

DIARY OF HORACE SMITH

Camp John Manley . . . near Stafford . C.H. . .

Monday, April 13th 1863 - cloudy but not very cold or warm. good day for marching. roads in good condition. our Brigade started for Kelly's ford at 7 oclock am. left our knapsacks in camp. we are expecting to support the Cav or Art while they cross the ford. the Cav force is said to be 12,000, also a very heavy Art force. shell probably see . . . camp at night at Hartwood Church an old battle ground. have marched 12 miles. we roll up in our blankets for the night and sleep on the ground. are expecting to go back to our old camp in a few days. Clear and pleasant this evening.

April 14th Tuesday--Struck tents at daybreak. Clear and warm day. marched within 2 miles of Kelly's ford before noon. passed through a splendid country. peach trees in full bloom. afternoon marched within 1/2 mile of the ford. Encamped on a bluff commanding ~~the ford~~. the Cav forces gone up to Rappahanock station. 29th Regt N.Y.V. also, the 27th and 73rd Pct, 154th N.Y. and 1st N.Y. Battery are to guard this ford. stood picket part of the night. Rebel camp in sight across the river, cloudy evening.

April 15th, Wednesday--Commenced raining before daylight rained all day. river very high over the bank. lay in our tents all day. fine place to sleep in the mud or water tonight but a soldier is supposed to stand anything without grumbling.

April 16th, Thursday--Cleared off this morn and Co. detached to support 2 guns of the Battery stationed on the bluff. we moved our camp 20 rod from the rest of the Regt. Crosby, Jack Horatio Ed. . . tent together. Frank Phillips and I went out confiscating about 2 miles from camp. Got some Bacon, preserves, pickles, flour and molasses and milk and a bottle of splendid gin. the se...ish women wish the Yankees all dead, the niggers told us where to find everything. We shall live well for a day or two. warm pleasant evening. I am Sergeant of guard tonight.

1863

April 17, Friday--Clear and pleasant warm. went back to Mount Holly Church to draw rations about 80 rods from camp. drew beef and hardtack. the beef was confiscated cows just ready to come in. Spring poor at that but good enough for soldiers. I wonder that they did not make us eat the veal too. 15 or 16 of the 27th and 154th boys arrested for stealing or confiscating. Court martialled and sentenced. some forfeit 1 months pay and some 3 months. none of our Co. arrested. we can see the Rebs throwing up earthwork across the river. we have a splendid view of the Blue Ridge from our camp.

April 18, Saturday--Clear and warm today. Jack and Horatio detailed to go back to old camp with the team after knapsacks and baggage. I built tent over today. Crosby out on picket. I went out with his supper at night to stand a spell in evening. nothing of interest transpired today. mail came this evening but none for me. no mail going out from the Regt now.

April 19, Sunday--warm and pleasant but very quiet all day. went out to picket post in morn with some breakfast for Crosby and Burdick. slept in my tent all afternoon.

April 20, Monday--Rainy day nothing going on in camp but eating hardtack and pork and snoozing in tents.

From April 20th until April 28th nothing of importance transpired. supporting Battery, picketing, raining, sunshine etc, etc. the remainder of our camp came up. the 27th with our knapsacks. Gene Graves returned from furlough. he brought me some letters, Boots, Hat, Sugar. no mail gone out since we came here. our overcoats and dress coats all turned over.

April 28th, Tuesday-- Rather lowry today. great movement in the army. 11th and 5th Army Corps on their way here. I am on picket today. patrolled down the river.

1863

had talk with Reb Pickett across river. he said was sick of soldering. packed 8 days rations in our knapsacks. Pontoon bridge laid across river this eve. our Picketts called in at midnight. 73 Pct, the 154th N.Y. crossed river and supported the pontoons while being put down. No resistance by rebs. 15 prisoners taken at Kelly's mill by the 73rd. Gen. Hooker here today. troops crossing all night. saw 6th Cav boys this eve. no guns fired yet.

April 29, Wednesday--Struck tents at daylight. crossed the river at Kelleyville. lay there all day and night. lowry day, saw 4 or 5 reb prisoners. boys went in big confiscating from old Kelley. got all the sugar and flour we could carry. troops all left here for the Rapidam but our Brigade with the supply train. troops crossing all day about 50,000 met with no opposition today.

April 30th Thursday--lowry day. struck tent at daylight. Started for the Rappidan arrived there at noon. crossed at Germania ford, our Cav took 60 Rebs prisoners at this place. last night they were building bridge to cross and make a raid on us in day or two. took all afternoon for supply train to cross. rebs burned a mill and stores at the ford last night. 1 of 6th Cav boy killed here last night. our men buried him today. we are 12 miles from Kelly's ford. we started for Fredricksburg. throwed away my blanket today. at sundown marched 12 miles. plank road most of the way. Camped 8 miles from Fredricksburg. thousands of troops all around us. we got here at midnight. about fagged out. my feet badly blistered.

May 1, Friday--clear and pleasant very warm. heavy cannonading between here and F, burg all day. we are expecting to be called out every minute. supply train moved forward about 2 miles. we were ordered out in line of battle about 4 o'clock PM. lay on our arms all night. rebs in woods 1/2 mile from us. they

1863

threw some shells over us about sundown. the Irish brigade had hard fight this PM about 2 miles from us. drove the Rebs back. took 700 prisoners. our boys feel first rate. the pioneers are busy throwing up breastwork. tonight we shall probably have some fighting to do tomorrow but we are ready for them.

May 2, Saturday--clear and cool today. cold night last night. I slept very cold on the ground. my tent cloth under me. green blanket over me. but it is one of the beauties of soldiering. Gen. Hooker passed along our lines this morn at sunrise. was cheered heartily all the way. the boys all in good fighting trim. our Regt took our position in the rifle pits front of Gen. Howards Hd-quarters this morn at 7 oclock. we are expecting the ball to open every minute. Old Stonewall made a break on our right just before sundown with a whoop and yell. they were not expected from that quarter and therefore found Sh.... Division with their guns stacked. the 29th N.Y. of our Brigade ran like deer. two Brig ran over us before we could see a Reb. our Regt fought like tigers but the drunken Rebs flanked us on both sides. so we had to foot for the woods. 2 minutes more and we would all been prisoners. lost all our knapsacks. our Col-- brave man--was wounded and I fear taken prisoner. Adjutant was killed. our Brig rallied at Hookers Hd qrts and lay there all night. Horatio wounded in the leg. 14 of our Co. missing. old Regts say it was the hardest fight they ever saw. Rebs attacked our army front of Hookers Hd Quts about 11 oclock at night but were piled up in winnrows. I never before had any correct idea of a battle. the bullets fell like hail stones.

May 3, Sunday--Clear and pleasant all day. our Brig moved into some rifle pits between Hooker and the U.S. force. the Rebs came up in 4 lines of battle to take the batteries front of Hookers Hd qrts. the fight lasted over half a day. the Rebs were shot down by thousands by our batteries. their loss by side of ours was more than 3 to one. the rebs had but little artillery. ~~they shelled~~

1863

they shelled 4 or 5 of our Hospitals of wounded. our army took lots of prisoners. they were a hard looking set. Our Brig in no action today. Gen. Sedgwick took Fredricksburg with 42 pieces of heavy artillery today, we are not allowed to sleep any yet. I never want to see such sights of wounded as I have seen today passing us on their way to the ford. it was enough to make the hardest heart shudder. how little do the folks at home know of the miseries of war. may they never witness its horrors, as I have. I think we are giving the Rebs fits. we are laying the rifle pits tonight. are able to withstand almost any force that can be brought against us in the pits. Gen. Hooker passed along our lines this afternoon. was loudly cheered by all the boys. he looks pretty smutty and dirty. they say he has been in front on the line of battle all day. it has been a sorry day for the Rebels today. as well as for us. good many reb prisoners taken today.

May 4, Monday--Pleasant and very warm all day. heavy fire in direction of F-burg. Report tonight is that the Rebs have re-taken the city but no guns or prisoners. Some sharp skirmishing all around us today but I believe our army still hold their ground of yesterday and have taken some prisoners. we are still in the Pits. are aroused to arms every little while by the pickets firing on Reb skirmishes. they will find the 154th on hand every time. had some rations dealt out to us. fresh beef without any salt, and hardtack. the boys are pretty well drilled out. have had no regular sleep yet. we are to stay in the pits tonight. cool nights and no blankets or tents of any kind but it is all for our country. not much fighting near us today.

Tuesday, May 5--Cloudy and cool all day. still in rifle pits and no attack by the Rebs yet. rather dull day. were relieved from the pits about sundown by

1863

the cowardly 29th. we move back a few rods in their rear, how I would like to give them a volley of musketry from our guns. it commenced raining just as we were relieved and such a drenching cold rain/ I never saw . bad thing for us boys who had nothing to shelter us, not even a rubber blanket or piece of tent. rains all night. we received orders tonight to be ready to fall in quickly any minute and march. report is that the whole army are retreating across the river. we stand with arms all night. tough time.

May 6, Wednesday - Cold and lowry all day. ordered to fall in and march about daylight. were not allowed even to make a cup of coffee before we started. Marched to U.S. Ford about 3 miles. crossed on the pontoons with our whole Corps. troops were crossing all night. the rest of the army are crossing this morn. troops are all ordered back to their old camps. we went withing 2 miles of Hartwood Church before stopping to get breakfast. making about 10 miles travel through mud half way to our knees before breakfast. Halted about 2 hours. made some coffee. revived us up good dea. the roads and fields are filled with troops going back to their old camps but a more disheartened set of fellows I never saw. all because we were ordered to retreat. it is thought by most of the troops that we could held our position easily. this retreat has a very bad effect on the whole army. almost every house we passed within 5 miles of the river on this side is filled with wounded, horrid sights to look upon. Drs. Van Arnen and Day came to us today. they have had some rough work to do this time, but thank God they are both safe and sane. as well as the rest of us. we started on our march again about noon, came about 3 miles this side of Hartood Church and camped for the night. rather wet night but we were so tired we could sleep any where that could find a place to lay down. we slept first rate for all that we

1863

were covered with mud and wet clothes and on the wet ground, ha!! ha! this is soldering in good earnest. "let her Rip"

May 7, Thursday--Cold cloudy and wet all day. were ordered up in line at day-break to march immediately, without breakfast or anything except what dry hard-tack we could gnaw while marching. mud awful deep. we came clear through to our old camp John Manley, near Stafford C.H. before we eat breakfast, about 10 miles arrived here about 11 oclock, tired almost out. got some breakfast in short order of hard tack and hot coffee.our old camp looks like a deserted village. almost half the boys that left here with us 4 weeks ago do not return with us. many of them I fear lay on that bloody field yet unburied. God only knows where the rest are. I hope they may yet come around all right. there is not tents and blankets enough to cover 1/4 the shanties where we have had many a good time with each other, these are the fortunes of war.

June 12th--We received orders to march at 1 oclock PM. Pickets called in. started at 2 oclock for Catlets Station, very hot day. I turned over my gun, am still acting as Sergt Major, we marched to Hartwood Church, 12 miles before sundown. boys are about tuckered out. there is evidently some big move afoot for several Corps are moving. Paymaster commenced paying our Regt this morning out on picket. paid thru Co's A, B, & G. before the orders came to bring in the pickets. he has gone to Washington again, it has been very hot today. Col. Costor of the 134th N.Y. is in command of the Brigade during.

June 13--we were called up about 3 oclock AM ordered to march at 4. did not start until 5 oclock. very hot day. we marched 25 miles before sundown to Catlets Station. hard times for water. we passed through some fine country/today. saw some of the 6th Cav., Jim Leon, Jack went and saw Lt Bell tonight. he says Bill Phillips was killed or died from his wound received a few days ago at

1863

Beverly's Ford. his body was embalmed and sent home. brave fellow. I can hardly realize that he is dead. it seems like losing a brother. he has died a martyr to his country. may his family and friends live long and enjoy the rights and privileges for which he laid down his life, but I must stop writing for I can but weep over the death of him with whom I have spent so many happy days in childhood.

June 14th - Clear and very warm all day. were ordered to strike tents about 9 AM. started on our march again. very hot marching. went to Bristol Station for dinner. halted ... hours then started for Manassas Junction arrived there before sundown. then received orders to march to Centerville. we marched within 3 miles of there and halted for the night. boys pretty well tuckered. the country through which we marched today is all a barren waste, caused by the war. good land, if it could be cultivated. it has not seemed much like Sunday.

June 15th - Clear and very hot. we started for Centerville at sunrise. Arrived there about 10 AM. pitched our tents and made ourselves comfortable. We received a mail today. I got a letter from home. Some of Hintztown Corps have been here all winter and spring. Mort Rogers came to see us this afternoon from the 1st Corps.

June 16th - Very hot today. Lay in camp all day. nothing going on except inspection of arms and ammunition. boys all supplied with 60 rounds of ammunition. no appearance of Rebs through the Gap yet.

June 17th - Little lowry this morning but cleared off before noon and was very hot. struck tents and started on a march at 5 oclock AM. had a hard march today. Marched through Gum Spring. halted for dinner at Mount Hope Church. I had to fall out before noon. the Dr. put my knapsack in the ambulance, and I rode John McClivers horse 2 or 3 miles. it is the first time I have had my knapsack

1863

carried. Afternoon we marched across Goose Creek and camped about 4 or 5 miles from Leesburg. fine country all around here. farms all in very good condition. not many marks of the army here. inhabitants all

June 18- Clear pleasant day and warm. our Brigade moved back across Goose Creek. camped on the heights. a little showery towards night.

June 19 - Cloudy and cool all day. rained hard towards night. nothing going on in camp. pickets detailed out of our Regt today.

June 20 - Cool, cloudy and rainy. al quiet in camp. boys most all out on picket yet.

June 21 - Sunday, cloudy and cool but not much rain. the boys came in from picket today. heavy canonading heard all day in the direction of Ashby's Gap.

June 22 - Warm and pleasant all day. our Regt struck tents and moved about 4 miles to Balls Ford on Goose Creek. On a reconaissance. not much sleep for the boys tonight. most all of them detailed on picket and patrols but fortunate for me I don't have to do such duty now. we done a little confiscating tonight in the honey line.

June 23 - warm and pleasant. boys all in good spirits. plenty of honey, cherries and fresh meat all around us. which we lost no time in stuffing ourselves with. we bought all the warm biscuits, butter and milk we wanted cheap. Jack Hogg, Davidson and Lo Phillips and Jimmy McFarling, came back to the Regt from Hospital today. got a mail today. Gen. Mosby the guerilla has his headquarters about 3 miles from here. fine country around here. the canonading Sunday was our cavalry and Flying Art harrassing Gen Lee's rear guard. I went over the creek this afternoon with Jack Mitchel and bought all the buttermilk and biscuits we want for our whole Co. Major Allen and Crosby are all right on confiscating.

1863 .

June 24 - Clear and pleasant and very warm. still in this land of plenty. Went out this morn and got a few quarts of cherries. orders came this afternoon to strike tents and move. the whole corps are moving again. we marched to Edwards Ferry on the Potomic 10 miles and camped for the night.

June 25 - Very warm and pleasant. Artillery crossing on the pontoons all night. struck tents and crossed the river this morning. in Maryland again. it seems like living again to get out of Virginia. marched through Poolsville 8 miles from the ferry. Some gelesh in that town. Crossed Manoxy Creek today. Camped for the night at Jefferson City. all tired out. have marched about 25 miles to get here. rains, quite hard, this evening. my feet all blistered up. passed through a beautiful country today. large wheat fields ready for harvest.

June 26 - Rainy and muddy. filled our haversacks with biscuit and soft bread that we bought cheap in the city. good union people here, we marched about 10 oclock at passed through Middletown about noon. our troops were warmly greeted all the way by the citizens. the stars and stripes flying almost every house in Middletown. Reb Cavalry made a dash through here a week ago. we camped at night at South Mountain on the old battle ground. we live well here. buy all we want of the inhabitants very cheap. the boys show no disposition to confiscate here in Maryland. our Regt are doing picket duty tonight.

June 27 - Cloudy and cool. our boys relieved from picket today. went into camp at a little town called Bolivas, about 1/2 mile from the Gap. Jack fell in love with a girl at first sight. he is very much smitten to all appearances. he gets his meals at her house. the Captain and I went up on the mountain. saw where Gen. Reno fell. a rude stone marksthe spot where he fell.

June 28th - Sunday, very pleasant and warm. preaching by our Chaplain today. citizens visiting our camp all day. ordered at four oclock pm to strike tents. we marched back through Middletown and went to Frederick City and camped for the

1863

night. have marched about 16 miles, beautiful country all the way. we met the 6th Cav boys at Middletown. they were on the move all right but poor Wm Phillips his noble manly form graces their ranks no more and a shadow of sorrow comes over their countenances when his name is mentioned.

June 29 - Rainy and muddy today. marched at 8 oclock AM. pitched tents at night near Emmetsburg. marched about 22 miles today. very tired.

June 30 - Rainy day. not much going on today. sent out on a reconnoitering party today. they made no discovery. we moved camp about 2 miles towards night. Mustered for pay today.

July 1 - Rainy all day. we struck tents and started for Gettysburg this morning in Pennsylvania. Bentley & I flanked out & got a lot of bread, butter, milk and eggs for our Co. but had no chance to eat it. We caught up with the Reg't just in time to be in the battle. many of our boys were wounded. the rest taken prisoners. ~~among~~ the rest. I received a slight flesh wound in the leg just above the knee. but not enough to disable me any. the Rebs took about 4,000 prisoners today but they lost accordingly. to all accounts many more than that. it was by poor Generalship that we were taken. 157 of our Regt taken. officers and all. our Capt Jack and nearly all of our officers were taken. the Rebs hold part of the city but not the heights. the prisoners were taken back about 2 miles from town and kept all night. we kept our blankets and tents etc. cleared off this evening.

July 2 - Cloudy and little rain. very heavy canonading towards Gettysburg this afternoon. we are still prisoners. firing ceased in evening. we drew a small ration of fresh beef. this eve some of us had a little coffee and hardtack with us. the Rebs are evidently hard up for provisions for all that they are in Penn.

Horace Smith Diary

1863

they are a hard looking set of beings. they treat us as well as they can especially the privates. not many prisoners brought in today.

July 3rd - Cloudy but no rain. the Rebs were driven back from town today. some few prisoners brought in today. it is sickening to see the wounded that are brought in today. the Rebs tried to get us to take a parole on the field, which is illegal and would not be recognized by our Govt. a few of the prisoners accepted it but none of the 154th. we are getting pretty hungry. drew a half pint of flour apiece this eve. the officers were separated from us this morn and not allowed to speak to any of us. Lee's army are evidently falling back.

July 4 - Cloudy and raining very hard most all day. we were moved back a mile or two this morning. no firing today. Lee's army are retreating as fast as possible. we drew another half pint of flour and a small piece of beef. We cooked it up, have no salt. Started for Richmond this afternoon. halted at night and camped. it has been hard marching through mud. rain and with hungry bellies, I shall long remember this Independence Day. the officers in a gang by themselves. my chum Benny Andrews marched by my side all day. we are bound to stick together as long as possible. the Rebs are afraid of our being recaptured for they march us a long way around to get us a little way.

July 5 - Started on the march this morn. rather rainy today and very muddy. We do not have half enough to eat. drew no rations today. we camped about midnight on the mountains in Maryland at a place called Monterey Springs. The Reb army in full retreat. the union forces are harrassing their rear guard in sight of us. we are getting very foot sore. we passed through the village of Fairfield about noon. the citizens looked on us with pitying look as we passed through and would have given us something to eat but the rebs would not allow us even to buy anything of them. I suppose they wanted to get it themselves.

Horace Smith Diary

1863

The Rebs report tonight that our Cavalry captured 5 mile in length of their wagon train. today I think the Rebs are sick of raiding in Penn. we saw Gen. Lee today. Gen. Pickets Division are guarding us.

July 6th - struck tents about 8 oclock AM. we are in poor condition to march. Cloudy and cool but no rain. stopped at Waterloo at the foot of the mountain for dinner about two hours. drew another half pint of flour and a small piece of fresh beef but no salt. started again this afternoon. marched through Waynesboro in the evening. did not halt for the night. marched all night. came through Chambersburg, Maryland in the night. heard some canonading in direction of Hagerstown this afternoon. It seems as though I could hardly drag one foot after the other.

July 7 - Cloudy day . came through Hagerstown this morning. marched within 1 mile of Williamsport on the Potomac and camped. they had a Cavalry fight between Hagerstown and Williamsport last night. we saw a number of our boys lying dead on the field as we passed along. the Rebs had stripped the clothes off from them. drew our rations did not make us half a meal. lay in camp all day and night.

July 8 - Rainy day. the Officers were sent across the river today. the Rebs have nothing but a ferry-boat to cross the river in. we lay in camp all day and night. drew no rations today.

July 9 - Stayed in camp all day. drew this evening another half pint of flour and a few ounces of fresh beef, and a teaspoon of salt. part of the prisoners were taken across the river today in the ferry boat. Cloudy but no rain, river very high. we were so hungry that we cut a lot of wheat in the field where we camped and shelled it out with our hands and boiled it. Never had anything tasted better to me.

July 10 - Struck tents at daylight and crossed the river in the ferry boat and marched through Martinsburg, Va. a strong union town. the ladies gave us all the

1863

bread they could get to us but the Reb officers were so strict and mean that they would not allow them to give us much but would take it themselves. one Capt struck a prisoner with his sword for reaching for a piece of bread. we camped at night about 3 or 4 miles from Martinsburg. drew no rations today. July 11th - Started on our wearisome march early this morning with nothing to eat. marched to Bunker Hill and halted for dinner. drew some more fresh beef about 2 ounces apiece. no salt and a small piece of bread about half as large as my hand. the citizens of Martinsburg sent 7 loads of bread to be divided among the prisoners. they divided 2 loads of it among 3600 of us and Rebs the rest themselves. the guards sold some hard tack to us for 50¢ a piece and bread as high as \$2.00 a pound for green back money. they will not take their own Confederate money. we started about 5 PM and marched until 1 o'clock at night and camped.

July 12 - Commenced marching about 10 AM. Marched through Winchester about 2 miles and camped to draw and cook rations. we drew a pound of flour and 1/2 pound of fresh beef and a spoonful of salt. just about enough for one good meal in the condition we are in. not many union people in Winchester. rainy night.

July 13 - Started again this morning. marched about 15 miles up the Shenandoah valley. rained hard all day. we had to wade creeks today. one was about 3 feet deep. passed through Kuvtomn and Emmitsville and halted for the night within 2 miles of Stravsburg. cold wet and hungry. drew no rations today.

July 14 - started on our march at 6 AM. passed through Strawsburg, Woodstock and Edensburg. camped within 4 miles of Mt Jackson, making 24 miles. some of the citizens along the road offered us 4 dollars Confed@rate for 1 in greenbacks. that looks as though they prized their money high. no rations today.

July 15 - we started this morn and marched to Mt Jackson and camped to draw and cook rations to last us to Staunton which is 45 miles from here. drew 1 pint of

1863

flour, 1/2 pound of fresh beef, 1/4 pound of bacon. cooked it up and started at 2 PM. crossed the north branch of the Shenandoah. passed through Jeffersonville, New Market. camped 2 miles beyond the latter place. strong Seseh all the way.

July 16 - Started again this morning. marched 24 miles. passed through Harrisonburg and camped 3 miles beyond there. had a heavy thundershower before we got our tents up. they gave us 3 hard tacks and a small piece of bacon tonight.

July 17 - Started at 7 AM and marched through Mt Crawford, Mt Sidney and camped within 4 miles of Staunton. drew 3 hardtack and a small piece of bacon as large as my two fingers. some flour brought into camp to sell for 27 dollars per barrel.

July 18 - Clear and very warm. we marched one mile west of Staunton. there the Rebs took our tents and blankets from us and turned us into a lot like so many cattle with nothing to shelter us from the sun, rain, or cold, cold nights. We drew one barrel of flour, 25 pounds of bacon for 200 men for one day. The Shenandoah valley is a fine country. large thrifty looking farms all the way. Crops look well. the farmers were busy harvesting their wheat.

July 19 - still in camp. 700 prisoners were sent on the cars to Richmond. we can buy small pies for \$1.00 a piece, bread \$1.00 per pound, black berries 25¢ per quart. it is hard to get rid of Seseh money. greenbacks are as current as gold.

July 20 - Clear and pleasant. very hot but cold nights. many of the boys are barefooted and no clothes but shirts and pants. we only get wood enough to cook our flour and meat. no blankets or tents to keep us warm nights. drew the same rations today as yesterday. 700 more prisoners left for Richmond today. our Regt did not go. some bread sold today as high as \$2.00 per pound.

July 21 - very warm day. another squad of 700 left today. still get our little ration of flour and meat. no salt.

1863

July 22 - Very warm day. no Squad left camp today. drew our little ration as usual. the boys trade off everything they have for something to eat. such as jack knives, canteens, haversacks, combs, scissors, razors, pencils, paper, pens etc. etc.

July 23 - Drew our rations and started for Richmond. took the cars at Staunton at 2 PM. the Rebs took our canteens away from us at Staunton. we were crowded into freight cars 60 in a car. passed through Waynesborough, Greenwood, Elwood, Charlottesville and the Blue Ridge tunnels. one of them 1 1/4 miles through and 2 shorter ones. cars run very slow. were all night on the road. passed through Gordonsville in the night. also Hanover Junction.

July 24 - Daylight found us on the cars still. passed through Ashland and arrived in Richmond soon after sunrise. we were marched through the city and crossed over to Belle Island. were paroled and searched again. haversacks, belts etc taken from us. we were put in a field of about 3 acres. not a spear of grass growing. it is nothing but sand full of lice and vermin. no tents to shelter us night or day. there are about 4000 prisoners in this little camp now. our rations here are 5 ounces of bread and about 1 or 2 ounces of fresh boiled beef in the morning and about a pint of rice or bean soup at night.

July 25 - very hot day but cold nights. got our regular rations today. our meat is boiled without any salt. we draw about 1/4 teaspoon of salt a day. our soup is made of dirty river water with scarcely rice or beans enough to know what it is intended for. a great deal of the rice is full of bugs and worms and they all are boiled up together but it tastes good to us for we are about half starved and we are not allowed to buy anything here at any price. \$1.00 greenback money in Richmond is worth \$10.00 in Confederate money. that shows how highly they prize their own money at the Capital of the Southern Confederacy. rainy night.

1863

July 26 - Very hot through the day. had a shower towards night. just enough to make a wet bed for us tonight. a few more prisoners came in today. we have a regular louse hunt twice a day. strip our clothes off and look them over.

July 28 - Still on Belle Isle, eating our little rations, hunting lice and sleeping on the bare ground. rained little last night. many of the prisoners here are almost naked. many of them sick and no medicine. we are treated worse than many hogs but I live in hopes that better days are in store for us.

July 29 - Still in camp. very hot part of the day and rained part of the night.

July 30- Still in camp and no signs of getting away. rained a little today. a few more prisoners came in today. One year ago tonight I enlisted. Little did I think then that I should pass the anniversary of that day a prisoner on Belle Isle but we know but little what is in store for us in the future. it is the fate of war and we will be all right yet.

July 31 - No change today from the regular routine of camp life on Belle Isle except it did not rain today.

August 1 - Very hot day. no rain. no tents yet. just one month since we were taken prisoner. 1200 prisoners sick, wounded, and well left camp today for City Point to be taken to Annapolis in our own lines. rumor is that we will all be out of here before long. did not get our supper until 9 oclock PM.

August 2 - very hot day. after breakfast we were ordered out of here and was searched for our money. they got about \$5,000 from the prisoners but did not get it all. Many of the boys hid their money so they could not find it. did not get our supper until after dark.

August 3 - very hot day. stayed in camp and hunted lice as usual.

August 4 - Warm day. we were counted off in squads of 100 and put into tents. they were poor things but good enough for prisoners I suppose. they shielded no

1863

from the burning sun. did not get our breakfast until noon. Supper after dark. and such soup. it is enough to make a man swear. one man could eat all the rice or beans that is in the soup for 20 men. we hardly get a pail of soup but it is covered with bugs and worms.. I wish this Southern Confederacy was in h...l or its leaders at least.

August 5 - Clear, warm and pleasant all day and night. we feel quite comfortable in our tents. about six hundred more prisoners came in today. the remainder of the Gettysburg prisoners that were left at Staunton.

August 6 - Warm and pleasant through the day. A few more prisoners came into this miserable lousy hole today. had quite a shower this evening. our tent leaks like a sieve.

August 7 - Very warm today but cooled off with a shower in evening. we were called out of camp and counted over again today. another squad of prisoners came in today from Grant's army. over 4,000 men in this den now. nearly one-third of them have no tents to shelter them. I am glad my folks at home cannot see how we suffer here from hunger and exposure to the sun, rain and cold nights.

August 8 - Warm sunshiny day and rainy night as usual. they took out some of the sick and took them over to the city hospital today. our rations still small as usual. a good deal of our beef is yearlings and very poor at that. the best of that is picked out for their own men. we poor devils can pick the bones. the Rebs tell us that it is good enough for the damned Yankees but perhaps the tables will be turned in our favor sometime but the prospect is poor for getting out of here soon.

August 9 - warm and pleasant day but cool nights. a few more clothes or a blanket would be worth everything to me now. nothing new in camp today. how I wish I could spend this Sabbath day at home. but it is no use wishing.

1863

August 10 - Very hot day. still on Belle Isle. picking lice, eating our little rations and looking anxiously for deliverance from the hands of Seseh. Our folks at home would think we were hard up if we craved the privilege of skimming their swill-barrel for something to eat, but I would give anything I could get for the privilege of eating and sleeping with the hogs at home.

August 11 - Clear and warm all day. nothing of importance going on in camp except a grand louse hunt which we are having twice a day regular. some of us pass off the time by whittling out rings and other little trinkets out of bones. anything to pass the time away.

August 12 - Very hot today but had a hard shower in eve. things move on in the same old track, no prospect of our getting away yet.

August 13 - Cloudy and cool all day. two men died in camp last night. poor fellows their race is run, their earthly warfare is ended. May their bones rest undisturbed until Belle Island is no more. had no meat for breakfast today.

August 14 - Very warm and pleasant through the day. but rained hard in the evening. one of our prisoners was shot dead by the guard today and another badly wounded for sitting down on the bank around our camp. they were prisoners who came in today and did not know the rules of the camp. these cursed Rebs would as soon shoot one of us as they would a snake but perhaps they will be in our power some time.

August 15 - Clear and very warm today. nothing new in camp today. We go through with the regular routine of camp duties, to wit: louse hunt twice a day, swallowing our little rations, whittling bones and occasionally a fight occurs in clash among the gambling class over a dice board but the boys are not stout enough to pound each other very bad. muster strength enough to crack a louse but necessity compels me to muster all the strength I can twice a day for that purpose.

1863

August 16 - Very hot day. a few more prisoners came into camp today. they were brought over from Libby Prison in the city. Nothing transpired worthy of note today.

August 17 - Warm and pleasant through the day. hard shower of rain. this eve we were called out and counted over again today. 4,100 prisoners here now.

August 18 - Clear and pleasant but cold east wind. Cold night. no news in camp today.

August 19 - 1 yr ago we were in Pleasant but cool day. about 40 prisoners came in today. Nothing new of importance.

August 20 - Pleasant but cool today. a small squad of sailors brought in today. taken at Charleston 2 or 300 prisoners taken out of here tonight and sent to our lines at City Point.

August 21 - warm and pleasant. things move on as usual in camp. no changes of note.

August 22 - Very warm and pleasant. another squad of prisoners came in today. how I would like to go to Mother's cupboard for a lunch.

August 23 - Warm and pleasant. nothing new in camp.

August 24 - Warm and pleasant. was taken out and counted again today. 300 prisoners taken out of here tonight and sent to City Point. I wonder when our turn will come to go. or is our govt going to leave us here during the war.

August 25 - Cloudy and cool. a few more prisoners brought in today. we draw no salt now eat our beef and soup fresh. O such soup we draw about a pint of soup, but hardly ever get more than 1 or 2 spoonsful of rice, and worms at that, or beans in it. not as much substance to it as to whey. we barely live we can hardly cast a shadow now.

August 26 - Not very pleasant but cold foggy nights and hot days. many of the

1863

boys have to walk the streets nights to keep warm. called out and counted again today. 1 year ago today Benny Andrews and I took supper at Mrs. Reeds. today we are prisoners of war on Belle Island together. don't we wish we were there now. I'll bet we would get a bully old meal. but there is better days a coming. August 27 - Cold nights but warm days. no signs of leaving here yet. no changes in camp worthy of note.

August 28 - Warm and Pleasant. about 300 sick taken out tonight and sent to City Point. nothing else of importance today.

August 29 - Warm and pleasant all day but rains hard in evening. things move on in their old track in camp. we are as it were dead to the world but we live in hopes of better times.

August 30 - Warm and pleasant all day. nothing of importance going on. I almost forgot the day of the week but I believe it is Sunday. what would I give to be at home today. but Pshaw!

August 31 - Warm and pleasant through the day but cold nights. We were called out and counted again today. some of the boys cut up some tents today and were caught at it. the Rebs took them and bucked and gagged them 5 or 6 hours. Nothing else of importance today.

September 1 - Clear and pleasant and quite warm. nothing of importance in camp.

September 2 - Clear and pleasant today. a small squad of prisoners brought in today. got cheated out of our soup today. one of the kettles broke. we are getting fat on 1/2 pound of bread and 1 ounce of beef and no salt. we have hardly strength enough to fight our lice which has to be done twice a day.

September 3 - Clear and pleasant and very warm but cold nights. Nothing new in camp today. all quiet on Belle Island.

September 4 - Pleasant day but quite cool. good many are suffering for want of

1863

clothes but pants and shirts and poor things at that and not even a blanket or piece of tent to wrap up in nights. hard face this.

September 5 - Clear and pleasant today but cold in the morning. quite a frost this morning. little warmer towards night. a small squad of prisoners brought into camp today. captured from a gun boat at the mouth of the Rappahannock.

September 6 - Warm and pleasant today. a little sprinkle of rain this evening. the Rebs had a cartridge factory blown up today across the river. I wish it had been the whole Southern Confederacy.

September 7 - Warm and pleasant but oh what short rations. there is some provisions smuggled in through the guard occasionally but I have no money to buy with. they sell three small biscuits for \$1.00 and 75¢ for a small pie. it is hard getting anything of the guards. if the officers catch any trading with the guard they take their money from them and buck and gag them for half a day.

September 8 - Clear pleasant and warm. we were taken out and counted over again today. I wish they would count us off the island but no signs of that yet. the Rebs are sending them to Tenn.

September 9 - Warm and pleasant through the day. little shower this evening and cool. nothing going on in camp but our regular skirmish drill with the lice, whittling bones and eating our little rations.

September 10 - Cloudy and cool. the quartermaster turned off some of the cooks today for stealing salt from him and selling it in camp at the rate of 25¢ for a tablespoon.

September 11 - Clear and Pleasant and cold nights. Keller commences drawing rations for the squad today. we draw a half teaspoonfull a day now.

September 12 - Pleasant and warm, some of the boys got letters from home today. we hear that Lieut. Jenkins of our Regt died in Libby prison a short time ago.

1863

September 13 - Warm and pleasant today cold nights. had a heavy thunder shower last night. a few more prisoners brought in today. the guard shot a man dead tonight for passing out to the Privy after dark. he was crazy and had been sick for some time. it does not seem much like Sunday today, but am in hopes we will soon get out of this hell-bound place.

September 14 - Warm day. a few more prisoners brought in today from Burnside's army. we were taken out and counted again today. Nothing but the regular routine of camp duties going on today. cool night.

September 15 - Clear and pleasant all day. Isaac Akers of our Regt Co A died in camp last night. a great many of the boys are sick in camp now. I was weighed today. weigh 118 lbs some difference between that and 180.

September 16 - Cloudy and cold. no changes in camp today. we do not have a chance to go to the river to wash now. I guess they mean to kill us all.

September 17 - Cloudy and cool and a little showery. the Rebs commenced paroling the men over again today. report is that a squad is going away from here Friday or Saturday but my faith is not very strong.

September 18 - Cold and rainy. I think our equinoctical storm has commenced. some more prisoners brought in from the Army of the Potomac today. They say our Regt is at Alexandria doing guard duty there. I wish we were with them. the Rebs are paroling some of them again today. some that have money are buying their chances of going out with the first Squad that leaves.

September 19 - Cold and rainy all day. I was sick today so I could not take my rations. Vomited some. feel better this evening. very cold night. we all suffer for want of blankets to wrap up in nights. no squad leaves here today.

September 20 - Clear and cold all day. wind in the N.E. slept cold last night. I feel pretty well today. can eat my little rations as usual. there is talk of

1863

a squad leaving here today but don't believe it, don't seem much like Sunday.

September 21 - Clear and pleasant but very cold. so cold we could not sleep last night. frost this morn. a squad of 800 left camp today for City Point. report is that we all leave this week. God knows we hope it is so. we got no soup tonight but our little 4 ounces of bread for supper. hard, hard fare. very cold night tonight. took our tent down to sleep under tonight.

September 22 - Clear and cold, wind in N.E. slept very cold last night. no signs of any leaving today. we got the soup this morning that we should have had last night. it was sour as swill and not half as rich as we feed our hogs at home. cold night. we have to take our tent down every night to keep us warm. we have 8 of us in a tent about 8 x 9 feet square.

September 23 - Clear and cold again today. we were taken out and . . . over again today. and moved into another tent. no more signs of leaving here. frost this morning. we have a new set of cooks again now our victuals are better salted than they have been.

September 24 - Cold frosty morning. I tell you we suffer nights from the cold. No news in camp today and no signs of leaving this cursed place. Our boys are busy making Brier root pipe today. almost too cold to hunt lice today but we have to do it. have been on this Island two months.

September 25 - Another cold frosty morning. cloudy and showery towards night but cold. about 150 prisoners came in today from Army of Potomac. all cavalry. they report the army as advancing towards Richmond. we shall sleep cold again tonight. no signs of leaving Belle Isle today. one year ago today we were mustered into the U.S. Service.

September 26 - Clear and cold again this morning. we passed a tough night last night. another squad of prisoners 130 came in today from Charleston. they

1863

commenced paroling again this afternoon. report is that a squad leaves in a day or two. we are all anxious to see them leave. 1 year ago today I went home from Jamestown on a furlough but little did I think we should pass the anniversary of that day on Belle Isle. clear cold night.

September 27 - Another frosty morning. wind in the N.E. 400 prisoners came in today from Charleston. they were taken 2 or 3 months ago. the Rebs paroled 3 or 400 more prisoners today. they say a squad will leave here tomorrow. it does not seem much like Sabbath day. I wonder if our folks at home are thinking of us today.

September 28 - Cold foggy morning but warmer towards night. a squad of 500 left camp tonight for City Point. that looks good. I hope they will keep doing so. not very cold this evening.

September 29 - Clear and cold this morn. nothing new in camp. we moved into another tent today. one year ago today I left home for Jamestown. quite a change since then. we started for Dixie 1 year ago today. now we are all on Belle Isle picking lice.

September 30 - Another cold foggy morning. slept very cold last night. I had an ague chill this morning. there is a fair show for us all to die here on this Island. our tent is very cold to sleep in. there is 12 of us in a field tent about 10 feet square. we have to lie down on the bare ground like so many hogs and nothing to cover us nights. we are not even allowed to go to the river and wash our clothes or bodies. we are lousy, dirty and ragged. some of us all naked. 1,000 prisoners from Rosencrans army came into camp last night. they have no tents to shelter them. the guards tell us that the citizens in Richmond made a raid on the Government bread that was being brought over to us prisoners.

1863

October 1 - foggy morning again but warmer towards night. things move on as usual in camp. one year ago this morning we arrived in Washington for the first time and slept on Arlington Heights that night.

October 2 - Cloudy and cool and rainy. we drew a small chunk of bacon instead of soup tonite. it tasted Bully. we have got to sleep cold again tonight but there is no use grumbling, this is the fate of war.

October 3 - Clear and pleasant and not very cold. no news in camp today. one man died of Diphtheria in camp last night. there are a good many sick in camp now. but we will get out of this somehow.

October 4 - Clear and pleasant and not very cold. it is Sabbath today but not much like a Sabbath day at home. no news and no prospect of leave here yet.

October 5 - Clear and cold. passed another cold night without much sleep.

10,000 prisoners that came in last left this evening. report is that they march to City Point for exchange. some of the squads drew wood this evening. had bean soup for supper. it half of it worms, bugs and dirt. not fit for hogs.

October 6 - Pleasant but cold. we were counted over this morning. our squad drew meat for supper. it was a mixture of mutton, pork and beef. the Confederacy are hard up for meat. they kill cows, yearlings, sheep and hogs and poor stuff at that.

October 7 - Pleasant and warm in morning. cloudy and rain hard towards night. was squaded over again this morn. rice soup for supper and good for Belle Isle but we would think we were insulted if such stuff was offered to us in our army.

October 8 - Warm and pleasant but cold nights. the sick were taken over to the city to the Hospital. report is that a squad is going away in a day or two.

we drew some wood tonight. had a little fire in our tent tonight. the guards

1863

bring in some stuff to sell. pies 50¢ onions 15¢ a piece, salt \$1.00 per pound pepper \$3.00 per pound.

October 9 - Warm and pleasant day. cold nights. 10 men died in camp the last two days. a small squad of prisoners came in today.

October 10 - cold foggy morning. clear and pleasant afternoon. another week gone and no signs of leaving here yet. we drew meat for supper. some eggs in camp for sale at 10¢ a piece. our tent drew a stick of wood this morning. report in camp is that the commissioners of exchange have agreed to take all prisoners within their own lines. we are in hopes it will be done soon.

October 11 - Another Sabbath morning dawns on us on Belle Isle. the 12th Sabbath we have spent here. I hope it is the last. Clear and pleasant but cold. N.E. wind all day. Ben is about sick today. drew bean soup for supper.

October 12 - Clear and pleasant but cold night. Oh how we suffer from cold nights. Ben and Jack Hogg are both quite unwell. it is a hard place to be sick here in this miserable louse den. but I hope the boys will soon get better. some of the sickest in camp were sent across the river to the city.

October 13 - Clear and pleasant as usual. no news in camp today. Ben and Jack are little better today. looks little like rain this evening.

October 14 - Cloudy and a little rain but quite warm. Ben and Jack are considerable better but not well. no news in camp today.

October 15 - Cloudy but warm and rather showery. 2 boys from Co. H run the guards last night. I hope they will not get caught. Ben is considerable better today. Jack Hogg is quite unwell, yet. No more signs of getting away from here yet but there may be some lucky streak turn up in our favor before long. men are dying off very fast in camp now. from two to five every day.

1863

October 16 - Rather rainy today. cleared off in evening. Jack Hogg is about the same. Bill Starkweather of the 64th N.Y. was taken out to the hospital sick this afternoon and died about half an hour after. several boys tried to get away from here last night. some of them succeeded. warm this evening.

October 17 - Clear and pleasant and quite warm. 2 men shot last night in trying to get away from here but neither of them killed. one man was wounded when drawing water. we drew another stick of wood tonight. they have put a double guard around us today.

October 18 - Clear and pleasant and warm. as beautiful a Sabbath day as ever dawned if we were only where we could enjoy it but it is a dreary day to us prisoners on Belle Island. no news of importance here in camp today.

October 19 - the morning dawned with a light showing of rain and a hard gale of wind which blowed down many of our tents. cleared off after sunrise warm and pleasant the rest of the day. we were taken out and counted today. we dug some wild onions and put in our swill for supper. tasted bully. report in camp is that we are to be sent to City Point this week but can't depend on anything we see or hear.

October 20 - Clear and pleasant and quite warm, today but very cold last night. no news today. Simmons of Co. H who tried to run away from here a few days ago was caught and brought back last night. James Madison who went with him was drowned in trying to swim the river. nothing going on in camp except eating our little rations and hunting lice as usual.

October 21 - Clear and warm. our rations of meat were increased to 25 lbs per 100 men. it makes quite a difference in our the sick were all taken out and sent to the city. Madison, who was drowned was found today in the river. was buried this evening.

1863

October 22 - Cloudy and cool. rather a dull gloomy day. Jack Hogg still quite unwell. big ration of meals still hold out.

October 23 - Cloudy but not very cold. Jack is no better. drew bacon this morning. report in camp is that no more parole or exchange during the war and that barracks are to be erected for our winter quarters on Belle Island but we do not credit the report.

October 24 - very rainy all day. 1200 more prisoners came on the island from the Potomac Army. mostly conscripts and substitutes. they carried on so bad over to the city they could not keep them there. some of them are very hard cases. we took one boy into our tent tonight, very cold night.

October 25 - very cold but no rain. we suffered very much from the cold last night. the Sergt of the working squad was shot by one of the guards this morn. died soon after. it has been a long dreary Sabbath today. we suffer everything from the cold nights. Ben is getting very weak from the Diarhea.

October 26 - Cloudy and cold. we have passed another cold night. not much sleep. Ben no better. Ben, Jack and I are saving rations to buy a blanket.

October 27 - Very pleasant but cold. we bought a blanket for \$5.00 today. Pay in rations. we shall sleep a little warmer tonight.

October 28 - Very cold but pleasant. we did not draw anything until supper time. we drew our supper and breakfast all together. was out and counted today. we slept quite warm last night. Jack is getting better but Ben is growing weaker.

October 29 - Clear and pleasant but cold N.E. wind. things move on after the same old sort on the Island. Jack Hogg is quite smart but poor Benny Andrews is growing weaker every day.

October 30 - Not very pleasant in morning but cleared off at noon. 14 weeks

1863

today since we came on Belle Island. Ben is not able to go out doors without help.

October 31 - not very cold but very rainy all the forenoon. cleared off in evening not very cold. Ben is growing worse very fast. we drew some more wood tonight. Jack is quite smart.

November 1 - Another beautiful Sabbath morn dawns but it is a dreary one to us who have been prisoners 4 months. Keller and I took Ben Andrews out to hospital this morn. he was sent across the river to the city. he will probably be sent to our lines in a day or two. he is very weak, not able to stand up alone. poor fellow, I hope he will get around all right. over 400 more prisoners were brought into camp tonight from Burnsidess Army. there is nearly 5,000 here in camp now.

November 2- Warm and Pleasant. nothing new in camp except a reinforcement of prisoners to Belle Isle of 800. camp is perfectly jammed. Keller went outside to work on a chimney today. we went out and squaded over this morn before breakfast.

November 3 - clear and warm all day. no news in camp today. Keller works outside again today. we bought a piece of tent and blouse today for five rations of bread at 25 cents a piece. some more sick taken out of camp and sent over to the city today.

1864

May 23 - Started from Clean today at 6 oclock AM for Baltimore on my return from furlough of 20 days after 9 1/2 months imprisonment. very pleasant and warm.

Arrived at Elmira 10 AM, left Elmira 5:40 PM for Baltimore.

May 24 - Arrived at Baltimore 7:30 AM. Warm and pleasant. reported myself back to Jarvis Hospital all right. I slept most of the day. am not very well. I guess I have lived most too fast for the last 20 days for my own good. A good many wounded soldiers have been brought into this Hospt. since I went away.

May 25 - Very warm today. was sent this morning to Federal Hill to be forwarded on to Parole Camp. we are guarded as close here as we were in Richmond. the Barracks is a dirty filthy hole. bread and bean soup for dinner. I shall be glad when I get out from under guard. it reminds me too much of Richmond. we expected to have been sent to Anapolis this afternoon but got fooled out of it. have got to stay in this cursed nest till morning. no blankets to lay on or cover us. thankful for warm weather. a soldier is nothing but a hog anyhow.

May 26. Very rainy all day. had a fine nights sleep on the bare boards of course. eat our breakfast of coffee and bread as usual. about 20 of us started for the Depot at 7 AM to be sent to Anapolis. some of the men were on crutches but we notwithstanding sent under a strong guard. by the way we are guarded I should think we were a lot of criminals condemned to death for murder but we are nothing but soldiers and are not supposed to be treated like men. we arrived at the Depot just in time to be too late for the train. have got to wait untill 4 PM before we can leave. wonder what will turn up then. took our dinners at the Soldiers Rest opposite the Depot. Coffee, Bread and meat and filed ourselves away in some empty bunks to wait for the train. 2 or 3 guards at every door and the windows ornamented with bars of iron about 4 inches apart. I wonder if Uncle Sam thinks 1-legged men on crutches would run the guard or jump out of the

1864

windows if they had a chance. ha! ha! a soldier is nothing but a dog. they keep him under guard for fear he'll bite. well I believe there is a hereafter. got our supper at the Rest and started for Anapolis at 4 PM. arrived there about sundown. was toted around the low dirty town under guard and sent back to Parole Camp about 3 miles in ambulances where we arrived at 9 PM. were quartered in good Barracks. the soft side of the board for our beds. no blankets to cover us. slept rather cold our clothes being wet.

May 27. - very warm day. we have a very pleasant camp. not as closely guarded as we have been for 2 or 3 days past. have very good fare for soldiers. all we want now is blankets. expect to be sent away from here in a day or two. the sooner the better.

May 28 - Clear and warm all day. nothing of importance going on. only cleaning up our barracks and inspection. there are but very few men here now. are expecting to be sent to our Regt's everyday. the sooner the better to suit me.

May 29, Sunday - A clear pleasant Sabbath indeed but very warm. I went to meeting at the Chapel this forenoon. heard a very good sermon from a young minister not over 20 years old. wrote two letters today. I am tired of this place. hope they will send us off soon.

May 30 - Very hot weather. still living a dog's life with nothing to do but eat and sleep. don't see any prospect of getting away from here very soon.

May 31 - Very warm again today. laid in my bunk most all day. don't feel well since I came here. have no appetite to eat and feel like an old foundered horse. the exchanged Cavalry men were sent away from here today, about 80 in number. tis said the rest of us will be sent away in a day or two. I hope it may be so.

June 3 - Nothing of importance transpired since May 31. have had very warm

1864

weather today is very warm. the exchange Infantrymen of the Potomac Army were sent to this front today. I was detailed to work today shoveling sand. mighty little work I done though. O! I wish I could be sent to the Regt but my time will come bye and bye.

June 4 - Clear and warm. got a pass and went to town today. saw 3 of the 154 boys there who are on duty there. (York of Co. A., Perry Baxter, Co I., and Sherlock, Co. G) had a good time with them.

June 5 - Sabbath Day clear and warm. the boys came up from town today to see me and staid 2 or 3 hours. I went to church this evening. heard very good sermon from the Chaplain.

June 6 - Clear and pleasant but a cool refreshing breeze stirring all day. very hard shower in evening. went to town this afternoon and drew a blanket. 2 or 3 other boys went with me. they got into a fuss and snubbed a fellow on the way back. came very near getting me into trouble but I think it will all pass off yet. I left them on the way so they had to run the guard to get in as I had the pass for us all. they got in all right, but the Officer of the Guard is trying to find them both, but did not succeed this evening. I hope they will not.

June 7 - Cloudy and cold all day. nothing going on today. the two boys who went to town with me yesterday were arrested this evening and sent to Guard House.

June 8 - Cloudy and cool. I am detailed on the working squad again today. not much work from me. I am not very well today. I was ordered to report to the Provost Marshal to give evidence in regard to the boys who went to town with me the other day and got into a fight. I shall probably be called on as witness in the Court Martial. report is that all western boys are to be sent to Camp

1864

Chase, Ohio. the sooner the better for me. They expect to make a Gen. Hospital of this camp.

June 9 - very warm but showery. I got pass to go to town today but did not go but lent it to my Bunk Mate to go. the order for sending away the western men was countermanded this afternoon. all the exchanged men were mustered for their ration money today.

June 10 - Warm and pleasant nothing going on today. Perry Baxter came up from town to see me.

June 11 - Clear and warm. all the exchanged men in camp were moved into separate Barracks from the Paroled men.

June 12 - Another clear warm Sabbath Day. I did not go to church today. nothing of importance transpired in camp.

June 13 - Very warm and pleasant. about 50 exchanged Cavalrymen belonging to the Potomac Army sent away this afternoon. we all expect to be sent to our Regts this week. the sooner the better for me.

June 14 - Cloudy but hot and sultry. another large squad to be sent away today belonging to the Butler's, Hunter's and Grant's Army. the western men leave tomorrow. Bully for that !

June 15 - Very hot day. the men who were to leave yesterday did not leave until today. the rest of us expect to leave every day.

June 16 - Warm and pleasant. about all the exchanged men are detailed to work cleaning up the old Barracks to receive the wounded who are expected here every day. I was detailed to take charge of one working squad of 20 men. the names of the western exchanged men were called this eve to be ready to leave for the front tomorrow morning. my name with the rest. futton ordered me to report to the hospital tonight. shall probably be detailed to stay here. I stay at

1864

the Hospital tonight. (All Right)

June 17 - Very warm day. I worked in the Barracks fixing them up to receive the sick and wounded who are expected here every day. the western men did not leave today. they are detailed to clean up the Barracks. Sargt Smiley who is in charge of the exchanged Barrack reported me as deserter, this morning. they sent a guard to take me to the Guard House, this evening. the Hospt Steward went and made it all right. the Provost Marshall found I was booked as a patient in the Hospt. all right so far.

June 18 - Another warm day. I worked in the Barracks again today. I slept in the Barracks last night. shall stay there tonight.

June 19 - Very warm day. nothing going on today.

June 20 - The western men all leave today. The Provost Marshall sent an order to the Hospt this morning for me. we drew our rations and started for Nashville at 10 AM. about 45 of us. waited at Annapolis Juncton, 15 miles, until 2 PM. Went to Relay House 10 miles and waited untill 10 PM. then took the Balt & Ohio R.R. for the west. arrived at Belar, Ohio at 5 PM of June 21st. passed through some hard looking country especially over the mountains on the Balt & Ohio R.R. we had passenger cars to ride in making it very comfortable.

June 21 - 5 PM started for Columbus, Ohio. arrived there at 11 PM. took the cars for Cincinnatti and arrived there at 7 AM of June 22nd. went to the Soldiers Home and staid untill 6 PM. had a good breakfast, dinner and supper. Bread, coffee, fresh Beef, cabbage, beans, peas, and Apple Jack. Bumbed around the city all day. went to the Sanitary Com and drew a change of underclothes. took the cars for Jeffersonville, Ind. at 6 PM. arrived there at 4 AM of June 23rd. Crossed the river to Louisville, Ky. got a good breakfast at the Soldiers Home, and started on the cars at 7 AM for Nashville, Tenn. we whisked along at a fast

1864

rate all day. arrived there at 6 PM without any trouble. the train yesterday was fired into by Bushwackers killing the Engineer and Fireman. we passed through some splendid country in Ky. and Tenn. we are now in exchanged Barracks at Nashville, the Zollicoffee House. a large 6 story brick building guarded inside and out. like a lot of rebel prisoners. no hope or chance of getting out on a pass untill we are sent to the front, which God grant may not be long. here we are cooped up with niggers; poorly fed; the dirty floor for a bed; lice for bedfellow; guarded as close as we were in Richmond prison. no privilege of going out of doors without a pass which we cannot get. Alas for the poor soldiers! who deprives himself of the comforts of home to defend his countries rights, periling his health and life every day, and then be treated like a felon doomed to an ignominious death. it is a shame and disgrace. is it any wonder that soldiers become demoralized and reckless, regardless of their honor, character, and everything that pertains to good morale, after being treated in this manner. but I must change the tune, these things will not always last. I suppose it is all military and right, so let it pass.

June 24 - Clear and very warm. slept well last night on the dirty floor of our prison house for such it is and nothing else. I wrote a letter to Addie this morn. we took leave of our Zollicoffee Hotel about 10 AM. took the cars for Chattanooga, and right glad were we to leave the stinking den. hope we will never be disgraced (or insulted I should have said) again while in the service as we have been on this trip. we were shipped on freight cars, go very slow for fear of Guerrillas. met with no trouble today.

June 25 - 4 oclock this morning found us in Stevensville, Ala., 112 miles from Nashville, when we stopped for breakfast. drew one days rations, piled on top of a freight train, at 8 AM, for Chattanooga, where we arrived at 2 PM.

1864

found several of the 154th boys here. went into the tent with Hank Baxter. we are all kept in Camp Distribution to do duty around Chattanooga and guard trains to the front. which is very sweaty business these days. Saw Capt Neddy this evening. he is on duty here.

June 26 - Very hot weather. nothing going on today.

June 30 - Nothing of importance transpired since the 26th. very hot weather. I have seen several of our Co. here. Charly King, Nat Patterson, Nat Brown, George Davidson are all here. John Fitch was sent to the Hospt today. he looks very bad. Fayette McCleaver is here in town waiting to go to the Regt. I hear that Crosby has been sent to Nashville, he is said to be very badly wounded through the side.

July 1 - Very warm day. Nat Brown has been sent to the Hospt. 1 year ago today I was taken prisoner at Gettysburg with the rest of our Regt. quite a change since then.

July 2 - Very warm. a little showery this evening. I saw Dr. Vanarnam this evening. he is on his way to the Regt. has just returned from home. his health is very poor yet. I have not seen him before since I was taken prisoner.

July 3 - Rather showery but very warm. Dr. Vanarnam started this morning for the front. Fayette McCleaver went with him. the whole camp were detailed for fatigue today. to load cars with provisions for the army but I believe some of us did not hurt ourselves with work. it is against my principles to work if I can get out of it. it has not seemed much like Sunday to me, (but I forgot) we don't have any Sabbath in the Army.

July 4 - Very warm and pleasant all day. I think I shall always remember one year ago today when we started from Gettysburg for Richmond. the whole Rebel

1864

Army on the skeedaddle. the rain pouring down in torrents and mud knee deep. there has been some celebrating today in Chattanooga and especially among the Officers here. most of them around here were on a grand drunk. a very common way of celebrating now days. Well I don't know but it is all right for Shoulder-Straps to themselves at such times. "But I can't see it". never mind Shoulder Straps won't always ". . . the . . .". I saw our old Lt Col Loomis today. he has just come from the front. he is . . . in our Regt now. he is the "same old Coon",. I went to the show this evening, "Bishop's Minstrels". it did not amount to much.

July 5 - Very warm day. I drew a gun and equipage today. I ran across Charley Baker this evening down to the river. he has been in camp not 20 rods from me ever since I have been here. he is Forrier in the Corral here. quite a chat with him. he is Charley Baker yet. I wonder who I'll run across next from Old Chattonoogo.

August 4 - Thursday. Not much of importance has transpired since July 5th. I have been on duty ever since that time as Sergeant Major of Camp Detachments. It has kept me very busy. a great deal of the time night and day. See Charley Baker every day or two. Jack Mitchell was here a few days . . from Nashville. he staid all night with me. we had a jolly old time talking our old times. Poor Crosby is dead, another victim to this rebellion. his name and memory will long be cherished with reverance and respect by all his comrades in the army, both officers and privates, for he was a friend to all. Jack sent me \$20.00 which came very acceptably. I started today for the front with Lt. Johnson, Dell Ames and Dick McCadden. we have to take passage on top of the cars. it is extremely warm as it has been for the last two months.

1864

August 5 - Arrived at the Chattahoochie today about noon and pretty tired. in camp for the night near the river. the first train of cars cross the river today. they have been to the . . . fronts of Sherman's army about . . . miles from we have had a good time coming. shall start in the morning for the Regt which is about 7 miles from here.

August 6 - We put our baggage aboard of some of our Division wagons and started for the front. it is extremely warm. arrived at Div. Hospt this afternoon, found Col Jones, Dr. Vanarnam and Day. have quite a shower this evening. we stay at the Hospt tonight. I stay with Gene Grans and John Wheeler. the Regt are in the rifle pits 1 1/2 mile from here.

August 7 - Came up to the Regt this morning. find the boys all in fine spirits that are left here. only 9 or 10 of our Co. left for duty; less than 100 guns in the Regt. Allen Williams and myself are going to bunk together. we are under fire from the enemy all the time. are encamped behind a heavy line of breastworks about 1 1/2 miles from Atlanta. the two skirmish lines are within 15 or 20 rods of each other and a continual fire is kept up between them, but do but very little damage.

August 25 - Very warm. I have been out on Picket once since I came back to the Regt. I find that Fred West has jumped me in the line of promotions, he having been mustered the 30th of June as 1st Sergt. Lt A.M. Benson is in command of the Co. he and Fred pretend they did not know whether I was coming back to the Regt or not. or did not know where I was at the time of muster.

All of which I know to be false as they had been officially notified that I had been sent to the Regt, and knew also that I was then in Chattanooga, waiting to be sent to the Regt. They say it will be all right with me yet, perhaps it will. I shall endeavor to make it all right myself, whether they do or not.

1864

Fred has been sick and in the Hospt for several days past so I have been acting as Orderly. nothing of importance has transpired since I came here. a continual firing is still kept up on the pickets for skirmish lines of both sides. which amounts to nothing. our Batteries keep up a continual shelling of the city of Atlanta. the Rebs seldom open their Batteries on us in return. this evening about 10 oclock we were ordered to strike tents, without any noise and fall into line, and march back to the Chattahouchie River. there is to be a general move in the whole army from all appearances. our Corps the 20th is to guard the R. Road from here back to the River.

August 26 - Have marched all night and arrived here in the east bank of the river about 3 miles above the R.R. Bridge/ this morning a little after daylight. eat our breakfast and then went to slashing down timbers and fortifying. this afternoon we went into camp in a dense forrest. went to slashing and put up a heavy line of breastworks for defence. there is talk of our staying here some time. the whole army except our Corps have moved around in the rear of Atlanta with the object apparently of drawing the enemy out of their works in Atlanta.

August 31 - We have made out our muster rolls, and mustered today. have moved camp about a mile from which we first went into camp. our Regt has to do nearly all the slashing and building fortifications for the whole Brigade . it is owing to Col Mendell of the 33 . . . being in command of the Brig. the miserable little *J. . . ?* we will all be glad when Col. Jones gets well enough to take command of the Brig again.

Sept 2 - this afternoon the orders came to strike tents immediately and go to Atlanta as our troops were in possession of it. they marched so fast that I was obliged to fall out within 2 miles of the city about dark. I then took my

1864

time and got in/ (Gen. Slocum has command of our Corps) to the city late in the evening completely tuckered out. I could not find the Regt tonight so I went into an old house and lay down for the night. the Rebs all left last night. they burned over 100 cars loaded with arms and ammunition which they could not get away on account of Sherman having cut the Macon R.R. They destroyed an immense sight of property.

Sept 3 - Sid Moore and I started out this morn to find the Regt. found them about noon going up to occupy a fort S.E. of the city. we pitched tents inside the fort where two large 64 pounder siege guns had been spiked and left by the Rebs. their works around the city were such that we never could have charged them out of this works.

Sept 4 - Strike tents, Boys! is the order again as usual whenever we get once comfortably located. this time we moved around to the right of the city about 1 1/2 mile, pitched tents in a nice grove. tore down a barn and went to work immediately to make ourselves comfortable again. I feel very badly. the short march from the lines up here about used me up. I find I am not as good bottom as I used to be before I was taken prisoner.

Sept 17 - We are still in our old camp. The whole army have fallen back around Atlanta to rest up and cloth up and be paid up. Bully for that! Fred West and Jim McStay are back again for duty. I am on picket today. The Army are beginning to put on style again as usual when we lay still a few days. about 6,000 prisoners have been brought in since we came here. the citizens are being sent away from here as fast as possible. those choosing to go south are sent to Rough & Ready through the lines under a flag of truce. while the rest are sent north of the Ohio River. Gen. Sherman intends to make this a military post.

1864

We have 4 hours drills every day. Dress parade, etc. etc. which is all very fine ("in a pigs eye") rating the men.

October 15 - Nothing of much importance taking place now. we go out foraging occasionally. getting plenty of forage and having lots of fun. we had a heavy mail today. Guy Waterman, Dell Ames, Alex Bird and myself all got our Commission this evening. tomorrow we go out to Stone Mt on another foraging expedition. Maj Marner will not make a transfer so I can be mustered at present. the other boys all mustered tomorrow. We were paid a few days ago. Well it don't make much difference. only shows the disposition of the old mule. he will not do anything for me. I think because Dr. Vanarnam was instrumental in getting me a Commission. perhaps he will some day be only an old lumberman instead of Maj. commanding the 154th Regt. I'll ask no odds of him then. I may thank Dr. Vanarnam for my Commission.

November 1 - The Maj has just made up his mind to get me mustered as we shall probably move soon, and then there will not be any chance for a long time to come. I have been mustered today. We have had beautiful weather thus far this fall. not had any mail very regular lately as Hoard has been raising the D - - 1 with our R.R. but Sherman is giving him fits. only the 20th Corps still remain in Atlanta. the rest of the army are chasing Hoard. we have had to work very hard lately on fortifyinations, on duty most all the time. Picketing, Foraging, and Fortifying. I am in command of Co. K. now, there seems to be preparations making for a big move somewhere. we were ordered to draw clothing for three months. every man is to have an extra pair of shoes which indicates a march. The boys have all sent their votes home but Little Mac gets a very small vote in this army. Hurray for Old Abe! Fenton! and Dr. Vanarnam! The Dr. has sent in his resignation and expects to leave for

1864

home in a few days.

Nov 14 - Still have beautiful warm weather. we are under orders to march tomorrow. it is a question where we are going. the Army has been reorganized under the name of the Army of Georgia, the 15th & 17th Corps compose the Right Wing. under command of Gen. Howard, the 14th & 20th Corps compose the Left Wing under command of Gen Slocum. the 20th Corps is now under command of Gen. Williams. the Cavalry is commanded by Gen. Kilpatrick. the whole expedition is commanded by Gen. Sherman in person. our transportation is cut down as low as possible. we are to take 10 days rations of meat and bread. 30 days of sugar and coffee. 40 days of salt. we are to subsist chiefly on the country. we can form no idea of where we are to go. some think it is Mobile, some Savannah, some Charleston, some Memphis, some Wilmington, but no one but Sherman knows certain. Dr. Vanarnam went home a few days ago. it was a sad day to our boys when he left. we have no Dr. with us now but we have a good Hospital Steward, Harry Matteson. I sent my Commission home by the Dr. we went out to Stone Mt foraging a few days ago. had a gay time harvesting corn for those old Reb farmers. we loaded about 1,000 wagons with forage. we raised a subscription in the Regt a few days ago of about \$600, and sent north by Loomis to buy the Col. a set of horse equipment. the Col. is still in command of the Brigade.

Horace Smith

Horace Smith was born in Franklinville, N.Y., March 21, 1837. He worked on a farm, taught school and clerked in a store until 1862, when he enlisted in Co. D of the 154th N.Y. Infantry. He was made prisoner at Gettysburg, and was on Belle Island, Va., for ten months, when he was exchanged. He joined his regiment at Atlanta, was made first lieutenant there, and went with Sherman to the sea. He was in the grand review at Washington in 1865. He was postal clerk on the railway for ten years, and in 1883 moved to Owatonna, Minn. In 1885 he came to Mazomanie in the drug store. He is now village assessor. His children are: N. Blanche and Lotta B.