

Daniel F. Cooledge (1839-1911)
Civil War Diary, 1862
MSC 197:1

Biographical Note

Daniel Franklin Cooledge, the son of Daniel Waterman and Lydia (Davison) Cooledge, was born in Plymouth, Vt., on December 3, 1839. The Cooledges moved to Ludlow, Vt., when Daniel was 15-years-old. At the outbreak of the Civil War Cooledge dropped out of Ludlow's Black River Academy and enlisted in Co. A, 2nd Vermont Infantry Regiment, on October 16, 1861. During the battle of Savage's Station on June 29, 1862, he was wounded in the leg. He was hit in the back of his right thigh by a rebel minie ball that tore through his thigh and exited out the front. Thankfully for Cooledge the bullet missed his femur, but did injure nerves that would trouble him the rest of his life. His wound was extremely painful and he was unable to walk. After the battle five of his comrades carried him as far as the VI Corps field hospital where they had to leave him before resuming their march to the James River. Because of lack of shelter Cooledge laid out in the open with hundreds of other men that night. To make matters worse it began raining on the unsheltered men and there were not enough doctors to tend to all of the wounded men.

Cooledge noted in his diary the next day that there was very little sleep for him and the rest of the men laying in the rain without anyone to tend to their wounds. He also noted that some men were "suffering everything but death." On July 2 Cooledge found space in a crowded tent and was able to get out of the rain. His only food that day was two or three pieces of hard tack and some coffee. It was a wonder he could even eat at all with the sight outside his tent where he could see "limbs and arms of poor fellows strewn about as though it was a slaughter house." On July 5 he wrote, "I endured as much pain last night as ever in my life and it seemed so with all for groans and curses could be heard on every side." On July 3 the VI Corps field hospital was closed and all the patients were transferred to the hospital at Savage's Station.

Cooledge remained at the hospital at Savage's Station until it was closed on July 13 and most of the patients were transported to Richmond by train. Unfortunately, the train was loaded to capacity before Cooledge and a number of other patients could get aboard and they were left at Savage's Station until the next day when they were transported to Richmond and placed in prisoner of war camps. Cooledge was incarcerated in the infamous Libby Prison. While at Libby Prison Cooledge did not receive any medical attention and food was scarce and of poor quality, usually soup. Bread they had to buy with their own money. Fortunately Cooledge's stay was short and he was exchanged on July 22. He and other prisoners were taken by rail to City Point downriver from Richmond and loaded aboard ship. They arrived at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Va., the next evening. On July 24 Cooledge was sent to Satterlee U. S. Army General Hospital in West Philadelphia, Penn., where he was admitted two days later.

On August 27 Cooledge's mother arrived at the Satterlee General Hospital determined to take her son home. The key to getting a disability discharge for Cooledge was getting a copy of his descriptive list from his company. A descriptive list was the document in the Civil War used to prove one's identify. It contained information such as height, color of hair and eyes, place of

birth, etc. Daniel had requested his descriptive from his company commander on July 28, but it had not arrived despite his repeated requests. By September 4 Mrs. Cooledge could not stand the wait anymore and went to Annapolis, Md. to see the district commander, Brig. Gen. William R. Montgomery, to try to speed up the delivery of her son's descriptive list, but to no avail. Finally, on September 13 Daniel's descriptive list arrived at the hospital and the administrative process to discharge him from of the army began. Daniel was given a disability discharge from the army on September 17 and two days later he and his mother were on a train heading north. They arrived back home in Ludlow on September 23.

After visiting all his friends and relatives, Daniel decided to return to Black River Academy and prepare for college. At first he was quite enthusiastic, but after a week he started getting bored. His year in the army had given experiences that the other students could not comprehend and he probably suffered from what we now know as post-traumatic stress disorder which effected his ability to concentrate. He struggled through the winter term before quitting.

On March 19, 1863, Daniel filed for and received a \$4.00-a-month government disability pension. A short time later he decided to become a physician. He studied under Dr. William Chapin in Ludlow, attended lectures at the University of Vermont and graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical School of the University of New York in 1867. In 1868 Daniel bought Dr. Chapin's practice. While he was in medical school Daniel married Viola Alice Marsh on September 4, 1866, in Plymouth, Vt. After his graduation from medical school they made their home in Ludlow where they lived the rest of their lives. Between 1868 and 1885 Daniel and Viola had two sons and three daughters.

In 1870 Dr. Cooledge bought half interest in a drugstore in Ludlow and two years later became its sole proprietor. Viola assisted him in the drugstore and became Vermont's first registered female pharmacist. The drugstore evolved into a small general store, but as Dr. Cooledge was socially conservative his store did not sell alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. He also did not sell books "of a pernicious or immoral character." In addition to his drugstore and medical practice, Dr. Cooledge became an examiner for the U. S. Pension Bureau in 1885, a practice which he continued for four years.

Daniel Cooledge was an active member of his community. He was heavily involved in the Florence Memorial Library, a deacon in the Congressional Church, a trustee of the Black River Academy, and was for many years commander of Groton's Grand Army of the Republic Oliver O. Howard Post No. 33.

Daniel and Viola's seemingly idyllic life was not without tragedy. In 1899 their youngest son, Leon D. Cooledge, was visiting his brother Bernard who was a millinery salesman in Chicago. While there Leon followed in his father's footsteps and enlisted in the army that August. He was assigned to Co. M, 37th U. S. Volunteer Infantry. It was at the height of the Spanish American War and Leon was sent to the Philippine Islands. He died of typhoid fever in the town of Santa Cruz on the island of Luzon on July 31, 1900. Young Cooledge's body was returned to Ludlow a little over two months later where he was buried in Ludlow's Pleasant View Cemetery on October 5.

As he grew older Dr. Cooledge's wound and the infirmities of old age were having a serious effect on him and by 1906 his overall health declined. In 1909 Viola wrote the U. S. Pension Bureau:

The enclosed applicant Daniel F. Cooledge, was for quite a number of years examining surgeon here at Ludlow, Vt. and saw much of trying to get as large a pension as possible. He has, perhaps, been over conscientious in applying himself. He has a pension of \$4.00 per month and later it was increased to \$6.00 then at \$12.00 at the proper age for it. All his life since 1862 he has suffered from severe aches in head, back of neck & spine and was at one time treated for spinal difficulty by a New York specialist as well as for heart trouble. He is now unable to use his wounded leg (right one) to walk and has not been dressed for five weeks or more. Has been able to do scarcely anything for nearly three years. His signature compared with his former writing will show you how he can use his right hand and arm, can partially feed himself when at his best.

Although the 1910 U. S. Census lists Daniel's occupation as a physician one can only wonder if he was able to attend to patients. The same census indicates that Viola was running the drugstore. Daniel F. Cooledge died in Ludlow on September 17, 1911, at age 71, of arteriosclerosis and was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery. After Daniel's death Viola applied for and received a \$36.00-a-month veteran's widow's pension. She continued to manage the drugstore until her death on June 6, 1934, at age 87, of myocardial degeneration. She was buried in Pleasant View Cemetery beside Daniel, her two sons and two of her three daughters.¹

Paul G. Zeller
2014
CooledgeDanielDiary.docx

¹ Peck, *Revised Roster*, 34; <http://vermontcivilwar.org/index.php>; Daniel F. Cooledge's compiled military service and government disability pension records; ancestry.com; MSC 197, Civil War Diary of Daniel F. Cooledge, 1862, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vt.; U. S. Adjutant General's Office, *Correspondence Relating to the War with Spain and Conditions Growing Out of the Same, Including the Insurrection in the Philippine Islands and the China relief expedition, between the Adjutant-General of the Army and Military Commanders in the United States, Cuba, Porto Rico, China and the Philippines* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902), vol. 2, 1196.; findagrave.com.; *St. Albans Daily Messenger*, October 3, 1900; General Alumni Society, *General Alumni Catalog, Medical Alumni, 1833-1907* (New York: Published by the General Alumni Society, 1908), 119; *Vermont (Ludlow) Tribune*, 3 November, 1899; John N. Harris, *History of Ludlow Vermont* (Charlestown, N. H.: Mrs. Ina Harris Harding and Mr. Archie Frank Harding, Publishers, 1949), 108, 157, 158; <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.; *The Semi-Centennial Celebration of Black River Academy Ludlow, Vermont, August 25 and 26, 1885* (Ludlow, Vt.: Warner & Hyde, Steam Book and Job Printers, 1885), 21-22.

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Transcription by Paul G. Zeller, 2014

Wednesday, January 1 – Pleasant. A year ago I had no thought of being here now. My folks brought me here. I had a good home and Parents, adoring Brother and oh why did I leave them? I am in the hospital sick with the measles. It appears that I am getting along well. Cousin M. is here also. We are close together. It seems our lot is thrown together. A great change has come over the country in the past year. I would and I will God helping me, pray as well as act. Sometimes I feel as though I ought to try to get out if there is any chance for the sake of my dear dear Mother. Best a wise ruler will care for us both and allow us to meet again in his good time. I hope to find the country in peace next N. year.

Thursday, January 2 – Pleasant & warm. These mornings make me of April in Vt. but there usually snow there. I am feeling quite smart, and think of going to my tent. I was off duty first last week Tuesday with sore finger. Came in here the 29 with the measles. Sometimes I feel to regret that I came here but it is for the best. The part that I am to act is humble, but if well performed it will be honorable.

First letter of the year from home Friday, January 3 – Cloudy & cool, Pleasant. I have come down to the tent this morning. I was not as weak as I was afraid I should be. I hope now with care to be about soon. How thankful I ought to be for the kindness shown me by our Heavenly Father. I was in the H a little of four days. I received a letter this morning from home dated the 28. Mother has given up hope of getting me out for the present. Norman writes about the weather. He gains fast in writing. I am glad to see it. I rec. one from Aunt Amanda, she expressing great sympathy, it is good to be remembered. It seems that the Rebels Mason & Slidel have been sent on the road to England. I wish that we might have got along without letting them go, but perhaps it will work for the best. I want to see our land once more enjoying the blessing of peace.

Saturday, January 4 – Cloudy & cool. Snowy. There was a little snow last night and the ground is some white. It is pretty good winter weather I received a letter from home. They have sent me a box. I for this climate. I would like to know what it be. Norman expects to have the measles. I will feel a great deal anxiety on his account until I know he is safe through with them. It seem to me as though they could be careful with their health and lives. It seems to me as if our Leaders were a little slow in their movement, but time will only tell. It is true a great campaign cannot be planed and carried out in a month, but months ought to see it under good way. How soon this army will move we give no guess, but it appears as though weeks and perhaps months will find us nearly where we are now. The news is very meager this morning.

Sunday, January 5 – Cloudy, pleasant. The ground was quite white snow all day yesterday. It is some trouble to keep out tent warm. We are sadly in need of new ones. I have been here nine weeks today, as it was Sunday Nov. the 3d when we came into camp. In those weeks of our initiation we have but had little active service to do, but I hardly think we shall remain here as

much longer without having something to do. I hope that the time will soon come when I can spend my sabbaths in my old place. I rec. a letter from Father last night, their folks are all well. He thought we had the start of him as he did not have a hot day. The news in the paper this morning gives some hope of an active movement soon but cannot tell how it will be. Rec. a letter from Mother, they have heard that I have the measles. The letter is a calm one which I am glad to see.

Monday, January 6 – Cloudy & cool. It snowed some last night, and there is about an inch of snow on the ground, the most we have had. I do not feel very well today my head aches quite hard. I hope that I shall get along well, and not have a fall back. It is well that the people of Vt. do not know how we are situated here, the exposures and dangers which we have to undergo and how liable we are to even lose our lives through neglect, when sick. If they could realize it with all its force how many a sleepless nights would be passed by anxious friends at home. Thank God they know but little about it, and consequently are save much misery. I have been on guard and picket nine times since I came here, on guard five, and picket four. There some rumors of an advance, but I presume there is nothing to it.

Tuesday, January 7 – Pleasant. Cloudy. The ground is still white. My head aches most wretchedly this morning. There is a very heavy foraging expedition gone out this morning. There are 100 hundred six horse and the same of four horse teams. It is possible there may be a fight before they come in. There is a change of the moon this afternoon for fair weather. Some of the expedition are coming in at this early hour. I think by this that nothing has been done. I hope that as soon as the weather will admit there will be an advance. I learn by the paper there is some fighting a going on in western Va. Also that the bridge across Green River in Ky. is completed and we can look for stirring times soon. Have we reason to think that God is going to punish us for our sins. Will he allow this nation to go to run after such a glorious career.

Wednesday, January 8 – Pleasant. Cloudy. The ground is still covered with snow. It is not quite as cold today. There is a complete dearth of news now, and it almost seems after stagnation and weakness prevailed among our leaders. I fear our government is on the wrong track and will not succeed as well as they might if they could see their duty better. The pickets say that there was heavy was heavy firing last night below us on the Potomac.

Great Britain	745.	18,450
France	542.	12,450
U. States	262	2,557
Russia	564.	9,000
Prussia	51.	178
Austria	101.	767
Denmark	149.	1,232
Holland	141.	2,174
Sardinia	29.	405
Sweedeen	332.	-----
Norway	145.	-----
Turkey	56.	-----
Belgium	3.	60

Greece

31.

110

Thursday, January 9 – Rainy. Pleasant. The snow has not gone much yet, but it is a great deal warmer. How rapidly time passes if the Grace of God permits me to enjoy good health, it seems as if I could endure to remain the two years and a half without much repining. It is very true that it is much more pleasant to remain with our friends rather than be here where we know we are liable to suffer from neglect when sick. What tender solicitude and anxiety is felt for us when we are sick at home how different here. No one cares much for us, it is everyone for himself. Received a letter from home. Mother has many fears for my health and safety. She writes that Dr. Hazelton has come down to the L.H. There is not much sleighing. Norman seems to be getting along with his studies. He improves fast in letter writing.

Friday, January 10 – Rainy. Cloudy. It rained some in the night and is foggy and misty this morning. The snow is mostly gone this morning. It is muddy and hard traveling. The box that I have looked for for a few days has come in. I find in it a fine lot of butter, cheese, crackers, sugar, sardines, fresh cooked pork, sauce, etc. It was very acceptable to me. The portfolio will be worth everything to me. I could not once have supposed that I should have been so glad to get such a box from home. I can imagine the tender regards of my parents as they put the various articles and considered where they were a going. It has been a warm cloudy day, much like some days that we had at home the fore part of May.

Saturday, January 11 – Pleasant. Quite a warm spring like morning. We learn by the morning paper that both the mortar fleet intended to operate on the Mississippi and Burnside's destination unknown from the great care with which they have been filed out, and their strength, we may expect great results from them. The Tribune thinks that the war ought to be closed in ninety days. I think if it is not done that it will be the fault of our leaders. It rained a little last night. Received a letter from Cousin A. W. Cady. He was married last June at home. Uncle Warner is chopping this winter, thinks of going to Minnesota in the Spring. He put in some of his poetry.

Sunday, January 12 – Pleasant. It is a most beautiful spring like morning. The air has that kind of dampness about it that we feel in the spring in Vt. It has been two weeks today since I came into camp. Of the twenty that came down then two have died three in the H. five, including myself, are on the sick list, being ten on duty. It seems to me that the boasts of the southerners will be proved in this war. If they are to be allowed to enslave their fellow men forever then success must come to their arms, and the armies of the north will be scattered and driven back in disgrace. Received a letter from Mother. I am afraid that she is working too hard. She was at work and a writing after midnight. Uncle Moses was at our house.

Monday, January 13 – Cloudy. It was very windy last night and the wind blows quite hard today. It is growing cold. There is a rumor of an advance along the direction of the Occoquan. The destination of Burnside's expedition is still unknown. But rumors send it [to] the Potomac, some to the Rappahannock, James River and Richmond. The Mississippi fleet has landed advance about half way between Cairo and Columbus. The total number of boats 78, of which 12 are gunboats, 38 mortar boats, 28 tugs and steamboats. The gunboats carry 178 guns. The mortars are of the largest kind. Gen. Burnside's Expedition consists of 14 steamers, one propeller, 4 ships

and barges, 11 schooners, 11 floating batteries. They are to be joined at Fortress Monroe by about the same number.

Tuesday, January 14 – Stormy. Cloudy. There was a light fall of snow, measuring about one inch and a half nor two inches. It is not very cold, but the snow is quite dry. We do not find much news in the morning paper. Secretary Cameron had resigned Stanton is recommended to take his place. The papers say that the next ten day to the Union cause will bring great results. I hope so but fear that we shall have to wait longer.

The Russian army	850,000
Austrian	740,000
Prussian	720,000
French	826,000
The English failed to muster in all	584,000
U. S. at the present time	700,000

Wednesday, January 15 – There was a little rain and hail last night, which makes it quite slippery. There is not much news. It appears to me that unless the war is ended within the next six months, these United States will become bankrupt. The notes which been issued will soon be below par if there is no prospect of the war being closed soon. It had rained quite hard this afternoon. I am on duty today. Norman writes that they have a good school, has got along well. He has been exposed to the measles. Says the rats or mice have carried off [off] the seeds. Received a letter from Tyler. He has had the measles. They have not got their arms yet. I think by what he writes that he is homesick. I guess some of his patriotism has evaporated.

Thursday, January 16 – Pleasant. It has cleared off and is a fine day. We have put up a new tent, which is agoing to be worth more us than we can calculate. The old tent was so dark that it was with difficulty we could read or write unless very clear. I do not find much news today. We are still encouraged to look for the close of the war at one early day. It has been three months since I came into the service of the U. S. If we have to stay three years one twelfth of the time has past but as it is scarcely one tenth past. Received a letter from Mother & Norman. They are well. Is anxious to know if Dr. Hesselton has been to see me. Think we had better wait for the fleets to do what they can before there is any thing done here. See Jan 15.

Friday, January 17 – Pleasant. A fine beautiful morning. It has been twenty five days since I was on picket, it is my regular turn today. The ground is still covered with snow. The snow has thawed away some today. We had a short drill this afternoon, fired fifteen rounds of blank cartridges. There was no news today. The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of women. The foundation of political happiness is faith in the integrity of man. The foundation of all happiness, temporal and eternal, is faith in the goodness, the righteousness, the mercy, and the love of God. Chronicles.

Saturday, January 18 – Rainy. Wind N. E. There is not much snow on the ground this morning. The fleet has been down of [off] Cape Hatteras. Mahlon [Pvt. Daniel Mahlon Priest of Co. A, 2nd Vermont, from Peru, Vt.] is on guard today it is the first time for a good while. There was heavy firing down the Potomac last night. A report also came into camp about midnight that the whole army of the rebels were advancing on us. There is a paper circulating among the privates

to raise money to purchase a sword for Col. Whiting. I hope that they will make out and get a good one. This Co. raised some fifty two dollars. There is a rumor that Gen. Wool has given notice remove the women and children from Norfolk in four hours. This report has proved a hoax.

Sunday, January 19 – Rainy. It was a very rainy night. It is very muddy. The mud is the consistency of clay well thinned with water. There is not much real important news, but all things seem to point to a good time coming. And I believe those who live to see six months hence will see this war at a close or nearly so, perhaps find us at home. The war was not brought up tonight. There was no meeting today. How priceless are the privileges enjoyed by the people of Vt. and how little they realize it.

Monday, January 20 – Cloudy. Rainy. The wet weather still continues. If I was to take my choice between the snows of Vt. and the mud of Va. I believe should choose the former. There are more pleasures and sports which are familiar to every Vt. School boy entirely unknown to Virginians. And I do not think he has any as good to balance them. It rained some this forenoon. Received a letter from home. The folks are well. Mr. Story was there. They sent a speech by John Bright at Rockdale and a voice. I have read the speech over and wish there were more like the Orator in Europe.

Tuesday, January 21 – Rainy. It rained quite hard in the night, and this morning. The news this morning is good. The Rebels under Zolicoffer [Gen. Felix K. Zolicoffer who was killed at the battle of Mill Springs, Ken., on January 19, 1862] have been completely defeated with the loss of their cannon, quartermaster stores, tents, horses and wagons. Gens. Zolicoffer & Peyton were killed. Our loss is not known yet. I am put on picket tomorrow but I have got C. Robbins to take my place and I shall go in his next time.

Wednesday, January 22 – Cloudy. There was a light fall of snow last night, and the ground looks quite white. The mud dried up very fast in the night. It has been quite a fine day for a cloudy one. The snow is all gone. The news of yesterday is confirmed in the papers of today. I received a letter from Coz. Candace. She is at work in Proctorsville. Emory and Jonah had gone home to stay a little while. She writes that Wayland likes well. Thinks that it must be unpleasant to be in such society as is found in some places.

Thursday, January 23 – Cloudy. It is a little colder this morning. There is not much news, but the papers confirm the reports of the last battle. We were paid of [off] today. I received (12.90) twelve ninety. Which is the balance after sending home the ten dollars per month. My pay in full amounts to thirty two dollars ninety. I have earned in the service of the U. S. and Vt. fifty three ninety.

Friday, January 24 – Cloudy. It is quite cold this morning. The ground is frozen quite hard. The news is not very exciting. The report is that fleets are moving to operate on North & South Carolina. I have sent home an order for twenty dollars, and a five dollar treasury note. Received a letter from home. Mother is well. Says she is trying to get along as well as she can. They have had a long storm. The snow is about two feet deep. Norman writes he is getting along well. Father says there is a fair prospect of settling up the Rebellion. Mr. & Mrs. Barrett.

Saturday, January 25 – Stormy. Pleasant. It commenced storming last night and this morning there is something like an inch of snow and hail on the ground. It rains now. It has cleared off and looks much pleasanter than it has been for some time. I see by the clothing books of the Co. that I have had over fifteen dollars worth of clothing since I came here. There is no great news today.

Sunday, January 26 – Pleasant. It has cleared off and is quite cold today. The ground is freezing up pretty hard. The talk is that we shall move from here in a few days, but I do not believe much about it. Horses No. in different countrys.

G. Britain & Ireland	2,500,000
France	3,000,000
Austria	2,600,000
Russia	3,500,000
In the world	60,000,000
Bovine	
Russia	20,000,000
G. Britain & Ireland	8,000,000
Austria	10,000,000
France	8,000,000
U. States	52,000,000
In world	210,000,000

Monday, January 27 – Cloudy. It is a good day for picketing. I have not been on picket before for about five weeks (22d of Dec.) They have move the main reserve to a house in Lewinsville. I think if the war was to last three or four years the Gov. would get so they would know enough to conduct the war in a different manner. Now they will make the soldiers stand about when by making use of Rebel property they might get along much easier.

Tuesday, January 28 – Stormy. Cloudy. We had a good time on picket. It rained some while we were coming in but not very hard. We learn from the southern papers that the Rebels have some fear of being cut of [off] in Tennessee and on the coast. There is no mail up tonight.

Area of a few of the great nations

Russia	7,862,861	S. M.
U. S.	2,936,166	“ “
France	209,933	“ “
British Isles	120,850	“ “

Wednesday, January 29 – Cloudy. I have a severe cold and a bad cough. I should be glad to have it pleasant weather so that I could get along better. Not much news today. The mail that ought to have come up yesterday came today. No letter from home. Received a letter from Thatcher. Their folks all well. He is attending the signing school. Received one from Cousin Mary. She has got almost through with her school. Says Tyler and David are getting along as well as can be expected under the circumstances. She talks some of coming down to Plymouth in the spring, but thinks she will wait until fall in hopes that we shall get home.

Thursday, January 30 – Stormy. Cloudy. Cold and rainy. The wet seasons of warm country if this is a fair specimen are not the pleasant season for me. There is nothing for news. I do not get a letter from home yet. I guess there has been a storm so that the mail has not come along regular.

Friday, January 31 – Cloudy. It looked quite clear last night and this morning, but is cloudy now. Received a letter from home. The folks are well. They have had snow every day for twelve days. The roads have been blocked up so that there was no passing. They have two months of my state pay. They had to pay 28 cts. I dont see into that. Mother seems to have an imperfect idea of the situation of soldiers in the army. Norman is getting along well in his studies. They have got the wheat almost thrashed. The snow is drifted up very high around the building. The month has been very rainy. There has been some progress in military operations, but not as active

Saturday, February 1 – Rainy. Cloudy. Feb. bids fair to follow Jan. in its wet career. There was some over an inch of snow fell last night. It is pretty soft and will go off soon I think. One month of the new year has passed. Have I improved as I ought. O most merciful Father grant me strength to keep myself from becoming debased and degraded. If God in his mercy will return me in safety home my powers shall begin to advance and the happiness of my fellow men. Looks some like clearing off. Received a letter from home. All well. They have received my order and find safe.

Sunday, February 2 – Weather cloudy and cool. It froze some last night. Some cloudy, the sun shines some of the time. Thirteen weeks have away since I came into this camp. It has been quite pleasant. I have had a severe headache nearly all day. There is so little regard payed to the Sabbath here that one day seems like another. I shall know how to appreciate this Holy day as I never did before when I return to the civil duties of life. But what a change there will be in thousands. Profanity, viciousness, imbibing and gambling will be among the many traits acquired in the army. Will they be good citizens? In fact will they prove to be good soldiers. It remains to be seen.

Monday, February 3 – Snowy. It has snowed all day and it has been the most snowy day this winter. I have been some disappointed thus far in the winter. It has been rather worse to be out than I expected it would be. I see by the report of the southern papers, that they are in almost a real panic. The Peru boys have got their mail tonight, it having been blocked up so that the stage could not cross for a number of days.

Tuesday, February 4 – Cloudy. Pleasant. It has been rather pleasant day, some cloudy. It has been like some days in Vt. which we have in Dec. The snow is nearly four inches deep. There is a report in the papers that heavy firing was heard at Beaufort and also at Norfolk. We have been out firing at a target this afternoon. I hit it, there were some ten or twelve in the company who hit it. My head ached severely this forenoon, but is better tonight. We do not take exercise enough to make me feel well. I am very glad to have it pleasant.

Friday, February 5 – Pleasant. It is the most beautiful morning that we have had for a long time. It brings to mind a morning last April Cos. Mahlon and myself harnessed in the colt and drove

up toward the furnace. Fired at a target again today. Received a letter from home. The folks are all well.

Saturday, February 6 – Rainy in the morning, but it stopped before eleven. It was quite pleasant through the night. The snow is agoing off some today. It is not very hard to go on picket now, we have a place for small reserve and a house for the main reserve. There was not as much gambling this time as the last before when I was out. A paper came in for me tonight.

Friday, February 7 – Cloudy. Pleasant. It is a warm spring like morning and the snow is agoing fast. Came in from picket feeling better than usual. We exchanged our guns today for the Springfield rifled musket. I should like them better if they were bright barrels. The finish is better than Enfield. The Cameron Dragoons [5th Pennsylvania Cavalry] made a reconaissance to Fairfax and took 13 or 14 prisoners, a waggon and some horses.

Saturday, February 8 – Cloudy. It is rather cooler this morning than it was yesterday. We have good news again. Fort Henry has been taken and a large amount of stores, among which were twenty cannon and seventeen mortars. This success must be of great importance to us as it opens up the advance of our armies the towns of Memphis and Bowling Green. Gen. McClellan has been placed on the same footing with Buell & Hallack.

Sunday, February 9 – Pleasant. Rather a windy cool day. We were called up at half past two and at three we on our way for Leesburg Turnpike. We had a hard jaunt going out as the mud was very bad. We got out there at about five and started back about seven. The object of the expedition was to surprise some Rebel cavalry supposed to be there. But they were gone when we got there. Another week has passed away, and I have reason to be thankful that my health is still getting better every day. I endured the tramp much better than I expected. It was hard traveling in the mud. I shall be thankful to be able to return home and enjoy the privileges of the christian Sabbath day.

Monday, February 10 – Pleasant. It is a fine pleasant day. We have taken down our tents and given our things a good airing. Reports of fighting continue to come from Roanoke & Beaufort, but nothing definite is known yet. Received a letter from home. The folks are well. The freight on the box they sent me was two dollars twelve. They sent me son little tracts, etc.

Tuesday, February 11 – Cloudy. I [t] has been a cloudy day but not very cold. I have been washing. We have reports of fighting at Roanok [Roanoke] again in the papers today. Mahlon is on picket. Received a letter from Perry. He is still at Hydeville, but is going back to school in the spring. Think we shall go to work here soon. Wants I should give him a daily record of what we do here. A note from Miss Hapgood. A very good and encouraging letter. Exhorts us to put our trust in God.

Wednesday, February 12 – Pleasant. A fine morning. There was snow enough fell last night to make the ground white. We have been out shooting at a target this morning. It is reported that we have taken Roanoke island. Also that General Grant has surrounded Fort Donnelson with eight batteries. Twenty eight contrabands came in this morning. A new battery came up to day from Washington. Received a letter from Surry. All well. Thinks they will not keep Mr. Clark long.

Has rather a low opinion of the state of morals, etc. One from Thatcher. All well. He has got tired of waiting for me to write, and so he writes to me. Writes that they had a good time at the donation. There were quite a collection there. Thinks they have a good singing school.

Thursday, February 13 – Cloudy. Pleasant. Froze a little last night. It is the warmest day we have had this long time. We get very good news from Burnside today. He has taken Roanoke Island and a large lot of prisoners. I am very glad to hear of the good success of our arms. I am glad to see there are a good many Union men Tennessee & Alabama. Received a letter from home. The folks are all well. Had quite a donation at the Clarks. Norman writes that he has received some of the Rural New Yorkers. He writes that he had a good time a shooting squirrels. Grey ones. Sent some more little books.

Friday, February 14 - _____. Cloudy. It looks some like a storm this morning. It did not freeze any last night. Looks more pleasant tonight. We get nothing but Rebel accounts of Burnside's expedition today. The Brigade went out and had dress parade together this afternoon. Some talk that we shall move soon again.

Rebel Victories 1861

April 12 Sumter

June 10 Big Bethel

July 21 Bull Run

Sept. 20 Lexington

Oct. 25 Massacre of Ball's Bluff

Nov. 7 Belmont

Wilson's Creek

Saturday, February 15 – Snows. It snows quite fast this morning. We get good news from all quarters. Fort Donnelson [Donelson] has been taken with 15,000 prisoners. Good success will soon close this most unnatural war. It has snowed all day. Went to meeting this evening.

Union Victories 1862

Second Rebel repulse at Santa Rosa

Humphry Marshall's Route [Eastern Kentucky]

Capture of South Carolina Forts

Mill Springs Zolicoffer killed

Fort Henry

Roanoke Island

Fort Donnelson

Sunday, February 16 – Pleasant. There is about two inches of snow on the ground. Expected to have gone on picket today, but shall not for five days. I am glad that I do not go today as I wish to observe the Sabbath as much as possible. Went to meeting this evening. It is a hard place for anyone to try to improve in a moral or religious point of view. I will, God helping me, keep myself free all camp vices. I am glad to see a few who come out to the meetings and help keep them up. But should there not be more in a Reg. than have come out yet? There was some twenty five out last night, and over thirty tonight.

Monday, February 17 – Rainy. Cloudy. It rained some last night. It has rained a good part of the day. Salute was fired today in honor of some action.

Union Victories 1861

June 2 Philippa [Philippi, W. Va.]

“ 17 Boonsville [Boonville, Mo.]

July [6] Brier Forks [Mo.]. Seigle’s victory

“ 11 Defeat of Pegram by McClellan [Rich Mountain, W. Va.]

“ 13 Carrick’s Ford [W. Va.] Death of Garnett

Aug. 28 Hatteras Forts [N. C.]

Sep. 10 Route of Floyd, Gauley Bridge [W. Va.]

Oct. 5 second defeat of Rebel [illegible]

“ 8 Santa Rosa Island [Fla.]

“ 11 Repulse at Southwest Pass [of the Mississippi River]

“ 25 Charge of Fremont’s Guard {Greene Co., Mo.]

“ 27 Romney [W. Va.] (Kelley wounded)

Nov. 7 Port Royal [S. C.]

Dec 13 Camp Allegheny Va.

“ 18 1,300 Rebels taken by Joplin, Mo.

“ 18 Dranesville, Va.

Tuesday, February 18 – Cloudy. it is cloudy and not very cold. Received a letter last night from home. All Well. Father thinks going off with the potatoes in a short time. Says that they talk of getting some sixty day’s men to guard Washington during the advance. The official report of the capture of Fort Donnelson came in the papers this morning. The great traitor at Floyd run away without the knowledge of his superior officer. Buckner and Bushrod taken prisoner.

Wednesday, February 19 – Cloudy. Rainy. We had looked in vain for fair weather but it does not come, but I think it must come soon. It is a rainy day and except a few minutes at times has rained all day. Received a letter from home. Father has gone to Boston with his potatoes. Norman writes that he is getting along well.

Thursday, February 20 – Pleasant. It has been rather pleasant, some cloudy. The papers confirm the capture of Brig. Gen. Price and some of his staff.

Relative value of substances for producing Milk

100 pounds good hay are worth

200 “ potatoes

460 “ beetroot, with leaves

350 “ Siberian cabbage

250 “ beetroot, without leaves

250 “ carrots

80 “ clover vetches

50 “ oil cake or [illegible]

250 “ pea straw and vetches

300 “ barley or oat straw

400 “ rye or wheat straw

25 “ peas, beans or vetch seed

50 “ oats
500 “ green trefoil

Friday, February 21 – Cloudy. It has been a cool cloudy day and during the night the air felt as though it would snow. I am on picket again. We have some expectation plenty of seeing Rebels before we go in. McClellan telegraphed that the Rebels are advancing with the probable intention of attacking us. The birds were very plenty, an immense number of crows were passing just at night.

Saturday, February 22 – Cloudy. It is warmer this morning. Has rained a little. We have got into camp without seeing any Rebels. Some infantry and cavalry went out to scout. They have taken some prisoners but how many is not known, some have been brought in. We have quite reliable reports that the Rebels are evacuating Manassas.

Sunday, February 23 – Cloudy. It continues cloudy and occasionally rains a little. Sixteen weeks ago I came into this camp. Sixteen weeks of mercy have passed, and I have been duly thankful. I have been to meeting and the bible class today. I have enjoyed myself much better than usual. I like the Col. the more I see of him. Why is it that so many of the men conduct as though they had nothing more to live for than the beast? It is a sad thought but it is so, we cannot deny it.

Monday, February 24 – Rather cloudy. It looks some like clearing off today and I should be very glad to have it. It seems like old Vt. to have the birds come back, and to hear them sing. It has been some cloudy through the day. The wind commenced blowing before noon and blowed very hard blowing many tents. Received a letter from home. Father has gone down to Boston with potatoes. Mr. Barrett [John Barrett of Ludlow, Vt.] writes that he has enlisted in this Reg.

Tuesday, February 25 – Pleasant. It has been rather cool. We had a brigade drill this forenoon.

Bayonet exercise in afternoon. June 18, 1852

Waterloo forces engaged. French 80,000. Cannon 252

English 72,000. Cannon 186.

Prussian reinforcements 36,100. [cannon] 100.

Loss. French 40,000 killed & 225 cannon. Allies 16,686 killed and wounded.

_____ Oct. 16-8, 1813. Forces.

French 175,000. 720 cannon

Allies 290,000. 1,800 c [annon]. 43,000.

_____ Sept. 3, 1812. Forces.

French 133,000. 590 c [annon]. 50,000

Russian 132,000. 640 c [annon]. 47,000

_____ Feb. 8, 1807. Forces.

French 85,000. 350 c [annon]. 30,000

Russians 75,000. 460 c [annon]. 25,000.

Wednesday, February 26 – Rather cloudy. The sun shone out good part of the fore part of the day. I have been on fatigue. It is the first time. It rains this evening. The report and things indicate that we are to move tomorrow if the weather permits.

Thursday, February 27 – It has been pleasant, but cool. Our guard today the first time for a long time. It seems quite probable that we shall march soon. We are to go up and help Banks across the river. There are quite a number of prisoners in the guard house. A good many of them swear that if they ever get out of the army alive, they will have revenge on those who have been the cause of their punishment. Where is the fault?

Friday, February 28 – Pleasant. Cool and windy. We have been mustered in for our pay today. We do not march today. The report is we shall not. Received a letter from home. I cannot but feel for some concern for my Mother. I fear she will ruin her health. Norman writes that Father has got back from Boston. Got 58 & 60 cts. per bushel for potatoes. They came to 70\$. The butter came to \$142. He gives a very good description of the Rural. The snow is very deep at home. Cousins Clarrie & Carrie write me a good letter.

Saturday, March 1 – Pleasant. Last night was I think as cold as any we have had. If there is anything in the old saying that when March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb, we may expect to have warm weather soon. Grown much warmer through the day. A new battery came up to day. Am I prepared for what is perhaps in store for me? Perhaps I shall suffer in prison or on the field of battle with in all the agonies of death! Oh that I may be in the right frame of mind and have the Great Ruler of the universe for my protector.

Sunday, March 2 – Cloudy. it is milder this morning. Commenced snowing after noon and snowed quite fast for some time. This is the seventeenth week in Va. and they have been weeks of mercy. I have not felt as well as usual for a day or two. About a foot of snow fell today.

Monday, March 3 – Cloudy. Some stormy. Rained some in the night and through the day. Rained hard through the evening. Received a letter from home. All well. They have had a severe windy time, snow deep and still coming. Mahlon is on picket, a hard time, glad I am not.

Tuesday, March 4 – Rather cloudy. Rained hard in the night. The wind commenced blowing towards morning, but it is pleasant this forenoon. Frozen up again. I wonder when warm weather is a coming. Looked quite pleasant this evening.

Wednesday, March 5 – Cloudy. Cool and cloudy. Rather a raw cloudy day. We learn today that Columbus is in the hands of our troops. Received a Voice and some papers. No. of chaplains in the army 472.

Different denominations

Methodists 124

N. L. [New Light] Presbyterian 94

Con'ists [Congregationalists] 67

Episcopalians 66

Baptists 43

O. L. [Old Light] Presbyterian 24

Unitarians 23

Roman Catholics 22

All others 9

Thursday, March 6 - Rather cloudy. Froze quite hard, looks as though would to continue for some time. Part of the forenoon was quite pleasant, the afternoon cloudy. We do not get much news. There seems to be another calm before the storm. The Col. was presented with a sword, belt, bridle, saddle and pistols today by the soldiers. It was a fine present.

Friday, March 7 - Pleasant. The weather still continues cold. We have had a brigade drill in the forenoon of the days of the present week. Received a letter from home. The folks all well. Father writes that he is getting along well, has paid in two hundred dollars. Received

Saturday, March 8 - Cloudy. Rather a cool day, but very good to be on picket. They changed the pickets today, there three on a post. No fires on the small reserve. There are many signs of the approach of spring. If I could feel well and have good weather I should like to go on picket quite often.

Sunday, March 9 - Pleasant. A fine pleasant day. I feel as well after coming in off from picket as when I went out. We have rumors and surmisings in regard to our advance again. Some set the time at two or three days, but it is all conjecture. I think I should prefer to wait two or three weeks until the ground is some drier and warmer.

Monday, March 10 - Stormy in the morning. We left Camp Griffin this morning before light, are camped about three miles from Viena [Vienna]. Expect to start for Centerville in the morning. are in the D. Abri tents. [Actually tente D abri which if French for shelter tent] The name of the is Flint or rather Flint Hill. The report is that Centerville is in our possession. Can I realize what I am likely to have to undergo within a short time. We are quite comfortably situated for the night. Two men were drummed out of camp this afternoon. Cloudy. Heard the first frogs.

Tuesday, March 11 - Pleasant. It was rather cool in the tents last night. We have reports that the Rebels are evacuating all the places which they held. It is thought that Manassas has been burned. I cannot see where they intend to stop. Rec. a letter from Mother. She sent me her miniature. They are well. Norman writes that they have had another drifting time. It was difficult that I could keep down my feelings when I looked on the familiar and long loved face of my Mother. Oh! the shower of a Mother's influence! It is my earnest prayer that I may again hold sweet converse with her face to face.

Wednesday, March 12 - Pleasant. The probability is that we shall remain here some time. It is said that McClellan was up here yesterday and that he was at Manassas and all through there, also that he sent a force ascertain where the Rebels are. Saw a company of Lancers today for the first time. We have four drills a day. It appears that it will require the utmost caution on our part to keep out of the guard house. It looks now as though the war would be ended in a short time but some unforeseen event may lengthen it some time.

Thursday, March 13 - Cloudy. Looks like rain. We are drilling today. There is a prospect of our going to Washington in a few days, and where we shall go from there is unknown. We were reviewed by Gen. McClellan last night, it was so dark that I could not tell much how he looked. We are agoing to Alexandria tomorrow. Looks like rain. Received a letter and paper from home. The folks are all well.

Friday, March 14 – Cloudy & misty. It is rather cool. We are waiting for orders to fall in this morning. We did not move today. It is tiresome waiting and lying around on the damp ground, but we must learn to be patient and put up with hardships. The campaign of the coming season has but just opened and we can expect that it will be a very active one.

Saturday, March 15 – Rainy. It has been a very rainy bad day. We left camp Porter this morning, have marched about twelve miles and are encamped about three or four miles from Alexandria. Expect to stay here a few days. I was pretty tired last night, but feel better this morning than I expected too. Lay down with nearly [all] of my clothes wet.

Sunday, March 16 – Cloudy. I feel much better than I expected, but am still rather lame and stiff. I wonder what my folks would think if they knew how I was situated yesterday and last night. It has seemed as little like Sunday today as any day since I came into the army. Moving our camp and chopping makes it seem as far from the Sabbath as possible. Oh the joy, the comfort and happiness of the civil and domestic circle. How few know how much they have to be thankful for.

Monday, March 17 – Cloudy. We are still at our new camp and expect to stay some time. We get good news from New Madrid, which has been taken by our forces with large quantities of stores. Received a letter from home. The folks all well. Norman seems to be enjoying himself sliding first rate. He has tapped one tree. The sap run some. Mr. Barrett sends a note he expects to go to Burlington soon. Received a letter from Cousin Mary. Their folks are well. She thinks the war looks dark, fears that it will not be closed very soon. Writes that Cousins Tyler and David are well, expects that Tyler has the mumps.

Tuesday, March 18 – Cloudy pleasant. Looks like rain this morning. Rather cool. Received a letter from Friend Larry. He is well. Speaks rather discouraging of the conditions of things at our church. Says Mr. Clark has preached his farewell sermon. Says the school has about 23 scholars. I feel very sorry to hear that Mr. Clark is to leave Ludlow as I have always considered him a most valuable friend. Pleasant in afternoon. Com. [Commodore] Foote is bombarding Island No. 10 and it is thought that the rebels are retreating.

Wednesday, March 19 – Cloudy. It is expected we shall move today. We have good news from Burnside, he has taken Newbern, N. C. I am awaiting the developments of the movements of the Army of the Potomac with a great deal of anxiety. Much depends upon the secrecy of the movement of this departments here the rebels have concentrated their most powerful force. There must be fought hard battles, and here the death blow must be struck at the Rebellion. There is not scarcely a crime comes before me that is not directly or indirectly caused by strong drink. Judge Coleridge. If it were not for this drinking you the gang and I would have nothing to do. Judge Patterson.

Thursday, March 20 – Stormy. A cool stormy morning. We have not left our camp yet. It has been a drizzly cold day and a fire would have been a good thing. We should suffer if we had not got some large tents yesterday. Experience has proved that almost all crimes into which juries have had to enquire may be traced in one way or another to drunkenness. Judge Williams. I find in every calendar that come before me one unfailing source directly or indirectly of most of the

crimes that are committed. Judge Wightman. If all men could be dissuaded from the use of intoxicating liquors the office of the judge would be a sinecure. Judge Alderson

Friday, March 21 – It continues cool & cloudy. We have four drills per day. Our mails come rather irregular. We are still in doubt as to where we are to be sent. Large numbers of transports are lying at Alexandria ready to take on board troops. Took quite a tramp, the Col. marched us down by Bush Hill. I liked the looks of the country. Got a glimpse of Arlington Heights, Potomac and the cars, it was like seeing an old friend to see the cars and river.

Saturday, March 22 – Cloudy. Some warmer than it has been for a number of days. On guard today. There is a guard around the camp. We are to march tomorrow A.M. Order has been issued preventing the advance part of the army from writing letters. The guard is taken off tonight. Received a letter from home. The folks are all well.

Sunday, March 23 – Pleasant. We have fallen in and are awaiting the order forward. Marched to Alexandria, went onboard the C. Vanderbilt. Moved down the river a few miles then anchored for the night. Saw Cousins Tyler and David at A. [Alexandria]. They expect to go on board soon. Did not see enough of the city so that I could say much of an idea of it.

Monday, March 24 – Cloudy. We left our anchorage this morning at light. The scenery is not interesting on the river. The banks are both low and level. The river is larger than I expected. Arrived at Fortress Monroe just at night, camped on the sand between walls of the fort and the bay.

Tuesday, March 25 – Some cloudy. We are still before the fort. Left about eleven marched out about five miles in the road toward Newport News. We expect to remain here a few days. The soil is altogether different from that near Washington. Came through the ruins of Hampton. There was more of a town there than I had expected to see. I cannot see why the rebels should burn such a town. Cloudy for most of the day. Saw the Monitor, it certainly looks like a cheese box on a raft. Saw marigolds in bloom at the fort and some other kinds of flowers. I think that the Union guns can be made of good service in case an enemy tries to come into the harbor.

Wednesday, March 26 – It has been cloudy most of the day. I find the vegetation here now about the same as it is in Vt. the first of May. It has been rather cool ever since we left Alexandria. Those left in Alexandria came in today.

Thursday, March 27 – Pleasant. Left our camp this morning between six and seven. We are now deployed as skirmishers at the distance of eight or ten miles from camp. Have skirmished through a very bad swampy place. Remained deployed as skirmishers until dark when we were relieved by another company. Went back a short distance and encamped for the night. Saw a lot of beech trees today.

Friday, March 28 – Marched back a few miles, are now about a mile back of the fort at Newport. It is reported that New Orleans is expected to be taken soon.

Saturday, March 29 – Cloudy the fore part of the day the later stormy. There has been a cold raw wind through the day. We have not received our mail for a week. Have been down to the river, saw the ship which was sunk by the Merrimack. Saw a tree in full bloom, it was off so far that I could not tell what it was, it was said to be a peach. Received a letter from home. Folks were all well. The snow had not gone off much. Did not look much like sugaring.

Sunday, March 30 – Stormy. Cold and stormy through night and most of the day. Sabbath has succeeded Sabbath that until twenty one of God's holy days have passed. Ah! Can I say that I have lost them. I fear I have not done as well as I might have done. How great are the blessings of home and peace, who can prize them as highly as he ought too. Alas that we are so blind that we do not see when we are well off until we are placed in a difficult situation. Can I live with a clear conscience knowing how much pain I caused my dear dear Mother. May God be merciful unto me and permit me once more to see my dear Mother face to face.

Monday, March 31 – Pleasant. It cleared this morning and has been a fine pleasant day. The rebels threw a few shell at the reserve of the pickets at the fort this afternoon, no damage done. Received a letter from Mother. All well. They were having quite pleasant weather. Uncle Norman's folks have sent a letter North. They were well. Norman writes that Mr. Drum is agoing onto Mr. Patches farm this spring. He has tapped a few trees, sap runs some. They think of tapping some.

Tuesday, April 1 – A reconnoitering party was sent out this morning, but came in a short time ago. The met no opposition. I fear the people of the North will all lose confidence in McClellan which would be a severe blow at our success. There is to be a review tomorrow. Looks some like rain tonight. I have been writing home all day. I feel that I cannot take to much trouble to write to my dear Parents and Brother. How could I ever meet them again and hold up my head unless I do all I can to alleviate their anxieties. Received a short note from Mother. She sent a couple of orders.

Wednesday, April 2 – Cloudy. We were reviewed by Gen. Keyes commander of the fourth army corps. I think it would be as well to tend to the realities of the war as to spend the time in fancy reviews. I have had a severe diarehea for about a week but have got nearly over it now.

Thursday, April 3 – Pleasant. There quite a smart shower in the night accompanied with thunder. It is warmer this morning than it has been for some time. We are very short for news here now, no papers have been in camp for some time. Moved our camp out toward Newport News. We have received orders to be ready to march at six in the morning with two days rations. Received a letter from mother and Norman. All well. The snow does not go off very fast.

Friday, April 4 – Cloudy with some rain. It was pleasant in the morning. I left camp at the appointed tome marched out a few miles where our Co. and Co. K were deployed as skirmishers. We have skirmished several miles. Are now resting. Moved on to Young's Mills, found it in our possession. It was quite strongly fortified. There was a fine lot of barracks enough to accommodate a number of a thousands of men. It looks as though they might have given us a hard battle. I feel pretty tired; believe I should not dare to march much father tonight. Camped at the mill for the night. There was a few guns fired.

Saturday, April 5 – Cloudy. We are all ready to start Afternoon. We have marched out a few miles the artillery are throwing shell into the Rebels a short distance ahead of us. We marched up into a piece of woods and lay there for the night. The firing was kept up until near dark. We have had four or five men killed and some wounded. It appears that they have a very strong position on the other side of the [Warwick] creek. Their number is said to be over thirty thousand. It rained awhile this morning accompanied with thunder.

Sunday, April 6 – Pleasant. We have been building a road to get our artillery up on. Our skirmishers are firing occasionally. Wrote a letter home. It is the first Sabbath I have spent before the rebels, I am glad that the Gens. Do not commence the battle today. How necessary it is for me to be prepared for whatever may be before me. It may be my lot [to] fall on the battlefield, but for a dear Mother's sake I hope to be spared. One half of the Reg. are to go on picket. Our Co. goes.

Monday, April 7 – On Picket. Cloudy and stormy. I was on post all night without being relieved. It was a very pleasant night, but rather cool. Was relieved at daylight. It commenced raining about noon. We are to go on again tonight. Think it is rather hard. Not much firing on either side three shells were thrown up toward our fatigue men in the night. We were so near the Rebels that I could hear them talking in the night. There was considerable moving of teams or artillery among them in the night.

Tuesday, April 8 – Rainy. We were relieved again this morning. It rained all night without cessation. It was not known for some time whether we were to be relieved today or not. A little before we ordered off by some officer. While we were gone the relief came up and was posted. Three shells were fired at our reserve just before we were ordered back. The troops moved up to the right last night. We had a fine tramp of two or three miles to go to our camp and then just as we were ready to make ourselves comfortable we were ordered back a half mile of so.

Wednesday, April 9 – Cloudy. Rained most of the night had a tough time. I feel much better than could have expected to after being exposed so much. I have great reason to be thankful to my kind Father and heaven for his necessary care. Wrote a letter home. We are told that Island No. 10 is taken and also a battle with Beauregard who is defeated.

Thursday, April 10 – Cloudy. It is quite a cool morning, saw some flakes of snow. We are lying here yet, but the troops are at work and the forts will soon be attacked. It has cleared off this afternoon. There are hundreds of stories afloat, which we can put no dependence upon. Perry write that he is home now. Will commence going to school soon. Thinks Mr. Hyde will make a good teacher.

Friday, April 11 – Pleasant. There was quite a frost last night. Warm today. We moved our camp up toward the line a short distance. Received a letter and paper from home. Folks all well. Mother writes in a much more calm and resigned mood than I had expected. She expresses a strong desire for my welfare, and a wish to aid me if necessary. Father writes that he has got three months more of my pay. Hay is plenty. They have not settled off with Mr. Clark yet. Has

not got his pay of Adams or Stickney yet. Think the success of our arms is all that can be asked for. Norman has tapped the sugar lot but not much sap yet. Wrote some about the Russels.

Saturday, April 12 – Pleasant. I am on guard today. I learn by letters that the recruits will be here soon. I fear they will have rather a hard time. It turns out that we have gained a splendid victory at [Pittsburgh] Landing and also at Island No. 10. There will probably be no attack here for some time perhaps a fortnight. We have been pretty short today with nothing but meat to eat. Our company have gone on picket.

Sunday, April 13 – Hazy with some sun. There has been some cannonading down the river today. We had a meeting. The Chaplain thinks that ten days will do a great deal toward either closing the war or lengthening it. Encourages us on to lofty deeds of heroism and courage. We have lived pretty short for a few days, nothing but meat to eat. The Rebels tried to cut off a few of our pickets today. Fired at some of company I, none injured.

Monday, April 14 – Pleasant. There's not much signs of making a strike for a number of days, but the hour may be near by. There is not much agoing on now, or to all appearances it is so. The reason given for our being so short for rations is that the teams cannot come up from Shipping [Ships] Point on account of the badness of the road short of a whole day or sometimes two. The distance is about seven miles. What would have become of us if we had gone on a few miles farther. I see that the recruiting officers are ordered to their Regs.

Tuesday, April 15 – Pleasant. Some drizzly in the morning, rained some in the night. We can get Butter for 40cts. Per lb. Sugar Maple 60 or 70. Cookies cent a piece. Cheese 20 per lb. Eggs 55 per doz. I have a very sore mouth. It is with difficulty that I can eat. It has cleared off. Received a letter from home. All the folks are well. The snow does not go off very fast. Not much prospect of making a large quantity of sugar.

Wednesday, April 16 – Apple trees in blossom. Sixth months in service. Pleasant. The attack on the enemy commenced today. We left our camp about seven came out some over a mile. The artillery silenced a battery across the creek, and commanding a causeway across the dam built to flood the ground below. Gen. McClellan and staff came on to the field a little before noon and remained sometime. Went back after our knapsacks in the afternoon, when we got back they were at it pretty sharp. We first took position on the right of our artillery then moved to the left. Co. F lost one man while changing. The Fourth, Sixth and Third tried to cross but were unable to. They lost quite heavy. We are on the river again. It seems we have not gained much today.

Thursday, April 17 – Pleasant. The night passed quietly except now and then a shell was thrown over to the rebels. Our men have thrown up breastworks. Part of our Reg. are out as skirmishers. There was but little firing today, except a few shells in the morning. There was some heavy firing up on the right it is not known where it was. It looks as though it was folly to order men to charge as they did last night. It is said that the Third has eighty two killed, wounded and missing. The Fourth twenty. I hope we shall have better success next time. We could not have had two better days than yesterday and today. All the leaves are coming out very fast and warm weather will soon be upon us. Later reports place our loss much less.

Friday, April 18 – Pleasant. There were two alarms in the night when we all fell in. The firing was pretty brisk for a short time but ceased when the artillery threw over a few shell. Wrote a line home, should have liked more time. It was not the design when the fight commenced to try to cross unless the enemy evacuated which there were no signs of their doing, and instead of that there was reason to believe that there was a strong force in the woods, and that vigorous resistance would be made if we should attempt to cross. Men are engaged in building roads and fortifications. A shell or solid shot is occasionally sent over as a present.

Saturday, April 19 – Cloudy through the day. It was very quiet, scarcely a gun was fired. It is cloudy this morning. There seems to be nothing done today but to prepare for the coming struggle. A flag of truce was raised today by the rebels and we got permission to get our dead out of the creek. There has been a gun brought up here that is said to throw a ball or more a second. Went on Brigade guard at four. It commenced raining near night, accompanied with thunder.

Sunday, April 20 – Cloudy and Rainy. It was quite a rainy night, but nothing was attempted by the enemy. The second time the firing was quite brisk for short period. Received a letter from home. They have not made much sugar. The prospect is poor. The folks are greatly encouraged by the late Union victories. Norman writes the snow crust is very, teams can go upon it. They had seven pigs. The robins and birds are quite plenty. Mrs. Bishop wrote me a line. When they last heard from Wayland he was at Strasburg. Received also a paper.

Monday, April 21 – Cloudy. It was very quiet last night. A flag of truce was up again today, it is said that it is to give an answer to the dispatch sent the other day. Some showers in the afternoon. Piles of wood have been placed within some eight or ten rods of each other in front of our camps to be fired in case the rebels were to cross. In front of these piles is a row of brush so placed as to entangle them. They are strengthening our batters every night.

Tuesday, April 22 – Cloudy the forepart. Showers in the afternoon. Went on picket at half past one. We are to have the question whether we will have our pay now, or wait until two more months become due, and then have four at a time, left to us. Most of the regiments in our Brigade have already voted to wait so it is said. A skirmish is reported to have taken place between Hancock's pickets and an advancing force of the enemy, they drove our pickets in first but they rallied drove the Rebels back farther than they before they advanced. It is reported the Rebels are moving about very actively, and is thought they contemplated our attack.

Wednesday, April 23 – Pleasant. All quiet through the night. Rather cool. I was not very well, and could not sleep much. None but the sharpshooters are kept on the front through the day. The picket force is kept as a support. The Rebels could be heard at work very actively through the night. Their bands and drums could be heard distinctively, also cheering.

Thursday, April 24 – Cloudy. Sun shone out some, but rather obscure. I had another restless night, but feel much better this morning. A few shells were thrown over to the Rebels just after roll call, the rest of the night was very quiet. How fond the mind is to indulge in vain imaginations and theories. I presume there are many subordinate officers and petty politicians that in their own minds have formed plans by which they believe this war might soon be settled, and most of them will spout it out, as soon a favorable opportunity presents itself.

Friday, April 25 – Cloudy. Went on fatigue last night. Carried tree tops to make hedge, I know no better name, on the right of the batteries extending down to the pond. Got back to camp after three. Was rather tired. There was some mortar firing in the night could hear the shell whistle. At half past one we went out to support the batteries. Are stationed on the left. Think it rather hard to have to go out again too night. Looks a like rain. It is rather cool.

Saturday, April 26 – Stormy. Rained very slowly all night. We lay in the rear of the batteries during the [night], with nothing but our rubbers under us. It was rather cool, but I passed the night rather comfortably. It was very quiet through the night, not a gun was fired by our picket line here. I am quite disappointed not to get a letter from home, and cannot account for the delay. Received a letter from home. All well. They have made some over a hundred lbs. of sugar. Norman writes that they have a great thaw. Ground is getting bare. Rec. one from Thatcher. They have moved up to Mr. Patches. Mr. Clark is sick.

Sunday, April 27 – Cloudy. It still holds cloudy and cool. The day has passed thus far very quietly. How many more of the holy Sabbath shall it be before I can return to where I can attend upon preaching once more. I hope that the Rebels will see the folly of their ways and turn from them. How sad it is to think that a nation should get into such a most horrid war. Who is to take the blame of it upon their heads, and not be sunk in unfathomable woe.

Monday, April 28 – Cloudy. Pleasant. It cleared off about noon, and now looks like fine weather. Everything is passing along quietly. Fatigue work is nearly done I guess, as we have had none for a few days. We got news that the Gulf fleet is at work below N. Orleans. Com. Foote and fleet are at Ft. Pillow. The battle at Corinth is expected to come off soon. We see that the affairs in the west are steady going forward.

Tuesday, April 29 – Cloudy. Cloudy in the morning, it has broke away some now. The recruits came in today saw the Ludlow boys. I am afraid some of them will soon wish they were holding the plow in Vt. instead of fighting the Rebels. I know I shall long remember the day that I am allowed to return to more quiet occupation. Went on fatigue helped load and unload timber for gun platforms. It has been cloudy except a short time in the middle of the day. It seems there is a good deal cloud cool weather up to this time. It is said that N. Orleans is in our possession.

Wednesday, April 30 – Cloudy. It continues cloudy. We were mustered in the morning, and shall soon receive four months pay. The night passed quietly. There was heavy firing to the right just before dark last night and some in the night. The Reg. was sent out to skirmish this afternoon. Our Co. lost three men, L. Wood, L. Carpenter and L. Townsley. There was nothing accomplished, by this move, as I can see. How soon my turn will come I know not, but if it is to be my fate, may I be prepared to meet my fate. How can I look back upon this day realizing the protection of God. Can I see any reason why I was not taken and they left? Not at all. [Pvt. Louis Wood from Readsboro, Vt., was the first to go down with a mortal chest wound. Pvt. Leander M. Towsley Shaftsbury, Vt., and another man rushed forward to rescue Wood. Just as they bent over to pull him to safety, Towsley received a mortal wound in the chest. Then Pvt. Lucius Carpenter, a Burlington, Vt., native was hit. Carpenter, like Towsley and Wood, was also hit in the chest, but died instantly. Neither Towsley nor Wood made it back to camp alive. From the

appearance of the wounds, some of the men thought the same sniper had hit all three, but this could not be proved]

Thursday, May 1 – Cloudy and damp. Rained a little in the night. May day finds me this year in far different circumstances from what it did a year ago. I feel although I am in the midst of danger, I shall be as at home if I have the protection of the Great Ruler of the Universe. There [are] many rumors afloat, some in respect to settlement and others say Beauregard has been defeated. The taking of N. Orleans seems to be confirmed. Oh! For peace, blessed peace.

Friday, May 2 – Cleared off before noon. Cloudy. Pleasant. We are to go on picket this afternoon. I was in hopes that it would clear off by this time. Cannonading can be heard on the right, this promising. We are out on picket. I received two letters from home. One of them was miscarried. The folks are all well. Mother writes a considerable miscellaneous news. The snow has mostly gone off, but it is very muddy. L. P. will be married soon. His Father has given him all he can make of their farm this year. Norman writes that they made 118 lbs. of sugar, and have syrup for a number of lbs. more. Mr. Story came up there but left his team and went back afoot.

Saturday, May 3 – Cloudy. It was very pleasant at sunrise this morning, but soon clouded up. All was quiet through the night. I was on post two hours in the night. Some mortars were put into position last night so it's said. We have come in from picket. It is rather pleasant. The sun shines part of the time. There does not appear to be much firing on the other side today. I think siege will soon open in earnest, and I hope that we will have good success. The day is quite warm, but no warmer than some days in this in Vt. The leaves have put out considerable but are not full grown yet. The grass comes forward very slow, does not as at the north spring up as in a day.

Sunday, May 4 – Saw strawberry blossoms. Pleasant for most part of the day. We were ordered into line about seven, and marched over to our batteries where we soon learned that the Rebels had evacuated. We soon crossed over and lay there awhile, then went back, packed up, recrossed again, and proceeded forward. Part of the Reg. under the command under the Lieut. Col. Were sent off to the left where the Rebels had burned a bridge. A few of the Rebel cavalry were found on the other side. After staying a little while we came back and rested awhile, then proceeded on. Came up with Rebel works just at night. We were on the right, not having come up with the Reg. After wandering about awhile, we slept in an open field.

Monday, May 5 – Rainy. There is quite a brisk cannonading at this time. It has rained steadily all of the morning. There is at this time a battle raging and I think by the continued cheering that we have gained upon the Rebels, but how much I cannot tell. The Rebels threw shells at us just as we were forming in line to pass the night. The story is that the division on our left was repulsed in an attack on the Rebels with heavy loss. Our Brigade lay back as a reserve, and was not in the fight. It has rained most of the day and the most of us are more or less wet, and many hungry. I think we shall have a chance at them tomorrow, but hope their rout is complete.

Tuesday, May 6 – Saw butter cups. Pleasant. I rested better last night than I expected too. We were not disturbed at all during the night. Got a few crackers this morning. We started before five this morning and marched in a northerly direction crossing a creek in front of a powerfully situated fortification, which was taken by our men yesterday. The dead and wounded of the

Rebels were scattered over a large tract of land. Some of their regiments were nearly cut to pieces. The Louisiana Tigers one 5 N. C. another. Saw some fine fields of wheat, one had begun to head out. We are near the fortifications, waiting for rations. There a great many reports in camp, concerning Beauregard, Richmond, the Merrimac & etc.

Wednesday, May 7 – Pleasant. We are encamped in a pleasant piece of woods and with ravines and hills on a small scale about as nothing like Vt. hills. We stay here probably a few days. The loss in the recent battle was heavy on both sides. The dead are not all buried yet. The news is very good that we get up to the last. We are having good successes at all points, and seems that we must soon have the have the Rebels where they cannot get away. Beauregard will soon have no army if our generals manage skillfully, and this army here is worth but little to them.

Thursday, May 8 – Pleasant. I shall be glad to hear from home as it has been some time now since I received a letter. We are having very fine weather. The roads are drying up very fast, and our army can push rapidly forward. We are under marching orders and expect to leave at any moment. Received two letters from home. The roads are getting pretty good. They have made about one hundred and seventy five lbs. of sugar. Have gathered in their buckets. They have drawn twenty dollars more of my allotment pay. Have got the farm paid for. Have received the pay from Aunt Rowena.

Friday, May 9 – Pleasant. We started about five this morning. Have marched about seventeen miles. Saw many signs of the fears and flight of the Rebels in burned wagons and caissons and various other military equipments. All reports say that the Rebels are still in full retreat. Our gun boats have been up to West Point, and expect that we have some forces there. I feel very thankful that we are having such good success and hope we can soon return home. How thankful the people of the north be that the war is not in their very midst.

Saturday, May 10 – Pleasant. We have marches some ten or twelve miles, it has tired me some but I think I shall feel refreshed in the morning. We are moving up near the center of the peninsula, but I do not know exactly where. Saw Gen. McClellan and staff this morning. The advance of our forces must be within 30 miles of Richmond, and it seems as though it must fall within the next ten days. Saw a fine field of corn up about as large as when we weed in Vt. Heard a few heavy guns back in the direction of West Point just at dark. I do not feel very lame tonight.

Sunday, May 11 – Pleasant. I feel quite well this morning. Mahlon has not felt very well for a few days. I am sorry I want he should be able to go on with us. There is quite a change from the situation we are now in and that of a week ago. Have had inspection. We do not march today. Attended meeting, had a very good one. I am very sorry that our meetings are in danger of being discontinued at home. I fear there is some fault with the members. What a beautiful day it has been, it does me some good to think that the same sun that shines upon me so favorably, shines upon my home among the mountains.

Monday, May 12 – Left my boots today. Pleasant. We were called early this morning rations given out preparatory to an early march, but it did not come, we remain where we are today. We have pretty good reason for believing that the Merrimac has been blown up. Marched about three

in the afternoon to [New] Kent Court House, distance of six miles. I have never felt better than today. How remarkably good my health has been for two months past, how can I be grateful enough to the giver of this blessing. Oh! That the kind and encouraging words of my Mother may not be in vain.

Tuesday, May 13 – Pleasant. The sun comes up looking fiery and red as though we were going to have a dry time. Went on guard last night. Marched to Cumberland [Landing] on the Pamunkey river. There are quite a number of steamers and schooners on the river. We are on a fine plain in a very wheat field, and on the other side of the fence is a cornfield. Guns are heard to the west of us at what place I cannot tell. The river is full of boats that are loaded with commissary stores. The river is not very wide but the tide comes and goes at this point.

Wednesday, May 14 – Cloudy in the morning but commenced raining about noon. We have marched up the river a few miles, and are near, it is said, the railroad. There is not much of interest to record tonight. We are in a fine field of clover which is in blossom. Received a letter from home. Folks are all well. They have commenced work on the farm some. They milk eight cows. Mother seems to think that the war will soon end. I hope she may be right in her opinion. I do not wish to have it continue longer than until the will of God is accomplished.

Thursday, May 15 – Rainy. Cloudy. It was a cool stormy night. It seems that we are not to move today. The report of the blowing up of the Merrimac and evacuation of Norfolk has been confirmed. Fort Wright is also said to be in our possession. Gen. Hallack is pressing upon Beauregard on all sides. It rains incessantly. Boats are coming up the river all of the time. Saw two gun boats on the river, they have very heavy guns. Know about as little of what is going on in this army as any of our departments. I hope wisdom and skill follow every movement. Some think the Rebels will make a stand at Richmond, it looks rather doubtful.

Friday, May 16 – Cloudy. Looks some like clearing off. It does not appear much like moving, hope we shall not until the mud dries up. It has been warm today, but cloudy. It is a grand sight to look around and see the vast camp in the midst of which we are placed. In every direction is a forest of tents enlivened by men and the passage to and fro of horsemen and teams. We are in the main body of the army. The advance being a number of miles ahead of us. Some call the Williamsburg affair a defeat. I wonder what some of the nice Vt. folks say if they had to live on the food we do and cooked as it is.

Saturday, May 17 – Pleasant. We are to be ready to march at twelve. It is very warm, I think the warmest we have had this season. The order to march was countermanded after we had got ready. I went on guard in the afternoon. The report is that the Rebels are evacuating Richmond. If that is the case they will not have much of an army in a short time.

Sunday, May 18 – Pleasant. Very warm. Some clouds. The guard was taken of [f] last night but put on again this morning. Had a very warm day. I received a letter from home. The folks are all well. Father has commenced sowing his rye. Writes that the colts make a very good team. Norman says he and Mr. Bishop have picked up about half of the stones.

Monday, May 19 – Pleasant. We are ready to fall in, which will come soon. It will soon be very hot. It will take the sweat out of us. It looked pleasant this morning, but began to rain soon after we began our march. It is clear again tonight. We came up the railroad and are encamped on the right side of the road a mile or so from Tunstall's Station and about 18 miles from Richmond. The report is that our gunboats have met with some reverses on James River. The railroad appears to [be] in pretty good repair, except the bridges.

Tuesday, May 20 – Pleasant. It has been a fine day, but some flying clouds covered the sky at times. We have made another short trip today and now are near the creek. We are in Hanover County I think. Our gun boats are threatening the doors of Richmond, as their guns are very distinctly heard on the James River at this time. The forests are beautiful that we came through today and there can be no reason why this should not one of the richest producing states of the nation. We are now some fifteen miles the rebel capital which will soon be in our hands.

Wednesday, May 21 – Cloudy morning, but pleasant in afternoon. We have marched a few miles and are encamped eleven miles from the city. The balloon was up to the north of us. Firing could be heard to the west of us. The country has not looked as well today as yesterday. The Rebels are said to be about three miles distant so we shall soon be up with them. All things seem to indicate that a stand will be made at Richmond as all hopes of success hangs on the result of the battle here. The latest news shows that our armies are not idle. The Rebels have abandoned Pensacola, our lines have been advanced close upon Savannah. Halleck is at work yet, and will soon have the Rebels.

Thursday, May 22 – Pleasant. We are laying by today. It is very warm, but very fine weather. It is said we are to go on picket tonight. Had a shower this afternoon accompanied with thunder. Reports are circulated to the effect that Beauregard has been defeated. There has been no firing today, but still our troops are advancing toward the doomed city. How glad I should be if the war could be settled without any more fighting, but also I fear that it will cost many many more before it can be brought to a peaceful termination. I will hope for the best, I thank God that I am not so apt to look on the dark side as many do.

Friday, May 23 – Received two months pay. Some cloudy through the day. We did not go on picket post. After we had been ready something like an hour and a half orders came to pitch our tents again. It is warm and muggy this morning. Received a letter from home last night. They had not received a letter from me since the one I wrote at Williamsburg. They are well. They have sowed their rye and oats. They have no meeting now. Mr. Clark has got well again. Harrison says they have got the stones picked up. The trees begin to look green. The Balloon is up this morning. There was some cannonading this afternoon. The Balloon has been very busy all day. It looks some as though the fall or fight at Richmond would come off soon.

Saturday, May 24 – Stormy. We have marched a few miles today. It is raining now finally. Our camp is near the Chickahominy. There has been some cannonading in front of us this morning and what I also took to be firing between the skirmishers. It seems that we had very good success in the skirmish losing only one killed one mortally and five or six otherwise wounded. We took in all nearly a hundred Rebels so the report is. There is a fine meadow on the creeks. The Rebels

had a very good chance to place batteries on the opposite side, and if they have good artillery it would be no small undertaking for us to cross. Received a Voice.

Sunday, May 25 –Pleasant. It has been very quiet, scarcely a gun having been fired today. The rebels are in sight on the hills across the creek. What a situation it is to place men that are civilized human beings and belonging to the same people and nation against each other for the purpose of killing, wounding and mutilating each other. We have our ration of whiskey almost dark. I have some objections to taking of it as I don't wish to create an appetite for strong drinks. I learn that we are still without preaching at our church. I hope it will not continue so long. I am sorry that Mr. Clark is not to stay. The Rebs tried their hand at us but have not proceeded very well yet.

Monday, May 26 – Pleasant. It is reported that Vt. is raising another Reg. which is rather doubtful. Mahlon seems to be getting better. It seemed one while as though he would have to give up. I am very glad to see him looking better, as I cannot bear the thought of his being obliged to leave me. An order has been issued to the effect that desiccated food shall be used. The better part of the day has been cloudy. An order has been given out requiring three days rations to be cooked as soon as possible and that the cooks and detailed men must shoulder their arms. Also we are to have sixty rounds of cartridges. Our knapsacks to be left with the teams. This looks like work.

Tuesday, May 27 – Cloudy in morning. It rained very last night and still continues to this morning. It seems as though it would now be impossible to move for several days, as our rations are not here yet. The papers state that the Rebel army is on half rations. There has been a good deal of firing on the right today. The report is we have drove the Rebs back some and took some guns. Received a letter and paper from home. They have not planted any yet. Have sold quite a bit of stuff already enough to come to over fifty dollars. Mrs. Barrett writes that she Mr. B and her brother she detailed in the hospital at Burlington. George was at New Bern at last account.

Wednesday, May 28 – Pleasant. We receive news that we took a number of prisoners and some artillery on the right. Banks has been driven back across the Potomac, his army nearly all having been taken from to reinforce McDowell. Troops are being forward to Washington with great rapidity. I think it is the intention of the gov. to give the Rebellion its death blow before hot weather shall close this campaign. We are stationed on picket in a situation so exposed that I should suppose the Rebels might drive us back if they wished to. The Chickahominy is not a very large stream.

Thursday, May 29 – Pleasant. It was very quiet last night. Came off from post about twelve in the night. Teams came down with lumber for the bridge here last evening. I presume by the time that it is and we are ready to cross that the Rebels will be fully prepared for us. A flag of truce was sent up to the bridge on our picket line today. It seem it was for a reconnaissance. Received a letter from home. All well. Have nearly finished planting corn. Had quite a hard frost the night of the 24th. Apple trees are flowering are out very full. It has been rather dry for three or four weeks. Norman has trouble from boils again. Came off pick picket all safe and sound. Balloon is up.

Friday, May 30 – Cloudy Pleasant. Have good news of late from N. Carolina. I hope other states will follow her example. It cleared off near noon, and has been very warm. Saw a squirrel that was killed by a blow on the back, and became instantly stiff. There has been heavy firing on the left and on the river. Looks like a shower. Had a very hard shower. Received a Tribune. The report is that Jackson has been defeated. The papers inform us that the North is sending forth soldiers by the thousands, once more showing her loyalty to the Government. Received a Tribune.

Saturday, May 31 – Cloudy. It rained thundered and lightened very hard in the night. The lightning was the most steady I ever saw coming in a continuous sheet. Received a letter from home. Apple trees are blossoming in fine style. They are getting along well with planting. A battle is now raging on our left and at this moment many a poor fellow is falling. Evening a severe engagement has taken place, but the result is unknown. We only know that we have not been driven from the bluffs. The gunboats were at work quite brisk for some time.

Sunday, June 1 – Rather cloudy most of the day. We are awaiting the putting down a bridge before cross the creek, and are hurled into the fray. Instead of going on or we expected so we returned near noon to camp. Our batteries threw shell across the creek this afternoon. The creek is very high and still rising. Attended meeting near night. Went on Brigade guard at five. For what strange circumstances and with what strange surroundings have I just spent the day, the booming cannon and the excitement of the roar of distant strife drive away all that charactering is sacredness. We learn that we have had good success in the recent struggle. God grant that I may spend my Sabbath soon and hear the sound of the church bells in Vt.

Monday, June 2 – Pleasant. We learn this morning that Corinth is evacuated, and that the Rebels are retreating on the Ohio & Mobile Railroad. There are many conjectures as to what they intend to do, some think they will cross the Mississippi and make good their retreat into Mexico. Sickness is said to prevail in the Rebel camps to a fearful extent. Most of the rumors in regard to the recent fight are favorable to us, we were driven back at first but regained the ground and some more. The day has been right down hot, showing us what is to come in a short time. Shell have sent over to our neighborhood now and then to show them we are still here.

Tuesday, June 3 - Pleasant. There was a shower last night. Warm and pleasant this morning. The Rebels have thrown a few shells today, but soon shut up when our batteries replied. No papers came today and consequently we are out of news. An order calculated to encourage the men was read tonight. Were encouraged to use our uttermost skill and to show ourselves men in the coming contest. I hope for success, wish for peace and once more I hope to soon be able to greet my parents, but perhaps a different fate awaits me. May I be prepared to meet my lot, and meet it manfully.

Wednesday, June 4 – Stormy. We were started out between nine and ten last night and sent out to guard the bridge. It rained all of the time until near noon today. We were relived a little before night. The papers give us the account of the capture of Little Rock. Beauregard's army is said to be very much demoralized. The bridges in front of us are not complete yet, but will be soon. The rain has caused us some work and perhaps delayed our onward movements.

Thursday, June 5 – Cloudy. We broke camp early this morning and moved to the left, and it appears that we are to cross the creek. The rebels opened it is said with twelve guns on the batteries near our old camp. We replied with forty soon shutting them up. The roads are muddy and bad. The news from Hallack's forces is quite encouraging. A large number of prisoners have been captured and baggage destroyed. The rapid movements of Fremont has placed Jackson a close place. We crossed the Chickahominy about two o'clock. Are encamped on the bluff. I like the looks of the land and scenery as well as any I have seen in Va. The crops look well, and the soil is of a very good quality. The bridge that we crossed on was over a quarter of a mile long.

Friday, June 6 – Cloudy. There was no disturbance in the night. We find that we are near the bridges which we have been building. The Rebels have fell back some, as they were our camp yesterday morning. We were sent on fatigue at the bridge. Carried poles for the bridge which was in danger of being carried off by the water. When we got through there we went on over half a mile farther to bring up some commissary stores. I helped bring some bacon. We learn by the dailies that Jackson is being hard pressed. We have taken from him 2500 prisoners and 20 pieces of cannons. All appears to be quiet here.

Saturday, June 7 – Heavy shower in afternoon. Rather cloudy. All very quiet, nothing going on at this hour. The papers fully confirm the report of the utter demoralization of Beauregard's army. Twelve thousand have been captured. Locomotives and cars have fallen into our hands as well as arms by the ten thousands. I think this is no exaggeration. It must be very discouraging to this army at this very critical period of their history. Some of the fortress Monroe forces are coming up a few are here now.

Sunday, June 8 – Pleasant. A fine Sabbath morning. I am to help about the cooking. Commenced yesterday at noon. Hope I shall get through at noon today. We have been reviewed by Gen. Prim, a Spaniard. The Rebels shelled our pickets this morning. There is not much for news in the papers of today. How rapidly the Sabbaths come and go and how much like a dream does the time seem that I have spent in the army. My wish has come to pass, Nelson Bradford has been allowed to go on cook again.

Monday, June 9 – Pleasant. Received two letters from home and tribune. The folks are all well. Have received my order a five all safe. Have finished planting. Corn is up, and the crops look well generally. It has been dry and rather cool, but was raining beautifully at the last date. They think of hiring Mr. Sanderson to preach at our church. They are putting up a fort near us which is now nearly done. It has been very quiet today, not as much firing as usual. Fort Wright has been evacuated and probably before this time the Mississippi is open. The Rebels threw shells and solid shot sometime last night but without doing much damage.

Tuesday, June 10 – Stormy. It has been a very raining day raining without cessation from long before light. Worked on intrenchments in front of our camp a short time last night. We are called up in line every morning before light. It was reported that the Rebels were falling back today, but a little before night they threw shells as usual showing that they had not gone far.

Wednesday, June 11 – Pleasant. Received a Voice today. Cleared off in the night, but it is still rather cool so much so that an over coat is necessary in the evening and up in the morning. Went

on fatigue in the afternoon a loading wood. We learn today that the Mississippi is clear. That the Rebel fleet has been destroyed. Memphis and the forts evacuated. Jackson has lost the most of his army and will soon be driven entirely from Va. Am looking back to the first of Feb. I can but once more feel to thank my God for his kind and merciful care over me at all times, and when I consider that he can withhold his protection at any time it is truly wonderful to see how merciful he is to one so unworthy.

Thursday, June 12 – Pleasant. The sun rises fiery and red indicating dry weather. We have had very wet times, or it seems as though it had been because we have been out in it more than usual. There was an alarm in the night just as the eclipse was on the moon, the cause is unknown. The Rebels threw shell rather uncomfortably near just at dark last night. We get but little for news today. Received a letter from home. Norman writes that a coon killed a hen. The next night he caught the coon.

Friday, June 13 – Pleasant. It was very warm last night. The Rebels have been throwing shell and shot nearly all of the morning. We came out at nine. A flag of truce was sent in by our officers and it is agreed that there shall be no more picket firing. This is a wise arrangement as we can rest better and there will not be much chance for a false alarm. I am on post now (about four) from the lines are very near together but here are separated by a slight elevation covered with wheat and oats.

Saturday, June 14 – Pleasant. It was very warm last night and is almost melting hot today. There was the least firing during the last twenty four hours we were out that there has been for a number of days. When we come to think in earnest of the close of the war and the time when we shall be at home again, it is hard to determine upon any date or within six months of any period when we will be no more. The loss of the principal leaders will close it at almost any time. Rec. a Tribune today. Our daily news is quite interesting. Fremont has had an engagement with Jackson.

Sunday, June 15 – Pleasant. There was a shower in afternoon. It is much cooler this evening than in the morning. Received a letter from home. Not much news. They have been having wet weather. Are fixing up some it seems. How difficult it is to keep the things as they should b. Oh that I may soon be placed in more moral and respectable society. But if I must remain here may I be kept from sin and vice. I have an attack of the diarehea which is full as violent as any I have had.

Monday, June 16 – Pleasant. It is quite cool this morning. We had a drill in the forenoon. The bridge near our camp is now finished. It is built of heavy logs and across the swamp. It is raised two and three feet. It is said heavy artillery will cross here. It still continues very quiet, but very little firing even by the Sharp Shooters. It is eight months today since I came into the service of the U. S. In many respects I have been disappointed. The living is certainly questionable, but perhaps cannot be improved very soon.

Tuesday, June 17 – Pleasant. There is so little of interest to write that it is quite a task to undertake my daily record. Our pickets and the Rebels are quite friendly now holding conversation with each other daily. Received a letter from Cousin Mary. She is teaching school

this summer at West Rochester. Tyler & Daniel have both been in the hospital. Tyler at Falls Church. Alger near Fredericksburg. John is at home, Is putting up a Hop house now. Received a Voice.

Wednesday, June 18 – Pleasant. We have packed up everything and are ready to march in light marching order. There is some firing. Which side is doing the most I cannot tell. It is usual when we pack up and get ready for a march we did not leave camp. A short time before night Cheering was commenced to the left of us and kept up until about dark when muskets began to rattle near the front, and then cannon. What the cause of all this was is not known. McClellan has been about here today. We had a light shower tonight.

Thursday, June 19 – Pleasant. It is quite warm this morning. We have had a battalion drill, and took our new position in the Reg. The order is to have a days' ration and have our canteen full of tea in the morning. There orders are in part countermanded. Tonight it has been quite warm, & today and the time seems to pass slow when in reality it flies rapidly. I do not murmur, but sometimes I but wish those who were the cause of the war were obliged to bear more of it trials and burdens. I have a kind Mother. Why should she suffer through my death on the field of battle? How hard it is for a soldier to sit down and think what his fate may be.

Friday, June 20 – Pleasant. We have not commenced a battle as was expected last night. Received a letter from home. The folks are well. They are having cool weather. Have commenced haying some. The last Uncle John heard from Tyler he was on the Rappahannock. There has been some firing up the creek today. There is but little of interest passing in our camp.

Saturday, June 21 – Pleasant. We have policed up a new ground and moved to the right of Co. K today. Rec. a Tribune. Some things that come up seem to indicate that the war would last some time yet. I do not have much fear as to the result of the battle here, but strong parties will fall upon and defend points and cause much suffering besides destroying vast amounts of property. There was quite a skirmish on our left just before night. Received a tribune.

Sunday, June 22 – On picket. Pleasant. We went on picket at nine. There has been some change in the picket line. Part of them have advanced into the open field. There is no firing between the pickets, which are in sight of each other. I cannot help but wonder sometimes why man has been given a disposition to go on the field of battle and shoot his fellow man as though they were nothing more than a mere senseless brute. Why it is allowed by the great Ruler is a problem that I cannot solve, still I doubt not there is some wise purpose in allowing it, which is not to be questioned.

Monday, June 23 – Rather cloudy. Showers in afternoon. It was very quiet last night. This morning there has not been a drum heard in the Rebel's camps where there was scores of them yesterday and, their pickets seem to be nearly all gone, but a few of them being in sight. It has been quiet today except a skirmish on the left. Received a letter from home. Father that the colts make a good team, much better than was expected. The grass is rather light. Fruit crops look well. Had a slight frost last Tuesday morning. Norman writes that Black berries are in bloom, here they are nearly grown.

Tuesday, June 24 – Cloudy, but the sun shone some of the time. There was a very heavy shower in the night. It has been cloudy through most of the day. We had orders to be ready to march at daylight with such rations as we could get, but this was soon countermanded and we are still in camp. There was some firing on the left this morning. Our commissary stores are with difficulty brought up. The road is taken to a great extent with trains loaded with siege guns. I hope and pray that success will attend all the plans of our Generals. I think that by waiting we shall be able to get possession of Richmond without much fighting.

Wednesday, June 25 – Rather cloudy. It has been cool today. Pleasant this morning, cloudy in afternoon. There has been a good deal of shelling today and we have orders to be ready to march at a moments warning with one days rations. It is reported that our forces are advancing their pickets, and now we can occasionally hear a volley of musketry. We have received two months gov. pay today. It has cleared off tonight. The shelling has been kept up all day and has just stopped.

Thursday, June 26 – Pleasant. It has been very quiet today. They are taking down some buildings in order to get range with the artillery. It is said that the loss yesterday was heavy. The news from the different departments is quite encouraging. All seems to be going well. Rec. a letter from home. The folks are all well. There having pleasant but cool weather. Mrs. Bishop and Canaday send a few lines. It appears that Wayland had a very narrow escape from the Rebels in the retreat of Banks. He missed his way and got into their midst before he knew it. Candace and her sister are at Proctorsville this summer. Some shelling this evening. A very very severe engagement is going on up to the right.

Friday, 27 June – Pleasant. We were sent out to support some fatigue men who were throwing up entrenchments in front of the picket line. It was very quite through the night. The fight was kept up quite late. Near cheering commenced and was kept up quite late and also bands were playing. The success was in our favor yesterday, but today affairs have changed and we find the Rebels between us and the White House. It is reported to be a contrived plan, but a few days will tell. There does not seem any excitement among the officers. There has been a good deal of cannonading here today. Shells and solid shot came into our camp just at nigh.

Saturday, June 28 – Pleasant. There was quite a skirmish on the picket line last night. Four were wounded in our Reg. It was quiet for the rest of the night. We have packed up and are now cutting down the woods to the left of our old camp. Fighting is still going on across the creek. The Rebels have shelled us pretty today. One wounded in Co. C. We are to fall back upon the James river tonight if the Rebs do not commence upon us before dark which I hope they wont.

Sunday, June 29 - Cloudy for part of the day. We commenced falling back this morning. Got back to Savage Station in the afternoon. Just before night an attack was made upon us. We were ordered back. Our Co. and Co. K were deployed as skirmishers and were sent forward into their lines and were received by a very hot fire. I was wounded in the leg. Pretty severely too. Some of the boys in our Co, helped me to the hospital. Corp. [William E.] Murphy , [William H.] Sears, Bryant, Smith [one of the two Smith brothers in Co. A] [Thomas S.] Hathaway, [Harlen E.] Batchelder and one from Co. C.

Monday, June 30 - Pleasant. We lay out last night. It rained some. My leg pained me so that I could not sleep much. Our troops all moved off last night except a rear guard. The advance of the enemy came up at about noon and was soon passing by in a continual stream which was kept up until near night. Jackson's forces passed here today. Firing can be heard in the advance. There are about sixty or seventy of us in and around this house. It is intensely hot here in the sun. What a hard lot it is to be surrounded by so many helpless men some of them suffering everything but death. One poor fellow died at my left hand this afternoon. A Baxter's Zouaves.

Tuesday, July 1 – Pleasant. I am getting along well thus far in my present situation. I learn today that cousin Mahlon is wounded and at one of the other hospitals. Very heavy firing can be heard in the direction of the James River.

Wednesday, July 2 – Stormy. It commenced raining early and continues to very steadily. Oh! That I would send one word to my mother to let her know how I am. I succeeded in getting into a tent this morning. It is rather wet but we are comparatively well off to what we might be. Two or three crackers and a little coffee is all I get today. I can look out the door of the tent and see limbs and arms of poor fellows strewn about as though it was a slaughter house.

Thursday, July 3 – Cloudy. We hobbled over to the hospital near the station today, it was a hard tramp. We are in an old barn with a large open door in front and a small one in the rear. We are pretty well crowded. We are used well and treated kindly by our captors. I have had many a friendly chat with them. It seemed like old Vermont to hear the cars run as they do hear. We are rather short for food. Unclear are ordinary circumstances of life. I should not have thought I could endure what I have, but death nerves a man to exert his utmost strength at times.

Friday, July 4 – Pleasant. I did not rest very well last night. I little thought a year ago that I should spend this fourth of July under such circumstances as I am now in, but I might be worse off than I am. It is a fine cool day. Wouldn't I like to sit down to supper on the same place that I did a year ago. I saw Mahlon today he is wounded in the right arm but will not lose it I think. it seems curious that we should be on the same road again and doomed to the same fate.

Saturday, July 5 – Pleasant. My leg pained me very much last night. It has been very warm today. I would like to know who have been killed out of our Co. I endured as much pain last night as ever in my life and it seemed so with all for groans and curses could be heard on every side. We got just now enough such as it is to keep us from suffering. More wounded are being brought here from battlefields.

Sunday, July 6 – Pleasant. A week today we were falling back toward the James River, but alas how suddenly was stopped in my course. I have been very free from pain today. I would like to know how the people in Vt. felt today. There must be some excitement.

Monday, July 7 – Pleasant. It has been very hot today. The Richmond papers say that our troops have fell back to some place (I forgot the name) under the protection of the gunboats. I have commenced a pair of crutches today. My leg is not very painful. It is a very pleasant location and I doubt not I should enjoy a visit here in time of peace. Mocking birds sing beautifully in the trees over the barn.

Tuesday, July 8 – Pleasant. Hot again. We got soft bread at a York shaper loaf if we have specie. I have finished my crutches and got out doors. It hurt me so that I shall not feel much like trying it very often. They tell us we shall be out of provisions in a few days if our gov. does not do all in its power to get us away soon when the Confederate gov. is so good as to let us go. I shall never want to fight any more for it. We are put in an old barn.

Wednesday, July 9 – Pleasant. It has commenced for a hot day as it was ever my lot to see. I rested well through the night. Have some fever this morning. It is reported that 26 cars will be here at noon to commence taking us away. Jackson's army is passing back by here today. Some say he is going to the valley again, but it does not seem as though he could get back there by this time.

Thursday, July 10 – Pleasant. It was some hazy through the day. Had a fine shower near night. We are told today on good authority that if the weather is good we shall all leave by Saturday night. How good it will seem to once more look on the noble hills and valleys of old Vermont. I can easier imagine the distress my Dear Mother is in and how I long to see her once more. Two hundred new waiters came down from Richmond last night who were prisoners there.

Friday, July 11 – Stormy. It will pass for a storm today although it has not rained all the time. The weather is not very favorable for us now when we want to leave so bad, but I can have patience and faith. They all talk that we shall go in a few days. They are dying off very fast here now fifteen or twenty daily. Many of them would have got well if at home. Some give up and will not try to live and die most miserable deaths. Many are crazy and call for friends in their ravings or sisters, mothers or daughters or sweethearts. None is called in vain yes in vain for he is answered in curses by some of his comrades..

Saturday, July 12 – Cloudy for a while in the fore part of the day. The fact that we are to leave here soon seems to be settled now, but the exact time is not known. We had for breakfast flour paste, dinner soup & vegetables, supper fried cakes. This kind of living is better for our wounds than highly seasoned food. The most of our nurses are most miserable fellows caring for nothing except to take care of themselves and few of them do the best they can for us without damning us every time we ask for help.

Sunday, July 13 – Pleasant. It is cool and some hazy. Mahlon let me have some pie, it was pretty good but not equal to northern. We got plums which are quite good. Another week has passed since the Sunday which proved to so unlucky or lucky to me. How thankful I should be for the mercy showed me from day to day. A train heavily loaded with the sick and wounded left this afternoon. Another is expected in the morning.

Monday, July 14 – Pleasant. We are waiting for the train to take us to Richmond. Were unable to get aboard of the first train and therefore are waiting for the next train. Mahlon has gone. Think I fear from what I hear that we shall not get boarded very soon, but hope for the best. I saw a few forts as we were going into Richmond and guns upon them. Soldiers were drilling. I presume they were some of the conscripts which had just been sent into camp. Some cheered us as we

passed by. Part of the road from the station was through some swampy land covered with dense forest of pine & undergrowth of vines, etc.

Tuesday, July 15 – Pleasant. The train left near four o'clock with us for Richmond. It did not pain me as much riding on the cars as I had expected. It was late before we got into the building where we are now. I was tired and slept sound. I feel well this morning and feel very thankful that I am so well off. Of! How I wish I could be where I could comfort and cheer my Dear Mother now that I feel she must be in trouble. Part of the men have been sent to another prison. The hope of being paroled looks rather squally. Had a fine shower this evening. Got our supper just before dark.

Wednesday, July 16 – Pleasant. I rested well last night. My leg is lame this morning, but the wound looks well. We have not moved from this place yet as we expected last night. The weather is pretty hot, but I hope to get along well. There are many stories about concerning the prospect of our being paroled or exchanged. Exchanged my five Treasury note for the same amount in Confederate money. How often my thoughts wander away to the quiet and peaceful vallies of my native home. Shall my eyes ever behold them again? I have not seen Mahlon since Monday. I would like to know how and where he is at this time.

Thursday, July 17 – Pleasant. There was a heavy shower last night. The morning paper says that efforts are being made to effect an exchange of prisoners soon. It is reported that our gov. has agreed to exchange prisoners which I hope is true. Again we are assured that we are all to be paroled. We have not received but one meal per day and that is nothing but a quarter of a loaf of bread and a little soup. Today it has been over 26 hours since the last meal was given out. Many actually suffer and all of us would if we had no money to buy bread with.

Friday, July 18 – Cloudy. Pleasant. Hope is all that is left us now and how actively it is exercised. Some have it that we go today, others tomorrow and still others that all will be off in a week from Saturday certain. The farmers in Vt. are now very busy gathering in their hay crop. How glad I would be if I could be at home to cheer and aid them on in their arduous labors, but alas fate has assigned me another post. It clouded over an hour or two after sunrise, and has remained so most of the day. We have received two meals for the first time today. We are told that we shall leave tomorrow. Saw a man dead from actual starvation today. Where is the man who does not believe in total depravity? Send him to one of these prisons, it will soon change his mind.

Saturday, July 19 – Cloudy. It is cloudy and cool this morning. The doctor tells us we shall go in an hour or two. Moved from prison No. 8 to No. 1 from which a number of hundred had been sent off X in the morning. It is cloudy and cool. How glad I should have been to go today, but I will take my turn and trust in my God. I am [in a room] 70 or 80 feet long by thirty feet wide. The entire building is a very large one and contains some over a thousand prisoners. This is known as Libby Prison.

Sunday, July 20 – Pleasant. Cloudy. It is very quiet today. Rather doubtful whether any of us go today or not. It has clouded up and has remained so most of the day. None have gone today, but I should rest tonight with the sincere belief and hope of going tomorrow. I may be disappointed,

but if it is so it will be for the best. How fearful to witness the suffering of those about me. Vermin and maggots are taking the life of many a poor fellow.

Monday, July 21 – Pleasant. It looks as though it would be hot today. Alas, even hope almost forsakes me. Day after day we have been assured that tomorrow or the next day after we should be off until hope which is the soul sustaining angel has nearly given up. Tomorrow we are off certain so the report is and I hope it is true. I could not think of giving up on my dear Mother's account ever were we to stay here a year. It is quite cool. Much more so than I should have supposed at this time of year.

Tuesday, July 22 – Cloudy. Left Richmond on the cars about eleven in the forenoon. I never spent two hours in greater suspense than the two which preceded our departure from the prison. The crops on the road did not look as well as I had expected to see them. The road was almost lined with fine ripe Blackberries. Petersburg is a fine looking place. I was tired when I got aboard the boat, but glad to be out of the prison.

Wednesday, July 23 – Cloudy. Got on board the Y. R. Spaulding just at night, and went to Harrison's Landing. Left for the Fortress [Monroe] near noon arrived about dark.

Thursday, July 24 – Cloudy. Left for Philadelphia in the afternoon. A good many left at the fort.

Friday, July 25 – Cloudy and misty. Was quite sea sick on my way up today. Was sorry that I could not be out so as to see how the country looked. Arrived at Philadelphia about nine. Had a very severe headache all day.

Saturday, July 26 – Cloudy. Came ashore and went to the hospital. I am in the U. S. General Hospital West Philadelphia. It is very extensive and said to be conducted the best of any in the country. It is said to be difficult to get a furlough and for that reason I am afraid I shall not see my folks this time. It seems rather hard for a man who is a veteran to be deprived of all his liberties and guarded closer than the slaves in the south.

Sunday, July 27 – Pleasant. Last Sabbath I was in Gilroy's warehouse Richmond. Today in a hospital in our glorious North. How true it is that we cannot tell what a day may bring forth. I have great reason to be thankful that I have been so blessed. It would be pleasant to walk into the old church today and look around upon the familiar faces once more, and still more so if I could feel that I was a free man again and could go and do as I pleased.

Monday, July 28 – Pleasant. I am feeling much better today and hope to continue so. Have written a letter for my descriptive list. How very quiet, nothing to disturb or irritate the mind. Sent a letter home this morning. How glad I would be to follow it in a few days. I almost fear to hear the first news from home but hope nothing has gone wrong. I fear my Mother's health but hope she has born up through this trial with great fortitude, but what should I do if trouble should come to one to whom I owe all my past happiness?

Tuesday, July 29 – Pleasant. There is nothing to break the dull times which seem to be settling upon us. A kind lady, native of Vt., came in and talked with us sometime. I was ready to have

her come in, as the time hangs heavy upon us most. There was a shower in the night. Had a ver
[end of writing]

Wednesday, July 30 – Pleasant. I have had a bad headache today. There is but little of interest from the army now. It appears as though it would be some time before there would be much done there.

Thursday, July 31 – Pleasant for most of the day. Cloudy in afternoon. I did not sleep very well on account of a severe headache and toothache. There was a heavy shower in the night. I have felt miserable today being troubled with a kind of wind colic [bloat]. I begin to look for a letter from home, and still almost dread to have it come.

Friday, August 1 – Pleasant. The first day of another month has come, and time which so rapidly passes with all will soon send me back to the scenes of strife and bloodshed. I feel as though I would be glad to return to my books again if it could be best but I fear I was so neglected when I was well off that I shall not be blessed in life. I feel that what ever punishment may be sent upon me will be just. I have merited it to its fullest extent. When I was well provided for and had a good home I complained of it and was not contented. It is very hot today. The second man that came with me has died today.

Saturday, August 2 – Pleasant. Very warm. Received a letter from home. Mother has sustained the news of my being wounded and a prisoner remarkably well, but still I am afraid it has worn upon her some, perhaps a good deal. The folks have got along pretty well a haying. Father has got a yoke of oxen. They are very anxious to have me come home. Norman says he has a very good garden and that the trees hang full of apples.

Sunday, August 3 – Clear in the morning, but cloudy in afternoon. The day hands heavily upon my hands and seems to bring no quiet or rest to mind or body as used to do when I lived at home. The bells sound quietly on the ears and show that I am in a land where churches and church goers are once more found. I can now very plainly see how much those obliged to suffer who are inclined to do right from those who do wrong. Here I am deprived of liberty and kept under a strict guard and for no other reason than men here have abused the liberty granted them.

Monday, August 4 – Cloudy in morning, broken sunny in afternoon. It is very hot, suffer more from the heat than any other day since I have been here. They are sending off a lot to their Regiments today. I am inclined to think that the surgeons are deceiving us and trying to make believe what is not so. They say we cannot be discharged or sent away for the present. If Uncle Sam is agoing to use us like brutes and done with it he had better prevent our writing anymore letters and so take all our liberty from us.

Tuesday, August 5 – Pleasant. I feel a kind of soreness in the stomach which I cannot account for. I have not a very good appetite and feel as though I should not have here in this place. It seems that so few come back is the reason why they have stopped granting furloughs. I do not yet know but I am mistaken but I believe that there is some fault with the army officers, the men have not been treated as citizens might.

Wednesday, August 6 – Received a letter from home. Mother thinks that it will be necessary to send a Dr. to come with me home. They have hired Mr. Sanderson to preach a year. She is determined to have me come home or come here to see. Norman writes that they are getting along well a haying. The crops look well.

Thursday, August 7 – Pleasant. There seems to be a great deal of earnestness in the country in regard to the war. It seems there is a move on foot [illegible] on the Army of the Potomac. If ever I asked for anything it is that the war may end as soon as the coming Fall. It is agoing to ruin the country if shall be necessary to maintain the vast army now being put in the field a year.

Friday, August 8 – Pleasant. It is still hot and sultry and must be very bad for the soldiers. Aug 12 Received a letter from Cousin Mary. She is now cooking for her folks at the upper farm. Daniel is in the hospital in Alexandria seminary. Tyler has gone back to his Co. again.

Saturday, August 9 – Pleasant. They are agoing to discharge all that are disabled as soon as they are able to go away. rec. a letter from Mother. She is getting very anxious to have me come home and thinks if I do not come soon that she will come out here. She sent some more stamps.

Sunday, August 10 – Pleasant. There was no meeting here today as I know of. It seems that there ought to be some provision made meetings. Fourteen hundred sick and wounded have arrived at this city today. It is astonishing to see how many are being sent north from the army.

Monday, August 11 – I sent another letter for my descriptive list this morning. I dont know as the Capt. will send it but it will be a loss to me if he does not. It is cool this morning. There has been some fighting in the valley but not a decisive battle yet. I think old Jackson will find Pope a match for him. Today all that are able to do so are expected to join their regiments.

Tuesday, August 12 – Cloudy and in afternoon we had a fine shower. The Dr. thinks I shall not do to go back to my Reg. yet awhile. I hardly know what to do about trying to go home. Received a letter from home. Mother seems to give up trying to get me away. Miss R. is preceptress and Miss. D. teacher of the primary department at the Academy. Norman writes that they have got 49 loads of hay. They have new potatoes and various green [illegible]. I like to be able to get some of it but is useless to wish any such thing as I am in fact a prisoner in the power of the government. But it is necessary to be strict and severe, still it should have a limit.

Wednesday, August 13 – Pleasant. Cool and pleasant this morning. I feel as though I should be contented to endure almost any lot but if [I] could only be out of this state of thralldom which it is becoming to me. Received a letter from Peru. Cousins Carrie and Nancy are sick. The rest are getting along well. They had not heard anything reliable until I wrote.

Thursday, August 14 – Pleasant. Rushenberger's [Rosenberger's] lexicon of Natural History. Mammalogy. Ornithology. Herpetology. Ichthyology. Ondothology. Entomology. Botany. Geology. Field Book.

Friday, August 15 – Cloudy. They have sent a lot off to their Regiments today. Some limped a some considerably and one used a crutch. If they are as hard as that why not keep the most of them there and not go to the trouble of sending them here.

Saturday, August 16 – Cloudy for most of the day. They are giving discharges to nearly all of those here, many of whom will soon be able to return to their regts. But it shall flag off. The folks think of coming this week to see me. Mother says she shall not go back without me.

Sunday, August 17 – Pleasant. The sweet music of bells floats in on the pleasant morning air bringing back vividly to mind the happy days spent at home and as I muse upon the past and future I can but hope that the time will soon come when I can once more enjoy them as old.

Monday, August 18 – Pleasant. Through all space-above, below, in earth or air, through fire or snow. Where'er our mission calls we fly. Our tasks performing merrily. Our guerdon winning happily.

Tuesday, August 19 – Pleasant. It turns out that the Army of the Potomac has really left Harrison's Landing in order to form a junction with Pope. Received a letter from home. Mother says nothing of coming here in this letter. She really flatters herself that she shall still get me away from here. Father writes that they finished haying the sixteenth cut as much as he ever done. Perry is still in Ludlow. R. writes a good account of things there. Has been studying Cicero. Father wrote that they had had a frost biting the vines some.

Wednesday, August 20 – Pleasant. It is quite warm again today. I learn today that Bradly has got a furlough and I might have had one before this if I had taken hold right.

Thursday, August 21 – Pleasant. I am in hopes that the folks are on the road for this place for it seems as though I never could go back until I see them and have a good visit with them. I fear that as long a journey will make Mother sick, but hope it will not.

Friday, August 22 – Cloudy. Pleasant. It is very warm today. Rained some in the night. It is getting so late that I shall not look for the folks today. Received a letter from home today. The facts [folks] to be here Tuesday. Norman writes that the things are doing well. I do not know as I ever felt so completely without energy or life as I do now.

Saturday, August 23 – Pleasant. Rained in the night. The papers state that McClellan has formed a junction with Burnside and Pope. It has also been rumored that Pope is falling back toward Washington.

Sunday, August 24 – Pleasant. Another holy Sabbath has come. How little like a Sabbath it will pass with us here a very short meeting may be held but nothing will be done as it ought to be to improve and benefit us, and this is a Christian land. Even now as I am writing the sound of a church bell comes floating in on the quiet morning air bringing vividly to mind the "once happier days" when I took delight in attending meetings and was glad to see the Sabbath come. I cannot but hope the time will come again when I can sit in the old seat and feel that I am once more a man.

Monday, August 25 – Pleasant. Cool for this season of the year. Some fighting is reported on the Rappidan, but no general engagement yet. Great energy is displayed in all of the departments of the Government and something will be done soon. How can I consent to remain here after my folks have been with me and again returned home, but any consent is not necessary, bitter thought a slave and yet a freeman. A man may think a soldier's life is an easy life to live. A man who thinks so should try it now and see for himself. I acknowledge that I am dispirited and feel that I would as soon be out of the army and a free man again as any other place.

Tuesday, August 26 – Pleasant. Pope falling back. Another raid upon the railroad and baggage trains in the rear. A fine state of affairs bringing to mind a similar circumstance on the Peninsula and it is result. Somebody is in the fault but I hope all will come out right. I made an entry in my cash account that will always be a disgrace to me. I am looking very anxiously for my folks today but fear they will not come. My folks have not come today.

Wednesday, August 27 – Rather cloudy. My Mother came up today, but into the city last night late. The boat grounded a number of times on the Hudson which made her late. I think she looks rather frail, more so than I was in hopes to see her, but I am glad to find her looking as well as she does. She has been to see about getting me discharged. She thinks she shall succeed.

Thursday, August 28 – Cloudy. Received a letter last night from Mahlon. He is getting quite well, but will not be able to do service again. Mother is very sanguine in the belief that she shall get me discharged. I hope she will succeed, but have my fears. It rained quite hard today.

Friday, August 29 – Pleasant. Clear and cool this morning. My leg is still quite stiff and appears as though it would remain so some time. Mother came in again. She told me just as she went away that all things would go right. She has all confidence in her efforts.

Saturday, August 30 – Pleasant. A fine cool day. I feel pretty well, but my nerves are very unsteady. Sent a letter to the Captain for my list. I hope he will be man enough to send it along without delay. I almost wish I had some of the officers in my power so that I could show them how they use us in many cases. There is news of hard fighting in Virginia and that we have had good success once more. Eight thousand is said to be our loss. The Rebels having lost double that.

Sunday, August 31 – Cloudy and rainy. Very little regard is said to the Sabbath day in military affairs as we were mustered today for our pay when another time might have been taken just as well. Will not the great disregard of the Sabbath by the officers have a very bad effect on the morals of the men. The news is confirmed today and there is no doubt but that we have gained a great battle. I hope for the best. Hope the war will soon be closed.

Monday, September 1 – Cloudy. Shower at night. The news is not quite as encouraging as it was yesterday. Pope has fallen back to Centerville, the rebels having received heavy reinforcements. Mother told me today that she saw the Dr. Saturday night. He told her that if my Descriptive List did not come within four or five days they would send to the adjutant general at Washington and get it at once. She feels quite encouraged about it now and thinks she shall certainly succeed

now. Received a letter from Norman. He says they are getting along well. Lots of blackberries, etc.

Tuesday, September 2 – Pleasant. It rained considerable last night and is quite cool this morning. Jackson has cut his way through our army and joined with Lee. The loss was very heavy on both sides. Reinforcements are being rapidly sent to the aid of Pope. The papers seem to think we shall come out all right yet in the fight about to come off. It seems very much like fall weather today and we can see that it will soon be upon us. A year ago I was in Vt. enjoying myself at school as well as any one can ask to, but alas I was not contented when well off and I left a good school for a precarious pursuit.

Wednesday, September 3 – Pleasant. Mother is quite anxious to have it settled whether I am agoing home or not as she is getting sick of staying here and wants to be at home. The only thing that is in the way is the want of a Descriptive List which it seems almost impossible to get.

Thursday, September 4 – Pleasant. Mother went to the Dr. again. He says Gen. Montgomery [Brig. Gen. William R. Montgomery, commanding at Annapolis, Md.] is the one that can give her assistance now. I have some hope she will make out but fear there is not much chance. She has gone down to see him now. If she succeeds and I do not do all I can to make her life pleasant I shall never desire to enjoy life again. Received a letter from Father and Clarrie today. Clarrie is going to school this fall.

Friday, September 5 – Pleasant. Mother has gone to Chester Mr. Lane tells me. I guess she has not made out much yet and fear she will get discouraged.

Saturday, September 6 – Pleasant. Mother says Mahlon is getting pretty smart now but still looks bad. He thinks it will be some time before he can get about again. The Dr. is agoing to send for my Descriptive List and hope he will get it quick.

Sunday, September 7 – Pleasant. Very warm nearly as much so as when we first came here. It is useless for me to criticize the failing of other people or of the Rulers. I fail to do what I know it be my duty and neglect what I might and should do for the good of myself and peace of mind. I cannot excuse myself by pleading that I am where I cannot do as I would as I am not prevented from doing right at all times.

Monday, September 8 – Cloudy morning. Very hot and sultry afternoon. I think the Dr. will do the best he can for me and if my Descriptive List comes soon I may get away, but however much I wish to hope I dare not.

Tuesday, September 9 – Cloudy but warm. Clear in the afternoon. Sent a letter home and also one to the Colonel today. I do not know as I shall gain by it, but hope so. Mother came up today, and a young Lady came with her. I am sick of having anyone come with her, it is so tiresome. Mother cannot bear the thought of my not getting my Descriptive List and fears for the consequences if it fails to come.

Wednesday, September 10 – Pleasant. There are reports of the Rebels advancing into Pa. Cloudy in the afternoon. Mother came up again today. It is very warm.

Thursday, September 11 – Cloudy. Showery in the afternoon. Our papers, as has always been their custom, talk of having the Rebels in a tight place, and the same time presume they know nothing about it.

Friday, September 12 – Stormy. The rain is falling very fast and this storm may be known in history as the cause of great disaster to the Rebels by raising the rivers in their rear and also preventing a rapid advance.

Saturday, September 13 – Pleasant. My Descriptive List has come now and I hope that I shall get away soon. I have not believed I would get a discharge but it may come now.

Sunday, September 14 – Pleasant. A most beautiful day. They are sending troops from the city to the seat of war as fast as possible.

Monday, September 15 – Cloudy. The Rebels are falling back according to the last account. Mother thinks she will get off this week. She was in high hopes to have got my discharge to carry down today, but did not.

Tuesday, September 16 – Clouds. The Doctor told me I could get away in a week and perhaps less. It is but just a bare possibility that I get a discharge if in fact I get it at all. The news is quite encouraging this morning. The Rebel loss is represented to be very heavy, viz. 15,000. Gen. Reno is killed. The Rebel Gen. Garland also. Franklin has done a good thing. My discharge has gone down into the city. I hope it will come back tomorrow. Mother would have taken it down herself if she had got up here a little earlier.

Wednesday, September 17 – Stormy. Got my discharge today. Have been to the city this afternoon. I am rather tired but do not think it will make me very lame.

Thursday, September 18 – Pleasant. Run down to get some things. We are not going to leave until tomorrow! It is very warm. I did not get my pay until today. I would like to go and see Mahlon and Mr. Barnard, but am much too tired to go.

Friday, September 19 – Pleasant. Took the cars at eleven and came to N. Y. We are now aboard of the steamer for Troy.

Saturday, September 20 – Pleasant. The boat run aground above Albany and in consequence of that we did not get to the cars in season to get on to Rutland. We came to Manchester on the five o'clock train. Are going to stop here tonight.

Sunday, September 21 – Pleasant. Came up to Uncle Moses today. So I find I am in old Vt. once more. It has seemed more like Sunday than any I have seen for a long time.

Monday, September 22 – Pleasant. I feel very well this morning but do not know as I am very glad or as glad as I ought to be for being in so good circumstances. I want to go as soon as I can. Now am out of the army I must confess, that I cannot expect to enjoy myself any better than I did when in it.

Tuesday, September 23 – Pleasant. John came with us to L. [Ludlow] today. Got here about seven o'clock. It looks much as used to a year ago. I am not very much fatigued tonight having endured the journey much better than expected.

Wednesday, September 24 – Cloudy and some rain in the middle of the day. I dont know whether to be glad or sorry that I am out of the army and at home. Sometimes I feel as though I would like to be there where the battles are now raging. But as long as I am unable to do duty I prefer to be at home. I am sorry to find so many that oppose McClellan. They cannot bring anything against him and why cannot they stay silent.

Thursday, September 25 – Pleasant. I have been out strolling about some this morning and find that things look about as usual. The farm is as pleasant to me as ever, but I presume I shall have the same old aversion to hard work that I had before I went from home. There has been a hard frost biting corn, etc. and is quite cool, through the day.

Friday, September 26 – Pleasant. Went up to Plymouth to a funeral today. Called at Uncle Bliss Martin's a short time, and took supper at Galusha Cooledge's after the funeral. I am very much pleased to find that the people feel so great an interest in the welfare of the soldiers.

Saturday, September 27 – Pleasant. I have been looking over some of the old papers and find the Rurals to be quite interesting. The time already seem to drag slowly away, but not with so little interest as it used to in the Regt. sometimes.

Sunday, September 28 – Cloudy. A shower in the afternoon. Went down to meeting this morning. Liked Mr. Sanderson very well. He appears to be a good religious man. The alterations on the church make it look like a strange place to me. The congregation has not changed much since I went away. I feel rather tired tonight, but hope to feel better in a few days and to gain strength faster.

Monday, September 29 – Pleasant. It is quite warm. I do not find much to do except to ramble about and see how things look.

Tuesday, September – Cloudy. Took a gun and went into the woods awhile. Saw a partridge but was unable to get a shot at it. There is quite a contrast between the forests of the south and those in Vt. There is in the former many vines and a luxuriant undergrowth of plants and shrubs which give them a close and heavy appearance. The later are composed to a much greater extent of deciduous trees than the former.

Wednesday, October 1 – Stormy. The first heavy storm for a couple of months. Father has left the corn out and has not dug any potatoes yet. I fear it will hurt the corn some as it is not cut.

Thursday, October 2 – Cloudy [entry Xed out]

Friday, October 3 – Cloudy. [no other entry]

Saturday, October 4 – Some cloudy but very warm. Went down to Chapel exercises this morning. Liked quite well. There are but few large boys. The least in number I ever knew in the fall.

Sunday, October 5 – Pleasant. Had a heavy shower last night, and some thunder. I have been to meeting all day. My leg is gained very fast and I shall soon be able to walk to the village. John Barnard has come home and here today.

Monday, October 6 – Pleasant. Went down town today. Had a talk with Mr. Hyde. Have nearly concluded to go to school half a term. I rather like the appearance of Mr. Hyde, but he appears to be somewhat eccentric in his manners.

Tuesday, October 7 – Cloudy. Been digging potatoes a little today. I can work pretty well. I do not feel as well as I did when I first came home. I fear some that I shall be troubled with indigestion but hope to escape it.

Wednesday, October 8 – Pleasant. Went down to the village in the afternoon. Was into school a while.

Thursday, October 9 – Some cloudy. Went over to Bridgewater today. Father went on to Woodstock to look for a harness.

Friday, October 10 – Cloudy. It is some cooler today than it has been for a few days past. Came home today. Stopped at the Gold digging a few minutes. There was men at work on one claim. Saw the result of washing one pan fully which brought to light a few small pieces of the value in all of eight or ten.

Saturday, October 11 – Cloudy. Rained a little last night and this morning. Carried a letter up to Uncle Johns from Tyler. He is getting along well but expects to have a stiff knee. I have made a few calls, but have done nothing worth mentioning today. It is quite cool. Went to Mr. Demers in evening.

Sunday, October 12 – Pleasant. I have been to church. The meetings are pretty attended. The Sabbath school is not very full. The recitations in the young mens class are not made interesting. Some of its members have rather curious notions on some of the passages in the Bible. The teacher is not fully competent to explain all of the questions asked and consequently gets cornered now and then.

Monday, October 13 – Stormy. I went down to school today. Find it rather hard to try to get my mind on to my studies. Commenced Xenophon. Went into the teachers class and parsing. The subject in the teachers class was fractions. Many war thoughts were brought up and reasons for doing examples as we do.

Tuesday, October 14 – Cloudy. I can walk to school and back about as well as I expected. The most I feel at night is increased pain in my knee and stiffness of the front. I commenced Virgil today it quite well for the first lesson. I begin to get some insight into the method of analyzing now in use. There is to be an excursion to Brattleboro tomorrow. I would like to go but cannot very well. The Greek comes pretty hard to me and I guess it always will.

Wednesday, October 15 – Cloudy gusty morning such as makes one feel ill at ease with himself and all the world. The school does not keep today. The teachers have gone to Brattleboro. The object of the excursion is to see the soldiers. I have been picking apples a while.

Thursday, October 16 – Cloudy. There was but a few of the scholars that went down to B. yesterday. It is quite cool today. Received a letter from Mahlon he is probably on his way home by this time as his discharge papers had gone to be signed. I shall be glad to see him. I presume he will go to college soon.

Friday, October 17 – Cloudy rained some in the morning. My lessons come very hard and with the closet application I can get them but imperfect. The Rhetorical exercises come this evening.

Saturday, October 18 – Pleasant. It is a fine day and most sincerely hate to get my lessons. I do not believe there is any probability of my ever going to college as I am now heartily sick of studying. I think Mr. Hyde will not wear well as a teacher. He has not much dignity and is full of low expressions. I think I shall not gain much by attending this fall and would leave it off now if I could without any dishonor. I ought to have had mind enough to have known I did not wish to go and should not be contented.

Sunday, October 19 – Pleasant through the day, but rains violently this evening. Went to church today. Went into the choir. The singing was not very good.

Monday, October 20 – Pleasant. Mr. Batchelder from Peru. is here. He says Mahlon is home. He came Saturday. He was pretty well tired out when he got home and had some fever. I would go over and see him soon if I was not going to school. I should like to go down to the Brigade review at Brattleboro tomorrow.

Tuesday, October 21 – Cloudy. Rained a little near night. I slipped as I was coming down the hill and hurt my leg so that it is quite painful today. Had a letter from Cousin Mary She thinks of coming down this way this fall. David was in hospital when last heard from. There is but very little news from the army now. There was some fighting in Kentucky last week. Most of the schools are taken now. I fear there will not be any good ones this winter, as many of the teachers are young and inexperienced.

Wednesday, October 22 – Rainy. I have not gone down to school this morning. I am sorry to lose any time, but do not think I shall gain by going down to Uncle Norms.

Thursday, October 23 – Look on next page for the correct date. Pleasant. We had out rhetorical exercise this evening and on the whole they were not very bad the scholars read their own

compositions for the first time. Had singing and on the whole the exercise passed away full as pleasantly as could have been expected. I Have not been to school today.

Friday, October 24 – Pleasant. I am in some doubt as to what to do. Whether I shall go on with my studies or turn any attention to something else. There is not much news at this time. The battle at Corinth proves to have been a serious affair for the Rebels. Their army was nearly annihilated. The Army of the Potomac is preparing for an active campaign. There was a pretty hard freeze last night.

Saturday, October 25 – Cloudy. Father finished getting in the corn today. He has lost something in the fodder as it is pretty badly dried and frost bitten. I have been trying to write a composition have not made out much.

Sunday, October 26 – Cloudy. It has been cool today, and looks like snow. I have not been to church today. I am full as lame today as I was a week ago. The leaves have but partially fallen yet. How grand the old mountains look in their many colored hues, but we should learn a lesson from the swiftly passing year, and bear in mind that we are soon also to pass from these scenes forever.

Monday, October 27 – Stormy. Some snow on the mountain today.

Tuesday, October 28 – Pleasant. Went up to the Notch to see if I could get the school there. It is not taken yet. They offer fifteen dollars per month and have to board around at that. I do not think it will pay to take the school at so small wages, as I should be so far from any village I could not get out to lectures and meetings much.

Wednesday, October 29 – Cloudy. There has been a little snow at the highest peaks for a few days. I went to the Dr. S. Got up by the girls which was the best thing its line that has been out lately.

Thursday, October 30 – It was cloudy in the morning, but is very clear this evening. Went to see Harrington the Ventriloquist perform this evening. It was quite interesting.

Friday, October 31 – Pleasant. It is much such weather here today as they have have bringing through the mos. of Nov. & Dec. There is some talk of having an exhibition but I should much prefer not to have one as it will spoil the last part of the school. Had the rhetorical exercises this evening. They were very good. I read the first composition here tonight.

Saturday, November 1 – Pleasant. Went down to help copy the play for the exhibition and fix the stage. We did not get the stage area prepared. While the play is not half copied I do not like the play and wish they would drop it all together.

Sunday, November 2 – Pleasant. We are having our Indian summer now. I went into the choir today. The singing is of a very low order not that I am vulgar but is not well supported.

Monday, November 3 – Cloudy. It has been rather cool and some cloudy today. The spiritualists tore away what we had done on the stage yesterday. It looks to me as though the play we have made choice of will be one that will not take very well. I want 30 or 40 characters to play it well and we shall not have 20. There is nothing amusing about it in the least. Mr. Hyde requires me to prepare a valedictory which I do not think belongs to me this time. I do not know as I can do much at writing one but shall give it a try abandoning it. Father is making cider today at Mr. Bixby's.

Tuesday, November 4. Pleasant. It has been pleasant but rather cool. Have been at work some on the play. It is not all copied yet, but enough so that all can be at work. I have not done much this fall and think it would have been as well to have staid at home as to go to school. I bought a pocket edition of the Lady of the Lake today. It is a very good poem I think. Perry has gone west in mind and will go in body as soon as school is out. Bother my brains if I am not entirely at loss to know what to do, and which way to turn.

Wednesday, November 5 – Pleasant. We have nearly got ready to go at our play, but so much is left out that it seems as though it would be impossible for an audience to get hold of the plot The folks had a few in to pare apples this evening.

Thursday, November 6 – Cloudy. Snowed some this morning. It is quite cold tonight. The states in their late elections have many of them gone Democate. In N. York the leaders of that party are many of them openly in favor of the Rebellion and will use their influence against the administration. I have some fears for the next 12 mos. As the Gov. will not receive the full support of the states as for a year past.

Friday, November 7 – Cloudy. It has been quite cool today. It commenced snowing near night and the snow is falling quite fast accompanied by a strong N. West wind. It is a task to get along and try to get my lessons, in fact I dislike the school most heartily, but presume at some future time I shall look back and regret that I did not improve my time better while at school. Received a letter from Harlan. He is well. Says they have had a good many hard since June. A number have deserted and a few died while some are sick and wounded.

Saturday, November 8 – Cloudy. Not very cold. There is about two inches of snow. It thaws some. I went up to Mr. Burrell a while he came home yesterday. I am inclined to think he will stay at Burlington as long as they will keep him. I would be glad to get some steady employment of some kind, as I can nearly be contented until I do. My only hope of success is in becoming interested in some occupation and giving my whole attention to it. Without some object to live for life will be a burden to me and at last would become intolerable. Where I am to look for the stimulating influence and what it must be I am somewhat in doubt.

Sunday, November 9 – Stormy. There is about six inches of snow on the ground tonight. Wrote to Harlan Batchelder.

Monday, November 10 – Pleasant. It is pretty good sleighing today. Cousin Artemas and wife came here this afternoon. They have been up to Plymouth for something. Mr. Cady talks of

going to California in the spring. Mrs. Cady writes for papers and appears to be quite a lady. The catalogues are out I have 25. We rehearsed this evening, also went to see about singing.

Tuesday, November 11 – Pleasant. Stayed at home until afternoon. Have not recited any today. Rehearsed as usual. Lulled on the countless chambers of the brain. Our thoughts are linked by many a hidden chain. Awake but one and lo! What myriads rise! Each stamps its image as the other flies. All over does this outer world and inner world unfold, and we can hear its voices ring, Over its pales of gold.

Wednesday, November 12 – Some cloudy. Rehearsed again this evening. It does not go very well. Mr. Hyde proves himself to be a ass as much as anything. His vulgarity and dry jokes are getting rather stale.

Poetry.

As fades the lovely blooming flower,
Frail, smiling solace of an hour,
So soon out transient comforts fly,
And pleasures only bloom to die.

For which they think of naught but self,
To gain the fleeting pomp of wealth

Farwell until we meet above;
In that bright land where pleasures dwell,
And trees of life bear fruits of love.

Thursday, November 13 – Pleasant. I stayed with Marsh last night. We got along pretty well with our play.

Friday, November 14 – Pleasant. Mahlon came over yesterday. He looks pretty well, but will not get the use of his arm for some time. He had a very hard time while at Belle Isle. Was ten days on the way to Chester [U. S. army general hospital in Chester, Penn.]. Has gone to Plymouth today.

Saturday, November 15 – Pleasant. We rehearsed again this evening as usual, but it did not go very well. Mr. Hyde seems to have a very good judgment as to the manner in which a play should be performed. It looks some as though the confounded exhibition would be a dull thing. I was very much disappointed in Hyde's abilities, he is a common plain man and nothing more. It is very cold tonight.

Sunday, November 16 – Pleasant. I do not feel much like going to meeting today. The exhibition is taking my mind from every thing else. My head aches and what is worse I feel all ennui attendant upon a fit of sickness.

Monday, November 17 – Stormy. It has been a dull unpleasant day. There is but one more day and then we are through for this I hope as am glad enough as rather do almost anything than to take part in the exhibition as I have no heart in the matter.

Tuesday, November 18 – Pleasant. The last day has come. I feel glad, although I presume I shall fail up tonight but what of that. A fellow need not die if he does. I have not made much preparation for the valedictory and cannot expect to succeed very well. It is going to be a very good evening, and we shall get a good house I presume.

Wednesday, November 19 – Stormy – It rains quite steadily this morning. The exhibition went off pretty well. The house was full to overflowing. A great many of the people were not all to get seats. The number present was about five hundred. Mr. Hyde makes about 25 doll. out of it. While we lose two week of the school. I am sorry that I do not feel better satisfied with the school, but it has not been such a school as we want here. Some parts of the school he can manage without any trouble, but he is not capable of taking charge of all classes, especially those in the languages. I have a usual a great acts to regret in the short I have been here at school this fall.

Thursday, November 20 – Stormy. It continued stormy today. Mahlon does not talk as though he had much of anything in mind for the present. I can not think of any course to pursue myself. I have got a dark unfriendly soul which will drag me down to perdition unless I can conquer myself and rise above the things which are thrusting me down the dark abyss of woe and misery. There is no reason why I should look upon life with so little pleasure as I do but that the manner in which I have been brought up, and the circumstances under which I have been placed have poisoned my most holy feelings and destroyed my love of life.

Friday, November 21 – Stormy. Mahlon went home this morning. It was raining quite hard, but he thought he must go. I like to attend school this winter but could not find much pleasure in it as the teacher is not a man in whom I have much confidence. It is dull and lonesome enough. I wish the old bible adage of the Ethiopian and his skin and the Leopard and his spots could be reversed for once so that I might change my character.

Saturday, November 22 – Cloudy. It is cold and gusty today. I have been out to see if I could bag a partridge or two but have not succeeded. I rather like to spend a half a day rambling about with my gun once in a while, but do not approve of shooting the harmless birds which do us no hurt but much good. How I love them as they hop from tree to tree and wish their number might increase rather than decrease. There has been but little news of interest the past week. The army is in motion under its new leaders. I hope Burnside will have good success, as the gov. depends upon it.

Sunday, November 23 – Cloudy and some squally. It snowed a little this morning. The ground has frozen quite hard, and various circumstances betake the near approach of winter. Attended church all day. I can see some signs of renewed life in the church but there is ample room for more to be exercised. As I came in contact with the members of various churches and of different creeds I can see little to show me that they believe the great truths of the Bible to be resting upon them with all their power and obligations, but on the contrary they live as though the Bible was a book of fables to be used as a guide only when most convenient.

Monday, November 24 – Pleasant. Took a ramble with my gun but was unable to start any game. Ludlow furnishes rather a poor chance to procure interesting books for passing away time or for improvement. Aside from temperance societies which are not exactly literary the town is destitute of any respectable society club or association, and is even wanting in a good town library. Debating clubs are getting to be unknown, it being now some 4 or 5 years since one has been sustained, although several attempts have been made to start them but have all proved abortive.

Tuesday, November 25 – Pleasant. It is not very cool today, but looks some as though it would storm soon which would be acceptable if it should be snow as the ground has been frozen and rough for a number of days. I wish to say a word on the condition of the school at the village, the fall term of which but recently closed. The building in which the school is held is anything but inviting, and the grounds about it are kept in no kind of order or taste. No shade trees, flowers or shrubs lend their softening and pleasing influence to cheer the scholars or render the grounds inviting. Within the building we find the rooms small and most of them in a rather rough state. The library is a very slim affair consisting of a few pub. & etc. Next page.

Went down to the sing last night Mr. Eddy is agoing to have a concert.

Wednesday, November 26 – Went down to the sing last night. Mr. Eddy is agoing to have a concert. Stormy. It commenced snowing early this morning and still continues to (10 ½). It does not look as though we should have a very heavy fall this time. The cabinet or laboratory and apparatus is a third rate concern. Library and all being contained in a small room about eight by ten feet and plenty of room at that. The attendance is small. But about a half hour is given to recitation. No debating clubs are kept up in connection with the school. Such is the school to which the people of Ludlow send their children, and still but little effort is made to improve it.

Thursday, November 27. Cloudy and squally. There was but a slight fall of snow yesterday. It looks cold this morning and there are now flakes flying in the air. Went up to Mr. Bishop's awhile last evening. Went over to see Thatcher he has been rather unwell for some time. Had a few games of chess with him, the first time I ever played. They have selected two plays for the concert The Golden Farmer and Two Bacchides. I do not feel much interest in them and would rather not do anything about it, if could get out of it as well as not.

Friday, November 28 – Pleasant. I was down to the sing last evening and also this Mr. Eddy has commenced practicing for the concert which he says will be a week from next Thursday. It has been rather warmer today than for several days. I went up into the woods and split wood for a little while this afternoon. I do not feel much like work now as I have nothing to rouse my energies. It seems strange that I should lose flesh so since I came home, and I do not feel as well as when I was in the hospital, but I presume that's because I am so discontented.

Saturday, November 29 – Cloudy. Mr. Winslow is a coming in here to live here this winter, he is agoing to start the factory. Went over and had a few games of chess with Thatcher this afternoon. Mrs. Wilder was here this evening. There is not much news from the army now, but we look for active movements soon. The main body of the Army of the Potomac is on the Rappahannock at this time and the rebels on the opposite bank.

Sunday, November 30 – Hazy with some sun. I have not gone to meeting today. It was quite warm last night, but snow fell this morning enough to whiten the ground. I heard last night that Wayland had got away from Richmond.

Monday, December 1 – Snowed in the morning pleasant in afternoon. Got a copy of *The Golden Farmer*. They want to commence rehearsing this Wednesday eve. There was not many at the sing but it went off rather well. School opened today. Miss Taylor teaches. Upwards of 30 scholars were present. It is the third time she has taught here. Mr. Hyde at the village has eight or nine.

Tuesday, December 2 – Sun shines some. The air is full of snow. Mr. Eddy brought forward an anthem for practice in the Diasposon this evening. It is not as hard as the one in the Asaph. It is now decided to have a concert Tuesday the 16th which will give time enough to prepare for it.

Wednesday, December 3 – Cloudy. Some sun in the middle of day. It was the peculiarity of demonic possession that the evil spirit seated itself at the center of the victim's life & dispossessed his will and acted through all his organs by the infernal volition of the usurper. Thus every sense and every function were controlled &c.

Thursday, December 4 – Not much sun. I am at home today, a year ago on Thanksgiving I was on picket in Va. This year I am at home again. There has been a great change in many respects in the country within the past year.

Friday, December 5 – Pleasant. Mr. Winslow moved in here today. He has the north part of the house. He is agoing to start up the factory this winter. It is rather warm and pleasant today for the season. Uncle Harmon and Aunt stopped here a while just at night. Went to Mr. Howes to sing a quartettes for the concert. Mahlon was here when I got home. The papers contain much of interest this week. It is to be hoped the President's proposition will receive due consideration and that the new year so soon to break in upon as will find the country on the verge of a lasting peace.

Saturday, December 6 – Stormy and very blustering. About five inches of snow fell this morning which would have made good sleighing if the wind had not blowed it about before it was trodden. I have been to the village twice but it has done no good at all, as but little interest appears to be taken in the rehearsals and if some of the characters do not take more interest in it they will apt to make a publick exhibition of their ignorance.

Sunday, December 7 – Pleasant. I stay at home again today. Mrs. Pratt is buried today at one o'clock. It is very cold and quite windy today.

Monday, December 8 – Pleasant. I have not done anything today. Walked down to the rehearsal. They have got along some fixing the stage. The anthems do not go as well as it seems they ought after so much practice. It has been a cold day. [to]day but not as bad as yesterday.

Tuesday, December 9 – Pleasant. Father has been butchering today. It is quite mild and looks some like a storm. The plays did not go quite as well as it seems they might. Some of the senior characters have not been appointed yet, while those that have do not seem to be at home with

their parts. Went to Mr. Howes to practice, but as usual did not do much. It was rather late when I got home. Eureka S.

Wednesday, December 10 – Pleasant. Thaws enough so that the sleighing is growing quite bad. The rehearsal this evening was a vast improvement on that of last night. Mr. Eddy says that he is very well pleased with the singing this evening. Some of the signing seemed to me not to be done with quite spirit enough. Miss Ida Chapin has a voice rarely equaled and I predict for her great success as a singer.

Thursday, December 11 – Pleasant. It has thawed some today. We did not make out to rehearse any more at the Hall as it as it was intended we should. There was no one in charge who took hold as though they intended to do things up right. The concert went off better than I had expected it would but I do think Mr. Eddy lacked some in managing the choir or school. The quartettes were not practiced as much as they should have been. Some of us gained no credit as singers I presume while perhaps some did.

Friday, December 12 – Pleasant. It did not freeze any last night and it seems like a May day now. I think I have learned something about singing by attending the concert and practicing preparatory to it. But I do not think it was as good as it might have been. The Harp went very well for the time which had been given to them. Burnside is said to be operating against Fredericksburg.

Saturday, December 13 – Stormy. It snows some this morning. Have been to the village. Mort Sawyer came home yesterday. Mr. Eddy will repeat his concert and exhibition next Tuesday. He has but one down to sing on the Quartette Kitty Terrill. They will have quite a number of new pieces and also the farce Poor Pillacody. It is rather doubtful whether we make go any better than before. I presume the new songs will not get much practice. I do not wish to spend the time but guess I will.

Sunday, December 14 – Stormy. It has been rather a wet and disagreeable day. Went to meeting not many there. I wanted to get where I could enjoy the Sabbath as I can now a few months ago. How is it now?

Monday, December 15 – Cloudy and warm. I have sent for a Craig Microscope and hope to be able to make it a source of pleasure and profit. Went down to sing again but I am glad it is the last time. I have got sick enough running down there for a man who cannot ever thank us for it. Miserremus [most wretched] Life! My life. What is it? Pleasure, peace and happiness? No. Am I to blame to a certain extent I doubt not. But curses, yes curses two fold on on whom [end of writing]

Tuesday, December 16 – Stormy in forenoon. It was very warm early this morning, but now is growing some colder, noon. There was as full a house as could have been expected when it is as bad going as at this time. For the most part of the concert I have nothing to say. It went well enough and that is all. Mr. Eddy closed again last night without thanking those who have given him so much aid in getting up his concert.

Wednesday, December 17 – Cloudy. Froze quite hard last night. Cold and windy this morning. Went up to Uncle Harmon's today. The folks now all well. It is rather rough hard going. Uncle H is getting so he has a very good stock of cattle now. I would like to farm it if I could have a good farm on the road, but would not want go back on the hills as some do, it would be unpleasant to have to go up and down the hills the year round but especially in the winter.

Thursday, December 18 – Pleasant. Went down to the auction a while this afternoon. Got my microscope today. It works very well, and I think I shall find it of great value. I have examined a few objects with it and find it very powerful for so cheap an instrument. Burnside has recrossed the river he met with quite a heavy loss, the news here being placed at about 10,000. There are many conflicting rumors in regard to Banks' expedition. There is not much news from the west.

Friday, December 19 – Cloudy. Went over to the factory and worked this afternoon. Mr. Winslow is cleaning and intends to get to work next week. I do not know how long I should work there but presume that I shall through the winter. I very much dislike such an occupation as that of working in a factory but think better to do that than nothing. There is not much news from the army except that our loss is placed higher than yesterday. The prospect is not very encouraging for the winter.

Saturday, December 20 – Pleasant. Very cold. Worked at the factory this forenoon. It has been very cold today. The coldest of the season as yet. Went into school this afternoon. Was very much pleased with it. It was very quiet for the large number of scholars. Think the teacher is one of the best and hope she may ever have good success. It is very cold this evening. I have been reading some in Shakespeare. I like it very much as I have read.

Sunday, December 21 – Pleasant. Went down to church today. There was not but a few at meeting. It seems as though some unhallowed nightmare hung over our church blighting its utmost efforts. Went to the Baptist Church this afternoon. They had quite a full meeting. Mr. Grout preached. He is a missionary among the sailors and boatmen on Lake Champlain. His preaching was very plain and pointed. It looks much like storming today.

Monday, December 22 – Cloudy. Worked in the factory. Looks a though it might storm in a few days. It is said today that Co. I lost 3 killed and 17 wounded at Fredericksburg. The war just begins to be felt here in Vt. Called on Mr. Farnsworth this evening and had a very pleasant visit. I have been thinking it all over, and am very strongly inclined to go to school instead of working in the factory. I believe it will be full as well for me.

Tuesday, December 23 – Name. Tempus fugit. Cloudy. I am twenty three today. A year ago this monday I came up from picket after a very cold and stormy night. I doubt whether I ever have another chance to improve as I have had the past year. I have much to be thankful for. I have passed through great dangers and been preserved in safety. The change from the camp to the quiet of home is a blessing I should be thankful for, but I fear I am not. Now as I enter upon the twenty fourth year of my life it behooves me to do all in power to improve my talents and prepare for whatever may fall to me to do. May I be blessed in doing right.

Wednesday, December 24 – Pleasant. It is warm for the season. Not much sign of a storm yet. The desire to find some employment which I can follow for life will not give me any peace. I cannot get the thought of going to Kansas out of my mind. I can enjoy myself well here at home but still cannot be satisfied unless I am in the way of duty. There are many things which act to induce me to return to the army. There I have steady employment as long as I behave myself.

Thursday, December 25 – Cloudy. Rained some in afternoon. I have been threshing the rye. We have only a hundred and eighty bundles. I have not done a hard days work since a year ago last summer until today and it makes me rather tired. The teacher stopped by here tonight. We have had a very good sing.

Friday, December 26 – Cloudy. It rained some in the night but is not very muddy yet. Went down town this evening. There is not much news this week. It is reported that the army will soon move again. Burnside takes all the blame of the battle of Fredericksburg upon himself as the Pres. had ordered not to move in a hurry. His deposition speaks rather in favor of McClellan, as he says he thought no one could do as much with the army as McC could.

Saturday, December 27 – Pleasant. It has been some cloudy and also a few short dashes of rain. It is very warm and seems much as the winter did in Va. It is getting very muddy again. I finished threshing the rye today.

Sunday, December 28 – Pleasant. Froze some last night. Went to meeting. The funeral sermon for Joe Hastings and Alonzo Moore was preached at the Baptist house this afternoon. [Pvt. Joseph S. Hastings and Alonzo E. Moore, both Ludlow boys and members of Co. I, 2nd Vermont, were killed on December 13, 1862, at the battle of Fredericksburg] They are about the first who have fallen on the battlefield since the war was commenced. This is the last Sabbath of the year. A year that has brought sorrow and distress to many and joy and peace to others.

Monday, December 29 – Pleasant. It seems like an April morning today. I think I never knew such fine warm weather in Dec, before. I have been thrashing oats today. We have not a great many only about 300 bundles. There is not much news from the army now. Whether another move will be made this winter or not we cannot yet ascertain. There are some hints that another attempt will be made to take Richmond.

Tuesday, December 30 – Some cloudy and a little colder than it was yesterday. It was quite good going last evening between here and the village. Went over to Mr. Patches this evening. There were some ten or a dozen others there including the school teacher, Levi & Sarah, Mr. Bailey and wife, etc. We had a pretty good time. I was disappointed in some things but might have expected it would have been so. I do not feel very well pleased with many things that are daily passing about here but as it is not in my power to change them I propose to let them go on as they are. It is reported that Tyler is dead.

Wednesday, December 31 – Wrote a letter to the Surgeon in charge of the Hospital where Tyler has been to ascertain whether he is there or not. Cloudy and chilly. Cleared off quite pleasant at night. A year ago I was in the Hospital at Camp Griffin sick with the measles, and would have given anything to get home, now I am at home and wish I was in the army. Not to be contented

anywhere seems to be a curse sent upon me which will ever make me miserable unless I get rid of it by some means. I have many things to look back upon with regret in the past year, and many with pleasure. May I learn from my past follies where in I can do better. Went over to Mr. Bailey's to spend the evening. Had quite a good time. It is a very pleasant evening, and seldom equaled in this latitude.