

F. M. BOWEN'S

BOOK

Co "I" 154th N.Y. Vols.

Atlanta, Ga.

Courtesy of Ronald Bowen

Company 154th Reg. N.Y. Vols.
Atlanta, Ga.

November 14th 186

This army has been under marching orders for the past two weeks. We march at 7 o'clock in the morning. On to Savannah, Ga. probably. Gen. Sherman has cut himself loose from communication.

Railroad is being destroyed between here and Chattanooga.

Unavailable men have been sent back.

The camp is busy this evening preparing for a long march.

Everything is being burnt in the city that would benefit the enemy.

There is large fires in the city this evening.

November 15th 18

Morning - We broke camp yesterday morning at seven (7) o'clock. We now find ourselves about fifteen (15) miles south-east of Atlanta near Stone mountain. The city was being fired as we passed through it yesterday morning.

The weather is clear and cold.

Evening - Marched fifteen (15) miles today. Had fresh pork and sweet potatoes for dinner and supper.

We are to depend on the country for subsistence. Swine and sweet potatoes are plenty.

The country begins to be low and
swampy. The land is rolling about the
city however.

Dec 8th 1864

e country begins to be low and
the land is rolling about the
river.

We are nearing Savannah but our
progress has been slow for the past week
owing to bad roads.

Have traveled over fifty (50) miles
through a country so level that water is
dead. Much of the road we had to bridge.
The rebels have tried to impede our progress
by falling timber in the road.

We are now within 18 miles of
Savannah. Can hear cannonading this
evening.

Sat. Dec. 10th

The 1st Div. is in advance today.
It run onto and dislodged a rebel battery
this P.M.

Marched about 5 miles.

Sun. Dec. 11th 1864

Slight skirmishing today. We find the enemy's lines. He is fortified about 4 miles outside the city. Has shelled us some this afternoon. Our corps (20th) is on the extreme left.

Evening - Our Brigade (2nd) is now in camp on the banks of the old Savannah. We have a good view of the city. Also of the nest of treason, South Carolina.

The country is very level. The timber is mostly pine.

The banks of the river are high and projecting on the Georgia side. Not a rock or pebble is to be seen.

Mon. Dec. 12th 1864

Our Brigade is still on the river.
We are protecting the plant and supporting
a battery.

A rebel boat came down the river and
was captured with a quantity of supplies.

Three boys of our regiment were cap-
tured today while foraging on the South
Carolina side.

Heavy ~~commanding~~ is heard on the
right. Gen. Sherman will soon open
communication.

We need hardtacks. We have not seen
one in two weeks. Sweet potatoes are played
out. Our living is mostly boiled rice and
beef.

Weather is fine.

Tues. Dec. 13th 1864

On the banks of Savannah River.

A rebel battery is playing on us
"right smart" today. Ours are doing
nothing as yet.

The weather is clear and cold.

Wed. 14th Evening

Just returned from Division hospital.
Was sent there last night from being hit
on hip with a ball from the explosion of a
shell in camp. It only bruised but dis-
abled me for walking for the time.

I am quite lame yet but I managed to
get back to the regiment by riding a mule.
Too many lice at the hospital for me. Gene
Besecker and Bill Nichols were badly
wounded at the same time I was hit.

Communications open. Ft. McAllister
was taken yesterday.

Dec. 17th 1864

Received news from home today for the first since we left Atlanta. Mail came in twice. The boys are all busy reading their letters. With the letter from wife I received a package containing a pr. socks, a pr. gloves and silk handkerchief.

Went into camp in regular form.

A great draft is hourly being made on the regiment for fatigue.

"Johnnys" continue to throw their shells wounding a man now and then. Aside from that everything is quiet along the line.

Sun. Dec. 18th

All are busy today writing home. I wrote to wife and Mose. Mose is in hospital New Albany Ind. sick with eryziplus. No rations come yet. Nothing but rice and beef to eat. Some coffee without sugar. Warm, dry weather yet.

Savannah, Ga.
Mon. Dec. 19th 1864

Received evidences today that we had communication. Hardtacks came to our support. Drew full rations of bread and half of sugar. Heavy firing this P.M. on the South Carolina shore opposite the city. Supposed to be Foster with a federal force. The Forte our boys are at work on is nearly finished. Our guns are quiet yet. Weather holds dry and warm.

Tues. 20th

Some indications of rain. Cloudy.

All is quiet along the line, except that some cannonading is heard away to the right. I am not for duty yet. My hip is quite sore and lame.

I made a writing table this A.M.

Leiut. J. F. Wellman, James D. Frink and I tent together. Jimmy is on picket. As Corporal, rations have come. I must draw them. Drew rations for 12. Guns
in the Company.

Savannah City, Ga.
Dec. 21st 1864

The enemy evacuated about three o'clock
this morning.

The camp was awakened at four. We
marched at five. At 6:45 we were marching
past the town clock in the city of Savannah
complete victors of the place.

Found the city in good condition with
many women and children therein.

The 2nd Division has the honor of being
first to enter the city. It was surrendered
up to our Div. Commander Gen. John W. Geary.

We are now in camp near city park. It
is a beautiful place.

The weather is cold and windy, with some
rain. An old lady gave bunk mate and myself
a fly tent. It makes us a good tent cover.
Boards and fences are being snatched high
and dry for tenting.

Company 154th Reg. N.Y. Vols.
Savannah City, Georgia

Dec. 22nd 1864

Weather is clear and cold. Knead
overcoat and mittens on. I have gloves,
but no overcoat. We are trying to make
tent more comfortable.

We are having sweet potatoes again.
Frink and I indulged in a dish of fried
eggs for dinner. Gave 75¢ a doz. for them

Fri. 23rd

Weather softened a little. Moved
tents and enlarged camp. I went into
the city and found us a little stove. Wood
is too scarce to use chimneys.

Our Div. is doing provost duty in
the city. About 45 men are daily detailed
out of the regiment.

Dec. 25th 1864
Sunday - Christmas

Weather warm and pleasant.

Jimmy and I finished tent and got our Christmas dinner ready at 2 P.M. Had fried pork and eggs and warm biscuits which I got a friendly woman to make. She was friendly for the money. Gave for them 5¢ a piece.

Eight o'clock P.M.

Little rainy this evening.

Our tent seems as comfortable as our home parlor. Jimmy and I have each of us a chair, which I jay-hawked today and a table to eat and write on. Also a good straw bed - a luxury to a soldier:

It is rumormongered tonight that the other three corps (14th, 15th and 17th) are under marching orders for Charleston. "Go in." We will hold Savannah at all hazards.

Mon. Dec. 26th 1864

Warm and lowery. Jimmy is on guard in town. I have been cleaning my gun all day.

Fri. 30th

The 20th Corps was reviewed by Genls. Sherman, and Williams.

I was on guard from yesterday morning untill this morning in the city. Did not come off in time to go on review. Instead of remaining to garison this place for th winter we now expect to move when the army It is under marching orders.

The weather is cold and raw, but dry.

My bunk mate, Jimmy Frink, went to Hospital with measels tonight.

I have been to work at payrolls this evening. Will be mustered tomorrow for four (4) months pay.

Sat. Eve. Dec. 31st 1864

Was mustered today for four (4) months pay. Cold enough to wear overcoat and mittens. Had a rainy afternoon but it is clear tonight.

Good many roudies in camp. I have been helping Leiut. Wellman about the pay-rolls this evening.

Names of the members present of Co. I.
154th N.Y. Vols.

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| James M. Baxter | 1st Sgt. |
| Geo. Mosher | Sgt. |
| F. M. Bowen | " |
| . H. Fales | Corpl. |
| Wallace Cole | " |
| Mathew Leippert | " |
| Philip Mason | Private |
| Wm. Willover | " |
| Sanford Shellner | " |
| Joseph Moyrer | Co. Cook |
| H. Platner | Reg. Drumer (15) |

For Duty

On detached Service

On Daily Duty

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------|----|--|
| | Captain | | | |
| 1 | 1st Lieut. | | | |
| | 2nd " | | | |
| 3 | Sg'ts | | | |
| 3 | Corp. | | | |
| 3 | Privt. | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Sg'ts. | | | |
| | Corp. | | | |
| 8 | Privates | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Sgts. | | | |
| | Corp. | | | |
| 2 | Privts. | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Total enlisted | 11. | Aggregate | 12 | |

Remarks

Corp. J. D. Frink went to Div. Hospital last night sick with the measles.



Another year has rolled around and the
curse of a civil war still rages in our
land. But the revolution is fast declining.
Much territory and many strongholds have
been renched from its grasp in the time.
Gen. Grant is now knocking at the walls of
Richmond the capital of the so called Con-
federacy.

Gen. Sherman has marched the entire
length of Georgia driving the enemy from
the state. He captured and destroyed
Atlanta and then we marched on to Savannah
where the army is now resting from labor for
a short time. Every railroad in the state
of Georgia is now severed.

The weather is dry and cold. I went
to Hospital to see my bunkmate J. D.
Frink this P.M. He is having a hard run
of the measels.

Names and dates of battles in Ga. in which
I have engaged.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Rocky-face-ridg | May 8th 1864 |
| Rebecca | May 15th " |
| Pumpkin vine creek | May 25th |
| Pine Knob | June 15th |

And the siege of Atlanta from July 22nd
to Sept. 2nd 1864

And the siege of Savannah from the 11th to
the 21st of Dec 1864

Yes, and Peach Tree Creek July 20th

In these battles as history will show our
arms were victorious.

Mon Jan. 2nd
Weather dry & plesant.

The work of fortifying the city was c
menced today. I had charge of a fatigue
party from our regt. The ground digs up
very easy. The earth is a sandy loam. No
stone is to be found.

Savannah, Ga.
Wednes. Evening
Jany. 4th 1865

Have kept myself quite close today.
Was sick yesterday afternoon and last night.
The Weather is fine. Col. Jones starts for
home in the morning on furlough.

An election was held among the officers
last night to choose one from among them
for the office of Major. Vice L. D. Warner
promoted to Lt. Cdm. Capt. R. W. Benson was
unanimously chosen for our next Major. The
prospect is quite good for our remaining here
for the winter. I wish Jimmy was able to be
here. It is quite lonesome. The boys are
lively and merry around the regiment tonight.

The boys are dancing and the darkies are
jigging & patting & singing. We don't get
much mail yet. Expect one in the morning.
Am getting anxious to hear from home.

Thur. January 5th 1865

Weather is cloudy & warm.

The 17th Corps is imbarking for Will-
mington N.C. Our fleet has already com-
menced bombarding its works.

Coln. Jones starts home on leave of
absence. He rec'd his commission as Brig.
General this morning.

Bully for "Pat."

Friday 6th Evening.

Weather has been lowery.

Jimmy is still in hospital & I am alone
in our tent.

Col. Mindul of 33 N.J.V. is in command
of Brig.

We had Brig. Dress parade to night.
Mindul begins to put on the "stile." Eod.
Deforist, Dick & self had an oyster supper.
Get them fresh for \$1.00 per bushel.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 3th 1865

Was on guard in the city yesterday and last night.

The duties of guard & fatigue keep us all busy. It is Sunday today but a fatigue party was called out. Strong fortifications are being built around the city.

Drew clothing this afternoon.

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| I drew | One (1) pr. pants |
| | Two (2) " drawers |
| | Two (2) " socks |
| | One (1) " shirts |
| | One (1) " shoes |
| | One (1) Tent & one haversack |

"Mon" Eve Jan. 9th 1865

The weather today has been cold and windy with some rain.

I made out another pay roll and have one more to make. The old ones were lost.

The regiment was called out for drill this P.M. There not being enough of us for battalion drill it was divided into two squads and drilled by Lieutenants (?) Aimes & Wellman respectively in the manual of arms.

It rains quite steady this evening.

Jan 10, 1865 Savannah

Cold & rainy.

I went down to hospital this forenoon to see my bunk mate J. D. Frink. He will not be out for some time yet.

We don't draw much rations yet.

I bought at Comissary today some flour and pourk. Flour 7¢ per lb. Pourk 22¢ per lb. Sugar 17¢ per lb. Hard bread 7¢ per lb. Coffee 70¢ per lb.

Garisoning Savannah has about played out for the 2nd Div.

We are under marching orders. Probab go within ten days. The old 2nd Div. of the 20th Corps was the first to hoist the stars & stripes in Savannah. We have got the city nearly fortified, and now to leave it for others to guard grinds a "feller's" - demoralizes.

"Sat" Jan 14th 1865

We are still in Savannah and may be
for some time to come.

The Army is very quiet.

The weather is warm & dry. It seems
like pleasant fall weather at home. We
are having two drills per day and dress
parade by Brigade every night at 4-30.
We have to come out with shoes and straps
shining.

We get very little mail & why is
more than I can conjecture. Communicatio
is good. I have not heard from home since
we entered the city. I am living alone
these days. My "pard" is still in hospit

I am having quite easy times but it is
lonesome. Sleep alone & eat alone. Live
well however and will while my money lasts
Pride myself on making the best of pancake
We don't draw but half rations.

Camp 154th Reg. U.S. Vols.
Savannah, Ga. Jan. 15th 186

Sunday - Cold raw wind predominates.

Our Chaplain Mr. Norton, gave us a sermon this P.M.

Rec'd letter from wife & mother under date of Jan 5th. It said all well except my little boy, Frankie. He had the mumps. I answered forthwith. I drew cloathing yesterday. One (1) Overcoat & One (1) Blouse.

- - - - -
Mon. Jan 16th

Cold & cloudy. I am writing for the Lieut. today.

The smallpox is raging to a considerable extent in the city The prospect is good moving from here soon.

Rec'd a pr. of socks & suspenders by mail from wife. My clothing drawn since last settlement amounts to \$36. Edward R. Wood owes me for One (1) Great Coat \$8.50.

"Wedns. Eve" Jan. 18th 1865

Our Brigade is under marching orders. We are to be ready to march in the morning. Probably will move some time tomorrow. I sold my wool blanket for \$2.00. I will carry an overcoat, rubber blanket, one tent & a change of underclothes. That will make a heavy load. Lieut. Wellman will be sent to hospital so we will have no commissioned officer in the Co. Maj. Warner gave me my warrant today. I sent it home. The weather is warm and dry.

A part of ¹⁹79th AC from Sheridan's army arrived today. Supposed to relieve us & garrison the city. Big thing that. The members of Cos. spent the evening in holding a lawsuit between Co. D. Plaintiff & Grover Hopkins, Defendant. It was a jury trial. I had the honor of presiding. Hopkins accused of stealing wood from Co. D. Jury brought in verdict of guilty. I sentenced him to three (3) fusts in a blanket.

Savannah Ga. Jan 21/65

No move made yet & can't be for the present on account of heavy rains. I came off duty last night about 9 o'clock. Had on 36 hours. We were down on the dock guarding the cotton presses & machine shops. 33,000 bales cotton were captured here. The 19th A.C. relieved us. It has rained steady for the last forty eight (48) hours & still raining.

Wilmington N.C. is reported captured with all the garrison. 17 blockade runners & 250,000 bales of cotton. That is what squashes the rebellion.

The rebel congress is suing for peace. They propose to send 13 commissio to meet an equal number of ours to negotiate. But treating has played out. An unconditional surrender & laying down their arms will bring peace. Rec'd letter from Mose & answered it. His health is better. He on light duty.

Sun. Jan. 22nd 1865

Weather continues rainy & cold. I attended church this a.m. No signs yet of our moving. Rec'd letter from Brother George. Folks all well in Cattaraugus.

Evening

This is the most boisterous night I have witnessed in Savannah. The rain pour & wind blows. I am lucky to not be on dut this night. Horace Herington, mess mate, and I have been writing all the evening. Answered George's & letter.

Tues Jan. 24th

Cold raw winds predominate More talk of marching. Expect to go within a few days.

15th Corps has started out but the recent heavy rains stoped their trains. Their track was flooded & 700 mules were drowned. Horace Herington is my mess mate.

Orders are received to march tomorrow morning at 3 o'clock. Hod. takes part of my load on his horse. He takes care of the chaplain's horse and has one to ride himself. It is a great favor to me.

I have written to Naomi and my folks in Cattaraugus this evening. Will now retire and see what the morrow brings forth.

Hod. has gone to bed.

Thurs. Eve. Jan. 26th

We are still in Savannah & the old ~~as~~ Marching orders were countermanded until further orders this morning. We have orders to be ready to march tomorrow morning at 3 o'clock rec'd tonight. Weather holds.

Good news tonight. Augusta Ga. reported evacuated.

In the Field Near Sisters Ferry, Ga.
February 3rd 1865

Started from Savannah on morning of
Jan. 27. Arrived here on night of 30th
having marched about 35 miles.

Found the river & road on opposite si
impassable. Pioneers have got the road
nearly bridged. And torpedos which the
rebs planted in our track dug out. Expec
to move over onto South Carolina side to-
morrow. Branchville S.C. is considered
the objective point. Augusta Ga. is not
evacuated as reported.

I have been under Dr.s care for the
past three days. Kidney complaint. The
Dr. thinks I had better go to hospital
when we move. Feel better today.

The weather is cold & rainy.

The country is a dead level timbered
exclusively with pine. Water of poorest
kind.

Maj. Warner rec'd commission as Lieu
Col. last night. Only 7 guns in Co. 1

Genl. Hospital No. 1 Ward 'E:
Savannah, Ga., Feb. 11, 1865

I was sent back sick from Sisters Ferry when our Div. crossed the river the 3rd. Sisters Ferry is about 60 miles from here by river. The sick came on boat. Arrived here night of the 7th. I have got nearly well again but my kidnies trouble some yet. I am writing for the Ward Mast. I will not remain here after Sherman open communications so I can get to my command

The weather is cold and raw but the sun shines bright. I would like to bask in its rays but cant get out of the yard without a pass. So much for red tape. The papers are full of peace rumors & peace commissioners these days.

Sunday 12th

The day has been spent as is usual in a hospital. Standing to attention for shoulder straps & general inspection. Attended Divine Services in Chapel this evening.

Mon., Feb. 13th, 186

Been very bussy all day writing descriptive cards for every man in the ward.

Attended meeting again this evening. I was listening to a Universal minister probably the only one in Sherman's whole army.

It is a great pleasure to me to once more listen to the teachings of universal salvation.

The Chaplain (Rev. Mr. Rojers of Ill. invited me to his room where we spent an hour in plesant conversation.

The weather is quite cool, but dry. The long talked of peace negotiations seem to be knocked in head. Jeff Davis asked for recognician of his confederacy and of course "Old Abe" couldn't see it. "Unconditional surrender" is the motto of all true Americans.

Thurs., Gen'l Hospital
Scriven House
Savannah, Ga. Feb. 16, 18

Had a thunder shower last night.

Warm & pleasant today. Vegetation starts
Went out on a pass this A.M. Made my
old messmate Jimmy Frink a visit now in
20th Corps Hospital. Just came in from
the chappil where we have been listening
to a lecture on astronomy by our Chaplain
(Rev. Mr. Rogers of Ill.) Tomorrow night
he is to deliver a sermon on the "Punish-
ment of Sin." Text - a fearful thing to
fall into the hands of God.

Sun. Evening, Feb. 19, 1865

Glorious news today. Official dispatch came in announcing the fall of Charleston, S.C. The stars and stripes floats over Forts Sumpter, Moultrin and the city. Evacuated 17th inst. (Friday night). Where will Jeff Davis' hoards next flee to. That is a question. Richmond is their only remaining stronghold and Grant's Army is in motion.

Went out on pass today. Visited my old messmate, J. D. Frink.

Did not attend meeting tonight but wrote letter to H. B. Herington, Co. F, 154th Reg't.

A Table of Distances

The following table of distances which we have compiled from reliable sources will be found valuable to our readers for reference in tracing the various movements now taking place in the Carolinas:

| | <u>Mile</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| From Charleston to | |
| Savannah | 104 |
| Ashpoo Bridge..... | 35 |
| Pocotaligo | 55 |
| Kingstree | 28 |
| Florence | 101 |
| Augusta | 137 |
| Branchville | 62 |
| Orangeburg | 79 |
| Kingsville | 105 |
| Columbia | 130 |
| Aiken | 128 |
| Augusta | 137 |
| Wilmington (by rail)..... | 209 |
| Richmond | 457 |
| Washington | 587 |
| From Branchville to | |
| Charleston | 62 |
| Orangeburg | 17 |
| Kingsville | 43 |
| Columbia | 68 |
| Florence | 108 |
| Augusta | 75 |
| Wilmington | 210 |
| Charlotte | 174 |
| From Newbern to | |
| Beaufort | 40 |
| Goldboro | 50 |

| | Mile |
|---------------------------|------|
| From Kingsville to | |
| Columbia | 52 |
| Florence | 64 |
| Wilmington | 171 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| From Columbia to | |
| Florence | 39 |
| Wilmington | 196 |
| Charlotte | 105 |
| Salisbury (inner line) | 149 |
| to Raleigh (inner line) | 281 |
| Goldsboro | 329 |
| Goldsboro (by Wilmington) | 270 |
| Raleigh do do | 318 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| From Wilmington to | |
| Marion | 84 |
| Florence | 107 |
| Goldsboro | 8 |
| Weldon | 16 |
| Raleigh | 13 |
| Hillsboro | 17 |
| Greensboro | 21 |
| Salisbury | 26 |
| Charlotte | 30 |
| Petersburg | 22 |
| Richmond | 24 |
| Washington | 37 |

Sunday morning, Feb. 26, 1865

I have been confined to the house since last Tuesday with fever and jaundice. Not well yet but resumed my old business in Ward Master's room this morning. Moved my bed in his room. Sherman's Army is in possession of Columbia (Capital S.C.).

I wish I was with my command. Believe my health is getting poorer every day. But there is no getting to the front now. God speed the time when I can get out of Savannah.

Seven (7) months after today and I am a citizen if not shot.

Evening - An extra was issued from Republican office this P.M. announcing the evacuation of Willmington. Not confirmed however.

Scrivenhouse Hospital
Savannah, Ga. Feb. 27th, 1865

Been very busy today writing passes
and orders. Don't feel very well yet.
Throat very sore. The good news about
Wilmington has not been confirmed today
as I hoped it would be.

It is warm and raining this evening.

Feb. 28th

All mustered for pay. Six months
pay owing me now. \$120.00. Would like
couple months pay now. Got "nary cent.

I am feeling pretty well again.

Wedns. March 1st, 1865

Rainy & lowery weather. I procured a general pass today so I can go through the city limits any time from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat. March 4th, 1865

Abraham Lincoln (Old Abe) re-inaugurated today as president of the United States. We did not celebrate it as we ought.

Wilmington is ours. Our troops marched into it 22nd of Feb. This taken from the rebels their last sea port.

Sherman has marched through South Carolina & destroyed its capital and is now in N. Carolina.

My health is getting very good again I am busy most of the time writing.

Scriven House Hospital Ware E
Savannah, Ga., Mar. 4, 1865

Evening - just came in from the
Chappel where the Chaplain and Dr.
Thomas talked to us on the subject of
temperance. I am always interested
in the cause of temperance.

While in the street today I run
across Chas. V. Depuy once a Serg't
of my Co. but now a deserter. He has
not been with the command since last
May. Poor fellow. I pittty him; his
just deserts is death. He is cowardly
& tretcherous but I hope justice may
fall with a downy hand for his _____
is a weakness impossible for him to
overcome.

It is 9 o'clock. I will retire.

Head Qrters. Ward E
Screvin house Hospital
Savannah, Ga. Mar. 7, 186

Just came in from the chappel where
we have been holding a temperance meeti
It is 9 o'clock p.m. The evils of in-
temperance should be oftener pointed ou
to the soldiers. Intemperance is ruin-
ing and killing more men than the bulle
What a loathsome, miserable & wicked
habit.

The boys are obliged to be temperat
these days for the want of greenbacks.
great loss but what there is a small ga

I am entirely out of chink. I feel
the kneed of it much at times. I would
make good the deficiency of our living
times. But better days are coming. Th
jaundice is troubling these days.
Rheumatism too. Hope to go to the com-
mand soon however.

Get no news from the front. Sherma
is somewhere in North Carolina.

Savannah, Ga. Mar. 14, 1865

I have been quite unwell for two day past. Dr. Says got the hives & jaundice Jimmy Frink came to see me before he starts toward the front. He goes tomorrow morning on a boat to Charleston or Wilmington but there is no getting to the command now. I wish there was for I am tired of this place.

No communication to Sherman's Army yet. I think I will lite out to walk when there is, if able.

We are having a great deal of rain these days. Cold winds.

March 15th, 1865

I am feeling better today. Having a considerable writing to do for the ward.

Commenced to eat to an extra table yesterday so I am all right on that score. Have lost my appetite and found a dog's. Am very thin in flesh but in hopes to overcome that in time.

Rec'd letter from wife dated Feb. 26 with \$5 enclosed. Wife and baby boy wer well.

March 17th

Been busy all day transferring and receiving sick.

I am feeling quite well and hearty again. Get plenty to eat such as it is. Bread, meat & coffee & sugar is not limited at our (clerks & orderlys) table. Such fare is sumptuous for a soldier. We generally have potatoes or onion soup for dinner.

Convalescents and all get this & pickles
either cucumber or tomatoes are freely
furnished. But we are quite confident
that about 1/3 of our rations are smuggle
from us by stewards, doctors and cooks.
But that is only one of the many mis-
fortunes & ill treatments which the
private must submit to, while if he were
at home he would buy and sell his superior
in military four times and keep them. And
I would not feel honored with the compar
of many of them in civil life. But
fortunately I have always got along very
smoothly.

I will lite out of this soon as
communication is opened to Sherman's arr

Sat. Eve., March 18, 1865

The weather is warm & dry. Springlike
Grass and foliage starting. I have been
to work all the afternoon for the Dr.
ruling and entering the patients'
names in his prescription book. Attended
services in the chapel this evening. It
is nine o'clock but I will read a while
before I retire.

Sun. 19th - 6 p.m.

We have supper at five. It consists
tonight of bread, tea & pickles.

Had a close inspection this forenoon.
Bed ticks and clothes turned up and over
to see that nothing was concealed there.
My clean shirt and drawers were found
under my pillow. They were yanked out.

And all for "red tape."

General Hospital No. 1
Scriven House Branch
Savannah, Ga., Mar. 24th, 1865

Dear Wife

I am seated alone in my cozy little room trying to think of something to do to pass the time most pleasantly. It is early candle light. Two long hours before bed time. The clattering & shuffling of travel on the sidewalks has in a degree ceased and the patients & attendants about the hospital are either at their beds or quietly performing the duties allotted to their respective spheres. I have done all the writing that the ward has required for this day so the evening is my own. And as my mind tonight in particular is with my little family and "dear ones at home" I will spend the evening scribbling in this old book hoping it will reach them in good time and entertain them until my return. Though I intended

to keep it for a companion until the expiration of my time. I will discharge it, I think, tomorrow six months ahead of myself by expressing it with my overcoat. For this piece of nonsense too large for a handy pocketbook and that season of the year has come for an inhabitant of this climate to cast off their woolen at least overcoats.

The seasons here are full two months earlier than in western N.Y. or northern Pa.

Today thirty one (31) of Gen. Kilpatrick's cavalry were returned to duty from this hospital.

Kilpatrick recently had a fight with the rebel Gen. Wade Hampton. The Kil(Kill) gave the rebs a sound thrashing his loss was heavy and has sent for all who are able to join their commands.

Communication will soon be good to Sherman's whole army when the infantry can easily be reinforced by thousands of convalescents from Savannah, Hilton Head., Beaufort, Charleston and many from northern hospitals.

This place is now being garrisoned mostly by colored troops. They are fine looking soldiers. Neat, tidy & soldierly bearing. I must say that the colored regiments now in this city (those who have been two years in the service) are superior to our white vols. in drill & discipline.

They are officered with white men who hold a rigid and wholesome discipline over them which aided by that pride & self esteem so prominent in the African race especially those that have been blessed with the knowledge of "Old Abe's" emancipation proclamation, makes them efficient soldiers. The non-commissioned officers

are chosen from the most intelligent of the enlisted men who take the greatest pride in performing their duty to the letter.

We all know too that by placing them at the front in line of battle has not been a bad investment of Uncle Sam's resources. The rebel congress has passed a law to raise and arm 200,000 negroes to offset that branch of our resource which they are pleased to denounce as inhuman and contrary to the rules and regulations of civilized warfare.

Confiscation of negroes and property belonging to rebels is what hurts them.

But the rebels dare not put arms into the hands of their slaves. The crisis is now upon them and the slave knows no master where power is given him to strike for his freedom. But enough. It is past bed time.

I may write more before sending this to you. But if I should not, please peruse in secret for it contains nothing intended for the public but merely written for pastime and future references for you and me after my return to my beloved wife " son. And if providence should not see fit to restore me to you, these lines will naturally be a gratification to our dear son in his riper years. Good night.

In truth & affection I remain
your huband

F. M. Bowen
Sergt. Co. I. 154th
N.Y. Vols.

N. N. Bowen

F. O. Bowen

Ward Master's Department
Ward E Screvin House Hospital
Savannah, Ga. Mar. 24th, 1865

Dear Companion.

I have concluded not to send or start my express box until Monday - Saturday today. So I will do a little more scribbling.

It is nearly dinner time, but having done all necessary writing for the Ward until something new turns up, I will direct my attention to thee until the bell rings.

The Ward Master & I changed base this morning. Our room is about 12 by 16 with a carpet and center table therein. A map of the United States & ancient pictures ornament the walls. My desk occupies a prominent place in one corner which is generally covered with a confused lot of papers drawing the inference from a stranger that I am a man of business. The weather is dry & sunny and the air is cool and bracing. We have no fires

in the rooms having cleaned & closed the grates a week ago.

A negro family lives in the house who used to be slaves of the former owner of the house.

They are all employed about the hospital working, cooking, washing etc. One of the women puts our room "to rights" every morning. The bell rings for dinner. I believe we have beans, pork, bread & cold water on the table. That makes a better meal than we usually get.

Well, here goes for it. You will hear from me again this afternoon.

3 O'clock P.M.

Time drags heavily this afternoon. In fact it does every day. I shall not remain here many days longer for I long to see my command. I am going through with a course of medicine now to cleanse my blood which is in a very bad state and

am only waiting to see the effects. I am well & hearty every other way.

I would like to know if you are troubled any now with the erysiplus. I flatter myself that I shall find you on my return in better health than you ever enjoyed before. I hope you have taken good care of yourself in my absence for I feel that there is yet happiness in store for us. As my time draws nearer to its close I grow more anxious to see & imbrace you - my loved ones in the happy family circle that we will be.

Three (3) years is a long time to be absent from home and friends and the soldiers are few who serve their full term of enlistment without a leave to visit their friends. My luck has always cast me in the shade on that score for I never could get up a feasible excuse to visit home when a possable chance presented itself.

But my life is yet spared and health wonderfully preserved so I will not complain.

I look forward to that time of our meeting with so much delight & anxiety - the air castles built with so many happy remembrances is suddenly expelled from the vision for a link will be missing from a once united chain of friends and a vacancy will be there. Not only one but several. But we are not single in bereavement for a whole country mourns the loss of friends embarked in a common cause.

I will not write any more now for I want to take a walk before supper.

Yours in affection

Marion

Savannah, Ga.