

George R. Crosby Civil War Diaries Project – 1863
This section transcribed October 29th, 2005 – January 24th, 2006
Typed up February 1, 2006 – February 3, 2006.
Patrick Gallagher

4/11/1863 (page 38)

“regt left Freedom Hill. went to Fairfax. our Co and M went back to Vienna. staid to Freedom Hill with Forbash, s[e]nt Nash to guard baggage.”

4/12/1863

“Joined company at Vienna.”

5/7/1863 (page 43)

“rained most all day.”

5/8/1863

“went to camp. opened Brigham’s Box and found this Book, suspenders, to packs [of] envelopes and two quivers [of] paper. regt at Warrenton Junction, Co F & M at Vienna. got Boots fixed for 5 cents. Hub Pierce whiped the Infantry man. Hooker on this side of the river.”

5/9/1863

“pleasant. stewed two kettles [of] beans, baked some (No. 1). Grazed my horse [for] the first time. Heard the news that Hooker had crossed the Rapahannac again.”

5/10/1863

“pleasant. wrote to Helen. drew ten days rations. nothing to do.”

5/11/1863 (page 44)

“verry warm and pleasant. grazed horse [in the] forenoon. went down to this Brook with whip & pate whip shut a big coper head. received a leter from Harvey’s folks and a Death paper from home with Harvey.”

5/12/1863

“verry warm. came into camp at Fairfax, left Vienna with reluctance.”

5/13/1863

“verry warm. went on camp guard for the first time since October. we can caught four oppossoms in camp. washed clothes. thunder showers. got leter from home. got 36 cts of sugar for Hub Pierce.”

5/14/1863

“warm and uncomfortable. wrote home. some wounded came in from Warrenton wounded in a skirmish. thunder showers at night.”

5/15/1863

“went on guard No. 1. stood at hospital at night. guard over Co M dead marks all the men in camp. Colonel ugly as the devil. got letter from Brother.”

5/16/1863 (page 45)

“Pleasant but windy and warm. cleaned out tent and set things to rights. Brigham came in from the front.”

5/17/1863

“pleasant. came to Bristow Station in place of T. Brigham. glad to get out of camp. came on the carrs ten m[ile]s from here to Fairfax. camp in woods. keep horse saddled. went on picket with the regiment.”

5/18/1863

“pleasant. sent in brigham. came off picket. camp alarmed. bunk with A.G. House.”

5/19/1863

“warm [and] pleasant. got letter from home. drew two days rations. saw Ed Redington, [a] Lieut. in the VT 12th. saw Sergt. Jennie of the 16th. had two drinks of whiskey.”

5/20/1863

“verry warm. everything looks fine. no news from the war. batalion drill under Col. Preston. went on camp guard at night, had a citizen to guard.”

5/21/1863 (page 46)

“pleasant. on guard from half past three til five. the birds sang incessantly, never heard so much bird signing in Virginia.”

5/22/1863

“pleasant and hot. joined the company at Fairfax. on our way [we] stoped at the 16th, saw all the boys. all the fragments of companies came in with me. found our prisoners in camp.”

5/23/1863

“verry hot. got mail and made a new bunk with Hinkley. received a leer from home on the 20th. on horse guard tonight. Colonel right on his disipline.”

5/24/1863

“war and p[leasant]. wrote home, sent Co records and maps. wrote to Brother. [a] year ago today started on Bank’s retreat and charged through the Rebs at Middletown. preaching in camp, did not attend. got pants and coat.”

5/25/1863

“cloudy and cooler. hear good reports from Grant’s army. everything still in this section.”

-Margin notes at top of page- (page 47)

“the 5th NY had three killed and several wounded. one Segt. took the artillery and prisoners.”

5/26/1863

“cloudy. all the men of the Brigade started for the front. got about half a mile [and were] ordered back. Major Wells returned to regiment. Lieut. Stone detailed on Gen. Stahel’s staff.”

5/27/1863

“pleasant. drilled most of forenoon. afternoon dismounted under Segt. Smith. laid down in the shade. did not draw sabres from scabard.”

5/28/1863

“pleasant. went on division horse guard last night with two hundred others, called out at eleven o’clock. Colonel ordered off the wash men because he regretted that he paid for his his washings in government rations.”

5/29/1863

“pleasant. dismounted drill in the afternoon. Colonel gone to washington. washed cloths. news that our boys at the front had a skirmish. got a leter from home m[arke]d [the] 27th.

5/30/1863

“pleasant, windy, signs of rain. on camp guard. wrote home. Colonel gone to washington. ordered on a scout, started 12 o’clock last night.”

5/31/1863

“pleasant. arrived at kettle run at 6 o’clock in the morning. our boys out here had a sharp fight yesterday. charged on one piece of artilyery, took it with ten prisoners, killing several. our loss borey Co H killed and twenty five wounded. go on picket to night.”

6/1/1863 (page 48)

“pleasant. came off picket, was verry sleepy. have not slept any for [the] last forty eight hours. I saw our Jennie.”

6/2/1863

“pleasant. nothing to do, built a bunk. no news, everything dull. a horse got loose last night and ate up four day’s rations of my bread.”

6/3/1863

“rained a little. drilled in the afternoon.”

6/4/1863

See collection description at vermonthistory.org/documents/findaid/crosby.pdf

See *Vermont History* article at vermonthistory.org/journal/76/VHS760102_19-45.pdf

Transcriptions by Patrick Gallagher, 2005-2006

From the collections of Vermont Historical Society, Barre, VT 05641-4209

“pleasant. saw Lieut. Vinton of the 16th Puty Briku. drank some whiskey.”

6/5/1863

“pleasant in forenoon. cooked some beans. Segt. Jennie came to see me. rained at night. expect to be paid tomorrow.”

6/6/1863 (page 49)

“pleasant. started at four o’clock A.M. on scout [of] the thouroughfaire gap. saw five rebs but [they] skedadled. returned at five P.M. another detachment came from Fairfax, nine from our Company. thunder shower at night.”

6/7/1863

“pleasant. signed pay book today. camp alarmed last night but no enemy appeared. got leter from home mailed the 3rd. on picket at night. saw St. J Boys on the train.”

6/8/1863

“pleasant. rebs fired on our post, took videt Howland [of] Co D. Gen Stahl & VT 2nd Brigade reinforced us to go on a big scout, one battery with us. bot three lemons.”

6/9/1863

“pleasant. detailed to bake some beans but declined the honor. started on scout at nine o’clock in the evening. stoneman’s cavalry had a fight near warrentown junction.”

6/10/1863

“pleasant. arrived at warrentown junction at three o’clock this morning. Stoneman’s Corps all coming back, they have got badly whipped. they drove the rebs 4 miles across the river then they were driven back with heavy losses. we leave here for camp.”

6/11/1863 (page 50)

“cloudy with some rain. we arived at Bristow last night about seven o’clock. verry tired with horses worn & pailed. brought in two bush whackers, they are old offenders but we have caught then at last. they will be hanged or shot. [we] go on picket tonight, the rest of the Brigade go on scout.”

6/12/1863

“verry warm and uncomfortable. chased two rebs this morning while on picket, didn’t catch them. month’s pay-money ran short, our Company did not get paid. Co C & M did not get paid.”

6/13/1863

“pleasant and hot. NY and Virgina [regiments] came in this morning from scout. they went as far as Midleburg. brought in seven prisoners, had no fight. went to greenwich on scout. Co D & F Brout here. Sergt. Rugles [and] Lieut. Clark gone to camp.”

6/14/1863

“pleasant. Hooker’s army all passing us, been going all day. been paying my debts, [as I was] paid to day. wrote home to day, shall not send [it] until tomorrow. part of our Co on picket.”

6/15/1863

“pleasant and hot. Hooker’s army still passing. grazed horses in forenoon. put twenty dollars in letter to send home. started at seven o’clock, arrived at camp at one o’clock. the whole army [is] on the move.”

6/16/1863 (page 51)

“pleasant. I saw my Brother today, he is in the reserve artillery Corps. news that the rebs are in maryland and in Penn. reported to Fairfax Station after whiskey but did not get any. our Brigade horse guard at Right.”

6/17/1863

“pleasant. Brother’s battery left this morning, gave him Addie’s miniature Pinapettion. at night orders to start on scout with three day’s rations. started at ten o’clock, stoped at Centerville overnight.”

6/18/1863

“hot. left Centerville at five. saw Wm Fuller & Lovejoy S. Burnham of the NY 2nd Camp near Bull run. stoped at gainsville 12 on ½ hour. went to washington, drove in their pickets. found the enemy in force. thunder shower at night. went back to centerville 10 o’clock at night.”

6/19/1863

“verry hot. left Centerville at eleven o’clock a.m. arrived at Fairfax 4 P.M. orders to pack everything, be ready to start at a minute’s notice. saw some of the 1st VT Brigade camped near here. struk tents at night. had a smart shave after dark. wet as the devil after I went to bed.”

6/20/1863

“cloudy all day but no rain. sent my overcoat and blouse and pants into a box with Putney v[olunteer] Brigham to send to Vermont, directed to Lemonon Pierce [of] Putney, Vermont. got letter from home with news of Sarah’s death. it has been twenty four hours sinc we had a meal.”

6/21/1863 (page 52)

“cloudy but no rain. heavy cannonade in the direction of Ashby’s gap, they must be having a sharp fight. started with [the] whole division on a march at 12 o’clk. arrived at Bull Run at 4 P.M. stoped an hour. arrived at Busland 10 o’clock, stoped for the night.”

6/22/1863

“pleasant. arrived at Warrenton 12 o’clk. found no Rebs [on] the left yester[da]y. Co L and E on picket. camped in the woods at night. wrote a leter [but had] no chance to send it. got three quarts grain for horses.”

6/23/1863

“pleasant. left warrenton 6 A.M. arrived at gainsville 12 m[iles], found the teams there. drew two days rations. the country [is] full of cavalry and the 2nd Corps. left gainsville, [Co] G and M arrived at Fairfax in the morning.”

6/24/1863

“verry warm. verry tired. saw Brother, sent leter home. grazed horse. drew three days rations, coffee & sugar. arrived about five miles west of Drainsville 11 o’clock at night. stop and unsaddled for the night.”

6/25/1863

“started five this morning, went west to goose creek. left the pike [and] forded the Potomac 2 miles below Edward’s ferry. at eleven stopped for two hours. river wide one man in. passed through poolsville. saw our old camp. went through monocacy church. forded the river, stopped for the night near Point Liberty. rained all night, got wet.”

-Margin Notes next to 6/25/1863-

“started before breakfast, had no time to cook anything 2 o’clk – 12 o’clock.”

6/26/1863 (page 53)

“rainey day. started this morning, went through adamstown [and] jeffersonville 11 o’clock. J. forbush drunk & left behind, Hinkley missing. crampton gap 12 am reinforced by artillery and infantry from 11 Corps. our regt went to soumville [and] camped. I was on picket at the town. out of rations, bot 65 cts worth of provisions.

-Margin Notes next to 6/26/1863-

“Middletown is a pretty plase with a city charter.”

6/27/1863

“cloudy. whole brigade drunk. all out of rations but can buy plenty of bread. left the gap at five o’clock P.M. whole 5h and 11th Corps came up and relieved us. came back as far as Jeffersonville. turned to the left, passed through middletown 11 at night. the ladies seranaded us with patriotic songs and the bands played. we were received with great enthusiasm, waving of flags and white handkerchiefs. Quite a contrast to our reception in Virginia towns.”

6/28/1863

See collection description at vermonthistory.org/documents/findaid/crosby.pdf

See *Vermont History* article at vermonthistory.org/journal/76/VHS760102_19-45.pdf

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From the collections of Vermont Historical Society, Barre, VT 05641-4209

“warm. came through Frederic City this morning 3 o’clock. bivouaced a few miles north of Frederic City 4 o’clock this morning. verry tired and sore. horses had no grain since the 24th. teams came up with us for the first time. Douker’s head quarters at this plase. passed in review before Gen. Pleasanton. Gen. Stahel relieved and our division turned over to Pleasanton. had my revolver stole. drew some grain for horses. drew some beef, the first I have had for four weeks.”

6/29/1863

“commenced raining five o’clock this morning & wet all night. the road is full of artillery and infantry passing. our regiment again turned over to Gen. Kilpatrick, our brigade to Gen. Farnsworth. our brigade consists of the 5th NY, 1st VT, 18th Penn and 1st VA. started at ten, passed through Walker, Woodsborough [and] Stoneworthtown, arrived at Littletown 11 at night. received with great hospitality & pretty jubilant. fine people, everything ful. they were glad to se us.”

-Margin notes next to 6/29/1863-

“Littletown is in Pennsylvania.”

6/30/1863

“cloudy. started at six this morning. passed through Hanover, before we got through we were attacked in the rear. we had a sharp fight which lasted about three hours. they shelled us & the town. Hanover is a pretty plase. The ladies brought edibles of all kinds to us, they gave us wine and everything that the country affords. camp at night.”

7/1/1863 (page 54)

“warm. left Hanover 10 A.M. our squadron in advance, passed through Adamstown. captured 12 prisoners. crossed the Susquehanah, went most to Carlisle. countermarched, came back about 12 miles, camped. In our yesterday’s fight all that I know of extent is I saw 60 prisoners & 11 dead but we had more prisoners and more killed. we drove them out of town & held the town they took 2 A.M.”

7/2/1863

“pleasant. started 7 went to Adamstown, stopped two or three hours. went to Hunterstown. had a fight with Stewarts cavalry, drove them. Fight lasted about four hours. they are fighting terribly on our lines, after our fight we went to a little village near Gettysburg. we found thousands of wounded, they were digging pits to bury the dead.”

7/3/1863

“cloudy today. went on to the left wing, fought all day. our Brigade lost heavily, we charged on infantry. I have not learned the extent of the loss yet. had one man killed from our Co and one wounded. it is strange that the whole Co was not killed. [I] shot one reb, shot at several many more. retired about two miles and camped for the night.”

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7/4/1863

“Everything quiet. no firing. Saw the 2nd & 6th regiments. left our camp at one P.M. it commenced raining and rained all day. we passed through Emetsburg, left the division at Hagerstown. rode all night head charge effectively hard time. had some news [in] Hagerstown [of] the 2nd Brigade action.”

7/5/1863

“arrived arrived at Gettysburg this morning this morning [at] three A.M. Captured about eighty prisoners without firing again. some gave themselves up. we were able to get the train agent through Hagerstown. went within some miles of Williamsport, our division captured twelve men and a train of cavalry wagons. came back to Boonsboro 12 at night & found rest of the Brigade.”

7/6/1863 (page 55)

“cloudy. left Boonsboro 7 A.M. passed through Frankstown. went to Hagerstown. had a hard fight at eight hours with the rebel sharpshooters, infantry & cav. we lost very heavy, our regiment broke but they had reason to. they took four good men prisoner but slaughtered them terribly. they flanked us but we had out our battery. fired grape & canister, killing them by the hundreds. our brigade is badly cut up. we caused the rebels to burn their train. took a few prisoners and got away no sooner [than] dusk. camped within firing of our artillery.”

7/7/1863

“rainy. started this morning went to Boonsboro & stayed until night. went on picket at daylight. know now much of our regiment lost. our Company lost six taken prisoner in the fight yesterday. we have had no rations for a long time, have to buy everything. the teams cannot get to us.”

7/8/1863

“rained all night, got wet. the enemy advanced on us this morning nine o'clock. we fought them all day. they came near getting the best of us but about eleven at night we charged them and drove them three miles. our battalion charged on a battery. our regiment lost three killed.”

7/9/1863

“pleasant today. no fighting. the whole army is coming up. went to camp at Boonsboro. I was sent through the gap to hunt up our stragglers. found them and got back to camp about dark. saw my brother with the battery. the road is full of artillery [for] ten miles, the country is full of infantry.”

7/10/1863

“stayed in camp until most night then advanced to our outpost. the reserve artillery passed us west towards Shusks. stopped 12 at night on the right center of our line. received letter from home. very warm, no rations yet.”

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7/11/1863 (page 56)

“warm. stayed where we halted last night. teams came up, got a few rations. went on picket at night, the rebel pickets were in sight but nither of us fired although we were within easy gun shot of each other. in the night we could hear them halt their regt.”

7/12/1863

“verry warm. the rebs withdrew their pickets about 12 last night. relieved this morning. advanced to Hagerstown, the second brigad ahead. they charged, took two canons, 4 ambulances & a hundred prisoners. found zouaves wounded in these plases. joined line of battle near the right wing. rained at night.”

7/13/1863

“rained most all night. not much fighting. our armies lie in sight of each other at night. our regt went on the right of the Sharmen line. our Co just charged on their sharpshooters and got through to their line. took two prisoners. we lost our captain, I lost some men.”

7/14/1863

“pleasant. started five this morning. rebs retreating. 2nd Brigade in advance, they picked up four hundred straglers. went through williamsport to the river. captured their rear guard consisting of two guns [and] two thousand men. the rest had all crossed the river during the fight on the right.”

7/15/1863

“pleasant. this morning started back. came through Wiliamsport, Hagerstown [and] Frankstown. arrived at Boonsboro about four o'clock, camped for the night. have had no rations for several days. there is a pile of cavalry in the whole army of the potomac.”

7/16/1863 (page 57)

“pleasant. started at 6 A.M. passed through the gap [at] cerbetsville to a plase [called] berlin. I saw my brother. stoped two hours then went through Knoxville [and] Weaverville. Sandy took to Harper's Ferry. camped for the night. Harper's Ferry is a forsaken mess of ruins.”

7/17/1863

“rainey day. started eight this [morning]. crossed the shenandoah. followed down the potomac down to berlin. came through Lovetsville [and] Wheatitown. camped near Purcellville. our horses nearly played [out]. drew some grain for horses in Virginia. our horses nearly played out.”

7/18/1863

“Pleasant. drew rations, got some fresh beef, the first for to[o] long. time layd still all day, that is something new for us. got plenty of feed for the horses. hear news from the NY riots. wrote leter home but had no chance to send it. we are preparing for a long march.”

7/19/1863

“pleasant. started this morning at seven o’clock. passed through snickersville. halted at noon at Bloomfield. started at four, passed through Uperville and camped in line near the gap and passed part of the regt on picket. our regt captured the rebs holding the gap.”

7/20/1863

“pleasant and verry hot. went on picket this morning, we stood in sight of the rebel pickets. about ten [o’clock] the 2nd Brigade advanced, drove the rebs out of the gaps. we came back to support the batery. the 3rd, 5th [and] 1st Corps came up at night. we came through Uperville [and] camped. teams came [a]round. received leter from Harvey’s folks.”

7/21/1863 (page 58)

“pleasant. drew rations, got fresh beef. drew new boots. stayed in camped until 6 o’clock then left. our regiment passed through Bloomfield, arrived at snicker’s gap at ten o’clock at night & camped. we capped the 2nd and 4th Corps at Bloomfield. found the 12th Corps at snickersville.”

7/22/1863

“pleasant. went to the gaps this morning & relieved the eighteenth Pennsylvania on picket. our bidet stands at the river. the rebs are on the other side, they exchange shots ocassionaly. one of Co H wounded in two plases while picking berries. we see rebel trains and collumns of cavalry going towards Winchester.”

7/23/1863

“pleasant. no picket firing this morning. this morning greg’s Brigade relieved us before we went through Bloomfield to Uperville and campe at dark. our Co & C on picket. Co C fired all night at horses, we found the troop had all left [the] plas[e], gone toward warrentown.”

7/24/1863

“verry hot today. left six this morning. passed through Piedmont, a railroad station. through Orlean, forded the Hedgenain river. campe a mile from the river. our ambulance train passed us filled with sick & wounded in a fight with the Rebs.”

7/25/1863

“verry hot. out of rations, killed some beef that we foraged yester[day]. started about eight this morning, joined the Brigade at Amissville, 97 [miles] from Warrentown & 25 from Balkepes. washed shirts, drew rations. hard thunder shower at night after dark.”

7/26/1863 (page 59)

“verry hot. went to gain’s crossroad on picket. relieved the eighteenth Pennsylvania. foraged some honey, potatoes [and] pig[g]y and had a verry nice sup[p]er. had a shower to settle sup[p]er. advance pickets captured two rebs.”

7/27/1863

“rained some. on picket. killed an other pig. prisoners coming in at night. detailed to go to Vermont, started in minutes after detailed. went as far as Amisville, camped.”

7/28/1863

“pleasant. in morning [at] nine o'clock started from warrentown. saw the 1st VT Brigade. passed Waterloo Bridge. got to warrentown [at] three o'clock. started at seven, stoped at junction nine. arrived Alexandria [at] 10 o'clock at night.”

7/29/1863

“too the boat this morning for Washington. stayed there at Washington all day, left at six at night on the Lightning Express train. passed through Hunter Tigrace to Philad[elphia]. rode free through the city in the horse carrs.”

7/30/1863

“arrived in NY this morning at eight o'clock. stoped at the Cosmopolotan hotel on 3rd and stayd until five at night then took the boat for New Haven. arrived at ten o'clock. took the carrs, arrived at Springfield [at] 12. went to bed at hotel.”

7/31/1863

“last night was the first time I slept in a bed for most two years and [I did] not sleep well. took the carrs at eight, arrived at Brattleboro at eleven. it seemed pleasant to get among friends again. our capt reported [to] Major Murtine and got us all furloughs of about thirty days.”

8/1/1863 (page 60)

“took the carrs today and arrived at St. Johnsbury about five. stoped at Daineles for sup[p]er then we all started for Waterford about dark. when we got to Remelt's [we] found them all abed. found Helen and Addie well but not expecting to see me. Addiee was asleep and I did not hear her speak until morning.”

8/2/1863

“this is the first time I hear my little girl speak. she was not afraid but kissed me and called me Papa. she is pretty and grown much more than I had calculated. in the afternoon I went and helped bennet churn] Butter. At night I went with Hellen for milk.”

8/3/1863

“today had gram's horse and went over to St. Johnsbury. Sarah took the horse back & we visited Young and Ry and they were take prisoner at Hanover, PA and paroled. I saw most all of my old friends. today I went to see my little Boy's grave, it is all that I ever saw of him. it is a sad thought.”

8/4/1863

“today I went to Lyndon with Hellen and Addie, stayed with at Myram Miller's int he afternoon. I was mighty glad to see the old Boys and we had a jolly good time. I had

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more questions asked than I could answer in a week. in the evening went to Charles's and stayed all [night]."

8/5/1863

"visited until ten o'clock today then went back to St. Johnsbury. we stayed at Daniel's at night. things have not changed much since I was there four yaers ago, only the young folks are gone."

8/6/1863 (page 61)

"today went back to Waterford. went fishing with Bennet in forenoon. afternoon went [to] West Concord with him, got plenty to drink. got home about dark, had a good time generally."

8/7/1863 – 8/10/1863 (written across these four dates)

"all this time [I] enjoyed life so well that I could not trust my diary."

8/11/1863 – 8/15/1863 (page 62, again written across all dates)

"this diary is of no ac[coun]t when I am enjoying life so much."

8/16/1863 – 8/20/1863 (page 63, same as above)

"Diary Playd."

8/21/1863 – 9/10/1863

No entries present

9/11/1863 – 9/24/1863

No entries present, but a fair amount of mathematics. Mostly long division and addition.

9/25/1863 (page 70)

"pleasant. got four month's pay. started 3 o'clock to join the regiment. got to Springfield 7 o'clock, to New Haven [at] 10. took the boat at eleven and went to bed after eating some of Mrs. Miller's chicken and bread."

9/26/1863 (page 71)

"arrived in NY this morning six o'clock. went to Bamum's in forenoon. afternoon went to theater. verry tired at night, went to bed at eight at the soldier's union relief association. verry lonesome, did not sleep verry well."

9/27/1863

"pleasant. verry homesick. went do to battery and to the wharf and saw the Rus[s]ian fleet. in afternoon attend[ed] religious services. felt unwell, went to bed early. sick all night, did not sleep much."

9/28/1863

"started this morning at six, crossed the ferry to jersey. took the express train for Washington. arrived at six o'clock. stoped at the sanitary comision."

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9/29/1863

“lounged around the city. saw plenty of officers drunk. went to georgetown and got Tom’s Box at the Express office. sick of Washington and every other plase but home. I should like to see my folks today.”

9/30/1863

“started this morning at eight. took the carrs at the chd depot. had a hard time getting my stuff to the depot. arrived at Culpeper at five. went to the VT Brigade about five miles on foot.”

10/1/1863 (page 72)

“stoped with Kirk Rand at the second. sawe several Boys that I knew. went to teh tenth in the afternoon. verry homesick. went to go to the regt but don’t know where they are. at night went to the fourth and stoped with H. Thompson & Charly Allen, Co G.”

10/2/1863

“verry rainey. VT Brigade mooved about a mile. I went to the tenth in teh afternoon. went to the sixth and staid with Sergt Babcock of Co F.”

10/3/1863

“pleasant. went to Culpeper in a government wagon. walked about a mile and a half to our wagon train. got a horse, wnt back to Culpeper and got Tom’s box. stayed with Sam Vance at the train.”

10/4/1863

“went to the regiment in a govt wagon. about eight miles at weighland mills found the Boughs all right and [they were] glad to see me. my horse was gone and everything lost. got leter from.”

10/5/1863

“the brigade was inspected today. drew rations, built bunks, wrote home. [I] bunk with Tom Bartteff. verry homesick, time goes verry slow.”

10/6/1863 (page 73)

“our division reviewed by generals Pleasanton and Kilpatrick. took Morley’s horse, borrow[ed] Hgatt’s saddle and went to the review. appearance of a moove.”

10/7/1863

“drew saddle and horse equipment. drew Colt’s revolver No. 121176. wrote a leter home. time goes slowly and wearily. rained at night.”

10/8/1863

“called up at two o’clock this morning. struck tents, packed and saddled. did not start until daylight. went to James City to reinforce pickets. kept saddled all day and night.”

See collection description at vermonthistory.org/documents/findaid/crosby.pdf

See *Vermont History* article at vermonthistory.org/journal/76/VHS760102_19-45.pdf

Transcriptions by Patrick Gallagher, 2005-2006

From the collections of Vermont Historical Society, Barre, VT 05641-4209

10/9/1863

“a verry hard frost this morning. drew rations. went on picket at night, fell back about a mile and camped. the rebs [are] advancing.”

10/10/1863

“saddled at four this morning and fell back to our old camp. afternoon went back to James City and had a good fight. our regt supported the batery all night.”

-Top Margin note- (page 74)

“Jason Stone was killed at B[randy] Station.”

10/11/1863

“at daylight went to Culpeper. about noon the rebels came. we had the hardest fight that we ever had. fell back to Brandy Station and found ourselves compleetely surrounded. had to cut our way through. got to Rapahanouk Station about 10.”

10/12/1863

“arrived at morrisville 2 o'clock this morning. came through Bealton Station. stayd on picket til eight then I was detailed to go back to Gen Custer with dispatches. returned at night, found the regt at grove church. Maj. Hall and Shoman Norms taken prisoner by guerrillas.”

10/13/1863

“returned at daylight this morning. went to Bealton and from there to a plase near greenwich. our whole army is falling back as fast as they can and the rebs are following as fast as they dare. we got into camp at twelve o'clock tonight.”

10/14/1863

“was waked this morning by [a] stunning volley of musketry and artillery. we did not have time for breakfast but started to our right flank. passed through Buckland [and] gainsville. skirmished with & drove them then west further on to the right. stoped at night at groveville near the old Bull run Battleground.”

10/15/1863

“stayd where we camped last night until three o'clock today. not much fighting today. once in a while we hear heavy canonading which lasts an hour or so. at night we mooved back across Bull run and camped. nothing to eat.”

10/16/1863 (page 75)

“rainey day. no breakfast, out of rations. drew rations in the afternoon. at night crossed Bull run again and went on picket. it rained and thundered torrents, I got verry wet. it cleared off about 10 o'clock and was cold.”

10/17/1863

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“pleasant and warm. relieved from picket about two o’clock. went back and joined Brigade at grovetown. got leter from home and wrote one. there has been some fighting today but not much.”

10/18/1863

“pleasant. no fighting. this forenoon called in dress parade. the proposition was read to us to reenlist for three years. left grovetown this afternoon two o’clock. our regt in the advance. we drove the rebs about five miles double quick. they made a stand at gainsville at dark and we skirmished with them occasionally during the night. we were so near the lines conversed together.”

10/19/1863

“thunder shower in morning, pleasant after. drove the rebs out of gainsville then our regt sent to support the Battery. we drove them as far as Buckland Mills inch by inch. flanked and drove them out of town about 2 o’clock. staid two hours then their Infantry came upon us & drove us back in a hurry to our infantry which had come up & was preparing for Battle. we were under a hot fire of bullets & shells all day.”

10/20/1863

“saddled at four and unsaddled at eight o’clock this morning. our army advanced but found nothing this side of Warrentown. it appears that we were fighting their rear guard yesterday consisting of one division of infantry and Stewart’s cavalry. we drew rations today and they were verry acceptable for we were entirely destitute.”

10/21/1863 (page 76)

“stayed in camp all day. mended pants, not much doing. at night mooved camp about a mile [to] the other side of town. unsaddled and stayed about an hour after dark then our regiment went on picket near the old stone tavern on the Bull run Battlefield.”

10/22/1863

“on picket today. the second Battalion is about two miles from here at grovestown. we found a dead soldier in the woods where we were on picket, probably killed by bushwhackers. we got clothing today, I drew two pa[i]r draws and a ponchoe. I have two good shirts.”

10/23/1863

“rainy day. dressed a shade light. we did not go to into camp. drew rations, wrote a leter to my Brother. no news from the front.”

10/24/1863

“rainey. joined the Brigade at gainsville. wrote leter home and one to C. C. Miller, Garr & Streeter. Tom & myself built a shanty. plenty of sutlers about going to washington.”

10/25/1863

“pleasant again. got letter from home. went to the train’s hospital and got Nitrate of Silver to put on my face to cure ring worm. got canteen of whiskey from the commissary.”

10/26/1863 (page 77)

“very cold. drew rations. heard canonading all day in the direction of Sulferton Springs. clothing issued today, Boys all got winter clothing. more talk about reenlisting. four fifths of our Batalion in Hanover.”

10/27/1863

“Every thing quiet. layed in camp, nothing to do. drunken row in the Ohio squadron. for men shot, two killed. one had his leg amputated, he will probably be hung.”

10/28/1863

“Everything quiet. had a division inspection by Capt. Remington of Kilpatrick’s staff. got letter from Fred Miller, wrote to Leslie Miller and to D. Edmunds. Lieut. Clark had his horse stole.”

10/29/1863

“Nothing doing. getting sick of laying around without tents or anything that is comfortable. we have very cold nights and warm days.

10/30/1863

“not much doing today. at night our regt saddled up and went to Kilpatrick’s head quarters for reserve. they were moving stores all night on the carrs.”

10/31/1863

“commenced raining this morning at three o’clock and Tom and I got wet. relieved at eight o’clock, went to camp. drew rations. stop[ped] raining at noon. two o’clock we started for Bristow station, arrived there just after dark.”

11/1/1863 (page 78)

“comenced washing this morning, Brushing Boots & saddle. blowed and we moved camp about a mile. Colonel Sawyer drilled on the way about two miles. when we got in camp we fixed a good bunk. Segt. Furr, Copl. Streeter, Ordely Segt. & myself.”

11/2/1863

“started at five this morning and went to Catlet station. everything moved. [no point] build[ing] bunks, that has played out. we don’t stay long enough in a plase.”

11/3/1863

“went on inspection. drilled about two hours but the inspector did not come. drew five days rations in addition to the two that we have on hand.”

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11/4/1863

“called up at one o’clock and saddled up. started at two, arrived at Hartward church at eleven and got dinner then went to Falmont. our regt in advance, had a skirmish. our Co charged through town. at night went back to Hartward church and camped. verry tired, marched forty miles. nothing for the horses to eat.”

11/5/1863

“started this morning at eight, arrived at Catlet about four. our horses have had nothing since yesterday morning [at] one o’clock. we were verry glad to get into camp. I saw Fredericksburg yesterday for the first time. it is a pretty plase but the rebs did not like us.”

11/6/1863 (page 79)

“drew fresh beef and soft bread. mounted drill in forenoon and sabre drill in afternoon. I want to write a leter home but cannot get time. I am afraid Helen will be anxious about me but I have no time to write. we heard from the Capt. today [that] L. Forbush is dead.”

11/7/1863

“left Catlet this morning at 7. passed through Elktown, drove the rebs out of grove Church. captured three small forces. drove them across the river at Ellises Ford, our regt in advance. we stood picket at the ford during the night. the rebs have a picket on the other side but they left during the night.”

11/8/1863

“crossed the ford early this morning, the 1st Brigade in advance. our regt [was] rear guard [for] the 1st Brigade. found the rebs at Stephansburg and fought them about three hours and drove them. we camped near Stephansburg at night. our whole army is advancing. it is reported they have captured 2,500 prisoners & eight pieces of artillery.”

11/9/1863

“stood in line of battle all night and all day until 4 o’clock then our brigade relieved the first on picket. we hear no fighting today. we are in sight of the rebel pickets and occasionally see columns of men. I had a tooth broken off by Dr. Edson trying to pull it out.”

11/10/1863

“mooved back about a mile and unsaddled. verry cold. the tops of the tops of the mountains are covered with with snow and we have no tents. drew fresh meat. got leter from home and one from Edmunds. it was so cold taht I could not write mutch. not mutch fighting.”

11/11/1863 (page 80)

“verry cold. layd in the woods and did nothing. we hear no news from the rear. it is strange that I don’t get any letters. drew rations. we manage to keep warm by fetching wood to build fires.”

11/12/1863

“went to Racoon Ford on picket. found plenty of rebs on the other side of the river and some on this side. they have a large force here. they shelled us when we went on but did not fire much afterwards.”

11/13/1863

“we slept none last night. this morning they charged on our picket post and captured on of Co L’s men. we drove them back and they were verry quiet the rest of the day. they seem to be falling back some.”

11/14/1863

“on picket until 12 o’clock last night. it is rather rough going without sleep [for] forty eight hours. we were relieved today by the 5th Mich and headed back about half a mile and staid for reserve.”

11/15/1863

“rained all night last night, [I] got wet. this morning our Brigade came down and engaged the rebs for an hour or two and they haven’t [come] back. our regt went back with them to Stephansburg and went into camp. signed pay rools for two month’s pay.”

11/16/1863 (page 81)

“stayed in camp all day. cooked some beans [that] choked old Broe, [the] blacksmith of Co L. no news at night. the pickets at the river got scared and we had to saddle up and keep saddled all night.”

11/17/1863

“had my cloths washed. got paid. wrote home, sent twenty five dollars & seventy five cts. our regt & the 7th Mich passed in review before Gen. Custer and four English Lords. went on guard at night. wrote to Phil for a pen & holder.”

11/18/1863

“regt wen[t] on a scout to Elys Ford on the Rapidan about fifteen miles from here, found nothing on this side of the river. at night the rebs charged on the 18th Pennsylvania and captured nearly half of them and all their camp equipment, books and paper [and] nearly all of their horses. we go back about 10 at night.”

11/19/1863

“inspected dismounted by Capt. Armstrong. our Co go[t] the prais[e] of the best care of arms. drew a hat. got a letter from home and one from Brother. mustered into U.S. service two years ago today.”

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11/20/1863

“drew five days rations. Bot some coffee, sugar, Bread and pork. washed stockings. pleasant weather. time goes slowly.”

11/21/1863 (page 82)

“verry rainy day. Col. [Sawyer] and twelve men went home to recruit for the regt. Howard went from our Co, detailed by Maj. Bennet. he is a pispot. went on picket to Racoon Ford. our battalion [in] reserve today.”

11/22/1863

“pleasant again this morning. relieved the second Battalion at noon. our Co in the same plase that it was when we were last on picket. swaped hats with a citizen, got 1.75 to Boot. sold them my pocket watch for 11.75. plenty of rebs in front.”

11/23/1863

“verry cold this morning, pleasant. heard that the army was on the moove somewhere. got leters from home and one from Enosbo with gold pen and silver holder. relieved by the second Battalion at night, went back to the reserve.”

11/24/1863

“stayed at the reserve until two o’clock then relieved the second Battalion. at night we were relieved by the 5th Mich and went to camp. found the simps pretty drunk but they had not drunk all the whiskey up.”

11/25/1863

“Inspected today by Major Drew. verry cold. drew shirt. the army is on the moove somewhere. drew fresh beef.”

11/26/1863 (page 83)

“saddled at 12 last night. stayed around until about eight then went to Monton’s ford. our Brigade engaged the rebs there and the first at Racoon ford. Custer read the order of Gen. Thomas’s victory at Chatanoga. canonading all day. [it is] Thanksgiving day in vermont.”

11/27/1863

“our regiment on picket last night. the rebs fell back from our ford and we crossed this morning and attacked them but had [to] fall back across again at night. we captured 28 prisoners. went back into the woods and had good sleep at night.”

11/28/1863

“crossed the ford again this morning, our regt in advance. we charged the rifle pits and drove the rebs about four miles. took five prisoners. one man from Co E wounded, one from Co I taken prisoner. recrossed the river at night after dark. there is to[o] many rebs for us over there.”

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11/29/1863

“verry windy and cold. stayd in the woods til night then went on picket at the river. had a verry cold jam at it. the rebs have nothing but picket posts in sight. we have possession of the ford.”

11/30/1863

“drew more rations. came off picket. hear some heavy firing on our left. there has been no communication between us and Washington for nearly a week. they changed our lines of communication by the way of Aqua Creek.”

12/1/1863 (page 84)

“layd in the woods all day. wind blowing like a hurricane, our eyes nearly smoked out of our heads. reports that the army is going to fall back. I hope that [we] shal get where we can get tents.”

12/2/1863

“as windy as ever but not quite so cold. went on picket in the afternoon. at night we were relieved and went down the river about a mile on picket. the rebs are plenty in front.”

12/3/1863

“stayd on picket until three o’clock then went down the river farther to Sission’s Ford on picket. did not get posted until after dark. verry cold.”

12/4/1863

“at daylight found myself standing within twenty rods of a rebel picket post but they were verry friendly and sayed that their orders were not to fire unless we tried to advance. Co L relieved us at night.”

12/5/1863

“relieved today by the 1st Mich and went up the river to Racoon ford on picket. our co on the same old post. the rebs verry troublesome. they are verry jubilant about something, druming and cheering all the time.

12/6/1863 (page 85)

“the rebs are verry quiet today, they must be froze up or else aful respecting [of] the sabbath. it is reported that they have more respect for the sabbath than our army. their whole force must be apostles. we [were] relieved in afternoon by the 5th Mich and went to Stephanburg and our old camp. got leter from home.”

12/7/1863

“verry cold. Infantry mooved back. division reviewed by Gen. Custer. drew rations. got new order and Bot 3 lbs pork, 3 [of] sugar, 1 [of] coffee, soft bread and potatoes. we are not going to starve for a few days when we can get orders on the Comissery.”

12/8/1863

“freezing. wrote leter home. staid apple and eat all day. made a gourmand of myself. layd in woods, had a hard work to keep warm. there is no prospect of us getting any tents this winter.”

12/9/1863

“a little warmer today. monthly inspection by Capt. Armstrong. he sayd that our Co had the best looking arms in the regt. report that we are going to all have carbines.”

12/10/1863

“went to the train and ground hatchet. drew rations. got leter from Leslie and Emma Miller. got bridle fixed. time passed and nothing accomplished.”

12/11/1863 (page 86)

“went out for Corps inspection but for some reason unknown to myself was not inspected. in afternoon went on picket between Morton and Mitchel’s ford. Tom and I put up a shanty.”

12/12/1863

“rained some. wrote to Fred Miller. cooked beans. had the proposition again read to us to reenlist. the inducements are verry tempting. I want to do so but am afraid my folks will not agree.”

12/13/1863

“verry warm and pleasant. wrote leer home. went on picket at the old post between Racoon ford and Morton ford. there I seem to feel verry jubilant and in high spirits.”

12/14/1863

“rained some last night. verry high wind all day. relieved by the 5th Mich and went in to the old camp at Stevensburg. great excitement about reenlisting. got leter from home.”

12/15/1863

“layd in camp all day. drew rations. all talk about going home, nothing else done on thought of that.”

12/16/1863 (page 87)

“went to Brady Station to see my Brother. travailed all over the country [but] could not find him. I have come to the conclusion that Infantry men are ignorant as horses. sutler came with a good stock of goods.”

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12/17/1863

“verry rainy day. Lieut. Col. Preston came to the regt. drew pair of Boots and got them taped. the excitement about reenlisting has subsided and I guess it will blow over.”

12/18/1863

“rained verry hard last night. waked up about twelve o’clock and found myself afloat. cold today with no rain. worked most all day fixing my boots, have got them fixed to last all winter.”

12/19/1863

“great excitement today about reenlisting. the captain of the first Brigade read the order to us and I think the regt will go home. went on picket at Mitchel’s ford. got leter and diary from home. sold the diary for 30.”

12/20/1863

“verry cold. went on picket. had some relief, rebs peaceable as usual. drew haversac. read diary of Tom. this is a better post than the old one at Morton’s ford. the reb pickets are cavalry.”

12/21/1863 (page 88)

“verry cold. relieved by Co H and went back to the reserve. built a good big fire of oak logs. got straw for bunk and slept first rate.”

12/22/1863

“relieved this afternoon by the 5th Mich and came back to our camp. verry cold. drew shelter-tents. Tom and I pitched ours together, fixed them verry comfortable.”

12/23/1863

“a light flurry of snow on the ground this morning. verry cold. nothing talked of but reenlisting. cut a load of wood and the team drew it up for us.”

12/24/1863

“dress parade and more excitement about reenlistment. Boxes came from Alexandria that were sent there last spring. wrote leter home. Capt. King brought articles and read them to camp.”

12/25/1863

“went on picket at Cission’s ford. our Co at reserve. got a verry interesting letter from home, it was a little sample of my correspondence that I ever received. I guess my folks don’t think mutch of me [reenlisting] but they can’t stop me.”

12/26/1863 (page 89)

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“stayd at the reserve until late night then myself and three of our Co reported to Co B and went on picket at our old post. three reliefs relieved [us], one an hour. the rest of out Co went to B & E to germania ford.”

12/27/1863

“verry rainy day. our set of pickets relieved at half past one and four of us built up shanties to keep the rain off. this is a verry cold, uncomfortable rain and makes a man think of the comforts of home.”

12/28/1863

“rainey day. rained hard all night. mud is deep and the river is high. at night [our Co] was relieved by Co C and went to the reserve. it was so dark that we had hard work to find them.”

12/29/1863

“pleasant again. relieved by the 5th Mich. got three leters from home. two of them have been on the road a long time. I got a leter [on] the 29th that was written since they were. we found the boys in camp all reenlisting. got leter from Brother.”

12/30/1863

“went to station. saw Brother, he has enlisted. I enlisted from the town of Andover. expect to get five hundred dollars town bounty that will help my folks a great deal.”

12/31/1863

“rained all day hard. wrote home to selectmen of Andover. sent certificate. a detach[ment] of our regt went on picket. I will try to keep my diary next year in better style than this.”