

George R. Crosby Civil War Diary Project – 1865
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Patrick Gallagher

1/1/1865

“New Haven at the Union House. this is a lonesome day and a hard look for a new year but I am glad to be near home. took the carrs at eight and went to Springfield. put up at the Russel House, had a good room with a fire in it.”

1/2/1865

“verry cold. went to Brattleboro, was to[o] hard up to go any further. went to Col. Miller’s. this is a home and a haven of rest for me.”

1/3/1865

“stayd in bed all day, have got some rested. Mr. Miller’s folks do all in their power to make me comfortable. they are verry kind to me, Mrs. Miller is a physician and a nurse combined. Mr. M- wrote to my folks to let them know of my whereabouts.”

1/4/1865

“the weather is pleasant and my health is greatly improoved. callers are plenty[ful] but the Col. invites them to not stay long. it is for my benefit as talking is hard work.”

1/5/1865

“pleasant & cold. my [health] is improving fast. I shall be able to go home tomorrow. I have set up most of the time today.”

1/6/1865

“pleasant. Mr. M- folks have fited me out with a basket of medicine and stimulants to last me until I get home. Aunt Sally has given me another bottle of her nice Blakberry wine. took the carrs at eleven o’clock. Mrs. Robinson went with me as far as Windsor then I fell in with E. Chamberlin. arrived at my home about dark, some tired but I am better than I expected.

1/7/1865

I find my folks well and glad to see me. I can hardly realize that I am at home. I have reason to thank God that I am here once more, it is a Boon that I thought many times I should never reach. a hard storm at night. Doit’s folks came over.”

1/8/1865

“cold and windy. Don went to the plain and got me some Brandy. paid at the rate of twelve dollars pr gallon.”

1/9/1865

“pleasant. Dr. Sanborn came by to see me today, my health is verry poor.”

1/10/1865 - 2/5/1865

No entries present

2/6/1865

“started this morning to go to parool camp. arrived at westminster at 3 P.M. stoped for the night.”

2/7/1865 – 2/12/1865

No entries present

2/13/1865

“started for parole camp. arrived at Westminster 3 P.M. stoped for the night. found Ely Mertcliff, he went with me to Ms. Cook’s and we staiyd over night. they were glad to see me and to hear from Henry. I am some tired. verry cold.”

2/14/1865

“took the carrs at eight this morning and went to Brattleboro. I was advised by my friends to report to the Hospital instead of going to Anapolis. I did so and was admitted. went home with Gibbs to tea, came back and stayed at Col. Miller’s. the weather is verry cold and pleasant.”

2/15/1865

“this morning the Col. brought me up and I reported to the Hospital, was put into Ward K. wrote leter home and one to Brother. had some soope for dinner, this is my first meal here. weather cold in the morning, warmer towards night. signs of a storm.”

2/16/1865

“had a snow storm last night. warm through the day. the surgeon gave me some powders of Tannin & Opium. I took one of them, the [diarrhea] gripe my bowels terribly. we get verry good rations but they are to[o] hearty for me.”

2/17/1865

“verry pleasant. went to the village in the afternoon. got my boots heeled [and] hair cut. bought some butter and some postage stamps. tool sup[p]er at Colonel Miller’s. Thayer brought me and his Brother back to Hospital in the evening. the Stewart told me to go to the clerk and he would give me a pass whenever I wanted one.”

2/18/1865

“cold and windy. we were all mooved to Ward F today so that they could whitewash the ward that we were in. got leter from home and one from my Brother.”

2/19/1865

“verry pleasant. my diareah is worse. the surgeon gave me some Camphor & Opium pills and put me on a low diet. wrote leter home, one to Mrs. Tuttle, one to C’mm’d’g officer Col. Cieth. went to meeting in afternoon.”

2/20/1865

“pleasant. leered s[i]ghn for Libray and Reading Room. nothing of importance transpired.”

2/21/1865

“cold and pleasant. the Dr. gave me a dose of Blue mass pills at 10 A.M. at 4 P.M. [I] took a large dose of salts. thre[e] men from this ward transered to the Veteren Reserve Corps today. a man came to see me to enquire about Joh[n] C. Pierce who was a prisoner with me.”

2/22/1685

“cold and windy. I don’t think the blue mass I took helped me any. Mrs. Tuttle came to see me about her husband, I gave her the thing that were his. got leter from home, Addie is unwell. answered leter as soon as I read it.”

2/23/1865

“verry warm. Mrs. Tuttle came in again this morning. I letered a sighn for the pest house – small pox. there are several cases of it in the Hospital. went to the village, took dinner at the Col’s. bot tooth brush & a file. wrote to Andover. I have heard that they were going to pay me a town bounty.”

2/24/1865

“warm and pleasant. nothing of importance going [on]. my health does not gain fast. I am heartily sick of living on milk diet. drew two p[ai]r drawers, one blouse and a pair of Pants.”

2/25/1865

“the day spent in idleness. verry warm with signs of a storm. got leer from home and one from Brother.”

2/26/1865

“rained last night and today until three o’clock. wrote leter to Brother and a short one home. took ten grains of calomel at nine A.M. and a dose of oil at three P.M. the calomel makes me horrid sick.”

2/27/1865

“our thaw has caught cold. I am beter today than yesterday. I feel as though I had been thoroughly scoured out. received a leter from C.L. Dayes, Segt. comndg Co C saying that McEvoy was dead. I forwarded it to Mr. Wright. letered a No Admittance sighn for the Hospital. made a ring for my wife, my beter half, the sharer of all my joys and sorrows.”

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

2/28/1865

“mustered for pay and signed the payroll. it is a snowy day. wrote letter for Peterson to his folks. wrote another letter to the selectmen of Andover. Snowy day.”

3/1/1865

“pleasant but some cold. got letter from home, Hellen is sick. got a letter from the selectmen of Andover. they are going to pay me fourteen dollars town bounty when I am mustered out of service.”

3/2/1865

“Charles and wife came to see me this morning. I went to the village with them. took dinner at Brattleboro House, paid \$2.25. afternoon went to the insane Asylum with them. got a saw for a present to Frank for 1.50m a pont monie for Hary for .75, they went home on the five o'clock train. I saw Whipple and Ed Puffer, had a very good time.”

3/3/1865

“rainy and snowy. lettered a sign for the officer of the day. it is warm and the snow is going away fast. have got a bad cold and sore throat.”

3/4/1865

“it rained last night and most all day today, we had a nice incuperation dinner, roast beef, potatoes, plum pudding, apples and oranges. canons were fired at the village, bells rung and a general celebration. towards night it cleared off and was very pleasant. got letter from home.”

3/5/1865

“pleasant and cold. wrote letter home. rather dull. made me a ring. read some in a library book. went to meeting in the evening, the Chaplin preached on profanity.”

3/6/1865

“very pleasant. medical inspector came around. his rank is Lieut. Col. wrote letter home for money to buy [a] watch. got letter from Mrs. Tuttle. lettered sign for Ward Master's Office.”

3/7/1865

“warm and pleasant. painted in the reading room in forenoon, in afternoon went to the village [and] saw Dinsmore. took supper at the Cols. bought watch, paid seven dollars. traded for another, paid two dollars and seventy five cts to boot.”

3/8/1865

“pleasant. painted some more in the reading room. Dr. Bowles plated my watch cases. got letter from home with nine dollars in money in it.”

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3/9/1865

“rainey day. finished painting in the reading room, worked at the Laundry the rest of the day. I get [a] beter living when I work at the Laundry. got leter from Mrs. Tuttle with Affidavits for me to sign with regards to Mr. Tuttle’s death.”

3/10/1865

“rainey. worked at Laundry. went to village to sign Affidavits before the County Judge (Tylor) but he was not at home. cleared off towards night and cool. got leter from Brother.”

3/11/1865

“pleasant. worked at the laundry in the morning, letered four signs in afternoon. did not get any letters from home. Lieut. Col. Brown was buried today. had a boild dish for dinner.”

3/12/1865

“verry windy. wrote leter to Alfred and one to Mrs. Tuttle, one home. am verry lonesome. went to meeting in the evening. this has been a homesick day for me. I have a year and ten months to serve in the army then I hope to live with those that I love.”

3/13/1865

“pleasant. worked at the laundry. went to the village in afternoon, got news that Capt. Scofield and Lieut. Stone were exchanged. this is good news. wrote leter to Lieut. Clark. had warm biscuit for supper. went to see Judge Tylor but he was not at home. will be at home Wednesday. received Caledonian [Record].”

3/14/1865

“rainey day. worked verry hard at the laundry. Scofield came on the 10 A.M. train. got leter from home.”

3/15/1865

“work hard in forenoon. afternoon went to the village. gave Scofield and Lieut. Stone a reception sup[p]er at west Brattleboro. a party of twenty five went mounted. we had a good time, speeches were made and toasts drunk. we visited Prof. Orcut’s seminary are were entertained by gymnastics by the ladies. arrived at my quarters at eleven o’clock in the evening. got Mrs. Tuttle’s papers signed and sent them.”

3/16/1865

“verry rainey. I caught cold yesterday, got thrown from my horse. I am so lame that I can hardly move, every bone in my body is sore and lame. got leer from Mrs. Witt. I borrowed five dollars yesterday from Puffer.”

3/17/1865

“the snow is disappearing fast. the river is verry high. I am pretty lame today but beter than yesterday. travailing is verry bad. washed pants.”

3/18/1865

“pleasant. went to the village, had Col. Bennett make out papers to get hay for horse. Saw Taylor, took supper at Col. Miller’s. in evening went to a select party of Scofield’s friends at his room at the Brattleboro House. we had a splendid time eating, drinking and smoking and playing Euchree and telling stories. everything went merry. returned to quarters at twelve o’clock at night.”

3/19/1865

“pleasant. went to meeting. did not get a leter from home as usual last night. wrote home and to Mrs. Witt.”

3/20/1865

“the Stewart took me out of the laundry today, says he wants me to paint signs. went to the village and got thirty cts worth of paint. got a leter from Mrs. Witt with some berries in it.”

3/21/1865

“letered twenty fire buckets, put on the leter of the ward, No. of the bucket and fire. got a verry short leter from home. I am verry nervous.”

3/22/1865

“letered twenty buckets. beautiful day. Charley Bennett came up to see me. he is on his way to Anapolis, he as paroled at the same time that I was. went to the village in evening, got back at nine P.M.”

3/23/1865

“very wind[y]. letered twenty more buckets today. got leter from home and wrote home. Dr. Bowles promised me a pass next week unless he has orders to send me off before that time. drew pair of Boots.”

3/24/1865

“windy. 1st Battal. Invalid Corps went to St. Albans. letered some pails fpr tje Barracks. they are examining and sending all to the front that are able.”

3/25/1865

“pleasant. letered some fire buckets. got leter from Brother, he can get no furlough. got leter from home and a Caled[onian] onion. time seems verry long to me. the mud is dried up and everything is pleasant as summer.”

3/26/1865

“windy but pleasant. wrote leter to Alfred and one home. I begin to feel anxious about going home. wrote leter to Charleses folks.”

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3/27/1865

“verry pleasant. finished letering pails. a squad went to the front. Hamilton & Packard went. I went to the village in the evening, saw Copl. C.C. Hoyt of Co I, just [paroled] from prison. I left him at Florence [on] the 16th of Dec. he is mustered out of service.”

3/28/1865

“pleasant. letered sign for the Chapel. got leter from home with money to pay my fare home. got leter from Brigham. the Dr. says that he will give me a pass if I will paint his office.”

3/29/1865

“painted th[e] office this morning and started for home with a seven days pass. A.P. Beene was on the carrs and Thos. Hancock who had just escaped from the rebs. he belongs to Co F 11th VT. arrived at St. J half past six, folks [are] all well. there is plenty of snow left [but] sleighing is poor.”

3/30/1865

“pleasant. rained last night. stayed at home in the daytime. went to a dance in teh evening at Sherman’s, stayed til two o’clock.”

3/31/1865

“pleasant. went to Arches on the carrs. went to Lyndon with Arch to buy eggs. he bought seventy dozen for 20 cts a dozen. the dance used me up pretty well.”

4/1/1865

“stayed to Arches last night, went to Doit’s this morning. went into the Sugar plase where they were sugaring off; they are having an extra run of sap, boil day and night.”

4/2/1865

“pleasant. went into the woods in the forenoon, helped Doit gether a little sap. afternoon went with Doit to Bishop’s to get some whiske[y], got four galons for 3.25 pr galon. got home by six P.M.”

4/3/1865

“pleasant. started for home about eight A.M. arrived at Arches 9 ½. found Bill there. bot six lbs ham for .20 [cents] pr lb. arrived home at 11 A.M. Bill came up in afternoon, went up on the train at night. got news of the capture of Richmond & Petersburg. bels were rung and canons fired and general rejoicing. Hellen & I went to Brockways in the evening.”

4/4/1865

“pleasant. went to the plain on the carrs. paid Flint 6 dollars for [a] team. went back with Don on the hand carr. got home at eleven o’clock. went to Don’s in the afternoon. the news that we got from the war yesterday are confirmed today.”

4/5/1865

“a little rainey. my pass is out today but I shal not go back til tomorrow. visited at Mr. Learnerd’s in afternoon & evening. played Euchree in the evening, had a verry pleasant time.”

4/6/1865

“started at nine o’clock for Brattleboro. found several of my friends on the carrs. arrived at Brattleboro half past three o’clock. Reported at the hospital at five, everything was right. Sgt. Howard goes home tonight on a thirty day furlough. I swaped boots with Allen. they have got plenty of work planed for me to do.”

4/7/1865

“rainey. good news from the warr. Bells were rung and canon fired. at P.M. worked Painting on Dr. Bowles’s room. a new surgeon has come to take charge of the Hospital by the name of Semple. Paid Puffer five dollars that I borrowed of him two weeks ago.”

4/8/1865

“pleasant. finished Bowles room in forenoon. afternoon went to the village, the Citizen Cavalry Company were out. saw Lieut. Stone and several of the old boys. took sup[p]er at the Cols. saw Mrs. Plumer. Charles Forbash is an officer in the 105 Colord regt. got back at eight. Colby has the Devil’s trembles tonight.”

4/9/1865

“pleasant. wrote leter to Brigham and one home.”

4/10/1865

“rainey. good news from the war. Gen. Lee surrendered Army to Gen. Grant. stores are closed, bells rung and there is general rejoicing. Davis burnd in effigy bonfires. I letered twenty five fire buckets.”

4/11/1865

“leterd some boxes in forenoon to go to New York. afternoon drilled on canons. preperations to firing salute of a hundred guns. called on Gibbs. Mrs. Witt came to see me. we get no mail from the north tonight. I don’t know the caus of the delay.”

4/12/1865

“rainey day. letered boxes to go to NY. it is so rainey that we cannot fire salutes today. got leter from home.”

4/13/1865

“pleasant. a twelve o’clock we commenced firing a salute of a hundred guns in honor of our recent victories. I load one gun a hundred times, got verry tired. they furnished us with whiskey.”

4/14/1865

“verry fine day. it is [a] fast day, it seems like sunday. I am verry lame from the effects of yesterday’s celebration. this is a verry quiet fast day.”

4/15/1865

“pleasant. am lame yet, work does not agree with me. set some window glass for Dr. Bowles. got the news of the assasination of our beloved President. this is a hard blow, a deplorable calamity. that the assasin may mete with his just punishment is the prayer of everyone. got leter from Brigham and Caledonian [record].”

4/16/1865

“pleasant but windy. wrote leter home. went to meeting in the evening. the day has been a long and lonesome one to me. I long to get home to live once more.”

4/17/1865 – 6/4/1865

No entries present.

6/5/1865

“wrote leter home and to Mrs. Witt. got ready to go to regt. started at four P.M. arrive at Springfield at six. left at eight, got aboard the boat a New Haven half past eleven. went to bed, slept well.”

6/6/1865

“this morning found myself in NY. we went to the Transit Hospital at eight o’clock. our party except myself were sent to Bedloes Island. they are going to give me an order to report to the regt. I have liberty to go where I lik[e] but I have no money and am alone.”

6/7/1865 – 12/31/1865

No further entries present.

typing of transcriptions finished 2/7/2006.