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(Diary transcript courtesy of Bruce H. Bryant,
Salamanca, N.Y.)

The Civil War diary of Colby W. Bryant, brother of Gustavus H. Bryant
April 11, 1863 to June 20, 1864

(The original document is in the possession of Helen Howard)

April 13th, 1863- This morning packed tents and broke camp and started with the regiment, for Kelleys Ford. The day has been fine.

April 14th- Early this morning renewed our march passing through some very romantic country going through rough woods and often suddenly coming out in a beautiful clearing of improved land. The day has been unusually warm. About the middle of the afternoon we arrived on the banks of the Rappahannock at Kelleys Ford nearly thirty miles from where we left camp at Stafford Court House.

April 28th- This afternoon came in camp from Picket and in the evening assisted in putting down the Pontoon bridges across the river. About twelve o'clock our regiment marched back to camp where we slept till morning and then, the 29th, marched down and crossed the river and there stayed through the day, in which time a great force came across, including much cavalry.

April 30th- Marched to our place of destination where we arrived about midnight and camped on the ground, where we were soon fast asleep, for we were all tired after carrying such a load a distance of twenty-two miles, consisting of sixty rounds of cartridges, gun, blanket, tent, provisions, etc.

May 1st, 1863- After a good sleep I woke up this morning and our blankets were wet with the heavy dew. The sun was shining brightly, and I could not help thinking that Providence was greatly favoring us with good weather to accomplish the object for which we were there. How little I then thought that before night, May 2nd, I should see the Rebels harring their hated flag in triumph over that same ground.

May 3rd- This beautiful Sabbath morning finds me at the enemy's hospital where I have just risen from a short rest by the side of a number of our wounded men. It was with difficulty that I got up from my bed on the ground for my side is so lame that it hurts me much to rise up when lying down. I should consider my wound pretty bad if it was not that the sight of those around me who are so severely wounded makes my wound seem comparatively small. Our men are as well cared for as the circumstances of the enemy, who have as many and more of their own wounded than they can well tend to, will admit. I find there are many kind

hearted good men in the Southern army, who for their kindness to me now while I am helpless in their hands have won my esteem and gratitude. We talk considerable of the war and its causes, but of course, cannot see anything pertaining to it in the same light. But while we utterly fail to convince each other that we are right, we are willing to admit that we are at least sincere in our view of the conflict.

May 4th- Arrived at Gumia Station this afternoon after a hard march and stayed here till the 8th when twelve hundred of us prisoners started again on our march for Richmond. While here we have had a very hard, cold storm. I think I never knew it any colder north than it has been here now, for this season of the year. It has stopped storming now and looks like clearing off. Dan Gardner is to be left here for he is very bad off from a wound received at the Chancellorsville battle. He probably cannot live but a short time.

May 10th- This warm afternoon arrived at Richmond after ten miles travel since leaving the railroad. For to within ten miles of the city we march on the railroad, consequently not having quite as good a chance to see the country as we otherwise could. We have passed through some nice country, especially as we neared the city. We passed many beautiful places—grand buildings, etc. Near most every mansion are more or less Negro houses, the inmates of which are no more or less than the wealthy planters' servants, and their right to hold them as such, for which they are so very sensitive. While marching through the city we passed and halted in front of the old State Capitol now used for the Confederate Capitol. The building is by no means elegant. While I was looking at the monument of Washington and wondering how the South could still look up to and reverence him as they do as the father of their liberties while they are doing all in their power to destroy the great government for which he did so much. A man standing by, to which I spoke, pointing with earnestness to the monument, spoke of the immortal Washington as being a slaveholder, a class which, as he said, was now looked upon with such contempt by the North. As I could not help thinking that Washington at his death made necessary arrangements for the liberation of his slaves, thus leaving a record of his anti-slaveryism, I wanted

to refer to that, but thought, on taking the second thought, that it would be useless to get in any argument, so I said nothing.

We were finally marched around to Libby prison where many, I believe over three hundred of us, are put on the third floor in this miserable old tobacco house. It is very warm and the air is so impure and suffocating I am sure very many will be sick if we are kept here any length of time.

May 11th- A warm morning. By some crowding I have made out to get so near the windows as to get some comparatively pure air which is a little reviving. I try to make the best of my condition hoping the time will soon come when we will again be outdoors in the pure air. Oh, when we are in the enjoyment of the blessings which a merciful Providence so bountifully gives us how little we prize them or how little we realize their value to what we do until we are deprived of them.

May 12th- I am quite unwell today. Near night we were ordered out of our prison and came about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Belle Island. It does seem good to again get out in the pure air of Heaven and I hope to soon get over feeling unwell. Tonight Walter Walrath and I lie down on the ground or bed which we are used to with a blanket under and over us. It is indeed a treat to have a bed once more outdoors after taking lodging in that hot tobacco warehouse.

May 13th- Tonight I, with the squad I am with, have been paroled by taking our oath that we will not assist in any way, directly or indirectly, our government in the existing hostilities against the Southern Confederacy until exchanged.

May 14th- Today we bid adieu to Belle Island and start with several thousand paroled men for City Point. Before starting I bought a quart of milk of a woman peddler for which I paid a dollar. Not wishing to let them have our money I changed with one of our boys who had some of theirs and got a dollar Confederate to pay the woman. I then traded my pint cup for a little bit of a loaf of bread and then had something really good.

We did not get fairly on our march from the city till afternoon and then they hurried us right through. About eleven o'clock at night, after coming twenty-two miles, we halted and laid down on the wet ground, for it had rained in

the afternoon, till morning.

May 15th- On getting on board our steamers, which had come under a flag of Peace for us, three hearty cheers were given for the glorious Stars and Stripes which were so proudly floating over our heads. Never did they look so good to us as then. May the good time come when they may again wave and "long may they wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

May 16th- This morning had quite a fair view of Fortress Monroe. The day is fine and nothing is transpiring of interest save we are, while sailing over the calm waters, gradually nearing our destination.

May 17th- This warm Sabbath morning landed at Annapolis, Md., and marched about two miles to the Paroled Camp. Annapolis is a very nice place. There is a great contrast between the neat pretty bukdings here and the old, rusty-lloking ones in Richmond.

May 22nd- This afternoon left camp and marched back to the city to embark on steamers to Alexandria; the weather is warm and pleasant.

May 23rd- After a good journey we are landed at Alexandria and march most four miles to Camp Convalescent where we are likely to have a home for at least some time. The day has been warm. Today while riding on the Potomac, I was interested in seeing Mt. Vernon, also Ft. Wahington as we passed them.

May 24th- Today I attended church at the Christian Commission Chapel in this camp. In the afternoon the services were held in the grove outside the chapel. I have enjoyed the day better than any Sabbath before in a great while. Bishop Ganes was one of the preachers. There is quite a revival in progress.

June 16th- Got six months pay which has made this an unusual lively day with those here of our regiment. I also got a good letter from a friend, which was gratefully received. Put a sixty dollar allotment order in a letter to send to Uncle William.

June 19th- Moved from the barracks to a camp close by and have taken up our abode in Gibley tents. Thirteen of us are together in one tent, and in some of the tents are more and in some a less number. It seems quite natural to gain have a bed on the ground.

1. William Chamberlain, brother to Colby's mother,

July 20th, 1863- A warm day. In the morning washed my clothes and wrote considerable in the afternoon, besides making myself acquainted with the news from the papers as usual. In the evening attended meeting.

July 24th- Mustered for pay with all the paroled men.

Aug. 1st- We were mustered again. It has been very warm today.

Aug. 3rd- Received Eunice's letter containing the sad news of my dear brother Spencer's death. Oh, can it be that Death has again visited our family and taken another loved one? Yes, so it is, and I am left to mourn the loss of my dear brother. Another cord which bound my mind to earth is broken, and now earth has much less to claim my affections than before. I know he has given his life in a good cause in serving his country. Still it is very hard to part with him and know that I must go the rest of my life's journey without him.

Aug. 6th- This day which was set apart by the President for Thanksgiving and prayer was observed in the Convalescent Camp. I went over to the meeting at 10:30 A.M. and listened to some possible talk from Rev. Mr. Fitch and Graves. In the evening heard a sermon from Rev. Mr. Bradley.

Aug. 14th- Received twenty-six dollars from Uncle Sam, being the pay up to July 1st.

Aug. 18th- Paid Sam Bryant six dollars for a pair of boots, two dollars to a peddler for a pen, seventy-five cents for a pair of gloves.

Aug. 25th- Commenced raining near night and rained a good deal.

Aug. 26th- George Williams came from Annapolis today. In the afternoon with a number of the boys I went down to Alexandria to see what is left of the 15th. They came there last night. A cool day.

Sept. 26, 1863- This pleasant morning picked knapsacks and then went and got our guns and other equipment all ready to be "off for the wars." Stopped for some time at Alexandria where I saw Thomas and Henry. Near night we started on the cars and after a good journey in pleasant weather arrived at Wheeling at dusk Monday night the 28th. There we crossed the Ohio River and stayed on the shore till nearly midnight in which time we had all of the hot coffee to drink we wanted. Then the Artillery being loaded on the cars, we got aboard and started for

Columbus where we arrived Tuesday the 29th, just at dark. There we got hot coffee and soft bread. At Midnight we got to Dayton where we were worked up to drink more coffee. O how clever Uncle Sam is. Not content with feeding his boys through the day he feeds us nights also, but I could not help agreeing with one of the boys who wished that he would feed us a little more days and less nights.

Wednesday, Sept. 30th- Got to Indianapolis in the forenoon where we took dinner and started in the afternoon on the cars. We reached Jeffersonville a little after midnight and crossed the river on a ferry boat for Louisville where, after staying out in the rain long enough to get pretty wet, finally got in the Soldiers' Home where we all had plenty of good bread, coffee and meat to eat and a good place to wash which, to me, was truly refreshing. We stayed there till after daylight and then received all the bread and meat we wanted to take, which we were told was to be five days' rations. Then we got on the cars and were off again. I have enjoyed myself very well thus far. I was much interested in seeing the country which, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad through West Virginia, was much of the way very mountainous, but after leaving that railroad it has been different. We went through a great deal of splendid country in Ohio and also in Indiana before we got to Indianapolis. The great fields of corn and everything indicated that we were in a land of plenty. The car often stopped near some farm house where very often the woman came out with good things and many women and pretty girls cheered us by waving flag handkerchiefs.

Thursday, Oct. 1st, 1863- It rained all day till near night. Just before night passed through Bowling Green, Kentucky, and saw the fortifications there which the Rebels made when they had possession of the place. Early in the morning of Friday, Oct. 2nd we passed Nashville, Tenn., and a long time before day light Saturday, Oct. 3rd, arrived at Bridgeport, Alabama, where we got off from the cars and made coffee from the water of the Tennessee River, and after it got light we went a short distance to where the regiment was camped, and now we take up our abode with them once more.

Oct. 9th- With five others from the company on fatigue duty, started out at half

past six in the morning and went across the river where a few of us were sent away after boards for the Fort which is being built. Went nearly two miles beyond the picket lines, passed some corn fields and came in sight of others. The boards we got were large fence boards which we brought on a hand car. Saw a widow woman and children which lived in the house where we went. Also talked with other citizens. The country as far as I have seen here is rough, but the soil of the land is very mellow and good, much like the Wisconsin land in the oak openings. The weather has thus far been much cooler than I expected to find, usually warmish pleasant days and cool nights with foggy mornings. It is just warm enough to pass for good warm October weather in York State.

Oct. 12th--Am on picket; today it commenced raining in the evening.

Oct. 13th- It rained hard all night and was very dark. We were relieved this morning by the 27th Penn Regiment and came to camp where, by improving the little time through the day in which it has not rained, dried our blankets and clothes considerably by a good big campfire.

Oct. 14th-¹Am not on duty today. It has rained a good share of the time and then we have laid in our tents, and kept dry in our little house--for us three, Walter, George and me. Our house is made of one rubber blanket and one piece of tent, it being all of the building material we have, but we hope to soon draw our tents and rubbers so to have a larger and better house.

Oct. 15th- Detailed with the regiment on fatigue duty where we went about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and worked in the rain and water making a bridge across a stream and making corduroy roads on the low land. Returned to camp at night wet and hungry. It has not rained in the evening so our time has been improved in drying our clothes till bed time.

Oct. 16th-Worked again. It has not rained today--in the afternoon the sun came out and it has cleared off nice.

Oct. 17th- Still at work on the same road. It has been warm and pleasant and the water has lowered on the stream and flats so that I have not even wet my feet today.

Sunday, Oct. 18th, 1863- We are not on duty today; it rained most of the forenoon so we kept in our little house.

Tuesday, Oct. 27th- We got ready to march and broke camp at half-past six in the morning and went till night and camped some sixteen miles from Bridgeport.

Oct. 28th- Early in the morning resumed our march still passing through the most mountainous country I ever saw. In the afternoon we came in contact with the Rebels. Then we deployed out and by charging (in the act of which we hollered lustily) soon put the enemy to flight and cleared the woods. Shortly after we passed Lookout Mountain on which the Rebs have a few cannon, and they shelled us as fast as they could but the shells usually went over or came short of us. We soon got out of their range and camped in the valley. At night I went on picket. We heard hard fighting and learned in the morning when we rejoined the regiment that the Second Brigade had been engaged, but our Brigade had not been in the action.

Oct. 31st- Today our regiment pitched tents where we perhaps may stay awhile. We are about a mile from where we stopped the first night we came in the valley.

Sunday, Nov. 1st, 1863- Went on picket today but at night we were sent in by General Bushbeck who told us we were not needed as it was not necessary to keep any pickets on that post.

Nov. 9th- Today we are not on duty. It is so cold and windy that our overcoats are worn by many of us to keep us warm. We have been on fatigue duty most every day since we have been here.

Nov. 16th- Today we got our pay. I got twelve dollars in "green backs" and the paymaster "is going to send our checks from Louisville" for us. I paid twenty-five cents for ten sheets of paper and was very glad to get it even at that price for it is not often we can buy any here.

Nov. 17th- Went with our company to work for planting some guns where they will have range on Lookout Mountain. We worked in the forenoon, but in the afternoon the rebels commenced shelling us. A shell came almost to us so the officer in command had us leave and come to camp. George and I spent the remainder of the day in commencing a house and in the evening we went back to work again, for the

rebts could not see us in the night. We worked till midnight and then returned to camp.

Nov. 18th- Our last night's work excused us from duty today so we worked on our house again.

Nov. 19th- Worked on fatigue. The supplies of the army at Chattanooga came from the river landing past here, so we are making corderoy roads and fixing all of the bad places so as to have good roads to carry such an immense amount of supplies on to such a great army.

Nov. 22nd- This afternoon marched according to orders to Chattanooga where we camped for the night, and at two o'clock the 23rd we were ordered into line and marched towards Mission Ridge where the first attack in the battle was made. As we neared the Ridge we had quite a fair view of the Rebs' wagon train on the hill side and also of many rebels as they showed themselves out of their rifle pits or breast works. The enemy had a fair view of our forces which were marching towards them, and I don't wonder that they compared us to swarms of bees pouring forth from every direction in the valley towards them. At night our Company was thrown out on the skirmish line about forty rods from the enemy's pickets where we were kept all night keeping a close lookout to avoid surprise from the enemy, who we thought might attempt to take back what they had lost through the day, but everything remained quiet all night, except what noise was made by our men who were kept very busy making fortifications so as to hold what we had taken. Our loss thus far has been small. We have taken some prisoners.

Tuesday, Nov. 24th- At break of day we were relieved by another division in our regiment and were taken back behind our breast works. While going back the enemy opened fire on the men who relieved us and drove them back, but they were immediately sent out agin. All day we remained in the breast works. In the afternoon we heard heavy firing on old Lookout Mountain which we had quite a fair view of, and as the battle continued we saw the smoke rising from the mountain till at last the whole part of the mountain which lay to our view was wrapped in dense fog. The firing continued till near midnight. The next day we learned that old Lookout

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Mountain was ours. All honor to Old General Hooker who commanded the two Corps which took it.

Nov. 25th- This morning we left the breast works to go on picket, but were soon called from our picket post, and marched to the left of the ridge where we expected to have a hand in the fighting which was then going on there, but before we arrived to the place our men had whipped the rebels so we stayed there that night. About dark cheer after cheer ascended from all along our lines at the intelligence that Bragg had evacuated Mission Ridge, and long before daylight the 26th, we were on the march after him. We passed much which Bragg's army in its haste to get away had left--meal, flour.... At times we got so near them as to compel his rear guard to turn and give fight, but the troops with whom our regiment was marching did not get up to have a hand in till it was over and the enemy away. After it got dark we camped for the night and renewed the march after light.

Nov. 27th- Tonight we camp early and get and eat our supper, then we have laid down our blankets for, as usual, a bed by the side of our camp fire. Tonight I am to be on guard. I only have to stand one relief at the Colonel quarters where the horses are kept.

Nov. 28th- It is a rainy day. We do not march today but a short distance back where we remain till day and night.

Nov. 29th- It is not stormy but the wind blows cold. We roll up our blankets this morning for a start. We turn towards Knoxville in pursuit of Longstreet's army, and at night camp at Cleveland after coming some twenty miles today. At one house which we passed today the woman came out and sang as we were passing, a good Union song which it was indeed very cheering to hear. Cleveland is quite a town and there seems to be a strong Union feeling here. Some of the most intelligent women which we saw while coming through the village greeted us by waving handkerchiefs and by their peasant looks exhibited unmistakable pleasure at once more seeing the Stars and Stripes born by a Union army.

Nov. 30th- Again on the march but only came today to Charleston, about eleven miles

from Cleveland.

Dec. 1st, 1863- Drew rations this morning of flour and meal which we captured from the Rebs at Charleston, then started on and came about two miles on beyond Athens, making some seventeen or eighteen miles travel today. Athens is rather a nice village in which there are a great many good Union folks. When we marched through the village with our banners waving unfolded and keeping step to the martial music, we were welcomed by women waving handkerchiefs and in one or two instances our flags, which had evidently been kept secreted since the war. Most all seemed pleased at the sight of a Union army. The day has been pleasant.

Dec. 2nd- A pleasant day. We did not get to Philadelphia till after dark so we could not see how the town did look. We stopped for the night after going a good while after dark, and had a good place to camp in the woods. Long before light the 3rd we started and to Loudon some six miles from Philadelphia. At night went on picket.

Dec. 4th- Laid in camp today.

Dec. 5th- Started at one o'clock and went to Low's Ferry some six miles from Loudon. Got there at day light and crossed the Ferry, then went on to Louisville. Got there after dark and camped for the night. Many of the boys are pretty tired tonight having come from where we first started this morning (as near as I can find out) as much or more than twenty miles.

Sunday, Dec. 6th- We moved a short distance for a better place to camp so to be on good dry ground. Gen. Howard went on to Knoxville some thirteen miles ahead. We understand that what there is left of Longstreet's Army are skedaddling for Virginia, and now as our prey is gone we are going back to Lookout Valley.

Dec. 7th- Long before light I got up and went to the mill a short distance for flour for our company which was given out to us, and after eating our breakfast out of it, we start on our backward march. The flour, meal and meat which our army gets from the citizens as well as the forage for the horses and mules, our officers give them a receipt on the government for their value, but where we capture stuff as we did at Loudon and other places, it saves Uncle Sam much. We came back to Low's Ferry and stopped for the night. After crossing the ferry I go on horse

guard tonight at the colonel quarters.

Sunday, Dec. 13th- This afternoon arrived at or near Cleveland where we camped till the next day, the 14th, then moved camp. Marched through the village and camped close by and in sight of it. In coming here we stopped a day or two near Athens in which time I went on picket. The night we camped near Charlston it rained hard and it also rained the afternoon previous to that, but the weather most of the time on our march has been beautiful with cool frosty nights.

Dec. 15th- We have not moved today. It has been pleasant. I washed my clothes in the forenoon and most night. In the afternoon I started with a good many others from the regiment to go out with our teams foraging. Our teams which we went with had just come up from Lookout Valley bringing a few "hard tax" and a very little sugar and coffee for us, which we gladly received, as we had been kept for a long time on flour and meat. We had got most sick of flour cooked with simply water and salt.

We started out in pursuit of corn to feed the mules and went about five miles from camp. We carried nothing with us except loaded guns. After loading up what corn we got we went back to camp, getting there about bed time.

Dec. 16th- Started at day light and marched about seventeen miles where we camped after dark for the night.

Dec. 17th- It rained very hard last night so it has been quite muddy today, but we have marched much of the way on the railroad and tonight finds us back in our old camp at Lookout Valley some fifteen miles from where we stopped last night. Things around here look quite natural except everything is so quiet on old Lookout Mountain where the enemy used to throw shells at us.

Dec. 19th- Today we moved camp to a good place in the woods a short distance from our old camp. At night I went on commissary guard.

Sunday, Dec. 27th- We now have a good warm little house with a good fireplace so we are all right for enjoying ourselves in writing and reading what little we can get to read or in any way which may best suit our fancy. We now have the best place to camp which we have ever been in. Close by good pure spring water and plenty of wood. And as there is now no enemy near our picket duty promises

to be very light. O how much reason we have to be thankful to God for this last great victory and for all his blessings to us. How good it seems to see the glorious old stars and stripes floating over the mountain where so recently we saw the rebel flag flying and could not pass a day without hearing their cannon which they were firing at the Union army. I trust the time is not very far distant when the Stars and Stripes will everywhere take the place of the rebel rag.

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Jan. 1st, 1864- I am not on duty today. Winter has fairly commenced. Last night was cold and this morning there was a very little snow on the ground. It is so cold today that it seems more like a York State winter day than like the "Sunny Southland."

Jan. 3rd- The weather is still cold although it is getting warmer. I have nothing to do today but to read and write and improve my time as best I can. How much I would prize attending church today with my friend (from whom I am separated) as I used to, and I cannot help looking forward to the time when, if the Lord spared my life, I may again have that privilege. Still for the present I must content myself where I am, feeling that this is just the right place for me in the present condition of our country.

Jan. 4th- The weather is still cold although it is getting warmer. I have spent quite a part of the day in writing.

Jan. 25th- This morning we broke camp and marched about five miles to Kelly's Ford where we camped on the banks of the Tenn. River. We are about surrounded by mountains some of which are very rocky. We are likely to have a home here for some time unloading steam boats, which run from Bridgeport, and loading our wagons which carry the supplies for the soldiers in the valley. The weather is warm. It seems more like May than like winter. Day after day the sky has been as cloudless as in the summer and just warm.

Jan. 26th- The weather still warm and pleasant. The water here is excellent. It is pure cold spring water.

Jan. 27th- Received orders to march at 1 P.M.. Some pack up and start and go

within about half a mile from our old camp at Lookout Valley where we camp near Hooker's headquarters. We expect to stay here awhile, and for ought we know a good while.

Feb. 1st, 1864- Today with a number from our company went on picket where we stay for two days and having a pretty good time and Feb. 3rd return to camp. Our Corps are now scattered on the railroad from Bridgeport to Chattanooga to guard the railroad, that being the duty which is assigned at present.

Feb. 6th- It is rainy and rather cool. I am not on duty so I am free to use my time in reading, writing, etc.

Feb. 8th- Received two months pay, it being \$26 and what is due to the 1st of January. I am on duty today as orderly.

Sunday, Feb. 21st- Listened to the second sermon which has been preached to us this winter.

Feb. 24th- A warm summer like day. In the forenoon we had a general inspection.

March 10th- Returned to camp from two days picketing. This morning saw the first flowers of the season, peach blossoms were in full bloom. Yesterday was my birthday. While patrolling along the railroad saw a citizen ploughing in oats on an old corn field with one horse. Last night it rained hard, but it is warm and pleasant today. Tomorrow we are to have a Brigade review.

March 11th- A Brigade review by General Howard.

March 22nd- We are getting a real snow storm. It has snowed hard most all day and the snow is now several inches deep. It is not very cold although it is cool enough for a good fire to be comfortable to sit by.

March 30th- A long time before day light there is quite a bustle in camp preparatory to marching. We started quite early and marched about eighteen miles where we camp for the night and the 31st at six o'clock renew the march and go only about five miles where we stop and stay until our cavalry scouts go on several miles, and return to us. Then we start back for Lookout Valley without having seen a solitary Rebel. We camp out the night in the same place where we did last night, about two miles from Trenton.

April 1st- Last night it rained very hard but it slacked up before morning. We started a little past six and went through mud to Trenton, and from there we walked on the railroad and arrived to our home in the Valley about half past two. And now it is left for history to tell of the great raid into Georgia by Bushbeck's Brigade, a harmless raid where we saw no enemy's property or anything else to injure, still I suppose it was for the best to send out a strong scouting party, whereby it is ascertained that there is no Rebel army in the direction where we went. We followed up the valley, it being much of the way mountainous on both sides of us.

April 14th- A general review by General Thomas. General Hooker and staff were also present. After the review we had our usual monthly inspection with our knapsacks, haversack and canteen as usual.

April 22nd- A warm pleasant summer-like day. We have had cool weather and much of the time it has been rainy for most of the spring. But now it seems our cool weather is all over. The trees are leaving out and it seems indeed like summer.

April 28th- A Brigade drill by Bushbeck this afternoon. We went near where we had quite a fair view of the sham fight by the Third Division. It looked very much like a real battle.

May 2nd, 1864- Came in camp to camp today from three days picketing.

May 4th, At half past four in the afternoon we broke camp and bidding goodbye to Lookout Valley started on our march. At night we camp after going six miles. The day has been warm and this pleasant night I am well satisfied with our bed on the ground where we can gaze on the beautiful starry sky with nothing between us and it.

May 5th- This morning Gen. Geary came up with the rest of our Division. Also Gen. Hooker accompanied by Gen. Sickles passed us. Our regiment is left back to guard the wagon train and while we are waiting in the woods, which make a good shade from the hot sun, the Sixteenth Army Corps pass us. Some time past noon we start and follow the wagon train- going by fits and starts- as the teams are

often hindered by crossing some bad place- until past midnight when we reach the place where our Brigade is camped. We then lie down till almost four o'clock the 6th- when we resume our march. It is noon, just as we were about getting some dinner, orders came to start so we fall in and go towards the Rebs. Long before reaching Mill Creek Mountain we deploy out and march on the skirmish line through brush, over logs, streams, etc. On we go until a part of the way up the mountain we are fired upon by the enemy. We get us as good a position as we can and return the fire. The rest of the Brigade rushes in as the battle rages hard. At night we withdraw our forces. Many of our brave boys have been killed and very many others wounded. At night, a short distance from the mountain we camp, a weary, tired band. My old tent mate was wounded, so I go in with Augustus. The wounded are cared for in the hospitals.

May 13th- Since Sunday we have had a cold hard rain storm, but the weather is nice now. Now we are stopped near the woods facing the railroad,

...where there is brisk skirmishing going. At night we leave and are taken a short distance where we stop for the night and work at making breast works. We then lie down and rest till morning.

May 14- On this afternoon the ball opens and the battle rages very hard near by. Our brigade are kept behind our breast works as a kind of reserve I suppose. All is quiet again at night. Late in the evening we again fall in and march till we get to the rest of our Corps, where we arrive and lie down in time to get a little rest before morning.

Sunday, May 15- This morning we get ready to fall in. We do not go far till near noon when the ball opens. We march up where we are ordered; in crossing the road, the rebs throw shells at us from a little fort. When we go, we go with a rush and by cheering lustily when we charge. The poor rebs are soon put on the skedaddle and our victorious army occupies their strong position, and from the captured artillery hurl the missiles of death at the enemy.

Many hearts are stilled in death by the fire of the enemy. Our regiment has not suffered much today, only a few being wounded. It was good to see brave Old Joe Hooker going around (where the thickest) in the hardest of the fight as cool and apparently as unmoved as if there was no iron hail flying all around him. Many of our other officers also evinced great bravery. At night we go up near the enemy where we work digging a road to draw the cannon from a captured fort. A few of us dig while the others lie on their arms to repel an attack. About midnight we are fired upon but the enemy are soon silenced. About one o'clock we leave the field and go down in the woods at the foot of the hill where we lie down till morning.

"I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true.
For the Heaven that smiles above me,
Shines and awaits my spirit too.
For the cause that lacks assistance
For the wrong that needs resistance,
And the good that I can do.

As the clock strikes the hour,
How often we say 'Time flies'
When tis we that are passing away.

Pure as that white, the future see;
Bright as its red, the sky;
Fixed as its stars the faith shall be
That nerves us all to do or die."

May 16- In the morning we start after the retreating enemy who it seems are putting out towards Atlanta. The day is very warm. As we go across the battle field here at Resaca, we pass much which indicates the speedy rout of the enemy--even their dead are not all buried.

After fighting the enemy some; although our regiment on the way from Resaca have not been engaged, we camp Thursday night.

May 19- near Cassville a small town. There we lie till Monday 23rd, early in the morning we resume our march after the enemy. The rest with a chance to clean up by washing my clothes has greatly refreshed me, so I go on.

Wednesday, 25th- Our Divisions march ahead today about noon, while General Hooker and staff are riding along at the head of the column a volley is fired at them from the enemy which we have now go up to--brisk skirmishing is kept up by the brigade which is ahead of us and we are drawn up in line to protect our flank where we hastily throw up small breast works of logs. Near night we fall into line and march far to where the battle is raging. We are soon ordered in line of battle and on we go through brush and over logs until we soon come to the battlefield where the missiles of death are flying all around us--and still the battle rages in all its fury until dark when there is a lull and it begins to rain. We get orders to remain where we are and keep our ammunition and guns as dry as possible. We are so very warm when we first get quiet that soon most of us feel very chilly out in the cool rain and many of the boys get so chilled through that the next morning they shake as if they had the ague, but we have no reason to complain--the groans of the wounded around us remind us that they are the sufferers.

Wednesday June 1st- This afternoon our Corps leave this wilderness where we came one week ago. We have been here under the enemy fire since then, although we have so fortified by making a number of lines of breast works that we have been a good deal protected. Although a good many have been wounded on the skirmish line considerable

many have been killed as that is in front of the breast works. We have a strong position here with a plenty of canon falling the enemy which often speak in tones of thunder. The enemy have also been fortifying. We could plainly hear them at their work falling trees in the night. As we leave this place where for the past week we could scarcely raise up without being in danger from the bullets which were whizzing around us, it seems quite odd when we get beyond their reach. At night we stop way to the left of where we were before. In this place we have a pretty strong force which the rebs may ere long be aware of.

June 2nd.- In the afternoon we fall in and come some two or three miles and then camp for the night. We marched a part of the way in line of battle, there being fighting near by, but we did not get our hand in it. We stop in the woods so we are still in the wilderness, it seems after all. We had a very hard rain while on the way here.

Sunday June 5th- We are still here where we stopped the night of the 2nd. We have had a long rain storm but this afternoon it has cleared off very nice. Considerable firing nearby on the skirmish line since we have been here, and the rebs have thrown some shells over this way, but it is all quiet this afternoon--no firing at all except by our men discharging their pieces to clean them. Reep says the Rebs have fallen back towards Atlanta and left their fortifications here.

June 6- This morning, we strike tents and start again but only go a few miles when again we stop in the woods and make breast works of rails, driving in stakes to hold them together. Each division of our regiment puts up our tents in order, expecting, it seems, to remain here a short time. The other divisions in our Corps lay front of us, so we are too far to the rear to see anything of the Johnny-rebs.

June 10th- This morning we had orders to pack up. The Fourth Army Corps pass us through the day, but we are still here at night. Artillery pass with the troops, and everything indicates that the lull of the past few days will soon be broken by the din of battle. Here we have had a good rest with a chance to wash our clothes. If the Lord spares my life I expect to march in a short time with our victorious army even to Atlanta. The weather remains warm although the occasional shower, with much of the time a gentle although refreshing breeze has made it seem quite

comfortable of late.

June 12th- It is a very rainy day, and no move by us.

June 13th-It is a very rainy day.

June 14th-Our regiment went out on Picket and just got our lines established in the rear, apparently to avoid a cavalry attack on our wagon train, when we were called in and marched to the front.

June 15th- Near noon we are ordered to fall in and we march up to near the edge of Pine Ridge where we deploy out in a skirmish line, and on we go up the hill. We are supported by most of our Brigade who are marching in line of battle behind us, other Brigades in our Division being at the sides of us. Soon after reaching the enemy, I am slightly wounded while some of our brave boys fall near me never more to rise. I, with some inconvenience, make my way down the hill to Dr. Rugg and am ordered to the hospital, being also told that on account of my wound, I will get a furlough, it now seeming to be the method of sending the wounded where they are able to go home for a season. So after shaking hands with the Dr. and the few of our boys who were there, I go to the hospital where I stay until....

June 16th- While at the hospital I heard hard fighting. Also the 17th,18th,19th and the 20th--hard fighting with a good deal of cannonading. We had a great deal of hard rain in all of the above days (the 18th,19th,20th).

Sunday June 19th-Near noon we start in ambulances and are carried into Aquia, about five miles. Here we get on the cars where we stay and lay on our bed of brush.

June 20th- We start for Chattanooga. The cars run very slow. We wait about two miles beyond for a bridge to be repaired, which the Rebs have burned today--said to be a cavalry squad of some fifty or sixty men.

June 22nd- Arrive at Chattanooga and take breakfast at the soldiers' home. At four in the afternoon start for Nashville where arrive the 23rd and are taken to the Cumberland Hospital where I remain till the 27th. Leave P.M. and arrive at Jeffersonville, Indiana in the morning of the 28th. Am quite well provided for in this hospital.