

DIARY: FIRST BOOK
JOHN H. MERRELL

Monday 30th September 1861

(Had a very sad time parting).

Started from Toledo 10:40 a.m. Arrived at Grafton 2 p.m. Had a nice game of quoits. Met our Colonel there. Left for Columbus 3:40, had a brass band to play for us on the road (the one which belonged to our Company). Arrived at Columbus 8 p.m. Had a good lunch and then started for Camp Dennison. Had a jolly old time on the road. Arrived in Camp at quarter past one at night. Went into barracks, slept on the top shelf. Had a gay old time.

Tuesday 1st October 1861

We was somewhat aroused along towards morning by hearing a person shouting murder. When we got up in the morning, we found that it was a drunk man which had the delirium tremens. He was kicking like blazes. We got our breakfast ourselves. Had bread, potatoes, coffee, and ham, which we had to fix up ourselves. Started on furlough for Cincinnati at 4 p.m. Arrived at C. at a quarter past five, safe and sound. Went to Uncle William's store. Found Uncle and Willie. I hardly knew Will when I first saw him. I hadn't been there more than ten moments before I saw Harlow's clerk coming with his horse and buggy, so I got in and rode up with him to Harlow's store. Found him there waiting on a customer. Chatted with him a few moments, then we went up to his house. Found Josie[?] there. She looked as naturely[?] as ever. Her sister was there. She is a pretty fine looking girl.

Took supper, went to the store, stayed a spell and then we took a walk. Went around and saw some of the finest buildings. Saw several universities, returned to the store, then went home and retired. Slept[?] with John Selden, think that he is a right nice boy.

Wednesday 2nd October 1861

Ate breakfast then went down to the store with Harlow in his buggy. Stayed a few moments then went down to Wms. & Co. Stayed there and went with M--- Mann[?] to dinner. Saw all the folks there, had a good time. Had M--- play on the piano, went back to the store, and took tea with Uncle Ashable. Had a good visit. Then went and stayed with Harlow. He took me around and showed me his store. I was somewhat surprised to find he had so large a stock on hand. I think that he is doing a good business.

Thursday 3rd October 1861

Started on the 5 [?] o'clock train for camp which is 15 miles, arrived there 1/2 past 9 o' clock. Found the boys all well and in good spirits. It was my day to get dinner. In the afternoon we moved from barracks into tents which I like much better. There has some 5 regiments left for Kentucky. I got supper then fixed up our tent for night. Had a chapter read in the Bible, sung a few tunes and then retired.

Friday 4th October 1861

Found us all well. Had breakfast. Stayed around all the forenoon, and read in the afternoon. Went down to the river and went in swimming. Had a gay time. Went back in time for supper. Ate hearty then went in and had a chapter read, then sung about an hour and retired.

Saturday 5th October 1861

Woke up just at breakfast and drilled some two hours, returned and went to writing home to Father. Ate dinner, then went and drilled again. Come and went to writing. It rained all night quite hard.

Sunday 6th October 1861

Woke up in the morning, found it raining, went out in the rain and ate breakfast, it went rather tough. Went and saw two company of artillery go off. Found a man that told me where John Leonard lives. Went up in the afternoon, had a first rate visit. Saw Nellie[?] Merrell there, think that she is a first rate young lady. Returned home just at dark, went into camp and had a chapter read then talked it over a spell, and sung some two hours in the Thanksgiving, then retired.

Monday 7th October 1861

Drilled in the morn, also in the afternoon, went over and sung in the evening with the boys that play in the brass band. Went home and read a chapter as usual, went to sleep. Found it very cold. Hutchison came in our tent about 12 o'clock from Columbus, laid down and slept till morning. Said that Norton had got his commission as 2nd Lieutenant.

Tuesday 8th October 1861

Found us all well. Had pretty tough breakfast, then sat around the fire and told stories, then went and drilled. Played checkers with Sam Cass, beat him every time. Had a first rate dinner of beef soup. In the afternoon we had a nice time a passing, then went and drilled. Came back, went on dress parade, came back to supper. The boys came up and sung with us. Had a splendid time, sung for nearly two hours, then had a chapter read, asked questions, and retired.

Wednesday 9th October 1861

Came my day to cook. We got up a first rate dinner of beans, ham, and beef. Just as we had got about ready to set down to dinner we had orders to go and be mustered in to the service of the U.S., which we were all very willing to do, after which we had a good time of rejoicing. We ate dinner then went and drilled. Came back wrote a letter to a Friend, then got supper. After supper took a walk around, looked at the horses, came back, had a sing and read as usual, then I went to work and mended pants, fixed them up right. Had a sort of a nice chat, then retired.

Thursday 10th October 1861

About twelve o'clock [midnight] I was taken sick with a sort of a pain in my stomach which lasted until morning when I took some medicine which Phy. Norton gave me, which relieved me right off. Still I felt somewhat weak so that I did not drill much this forenoon but kind a played up gentleman. In the afternoon tried to drill but could not stand it long so I went into the barracks and laid down. Went in with our company, had a good supper, ate hearty then sung an hour or two. Then read a chapter and bunked down.

Friday 11th October 1861

Slept somewhat cold that night as it rained nearly all night. The next day I found myself somewhat better. Had a good drill and then it was my turn to stand on guard, so I went out and reported myself and went around with the guard. I found myself on the third relief so when we had got almost around I slipped around from the right to the left side and did not have to stand guard at all as they took the right hand man first. In the p.m. we tried on our coats which pleased us much. We all went out to our drill with them on. Came back, had supper, read, sung as usual and then retired.

Saturday 12th October 1861

The next morning I had to go on guard at 9 o'clock, stand four hours off and two on. In the afternoon I had to stand and take the passes so there was no other place in the ground that they would let them in. Had some gay times with the teamsters. It made them awful mad to think that they could not do as they had a mind to. My turn came on at 9 o'clock at night. There was some men crossed the beat above me. The guard halted them but they did not heed him and in about an hour they came back around through the barracks and tried to get in at the corner of his beat, but then the guard stepped out from behind a tree and halted him. Called for Corporal of the Guard and had them taken to the guardhouse, and there placed under two guards for how long I know not. I went off at 11 o'clock and came on again at 3 o'clock, did not have any more trouble. Got off at 5 o'clock, then helped get breakfast as there was one of the cooks sick.

Sunday 13th October 1861

After breakfast we drew our shirts then had to go and report at 8 o'clock for the next day. After we stand guard we have to give a report of all the passes which we have received the day previous. We found when we got there that those that passed the guard the night before had to have a police stationed over them so they picked me for one of the them and I had to stand there for two hours which made it too late for me to attend church. Went up and got dinner, wrote a letter to my friend, then went on around and saw some very nice girls which lived out in the country a little ways. Went to tent, took a nap, then went up and reported after which I came back to tent and read a chapter, then prepared for supper. Had a good sing, then held our Bible class. Got a good lot of boys in here and had a very nice time. They all seemed interested and enjoyed it very much. We all formed a resolution not to swear any more. Read our chapter and sung as usual.

Monday 14th October 1861

Got up about 5 o'clock, set around the fire until breakfast time, then ate and wrote a letter. Went on drill, came back and prepared for dress parade on account of the Brigadier

General Wade which came here on the 11 o'clock train. We fired 13 guns on his arrival, had dinner, then walked around camp all the rest of the afternoon. Saw one deserter with his hands tied up to a tree about two feet above his head. He was in a great deal of misery, but it was just right for him for he ran away last [word omitted?] and they found him some 20 miles up the railroad. He got back with him. They have got him in the guardhouse now where he will stay for a while. We got two bugles (Sprague and myself) and went out and tried to play but we did not make out much. Came back at 7 o'clock. Came into the tent, read a chapter as usual.

Went on as corporal of the guards for relief. Had an awful time. Just as I had got my guard stationed I heard a great cry of "corporal!" I ran around as soon as I could to find out what he wanted. He said that his men would not keep still and wanted me to get two guards to watch them and the first one that made a noise, put in the guardhouse. I told him that I should not get him any men, that it was not my business to attend to his men. He went off mad as he could be. Just as he started away I had another call. I ran and found that there was two men that wanted to get in without the countersign, but I would not let him ---- it. He said that he would get in and began to sass[?] the guard. I called a man and we took them, or at least the one that was drunk and insulted us. I tried to catch the other but he ran so I let him go and helped get the other one in. It took four of us before we got him in the guardhouse. He commenced to kick like blazes and tore the tent so I ordered him tied. We tied his hands and feet, yet he would kick, so I tied his hands behind him which cooled him down some, yet he would kick the tent so I told my men to get a stake and drive it in the middle of the tent and tie him to it, but he said that he would do better so I let him go and he behaved very well. I had another call before I got him taken care of. It was a lot of officers that was out until almost 11 o'clock. I would not let them in for a long while, then I found the Sergeant of the guard and he let them in. My relief came off then and I was glad, I tell you. My next relief went off more pleasantly.

Tuesday 15th October 1861

My day to cook. Got breakfast and then went out on drill. When we came back we went up to the east and saw one of the batteries go off. The brass band played until they went out of sight which was but a few moments. They started for Cincinnati. Went back and got dinner. Had a very good [dinner] and washed up the things, then learned a few lessons in the Bible. Went and drilled, came back, read a spell, then went on dress parade, then got supper. Read a letter from Mate[?] while I was cooking meat. Let the supper go and read it, then helped wait on the table, then answered it. Read and sung as usual.

Wednesday 16th October 1861

Things went as usual. Drilled and then read until dinner time. Went up and saw them shoot at a target. Stayed there a few moments and then saw the Zouaves take off 10 deserters. Such shouting I never heard before in my life. There was some 50 Zouaves that took them to the depot. The ones ahead had their guns reversed and those in the rear had their bayonets all pointed at them. They took them to New Port Barracks, Cincinnati. Then I went and drilled, came back to supper. Saw the Eddgerton's men mustered in to the service of U.S., wrote a letter to a friend. We went into the tent and heard one of Beecher's lectures read which was very interesting, then read our chapter and retired.

Thursday 17th October 1861

Woke up at the firing of the gun, then went to roll call, had breakfast. It commenced raining before we got really through so that we had to take our grub and go into our tents. We stayed there all the forenoon and I wrote two letters, one to a friend near ---- and one to Robert Skinner. Read the papers until 9 o'clock when I went down to Cincinnati. Went to Uncle's store. Had a nice chat with the boys there and then went up with Uncle Ashble to supper. Saw all the folks. They were well. He had been moving the week before and had not got fairly settled. It seemed very queer to set down to a table once more. After supper I had Nellie play and sing for me. Think that she is a very nice girl. Talked with Uncle about two hours, then retired.

Friday 18th October 1861

Woke up, found myself all right. A good bed seemed very acceptable, I tell you. Had breakfast and then had family worship. Got Nellie to go down and sing and play for me a while, then Uncle came in and wanted me to go with him. I went with him until we came to the street that Harlow lived on and then went up to his store. Found him well. Took a walk with him around the city. Saw several curiosities, returned, set down in his store and read a spell, then we went and tried to find Koukle's Battery of Artillery (I had a lot of letters to take to his men which Col. Barnett sent down by me). But I found that he had left the night before and gone across the river to Kentucky. I went back with Harlow and took dinner with him, then started for the Burnell House to find Gen. C. M. Mitchell, which I found very readily. Had a talk with him, found that Koukle's battery were about leaving on the cars (across the river). Told me if I would hurry over that I might see them so I started on double quick and got there just as they had got their horses and cannon loaded on and were about to start. I found one of the lieutenants and asked him where the Captain was. He said that he had gone on ahead with another officer so I let him take the letters and give them to the boys. They seemed quite pleased to read them. I had one private letter from Col. Barnett for the Capt. which I gave to his private. He read it and said that there was nothing in it to which he wished to reply so I started back. Took a good look at the place and then went back again to Uncle William's. Stayed there and went up with Will to supper. Saw Aunt Leonard, spent the evening there. Saw a very nice young lady there which had called to see Mandy. Had a good sing then went down to the store with Will. Had a good play on his fiddle, then chatted a while and retired.

Saturday 19th October 1861

The next morning went up with him to breakfast. Stayed a spell and got Albert to go over to Harlow's with me. We stayed there until nearly noon, then he went home and I went down with Harlow to dinner. Saw a picture of Harlow's Frank which he had just got. It is very nice. After dinner came back with him to the store. Stayed there until 4 o'clock then went downtown and found the price of rubber blankets. Went up to Harlow's and had supper, then he took his -----and carried me down to the R.R. Depot. There I saw Albert and John Leonard. They were going on the same train that I was. It took me 1/2 hour to get to camp. Found the boys all well with the exceptions of J-- Haden who had been wrestling and put his ankle out of joint and when he pulled his boot off he pulled it in joint again. He was very lame on it but think that he will get along in a few days. I found four

letters for me which came very acceptable. The boys all seemed to be glad to see me. We then read a chapter and then retired.

Sunday 20th October 1861

Got up in the morning at the firing of the gun. Had roll call. While I was gone to Cincinnati the Colonel sent a nephew of his to keep us still and drill us, but the boys don't like him at all. We answered to our names as they were called yet we made all the fun of him right to his face. Had breakfast and then prepared for meeting. Went and got a furlough until night. Went to Cousin John's, took Corlet. Went around by the little creek, crossed a man's farm. Saw a lot of gravestones. Went and saw them, they was six of them (a Robison Family). We mused there nearly an hour and was very much interested in seeing and looking at them. They were on a side hill that was very steep. We traveled over, came across the little stream again whose waters glided so smoothly along down the blue slate rocks that are worn so smooth by the water. It made our walk so pleasant. We traveled on and soon reached Cousin's. Went to the door and knocked but there was no one at home. What to do we did not know, but we found some papers on the door step and took them and went out and read them in the shade of a tree which was in the yard. We stayed around there for nearly two hours and then started for camp across through the woods. As we had got almost through we met Cousin John's wife. Hardly knew her when we first met her. She was very anxious that we should go back with her to dinner. So I went with her and Corlet went on home. All and John had gone to camp to see me. They did not know that I had gone out there at their house but they got back just as Mrs. Leonard[?] had got dinner. I had a tip top meal, then we went and took a walk down by the river. Went along the R.R. which is along by the river and then struck across a large bank by the woods which is the nearest way to his house. We got many walnuts on the way, then reached John's house. I stopped there a short time and then started back for camp. I took a head of cabbage along with me and cooked it for dinner the next day. Albert he walked down part way with me. When I got back to camp I found all the boys there. Went in and had a sing, read a chapter, and retired.

Monday 21st October 1861

Found me well. Our pigadier Brindle as we call him (a fellow which the colonel has put here to drill us) called us out to roll call. We went out and carried on like blazes. He made lots of mistakes, and then we would laugh at [him] like blazes. How he would swear though. We went back and then got breakfast after which we went on drill and then we bothered him like blazes. He did not know what to do. We drilled a half hour and then went in camp. I went to work and got dinner. Had cabbage nice[rice?] ---. Cousin Albert came down just before dinner and ate with us. We took care of the dishes and then walked around the camp. Saw the battery shoot at target, talked a spell, then I got supper while the boys were on drill. All went up to Cousin's just before supper. After supper we walked around with Norton and then went in the tent and sung and read a chapter and retired.

Tuesday 22nd October 1861

Up at roll call. Had breakfast, wrote a letter to M.E.B. Had a drill, then dinner and started with Norton and Wilcox for Cousin John's a fishing; had poor luck. I was the only one that caught any. I got one little catfish which weighed about 1/2 pound. Went to

Cousin's and had supper then returned home. Albert went part way with us. We cut along by the guards and made them think that we were going to run by them, but we went up by the guardhouse and presented our passes and got in safe. The boys wanted to know how many catfish we had caught. We went in and read, talked, sung and retired.

Wednesday 23rd October 1861

We was woke up in the morning and found Ike Grover. He came about 1 o'clock. Had him bunk with Sam and me. He was right from Thomas's, left them all well. He was going to Virginia to find his company, Zouaves. Left here just after dinner. We drilled with our pigadier Brindle as they call him. Had lots of fun. We went out and played ball just before supper. Had supper, then we talked and told stories. I sung several songs as well as the other boys, then we got up and pretended that we were calling the roll which made the others call out their company some half hour before it was time. We got our commander awful mad at us. He said that he set his watch with the adjutant's and knew that it was right. I told him that he regulated his watch by the Miami River, it made him some mad but it didn't do any good. We had roll call and then went in and read a chapter then retired.

Thursday 24th October 1861

Woke up at the firing of the gun. Roll call came first, then breakfast. Then we played ball after which we went and drilled. Returned and wrote a letter to Nellie, Thomas's wife. Made a box for my paper and letters, then went and got a new pair of pants from the Government. Had supper, went in and sung, read, and then retired.

Friday 25th October 1861

Found us well. Had roll call and then I went on guard. Had a good time. Then after my relief was off I wrote a letter to W. R. H. Had dinner, then went on again. Nothing occurred of much account that day more than usual.

Saturday 26th October 1861

I was police but did not have anything to do but sit around. In the afternoon I had an awful headache which lasted all the first part of the night. I fetched up Jonah two or three times. We read a chapter then retired.

Sunday 27th October 1861

Had the roll call, had breakfast, then went out and got examined by Major Place, then got released of police duty. Wrote two letters, one to Rob Skinner. Had Bible class which was very interesting. We also had preaching. The text was the 20th Psalm, 5th verse. We had an excellent sermon. Stokely was the preacher. Had dress parade, then supper. Read the Bible and retired.

Monday 28th October 1861

Found me well. I was put in Corporal in place of Cooper who was called away to go to Camp Wild Cat to take some things to two batteries that belong to Barnett's regiment. I took my guard on parade and got them on third relief but there was way too many so that my guard did not have to stand at all. It was my day to cook. We got along quite well. We had the Colonel drill us after dress parade. He give us a long drill which lasted until nearly dark. I went out this afternoon and saw a lady that was taking a drawing of this camp. It looked very natural. Nothing occurred of any more importance.

Tuesday 29th October 1861

Found us well. I got on my guard as usual, then went into Pray's tent and talked with the boys. Pray and I went over to one other tent to see a bugle that Coukle's battery had just been getting. I had not been there but a few moments when some of the boys came and told me that Albert Merrell had come to join us so I went to my tent and found him there. We had a chat, then the call came for drill so I got Al to go out and drill with us. Philenzo drilled us. Came back to dinner, after which we sat down and had a chat. Al played on his flute. Steve[?] Jerome[?] has been having the rheumatism and today he has got a discharge. Charley Hemelsbock[?] has just got word from Toledo stating that his mother was almost dead. He started just as we went on dress parade. We had a good drill. The Colonel commanded the battalion. Had supper, then Pray came in my tent where I was and asked me if I would go over to the next battery with him. I put on my coat and started. We went over to the Band quarters and had a chat with them. One of them read the evening paper, then some of them went and got a lot of brush and built a bonfire. It looked very swell. We joked a spell then returned back and went into our tent, read the chapter, sung some tunes (Albert played on his flute), after which we retired.

Wednesday 30th October 1861.

Was a very cold windy morning so that we took for our tents as soon as we had washed and had roll call. Came out to breakfast, then we went back into our tents again. At 9 o'clock was guard mounting. Got my guard on at the head of the file which brought him no.1 ft[?] relief. I got off from acting Corporal of the Guard. At half past ten I went out and drilled. Had a good time. Came back and read until dinner time when I partook of a hearty dinner, after which I went out and drilled. Returned at three, fooled around until 4 o'clock, then went on dress parade. Had supper, saw a new company come in, of about 40 men. A pretty good set of men. As it began to get dark the boys commenced to play and carry on like everything. We played until almost time for roll call, after which we went in and had a sing, read, and retired.

Thursday 31st October 1861

Found us well. We was up at the time that the gun fired. Set around the fire as it was cold. The musicians have gone after their horses to Cincinnati. Took my guard out. We had no music as the band were after their horses. It went off rather dull, yet we got along very well, I tell you. Went out on drill, had a good time. Came back and went out and see them practicing with a gun. Also saw them brand some horses. They kicked around a good deal. In the afternoon we went over to the P.O. I received three letters from Ell Knapp, R.D. & M.Mc[?]. Some st----- news in them that was very interesting. Went out and drilled again. Went on dress parade. The Colonel drilled us about an hour, it made

quite a show. We came back about dark and had supper, then sat around the fire and had a good time telling stories, then went in the tent and had a sing, read a chapter, then retired.

Friday 1st November 1861

Up at roll call. Had breakfast. Saw one of the boys of our other company put in the guard house for cutting horses tails off. He cut 8 horses' tails off clear out to the bone. Went over and saw the musicians' horses which they brought in the night before. There was 18 of them. Went and got my men. I had two detailed as the guards were placed nearer together. In the afternoon Cousin Dwight Merrell called on me. He has succeeded in getting a place in the hospital as steward, which is right across the RR. We went on drill, came in, performed for dress parade. They kept us on drill until dark, when we came in and got supper. It commenced to rain just at dark. Then we read as usual, talked, and then bunked. It rained all night.

Saturday 2nd November 1861

I was up at 5 o'clock and got breakfast. There was lots of mud yet we got along quite well. At 9 o'clock I got my guards on and then went into my tent and wrote a letter to Gert[?] Smith, read the papers. We did not drill as it was Saturday and it rained all day. The Dutch company got their guns. We had supper about dark. Had to eat it in the rain. Went in the tent and sung, read, and retired.

Sunday 3rd November 1861

It still continues to rain. Got on my guard at 9 o'clock, then wrote a letter to Nell Knapp, then went to Milford to church. The text was in John's 14th chapter and 2nd verse. Had a very smart preacher. We returned just at dinner time. Had a good dinner, then we had our Bible class which was very interesting. I read some of Beecher's sermons in the afternoon, also the Daily Gazette. At night we sung as usual and read.

Monday 4th November 1861

Woke at the firing of the gun. Found that it had cleared off and the sun came out very warm. I got my guards on as usual and then went and drilled. Came back and washed, then struck our tents at the command of the officer commanding. Wrote a letter to R.D. Bought me some paper off a boy peddler. Went over and saw the band get on their horses. They danced around a good deal. In the afternoon we went out and drilled. Came back, then went on dress parade. Drilled until dark. Then we came in and took supper then had a sing. Went in and saw Jerome who was sick with the colic. Got him some medicine, then went into Spray's[?] tent. Had a good chat with him, returned to my tent, read a chapter and retired.

Tuesday 5th November 1861

Found me well. Nothing transpired more than usual. Got my guard mounted, then went and drilled, came back, had ball play, then went up to Cousin's with Albert. Had dinner which went first rate. Came back and then went with Corlet to the Colonel's tent. Saw the Adjutant and got the promise of the countersign so that we could go to Milford the

next night to a festival. We expect Norton today. Phy and Corlet has gone to the depot to meet them. We set up until 9 o'clock, then read the chapter. Just as we had finished the boys returned and said that Norton would not arrive until tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday 6th November 1861

Found us well. They put me on the first relief which is from 9 to 11 and 3 to 5. I did not have much to do. The Governor was here. We boys all went out on dress parade. Our boys and Norton's men arrived from Toledo. We had a great time when they arrived, I tell you. The first that I did was to help get provisions. Then we had supper, then got the blankets for the boys. We had a gay time. Then Corlet invited some of his friends in our tent and we had a chapter read, then I let one of the boys out of the guard lines as he wanted to go to Cincinnati. I got my guard on at 9 o'clock and set up all night.

Thursday 7th November 1861

It was a splendid morning as ever I saw. The sun came out from over the hills and shone very brightly across our camp ground. We had breakfast as usual. When we had got through, Corlet invited Philenzo, Norton, and myself to come in his tent and eat oysters with him, which we did with the greatest of pleasure. Then Phy got out some cold chicken and crackers and the way that we went in was a caution. There was a good deal of excitement all day. I acted as corporal of the police. Had to take two men up to the Colonel's quarters to be examined. He sent them back to the guard house and I placed a guard over them. I wrote two letters, one to Nate and another to Everett Brewer. At night Cooper and Hutchison returned from Kentucky. He will release me now and act as corporal himself. We had all of the boys come in our tent that could come in, then we had a chapter read, went out and sung, then came back to bunk.

Friday 8th November 1861

Found us well. Debeck[?] came over and tried to get us to join him. There was a great deal of excitement all day as we was getting acquainted with the newcomers. At night we all got into our tent. Had a chapter read, sung, and had a prayer from Ewing, one of our company, after which I went into Corlet's tent where I had oysters, cakes, and cheese. Then I went in to my tent. Found all the boys asleep.

Saturday 9th November 1861

My day to cook. I was up at 5 o'clock [to] help get breakfast. There was 4 of us cooks, and it kept us busy all the forenoon and until nearly 9 o'clock. When through we went down to the river and washed ourselves all over. Took kettles along and heated water. Had a splendid wash. Returned and got supper, wrote a letter to a lady friend, went down to the depot with Ewing who was going to Cincinnati. We came back through the infantry guards. Stayed there afterwards then came back. Had chapter, prayer, sung, and retired.

Sunday 10th November 1861

It was a very nice day. Got my men on guard then got ready for church. Went to Milford. Had an excellent sermon. There was a house full of soldiers. Came back and saw several Zouaves. Some of them were drunk and cut up at a great rate. Got back, had dinner, then came Bible class. Had an excellent time. Then went on dress parade. Did not have to drill much as it was Sunday and the Colonel was not here. Returned and had supper, then went into our tent. Had chapter read, then also a prayer. Went into Corlet's tent. Had some cake, then retired.

Monday 11th November 1861

It was a most beautiful morning and just as the cannon fired there could be seen some 50 boys crawling out of their tents. They were the most sleepest set that I ever saw in my life, but they knew if they were not there at roll call that they would have to go on extra duty. Then the sun came out so clear and bright that the many droplets[?] glistened across the camp ground. Then came breakfast. Everyone was ready as soon as the word "fall in" was given. When over we sat around and read, talked, and carried on as usual. Then came drill which lasted an hour. Pray started for Kentucky. We drilled in the afternoon one hour and a half, had supper, dress parade, then took a walk and went in tent. Read much, had prayer, retired.

Tuesday 12th November 1861

Found us well. I acted as corporal of the guard. I sat around and read a chapter in Beecher's lectures to young men, then talked, pitched quoits, had a good time. At night we had a chapter read, also a prayer. Then I got my guard on. Had to be up all night with the guard. Went to bed at 5 o'clock, slept until 8 o'clock.

Wednesday 13th November 1861

Then went up and handed in my relief to the officer of the guard, at 9 o'clock. Then on to report. I had to keep two guards for extra duty. Had to stay at camp all the forenoon, then we went down to the depot and got some pies and cheese. Sam Cass was along. Two more men came to our company. They appear to be nice boys. At night we had prayer as usual.

Thursday 14th November 1861

Found us well. We went out to breakfast. It was raining quite hard. Just after dinner we took a vote to join Hunter's company, then elected our 1st Lieutenant G.W. Norton who is now commanding our company. Captain Edgerton left this afternoon with two guns for Virginia. There was a great time of shouting. He did not have but an hour's warning. Had prayer and read, then retired. Had a good lot of fun with the "soda water" tent, a name given to the boys from Toledo. They think that they are some prankers[?].

Friday 15th November 1861

We got our whole uniform. Had a gay time with them. Drilled 7[?] hours, found it rather tough. Drilled on dress parade about two hours. Had supper. Wrote to Rob Skinner, received one letter from Mert B. It was somewhat gay. Took a lot of boys and marched them out after some boards to build a tent with.

Saturday 16th November 1861

Found us well. The 18[?] regiment left this morning. We did not have to drill but cleaned out our tents. Phy Norton's father came this morning. Albert and I went out to Cousin John's. Had a very nice time. Brought back some peach pies which were very nice. At night I played a few tunes on my violin. The boys danced and carried on very lively. We went into the tent, read, and sung, had prayer, then retired.

Sunday 17th November 1861

Went to church up to Miamsvill[?]. Saw ----- there, came back to dinner. In the afternoon read, had Bible class, then prepared for dress parade. There was a good many of the opposite sex there. At evening we went up to Milford to church. Had a very good sermon. A man preached from Cincinnati. We came back, had a hard time to get in through the guards. Went in our tents and retired as usual.

Monday 18th November 1861

Found us well. I had to act as comesary[?] in Phy Norton's place. I then took out a squad and drilled them, had a good time, and liked it well. In the afternoon I drilled with the rest of our company. Came back at dress parade. Before we got through there was a cavalry[?] company came in. We went in and ate our supper as soon as we could and then marched out and saw them. There is nearly a thousand (1000) of them. They are very well drilled. We saw them drill around some and then we went back on double quick to roll call. Went out to one of the guns with Phy Norton, had a good time as usual. Came back then had chapter read, prayer, then retired.

Tuesday 19th November 1861

Found us well. It was a very cold. The ground was froze very hard. We went out and drilled as usual. Had some gay old time. One of the corporals in the right of the company began to order so when it came my turn to dress I talked to him and told him to dress up on the right which made the boys all laugh. He soon stopped commanding. In the afternoon we drilled as usual. I got excused and went down to the RR depot to get a book for Albert Merrell. Returned, saw a company of cavalry come in. They were from Cincinnati. Went on dress parade as usual, had supper, then went over and drilled with the gun, came back and studied the tactics until 8 o'clock when we had evening worship, roll call, and then retired.

Wednesday 20th November 1861

It was very cold and rainy. We had an awful thunderstorm along about the middle of the night. It is my day to cook. I have been busy all day. There was one company of cavalry that came in about noon. Along about four o'clock I went down to the depot with Will Corlet. We had some pumpkin pie which was very nice, I tell you. I returned to quarters and helped get supper, washed up the dishes, and then wrote a letter to Mert B., then went in and sung, read, and had prayer, retired.

Thursday 21st November 1861

I slept cold all night and in the morning I found that I had a sore throat and am not cured of it yet. I drilled with a gun, acted as corporal, had a good drill. Drilled the same in the afternoon. We drilled on dress parade nearly two hours. Played checkers in the evening, roll call, and retired. Received a letter from Everett Brewer.

Friday 22nd November 1861

It was very nice and pleasant in the forenoon. In the afternoon it rained all the time. I drilled a company with the gun and then looked at the book and found that I had made some mistakes. Received a letter from Jane[?] S. It was full of love[?]. I told Sam Cass of it and let him read it. He was much pleased[?]. We went out on dress parade and the Colonel had the impudence to put us through with quite a drill right in the mall. His daughter came out to witness the performance. She is very pretty. Will Corlet has had an introduction to her. We came back, had supper. It rained hard all the time that we were eating. I went into Phy's tent, set with him and studied the tactics, then I went into my tent, played on my fiddle a spell, then read a chapter and went to sleep.

Saturday 23rd November 1861

Found us well. As it is Saturday we do not have to drill. Found it to be frozen quite hard. In the forenoon we went and slicked up our tent, then had a squad formed and we went out and saw them shoot at target. Came back to dinner, then went back again. They shot several times and hit the target once or twice. We had dress parade as usual. It commenced to rain and snow about dark. I played my fiddle, then read and then went to bed.

Sunday 24th November 1861

Got up and found the ground covered with snow. After breakfast we went over to the barracks and washed us all over, then fixed up our shed to eat under. Cousins Ashbel and George came up to see us. They stayed out to ----'s and took dinner with us. We had hard bread and meat which was rather tough eating. At supper we had bean soup and hard bread. Had a bible class in Lieutenant's tent. I wrote a letter to Ev Brewer.

Monday 25th November 1861

It is very wet and rainy, awful muddy. We have got our tables set in a shed. I built a fireplace in one end of it. The boys brought in a lot of stove[?] and set me at work[?]. It makes it ----comfortable. I received a letter from Rowena Barnett[?], read sever[al?] pieces in the papers, then sat around as usual. At night we had a chapter read, then we sung. I played on my violin and retired.

Tuesday 26th November 1861

I acted as corporal of the guard. Edward Jacobs and Silas Coth--- returned from Toledo. I received \$5.00 from Thomas. Capt. Huntington returned from Marietta. He is a very good looking man. I got two furloughs, one for Albert and one for myself, to go to Cincinnati to spend Thanksgiving. I am on the first relief which is from 9 to 11 and 3 to 5. It is very muddy and nasty. Steve Jerome has got a discharge to go home. He had to give up all his government clothes but gets pay for the time that he has been here which is nearly two months. He is very poor, nothing but skin and bones. I wrote a letter to Thomas

and sent it by him. Got my relief on at 9 o'clock. It was very muddy and dark. Relieved them at 11 and let them go to their tents to sleep. At three o'clock it commenced to rain and I never saw it come faster, but I had to stay out and get my guard on. The water in some places was a foot deep, but they paddled through occasionally uttering an oath. Thought the Colonel was smart to put them on such a night. I had to laugh to see the Dutchmen get around with their shoes on and the water up to their knees. Oh such cackling[?]. I relieved them and then went to bed.

Wednesday 27th November 1861

Got up at seven, had the cooks get me some breakfast, then I began to get ready to go to Cincinnati. Waited and took my guards out to report, after which I and Albert started. Got to the station just in time to take the cars. As we got to Milford there was some very nice girls got in the same car with us. They did not speak to us but we knew they wanted to by the way they looked at us. As soon as we arrived at the City we got into a streetcar and rode up to Uncle's store. Then we brushed up a little and went up home with Albert. Found the folks all well. Stayed there at dinner then went upstairs with Albert and looked over his letters which he has received from his lady friends. They were very affecting. I had to laugh at him some. I then went over to Harlow's store, found him there. Think that he has grown fat since I saw him last. We took a walk around the city. Saw some very interesting sights, returned with him to the store, sat down and read the news and came very near getting a sleep. Next came supper so Harlow got on his pony and we started. Found all the folks well there. His little boy has got so that he can talk very plain. He calls me Soldier. We after supper went back to the store, sat down, and hear the young Dr. talk. I weighed myself and find that I have gained a good deal. I weigh 156 1/2 pounds with my overcoat on. Harlow weighed 121 lbs. and looks quite healthy. Had an introduction to Jessie's sister and her ma. Talked a spell then went to the saloon and had a game of euchre[?], also some beer, then back to the store. Found all the students there. They were having a swell time after their lecture. Went down to Harlow's house with him and retired.

Thursday 28th November 1861

Got up about 6 o'clock, had breakfast, then went down to the store with Harlow. Then we took a walk down to the river to see the Guthry Grays, also the 9th Dutch regiment pass, but the Guthry Grays had gone along so we stopped and saw the 9th regiment. They made a ----- pretty show. There was three boats lashed together. They stayed out in the River for nearly an hour, then started along. We went up to Uncle's store, stopped a few moments, then started for church. Had an excellent sermon. It was about the war. I went down home with Harlow, found Jesse quite sick. Stopped a few moments and then went to Uncle Wm. S. Merrell to Thanksgiving. Found Sallie[?] and her man there. She is the same old gal she was the last time that I saw her. I like the appearance of her husband very much. He is such a sociable person. They have a fine boy some eight months old. We had an excellent supper, oysters, turkey, chicken pie and all sorts of stuff. We ate until we were crammed up full then went into the parlor, had a fine visit, sung and carried on as usual until 11 o'clock when we retired. I stayed with Albert.

Friday 29th November 1861

Up at eight after which we soon had breakfast, then took a walk down to the store. Stopped a spell, then went out to a slaughter house where they were killing hogs. I never saw anything like it before in my life. They would kill and dress two a moment I should think, for it kept three men busy all the time carrying them off. We took a streetcar and returned. I stopped at Harlow's and Albert went home, went to dinner with Harlow, stayed at the store in the afternoon, then went to supper with him, after which we went to the theatre. Had a right good time. It was one of Shakespeare's plays (Macbeth). When we returned it was nearly 11 o'clock. We had some nice peaches which were fixed up in brandy, then retired.

Saturday 30th November 1861

Up about eight, had breakfast, went to the store and wrote two letters, one to Standly[?] and one to Spencer. Then I went down to Uncle's store, went into the public library, stayed there a spell, and then went back and took dinner with Uncle Ashble. Had a nice time. Stayed and visited with Nellie until most night when I went to Harlow's store. Stopped a spell and then went down to Uncle's store and stayed with him all night. Had a very nice visit. Albert came up there and spent the evening with us, staying until 11 o'clock. Then I took a bath which was excellent and made me feel like a new person.

Sunday 1st December 1861

Rather of a stormy day. Went to church and heard a good sermon. Went back to Uncle's to dinner, after which I set and talked a spell with Nellie, then started for Harlow's store. Found him there. Had a good visit with him, went up to supper. Found all the folks well. Read the papers, had wine and cake which was very nice, chatted until ten o'clock, then retired.

Monday 2nd December 1861

Up at eight, had breakfast, then started for the store with Harlow. Commenced getting ready to start for camp. Went down to Uncle's store. Found Albert there and in a few moments started for the depot. Took the 10 o'clock train for camp. Found all the boys well. Also found three letters there for me, one from Hampton and two from Maumee [Ohio towns]. Had a good time. The boys seemed very glad to see us. In the afternoon we voted for Lieutenant. 7 votes for Albert, 10 for M.B. Ewing, 27 for Cooper. It made quite a busy time for a spell ---- the boys. Norton went to Cincinnati to get his uniform, returned just at dark but did not get his uniform. We went into tent, had a good time, then retired.

Tuesday 3rd December 1861

It was very cold in the morning but grew warmer along towards noon. Our Captain drilled us, gave us a long drill. We returned from drill just at dinner time. We did not drill until 3 o'clock, then kept on until dress parade. The Colonel did not drill us scarce at all. Had supper. It was very cold. We went in the tent. I played on my fiddle, then retired.

Wednesday 4th December 1861

Not quite as cold as it was yesterday. We drilled with the guns. I acted as corporal. We had the captain to drill us. Got along first rate. Phy's father came while we were drilling. He is on his way home. Had dinner. I received a letter from Rob Skinner from Ft.

McHenry, wrote one to Barbara Ann, then went and drilled again. Came back and got some apples, then commenced to read Bringan's[?] works, called Mary Bringan[?], found it very interesting. Went on drill, then dress parade, after which we had supper which went off first rate. Went in tent, read some of Mary Brugan[?], then retired.

Thursday 5th December 1861

It was very warm. Looks some like rain. I acted as corporal. Took out the guards and got relieved. Went with James Harris and acted as gunner a drilling, had a first rate drill. In the afternoon went out and drilled again, returned, then went on dress parade. Corlet went to Cincinnati. I got my knapsack, helped Phy to distribute some clothing, then sat down and talked with the Lieutenant a spell. Then went and stayed with Phy. We ate cake for about half an hour, then talked a spell, then retired.

Friday 6th December 1861

A very nice day. I was detailed to take around the guard. It was very muddy, I tell you. Had some gay times with them. They hated to go around. Did not have much trouble with them as to calling. At night I had to be up all the time. We had coffee when we came off guard. Could not find the bread or we would have had some.

Saturday 7th December 1861

Very nice and pleasant. Received a letter from Robert Skinner. I was appointed corporal this morning. Had to keep some guards on to watch a person that was put into the guard house, but they relieved at night so that I had a chance to sleep. I wrote a letter to Gertie Smith, washed myself all over. Learned to play chess. Beat Sam Cass once and he me once. Did not have any drill today as it is Saturday. Albert is sergeant of the guard and was appointed by the Captain this morning. At 4 o'clock I had to report my guard, then had supper, went in and read a chapter, then retired.

Sunday 8th December 1861

The first thing that I heard was that one of our men that had been taken to the hospital was dead. He died about 12 o'clock with the lung fever. They sent for our captain but he was dead before he got to the hospital. We ran up our flag to a half mast, which made a shudder come over nearly all the boys. We had preaching here in camp by our chaplain which was very good. At ten o'clock we had our new commissioned officers appointed. There was considerable excitement going on. At dress parade we went out in detachments, made quite a ----- . At night Sam Cass and I went down to Milford to church. Heard a splendid sermon preached. Saw some very good looking girls which reminded me much of home. When we returned Sam and I had a good lot of bread for lunch[?] which I had the day before, after which we retired. Wrote two letters to M.W. and to Cass.

Monday 9th December 1861

Up before daylight. Had roll call, then breakfast, after which I went to the post office with my letters, then I came back. Cut off my mustache. Sam Cass fixed his in the same way. Went out on drill. Stayed until nearly noon when the captain came and called us, said that we would have considerable to do so we stopped and came in. Had dinner, then rested a spell. At the sound of the bugle the company got together and started for the

depot for our guns. We had a hard time getting them up to our campground, but succeeded in getting them there before dress parade. We went out the same as the night before in detachments. Wrote a letter to Mate[?]. Went into the tent and had a sort of dress parade as the boys call it, then retired.

Tuesday 10th December 1861

Very warm and pleasant. Went out and drilled with our new guns. Got some tired before noon. In the afternoon detachment A went over to the new winter quarters to put up some stables for our horses when we get them. We put on nearly half of a roof, returned at four o'clock just after dress parade. Took supper, then played chess with Sam, like it very much. Then retired.

Wednesday 11th December 1861

Rather cold in the morning but quite warm before noon, so much so that it made us sweat a drilling very hard. We drilled 7 hours, then came in and went on dress parade and drilled there for half an hour. At night I put on two stripes on my sleeves to distinguish me as corporal, then retired.

Thursday 12th December 1861

The ground was froze very hard in the morning. It did not thaw much until nearly noon, about the time that we got through drill. In the afternoon we got ready to move, which took us until night. We went into winter quarters. Had an awful time. The boys raised ned. Had coffee and bread for supper. We was all very hungry and ate very hearty. Then picked out our bunk, wrote some, had roll call, then retired.

Friday 13th December 1861

A beautiful morning. We slept well in our new bunks. I was corporal of the guard. Got them on the third relief. They took the other corporal which suited me to a T. Stayed around all the forenoon, didn't do anything but read. Received two letters, one from Spencer and one from Ell Knapp. Had hard bread for dinner which went quite good for a change. The drummer got in the guard house for scolding and striking the Sergeant Major. The Major went and had to get his horse away from his brother. He saw that he will not ---- a bit more, wants to get a discharge and go back to Cleveland. I think the Major much to blame but have not heard the particulars yet. Just after dinner we had one of our boys drummed out of camp, then we gave him three groans. It seemed bad but he would not be mustered in by the mustering officer. As soon as we came back we went out and drilled a while, the returned after which we slicked up our quarters some. I made a letter **H** to put up on the building. Had supper, then went to our bunks. Stayed until roll call after which I retired.

Saturday 14th December 1861

My day to cook and I had a tough time of it too[?]. At 9 o'clock was guard mounting and Albert Morgan got put in the guard house just for stomping his feet as it was sure cold. The officer of the guard was stomping his at the same time but the Sergeant had Al put in. Said that he told him to stop twice but there was no one that heard him say so. We boys all felt sorry for him as he is a good boy. Yet he is somewhat noisy and likes fun pretty well.

Sam Cass and I went over to the depot after we got the dinner dishes washed up and had our likeness taken. Got back just in time to get supper. Got what we called some first rate pictures. Had our supper ready just as they were coming off from dress parade, so that we got our dishes out of the way in time to slick up our bunk and write some before [it] was time to call the roll and retire. Albert got out of the guard house just after supper.

Sunday 15th December 1861

Was a very busy day with us as it generally is after breakfast. We got some water, Sam and I, and took a good wash, then came company inspection. We all went out on parade and was inspected. Some two or three was spoken to for not having their boots blacked as they should. We received --- cords of wood and that had to be piled up. I wrote two more letters, one to ----, one to Jacob S.M. Had preaching in camp. Quite a turnout. In the afternoon had Bible class in one of the ----- tents. It was very interesting. James Harris brought me two letters, one from Mert and one from Ev Brewer. Had a good time in reading them. After supper we formed a squad and went to Milford to church. Heard an excellent sermon, Matthew --. On our way home we was stopped by the brigade guard. They wanted to know what pass we had. We ----- them the countersign. They said that we could not pass but we told them that we should and asked them what authority they had for stopping us, so they showed us their papers and they took our sergeant's name and let us go. But they brung two Zouaves and put them in the guard house but we got safe home and retired safe and sound.

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