

THE ENLISTMENT AND IN CAMP AT JAMESTOWN
AND THE SEVERAL CAMPS WHILE IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES

William D. Harper enlisted at Sinclairville from the town of Charlotte, Chautauqua County, New York State; the 28 th day of August, 1862. There being at the time a great need for soldiers at the front, and its being also at the time of Pres. Lincoln's call for six hundred thousand volunteers to fill up the ranks and replenish the lines made vacant by the former battles of the war. At the time there were great mass meetings held at Sinclairville and elsewhere, On this evening when the time came to ask for volunteers, William was one of the first to approach the front to give his name as a soldier and for the protection of the flag and the country. There were about fifteen or sixteen enlisted that evening. At the time of enlistment William D. Harper was in his twenty-third year. Rather below medium height, being only about five feet four inches in his stocking feet. William with several others went to Jamestown in Chautauqua County, August 30 th 1862, was examined and accepted and mustered into the United States Service on September 26 th, and became a full-fledged soldier of the United States and went into camp near Jamestown known as Camp Brown, It being at the time the rendezvous of the 112 th Regt. encamped there. After William spent the greatest part of his time at home with his parents until the 22 nd of September 1862. When he took leave of home and many friends, and his last parting with his beloved mother whom he always adored and loved above all else in this world, never to see her again on this earth.

William was a member of the 154th Regiment of New York State, made up from Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, numbering about eleven hundred effective men and the very pick men in those two Counties, with Col. A.G. Rice at its head. The said William was a member of Company F with Thomas Donnelly of Sinclairville as Captain. His First Lieutenant, was John C. Griswold of Arkwright later becoming Captain when Donnelly resigned. He was as good a man as ever commanded a company. The 154th Regt. with Harper left Jamestown for Washington, D.C. on the 29th day of September 1862, bidding goodbye to Fathers and Mothers, Brothers and Sisters and a farewell to everybody behind, and never to be seen again by many noble boys whose bones rest in the Sunny South. The 154th stopped at Elmira and got their equipment, guns, etc on the next day after leaving Jamestown and arrived in Washington, D.C. on October 2, 1862, and crossed the long bridge and the Potomac River and was on the Virginia soil for the first time where the war was in full blast. In the same evening after leaving Washington they went into Camp Seward on the Arlington Heights near the old home of General Robert E. Lee, and if ever there was a tired lot of soldiers it was us on this very night. We got some coffee and some hard tack, ate them and, about midnight lay down in the dust and sand four or five inches deep to rest. Our Regt. stayed here on this sunny hill, doing camp duty and enjoying ourselves as best we could until about the 12th of Oct. Then we broke camp and went near Fairfax the next day, getting a little nearer to the army. It probably would not be out of place to mention here that William kept a diary most of the time while in the service of the United States and that the

first year's keeping was lost and all I have to refer to is history, and a few notes of camps and battles and dates. Therefore I will only try to give a few of the most important and pass on. It will only give a passing glance of a soldier's life and the way he is obliged to march at a moment's call. We left our camp near Fairfax Nov. 2 and got to Thoroughfare Gap on the 9 th. We expected to meet the Rebs, but we did not meet any. These camps are not where we stopped over night, but where we expected to stay a few days awaiting orders, etc. We moved around where we were ordered on duty here and there between the dates of these camps, doing picket duty, etc. We left this camp Nov. 17 and formed another camp near Germantown on the 19 th. We stayed there until Dec 10 doing picket duty, etc, then packed up and went to Falmouth Dec. 16 and again left there on the 19 th of January, 1863. About this time the Union army of the Potomac was supposed to be on the move and a great fight was expected. This was known as General Gurnsides famous "mud march" towards Fredericksburg. Our Regt (the 154 th) was detailed as a guard to protect the Pontoon train and the laying of the Pontoon boats in the river. We broke camp on the 19 th and got to where the pontoon boats were on the 22 nd, during the day and up to 6 P.M. At this time the weather was all that could be wished for and the roads dry and dusty. Everything indicated a success. We started with the loaded waggons of the pontoons about 5 P.M. when the whole train was on the move, and about 6 o'clock it commenced to rain and before midnight there were half of the waggons stuck fast in the mud and before daylight they were all stuck fast. I think that night will be as long remembered as most any night during the war. There lay the most part of

the army near the point of crossing the river and not a boat could be got there to make a crossing for the troops to cross on. It was a terrible night. It rained incessantly all night, and the mud, I think, without doubt was over two feet deep in places. It was impossible to get a waggon or a cannon up the bank to the river. Were the soldiers wet? No name for it. I don't think there was enough dry thread in our Regiment's shirts to make one man a dry shirt. No sleep for the poor soldier. Next morning came with fair weather. The rain ceased to fall and the sun was shining bright and clear. Everything was at a standstill. Soon there could be seen orderlies carrying dispatches in every direction and in a little while everthing was beginning to move back, the whole orders countermanded. Our Regt. took a near cut for our old camp at Falmouth and got there the 24 th of January and stayed there until February 5 th, and went into a new camp near Stafford Court House on the 6 th day of February 1863. Everything now was very quiet. Winter had set in and the weather was very cold for Virginia. The army was nearly all nearly all in some winter quarters not expecting to fight or march in that part of the army at present or until the coming of warmer weather. Nothing much of account going on except watch hing ing the enemy and picket duty, but plenty of that.

We stayed in this camp until April 13, 1863, when the army again made preparation for another great move and undertaking under the command of General Joseph Hooker. Our Regt. left camp at Stafford on April 13 th and got to the Rappihannock River the 14 th, near Kellysville and stayed there until the 28 th, when our Regt. crossed the river at Kelley's Ford,

being the first troops to cross at that point. At this time the Union Army held one side of the river and the Confederate army the other. The Rebel pickets were on the banks of the river so our regiment had to cross in the dark of the night in pontoon boats and drove the Rebels back and held the ground until there could be a pontoon bridge laid suitable for the troops and waggons and also the artillery to cross on. I don't think it was more than an hour and a half before the bridge was laid and troops were crossing. There were several shots fired at us while we were crossing in the boats but without much harm and when we did get across we sent them flying. We then went back to camp and recrossed the next day, the 29th of April when the whole Potomac army was on the move for the Chancellorsville fight. We got to Chancellorsville the 30th of April, 1863. Our regiment (the 154th) lay quiet on May 1 but the army was busy and also the officers, getting the troops in place and getting ready for the battle to commence. The weather was warmer and pleasant with all waiting for the order. We had built some light breast-works which were afterwards of but little account to us. The 2nd came and everything quiet. But Oh! That dreadful day! Before sun set the ground that was nice and dry in the morning was wet with human blood, and many a poor soldier fell, never to rise again. Such is the carnage of war. May we hope and trust that our sons will never witness such a sight. My regiment was expected to be on the second line of battle belonging to the eleventh corps commanded by General O.O. Howard formerly under General Frantz Seagal, the "flying dutchman". General Butterfield with his troops were on the first line and directly in front of us. We were stationed near General Howards headquarters. As hard tack and coffee is the main diet of the soldier and as it

getting along towards night I thought it best to have a cup of coffee and a few of our crackers, as I did not know what the next hour would foretell and before I had hardly time to finish my coffee we got orders to fall in and before you could think the rattle of musketry and the roar of cannons could be heard at our front and before we could hardly get into line the Rebels were closing in on our right and in part of our rear. And what was the result? General Butterfield's troops broke and came back in the worst disorder and the Rebels partially in our rear and there was nothing for us to do but retreat, and retreat we did as best we could. Our colors shot down, our color sergent killed, our Adjutant, Samuel Noys, killed, Our Colonel wounded, with over two thirds of our men killed, wounded or taken prisoners. About midnight of the night of the battle, what could be found of our Regiment(not more than there was of one company in the morning) was brought into line to support the artillery, then placed near General Joe Hooker's headquarters. We lay down in the dust and mud made by the blood of the soldiers. It was fighting over contest ground. The rebels would fall back only to come again with more vigor than ever and if possible to break our lines but our brave boys stood fast. This went on for some time and at last it seemed as if the very element had broken loose and all at once a great shout and a hurrah went from our troops-- and I don't think that there ever was a hurrah ever appreciated as it was at that time. They had gained a victory and held the ground. The Rebels fell back and our men were master of the field there. Our Regiment was then ordered back into a piece of woods to rest a little and to do some picket duty during the rest of that great battle. On the 6 th our Regiment crossed back over the

Potomac river at the United States Ford and went straight to our old camp at Stafford on May 7, 1863. But think of the change in that short time. On the 29 th of April we broke camp with about 600 good and sound men and in less than ten days came back with less than two hundred for duty. The camp was a desolate looking place. Tents that had from four to five now one or two. And those with two or three, maybe one and some not any. Our Colonel gone, our Adjutant killed, our sergeant killed (he was my cousin) and several other officers gone, say nothing of nearly three hundred of our men. We couldn't stand it to stay in that camp, so our officers thought best to locate us in a new camp, so they did on May the 28 th. There we stayed until June 12 th, 1863 when we broke camp and started after the Rebels and old Lee, as he was leading towards Maryland. This was the starting of the army of the Potomac in pursuit of General Lee's army which terminated in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Our Regiment got to Goose Crkkek June 17 th, crossed the Potomac river June 25 th on a pontoon bridge of 64 boats at Edwards Ferry. and got to Jefferson, Maryland the same night. The 26 th, we-marched to Middletown and the 28 th to Frederick City, the 29 th to Creagers town and got to Emitsburg City at night and camped there. Here the whole army of the Potomac was encamped near this city. This was a very hard and tedious march, many of the soldiers dropped by the wayside on account of the heat and the horses too. On July 1 st 1863 there was a detail of two hundred men ordered from our Brigade, fifty men from our Regiment (I being one of the number) under command of our Major L.D. Warner, to go to a little town about twenty miles away by the name of

Sabillville to drive the Rebel cavalry out of town, but before we got there they had skedadled. At this time the army lay all quiet at Emmitsburg. At about three o'clock P.M. we could hear cannon firing in the direction of Gettysburg, Pa. When the advance of this squad reached Emmitsburg it was after dark and not a tent or sign of the army could be seen. In the meantime the army had marched to Gettysburg and commenced the fight. As I was with the advance of this squad, we marched a few miles toward Emmitsburg and lodged in a stone barn the rest of the night with Lt. Casler of our Company and in the mean time our Major went to Gettysburg and found out how things were. About 3 o'clock A.M. he came to the stone barn with the sad news that there was a terrible battle in progress and that our regiment had been engaged and that every man had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Oh, what terrible news to hear. We were ordered to report to Gettysburg as soon as possible and he went to look after more of this squad.

So We started ^{and went a little ways and halted for more of} ~~and went a little ways and halted for more of~~ our comrades to come and join us. While waiting I thought best to start a fire and have a cup of coffee and eat a few hard tacks that we drew the day before of one day's ration. It was my motto to make coffee when I could. I had hardly got mine drunk and a few hard tacks eaten when orders came to fall in and we did. Not being daylight we marched to near where the fighting was going on in good earnest and halted a little while, then we were ordered up on Cemetery hill right into the cemerery to protect and support the main line of artillery. There we lay until the 5 th of July when the fighting ceased and we started in pursuit of the Rebels.

I will now give the names of the principal places we passed through on this trip and some where we camped over night. We went back to Emmitsburg July 5 and camped there for the night. We left there the 7 th and went through Cragerstown, thence to Middletown and camped there for the night, July 9 th. We left Middletown the 10 th, passed through Boonsborough July 12 th, passed through Funstown and camped near Hagerstown for the night, July 14 th, and left Hagerstown and the 16 th we marched back through Middletown and camped near Berlin. July 19 th crossed the Potomac river at Berlin and passed through Lovettsville and Waterford and camped. The 20 th marched through Middleburg and camped. July 23 rd we went to New Baltimore and stayed there to the 25 th and camped at Catlit Station. August 1 we left Catlet station and went to Bristis Station. August 3 rd we went back to Catlet Station and camped. August 16 th we had dress parade for the first time since we left our old camp at Stafford, Va. August 17 th we left Catlet Station and went to Manassa Junction and camped there until August 25 th. We left there at 6 o'clock A.M. and took the cars for Alexandria, Va. and got there at 8 P.M. and stayed in soldier's retreat all night. It rained very hard and we got very wet as we had nothing but flat open cars, such is the lot of the soldier and no grumbling.

As this is on the second year of my career in the army I will say that I have not been away from my Regiment over night except on duty nor have I been excused from duty or ever been punished in any way or manner during the past year and also I have been in every engagement that the Regiment has been in, in that time.

As our Regiment was so reduced in numbers and in much need of rest, it was thought that we might recruit up a little and strengthen our Regiment in numbers from those that were in the hospital and from parole camps. Our principal duty was to guard conscripts and take them to the front to the command where they were assigned.

Some of that time we had a very good time and some of the time quite hard. Most of the time we went part of the way on the cars but we had all the marching that we wanted.

We stayed at Alexandria guarding conscripts and doing camp duty until Sept. 26 th, 1863. We were ordered out into line and started from Alexandria city about 8 o'clock A.M. and went to the station and took the cars. We started at 10 o'clock A.M. This being the time we left the Potomac army and joined the army of The Tennessee. We had at this time, all told, not more than 200 men in the Regiment for duty. I will now state some of the principal places and cities on our route.

We left the cars at Bridgeport, Alabama. Our first stop was at Washington D.C. We stopped there a short time, started from Washington at 2 o'clock and rode all night. We stopped and got bread and coffee at 4:30 o'clock A.M. the 27 th. Then we passed through New Creek, Maryland Then passed through Bloomington, Frankville, Swanton, Portland, Newburg, Grafton, Cranberry, Summit and Cheat River, Virginia. September 28 th we got off the cars at the city of Venwood and crossed the Ohio River on pontoons and got coffee in the city of Bellair, Ohio. We stayed there some time then passed through Belbrante, Cambridge, and Gainsville. We stopped there some time on a large bridge near the city then went to Columbus and stopped there and got coffee etc. Then passed through London and Xenia, Ohio. Then passed through Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge, Louisville,

Indianapolis, Seamour, Salem and Jefferson, Ind. Then crossed the river on a ferry boat to Kentucky. Then marched through the city of Louisville, Ky. , took the cars and crossed into Tennessee. We passed through Nashville and several small towns.

The country and towns were very nice and beautiful and everything to make a nice country. October 1 st we passed through Murfreesborough and Tallahassee, Tennessee. Then we came into Alabama and stopped at Stevenson and got breakfast. Then we went to Bridgeport and got off the cars and marched about two miles and camped by the side of the Tennessee River. This ended our trip from Old Virginia as we started September 25 and got to Bridgeport Alabama on October 1, 1863.

I think we had quite a trip, everything considered. When we left we were put into common box cars and some cattle cars with rough boards fixed up for seats. Our officers thought it was a little too warm in the cars for comfort and that it might be wisdom to make a few air holes and that was enough for the old 154 th. As for the seats we soon sent them whirling out of the cars to get a place to lay down to sleep, but we did not get much sleep. Before we left otho cars there was nothing but the frame and the roof left.

We much enjoyed our new camp where we could lay down and rest and get some sleep once more. Here we stayed in this camp until October 27, 1863. During this time our Regiment was employed in building Corderoy roads and bridges across streams, and also to get out ties for the railroads, as our Regiment was made up mostly of farmers and laboring men. We worked most of the time while here when the weather was so we could work. We also had our regular camp duty to do also. Although we enjoyed it our rations were very limited.

On the 27 th we broke camp, marched all day and camped for the night. We resumed our march next day the 28 th and struck the REbel picket line (Lookout Mountain, Tennessee) Here we had a little picnic, as the rebels had quite a heavy force and we had at this time only our brigade. We formed two lines with the 154 on the second line and the 73 rd Pennsylvania on the first line. As our orders were to fix bayonets then charge bayonets, our Regiment was supposed to charge up to the first line to reinforce it then the line to advance.

But instead of this, as soon as our Regiment got sight of the Rebels (this was the first charge in the open field that our Regiment made), We gave one yell and away we went. The Rebels fired and then run for the woods which was a short distance away, but there was no let up to our boys until we drove the Rebels back into their intrenchments. We met with some loss but we gained the day. I had a bullet shot through my own coat cape on the shoulder but it did not hurt the hide. Our Regiment camped about two miles from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Here we stayed until November 22, 1863. During this time our Regiment worked most of the time building roads, bridges, and such work although we did a good deal picket duty also. The most of this time we were on half rations as it was most impossible to get rations to us on account of the state of the roads. Our rations came mostly on ^mules. On November 22 nd our Regiment broke camp with quite a force to cut our way through to Knoxville, Tennessee to reinforce General Burnside at Knoxville.

This was called the Knoxville raid. I will now mention our stops and the noted places that we passed through and what occurred. We camped near Chattanooga the 22 nd. And the 23 rd. We met the Rebels in force and had quite an engagement and drove the Rebels back.

Our Regiment did considerable fighting and skirmishing until the 26 th when we started again, crossed the Chicamauga Creek on pontoon bridge, marched all day, and camped on a large flat, had had some skirmishing through the day, resumed our march the 27 th, passed through Graysville and camped. We resumed our march the 29 th and camped near Cleveland, Tennessee. We left Cleveland the 30 th at daylight, marched to Charleston where our men shelled the rebels out of town and captured a train loaded with flour, meal and salt.

December 1 we resumed our march at 5 A.M., crossed the river and halted. Here we drew some rations of flour and meal and a little salt, as our government rations were entirely exhausted and we had to depend on capturing or foraging what we had to eat. We passed through Riceville and camped at night near Athens. We left Athens the 2 nd, passed through Sweetwater and Philadelphia and camped about two miles from the city. We resumed our march the 3rd and camped near Loudin. Here our boys had quite a time cooking our flour and meal pancakes as we had nothing else. We resumed our march on the 5 th at 1 A.M. and marched until dark and camped near Louisville, Tennessee. Next morning we marched through the city and camped. We killed two very large hogs and divided them up among the boys. This was quite a treat as we had not had any meat for some time.

Here we got to the end of our journey as General Burside was now safe at Knoxville, and we had all this marching for nothing, and hard marching it was, We had to march on the railroad the most of the time. December 7 we broke camp at Louisville in the morning and commenced our trip back. We crossed the river again and camped near it for the night.

We resumed our march the 8th through a large track of woods and camped at Sweetwater Dec. 9 and camped near Athens the 10th. We moved our camp a little way and rested until Dec. 12 when we left camp, passed through Charleston and camped for the night. We left camp Dec 13 and camped near Cleveland at noon. The 14th we resumed our march at noon, marched through the city and camped. The 16th we resumed our march from Cleveland, marched all day along the banks of a large creek and went into camp.

In the morning we resumed marching and arrived at our old camp in Lookout Valley on December 17th 1863. We left on November 22 and returned after 35 days of marching. We went as it was called light marching order. We left our knapsacks and everything behind us but our tent cloth and haversack and we did not have much use for a haversack either, for we drew very little rations from the government. We just had enough to eat to keep us from starving and this was not all. Some of the boys had scarcely any shirts on and had their clothes full of holes and some had not even a shoe on their feet but tied up with old rags to keep them from freezing. It was written home by some of the boys that they could be tracked in places by blood from their sore feet, and the night we got back to camp without any shelter of any kind was a hard one on the boys. Nothing for us but lay down on the cold frozen ground. Tired out with fatigue and hardship and some down sick at that, only to shiver until mornning. This is the lot of the poor soldier. I was almost down sick.

In this camp we stayed until the 25th of January 1864, and during this this time we were employed in most every kind of work, building bridges, corduroy roads, houses and quarters for our officers, as we were now supposed to be in our winter quarters. We did piles of work but not much picket duty. The 154th was known as a Regiment

of great work and we had lots of it to do. But this was not all. We were kept on half rations the most of this time and some of the time not that, and we had to buy some beans and other stuff from the commissary through our officers when it could be got to keep us from hunger. On December 22 we got entirely out of rations and nothing in the country that we could get on this date. I went to be without anything to eat and did not know when we would get any. We made us quite good quarters in this camp but the weather was very cold, too cold for the quality of our houses, but we could have stood the cold better if we had plenty to eat. On the 3rd I did not have any breakfast, got a little flour and made a little gravy for dinner and bean soup for supper. This was when the soldiers was on light diet. On one occasion as I went across a corn field I found a few little ears of corn on the ground, about half rotten. I picked them up, took them to camp, roasted them and ate them and was very thankful. I have known the boys while in this camp to go in the night and take the corn from the ules, roast it and eat it also. I don't know as there was any one to blame. We were here and had to put up with it. It was a long ways from where we had to haul all our supplies and the roads were very bad. I don't want it understood that all camp life was like this for some of the time we had plenty to eat, drink and to wear, and had a first rate time in every sense of the word. On the 25th of January 1864 we left this camp and started a new one near Kelly's Ferry on the banks of the river. Here we built new quarters and got things quite well fixed when we were ordered back near General Eocker's Headquarter on the 27th.

Here we stayed until the 4th of May 1864 except on short trips. While in this camp our time was devoted to drilling and dress parades, also regimental drills, inspections, corps drills, and great reviews by our leading Generals, also sham fights and target practice which we enjoyed first rate. Also during this period we had better rations and more of them.

On February 27 I got a box sent from home with all the good things imaginable to eat and we enjoyed it. And on the 1 st of March my bunk mate, Avery Waggoner got a box from home also. I will say if we did not live high then we never did and to say that we enjoyed it would not be expressing it half, as the old saying is -- "always a feast after a famine" and so it was.

We had preaching at this time every Sunday and some of the time during week days. I attended church most every Sabath and some of the time during week days. In this camp I read the New Testament through by course.

On March 22 nd we had a big snow storm for that country. The snow fell over a foot deep but did not stay long. On the 24 th our company got a box from our town of good things and I had a share of that also and our good times Kept good. On the 30 th we went on a scout, expecting to have a brush with the Rebels near Trenton, Gal, but the Rebels got wind we were coming and skidadled so we came back to camp on April 30. We were very tired and lame after the march as we marched on the railroad and very fast and our feet very sore and blistered, but the soldier is never supposed to whine or find any fault.

On April 7, 1864 I took a trip up Lookout Mountain and explored the summit and took a trip over the country. The summit was mostly a solid rock without anything growing on it. To the east was quite a fertile area with a very fine piece of woods and farther on was a very nice little village by the name of Sumnerstown, and as nice a little brook of clear water running through it as I ever saw. The cliff of rock is over three hundred feet above the level of the river there. In this mountain is quite an extensive cave entrance from the north side, looking toward the city of Chattanooga, about one and one half mile distant. I explored the cave quite a distance with torches but found it neither pleasant or comfortable.

I turned back and went to camp very tired and about worn out but well satisfied with my trip. I think this cave was a resort and den for thieves and robbers in the early days of the country.

On the 13 th I went about two miles to see a great ball game. It was fine and had a very nice time. This was the only ball game I saw in the army except with lead balls.

On the 14 th I went to see a big and grand review of General George H. Thomas troops, It was a very nice day and I had a very nice time and it was a great sight. There was over 10,000 troops engaged in the review. The troops were reviewed by General Thomas himself. While in this camp our principal duty was picket duty and there was lots of drilling while in camp and lots of drills outside camp, such as brigade drills, skirmish drills, corps drills and several reviews from our head Generals. We were kept busy most of the time. If it was not one thing it was another.

This was in making preparations for the spring campaign and getting everything in readiness for the great move of the army as soon as the season would permit and for extinguishing of the Confederate army in that part of the country. On the 4th of May 1864 we broke camp about 4 P.M. and marched about 7 miles and camped for the night. On the 5th we resumed our march and came up to the Rebels at about night and halted and camped for the night.

The next morning we followed up the Rebels as they fell back to where they had heavier forces. Our Regiment started again on the 7th after the Rebels. Here I was taken sick and fell behind but got up to the Regiment some time after they camped for the night. The 8th the Regiment broke camp and started after the Rebels about 10 A.M. and formed a line and made a charge on the Rebels at Buzzards Roost and drove them back at a severe cost of our Regiment.

We had our Color Bearer Killed and several more of our Regt and quite a number wounded.

This was the Battle of Resackie Ga. which lasted until the 15th and that day our Regt was called in againe with more loss but we pressed the Rebs back againe with victory on our side. During this time for a number of days we were marching and counter marching and building brest works and also lots of fighting and skirmishing ~~and~~ on all sides of us, but the most of the fighting here was done by the artillery. but on the 25 of May we came upon the Johnes in full force and we attacked them and drove them back another hitch and gained the summit, our Regt lost some men & a number wounded. There was one of our Co wounded and while the Surgeon was dressing his wound and while he lay on a stretcher he was wounded the second time Then they thought best to take him farther back and againe on the same day while three of us was firing from behind a big tree (while we were on the skirmish line^e) we

were shot at and one H. A. Ames was shot through the arm and another ball went through his haversack and also through his tin plate. He made the remark that he didn't care anything about his arm but he thought it was not very manely to shoot into his hard tacks. I had a ball shot through my knapsack the same day also Here we staid for several days fortifying and building heavy brest works so we could hold the Rebs in ~~an~~ check and extend our line of battle This battle was called Pumpkin vine creek. we lay near Mount Hope church. One day while I was carrying a fence rail to help build the brest works there was a minie ball struck the rail but as long as it didnt hit me I didn't care for the rail. We staid here behind our works on till the 2d of July when we pressed the Rebs flanks so hard that they were compelled to retreat and we followed them up with our artilery and forceing them back until the 6th when they made another stand but they didnt stay there long for we gave them no peace or rest night or day. we built some brest works here so we could hold them back while other troops was pecking away at their flanks. here we staid until June the 15th when our troops made the attack about 11 oclock AM. Our Regt was all on the skirmish line in front of the main line of battle. here we drove the Rebs againe and built more brestworks in the night. We fought days and drove the rebs before us and fortified nights and when the morning came we were hot after them againe in the morning of the 17th June found us still after them we halted for breakfast in their brest works and staid there until after dinner then we started after them and drove them out againe and halted for the night and built more works. On the 19th the Rebs retreated againe and we followed them up and built more brest works. and from this time on until the 9th of July 1864 we fought every day and drove the rebs and in the nights we would build brest works and hold what we gained during the day. we had very little time

to sleep and for that matter we didnt need much as long as we drove the Rebs. Here we drove the Rebs againe and took possession of their works. The next day we were moved from place to place to build brestworks and fighting more or less. The whole army here was advancing and driving the Rebs all the time. Our troops gave them no rest, but kept them on the move. The Rebs would fight every day and retreat every night. July 7th we got orders to put up tents for we were expected to stay here some time (Probably to have a rest) (and a rest we needed too) but before we got up our ~~we~~ tents we were ordered to pack up and so we did. There was no use of growling about it. but we didnt march far before we halted and put up tents. On the 9th of July our Regt went out on the front line and staid all day, but came back to camp at night. There was not much Infantry fighting here only to hold the Rebs where they were but lots of artilery fighting. Here we staid until the 18th of July when we broke camp and our Brigade formed a line of battle. at about three oclock P.M. marched in line of battle until night. and halted for the night and next morning advanced againe slowly as we were in the Rebs country with ~~some~~ no protection as the whole army lay behind us quite a ways back on the line of brestworks on 20th of July 1864 we advanced againe at about 8 oclock AM and went slowly a long for some ways and halted. We were all laying quietly until about four oclock P.M. when we were almost surrounded by the Rebbles with yelling and screaming surrender from every side. The first order we got was from Maj Gen John W. Gearry (commanding our division) Everyman to get back to the Breast work the shortest way and as quick as possible we only fired one volley until we ~~a~~ reached the brest works about three or more miles back. I could say that it was a race for life. The minies pelting the ground like so much hale. It didnt seem possible to escape the bullets for the Rebs kept up a continuous fire until we reached the Brestworks. The reason for us being so far away from our main line and with only our

Brigade of about five or six hundred men was as an escort for several of our officers who was contemplating and lay a plan for a general advancement of our troops and to build a new line of work. nearer to where we could shell the City of Atlanta how many of our Brigade was killed or wounded I don't know. there was a good many taken prisoners. (One Regt the 33rd New Jersey) was about all taken prisoners (probably over 200) They were most all new recruits. and another reason for us being in such a hard place ~~is~~ is this. And that morning the rebel forces had made preparations to charge our mainworks and to drive us from them not expecting that we were where we were until they met us and the result was as stated above.

On the morning of the 20th Reb Gen Hood made a speech to his saying to them that he was going to kill or wound every Yankee this side of the Chattahoochee river or take them prisoners or drown them in the river ~~which~~ ^{which} was about miles back. And on they came and where our division lay they thought was the weakest point and the place to strike. But we reached the breast works with quite a heavy loss and the Rebels at our heels and made a dash to force us from our works but they didn't do it for we were ready for them every time they came up and they kept at it until night set in and then they stopped firing (and as we expected to make ready to resume ~~the~~ their attack on us in the morning.) But when the morning came there was not a Rebel in sight of us. But when we came to look in front of us we could not blame them for not renewing their attack for the ground in front of us there was lots of their dead still laying on the ground ~~in front of us~~ and a good many wounded that was dying and wounded that was unable to get back I think it was the worst sight I ever saw.

On the 21st it was very rainy and everything quiet all along the whole line of works which was 9 or ten miles long until about night when there was a heavy artillery fire from both sides. But on the 22nd the Rebs massed their forces against Gen Mc Pherson's troops but there the Rebs failed also. But where Gen Mc Pherson was killed. Our loss on both of these days was light (as we had very good breastworks) but the Rebels' loss was very heavy. But if the Rebs had succeeded war would have been unto us. As we had not any works between us and the river ~~was~~ about nine miles back. During the day of the 22nd part of the main line advanced and formed a new line and commenced building new breastwork. Our Regt was sent out on skirmish line where the Rebs charged us several times but failed to force us back. There was a good deal of heavy skirmishing all along our lines. But we were there to stay and they could not budge us one inch and they found it out too. For a number of days our troops were kept busy moving to our new line and building our new line of breastworks and in the meantime there was lots of fighting and skirmishing on our skirmish lines. The Rebs tried every possible way to keep us ~~from~~ from building these works. But we built them all the same. and there was lots of artillery firing both day and night from both sides. I don't think that there was an hour for weeks but what there was musketry or artillery firing. On the 26th our Brigade moved to the line of new works here we were kept busy about all the time. We formed a camp behind these new works and made everything as comfortable as could be expected. But here we had to keep up a heavy skirmish line in front of us all the time and also we had lots of picket duty to do on our flanks and in the rear and notwithstanding we had some very wet and rainy weather which hindered our progress. This breastwork is situated within about three miles from the city of Atlanta Ga. where we were to stay until we ~~we~~ forced the Rebels out of the City by siege guns etc. About the 27th

our troops was all stationed along our new work and here the troops were kept busy strengthening our (these) work until we got them in good shape and getting ready for the siege. There were constantly heavy guns coming and placing them in position for the fray. We had a constant fire of cannon most all the time some were on the line. but not much Infantry firing except on the skirmish line here we staid and waited for the time to come when the rebs would be forced to give up their strong hold and a strong one it was. I will right here give an outline of our works and how they were constructed. They were put up mostly of logs one above another with poles between them protruding to the front to hold the logs in place. They put up about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 ft. high so as to make them about straight up and down next us or on our side. And in front of this line of logs was a ditch dug about 5 or six feet from the logs and about five feet wide the earth thrown up against these logs leaving a ditch about five feet deep. making about nine ft. from the bottom of the ditch to the top of our breastworks. and this about four feet wide on top and in front of this ditch was another small ditch dug about a foot wide and deep enough to hold sharpened stakes in place about ten or 12 in a part leaning towards the enemy. these stakes stood out of the ground about three feet. They were placed on or near the edge of the ditch. But this was not all. for right in front of these stakes there was tree tops brought and layed side by side as close as convenient with the butt end towards the stakes and the fine brush cut off and then the points left on the limb sharpened to a point and this what the rebs would have to encounter before they could reach us. and this was not all for on top of the works a block was fixed across about

five or six inches high and on that was layed lingshtways from 10 inches to a foot through this was to protect our heads while fireing. This line of works was on the start about ten or more miles but as we strengthened our works and got our siege guns placed we could awaken our lines in the ~~center~~ centre and extend them on our flanks until we had about fifteen miles of solid brestworks and as safe almost as a fort. It would have been only fun for us to see the Johneys try to harm us. But still there was a man killed or wounded on the picket lines and once in a while one from a shot or shell from the Rebs guns