 1865
The 1st Brigade with the Division Train went down the river today and Gen West is to start tomorrow.

Friday Mar 17th 1865
Grand Inspection by Gen Reynolds who was highly pleased with the Regt.

Saturday Mar 18th 1865
Maj. Avery was mustered out.

Sunday Mar 19th 1865
Attended church at Little Rock.

Monday Mar 20th 1865
Raining, nothing of interest.

Tuesday Mar 21st 1865
Received orders to consolidate the Regt. into five Co. Co A, E & F, Co A, Co's B, C & K and a portion of F [?] to be Co B. Co's G, H and I to be Co C. Co's L & M remain as formerly.

Wednesday Mar 22nd 1865
[Illegible] weather fine

Thursday Mar 23rd 1865
[Illegible] to duty at the post.

Friday Mar 24th 1865
Weather beautiful, nothing of interest.

Saturday Mar 25th 1865
Today I was taken sick again.

Sunday Mar 26th 1865
Attended Church at the city.

Monday Mar 27th 1865
Nothing of importance, weather fine

Tuesday Mar 28th 1865
Ordered to build new quarters for Summer

Wednesday Mar 29th 1865
Nothing new, weather fine.

Thursday Mar 30th 1865
A wood train of 12 wagons was captured on the Maumelle Road.

Friday, Mar 31st 1865
Went up to the city this morning and returned with a violent fever and had to go to bed for the balance of the day [cut off]

Saturday April 1st 1865
[Unclear] Quarters.

Sunday April 2nd 1865

Sick in bed all day, weather fine.

Monday April 3rd 1865

Still confined to my bed with fever [sic]. A detail of forty men went down below the city to make boards for our new Quarters.

Tuesday April 4th 1865

Rained hard all night.

Wednesday April 5th 1865

Rain still continues.

Thursday April 6th 1865

Received the glorious news of the fall of Petersburg and Richmond. A salute of 100 guns was fired from all the forts around the city.

Friday April 7th 1865

Excitement and rejoicing still continues.

Saturday April 8th 1865

Rain in the evening. Grand review to come off tomorrow at 9 A.M.

Sunday April 9th 1865

Still raining. Review is postponed.

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Monday April 10th 1865

The Regiment was paid off for eight months.

Tuesday April 11th 1865

The N. C. Staff went up to the City this morning and were paid off. Capt Mills, Bailey and Lt Ortain [?] started home on furlough, raining all day.

Wednesday April 12th 1865

Still raining. Cleared at noon.

At two P.M. the whole city and different camps were wild with joy over the glorious news which has just arrived, of the Surrender of Lee and his Army. A salute of 100 guns was thundered forth from every fort and battery around Little Rock.

Thursday April 13th 1865

Weather clear and pleasant.

The Artillery again opened its thunders in honor of the glorious news. Late in the evening a dispatch came in the [sic] Forest had surrendered and that Mobile was captured but the latter is [cut off]. [Illegible] this evening presented with a beautiful sabre by the members of his company.

Friday April 14th 1865

Grand illumination and torch light processions in town tonight.

Saturday April 15th 1865

Weather warm and pleasant

Sunday April 16th 1865

Easter Sunday. The sun rose bright and glorious and all nature seems to partake of the general rejoicing. I attended Church in the morning and spent the afternoon in writing letters.

Monday April 17th 1865

How true is the proverb that "in the midst of Joy we should suspect some sorrow near."

Yesterday evening's sun saw us in the midst of the most heartfelt rejoicings, but this morning's terrible news has struck us dumb, with horror and indignation. "Abraham Lincoln," the saviour of his country, the Patriot [cut off] his glorious career where the grand object of his life was being ever [illegible] the restoration of peace to his loved country.

Oh God, this is terrible! I could have heard of the death of my dearest relative with composure when compared with this. What could the South hope to gain by this last and most damnable act of their black career of crime? In Lincoln the South has lost the best friend she ever had, but woe be to them now every particle of forgiveness is now crushed from our hearts.

I have never in my life seen so much feeling displayed as is aroused by this terrible affair. In the city a citizen who is suspected of sympathy with the Rebels durst not show himself. Several have already been shot down on the streets for rejoicing at the death of Lincoln and many more imprisoned. The city is draped in mourning, all places of business are closed [illegible].

Tuesday April 18th 1865

The gloom of yesterday still continues. Nature herself seems to partake of the general sorrow. Today is cold wet and cheerless.

Wednesday April 19th 1865

Rain still continues, everything is dreary.

Thursday April 20th 1865

This is my 22nd Birthday. My last I spent at Camden and I hope to spend my next at home with the dear ones there. The weather today has been characterized by a succession of terrible storms of wind and rain. I hope the next year of my life will not partake of the nature of the elements of today.

Friday April 21st 1865

Weather cold, nothing of interest

Saturday April 22nd 1865

Light frost this morning, weather very cool. Fagan's Adj't Genl came in from Washington under flag of truce

Sunday April 23rd 1865

Attended church in the city this morning and spent the evening writing letters.

Monday April 24th 1865

Raining all day and night.

Tuesday April 25th 1865

Weather fine. Inspection this evening.

Wednesday April 26th 1865

River very high, no news

Thursday April 27th 1865

Raining all day.

Friday April 28th 1865

Went fishing this evening and shot a couple of fine Buffalo fish in a pond near the river.

Saturday April 29th 1865

Weather very warm and sultry.

Great excitement in the Regt, occasioned by the raising of an Engineer corps from old Regts, more than fifty from our Regt wish to enlist.

A terrible storm came up about 11 P.M. and raged for several hours with great fury.

Sunday, April 30th 1865

Mustered for pay at 8 A.M. Weather [cut off]

Monday, May 1st 1865

Weather beautiful [illegible] by the death of [illegible] and the [illegible] of [unclear]

Tuesday May 2nd 1865

Heavy rain in the evening.

Wednesday May 3rd 1865

One hundred and forty men from the Regt. under Capt Floyd [?] and Lt. McAfee started to Duvalls Bluff after horses.

Thursday May 4th 1865

Received the official news of the surrender of Johnson, which virtually closes the war.

Friday May 5th 1865

Weather fine. A flag of truce arrived.

Saturday May 6th 1865

This morning it set in raining and continued showery all day. The mail arrived in the evening

and I received a most welcome letter from Jennie, which cheered by spirits wonderfully. I had just sat down to answer it when Lt. McAfee returned from Devalls Bluff with 323 horses, and I had to go up town through the rain to get forage for them. [Illegible] failed [cut off]

Sunday May 7th 1865

I was occupied all morning in attending to the drawing and issuing of forage. Spent the evening in answering Jennie's letter.

Monday May 8th 1865

Weather warm and pleasant.

Tuesday May 9th 1865

Lt. Col Reid resumed command of the Regt, Col Geiger having returned and took command of the Brigade.

Wednesday May 10th 1865

Wet, cold and disagreeable [sic].

Thursday May 11th 1865

Still continues cold and wet, no news.

Friday May 12th 1865

Cleared off this morning and continued fine.

Saturday May 13th 1865

An [unclear] train of six or seven wagons is fitting out here.

Sunday May 14th 1865

Attended church this morning in company of Lt. Ayers of the 4th Ark, formerly a member of old Co. B. He has now [illegible]

Monday May 15th 1865

[Illegible]

Tuesday May 16th 1865

Serenade this evening by the 11th Mo. Band.

Wednesday May 17th 1865

Nothing new.

Thursday May 18th 1865

Weather warming, nothing of interest.

Friday May 19th 1865

Received orders this evening to make out the muster out rolls of all men whose time expire before the 1st of October next. (That includes my humble self.)

Saturday May 20th 1865

All in high spirits except the veterans and those who enlisted a little too late.

Sunday May 21st 1865

Monthly inspection at 9 A.M.

Attended church this morning.

Monday May 22nd 1865

Grand review of the Cavalry Brigade this morning by Maj. Gen. Reynolds. Weather intensely hot. I was taken with an attack of sun stroke and had to [unclear]

Tuesday May 23rd 1865

Sick in Quarters all day from the effects of the review; weather hot.

Wednesday May 24th 1865

A Rebel Major with a Lt. & 30 artillery men came in from Camden and surrendered. Fagan's Adj. Gen is in with flag of truce supposed for the purpose of making preparations for the surrender of his force.

Thursday May 25th 1865

Rebels still continue to come in and give themselves up.

Friday May 26th 1865

About fifty Rebels came in today and gave themselves up.

Saturday May 27th 1865

Capt McGinties gang of Guerrillas came in and surrendered.

Grand celebration in camp with the raising of a splendid flag pole.

Sunday May 28th, 1865

Attended church in the morning. Today is [unclear]

Monday May 29th 1865

This morning as a band of paroled Rebel soldiers were coming in, some of them armed, they were challenged by our Negro pickets on the other side of the river and in answer to the summons of "who comes there" they answered Confederate Soldiers, when the negroes poured a volley into them which killed and wounded eight. The Rebels returned a few shots and a general fight would have ensued had not an officer come out and stopped it. Grand review this evening by Col. Geiger, weather fine. A large body of Shelbys men came in and surrendered. Received news from New Orleans this evening that Kirby Smith had surrendered all of the forces west of the Mississippi.

Tuesday May 30th 1865

Near one hundred and fifty men of Fagan's men came in this morning. About half of them refused to take the oath. Gen Clayton takes command [unclear] today [unclear] in hunting

[illegible]

Wednesday May 31st 1865

Two escaped prisoners, belonging to the 32nd Iowa came in today having escaped from Camp Ford one month ago. They were nearly naked and barefoot, but in good health and spirits. They had passed as Rebel soldiers on furlough ever since they crossed Red River. Weather pleasant.

Thursday June 1st 1865

The 8th Mo. started for Camden this morning, to receive the arms of Fagan's Command.

Friday June 2nd 1865

About fifty Rebels came in today. Weather very warm.

Saturday June 3rd 1865

Review of Cavly Brigade at 5 A.M. by Gen Clayton. Weather hot.

Sunday June 4th 1865

Mounted inspection at 8 A.M. Attended church in the morning and in the evening went riding in the country. Weather very hot.

Monday June 5th 1865

[Unclear] Rebels [unclear]

Tuesday June 6th 1865

Spent the day in riding through the country below Little Rock in search of a horse. Took dinner at Badgetts. Nothing of interest in camp today.

Wednesday June 7th 1865

Weather very warm. Read the order this evening for the muster out of all men whose time expire before the 1st of October next.

Thursday June 8th 1865

Preparing for muster out. The Col Adjut & Quarter Master, with all of the line officers except six are to go out. The remainder of the Regt. are to be consolidated into two companies and transferred to the 11th Mo Cav. Weather cloudy.

Friday June 9th 1865

Busy turning over property. The Regt. is relieved from duty.

Saturday June 10th 1865

[Unclear]

Sunday June 11th 1865

Attended church in the morning. Heavy rain all evening.

Monday June 12th 1865

Another grand review of the Army of Arkansas by Maj. Gen. Reynolds. Heavy rain all the time. This evening Lt Col Reed received a commission as Colonel.

Tuesday June 13th 1865

Cold and raining. Turned over our arms this morning and prepared for muster out. The balance of the Regt. are ordered to be consolidated with the 11th Mo. which causes great dissatisfaction among both officers and men. A Regt of Infantry and a large train started to Washington today.

Wednesday June 14th 1865

The muster out rolls were sent out this morning. The Co. are all [unclear] turning over ordinance [unclear]

Thursday June 15th 1865

Early this morning the Mustering officer came up from town and mustered out all of the men whose time expired before the 1st October with the exception of the Non commissioned staff. He had not fully decided who of them to muster out. Heavy storm in the evening. This evening an order came detailing Lt. McAfee to report to the Chief Quartermaster for duty.

The Order allowing soldiers to purchase their arms reached us this evening but too late to be of any advantage to us as they were already turned over to the trains [?].

Friday June 16th 1865

Clear and pleasant.

Today closes my military career in the war of the Great Rebellion. I mustered out of the service of the United States this morning. I am once more a free [unclear]

I leave the service with mingled feelings of happiness and regret. Joy at the prospect of soon being at home, that home for which we have been fighting to protect the loved ones there from the horrors of this terrible war. But Thank God it is past, my task is done and I can now hope to be more than repaid for all the hardships I have endured. Thank God, that he has spared me through this terrible struggle to return in safety to the dear ones at home.

I can not help feeling a shade of regret at parting, probably for the last time, with my old companions in arms with whom I have shared for nearly three years, the fatigues of the march and the dangers of the battlefield. Such must ever claim a place in my remembrance. The old 3rd Mo Cavalry exists no longer as a regiment but her name will not so [unclear] oblivion as long [unclear]

Saturday June 17th 1865

This morning the Paymaster commenced paying off the Regt. Co M was the first to be paid off and started for Duvalls Bluff at 2 P.M. The remainder did not get paid off in time to go on the train. The surplus non commissioned officers and staff are not yet out. Col Reed and the Adjt were paid off and the latter started for home. I shall be delayed till Tuesday waiting for the next boat.

Sunday June 18th 1865

Heavy storm last night. A portion of Co. B, L & C started to Duvalls Bluff, raining all evening. Remained in camp all day.

Monday June 19th 1865

At noon, I bade adieu to Little Rock and to my old companions and started for Duvalls Bluff [unclear] and found [unclear] passage on the [unclear] which leaves tomorrow evening.

Tuesday June 20th 1865

The Steamer Col. Chapie [?] came up from Shrevesport with 1500 paroled Rebels belonging to the Churchill Division.

At seven P.M. we shoved out from the landing and started down White River. Our boat was crowded, having on board the 3rd Ill Battery, and a large portion of the 3rd and 1st Mo. Cavalry besides a lot of Rebels.

Wednesday June 21st 1865

At seven A.M. we ran out of the mouth of White River. About 12 miles above the mouth we passed a fleet of ten transports going down, having on board a portion of the 4th A. C. [?] bound for the Rio Grande. At Island 69 spoke the Bostonia for Vicksburgh [?] and at Island 65 the Emma Floyd, at 12 M. passed two Iron Clads going up. Met Clara Doleen [?] 6 miles below Helena at which place we arrived.

Thursday June 22nd 1865

[Unclear] for the Rio Grande [unclear] 30 took passage on the Marble Cay [?] which left for St. Louis at [unclear] P.M. At 8 P.M. we passed 3 gun boats going up. Weather fine.

Friday June 23rd 1865

Passed the Mo. line at sunrise. Met the Belle St. Louis and at 1 P.M. we passed Island No 11. Arrived at Hickman, Ky at 5 P.M. and at 8 P.M. reached Columbus Ky. Remained here several hours and left for Cairo where we arrived at 11 P.M. Here Col Reid, and Lt. Putnam [?] and Weaver left us and took the cars.

Saturday June 24th 1865

Passed the small town of Commerce at sunrise and arrived at Cape Girardeau at 7-30 A.M. Met the Memphis and Olive Branch going down. Stopped to wood near Sheppards landing and here I learned the sad news of the death of an old schoolmate and a dear friend. Arrived at Chester [cut-off]

Sunday June 25th 1865

Arrived at St. Louis at 3 A.M. during a rain. The Jennie Dean [?] came down at 7 A.M. and I immediately took passage on her for Canton but as she did not leave till Monday evening, I spent the time in visiting my old friends. Spent the evening very pleasantly at Doctor Lintons.

Monday June 26th 1865

Left Doctor Lintons at 10 A.M. and went down to the city where I was busy all evening in getting ready to start home. Left St. Louis at 4 P.M. and passed Alton at sunset.

Tuesday June 27th 1865

Arrived at Louisiana at day light and at Hannibal at 10 A.M. Reached Quincy at noon and laid there for several hours. At 3 p.m. I landed at Canton. Weather cloudy. Took lodgings at the

Downs House and engaged our fare on the stage for Edina tomorrow. Spent the evening in roaming the town which looks [unclear] and deserted.

Wednesday June 28th 1865

We left Canton on the stage at 8 A.M. homeward bound Arrived at Monticello at 10 A.M., where we took the stage for Edina, and were soon rolling away amidst scenes that every mile become more familiar. And the thought that in a few hours more I shall be with the loved one at home lends an additional enchantment to the scenes. I can scarcely realize that it has been only three years since I passed over this road before, it seems like an age, and one that will ever be remembered as the most eventful period [?] of my life. After a halt of an hour and excellent dinner at Victors, we again take our seats to stop no more until we reach our destination.

Fifteen miles farther the old Bridge is passed, and in a few moments more the home of my boyhood is in view, and Oh how eagerly I gaze through the trees to catch a glimpse of the little "Brown cottage" and of the loved one there who is dearer to me than life itself. Thank God! my heartfelt wish is gratified. She is at the window watching for me, and a white handkerchief flutters from her hand in answer to my salute.

Many old familiar faces are passed on the street but I cannot keep my eyes off of her long enough to give them more than a passing glance until the stage turns the corner and I am landed at Home, and receive a glad welcome from my parents and relatives. After a few hours spent in answering the eager questions of my many friends, I excused myself and hastened to meet the Dear One that I have not seen for three long years. [cut off]

Home, home again! Oh thank God for this Jennie, I am with you again and find you unchanged except, taller more handsome and ladylike! The dangers, hardships and sufferings of the last three years are all forgotten in the happiness of the present. I feel like one who has awakened from an unpleasant dream to find himself at home with those he loves dearest.

Jennie I shall always remember this evening as one of the most pleasant of my whole life.

I have now come home to roam no more unless my country should again need my services.

I am thankful to the Almighty that he has spared me through this struggle, to see the dear old flag waving in triumph over every state in our glorious Union, more strong and glorious now than ever. Oh, may it ever be thus! May it still continue to wave until its [unclear] shall [unclear] every foot of American soil.

¹ Corporal George D. Bradway of Company E enlisted August 18, 1861 at Hannibal, MO, was mustered in November 26, 1861 at Palmyra and was killed January 11, 1863 at Hartsville. Source: Missouri Digital Heritage: Soldiers Records