

**DIARY: EIGHTH BOOK
JOHN H. MERRELL
BATTERY H 1ST LT. ART.
ARTILLERY RESERVE
1ST DIVISION**

Tuesday 9th June 1863

I went down to Falmouth this morning with Phi Norton, stayed down there nearly all day. Had a very good time. Lt. Norton came in on the one o'clock train, looks as though he was about tired out visiting. Says that he has a real good time since he left the battery. I rec'd a letter from Adela. Sent home my diary this morning. There is nearly a whole Corps across the river just below Fredericksburg, all laying still. Do not seem to be advancing at all. We got back to camp just before dark. Got a lot of things for the sutler, which seemed to please him very much, and he gave us everything that we called for. It has been awful warm today but looks some like rain tonight. Lt. Norton gave me his photograph this evening. It looks very natural.

Wednesday 10th June 1863

Not very much going on today. We had drill this afternoon. Captain drilled us at the guns, everything went off very nicely. Sergeant Harris is sick and I have to fill his place. I rec'd a letter from M.E.B. this evening. Some cannonading up the river.

Thursday 11th June 1863

Spent most of the forenoon packing ammunition. Have a few combination shell. We have had more of them before...think they are a grand institution, quite a complicated thing. We were inspected at 12 o'clock by Gen Ayres. He appeared to be much pleased with our battery. He is an old artillery officer, has been in the service for fourteen years. I wrote two letters, one to M.E.B. and one to Adela Merrell. Went out and found some very nice strawberries which were very nice to take. Had dress parade at 7 o'clock putting on all style imaginable.

Friday 12th June 1863

We have orders to be ready to move at a moment's notice. The rebels opened fire upon our balloon this morning and it came down in a hurry, but it went up again towards night. I am Corporal of the Police Guard today but do not have much duty to do. Went down to the river and took a good view of the rebels and their works. They seem to be at work all the time throwing up breastworks. I rec'd a letter this evening from Perry Caswell and Cornelia. There is cannonading up the river this afternoon, but it is up the river a good ways off, not very heavy. Very warm and everything is all dried up vegetation, what little there is suffering very much by the drought. Harris is not quite as well today as he was yesterday. Looks very much as he did last year when he was taken.

Saturday 13th June 1863

Not very much going on this forenoon. We had orders this afternoon to be ready to move at 8 o'clock p.m. It began to rain at 7 o'clock and rained very hard. We left our camp

at the time specified, all getting as wet as we could be. It rained until 10 o'clock when it cleared off and it was very nice marching, it being so cool. Sergeant is so ill that he has to ride in the ambulance. We marched to Hartwood church where we camped for the remainder of the night. Sykes' division is marching with us. We are temporarily assigned to him. The wet ground we found to be a very acceptable place to bunk as we were all so very tired. Battery S camped right beside us. Saw several of the boys of the 146th N.Y.V., all seem to be in good spirits. I gave Morris Stephenson an overcoat that I found. It is of no use to me.

Sunday 14th June 1863

Up this morning at sunrise. Got everything ready and marched at 7 o'clock, continued up the river. It has been awful dusty this afternoon and the men (especially the infantry) have suffered greatly. We got in sight of Blue Ridge about 2 o'clock p.m. Water has been very scarce and we could get none but what was very poor. Passed through a little place called White Ridge, it is but a small place. We marched 23 miles today and camped near Catlett's station.

Monday 15th June 1863

Up this morning at 3 o'clock and marched at seven. This is one of the warmest days that we have had yet. I saw a great many of the infantry who were sun struck. They can not stand it to march so fast. We reached Manassas Junction at 2 o'clock p.m. and went into positions commanding the road and plain that leads[?] towards the gap. It is reported that the enemy are coming in upon us from that way but we do not hardly believe it. As soon as we got everything attended to we bunked down and took a good sleep.

Tuesday 16th June 1863

Did not get up very early this morning. We hitched up this morning at 8 o'clock and remained so until 3 o'clock p.m. when we were ordered to unhitch and graze our horses. We soon rec'd orders to march again and at 5 o'clock we left on the road leading to Fairfax Court House. We reached that place at 12 o'clock at night when we went into camp. It was very cool and nice traveling and we did not stop but once and that was when our battery wagon tipped over. Hopkins and Dodd came to the battery today. They have been off scouting on towards Winchester for the last three weeks.

Wednesday 17th June 1863

As soon as we could get our horses taken care of this morning we started on the march again. Passed through Fairfax, turned to our right and went some two miles when we came to where the artillery reserve was camped and we halted and our Captain went and picked us out a nice place and we went into camp. We got four days mail today but I did not get but one letter, that was from M.E.B. Took our horses out to feed this afternoon, found plenty of good grass. Had dress parade at 7 o'clock. Sergeant Harris gave me his photograph. Our troops are passing by on the pike on their way to Aldie. There has been quite a heavy wind all day and the dust is flying in the air in perfect clouds. It is so bad at times that a person cannot see more than ten feet ahead of himself.

Thursday 18th June 1863

We have laid in camp all day today and I have got somewhat rested. No mail today. The mail is not going out again for ten days and it is said that we are not to have any more for three days. We had a nice thundershower just before dark. It did not stop raining until quite late in the evening. We have just heard from Lt. M.B.Ewing, he is Major in the heavy artillery at Cincinnati. Coz. Albert is 2nd Lieutenant and is recruiting a Company, and if he succeeds well in recruiting he will be Captain of it. Our cavalry have been having quite a skirmish out towards Snicker's Gap at Aldie. We took over a hundred prisoners and drove the enemy quite a ways. We lost several killed and wounded. At last accounts they were skirmishing quite brisk. There has been heavy cannonading off in that direction all day.

Friday 19th June 1863

We were inspected this morning by Maj. Gilvery, everything went off very nicely and the Major seemed much pleased with the manner in which we drilled. We rec'd orders this morning to join another Brigade, the 3rd, which is in this division. Capt. is Chief of Artillery of the Brigade to which we are assigned. We moved our camp just after dinner, only had to go about half a mile to our new camp. Find it a much better place, water very good and close by. Have got our camp fixed up very nice but have no idea how long we shall remain here. Had dress parade at 7 o'clock p.m. It commenced to rain just at dark and rained by spells all night. Some cannonading out towards Snickersville this morning.

Saturday 20th June 1863

Had quite a hard rain last night and today it is very cold and has rained by spells all day. Our mail has got a going all regular again. I wrote a letter to M.E.B. this afternoon. We had a large mail came in tonight but there was nothing for me. Rob Vandehoof was over to see us today, had a good talk with him. He is driving Brigade team, gets \$25.00 per month. Everything is quiet in camp today. Harris is getting along very well, thinks that he will soon be able to take charge of the detachment again. We have to go out twice a day and let our horses feed on grass as there is no hay for them. While out today I went over to an old log house and got some nice biscuit. They reminded me very forcibly of the meals that I had taken at home. Had quite a little shower just before dark.

Sunday 21st June 1863

There has been heavy cannonading all day today in the direction of Snicker's Gap. There was quite a number of wounded passed here today on their way to the station for Washington. They were wounded last Friday out by Aldie. They were nearly all cavalry men. I got a pass and went down to Fairfax C.H., got a number of things for the boys. Our sutler came today but he charges so much for everything that but very few of the boys patronize him. I wrote a letter to Mollie today and rec'd one from her and one from Adela Merrell. We have just heard of the death of Lycuueus[?] Bishop, never was more surprised in my life by hearing of anything. He was wounded in the heel and about a week ago when we heard from him he was getting along very fast, but he had his leg amputated which was the means of his losing his life.

Monday 22nd June 1863

There was 150 prisoners passed here this morning on their way to Washington. They were captured in yesterday's fight. Most of them were well dressed. There was five commissioned officers among them. There was considerable cannonading this afternoon in the direction of Snicker's Gap. It has been very warm and pleasant today. Had a good drill at the manual of the piece this afternoon. Lt. Norton drilled us a while and then Ewing tried it a while, both of them together made a pretty long drill of it. There was quite an explosion in the next battery to us today. The boys went and found a hole in a tree and put several cartridges in and blew the tree all in slivers. It created quite a stir in camp for a few moments until we found out what it was. Only three letters for the whole Battery tonight, none for me.

Tuesday 23rd June 1863

I went over to an old cavalry camp this morning, got some nice fresh milk which was the first that I have had for a long while. Our sutler has gone to Washington today after another load of goods. Harris is not quite as well today. Saw a gun pass by that our cavalry took from the enemy last Sunday[?]. It was a Blakesly gun of English manufacture. Had drill this afternoon, went out near the C.H. on a nice level piece of ground. Everything went off very nicely, but Lt. Ewing made quite a number of blunders. There is no cannonading of any account going on today. The ambulances passed by with quite a number of wounded. It has been a very warm day and the wind has blowed very hard all the time.

Wednesday 24th June 1863

Nothing of importance going on in camp today. There was two brigades of artillery left for Edwards Ferry this morning. There was about a hundred prisoners passed by this morning on their way to Washington. They were taken by our cavalry out near Aldie. We had battery drill this afternoon. Lt. Ewing drilled us a while, it is the first time that he has ever drilled the battery. A regiment of cavalry have returned from the front today and are in camp just back of us, their old camp which they left a week ago. Rec'd a letter from J. Given[?], wrote one to Adela.

Thursday 25th June 1863

Orders to march at 8:30 at which time we started, took the road for Edwards Ferry. Marched very slow this forenoon, but this afternoon we have marched very fast, did not stop at all. Reached the Ferry at 11 o'clock p.m., a distance of 28 miles from Fairfax C.H. We are all very tired and bunked down just as it happened. It commenced to rain just before dark and rained all night which makes it very disagreeable for us, yet we are so tired that no storm would prevent us laying down and going to sleep. Our ambulance broke down about a mile from where we stopped and the sick had to get up the best they could. I believe they all succeeded in getting up with the battery, some coming on horseback and some a foot. Harris looks very bad and is getting no better. We had orders to unhitch and feed but not unharness. The horses are all very tired and disorderly which keeps the guard on the alert most of his time. We passed through Davisville[?] just after noon. It is a small but quite a pretty place on the Leesburg turnpike.

Friday 26th June 1863

Up this morning at daylight and ordered to march without delay. But as we were hindered an hour or more by the train ahead of us one of our boys got us a little coffee, which was very acceptable. We crossed the pontoon bridge about 8 o'clock a.m. and passed through the town and camped back from the river nearly a mile. Edwards Ferry is a small town of not more than 10 houses. It is right on the bank of the river. There is two pontoon bridges across here and troops and baggage trains have been crossing all day. I saw one baggage train that was at least three miles long. It was Sthals[?] cavalry train. I rec'd a letter this evening from Brigham and Melinda. It has rained by spells all day. The artillery is all in camp here together. Hooker passed by here today.

Saturday 27th June 1863

Did not have roll call very early this morning, and when we had it there was quite a number of the boys picked for not getting out, among them were three Sergeants. Orders to move at 8 o'clock but we did not get started until nearly 9 o'clock. Marched very fast all day and passed through Frederick City just after dark. I got in a wagon at the junction three miles from the City and rode in some half an hour before the Battery. Pray was with me, we had a very good time. We camped just outside of the City about a mile in a large meadow, plenty of grass for our horses. We have marched 26[?] miles today, passed through Poolsville & Barnesville, both small towns. This is beautiful country around Frederick.

Sunday 28th June 1863

Laid in camp all day today. I went down to the City and took a good view of the place. They seem to be mostly union people and act more like human beings than some of the people of Va. do. Stores are mostly closed today, it being Sunday. There was two Corps passed through the City today. I rec'd a letter from M.E.B. and wrote one to Mollie, sending her some of my old letters which I did not wish to destroy. There is a beautiful country about here. Never saw such splendid wheat before in my life, and there is so much of it too. Nearly half of the land seems to be covered with nice wheat, nearly ripe enough to eat. It has been a very pleasant day today. Wrote a letter this evening to M.E.B.

Monday 29th June 1863

The reveille sounded this morning at 4 o'clock and we rec'd orders to march immediately, but it was nearly 6 o'clock before we got on the road. The first town of any importance that we passed through was Walkerville. It is a very pretty place but very small, not more than 30 houses. We passed through several small places today, among them are Woodboro, Millersbury & Ladiesboro. We camped near a little place called Bruceville some 20 miles from Frederick City. We have passed through a very rich valley today. The blue ridge is in plain sight on our left and in some places not more than four miles distant. There is a great many loyal people through this country and it seems good to be among them.

Tuesday 30th June 1863

Woke up this morning and found it raining but it did not rain very much. Last night I saw one of the most singular things that I ever saw in my life. It was a rainbow about 1

o'clock at night. The moon was shining very brightly and it was sprinkling a little. It looked very beautiful, something that I never saw nor heard tell of before in my life. There has been quite a number of ladies in camp today to see our guns. They seem to be quite a curiosity to them. We left camp and started on the march at 1 o'clock p.m. We passed through Taney Town and went about two miles and camped for the night. We have marched a distance of 7 miles. Taney Town is a very nice place of about 800 inhabitants. Union flags are flying from nearly every house top. The 3rd Corps passed us today led by our much beloved Gen. Sickles. Saw 20 prisoners, one Lt. and one Capt. We expect to have a fight with the rebs soon. I am Corporal of the Guard today. Harris is well now so as to take charge of the detachment.

Wednesday 1st July 1863

Laying in camp expecting every moment when we shall be called on to do some fighting with the Jonnie rebs, as it is reported that they are advancing upon us with a very heavy force. Laid in camp all day with nothing to do. I wrote two letters, one to Perry Caswell and one to Frank Green. Troops have been marching by nearly all day. Also a long train of baggage has marched on towards the advance. Quite a number of ladies have been in camp today, many of them never saw a cannon before in their life. Reports are very numerous in camp today that the enemy are in our rear with quite a force capturing our baggage train and committing many outrages, but we do not credit them at all. We have been having a gay time in camp this evening, carrying on and raising ned in general.

Thursday 2nd July 1863

Reveille this morning at 3 o'clock and were ordered to move at 4 o'clock but we did not get off until nearly 5. Did not go but a little ways before we could hear cannonading very distinctly and learned that General Reynolds was killed yesterday while leading on his men. He had command of three Corps. General Mead has command of this army now. Hooker is relieved for some cause or other unknown to me. We marched very fast all this forenoon and got up to where they were cannonading (which was just east of Gettysburg) and went into park to wait for further orders. Had some dinner got for us and then laid down and rested until nearly 4 o'clock p.m. when we were ordered to the front to take position. About this time our infantry began to be engaged very lively on our left. We relieved a battery about the center and as soon as we got into position we commenced firing and kept it up until dark. Our men on the left after some two hours hard fighting drove the enemy with heavy loss. About 6 o'clock our right was charged on by the rebs but we held our ground well, fighting until after dark. We had two men killed just before dark, Criesh and Shram, and three men wounded, Edmons, Corpl. Witherell & Goodrich, but none of them dangerously. Edmons was shot through the ankle taking his leg completely off, yet they think that he will get along. We laid by our guns all night without any blankets, yet we all slept well, as we were so tired. The cannonading has been very severe as the enemy have had a cross fire on us. One shell passed so near me that it made me quite dizzy for a short time.

Friday 3rd July 1863

There was some musketry firing by spells all night but the heavy engagement began on our right about 4 o'clock a.m. at which time we opened on a battery a little to the right of the center. Our guns done splendid execution[?]. Such musketry I never heard before in my life as there was on our right which lasted eight hours when our men drove the rebs with great slaughter and took a great many prisoners. For a short time after noon everything was quiet when all of a sudden the enemy opened fire on us with some 60 pieces of artillery having a cross fire on[?]. We were ordered to change front and I and my gun did so and worked our guns on the enemy as lively as we could for over an hour when it got so hot that we could not use it any longer and we run and got another gun and rolled it up in position and fired that until it was impossible to bear our hand on it. About this time the enemy charged our battery, then we took our own gun and fired it until the vent got stopped up with a friction[?] primer so that we could not get it off, but we had shot away nearly all our ammunition and was ordered to the rear where we went a distance of some two miles and halted. Detachment B's gun was disabled by a shell which struck its axletree but we got it off the field. The last charge on the left was very desperate but we come out all right, repulsing the enemy with heavy loss, taking 8,000 prisoners and perfectly routing them. Our men are in the best of spirits, all rejoicing over our great victory. General Sickles was wounded last night. It is also reported that A. P. Hill was taken wounded and has since died in our hands. General Almstead and staff were taken also. We have lost but five horses today. Being under cover of a hill they were very much protected. The rebels have one battery of Whitworth guns. We found several of their shell today. They have a very peculiar shape. The prisoners are passing by here by the hundred and we have now up here in the field over 4000 of them together. They are to be sent on to Baltimore as soon as possible. The firing ceased (with the exception of a little cannonading) at 4 p.m. While in the hottest of the firing today I took off my jacket and gave it to Lt. Norton to take care of for I was so warm that it was impossible to keep it on. Lt. kept it a new moments and then laid it down and when I found it someone had taken everything out of the pockets, a Bible & 3 letters ready to mail. The Bible was a capture of Fredericksburg.

Saturday 4th July 1863

Up this morning very early and started to the front and took a new position a little to the right of our old one. Did not fire a gun today but there was some cannonading up on the left. Our men have possession of town and the rebs seem to be retreating. I went over on the right where the heaviest battle was fought and could see the dead rebels by the hundred. There was 40 in one place all laying close together so that they completely covered the ground. It was the hardest sight that I ever saw in my life. I think I saw nearly one thousand bodies, all rebels. Our loss is very light comparatively to theirs as our men had very formidable works. I saw Ewell's Adjutant General Leight. He and his horse both lay dead close together. I got a piece of his coat. He was a very fine looking man.

Sunday 5th July 1863

It rained nearly all night very hard most of the time. We were called up this morning at 3 o'clock and every man of us were at our guns. It was thought that the rebels were going to charge our battery but it proved to be nothing more than picket firing so we all laid down again and took another sleep, but could not sleep much as it was raining and the ground was covered with water. We were a hard looking set of men when we got up. Everyone was well covered with mud cap a pie. There is but very few rebels in sight this morning and our men are advancing fast, are now quite a ways out of town. I went into the town to get some hay for our horses and succeeded very well as I found large quantities of it. Gettysburg is a very pretty place, much larger than I expected to find it. The people seem much pleased to see us back in town again. All who did not go to the rear stayed in their cellars while the fighting was going off for the last three days. The women are all at work baking bread and pies for the soldiers, while the men are out on the battlefield taking observations. Many of them have their carriages bringing in the wounded to the hospitals. They are all very loyal through this part of the country and will do anything for a soldier that they can. We had orders to march at 2 o'clock p.m. It is reported that we are going to Frederick City. We marched to Middletown, a distance of 10 miles. We got in at 11 o'clock at night, all very tired, and soon bunked down and were at sleep in a short time. It rained some through the night which made it very disagreeable for us.

Monday 6th July 1863

We are a pretty wet set of boys this morning for it rained very hard last night and we did not have our tent pitched. Middletown is quite a nice town, about as large as Gettysburg. I received a letter from Wm. Corlett this morning. Wrote two letters, one to Father and one to M.E.B. We have laid in camp all day today with nothing to do. It has rained by spells all day. I went to an old farmer and got a good breakfast this morning. It reminded me very much of home. It seemed as though I should never get enough but after eating about half an hour I was comfortable satisfied. The people through here are very loyal and sell bread and pies very reasonable. There is quite a number of civilians in camp today looking at our guns.

Tuesday 7th July 1863

Up this morning at 3 o'clock and orders to move at 5 o'clock but we did not get started until nearly 6. Went right through to Taney Town and from there right on towards Frederick City. We travelled very slow and it rained part of the time which made it very unpleasant for us. I saw 1000 prisoners today that were taken near Taney Town, most of them were very badly clothed but seemed to be in good spirits. We kept on marching on until 11 o'clock when we reached Walkersville and went in camp. All very much fatigued having marched 28 miles on very muddy roads. But we soon pitched our tents and soon was asleep. Have had no grain for our horses today and not but very little for the last week. Horses are running down very fast.

Wednesday 8th July 1863

It rained very hard this morning and we all lay in our bunks and slept. Had breakfast at 8 o'clock and then went back to bed and took another sleep, and at 11 o'clock it ceased raining and we were ordered to march. Went right on to Frederick City where we arrived at 4 o'clock when we went into camp on our old camping ground. The 6th and 12th[?] Corps

are marching with us. There was a spy hung here last night and is hanging yet. He told our men if they had let him went five hours longer that Stuart would have had our entire baggage train. The mail came in tonight but nothing for me. We got some new horses tonight. They look very well. There is some cannonading over the mountain towards Antietam.

Thursday 9th July 1863

Up this morning at 5 o'clock but no orders to march. I wrote two letters, one to Perry Caswell and one to Frank Green. It is a very pleasant day today. Got some new horses today for Battery, most of them are pretty good ones. Left Frederick at noon and marched to Boonsboro, passed through town and was going into camp but the orders were countermanded and we had to go back on the east side of town to camp. Found that we had got nearly out to the pickets lines[?]. Got in camp at 11 o'clock, all very tired. Saw a spy that was hung just west of Frederick City as we were coming along today. There is considerable cannonading this evening in the direction of Hagerstown. It is quite heavy. Boliver[?] is a small town that we passed through. There is some very pretty people in it.

Friday 10th July 1863

Very warm this morning and quite smoky. Considerable cannonading off on our right and front today. I received four letters. M.E.B., E.E.B., Mollie and Cousin Albert. Wrote one to B. Brigham. Orders to move at 4 o'clock p.m. Our brigade takes the advance today. There was some men in a Battery joining us got fooling with one of their guns pulling off friction primers when all of a sudden the gun went off and the shell struck the caisson, wounding two men. The men did not know that the gun was loaded, but it appears that it had been loaded every since the battle at Gettysburg. It created considerable excitement in camp. It is reported that the enemy is retreating very fast. We moved out about half a mile on the other side of Town and went in camp in a beautiful meadow. I went down town this evening with Phy, had a very good time. Wrote a letter to M.E.B.

Saturday 11th July 1863

Up this morning at 3 o'clock. As soon as we got breakfast, had orders to move. Went out towards Hagerstown some three miles and went into camp again. We lay around until nearly night with our horses hitched up expecting to move on towards the front but we had no such orders and about four o'clock we were ordered to unhitch and unharness. Lt. Norton sent me out to look for some hay for our horses and after going about a mile I found a barn full of the best of timothy which the drivers went and got. There is but very little cannonading out to the front today, but it is reported that our forces are fortifying on the side of Antietam Creek. It has been very warm all day. I went down to the mill and got some flour and made me some good doughnuts. Capt. is sick and Capt. Hill has command of this brigade at present.

Sunday 12th July 1863

I was Corporal of the Guard last night but did not have to get up but twice to put on the guard. Wrote a letter this morning to Mollie. There is a good deal of transportation going to the front this morning. We have a new commander of our brigade. Major

Rennolds from N.Y., formerly Capt. of a New York battery. I went off today and got all the cherries and apples that I could eat. Had a very heavy thundershower just before dark and many of the boys got very wet as the water ran under their tents, but I had my tent ditch so that Grover and I kept perfectly dry. But very little excitement today about camp, all quiet out at the front, seem to be preparing for a big battle. Citizens in camp today, all seem pleased to know that we are driving the rebs from their land, yet there is some of them that complain bitterly about our camping on their farms.

Monday 13th June 1863

Reveille this morning at 3 o'clock and had orders to march at 5 o'clock but did not get started until nearly 6. Took off in a south direction towards Shippingsburg, went some six miles and camped near Reedsville. It has rained by spells all day. Everything appears quiet in front to day. Lt. Col. McGilvery's brigade was ordered back near Boonsboro for some reason unknown to me. Captain is not able to take charge of the Battery. There was a very small mail this evening. I did not get any letters. Our forces seem to be fixing for a big battle soon, our line extends each way as far as we can see. Saw General Meade and staff today as we were coming from Boonsboro. There is some cannonading but it is off a good ways.

Tuesday 14th July 1863

This is a very pleasant day. About noon we had orders to unhitch and unharness. It is reported that the enemy have crossed river. Our cavalry and infantry advanced about 1 o'clock and in a short time we heard heavy cannonading which lasted for over an hour. We attacked their rear guard and took quite a number of prisoners, also three battle flags. Our whole line of infantry have advanced and it is very evident that Lee is across with his whole force. Wrote to Corlett and Coz. Albert today. I went down to Reedsville this afternoon and got some flour and made me some doughnuts. Reedsville is a small place of not more than 500 inhabitants, yet the people seem to be very loyal, will do anything for a soldier and are anxious to see the rebel army cleaned out.

Wednesday 15th July 1863

We were roused out this morning at one o'clock and had orders to march at two. We found it rather hard marching as it was somewhat muddy and it being in the night too. We got out on the National turnpike just at sunrise and then got along very well as the roads were very much better. Here we met our other brigade who marched with us. We went to Middletown and then took the road for Harper's Ferry, marched until 3 o'clock p.m. when we went in camp about one mile from the Potomac near Berlin. We have a pontoon bridge across here and our troops are crossing all the time. Cars run from Harper's Ferry to Washington and are bringing up supplies all the time. I wrote a letter to E.E. Brewer this evening. This is beautiful farming country around here. There is a great deal of wheat which is plenty ripe to eat

Thursday 16th July 1863.

There is prospects of our laying in camp all day today. I wrote a letter this morning to E.E. Brewer and then I went off with Lt. Richard to get some eatables. We rode about eight miles when we were to a very nice dwelling and Lt. asked me to go in and see what

they had to sell, so in I went and enquire. Found that they had nothing but butter and bread. I told them that I would take a quantity of it. They very politely asked me in and of course I kindly accepted the invitation. Found a very fine young lady of some 18 years of age and I sat down had a good chat with her. She was quite talkative and very intelligent, but slightly tintured with seceshism, but I played my cards so as to make myself very agreeable or at least I thought so judging from her appearances. After keeping the Lt. waiting about an hour I paid the old lady for the articles and after learning their names, which was Thomas, I bid them adieu and Lt. and I went back to camp with not more than half the articles that we wanted. The officers laughed at us considerable when we returned for coming back with so small an amount. Rec'd three letters this evening, two from M.E.B. and one from Adela Merrell. One of them was written nearly a month ago. Our Engineers are at work laying the pontoons across the river at Berlin. There is three Corps camped near here. We all expect to cross the river again soon. Boys are all rejoicing over the glorious news which the papers bring us. Port Hudson is ours and the Mississippi River is cleaned of all obstructions.

Friday 17th July 1863

It has rained nearly all day and some of the time quite hard. Our infantry are camped all around us quite thick. I have been doing some washing today and the rest of my time I stayed in my tent. Wrote a letter to M.E.B. and read the papers. There was a squad of prisoners passed here on their way to H.Q. some 25 in number this morning. They were taken on the other side of the river, supposed to be bushwhackers. They had no particular uniform. Quite a number of them had our uniforms on. It is a very nice country through here. The main crop is wheat which is mostly harvested and looks very fine.

Saturday 18th July 1863

It rained nearly all night. Had orders to move at 7 o'clock at which time we started, went a short ways and then had to halt for three hours on account of a baggage train that was crossing the pontoon bridge. We crossed the river just after noon and continued on until 3 o'clock, when we went in camp 7 miles from Berlin. Camped in a large field where the blackberries were very thick and we had all that we could eat of them. There was five of us boys that went to the hospital today, Pixley, Milbrand, Briner, Foreman & [blank space]. They are mostly troubled with fevers. Harris takes charge as Orderly and I have charge of the detachment. We have five batteries in our brigade now. They were assigned yesterday. The papers bring glorious news today of the Union victories.

Sunday 19th July 1863

Marched this morning at 8 o'clock. Our brigade took the lead, went very slow this forenoon but after we once got started off we went right along and did not have to stop until 3 o'clock when we went into camp having traveled some 8 miles. Camped near a very nice orchard where we got plenty of good apples and the boys found some chickens which they could not suffer to run at large for some unknown reason. The country through which we have passed today has been very poor, much different from the land in Maryland. Saw quite a squad of Jonnies on their way to Washington. There was 28 of them and the best looking rebels that I have seen yet. All had very nice clothes on and looked so clean. So different from the majority of the prisoners we take. Received a letter from Micah[?]

Halleck this evening. It came very unexpectedly to me.

Monday 20th July 1863

We laid in camp all the forenoon waiting for orders to march which came at 12 o'clock when we started in a southern direction. Went as far as Uniontown and camped. Very good roads most of the way today, being grass roads that have generally but very little travel on them. Saw thirty prisoners that our men took this forenoon. They were very joyous over their capture and said they were willing to take the oath of allegiance to the U.S. for they were tired of fighting without any just cause. It has been very warm all day today. Uniontown is a small place of not more than 200 inhabitants and the buildings are very much dilapidated. The only nice building is a large brick church which is right in front of our camp.

Tuesday 21st July 1863

It rained a little this morning and then the sun came out very warm. Went down through town but there was nothing of importance to be seen. We caught a spy yesterday and it is reported that he is to be hung this afternoon near here, but do not know how true it will prove. He said that he belonged to Kilpatrick's Cavalry and was one of his scouts, but they soon found out that it was not so which fully convinced our men that he was a spy. Went over to the church which is just across the road from us, and wrote a letter to Mollie. We all went down to the creek this evening and took a good swim. Everything has been very quiet in camp today. Boys have had a good chance to rest and all seem to enjoy it very much.

Wednesday 22nd July 1863

Laid around all this forenoon and just as we had got our dinner, orders came to pack up and be ready to march. We got started at 1 o'clock but went very slow as there were so much infantry to bother us. The 6th Corps is moving on this road. We marched only three miles today and did not get in camp until 4 o'clock, full as tired as though we had been on the go all day or had marched 15 miles. Have a very nice place to camp on a high hill. The farm is owned by an old rich farmer who owns a large tract of land had has a splendid house. General Meade has put a guard around his house and some of the boys not liking it very much went and set a large wheat stack on fire. We went and took a good swim this evening in Goose Creek, the water is very clear and we enjoyed it very much.

Thursday 23rd July 1863

Up this morning at 5 o'clock and had orders to march at 8 o'clock at which time we started. Continued on towards Warrenton. Went as far as White Plains and camped for the night. Never saw blackberries so thick before in my life as they are through this country. The 6th Corps marched ahead of us today and got in camp a short time before we did. Some very nice country we passed through today and what little vegetation there is looks very good. There is considerable cannonading in the direction of Warrenton. We have a splendid camp in a large meadow of several hundred acres and the grass is not cut, very nice feed for our horses. Each detachment took a scythe and mowed enough for their horses. Had quite a little shower just before dark.

Friday 24th July 1863

It has been very warm today. We laid in camp until 5 o'clock when we received marching orders, and in less than half an hour were on our way to Warrenton. Went part of the way through the mountains and took off to the right of Thorofare Gap. Found it good going most of the way. White Plain is a small but very pretty place, some 25 houses. It looks much better than it did a year ago when we were through here. We marched until 5 o'clock a.m. when we reached Warrenton and went in camp, all very tired and sleepy. One division of the 4th[?] Corps marched with us but they stopped at New Baltimore, a small town some five miles back. We are now in camp in the same field where we were last year while under General Shields.

Saturday 25th July 1863

Did not get up this morning until very late as we were up so late last night. Changed our camp this morning but did not have to go but little ways. Found a much better place right by the side of a good spring of water. Part of the 6th Corps passed through here today. They have continued on towards Culpeper, all seem to be in the best of spirits. We have been at work fixing up our camp a while today. Had to cut grass for our horses as there is no hay to be had very handily. The inhabitants here in town are very rank secesh. There is hardly a Union person among them. Had a heavy thunderstorm just before dark and many of the boys got very wet but our tent was so put up that we kept perfectly dry.

Sunday 26th July 1863

The 3rd Corps are passing here today and continuing right on in the direction of Culpeper. There was a Cavalry officer shot this morning by some bushwackers. It appears that he went out some three miles from town to see an old friend, and soon after he got there, there was four guerrillas came in the house and shot him down without any ceremony. They then robbed him of his jacket, book, and watch, and then left for the woods. The lady of the house sent in word of the horrid deed to our men who went and got the Cavalry officer. There was a squad of men sent out in search of the rebels but could get no trace of them. Everything has been quiet in camp today. I wrote a letter to M.E.B. and rec'd one from Mollie Merrell. Only one letter for our battery and I was the lucky one to get it.

Monday 27th July 1863

We have laid in camp all day today with nothing to do. I went a berrying this afternoon and got a bucket full of very nice blackberries, which go very well with hard tack. There has been some cannonading in the direction of Culpeper today but not very heavy. Had quite a large mail today but no letters for me. I feel very much disappointed for I expected three or four at least. Wrote a letter to Adela Merrell and the rest of the time I was laying in my tent sleeping. It has rained by spells all day today, but not very hard at any time. Philip Simmons gave me his photograph today. It is not a very natural one but as good as we can get here in the army. Lt. Wm. A. Ewing has got to be first Lt. now in this battery, promoted since M.B. Ewing discharged.

Tuesday 28th July 1863

This has been a very warm day. Our mail came in this morning and I rec'd two letters from M.E.B. & F. Green. Went off about a mile and half to graze our horses and while out I picked a bucket of nice blackberries and when I came back to camp Grover and I had a very good dinner. We have just rec'd some daily papers and find glorious news in them. It is awful warm today and looks very much as though we might have some rain soon. Stillman Fletcher got kicked by a horse today and I think that it will lay him up quite a while, but it is nothing fatal. There is some cannonading towards Culpeper this afternoon. Not very heavy though. Wrote a letter to Mollie Merrell this afternoon.

Wednesday 29th July 1863

Went off this morning to an old secesh and got some flour and had a very nice blackberry pudding for dinner. Also made some biscuits which were very passable. Had to take our horses out to feed, was gone some two hours, got a pail of blackberries. Wrote a letter to M.E.B., rec'd one from Harlow. Two of our boys went to the hospital this morning. They have the remittent fever and are pretty sick. It rained some just before dark. Boys are all in the best of spirits and are having a good time playing this evening. Papers bring us the news of the capture of John Morgan and his whole command. Nothing of importance going on in camp today.

Thursday 30th July 1863

Woke up this morning and found it raining, but it did not last long. Cleared off and was very pleasant until 4 o'clock p.m. when we had a thundershower which lasted an hour. Went off after horses to the depot but could not get any as they had not come up from Washington. Expect them in the morning. Wrote a letter to Harlow this afternoon. Our whole force of cavalry has gone out towards Culpeper today on a reconnaissance. Saw a person that was in the hospital with me last summer at Washington. He belongs to the 2nd Mass., a real fine fellow. Went down to the creek this evening and took a good swim. We have just heard of the death of Jno. Edmonds who died at Gettysburg from the affects of his wound.

Friday 31st July 1863

It has been very warm this day. Spent all this forenoon out feeding our horses and picking blackberries. When I returned I found two letters for me, one from Mary and one from Coz. Albert. We have just heard of the death of Jacob Foreman who died in the hospital. Only been away from the battery some two weeks. It surprised us all very much for we expected him back to the battery again soon. We have been getting some ordinance stores today and are getting our battery up in pretty good fighting trim again. The Major came around and inspected our ordinance stores that were not fit for service, which we will have to turn over at the first opportunity. Wrote a letter to A.S. [?] Merrell. Part of the 6th Corps marched out towards Warrenton junction this evening.

Saturday 1st August 1863

Reveille this morning at 4 o'clock and orders to march at 5 o'clock. Took the road at Warrenton Junction at which place we reached at one o'clock p.m. Went in camp in a large meadow close to the junction. Water is very scarce and we find it almost impossible to get any that is good enough to drink. Have to take our horses two miles to water. Have our camp in the edge of the woods which makes it very pleasant for us, but it is awful hot. Boys say it is the hottest day they ever experienced. The cars are running from here to Alexandria very briskly bringing in the supplies by large quantities for this army. Saw General Schurz today, he is not a very good man, has a very awkward gate. His Division is stationed on the R.R. from Manassas Junction to the Rappahannock.

Sunday 2nd August 1863

Another very warm day. Boys all laying around in the woods complaining of the heat. Fixed up a nice bunk in my tent today and find it much cooler than laying on the ground. Some of the boys have been digging a well but can not get down to water. Have dug about 15 feet and no signs of any spring. Had a good eat of frogs this noon, some that we caught this morning while at water. Had inspection this evening at 7 o'clock. Company looked rather hard as there was a great lack of clothing. Had to make out a list of everything that my detachment wanted in the clothing line. Went down to the creek and took a good swim, enjoyed it very much as the water was nice and warm. The land about here is very poor, been worn out raising tobacco. Could be very easily brought up again.

Monday 3rd August 1863

I have a very severe headache this morning but felt much better at noon as my head had ceased to ache. I have been able to do my duty all day. We had to wash and grease our harness this forenoon. It looks much better. We have been drawing clothing this afternoon and the boys are getting dressed up so that they look much better and make a much better appearance. Boys are getting the camp fixed up so that it looks very respectfully about here. General supposition is that we will stay here quite a while. Rec'd a letter this evening from M.E.B. All kinds of clothing is being brought up here from Washington and this army will soon be ready for any emergency whatever. Everything is suffering very much for the want of rain.

Tuesday 4th August 1863

I feel much better this morning than I did yesterday. Sam Cass is quite sick with fever but think that he will be all right again in a few days. Wrote a letter this morning to M.E.B. Laid in my tent most of the day reading Shakespeare. Jacob Foreman's (deceased) clothing was sold at auction this afternoon. Everything sold for all that they were worth and some things sold for more than new ones cost. There was a very hard thunder shower that passed just to the right of us this evening but did not rain much here. Had dress parade this evening and the officers made one or two blunders, forgot to open ranks before reporting the parade formed. Major Reynolds leaves for the 12th Corps in the morning and I do not know who will have command of this brigade.

Wednesday 5th August 1863

This morning after guard mounting we were ordered to hitch and harness and go and wash our carriages, which we did, getting through a little after noon. Lockwood was placed under arrest today for leaving his post last night before being regularly relieved. Lockwood went and got Herbert Walker to stand his guard while he went and got some water and milk, having to go nearly two miles. Lockwood was gone nearly two hours and when he returned Walker had been caught asleep and relieved by Thompson who reported Lockwood. Walker's sentence was pronounced this evening at dress parade which was as follows: To be kept at hard labor from Reveille until Retreat having but a half hour at each meal. Lockwood has to be tried by court martial and is subject to whatever sentence the court may inflict upon him. It created quite a sensation throughout camp. Wrote a letter to F. Green this evening. We put up a large swing this afternoon and the boys are having gay times swinging.

Thursday 6th August 1863

Captain is now Chief of Artillery in this, the 3rd Brigade, as Major Reynolds has gone to the 12th Corps and is Chief of Artillery there. The 1st Brigade was reviewed today and we are to be tomorrow. Have been at work nearly all the afternoon cleaning the harness again and getting everything in readiness for the review. It has been very cool today as there has been a good breeze all day. Corn is getting nearly ripe enough to cook and we are making great calculations of having some one of these days. Joseph Briner has come back to the battery today. He's been driving team at HQ of the 1st Brigade but has had to quit it as his health will not permit of it any longer. We have heard from Andrew Milbrandt today. He is still at the hospital in Maryland, nearly well and is very anxious to get back with us again for he fears if he does not soon that they will send him to the convalescent's camp. Have a very small mail today, only one letter for our detachment and that was for Charles Davis from Milbrandt. Lockwood is still under arrest and is kept under guard. We are getting so that we like our new camp very much.

Friday 7th August 1863

Up this morning quite early and had orders to be ready for review at 9 a.m. at which time we were hitched up and marched out to the review ground. Our whole brigade was inspected, which took until after 12 o'clock. It has been very warm this forenoon, but cloudy this afternoon, and commenced to rain at 4 p.m. and rained quite hard all the evening. One of our old Camp Dennison horses was sick and I have been doctoring him all the afternoon. He is one of our best horses and I hate to lose him. The 1st cavalry are at work near here putting up a hospital. Have cleaned out a well which affords abundance of splendid water. Did not have any dress parade this evening as it was so rainy. Wrote a letter this evening to Mollie. We are getting plenty of soft bread now so that we are living[?] high mill[?] man[?] and like our camp better and better every day. Lt. Norton is now in command of the battery as Captain is Chief of Artillery in the Brigade.

Saturday 8th August 1863

The reveille sounded this morning at 2:30 at which time we had roll call and was ordered to march at 4 o'clock. We got everything ready and marched at 5 a.m. It was very muddy marching this morning as it rained so much last night, but it soon dried away after sun came out. We got to Rappahannock Station at 11 p.m. and went in camp there. Stayed until most dark when we were ordered to cross the river with the guns and take position, which we did, and bivouacked in a dooryard[?] of an old secesh who was off in the rebel army. Also a son of his was fighting for the Southern Confederacy. We have one of the best positions that we have ever had yet. We are on a high hill and have a view of a plain for some two miles. See our skirmishers very plain.

Sunday 9th August 1863

Had a splendid sleep last night and did not get up until long after sunrise as there was no roll call this morning. Lockwood has been released of his arrest and is again doing duty as though nothing had happened at all. We are not assigned to the 1st Corps but only temporarily I think. Captain has his headquarters across the river with the rest of his brigade. Everything is very quiet but much going on here. There is two regiments here who are supporting us, the Wisconsin and 24th Michigan. I rec'd a letter this evening from M.E.B. and finished a letter to Mollie that I commenced the 7th. Had all the green corn that I could eat today which is the first that we have had this year. Our cavalry picket is about half a mile in advance of us. The cars are running across the river now and are bringing supplies over for the troops on this side.

Monday 10th August 1863

Up this morning at the usual hour and went after some green corn, got a very good mess and fried it. I went a spying around today and found a secesh cavalry saddle concealed in an old log house which was locked up, but I smashed in the door and found several things that this old secesh had hid away, expecting without a doubt to keep for his own use when the war was over. Fixed up a bunk in our tent today which makes it very nice to what it is sleeping on the ground. Wrote a letter this afternoon to M.E.B. A very small mail this evening, only three letters for this detachment. The brass band came over from the other side of the river and serenaded the Captain commanding the 28th Michigan Regiment who are here supporting our battery. They play very well, reminds me of old times.

Tuesday 11th August 1863

Went over to the caissons on the other side of the river this morning to see the boys and get ny horse shod. They are all well there with the exception of Will Cass who looks very bad. Has been sick now for nearly a month and will have a hard time of it if he is not sent off to the hospital where he can have better care very soon. Our infantry on this side of the river have been paid off today and seem to be very jubilant over it. Their sutler has come up and brought them a large supply of goods and they are huddled around his wagon by the hundred, all anxious to invest a small sum in ginger bread and the like of that. Went down to the river this evening and swam my horse and took a good swim myself. Chas. Davis & Ed Jacobs are sick so that the detachment is very small at present. W--- Dodd has just come to see the boys. He has been down to Washington, thinks that we will lay still for quite a while.

Wednesday 12th August 1863

Our infantry support was relieved this morning by the 19th Indiana Regiment. This old secesh woman that lives here told one of our men this morning if our men did not let her go into the rebel lines and see her husband that she would go on her own accord and tell them everything that was going on here and have them come in and capture us all, but we heeded not her threats, not in the least. I wrote a letter to Rno.[?] Frank this afternoon and then went over the river to get some things of the sutler for Davis and Jacobs who are sick, but found it impossible to get anything as there has but few goods come up yet. Hummer was picked last night for going to the river and ordered on guard this morning which he refused to do so they tied him up to a tree and made him stand there all day, giving him but one[?] ---- of mush for dinner.

Thursday 13th August 1863

It commenced raining this morning at 2 o'clock and continued on very hard until about 8 o'clock when it stopped and the sun came out very warm and pleasant, and continued so all day. This old lady had one of their oxen killed last night and is making a big fuss about it, but I hardly think that she will find out the persons that killed it. Got a nice mess of milk this morning which went very good with hard tack. Our infantry pickets are extended out some further today than they have been heretofore since we crossed the river. Hummer has been tied up to a tree all day today and still refuses to stand guard, asks for a court martial but the officers do not want to grant him one. The conscripts are arriving in from Washington. There was a large train of them come in today from Wisconsin.

Friday 14th August 1863

We have heard no more about the beef creature that was killed night before last. Got our pay today about noon. Clothing account was deducted out and many of the boys did not receive but a very small sum which caused some dissatisfaction. Had a short rain storm just before dark but did not amount to much as the most of the rain passed around to the south of us. Hummer was not tied up today as he concluded to go on guard. Heard some cannonading in the direction of Fredericksburg this afternoon and it is reported that there is some fighting going on there. Our men are still at work here on the breastworks. Rec'd a letter from M.E.B. Enclosed was a very nice gold pen and silver holder.

Saturday 15th August 1863

The infantry were relieved here this morning by the 24th Wisconsin who were on picket here some four days ago. At 11 o'clock boots in saddles sounded and in a short time we were all ready to march, but we moved out to get our dinner first. We crossed the river with the battery and went in camp with the cannons at the same old place we first stopped at before going on picket. There is no battery taking our place, and strong talk of our going back to Alexandria. Boys all hate to leave the south side of the river as there is such splendid water there, while on the north side of the river the water is miserable. Wrote a letter this afternoon to M.E.B. No mail today.

Sunday 16th August 1863

Everything seems to be very quiet in camp today. Some of the batteries are having inspection but Captain I guess thinks that it is rather too warm to bother with any such thing and has let us lay around with nothing to do but rest. It has been awful warm most of the day and this evening there is some indications of a thunder shower as the black clouds are rolling up fast in the west. A. J. Thompson's bro[their] is here to see him now, came in last night. The object of his coming out to this army was to get a sick cousin of his home who belonged to the Rerdan[?] sharp shooters, but when he got to the above named regiment found that his cousin was dead and buried. I rec'd a letter this evening from Adela Merrell.

Monday 17th August 1863

Not but very little going on in camp today. Went across the river this forenoon to graze our horses and while they were feeding we boys all went in swimming in the river. Had a tip top time of it. Some of the conscripts that came in last week deserted yesterday, and as our men have been after them found one down by Manassas Junction. They ordered him to halt but he heeded them not, when our men shot him. Did not learn whether he was killed or not. There is a good many of the boys gambling, playing chucaluck. One of our boys lost \$25.00 in a few moments today. Presume that he has learned a good lesson and will be inclined to cease playing for a spell. There is some fighting up on our right today but I did not ascertain how the thing turned out.

Tuesday 18th August 1863

Nothing of importance going on today. I went over to the butcher's and got some liver for the boys this morning, which they seemed to relish very much. Our sick boys are getting along very well now. It has been very warm all day today and the flies are getting to very troublesome. It is about impossible for a person to get anything from the sutler's as there is so few here and have so many customers. Boys are at work digging the well today and have got down some 15 feet and find good indications of a spring. Have made two or three blasts today and each time threw pieces of the rock out of the well. No mail tonight. Phi Norton came in to my tent this evening and we had a good chat all by ourselves. There is three brass bands in this division and they play every evening.

Wednesday 19th August 1863

I have been at work in the well with my detachment all this forenoon, digging the well. Got in some very good blasts which threw out considerable of the rock. Worked very hard all this afternoon fixing up our camp, and have succeeded in getting everything fixed up in the best of style. Just before dark as we were getting ready for supper an orderly came in camp and ordered us to hitch up immediately and cross the river, that the enemy were advancing upon us in three columns. So we all flew around and in a few moments we were across the river and in position. Stayed there until just dark and then were ordered back to our camp again. Found it to be nothing but a drill, General wanted to see how quick we could get out. Our battery was the first to cross the river. Rec'd a letter from Corlett today. Some of our boys went off to the hospital this morning.

Thursday 20th August 1863

Did not get up very early this morning as we were up so late last night. Fixed up everything about camp very nice this forenoon, and this afternoon I went after the mail to the Junction. There is but very little going on down there. Got back just before dark. Only got one letter for myself. Rather small mail, not so large as usual. Saw quite a number of conscripts coming up to the 1st Corps. Most of them were good looking men. There has been some cannonading in the direction of Fredericksburg today and it is reported that they are fighting there. Lee is trying to turn our flank and get into Washington. I saw our sutler who is on his way to the battery now.

Friday 21st August 1863

This is one of the warmest days that we have had yet. There is but very little air stirring. The sutler arrived here this a.m. at 10 o'clock and opened out his goods and went to selling. He asks very high for everything that he has. He brought up a large quantity of wine and some of the boys are having a gay time over it. I rec'd a letter this evening from M.E.B. and wrote two to Adela Merrell and Frank Green. Sutler lost a lot of cigars this evening, some seven boxes in all, but could not find who it was that took them. Frank McCord and a friend of his came to the battery today. They do not have very much scouting to do now. Report everything quiet along the lines at present.

Saturday 22nd August 1863

Just as warm today as ever. Not very much going on in camp. Sutler got mean[?] and left this afternoon so we are now without a sutler and are fully as well off for we can get things full as cheap as any of the sutlers in the Corps, and many things a great deal cheaper. Had to wash the carriages this afternoon and we took them down to the river and drove in and washed them in a very few moments, and then took a good swim. Stayed in the water for over an hour. Wood Dodd came to the battery this evening to see the boys. Says he does not have much scouting to do not and seems to be having the best of times. I wrote two letters today, M.E.B. and J.H. Winslow of N.Y.

Sunday 23rd August 1863

Had inspection this morning at 9:30 by Capt. Huntington. After inspecting the battery he took us out and drilled us a short time when we returned to camp. Wrote a letter to Thos. B. Legett & Co. New York City for his Portrait Monthly which I directed him to send to sister Mollie. I have laid around the tent all day nearly, it being too warm to exercise much. Had dress parade this evening and put on all style imaginable. A very small mail today, not more than ten letters for the whole battery. There is three of my men sick here in the battery and two off to hospital so that my detachment is reduced down very small, only have about men enough to take care of the horses. We boys all got together this evening and had a good old chat.

Monday 24th August 1863

Very nice and cool this morning with some indications of a rainstorm. Went over to the butcher's to get a liver but was a little too late as he had sold the last one just before I got there. Had drill this forenoon at the gun for nearly an hour. Everything went off as well as could be expected as we had not drilled before for over two months. Capt. & Lt. Ewing have gone down to Warrenton Junction, presume that they will have a gay time ere they

return. Had dress parade this evening as usual, and an order read stating that the guards should be relieved every two hours and to be constantly on the alert all the time. If found asleep on post would be courtmartialed and have their pay stopped. Had a heavy wind with some rain this evening.

Tuesday 25th August 1863

Everything going on after the old style today. Drill by Lieut. Norton for two hours this forenoon, went off very nicely. Grover is quite unwell today and is relieved of duty. The other sick boys are getting along finally. No indications of an advance move of this army very soon, as all the camp are being fitted up in the nicest style. Boys still continue to dig away at the well and have put in several blasts today. Very small mail this evening, only four letters. Had a good chat with Lt. Norton this evening, relating over the different battles of which we have participated in. It commenced to rain just at dark and at the present time (8 o'clock) is pouring down very hard. Papers give us cheering news from Charleston. Everything is working well.

Wednesday 26th August 1863

It was very cool last night and found that a double blanket was hardly enough to keep us comfortable. Today we have been at work fixing up our park and have succeeded in getting it so that it looks very well. Took a good ride up the river this afternoon but could see nothing of importance going on. Troops are all laying quiet in camp and the regiments are filling up slowly with conscripts. Captain gave us a short drill this evening at dress parade. It is the general impression with the boys that he (the Capt.) has been taking a little grog this afternoon as his looks seems to indicate it. Quite a number of the boys went over to the fifth corps to see three deserters shot, but getting there they found that the thing had been put off until Saturday morning.

Thursday 27th August 1863

We drilled this forenoon as usual and just before we got through drilling was looking at the piece and found that the axeltree was cracked, so we ran it down to the forge and had it mended. Kept us busy for half a day ere we could get a good weld on it. We have a Doctor assigned to this brigade now. He came today and looks as though he understood his business very well. Grover is no better today, has had a very hard fever. We have a good note on Perris[?] now. Last night he got up in his sleep and walked around the tent and was going out when Geo. Akins caught hold of him and after shaking him brought him to his senses. Asked him what was the matter and where he was going and he simply remarked Liverpool [?].

Friday 28th August 1863

Up this morning bright and early and as soon as breakfast was over we went and got a load of brush (cedar) to fix up around our tents with. Have been at work very busy all day putting them up but did not get quite finished. Wrote two letters to Will Corlett and Mollie. General Newton passed here today and seemed much pleased with the looks of our camp and the way that we are fixing it up. Had dress parade this evening after which the Capt. called all the sergeants to him and gave us a short talking to. Said he wanted us to be

more particular about reporting the sick men and not give in any larger number of sick than there is excused by the Doctor.

Saturday 29th August 1863

The first man that I saw this morning was Mr. Cass of Toledo. He has come out to make us a short visit and see to his son William who is at the hospital sick. We were very much pleased to see him. Fixed up about our tents today and have got the nicest place in camp. There was some officers come over from the infantry camp to see how we had got it fixed. They all admire our style very much. Our officers have been fixing up about their tents a good deal. They have got a nice pole raised and the old flag flying once more. I went over to the 5th Corps this afternoon to see more deserters shot. The Corps was all formed in a solid square and the deserters marched the whole length of lines, each one in rear of his coffin. After they marched through they were countermarched back about half way to where there was five graves dug and the coffins were placed each in front of a grave and the unlucky man seated on the end of the coffin facing to the fronts. There was a chaplain who talked to them a few moments when the bugle sounded and guard advanced to within three yards and came to a halt. Soon the five deserters were blindfolded and the command ready and fire was given, when the unlucky persons were sent to their long home. I did not see but one move after being shot and he struggled a little and rolled off the coffin of which he had fell back on. It was one of the hardest sights that I ever witnessed in my life. Saw Eugene Mathison this afternoon. He has command of the conscripts in his regiment.

Sunday 30th August 1863

Had Company inspection this morning at 10 o'clock. The uniform is getting to look rather rusty as we have not had any new clothes in a long time but are expecting them daily. I went after the mail today and started early so as to go and see the 146th [N.Y.?]. Had a good visit with the boys. There was a Captain and Lieutenant from the 2nd Corps who are old friends of Eugene's. Had a good deal of fun over the list of drafted men of Rome as they were reading them off, for the largest part of them are the vilest kind of Copperheads. Returned to camp at four o'clock with rather small mail. One letter this evening from M.E.B. and after I had attended to all the camp duties assigned me I sat down and answered.

Monday 31st August 1863

I do not feel very well this morning, somewhat bilious. Lay around the tent all day and did not put in to do any duty. Had Company drill for two hours this forenoon. Lt. Norton is Officer of the Day and after the drill he came in to see me and I had quite a good chat with him. Along toward night I began to get worse and sent for the Dr. whose quarters are near the Capt.'s. He came and gave me four cathartic pills which I took and as soon as I got my bed made up I bunked in. Grover has got almost well and is doing much to make me comfortable. Mr. Cass started for home this morning. I sent a small package by him to brother Thomas.

Tuesday 1st September 1863

Not any better this morning. Reported to the Dr. who ordered more pills for me. Have no appetite at all and have not ate a mouthful of anything today. Men are all ordered to remain close at camp today. Our men are at work putting up breastworks and planting batteries all along the River on this side which indicates that there is a fight ahead, but guess it will turn out to be nothing more than a small scare. Really hope that I shall be all right and able to take charge of my gun whenever we are attacked. Phi Norton gave me one of his photographs this evening. It is a very good one for one that a person can get here in the army.

Wednesday 2nd September 1863

I can't see as I am any better or worse than yesterday. The boys are around with a paper to raise enough money to get Lt. Norton a nice saber, belt, glass, sash & spurs. They are all going into it well. Sergeants have all signed \$5.00 each and the Privates as a general thing about two dollars each. Frank Sprange was fooling with powder the other day and burnt his face very badly. Since then he has caught cold in it and if I had seen him any where's away from the battery I wouldn't of known him. He is in a great deal of pain and it will be a long time ere he gets well enough for duty. I feel a very little better this evening but am encouraged as my medicine is working well.

Thursday 3rd September 1863

Much better this morning so that I walked over to the Dr. and all he gave me was two doses of blue mass[?] pills, one to take immediately and the other to take at evening. Said I was getting along finely. Laid in tent all day with but very little inclination of doing other wise. We have got \$80.00 contributed to make Lt. Norton a presentation of, and shall send to Washington the first opportunity and have the articles wished sent on to us. Presume that the other officers think it rather hard, especially the Captain, but that is just what we want. Everything quiet here yet they seem to be throwing up breastworks all the while down by the river.

Friday 4th September 1863

Do not feel as well this morning. Have no appetite at all. Doctor gave me quinine pills today. Do not have any fever but a bad pain through my head. The flies are very troublesome in the middle of the day. Capt. & Lt. Rickard have gone to the Junction. They took the smallest team of mules we have and hitched them before this little wagon and started off. They look very gay. I received a letter from Frank Green this afternoon and found it very interesting. There was a list of all the drafted in Westmoreland and the whole news in general. Boys have been at work putting up a turning pole and this evening they are all exercising themselves the best they can. It has been very warm all day.

Saturday 5th September 1863

Reported to the Dr. this morning and got some more quinine pills, also two blue pills. My head began to ache this forenoon and has ached very hard all day. Never had anything like it before. Went to the Dr. this afternoon and got a large dose of salts which I think will help me. I have just stuck to my bunk pretty well today. Grover has done everything that he could for me. Everything is quiet about camp. Drill every forenoon as usual. I received

a paper from M.E.B., Utica Observer, with all the names of all the drafted in Oneida Co. Had a very pleasant time indeed perusing it. Felt some better this evening. Head has almost stopped aching.

Sunday 6th September 1863

I find myself much better this morning but remain very weak yet, just able to get about and that is all. The boys have been having a great spree today. They managed some way or other to get some wine and have gone so far as to get a fighting... but there was no one hurt very much. The Capt. came out with his revolver in his hand and sent the men who were in the mess to their tents. Had battery inspection this morning at 10 o'clock by Captain. He inspected everything very closely. Every man had to be out that was able to be. I have been in my tent reading all day and have passed the time away very pleasantly.

Monday 7th September 1863

I am a great deal better this morning and shall not go to the Dr. again unless I get worse. Been up and about camp nearly all day and shall report for duty this evening. Everything is very still and quiet about here which makes it very dull times for us. Things look very much as though we should stay here a long time. Our Q.M. is moving up here and everything indicates a long stay here of this army. Phi got me some dried peaches today and they taste the best of anything that I have ate for a long time. Took charge of the detachment at parade this evening. Columbus Cilley came out with a large white shirt collar which looked awful and made lots of fun for the boys.

Tuesday 8th September 1863

Jerry Rennolds & Warren Clark arrived here last night at 10 o'clock after we were all abed. We were very much pleased to see them and today are having a fine visit with them. Lt. Norton has taken them out to the picket lines to let them have a good view of the rebels which pleases them very much. They brought several packages for the boys but not near as many as they would have liked to have brought. I wrote two letters today, M.D.M. & M.E.B. Drilled my detachment to the piece this forenoon. Everything went off very satisfactory. I am getting to be about as tough as ever again. No mail this evening. There is some delay somewhere.

Wednesday 9th september 1863

Alonzo J. Tompson has received a commission this morning as Captain and is going to leave for home in the morning. We went down and washed our carriages this morning. Geo. Kommer[?] got hurt very bad. While at the [word omitted] he dove off the caisson into the water where it was very shallow and tore a long gash in his head which will lay him up several days. When I got back to camp I found a letter from M.E.B. and my Frank Leslie which we sent for over a week ago. Capt. and Doctor have gone down to the Reserve Artillery, got a span of mules hitched up before their little cart and are putting on considerable style. Drivers all went across the river this afternoon after cornstalks for the horses.

Thursday 10th September 1863

Tompson left this morning to join his command at Cincinnati and is going around by home which is near Utica N.Y. Will stay in Washington one day. Rennolds & Clark left also this morning for their respective homes. Have had a first rate visit with them. I wrote a letter this morning to Frank Green but could find very little to write about, everything so quiet. We drew clothing this morning but did not get enough for all the Company as we could not get that would fit. Captain received an official dispatch which was read this evening to the Company of the fall of Battery [?] Wagoner[?] and Gregg[?] and the stars and stripes floating proudly over them. Sumter[?] still holds out but is only a heap of ruins.

Friday 11th September 1863

It has been very warm today. Had battery drill this afternoon and everything went off very [regularly?]. Today's paper brought us glorious news. Rosecrans has taken Chattanooga and has cut off all rebel communication from east to west. Received two letters this evening and had a real good time reading them. They were from M.E.B. and E.E.Brewer. The Iron Brigade are fitting up a race course and grounds for reviews, taking a great deal of pains with it. The conscripts are being drilled here every day and are learning the manual of the piece very fast. We have a sermon preached in camp this evening which is very interesting, something that we are not very used to.

Saturday 12th September 1863

We are having a general time cleaning up our camp today. The sutler arrived last night and pitched his tent this morning and went to selling just before noon. He is rather high with his goods. Grover & I have laid in for a good stock and are living high today. Buford's division of cavalry came in here this afternoon and are going to cross the river in the morning and make a reconnaissance in force. The 2nd Corps has also come up here and the general supposition is that the enemy have drawn off a large portion of their force. Wrote a letter this evening to M.E.B. Had a nice thunder shower this afternoon which has laid the dust and cooled off the air a great deal so that it is very pleasant.

Sunday 13th September 1863

Woke up this morning and found it raining quite hard, but it ceased about 6 o'clock and has been very pleasant all day. Buford's cavalry division crossed here this morning, also the 2nd Corps, and cannonading commenced at 9 o'clock and has been kept up by spells all day, mostly in the direction of Culpeper. We had company inspection at 10 o'clock by Lieut. Norton. The appearance of the Company was pronounced very good by Lieutenant. I have been in my tent most of the day reading the papers. Everything in camp is very quiet but we soon expect to move again as everything looks as though we were going to make a general advance upon the rebels. The cannonading ceased at 5 o'clock p.m. We have heard of the advance this evening and they are near Culpeper driving the enemy fast.

Monday 14th September 1863

This has been a very nice cool day. Have just heard from the front and find that our cavalry are doing very well. Have got a long ways beyond Culpeper, taken several hundred prisoners, and three guns that we have seen, two three inch rifle guns and one

howitzer. Lt. Norton & Richard have been out to Culpeper and report our infantry in possession of that place last night. There has been considerable horse racing here on the race course this afternoon. Captain and the Lieutenants took out their horses this evening, but Lt. Norton's little gray came out the best. Captain seemed somewhat disappointed at the way the thing turned but had nothing more to say about his fast horse that he had so often bragged on.

Tuesday 15th September 1863

The Captain left this morning for New York on five days leave. Lt. Ewing took him down to the station. Lt. Norton is officer of the day and he gave us a first-rate drill this forenoon. The boys have started a literary society and are going to write a history of the battery. There is a quite a large number of the boys that are participating in it. We meet nearly every evening. Everything goes off very satisfactory. Went out to see the horse races this afternoon. There was several horses that run but Col. Monroe's[?] horse came out the best. Capt. Hexhammer[?] is acting chief of artillery in the absence of Capt. Huntington. Rec'd another of our Frank Leslies this evening and find some very good reading in it, much better than our last number.

Wednesday 16th September 1863

Reveille this morning at 4 o'clock. Had orders to move at 5 but did not get started until 7 o'clock as we had to wait for the infantry to move out ahead of us. We crossed the pontoon bridge at the same place that we did when we went out on picket. Continued up the R.R. and reached Culpeper at 2 o'clock p.m. and went into camp just east of town in a large meadow. There was a great many dead horses along the road today that were killed last Sunday when our men advanced up here. The 1st Corps took a road off to the left of town and are encamped some four miles from us. Culpeper is a very pretty place, much larger than I supposed it was. General Tyler has come up from Warrenton Junction with the Reserve Artillery and we are again with him. Alexander[?] Hickok[?] [2 M.S.] called on us this evening and took supper with us. He belongs to 7th ----.

Thursday 17th September 1863

We were ordered to the front this morning to join the 2nd Corps. The rest of the reserve remain at Culpeper. We marched at 8 o'clock, went up within two miles of the Rapidan and went in camp. Could see and hear the infantry skirmishing very plain. There was some cannonading off to our right. Had quite a heavy shower this afternoon but we were very lucky and had our tents pitched. At five o'clock we had orders to move to the front. Went up to within a mile of the river and camped for the night. It commenced to rain just as we got our tent up but we managed to sleep very well. We are close to Mitchell's Station on the Orange and Alexandria R.R.

Friday 18th September 1863

It has rained nearly all night quite hard. The left section were ordered to go out on picket this morning and they went off in the rain, and in about half an hour the rest of the battery was ordered a little to the rear. We moved back about a quarter of a mile to a nice farm house and went into camp again, ready to go into action at a moment's notice should the rebel batteries open upon us. (The rebels have batteries on a high bluff close to the

river on the south side). We are all quartered in the house and are just living high. The person who owned the place rode off with the rebels last Sunday[?] and left everything that he had. We found plenty of vegetables and had as soon live here a few days as not. There is some cannonading up the river.

Saturday 19th September 1863

The weather is very disagreeable here now as it rains by spells all the time. Had a good breakfast of chickens and sweet potatoes this morning. We can see the rebel batteries very plain across the river on the heights. Everything is quiet here and the general supposition is that we are going to try and flank the rebels. There is but a small force here now. The main body are above and below us. Boys are all laying around in the house, most of them writing letters. The mail will go out in the morning. Wrote a letter to Father & Mother. The left section came over and joined us this afternoon. Can see the rebel signal light very plain, also one of ours off towards Culpeper on a mountain.

Sunday 20th September 1863

The center section went out on picket today, started at 4 o'clock. It has been a beautiful day and we have had nothing to do but sit by our fireplace and read. Found several old books that were very interesting. Have not heard any firing at all today, and everything is very quiet here again. Received a large mail this evening. I had two letters from Mollie and M.E.B. It seems very good to have a letter to read for we have not had any mail before since last Tuesday. We have just rec'd orders to go out on picket (the right section) in the morning at 4 o'clock. The center section came back from picket just after dark. All seem pleased to get back with us once more. Our orders are countermanded about our going on picket in the morning.

Monday 21st September 1863

The center section went back on picket this morning at 4 o'clock and the rest of us remained at the old house laying on our ores[?] with nothing to do. We signed the payroll this afternoon and we have sent the ambulance after the paymaster who is at Culpeper. I went downstairs and had a good chat with Lt. Norton this afternoon. Looked through his field glass and could see the rebel Signal Corps very plain. Had a chat with an old negro today. His master had been dead for seven years and when he was on his death bed he gave the old darky his freedom. He said his old massa was very good to him. He is the father of 22 children and reports all the boys in the northern army. Orders to go on picket at four o'clock in the morning without fail.

Tuesday 22nd September 1863

Up this morning at 3:30 and as soon as we could hitch up we started for our picket posts, got out there just at daybreak and got our guns in position. Then I took one of the drivers and went down near the river and got some hay for our horses. Found a splendid house there owned by a secesh Doctor by the name of Walter Summerville. We went all through the house and found large piles of medical books and some human skeletons. It is one of the nicest houses that I have seen in this part of Virginia. The old Dr. is over in the rebel lines on his other plantation of 200 acres of land. I had a talk with a free darky that is in the Dr.'s employ. He reports a large body of the rebels leaving Lee's army[?] that left[?]

some two weeks ago for Richmond[?] with the expectations of going to reinforce Bragg and Beauregard. The rebel sharpshooters commenced to fire on our pickets wounding two men. Then some of our sharpshooters were ordered to the front and gave them just as good as they sent, killing two and stopping the firing of the rebels. We could see two rebel batteries off on the right very plain and quite a number of the armies on the breastworks that they had lately erected. Pickets keep pretty closely concealed from the enemy. We left for camp just at dusk and arrived there safe and sound a little after 7 o'clock, had supper and went to bed. Rec'd our pay today. Lt. Ewing brought it over to us. I sent \$20.00 to Harlow and James Harris expressed it for me. We have eight days' rations issued which indicates an camp[?] move[?].

Wednesday 23rd September 1863

Up this morning at the same time that we were yesterday morning and started for our picket post and arrived there a little earlier than we did yesterday. Went down to the river and went all through the old Dr.'s house, got several medieval books, and when we went back to the guns spent most of the day in reading them. Rebels were acting[?] friendly and came out in plain sight and passed several words with our men. Their sharpshooters have ceased firing entirely, have not seen nor heard one of them today. Some cannonading up the river this afternoon but was at a great distance. Report says that we are driving the Jonnies. Rebs are throwing up breastworks today. We can see some over a hundred at work.

Thursday 24th September 1863

The left section went on pickets today. We did not get up until 7 o'clock this morning. Had no roll call and the Lieutenant allowed the boys to sleep as long as they chose to. Our transportation wagons are all ordered to the rear and everything begins to look as though an advance of this army is going to take place very soon. We found a very nice porker which added much to the satisfaction of our appetites for supper. He weighed some nearly a hundred pounds when dressed. Wrote a letter to E.E. Brewer this afternoon. Had a large mail. Rec'd a letter from M.E.B. Our literary society met again this evening and we adopted the resolutions which were passed a few nights since. There was several committees appointed to gather all the proceedings of our battery from the time it came out until the present time. I am one that is on the first committee getting all information. Lt Norton's --- from the time we enlisted until the Battery was organized.

Friday 25th September 1863

Center section went over on post this morning. We have all laid around very quietly expecting to have orders to move very soon. Lt. Ewing is going after the mail today. Has to go to H.Q. of the Reserve which is at Culpeper. Wrote a letter this afternoon to M.E.B. and received two letters from Mollie and Wm. Corlett. There was enclosed in Mollie's two photographs, one Robert Skinner, and the other Gun Detachment, both very good ones. The section on picket have some rebel papers which [word omitted] exchanged with the Jonnies today. The conscripts are out drilling today and the fields are[?] covered[?] with them. Some of them that I have been talking with seem very anxious to get home. I could not keep from laughing at them.

Saturday 26th September 1863

Up this morning at 3:30 and went out on picket at our same old post. The rebels are very friendly today and there has quite a number of our boys that have been down and traded papers and numerous other things with them. Four of our boys got arrested and sent back to Lt. Norton. They have stood orders this afternoon not to allow a man beyond our lines. They were W.L., P.C., M.B., & S.F. They were released as soon as they came back and the boys are all plaguing them a good deal about it. We returned to camp at the usual hour. I found [words omitted] from Adela Merrell which came in this evening's mail. The committees relative to the history of the battery did not stay long.

Sunday 27th September 1863

We have been relieved from picket duty and the battery is all here now together. Went out this forenoon and when I came in I brought two nice pigs with me. Roasted one of them for dinner and found it very -al-able[?]. We expect the Capt. back today and Lt. Richard has gone after him to Culpeper. Everything remains very quiet here now. Are rather expecting a move soon. Wrote a letter to Mollie this afternoon. Had dress parade this evening at 5 o'clock. There was two sentences read of two persons who had been court martialed, one belonged to a Rhode Island battery and one to a regular[?] battery. Captain came about 8 o'clock and Frank brought up the mail with him.

Monday 28th September 1863

Went off some two miles this morning after cornstalks for our horses. Officers have got them another light wagon to carry their trash[?] in. It is much better than the old one. Captain and Lt. Ewing have taken a ride out to the front today. Things are getting awful dull about[?] here and we are all getting anxious to move to some other place where there is a little more excitement going on. There was three of our sick men sent to Culpeper to be transported from there to the hospital at Washington. We received another of our Leslie's this evening and find some very good reading in it. It has been quite warm here all day.

Tuesday 19th September 1863

Everything has come to a stand still and soldiering is going off mighty dull. Went off to an old farmer's to get some corn and on my way found a very nice pig which I took to camp with me and boiled it down and put it in vinegar. Find that it is a very nice way to fix it up. Fremont[?] Wolcott brought up the sword belt, field glass & spurs from Culpeper which we presented to Lt. Norton this evening. The Company was formed up in front of the house and at 8 o'clock the division band struck up a splendid tune. At the same time Luke Cass who is Martial went in and invited the officers out, speaking to Norton first. As soon as they all got out on the porch Sergeant Harris presented the abovenamed items to the Lt. Lieutenant seemed very much surprised but made a few remarks after which the band struck up a very appropriate tune. Then called in Capt. for speech. After a few calls he came out and made a short speech giving Lt. the greatest praise and stating that he was very glad that he had received so choice a gift. Next called for was Lieut. Ewing who came out and stated that he did not suppose that there was any that wanted to hear from him, but he made a short speech endorsing what the Capt. said, also how much the Lt. had done for us and the battery since it's organization and how worthy he was of the handsome articles presented to him. The next one called for was Lt. Rickard who after a considerable calling

came out and said "You all know that I can't make a speech just as well as I do. And I don't think that I will try." Then the band played several tunes and the party dispersed to their quarters, all much pleased with the way everything went off.

Wednesday 30th September 1863

Did not get out very early this morning as we were up very late last night. This forenoon we all went in to the Lt.'s room and took a good look at the things which lay out on the table. Harris and I started to go over to General Warren's H.Q. to a presentation of a sword but we had not got over there ere we met Norton and Rickard coming back from there. They said that they were going to have a private affair of it and everything was going off in the house so we came back with them. Everything remains quiet. Captain is rather down in the mouth today. Has not taken command of the battery yet, is not very well. Small mail this evening. Boys all in the best of spirits.

Thursday 1st October 1863

Everything going on after the old sort. Quite a number of boys went over to the 1st Corps to see a deserter shot but the execution was put off until tomorrow. I have been in the house nearly all day reading books of one kind and another. All went over by the station this morning to get corn stalks for our horses. Most of the boys are passing away their time playing cards and the like of that. I received a letter this evening from M.E.B. with photograph enclosed. Wrote one to Adela Merrell.

Friday 2nd October 1863

It has rained nearly all day very hard which makes it very disagreeable for those who are out, but we are all quartered all safe[?] in the house and I have busied myself part of the day in writing letters, one to M.E.B. & one to William Corlett. Grover commenced to cook today and Lew took his place to drive team. Phi Norton came over this morning and stayed until after dinner. Had a good time with him. Boys are all having grand old time playing euchre and telling stories, anything to get up a laugh. Some of the boys went down to the 1st Corps to see a deserter shot, but I believe that the execution was delayed on some account.

Saturday 3rd October 1863

Everything is very quiet in camp today. Did not get any mail as the bridge across the river is broken down, caused by the raise of the water in the river. Laid around the old house as usual reading and talking, anything to kill time. It has been very pleasant today. Some of the boys are out a fishing and some of them have caught quite a little string of fish. Among them were several eels of pretty good size. There is some talk of our Capt. resigning and going home. Boys don't seem to act as though they cared much whether he leaves or not. We do not think quite as much of him as we did a year ago.

Sunday 4th October 1863

We were somewhat surprised this forenoon by hearing the rebel's guns and seeing the shell explode in the air. They fired some ten shots. We hitched up and were all ready for action in a very few moments. Remained so about an hour when we had orders to unhitch and unharness as the shelling proved to be nothing but the rebels shelling our

baggage wagons that were sent down near the river to get some forage. Inspection at 1 o'clock. I went over to the depot where our transportation wagons are to see Phi Norton this afternoon and had a good chat with Phi. We also started a petition to Gov. Tod requesting Lieut. Norton to be made our new Capt. over(?) Huntingdon resigned. Rec'd a letter from Harlow stating that he has received the \$20 which I sent him. Three of our old boys arrived at the battery this afternoon who were taken prisoner at Chancellorsville -----
....

Monday 5th October 1863

Wrote a letter to Harlow this morning. Phi Norton came over and spent the most of the day with us. Had a real good time and the day passed off very finely. The 1st Corps have come up here this afternoon to relieve the 2nd Corps to which we are assigned. We have orders to march in the morning at 8 o'clock. Our society met this evening and formed a constitution by which we are to be governed hereafter. The officers were appointed. C. Cilley President, J.S. Pray Vice President, W.H. Perrigo Secretary, Jonath. Merrell Treasurer, Albert Harris Prosecutor. I rec'd a letter from Mollie this evening but did not have time to answer it as our meeting took up all the evening.

Tuesday 6th October 1863

Orders to move this morning at 8 o'clock at which time we marched following the 2nd Division 2nd Corps. Did not get along very fast as the infantry had to stop several times to rest. We passed through Culpeper just after dinner and went in camp about a mile east of the town. Fixed up our tents and cleaned up a place for our camp. We can see the rebel position in the other side of the Rapidan. Can see their signal flag working very plain. It has been a beautiful day for marching, just cool enough for comfort. Report says that we are going to leave this army. Ewing has heard from M.D. his brother and states that he is promoted to Lt. Col. in the heavy artillery.

Wednesday 7th October 1863

We have been busily engaged in cleaning up camp today. Lt. French of Bat. I[?] 1st U.S. Artillery was presented with a very nice sword and belt from his men this afternoon. It went off very nicely. One of the sergeants of the regular battery got thrown from his horse and broke his arm. He was considerable under the influence of liquor which was the cause of it. I rec'd a letter this evening from Frank Green and wrote one to Mollie. We also rec'd two of our Leslie's. Had a very heavy shower just at evening. There is a large number of troops laying near here and the cars are running night and [word omitted?] bringing up supplies to the army.

Thursday 8th October 1863

It rained nearly all night and is very cold this morning. Has rained by spells all day. We have been at work putting up log shanties today and have succeeded in making ourselves very comfortable. I wrote a letter this morning to A.B.H., sent home a small package of letters. Jasper Haden arrived at the battery this evening, looks very healthy again. There is quite a number of the boys that are talking of enlisting again for three years, thereby getting \$402.00 bounty, but I rather guess that it is all talk with them. No

mail this evening for some unknown reason. Our sick boys here in the hospitals are getting along finely. This is the coldest evening that we have had this fall.

Friday 9th October 1863

At work putting up log huts and cleaning up camp. Fixed up very nicely. Wood Dodd and Frank MacCord came over to see us today. They have a very nice suit of clothes. Have lately been out on a scout but we cannot get much out of them as to what is going on. We had our lyceum this evening. There was a few contributions[?], very good too. The President C. Cilley made his inaugural address which was grand, much better than any of us expected of him. Next in order was the debate. Question read as follows: Resolve that the Indians have more cause to complain than the Negroes. I was on the affirmative and we came out ahead.

Saturday 10th October 1863

All very quiet this morning but about 10 o'clock we were much surprised by having orders to get ready to march. We soon hitched up and packed up our things and at 12 o'clock started on our march following the 2nd Division 2nd Corps. We went out on the turnpike leading to Chester's Gap, went some three miles and camped in a small field on the right of the pike. It rained a little this afternoon but not enough to wet us through. Some cannonading out on our right and the general supposition is that there is a fight ahead. Rebels seem to be getting around on our right flank and seem to want to get between us and Washington.

Sunday 11th October 1863

We were called up this morning between 12 and 1 o'clock and ordered to harness and hitch up immediately, which we did, and at 2 o'clock started on the march going back. Passed through Culpeper and continued on towards the Rappahannock. Stopped at Brandy Station and had our breakfast, coffee & hard tack, but it went very good for it was nearly 9 o'clock and we had come some eight miles. After watering our horses we continued on towards the rear marching with the 2nd Corps. I never saw a retreating army move so quietly before in my life. There was five columns and everything went off as regular as clockwork. We got to the Rappahannock and crossed just before noon. As soon as we got across we had to halt for nearly an hour to let the infantry rest, when we again resumed the march and at four o'clock we went into camp at Bealton's [?] Station. The whole army is moving to the rear. Supposition is that Lee is trying to come the same game on us that he did on General Pope last summer by coming around on our right flank and trying to get in our rear.

I rec'd two letters this evening from M.E.B. & J.G. Packard & Co., which I found to be nothing but an advertisement. I am very tired this evening having marched nearly 20 miles today and getting so little rest last night. As soon as I got supper and attended to the detachment duties I retired.

Monday 12th October 1863

Up this morning at daylight. Awaiting orders to move. I went to the Station and had a chat with some rebel prisoners that we took yesterday near Brandy Station. They were very well dressed, most of them. At two o'clock we had orders to move. Went out on the

Warrenton road a short distance from Bealton Station and went into position commanding the ground to the left of the station. There is some cannonading this afternoon in the direction of Rappahannock Station. We lay around by our guns all the afternoon and at night we pitched our tents, unharnessed our horses, and bunked in, all very tired.

Tuesday 13th October 1863

We were routed out this morning by hearing what we supposed to be musketry but soon found that it was nothing but some condemned cartridges that they were destroying at the Station. Had reveille a little before daylight and as soon as we could get a little breakfast we were ordered to move. Went out on the Warrenton road some four miles and then rec'd orders to go back and join the reserve artillery. We did not like it very much for we never wanted to see the reserve artillery again, but we had to countermarch and at 12 o'clock come up with the reserve artillery which was near Bealton. We fell in with it and marched towards Bristoe Station at which place we arrived just after dark. The whole army is retreating towards Washington. Never saw a retreat conducted so well before in my life. Everything went off like clock work. I voted today for the first time. Went the Union[?] ticket. We voted while on the march. The polls were open every time that we stopped to rest.

Wednesday 14th October 1863

Marched this morning at 6 o'clock and arrived at Centerville at 4 o'clock p.m. where we went into camp. There is very heavy cannonading in the rear today all the while yet everything is going off in a very quiet manner. There is five columns moving to the rear, all in sight of each other. It is a very splendid sight to see them all moving so regularly with the least indications of a panic[sp. "pannock"]. There is quite a number of forts about Centerville and most of them have guns in them. There is strong indications of a fight here soon. We are all being tired this evening as we have marched over forty miles since yesterday morning.

Thursday 15th October 1863

It has been a very disagreeable day today, raining most of the time but not very hard. There has about a thousand prisoners passed to the rear today. They were taken yesterday afternoon, most of them near Bristoe Station. I saw five pieces of artillery that our men captured. We took eleven of the enemy's guns yesterday, but could get but eight of them off the field. The others were all disabled, and we would have got them off had we had the horses. I had quite a talk with one of the prisoners today. He speaks very despairingly of the rebel cause. The votes were counted this forenoon and we find that every voter in the battery went for Brough[?]. There was one Vollandigham vote from the 11th N.Y. battery.

Friday 16th October 1863

Some cannonading off on the left this forenoon but not near as heavy as it was yesterday. It has rained nearly all day and part of the time very hard. Wrote a letter to M.E.B. Had a small mail this forenoon. There has considerable cavalry and mounted artillery gone to the front today, also one of the batteries of the Reserve. Everything is very quiet this afternoon but the supposition is that Lee is getting ready to attack us. Rations are

running short as we have nothing but hard tack, pork, and coffee, yet the boys are all in the best of spirits. It is reported that the rebels have fallen back on the left and it is expected that they will try our right flank next.

Saturday 17th October 1863

The 1st division of the 5th Corps passed here last night and of all the noises I ever heard they made [words omitted]. They said that their officers gave them two rations of whisky just before they started from Fairfax. They passed and went into camp near Centerville this morning. The two remaining divisions came along and went to the front. There has been a good deal of fresh cavalry passed to the front today and things begin to look as though the enemy were falling back. Report says that Meade has resigned but we do not credit the report and are in hopes that we shall not have to. This has been a beautiful day. I have spent most of the day in my tent reading and sleeping.

Sunday 18th October 1863

When I woke up this morning I found that the 5th Corps were moving to the rear. We had inspection this morning at 10:30. Lt. Norton took down everything that we were in need of in the ordinance line. After inspection Will Parmlee and I went out in the woods and got a fine lot of chestnuts. This afternoon I have been in my tent nearly all the time reading a book titled The Silver Knife, found it very good to kill time with. Wrote a letter this evening to Frank Green. Had dress parade at 6 o'clock. There was some cannonading on our extreme left this afternoon but did not last but a short time. Supposed to be a cavalry[?] dash.

Monday 19th October 1863

Reveille this morning at 4 o'clock. Had roll call and rec'd orders to move at 5 o'clock. Did not get started until 7 o'clock. Went out on the pike towards Warrenton. Traveled very slow today. Only went five miles. Camped in the old Bull Run battlefield. It was very cold and rainy this morning. There has been a good deal of cannonading towards the Rappahannock, supposed to be cavalry. The 5th & 6th Corps are marching with us. The houses along the road have been nearly all deserted, and the land is left uncultivated and has grown up to weeds. I have seen but one place today that has been tilled this year and that was owned by an old man who was so crippled as not to be able to soldier. It was eight o'clock when we got in camp and we did not pitch our tents but bunked down on our tarpaulins.

Tuesday 20th October 1863

Up this morning at 5 o'clock and marched at six. Marched some six miles and camped in a field near Gainesville on the R.R. The 5th Corps lay here when we came in but have advanced this afternoon. There has several trains of cars arrived here today loaded with supplies. Saw a great many graves of soldiers that were killed through here last year, also several human bones that lay strewn about. One place I saw several human skeletons all laying near together. It was in a ravine where our men had doubtless charged through and from appearances come upon a rebel masked[?] battery. Went off after hay this evening. Had a fine race with a Lieutenant who tried to get in ahead of me. I came out ahead.

Wednesday 21st October 1863

Marched this morning at 9 o'clock, was not troubled at all today by infantry but marched right along and camped near New Baltimore. Got in camp at 12 o'clock just in time to get our dinner. Passed through one little place by the name of Buckland[?]. Nearly all the inhabitants have left and most of the houses are vacated. It has been very warm today all the time and the roads are getting dried up very much. The 5th Corps are camped just beyond us in a large field. Went out to an old plantation and got some hay for our horses. Had quite a time with the old man who tried to keep us from taking it, but we told him that there was no use talking.

Thursday 22nd October 1863

This morning was the first time that I have missed roll call in a long time. We have laid in camp all day today. Had nothing to do but get some hay which we found off in the woods about a mile away. The old secesh thought that he had got it hid very safely but he was not quite sharp enough for us. We are camped on a very rich plantation, much better land here than in any region in this state east of here that I have seen yet. We sent down to the 2nd Corps for our mail this afternoon but could not get any. They had a large mail for us last night but sent it back to H.Q. this morning.

Friday 23rd October 1863

We were inspected this forenoon by Col. McGilverry, commander of our Brigade. He seemed very well satisfied with everything about the battery. Everything is very quiet about camp. We rec'd a very large mail this evening. I got three letters and four papers, two letters and two papers from M.E.B. and one letter from Att[?], also two Leslie's. Pray went down to Meade's headquarters and got the mail for us. Wrote a letter this evening to M.E.B. It commenced to rain just after dark and still continues to pour down, but we have our tent so arranged that we do not get wet at all.

Saturday 24th October 1863

Woke up this morning and found it raining. It has rained by spells all day. Went over to see Eugene Matteson this morning, found him well. He had a little shanty put up and was just eating breakfast as I presented myself. Did not stop but a few moments as I left camp without saying anything to Lt. about going away. I returned and wrote a letter to Mollie, also sent her some letters for safekeeping until I return home. The 5th Corps left this evening for Bealton Station. Must have had a very disagreeable time of it as it was so cold and rainy. Some of our boys have fixed up fireplaces in their tents which make it very comfortable.

Sunday 25th October 1863

It has been very pleasant all day today. We are all laying around camp with the expectations of moving as we have orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice. Had mounted inspection this p.m. at 2 o'clock by Col. McGilverry. We were much pleased with it for it did not last but a short time. I have spent the most of the day in my tent reading. Boys had quite a gay time with an orderly who was riding about camp so drunk that it was almost impossible for him to keep on his horse, still he caused a great deal of laughter. I

am now reading a novel title Shoulder Straps, one of the best books of the kind that I have had hold of in a long[?] while. Author Mosford[?].

Monday 26th October 1863

This has been a beautiful day. I took a scout this morning with some of the other boys, rode some five miles, could not get anything but milk so we had them bring us up a large pitcher full and we drunk all we could, then had our canteens filled and started back. Saw several nice pigs that would make nice roasters but there was a guard on them all. There was quite heavy cannonading in the direction of Warrenton this afternoon. We were much surprised by being ordered to hitch up and be ready to march just before night. Went up the pike a little ways and took position commanding the road. Had not been there but a few moments when we were ordered to Warrenton as the whole Reserve was going there.

Tuesday 27th October 1863

We got in camp last evening at 10 o'clock and all bunked down on the tarpaulins. We have just heard of the capture of one of our baggage trains by the guerrilla's parties. It was coming up in the rear of us and there was some ten wagons taken and 60 mules, all belonging to the 67th Corps. They might have taken some of us just as well as not for we had only one regiment to guard the whole brigade. Moved our camp this morning at 10 o'clock up just in the edge of town, and all went to work putting up our tents. I have worked very hard all day and have got my tent fixed up very nice with a good fireplace in it. There is a good many civilians in this place, also a large number of women, among them some fine looking ones.

Wednesday 28th October 1863

Have been at work nearly all the day fixing up about camp. Nearly all the boys have been fixing up chimneys and have succeeded in making their tents very comfortable. Took a ride out in the country today and got some straw to sleep on. Had a nice talk with some ladies who owned a very nice plantation. They had some pitiful stories to tell of the way that they had been used since this war began, still they would sympathize with the south as they said they had all their friends & connections in the southern army. Rec'd a letter from Adela Merrell.

Thursday 29th October 1863

Went out and exercised our horses this morning for nearly an hour. Lt. Norton was out with us. We returned to camp and stayed a short time and then had to go off some two miles for cornstalks. Got our stalks and was coming back when a guard came and stopped us, but nearly half of the boys came off with their stalks and did not mind the guard at all. Came in camp without any trouble. Captain's resignation has been accepted today and he has gone home today. There is quite a number of women riding about camp today putting on considerable style. Grover is sick today, has some fever.

Friday 30th October 1863

Captain left us this morning. Did not go yesterday as he intended to have done. This has been a beautiful day. Had a fine drill this afternoon, manual of the piece. I took a mule team and went out and got a load of wood, had a very pleasant time of it. Grover is

quite sick with the fever and ague. There is a large number of ladies a neting[?] about camp. They very often get looked[?] at by the boys. We did not hold our meeting this evening as we have not got regularly settled down yet. Quite a number of the boys are down sick with colds, otherwise the health of the battery is very good.

Saturday 31st October 1863

Everything quiet as usual in camp this forenoon. Had muster at 2[?] o'clock, also inspection by Col. McGilvery. It was rather tedious as he inspected us very closely and it was very cold, there being a sharp north wind blowing which chills a person through. I rec'd a letter from M.E.B. and answered it this evening. I have a very hard cold and it seems as though it would almost kill me to cough. Grover is much better today, has had no fever. Had a good chat with Phi today. Lt. Ewing is trying for the captaincy of this battery and we are bound that Norton shall have it if our influence is of any use to him. Captain is coming back in a few days to settle up his accounts.

Sunday 1st November 1863

Went out after wood this morning with two of the boys. Did not dream of its being Sunday until one of the boys got speaking of it. After I got two loads of wood I took my horse and went and got some boards to fix up my tent. Found some very nice ones. Had mounted inspection while I was away. There was a very small mail today, not over half dozen letters. There was quite a number of officers passed camp this afternoon who were somewhat under the influence of liquor. There was two on each horse and it was with great efforts that they managed to keep on. It was very laughable to see them perform. It was well that they wore the shoulder straps or they would have stood a good chance to have been arrested.

Monday 2nd November 1863

Nothing going on of importance today. Everything is very quiet. Had drill just after dinner. It went off very nicely. Went and came through town. Saw a number of rebel spies that our men have picked up. They had no regular uniform on. There was some 15 in all and no two of them were dressed alike. Just after dark the Sergeants were all called up to H.Q. and as I am filling the place of one of the above named men I had to go up. We were ordered to report the number of revolvers in each detachment immediately, which we all did, having some 40 in all. It appears that our officers have received orders to have a strong guard kept on the battery all night consisting of one Commissioned officer, two Corporals and 12 privates.

Tuesday 3rd November 1863

The guards were kept around the battery all night and relieved this morning a little after daylight. It seems that they were expecting a raid to be made by the Guerrillas and were on guard for that purpose. Of late there has been quite a number of rebels found in this place and taken prisoners. I have spent most of the day in reading Shoulder Straps, a very interesting novel. there was one of the men buried of the 6th N.Y., making three that have died within the last four days. The health of our Company was never better. Had to clean up our camp this afternoon which took about half an hour.

Wednesday 4th November 1863

Reveille this morning at daylight. Orders to march at 8 o'clock at which time we were all hitched up and ready to march. Did not get started until 9 o'clock. Took the Warrenton Junction road and arrived at the Junction at 2 o'clock p.m. when we went into camp, being very near the place where we camped when we first came through here. This has been a very warm day for the time of year, and the dust flying a good deal of the time which made it anything but agreeable for us. We pitched our tents a little before night and Lt. says that he thinks we will remain here some time. Another extra detail of guards to go to McGilvery's consisting of six men.

Thursday 5th November 1863

Fixed up our camp some today. Had a short drill this forenoon. I drilled Detachment B as all of my cannoneers but one or two were doing duty & Cilley was off somewhere. We turned over some horses this afternoon and drew some new ones, some 15 in number. There is a great many of our horses that are disabled by the hoof disease which entirely uses them up in about one day. We have had a cold raw day with a strong north wind which makes it very unpleasant for us. The cars are bringing up large supplies of stuff for this camp. They run night and day. I rec'd two papers this evening from M.E.B.

Friday 6th November 1863

This is another of these very cold windy days and we have spent a good share of our time setting around the fires trying to keep warm. Had to go and wash our caissons this morning and found it rather a cold job before we got through with it. I met with quite an accident just before dark. Took my small revolver out of my side pocket and threw it in my tent and as I done it the cock hit against one of the standards and the pistol went off, the ball taking me in the nose and lodging in my upper jaw. As soon as I got my nose to stop bleeding I went down to the Doctor's and had him take out the ball which he did after working about half an hour.

Saturday 7th November 1863

Orders to move at 7 o'clock at which time we started. Marched up to Bealton and then took the Fredericksburg road and traveled until nearly dark when we went into camp by the side of the road. I rode my horse this forenoon and but this afternoon they all told me that I had better get in the ambulance. So I rode in the bone wagon this afternoon. There was heavy cannonading up towards Rappahannock Station this afternoon which lasted until it was quite dark. Had my wound dressed this evening, Dr. says that it is doing very well. We spread down the tarpaulin after supper and all bunked down.

Sunday 8th November 1863

Up this morning at 4 o'clock and marched at 6 o'clock. I rode in the ambulance as usual. We took the road to Kelly's Ford this morning and camped this afternoon about half mile from the Ford. There has been troops crossing the river all day today. Last night they had quite a little fight here and our men captured a large number of the Jonnies. There is quite a number of the wounded rebels laying here in the church now. They are mostly N.C. and express a desire to see this war ended. My wound is getting along finely. There was very heavy cannonading across the river this afternoon but tis quite a distance off. Some say it is near Brandy Station.

Monday 9th November 1863

The troops continue to cross the river and advance on. There has been but very little firing to be heard today. There was a regiment of cavalry came and close[?] to us today. My face is getting along finely. I shall report for duty in a day or two if it continues to get well as fast as it has done. Rec'd a letter from M.E.B. this afternoon. Have a very good camping place, plenty of sails(?) and good water nearby. We have just heard of the success of our force at this place and at Rappahannock Station. Took 11 pieces of artillery and nearly 2,000 prisoners. Boys are all in the best of spirits. All anxious to advance forward and meet the Jonnies.

Tuesday 10th November 1863

We had a little snow storm last night and the mountains are white with snow this morning. I went down to the river this morning and saw the pontoons. There is two bridges across and the baggage trains are crossing very briskly. I have remained idle all day. The regiments of cavalry left here this morning, went towards Fredericksburg. I wrote two letters today, one to M.E.B. & one to Adela Merrell. The mail consisted of one letter this evening. Report says that our troops are out as far as Culpeper and still advancing. The wounded that were here in the church when we came have all been sent to Washington where they will be better cared for.

Wednesday 11th November 1863

This is a very pleasant day. There is a quite a number of our men detailed to go out and get forage for our horses. They were gone about three hours and returned with a lot of good hay and coarse[?] fodder. I received a letter from Melinda and Geo. Brigham this evening. My wound is getting along finely. Do not have to go to the Dr. any more but dress it myself. Everything is very quiet here today and no talk of our moving as there was yesterday. Received another of our Frank Leslie's this evening. I have spent most of the day in reading a book titled Mysteries of -----, found it very interesting.

Thursday 12th November 1863

I went out a hunting this morning but could find nothing but quail and found it impossible to shoot them with my small revolver. Some of the boys killed some rabbits and had a nice stew. Lockwood went out this afternoon and got a nice sheep and of course I came in for a share as I generally do when he gets anything. Rec'd two letters this evening from Mollie & Frank Green. We are getting so that we like our camping place very much. No signs of rain very soon. It is getting to be very dry. My wound is getting along, it's nearly well.

Friday 13th November 1863

We were somewhat surprised by having orders this forenoon to be ready to march at a moment's notice and join the reserve again. We left camp a little after noon and arrived at Rappahannock Station at 4 o'clock, distance some 8 miles. It has been very dusty today. The R.R. is finished up a little west of Bealton and there is a great many men busily engaged in putting it through. General Meade's headquarters are at Brandy Station. We

have a very nice place for camp in a large meadow about a mile from where we were last August. Tyler's headquarters are close to us.

Saturday 14th November 1863

Been at work today fixing up our tents and have succeeded in getting them in pretty good order. This would be a splendid place to stay if we could only get water handy, but we have to go bring it over a mile and do not get very good then. Had orders this evening to draw five days' rations, which indicates a move soon. We had a very heavy thunder shower this evening lasting some two hours. Most of the boys have a rather moist bed to sleep in tonight. Received two letters from M.E.B. and E.E.B. this evening. I reported for duty this morning. My face is nearly well.

Sunday 15th November 1863

It rained hard all night and did not clear off until nearly noon today. This afternoon we got paid off and the boys all feel very rich once more. I wrote two letters today to Malinda & Frank Green. There has been considerable cannonading this forenoon out towards Culpeper. I went over to the Commissary and got a box of hard tack for the boys as their rations do not hold out very well. Been quite cold all day so that a fire is very comfortable. Orders this evening to have five days' rations on hand, and some think that we are soon to advance again.

Monday 16th November 1863

This is a very nice day. I went down to Warrenton Junction with Lt. Record[?]. Tried to get some things at the sutler's but they had sold all the articles that I wanted. But I had a very pleasant ride. The cars run across the river today for the first [word omitted] and have gone out towards Culpeper. The rebels did not tear up the track on the other side of the river. I rec'd a letter from Bro. this afternoon and wrote one home to Mollie, also to M.E.B. Phi issued some clothing this forenoon to the men but not near enough to satisfy their wants, but we expect more in a few days. Boys are getting to be quite ragged and stand much in want of it.

Tuesday 17th November 1863

Everything continues very quiet in camp today, nothing going on of importance. Dodd was here to see the boys this afternoon. He is going home as soon as he can get away.

Wednesday 18th November 1863

Sitting in my tent reading most of the day. Wrote a letter to Bro. Harlow this evening. Isaac Cooper returned to the battery today. He looks very well. I got an order for some eatables of Lt. Norton this morning but could get nothing but tea & flour as the commissary has not got a very large supply on hand yet. They have moved the Depot up to Bealton from Warrenton, which will make it much easier for us to get our grain.

Thursday 19th November 1863

Had drill this forenoon, manual of the piece, and this afternoon had field drill. Everything went off very nicely. Very warm and the men got some tired ere we got through drilling. Two of our men (Isaac Cooper and Wilkins) were detailed this afternoon, the former for orderly to General Tyler and the latter for clerk at the commissary.

Friday 20th November 1863

General Tyler was around inspecting the batteries this morning. Did not seem over an above pleased as we had not cleaned up our entire camp. But we got an order and cleaned it up very nicely. Inspection of camp at 5 o'clock. Went over to Meade's H.Q. and got a pair of boxing gloves for us boys. Did not get back in time to attend our literary society which the boys held out in the woods. Wrote a letter to E.E. Brewer.

Saturday 21st November 1863

Woke this morning and found it raining. It has rained all day and most of the time very hard. Orders this morning for inspection at 10 o'clock with everything ready for a march. But just as we had got everything all ready the order was countermanded, so we had all our trouble for nothing. Wrote a letter to Geo. M. Brigham this evening, also one for Philip Blackstone[?] to his Aunt.

Sunday 22nd November 1863

Columbus Cilley was placed under arrest last night for ----ing his horse from water and ordered to remain in his tent until further orders. This morning we had orders to go to water and take charge of one of our inspection(?) detachments ---- ----- sutler came up this morning and brought a pretty good assortment of goods with him.

Monday 23rd November 1863

Went out and had a drill on horseback this morning. Drilled for two hours and then returned to camp and had foot drill. Nothing to do this afternoon but lay around camp. I rec'd a letter from Mollie and answered it.

Tuesday 24th November 1863

Reveille this morning at 5:30 and orders to march at 7:30. Orders were countermanded just before we hitched up on account of the rain which came down in torrents. Wrote a letter to Albert this forenoon. It cleared off about 10 o'clock and has been very pleasant the remainder of the day. Rec'd a letter from Mollie this afternoon. We had to go out and graze our horses this forenoon. Had a good time chasing rabbits around the field.

Wednesday 25th November 1863

Orders to move at 2 O'clock at which time we started. Crossed the Rappahannock, went as far as Brandy Station. Took the road to the left, went about two miles and camped in an old Rebel camping ground. Found a very nice place to make our bed in one of the rebel's shanties. Had a very hard time getting through from the Station as the roads were so muddy. Got in camp at eleven o'clock.

Thursday 26th November 1863

Up this morning at daybreak and marched at 8 o'clock. Had pretty good roads most of the way. Went as far as Germanna Ford and camped just this side of the river on a high bluff. Came about 10 miles today. There is but one pontoon here and the troops are coming very slow.

Friday 27th November 1863

Reveille this morning and orders to hitch up at daybreak. We got everything ready and had to wait until nearly 10 o'clock before we marched as the 3rd Corps had the road. We crossed the river on the pontoon at 12 o'clock and then marched on towards Chancellorsville, went within a mile of Chancellorsville and took the Gordonsville pike to the right and after going some four miles turned off on a by road and camped in some thick woods. There has been cannonading on our right all day. The Guerrillas charged into Brandy Station last night and took 25 wagons. The 5th Corps also lost 15 wagons up near Chancellorsville this forenoon. The rebels burned them as soon as they got hold of them, and then left for parts unknown. We can hear musketry very plain this evening.

Saturday 28th November 1863

We were called up this morning at 5 o'clock, had everything ready to move at 6 o'clock. Did not get off until after noon when we moved up towards the front two miles and went in park. There was quite a number of us that went out scouting this forenoon and got one sheep and a lot of turnips which go very well with hard tack. There was very heavy firing about noon. Our line of battle made an advance and drove the Rebs. I saw quite a number of prisoners passing to the rear today. Our wounded are being brought in from off the field today. There is a large number of them. Some of our boys have been over on the battlefield and report some 400 dead rebels. They got 2 nice rebel overcoats. Had orders to unhitch at 8 o'clock this evening after which we laid down on our tarpaulins.

Sunday 29th November

Hitched up this morning at daylight and remained so all day but no orders to move. There has been considerable cannonading at the front today and some musketry. Saw a few prisoners marching to the rear just before night. Transportation is going to the front very fast.

Monday 30th November 1863

Marched this morning at 7 o'clock. Went up to the front and laid in park in the [word omitted]. I took my glass and had a good view of the Rebels. They have very formidable works. We laid in park until nearly dark when we went in camp and got supper and bunked down. There has been firing all day but no damage done on our side that I have heard of yet. The 2nd Corps and part of the 6th have gone around on the extreme left ----- to try and flank the Rebs.

Tuesday 1st December 1863

Orders to march this morning at daylight, but our officers did not get us out in time so Lt. Norton was placed under arrest and Wm. A. Purcy[?] has command of the battery. We marched to the rear on a trot and recrossed the river at Ely's Ford at 11 o'clock a.m. Went

in park and remained until two o'clock when we marched some two miles farther to the rear and went in park again.

Wednesday 2nd December 1863

We suffered a good deal last night by the cold as we had to keep our horses harnessed all night and got but very little sleep. The cavalry is[?] passing here on their way to Brandy Station. It is reported that Lee is getting in our rear.

[End of daily entries for eighth book]

When This Cruel War is Over

1st Verse

Dearest love do you remember
When we last did meet
How you told me that you love me
Kneeling at my feet
Oh how proud you stood before me
In your coat of blue
When you vow'd to me and country
Ever to be true.

Chorus

Weeping sad and lonely
Hopes and fears how vain[?]
Yet praying when this cruel war is over
Praying that we meet again.

2nd Verse

When the summer breeze is sighing
Mournfully along
Or when autumn leaves are falling
Sadly breathes the song
Oft in dreams I see thee lying
On the battle plain
Sorely wounded, even dying
Calling but in vain.

3rd Verse

If amid the din of battle
Nobly you shall fall
Far away from those who love you
None to hear you call
Who would whisper words of comfort
Who would soothe your pain
Oh! the many cruel fancies
Ever in your brain.

4th Verse

But my country calls you darling
Angels cheer your way
While our nation's sons are fighting
We can only pray
Nobly strike for God and Liberty
Let all nations see
How we love our Starry Banner
Emblem of the free.

Below is a statement of our victories over the rebels in the month of July 1863.

July 3rd Meade's victory over Lee at Gettysburg with rebel loss killed, wounded, & prisoners of 15,000.

July 4th Capture of Vicksburg by Grant with 31,000 prisoners and over 200 heavy guns.

July 4th Gen. Prentiss fights the rebels at Helena, Ark. and defeats them with a loss of 2,700 in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

July 4th Gen. Rosecrans compels Bragg to evacuate Tallah----.
Rebel loss in the series of engagements over 4,000.

July 6th Gen. Buford whips Stuart and takes 97 prisoners and two guns.

July 8th Banks captures Port Hudson with 6,000 prisoners.

July 8th Gen. Pleasanton defeats the rebels at Funkstown.

END EIGHTH BOOK, JOHN H. MERRELL DIARY