

Alexander Sterrett Paxton Diaries: Volume 6

October 30, 1863 – May 1, 1865

Transcribed Summer 2012

**Crude hand-made diary, binding completely deteriorated,
paper boards. Entries in pencil.**

Oct. 30 1863

Camp Stonewall Brigade

Near Brandy Station

Was wounded at Chancellorsville May 3rd 1863. Got home via Richmond May 11th. Staid at home until October the 8th. Had a nice time whilst wounded. Got home in good time for strawberries and cherries. Done justice to the cause in eating them. Was on crutches about 5 weeks. Soon as got off them, about July 14th, went down to Augusta to see my friends. Staid about a week, then went over to Dr. Early's in Greene Co. Staid five weeks over there. Had a splendid time of it too. Was to visit Monticello (?) whilst down there. Visited in Lex a good deal after back. I reported at the hospt & got so many days furlough at (a) time. When determined to come back, was not able for active service by long shot. Yet thought I could get a detail of some kind, or fill some post now filled by some able bodied man. Now isn't a time for men to stand back or shirk from their _____. Every man who is able to strike a blow, however feeble that blow may be, ought to strike now. _____ who are shrinking back from their duty should be made to keep step to the mission of this struggle. Left home on the night of (the) 8th by way of Lynchburg on the packet boat. At L- staid a few days.

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visiting at Mr. Rucker's. Had nice time. One Saturday went chestnut hunting with a whole school of misses from City of L-. When got to Gordonsville, found that could not get into army, which was on advance move against the enemy, Gen Meade commanding. Went out to Col. Walker's in Madison. Saw Miss Jennie and Miss Nannie. Staid two days, then came back to Mr. Graves(?). Saw Miss Kate, mighty pretty and nice girl. Next day, Sunday, came in to G- to church with Miss Kate and mama(?) in carriage. Last time was along that road was marching, tired,

big knapsack on my back, gun, &c, hungry, and longspirited. That time was about one year ago. This time was riding, big man in fine carriage with pretty girl &c. Thus varys (sic) the fortunes of war. Today the soldier is unlucky and tomorrow fortune smiles upon him. Today he steps with a proud and elastic footstep, flushed with victory, tomorrow he quietly sleeps beneath the cypress. As were still not sending off for army from G-, I got Charlie Davidson, Capt of Provost Gd, with whom I was staying, to get me a passport, and then went up to Staunton and to my uncle Anderson's (or Henderson's?). Came back on the 29th to Brandy Station, where I'm at now which_____ our company.

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Seven miles from Orange Court House
Camp Stonewall Brigade
Nov 13 1863

Had been absent from the Co- since the 3rd of last May. At that bloody tragedy I was wounded. On getting back to my company, I found them much diminished in numbers. Some had fallen! Others, though surviving were away at home on crutches or on beds of pain and languishing. About 20 are in northern prisons pining away. Ha a skirmish the day before I got back, in which, Raymond, our O.S., and Bartley, a private were wounded. Found our brigade in good camp near the station. I, expecting or rather hoping to be quartered there for the winter. When I left home I did not come to the Regt for active duty, but thought I could get some light post or detail that would enable me to do something in the cause. There are too many men at home now who could fill some easy post now filled by an able bodied man. 'Tis a fearful truth that too many are shrinking from their place in ranks. Now isn't a time for men to be shrinking back -

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-from the place where duty calls them.

However feeble may be their blow, still they should strike it. And every man who is able should be made keep step to the music of this struggle.

So on getting to my company I reported to Surg- of the Reg't DR. Holt (who is quite a gentlemanly and nice man), he examined me, gave me a certificate and sent me before the medical board of Divis. They recommended me for light duty. Whereupon Maj. Terry commanding Regt gave me the position of Commissary Serg't of the Reg't, an office not recognized until about July 1863, when Cap't Coms'rys of Reg'ts were dispensed with and Serg'ts substituted instead. Pay of the

position is 31\$ per month for private detailed 37\$ for Serg't and can have a horse to ride on marches, &c. Tent and mess with the Qr – master of the Regt. So I of course accepted it, and was initiated into the mysteries of my office. Well we all thought of staying in place and quiet in camp. Our line of pickets was across the Rappahannock a few miles or so. Two of Early's Brigades were down there on picket at the time. On the morning-

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-of the 7th, the deep booming of cannons from the front told us too plainly that a darker scene was yet to be enacted ere we would go into winter quarters. That day the enemy advanced in heavy force, drove our pickets and captured a large part of those two Brigades. One of which was Hay's La. Brig- one of the best in the army. About sunset our Brig. got orders to move. They left. I staid with the trains, and expected not to move before morning, at least. Details had been left to cook rations and load wagons. Eads (?) our regiment P Master (postmaster) made our bed down and were dreaming of better days and brighter scenes, when orders came to pack the wagons and leave immediately. 'Twas 11 o'clock at night. Away we went, travelling the balance of the night and halting on the morning of the 8th (Tuesday) across the Rapidan at Sommersville ford. The Brig. in the mean time marched down to Kelly's ford and back again, all night. On evening of 8 sent detail to cook rations. On same evening Hill fought and repulsed the enemy. On the morning of the 9th moved out of that-

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-place and came to our old camping ground opposite (sic) Morton's Ford. The Brig. got lost on the night of 8th and crossed on morning of 9th at Som'ville Ford. At this camp thought wd stay, put up quarters & c.

But lo' on the evening of the 11th orders came to leave at 7 next morning. Did so, tho' 'twas with many regrets left good cabins and chimney just finished. Came up to within 7 miles of Orange C.H. where are now encamped in a large body of wood-land, and 'tis my heart felt wish that we may stay here sometime long enough to enjoy the improvements we may make.

Camp Stonewall Brig
7 miles below Orange C.H.
Nov- 14th 1863

To-day Capt Francisco, Betsy, and myself put up our tent, on a layer of three logs in height. Yet as have heard of Hill's troops cooking rations and other rumors leading to a belief that wd soon leave, have not fixed up bunks & c. so will-

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- wait a day or so and see what the signs of the times indicate. Yet the troops in the Reg't are putting up houses fast. At early dawn this morning there might have been heard the clear singing of a hundred axes felling trees for houses, bunks, &c. In the near time the merry song of the soldier-woodsmen as it mingles with that of the uncaged bird told that his spirits were buoyant, and his lot contented, tho' surrounded as he was by "wars alarms". One don't see as many long faces in the army as you do amongst the miserable extortionists at home out of the army. Encamp a brig- of soldiers in a large body of woods, tell them to put up qurs and in a little time a city will spring up in the wilderness.

Have heard some firing too, today in the direction of the river. Know not its results & c.

Drew good rations of beef, flour, and salt now. By the way our co- and my mess got some boxes from home last evening, by Capt Middleton from Lex- so today we are feasting highly on Turkey, butter, eggs, ham, pies, cakes, & c. A feast and a famine or an unlucky day and a fortunate one.

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Camp Stonewall Brig-
near Morton's Ford
Nov 16th 1863

On yesterday morning a brisk cannonade was heard in the direction of Morton's ford. 'Twas Sunday and it rained until about 9 in the morning, when it cleared up and the sun shone out beautifully. About 12 orders came to leave. Out the troops moved, leaving a detail to cook rations. Two days of which I was then drawing. The brig marched out of camp, went over the hill, and then marched back again. As enemy were all driven back. They made a break near Gen Ewell's H'd Qur's. This morning we moved out of our camp and have moved down two this point a mile or so from our old camp near Morton's Ford. Gen Lee has been out reconnoitering today, as tho' expected a fight soon. We expect to commence throwing up works in the morning to fight behind. Expect that ere many days, the "sound of conflict on the _____ (hearth?)," will be heard—

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Camp near Morton's Ford

From Nov 26th 1863

Nov 26th

Reported enemy are making demonstrations to cross. Once today the troops left camp, marched out to works, remained a short time, then returned and were ordered to cook 2 days rations and be ready to move at a moments warning.

Nov 27th

Soon after dark last night Reg't moved out to works and laid there all night. Enemy crossed at Germanna and Ely Fords. Early on morning of 27th, finding the enemy were attempting to flank us on our right. Our Divis and troops on left moved over towards our right. The baggage wagons were sent farther to the rear, near Verdiersville. The wagons with cooking utensils moved after troops. My position with the comissary (sic) of our regiment, requires me to stay with the train on the march and during an engagement, to help take care of things & c. My wounded limb forbids one from firing in ranks. Our train following the troops took the road-

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-by Zoar (?) Church. Our Brig. took another road almost par'l to this. About 21/2 P.M. our Division met, fought, and repulsed a large column of the enemy under Gen French. Was crossroad leading at right angles to road on which our troops were moving. The enemy advancing on this cross-road came to the main road just as rear of our Division passed by unexpected to both parties. Yet our Divis' after a hard fight repulsed the enemy. That night, after burying our dead and bringing off our wounded, we fell back to a stronger position.

Our Reg't lost about 60 wounded and 6 killed. Our Co- one killed and 5 slightly wounded. George Chapin from Lex was killed. Lieut. Lyle, Amole, J. Ramsey, Steele and Rollins, two latter very slightly. Chapin was a gallant and brave boy. The only support now of a widowed mother and several sisters. He was buried the night after the bat'- on the field where he fought so well. The lines of "The burial of Sir Jno Moore(") are also appropriate in this instance,

"We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning &c.
Slowly and sadly we laid him down
on the field of his fame fresh and gory-

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We carved not a line, we raised not a stone
But left him alone in his glory.”

Gallant Boy! Tho' the stranger may pass unheeded by the green mound
above thee, still you will not be forgotten!

Nov 28th

Train moved back to Zoar Church, on which our Brig also moved, wounded came up, sad sight! Rained until evening. Then train moved up near Brig. and detail came back to cook. Was some skirmishing along the lines. The enemy seems to be afraid to advance since the check our Divis' gave his left. We have fortified and are awaiting him to advance. He is fortified and awaits us to advance.

Nov 29th

Cold and quite windy. Hovered around fires all day. All quiet along lines except now and then the firing of picket-

Nov 30th

Bright and clear. About sunrise, enemy's batteries shelled our train. Quite a bustle and hustling back to rear. Considerable cannonading from 9 to 1.

2 P.M.

Am now a mile above Zoar C-

Dec 2nd

Somewhat cloudy this morning. All was quiet yesterday. Last night-

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-cauld (cold) the line of the armies by their bivouac fires.

Dec 3rd

Near Ewell's He'd Qur's

Yesterday morning found the enemy had recrossed the river. Troops and wagons came back near old camp. About dark train moved to this p't. All quiet this morning. Saw Al Kase (Alvah Kase) of 4 Va Cal (cavalry?) and heard from Dr. Early's. In the evening we all baggage & c. moved back to our old camp.

Dec 13th 1863
Same old Camp

'Tis a beautiful Sunday morning. Rained considerably last night, yet has cleared up bright this morning. Have been expecting to move up to a point – 7 miles from Orange C.H. where will go into winter quarters. All quiet along the lines. Enemy still picket with cavalry on opposite side of river.

A.S. Paxton

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Dec. 26th 1863
Camp near Pisgah Church

Well another Xmas come and gone. The dirge of the departing year will soon be sung and the newborn year will be ushered in with not songs of mirth, but with the pale of a cruel war over-hanging this land of ours. Had quite a daytime yesterday. Rode over to 52nd Reg't saw Joe Paxton, sold a horse (Rosencrans), came back in evening, cold and hungry, wished war was over & c. The Division moved up to this point this last week. When our trains came up on 23rd brig' was out on picket. Is expected up this evening. Were looking for Mr. Johnson from Rockbridge down with some Xmas boxes for us boys. But old canal "busted" & c., so he has not made his arrival. Xmas day was clear in the morning and cold. Clouded up about 9 o'clock AM and moderated. Have had some very cold weather lately.

_____ (Little?) stir in some of the divisions on night of 24th in regard to reported advance of the Yankees. Expect _____ snow in few days. Saw but few who had on artificial (sic) spirits yesterday.

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Jan. 5th 1864
Camp near Pisgah Church

This is 1864. Another year has gone and is now with all its varied scenes buried in the wreck of the past! The winds of a stormy night sing the dirge of the departing year. And it seemed the skies were weeping over the scenes and suffering of the expiring year. And now as we stand on the threshold of the new born year, how varied are the emotions that arise in our bosoms. We need not trace

the course of events during the past year, They are too melancholy to tell again. And we can only shed a tear upon the old year's grave and look forward with hopes of "a better time coming". Tho' we look upon "1863" as a fixed fact, whilst before us all is doubt and uncertainty. What does thy new year forbode? Its natal day was a bright and beautiful one. Was it not a good omen? What is hidden behind the clouds that mantle it? Is it storm or sunshine? Peace and prosperity, or still war and devastation. These are-

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-questions the answers to which can only be written by the finger of omnipotence. And all we as a nation and as individuals can do, is to put our trust in that Higher power, and rush on to whatever may be in store for us in the future.

We spent a dull Xmas. But tho' we dined (on) Xmas day on tough beef and "dog ear", we done better on New Year's day. For Mr. Johnson came down from Rockbridge with some boxes for our Co- Were glad to see him, gave him a hearty welcome, inquired particularly about his health and how many boxes he brought down. So made the turkey- a venerable old fellow – fly on N. Y. today. Soldiers are quite children about good things to eat. No wonder. Rations are now issued as follows. ___ man, Beef $\frac{3}{4}$ lb, Bacon $\frac{1}{4}$ lb, salt beef $\frac{1}{2}$ lb, Flour $1 \frac{1}{8}$ lb, Salt 3lbs = 100 men. Now and then dried fruit, rice, sugar and coffee, to make amends for short rations of meat. Yet we get enough. Snowed yesterday 4th. First we have had. Cold still. Roads rough. Have gone into reg' winter qur's. Building stables, and c. All quiet along the lines.

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In Same old Camp
Jan 8th 1864

Had little snow day before yesterday. The soldier likes to see it snow when he is in camp and no picket duty near at hand. Makes him think of old times and associations, such as sleigh –rides, rabbit hunts, partridge trapping, and c. Last night nature again arrayed herself in a robe of white. Only about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep tho'. Barclay got his furlough yesterday evening and could hardly sleep any last night. Slept with me. He is a good fellow. Hasn't much energy, but kind hearted. He rolled out soon this morning to the C. H., with Adj't Wade. No wonder a fellow gets so excited when knows he is going home to see his friends after so long absence. And when goes, knowing he has done his duty and stood up to his post

alike in the sunshine and storm; then his brow is unclouded and his step proud and elastic. Such was Barclay. I came near missing my breakfast, not hearing-

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-the bell ring. Mess again with my old Co. Mess. Day (Wm) one of the militia put in our Co- at Mt. Jackson, cooks for us 7 in all. He is a good hearted fellow, tho' quite ignorant. Is at home over the dough tray or over the frying pan of meat. Its music is sweet to ear. He is quite accomodating and will save a fellow his breakfast if sleeps late or is out of place. Give him 2\$ apiece per month. Play chess good deal to pass off time. I mostly play with "Jane" (alias Geo. Lackey) of our Co. We are good matches. Jane sometimes beats me and gives vent to his feelings in hearty laugh. Is a clever boy, and a great checker player. Can beat me all to smash on that score. Jones, Lt. of our Co., came back from furlough other day. Miss Kate sent me piece of cake by him, but the dog liked to have eaten it up before camp. Didn't say much so she is a 1st coz of his. Clear and pretty day. Tolerably warm. How I like to see a pretty day.

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Same Camp
Jan 9th 1864

Has been a beautiful day. Snow going off gradually. Just up to Maj. Sexton's to see about rations. Quite interesting to see rations issued. Every fellow goes at it with a vengeance. And when gets his allowance, goes off to his qur's stepping high as blind turkey in stubbles. Would fight for it hard too- Been tailoring today, sewing buttons, and c. Soldier has to be "Jack" of all trades. Cook, washer, carpenter, and c. Will not be hard to please in domestic matters when war is over. Some inducement for "Gal" to wed a bold soldier boy, when this "cruel war is over". Ought to do it anyhow. Have commenced giving furloughs to detailed men thro' the Depart's in which they are detailed, and not via company. A good egg!

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Jan 11th 1864
Same Camp

The past night has been a bitter one. I do indeed sympathize with the poor fellows whose lot it was to be on the outposts keeping their lonely vigils on the banks of

the Rapidan. Our Brig. went down on picket on the morning of the 10th. Went to Morton's Ford. 'Tis cold work. Yet it has to be done. The front must be well guarded. Yesterday was Sunday. Left no one in camp except the lame, the "seek", the barefooted and those with no breeches. So camp looks like a deserted village. Tho' not like the one of the of _____ Goldsmith sings so sweetly, "Sweet Auburn loveliest village of the plain" and c. Yesterday we missed the noise, confusion, and hum of camp life the same on all days. Hence yesterday wore an air of solemnity such as not many Sabbaths do in the army. Heard, had a gay time in my old neighborhood during the holidays. Parties and dinings. Guess they forgot all about-

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- _____ and memories of war. Wonder if amid those festive scenes, when all was gaiety and when music floated in enchanting strains thro' the crowded rooms, wonder if there evers a thought flit across the minds of the guests, of the absent. A thought of dear friends away on the outposts and per chance exposed to the balls of the foe; exposed to the midnight storm; or per chance pining away in some hosp't deserted and uncared for. And if the thought did crowd itself upon the festive scene, per chance it only brought a shadow for a moment over the fair brow, then in a moment it had flown, and a smile rested in its place. However, I like to see gayety (sic) & cheerfulness, not carried to excess tho'. I like to see the young people at home enjoy themselves. A long face and melancholy air don't help our cause. I like to look at the brightest side always. The cloud of war should receive a tint from some source; tho' it be not the golden tint of peace, let it be the silver light of cheerfulness. Only ere I had been there too.

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In Same Camp
Jan 13th 1864

On the 11th, Luther Paxton, who had been on detail, came by and told me had a box at Depot for me. Good news! I almost heard the turkey gobble. Saw the chase, his capture, heard his death knell, and imagination saw him stuffed and on the dish. But any good luck did not desert me. Borrowed Suddarth's horse, Johnson's courier, who was over at Co, and rode up to C.H. to send box down. Hard work to find it. Hunted wagon hauling ice. Got wagon off to bring boxes down. 7 miles to camp. Saw some ladies – had seen for a month. Got back to camp about dusk, Box came soon and did eat. Yesterday was beautiful day. By the way as was coming

back, met "H" McCutchan and Bill Walker two of my old college friends. Glad to see them. Liked old "H" first rate.

Cloudy this evening and expected _____ snow before morning.

pg.22

Jan 18th 1864

Cloudy and raining some this morning. Yesterday was Sunday. Was drawing rations all day, i.e. spent the day with Maj. Sexton. Maj. is a nice man, also all of his assistants are too. "Chum" Robison, the Com'sy of 2nd was there and amused us by reciting some of his old scrapes, & c. Has been a hard nut in his time. Is a tailor by trade. All quiet along the lines. Brig had a tolerable time on picket. Enemy picket with cavalry on opp' side of river. The men not on post amused themselves hunting rabbits and opossum. As meat in Com'sy Dep't is scarce, 'twas a "good trick." Hauling brick to build bake oven. Men say will tear it down. Imagine the Govt wants to reduce their rations. I've drawn and issued rations every Sunday since have been in the Department. Think could easily dispense with so much Sunday work if only had right men in the office of Com'sy. But yet it can't be helped by us.

pg.23

Camp near Pisgah Church

Jan 22nd '64

'Tis a bright and beautiful day. Mild as on a Spring morning. Nothing of interest afloat. Order came around the other day not to give furloughs to detailed men. 'Tis an unjust order. The friends and relations of a detailed man are as dear to him as those of any other. Twelve furloughs are given to 100 men present. Capt. Middleton came down from Lex yesterday with boxes. He was welcomed. Our mess got three. Will live highly now. Was some wedding cake in "Jane's" box. Barclay sent down big box to our mess. Good egg. Weighed 180lbs.

Got letter last night from J. J. White, our old Capt. He spoke of our old Liberty Hall Co- in glowing terms. He said decimated as had been our ranks, we had made a name. A name that would live long after these dark clouds of war shall have rolled over our horizon.

pg.24

Same Camp
Jan 27th 1864

'Tis a bright and beautiful day. Some much like the birth-day of Spring. I am alone in our tent. Sergt. S – has gone foraging and Capt. F is knocking around. His wife has come and is at Mr. Terril's. SO he no longer stays here as he has found a more comfortable bedfellow. On the morning of the 25th our Reg't went up to the C.H. and then came back again. Thr' a mistake, had been ordered to relieve Maj. Bridgeforth. A good sell, tho' to practical. Expect we'll go yet. Maj. Terry is Col. now. Heard our parson preach last Sunday for first time. Done better than expected of him. Expected have had a nice time at Orange C. H. Well, have to go picket soon, Have been reading *Lallah Rookh*. Splendid thing too. Beautiful sentiments embodied in its pages.

pg.25

Same Camp
Feb.14th 1864

'Tis Sunday morning. Quite pleasant too. Have had some beautiful weather of late. Would almost wish to see some bad weather now, as this kind will put notions in the Yankee heads about advancing. About a week ago an idea about this sort struck the dogs. They crossed over in heavy force at Morton's Ford where our Brig was on pickett. Captured about 30 of our men. They dashed right into the river and waded over, our men being in the rifle – pits. 'Twas bad management on our part somehow. The dogs didn't stay over with us long. Didn't like the uncomfortable qur's we gave them. So that night went back to their kennels across the river. And have been quiet since along the lines. We boys didn't relish the idea at all of leaving our good quarters and entering on a campaign in mid-winter. I have been sick too. Was_____ -

pg. 26

- for about a week. Didn't like the idea at all of having to go off to a Hospt. 'Tis bad enough to be sick at home surrounded by all those kind attentions and comforts that tend to cheer up and sustain the sick one. Yet when disease lays her clammy hand upon the soldier in camp, away from home and friends, then 'tis calculated to depress one's spirits. So 'twas with feelings of thankfulness and

gratification that I once more got able to get out of my tent and navigate as usual. Our Reg't reinlisted (sic) for the war the other evening. Was but one dissenting voice, and he recalled his vote afterward. That speaks well for the old "4th". Gen Walker complimented us highly. Said we were "first in this glorious cause as ever first in the charge on the battle-field". How strikingly does this contrast with the cowardly croaking and skulking of the substitute men at how.

Great enthusiasm manifested in the Army on subject of reenlisting.

pg.27

Same Camp
Feb 21st 1864

Have had some very cold weather lately. Yet it has moderated considerably and today(Sunday) is quite pleasant. I did not go to church this morning as ought to have done. Was writing a letter to William A- and wanted to finish it. Mr. Baker from Staunton is preaching a series of sermons in 5th Chapel. Is a tolerable gog preacher. Have a 2nd Chapel too. All is now quiet along the lines. Have shut down on furloughs in our Co- as all have been home within 12 mos. Am going to church tonight if nothing happens. Didn't get any Valentines or send any either. The late military bill passed Congress has given satisfaction to the Army. Well may they fill up our shattered and decimated ranks with those who have been lying around home doing nothing. Have been drawing corn meal for about a month. Wheat bread is quite a rarity. Meant to use up the supply of meal before the campaign opens. _____ flour then will be far more acceptable to the soldiers. Been drawing good beef.

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Same Camp
Feb 27th 1864

Are having beautiful weather now. So mild and fair. The Brig' is down on picket. As yet, all has been quiet down there. Hope they won't stir u such a "mess" as did when they were down there before. Have been studying French and Chemistry lately. Have been visiting some, to Mr. Sale's (Rob) Miss Sallie Case old friend of mine is there, also Miss Mollie S- _____.

Got acquainted with a very pretty and nice little girl, Miss Emma Terrill. One actually needy the society of ladies now and then to keep off the rough manners and customs of the camp, and to polish the rough exterior of the soldier.

Are some very nice ladies down in this part of the country. Are getting the merry (?) conscripts to our Regt. Have gotten 31 lately 'tis a prospect of more.

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Same Camp
March 2nd '64

'Tis a beautiful morning. Tho' the past few days have been quite disagreeable cold rain and a little snow last night. The enemy have been making demonstrations towards Charlottesville, also towards Frederick Hall on Central R.R. Don't know yet the extent of the raids. Also 'tis reported the infantry are crossing below here. Doubtful. Snodgrass our QM Serg't left on furlough this morning. Mack came down Feb 27th.

Same Camp
March 18th 1864.

A real March day, the wind blowing quite a gale and the tents flap like sails in a storm. Several fires over in 2nd Bri'g. Furloughs are suspended for the present. All quiet along the lines. Got some hats from Wythe today. Got one myself too. Up to see Miss Emma Terrill other day.

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Same Camp
March 26th 64

Have had some snow, 8 or 10 inch deep. Had grand snow ball battle between Rhodes Divis' and ours on 23rd. Gen Walker commanded ours and Gen Dold the oposite (sic) side. Gen Dold got knocked off his horse. First they run our boys back; but we reinforced and run the Georgians and "Tar Heels" back into their own camps. Yesterday it rained considerably and this morning' tis clear and mild. A lovely Spring morning after the rain. Furloughs have resumed again at a rate of one to 100 enlisted present for duty. Small ratio indeed. Captain F. left this morning on furlough. Mack will go off next Tuesday to Lynchburg to Maj. Paxton. Q.M. on detail are issuing rations to officers now, just as to the privates. They grumble considerably too. Some of our Get-burg prisoners have gotten back on parole. Hope they will all get back soon too.

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Same Camp
April 3rd 1861

Brigade is on picket. Will be back tomorrow or next morning. Have had a bad trip this time, as it has snowed and rained considerably. Yet the boys say they would prefer the bad weather to the Yankees. I have been down twice with rations. Then come back and stay in camp. Much better than sojourning there. Yet I can fully sympathize with the sentinel on the outpost in the midnight storm. Was some little stir among the Yanks the day I was down, but it has quieted down. Expect will be an advance made soon. Was up to see Miss Emma Terrill the other evening. Is a nice little piece of calico, writes poetry too.

Bro' Mack has gotten his detail in Q M Dept at Lynchburg with Maj. Paxton. Has gone there too. Had quite a snow storm the other day. 'Tis time for pretty weather though snow-

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Same old Camp (Pisgah Church)
April 17th 1864

Have had a great deal of wet weather lately. Yet the boys don't object to it much, as it only delays military operations. As Gen Grant has taken command of the Army of the Potomac, guess he will make an advance soon as the weather will permit. Last Monday went up to the Court House, and had my picture taken for a "fair miss". They don't take good ones there at all. Stopped as came back and saw Miss Emma Terrill an acquaintance of mine. Cousin James Eads was with me. He is my colleague on such trips there.

All is quiet along the front. But 'twill not be so long. The green fields, budding trees, singing birds all remind us that Spring has come. And with Spring must come the measured tread of thousand moving to the field of conflict. Soon the deep roar of cannon will shake the green banks of the Rapidan and the life blood of friend and foe will crimson its tide. Have sent of all extra baggage and are now ready and waiting for Mr. Grant to advance.

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Same Camp (Pisgah Church)

April 24th 1864

Brigade went on picket yesterday. Only left a guard here. Don't expect to come back to this camp. 'Tis quite lonesome here. To day is Sunday. I went over with cousin James Eads and Sergt' Snodgrass to Pisgah Church and heard a good sermon from the text, Revelation 1st Chapt, & 7th verse. Had quite a small turnout both of soldiers and citizens. Only one god looking girl there and she had on black stockings! The reason the ladies don't turn out more is because the churches near the Army are always so crowded with soldiers 'tis unpleasant. All is still quiet along the front. Yet everything tells that _____ be an early move. The heavy tread of Cav- squadrons and the rumbling of artillerytrains as they move to the front all tell this. General Longstreet has come! Have now men enough (now) to whip the Yankee horde. Was at the Court House one day last week. Were getting larger quantities of ammunition.

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Camp near Pisgah

April 29th 1864

Another beautiful day! A wonder the Army don't move. Yet have no objection to a little more quiet and "a little more slumber." The Brigade comes off picket tomorrow the 30th. I went down on the 27th with three days rations. Rode out in the picket lines and saw the Yankees on the opposite side. Also saw some Yankee cavalry moving to the right. I staid down there on night of 27th and that night I was initiated. Like to have "frozen out" as the boys term it. Came up on the 28th. Today had a tooth pulled and four plugged by a dentist in the 33rd Reg't Dr. Catterton. Also beat the Prof 3 games of chess. Snodgrass Q.M. Sergt, Wilson (orig of Co I. & Q. M. clerk) and myself are staying in the Col's tent, as had to send off our wall tent. I am sitting by a barrel writing this. Wilson is leaning on the bed writing to his sweetheart; and Snodgrass is sitting crosslegged on a box reading Shakespeare, now and then commenting on the same. A few of those left in camp are out at the sutler's tent talking. So quiet to what 'tis when the Reg't is here.

pg.35

Locust Grove on the old Rock Road
(By the Spring)
May 5th 1864

Yesterday morning about 9 o'clock got orders to move. The enemy reported crossing at Germanna Ford. Last night we moved down about a mile below this place and camped all night in the woods on left hand side of the road. Issued two days rations. The enemy seem to be across in force. Gen Grant has risked his all on another "On to Richmond"! If defeated he must face God (?) grant it may be so. This morning, our trains except ordinance, have moved back to this point, i.e. thise of our Division. Already skirmishing has begun on the right of the road. Pop! Pop! Pop! go the guns, which tell of the commencement of a bloody struggle. One of great import to both parties. Longstreet is on our right, Hill in the center, and Ewell on the left. The troops seem in fine spirits and willing to strike a death blow to Gen Grant's hopes. "Tis a beautiful morning. Bright and sunny! Nature seems to speak peace to the warring element of human passion.

pg.36

Below Locust Grove
May 7th 1864

Our Brigade was heavily engaged on the 5th. Came on the enemy unexpectedly. Features of the country unsuitable for artillery. Too flat and too much undergrowth. Gen Walker was in front of the Brig' and ran right into the Yankees. 'Twas a sharp little fight. The enemy at one time succeeded in flanking our Brig' on the right, being a gap in the lines. However, the enemy were repulsed with great loss and we held our ground. Our Brig' as usual suffered badly. Col. Randolph of the 2nd and Maj. Frazier of the 27th were killed. The killed in our Reg't were _____ and wounded = _____ but of the Liberty Hall (CO. I) were four wounded i.e. Lt. Jones in hip, Sam Johnson (alias "Copl Flat") in leg, Miley in knee, & Ramsey in leg. H. A. Paxton in thigh, none mortally tho', none killed. A wonder too. Jones has been remarkably fortunate herefore(?). Poor Ben Miley, he was lame before. Early on the morning of the 6th there was some hard fighting, and it-

pg.37

-continued until about 8 ½ A.M. The enemy charged our left. Early's line with several lines of battle, but were repulsed with great loss. Also they were repulsed at center. Whilst Longstreet on the right "whipped them handsomely" capturing a large number of prisoners and some of Burnside's heavy artillery. I came over from the Corp's wagon train with the Com'ry wagon to issue rations, but did not issue them as expected on engagement. So on the 6th the enemy were repulsed at every point and we still hold our ground. Last night (6th) the enemy were again repulsed and two Brig. Generals were captured Seymour and Scales. Saw a _____ of 70 Yankee prisoners going up the road a short time since. Mean looking men, the offscourings of the earth. Just to think, we to fight such trash! 'Tis now about 9 o'clock and with the exception of some skirmishing along the lines all is quiet. Was some heavy firing about 6 o'clock this morning in front of us. Much artillery has also passed down the road to the front.

pg.38

May 8th 1864
Below Locust Grove

Yesterday were skirmishing all along the front. Doubtless a calm that proceeds the last and terrible storm. We went up to the front to issue rations. Just as got the trains close, they opened a heavy fire. When the train came back a short distance a spent ball struck a driver on the leg and scared him half to death. However it soon dried up, and returned and issued them.

May 11th 1864

On the 8th we moved over the cat-hopen road about 20 miles. Quite a warm day and men broke down and fainted by the wayside. West (27th C S) and I slept on the ground with no covering.

On the 9th came down and issued rations one day. Rather exciting as a shell would now and then come howling over and burst near. Continual skirmishing all along the lines.

On the 10th was some heavy cannonading and hard fighting. The enemy at several points charged our line with columns 5 and 6 deep. Yet we repulsed them-

pg.39

-with great loss. At one point Dold's Ga Brigade gave away and exposed part of our lines. Yet soon drove them back. Cooked and issued 2 day's rations. Also very uncomfortable from shells. Gen Hays wounded.

May 11th

The train moved back a mile. I and rest of Com'ry Sergts staid want the Hospt (Brig). Rather quiet during day. Some skirmishing and firing along the lines. In the evening I came back to stay with Capt Franco in tent as 'twas raining. But lo! and had no sooner got to his then the order came to move. So back I went and staid with Ruff in Gen Walker's tent. During the night was heavy skirmishing. It only was the prelude to a bloody day!

Battle of _____
May 12th 1864

Was heavy skirmishing all night. Was a dense fog in the morning. The enemy took advantage of this and charged our works soon after dawn. Owing to the density of the fog they got up closer than would otherwise have done before they opened on them. They came in solid columns of 5, 6, & 8 deep to break our lines. Thus they came like a rushing torrent-

pg.40

-upon the point of our line where our division was. The line there was so {diagram of salient in diary}. They came in quick time and at trail arms. The 2nd Brig of our division (not noted in the annals of war for its fighting qualities) soon gave away in confusion. Through this gap the blue tide of Yankees poured like a headlong stream. In front of our brigade they met with a warmer reception and were compelled to halt. Yet having come thro' the gap in our lines they flanked and almost surrounded our Brig. 'Twas a terrible time. And the breath of battle never came hotter on the brows of the old Brig than on that bloody morning. But she was surrounded and overpowered by numbers. Yet she fought nobly in her dying hour! She fought them back from traverse to traverse along the line of works. The whole division now gave away and fell back, before fearful odds. Gen Walker was wounded in the left arm. Very many of our men were captured. The assault along the whole line was terrific and the Yankees were slain like hogs in front of our lines.

pg.41

The fighting of the whole day was of the most desperate character. The enemy were partly intoxicated and thus frenzied they charged our lines. Some of our prisoners who got away from them say they bayoneted (sic) some of our wounded men and even some of our wounded and captured. The 2nd Brigade acted in a most shameful manner! It disgraced itself! It was the cause of the disaster to the whole division.

On the 13th 'twas quiet except now and then some cannonading. On the 14th was some heavy firing on the right of our line. Our division has been relieved from the front and is now back on the road near the Hosp't. Our division has been consolidated. Don't yet know the arrangements.

May 15th 1864

Near the old Spott's C. H.

'Tis Sunday morning. The enemy are reported to be moving to our right. Cloudy. Has been alternate rain and sunshine now for nearly four days. O! to be at home this morning!

pg.42

Near S- C.H.

May 19th 1864

Have now been maneuvering and fighting for two weeks. So far Grant has been baffled in all his attempts. Lee now has him like a wild beast at bay, gathering every _____ for a final leap. Yesterday the enemy made another attempt at the same place to charge and force our lines. But they could not get their men come nearer than 250yds. The they would run back like sheep. In vain did their officers curse them and beg them to advance. 'Twas all in vain! They were fresh troops too. _____'s Corps. They got badly _____ in the charge. Our grape and canister piled them up in heaps. The cannonading was terrific for a while. When the Yankees charged up and were repulsed, a Lieut. was killed. When our skirmishers afterwards advanced, his dog was keeping watch by the side of his dead master. And our men had to tear him away. A touching incident of canine fidelity. His master lay there cold and lifeless, deserted in that trying hour by comrades, yet this-

pg.43

-poor, affectionate animal still remained licking the blood from his master's cheek. The only sentinel by his master's lifeless and unburied form! (It was a small white dog with black ears). The Maj. of our Reg't got him and brought him back to the wagons last night. Here we are reminded of the beautiful lines in the song "The Officers Funeral" , "Thy dog shall keep watch for another, and thy horse by a stranger be reined."

The enemy are still moving to our right, towards Fredericksburg. Today is a beautiful day. The enemy seem to be baffled at all points. Is it not a cheering sign if the times? Is it not the dawning of the day of peace? Is it not the breaking of the glad light through the clouds? Went up near the command last evening and issued two days rations. Ordered to keep two days with the men. Keeps us busy back at the wagons to get the rations ready for the men. Yet those who don't have to face the storm of battle ought to work like bees for the others.

pg.44

May 22nd 1864
Spott' Co-

Yesterday morning we left the place where we were parked near Spott's C.H. and came to this point nearer the telegraph road. Came some 12 or 13 miles. Yesterday reinforcements came to Lee. 3 Brigades. Glad to see them come. Are now parked in a field on left hand side of the road leading by New Hope Church and few miles south of that point.

Four miles south of Hanover Junction
May 24th 1864

On the 22nd we came to near Han' Junction by way of Beaver Dam. Crossed the North Anna. I was so fortunate as to get hold of a mule, a little fellow, who carried finely. _____ met with the lines to which he belonged. Yesterday we issued two days rations and last evening moved back to within two miles of the junction. Was some skirmishing and cannonading last evening along the banks of the North Anna. Great activity-

pg.45

-was to be seen at the Junction yesterday. Troops and trains moving hither and thither. Saw Bill Walkup an old friend of mine in 11th Va. Inf'try. Last night about one o'clock we left with the train and moved to this point about four or five miles south of the Junction on the Junction and Mechanicsville Road. Saw Jno McClure of the 12th Cal- this morning. 'Tis thought the enemy is moving over to our right.

May 26th

five miles south of Han Junction

Moved to this point across the South Anna yesterday evening. Are on the road to Ashland. Still have our line of battle in the vicinity of the Junc'. Keep skirmishing. On the evening of the 24th the enemy made a charge on A.P. Hill's line, but were repulsed with great loss, whilst he suffered comparatively little. Had heavy rain, thunder storms last evening. Quite beneficial too as it tended to cool the atmosphere and lay the dust. The country is poor, a sandy loose soil, thinly settled, abounding in pine wood.

pg.46

Near Mechanicsville

May 29th 1864

On the 26th had just got to cooking rations when had to pack up and "git". Went 7 or 8 miles finished cooking them and then the Com' Sergts had to take it to the troops. Next morning after a sleepless night we found the train near the Yellow Tavern, or the battlefield where Gen J. E. B. Stuart fought his last battle. Gallant fellow. There he fell mortally wounded by the edge of those tall pines. Yet when this "cruel war" shall close, and the passing strangers pause upon that field those dark pines will still whisper of the fame of him, the dashing and intrepid Stuart. On the 28th the train moved to this point 7 ½ miles from Mc-ville on the road to R. Last evening we C- Sergts got lost as the train moved from where we left it in morning. Benny Wiseman of the 33rd and myself staid in an old church in Mc-ville, that was riddled with balls during the battle there in McClellan's day. So we are back in our old haunts on the banks of the Chickahominy.

pg.47

Back near the old battlefields of McClelland (sic), the graves of which have grown green, ere they are to be again disturbed. The shades of many an old dead Yank will be invaded with the cannon's deep roar. Our train is near the middle line of works. From the embankments we can see the steeples and spires of our old Metropolis, reposing like a queen in the hills of Henrico, proud and defiant thought a cruel and bloodthirsty foe is panting and thundering almost at her gates. Ere the tread of Lincoln's myrmidons shall echo along her streets many a gallant southerner shall fall. God forbid such ever to the case. That the fair women of Richmond may still be unmolested in their homes. Oh! we will remember their kindness when we came there pale and bleeding from the bloody field of Chancellorsville. Tho' we live a hundred years we will never forget their kindness, but think of them with the warmest emotions of gratitude and pleasure. The C. Serg'ts have quite a hard time of it now. Issue one days rations at a time and so have to _____ every day. I got so lame on foot that-

pg.48

-could not stand it any longer. Have been riding of late. Got the hardest looking mule in the mine (Balam). I cut the figure on him, of Sanco (sic) Panza on his donkey. Yet I don't care for looks so can get along. I lose a great deal of sleep these nights as have to go 6 miles and back from 4 p.m. We draw the rations early in the morning and the drummers and negroes back the train cook them. I'm "bass" of that crowd. This is a great country from strawberries. Last evening Lt. Haymaker Co. B and myself went to a very aristocratic looking mansion and tried to get some. In reply to our question, "No!" said the proprietor. We found wher the gate was _____ and without examining it particularly left. That is a specimen of some of the _____ed Eastern Va. hospitality. Give me the good old Valley for that yet. On the evening of May 30th Rhodes and Early fought and repulsed the enemy. Lt. Joe Paxton was wounded in the fleshy part of the thigh with a canister shot. Not dangerous. Lt. Col Watkins was there killed.

-----**Begin Paxton's Dream Journal pg. 49**-----

The diary commences again on page 65....

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Near Mc'ville
June 3rd 1864

On yesterday evening was some hard fighting. It was renewed by early dawn this morning. The enemy made some desperate assaults on our lines & but were reported to have been driven back with great slaughter. Were said to have broken through at one point, but were driven back. Yesterday the din and roar of the battle was loud.

Near Mc'ville
June 5th

Yesterday was quiet along the line. Last night was an attack made and repulsed. Today it has been very quiet. I have not heard a cannon yet to break in upon the stillness of the Sabbath. Right that the combatants should enjoy the quiet and rest of the holy day. Wilson relieves me every other night in going down to issue rations to the troops. 'Tis right squally down there sometimes. Now and then a stray shell will come over in the rear and pay a compliment or so. Every shell thrown at or over an enemy's lines has either a moral or physical, either scares or hurts someone.

pg.66

Near Mechanicsville
June 7th 1864

Has been quite warm today. Yesterday was a quiet day along the front. The troops of our division moved to the vicinity of the battle-field of Gaine's Mill. Grant had set a trap for Lee. But our wily old general "smelled a mice." In the evening our troops returned to their old position. Wilson went down in my place to issue rations. Has been some cannonading on the front today. This is the day on which the Black Republican Convention meets in Baltimore to nominate the candidate for the Presidential chair. Today will be divided whether Abe will yield the scepter of Yankeedom or not, and still deluge our land with streams of blood. Where is the

last forlorn hope of freedom in the North. Has the last spark from her desecrated altars ascended unto Heaven. I hope not. I hope that the hour has come for her to raise aloft her standard and call upon her down trodden children to rally and save their land from the iron yoke of the oppressors.

pg.67

Near Mechanicsville

June 11th 1864

Our trains are still here, though our troops have moved to the right near Coal Harbor [Cold Harbor]. Are no Yankees now north of the Mc- Pike. Things have been quiet for the last day or so. Now and then the deep booming of a gun comes over the hill from the front to remind us of the hostile lines there marshaled in battle array. Our Brig- and the rest of Terry's Brig (mongrel) have very generously given a day's ration to the suffering poor of Richmond. So for twp days will only draw half rations. Another crowning act of the good qualities of the old Stone Wall. Mr. Wilson went down with the rations yesterday evening. I had a leisure hour or two and took a stroll down the R- Road towards the city. The road was such a nice shaded walk that went to the suburbs. Saw a great many of the poor who come out two miles after wood. Well may they thank our men for that days rations. For they have a hard time.

pg.68

Near M' ville

June 13th 1864

'Tis Monday morning and a beautiful day. All was quiet at the lines. This morning we have orders to move and are already packed up. Heard this morning that the Yankees were at Lexington our beautiful mountain village. How it makes my blood boil to think that the foot of the invader should desecrate the streets of that lovely town. Yet they will deface and pollute the halls of my old Alma Mater. Hope we will soon draw them out.

June 13th 1864

Left Richmond and the Chickahominy and came quite a round about way about 17 miles from R.

June 14th

came about 20 miles on the R and Charlottesville Road.

June 15th

came through Louisa C.H. and camped on the left of the L.C. and Charlottesville road.

pg.69

(Morning) June 16th 1864

Have started out this morning. 'Tis a beautiful day day too. Have been favored so far on this trip with fair weather. The troops and baggage trains have been moving on parallel roads. Troops on the Louisa C.H. road and trains on the R- and C'ville road. Have great trouble getting their rations to them, owing to the neglect and tardy movements of the Q.M.'s and C.S.'s the gentry of the wagon train. These Major Q.M.'s and C.S.'s put on more airs than a general. Many of them forget what they were before the war. Many of them blush to tell. Yet having ingloriously gotten a star, these stuck up egotistical gents assume more authority and put on more airs than enough. Thro' the day whilst the troops are toiling and marching through the dust, these starred gentry are riding over the country foraging and getting whiskey. Thus it is that so often the train lose the road and hence throw the troops so late into the night cooking. They don't have to stay up all night to cook and what care-

pg.70

-they for the toil and trouble they give a common soldier, a private. O! for the close of this cruel war when every man shall be made to keep up his own proper sphere. Can the sins of the Major Q. M.'s ever be forgiven by a just Heaven. Am afraid that 'twill be easier for a camel to go thro' the eye of a needle than for a QM to enter Heaven. I believe that if a Q.M. could get to thy portals of the heavenly city and thought that on entering he would not be able to cheat or trouble the doorkeeper, he would turn from the shining walls and go down to visit his master Beelzebub.

We were half glad to leave the Chickahominy. Tho' at first did not know exactly where we were going to. Yet when we found our faces turned toward the

old Blue Ridge it gave us great satisfaction. We came through some very poor country yesterday. Came from 12 miles below Louisa C.H. Passed a fine church a few miles below the C.H., Gilboa. The first two days I went with the baggage trains on the mountain road. Am with(?) the troops.

pg.71

Just before we got to L. C. House. I saw the old blue mtn.s away in the distance. I was glad to see them. They looked like old friends standing to welcome us back to their cool shades and crystal springs. I love the mtns. for I was cradled under the shadow of the Blue Ridge and in full view of those pyramids of nature. I _____ the happy hours of my boyhood. Our movement is quite secret. The people along the road not knowing anything of our departure from R- until saw our advance guard. The people along the road seemed glad to see us coming back. 'Tis the same way from L. C. House by which we came from. We marched along this road two years ago. Yet how many changes have taken place since that time. How many of the gallant boys who then walked this road with a proud and elastic step now sleep beneath the green sod. Yesterday I noticed some ladies along the road dressed in the habiliments of mourning. I could also see the tears steal down the cheeks as we passed. _____ they-

pg.72

-missed some loved form that was wont to march with his comrades. I saw an old man weeping by the roadside, doubtless for the early death of a manly son. Such is the lot of war. Many are the tears it causes to flow!

Near Charlottesville
June 17h 1864

Came from Green Springs neighborhood Louisa Co., yesterday to this point 5 miles below C-ville on main road. The Green Spring country is beautiful. Quite a contrast between it and the rest of Louisa. 'Tis an oasis in the midst of a desert. Soome splendid residences there and also some pretty girls. The latter articles will make any country lovely. On the 15th I called and saw an old acquaintance of mine Miss Mollie Elliot, a handsome and nice lady. Our destination seems to be the good old valley. We are going to rescue the graves of our fathers from the insults of the invader.

pg.73

We are now waiting on the train 8 a.m. Our brigade is anxious to get to their native counties. The Yankee force seems to have moved across the ridge from Augusta into Nelson Co. Hope we will be able to bag the last one of them.

Few miles below Salem Roanoke, Co.

June 22nd

June 17th : Started our trains off bright and early. They took the Lynchburg road. Our ammunition was put on the cars. And after a great deal of useless maneuvering we got on a train of flats and crowded so thick that some could not sit down. 'Twas quite hot and the men getting branches of trees to hold overhead, the train presented the appearance of a moving young forest. When we got to Ch-ville, much to the disappointment of some of the Valley boys, we took the L-burg road. Heard the enemy under Hunter were advancing on L- from Bedford down the Tenn road.

pg.74

Had a tedious ride. Near the Nelson Depot the engine bursted, had to walk a mile and then could take only ½ (1/3?) of the train. The 5th and 27th of our Brig. I also came on. Got to L- 8 ½ p.m. The regiments went to the front. Early's old Divis, i.e. now Ramseur's came ahead of us and Gordon's old Brig. Well they did too. For the enemy were within three miles and that evening had forced our lines in and thrown some shells in the suburbs. Breckenridge was there. Tho' they were not aware of our arrival. The was the golden moment; but it was lost! Having nothing in particular to do, I went to hunt my Bro Mack. Found him and his trains encamped on an island.

June 18th : Balance of our Brig. came in about 12 o'clock. They moved also to the front. I heard from Mack the news from R-. Called at Mr. Geo- Rucker's to see Mr. Wm. R's (or K's) family saw only Mrs. Reynolds his mother. Had not time that evening to walk over to Edgewood, as was busy attending to rations. Staid all night in Mr. Locher's office on Main St.

pg.75

June 19th

Last night the Yankees left in double quick time and early in the morning our troops started in pursuit yet they had several hours the start. Hunter's force was estimated at 20,000. 'Twas a miserable pillaging crew. Destroyed everything and stole everything to eat could find. Took all the stock along the road, burned all the mills, and some houses, the road was lined with plunder. We marched fast. As my horse was not up, my lame leg gave out soon and had to take my time. Met with Kearns Or'd Serg't of 27th and we went together. We made 18 miles and staid all night at Mr. Saunders' a mile off the road. Treated us very kindly, and we shall never forget Miss Lucy. Had not much to give, for the Yankees had taken all yet what they had left, they gave us with a good heart. Hunter came up thro' _____ and crossed over by Buford's. Done a great deal of damage in my old county, tho' never came to my neighborhood.

pg.76

June 20th

Miss Lucy gave us an early breakfast. We left with grateful hearts. I gave the old lady some coffee. Pleased her much. We came on to Liberty which is in fill view of the Peaks [Peaks of Otter, Bedford, Co., Va.]. 'Tis quite a nice little place. The Yankees were just on the point of sacking the 'burg when our advance came up and ran them through in quick time. Saw Mr. Perry. Got lame and got a pass from Dr. Black to get in ambulance. The ambu' train being behind we plodded slowly along. In evening had a skirmish with enemy above Buford's Depot. Could not get up to the Brig', so Kearns and I staid with Maj. Mitchell C.S. of Echols' Brig. The reserves or Home Guard came out to L-are marching along now. Enemy have taken the Salem Road.

June 21st

Troops moved on quite briskly yet the Yankees escaped. They crossed the mts. at Mason's Cove(?) and there shedded our grasp. Had our cavalry been quick enough, they might have cut the dogs off. But as 'tis not like the-

pg.77

-cavalry of our Army of the Potomac now led by Fitz Lee or a Lomax, they did not succeed in capturing the mt. pass, and all our march from L- was in vain. Also, Gen Early who is commanding our Corps is too slow. He should have attacked

them at L- the night of the 18th. Our troops have moved over on the Salem and Buchanan Road and camped. The country between Bonsacks and Salem is beautiful.

June 22nd

Today is the first day of rest and quiet since we left winter quarters. All of that long time we have never until today been out of hearing cannon or not been marching. 'Tis a general washing day. I washed my shirt and had to wait for it to dry. Our baggage wagons have not come up yet. The people about here are very hospitable indeed. Are a good many stragglers along the road. They will all get up today I suppose.

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[EMPTY]

pg.79

Ending June 22nd 1864

pg.80

“Labor omnia vincit”

* “Know thyself” is written in Greek

Commencing June 24th

pg.81

[The entry date is June 23rd 1864 – it was written in pencil and the page is entirely smudged so that only a few lines and random words are discernible.]

“...came by the Nat- Bridge....McCausland burned the bridge at Buchanan...the Yankees burned buildings in the town and destroyed _____ and some flour mills below.”

pg.82

[This page is also terribly smudged, but has a bit more discernible content.]

June 25th 1864

I came to Lex and staid about 2 ½ hours. The Division had moved on. Saw but few of my friends. My stay at home was not _____. Always feel at home at Lex. Saw with _____ and _____ (anger?) the damage _____ beautiful mtn. _____ by the hand of _____. I saw how the[next 6 lines smudged]. ...blood boil_____... I staid with Geo. Lackey (alias "Jane)...been quite sick_____.

June 26th 1864

Started to catch up with the command _____ in the morning, but got sick and had to _____ _____ _____ Dr. Black's ambulance. First time had been sick for a long time. Caught up with the Regt. near Green Spring Augusta Co.

pg.83

June 27th 1864

Came to near Staunton and rested all day. Went out to Uncle Henderson's. Came very near to going off to hospt.

June 28th

Moved at daylight and went to Mt. Crawford.

June 29th

Moved and encamped at the Springs known as Lacy's below Martinsburg. Called at Parson Jenning's and saw all the "gahals." Then they took Cousin J and Eads for a parson. Sad mistake.

June 30th

Came to Mt. Jackson and camped below town on the left hand side of the road. The soldiers had nice time bathing in the Shenandoah. They needed every drop of water.

July 1st 1864

Came to Fisher's Hill 2 miles above Strasburg. Was a splendid spring there.

July 2nd 1864

Came to camp 1 mile above Winchester. Our move down the valley was quite secret. But few new of our approach until saw our vanguard. Went into W- saw Misses Britton.

July 3rd

Came to Martinsburg and surprised the Yankees!!!

pg.84

July 4th 1864
Martinsburg, Va.

Yesterday morning bright and early we left our camp 1 ½ miles above Winchester and came to this point. The Yankees however got word of our coming and left 4 hours before we got in. Had some skirmishing with the cavalry along the road and laid a few of the blue dogs low in the dust. The enemy were about 6000 strong and were well fixed up here They were chiefly hundred days men. However we came in on them unaware and the town is full of "tricks". Many of our boys have made some big hauls. Today we are living high off Yankee commissary stores, such as apple butter, butter preserved peaches, molasses, pickles, and c. The people of M- seem as ever toward the South. 'Tis a rank Union hole. Most of the good citizens of Winchester have left. Yet we recived a warm welcome from that down trodden Yankee cursed town. My old friend there all left
.....[last two lines are smudged and illegible].

pg.85

July 5th 1864

8 a.m.

4 miles from Shepherdstown

At 3 yesterday evening we moved out on the Harper's Ferry road. Came about 10 miles and camped for the night. This morning have halted on the Shep-'town road. Don't know why. Have been eating raspberries. This is a beautiful country level and well watered. Our face is toward the Federal capitol! Breckenridge is ahead of our divis'-. By the way the Yankees entended to celebrate the 4th with a big dinner and c. near M-. We broke in too soon on their anticipated festival.

July 6th

7 a.m.

near (3 miles from) the bridge at Shep'town

Washington Co., Md.

Yesterday we came through Shepherdstown and crossed the Potomac. We are now in "Md. my Md." Waded the river minus my breeches. Quite a novel sight the Army presented in this undress. _____ and Ramseur went by Harper's Ferry. Heard they had taken it. We are at the mouth of the Antietam River. Are a good many good southerners-

pg.86

-in Shepherdstown. Once across the river the people look upon us as intruders, with some contempt. "Md. my Md. has "played out" in this part. For the Co.- Washington - is a strong Union Co. The Potomac is quite low. I got a piece of bread and a cup of milk from a house, they were good Southerners (Maj. Douglas's home). If Md. wished to _____ [covey?] with us, now is the time again presented. Thrice have we come to free her, and will she not come this the third time? Are there no proud and unconquerable spirits left in the land of _____ [Carrol's?], Henry's and Pinckney's? When I look around upon these beautiful and fertile fields how I regret that the scepter of Federal despotism still rules here. Alas we fear that Md. is completely subdued! That there is no life in the old land yet! We burned seven boats on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. The innocent in war have to suffer the ___iety. A Mr. Miller near here lately sent our poor boys at Pt. Lookout a box of provision. But some N.C. cavalry _____ [just?] stripped him of eatables.

pg.87

July 7th 1864

On Potomac 6 miles from H. Ferry
Washington Co- Md.

Yesterday morning our forces i.e. Gordon's Division moved against the heights of Md. Commenced skirmishing three miles from the foot of the mt. Hays' Brigade had some wded [wounded]. Our brigade was not engaged. I went to a Union house and got some milk, bread , and butter. They are quite reserved, yet civil. He had some fine horses fastened up in the stable. Some rebels looked in with longing eyes. The troops moved up slowly. I went to another Union den and had a spicy chat with some Union misses. Some of the ladies had husbands in the Yankee Army. They wore nice shoes, yet some of them had the miserable taste to wear black stockings. In the evening the division moved up near the foot of the heights and skirmished with the enemy. I got some good cherries. Saw some Yankee cavalry on our left. This morning the enemy have been trying to shell our train, but cannot reach it. Our cavalry are scouring the country and capturing horses from the Union men.

pg.88

Montgomery Co Md
July 8th 1864

Yesterday evening took a day's rations down to the troops. They commenced moving about dusk. Took the H- Ferry and Boonsborough road. Went all night. I came back with orders from Gen. Gordon for the train of his division to move by Sharpsburg to Boon's borough. Passed through Sharpsburg on the morning of the 8th just before daylight. Quite a very little place what I saw of it. 'Tis a beautiful country along there. Washington tho' is a strong Union Co. We were met with closed doors and blinds, with looks of indifference and contempt. Keydeysville is the next village after leaving S- burg. At B- borough we got on the National Pike leading to Balt.' crossed over the mt. A splendid view from the top of it. Stopped at house and talked awhile with the people. They were neutral. Hoped they would never again see a rebel or a Yankee soldier. Got my breakfast at a Mr. Davis, Union and relation of Shindle at _____ B-

pg.89

Were some few secessionists in B- borough. Next came to Middle town quite a flourishing little place. There I accidentally fell in with a good old Southern lady Mrs. Bownters [?]. She gave me as good as a dinner as she had. Tho' was almost eaten out. Told me how the Southern people there suffered at the hands of the Yankees. Talked with a pretty "secesh miss" of 14 summers. Moved out to camp two miles on the other side of the town. Also got myself a horse in the evening.

July 9th

Moved on to Frederick City. Got there about 10 a.m. The troops moved to the right of the city. The enemy made a stand on the Washington Pike about three miles from town on the Monocacy river. There we fought them. Our division alone was engaged. Routed the enemy. our loss was considerable. F. Amole of our Co was wounded shot in leg, not seriously. Our Brigade fought well. Captured some com'sry stores. Too our wounded back to the city as were U.S. Hospts there. Force of the enemy estimated at from 6,000 to 8,000.

pg.90

The nearer we got to Frederick, the more beautiful the country became. A few miles beyond the city the county seemed like a paradise. Diversified with rich fields of wheat and corn, meadows and groves. Also dotted here and there with handsome dwellings.

The city is quite a handsome and flourishing place. Is a great deal of Southern feeling there. The prettiest girls I see in Md. are Secessionists. I went in the place. Could not get into any of the stores as Gen Early had levied a tax of \$200,000 on the place to but clothing and accessories. So the govt had put guards at all the doors and wouldn't let any one in. Got my dinner or snack at the Catholic Convent, The inmates are most all southern in sentiment. Got my horse stolen and found him again. Good Luck. Were a great many pretty girls along the streets whose smiles gave us welcome.

July 10th 1864

The enemy retreated on a road to the left of the W – city road. We moved out about 8 a.m. on the W City road, went about 18 miles. Our Brig went on picket that night. 'Twas a very _____ [hot?] day, oppressively so. The country this side of Frederick City is quite rough and not so fertile.

pg.91

Came thro' Hyattstown a little village. Were a great many stragglers i.e. men brokedown.

District of Columbia!!!!
In sight of Washington City!
July 11th 1864

Moved on today and got to this point about 6 miles from the Federal Capitol. Came thro' Rockville a nice little village 15 miles from W-. There we took the left road leading onto 7th street. Moved on rapidly tho' 'twas exceedingly warm. Country still hilly. The troops seemed very much elated with the idea of getting so close to W-. And many an old broken down fellow struck out with new energy and fresh determination when told 'twas only 10 or 8 miles to W-!!!! Are a great many good southerners about Rockville. Saw the prettiest girl there have seen in Md. She was giving water to the rebels. Bless her sweet soul! How I admired her for both her herself and the cause she has espoused. Are now in sight of the suburbs of W- How we long to tread those streets. Got something to eat at a house. From the upper window could see the Fd Capitol.

pg.92

Are not many strong works on this road. Are skirmishing in front now. And the big guns from the forts are booming forth. Guess they sink heavily on _____ Abe's heart. Can see the forts and flags floating over them, the dishonored stars and stripes. Have thrown shells to this point about 3 ½ miles. Quite a pretty country here. The citizens say there is considerable excitement in W- old Abe, some say, has taken his satchel and umbrella and left for other parts. At any rate, Mrs. Abe and the cubs have been boxed up and sent off. Say the troops sacked Post Master Blair's house hope they did.

Near Don'sburg, Montgomery Co. Md.
At old Stone Church. July 13th

Yesterday (the 12th) was skirmishing all along the road leading into 7th st. The enemy were reinforcing all day. Guess Grant's whole army is being transported to help Abraham out of a "snap". That is the point we want to make, i.e. to raise the siege of Richmond. That will be equal to a defeat for Grant. In the evening we took rations down. Was quite uncomfortable, owing to the shells.

Name of this church is _____. Tis quite an old one. The grass grows-

pg.93

-green around its doors, and it has a _____ and sanctified air. 'Tis not often used I presume. The days when the gospel was heard in its walls and when the songs of praise swelled forth, they are gone! Those were peaceful days. Now its sacred precincts and quiet shades are disturbed by the tread of mighty armies. It's first pastor sleeps quietly in yonder graveyards, the plain marble alone telling the passing stranger where his remains repose.

'Tis probable Gen Early never expected to take Washington. To only threaten it, scare them up, and make them withdraw forces from Richmond. If so he accomplished his purpose. Last evening about dusk we commenced to fall back. Breckenridge moved in front of the trains and cleared the way. Moved all night. I rode a while, then rested and grazed my horse. Alas slept only an hour or so. Got to Rockville a little after daylight. I looked in vain for the beautiful girl I saw there two days ago. Doubtless her slumbers had been unbroken and her dreams brought to her view her sweet-heart, and c. Our train notwithstanding we left so many wagons behind is quite long. Have captured a great many horses in Md. If Md. is southern in feeling she ought to contribute to the southern cause, and if not she ought to suffer.

pg.94

Montgomery Co. is strongly Southern in feeling. Are a great many soldiers in our army from this co. Yet we acknowledge we have treated the friends of the south badly in Md. Rode in to a lady's house and got my horse fed. Said she did not mind them looking for her horse, save our old family horse (old John). She was attached to him and wished him to die with her and c. Felt sorry for her, on old John's account. We are drawing out large quantities of beef.

Loudon Co- Va.

July 14th '64

near _____ Ford

Stopped yesterday at 12 o'clock and rested until sun set. Then the column moved on towards the Potomac. I rode ahead to Poole'sville and spent the night under an apple tree with my horse. Were three stores at the village, but they wouldn't touch confed' money. The QM's reach a town you see them charging up

and taking possession of the stores get a guard and unless you have a special friend or footlick then you can't get in, whilst they appropriate to themselves anything they want. 'Tis too bad. The troops ought not to submit to it at all.

pg.95

Yesterday evening got once more in sight of the blue mts and hills of "Old Va". Right glad was I after my trip to a foreign land to see again my old mother state. Felt like signing the good old song "Oh carry me back to old Va. and c." The country along the river is beautiful. Crossed at _____ ford and are over more in "Dixie." Gordon first and Ramseur next. The men waded minus breeches. To crown the scene were some women looking on from the bluff in Md. They were not Va. ladies. River was about 300 yds wide. Had a guard on the Virginia side to dismount all men unlawfully mounted. Nipped a good many horse pressers in the bud. The enemy are not pressing us in the rear. Are too glad to get us away.

Near Leesburg, Loudon Co, Va
July 16th 1864

On the 14th we came to the "big spring" 2 miles below Leesburg. Before we got to camp. Dr. Snyder and myself rode to a house off the road and got some milk and butter. Found some of Br- rdg's men there. Yesterday the 15th we rested there. Was a general cleaning-

pg.96

- up among the rebels. They did need it. I bathed I the old Potomac, washed my clothes, hung them on a plank fence and waited for them to dry. helped them amazingly.

Castlemen's Ferry
Clarke Co – Va.
July 17th 1864

Early yesterday morning we moved from Leesburg on the Winchester Pike. Leesburg is quite a handsome little place, and full of the brine of secession feeling. Saw a number of pretty girls. Theirs was not the cold and impassive beauty we now and then would meet with in Maryland. 'Twas a warm day and dusty. I rode out on the flanks and got dinner. Tho' the troops (inftry) keep the country scoured, the Yankee cavalry pitched into our train and got a few wagons. They came up on

the H Ferry road. Our cavalry sh'd have been more on the alert. Loudon is a rich and beautiful county. A great grazing land. As we neared the gap (Snicker's) we passed thro' a settlement of quakers. 'Tis an old settled county. Are a great many stone houses many of them present an ancient and dignified appearance.

pg.97

Stopped in Snickersville and got good drink of water at a kind lady's house. And good looking gal too. From the top of the Mt, looking back into Loudon is a splendid view. Crossed the river about sundown and once more slept in the good old valley on the green banks of the Shenandoah (daughter of the stars). Early this morning we moved out and went up to Berryville 5 miles. Halted there and then turned back and came again to the river. The enemy have showed themselves on the opposite side. Has been some artillery firing and the troops are ready to _____. Two of my Winchester acquaintances of Jackson's day live near the ferry i.e. Miss Fanny and Miss (Bonnie) Eloise Castleman. Went to see them last evening but they were not at home.

Near Castleman's Ferry

July 19th 1864

on the night of the 17th we staid in a grove near the river. On the morning of the 18th the enemy commenced making demonstrations to cross the river. And during the fore part of the day the troops several times gotten ready to move. In the evening got to butchering and cooking rations.

pg.98

The Yankees got a battery in position an the Mt on opposite side of river and shelled in to the woods where we were cooking. Killed a man belonging to the 21st Ga. band, and mortally wounded the Ord Serg't of the 31st Ga. Poor fellows, death came unlooked for to them. Tho' they belonged to two of the departments not often exposed, still 'twas their lot to fall too. 'Twas a warning to all in the Army, that death rides on every breeze. 'Twas a voice that spoke which should not be unheeded. 'Twas rather unhealthy and uncomfortable in the vicinity of the beef – pen. Yet the “ Bull Corps” held their ground and made a gallant stand. 'Tis right amusing some times notwithstanding the danger, to see the negroes under fire. Have an old fellow (Jeff) in our regiment a terrible old sinner, who don't fancy shells a bit. Will roll up his white eyes and grown when they announce themselves! Near Washington City, a shell went near our wagon. Jeff was not exactly behind

the wagon, and was so scared that he could not get up to walk, but crawled to the place. Had to cook that night, and thought they would shell us again. Jeff pro-

pg.99

-posed to Randall the negro boy who cooks with him to dig a deep hole by their fire and for R- to watch and listen for the shell and then both to jump in! About 4 o'clock the troops moved out, as the enemy had crossed a large force down the river at some island. Our troops moved to meet them, but were exposed to a heavy shelling from the enemy's battery on the opp' side of the river. Also had a battery on the Mt on the opp' side of the river. Rodes' division done most of the fighting and lost some men. Drove the enemy back across the river. saw a fox that ran through the skirmish line. Was scared almost to death. The Brigade was not engaged. When the fight was over it came back and staid, all night in same place.

At Big Spring
Front Royal Road
July 21st 1864

On the night of the 19th we commenced moving at 10 o'clock and moved all night. Rested at Millwood several hours and then came by a circular route to this point. Passed White Post. The country thro' which we passed yesterday is very rough and void of springs. Are a great many fine houses ____ ____.

pg.100

I stopped at Mr. Phillip Mead's whose boys William and Everard belonged to my company. Was some skirmishing on W- pike yesterday evening. Had some rain yesterday (eve?) all around us, but hardly sprinkled. We marched about 22miles yesterday. This morning the troops have taken the Middletown road leading to the W- pike.

In the Yankee Fort. Strasburg
July 22nd 1864

Yesterday morning we moved to Middletown and went into a grove on the north side of the road. Soon the Brigade went on picket and left a detail to cook rations. The enemy are advancing out from Winchester. Ramseur had a small fight with them on evening of 20th on the W- pike and had to fall back. Said Pegram's Brigade acted badly. This morning we have fallen back to Strasburg and now the

troops are lying in line of battle awaiting the approach of the enemy. The libe is about a ½ mile on road to W. ‘Tis quite smoky today. Is a fine view from this point. Is a signal station here. Quite a beautiful scene. Strasburg lies at the foot of the hill. Away to the right and left stretch the bottoms of the Shenandoah. Beyond rise to the south the Blur Ridge. Is very dry in this country. Every thing so parched and withered.

pg.101

July 23rd 1864
In line of battle near
Strasburg

The enemy did not advance yesterday. This morning all is quite in our immediate front. Tho’ have heard some cannon towards Winchester. Reported the enemy have fallen back. Quite warm today, and also smokey. Last night was right cool. Old Jane came back on the 21st, and Lt. Jones (alias Cush) on the 22nd. He brought me letter from Miss _____, the first have gotten for a long time.

Below Newtown on mile
July 24th Sunday 1864

Moved at daylight this morning. Thought we were going to move up the valley; but no, we came down towards Winchester. Have met the enemy and the advance is skirmishing with them. ‘Tis not far from the battlefield at Kernstown. As ‘tis Sunday, quite probable we will have a fight. Enemy’s force not heavy. Quite warm today and dusty too.

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2nd Battle of Kernstown
July 24th 1864

Camp 2 miles below Winchester July 25th ‘64

Yesterday about 11 a.m. we commenced skirmishing with the enemy one mile beyond Kernstown. Drove their skirmishers back to their line of battle which was at Kernstown, their left reaching across the road (pike) and their right stretching out in the old Kernstown position.

They did not make a very good stand. Most of the fighting was on the left of the road at and near Kernstown. After the engagement became general, 'twas not long until we commenced driving them. Breckenridge's Division done most of the fighting. Our division done some too and have several killed and wounded. We drove them on and through Winchester. The people seemed rejoiced there to see us come back. Col Mulligan 23 Illinois [Col. James A. Mulligan, 23rd Ill. Inf.] was wounded and taken prisoner. As I was following in the rear close up, got most beautifully shelled out of a blackberry patch.

pg.103

Last night we camped in a field about 2 miles below W- on left of pike. Rained before daylight. Had to issue and cook rations before day too. Laid down on ground threw oil cloth over me and slept finely.

Moved in woods. Got orders to be ready to move at 3 p.m. Saw old Mrs. Deal as came through W- Also saw Miss Duke a very intelligent and pretty girl of "Sweet Sixteen". It was a pretty way of spending the sabbath. The most remarkable incident of the war occurred in the battle yesterday. A Q Master (Maj. Mercer) got his horse killed!!! Did you ever hear of the like? Hear Southerners, and be as-ston-ished O world! A Q.M.'s horse killed in a battle!!! But 'twas in the rear of the line of battle and by a spent ball . Doubtless like all other Q.M's he was lurking close in the rear, ready as soon as our troops should drive the enemy from town to charge in and get "tricks". Guess he will not get over the scare for 10 years. I am I am going out with Capt. Caulfield our C.S. to help buy cattle. Like to get out from the hub-bub of camp now and again.

pg.104

Camp near Martinsburg on Balt and Ohio R R
July 29th 1864

On the evening of the 25th the troops left and moved down to Bunkershill and then camped. Next morning on to Martinsburg and commenced tearing up the Balt and Ohio R. Road. The last Yankee has been run over the river again, so much for conquering the rebellion! Reported there has been a great Confederate victory in the west by Hood. We are now quietly in camp. Some-thing unusual for the army. The men are busy washing and fixing up. For don't know long we will stay here. Our prospects are growing brighter and brighter, I was out with our Brig' commissary 3 days buying cattle. Went north of Winchester about 10 miles. Had nice trip plenty to eat, pretty girls to see and c. 'Tis quite a relief to get away from

the noise and bustle of camp. Although this country has been overrun so much by the armies of both friend and foe, still you find plenty of hospitality. The people will divide the last meal with the hungry soldier. Yet the country is full of stragglers. 'Tis a shame the way some of the men lurk behind whilst their comrades have to fight such odds on account of their not being up. Evan's Brig. (Ga.) is noted for straggling. Also the Divis. of Breck-

pg.105

Camp at Darkesville Berkeley Co.
July 31st 1864

Yesterday (Saturday) we laid quiet in camp. In the morning Rev. B. T. Lacy preached in our camp at 5 p.m. Preached from the text, the last clause of the last verse of the last chapter of Matthew i.e. "lo I am with you always even to the end of the world. Amen". 'Twas a good sermon and had a large and attentive audience. Moved out at daylight this morning and came to this point. Are cooking two days rations of bread and one of beef. Has been awful hot today. Here is where we formed our first line of battle at the beginning of the war. Then we had a full company of 70 boys. Are now in the company only two of those, here today! D. Ruff and myself, classmates.

Camp near Shepherdstown
August 4th '64

Left camp near Darksville early this morning and came to this point one mile from S Town. Rodes and Ramseur went towards Wm's-port. The vandal Hunter burned Sen. Boteler's and Lawyer ----'s too. Boteler's was a splendid mansion. How it maddens me to see the smoldering ruins of _____ happy homes.

pg.106

(At Burnside's Bridge)
Camp on the Antietam
One mile from Sharpsburg Village
August 5th 1864

At early dawn our column was put into motion. The head of it turned toward the old Potomac. Passed through Shepherdstown and crossed once more into "Md. my Md." Are a great many pretty girls in Shepherdstown. Gen Eary crossed at the

ferry, the troops a mile below and waded too. The town of Shepherdstown is quite an old place, as large as 'twill ever be and strong Union! Had some skirmishing with enemy's cavalry today, but they have all gone. Our Reg't has gone out on picket. Here was where was fought some of the hardest fighting on the great day of Sharpsburg. Here at the stone bridge was the death struggle between Burnside's Corps and Longstreet's for the passage of the bridge. B- wishing to cross and L- defending it. The old oak trees around are perforated all over with balls. Here and there is a green mound which sadly tells of some Southern boy who sleeps beneath the soil of a foreign land. The Antietam is quite a pretty little stream. The country around looks fresh and is not burnt up like some parts of our valley.

pg.107

Camp at Falling Waters (on Potomac)
Virginia. Aug 6th 18 64

Well we are back in old Va. again. Have made another successful raid in to Md. But as far as we can see did not accomplish anything. Got some Com'sy stores and forage and sent to Washington and the world the moral effect of an invasion. Moved at daylight and went through Sharpsburg taking the Hagerstown road. Thought of course we were going to the land of brotherly love, _____ and c. The land whence came through legions of _____ and brutal soldiery who have bid waste our beautiful southern land and treated so badly our prisoners. Passed thro' Kilmington the hardest looking village ever saw in my life. By the way rained like fury a while in the morning. About 10 a.m. cleared up and the sun made an effort to shine. 'Tis a right pretty country between Sharpsburg and Williamsport, When we took the Hagerstown road thought we were bound for the Penn line. But took the Wm's port road and there recrossed into Va. Camped here tonight at Falling Waters. The Potomac is quite low.

pg.108

The Unon people of upper Md looked daggers at us. But the rebels didn't care, we made their good orchard pay tribute to our hungry appetites. Passed in sight of St. James College a female institution about 4 miles from Wm'sport. Quite an imposing structure, white and showy.

Well the Q Master and the C.S. were no doubt disappointed at the return from Md. All their hopes from plunder and "tricks" vanished in a moment when _____ were turned towards the Potomac. Maj. Ballard(C.S. Breck's Corps) ('tis said) did steal (press)a box of ladies shoes and 2 bls of whiskey from a

store on the road. 'Twas a penitentiary act; had a poor private done it he wd have court-martialed and punished. When the Q.M.s and Com'sys got to the river they were desperate. Even poor little Wm'port was ransacked by them for tricks. Foaming at the mouth with rage and disappointment and knashing their teeth they dashed up and down the streets and alleys hunting "tricks". Oh! will the time never come when Q.M. and C.S.'s will be no more and they will get their due curse.

pg.109

Camp at Darksville
Aug 8th 1864

Yesterday Sunday we moved up thro' Martinsburg and came to this old camp. Our Brig. and the 3rd were left there on provost duty until the rest of the army had passed by. Right glad were to get back to this camp and this splendid spring. Captured some brandy and whiskey in M. Many of the troops got intoxicated. Pretty work for the Sabbath! Issued cherry [or sherry] wine to the troops and blackberry brandy to the officers this morning. Whilst in Md we took a great many Yankee deserters, 100 days men drafted. They did not fancy a rebel bullet, yet fancied rebel hospitality. Why we came back know not. Heard the 6th of Luther Paxton's (cousin) death. Killed at Winchester in Pegram's Brig when they were repulsed by the Yanks. Was very sorry to hear of it! Another blow to his family. Poor Will, the oldest, fell at First Manassas. Now another has fallen. The lord gave and he hath taken.

pg.110

Camp at Bunker Hill
Berkely Co – Va
August 9th 1864

Left Darksville this morning and came to this point. Ramseur also left his camps along here this morning and moved towards Winchester. Rodes is still encamped below Bunker Hill (close) to the place. 'Twas quite warm today and spring water was in great demand. The enemy reported across at Charlestown Jefferson Co. We are hearing good news from the Army of the West, from Hood. Hope 'tis all so. Our mail communication is not very certain now. I have not got a letter from home for 6 weeks, not since came through with the Army. Got letters from some lady friends in the neighborhood and co. – heard that some one was there. Would liked to have been there too. Are sending out a picket from our Brigade. The men do a

good deal of foraging in this country. Apple trees have to pay a very heavy tribute to the demands of the soldiers, to say nothing of early roasting ear patches and c.

pg.111

Camp (at) 3 miles South of Winchester
August 10th '64

Left Camp early this morning & came to this place. Has been very hot today. Passed Jordan's Springs. 'Tis quite a pretty place, shady, cool & the water sulphur. Are now cooking rations & ordered to be ready to move at a moments warning. As the enemy are approaching on the Charlestown road. Said to be moving up in heavy force.

Camp at Newtown Aug 11th '64

Today we moved on up in this direction. The troops halted near the town & formed a line of battle. I went thro' the town. Took breakfast at Mr. Wall's. Saw Miss Duke. Didn't stop long as enemy were advancing. The enemy being reported at Newtown all our trains went to right on the Ridge road. Twas awful hot. Got good dinner. Trains halted at Lebanon Springs. Two churches of stone close together there, also a school house with school. When I looked from the hot & shady road & saw the happy faces of boyhood & girlhood how I wished that I was a schoolboy again. That only I wish could transport one back to the balmy-

pg. 112

days of yearly boyhood & youth. Late in the morning the Commissary train was ordered to Newtown to ration the men. In the evening our skirmishes were engaged with the enemy. Drove them back. Peter Keister Co. G in our Reg't was killed. Was a good soldier. Are cooking close to Newtown. Newtown is noted for its many pretty girls.

Camp at Strasburg
August 12th '64

Moved back to this point this morning & are in line of battle. Commenced cooking but were interrupted by the advance of the enemy. They are advancing on the Valley pike. Just a while ago I saw their long column in the distance. Early is no doubt ready for them. Is generally a good deal of excitement about the time the enemy advance & the line of battle is being formed. Couriers are seen dashing to &

fro. The men hurry to put on their accoutrements & “face ‘in” The Gen.s look wise & brave & ride out on high positions to reconnoiter. The teamsters are all in a “mess” & don’t delay in gearing up. The Q. Masters are the worst scared of the whole teaparty, & when the shells come screaming over, they cry out in agony, “drive out those wagons for God’s sake!” Oh me!”. Also the MSs open their eyes wide & go in the woods to hunt saw logs & large pretty trees.

pg. 113

Line of Battle 2 miles West of Strasburg
August 16th 1864

On the night of 12th we moved our line back to this point. Have thrown up works & bid the enemy advance. But he seems not disposed to accept our invitation. For the last day or so has been some skirmishing between the sharpshooters of both sides. Our skirmishes went to the top of the Mt. close to S—burg & captured a signal post of the enemy with 4 men. Took the gents by surprise. On the evening of the 15th part of our division had a slight engagement with the enemy & ran them back. Was an assist- Surg [surgeon] said to be mortally wounded!

That is one of the few things we only now & then meet with in this war. The surgs generally are found far in the rear. Tho’ the assist surg’s place is with his Reg’t. Dr. Fields of our Reg’t comes nearer doing his duty in a battle by sticking to the Reg’t. then anyone I know of. He is a brave & gallant fellow. Had quite a refreshing rain last night. Lot my feelings somewhat dampened. The enemy still shows themselves on Hup’s hill near Strasburg.

pg. 114

Camp at Shawnee Spring near Winchester
August 18th 1864

On the night of the 16th the enemy left & fell back. Early on the morning of the 17th we took up the line of march in pursuit. Gordon first, Breckridge, Ramseur & Rodes. The vandals burned all the barns with grain in them & the stacks of hay, grain &c in this part of the country. They made a little stand at Winchester, whence they have so often been driven. We formed a line of battle & without much resistance drove them back. Drove them up the hill near town, a strong position. Tho’ most of the fighting was on the left by Breck, our skirmishers were engaged. McMurrin [Joseph McMurrin, Co.G, 4th Inf.] one Sergt. Mj. Was wounded in the shoulder. Last night they still fell back further. Guess they will recross. This

morning Fitz Lee's Division of Cav--- & Kirshaw's Divis. of Inft. Longstreet's corps came in. The enemy have three corps, about 35,000. Rained this morning. Every thing is quiet. Sam Moore of our old Co. now in Co C. 1st Va Cav. was mortally wounded at Front Royal [Moore survived the war].

pg. 115

Camp near Bunker Hill
August 19th '64

Last evening came around an order for Inspection at 8 a.m. this morning. But who knows what an hour or even a minute in the army may bring forth. A few minutes after came on order to move at sunrise this morning. Sure enough out we went this morning, & marching thro' town (W-)came to this point. Last night I slept in an old fellows porch, as it looked like rain. Slept soundly until about an hour before day when the old man & old woman got to quarrelling in bed. 'Twas something about going to town to live &c. The old lady's arguments were not so good, but she got the best of the bargain in the way of tongue lashing. I was mad enough to have taken a switch & whipped them both well. Came through town too soon to see many of the fair ones. They were quietly reposing in their morning naps. Are a great many apples in this country. Fruit helps a soldier along considerably when rations are short. We draw splendid flour, ground at the mills here in the Valley.

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In line of battle 4 miles from Charlestown towards Smithfield
August 21st 1864

Yesterday (20th) we laid quietly in Camp. Rained considerably in the morning. Had plenty of apples & corn to eat. Moved at 5 this morning & came to this place where are in line of battle. Came through Smithfield a pretty little place. I called at Dr. McCortrie's house & saw Miss Fannie. Got good dinner. Have been skirmishing heavily today. Rodes & Ramseur, we have been firing some cannon, but the Yankees as yet have not replied. Has been some heavy cannonading up towards Berryville also. Guess 'tis the Cav- Smithfield is a good little southern place. Dr. McCortrie had a son James in our Co. He was killed at the 2nd battle of Manassas. His sister showed me his picture taken soon after he joined the Co. at W—but as she looked at these pale features of her lost bro- I saw a tear glisten in her dark eye, the tall tale of grief which still slumbered in her breast.

pg. 117

Camp near Charlestown
August 22nd '64

Last night we cooked a day's rations. At sunrise this morning we still heard some skirmishing in the direction of Charlestown. The sun rose bright & early; & as Napoleon exclaimed "It is the Sun of Austerlitz!" so we thought "It is the Sun of Charlestown!" Soon we moved forward but the cowardly Yankees had fallen back beyond C—town so on we moved to the town. Was still some cannonading in front. Passes Mr. Packet's house which was riddled with balls. Charlestown is a very pretty little place & ere of the strongest kind of "secesh" places. Plenty of pretty girls too. I met Miss Lece [?] White one of the prettiest Misses there. The people there were rejoiced to see the "rebel boys", come in again. In town we took the Sheh—town road & are now encamped about 1 ½ miles from the town. Have heard some of the big guns in Bolivar Heights roar this evening. Have had a hard rain but now the sun is shining very brightly & all nature is refreshed.

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Camp near Charlestown
August 28th 1864

Has been a bright & beautiful day And after the refreshing rain we had yesterday everything looks quite fresh. Our Reg't has been recruiting some how draws rations for 35 men. So wish we had our prisoners back from the dungeons of Yankeedom, & were under the Gallant Walker again. He has won command of the Dep't of Danville. The troops don't like old Terry. He is too much like a bull-dog. Talks to the men like they are dogs and not men as good if not better than himself. Don't care how soon we get rid of him. Today the enemy threatened our picket posts. The troops were run out to support them. Staid out a while then returned. 'Twas only some Yankee cavalry. Like to have gotten up a stampede among our cav. That is not hard to do. We have some Cav with us that are none the bravest. Fitz Lee's Cav' is good. Imboden's is not!

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Camp near Charlestown
Aug 24th '64

The troops moved out last night towards the front. Today about 12 o'clock was some skirmishing on the right of our line. Drove the enemy's skirmishers back and got some hogs and cattle near their lines. Thought once the troops would get into an engagement anyhow. Moved up in line of battle and could see the enemy, and then batteries in Bolivar Heights. Yet the shrewd Yankees don't seem desirous of risking a fight. Tonight issued fresh pork to the troops. The first time ever saw hogs skinned. As General Gordon was moving up in line of battle, Gen McCausland (Cav Gen) rode up and told him that a Brig' of Yankee Cav was in his rear!!! "I know it to be so, for I saw them"! says he. "That is a small matter; my boys wouldn't want any better fun than to get around Yankee Cav." The difference between the Cav. and Inftry Gens. The one trembled as he thought of a whole brig' of Yankee Cav in his rear and the other laughed at the idea.

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Camp near Shepherdstown
August 25th 1864

Moved a little after daylight this morning and took the road leading to Leetown. There we turned to the right on the road leading to Shep-town. A mile this side of Kearney's Station met with, skirmished with, and drove the enemy back. 'Twas Cav. Their cav- force there said to be 2000 [?] strong was just starting out on a raid. 'Twas well we met the column and sent it reeling back to the Potomac. They fought pretty well. We did not know they were so close until the Brig' halted in a piece of woods to rest and Boom! went the Yankee gun and per-r-r went a shell on our right. The few Q.Masters who happened to be up with the trains rolled up their eyes in pious horror and fell back to see if the other wagons were coming on! Our division soon formed in line and moved up to support Wharton's in front. Part of Wharton's men suffered badly, as the enemy flanked their skirmish line. The enemy soon fell back from this point and we followed our division moving in front.

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The enemy in the mean time were making for the fort at Shep town. Our divis moved to the right of Shep- town and suddenly came upon a brig' of Yankee cav in a cornfield.

Took our men somewhat by surprise. 'Tis said a brave & patriotic young lady came out of Shep- town & told Gen Early where they were. Yet in the cornfield our brig. came suddenly upon them. Gen Gordon was slightly wounded at first, but

never left the field. The Yankees there made a good stand for cav. Yet our men drove them & cut their column in two parts. One sweeping down towards H. Ferry & the other across the ford. Our division alone was engaged . We lost some good men. Col. Withers of 42nd VA badly wounded. Col Monaghan of 15th LA killed. And my warm friend James Tate of Co. A our regt was killed! Poor fellow! I was passing over the field & asked one of our Regt who there was lying by a tree in the woods. Could hardly believe him when said it was Tate; & went over to see for myself. A blanket was thrown over him, & tho' twas a few hours ago I saw him all buoyant with life & hope now he lay on his "death bed of fame", his face turned towards heaven whither we hope his noble sprit had fled!

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I shall never forget his look. So calm was his countenance that seemed like he had fallen asleep. I gazed at my fallen friend for a mew moments. 'Twas more than I could bear & I hastened on. And I thought that another promising life was cut off! Another of my friends & companions gone! And I am still left to plant the cypress over their graves & tell their early doom! How thankful ought I to be to Him who holds the destinies both of nations & individuals as it were in the hollow of his hand. My duties as commissary of the Reg't prevented me from being at his burial that night. They buried him in the green woods where he fell. A head board tells where he lies. There he will repose until friends will remove his mortal remains home & lay them in the old family burying ground where no doubt he wished to be. The morning birds will sing their early songs unheard above this grave. The squirrels will gambol unheeded around & the wild flowers will blossom in the green mound & shed their fragrances on the evening air. There friend of my early days sleep! I will not forget thee.

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Camp near Leetown
August 26th 1864

This morning cooked 2 days rations. The funeral procession of Gen Monaghan of the La Brig' passed by our Camp. He is buried a long ways from his Southern home in the cemetery of Sheptown. About one o'clock P.M. we left camp and -
-moved to this point. This evening was some heavy cannonading heard in the direction of H. Ferry. Some musketry too.

Camp near Bunker Hill

Aug 28th 1864

On the morning of the 26th we moved to this camp the same we left when went down to Charlestown on the 21st last. We always like to get back to our old Camp; it has something home like about it. Yesterday the 27th, strange to say (Sunday) we laid quietly in camp all day. The first quiet Sabbath we had spent for a long time. In the evening was some stir in Camp owing to the Cav (ours) skirmishing & running back. 'Twas near Smithfield.

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Altho' the enemy retreat like cowardly dogs when we advance & often there battle; yet when we fall back they follow us up & hang on our heels with a dogged perseverance belonging only to a Yankee. What a pity it is that they are allowed to walk on any portion of this beautiful Valley. Its green fields are only desecrated by their unhallowed footsteps. The sacred fires upon its altars we extinguished by their vandal hands. And often its noble women & children are turned out in the world homeless. The last look at their homes, reveals a pile of smoking ruins! There is a great deal of intelligence & refinement in Clarke & Jefferson Cos. More than in any other two co.s in the state I presume. This part of the Valley too has its historic monuments & is full of the memories of long-gone days! At Winchester is the ruins or mounds of a fort erected by the great Washington. The residence of Gen Morgan of Revolutionary note is near Berryville. His Tomb is at W—'Tis not in the cemetary but on the left of the Berryville road on the suburbs is a marble slab raised on some other slabs perpendicular, Here lies the remains of the old hero of '76.

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Camp near Bunker Hill

August 29th 1864

Left Camp at sunrise this morning & moved towards Smithfield. The quick reports & the boom of a cannon told us of the approach of the enemy. The troops moved on & met the enemy at the Opekan. 'Twas Cav. Was some considerable shelling. Fine positions for artillery home but our skirmishes were engaged. Some of our Cav also was engaged The Yankee Cav here seem to stand better than their Infantry. They dismount them. They repulsed our skirmishes at one point at one time. But our boys were reinforced & then drove the blue birds off. As our Brigade was crossing the Opekan bridge they got most beautifully shelled. The enemy had the exact range of the bridge. Yet but few were hurt. Finally ran the enemy back

thro' Smithfield towards CharlesTown came back to the Same Camp. We lost some men! Yet the day did not pass without a display of genius on the part of the Q.M's

The trains were ordered to pack half a-

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-mile down the road. The Q. Ms could not show their talents for moving a wagon train, buy going down the pike. But went by a circuitous rout of three miles out in the county, so as to show off to the admiring gaze of the astonished natives who thought all those pompous men covered with gold lace & riding to & fro with red noses & faces were Generals. Their laurels are all won in the rear with the wagon trains. There they show their moral qualities by drinking good whiskey, pressing private property (partly for private use) & by swearing at the drivers who stared in awe before their august presence. Their talents & mental capacity is displayed in having _____ pulled down, leading trains along hillsides & _____ing over wagons, & especially in calculating the distance off they are from the shells by the sound of the gun. Especially are they good at this & never do they make a bad calculation so as to get in the range. They also take a pride in looking at the Mathematical curves formed by the wagons in parking. They seem to think by the way they shun the shells that the whole aim of this war is to kill them. If so it has all been in vain!

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Camp near Bunker Hill
August 30th 1864

Have been quiet in camp today. Changed.
Our camp to a better place & nearer water. Issued Pork. $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. ___ rations. The nights are getting quite cool & blankets are in demand.

Camp near Bunker Hill
August 31st 1864

Strange to say have been quiet all day. Tho got orders to stay close in Camp & be ready to move at any time. Our Camp is in a beautiful piece of woods. The Maj. & I have our little tent pitched in a nice place. The bands are now playing in lively strains & the music sounds sweetly in the green woods. This is the last day of the Summer. The last rose will soon fade & die. The balmy & dreamy days of Autumn are nigh. Soon the dry leaves will rustle in the cool night winds & the woods will

assume a marigold hue. All the seasons have their beauties & their charms for time.

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Camp on the Charlestown road
one mile from Camp Stevenson
or Stevenson's Depot
Sept 3d 1864

Yesterday morning we left Camp & moved out the trains around to Stevenson's dept & parked. The troops went towards Bruce Town & below it the object was to catch Mr. Averill. But the gent was too keen for Mr. Early, worked around & evaded him. But stampeded Vaughn's Cav captured some wagons horses, straggled &c. Rodes division stopped the Yankees. Said the 5th Ala whipped the Cav that ran our Cav. So much for the Inftry This being stampeded &c, the Yankees know it & there seem to be no getting them to stand. Wish 'twas all like Fitz Lee's Cav. Then could rely upon it. Say they were surprised and c. So much the worse, for no good soldier will be surprised. 'Tis the Morefield story again. Our Q. M's liked to have run our our train into the enemy by going across the Opequon towards Smithfield. Rained some last night. Cloudy this morning too. Have orders to move. C. Haymaker & Fudge have gone to the Spring! Took my canteen too!

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Sept 4th 1864
Camp near Winchester on the
Front Royal road

Yesterday we moved out at 10 o'clock & laid on the pike until evening & came back. Heard heavy firing back of musquetry & cannon in the direction of Berryville. Anderson was engaged. Was cool & cloudy all day. Drew two days rations of flour & commenced cooking. 'Twas about dark & commenced to rain. The Maj. & I had put up our tent flag & were thinking about roosting. But here come the order to pack up & get out! Away we went. 'Twas dark as pitch. The division went to Winchester & came to this point. Have not heard the cause of the move. I staid all night in Winchester. Slept in the porch, soundly as if on a feather bed. 'Tis cloudy this morning. Are cooking rations. Winchester is in sight. The old town is very much & sadly changed! 'Twill take years to make it what it once was.

None but our division is up here. The Yankee cavalry is giving us a great deal of trouble. 'Tis the best arm of their service.

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Camp near Winchester, near the Shawnee
Spring on Milwood road
Sept 7th 1864

On the evening of the 4th we moved out of the clover field & came to this piece of woods. Quite a nice little camp, in full view of the town. On the same evening the Maj. & I went into town to visit some of "the fair". Had nice time. Evan's Ga Brig. moved down on the pike four miles below town & York's La Brig out on the Pughtown road to picket. Our Brig being left to picket on the Milwood and Front Royal roads. The Cav went up to Newtown after the Yankee Cav, but as usual did not come up with them. They went down the road on the 5th feeling as did the King of France when he marched up the hill & then marched down again. Have been some pretty heavy fighting down in the Berryville vicinity. Kershaw fought & thrashed them on the 3d. Every day since has been skirmishing. 'Tis time some other troops were being engaged. The boys of our Reg't have a nice time here visiting the ladies in town. There is beauty in the old town yet. This is a beautiful clear morning often the gloomy weather we have had for several days past. Dr. Field came back yesterday evening. Have 100 in the Reg't now.

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Camp was Winchester
Sept 8th 1864

Yesterday morning about 10 o'clock A. M. our picket's were driven in on the Milwood road. Our Brig. was immediately ordered out to support the pickets. 'Twas said by citizens to be 8 Regts of Yankee Cav., who came dashing up the road expecting to dash into W— But their hopes of so doing were nipped in the bud. One Brig Drove the Gentlemen back & landed them on the further shore of the Opequon. They made but a feeble resistance. Came back to camp after the game was over & rested on the laurels won by driving back the Yankee Cav. 'Twas quite cool last night. Some skirmishing on the Berryville pike this morning. Have heard of the fall of Atlanta Ga. The Troops are not dispirited by the news, but only renew their resolves to strike on! for Southern Independence!

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Camp on the Brucetown road
Sept 14th 1864

On the evening of the 9th was going to be a party in Winchester. Some of us boys had already gone in Maj Bennett & myself had gone in & were cornering some pieces of “calico”. The motto of the “Tea Party”, was “On with the dance, let joy be unconfined” &c. “But hark! a deep sound breaks in upon the soul” “Arm! Arm! It is the cannons opening roar”! Here came the report. “The Yankees are coming”! & Here came orders for our brigade to move. So with many hard thoughts & bitter feelings towards the Yankees & wipe away regret & tender feelings toward the fair ones we left & made a night march to this point 7 miles below W— Were quiet there until yesterday morning. Our Brig. i.e. the Stone Wall Brig. Early in the morning the Yankee Cav. made a dash on them capturing some of the 5th Regt We unhorsed some Yankees. The stir caused the whole army to move. But came back to their camps at night. The enemy made a dash on Kershaw’s pickets up on the Ber- road & took some.

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Sept 17th 1869
Camp near Bruce Town

Last evening or rather in the early part of the night we got orders to move today at a 2 oclock P. M. Sure enough the division has gone & left the wagon & wary combatants here in camp. The troops took the Mar-burg Pike.

Don’t know what sort of a wild-goose-chase they are on. Only our ordinance wagon & the ambulances moved with the troops. The other wagons will park near here & await the result of the expedition.

2 miles above Strasburg
(Battle of Winchester on Ber road)
Sept 19th 1864

Early on the morning of the 18th Gordon’s and Rodes divisions came back from Martinsburg. Made a water haul there. Marched down there & then marched back again. Was some Y—Cav, there which was easily driven out. Early in the morning also there was cannonading towards the Berryville road. Then up towards

Winchester we came. The troops turned off the road above Mrs. Carter's & the trains came on to W—Had we been 2 hours later-

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-The Yankees had cut us off & been between Ramseur & the three other divisions. Now the fight begins in earnest, next Gordon & then Rodes got into it. The musquetry is heavy & also the cannonading. I walked up to the town got some excellent grapes of Mr. Coalheart & then took my stand on the edge of town where the Ber. Road comes in to see how the engagement was going on. Could see our batteries firing at the Yankee Cav. On our right. Some good work too. The fight continued unabated until about 2 o'clock. Then our Infantry had driven the enemy's line of battle back in some places more than a mile. At this junction of affairs part of Breckenridges old division was moved from the left of our line to our right, leaving Imboden's Cav. & some other Cav. Of Ransom's old division to protect the flank. A change comes over the face of things. The musquetry had almost ceased on the right of our line & only cannonading. Some of the enemy's shells fell in the town. A disgraceful thing for them to do. Now the Yankee Cav. In heavy force show themselves in heavy force on the Martinsburg pike . Also a brigade of inf.

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Our Cav' are this new force and tremble in their boots. By the way let me say a word about this Cav'. of Imboden and c. "Fall Back" "Run!" is their motto eternally. They don't pretend to fight and are as afraid of the Yankees as of a rattlesnake.

So on this occasion they kept up their old reputation, and run back ingloriously there leaving our left flank exposed. Were a great any stragglers out there and when the cav' broke and ingloriously fled, all came back to town and created on of the greatest stampedes it has ever been my lot to witness. First the Cav' came, then back went the foot stragglers and spectators not wishing to be captured. Then the waggoners took up the panic and a perfect tide of flying troops, cav, and wagons went pouring into the streets of W- Then such a scene. Waggonstrunning into each other and c. The cav' of Yankees on the right of the pikerun close up to town and I don't yet know what checked them. Some of the ladies of W- ran out and caught the cav' men's horses and begged them to stop, go back, and "don't let the Yankees come in on us." Who but a cav' could have resisted-

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-such an appeal to valor and patriotism. They should have died right there. Before going on. But those gallant knights deserted their lady loves, and pale and trembling said "let me go", " the Yankees will get me" and away he would dash. When the Yankee cav stopped, some of Fitz Lee's cav' came over from the right and drove the Yanks back. Tho' tis said the 6th Va. acted badly. Then the refugees returned back into town. However when the left of our line gave way the Yankee Cav' got in the rear of our Inftry and threw them into confusion. Their Inftry seeing this pushed back and pressing our front compelled our Inftry to give back in considerable disorder. I had walked out almost to the fortifications on the Mar-burg Pike to see the Cav' fight. Made no calculation for them to run. So I came very near being taken prisoner. The Yankee cav' got up ahead of me on the right of the Pike and could hear them behind me hollering "Halt" and the balls went "zig-zag" around me. I was lame and my leg soon gave out. I thought of Pt. Lookout and kept-

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a pulling. At last I got out of danger and felt very thankful. Soon after we commenced to fall back.

The Q.M.s then had a wide field for displaying their genius. They made the wagons roll back from range of the shells. From the hill this side of town I saw with feelings of indignation the Yankee army entering the beautiful town with loud cheers. Was the first time they had ever driven us away from it, whilst we had time and again taken them flying through. Some consolation . Their Cav' followed up close and run into our rear guard at Kearnstwon. That night the trains came to Fisher's Hill and the troops staid at Newtown.

Sept. 21st 1864
Same Place

Today the enemy made their appearance and was some skirmishing on the left front. We have a signal post on the mt by Strasburg. Our Army is in pretty good spirits and will give the enemy a hard fight here on this hill.

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At Rood's Hill [Rudes]
Sept 24th '64

On the evening of the 22nd our Army met with another reverse at Fisher's Hill. The Yankee Cav' broke our cav' on the left, turned that flank, got in our rear, and caused the whole army to fall back in great confusion. Had quite a stampede among the wagon trains. The road back that night was crowded with stragglers cav' and Inft too. Our train was in quite a perilous fix. The Yankees had been reinforced very heavily and Early has not the men to oppose such overwhelming odds. Sandy Pendleton was wounded badly. The enemy are pushing on close after us. We have a line of battle formed at the hill (Rood's) and will check them awhile. Have had some wet weather. The enemy captured some of our men and a good many pieces of artillery too. Some of our boys who were skirmishing on the mt. at the Signal Post are just getting in. They had a hard time of it.

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Sept 24th 1864

Left Fisher's Hill and came to Keezletown on Port Republic road.

Sept 25th (Sunday) 1864

Moved on to this point at the foot of Mt at Brown's Gap, Port Republic.

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Lynchburg
Sept 28th 1864
Gen Hospt No 2
Division 1

On the morning of the 26th left the Army at Brown's Gap and came off on sick list. Had a rough ride to Mechum's River Depot. That night went to Charlottesville on freight train. Got there about 11 o'clock. Had a wonderful bustle got up at the hosp't on the strength of the sick and wd'ed coming. Little fussy dr's were running around doing more talking and gossip than anything else. 'Twas my first experience in a hospt. Was green. Was also pretty sick and weak too. Slept on hard floor (Lt. Fisher 5th Va. Infty and myself). On the 27th we came to this point L-burg and are now quartered in this Hospt. Don't fancy life in a Hospt. Here the beds are pretty good but the fare miserable. 'Tis said Early thrashed the enemy on the 26th. Hope 'tis true.

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Gen Hospt No. 2
Lynchburg, Va
Sept 30th 1864

Have become quite domesticated here. Am not so sick now, yet am quite weak. Have but little appetite. Mr. Fisher was in to see me yesterday and kindly offered his services to assist me in any way he could. I get right lonesome sometimes and the days seem long and the hours grow weary. Lt. Fisher of the 5th Regt our Brig' is here with me. We two are regularly initiated "rats". Are some old fellows (rats) here who have been patronizing the Hospts ever since the war. Rained hard last night. The fare is not so good here. The beds are good tho'. I am on diet food. Got chicken and soup, potatoes, rice, and tomatoes and bread yesterday for dinner yet my taste and appetite would not let me eat much of them.

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Gen Hospt No 2
Lynchburg Va
Oct. 3rd 1864

Am still here enjoying the beauties of "rat dom". Am beginning to feel better. Has been some quite gloomy weather for the last few days. Yesterday however the sun returned to shine a little. 'Twas Sunday. I walked over to the Pres Church. 'Twas a bargain for me to make the trip. Is considerable monotony about a hosp't life. Don't fancy it a bit. And only hope how soon I may get away from here.

Gen Hospt No 2
Oct 6th 1864

Am still in Ratdom. Am getting much better. Appetite increasing. Walk up st occasionally. Met Miss Kate Co_____ last evening on St. Cousin Sally Rucker sent me a basket of god apples which I relished very much. Mack came from home the other day.

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Ending Oct 6th 1864

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[Pencil very smudged on this page barely legible]

Camp 3 miles above New Market
Nov 9th 1864

Got back to the Regt last evening (8th)
_____ had not moved camp. Found the Regt _____ considerably.
Numbers now about 130 men. Taken a great many recruits from Gen _____ 's
troops. Old farmers have come _____ in with long beards and longer
faces. _____ a squad of them
were _____

_____ valley.

November 11th 1864
Camp at Woodstock

[This entry is 10 lines long...all smudged beyond recognition]

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Nov 12th 1864
Camp near Middletown

Come to this point last evening. Quite a long march too. The enemy were driven out of Newtown by our cavalry. Are said to be about Winchester. Am going to try the ranks again. Gen terry told me to try it and see if I couldn't stand it. That needed my services in the Reg't very much and c. So will do the best I can. Will not now be ashamed to tell my friends what Dept. I belong to. Have been comr'y serg't of the Reg't for one year exactly. The weather is somewhat cool now.

Camp near New Market
Nov. 15th 1864

Came back to our old camp on the evening of the 14th. 'Twas a reconnaissance in force by Mr. Early. Found the enemy still in force. Hard marching. McCausland lost two pieces of artillery! The fruits of the expedition.

Quite cool today snowed in showers on the 13th. Looks like ought to be thinking about winter quarters.

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Same Camp
Nov. 16th 1864

Today is fast day and a day of prayer and humiliation. Well may our nation humble themselves before God! Had service by Rev. Mr. See Chap of the 5th Regt. A very appropriate and good sermon too. Quite cool breeze _____ today. Heard Abe had called for "a million more". A confession of his inability to subdue us.

Same Camp
Nov. 21st 1864

Raining today and quite disagreeable in camp. "Jane" got in yesterday. Was wounded on Sept 19th 1864. Have had quite a spell of bad wet weather. Cousin James and I went over to visit parson Jennings. Got dinner and had a nice time generally. All still quite at the front. Enemy reported to be putting up winter quarters around New Town. Hope he will stay there till Spring comes.

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Camp 4 miles above
New Market
Nov. 25th

A beautiful day, bright, clear, and slightly cool too. On the morning of the 22nd the Yankee cav' made a demonstration at Mt. Jackson to find out what Mr. Early is doing. Run the troops down to Rude's Hill. The 1st Va. suffered badly in a skirmish with them. But as Mr. Early still showed a bold front. The enemy very prudently retired, much to our gratification.

Same Camp
Nov 27th 1864

'Tis Sunday and a bright and beautiful day too. All still quiet along the lines. Have had some very cold weather. Some talk about Winter Qurs. Our co. got a number of boxes last night by three detailed men who went home after cattle and c. for the army. Good "trick" too as rations are somewhat behind now.

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Nov. 1st 1863

[This page has a list of recipients of correspondences written from Paxton to friends and family. The number of letters sent follows the individuals' names.]

Miss Maggie Conovy ++++++++
" Nannie Moore ++++++++
" Kate Withrow+++++++
" Lettie Paxton+++++++
" Euphenia Moore+++
" Sallie Rucker+++++++
" Emma Paxton+++++++
Miss Mollie Paxton+++++
Miss Emma Terrill +++
" Fannie Watson+++

William A. Anderson+++
James Henderson +++++--
Mrs. Sallie Colbreath+++

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[List of Battle Casualties 1864]

May 5th 1864 Battle of Wilderness
Co I wounded Lt Jones shot in hip
Ramsey in leg
Johnson in leg
Miley in knee since died in Lynchburg
H. Paxton in thigh

May 12th Co I killed Wm Steele and Joe Chester (my best friend!) Wounded Day
in side Moore in arm and side. McClelland wounded and captured Joe Chester
Killed!!

All rest captured except Amole, F. Spohr, Rowsey, Jackson, Gwynn, Rosen

July 9th 1864. Battle of Frederick City, Md

F. Amole wounded in leg (not seriously)
and left in hands of enemy
Adj. Wade also wounded and captured

July 20th (Engagement of Ramseur's Division and enemy near Winchester on the
Martin'sburg Road.
Luther Paxton of the 52nd Va. was killed!

Aug 25th 1864

Engagement with the Yankee Cav' at Shepherdstown.

My friend James Tate Co. A – our regt' was killed!!

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[Blank]

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[A list of names of people who owe or owed Paxton or that Paxton owes \$\$\$ etc...]

Due A.S. Paxton

Joe Chester 10\$

Haymaker 20\$ (old issue June 30th 1864)

Jeff (Cook) pr of shoes

Lt Sterrett \$5

Lt Jones 20

Jim Eads 20

A. Paxton due Snodgrass 2.00

“ Johnson Sutler 6.00

“ Wm Day 2.25

“ Jno Wilson (old issue) 10.00

“ Tomlinson 1.00

“ Capt. Francisco 2.00

“ Dr. Catterton 2.25

“ T. Barclay (old issue) 10.00

“ “ 46 post stamps

“ James Eads (haversack) 3.00

“ Lt. Jones 20.00

“ David Ruff (old issue) 5.00

“ Lt. Robison 40.00

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Wrote to Wm Anderson for book April 1st

Went to Mess with Maj Bennet April 14th 1864

Camp near New Market

Dec 3rd 1864

‘Tis raining this morning and has every appearance of being disagreeable for some time. Still all quiet at the front. Rosser has made a successful raid with Wickham’s Brig. of Cav in the direction of Moorefield. Captured some prisoner’s, wagons, horses cattle and c. All still quiet at Richmond. Have been feasting for the last few days. As have been messing with two of the “New Issue” who went home after supplies for the brigade and brought down some great , big boxes!! Of course I patronized the “tea party”. Notwithstanding all the talk about our moving up towards Staunton. We are still here and here we will stay for some time.

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Same Camp
Dec 5th 1864

Have had some pleasant weather lately. But last night was quite frosty. 'Tis quite clear this morning. All quiet still.

Dec 6th 1864

Left camp near New Market early and moved up the valley to a camp 3 miles above Mt. Crawford. All thought we were going to winter-our's and were in fine spirits.

Dec 7th 1864

Moved at early dawn up the road to willow pump[?] and turned to the left taking the Waynesboro road. Got to W- about sunset, and got on the train much to our disappointment! Hurrah for the winter-our's in the Valley! "Bad luck to the ship that brought us away" Good by to the good old Valley. The scene of our summer's campaign!!!

Dec 8th – '64

Got to Richmond about sunrise. Took the Petersburg train and got to P – about 12 a.m. Then marched to the right of the line from P- and took up lodgings in a deserted camp.

pg.155

Received of Lts Jones, Haymaker \$2.00

Dec 9th '64
at Breastworks

Has been tolerably quiet today. Some firing on our right, only skirmishing.

Dec 11th 1864
At Breastworks

Dinwiddie Co Va

Quite wintery today. On the night of the 9th most of the Reg't went on picket. That was a disagreeable one. Rained and sleeted and c. Early yesterday morning the pickets in our front commenced firing. Packed up. In the evening the Division moved towards the Court House. Our Brig went on a reconnaissance. Our skirmishers run some Yankee Cav' in. About dark we came back to our camp. We occupy the quarters (cabins) built by Wilcox's Division. Quite generous and kind of them to put up qur's for our accommodation. The camps are right at the works. And the-

pg.156

-picket lines about a quarter of a mile in front of them. The two picket lines here at this point are not far apart. Don't shoot at each other. At and near Petersburg they are firing continually. And away to our left on James River now and again comes the deep booming of heavy guns.

This is not the life we have been used to in the good old Valley! Tho' there the marching was hard still we lived better, and could get "tricks" in the eating line from home much better. And as we thought we were coming to Waynesboro to go into qur's, our disappointment may well be imagined when we got on the cars and came down to Richmond in a whiz. We bade our adieu to the grand old mts and they seemed to nod their lofty brows in return; and as we got further away and looked back at their dim outlines, it seemed the shadow of regret at our departure! Today is Sunday. We are on the alert all the time. We may be called out.

pg.157

In Camp of Cook's Brig'
At the Breastworks
Dinwiddie, Co.
Dec 13th 1864

Has been quite cool today. Still flourishing in the cabins of the "Tar Heels". Quite a convenience. Thought there would be an attack this morning in our front. So had rev' at 4 a.m. and all got up. Yet much to our satisfaction the enemy made no attack and still "all" is quiet along the lines. Our train has not yet arrived.

Camp at Burgess' Mill
Dinwiddie Co.

Dec. 14th 1864

Yesterday evening the “tar heels”, Cook’s N.C. Brig’ returned from their expedition after the Yankees. They caught up with the rear guard of the enemy on the Weldon R. Road. and run them back. They tore up the track and destroyed the road generally. We left the cabins and came here last night. Looks quite wintry today.

pg.158

Had a fight here last summer. The barked trees, old shells, old works, and c. all tell of the scene of conflict. Saw a dead Yankee “lying unburied on the naked shore. Whose limbs devouring dogs and hungry vultures tore.” His bones will bleach on the hills of Dinwiddie. Far better he had been had he stayed at home. Such is the fate of war! Our Ambulance (P. Martin) and my cousin James Eads came in this evening. Has cleared off and moderated. Still we hear the deep booming of the heavy guns near Petersburg. A great many deserters come in from the Federal Army. Some of ours go too. We are in pine wood and smoked to death over pine fires. All our dreams of X’mas boxes are gone. Bad luck to the ship that brought us away “from the good old valley. The country and this kind of life is certainly trying to a man’s patriotism. Here we are amid _____ fields and a boundless sea of pine woods. How we wish for the oak groves and the beautiful old mtns. of our home valley.

pg.159

Camp in rear of works
8 miles from Petersburg
Dec 18th ‘64

Quite cloudy this morning and threatening rain. Early this morning the enemy fired 101 guns near Petersburg, probably as a salute for some supposed victory. We are putting up winter quarters. Have nothing but pine wood to burn, so when we get smoked – a month or so – we will be like “tar heels” or colored folks. We are beginning to think about getting X’mas boxes. Had preaching today, Sunday, by Mr. Williams. “ There is one thing needful”.

pg.160

Camp of Stone wall Brig’

Winter Quarters
Dec 30th 1864

Well we have gotten into our quarters at last. Tho' all the cabins are not up yet. Are six in a cabin. 'Tis raining this morning. Quite disagreeable. Looking for our boxes (X'mas) down every day. I sent some music as Xmas gift other day. "Officer's Funeral" to _____ and "When the Swallows Homeward Fly".

Camp Stonewall Brig
Jan 8th 1865

All quiet along the lines this morning except for the occasional firing of the pickets and the heavy guns near P' -g. We are living highly now as have gotten "dead loads" of boxes from home. Cold this morning. Sunday too. Cousin James left this morning on 15 days furlough. Are just getting pretty well fixed in our "old cabin homes".

pg.161

Camp Ewell
Jan 15th 1865

'Tis' a bright and beautiful Sabbath morning. Not too cold only the _____ is _____. How I'd like to be at home this morning. All is quite along the lines except now and then the stray shot of a picket or the random firing of the "big guns" near P-g. We have to picket on the right of the line 4 miles from here. Sent out a picket of 15 men from our Co - this morning and from the rest in proportion. Rations are somewhat scarce now owing to the late heavy rains washing some of the bridges away. Those of us who have boxes from home now are all right on the ration question. We can eat drink and be merry. But is hard on those poor fellows who have not gotten anything from their homes. "'Tis hard on the Southern people surely". Have our camp nicely fixed up, ditches, houses numbered, and c. 'Tis the best camp in the whole army.

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Camp Ewell
Jan 22nd '65

Today is Sunday. 'Has been raining and freezing of late. Yesterday was a very disagreeable day. Cloudy and somewhat foggy too. Has been some firing on the front in the last few days. Quiet this morning, tho'. Well as it is the Sabbath, and on this day, the holy stillness shd not be broken by the booming of cannon. A great many rumors are afloat. I don't put much confidence in them. We will only have to wait with calm confidence and see what God in his allwise providence has in store for us. Our Xmas boxes are getting low down. Yet we are doing quite well. Have Peyton of Gen Lee's staff and Maj. Moore[?] of Gen Gordon's, a perfect "Squirt" and great coward!

pg.163

Camp Ewell
Jan 31st 1865

This morning we left Mahone's Qur's and came back to camp. That Division also returned from their raiding expedition. Right glad were we to get back to our "old cabin homes." The 8 Ala, in whose camp we staid are greater rogues than the Louisianans.

They stole in one night 4 hats out of our Co., even cutting thought the tents for the said purpose. Whilst down there we had someof the coldest weather we have felt this winter. Great sensations in camp about the peace commissioners en route for W- City!

pg.164

[Empty]

pg.165

Camp Ewell
Jan 24th 1865

Has been raining for the last few days and quite disagreeable for soldiers and young chickens. Yet citizens and "ducks" could navigate well. Last night there was a heavy cannonade all night in the direction of Dutch Gap. Guess they are afraid the Yankee gunboats would run the blockade on the river. They were booming there all night.

Camp of Mahone's Division

Jan 29th 1865

On the evening of the 25th we were hurried out of camp. We thought we were bound for the front to meet a charge of the enemy. . But instead _____ we marched to the camps of Mahone's division near Petersburg and occupied them. This Divis' has gone on a raiding expedition towards Weldon or to check a Yankee raid in that direction. Has been cold as ice for the last two days.

pg.166

Camp Ewell
Feb 9th '65

On (Sunday) the 5th we moved out of camp and made a heavy reconaissance in front of Heth's Divis. Skirmished with the enemy, found out they were moving to our right, and then we retired. Came back to our camp that night. The next day 6th the enemy advanced in heavy force on our right. We moved rapidly out of camp, got to the scene of action on Hatcher's Creek about 2 o'clock p.m. Were engaged with the enemy until about an hour after dark. 'Twas a handful- our Brig and Div had to give back 2 or 3 times. Mahone reinforced us and we drove them back to their works. I shot about 60 rounds. A spent ball struck me on the shoe. Youell of our Co. was mortally wounded . Lamb and Zollman were also wounded. Youell died last night. Alexander was wounded on the night of the 5th. On the night of the 6th we fortified and on the 7th we skirmished with them. On the morning of the same day they charged our works and were repulsed. On _____ of 7th came back to camp. Are now fortifying at Burgess' mill.

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Camp Ewell
Feb 12th
'65

All seems to be quiet today. 'Tis quite cold. Took Jimmie[?] my bro' over to the battery yesterday the 11th . We are still engaged in strengthening our works at Burgess' Mill.

Camp Ewell
Feb 16th 1865

Had a bad day yesterday. Didn't go out on the works. Today went out to works at B mill. I am making off a roll of the Co. for record in the archives of Va.

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Camp Ewell
Feb 27th '65

For the last few days we have been looking for an attack on the right of our lines about Hatcher's Run. We have sent off all our extra baggage and are in fighting or marching trim. Have had some bad weather on the last few days which no doubt have delayed active movements. Affairs are now in an exciting state. Yet we trust we shall pass thro' the fire unscathed. Gens Gordon and Terry spoke to the troops last evening.

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[Empty]

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[Notes as Commissary Sgt.]

due A.S. Paxton C. Sergt 4th Va Inf'try

rations

Lt.s Jones and Sterrett – flour +1

“ “ - beef +1

Lt. Fudge – Flour +1

“ Beef + 1

Lt Robison – Flour +1

“ - Beef +1

Dr. Fields - Flour +1

“ - Beef +1

Lt. Crush - Flour +1

“ -Beef +1

Lt Cadall - Flour +1

Lt Cadall - Beef+1

Lt Maddox - Flour +1

“ -Beef +1

Brig' Comr'y
Flour 8[?] lbs
Beef +5

pps.171-176

[*A few notes concerning ration distribution, receipts/debts, & dreams.*]

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Camp Ewell
March 4th 1865

Diary of Alex. S. Paxton
CO. I 4th Va. Inf'try
“Stone Wall Brig” Gordon's
Division, Army N. Va.

Address Home
Balcony Falls P.O.
Rockbridge, Co. Va

“Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori”

[Greek quote]

[Latin quote illegible]

My Motto,
“Nil desperandum = Despair not.

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Camp Ewell
March 4th '65

'Tis a dark and gloomy & showery day. The rain same from the southwest. Angry and dark looking clouds sweep overhead and deluge the earth with torrents of

water. This is the day of Abe's inauguration. May we not hope that the gloom of the elements _____ a period of gloom and _____ to the reign of King Abraham. That the winter of our misfortune will soon be over, and the spring of our glory break in upon our proud southern land. Our Brig. has applied to be mounted. Don't know how we will succeed. We are hearing bad news form the Valley. Say old "Jube" is getting in "tar". If the Yankees only got him 'twould be a _____ . Have been issuing whiskey rations.

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Camp Ewell
March 9th '65

Has been raining for the last day or two hard. Loads in awful condition. Heard from home thro' Joe Paxton who has just returned from furlough.

Camp Ewell
March 12th '65

Beat Reveille soon this morning and had orders to march at daylight. At daylight we stacked arms on the color line and were ordered to be ready to fall in at a moments notice. Now 'tis 10 o'clock a.m. and we have not moved yet. 'Tis Sunday and the drum has beat fro preaching. 'Tis a beautiful day, clear and warm. Spring is certainly near. Last night Rev. Dr. Dabney of the Union Theological Seminary delivered a lecture in one of our chapels on the "Last Moments of General Jackson", i.e. from the time of his wound to his death. The house was crowded and he was listened to with breathless attention, by the members of his old division as they have the last wishes and words of the hero and chief they loved so well. Have heard of a success of our army at Kinston, N.C. and a victory over Kilpatrick by Hampton driving them from their camp, capturing a large number of wagons and c.

pg.180

Camp Ewell
March 13th 1865

All is quiet this morning. We are still under marching orders. Sent down a picket. Jones went. I have been on the sick list for a day or so. Have been the victim to various aches and bodily infirmities.

In the trenches
March 15th 1865

Well the division has got in _____ the right place at last, i.e. where they will have to fight and no _____ to run. Yesterday we came here leaving our good camp. Came in under the cover of the darkness last night and relieved some of Wise's Brig. of Bushrod Johnson's Divis. I don't fancy the change. Have to play ground hog here and live under the ground in bomb-proofs or rooms covered over with earth. We have strong works. our picket lines are close.

In the trenches
March 17th 65

Last night we had a hard rain. We have moved to the left and are now only a few hundred yds to the right of where Grant's mine was exploded. That failure of his to carry our line only burying in one grave 1000 of his unfortunate men. At the mine, our picket lines are only about 30 yds apart and the pickets are very peacable towards each other – come out in front of the works, throw clods at each other, talk and c.

pg.181

At times they trade almost anything for tobacco. They seem to crave that weed. During the day the pickets remain very quiet, but as soon as 'tis dark they commence firing. Tho' this is the order. So they generally fire over. They call our boys "Johnnys" Now and then in the night can hear an old Yank cry out "Shoot High Johnny", we will do the same and when one of our boys cuts pretty close to him for comfort, he will cry "what in the d---l are you shooting so low for Johnny".

Trenches
March 18th '65

Clear and pretty day . 'Twas all quiet along the lines this morning. We had Inspection at 8 a.m. this morning.

Trenches
March 21st 1865

A little cloudy this morning and the air is somewhat cool. Was considerably chilling yesterday evening along in our front. We have a Columbia[?]__ __ on our lines that can out-shoot any gun the enemy has. Late in the evening they commenced with mortars. The enemy have two mortar batteries close to us. Our Brig' was in direct range of one of these mortar bat- and our forts. So we got the full benefit of the shells. Can see some of them in the day. But about dusk they present a scene inviting both the grand and the terrible, as they describe their fiery curves in the air they seem like meteors flashing across the sky. Some of them hit in our works. One exploded on a tent and tore it all to pieces. Heard of a man in Rodes' Divis-

pg.182

-getting his head blown off. Our boys don't seem to mind them much. The pickets right in our front don't fire any, but up on our right and down on our left they fire at night and some fire the day too. If the weather still keeps pretty it will not be long before there will be a move on the part of Mr. Grant. We burn mostly stove coal, using grates to burn it in. Wood is scarce and far off too. Have our bread baked in P-g and issued to us. Got plenty of it tho'.

In the trenches
March 26th 1865

About daylight on the morning of the 25th we attacked the enemy's line of works at Fort Oak Grove on his line and on the line of Pegram's old division. Our skirmishers carried the picket line and the works easily taking them somewhat by surprise. Then followed our own column thro' the opening thus made in their works. Our Brig' was in front. As soon as we got in we swept around to the right along the Yankee line and cleaned them out until we got to a strong fort on their line which commanded their works then in our possession. Here our progress along the line was checked. Yet we held the position until ordered out back to our own-

pg.183

-works. Some of the enemy were killed in bed and all were run out leaving everything in their tents. At one place they made a stand in one of their streets and were cut up badly there. Some of them fought well and others ran like cowards. About 14 of us run a whole reg't on our left flank. Was some close fighting done. Jno Moore one of our skirmishers of (Co I) in first going up to the works got in a mud hole at the foot of the embankment. An old Yankee called on him to

surrender. He refused. The old Yank ran down the bank to knock him on his head with his musket. Moore banged away and sent him to his long home. Sgt. Kipps of the skirmish line captured a post of the pickets. He jumped in and caught two of them by the collar. They were eating and were interrupted in their meal. Said they, "What _____ must we do?" He then jumped on the main works. A Yankee soldier caught the muzzle of his gun and pulled him in and an officer caught him by his collar and put a pistol at his breast. He then took him around into a tent and turned him over to an old gray headed officer. Kipps seized an opportunity snatched the old fellow's sabre and told him to lie low or he would split his head. We captured and turned on them some cannon. Also captured and brought out some small brass mortars; did not get the cannon out. The enemy did not have a strong line along there. Had moved most of their force up towards our right. It caused quite a commotion among them when we broke through.

pg.184

Couriers have been flying to and fro. Soon they had several batteries planted on a hill. in our rear and commenced playing on our line. And troops by the thousands were coming down from the right. So as our move was only to _____ Grant's attention the order was given at this junction to fall back to our works. We had been behind the Yankee works and the captured forts. We had been exposed to a heavy artillery fire from the time we came across. A good many of our men had taken shelter in the boom-proofs and some of them cowardly rascals staid in them and were captured when we fell back. There was some bad screw loose in the movement or we had made a larger point. Something went wrong! We came out by Brigades. And we had to run a terrible gauntlet of fire to run thro' between the works a dist. of about 300 yds. Were there exposed to a fire of artillery from the rear and flanks and a fire of musquetry[sic] from the flanks, 'Twas trying on a fellow _____ to get out of there. I made some of the longest kind of jumps coming across the field. Gen Terry was wounded coming across there. A cannon ball grazed his legs bruising them_____. [Possibly "Not so sorry"]

pg.185

Our troops that turned to the left on coming into the works were not so successful in driving the enemy as we who went to the right. They did not make much impression on the works. Our loss was considerable. The whole of Terry's Brig' lost 250 killed, wounded, missing. Our Co. (H & I) lost 17 men. Three killed, 10 wounded, 3 missing. Withers Co I, Anderson I, Gilmore H were killed. W and A

certainly not much doubt about Gilmore. He was shot in the head as were crossing the works to charge a yankee fort on our left as we faced to our works. He fell. One of our boys Spence poured some water on his face and asked him if he wanted some to drink. He could not speak, but shook his head slightly. The closed his eyes as dead! Spence had to fall back then and leave him. He was a good and high-_____ boy and a gallant soldier. Anderson was also a capital soldier. All were quite a loss. We left all our dead and many of our wounded over there. After the fight was over was a flag of truce raised and the Yankees brought our dead over to us – 117. Did not bring Gilmore, which is one thing in favor of his living. Wounded: H Ailstock (H) in leg with shell, Mcorkle (H) in arm min-ball, Spence (H) in arm min-ball, Imboden (H) thro' both legs min-ball, Lt. Sterrett (H) in hand M ball, Stoner (I) in spinal column m-ball, Ervine (I) groin m-ball, Patterson (I) in left breast, Hodge (I) in thigh, Logan (I) right [leg] shot off with shell. Missing Bushong, Wilbourn, Coffman (of I) Moore W and Sheltman(H).

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Trenches
March 27th 1865

On the 25th there was some fighting upon our right on Hill's line. The enemy made several attempts to charge our works but were handsomely repulsed. They took our picket line at some point but have since been driven back. No doubt Grant's movements up there conflicted with Lee's plans here. Bro James was not hurt. His battery was warmly engaged. A mini ball passed through his overcoat, cape and the sleeves of his jacket. 'Twas his first fight. Today is some shelling along our front. We have a Columbia near us which is very_____ being much larger than most of the enemy's guns. It is a boss-dog in the crowd. Had us up before daylight this morning and in the trenches to guard against any surprise on part of "Billy" our blue friend.

Trenches March 30th
'65

Had a considerable mess along in our front last night. Was firing all along the lines on our front. About 10 o'clock p.m. they broke loose in our front and on our left with musquetry [sic], shells, mortars, and c. We had gone to bed and rolled out in double quick. 'Tis said they charged over works on our left and were repulsed with great loss. But I don't believe it, on our front they did not advance over our works, but piled the-

pg.187

-minie balls in on us and boom-shells. It was a dark night and rained hard from about 12 o'clock off and on until this time today 12 o'clock. Has been some fighting up on the right this morning. "Sheridan, Cavalry Sheridan" has gone up there and will no doubt give us some trouble about the South rail-road. Last night we had some men killed and wounded in our Brig, by booms and balls. The enemy no doubt intends to make a big strike up on our right and this probably was only a demonstration here to cover his move there. The hour has come for the opening of the spring campaign. We are on the eve of fighting one of the bloodiest battles of this "cruel war". And as we march into its field we must put our trust in the God of battles and do our whole duty. The weather is getting warmer. The budding trees, the green fields, and the balmy air all tell us that Spring is coming. Trees are in blossom and violets are blooming on the hillsides. How delightful would be the advance of this lovely season were it not for the pall of war that casts its harmful shadow over all things.

March 31st 1865

Rained some more last night. Yet we got a good night's sleep and were not aroused from our slumbers by any hostile demonstration of "Billy". The morning has been some heavy cannonading upon our right. Also late last evening the thunder of artillery up there shook the very ground.

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Sylvan Collegiate Institute

Green Co.

April 15th 1865

Sometime has elapsed since last wrote here. Will give the events of the first days of the month. On the 1st we were in the trenches at Petersburg. That night the enemy were very active and kept up a considerable fire all night. It commenced very suddenly too and we were all in our beds. We had to get up in quick time and get in the trenches. On Sunday morning the 3rd at 3 o'clock they charged our works in three places in front of General Walker, Rodes' old division and Heth. They broke in at all 3 places. General Walker soon ran them out. Grimes did not dislodge them.

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And they dashed a column across I front of Heth and rushed it across to the S- Side R. Road and the Appomattox R. Came near capturing all Gen. Lee's papers at his H'd Qur's. Captured good many of Heth's men. Some of his men did not fight well i.e. Lane's, Thomas'. There the enemy getting the South Side Road compelled Gen Lee to evacuate Petersburg and consequently Richmond. This was done that night. I was wounded in the right arm with a piece of shell in the charge in front of Rodes' division about 3 o'clock. and came up to Richmond that night. Went to the Wayside Hospt and reported and was told to get away the best I could. At about 4 o'clock Monday morning I started out on the Brook Pike and came on to this place. The enemy came into the city about 8 o'clock and the sad tidings _____ abroad "Richmond has fallen"!

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Sylvan Villa
Green Co Va
Apr 18th '65

breathes of bad news. Gen Lee surrendered to Grant on the 10th with 8,000 men!" And Freedom shrieked as Lee's Army fell"! Grant completely surrounded our army around Appomattox C.H. ~~Our men done very badly on the retreat from Petersburg. That an army of 50,000 men fighting for liberty and all that's dear should respect their standard and great chieftan _____ how was a disgrace to the southern name! Gen Lee thought it was best.~~

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[Copy (Paxton's hand) of General Lee's Gen. Order #9 – his farewell to the Army of Northern Va.]

Gen Order
No 9

H'd Qur's A. N. Va
April 10th 1865

After four years of arduous service, marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude the Army of N. Va. has been compelled to overwhelming numbers and resources. I need not tell the survivors of so many hard fought battles who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them, but fearing that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that would

compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the contest. I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen. By the terms of the agreement officers and men can return to their homes and remained until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from consciousness of duty, faithfully performed and I earnestly pray a merciful-

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-God will extend to you his blessings and protection. With and increasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you an affectionate farewell-

Signed

R.E. Lee Gen

General Lee's farewell address to his army.

Sylvan Villa
Apr 23rd 1865

My arm is getting better. Am having a nice time. Hear various rumors about things. "Old Abe" is surly dead. And Seward thought to be mortally wounded too. Hope 'tis the inauguration of a person of _____ there.

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Bowling Green
Augusta Co.
April 28th

Left Dr. Early's on the morning of the 26th with a light heart and an elastic step. Staid at Rio on Cousin Jane Bearly's on the night of the 26th. On the 27th started out soon and was lucky enough to get to Meachum's river in time to get on the train and ride up to Staunton. Got out here a while after dark and pretty tired too. Heard my bro James was safe! Things have indeed come to a pretty pass. No government, no law, except the law of conscience. Yet I still look for a brighter day to dawn. We hear of the mutterings of a storm up north on the eve of bursting.

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At Home!!!
May 1st 1865

Got home last night, Sunday. Left my uncle's on Sat. morning and came up to Geo Lackey's that night. Then came home yesterday.

END VOL. XI