

**DIARY: FOURTH BOOK
JOHN H. MERRELL
WESTMORELAND
ONEIDA CO.
NEW YORK**

Friday 26th September 1862

Just finished my third book. Went to Alexandria this afternoon. Expressed my old letter and my diaries home. Got me a new pair of boots and a vest. Took down the mail and brought back a lot for the Company. Did not get back until 7 o'clock at night.

Saturday 27th September 1862

Not much going on today. I wrote a letter to Harlow, received one from B.A., short and sweet.

Sunday 28th September 1862

Just one year ago today since I enlisted in the U.S. service. Not anything going on today as it is Sunday. I stayed in my tent most of the time reading. Wrote a letter to Ev. We had Bible class this evening, it went off very well. Lt. Norton asked questions which made it very interesting.

Monday 29th September 1862

The center section have received orders to turn over their guns and get lighter ones like the rest in the Battery so that we may have guns all alike. I received a letter from M.E.B. It was after the old sort. No drill today, nothing to do but lounge about and read novels.

Tuesday 30th September 1862

Had a review this day by Gen. Pratt, did not amount to much. Very warm all day. I went off and got some chestnuts this afternoon with Phy and Geo. Akins. Got quite a lot of them.

Wednesday 1st October 1862

Detachments C & E went out to shoot at target, made some very good shots for the first time trying. I went off and got a haversack full of green corn for supper. It went very well for a change. Harris is not quite as well today. Albert and I went out in the shade and had a good old chat together. I saw some of his letters, they were very interesting.

Thursday 2nd October 1862

Not much going on this forenoon. We all set around our tents. Had a review this afternoon. Did not get through until dark. While on review we met with a sad accident. As the command "mount" was given one of our men in trying to get on slipped and the caisson wheel went over him. At first we thought his leg was broken but afterwards we found it was not so. The flesh was scraped off his leg clear in to the bone, but the Dr. has dressed it and thinks that he will get along now. I rec'd two letters, one from Father and one from Mate, both good long ones.

Friday 3rd October 1862

I am Corporal of the Guard today so I do not have to drill at all. Wrote a letter to M.E.B. and sat around in the shade the rest of the time. Company went out on review at two [and] did not return until nearly dark.

Saturday 4th October 1862

Had a good deal of police duty to do today, took all the forenoon. Two of our pieces went out and shot at target. They all said they made good shots. We had quite a hard rain just at dark. It seems good for we have not ---- rain for so long a time.

Sunday 5th October 1862

Morning inspection at 9 o'clock. All is quiet about camp today. We had our Bible class at 3 o'clock this afternoon. It was very interesting.

Monday 6th October 1862

I took the detachment out and drilled them on the gun. Had a good drill, everything went off well. Not much going on this afternoon.

Tuesday 7th October 1862

We had a good drill. Phy drilled the detachment. This afternoon we went out on review, went way up by Falls Church which is nearly two miles from here. Did not get back until dark. Boys all had a good time tonight raising ned. Captain has gone to Washington, will be back tonight.

Wednesday 8th October 1862

Our day to shoot at target. We had a range of over two miles. I shot three times. First time shot over several yards, 2nd time shot just to the right. I had it sighted so to allow a little for the drift but the Captain thought that I was allowing too much so I placed it right on range of the target, which made me shoot to the right. 3rd time it fell a little short. Detachment B did not come any nearer that I did. They shot five times. Nothing of importance this afternoon. We got ten new horses from Washington today, they are very good ones. We rec'd orders tonight to have two days' rations cooked up and be ready for a march. Boys all appear to like it well. I wrote a letter to Will Mann this morning.

Thursday 9th October 1862

Did not drill any today but waited for marching orders, but they did not come. Phy and I went and got some chestnuts, found them very plentiful. I rec'd a letter from Spencer stating the death of ---Sarah[?], who died some six weeks ago.

Friday 10th October 1862

We rec'd Spencer's letter this morning. Not much going on this forenoon. We went out and drilled with the pieces this afternoon, had a good drill. Norton drilled us. When we came in we found that we had orders to march, so we got ready and packed up everything that we had, struck our tents, and got ready to start, when we had orders to remain where we are. It was after ten o'clock and we had to bunk down just where it happened. I got down by the hay and got my gum blanket and fixed it over me. It commenced to rain about

12 o'clock and rained nearly all night. Most of the boys got soaked but I was lucky enough to keep dry.

Saturday 11th October 1862

Center Section went out to shoot at target. They made some very good shots but did not hit the target. It has rained nearly all day by spells. I traded off Sergeant's horse for a better riding one.

Sunday 12th October 1862

Quite cool today. Everything is quiet about camp. Today had our Bible class just after dinner, it was very interesting. At 3 p.m. had a sermon read by W.A. Ewing. It rained some towards night. I stayed in the tent and read Parson Brownlow's[?] own Book, found it very interesting.

Monday 13th October 1862

It rained most all night quite hard. I went off this morning and got a lot of apples and tomatoes, had to go about a mile. Found them plenty. Made apple sauce for dinner and had some cooked cabbage. Ate very hearty.

Tuesday 14th October 1862

Corporal of the Guard today. Stayed in camp all day and read the newspapers. Company went out on drill this afternoon, got back at 4 o'clock. I let one of my guards take my watch so that he could wake me up in time for the next relief, so he takes the watch and sets it ahead an hour so that he could get off sooner, thinking that I would not know the difference. But he did not play sharp enough game for me for I caught him at it, and reported him to the Captain. What the Captain will do with him is more than I can tell but expect that he will make him stand guard to make it up.

Wednesday 15th October 1862

Have but little police duty to do today. I do not feel very well, had quite a hard headache and a little fever. Company drill as usual this afternoon.

Thursday 16th October 1862

I feel a little better today, but shall do no duty. All is quiet in camp, not much going on. Captain has gone to Washington. Some talk of our leaving, where to is more than I can tell. I read the account of the great battle at Corinth. We have gained a great victory if reports are all true in the papers. I also saw the rebel account of the fight. They owned up to be defeated. The boys are all feeling well this evening. No letters today at all. Orders to move just at dark. Got to be at Washington at 10 o'clock. There is going to be some important move made right off. We did not get started until 2 o'clock at night.

Friday 17th October 1862

Got into Washington at daybreak. Stopped near the Capitol and fed our horses and got breakfast at the retreat. Had good coffee and wheat[?]. Just as we were going from breakfast we saw Mr. Kellogg, he has come out to see us and see if he can get a furlough for James Harris. After our horses had got through eating we went up to where there was a

place to load our Battery on the cars. Kellogg brought us a lot of letters, also a trunk full of eatibles. We took our Battery down to the arsenal and got some better shells. We camped near the R.R. all night. I slept on the ground with Phy, slept very well all night.

Saturday 18th October 1862

I wrote two letters this morning, one to Thomas and one to Brigham. We loaded our battery this forenoon. Harris has got a furlough and is going home with Kellogg. They start this afternoon. I took a good look at Washington today, saw all the public buildings and took a good look about town. I find that Washington is quite a place. We waited until 4 o'clock when we started for Harper's Ferry. Traveled all night and got to the relay house when one of the links that fasten the cars broke, and part of our train was left behind. They went on 7 miles before they found it out.

Sunday 19th October 1862

We got as far as the Maryland Heights when the cars stopped and we stayed until morning. There is some very nice farming land through here.

Monday 20th October 1862

We are now at Maryland Heights, one mile from Harper's Ferry. We unloaded our Battery and fed our horses. Heard cannonading towards the Ferry or in that direction. Had a good breakfast of hard bread and pork, also a cup of tea. I took a walk down to the ferry. It is not much of a place. All the public buildings are burned. There is one very pretty church and that is the only good looking building there. When I got back to the Battery I found them all ready to move so I saddled my horse and we started. Went back towards Frederick, went some 7 miles and found our brigade, then we went off to the left in a large meadow and camped. Found it a very nice place. Our mule teams came up about dark. They came from Washington by the pike.

Tuesday 21st October 1862

It was very cold last night, had a very hard frost for the time of year. We fixed up our camp this forenoon and this afternoon Phy and I went out and got our haversacks full of apples. They were very good ones.

Wednesday 22nd October 1862

Very windy all night. It blowed down our tent and we had to get up and fix it. One of the pickets caught a spy last night. He was a comin' to the rebel General Lee. It took three of our men to bring him in to headquarters. He threatened to shoot the first man that touched him. We went out on drill at 10 a.m., drilled until noon when we had orders to be in readiness for inspection, so we kept our horses harnessed until dark waiting for the General to come around and inspect us. It made it very disagreeable for all of us to stand around and [wait] so long.

Thursday 23rd October 1862

It looks some like rain this morning. It is quite cool. Had to drill this afternoon. I went and helped Corlett get some rations for the Company.

Friday 24th October 1862

Not much going on this forenoon. We laid around camp all the while. Went out on review this afternoon. We was reviewed by General Whipple. Did not get in camp until nearly dark. Had orders to march at 7 o'clock. We got ready as soon as we could and started at 9 o'clock. We marched seven miles down the river and camped close by a little village called Berlin. We have got a pontoon bridge across the river at this place. We got in here at 2 o'clock at night and laid out our tarpaulins, slept very sound.

Saturday 25th October 1862

Had orders to move across the river, so we got all ready and waited all day and finally the orders were countermanded, so we fixed up our tarpaulins and stayed all night. Not much going on here of importance.

Sunday 26th October 1862

Orders to get ready to march, so we got everything ready and started at 10 o'clock a.m. Went across the pontoon bridge into Virginia and camped upon the river bank. It rained nearly all day, but we got up our tarpaulins so that we did not get much wet.

Monday 27th October 1862

It is quite pleasant today but the wind blows very hard. We finished our tent and all stayed in it the most of the day. I went off and got some apples with Phy Norton. There are troops crossing the bridge all day.

Tuesday 28th October 1862

Very warm and pleasant today. I went off and got a lot of cabbage for dinner. The boys all like this place for camp very well. They can get most anything that they want to in the eating line. I got lots of pawpaws, all that I wanted to eat. Generals Burnside and McClellan passed here tonight. They went on out to the advance pickets. Boys went off and got five good chickens tonight.

Wednesday 29th October 1862

Had orders to move at eight o'clock. Some of our boys were off foraging so we left them behind. We advanced about 2 miles and went in camp near our division. Found it a first rate place, plenty of good water. Our sutler came up today with a large supply of goods. He brought our mail. I did not get a letter. The boys are just living now on the sutler. He has sold nearly all his load out today. Colonel Hayward got hurt crossing the pontoon bridge, do not know how bad.

Thursday 30th October 1862

Orders to move after breakfast. We marched very slow. Passed through Lovettsville, it is a small town of but few inhabitants. We advanced some eight miles and went in camp just back of a little town called Hillsborough. It is right close to a small gap which passes through the Short Hill[s]. The Captain ordered our gun ahead in a place where we could command the road through the Gap. It took us quite a while to get our gun in position as it was on a side hill and very stony. We found plenty of apples close by so that we had all that we wanted to eat. We also found plenty of chickens of which we

partook freely . . . Burnside passed us twice today. He rode a small gray horse. He is a very fine looking man. We captured four prisoners on the way today, all very good looking men.

Friday 31st October 1862

Up early this morning. Had a good breakfast of chicken. We had a company of infantry to guard our gun last night. We went down to the orchard and made all the cider that we wanted to drink. It was the first that I have had this year. Had to be mustered in for pay today. It took about an hour. One of the General's aides were there to muster us. One of the infantrymen were killed by a citizen last night. He went out after a pig and while he was after it the citizen shot him. I do not know what they will do with the citizen. It is reported that the Rebel Cavalry were near here last night, how true I know not.

Saturday 1st November 1862

A very nice warm day. We heard cannonading by spells all day in the direction of Snicker's Gap, which is some ten miles from here. Not much going on about here today. I had a very hard headache this afternoon.

Sunday 2nd November 1862

Had inspection as usual and in a few moments had orders to move as soon as we could pack up. Got ready and waited until nearly noon when we started towards Snicker's Gap. We marched until eight o'clock when we camped just east of the gap. Spread out our tarpaulins and took a good sleep. Some of the boys found a nice fat pig which we intend to have for breakfast tomorrow morning.

Monday 3rd November 1862

Up very early this morning. Had a fine breakfast of fresh pork, after which we went and got a lot of nice apples. The wind blows very hard today. There is infantry all around us. We can see up in the Gap very plain. There are some cavalry going and coming all the while. We expect to have a fight before night as Gen. Pratt says that the rebels are coming through the Gap. Find it to be a false report. The old General is a little scart [original spelling], that is all. Orders to march at 3 o'clock p.m. We marched to Bloomfield and went into camp. Gen. McClelland is here and his staff with him. There is about 70 of them all together. Bloomfield is a small village of but few inhabitants. Captain is acting as chief of artillery in place of Hayward.

Tuesday 4th November 1862

Up and traveling at 7 o'clock. Passed Snicker's Gap on the right and advanced as far as Ashby's Gap where we went in camp. Passed through Upperville just after noon. It is a very nice place. I saw three rebel prisoners. They were wounded in the fight yesterday. One had his leg broke with a shot. Our men took eleven prisoners today, one was a little drummer boy. He was pretty well dressed and looked very innocent. Heard heavy cannonading toward night. It lasted until quite late in the evening. We think that it is Sigel but do not know for certain. It is in the direction of Front Royal.

Wednesday 5th November 1862

Up and marching at 7 o'clock. Got to Piedmont a little after noon. Heard cannonading in Manassas Gap. We got our dinner and went after hay for our horses. I went in to a house and had a first rate dinner. When I got back the Battery was gone. I left my hay and rode on after it. I overtook it in a short time. They were going through the Gap. We went about halfway through and camped by a small town called Malcom. Got in camp at 9 o'clock. Had some fresh pork and bunked down. Laid until about 1 o'clock when we had orders to hitch up as quick as we could for we were attacked in the rear. We took our two pieces, the right section, and advanced a little and went into position. All went to bed but the Guard. Slept until morning.

Thursday 6th November 1862

We advanced until we saw the rebel cavalry. They were retreating. We kept out our skirmishing and advanced slowly until we heard the rebels' guns. We soon got the right section in position and let them have a few shell which made them skedaddle right smart. The Center section went off on the right and threw a few shells. We soon advanced again and took a position just through the Gap where we got a good sight of the rebels and we blazed away at them. I do not know how many we killed, but I am certain that we killed several as we saw some that were laid out. Gen. Pratt was much pleased with our firing but he thought that it would not be prudent to go any further as we saw a rebel camp off to the right of us, so we moved back to Piedmont. Stopped and got some honey on our way back. Got into camp at 9 o'clock, had supper, and went to bed. It was very cold all night.

Friday 7th November 1862

It commenced to snow at 8 o'clock and kept it up until after dark. We had orders to march at 4 o'clock and marched until 10 when we went into camp near Rector[?] town. We had plenty of hay for our horses and lots of straw to sleep on ourselves.

Saturday 8th November 1862

A nice pleasant morning. Orders to move on at 7 o'clock. Had breakfast and started. Heard heavy cannonading all the morning in the direction of Warrenton. We marched until noon when we arrived at Orleans[?] and went in camp. Our whole Division is here. We fixed up our tents for the night. I am Corporal of the Guard tonight. Cousin Albert is acting Orderly now as Picksley is off with the left section about a mile from here. There is quite a force in advance of us near Waterloo.

Sunday 9th November 1862

We laid in camp all day, nothing to do but lay around, nothing of importance going on today.

Monday 10th November 1862

A nice warm day. Had orders to move but they were countermanded before we got hitched up. I went off with a squad of men to get hay. When I got where the hay was I found it guarded so that I had to come back to camp and get a written order from Gen. Whipple before I could get it.

Tuesday 11th November 1862

Orders to move at 9 o'clock, did not get started until nearly noon. We went as far as Waterloo where we went in camp. Put our guns in position on a high hill. Found the 9th Army Corp here. Stoneman's Division is across the river. It consists of three Brigades. Hear some cannonading in that direction. Phy is sick today and I had to take charge of the detachment. Pleasanton is way out in advance with three brigades of cavalry.

Wednesday 12th November 1862

General Stoneman has come across the river today and has proceeded towards Warrenton with his Division. It is a very large Division, some 15,000 men. They had two very nice brass bands. All quiet in camp today. Our boys went out and got a nice pig which made us all a good meal.

Thursday 13th November 1862

Considerable stir in camp today. Hopkins went out with some of the 2nd Explosives Battery to get hay and while he was out there they were attacked by secesh which made some of the boys come into camp much quicker than they went out. Hop saw five of the rebels with two of our seven prisoners, so he with some of the others made a charge and retook them. Commissary went out and got 45 sheep for the artillery brigade. He took them from a secesh across the river. We had orders just at dark to move up on a higher hill with the battery. Have a much better position than we had before. The infantry are all changing their position.

Friday 14th November 1862

All still in camp today. Had inspection this afternoon which lasted about two hours. Everything about the Battery was inspected. I rec'd two letters this evening, one from E.E.B. and one from M.E.B. Also a note from the Postmaster at Rome, New York stating that there was a letter there in the office unpaid for me, and wished me to send him the three cent postage stamp if I wished the letter. Our sutler has just got around again with a new supply of goods. I wrote a letter to Will Mann.

Saturday 15th November 1862

Orders to move at 7 o'clock, so we harnessed our horses and then had to wait further orders. Heard heavy cannonading in the direction of Warrenton. Kept our horses harnessed all day without anything to eat but a little corn. Our troops have burned a large factory up the river about half a mile from here. They have been making cloth for the secesh army there to a great extent. It has been quite cool all day. Our cavalry have been across the river today a-skirmishing but could not find much of a force of rebels there. The sutler is very busy all day selling his goods to the boys. There is about a regiment of infantry among his wagons. Had orders to unharness at 7 o'clock at night. I was corporal of the guards today.

Sunday 16th November 1862

Orders to move at 5 o'clock. We got up at 4 o'clock and had breakfast, then had to wait until 7 o'clock before we started as there was quite a train of baggage to go ahead, all headed towards Warrenton. We got into camp just at the edge of Warrenton at 9 p.m.

Everything looks hard about here, it shows very plain the effects of the war. Lt. Devanport arrived just before dark. He looks quite well again. He brought the mail from Alexandria. I got one letter from Adella Merrell. The sutler has gone to Washington after a new supply of goods. He started this morning. There is a large number of troops about here. They can be seen in all directions. It has been quite cool all day, looks some like rain this evening. We got back our Sibley tents tonight and pitched them. They are much more comfortable than the small[?] shelter tents. We had our Bible class in our tent this evening. It went off very nice, yet there was but a few in as they have been marching all day and most of the boys are somewhat tired. It is reported that the small pox is raging in this vicinity. It causes much talk in camp.

Monday 17th November 1862

Orders to move at 5 o'clock. We were up very early and had breakfast and started on the march. It rained a little but not enough to amount to much. We went in a south-easterly direction, marched as far as Liberty which is about 12 miles from Warrenton. It was very cloudy all day and commenced to rain just after dark. Rained very hard. General Stoneman's Division passed just after we got in camp. It is a very large division. My riding horse was taken very lame so that I had to walk most of the time.

Tuesday 18th November 1862

Up at 4 o'clock and getting ready to march. We started just at daybreak, went along first rate. Reached Moris[?] Ville at noon. It is not much of a town. We continued on three miles and went into camp. Had a first rate place. Got in at 9 o'clock. It rained considerable through the day. I rode Phy's horse today. Phy is quite sick today. Picksley is promoted to Orderly. Tonight at roll call Lents takes his place. There is a gold mine near this camp. I went down and saw the place where they dug it out of the ground. There is a large steam mill called the Franklin quartz works. It is not in running order now as the man is a secesh that runs it.

Wednesday 19th November 1862

Up at the usual hour and started on towards Fredericksburg. It rained nearly all the time. We went on some seven miles and went into camp. Got in just before noon. It did not rain at all this afternoon. We stayed around all the afternoon with nothing to do. It is reported that the rebels are just across the river from here in considerable force. We caught a spy last night. He pretended to be looking after old rel---. I wrote a letter to Mate this evening. Whipple's headquarters are just back of our camp. Troops are passing on the road just north of here in large numbers. They have been passing for 3 or 4 days, all the while, night and day.

Thursday 20th November 1862

Did not start off this morning. No orders to move so we took a good sleep. Woke up and found it raining. It rained by spells all day. It is very disagreeable weather for soldiering. I had to be out a good deal of the time taking care of the detachment. Our hard bread is all ate up and we have rather slim fare but expect a supply in soon.

Friday 21st November 1862

No hard bread yet, boys are growling at a great rate. I received two letters, one from home and one from Harris. Wrote two, one to Adella Merrell and one to Mert. Boys went off and got some sheep, also a beef so securing[?] [several words illegible] of meat to eat [?].

Saturday 22nd November 1862

Up very early this morning. Had orders to move at 7 o'clock at which time we left. We went very slow today as the roads were very bad and there was a long train of baggage ahead of us. We camped a little southwest of Fredericksburg. Did not get in camp until after dark. Built up a fire and made some coffee, then waited about an hour and got some hard bread which went very good as we had not had any for three days. We laid down our tarpaulins and took a good sleep. We got six new horses today, most of them were very small and only fit for riding horses.

Sunday 23rd November 1862

Orders to march at 7 o'clock this morning. We got along very slow. Passed a good many camps. Went a little north of Fredericksburg in a very roundabout way. We got in camp at 5 o'clock about a mile and a half north of Fredericksburg. Had a very good place to camp, but found the wood very scarce as there has been so many soldiers camped about here.

Monday 24th November 1862

We laid in camp all day, had inspection this afternoon by Gen. Stoneman. Did not last but a short time. He is a good looking man and seems to know what he is at. He talks but little but what he says is right to the point.

Tuesday 25th November 1862

Quite cold this morning. There was a national salute fired this morning about 10 o'clock, I do not know what it was for. I went down to the river to see the secesh pickets. They were just on the other side of the river and our pickets were on this side not more than 30 rods apart. They were not much more ragged than our soldiers are. We could see their campfires off at a distance. We also saw them throwing up breastworks. They seemed to be working very busy all the time. Their baggage wagons were running very lively from one place to another. The pickets talk to our men and ask them to come over and drink whiskey with them. Their actions show that they are tired of soldiering. They appear so lazy and dirty. it commenced to rain just at night.

Wednesday 26th November 1862

I woke up and found it raining quite hard. It has rained nearly all night and is very hard getting about. Had orders to be ready to go out on review at 10 o'clock. We got all hitched up and waited about an hour when the order was countermanded, so we waited until afternoon when we went out about a mile from camp and was reviewed by General Hooker. He's a very energetic looking man, and I believe that I had as leaves fight under him as anyone that I know of. His review was short and everything went off well. Bill Briner got hurt as we were coming in. His horse fell with him and hurt his leg very bad. As luck would have it our ambulance was right there so that they got him in and brought him to

camp. It has been very pleasant this afternoon yet it was somewhat cold as there was a north wind. The troops are all very quiet in camp. There is no more excitement here than there would be were the rebels a hundred miles away.

Thursday 27th November 1862

Not much going on today. I built a fireplace in the tent today. It makes it very comfortable for us now. Everything is very quiet about camp today. Lt. Norton has been sick for the last three days but is so as to be out and around again.

Friday 28th November 1862

We had to drill on the gun this forenoon. Most of the old cannoneers were on guard but we made it go off very well. Grover acted as gunner as Sam Cass was on guard. Had horse drill this afternoon. It goes much better than to have to take out the carriages, it is much easier for the horses. We drilled four hours today. I always feel better when I drill every day right along than when we are laying in camp with nothing to do. I wrote a letter to E.E. Brewer.

Saturday 29th November 1862

A very nice warm morning. We had to drill today as usual. Wm. Smith has just received an appointment as 2nd Lieutenant. I guess that he was somewhat surprised by the appointment. I received two letters today from Mate, one was written in September while I was at the hospital. Lt. Norton has just received a letter from Harris. He is at Alexandria waiting for transportation to the battery.

Sunday 30th November 1862

I wrote a long letter home, put in all the news that I could think of. We had morning inspection at 10 o'clock. I stayed in the tent most of the time reading the papers. Heard cannonading down towards the river but it did not last but a short time.

Monday 1st December 1862

We had to clean up our camp around about the tents this forenoon. This afternoon we drilled with the piece. I had the detachment dismount and mount the piece, they done much better [than] I expected they could. Will Corlett is quite sick this afternoon. He is better tonight.

Tuesday 2nd December 1862

We drilled this forenoon and had inspection this afternoon by Gen. Whipple. He was very particular, went around to every limber chest and examined them. It took us some two hours to get through with the batteries.

Wednesday 3rd December 1862

Phi Norton and I started this morning and went down to the river, saw the rebel pickets who are just on the other side of the river. We then went down the river some seven miles, saw seven of our batteries which were behind breastworks, also quite a number of the enemy's. We got all the persimmons that we wanted to eat, got back in camp at two o'clock. Had to drill for two hours on the piece. I had the boys mount and dismount the

gun, they have got so as to do it very well. I received two letters, one from A.C. & one from F. Barber. I wrote one to M. Brigham.

Thursday 4th December 1862

William Smith starts for home this morning. I sent two blankets by him, he took a letter for me too. It is a very nice warm day, about as warm as summer. I busied myself this forenoon by reading the President's message, and rec'd a letter from Mary, also a note from M.E.B.

Friday 5th December 1862

Not much going on today. It is very muddy. The snow is about 2 inches deep, it is very cold and disagreeable. I hauled up some wood for our fireplace. Rec'd two papers from home, Utica Herald. Very good reading in them. Two of our boys have just got back from the hospital. Harris is on the way, will doubtless be here tomorrow.

Saturday 6th December 1862

Not much going on today. The boys have got their tents set up so that they have a good deal more room.

Sunday 7th December 1862

Harris has just got along this morning. He looks very well to what he did when he went away. We were all very glad to see him. Chas. Davis and John Akins came with him. They look very well. We have been in the tent all day nearly reading the papers. Had inspection at three o'clock. It is very cold today, the coldest day that we have had yet. It is very slippery for the horses. The Captain has got a leave of absence for ten days to go to Washington. He is sick.

Monday 8th December 1862

We had a lot of clothing come today, and the boys are all very busy getting their clothing. I went over with Will Corlett to get firewood. We got the large loads. Saw the sutler, he was trying to find our Battery. I directed him to where it was. The boys were all very glad to see him. I rec'd a letter from M.E.B. It was very interesting.

Tuesday 9th December 1862

Quite warm today. The sutler is very busy selling his goods to the boys. I wrote three letters, one to Mert, one to A.C. & one to Fletcher Barber. We have just rec'd orders to be ready to move tomorrow. Boys rather hate to leave as they have got their tents all fixed up so nice, but they are anxious to match courage with the rebels.

Wednesday 10th December 1862

There is considerable stir about camp this morning as we expect to move today. We have took down a lot of horses to be turned over. Could not get any horses so we brought ours back. We left for the river just before dark, went very slow as we had to wait for a Battery ahead of us. When we got near the river we halted and went up one pace at a time so as not to make any noise. We left the harnesses on our horses and went and laid down

by the fire. About 11 o'clock the ----- commenced to come along and it was nearly 3 o'clock before they all got here.

Thursday 11th December 1862

(Sergeant Harris has got the ague and has gone back to camp with Phy). They commenced to lay the pontoon bridge soon after they got here and just at 4 o'clock the rebels fired two signal guns. I went out close to the river and could hear the rebels tell off their men to fall in. They seemed to be somewhat excited over it. At 5 o'clock we opened fire on their infantry who were shooting at our men who were laying the pontoon bridge. We shot into the ----[cellar?] nearly all the time. This morning we kept firing until just 5 o'clock at night when our infantry went over in boats and charged up in the town. Took 68 prisoners at the first haul, then our men fixed our pontoon bridge as soon as they could. The prisoners looked very ragged, said that they were glad that they were taken prisoners. There was one Captain who was wounded and had to be carried. It was a continual cannonading all day. There is a Battery of 20 lb. janets[?] just back of us on a high hill. They shot over us and some of their shell would land short and the pieces would come down among us like hail, but there was none of our Company hurt. One of their shell struck in a house just to our right and wounded two men, tore one man's arm all to pieces and broke the other's leg & arm. We sent for our ambulance and took them away. I helped put one in the ambulance. He appears to be a very good fellow, belongs to a N.Y. regiment. We laid on the ground all night. I never heard such cannonading before, it was a continual roar all day. I shot over two hundred shell.

Friday 12th December 1862

We were up before daylight. Fed our horses and got ready to open fire on the enemy should they come in sight of us or try to drive us back, but we could not see any of them. A lot of us went over to the City, saw several dead rebs that we killed yesterday. They laid very near together. One had his head shot off, the others were shot in different places. I got two boxes of tobacco out of the river and brought it up to our detachment, there was 200 lbs. of it. I also got some books, one of which I sent home by mail to Mate. I went around to several houses to see the effects of our shot. I never saw houses so riddled up before in my life. There is not a room in the whole city but what shows the effect of our shell. Between two and three o'clock we had orders to move back some 30 rods, to take position between the two heavy batteries. We got back just in the right time to save our bacon, for the rebels opened fire on us, and several shell exploded right where we left. But as soon as we got in position we opened on them and there was continual cannonading until 5 o'clock when it ceased. There was guns for over two miles along the river on our side. The rebels had a good many guns. Our loss at this bridge was one killed and three wounded. I believe it was a Connecticut regiment who were on the other side of the river. Lt. Norton had one shell come right over his head and struck in the ground not more than 20 feet behind him. After we ceased firing we went back to the rear where our caissons are and had supper and spread down our tarpaulins and went to bed. There is not a gun to be heard, everything is as quiet as though the rebels were 100 miles away.

Saturday 13th December 1862

The cannonading commenced soon after daylight. They soon began to use musketry on our left. There was a very heavy charge. At 10 o'clock we saw a balloon back to the rear of us nearly a mile, and at 11 o'clock our infantry made a charge in front of us. They fought desperately. They fell back once and got reinforced and then went up again right in front of the enemies' cannon. I never saw men stand up better in my life. It was equal to [the] charge at Port Republic. They got within 20 rods of the rebel batteries and there they stayed until reinforcements came up to assist them. We could see the rebel's infantry very plain. They kept under the protection of their guns in rifle pits and just before dark there was another desperate charge made which lasted until after dark, and I can not tell how the thing is going yet our men seem to hold their ground well. Saw 117 prisoners that were taken on our left. They have been fighting there very hard all day. It has been a continual roar of cannon and musketry from daybreak until after dark. One of the rebel guns kept firing on our men in the City until 9 o'clock at night. It is reported that Sigel is on our right. There has been considerable firing there all day. I saw the Colonel of the 6th Rhode Island who was killed in the first charge. His men were carrying him back to the rear. They state that the fighting has been awful tough, say that we lost a great many men. We stayed back by our caissons the same as last night, keeping a guard on our guns all the while.

Sunday 14th December 1862

The cannonading commenced at daybreak. There was also some musketry all through the day. Our men have the same position they had last night at dark. The rebels are in behind their breastworks, shooting at our men every chance they get. At 12 o'clock we had orders to move down to the right of town which we did as soon as we could get our dinner. We went down and laid under cover of a hill just back of the river at the right of town. There is quite a number of wounded going to the rear. They say that they had a very hot time of it. The balloon has been up quite a number of times today. We stopped here all night, unharnessed our horses, spread out our tarpaulins and had a good sleep. I went over by the depot and saw the prisoners which we took yesterday. They say that there is a large force that we have got to whip and before we can take the heights on the other side of the river. They think that it is impossible for us to take them. Our force is no nearer the enemy's breastwork than they were last night.

Monday 15th December 1862

Up this morning long before daylight, fed our horses, got breakfast and waiting for further orders. Last night about 2 o'clock I was awakened by hearing musketry across the river. The Rebs came down near our men and went to digging rifle pits, when our men opened upon them and drove them away. The musketry lasted about ten minutes but was very heavy while it did last. I went over and saw the balloon this forenoon, it is a very nice one. It lays in a ravine just to our rear. There has more than a 1,000 wounded passed by on their way to the rear this forenoon. It is reported that the rebels are going to shell the town this afternoon and give our men so long to leave ---and get our wounded out of the city. They commenced to shell the town at two o'clock. The cannonading is very heavy but did not last long. The Captain came about noon, we were all very glad to see him. He has been gone just a week. Looks very much better than when he left us. Just as we had all

got to bed and was sleeping well, we had orders to move to the rear of Falmouth about a mile distant. We soon hitched up and was off. It took us about two hours to get to the destined place. When we got there we found another battery in the position, so we moved off about a half mile and went in camp.

Tuesday 16th December 1862

Woke up this morning and found it raining. I was laying in the water about three inches, came to the conclusion that it was somewhat damp to say the least of it. It rained until 9 o'clock when it cleared up and it has been pleasant all the rest of the day. At 11 o'clock we had orders to move back to our old camp. Everything looks natural here in the old camp. I have been very busy all this afternoon trading. Made \$15.00, very well satisfied with what I have made. I find that the fools are not all dead yet.

Wednesday 17th December 1862

There is not much going on about camp today. Our troops have all fallen back on this side of the river. Sigel has come up with 50,000 troops to reinforce Burnside. There is but very little cannonading going on today. I wrote a letter to Father, did not write much news as I was in a hurry.

Thursday 18th December 1862

Very cold this morning, not much going on. All quiet in camp. Our boys all came from the hospital this afternoon. Some of them are very sick yet but are getting along very well now. Thompson was appointed Corporal in place of Wm. H. Smith who is promoted to Lieutenant. Think that he will make a very good chief of caissons. I have been laying around the tent nearly all day with nothing to do.

Friday 19th December 1862

A nice warm day. I received two letters, one from Adela Merrell and one from E.E. Brewer. I sold a watch to a darkey for \$16.00, one that I bought for \$14.00. Not very much going on of importance.

Saturday 20th December 1862

It is very cold today. Most of the boys stay in the tent around the fire. I wrote a long letter to Ev. We received a lot of clothing. I drew me a blanket. The paymaster has come and will pay us off tomorrow, if the pay rolls get here. They have telegraphed to Washington for them this afternoon.

Sunday 21st December 1862

Morning inspection as usual. All quiet in camp today. It is very cold so that we all stay in the tent most of the time. I went off and got some dried apples, had a good stew for supper, read Hiawatha this evening.

Monday 22nd December 1862

I spent all this forenoon in cutting wood for our fire in the tent. This afternoon we had to drill on the gun. Had a very good drill of about two hours. It is reported that McClellan is coming here to take command of this army. How true it is remains to be seen,

still there is some that believe it. Saw the balloon up this forenoon, it did not stay up long at a time. Everything seems to be quiet about camp now days. Read Hiawatha this evening, like it very much. It has been very warm all day, quite a change from yesterday.

Tuesday 23rd December 1862

Another nice day, very warm and pleasant. Most of the boys are outdoors today. I have been trading watches. Traded three times, made some 6 dollars. The balloon is up again this forenoon, does not stay up but a short time. I am corporal of the guard today, do not have nothing to do but put on the reliefs. I went off this afternoon and tried to get some butter for the sick boys but couldn't find any. I rode more than five miles, went to every sutler's that I could hear of. I bought me a paper and spent the evening in reading it, some very good news in it. Burnside gives his reason for crossing the river when he did.

Wednesday 24th December 1862

Nothing more than usual going on today. We fixed up a place for our horses to stand in that is very dry and nice. It looks as though we were going to stay here quite a while.

Thursday 25th December 1862

Christmas. Boys all feel very well today. There is quite a number that have been drinking considerable. John Ranger is one of the number and he has just come in with his face all jammed up, his horse threw him off. Will Corlett, Phi Norton, Harris, Cass, Brinelee[?] and myself had a very good dinner in the commissary tent, then I went down towards Falmouth to get my photograph taken but did not succeed. They did not take anything but ambrotypes. I wrote a letter to H.W. this evening. Col. Hayward had got a leave of absence to go home. He went this morning.

Friday 26th December 1862

I do not feel very well this morning, have a sort of headache. Answered Adela's letter this forenoon. I feel much better this afternoon than I did this morning. The wind blows very hard. Most of the boys are sitting around the fire in the tent. We are all waiting very patiently for the paymaster as he is to be here today. No paymaster has come yet.

Saturday 27th December 1862

A very warm day. Not very much going on. I went off and got a lot of laurel roots, some of the largest that I ever saw in my life. The paymaster has got along and is so tight that he cannot pay us tonight but will be ready in the morning. Colonel has returned. He could not get any pass home so he had to return to his command again. So ends the 4th book.

[The following song was written into the back of the fourth book].

Benny Havenzo

1st Come comrades tune your voices
And stand up in a row
For to singing sentimentally
I am about to go.
In the army there's sobriety
Promotion very slow
So we'll cheer our hearts by chorusing
Old Benny Havenzo

Chor. O Benny Havenzo, O benny Havenzo
We'll cheer our hearts by chorusing
Old Benny Havenzo

2nd Of those smiles wreathed warden with organ lips[?]
Like roses dipped in dew
That are to be our better haloes
We'd like to take a view
But sufficient to the biddal[?] day
Is the ill thereof you know
So we'll sigh our reminiscences
of Benny Havenzo

Chor.

3rd To the ladies of the army
Our glasses shall ere flow
Companions of our exile . . .

[Remainder of song is missing from photocopied collection. Presumably the end was found on diary pages numbered 82 & 83, which I do not have copies of. I have hopes they exist still in the collection at UCLA].

END FOURTH BOOK, JOHN H. MERRELL DIARY