

nely was in the act of turning to comply with the guard's order when the latter raised his gun and shot him down. This was a cold blooded murder. Donnelly lived in Philadelphia. The same ball that killed Donnelly struck William Bayne, 82nd Ohio. The ball entered the breast of Bayne. Bayne's wound was a painful one but not dangerous. The guard was taken off his post for the day, but in two days was back again ready to shoot more unarmed Yankees.

#### Murder of John Mahoney.

On the morning of August 19th, John Mahoney, 12th Mass. infantry, was shot dead by the guards. Mahoney was hurrying to the sink, he being sick, when he was fired on and killed.

On the 27th the flags of Richmond were at half mast on account of the death of Gen. Floyd.

It was the custom to give, each morning, to every one hundred men, a little salt. On the 19th of August this was stopped, and the rebel quartermaster gave it to a miserable prisoner to sell in camp at the rate of one small spoonful for 25 cents. A number of the men went to work for the rebels outside of the prison. Their pay was extra rations. This they would bring inside among the half-starved and sell

it. The most notorious individual at this business was a sergeant by the name of Gavitt, 1st New York artillery. This Gavitt, when a squad was to be sent away, would select those who could give him a \$5 or \$10. He is still on the island. Hand his name around. There is still on the island, 3,200 men. Some of these men are Tennesseans, taken as long ago as Sept. '61. Others have now been held over 18 months. They have nothing to cover with at night.

A search was made among the men for money, in August, each man examined separately. The result was that the provost marshal of Richmond got a bucket full of greenbacks, watches, etc. No money returned to the men on their departure.

On the 15th September, Longstreet's corps passed through Richmond, bound South.

The men that have arrived here at College Green barracks, were in a pitiable condition. The majority are sick from starvation and exposure. Major Chamberlain, the commander of the barracks, took charge of them, and each man was furnished with a new suit of clothes. Previous to putting on his clean clothing, he had to pull off the old ones and take a wash with soap in the bay. The major is the right man in the right place.

## THE GETTYSBURG PRISONERS.

### March from Gettysburg to Staunton, 175 Miles---Inhuman Treatment---Prisoners Robbed.

### BELL ISLAND---MURDERS COMMITTED BY REBEL GUARDS

Annapolis, Md., Sept. 28, 1863.

At the request of a large number of my fellow Bell Island prisoners of war I have written a short sketch from my notes taken on the spot, and have put the same in type. The account embraces from the 2nd of July at Gettysburg, Pa., up to September 21st, on Bell Island. The statement is facts only, and not from an imaginary brain.

GEORGE GANTT, 26th Regt. P. V.

Hooker's Old Brigade, Third Corps.

The prisoners taken at Gettysburg on the second day of the battle, belonged nearly all to the Third corps. The Third had to take the hard knocks and drive back the vandals.

At 8 o'clock p. m., July 2nd, 400 of the Third corps were marched to the rear and encamped on an elevated piece of ground. A strong guard was placed around the men. No rations were given out.

July 3d.—At daylight, General Lee, with his staff, came riding up, and after a short conversation with the officer in charge of the prisoners, rode away in the direction to the front. The general is a fine looking old man. He had not been gone long before the men were ordered to fall in and marched on the turnpike in the direction of Chambersburg, about two miles. In our route on both sides of the road, nothing was to be seen but wounded rebels, which showed what terrible execution

our rifles and shells had done among them—dwelling houses, barns, and tents were filled. A person could see on the countenance of the rebel officers that things were not going on right, among them. The prisoners were halted on the banks of a running stream, and Major Fairfax, one of General Lee's assistant adjutant generals, commenced taking the names of the officers and men. He was informed by Brigadier General Graham of the First division, Third corps, who was a prisoner and wounded, that no paroles could be accepted there, for it was against an order issued by General Halleck and the war department. Maj. Fairfax replied, that we would be glad to take our parole before we reached Richmond. He promised rations, but none came. We could hear the battle raging furiously, and began to think we would be recaptured. It rained all night.

### The March.

July 4.—The men were now half starved, having eaten nothing since the morning of the 2nd. Pickett's division now took us in charge, and marched us to another party of prisoners belonging to the First and Eleventh corps, taken on the first day of the battle. The prisoners now numbered over 3,000 men, with 125 commissioned officers. On the night of the 4th, each man had served out to him a half pint of flour, and a small piece of fresh meat—that night we knew the enemy had been whipped.

July 5.—This morning we were put on a double quick and marched in the direction of the Potomac. The whole of Lee's army seemed to be on a retreat. At sundown we commenced passing through a mountain pass in one of the ranges of the South mountains. Here we could see our cavalry making a dash on one of the trains, but were guarded too strong—the guard consisting of one division of infantry, one battery, and a squadron of cavalry—making any resistance futile to attempt to escape. At 12 o'clock p. m., we arrived at a village called Spring Mountains, a small place. The roads in an awful condition—raining, no rations—men used up. No medicine for the sick or wounded.

July 6.—A large number of officers and men agreed to take their parole. Major Fairfax commenced parolling all who wished to be. At 9 a. m. Gen. Longstreet came to the house where the major was engaged and stopped the business, saying all would have to go to Richmond. This included the sick and wounded. We were now marched off in the direction of Waynesboro, Pa. The guards were very strict over the men, using the bayonet when they tried to get water

or buy something to eat. Arrived at Waynesboro at 9 p. m., marched through the town—heard cannonading in our rear. Marched until 2 o'clock, morning of the 7th. No rations. Great confusion among the rebels.

July 7.—At 10 o'clock a. m. reached Hagerstown, passed A. P. Hill's [late Jackson's] and Longstreet's corps. The men in Hill's corps gave our men a few hardtack. Along the whole route it seemed all the barns and outhouses had been taken possession of by the rebels for their wounded. Passed through Hagerstown. Rebel guards used their bayonets on our men getting water and trying to buy bread. The ladies of the town waved their handkerchiefs to us, and said, "Cheer up, boys, we would give you bread, but the chivalry of the South threatens to burn our homes if we do." Encamped outside of the town. Bread sent us by Union people taken by the guard and distributed among their own men. Rations.

July 8.—Marched to Williamsport on the Potomac. No person in the town allowed to give or sell us bread. There had been a cavalry fight between Williamsport and the river, our dead lay stripped of their clothing in the fields. Rebel pontoon bridges destroyed on the Potomac. The country around was filled with wounded. The citizens of the town said over 15,000 wounded rebels had been sent across the river. Our men had to trade off their blankets, and even take their shoes off of their feet and give the guards for bread. A guard would charge \$3 in greenbacks for a small loaf of bread.

July 9th and 10th was occupied in crossing the Potomac in a flat boat—river very high. Guards taking prisoners' money on pretence of buying something for them to eat, but never

returning. Here I had a chance of talking with some of the rebel officers who ridiculed the idea of the South ever returning again into the Union.

After all were over the river, Gen. Embolden's brigade took charge of the prisoners. Gen. Graham with 125 officers and 4,000 men were now under Gen. Embolden to be taken to Staunton. On the 12th reached Winchester, and was hurried through the town and encamped, where we received rations of one-half pint of flour. The country on our route was a perfect waste, nothing having been planted. The men had now 92 miles to march to Staunton, which was commenced on the 13th and reached on the 18th. On the route large droves of horses and cattle were passed. These had been stolen in Pennsylvania and Maryland. They were being driven in the direction of Staunton. The men fared no better as to rations, and as high as \$5 in greenbacks were paid for a loaf of bread. The rebel officers said the men had undergone more hardships than any prisoners taken since the war. At Staunton the men's guns, blankets, shelter tents, and some private property taken away from them.

On the 19th, the first batch of prisoners left Staunton for Richmond, by rail, at which place they arrived on the morning of the 20th—136 miles. The prisoners were marched to the tobacco warehouse, opposite a prison. While waiting there, the prisoners told our men, through their grating windows, that since the battle of Gettysburg, all deserters and other prisoners held there had been liberated, who would volunteer to go to the front.

### Bell Island.

On the afternoon of the 20th of July, the prisoners which had arrived were

taken away from the tobacco warehouse to Bell Island. Before they were taken they were searched, and everything of value which could be found, taken from them. The rations on the island consisted of half a loaf of bread (weight one-half pound) one ounce of fresh meat, pint of water called bean soup with no beans in it. This was all each man received daily as his rations.

On the 20th of September, the lieutenant of the island had 800 men paroled for the purpose of being sent to Annapolis, Md. On the 21st, 721 men were marched from the island to Libby's tobacco warehouse in Richmond, and on the following morning took the cars for City Point. Gen. Graham was among those paroled.

The following are the most important facts which occurred during our nine weeks' sojourn there.

Private Blass, Fourth Regt. Excelsior brigade, took the oath of allegiance and shipped in their bogus navy.

Sept. 16th, a lot of prisoners arrived; they had been taken at Charleston, S. C. These men before leaving for Richmond had their good clothing taken from them and a rebel suit given in exchange. This is the way the rebel government equip their men in our uniform around Richmond.

On the night of the 12th, a large party escaped with a few of the guards belonging to the 42nd regiment, N. C.

On the same night, John Bierle, 107 Ohio, died of fever, brought on from starvation and exposure.

### Murder of John Donnelly.

At noon, on the 14th of August, Private John Donnelly, 91st P. V., had on that morning come to the island. He was standing near the bank that inclosed the prisoners. The guard told him to go further back, and Don-