

**DIARY: SIXTH BOOK
JNO. H. MERRELL
WESTMORELAND
ONEIDA CO.
N.Y.**

Sunday 8th March 1863

I am Corporal of the Guard today. It rained some this morning but come off pleasant this afternoon. I wrote a letter to S.A.C. for Geo. W. H. Been in the tent nearly all day. Albert got a box from home. I got some of the cakes, they were very nice. Detachment C got several boxes from their friends.

Monday 9th March 1863

I have been doing police duty all day today. No mail tonight for some reason or other. Not much going on more than usual today. It has been a beautiful day. We can see the Rebel Camp very plain. I could see the cars come in and go out very distinctly, can't see scarce any of their camp.

Tuesday 10th March 1863

It rained and snowed all this forenoon. Had orders for inspection at 11 o'clock and got all hitched up and then the order was countermanded. We stayed in the tent the rest of the day. Received a letter from A.C.

Wednesday 11th March 1863

I took five men and went down to Aquia Creek with Lt. Ewing after stores for the brigade. The Captain came in while we were there. He looks as though his friends had used him well while he was gone. We came back on the three o'clock train. I went up to the hospital to see the boys. They are getting along very well. I had to go to the switch[?] and get the things that we got at Aquia Creek, took two teams.

Thursday 12th March 1863

Very cold day. The wind blows very hard. I took the Detachment out to drill this afternoon as Sergeant is sick with a sore throat. I have been at work making a pipe part of the day, have got it almost done. I received a letter from Mollie. There was 14 rockets went up down the river from here about 8 o'clock this evening. They were red, white, and blue, looked very nice.

Friday 13th March 1863

Another very cold windy day. Stayed in the tent all the day, wrote a letter to Mollie. Heard cannonading down the river this forenoon. Received a letter from Adela Merrell. There has been considerable cannonading going on today, do not know what it is. Col. Hayward returned this afternoon. He looks very well again.

Saturday 14th March 1863

It still continues as cold as ever. I went over to see Eugene this morning, did not find him. He had just gone out on picket. I went around by Falmouth. There is not much going on there. I could not see many Rebs today. There was a few pickets in sight and that was all. When I got back to camp I found all three batteries hitched up ready to go out on inspection. I was just in time to go with them. Capt. Pritkammer[?] is acting Chief of Artillery. Puts on lots of style. Has got a splendid shoulder strap and is getting around at a great rate. My box has finally got here. Everything is in good order but the sausage and chicken, they were both spoiled. The things come very acceptable. I went into Phi's tent and helped him eat oysters tonight, had a tip top supper. I took in some of my things that I got from home and we had as good a meal as we ever get in this part of the country.

Sunday 15th March 1863

We had inspection at 11 o'clock today. I had to act as sergeant as Harris is sick. We hitched up and was inspected by our Captain who took us out and drilled us a little. Eugene Grover has come over to the battery for the first time since he was taken sick. He looks very well again. I wrote a letter to Mollie, also one to Adela. I saddled two horses and took Eugene over to the hospital. Went in and saw Corlett. He is getting along finally, thinks that he will try and get home now in a few days. It commenced to hail and thunder and lighten [orig. sp.] just before dark.

Monday 16th March 1863

There is a sort of sleet on the ground about an inch deep. I got three teams and four men and went after wood. Had to go about four miles. Found some very swell wood (white oak). We had just got through cutting when Geo. Conner came and informed me that my furlough had come and the Captain wished me to return as soon as I could, so as to leave on the eleven o'clock train, so I started but was too late for the train, so I shall lay over until tomorrow. I have been at work this afternoon getting ready to leave. Just at night Albert received a box from home. There was a box in it for me from Harlow. It was medicine and came very acceptable, some good brandy which I shall keep for sickness.

Tuesday 17th March 1863

Up this morning at Assembly, did not go to roll call as I am going to leave for home at eight o'clock. I went up to H.Q. and got my furlough signed and then started for the cars. Went down to Aquia Creek Landing and had to wait until 10 o'clock before I could take the boat. Had a real nice ride to Washington, got there just before 5 o'clock. Took a bus and went up to the depot and got my ticket for Baltimore. There was one old man tried to crowd in before his turn and the guard stopped him. He got mad at the guard and took hold of his arm. The guard pulled it away and in so doing struck the old man on the head which put quite a gash in his forehead. The man was awful mad and blowed a good deal about it but the police told him to keep still or he would take care of him so he shut up. I got on the cars and started at 5 p.m. Passed Annapolis Relay House, got to Baltimore at 8:30 p.m., got a ticket for Elmira, started at 9:50. Passed through Harrisburg, arrived at Saubury[?] [Wednesday March] 18th at 7 o'clock, Milton 7:30. Good stageing[?] here. We reached Williamsport at 8:50 and changed cars for Elmira, got in at Elmira at 10 o'clock p.m.[?] Had to lay over until 4 o'clock p.m. Elmira is a very pretty place. I saw some very good looking

women there. I took dinner at the Western Hotel, had a first rate meal of coffee and beef steak. Started at 4 o'clock for Binghamton, passed through some very nice country. Arrived safe at Binghamton at 8 o'clock p.m., took a bus for the American Hotel. I found a fellow by the name of Boley[?] who I went with. I went to the American Hotel. It is a very nice house. I slept in a feather bed for the first time in 18 months. I left Binghamton at 4 o'clock a.m.

Thursday 19th March 1863

I got at Syracuse at 8:30 and took the cars for Rome, got there a little after 10 o'clock, went in to the depot and found Ed Clark and Hat Sherwood there. Hat's brother has died in the army and she is going home. Ed took me down home, went by the Baptist neighborhood and stopped at Ed's Uncle's, then he took me home. Our folks were somewhat surprised to see me. I surprised them. I had not been home but a few moments before Ev Brewer came. He was also very much surprised to see me. I set up until eleven o'clock visiting with our folks.

Friday 20th March 1863

Mollie & I went down to Hampton this morning, saw all the relatives. Everything about there looks very natural. The Sheds were here when I returned, made quite a little visit with them. This afternoon I went down in the woods with Father to get some logs up, had a tip top time. At night went to a party at Barber's. I had a very good time but did not feel very well. I saw nearly all the young folks from that neighborhood. Mert is just as natural as ever, same old girl she was when I left home two years ago.

Saturday 21st March 1863

I went to Utica today with Mollie. I done considerable trading, got \$10.50 worth of paper for the boys, also some silk handkerchiefs. We came around by New Hartford. I went to Dr. Griswold's to see his wife for Thompson but she was away to a sister's who was not expected to live. I left the letter that I received from Thompson at the nearest neighbor's, also his memoranda. We got to Uncle Hiram's just after dark, took them all by surprise. Had a real good visit, stayed all night.

Sunday 22nd March 1863

Went out to church at Hampton today. I saw a good many of the young folks that I used to know there, all look very well and natural. I went to Aunt Lunsie's[?] this noon. I also stopped at --- Bledes[?] and saw them. After meeting we went to Cornelia's[?] and took supper. Had a very good visit. When we got home we found Lib Forgham there. James had been here but has gone to Clinton. At night Mollie and I went over to Brewers, had a real good time. I had a quite a talk with Mr. & Mrs. Brewer, also old Mr. Brewer. We stayed until 10 o'clock when we returned home.

Monday 23rd March 1863

I wrote a letter to Harris this morning, visited with our folks. I helped Father to get up some logs out of the woods. James Forgham came just before noon. I had a short visit with him. He left for Florence soon after dinner. I went over to Harvey Skinner's, had a very good time with him. I had been some over an hour when Joseph Seigfriedt came in. I

think that he looks very natural. He told me that Mr. Hill's folks were at our house, so I soon went back home with him. Had a good time visiting with the Hills. Mert and Mottie[?] Brewer came over just after dark, had a tip top time with them. They all left for home about 9 o'clock. I set up a while and visited with Father & Mother.

Tuesday 24th March 1863

Frank is going to Rome today with fruit[?]. We have had considerable company here. Phil & Henry Shed were here this afternoon. We went over to the Spring's this evening to a soldier's aid society, had a real good time. I took M.E.B. It was a very disagreeable night as it rained some but not very hard. We returned at 2 o'clock, had a tip top time. Best party that I have attended yet since I returned home.

Wednesday 25th March 1863

Went down to Hampton today. Called all around and saw the boys & Girls. Had a real good time. Called at Chas. Clark's, Em is getting along very fast. Took tea at Orffa's[?]. It has been raining nearly all day but not very hard. We got home just after dark. The young folks were coming up here tonight but it rained so that they couldn't come. I received a letter from Sergeant Harris, boys are all well at camp.

Thursday 26th March 1863

Frank & I went to Lowell this morning, called at several places. Took dinner at James Rhodenkurst[?], had a good visit with him, then went up to Raill's[?] and I stayed there to supper. Frank returned home...[remainder illegible]

[Friday March 27th and Saturday March 28th are missing].

[Found at back of sixth book]

Number of battles that I have been in since I came out.

- 1st Winchester March 22nd-25th 1862[?]
- 2nd Edingburg April 2nd to April 8th. An artillery duel for six days.
- 3rd Port Republic June 9th
- 4th Manassas Gap 6th Nov.
- 5th Fredericksburg Dec. 13th
- 6th Chancellorsville May 2nd & 3rd

END SIXTH BOOK, JOHN H. MERRELL DIARY