

DIARY: SEVENTH BOOK
JOHN H. MERRELL

Sunday 29th March 1863

I stayed at home all day today and visited Mother & Mary. It has stormed nearly all day very hard most of the time. Mr. & Mrs. Brill's came over to see me just before dark, had a real good visit with them. I stayed with them until seven o'clock when I went to see M.E.B. Never had so good a time in my life, everything has turned as I wished it to. I returned at 10 o'clock well pleased with my evening's visit.

Monday 30th March 1863

Today I leave for my battery. I bid the folks all goodbye and started for Rome at 10 o'clock. John Griswold brought Nell Knapp up from Hampton. Went to Matteson's to dinner, found Eugene at home. Had a real good visit there. I left on the 4 o'clock train for N.Y. City, got into Albany at nine o'clock. I rode all night and arrived at N.Y. City at seven o'clock on the 31st.

Tuesday 31st March 1863

I have spent most of the day in looking about the City. Saw a great many curiosities. Went to the Museum, saw a great many things that I never dreamed of before in my life. I put up at the Northern Hotel, it is a very good house. Took the seven o'clock train for Washington. Got at Philadelphia at twelve o'clock. Changed cars for Baltimore. Traveled on until four o'clock when the cars ran off the track and smashed three of them all to pieces. I was in one of the cars that smashed up but did not get a scratch. There was three persons bruised up some but nothing that will prove serious.

Wednesday 1st April 1863

We were delayed until twelve o'clock when they got all the obstructions away and we passed on to Baltimore. Only stayed there long enough to change cars when we started for Washington, at which point we reached at 4 o'clock p.m. Had to lay over all night as there is but one boat that goes down to Aquia Creek a day. Had a real good night's sleep.

Thursday 2nd April 1863

Left on the boat this morning for Aquia Creek, got up there at 2 p.m. The river was very rough and we had to go slow. I took the 3 o'clock train and got up at camp at 4 o'clock. It seems real good to get back again. Boys all appear much pleased to see me back. I went up and saw the officers, they thought that I was very punctual.

Friday 3rd April 1863

I wrote a letter to M.E.B., also one to my folks at home. I had to get out the detachment and pack the ammunition chests which took nearly all the forenoon. We had inspection this afternoon by General Whipple, lasted some three hours. Everything went off very pleasant.

Saturday 4th April 1863

I went down to the picture gallery to see about getting our gun detachment taken, but the wind has blown so hard all day that it has been impossible to get it taken. I wrote a letter to Harlow this afternoon. I went over to the 146th N.Y., found a good many boys that I knew. Had a real good time. Did not stay but two hours. Returned to camp and read the news, not very much in the papers.

Sunday 5th April 1863

Wrote a letter to Thomas. It has snowed all night and now the snow is five inches deep. I have been in the tent nearly all day reading one thing and another. I received a letter from Mert this evening. We boys got a singing book and had a tip top sing which made the evening pass off very pleasant. Lt. Richard[?] has returned to the Battery today, he looks very well.

Monday 6th April 1863

Quite pleasant this morning. I went down to the picture gallery to see about getting our gun detachment taken. He said that he would take it this afternoon, but it was so cloudy that we did not go. President Lincoln reviewed the Cavalry of this army this forenoon. They made a grand show. Lincoln looks very poor, I do not think that he is well. I wrote three letters, one to Spencer, one to Mert and one to Wm. Mann. Boys are getting up some resolutions to send home showing the voice of the Battery and what we think of the southern sympathizers at home. Boys all got together and had a good sing.

Tuesday 7th April 1863

Had orders to be ready for review at 10 o'clock. The President was going to review us. We got hitched up and waited for nearly an hour when the order was countermanded and we went into our tents and sit around the fire. The President rode by about noon accompanied by Hooker and staff. I wrote a letter to Adela Merrell this afternoon. We were called out again just before night to see the President. Drilled around quite a while and then had orders to break ranks as there was no signs of the President's visiting us. The boys got together again this evening and had a good sing. We are going to meet and have a sing every night while in camp here.

Wednesday 8th April 1863

A very pleasant day. The whole infantry is being reviewed today by the President. It has taken him nearly all day. We had orders to get out on review this morning, but it was countermanded, and we went out and drilled for nearly two hours. Everything went off very pleasant. I wrote off a copy of the resolutions which we of this battery have got up to send to Toledo for print. I am going to send a copy to the Utica Herald for publication. It has been quite warm all day. There was a salute of 21 guns fired this morning as the President came out to review the troops.

Thursday 9th April 1863

I am corporal of the guard today. It is one of the finest days that we have had here this spring. The battery went out on drill this afternoon, returned at 4 o'clock when we, Detachment A, went and had our picture taken. It is very good considering the number that

we had taken together. I wrote two letters today, one to Frank Green and one to Mr. Caswell. I also wrote an introductory letter to Uncle Wm. S. Merrell & Co. for Phi's brother Hank who is going to Cincinnati to get employment. I received a letter this evening from Amelia Halleck. Had a grand sing in our tent tonight.

Friday 10th April 1863

Corp. of the police today. Had to keep the men at work all the forenoon cleaning up the camp. Had muster at 2 o'clock, did not take but a new moments to call the names which was all that was done. I wrote a letter to S.[L?] P. Knapp. It has been very warm all day today. Boys spent most of their time in playing ball. Corlett is getting about well and has come over to the battery today, has got tired of staying up at the hospital. Some of the boys have been down to get their pictures taken, they are very good ones. [Last line of page illegible].

Saturday 11th April 1863

Spent most of this forenoon in reading Marmion in Walter Scott's works. Heard heavy cannonading at a distance, do not know what it is from. We had Division drill this afternoon. Everything went off very nice. He drilled us as though we were going to advance on the enemy. We advanced after the infantry and took position and went through all the maneuvers of the piece. The General came to my piece and got off his horse and asked me quite a number of questions in regard to the sighting of the piece and C&C. We returned to camp at 4 o'clock much pleased with our afternoon's drill. Phi and I took a good wash all over this evening which makes us feel like [illegible].

Sunday 12th April 1863

We had inspection at 10 o'clock today. Captain was not out as he is quite unwell. I finished reading Marmion today, went to church down by the R.R., had very good preaching. Wrote a letter to Brigham, received one from Mollie. She sent me one of my aignetts[?], I gave it to Corlett. There is some talk of our moving soon. I has been a very pleasant day. Looks some like rain tonight. I went down and had a chat with Corlett. He is trying to get a furlough and go home. Michael Best [?] went home on furlough this morning.

Monday 13th April 1863

Got a pass this forenoon and Grover and I took a ride. Went over to the hospital, from there to the 146th N.Y.V., but did not see any of the boys as they were all out on picket, so we took a ride up the river, went way up beyond Falmouth. Took a good view of the rebels' work as near as we could get to them. There does not seem to be much going on across the river, yet we saw quite a number of the rebel pickets, but did not get near enough to talk to them. The Cavalry have all gone up the river on a --- --- today. Lt Ewing, Wm, Akins left on leave this morning for Toledo. I wrote two letters to Mollie and Nellie Merrell.

Tuesday 14th April 1863

This is a very warm day. We have had orders to be ready to march at short notice. Got everything all ready and have waited around all day and no orders to march yet. I wrote a letter to M.E.B. this afternoon. Heard cannonading up the river today. It is quite a ways off. Presume that the Cavalry are in a skirmish. We have orders this afternoon to have five days' rations in our haversacks and to pack up everything but one pr. socks, shirt, and overcoat, and leave them to the camp. Grover has gone to Aquia Creek this afternoon. Wm. & ---Corlett went home this forenoon.

Wednesday 15th April 1863

It has rained all day quite hard. No orders to march yet. Hopkins, Mel--- & Dodd are going to act as scouts. They have reported to General Hooker today and leave the Battery in the morning. Got \$2.00 a day extra while in camp and more while on duty. I have been in the tent all day today reading newspapers, and a book, Don Quixote. The wind is blowing very hard this afternoon.

Thursday 16th April 1863

Not very much going on today. We are all waiting for marching orders. Had inspection this afternoon at 3 o'clock. It was mainly to see that we had everything ready to march. General Whipple inspected us, seems to be much pleased with our battery. Did not take us but a little time to be inspected. All expect to have to leave this place soon. It is reported that our forces have taken 7,000 rebel prisoners and two batteries, we do not credit the report very much though. I received a letter from M.E.B. It was a good long one.

Friday 17th April 1863

Spent all the forenoon in reading Don Quixote and The Arts of Beauty. It has been quite a warm day. Three men, Eikey, Smith & Marston have got their discharge and gone home. We have gone out on Division drill this afternoon. It went off very well but not so well as it did a few days ago when we were all out together. I received two papers from Solon[?] Knapp. (Utica Herald).

Saturday 18th April 1863

Not very much going on today. We had a good time cleaning up the camp today. Coz. Albert has rec'd his commission today but does not know yet to what battery he will be assigned. He will try and get mustered out as soon as possible and go to Columbus and get assigned to some battery. [Remaining bottom third of page either faded away or never written].

Sunday 19th April 1863

I have written two letters today to M.E.B. & James Halleck. I rec'd one from Adela. This has been a very warm day. Had inspection at the regular hour. I attended meeting this evening down by the R.R., it was very interesting. Quite a number of our boys went down. I was talking with Lt. Norton who thinks that we will leave this place tonight. We have everything ready to move at a moment's notice. Heard some cannonading up the river today. Presume that it is the cavalry but do not know for certain where it is. It is generally believed that our cavalry are crossing the river.

Monday 20th April 1863

It has been raining nearly all day today but not very hard, just enough to keep us from moving. I wrote a letter to Adela Merrell. Laid around the tent as usual. This has been a very warm rain and it starts the grass and vegetation very rapidly.

Tuesday 21st April 1863

Quite a cold day for the time of year. I am Corporal of the Guard today. Been in the tent nearly all the time. Helped Phi some in getting together his accounts that he is making out for the Captain. I rec'd a letter from M.E.B., enjoyed it's contents very much.

Wednesday 22nd April 1863

Corporal of Police today. Did not have to do a great deal of duty today. Capt. sent for me this morning and wanted me to inform him who it was that built the fire in the park or he would hold me responsible for it. On the first inquiry I found out it was Henry Cass and John Demott. I immediately reported to him when he requested me to send him the Corporal of the Guard (who was Samuel Cass) which I done. He had them arrested and made them pack knapsacks all day in the park under guard, each weighing 30 lbs. I wrote a letter to Mother today. Went out on drill this afternoon. Went off very well.

Thursday 23rd April 1863

Woke up this morning and found it raining very hard. Did not have to go to roll call. It rained nearly all day. I have been in the tent nearly all day reading Shakespeare. Read a letter from Frank Green, also a paper from Brewer. Spent part of the evening reading it. It is reported about camp that Hooker has resigned & Fremont has taken his place, but we do not credit the report at all for we think that there is no one quite equal to fighting Joe Hooker.

Friday 24th April 1863

Another stormy day which has kept us in the tents. I wrote a letter to Frank Green this afternoon, received a letter from E.E.B. No roll call this morning, it being so stormy. Orderly is sick and Harris has to fill his place.

Saturday 25th April 1863

It has cleared off and is now very pleasant once more. We had inspection at 11 o'clock by Put Cramer[?], did not last but about an hour. I went over to the 146th Regiment N.Y.V. this afternoon, saw all the boys and had a first rate time. Returned just before dark. Received a letter from Mollie. --- Best returned this afternoon.

Sunday 26th April 1863

All quiet in camp today. Had inspection at 11 o'clock, inspected by the Captain. Marched us up to General Whipple's HQ and drilled us around a short time when we returned to camp and broke ranks. I wrote a letter to M.E.B. Attended church this afternoon or just at dusk down by the switch. Our men have captured a set of fellows who have been telegraphing across the river to the enemy from Falmouth. They had a submarine telegraph fixed from one of the houses in Falmouth across the river, and in that way could communicate freely with the rebels. There was five of them engaged in it.

Monday 27th April 1863

Norton came out at roll call this morning and gave orders for us to be ready for inspection at 8 o'clock. We got breakfast as quick as we could and had everything ready at the appointed time. It was Corps[?] review, lasted until 1 o'clock p.m. when we returned to camp. I wrote two letters this afternoon, one to E.E.B. and one to Mollie. Received orders this evening to be ready to march at 7 o'clock in the morning. Boys all seem to be much pleased to know that they are going to leave this camp. Heard the rebels drilling very plain today with their artillery.

Tuesday 28th April 1863

I went over to where the 140th Pennsylvania Regiment were encamped and got some books, among them were Scott's Poetical works and Fremont's life and explorations. Grover and I have been at work today fixing up a shelter tent to sleep under for we have to leave our Sibley tents when we move. Rec'd a paper tonight from Theo. Brewer, "Herald", some very good reading in it. Had orders to be ready to move at 6 o'clock at which time we left our camp and marched down the river near the place where Franklin crossed last December for the purpose of assisting in laying a pontoon bridge. Got in position about 10 o'clock at night. Grover and I laid right by the trail of the gun. The rest of the boys lay back by the limber.

Wednesday 29th April 1863

Up this morning at 4 o'clock. Had not got my blankets folded before I heard a volley of musketry down by the bridge. One of the bullets struck just to the right of where we lay. Our men went across in boats and charged up into the enemy's earth works, took them entirely by surprise. We only lost one man. He is mortally wounded and can not survive but a short time. We captured one company of the Rebs, did not learn how many there was in it. Our men soon had the bridge laid out and in a short time there was a whole Division across. One of our batteries on the right of us opened fire upon the enemy who were in their breastworks looking at us. They soon concealed themselves and we did not see anything more of them at all. About 7 o'clock there was heavy cannonading on our extreme left. They are laying a pontoon bridge down there and Reynold's Corp is crossing. Do not hear much musketry, mostly cannonading. Rebels opened one battery about noon but did not fire long. One of our batteries have crossed here with the division and taken position behind some breastworks. Had a short rain this afternoon, but it did not amount to much. Our skirmishers are out nearly a half mile from the river and the rebels are in plain sight but they do not fire on each other at all. They seem to have a large force in reserve but it is hard to tell how many they have. There is some woodland by which they conceal themselves.

Thursday 30th April 1863

Woke up and found it raining, did not get up until roll call which was at 7 o'clock. It cleared off at 9 o'clock and the sun came out warm once more. I am Corporal of the Guard today. Our ----- have not advanced any farther than they were last night. There is considerable firing on the extreme left today. We were mustered in for pay this forenoon. Our Corps had orders to move up the river starting at 1 o'clock. We got everything ready

and at the time specified we started on the march up the river. Stopped at Stoneman's Station and waited for our division to come up. Got coffee and had supper before our Division got along, then we fell in their rear and marched with them. Marched until 2 o'clock when we came to a halt and had orders to feed our horses. I threw down my blankets and took a short nap. I rec'd two letters just at dark, one from M.E.B. and one from Aunt Livia[?]. Lit a candle and read them. We are about 3/4 of a mile from Hartwood[?] church.

Friday 1st May 1863

After sleeping some three hours and getting breakfast we marched on again up the river. Passed General Sickles' Headquarters which is near the church. The whole Corps camped near here last night. We came to a halt right in front of his H.Q. and we had a good chance to see him. We had not [gone] but little further when we met 150 prisoners on their way to Washington. They were very well dressed, better than any that I have seen yet. When we got within half a mile of the U.S. Ford we came to a halt and got dinner and fed our horses. Heard heavy cannonading in the direction of Fredericksburg. At 2 o'clock p.m. we crossed the U.S. Ford. They have two bridges here. Went up on the river bank and stayed until 6 o'clock when we were ordered ahead. There was heavy cannonading ahead and we expected to have a chance in with the rest of the batteries. We advanced some four miles clear out to the front and by being delayed by a N.Y. battery which was ahead of us we did not get the position which was intended for us. There was a battery put in our place as we were not up in time. We then had orders to fall back about a mile, which we did, and unhitched our horses and bunked down and had a good rest. Saw 50 more Reb prisoners that we had captured on the outposts. There was considerable musketry just at dark. The rebels charged one of our batteries and got repulsed.

Saturday 2nd May 1863

Up this morning at 4 o'clock, hitched up and awaited for orders to go to the front. The rebels shelled the woods at ---. We laid around until 2 o'clock when orders came for us to move to the front which we did at double quick. We went out to the flank road that leads from Fredericksburg to Gordonsville and went up that about a mile and then took off to the left for a half a mile where we were halted and our infantry advanced with one battery of Burney's division. They captured a lot of prisoners, one whole brigade of the rebs were taken at once. Our sharp shooters done very well. Our whole Corps were all in advance but our brigade (three batteries) were left to the rear as there was no position that we could take until our infantry had advanced. We stayed there until nearly dark when the enemy came around on our right flank and charged on the 11th Corps who were on right of us. Drove them back and then came down upon us. There we were without any orders to do anything. We were in an open field and the first we knew the rebels came out of the woods and fired a volley of musketry at us and then charged on our battery. We got our guns in position as soon as we could and gave them canister the best we could, and after firing an hour the best we could we drove them back with great slaughter. Our three batteries were all that saved this army from a regular panic[?]. At 8 o'clock at night General Sickles ordered back his command and we had a good support of infantry. At 9 o'clock General Burney made a charge up in front of us and off to the right which was a woodland. They charged for nearly half an hour but could not break the enemy's lines, and were obliged to fall back with us again. I took Henry Hill over to the hospital. He was hurt by having a horse

fall on him. Nothing very serious I guess. We lay by our guns all night and did not get much sleep for we expected the enemy to charge our battery again. But they did not this night.

Sunday 3rd May 1863

I went way up to the front and helped get our forge off the field. The tongue was broken out last night and we had to leave it when the rebels came out on us so suddenly. At 7 o'clock the rebs charged on us again. We worked our guns the best we could and after firing an hour we had orders to retire as much as we could. It was getting very hot and our infantry support left us and ran, some of them without firing a gun. We all limbered up and got a short ways to the rear when several of our horses were shot and we were obliged to leave four of our guns. My piece and C's was the only ones that came off the field. I had made up my mind to stay by my gun and if they took it they would have to take me with it. My cannoneers all stood up well during the fight. ---- was wounded in the knee or rather disabled, nothing more than a bruise. We went to the rear as we were so badly cut up and nearly out of ammunition that we could be of no use to stay where we were. The rebels were throwing their shell at us at a rapid rate. As we came along by the brick house where General Hooker had his headquarters, there was quite a number of shell hit very near us and struck the house that Hooker was in. Our men did not get a great ways to the rear ere they were rallied and stood their ground well, mowed the rebels down by the hundred. We were immediately ordered to the rear. I never heard such firing before. It was one continual roar of cannon and musketry from 7 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Lt. Norton saw one of Hooker's aides who ordered us back to the rear where we would be out of the range of the enemy's guns, so we reported back by the U.S. Ford where we got the remains of our battery together. We have five men wounded and four missing, do not know whether they were hurt or not but expect that they were wounded. There has been an awful slaughter of men today. Last that I saw of Gen. Hooker he was riding to the front, says that he had rather be killed than meet with a defeat here. He is urging his men on, tells them to stand up and fight like men.

Monday 4th May 1863

I was woke up this morning by heavy heavy cannonading. It appears that the rebels have got a battery upon a high bluff of the river and are throwing shell at our baggage train and hospital. They kept up a very brisk fire for about half an hour when they found themselves all taken prisoners, also their battery. There was 1000 prisoners taken by here this morning on their way to Washington. There was several commissioned officers among them. They were taken last night some time. General Whipple was wounded this morning, shot in the back. The ball lodged in his right lung. He was shot by a rebel sharpshooter, is not expected to survive long. There has not been much fighting today, mostly cannonading. Just at night there was quite a battle down at Fredericksburg. Our men have gained those heights and taken quite a number of prisoners and all their guns in their forts. I wrote a letter to M.E.B. this afternoon. We have got another of our guns, we went out this morning and got it. Our men drove the enemy back so that they hauled it off, could not get but one that was left, so now we have got three guns out of six.

Tuesday 5th May 1863

Considerable cannonading going on today. Gen. Whipple seems to be a little better today and there is some hopes of his recovery. We have orders to move back at our old camp today. Do not know what to think of it. It commenced to rain just as we started and kept it up all day. I never saw it rain harder in my life. We reached our old camp just at dark and had to fix up our flies the best we could. All wet through to the skin. Did not sleep scarce at all. Our troops all seem to be falling back this side of the river. There has a great many wounded passed by on their way to the hospital today. Rec'd a letter from A.[J?] Halleck.

Wednesday 6th May 1863

I have been at work today very busy fixing up a tent. There is considerable cannonading going on up the river today. Our Capt. has been promoted to Chief of Artillery in this division for meritorious conduct in the last battle. Von Rutkaman[?] who was formerly Chief of Artillery is now under arrest for cowardice. He is to be court martialled soon. Wrote a letter home this morning. There is quite a number of troops falling back to their old camps. There is talk of our soon making another advance. We have to keep twelve days' rations on hand and three cooked. It is reported that we are going down the river.

Thursday 7th May 1863

It remains quite cold yet. Very hard for the soldiers who are marching. Our troops have all fell back from the other side of the river. We had whiskey issued to us this afternoon. I have fixed mine up and am going to keep it until we get on a march again. Rec'd a letter from Perry Caswell and sister Cornelia this evening.

Friday 8th May 1863

I am Corporal of the Guard today. Been laying around my tent most of the time. It has rained part of the time and is quite cold. General Whipple died this morning from the effects of his wound. He was a good General and a brave man, liked very much by all under him.

Saturday 9th May 1863

Lt. Norton came and wanted me to go to Aquia Creek and get some ordnance stores so I had to go. Went down on the cars at 8 o'clock this morning. Worked very busy all day in getting the several things for the battery. Got one gun. It was one that we took from the secesh at Fredericksburg, just like our old ones. We are now going to have a four gun battery at present as we have only 117 men for duty and cannot get a requisition for any more guns. I got back from Aquia at 7 o'clock p.m., am very tired tonight. Wrote a letter to Mollie, read a little in today's paper. There is good news. Stoneman has been within two miles of Richmond with his force of Cavalry.

Sunday 10th May 1863

Had inspection at the usual hour after which I went over to the 146th Regt. N.Y.V. Found that Eugene Matteson was taken prisoner in the late battle. He, his Captain, and most of their Company were taken at the same time while out skirmishing in advance of

their regiment. James Quinn is wounded in the thigh but it is not dangerous at all. He has been sent to Washington to the hospital and will doubtless get a chance to go home. All the rest of my acquaintances in that regiment are well. When I returned I wrote a letter to M.E.B. Spent the rest of the day in perusing the daily paper.

Monday 11th May 1863

A very beautiful day. We all sent off our money today. Phi Norton took it down to Aquia Creek and expressed it for us. I sent \$50.00 to Father. We had Corps review this afternoon. One of the batteries fired a salute as General Sickles came on the field. It scared the baggage teams so that they ran every way and in all directions. The teamsters could not hold them or do anything with them at all. There was two men hurt very bad. One had his leg broke and the other his arm. I rec'd a letter tonight from M.E.B.

Tuesday 12th May 1862

I was Corp. of the Guard today. Coz. Albert got mustered out of the service today and went to take the cars for home, but was a little too late so he will have to lay over until tomorrow. We had inspection this afternoon by Captain Randolph, Chief of Artillery. He gave us a very close inspection, was much pleased with our battery. Just before dark we had orders to go up to General's headquarters where we found the whole division. Col. Rerdon[?] announced to us the death of Gen Whipple, and there was another person who confirmed the report of the death of Stonewall Jackson. I got rid of my saber today, let Capt. Randolph have it. I was very glad for I was very tired of having it to take care of. I wrote a letter to Perry Caswell today. It has been very warm here today.

Wednesday 13th May 1862

We have been at work today policing the Park, got everything fixed up nicely. Wrote a letter to M.E.B. Spent most of my time in my tent reading Shakespeare, like it very much. It is very warm and the boys stay in their tents out of the sun all the time nearly. Lt. Burton was arrested today for cowardice while in the late battle. I was surprised to hear of it for I thought him a brave person and what I saw of him while in the fight led me to think him as brave as any one in that Battery. Coz. Albert left for home this morning.

Thursday 14th May 1862

Sergeant has gone down to Aquia Creek today with Phi Norton. Had quite a thunder shower this afternoon. I rec'd a letter from Brother[?] Stanley. Wrote a letter to James Halleck this evening. Captain is off today on Court Martial of Burton. There is talk of our leaving this camp tomorrow to find us a better place. Phi got back just after dark, brought us quite a number of things in the eatable line.

Friday 15th May 1863

We had orders to move our camp today, got everything ready and had to wait and lay around until 4 o'clock when we started. Went down towards the river about a mile and came to our new camping ground. It appears that we are now in the reserve artillery. There is 17 batteries here in camp together, all in sight of each other, which makes a very pretty show. We have a much plainer view of the Heights back of Fredericksburg than at our old camp. It has been very warm today, looks a little like a storm this evening.

Saturday 16th May 1863

Spent most of the day in fixing up the camp. We have got everything up in good style. The wind has blown quite hard all day and the air is full of dust which makes it very disagreeable for us. There is some talk of this reserve artillery being sent away from this army, ten batteries to South Carolina and seven to Washington and up on the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. We all hope that is so for we want to get out of this Army of the Potomac, yet it is too good to believe. I commenced a letter to Mollie tonight, shall be two or three days in writing it.

Sunday 17th May 1863

I was Corporal of the Police Guard today, which consisted of eight cannoneers. It took me nearly all the forenoon before I got through with all the work. Our battery was inspected today by Fitzhugh, Captain of the 1st N.Y. Artillery Batttery H. He gave us a very close inspection, rather got the Captain on some things. I wrote a letter to M.E.B. this evening. It has been very warm here all day and the dust has been very offensive.

Monday 18th May 1863

Had drill today. I went out this forenoon with detachment D as their Gunner was away on a pass, and this afternoon our section went out and I went with our gun. Lt Norton drilled us, everything went off very nicely. I went down to the switch and got a can of oysters and Grover and I had a very good supper. It reminded us very much of old times.

Tuesday 19th May 1863

Our battery had to furnish a guard for division headquarters today and I was detailed to attend to them. I reported at Maj. Tompkins HQ at 8 o'clock a.m. where I stayed all day, relieving my guard every two hours until tattoo when I was relieved and took my guard and went to the battery, but found that they had moved to a new camping ground about half a mile nearer the river. It is a very pretty place, not half the dust that there was in our former place. We all like it very much. Grover and I fixed up our tent in a short time.

Wednesday 20th May 1863

Had my guard relieved at Head Quarters at 8 o'clock when I came to camp and laid around the tent all day. Wrote a letter to Mollie. Lt. Ewing arrived safe to the battery at three o'clock this afternoon. He looks very well, has been gone over six weeks. He brought a large box as far as Aquia Creek but could not get it any further until it was inspected by the Provost Marshall. There is some 100 lb. guns down at the station and report says that they are going to be placed one the Heights this side of the river to siege these on the other side. Like our new camp very much. Saw the Rebs out drilling very plain.

Thursday 21st May 1863

Do not feel first rate today. It is very warm, there is but very little air stirring today. I went up and assisted Phi in curing his beef this morning. Had battery drill this afternoon but I did not go out as I do not feel first rate, and Sam went in my place. I rec'd a letter from

M.E.B. this afternoon, had a jolly time in reading it. There is talk of our going to Belle Plain soon and ship[?] to Suffolk. Jasper Haden has come back to the battery from the hospital. He looks some better but is far from being well yet.

Friday 22nd May 1863

Lt. Ewing has gone down to Aquia today for his box which contains some things from our friends at Toledo. The sutler came with his goods this morning and some of the boys have been having an awful time drinking his jack brandy. Capt. ordered Richard Blackton[?] to be tied to the fifth[?] wheel for getting drunk and raising a row. We had a very good drill this afternoon, lasted one hour and a half. Ewing has returned and has brought the box with him. I got a photographic album presented to me by Wm. Corlett, it is a very nice one, holds 24 pictures. We had dress parade tonight and marched out by detachments, went off very well.

Saturday 23rd May 1863

23rd Saturday. Wrote a letter this morning to Wm. Corlett. Rec'd one letter from Mollie and three papers, one from Mollie and 2 from Mertie, all Heralds. Had a good time reading them this forenoon. This afternoon Harris being sick I had to take care of the detachment. Took our guns and caissons down to the creek by the R.R. and washed them. We have dress parade at 7 o'clock. Putting on all style imaginable now days. We all meet up at Phi's tent after roll call and have a good sing.

Sunday 24th May 1863

Had inspection at 10 o'clock as usual. Wrote two letters to M.E.B. & M.D.M. It has been very quiet in camp all day today. Glorious news in the papers today. Grant gained a great victory in Miss. There is talk of our moving to Belle Plain in the morning. Sergeant is some better today and takes charge of the detachment this afternoon. It has been quite warm today but looks some like rain this evening. The officers have been off taking a ride today, got back just in time for dress parade. Lt. Norton is trying to get leave to go home and recruit up the Battery.

Monday 25th May 1863

I am Corporal of Police today. Did not have much to do. It rained some this morning but only enough to lay the dust. I wrote a letter to Adela Merrell this morning. Glorious news in the papers today of Grant's advance upon Vicksburg. I sent Grover's photograph home today. Rec'd a letter from M.E.B. this evening. Everything is very quiet in camp now days. I took a buggy ride with Will Metzzer down to the switch, had a first rate time. First buggy ride that I have had in two years.

Tuesday 26th May 1863

It has been nice and cool all day today. Had a good drill this forenoon. Saw several officers so drunk that it was all that they could do to keep on their horses. They belong to a New York battery. Laid in the tent and read all this afternoon. We have orders to move our camp in the morning, going down near Belle Plain somewhere. Lt. Norton is trying to get a leave of absence to go home and recruit the battery to its maximum number. Phi talks of going with him if he can get away.

Wednesday 27th May 1863

Rec'd orders to pack up our things and be ready to march as soon as we could. We got everything packed and marched at 10 o'clock a.m., went down the river some five miles and went into camp right in the edge of some woods. It is on a side hill otherwise it is a very good place. It is near Hooker's H.Q. We have been at work very busy all the afternoon fixing up our tents and have succeeded in getting them about right, that is to suit ourselves. There is batteries camped six thick all around us.

Thursday 28th May 1863

I have been about sick all day with a severe headache but feel much better tonight. I rec'd a letter from Frank Green just before dark. There is a flying report about camp tonight that Lee is crossing the river above here and making for Washington, but we do not any of us believe the report at all and do not want to have to. McGilfrey commands this brigade of artillery and Lt. M.B. Ewing is acting Adjutant for him.

Friday 29th May 1863

We were all much surprised this morning by hearing of the death of John[?] Jones who died from the effects of his wound received at Chancellorsville. We all supposed that he was getting right along fast since he had his leg amputated. It looks some like rain this evening. The soil here is very poor and does not look as though it would raise good white beans. We can hear cannonading up the river today but not very heavy, and it appears to be a good way off. We're getting things fixed up very nice about camp.

Saturday 30th May 1863

I am Corporal of the Guard today. We all had to sign the payrolls this forenoon and just before night we got paid off. Cousin Albert returned very unexpectedly to the battery just before dark. He has been ordered to report here by Colonel Barnett but the battery is filled to its maximum number of Lieutenants now, and I do not know what he will do. Boys are feeling quite merry since they have been paid off as they have been to the sutler's and got all the blackberry wine that he has, and are having a pretty good tight(?) [?] of it.

Sunday 31st May 1863

The boys were having a big spree last night and did not go to bed until 2 o'clock. I thought that I would have to report our Orderly Sergeant to the Captain as he was drunk and making a good deal of unnecessary disturbance about camp. I had a good talk with Albert today. He thinks of going home and trying to get into the heavy artillery at Cincinnati. I hope that he will have good success for I think that he has had trouble enough already. We were inspected this morning by Maj. Gilvery, only lasted a few moments. Had quite a time putting out a fire which caught in the woods back of us today. I received a letter from M.E.B. and answered it.

Monday 1st June 1863

I took a ride this forenoon up the river, stopped at Falmouth. Had quite a good time watching the Rebs fish on the other side of the river. I returned to camp at 1 o'clock and wrote three letters to Harlow, Stanley and F. Green. Albert is going home in the morning.

Some of our boys have got some whiskey and are making fools of themselves, for they are so drunk that they do not know anything at all. The boys have rolled one of them in the ditch where the water is about three feet deep and such a [word omitted] looking piece of humanity I never saw in my life.

[June 2nd and 3rd are missing].

Thursday 4th June 1863

The assembly sounded this morning just before daylight, and we were ordered to move immediately. We got everything ready and waited until 8 o'clock when the order was countermanded and we had to pitch our tents again. I was detailed to take a Guard over to Maj. Franklin's headquarters, which I did. I reported to him and he seemed very much surprised to think that we had not gone. He wanted to know who countermanded that order. I told him that I did not know. He said that we had ought to have been on the march at daylight. He immediately ordered me back to the battery with my Guard and sent an orderly to Maj. Gilvery's HQ to have us move. I got back before the orders got to our battery and told the Capt. that we would have to leave. Lt. Ewing started for home this morning. Lt. Norton has gone to Philadelphia on five days' furlough, going to make his brother a short visit. We had orders to move again and at 1 o'clock we started up the river. Arrived at Banks Ford at 4 o'clock p.m. Went into camp about a half mile back from the river. Lt. Ewing has command of the battery as Captain is sick and Norton is away. We had a Lt. and 24 men temporarily assigned to our battery today. They are from Battery D[?] 1st Pennsylvania Regiment, a very good looking set of men. We can hear the rebel brass bands play very plain this evening. Some cannonading down the river today but do not know how far. Battery L[S?] lays near us, they are out on the bank of the river having good times with the rebels. Had some ripe cherries today for the first time this year. They were very nice. We have got our camp fixed up very nicely and are some tired.

Friday 5th June 1863

I am Corporal of the Guard today. Have been busy most of the day cleaning up our camp. We could hear a rebel band playing very plain this morning. I received four letters this afternoon from M.E. B., E.E.B., J.S.M., M.D.M., and one paper from M.D.B. Had a very nice time reading them. There has been some promotions made in our battery today. Perrigo is promoted to sergeant and Styne takes his place. Chas. Clovert[?] is promoted to Corporal in detachment F. There has been very heavy cannonading down towards Fredericksburg this evening.

Saturday 6th June 1863

The cannonading which we heard last night was just below Fredericksburg. Our men were crossing. There is a Division across the river and have advanced a short distance but have not taken the Heights yet. Hooker's Army is all in motion, do not know where they are going. There is cannonading down the river all day today. We had inspection at 11 o'clock by the Captain. Wrote a letter to Mollie this afternoon. Had a fine shower just before dark but it cleared off and is very pleasant this evening. Can hear the brass band playing very distinctly across the river. Some talk of our going to take position a little nearer the river.

Sunday 7th June 1863

All very quiet in camp today. Had inspection as usual for Sunday morning. There is some cannonading going on today but it is a great way off. The Lt. that was temporarily assigned to our battery has resigned and gone home, leaves this morning. I wrote two letters today to M.E.B. & Spencer. We had a Bible class today out in the woods back of the camp. There was only three of us but we had a very interesting time for all of that. Captain has been looking out a place for our guns close to the river and tonight we have got to go and dig earthworks.

Monday 8th June 1863

We were out digging and fixing a place for our gun on the bank of the river last night until 3 o'clock this morning. All had all the work that we wanted to do, but have got us a very good earthwork dug in the side of the bank so that the enemy cannot see us, nor know anything about us being there until we open fire upon them. I rec'd a letter from Rob Skinner today and answered it, also wrote a letter to E.E.B. We got two more guns today which now makes us a full number again. Everything is quiet about camp now days. There was cannonading up the river today at long intervals.

[The following is a letter which JHM copied into his diary].

Matthews County Virginia
March 23rd 1851

Amiable Miss Sarah,

With extreme sensibility I again raise my pen to address you a few lines merely to confirm why you have not answered my last letter. It certainly requires one and I particularly requested you to favor me with an immediate answer, and yet you would not. This appears singular to me indeed and tends to confirm me in the opinion expressed in my last, and if such be the fact, why not manifest your unwillingness by writing a few lines expressive of your contempt and indifference. That would surely be better than to remain obstinately silent, which only serves to augment the exquisite regret the loss of your once professed love has already excited in my mind. I am extremely anxious to know what it is that causes you to neglect a subject you once encouraged with seeming delight. It certainly cannot be the reasons suggested in your last letter to me, for I am sure what I submitted to your considerations in my last was sufficient to convince any unprejudiced[?] mind of the purity of those motives by which I have been activated to pursue the course I have. I cannot omit to notice an insinuation in you respecting my mien with some other Lady than yourself. Surely Miss Sarah you cannot believe me guilty of so base an action, conscious that I have solemnly protested to be united to you. Yes it is you, obstinately[?] you, that I have doted upon to constitute my future happiness. I consider myself united to you by an engagement which the revolution of eternal ages cannot dissolve. The league of nations may be broken and the laws of the mingled elements canceled, but my relation to you will remain unchanged. Time cannot obliterate the deep impression the sense of your former love has excited. With regard to the precipitate manner in which you advise me to marry for being forgetting it as I do not perhaps rightly comprehend the force[?] of the remark. I shall only say that I believe you no less forgetful than myself and I perhaps no more so than you would have me be. If you have seen cause to decline my proposed[?] alliance and insist on the ungenerous request in your last, I will in obedience to your wish comply, notwithstanding the repugnance my heart feels at the task. That the serious perusal of this letter may have its desired effect and restore me to your former favor is the sincere wish and most ardent desire of him who, notwithstanding the cold indifference with which you treat him, still continues to subscribe himself your most affectionate

Francis D. Jarvis

P.S. The favor of a line will infinitely oblige yours.

F.D. Jarvis

[Song or poem found with letter]

Go forget me why should sorrow
On thy brow a shadow fling
Go forget me and tomorrow
Brightly smile and sweetly sing

Smile though I may (never see thee?)
Sing though I may never hear thee
May thy soul with pleasure -----(shine?)
Wasting as the gloom of mine

Copy of a letter captured at the bombardment of Fredericksburg written by Francis D. Jarvis to Miss Sarah I. Ames[?]

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