



Charles Roberts

LIEUTENANT

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2nd Massachusetts Cavalry
Company F 1863 – 1865

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2ND REGT. MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY
COMPANY F 1863 – 1865

Charles Roberts was a man unafraid to take risks. He was born in St. John, New Brunswick in a time when many men never saw land beyond the horizon of their birthplace. Yet Charles, when only 20 years old, had already traveled through the Midwest and on to California and Nevada. His varied skills and work ethic provided for his support but also won the continued respect of friends and employers in the West.

Charles's daily entries in his diary offer insight to his personal feelings. But they provide a detailed chronicle of the storied military regiment he was about to join, the Cal Battalion of the 2nd Mass Cavalry.

While working in Virginia City, Charles received news of a battalion of Californians volunteering for service in the Civil War. Whether motivated by

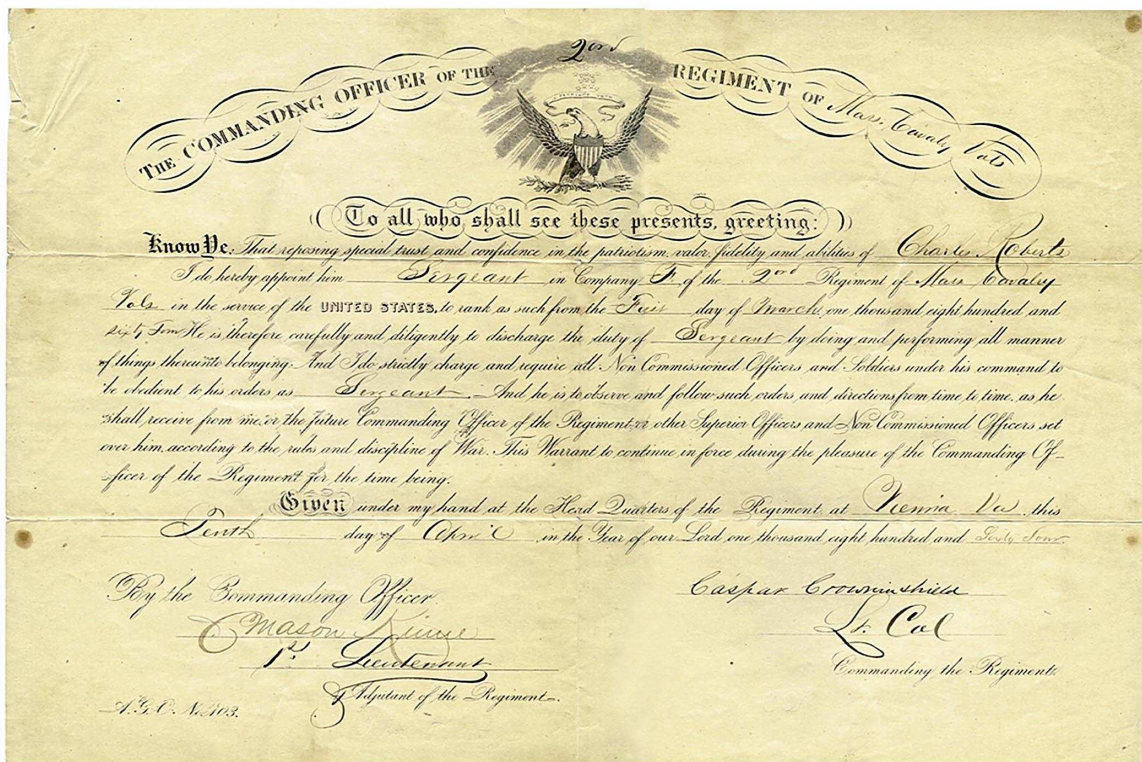
patriotic fervor or a fancy for the thrill of combat, Charles wrestled with the decision of enlisting. He pens his thoughts on April 8, 1863, "have a great notion of going East with the Cavalry that goes from San Francisco...am studying verry deep on the question. I will be leaving a situation here to go, but



Above: Light Cavalry Saber dated 1865 and bearing the inscription: Chas Roberts, Cal Cav Bat 1862 – 1865.

that's nothing to what is at stake.

On the following day, he states emphatically, "have concluded to go." To do so was no small endeavor for Charles. He immediately made his way on foot



Above: Document authorizing Charles Roberts's promotion to rank of Sergeant, bearing signatures of Adjutant C. Mason Kinne and Lt. Col. Caspar Crowninshield.

to Carson City, then by stage over the snow clad Sierra Nevada to San Francisco. Possibly fearing the Cavalry Battalion would fill its ranks before he could arrive, Charles left the following morning, not taking time to stop and see his family. On his arrival, Charles met Captain DeMeritt and passed his physical examination. He was 5'7½" in height (a bit taller than average for his day) with dark hair and hazel eyes. He stated his occupation on his enlistment document as "carpenter."

Charles describes his first days of military life frankly; "Monday the 13th April 1863 – after breakfast walked up to

headquarters Sit around there and see them drill, finly went with the Capt. with four other men to be Examined, four of passed and were sworn in to the Service of the United States for three years unless sooner discharged done my first drilling afternoon it comes verry awkerd at first, fine day".

Careful reading of Charles's journal belies the close relationship he held with his father. A few days prior to the company's departure for the war, Charles's father made the trip down from Sacramento to bid his son farewell, maybe for the last time. On sailing day, the two of them leisurely strolled about the

town, seemingly lingering on their remaining hours together. On embarkation day, April 23rd, amid the bustle of loading gear on the steamship the two went onboard ship and remained together until moments before sailing.

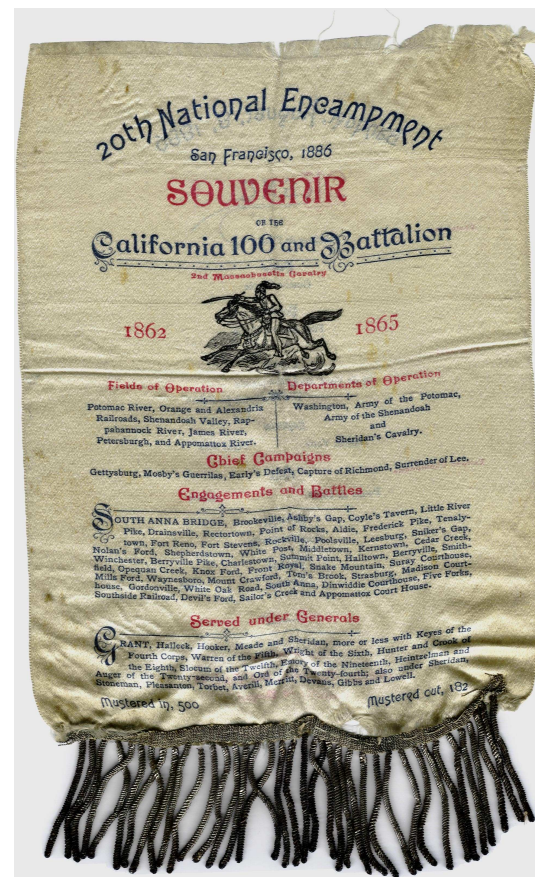
Charles' comments: "Father come to se me off for the wars, he seemed to think I am doing right but hates to see me go.... Father was on the boat until she was nearly ready to go, when I bid him a kind farewell." Then, without the marvelous fanfare that accompanied the Cal 100 and Cal Battalion's departures, the steamer pushed away and glided through the bay into the open ocean, leaving the Golden State behind.

After sailing down the coast of Mexico on the steamship Sonora, and crossing the Isthmus of Panama, the Company boarded the Steamer Ocean Queen and sailed through hostile seas toward Massachusetts, accompanied by the gunboat Connecticut for protection.

After a brief training in Massachusetts, Charles joined the rest of his company and arrived in Washington D.C. where they were assigned to duties along the Potomac. Pvt. Roberts's service seems to have drawn the attention of his superiors as he was soon promoted to Corporal and then again, to the rank of Sergeant of Co. F on March 1st. The regimen of picket duty, punctuated by

skirmishes with Colonel Moseby and his rangers in Virginia became their routine. Although these skirmishes were not on a scale as grand as the battles making the newspapers, they were no less deadly to the troopers of both sides.

During one such clash, Charles and his company were ordered to charge a Confederate line of skirmishers. The forty man line of Cavalry dwindled to twenty as the no man's land between the contenders was crossed. Another Sergeant, John Passage of Co. F who rode beside Sgt. Roberts



Above: GAR reunion silk for the Cal Battalion, 20th National Encampment held in San Francisco in 1886.

described the scene in a letter to home; “when the bullets commenced whistling around our heads pretty freely [some were] suddenly taken with the slow horse fever. At the time of our charge....Sgt. Roberts & myself had fast horses & succeeded in getting some ways ahead of the rest of our boys. We help capture the 13 & then started after more....Roberts & myself were within twenty rods of their Reserve....they gave us a few shots. Neither of us were touched but my horse was hit twice.”

In the Autumn of 1864, hit-and-miss skirmishing gave way to large scale maneuvers as the 2nd Mass Cavalry joined the command of General Phillip Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. Here, during their first pitched battle on October 19th at Cedar Creek, the men accounted well for themselves but Sgt. Roberts was wounded, shot in the right thigh. He convalesced during the ensuing months and rejoined the regiment in February of 1865. It was likely at this time that Charles received the Cavalry Saber inscribed that accompanies

his promotion documents.

From this point in time, Sgt. Roberts participated in the closing drama of the Civil War as General Sheridan’s cavalry and the Union Army grappled with the Army of Northern Virginia, finally bringing the Confederates to bay at Appomattox Court House. Sgt. Roberts then witnessed the surrender of the butternut forces there and a few months later, on July 20, 1865 mustered out of the service with the rest of the Regiment at Fairfax Court House, Virginia.

Charles returned to California and lived in Oakland. He married Catherine Degau in San Francisco on 14 July 1866, almost a year after his discharge. During the remaining years of his life, his kinship with the men of the storied Cal 100 and Cal Battalion was kept alive as he participated in the reunions and encampments of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Charles died on March 2, 1896 at the age of 55 and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland.

Sources:

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War
Register of California Men in the War of the Rebellion 1861 to 1865
Their Horses Climbed Trees – by Larry & Keith Rogers
Bear Flag & Bay State in the Civil War by Tom Parson
California Sabers by James McLean
Historical Data Systems, Inc.,

DIARY OF
CHARLES ROBERTS
Co. F, 2ND REGT. MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY

Beginning January 1, 1863 & Ending January 2, 1864

Thursday Jan 1, 1863 – verry windy and disagreeable at work for dutch Nick at \$40.00 per month commenced Dec the 13th 1862 Empire City Ormsby Co Nevada Territory.

Friday the 2nd – at work windy

Saturday the 3rd – at work windy and disagreeable

Sunday the 4th at work fine day

Monday the 5th at work wind blows hard again

(Here he repeats the first page again)

Thursday Jan the 1st 1863 – at work for Dutch Nick at Empire City Ormsby Co Nevada Territory. comenced Dec 13th as hostler at \$40.00 per month – recd 5.00 from H. Culver for Labour. Pr Nick. Paid to sanitary fund 5.00

Friday the 2nd – at work windy

Saturday the 3rd – at work, windy and disagreeable the sand flies furiously

Sunday the 4th – at work, fine day

Monday the 5 – at work wind blows hard again

Tuesday the 6th 1863 – at work windy and disagreeable

Wednesday the 7 – at work windy

Thursday the 8 – at work steady as an old clock carrying water and cleaning stables

Friday the 9 – at work. cold

Saturday the 10 – at work pleasant day

Sunday the 11 – at work, pleasant

Monday the 12 – pleasant at work

Tuesday the 13, 1863 – went out prospecting for a wood ranch with two other fellows

was unsuccessful, went about 14 miles over the mountains in all directions. Come to where some men were mining in Sullivan District, they asked us to go in there tunnel and look at there Quartz. we did so had a talk with them about the claims near by etc. then started back home got home just at dusk

Wednesday the 14 – at work, pleasant

Thursday the 15 – at work pleasant

Friday the 16 – cold nights & fine days

Saturday Jan 17th 1863 – at work fine day

Sunday the 18 – Cool day at work Recd from Culver \$21.00

Monday the 19 – at work cloudy storming this evening

Tuesday the 20 – Snowed some last night about 6 inches snow on the ground. going off very fast, at work

Wednesday the 21st – at work Cold Clouded up and stormed a little

Thursday the 22nd – Cold last night very pleasant day at work

Friday the 23 Jan – not too cold last night pleasant day at work

Saturday the 24th – cold last night fine day at work

Sunday the 25th – pleasant day at work

Monday the 26 – cold night at work

Tuesday the 27th – Cold morning at work part of the day, went to look at a wood ranch up the Carson River about 6 miles talk of buying

Wednesday the 28 – pleasant day at work

Thursday the 29th Jan – pleasant day at work

Friday the 30 – fine day at work

Saturday the 31 – fine day at work cold nights, nothing of note going on

Sunday February the 1st 1863 – beautiful day at work Dutch Nick come home from San Francisco

Monday the 2nd – fine day at work

Tuesday the 3d – at work plesant day

Wednesday the 4th Jan – beautiful day worked this forenoon. got discharged afternoon went up to Virginia City to look for work got there just at dark got supper and a bed made myself comfortable as posible.

Thursday the 5th – fine day, looking about town and at the different mills for work, ran across O. S. Neary my old Salmon River friend, at Foulds Mill, could get no work verry windy this evening Stopped at the same place as last night

Friday the 6 – fine day, runing about looking for work find nothing to do Started for Empire City again after noon got there just at dusk. Stayed at Nicks

Saturday the 7, Feb – fine day sitting about doing nothing

Sunday the 8 – Went up to Virginia City again, for a job at Goulds Quartz Mill, but could get none it has been a fine day Stopped at Wisens Restarant

Monday the 9 – fine day, went down to Empire City forenoon, sit around afternoon, went down to the Spanish Mill to get work once, but could get nothing to do

Tuesday the 10 – went to work butchering, for Bence & Bowen. Made no bargain with them.

Wednesday the 11th Feb – at work for the Butcher fine day

Thursday the 12 – Snowed last night cold morning at work

Friday the 13th – fine day at work

Saturday the 14 – at work Butchering fine day

Sunday the 15 – at work in the shop fine day

Monday the 16 – Snowing at work killed some beef & pork

Tuesday the 17th 1863 – Cloudy but plesant at work

Wednesday the 18 – Snowing cold & disagreeable at work

Thursday the 19 – fine day at work, like the business verry much getting to be quite handy. I help kill and tend shop

Friday the 20 – pleasant at work

Saturday the 21st – Cold windy & stormy at work

Sunday the 22 – fine day, quit work for the butcher, business was too dull for him to hire

Monday the 23^d Feb 1863 – doing no work, went down the River to look at a copper claim. Several of us talk of prospecting every thing looks favorable for finding a good ledge pleasant day

Tuesday the 24th – went to work for the Butcher again this morning, was up all night last night, at a ball there was a Dutch Nicks (and wedding together) feel quite dull fine day

Wednesday the 25 – at work fine day

Thursday the 26 – at work pleasant

Friday the 27 Feb 1863 – at work killing most of the day pleasant day

Saturday the 28 – at work beautiful day

Sunday March the 1st 1863 – a most sublime day

Monday the 2nd – fine day at work Butchering

Tuesday the 3rd – at work fine day

Wednesday the 4th – at work little windy afternoon

Thursday the 5 – at work looks much like a storm

Saturday the 7th – at work continues windy

Friday the 6th March 1863 – at work in the Shop most of the day very windy blowing sand into everything

Sunday March the 8th – at work pleasant day

Monday the 9 – at work fine day

Tuesday the 10 – at work splendid day

Wednesday the 11 – at work fine day we have cold nights

Thursday the 12 March 1863 – fine day at work Butchering killing Beef & Pork

Friday the 13 – very windy, making the sand fly again

Saturday the 14th – Fine day, rather warm forenoon, cooler & windy afternoon

Sunday the 15 – cool day at work

Monday the 16th – Cold day at work

Tuesday the 17th – blowed terriffic last night at work, plesant day

Wednesday the 18 March 1863 – verry windy last night again at work, blowing some today

Thursday the 19 – verry windy & cold at work

Friday the 20 – fine day at work

Saturday the 21st – beautiful day at work

Sunday the 22nd – fine day at work

Monday the 23rd – fine day at work

Tuesday the 24 March 1863 – at work fine day

Wednesday the 25 – plesant at work

Thursday the 26 – at work plesant

Friday the 27 – at work fine day

Saturday the 28 – at work plesant day helping to post ofc Books this eavning

Sunday the 29 – at work in the shop rather warm

Monday the 30 - at work warm day

Tuesday the 31st March 1863 – at work beautiful day

Wednesday April the 1st 1863 – at work fine day

Thursday April 2nd 1863 – at work fine day

Friday the 3rd – at work fine day

Saturday the 4th – rather windy at work

Sunday the 5th – windy & cold at work

Monday the 6th – at work windy day

Tuesday the 7th – windy and disagreeable at work

Wednesday April the 8th 1863 – at work blowing and storming have a great notion of going East with the Cavalry that goes from San Francisco, got a letter from an old man in San Francisco he has joined the Battalion and thinks there is a good chance for me. am studying very deep on the question. I will be leaving a situation here to go, but that's nothing to what is at stake.

Thursday the 9 – have concluded to go & join my fellow comrades in battling for our country. Settled up with my employer and started on foot to Carson City, at 3 O'clock this morning got to Carson before daylight, sat about until daylight, went about town to look for Bents one of my employers, to get some money. found him at his brothers Shoe Shop. told him of my intentions, he seemed to hate to see me go. I took breakfast with him got my ticket for Placerville by Stage and was off at Six O'Clock, very cold and stormy. going along very comfortable, with thousands of dollars of Washoe Bullion laying loose in the bottom of the Stage, got to Strawberry Station, the first day stopped there all night, met considerable many big teams during the day on the mountain trudging along through the snow.

Friday the 10th – on my way bright and early this morning very cold and rough riding meet a great many fortune seekers on their way over the snow clad Sierras, to the Great mining centre of the world, a great many on foot with their blankets strapped to their backs, slushing through the snow and mud had a splendid view of Lake Bigler from the Eastern Summit of Mountains, it looks grand to see the Snow Clad Peaks all around you, and in their midst a beautiful Lake as clear as Crystal itself. Saw some splendid speckled trout, that they catch from the lake some that would weigh fifteen to thirty lbs. kept going along at good Stage progress arrived at Placerville at sundown, we got out of the snow about 20 miles east of town, the roads were very muddy continue to meet a good many going over. Stopped at the Carry House in Town, looked about to see if I could find any one I knew but could not, retired for a good night's rest.

Saturday April the 11th 1863 – got up and ready for a start early got started at Six O'Clock for Folsom Everything looks splendid all over in this part of the country grass up green and trees in bloom looks very different from the other side of the Mountain Met the Stages going up loaded with Passengers. stopped and took breakfast about 10 O'Clock and a good one it was too, went on down to Folsom got there at half past eleven found three or four men I knew had a chat then told them my intentions, it took them by surprise at going. I felt bad to think I had to go without seeing my friends, being only four miles from home. I sent word up to Father by a man that lives there, at Massachusetts Flat, bid my friends farewell & left by the noon train for Sacramento City got there at half past twelve, took dinner at the What-Cheer House, knocked about town until two O'Clock, with my friend A. L. DuBois, then took the boat for San Francisco, gliding

along down the river verry pleasantly just passengers enough on board to be comfortable, got into the great Pacific Central, about ten O'Clock found my friend C. F. Morse at the What Cheer House, had a chat with him for a short time then retired for the night.

Sunday the 12th – sitting about the hotel most of the day talking matters over with Morse, & recruiting up after my trip went to the Theatre to and passed of a few hours there during the day I went up to the Head Quarters of Cavalry Bat with Morse. Stopped at the What-Cheer with Morse again been a fine day.

Monday the 13th April 1863 – after breakfast walked up to headquarters Sit around there and see them drill, finly went with the Capt. with four other men to be Examined, four of passed and were sworn in to the Service of the United States for three years unless sooner discharged done my first drilling afternoon it comes verry awkerd at first, fine day

Tuesday the 14th – drill twice a day. Stop at the quarters with the rest of the boys, runing about town part of the time. feel bad to think I did not go to see my folks, find that I would have had plenty of time, as we will not start until the 21st but I have not money enough now to go up with, I will have to write Father to come down, runing about Town, went to the Melodian the play was verry good turned in about Eleven O'Clock.

Wednesday the 15 – drilled twice during the day run about town some rainy afternoon

Thursday the 16 – improving slowly in tactics have our regular two drills a day after and forenoon, all the boys feel gay cutting up all the time in quarters fine day

Friday the 17 – drilled only once today we drill for two or three hours at a time our Capt. seems to want to make good Soldiers of us all we all improve some fine day take a walk about town once or twice a day run across an old Salmon River friend, S. N. Davis.

Saturday the 18 – drilled once our Capt went up to Sacramento to se his folks before leaving for the east run about town some during the day went to the Melodian tonight.

Sunday the 19 – no drill runing about town and laying around the quarters most of the day fine day

Monday the 20th April 1863 – no drill except to have Sabre exercise inside rainy most all day the boys all feel in good spirits & seem anxous to get off.

Tuesday the 21st – went out to drill with Lieut. Stone, drilled about an hour the Capt come down from the City also Father, & J. R. Clark of Negro Hill. Father come to se me off for the wars, he seemed to think I am doing right but hates to see me go run about town with him a while, he stoped at the What-Cheer House, and I went to my quarters it rained a little during the day

Wednesday April the 22nd 1863 – today evrything is all bustle about the quarters tearing down our bunks, and cleaning out the quarters, fixing up and making preparations

generally for leaving tomorrow, rolling up our blankets, and bundling up little things that we want to take with us, all the boys feel gay to think we are going to get of tomorrow walked about town some with Father to see the sights of the City, went through the mint with him, see the them rolling out big yellow twenties, in the evening went to Gilberts Melodian enjoyed ourselves well, went to bed about eleven O'Clock verry plesant day.

Thursday the 23rd – Evrybody is doing up there blankets and cloths, and making ready generally for the trip brought things down out of the quarters loaded them on a dray to take to the boat. about ten O'Clock roll was called and we all marched down to the Steamer in the best of spirits there was no unusual crowed presant more than some Military men of San Francisco none of us were allowed to go ashore after getting aboard. Some of the boys had friends to se them of and some had none Father was on the boat until she was nearly ready to do, when I bid him a kind farewell. Finely about twelve O'Clock she began to pull of from shore. there was not Even a cheer left the crowed as we pulled of in to bay to leave our adopted Golden State to fight for our Country and our Liberty we glided through the bay pleasantly untill we got out to and past the fort then it began to be a little rough. When out to sea had a fair wind. Some of the boys were a little sea sick. Myself among them our first meal was verry poor. the weather and wind is fair, the old Stermer is making good head way

Friday April the 24th 1863 – fine morning & fair wind a little sea sick as well as good many other the boys having verry poor grub, nothing more than is usual in such cases four recruits have joined us since we put out. They deserted the provost guard in the city to get to go east. They hid themselves away in the ship untill she left the harbor. we have our regular roll call twice a day. evrybody trys to amuse themselves the best way posible. Some reading some playing cards, walking decks etc. to make time seem short. buy some apples & cakes to have something I can Eat retired in good spirits

24 Lat. 34" 7. N.

dist Run 242

"Long 120" 42. W.

Saturday the 25th – all appears in good spirits this fine morning. have run along pleasantly. had a fire alarm on board, it was a farce for drilling the men learning them to be on hand in case of emergency. The men were verry expert evry man was at his post and water flying in all parts of the ship in no time, it caused some excitement among the passengers when it first sounded. Some of the men were for going ashore immediately, one went so far as to go below and get his blankets & carpet bags, to go of at once, and one hundred miles from shore. we had quite a laugh at him for getting excited so easy evrything pass of quietly the rest of the day

25" Lat. 30 48N

Long 118 12W

Course S .33.E Dist run 236 mls

Sunday the 26th – Cloudy but plesant morning. All appears to be enjoying themselves one way or other evryone has some respect for the Sabbath don't indulge in card playing

as usual nothing of importance going on. Some of the boys sing a song or two occasionally. this is what they call duff day all hands is preparing there lips for a taste of the nessiary article, gliding along nicely with a fair wind.

26th Lat 27.35 N
Long 115 01
Course S 44 E

Monday the 27th – I was up in time to se the sun come peeping up over the world of waters in her majesty, as the morning wares away. She gets obscured by a dull & heavy clouded sky. a ship of some kind in sight but what she was could not tell. Without a glass. have kept close to land most all day, passed by St. Margueretas Island, passed of the day by reading some and playing cards, our Capt was forward afternoon to se us & how we get along the weather continues fine

Lat 24 26 N
Long 111 56 W
Course S 44 E Dist run 257 mls

all retired anxous for the old ship to make a good nights run

Tuesday April the 28 1863 – Beautiful morning. All appears jubilant as usual we are gliding over the broad Pacific smoothly nothing unusual occurd this forenoon, we all eat verry hearty of bean soup for dinner. That being the only meal we get during the day fit to eat, unless we buy it and pay Steamboat prices. the sea is verry calm, making plesant sailing in a steam ship have not been in sight of land during the day. had a strange visitor not in Shape of a Jeff Davis raider but a small bird something like a canary bird, come flying about the ship finly lit on a mans knee, he caught it kept it a while finly let it go, the little fellow started of again on its way over the briny deep to look for some other resting spot

2 in Lat 21 47 N
“ Long 108 34 W
Course S 30 E dist run 240 mls

Wednesday the 29th – The sun come forth with magnificent splendor this morning, passed by the wreck of the Golden Gate, or what is left of it that is the wheel laying on the beach there is a little schooner laying at anchor near by the old wreck, perhaps an expedition to get the Treasure heard that a child had died in the cabin evry one on board appears in first best spirits, (except the childs death) runing along finely. got in to the bay of Manzanila about half past four O’Clock, unloaded & loaded some freight this town is a verry shabby looking place a few old shantys along on the beach, the natives come out to the ship with fruit in canoes sold considerable to the passengers the U.S. Ship, Narragansett was laying in harbor some of the Tars come aboard after some papers which our boys supplied them with as best they could left the harbor at half past seven

in Lat 19 20 N

“ Long 105 14 W
Course S 52 E dist run 240

Thursday April the 30 1863 – The child that died was buried at Manzanilla yesterday; gliding along pleasantly keeping near land, had our regular diet for dinner, evryone layed in a good suply met a steam ship supposed to be the Orazaba loaded with Passengers. done some little reading, played a few games of whist and wore the day as usual. think we will get into Accupulco some time tonight got in just after dark saw nothing only what I could see from the boat as I could not go ashore. The natives come to the ship with abundance of fruit, bought some, could not get to sleep until one O’Clock on account of the noise the natives and passengers made.

in Lat 17 29 N
in Long 101 45 W
Course S .62 E

Friday May the 1st 1863 – got just in time to be about as we left our anchorage about Six O’clock. The scenery is fine in going out the harbor. Evryone had plenty of fruit as it was cheap. We got outside found the calm see waiting for us to make our onward progress great many sleepy heads laying about all day. Slept some myself read a little etc. one of our boys had a fit afternoon thought he would go under. Payne was verry sick with the fever. We have kept of from land some little distance all day

In Lat 16 24 N
“Long 91 15 W
Course S 64 E dist run 168

Saturday the 2nd – Splendid morning the sea continues calm the boys seem all to be merry Payne is some better I sit up part of the night with him nothing more than comon has transpired took a good salt water bath. & had the headache after it. Runing acros the gulf of Teuhauntepec after noon. The weather continues Splendid just breeze enough to make it comfortable

In Lat 15 47 N
“ Long 95 04 W
Course S 78 E dist run 226

Sunday May the 3rd 1863 – fine morning evryone appears joval and trying to enjoy themselves as well as posible Some of the boys are singing others are reading etc etc. I done some of all. Payne was taken verry bad again afternoon we have not run in sight of land any it has the appearance of a storm. The Capt of the steamer had a man lashed up to the masthead and one on the wheel house. Both darkies waiters in the cabin, they got to fighting.

In Lat 14 47N
“ Long 90 35w

Course S 61 E dist run 236 mis

Monday the 4th – fine morning got up at twelve O'clock last night to sit up with Payne. He is some better today. The wind started up which made the sea quite rough a good many of us were some little sea sick making evrything verry docile aboard all day

In Lat 11 43 N

“Long 88 15 W

Course S 58 E dist run 228 mls

Tuesday May the 5th 1863 – the morning broke forth verry plesant am rather unwell got a severe headache Nothing unusual during the day have been in sight of land most of the day. Met a steamer going up the coast, think she is a Screw Steamer she is about 5 miles off I think

In Lat 9 44 N

“ Long 85 34 W

Course S 33 E dist run 198

Wednesday May the 6th – fine morning as it wares away it has the appearance of a shower sure enough it comes down quite refreshing, the old boat rocks about fearfully the coal being most all gone She has no ballast in her, they made all the Passengers go down on the main deck. Evryone seems in good spirits, but wish we were as near New York as Panama, passed by some verry pretty Lone Islands out some distance from the Land, a little child died on board keep evryone down on the main deck all day there was another man tied up to the mast head this eavning

In Lat 7 23 N

“ Long 82 25 W

Course S 53 E dist run 232 mls

Thursday May the 7th 1863 – plesant all making calculations on getting to Panama by noon sailing along pleasantly off the cost of New Grenada runing close to land, passed by several splendid little fruit-growing Islands. Come to anchor in the bay at half past three O'Clock all is confusion on board being so eager to get ashore got in an old transport it was sun down before we got on shore, waited some on the baggage, When it was got of we were rushed in the cars, & soon went gliding over the Ithsmus of Panama of dark & story night. tried to get some sleep but could not

In Lat 8 27 N

“ Long 79 36 W

Course S various dist run 218

Friday May the 8th 1863 – Got to Aspinwall half past one O'Clock was put on guard over the Company baggage Some of the men went & got something to eat we got orders to go on board the Ocean Queen, Seargt Williams and me were placed at the gang way so none

of our men would go ashore after Liquor. I went to sleep about four O'Clock, woke up found we were gliding along finly on the rough Atlantic find the old ship don't roll like the Sonora did the gunboat Connecticut is along as a convoy we don't get as good grub as we did on the other side had to buy some pie to keep from being hungry. Some of the boys think the Capt don't exert himself as much as he ought to on the subject they think he could have us better provided good many sleepy heads on the boat today

Saturday May the 9th 1863 – going along finly our food is outragously bad get nothing at all fit to eat, all we have to interest ourselves with is to talk of bad treatment The convoy keeps along with us Couple of our boys had a fight over some foolish thing Convry & Barrows the latter got considerable bunged up been a fine day run 318 miles since we left Aspinwall

Sunday the 10th – plesant morning we are gliding along finly se the smoke of something, supposed to be a steamer as we are where rebel privateers abound, when any one sees a sail it is a Jeff Davis sure. The convoy put out after the supposed steamer so we lost sight of both. Comenced raining. Some of the men favor the opportunity of a fresh water wash. It rains verry hard. No way for a person to improve lesure hours, run 259 miles the last twenty-four hours

May the 11th 1863 – Cloudy and blustery morning with considerable rain off the Lower End the Island of Cuba had one man in irons for refusing to work or pay his passage, he is a stowaway The boastwain and a sailor had a fight so on the whole we have had considerable excitement during the day got in the gulf stream about noon having quite a stiff head wind our grub has not been so bad today run close to a schooner just at night She is making great exertion for some point run 260 miles

Tuesday May the 12 – fine morning with the exception of its being verry windy and dead ahead at that run in sight of Florada Keys passed close to a light house it was quite a distance from shore had beans boiled up with bread and various other things for dinner Several sail in sight during the day Comenced raining thundering & lightning terriffic early in the eavning. It is what I would call a storm at sea Run 263 miles

Wednesday May the 13th 1863 – plesant morning nothing uncommon going on lounging about the deck part of the time, went down in the cabin pantry and helped wash dishes for some grub that I could eat got a verry good meal for the first time since we left San Francisco, played three games of checkers afternoon got beat two, been good many sail ships in sight during the day had pie & chicken biscuit and butter for supper I relished it too Distance run 357 miles

Thursday May the 14th 1863 – very plesant morning gliding along verry plesantly, evryone seems jubilant to think we are so near New York we continue in the gulf stream saw but two sail vessels during the day went down in the kitchen to get one more good meal, been rather warm part of the time distance run 350 miles

Friday the 15th – it was verry windy some time last night, the sea is quite rough this

morning it some windy also. The boys are brightning up there brass for they think of getting in tonight done verry well in the grub line today have not been in sight of land yet today saw two ships at some distance, run 290 miles

Saturday the 16 – got up at three O’Clock this morning runing close to the Jersey shore all is bustle getting up the baggage out of the hold, and all brushing up to go ashore, it looks splendid runing up the shore it being so verry level as far back as can be seen, then runing into the harbor to see the shipping and City of at a distance. Was delayed some in getting a pilot Boat fired two guns run around the harbor for an hour. Finly run up near the dock about eight O’Clock, then was trubled some in getting tied up. We was marched of the Boat about eleven O’Clock. Went up to the park barracks took dinner and felt quite releaved sure there was good many Soldiers there that had served there two years come home for discharge, asked several if they thought of reinlisting, they all would provided McClellen was reinstated, the sights of the city the briscness and bustle was quite refreshing to us sure stoped in town until four O’Clock, then went down to the dock to take another boat ride up the River to Stonington, three of our Co. that deserted the Provost guard in San Francisco were detained in the City as prisoners I had no money therefore could not go about & enjoy myself much, some of the boys come on the boat pretty tight, we soon got of & glided along nicely, run around up in the river. It got to be rather windy. Got supper about nine O’Clock was on guard over our stuff on the boat

Sunday May the 17th 1863 – fine morning got up to Stonington about one O’Clock had a fine sleep before we got there although on guard part of night, got aboard the cars for Readville Mass., (Eight miles from Boston) got there at Six O’Clock, A.M. we marched up to the Camp, where the part of the Battallion’s quarters were, that come before us, they have gone on to Washington. We started fixing up some little about the Camp, but then we rested most of the time, like the appearance of the place verry much. Visited some colored soldiers that are recruiting near us they are stout looking fellows, been a fine day

Monday May the 18th 1863 – beautiful morning comenced riging up the tents, to comence soldiering there is two regiments of Colored troops one the fifty fourth, the other the fifty fifth, the former is near full the other has near three hundred recruits, the former had there colors presented to them today. They made a grand display, had a great time generally. All the darkies in the surrounding country were presant. Gov. Andrews & Staff were presant. The former made a speech on the occasion, some of our boys were over to see & hear the Serimonies the men all appear in good spirits some of them were made to do extra duty for being absent at roll call. In fact put in the guard house, but it was a wrong act of the Orderly. Have to turn in at eight & have to blow out lights at half past eight O’Clock taps.

Tuesday May the 19th 1863 – fine morning wrote a letter to Father stoped about quarters most of the time, drilled two hours this morn my feet are verry sore went to the Creek had a good wash, some of the men have got furloughs already to visit there friends, for as long as seven and eight days. Had a boy brought to camp as prisoner, for stealing government horses, had our drill afternoon, and evrything went out well.

Wednesday May the 20th 1863 – had our regular drill this morning and doing other Camp duty, have visitors evry now and then, good many of the boys being of on furlough it make little more duty for those that remain, our Capt is of also wrote a letter to Cyrus Roberts, the men all appear enjoying them well doing most anything for fun, been a fine day

Thursday May the 21, 1863 – rather warm morning, did not have quite so long a drill this morning as comon. Went over to se the darkies on drill, they made quite a good appearance, we had seven recruits for our regiment join us, they enlist in Boston, the Colored Regt had One Hundred & forty two, from Ohio & Pennsylvania, some of our men complain about grub, think we don't get our rations, been rather warm all day.

Friday May the 22nd 1863 – verry warm again this morning had a short drill. Six of the new recruits were brought in prisoners they caught drunk last night outside camp. They got three days in the guard house. Some of the men come back from Boston, that were on pass the Capt come back afternoon, had our sabre belts etc issued to us, had no drill afternoon. My feet are verry sore.

Saturday the 23rd 1863 – fine morning. Officiating as Corporal for the first time. I must act rather green I think, but, there is great chance for improvement yet, don't have to drill any have to releave sentinals evry two hours during twenty four, fine day

Sunday May the 24th 1863 – Cloudy morning, got about two hours sleep during the night. Got releaved from duty at half past nine O'Clock. Dress parade this morning. Verry cool for the time of year. I cleaned up the buttons & sabre a little, got our 25.00 twenty five dollars, Government bounty at noon, went to Church at the town of Millville about one and half miles from Camp. The sermon was most over when we got there, little rainy this eavning.

Monday May the 25th 1863 – cold morning drilled before breakfast, at work doing fatigue duty Cleaning & fixing up about the stables expect our horses soon good many of the men of on passes fell asleep afternoon & missed roll call, got news of Grants taking Vicksburg, I hope it is true.

Tuesday May the 26th 1863 – fine morning doing Camp duty and laying about quarters, not verry severe drill today. Charles Morse got back from home, he says he had a good time.

Wednesday May the 27, 1863 – had an early drill, fixing up to go to town on a twenty four hour pass. Went in with four or five of the boys, on the half past Eight A.M. train, got in to the great City of Boston for the first time at Nine O'Clock, run about town with the boys some to se the sights visited the great Boston Comon, it is a beautiful place got to drinking some with the boys & run about & spent my money with out enjoying much, find the Comons is a great place of resort for Citizens in the eavning, find a great many young Ladys there also knocked around town untill ten, O'Clock then went to bed.

Thursday, May the 28th 1863 – got up ahead of the sun this morning walked about a little to try and find some of the boys. Went down to the Comon. Sit down for a few minutes. When I saw one of the boys come up, then struck out with him to get breakfast, run around town considerable and lost track of my comrad, then I went alone, the fifty fourth Regt is to appear on the Common, they will leave Boston today for the South some place, was around the Comon most of the time, to see them come in, they was in fine trim and appeared well, a great many people presant, they were applauded greatly after they went away, I done some little business, then went to the Depot to take the Cars for Campagain got back about three O'Clock find most evryone away. On the whole I had a verry poor time considering evrything

Friday May the 29th 1863 – fine morning was detailed on provost guard at the Station went on duty at Eight O'Clock have to releave. Sentinals evry two hours, have three posts to releave, Colect passes from all Soldiers that stop here, and see that none goes of without a pass Been rather warm here in the middle of the

Saturday the 30 – verry cool this morning was not releaved until half past eight O'Clock AM, was buisy about Camp most all day, having our horses come had to clean and water them which took some time for they were verry dusty they are a fine lot of horses my feet are verry sore, been warm day.

Sunday May the 31st 1863 – fine morning been fixing up for Dress Parade, drawing our saddles & fixtures for our horses we are all fixed for horse drill took a walk over to Dedham this Eavning with one of the boys saw plenty of young ladys there factory girls I suppose as there is those large factorys there they must employ a good many after going around & seeing the sights started home again, had quite a plesant walk.

Monday June the 1st 1863 – Cloudy but pleasant fixing up for drill have more to keep us buisy than comon since our horses come, had a drill on horseback afternoon got along verry well for green horses, after that had a game of football enjoying ourselves verry well took care of our horses, and after retreat went down to the river and had a bath, a few drops of rain fell this eavning

Tuesday June the 2nd 1863 – Nothing new has occured today doing regular camp duty had no drill at all today layed about camp all the time

Wednesday June the 3rd 1863 – Cloudy but plesant detailed on Provost Guard duty at the Rail Road Station again the duty is the same as before good many Passengers come and go today, there was about fifty more horses come for us to pick from good looking one too been plesant

Thursday June the 4th 1863 – went down to the Station at five O'Clock was releave at half past Eight. Had two hours drill on horseback, got some little trinkets for use on a march. Making great preparations for join our regiment at Washington, comenced packing up all of our traps to leave tomorrow we have all chosen our horses and are ready for a start or ner so

Friday June the 5th 1863 – fine morning getting ready to start got evrything down to & aboard the cars at ten O’Clock, started from the Station at eleven O’Clock the men all feel gay singing and making considerable noise. We gave three cheers for Gen Peirce & evryone in general, got to Stonington at four O’Clock PM, left for New York at Ten PM O’Clock. Some of the men got pretty merry over something good to drink they got pretty noisy on the boat going down was detailed for guard on the boat, the man that was on with me was as drunk as could be one of them had a woman walking post with him most of the time, I went to bed at two O’Clock.

Saturday June the 6th 1863 – Woke up this morning just before getting into the City of New York which was about seven O’Clock Crossed over to Jersey at Eight O’Clock was on guard here over the Cos property & until we left for Philadelphia which was noon passed along pleasantly on the cars and through some verry pretty little towns was Cheered and Saluted all along by the ladys, got to Philadelphia about ten O’Clock, wandered up to an eating institution that is kept for the benefit of soldiers, and got a good Supper, then marched down to the Depot got aboard the cars & was soon of for Baltimore. We was well receaved through New Jersey & Pennsylvania they Cheered us shook hands with us biding us good-bye as old friends was on guard in the car at the door had verry little sleep

Sunday June the 7th 1863 – arrived at Baltimore about Six O’Clock A.M. got of the cars stoped on the platform for an hour I should think, waiting for our breakfast. Got it at last at the Soldiers releaf association, we then got on the cars again and was soon of for Washington City. Baltimore is a verry different looking place from Philadelphia, it looks a verry ancient place the streets looks more filthy & even the buildings look old and as if they fixing up greatly, that along in the cars at a slow gate Stoping occasionally, on the route, there is Soldiers Stationed all along doing picket duty on the road I Suppose, we got to Washington about Eleven O’Clock. We unloaded the cars & reloaded our Baggage in wagons then started to join our regt in camp at Brightwood (we went to the Soldiers retreat first & got something to eat) I went with one of the wagons as a guard walked most of the way out which was Six Miles, we got to the Camp about half past Eight & before the colum did, had quite a chat with some of the men then got some supper layed down among the baggage for a nights rest.

Monday June the 8th 1863 – windy morning & the dust flies about some and upwards not doing much more than taking care of our horses and other little nessiary jobs about Camp. Recruiting up from our werisome journey, have not got our Co. arranged right yet most of the Co. that come before us is of on a Scout. I dont think this is a verry plesant camp it is verry dusty, and requires considerable policing the scouting party has just returned this eavning they seamed to of enjoyed themselves well while out

Tuesday June the 9th 1863 – plesant morning, little windy by spells doing Camp duty had no drills yet, our Capt got badly hurt by his horse, falling backwards with him, it broke his leg verry bad thing to happen just as we are getting our Co together, wrote two letters one to George Bence of Carson City N.T. the other to Father Nothing of importance

going on some of our boys have found old acquaintances in the Cos. That come before, so us having a talk with them Been pleasant today.

Wednesday June the 10, 1863 – fine morning doing nothing more than Camp duty that is most we have done since hear

Thursday June the 11th – pleasant morning went out to drill it is about two miles out to the place we just got out there and started to drill. when a Messenger Come out and ordered us back to Camp. We was ordered to pack up with three days rations, which was our haversacks full of hard bread and Salt pork, then we started out after the rebels, we marched about ten miles to Seneca Creek where the rebs had attacked some Michigan Cav that was doing picket duty there they burned the Camp killed three and took four or five prisoners the rebs lost one Sergeant & one Lieutenant in killed. They made the attack about five O'Clock, we got there about ten, we crossed the creek and followed them for twenty five miles, but found they had recrossed into Virginia, we Camped about ten O'Clock near Poolsville Md. tired at that

Friday June the 12th 1863 – Started this morning about two O'Clock we crossed the Potomac at White ford, we went through the Country in every direction looking after the rascals, would hear of there being about two hours ahead Several times but could see none of them, went through Leesburgh and up near the Rappahannock River scoured the country well, turned up the road struck on the pike and went towards Washington stopped beside the road for dinner and to let our horses rest, the New York fifth Regt Cav come up our Col & there was had a Consultation. finally we started towards Camp we went down the pike about eight miles and camped for the night on Old Stuarts farm, took up quarters in Orchard, we by two or three Old battle fields during the day, it is very desolate looking Country the fences all down looks as though it had been long since any one had lived around the vicinity

Saturday June the 13th 1863 – fine morning had a good sleep last night, and my horse had plenty of grass to feed on Started about Six O'Clock, left the pike about four miles from where we camped went through the woods down on the road leading to Washington by way of chain Bridge Crossed over about noon went to camp by way of Georgetown left Washington to our right, it is awfully dusty got to camp about four O'Clock after a march of one hundred and fifty miles, Waded the Potomac once crossed back on the bridge, our horses and ourselves tired and sore. We took one man at Leesburgh because he would not answer some question the Col asked him about some road. The folks of the town looked at us very ugly they would slam their doors shut, and let down there windows with great violence, the place is quite a large village and some good buildings in it we was all glad to get a chance to rest for a day or so

Sunday June 14th 1863 – fine morning Cleaning up for inspection and doing other Camp duty feel rather sore after our March, I think from the quietness in Camp others has the same feeling, but that feeling would soon vanish if boots & saddles would sound in five minutes after inspection layed about the tent making myself as comfortable as possible, as the balance of the boys did.

Monday June the 15th 1863 – fine morning went out and had a short drill after we returned, went down to the Creek and washed some Clothes. getting rather warm as the day wares away. Sit about Camp resting most of the time. I am detailed for guard at four O’Clock after guard was formed was chosen found I was chosen as one of the patrol, left Camp with Lieut Wells, and eight others we went up the pike to Rockville there we rested for one and half hours (or close there)

Tuesday June the 16th 1863 – Started from where we camped near daylight. then went toward the Potomac, stoped at Alefords (?) four Corners sent one man down to the Camp of some Michigan Cavalry waited untill the man Come back then started for Camp, went along slow untill noon stoped and eat a bite and let our horses graze. then took a road across to the Pike then went to Camp got back about three O’Clock

Wednesday June the 17th 1863 – looks much like rain doing nothing more than Camp duty that is enough to keep us going most of the time got verry warm along in the day went down to the creek and had a bath Come up and read the news untill stable call, then watered and took care of my horse then sit around untill retreat, then turned in, that is generally our rotine of duty

Thursday the 18th – Cloudy and looks like rain again this morning went out to drill again this morning Kept buisy about Camp had the Shoes set on my horse. it rained hard afternoon a regular old style tundershower Makes it muddy about Camp. the water run in the tent some to the discomfort of the boys

Friday June the 19th 1863 – The weather is cloudy and unsettled yet went out to drill formed platoons once or twice then went back to Camp had sabre exersise afternoon rather muddy in the roads and about Camp they kept us buisy today

Saturday the 20th - More plesant than yesterday although it looks some like rain doing Camp duty, no drill detailed for guard this Eavning. Mounted guard at half past six O’Clock, I came on the forepart of night, Changed with the other Corporal, I took the after part, have Seven posts releave evry two hours

Sunday June the 21st 1863 – got up at twelve O’Clock to comence releaving sentinals, rained some during the night and forenoon Cleaning up about the Guard tent for inspection at noon, there is Sixteen prisoners in the guard tent all belong to the regiment hear heavy canonading towards the Potomac, find it to be more tedious to do guard duty at Camp than to be out on patrol was releaved from duty at half past Six O’Clock took care of my horse after

Monday June the 22nd 1863 – went out and drilled this morning returned after a short drill, went to doing duty about Camp, heard nothing of the firing today, dont know what it was had sabre exercise afternoon Nothing more during the day worth noticing I never felt better in my life been a fine day

Tuesday, June the 23rd 1863 – fine morning drilled this morning as usual, had orders to pack up with two days rations the report is we are going to move Camp entirely, to Poolsville had a sabre exercise at two O’Clock comenced to get ready to start the boys are all in good spirits to think we are going to stir about a little, we struck tents at the sound of the bugle had our horse all packed and ready for a move, We got of at last about four O’Clock we went along moderatly untill nine O’Clock then Camped about twelve miles from Poolsville, our Co. had there horses saddled all night, been a warm day

Wednesday June the 24, 1863 – fine morning started from camp at three O’clock A.M., moved along slowly untill we reached Poolsville which was about ten O’Clock, we sit on our horses about an hour while our officers were picking out a camping ground we finly camped about half mile from town it comenced to rain as we comenced to pitch tents making it verry disagreeable, the third army Corps has just passed through here the wagon train is going through now they are going towards Harpers Ferry We all get plenty of Cherries here near Camp, there is a continual string of Soldiers going past it continues wet and disagreeable had rather wet quarters for the night.

Thursday June the 25th 1863 – verry disagreeable morning Continues to rain, troops going past all the time Cavalry and infantry not fixing up much about quarters for it is so muddy and bad, no news about the movement of the troops yet our boys are speculating in there minds on the subject they say Gen Hooker is in Poolville

Friday June the 26, 1863 – Our Col. put verry strict rules on our going out of camp our camp limits are verry small looks much as though there was something in the wind, what it all means We have to guess at some thinks one thing some another, for my part I think the boys forage most to much for to start in on a new Camp. was detailed for Stable guard tonight sit up till ten O’Clock, had a good mess of blackberries today.

Saturday June the 27th 1863 – we have orders to break camp and move as soon as posible, we got ready for a move by Six O’Clock, A.M., and was soon off, the report is we are going to the front with Gen Hooker, that is just ducks for us, we went along towards Harpers Ferry, we come to a halt on the hill near Knoxville, had hardly stoped when some of the boys started out foraging, one of them killed a big hog and was carrying in to Camp. the Col saw him made him pack around on his back some of the boys robed a woman of all her Milk and Butter she talked verry salty to them, said if she was a man she would let them know what a rebel was, we moved out of the field down towards the river a little, and camped in the woods we met Gen Hooker and body guard & some other Gen, did not know it was him untill he had passed the army is moving towards Fredrick and Harpers Ferry, had a verry plesant place to camp for the night, been plesant day

Sunday June the 28th 1863 – Cloudy and looks much like rain had orders to retrace our steps which all is disatisfied with, evry one thought we were going to the front with Old Joe & the boys to have some fun with the rebs, we went down through Knoxville crossed the canal, went up the toepath between the river and canal, to Cotocton Station on the B & O RR Crossed back on the same road, and went back to Poolsville. The army had all passed except some pontoons and baggage wagons, after we had recrossed the Monocacy

we heard that there were 5,00 rebel cavalry at Poolville, we got some grub out of our wagons, we met them as we were coming up the hill, we filled our haversacks and got ready for a fight, I was ordered as one to defend the Colors, we all went up towards Poolville at good speed expecting a fight ---- we left twenty mostly of our Co to picket on the Monocacy when we got to Poolsville some of the boys were there with some quartermaster Stores piled up ready to burn as soon as the rebs should appear. The boys joined us, we went on through town down the pike to Rockville got there about twelve O' clock stoped there about two hours layed down with our bridles in our hands and slept Our Col got some information of the rebels.

Monday June the 29th 1863 Cloudy and some rainy. Started in pursuit about two O'Clock it is verry dark, heard it was Stuart and Fitz Hue Lees Cavalry forces that they had crossed the Potomac going up through Md. towards Pa., we continue to follow we are close to there rear guard passed some wagons they had set on fire, Saw letters and papers they had torn up on the road we took seven or eight prisoners the first rebs we have taken, we stoped about seven O'Clock made Coffee and cooked some pork, waited for some of our scouting parties & flankers to come in, we soon started on again after them, we met some of Scotts Nine hundred coming back that they had paroled and some citizens also they report them to be seven or eight thousand strong. Our Col. seems anxous to engage there rear guard, we passed through Mechanichsville, stoped at Brooksville to let our horses recruit up a little have no feed for them but grass, thought to get reinforcements from Washington our Col arested some citizens made them go along with us, good many paroled prisoners coming back all the time they say the rebels used them verry rough, we stoped here untill five O'Clock P.M. in the meantime we all got ourselves stufed with Cherries, and I went to a house got some milk and bread, which satisfied my and Johny Passages aptite verry well for the day I owe Sergeant Passage and others of the boys for a good many favors if it had not been for his money I would not of know how to relish bread and today, at five O'Clock we started went along till midnight then camped in a Clover patch for the night

Tuesday June the 30th 1863 – Some of the sentries took two prisoners last night little showery this morning laying about waiting for the next move, the Col sent a detail of ten men for corn for our horses. they went to a farm house made the man draw a load to the camp. Couple of us after we fed our horses, went out after some cherries got our fill just as boots and saddles blowed, which was near the middle of the afternoon we took the back track as our suplies had give out we went along slowly untill midnight then camped in a new mown clover patch, just at dark passed through a little place called Mannassas, it has been rather wet all the eavning, had a rather wet bed for the night

Wednesday July the 1st 1863 – fine morning The Col. sent me down to the Monocacy early the first thing tell the teamsters (or wagon master), to go to Poolsville with the wagons. I started not knowing the road, but felt sure of finding it, I stoped on the way and eat Cherries & berries for breakfast, as I could find them, while riding along in a strip of woods, something took my attention to the right of me. I took the second look, and se a man crouched down behind a stump, thinking I had a reb to deal with, I out with my pistol and ordered him out, I questioned him a little, he pretended to be sick, and

belonged to some Pa. regiment, was left behind and was now trying to find his regiment. I made him go with me a mile or two, stoped under a Cherry tree eat some Cherries, concluded to let him go, as I did not want him to be following about with me for fifteen or twenty miles he went back the way we come, he had no arms, went on down to the Monocacy reported to the Lieutenant in Command, going along met the Ambulance driver him & me went into a house made them come out with some Milk, Bread & Butter which tasted good, told them if I had money I would pay them but as have none I could not. I then went on lasurely to Poolsville picking berries as I went when I came to camp the goys had tents up in good style. Major Thompson & two of our Co. have not been heard from since we left Rockville one of boys, Co. F., was taken prisoner with the mail while on his way out from Washington, he had his horse shot from under him, I am detailed for stable guard tonight

Thursday July the 2nd 1863 – fine morning, feel sleepy had verry little sleep last night, the report is our Co. is going out again, heard from Major Thompson & command, they are guarding some place near Washington, twenty of our Co are going down to do Picket duty at the mouth of the Monocacy was releaved from stable guard and went down with the men started about ten O’Clock got there about noon, comenced doing duty the first night My post was watching a ford above the Canal, we have two hours on and four off & as soon as we get of post go foraging & get berries, which are plenty this is a good post, the weather is plesant

Friday July the 3rd 1863 – plesant morning have a good time here on picket Stand post then gather berries untill I get my fill, took my horse down to the creek washing him all over, then took a sleep, heard the boys at camp were about to be attacked, they were saddled all night, also they were about to move camp again, hope we will not be releaved, from this post for a few days, as long as blackberries last, & the farmers have fat pigs, and there cows give plenty of milk, been rather warm today.

Saturday, July the 4th 1863 – a splendid morning all well and have had to Challenge no rebels as yet. We are passing of this Anniversary of our independence verry quietly, great deal more so probable than a great many other of Uncle Sam’s boys but glory be with them wherever they may be. Slept till late this morning, our rations are getting short, we will have to do more foraging. Tried my luck at fishing in the Potomac but found it verry poor. Would like to write some if I had material, had no letters yet from home, nor news from the armies we are in a poor place to get news, it has been over a week since we have heard from our Gallant Grant or the army in Maryland and with it as you might say too Commenced raining verry hard all at once it will soon raise the rivers so they will be impassable, one of the boys brought in a fine pig this eavning

Sunday July the 5th 1863 – pleasant although it looks much like rain, when releaved from duty washed a shirt picked some berries and tried my luck fishing again in the canal this time with no better success Capt Adams, officer of the day was down to se us, I had just Cleaned up the quarters in time to look neat, one of the boys brought in another fine pig, had quite a long talk with an old slave while on post he told of his misfortunes in life he thought for him to be a free nigger now as he had been a slave and worked hard for fifty years & still worked for Massa he told they were allowed two prs pantiloons a year one

pr shoes and if they wanted any nice cloths for Sunday had to work nights and pick berries, etc. to get money to buy them he give me quite a history of the way they used slaves generaly, he wound up by telling me there was three rebel soldiers stopping at a farmers up on the road about two miles from the river, finly he hobbled of Sergeant Passage myself & Pendill got permission of Lieutenant Smith to go out after them after dark, we went to the house the darkie told us we would find them, Sergt and me went in the house told them we were in search of Union deserters and called for some supper, and made some inquiries and thought things looked verry suspicious, and if we had had permission we should of searched the house, but the Lieut's orders were contrary, finly we went out to watch the horses while Pendill got something to eat, while out there a Negro come up, it being verry dark I could not tell who it was I of course cocked my pistol on him, when he heard it click he spoke in a low tone, Massa dont shot its me, then he come up told me that the rebs had gone to another mans house to stop & they were dressed in Union Soldiers cloths and tried to tell me where the house was, finly Sergt & Pendill come out, (the nigger put back) the man of the house with them, I told him he would have to receive thanks for the supper as money was out of the question with us, we took our leave I told the Sergt what the negro had told me we concluded to go there after them if I could find the place, went to what I thought was the place I dismounted one of them held my horse I went to the door roused them up asked them who lived there, but found it was not the name I made some inquiries for soldiers but they had saw none that day, he told me to search the house if I wanted to I thought it no use, at first he did not want to come out, but he concluded to open the doors, it was so dark we concluded to give up the search we then started for camp got back half past twelve O'Clock and went to bed

Monday July the 6th 1863 – Cloudy and dull got up at nine O'Clock fixed breakfast picked some berries and knocked about generaly went on post at twelve O'Clock just as I was releaved, some of Co. L come to releave us Stayed about the block house untill the pickets down the canal come in, then started for Camp on Seneca Creek, they having moved while we were on picket, got to Camp at nine O'Clock fed our horses & took a bite our selves then turned in, it has been a plesant day

Tuesday July the 7th 1863 – verry wet and disagreeable about camp Slushing about through the mud most of the time and doing nothing to amount to anything, this is a verry poor place to Camp I think wrote a letter to C. F. Morse at Boston Mass, no news of any kind

Wednesday July the 8th 1863 – more plesant than yesterday Started to fix up about Camp some, we are short of rations, have nothing but hard bread and musty pork, which starts some of the boys is growling My supper was a cup of poor coffee the ground has dried out a little during the day. Seneca Creek is verry high some of the men posted on the other side as pickets tried to cross, they went under horse and all making something for the boys to laugh at during the day

Thursday July the 9th 1863 – fine morning comenced doing camp duty Early fixing up to have comfortable quarters, expect to Camp hear for some time cut some poles for Saddle

racks & have nine crackers issued to us for a days rations, we expect some grub to come out in a day or two, was detailed for guard tonight, at Six O'Clock had marching orders, just as I was going out to releave the pickets on my watch returned to camp the tents were struck, got my things packed on my horse stoped about the guard tent untill everything had started then I brought in the Sentinals and formed in with the rear guard, and marched along moderatly towards Washington it was pretty dark

Friday July the 10th 1863 – Started from Camp after evrything was got of am still on the rear guard rather warm although cloudy, passed through Rockville at sunrise Stoped in town a short time, started on again Some of the men got some whiskey aboard, got to Camp brightwood at two O'Clock, got dinner and fired of our pistols and carbines, took five days rations and started for Virginia, went through Washington crossed the Long Bridge and camped at Camped Windham for the night, looks much like rain verry, nice place to Camp, water & fed our horses, got supper & layed down

Saturday July the 11th 1863 – Started from Camp at half past three, had some little trouble about issuing the rations out to the men, we marched at a good speed, we got on the pike, went to Fairfax Court House, the Country looked hard through here it gives good evidence of war, it is all splendid farming Country but it is perfectly barren our advance guard saw some rebel pickets this afternoon we went through Aldie where the late Battle was fought; saw some of our wounded in a farm used as a hospital, saw reb pickets on the hills above Aldie, we all look for fun as soon as tomorrow, we went up on the hill above town and camped it being verry dark had to keep our horses saddled and build no fires, hold our horses by the bridle and lay down in front of them

Sunday July the 12th 1863 – to horses was sounded about three O'Clock, we started for Ashbys Gap, took to rebels a or near Middleboro, passed through the town it is quite a town, expecting to meet a rebel force evry few minutes passed through Upperville, evryone looks verry cross at the blue clothed boys we could se rebel pickets on the mountains riding about as our advance guard Charged through Paris, (a little town at the foot of the mountain) they captured three rebels, one Capt of Engineers, They went on part way up the mountain when they were fired on by some rebs posted in the brush behind a stone fence, Our boys halted fired all there shots at them although they were concealed, the Col ordered the colum to halt, and the advance guard in, sent up another and some flankers each side of the road, they had the Colum form in platoons at the foot of the mountains and in town the men that went up through the gap, drove the rebs across the Shenandoah River, killed they said seven or eight, and brought back seven prisoners we lost two in killed and three wounded and two prisoners, one lieutenant of Co. (M) We were ordered to search some of the houses in Paris, found one man dressed in womens cloths, took him prisoner, after the Col. went as far as he thought advisable, we returned got the men together, and started back lesurely Stoped at Upperville and buried one man, it rained verry hard also this morning it rained a little we followed the pike back through town turned of to the left, in towards Leesburgh, we passed through several little towns in the night, it was so dark we could not make out anything we went near Dranesville, Sat in the road and held our horses, it raining all the time since we left Upperville, had nothing to eat but raw pork and hardtack since we started, but once, it must of been twelve O'Clock when we stoped.

Monday July the 13, 1863 – very disagreeable morning, wet a muddy got up at daylight & made preparations to start, finly they let us cook some park and coffee, after which we started towards Leesburgh, thinking to find a little fight there, when near there we arranged up in fighting order and charged through town but saw no rebs Searched some houses but all to no good Stopped there for two hours in the rain looked in some of stables for horse feed but could find none, our poor horses, having had nothing but grass but once since we started, After we could get us horse feed I started in search of some for myself, I went into a hotel and told him to give me some Milk Bread Butter and beef. for myself and one or two more, he give me quite a lot of grub and a canteen of milk, I told him I had no money and to charge it U.S. evryone here most is rebel to the backbone, they shut up there houses stores and evrything looks deserted after I got to the Colum Lieut Smith Sergt and one or two more with myself eat up the very nice, it went well, we started from Leesburgh at two O’Clock went through the country in various directions but making towards Washington, camped about ten O’Clock in a cloverfield, layed down holding our horses by the bridle

Tuesday July the 14th 1863 – rainy had about two and a half hours sleep Made some coffee and cooked some pork for breakfast Some of the men found a milk house last night. they releaved it of the contents consisting of several crocks of milk and, and considerable fresh butter, after it was empty the Col had a guard put on to keep the men away untill we left, we started just as the sun was getting up, on our way to camp we captured an old reprobate by the name Lay who give the enmy all information he could he had been arrested twice taken the oath of allegence and released, they say he is an old Guerrilla Chief but never can catch in any act or with the reb uniform on. When the advance guard went to take him he resisted slitley but when they pulled there pistol on him he concluded to go, his wife made an terrible fuss declaring if a man she would play hob with the yankee We struck on the pike and went along moderatly for camp Crossed the Potomac at the Chain Bridge, Sent a guard in to Washington with the prisoners, we took the road to the left of Georgetown, for Camp Brightwood was near night when we got back, had to pitch our tents, it comenced raining and we got wet through before we got done, Capt is here doing well, and the other boys we left behind, layed down in the mud and water tonight again.

Wednesday July the 15th 1863 – feel rather dull this morning, stiring about some cleaning up our sabres pistols and carbines, washing some dirty cloths and took a bath myself. Went out and picked some blackberries had a fine mess for supper, we have marching orders again, our Col complimented us highly on our first fight with the rebs Said we behaved like veterans our wounded boys are doing fairly looks verry much like rain

Thursday July the 16th 1863 – looks much like rain started with three days rations at seven O’Clock, took the road to Washington, it rained a little just before we got to the city, went through town crossed long bridge, went within two miles of Alexandra stoped there for further orders. finly turned back to Camp Windham, the wagon guards had pitched our tents, just got unsaddled when it comenced raining furiously, I was detailed to go on color guard before the Col tent it is a gay time to be up, there was orders given for to clean up arms for inspection in the morning, there is considerable cavalry camped here,

some infantry come in this evening

Friday July the 17 1863 – raining still this morning, was up most of the night relieving sentinels have orders to march with three days rations the boys are stirring about cleaning up, the inspection is done away with I cleaned up my sabre and pistol and wrote a long letter to father then relieving Sentinels every two hours kept me rather busy during this wet and disagreeable day, at about half past three O’Clock out again (all that had horses, or that were able to go). went out to Alexandria Staid there for three or four hours waiting for further orders, there was some infantry and cavalry joined us it appears we are going out on some important expedition, as there is quite a force going out, we finely went back to Camp, Windham to stop for the night again

Saturday July the 18 1863 – pleasant morning started of early went out and stoped the same as yesterday waiting for orders took of saddles and fed our horses and layed about finely cooked some dinner, the place is thronged with women and boys peddling apples cakes and pies, they dont get patronized very well for the boys have but little money. all at once boots and saddles sounded and we were soon of, went through Alexandria, (it is very quiet and ancient looking place) after we passed through town we halted again for an hour, there was three or four regts of infantry and artillery passed by us, boots and saddles was soon sounded again some of the Cavalry that joined us took a road to our left, we followed the infantry out on the --- pike, we passed where they had pitched camp for the night, we went to Fairfax Station on the Alexandria & Orange R.R. stoped on the hill aposite the railroad buildings, for supper & then went on after supper the supposition is we are out here to protect the road and workmen on it, had some hard bread coffee and pork for supper, we passed over several old battlefields

Saturday night continued – went through the country - - - isciously appear to be trying to find some rebs had our force divided in two or three different commands, went through some pretty rough country appear to be going the course of the R.R. have to march by file good part of the way on account of the brush being so thick, passed by several old deserted winter quarters camped for the night on a hill up from bull run, on the west side I think it was one O’Clock when we camped been pleasant day.

Sunday July the 19th 1863 – had a good nights rest got our coffee and pork cooked then started one of the picket caught a reb that appeared to be on a visit to his folks he had started to go back to join his Brother rebels in the night and run on our picket he run into a bad trap, we went through the country the same as yesterday the Comand went near some little town, the advance guard went in the place saw some horses tied up before some houses they went in and searched and caught four rebels, one of them was Gen Stuarts messenger, found a message on him informing Stuart of our whereabouts, finely the col went back crossed Bull Run and took the road up to Centreville I have been in the advance and rear guard all day, when going up by the fortifications one of the men saw three mounted men at a distance they give chase and fired at them two or three times but could not catch them, we pitched camp on the hill where the first battle of Centreville comenced just across the creek from the fortifications old Beaureguard threw up there, we was soon after our arrival joined by Major Whites command the Thirteenth and

Sixteenth New York Cavalry When they come I was on picket the sentinel that was on post out on the pike came rushing in saying there was a body of cavalry coming I sent word to the Col then started to see what it was, when they come in sight there dress was sufficient but when they saw a dozen of us standing up there so bold on the hill they halted finely they saw it was all right and come in to camp the Col had our force drawn up in line of battle to meet them, I detailed for picket tonight, my post was on the heights at Centreville have not had the saddles of our horses since we left Alexandria

Monday July the 20th 1863 – fine morning the men in camp are resting and letting there horses have a rest there is where they have the advantage of me - - - as I am on picket, went and picked a fine lot of blackberries anyway they grow in abundance about here evry one of us is out of grub wont get any untill our comisairy wagon comes, one of the sentinals on my post saw two rebs go up to a house near there post he reported to me I sent word to the Col he sent back to go with the reserve picket and catch them if I could. So of I started with three men went down there furiously, but they were gone, they come there so the man said enquired what picket that was up there on the hill he told them Union so they left one saying it was no place for them. I searched convinced myself that had left then returned to my post was releaved from duty at sundown I feel like having a good nights rest and I think my horse would like to have the saddle of

Tuesday July the 21st 1863 – fine morning started on another raid with three days rations, went up through Centreville and up the pike towards Warrenton, passed over the old Bull Run Battleground the looks of the country told plainly what had transpired there, Saw human skulls and bones laying on the ground also great canon balls peaces of shells & plenty of lead bullets passed through several little town the names I did not get, when we got at the foot of the hill that goes up to Warrenton our whole force was ordered on a gallop, when we got into town we stoped for half hour or so, and parties went sent to look for some rebs that was saw but did not get them there was young fellow that had been crippled sitting in front of a hotel with gray uniform on finely all got together again started ---- the Rail Road we went along untill we come to Bristan Station which was about ten O'Clock P.M. an camped there, took the saddles of our horses after supper

Wednesday July the 22nd 1863 – Splendid morning had a fine nights rest no one appeared in a hurry this morning got our coffee and pork and sit around untill nine O'Clock before we started went through the country in different directions until we came to Mannassas Junction halted and unsaddled our horses then picked a fine mess of berries and eat them with sugar. about five thousand cavalry was there, and left as we come in, we stoped for about two hours then started again two of our Company stoped to guard some army stores at the Station, the balance of us took the road for Centreville got there middle of the afternoon camped at the place we started from part of Gen Corcorons Brigade is stationed here (or on the heights) they came since we left been rather warm day

Thursday July the 23rd 1863 – fine morning feel verry good this morning, evry one is out of grub again went down to the creek had a fine bath washed some dirty clothes, then went out and picked some berries stewd them with some green apples making a fine dish for dinner Was detailed for stable guard fifteen of our Co went out on patrol stood post

untill ten O'Clock then turned in slept untill morn

Friday July the 24th 1863 - very warm morning on guard evry one in camp is resting today had fresh beef for Breakfast quite a variety of late also beef soup for dinner. Couple of gentlemen come in Camp today peddling paper pens etc they found the boys had not been paid of and could not sell it and they give it all out Said they were soldiers once themselves, and new what it was to be out of money wrote a letter to Cyrus Roberts heard firing yesterday and it proves to of been an engagement between Meade and Lee General Meade the Union Comander drove the rebels through Warrenten was releaved from guard at Six O'Clock been hot all day

Saturday July the 25th 1863 – fine morning evry thing appears to go of well in camp. some of the men think we dont get our rations went out to drill my horse was not fit but he done verry well had quite a drill. Come back in time for dinner had soup and rice, afternoon went through sabre and carbine exercise the report is that the California hundred are going to join us took a good bath having a fine rest, and splendid weather had a fine mess of Blackberries for supper

Sunday July the 26th 1863 – wet morning was roused up last night by a severe rain storm it rained very hard for a while, it was finely cleared of Beautiful, went to creek took a wash come back to camp and cleaned up for inspection After inspection picked berries for dinner indebted to Corpl George Thayer Sergt John Passage and others for favors fifteen of our men went out on a scout was detailed for stable guard went on duty after retreat had a bath this eavning stood post till ten O'Clock then turned in

Monday July the 27th 1863 – fine morning got up before revilee and comenced cleaning the stable attended to feeding the horses then got breakfast then sit about untill noon then took my regular allowance of Boiled fresh beef evry thing goes of well had a fine Bath afternoon was releaved from duty after retreat had a little sprinkle of rain after sun down

Tuesday July the 28th 1863 – fine morning had a bath after stable call. Missed the drill, cleaned up my sabre carbine & pistol, to my horse to the creek washed him all over was at drill afternoon looks some like rain, one of our men was arrested on charge of drawing a sabre on the orderly Sergeant Case is his name Corporal Harkins has entered charges against Capt Adams our Squadron Comander for using abusive language otherwise Case was tried a told to report to his Co. quite an excitement got all at once they report a Cavalry fight going on close here all hands saddled up in a terrible hurry the order soon came to unsaddle it was the picket firing raining had a fine lot of Berries for supper

Wednesday July the 29th 1863 – it rained part of the night I layed with my feet out in the rain we use our Ponchos for shelter tents they are not quite long enough it looks some like rain yet Capt Adams is being tried Went out with my horse to let him graze drew rations. Cut some wood afternoon got some berries had them for supper evrything goes of well

Thursday July the 30th 1863 – plesant morning had a bath drilled this forenoon drilled on

the Cavalry Skirmish, got an order afternoon to saddle up the order was countermanded, we unsaddled then ordered to cook seven days rations and be ready to march a sundown We got of at half past Six went through took the road for Aldie marched most all night

Friday July 31st 1863 – halted about two O’Clock in the woods near the old Church near Aldie Myself with two men was detailed on picket posted one of the men told him to wake the other when he would have been on an hour they was on an hour each waked me up, I was on but a short time when I heard firing down the pike a short distance I woke the boys that was on post with me, an outside picket came in an informed the Col. of the firing, in a few minutes evry one was in his saddle, we formed platoons and marched to the edge of the woods. Close to the pike we soon saw the rebels coming down the road screaming at the top of there voice after some of our men. When they caught sight of us they retraced there steps very quick, then the Col. ordered ten of us to follow him and the ballance of the command to follow by platoons, we went on the pike then galloped after them as far as our horses could go, four or five of us passing by the Col. at good speed until we came to where the road was blocked up with sutler wagons mules and horses (these were, Mosebys booty that he had captured at Fairfax Court House) we drove them away from the wagons very hasty we got past the wagons and followed them down the pike for two miles, when they scattered in all directions like so many sheep, we retook the wagons from them, and come to the place where we see the affects of the shooting that we heard, there had been a detachment of our command sent of under Lieutenant Maning soon after we left Centreville to come on to the pike lower down (or nearer to Fairfax, C.H.) than we did, they camped just beside the road and the rebels coming on to them first, they engaged one and other, but Lieut. Maning only having twenty men could not hold his ground aggainst eighty or a hundred men, they killed two of the Lieut’s men captured four and wounded two one severly, and drove the ballance up the pike till they saw us, When we drove them back they got away with there prisoners, the Col. with part of the men stoped and had the dead men buried, I had charge of digging the grave, dug it under a locust tree (had an old ax to use as a pick the ground was very hard) three in mans dooryard. When the sutler wagons come up (there being twenty seven of them) the Col. had a detachment of thirty men go in with them as guard and left three men to bury the dead men then took the ballance of the command, and followed in pursuit of the rebels again we got a man for a guide, we went up towards Bull run Mountains, got on there track followed them up through the mountain the road was very narrow and timber thick the ascent was very steep. When we got near the top, evry one was called to the front that had carbines and ordered to dismount. We finely found there rendezvous (or one of them) there was four or five rebs laying in an open place with our men they had taken prisoner, and some seven or eight Cavalrymen they captured at Fairfax C.H. they were all laying down together when the rebs saw us they put for the woods fired a few shots at them, and gave chase but the woods was there game, they knew it better than we did and did not get them, but we retook all the prisoners and a lot of horses they had, we also took one man that was dressed in Citizens Cloths. The day was very hot when I dismounted I had my sabre clatering at my side and my full haversack on my shoulder and carrying my carbine, it made me sweat till I was wet through, runing through the wood and brush up a steep ascent then down, when I got back to my horse I was completely tired out, we finely started down the opposite side of the mountain, we come

up Struck on to the pike again above Aldie, followed down the pike to where we had captured the wagons, went into a field fed our horses some new mown hay and eat a cold bite, then started towards Centreville again, When we were digging the grave in the mans dooryard they brought us out a pan of milk and some bread. We got some ripe pears of a tree close by, then the Sutlers give the boys cakes wine cigars tabacco and evry thing they wanted, they felt so good at being recaptured from the rebs, it appears that the Col. had been appraised of Mosebys taking this train, and had layed a good plan to recapture them with Moseby and his command, and would of done it, had Lieut Manings party not attacted the rebs, (or engaged them), we got back to camp without encountering any thing more at twelve O'Clock

Saturday August the 1st 1863 – got up at reveille tired and sore after Stable call went to the creek took a bath After cleaned my arms and washed my horses back, kept moving about untill noon got dinner then fixed up our tent some more men were sent out again forty in all, washed some dirty cloths and cleaned up generally kept buisy untill water call after that we had dress parade an inspection which when done it was dark been a fine day

Sunday August the 2nd 1863 – very warm this morning took a good the first thing, after duty was done Layed around in the shade as much as posible. the boys are generally talking of there narrow escape in the chase after the rebels, that being the latest to talk of now, took my horse to the creek washed him all over, then went over to an orchard nearby and got some apples to stew, they eat well with fat pork, had an inspection of horse Equipments at retreat nothing more to speak of, been verry warm all day

Monday August the 3rd – verry warm this morning again doing nothing in Military line, except camp duty, read a late paper no news of importance, had a foot race go of with couple of our boys, picked some berries for dinner, about eight hundred horses from the front going to Washington they are warn out, was detailed for Color guard this eavning, fifty six of our Regt and some infantry and Major Whites Cavalry, went out again after Moseby, been very warm day.

Tuesday Aug the 4th – was awake most of night, the expedition that went out come in just before daylight with two Citizens as prisoners, had some little sleep forenoon the prisoners were taken to Gen Kings Hd. Qts., he is in comand of the forces here, was releaved from my post six O'Clock, then went out on an expedition after Moseby again with fifty men, mostly our Co under Comand of our Lieut. (Smith) Marched untill Eleven O'Clock then was put on picket the rest of the night

Wednesday Aug the 5th – fine morning. Scouring the woods for Gourillas occasionally would go over to the Rail Road. We finely went over to the Alexandria pike halted there for a while to get breakfast Corpl Munger went in to a barn found some, cooked them with some Pork in one side of the of a split canteen, just after breakfast the first Battallion and some of our Co. that were at Camp Windham, on there way to join the regt. they had just passed the top of a hill two miles from where we eat (not more than twenty minutes) when twelve rebels shot out of the woods, took a sutler his horses and the contents of his wagon our Lieut. stoped till noon before he moved. then went back to camp when we got

to the wagon that the rebs striped, some of the boys got some little things they did not appear to want got to camp about five O'Clock

Thursday Aug the 6 – Sitting about camp after duty was all done untill noon. just as dinner was ready, orders came for evry one to saddle up imediately I was just fixing for a good bean soup dinner, there was about fifty or sixty started of on a raid, went through Centreville, started of to the right of town took some byroads untill we struck some wagon tracks followed through the woods after them we halted once or twice Sent some men out scouting, when in the woods scoured the country through looking for the Guerrilla devils, some of them had taken some wagons below Fairfax, we was sent to head them off but could not see any of them, finely we started up towards Fairfax got there about eight O'Clock, found that the whole force (Cavalry) had come down here to establish quarters it appears Moseby was not very prosperous, the boys, about thirty drove him of before he got much booty they retook the men he had taken and one or two of his devils I was detailed for guard tonight, was on over some prisoners

Friday Aug the 7th – fine morning not releaved from guard yet evrybody is fareing sumtiously on the retaking of the Sutlers wagons having cakes pies cigars etc. Some get plenty of cloths, I got a good Cap. Making preparations to go back to Centreville, evryone got saddled and started at eight O'Clock. it is very warm, about a mile from where we camped we found where some rebs had taken a wagon this morning, the wagon was in the road striped of its contents some of our men started in the woods after them got back to Centreville at noon, layed about guarding the prisoners untill near night finely went over to Gen Kings Hd. Qts. with them was then released from duty then went to work fixing up a shelter tent, some of the boys got pickles cheese cakes wine and in fact evry thing good in the eating line I am tired and sleepy tonight had very little sleep for four nights

Saturday Aug the 8th – fine morning feel somewhat unwell Got a severe headache doing regular camp duty went to the creek and took bath, evry one is fixing up a little is all that is going on in camp. eat some bean soup for dinner, was another detachment of men sent from our Co to night retired feeling rather unwell, been warm today

Sunday Aug the 9th – very warm morning gets cooler as the day wares away from a refreshing breeze evry thing is quiet about camp. Cleaning up for inspection afternoon our Capt is with us again and most of the Co are together, there has been some change in Squadron Comanders had fresh beef for dinner, had inspection at five O'Clock, (mounted) nothing prove of importance retired after getting my fill of salt pork and hard tack and smoking a cigar

Monday Aug the 10th – rather warm morning there is a breeze springs up as the day wares away making it more comfortable had a short drill this morning nothing more done other than regular camp duty during the day received a letter from Father

Tuesday Aug the 11th – had a drill forenoon knocked around doing nothing of importance more than writing a letter to Father. Just at eavning was ordered out twenty nine of us

under Capt. Adams in Command. Started on a scout went to Fairfax Station halted there a few minutes then crossed the Rail Road and went on

Wednesday Aug the 12th – fine morning was scouring the country all the night after guerrillas got tangled in a lot of tree tops one time last night had quite a time getting out. we went passed some old fortifications and winter quarters on the bank of Bull Run quite a Commanding place, we crossed Bull Run went up the mountain went through the country by various roads, stoped in an old apple Orchard to get our breakfast. Cooked our coffee as that was all most any of us had to eat or drink while there, our pickets, or one of them that was post on a hill near by saw a reb, when they, (Lieut Smith) and him started after him and caught him. He was a young and fine looking fellow. After we got a little rest started on again, went back across Bull Run the same place, Stoped on the hill near the fortifications a short time, it was very hot, Lieut Smith was taken very sick with the heat, I tended the best I could he soon got better started back for camp using our prisoner as a guide, went back through to Union Mills on the rail Road and crossed there is a lot of Infantry posted near, got back to camp just at retreat. Took care of my horse and turned in.

Thursday Aug the 13 – raining morning rained considerable last night after roll call was ordered to report to Lieut Brown regimental quartermaster with six men for wagon guard to Fairfax Station, When there helpt to load the wagons and returned the cars was loaded with conscripts to the front, the paymaster came out on the cars, we got of and back to camp just as they Comenced paying of, at or near three O’Clock got our pay for the first time my pay amounted to \$33.70 which was up to the first of July been wet and disagreeable day, Evry one appears joyfull since receaving there money

Friday Aug the 14th – fine morning, had a Sabre exercise after morning camp duty was over Cleaning up arms a fixing tent so that the forenoon passed of with out hardly knowing it detailed on stable guard this evening stood post until ten O’Clock

Saturday August the 15 – fine morning rather unwell, done stable duty and layed down, there was a horse race for two hundred dollars --- between two men in L Co drawing rations for an other raid (three days) I am very unwell, but going nevertheless. Could hardly stand up when ordered to lead out, if it were not for my horse, feel at home in the saddle, traveled most of the night before halting. stoped in front of a little house, formed platoons and dismounted held our horses by the bridle and layed down

Sunday August the 16 – warm morning Cooked some meat and coffee before we started went over to the RR crossed and halted a short time in the woods had a short Knap, recrossed the Rail Road went towards Leesburgh part of the detachment went over to Dranesville, the rest of us stoped in a field near a house fed our horses and got something for ourselves. Went to the house got some bread & Butter green corn & green beans had fine dinner, After resting about two hours went down around by Gum Springs and within five or six miles of Leesburgh looking for Whites men, they him and Moseby have joined forces, took one of his men. he said that one of them (?) captured one of our pickets this morn, he caught them asleep, they were Co. L. Mass men we camped in the woods Eight

miles from Leesburgh, it was a fine place to camp. Some of our boys went to a milk house near-by and got some milk Butter etc., the Col made an old darkie bring us a load of hay for our horses after feeding we layed down

Monday August the 17 – fine morning, went down through the woods. Searched some houses near the creek halted by an old Church the Comand all come together. We then went over on the pike halted for a spell. Capt Demerritt was ordered up the pike towards Aldie with one platoon of us to scout around a little. When near Aldie we saw fifteen or twenty Rebs come up over the hill. We started after them at full speed, drove them across the Creek through a strip of woods, then we found them brought up against a fence one of them letting it down they fired a volley at us we returned it and followed them up, after we got in the open field we kept nearing them Captured two while going up the hill, they was making for the woods on the hill. Some of them, and some went over towards the pike, when they got to the fence near the woods we was to close on them to let the fence down. So they left there horses jumped the fence and got of in the woods, we got one in a ----- close to where they went through the fence. When going up the hill I had to dismount When half way up my horse give out I took my carbine and went up at double quick on foot then got up before some did that was mounted, After I got up on the hill Sergeant Passage and me went in to a big house there was there and searched through it for Rebs. but found none there was no casuealties on eather side, we took three prisoners, six horses and equipment, our Capt complimented us highly for our bravery, but thought we did not act much like soldiers in scatering about So after looking about a little we went back to the Colum there was another detachment sent out but saw nothing. We finly near night went down the pike towards camp, halted in the road sent in a guard with the horses that was sore footed and prisoners, the Comand then turned back up the pike away then went of to the right over in a filed of new mown hay and camped about eleven O'Clock

Tuesday August the 18 – warm morning, Started from camp at sun rise, some pickets brought in an old doctor and a boy as prisoners, but they were released on finding out business. We went down near where we stoped near Gum Springs, halted in an orchard had plenty of Apples cooked green corn a coffee. We soon se a colum of troops coming the Col had us formed in line of Battle on the hill, we all thought sure we were going to have a fight with old White, but when they come up found it to be Major Thompson with the rest of the Brigade from Centreville, we went back in the orchard, after a short rest we all started for Leesburgh When near there, we halted in the woods sent a small force in town while the rest of us remained in woods out of sight, they soon returned finding no force there we then struck across the country towards Bull Run Mountains. got up on the summit, had a fine view of evrything for miles around. Struck through the woods down on to the road the colum halted, the advance guard, (I was one of them) was sent up the road on a scout up in mountains, went up to the main pike leading from Leesburgh saw a great many tracks as though a large body of Cavalry had went up we returned to the Comand then started up the road over the mountains towards Ashbys Gap We camped in the road about twelve O'Clock. Where there was a large barn on one side and a house on the other, the barn provided provender for our horses but the boys could not make the respond. I was looking around considerable for a milk house but after I found it they had

a guard on at the door. I went in the rear comenced undermining the foundation but it was to much of a job and I give it up so I went back and layed down

Wednesday August the 19 – got up at three O’Clock the prisoner got away last night with a horse started on through the woods crossed a large creek went up the road in the mountains found where the rebels camped in the edge of a woods and corn field, last night we scoured the woods a little then went in the corn field fed our horses cooked some coffee and meat just at sun rise after we dismounted saw some rebel pickets about half mile of they would ride up examine our force then put back, we sent out some skirmishers they exchanged shots with them but no one hit. We took six rebs after we eat breakfast went back struck the pike above Aldie and went down to the old church where we had the fight with Moseby. Some of our men were sent of to the right of the pike after we left Aldie, we had been resting about an hour when we heard firing and they were retreating in towards the main colum we all got in our saddles, except a few to guard the prisoners, thought to get in there rear but they got of into the mountains ahead of us, found could not get a fight out of them, returned back to the church. Went to a house nearby had some talk with a Sesech lady she was giving the boys and all Union Soldiers the duce, and they keeping her busy all the time baking bread and paying her a big price for it. She said there was no pork in the neighborhood, and the last she heard of sold for a dollar and a half per lb, it is quite amusing to her talk, we finely started for Centreville about four O’Clock When we got within five miles of Camp the Capt sent me two other Corporals and two privates to search a house for Government property, we went over found it vacant, an old negro was near there told us of a place near there that some one a half mile from there that was reb, went there but no one was to be seen but an old sick man We then went to an other house stoped got some pie and milk, then started for the Colum and got lost, finely got back to Centreville about ten O’Clock they all thought us taken by the rebels

Thursday August the 20 – fine morning myself Corporals Munger & Haskins was ordered under arrest for not obeying orders more promptly yesterday Corporal Haskin was in fault I urged them to return to the column imediately after going to the first house Laying about in the shade doing no duty playing cards most of the day all the men patronize the Sutler pretty well and pay the highest kind of prices for evrything been rather warm most of the day

Friday August the 21st 1863 – verry warm morning siting about the quarters waiting patiently to hear what the Capt is going to do with us playing cards some to while away the hours bought some little extras have to pay there prices for evry thing you want. the Capt ordered us three Corporals to report to his tent, he told us when he arrested us he intended to brake evryone of us, but as we never disobeyed an order before and that we was such good men he concluded he could not do it, he repremanded us and praised us at the same time, he ordered us back to duty. Haskins took all the blame on himself. I cleaned up my pistol and sabre took a bath and layed about the tent the rest of the day

Saturday August the 22nd – sitting about the quarters going nothing but camp duty, had sabre drill forenoon Carbine drill afternoon no news of importance. Went up to

Centreville bought a new hat for three and a half dol been warm day

Sunday August the 23rd – fine morning doing camp duty rather unwell got the dysentarie evryone in camp most has got it fixing up for inspection afternoon, was detailed for guard at six O’Clock, was not out at inspection, mounted guard at the apointed time was on the first releaf two hours on and four off two rebs in the guard house some of the pickets caught them last night it is tiresome sitting about the guard tent

Monday August the 24th 1863 – fine morning slept but little last night sitting about the guard tent most of the time, took some prisoners and dug a sink. I had to tie one up by the rists to a tree for not obeying orders, news come in camp of some of Mosebys men attacking our men that went to town with horses, killing two of our men taking several prisoners and all the horses they were returning with, most of the force in camp started in pursuit of the rebels, left camp just at sun down, releaved from guard at six O’Clock

Tuesday August the 25th 1863 – plesant morning sitting about camp, most all the men being of after Moseby, Sergt Varnum was one of the killed, one of the hundred was the other. the attact was made just below Fairfax C.H. part of the command returned but saw no rebs, eat considerable of Sutlers trash today, been plesant day

Wednesday August the 26 – one of the rebs that was brought in wounded at Fairfax has died our boys done splendid in the fight news come to camp of our Capt getting deranged while out and leaving the Command. Caused I suppose by over exertion, the rebs only got two of our boys prisoners after all both from F Co the Command has all got in except our co. they are in search of our Capt, he come in alone all bruised and scratched up, that is a bad blow on Co. F.

Thursday August the 27 – fine morning evryone is talking over the Capt Emory and the fight with Moseby, who acted brave and who did not, our Lieut is sick, takening everything through our Co is in a bad fix, there is a good many sick in camp with the dysentarie, the Capt is no better News from Charleston good battering away at Sumter, rather warm day

Friday August the 28 – fine morning doing camp duty nights getting cooler, Col Lowel is undergoing a military trial for not sending a sufficient Escort with the horses that was taken by Moseby, they report Moseby badly wounded at the time, Lowell is in tow, our Capt has gone to the asylum, all goes of well in camp

Saturday August the 29 – cloudy and a little rainy got up at three O’Clock to get ready for another raid, took two days rations and started a four O’Clock down the pike towards fairfax turned of and went over to Vienna stoped there a short time, then followed the Orange & Alexandra R. R. up to Thornton and Harrington Stations, stoped at the latter place four or five hours. Started on again towards camp a beautiful night for marching the moon shining bright, got to camp at twelve O’Clock fed my horse and turned in

Sunday August the 30th – doing nothing more than camp duty today very pleasant day

Monday August the 31st – Cleaning up for inspection, this is muster day with us evry one has to be presant to get there pay when the paymaster comes. Major Forbes is examining one of Co D's men, pistol come near getting shot as he held it up for inspection he in cocking it put his finger on the triger, it went of and the ball passed through the Major's cap visor, wrote a letter to Cyrus Roberts, been a fine day

Tuesday Sept the 1st 1863 – Plesant morning at work doing camp duty had sabre drill very few turned out, have a Capt acting in DeMerritts place by the name of rice he appears a fine man Lieut. Smith is still sick, had an order read out at roll call reducing Cpl Harkins (Corporal) to the ranks for disobeying a superior officer also that tomorrow will be Election day for state officers in California that poles will be opened at Major Thompsons Hdquarters for all Californians to vote, was detailed for Stable guard tonight.

Wednesday Sept the 2nd 1863 – attended stable duty this morning went to the poles and voted for F. F. Low and the ballance of the ticket straight, most of the men voted this same ticket evry thing went of quiet all seemed well pleased to have a chance to vote for our state officers. Two squadrons of the command gone to do picket duty at the Point of Rocks on the Potomac, Our Co returned from duty at the Chain Bridge was releaved from stable guard at retreat been fine day

Thursday Sept the 3rd 1863 – fine morning sitting about doing very little duty, all enjoy ourselves well have plenty to eat of evrything farmers keep the camp well supplied with evrything

Friday Sept the 4th 1863 – fine morning had Sabre drill this morning first thing, two men died in the hospital last night very sickly in camp now, had a drill afternoon. Moving in to tents in the opposite side of the picket line helped to pitch two tents

Saturday Sept the 5th 1863 – plesant slept in the new quarter last night, there is most to many gray backs to suit me, think I will change quarters, fixing up for dress parade afternoon, on parade the Ajdt read an order appointing Capt. Rice our Co Commander, and DeMerriitt was assigned to Co "I" bought a nice shirt took a bath and cleaned up generally, was detailed for stable guard tonight

Sunday Sept the 6th 1863 – had reveille early this morning two Corporals & fourteen privates from F Co. and thirty from different Co's started just after reveille on a scout, under Capt Rice took three days rations went over through Gum Springs struck the road to Leesburgh I was in the advance guard met a good many negros going, one black fellow told us that Major White with twelve men was in Leesburgh we expect to have some fun, stoped at and apple orchard where we stoped once before, waited for the command to come up was about two miles ahead with the advance guard, Went through Leesburgh very quietly evryone appeared to be just coming from Church, just after passing through town saw three rebs skedadling furiously but the Capt would not let us run our horses after them about two miles from town we found one laying drunk under a tree and his horse feeding by him he had no arms on, we went up to him took, he appeared quite impertinant at first. I spoke a few rough words to him he concluded to be quiet we went along lesurely down to the river crossed over on to Whites Island and camped for the

night, had plenty of Green Corn been a pleasant day

Monday Sept the 7th 1863 – fine morning had a shower of rain last night, got up at three O’Clock cooked coffee and meat that with bread and some butter made quite a breakfast, after which we crossed over to Maryland side followed down the Canal, would go over on all the Islands in the River searching for Contraband Goods stoped at Edwards Ferry a short time, got some bread and meat of a canal boat for dinner, There is a good many Canal boats runing now they have escorts with them Went on down to Seneca got some bread and have these, followed on for three miles crossed in a culvert went up on the hill by an old Scotch ----- and camped for the night Some of the men got some Whiskey at Seneca Lock, got drunk and two or three of them had a fight with one other men no damage done much our boys wanted to go in and have a general time with them and would if it was not for showing respect to the Capt. after I took care of my horse I soon went to sleep

Tuesday Sept the 8th 1863 – Cloudy morning started early struck on the road that runs over the Washington Viaduct, followed it down to Chain Bridge, crossed went over on to arlington heights stoped there for a short time the Capt making preparations for getting us some Breakfast, we went over to Fort Langly, there drew one days rations rested for four hours then started for Centreville, I was in charge of the advance guard we expect to meet Lieut. Williams with twenty or thirty men, (one of Moseby officers) but went to camp with out any trouble got there just before retreat.

Wednesday Sept the 9 – fine morning bustling about cleaning up my arms writing some & doing camp duty among all

Thursday Sept the 10th 1863 – pleasant morning, doing regular camp duty, an excort was sent down to Fairfax Station for the paymaster drilled twice during the day the paymaster came in camp about four O’Clock, we was drawed up in line with arms on for two hours waiting for pay, evry one felt merry after being paid, and gambling was verry prevalent also, was detailed for stable guard been a fine day

Friday Sept the 11th 1863 – fine morning, doing stable duty that is very light, not many horses on the line, eat verry little U.S. grub, live princaply on sutlers trash some of the men have got broke gambling already releaved from guard this eavning, done some writing today it has been rather warm

Saturday Sept the 12th 1863 – fine morning was detailed to do fatigue duty about the quarters Cutting up and cleaning away old logs etc from around the tents took one of the men to the guard house by order of Sergt. Thompson Was detailed for stable guard again tonight, evry Corporal in the Co is on duty now rainy this eavning

Sunday Sept the 13th 1863 – fine morning, divine service to be held in camp today at ten O’Clock, doing duty is all of note did not attend Church, was releaved from guard at Six O’Clock

Monday Sept the 14th 1863 – fine morning had drill on foot. Saddled up and took one days rations expecting to go on a scout but returned to quarters after going out on the parade ground, been a fine day Cant think what was up at going out the way we did.

Tuesday Sept the 15th – had orders to have evry thing ready to leave camp strike tents etc. one Battallions of us is going of to do duty some where, got evrything ready to start by Nine O’Clock we took the pike towards Washington went along lesurely halted several times for the wagons to catch up got to long Bridge at sundown stoped a few minutes then crossed over to Washington Went to the Government stables some of us turned in our horses then marched up to the Soldiers releaf and got supper I felt very sick Layed down in the quarters for the night. Capt Reed told the men he wanted them to keep straight, he would let them go where they pleased if they would be there in the morning by eight O’Clock, and allowed them great privelages.

Wednesday Sept the 16th – feel very bad this morning several of the men are drunk about town, they abused Capt Reed out and out, after him allowing them such privilages, then to get drunk is very wrong I went to a hotel and got breakfast eat very little, after which we got in the cars rode down to the Government Stables and waited there untill the men colected together then drew our horses There was three or four of our boys pretty drunk, we finely got started after waiting for the teams some went through town out to Georgetown, went out the pike towards Rockville Camped about eight miles from Georgetown feel very sick, made my bed in one of the wagons, with our bugler Ed Irving

Thursday Sept the 17 – feel rather bad this morning yet, riding in the wagon let a man have my horse to lead it is very rough riding for a sick passed through rockville turned down towards the River from there and on a rough road sure went passed Anfords Crossroads and down to the bank of the river, heard that White had just crossed over with a hundred and fifty men, that Gen Heintzleman was just ahead of him with a hundred men, Capt Reed concluded to camp for the night where we stoped (at Muddy Branch) or near there, they say the rebels are just the other side of the river, the wagons were all sent down in the hollow and the men was camped on the edge of the woods evry one expects an attact before morning. I am still with the wagons, feel some better, it comenced raining very hard just at dark.

Friday Sept the 18 – rainy windy & cold, evry one thought to have a brush with White, but not a reb to be seen this morning fussed about untill Seven O’Clock, then went on again Where and what way we went I don’t know as I lay sick in the wagon, after we crossed some little creek I got out walked up a hill, went in a house asked a lady to give me something to eat she very kindly brought a plate of green corn bacon baked apple and green beans, I could eat nothing but the apple, She would take no pay, I got in the wagon again and the next place we brought up was in the middle of some little swollen stream, and there we stuck the horses not being able to pull us out, we stoped there for the night, the bugler and me

Saturday Sept the 19th – fine this morning, had the wagon pulled back and got it out, it had run against a large rock, the creek is lower this morning. I made some tea we had

some bread butter and tea for breakfast. They pulled the wagon up on the hill stoped there a short time then went up the road to Senaca and camped at the same place our old camp was last summer

Sunday Sept the 20th – plesant morning feel rather bad evry one is buisy in camp fixing up got my horse again Cleaned him, think this will be a permanent camping place for a while there is some little black fellows brings in some biscuit and eggs giving us a chance to live well if we have money my appetite is to poor to eat much some of our co are down to the Canal unloading a boat and doing picket, just after dark evry one was aroused by the picket fireing (Co F) what was in camp was all out on the hill with there carbines ready to meet what was coming. Capt McKendry was out with this Co. on coming up to the picket it scared him so he thought it was rebs fired and run in to camp and fired quite stiring times for a few minutes all retired quiet, no harm done

Monday Sept 21st 1863 – fine morning heavy frost last night evrything is all bustle the order is to brake camp and move down to the Canal, we packed up evrything for a move, those that were not able to ride on horseback, rode in the wagons I was one of them, went down to the Canal unloaded the wagons of forage and grub, put in the tents and camp fixtures then the wagons with the sick started to Georgetown, those that were for duty stoped at the canal, I went with the wagons, went to Anfords Crossroads and bivoucked, there is Eighteen of us in all, after we stoped I went to the Grocer got some cheese and cakes eat a little then went to bed four Cos of Scotts Nine hundred are doing pickett duty here

Tuesday Sept the 22nd 1863 – fine morning feel very well got up before sunrise got breakfast started about seven O’Clock I got on Capt Rice’s horse and tried riding a spell, left my horse with Lieut. O’Phillips of co. G. got to Georgetown about one O’Clock had some trouble about finding a place to stop and pitch tents our Sergeant appeared very much puzled I finly suggested to him about going back on the road a ways he concluded best, so we went about two miles and camped in a plesant place pitched two tents for comfort, and unloaded the wagons We had not been long here when Capt Rice Lieut Smith & Major Thompson came out in an ambulance from the city feel unwell again this eavning. Some of the soldiers stationed at the post come to see us and was quite intimate and ----- friendly they brought us some soft bread and invited us to go over to their quarters to get supper the officers stoped for the night with us

Wednesday Sept the 23, 1863 - fine morning the Major went down to the Canal where the command is, we have to move back with the Co stuf some time today got all ready to start when the teams came back from Washington we got of at three O’Clock the Sergeant and teams are to stop for the night the rest of us with two wagons went on. Stoped at Anfords Crossroads, pitched two Sibly tents and the Docts tent I think we will make this a permanant camp for a while feel --- --- tonight got two letters from California one from home.

Thursday Sept the 24th 1863 - fine morning feel very bad the Doct tells me to keep quiet today he give me some medicine to take wrote a letter to Father, went to the grocery

bought some cakes and cheese. The other teams come in about noon the Doct & Major went down to the canal, laying about waiting for orders, the teamsters had lots of Chickens & Turkeys to eat, I eat with them been a fine day

Friday Sept the 25th – fine morning rather cold and frosty last night sitting about the quarters most of the day the ambulance come from the canal the driver brought orders for us to move again tomorrow took Supper at a house at the Crossroads eat very little feel unwell

Saturday Sept the 26th 1863 – fine morning striking tents and packing up to start again got started at eight O’Clock I rode Capt Rice’s horse When at Seneca got some biscuit The Flour Mill Burned there day before yesterday. got to where our boys were doing picket duty Middle the afternoon one of our boys had a fight with one of Scotts (900) about some foolish thing or other Whiskey was the most do to with it No serious damage done Went back to where the wagons were where our camp will be help put up a tent to sleep in tonight been a fine day

Sunday Sept 27th 1863 – fine morning was detailed to go down to Washington with Sergt Morrison took in a paroled prisoner, the prisoner and me went in on a Canal boat Morrison went on horse back, going along verry lesurely, Chatting with the prisoner, we went to slept and got our meals on the boat

Monday Sept 28th 1863 – foggy this morning woke up and found myself in Georgetown Got in a horse car went to Washington, got a shave & breakfast then went to Gen Heintzlemans Headquarters delivered up the prisoners then had to take him to Capt Lo—ds, the Provost Marshals then was releaved of that duty, went to Gen Riplys Hd Qts done some business for Capt Rice then done some business for myself then looked for Morrison, saw Lieut Brown our regimental quartermaster he give me directions to find him, found him run about with him untill night helped him out with his business some, then went to Hopkins Restaurant for supper, after which we played a few games of Billiards and retired at the Avnue House.

Tuesday Sept the 29th 1863 – fine morning got up rather late, eat breakfast at half past eight then helped Sergt. Morreson with his business I went to the Medical dept had a requisition of hospital stores filled, then went to the U.S. Storehouse got some Co F Stores had them taken down to a canal boat, then looked up Morrison got dinner then bought some more little traps and went to the boat, he come down with the mail, went back to town I come on with the boat We went up the Canal about three miles tied up for the night I went up to a house got some supper then went aboard the boat and turned in under the shelter sheet

Wednesday Sept the 30 – Cold and foggy morning the boat started about three O’Clock A.M. I got up about seven O’Clock got some breakfast on the boat wrote some letters and read the paper some & got to Seneca lock where the teams were waiting for us loaded them and went to camp with them found evrything about as I left, been plesant day

Thursday, Oct the 1st 1863 – Slept with Sergt Passage will continue to have him as a Mess Mate got my horse back give the boys what little stuff things I bought for them in town, My saddle and traps were scattered about camp Could not find them, acted as Orderly Sergeant today been pleasant

Friday Oct the 2nd 1863 – fine morning went down to the canal to get some cloths I left to get washed got back Sergeant Passage and me went to Poolville with the Major & Doct. as Orderlies Stopped little most night then returned

Saturday Oct the 3rd 1863 – rainy this morning feel rather unwell, went to the Doct for the first time put on light duty, got some medicine was quite sick after taking it abed all the afternoon

Sunday Oct the 4th 1863 – pleasant morning attended Sick Call of duty taking medicine

Monday Oct the 5th – pleasant abed most of the day the boys have been foraging considerable lately much to the adjoining farmers dissatisfaction, there is three farmers in camp entering complaint to the Major I know I set some very fine chicken they caught, feel very sick this evening

Tuesday Oct the 6th – Some better this morning had very little sleep last night everything is quiet in camp

Wednesday Oct the 7th 1863 – fine morning rained considerable last night, am some better this morning sitting about the tent all day eat very little since I have been sick, news come up from the picket that some Rebels tried to cross, they fired on them and drove them back.

Thursday Oct the 8th – Cold but otherwise pleasant Some better, have a moderate appetite, the Doct just come in from Washington.

Friday Oct the 9th 1863 – pleasant morning feel some better attended Sick Call the Doct gave me some medicine, put me on light duty there seems to be some trouble among the farmers in the neighborhood there was six of them in camp making complaints to the Major, they say there chickens and turkeys are troubled greatly of late, and blame the Soldiers from visiting the hen roosts. There is no doubt Soldiers are fond of poultry and have considerable of it lately, but they say they buy it, been fine day

Saturday Oct the 10th 1863 – pleasant morning feel rather unwell, went to the Doct he give me some medicine, eat a very little breakfast moved about camp a little done no duty having beautiful weather, all are enjoying ourselves well under circumstances have plenty to eat and no great site of duty

Sunday Oct the 11th 1863 – Some better took some medicine this morning again put on some clean cloths and brushed up a little very quiet in camp all day no news pleasant all day

Monday Oct the 12th 1863 – am a great site better will be doing regular duty soon, took some more medicine Cleaning up my saddle and arms, bought some little notions to eat. The chances to live well is good as long as money holds out, buy pies evry day but far from being such ones as we would get at home been a beautiful day.

Tuesday Oct the 13th 1863 – Attended Sick Call was marked for light duty commenced by taking care of my horse was moving about camp all day plesant day

Wednesday Oct the 14th 1863 – plesant morning doing duty about camp, moving about camp considerable we hear heavy firing of towards Warrenton from appearances Gen Meade is falling back and is following up we are all giving the Potomac Army our best wishes, and should like to be with them There is great speculations in respect to the result Nothing going on in camp unusual Was detailed on stable Guard

Thursday Oct the 15th 1863 – foggy morning the firing was not so heavy as yesterday. Some think we will be attacked here I think it is more imagination than anything else. Our Regt has moved from Centreville to Vienna to build winter quarters. They are packing up all our Co's property and sending it to town firing is heavy this afternoon again hear nothing diffinate as to the result was releaved from stable guard at Seven O'Clock

Friday Oct the 16th 1863 – Cloudy dull and foggy this morning. Comenced raining about eight O'Clock rained verry hard the firing has entirely ceased was detailed to releave Corpl Thayer on Camp guard he is going on picket. I was releaved from guard at four O'Clock, there is some excitement in camp about the rebels being on the other side of the town wet all day.

Saturday Oct the 17th 1863 – Splendid morning doing duty about camp getting quite well again, have a splendid appetite detailed for guard again fixing up to mount guard had charge of the third releaf have eight post

Sunday Oct the 18, 1863 – fine morning got very little sleep last night, went up to Edwards' Ferry once, to look for anything that might be going on in that division all was quiet. All the horses were saddled in camp last night was releaved from guard at four O'Clock fixed up a little about the tent, feel rather unwell again, boots and saddles were sounded again after retreat

Monday Oct the 19th 1863 – fine morning got the Chronic diariah misery on me, no news of importance been plesant all day.

Tuesday Oct the 20th 1863 – Splendid morning, sitting about the tent. News from Gen Meade is encouraging he appears to have defeated Lee in all of his plans. Sergeant Passage Williams Corporal Cossell and me went out to cut a bee tree but it proved a failure no honey to be found got to camp just as retreat sounded

Wednesday Oct the 21st 1863 – pleasant morning, fussing about camp a little. The most trouble we have is cooking our own grub was detailed for guard was on the third relief, heard that Rosecrans was relieved from Command Grant takes command of the whole Southern army been fine all day.

Thursday Oct the 22nd – pleasant morning slept little last night feel weary this morning Sit about the guard tent most the forenoon, was detailed for Picket on the River was relieved from Camp guard by Corporal Cossell, do not feel very well this afternoon went to the picket post at four O’Clock been a fine day

Friday Oct the 23rd 1863 – had a fine rest last night the duty is very light here have to picket the ford ferry the Soldiers across the Canal the patrol and mail carrier been a fine day but rather cold nights

Saturday Oct the 24 – raining some this morning Cold and disagreeable hovering about the fire Sergt Passage and me mess together we get along fine they talk of moving camp two of the boys went after a hog last night but did not get him

Sunday Oct the 25th 1863 – Cold morning got up at sunrise Cooked breakfast after which I took a ride in among the farmers bought some butter and cabbage had a chat with the lady returned to camp just at evening. Some of the men on the other side got drunk and quarling among themselves. I had to go over and keep them quiet for the night they was talking of shooting but I made think it was all nonsense to talk that way

Tuesday Oct the 27th 1863 – very cold and frosty last night Slept very little layed down by the campfire would warm on one side and freeze on the other kept turning over often the Corporal that belongs on this post come back sober three of our Co men come from the hospital to join the Co last night Nothing new fine day

Wednesday Oct the 28 1863 – very heavy frost last night Cold this morning we manage to get out a little after sunrise went to Camp with Thomas Leach, in going over the parade ground we let our horses run pretty fast, the Major saw us and ordered us under arrest After we were arrested I went to the Major explained the matter to him he told me the rules of riding about camp he then ordered me released, and Thomas to stay in the guard house till I got ready to go back when we went back the goys laughed at us considerable been splendid day

Thursday Oct the 29th 1863 – pleasant morning nothing new in camp. Some of the boys went out a foraging and brought in considerable poultry They had plenty of whiskey on at the time, got on the boat that brought grub out from Washington one of our boys got very drunk they are straight enough today been fine day

Friday Oct the 30 – pleasant morning had a fine breakfast had chicken a plenty There is quite stirring times as about foraging in camp, no side talking Soldiers will live well they will have the best the country affords had one of our men tied up by the thumbs in camp for not obeying orders The boys are feeling very good again from the affects of Whiskey.

Wrote two letters one to Banc of Washington the other to Cyrus Roberts

Saturday Oct the 31st – rainy, whiskey is run out the boys are huddling around the campfire. They feel rather large headed took a ride up to camp Wrote a letter to Father the Sergeant and two men went out to dine today, went to camp and got mustered in as this is Muster day very muddy

Sunday Nov the 1st 1863 – fine morning the Sergeant went up to camp to try to have us stay here for five days more. took a ride out among the farmers on a kind of a pleasure trip bought some Butter and cabbage had quite a chat with an old gentleman that invited me in his house got back just in time to get supper, got a paper from California. No news, important

Monday Nov the 2nd 1863 – pleasant morning the Sergt and me took down and rebuilt our shelter tent, fixed it up in very good shape. So that we will sleep more comfortable, the men on the other side of the canal killed a fine beef, Sent us a hind quarter which is very nice been pleasant day

Tuesday Nov the 3rd 1863 – had a splendid sleep last night and good beef for breakfast We are to be relaved this evening parts of three Companys of our (Cal) Battalion, come from Vienna, to do provost duty Election day at the different precincts in this country. We are going to Rockville (our Co) received a letter from Father got everything fixed to start tomorrow morning at two O'Clock.

Wednesday Nov the 4th 1863 – got started for Rockville half past two, rather cold riding so soon in the morning. The moon shines bright making it pleasant went via Seneca got to Rockville at eight O'Clock Capt Reed of the Cal hundred was in Command. just before going into town he had the men form in line, asked us very gentlemanly for to carry ourselves straight not to get to drinking, and what our duty would be there was twenty seven men nine non-commissioned officers divided in three reliefs one relief posted the other two about the Court House everything went off quiet no disturbance during the day. The Copperheads did not like the idea of having Soldiers about the poles the place will undoubtedly go Copperhead been a fine day and enjoyed myself well for a Soldier

Thursday Nov the 5th 1863 – had but little sleep last night there was two or three men going about town making considerable noise but had no disturbance, aroused once by the cry of the picket firing all hands flew to their arms and once by the cry of fire, but both alarms turned to be nothing dangers got everything ready and started off at eight O'Clock for camp went along moderately and a different road than the one we come, arrived at camp half past two, the boys (some of them) acted rather unruly coming home, because Capt Reed went head of the column and there was only the orderly Sergt in charge, been splendid day

Friday Nov the 6th 1863 – fine morning cleaned my horse early then after breakfast cleaned up for inspection at ten O'Clock, the Lieut posted an inventory of all arms in the company every man had to turn out, was detailed to go on picket again at the same post as

before went to the post with eight others at two O'Clock Lance Sergt Munger was in charge fixed up for the night very well received another Sac Union been fine day no news

Saturday Nov the 7th 1863 – very windy sitting about doing nothing more than visiting a little went on duty at Nine O'Clock only have one post releave evry two hours evrything goes of well

Sunday Nov the 8th 1863 – fine morning had but little sleep last night doing very little today, no news releaved from duty at three O'Clock by Corporal Marsh Cold and windy this eavning

Monday Nov the 9th 1863 – very cold last night doing some little writing, have very little to do all goes of well been rather a cold day

Tuesday Nov the 10th 1863 – very cold last night most of our troubles now are getting grub ready for Mastication, on duty again this eavning been cold and windy all day

Wednesday Nov the 11 – rather cold last night, rolled up in my blanket and layed down before the fire to keep warm most of the night. there is some excitement among the officers about our Battallion being transferred out of the Regt report says Major Thompson is under arrest as an inpicator, Major Forbes is in Command, Thompson being ordered to Washington Forbes had several of our men up quizing them on the subject but got no satisfaction the opinion is we will be transfered, hear that Capt De Merritt is getting well went up to camp just at sundown no news

Thursday Nov the 12th 1863 – fine morning we will be releived this eavning getting my things ready for to go to camp Sergt Thompson Corporal Cossell came down to se us the picket come down and we were releaved at three O'Clock took care of my horse and answered to roll call, then turned in

Friday Nov the 13th 1863 – all in camp was roused up last night, saddled horses and prepared for a fight. Come to find out of the alarm, it was some ten or twelve rebs crossed the river and attacted a canal boat robed it of its contents and took two of our men that were patrolling the toepath, after we found there was no chance for a fight we unsaddled and went back to bed, got up at the regular time done regular camp duty, after that six of us Sergeant Passage Thompson Corporal Cossell and myself privates Leach and Pendill got passes for the day we went up to Conrods Ford crossed the river and scouted around through the country considerable went around Lessburgh of through the Mts but saw nothing strang eat dinner about two miles from Leesburgh I give the Lady a dollar for six of us. We crossed Goose Creek by the mill, finely returned the way we come got to camp at midnight

Saturday Nov the 14th 1863 – fine morning feel rather drowsey after the long ride we had yesterday Major Thompson is back in command again he was not under arrest Lieut Welsh is back with Co again our trip yesterday amounted to nothing Comenced raining this eavning

Sunday Nov the 15th 1863 – very wet rained hard last night disagreeable untill noon was detailed for guard mounted at four O’Clock I had the second releaf making preparations to move camp tomorrow evrything has to be ready by eight O’Clock A.M.

Monday Nov the 16th 1863 – plesant morning evrything is on the move in camp this morning, I brought in all the pickets at eight O’Clock, teams and all got of at nine, went through Seneca up in the woods just back of the block house from the canal on the bank of Muddy Branch Run, here we stoped for I suppose to build our winter quarters a very plesant looking place was on guard untill six O’Clock put up a guard tent before I was relieved

Tuesday Nov the 17th 1863 – fine morning fussing about a little and not doing much of importance thirteen of us went out with Lieut Welsh dismounted going up the canal on a boat to watch for some rebels got on the boat and made our beds down and went to sleep

Wednesday Nov the 18, 1863 – fine morning and we woke up to find ourselves fooled nicely instead of hunting rebs we are to load a boat with hay here at Youngs Landing the boys disliked it being fooled the way we were because at retreat told us that we were going to watch for some rebs that was going to cross the river, and wanted to know how many volunteers would go from F. Co. and he got his full number, after most the men had worked hard all day before too, but if we had been detailed or even told us what he wanted of us it would of been different, that has let him out on us Co. F. boys fooling the men of his own Co is a very mean trick The boat was loaded (but I never touched a bale of hay) and we went back to camp got there just at noon evrything towards fixing winter quarters goes on very slow the teams not being able to get timber up fast enough been fine day

Thursday the 19th 1863 – fine morning knocking about the camp, working on the Cook house a little. Waiting for stuff to work with most of the time good many seem to be buisy some doing one thing some another, been plesant day

Friday Nov the 20 – plesant morning Comenced Stockading the tent I stop in Sergt Thompson & me were quite buisy got the Stockades all up by noon and evrything back in the tent by night just had timber enough to go round looks some like rain this eavning

Saturday Nov the 21st 1863 – rained considerable during the night, not much doing in camp it being to wet, some of the men were out though cutting timber. I was out a short time with four men cutting a road through the brush, rainy all the time. The paymaster come in camp this eavning our Battalion were payd of. Some of the boys that had borrowed money of me come and payed me like Gentleman, as is usual all feel well after being payed

Sunday Nov the 22nd – fine morning was detailed for picket duty to releave the men up at Youngs Ford. Started with three men just after breakfast to get there so the men can come in in time to get there pay went along at good jog got to the post about noon, and

relieved the men fourteen in all, a Sergt and more men will come here this evening fixed things up a little, took possession of the house I helped to build when here before Sergt Thompson with a Corporal and six men reinforced us just at dark

Monday Nov the 23rd 1863 – splendid morning the Sergt and took a ride out among the farmers we took dinner at Mrs. Whites, Sister of the rebel Major White, she seemed very pleasant to us, after dinner rode out to two or three other houses bought some butter then returned to camp, went on duty this evening been fine day

Tuesday Nov the 24th 1863 – rainy and disagreeable sitting about in the tent most of the time had but little sleep last night some of the boys are playing cards most of the time

Wednesday Nov the 25th 1863 – fine morning doing nothing of importance more than to take care of my horse went up to Edwards Ferry bought some little traps there put in the rest of the day by lounging around

Thursday Nov the 26 – pleasant nothing of importance going on got a letter from C F Morse at Boston also one from Father his portrait was enclosed no news

Friday Nov the 27th 1863 – pleasant morning done some letter writing after which I went out to take a little ride, brought up to a farmer house went in set down had a chat with a couple of Sesesh Ladys and got a fine dinner Before I left which was near night

Saturday Nov the 28th 1863 - fixing to go to camp to get our rations, it commenced raining before I started got to Camp drew the rations left a man to see to putting them on a Canal boat and bringing them up to the post got back to the picket post late in the evening been very wet all day

Sunday Nov the 29th – windy and disagreeable morning fixed up a little went and took dinner with Mrs Hart the place I was at day before yesterday they had two other men visitors at the time. Had quite a pleasant time and a good dinner bought some butter returned to camp in the evening to camp

Monday Nov the 30th – very cold last night also all day writing letters most of the day, two men went to camp yesterday got back last night brought the Glorious News of Grants putting Braggs Army to rout Capturing sixty pieces of Canon an immense amount of small arms and other stores, and twelve or fifteen thousand prisoners all hail to the glorious hero. Meade is advancing on Lee the news is chasing from all quarters, it has been tremendous cold all day

Tuesday December the 1st 1863 – it was very cold last night commenced fixing stables for our horses all getting along well been rather cold

Wednesday December the 2nd – fine morning my chum and me commenced a stable for our horses packed rails and layed them up for stable and kept moving about a little all day The Sergt and one man went to camp to get rations we are to stay here the month out, he

says been pleasant day

Thursday December the 3rd 1863 – fine morning My chum (Geo Small) and me were building stable got it finished, nearly, forenoon afternoon I went out visiting Got a dinner at Mrs Harts, and bought some Butter, got an invitation to call again, went on duty this evening, last night one of the Sentinals come and woke me up he saw a light on the other side of the river thought it was rebels, one of the men and me took our Carbines and went down the toepath away to make some discoveries but everything was quiet got confirmation of the news of Grants victory it was complete

Friday December the 4th 1863 – beautiful morning had a good sleep last night not withstanding I was on duty. Went up to Edwards Ferry with the Sergt bought some little things nothing of importance going on Sitting most of the time myself the boys appear to be busy building shelter for there horses, been a sublime day

Saturday December the 5th 1863 – pleasant morning sitting about the camp reading some played a few games of cards, two of the men went to camp returned in the evening no news of importance other than our Capt has returned to the Co. a wagon crossed the Ford from the Island, six horses, not very deep crossing now, very fine day

Sunday 6th Dec – fine morning, very cold Nothing of importance going on No news from the camp Sitting about the tent most of the day

Monday December the 7 – very cold last night started for camp after I eat breakfast got down there at ten O'Clock got two letters from Walter done what little business I had to do, had a talk with Capt DeMerritt, went to the Canal to see about getting some hay put on a Canal boat got some baked beans for dinner started back to the post and got there just before sundown, three of our company deserted this week they were on post at Conrods Ferry Pendill Leach and Duvall they went over in Virginia and Stole some Silver Ware and cloths before they left Cold all day

Tuesday the 8th Dec – very cold on duty last night, my horse stepped on my toes and hurt it very much sitting about the tent most all day wrote a letter to my Brother Walter very cold this evening

Wednesday Dec the 9 – fine morning brushed up a little and went up to Mrs. Harts and took dinner Had a pleasant time generally talking with the women on Political affairs, bought some Butter, she used me very kind for a Sesech Lyin partasin to use a Yankee Soldier as they call us Never wants to charge anything for dinner. Come back to camp sit about most of the day No news been pleasant day had some fresh bread come this evening

Thursday Dec the 10th – pleasant morning on duty Nothing of importance going on forenoon laying in the tent reading most the time the Sergt went up to Edwards Ferry come down on the toepath with two Prisoners supposed to be deserters. He went back to the Ferry and come home rather tight for a commanding officer, he was very talkative No

news from Camp Meades Army is on this side the Rappidon again and in winter quarters been pleasant day

Friday December the 11th – very cold and stormy this morning had a very little snow The Sergt and two men went to camp with the prisoners My horse got loose last night and lost the saddle blanket after looking for a while I went up to Mrs Harts again got some Eggs & butter and a good dinner had a social chat and returned to camp The report is going the rounds that Moseby is opposite here in Virginia and is going to cross

Saturday December the 12 – pleasant morning sitting about most of the time went up the Edwards Ferry for a little ride Nothing new in that part Comenced raining before I returned went to Mrs Chissels bought some Eggs, quite wet the rest of the day. an order come to the Sergt from the Major to have all the men but one Corporal & three privates to be ready to March (Light) by six O'Clock

Sunday December the 13 – rainy and disagreeable, I am to stay in charge of the post when the rest go. Most of the picket force come down from Conrods Ford to join this they finely had orders from Hd Qts. to return. I guess they think it most disagreeable to start on an expedition it has cleared of fine afternoon one of the men went to camp no news

Monday Dec the 14 – rainy fixed up and went to Camp through the rain. My business is mostly to se about getting my furlough, attended to some other little business and run about through the mud most of the day waited untill the mail come fro the City thinking my furlough would come, it did, but was not Signed by the General Comanding (Auger) he wont grant any more untill them get back that have gone proled about untill it got late, so I thought best to stop for the night, very windy no news of importance. Stoped with Sergt Thompson

Tuesday Dec the 15th – rather cold morning after Breakfast I started back for the Picket Post. Stoped at Mrs Hart got a pair (she presented them to me) socks had an invitation to return take dinner, got back to the post about Eleven O'Clock Nothing new all is as when I left rather cool all day

Wednesday Dec the 16 – rather cool nothing going on brushed up a little took some clothes to wash, and went to Mrs Hoayts took dinner bought some Eggs then returned, Some of Scotts Nine Hundred officers came down the Canal from the upper post Said there was rebs on the other side oppisete Conrod Ferry. One of the men went to camp brought out no news of importance been rather gloomy looking all day looks some like snow

Thursday December the 17 – rainy this morning Cold and disagreeable layed abed rather late, Sit about quarters most the time it being to wet to stir about much got a Sacramento Union, no important news, the river is still raising very fast, it is getting very cold

Friday December the 18 – it is very Cold and the river is raising fast, Corpl cossell & Smith came down from Conrods Ferry we went down to Metcalfs to get dinner had a

good dinner. Muddy & disagreeable all day getting very cold ---- -----.

Saturday December the 19 – very cold and windy saddled my horse went to Conrods Ferry Smith, and me went to Poolsville I got my measure taken for a pair of Boots bought some little things got dinner sit about the store awhile then started back got back to camp about sundown Come by way of Conrods Ferry, got to Sacramento Unions this morning, been very cold all day, heard the blockade was to be raised at Edwards Ferry today. The river is so high they could not Ferry across now The corral and river is near being one, the river banks is full

Sunday December the 20 – Cold and windy all sitting about the fire. friend Blackman and me went up to Mrs Hayets took dinner and made quite a visit bought some Butter & Eggs and brought back to Camp No news A team come from Camp to haul wood and stockades Cold a Disagreeable all day

Monday December the 21st – Cold morning some of the boys went up to our old camp with the team to draw down some wood etc. I borrowed Saml Maddox horse and went to Poolville bought some little nessiary articles sit about the stores, found nothing new going on over there. Considerable trade doing there they all seem well pleased to think the blockade was to be raised across the Potomac at Edwards Ferry, Stoped at Mrs Chisels and got dinner, and a good one too. got back to camp found the boys had got along very well My horse is quite unwell the weather is moderating, think soon will have snow No news of importance Lieut Smith was up from Camp

Tuesday Dec the 22nd – rather dull Cloudy weather on duty last night, and today doing verry little toward Stockading the tent the team drawed some more wood & timber, then went back to Camp Sergt Johnson, Sml Maddox and myself went out to take dinner, first went to Chisels there they were to buisy fixing up for Christmas, went to from there to White' they were troubled the same way. So we was disapointed at them places, we then come down to Metcalfs and got a dinner, then wrote two letters done some little work on the tent, one of our men went to Camp my horse is very sick think I shall lose him, we are out of all kinds of grub looks very much like snow this eavning

Wednesday Dec the 23rd – very clear and cold, had a very little snow last night the canal froze over quite hard went to work helping to stockade the tent we got it all fixed in good shape. I went up to Mrs Hayts for dinner. She made me stay to take supper had quite a plesant visit and a supper, after which the lady was kind enough to give me some Sausage Eggs and pudding, and got an invitation to call on Christmas, got back to camp little after sundown, on duty tonight been cold all day no news

Thursday Dec the 24th 1863 – fine clear morning but very cold, after breakfast (which was very slight) I went to Camp Muddy Branch. to see about getting Rations for ourselves and horses evrything appears going on fine stables are built mostly and quarters are looking neat, the Capt is having our Co. affairs fixed, had a talk with him about the recomend I asked of him for a Lieutenancy I concluded not to ask it of him. He promised me a furlough one of the first. done what other business I had to do and started back to

the Picket Post --- with Fieldman. One of the men went to camp and changed off places with him, it was very cold riding. No news of importance evry one is thinking of having a good time tomorrow. I engaged half gallon whiskey for the post tomorrow

Friday Dec the 25th 1863 – very plesant morning had a good drink of Egg Nog all around to help a slim breakfast along. fixed up a little drank considerable hot whiskey Blackmen of C. Co. and me went up to Mrs. Hayete's for dinner. they had been to dinner the table was waited with a large sized turkey on it for us. the lady made us to glass of hot whiskey then we sit down and eat a hearty dinner, then had quite a visit, stoped untill near night, before we left had an invitation to call again After we got back to camp I got some more whiskey had couple of drinks all around the boys in camp had turkey for dinner, they caught one last night somewhere, so taking it altogether we had a plesant time for Christmas it has been a splendid day

Saturday Dec the 26th 1863 – was on guard last night up all night plesant morning, nothing new all seems gay went up to Edwards Ferry with the Sergt. Co I is stationed there doing Provost duty, there is considerable business doing since the blockade has been raised bought some sugar, then come back to camp, went down to the Metcalf's and complied with an invitation to dinner it was a good one too, what Co. L men were here on picket, had orders to report at camp, bring a Corporal and two men, that puts me on duty again to night. Two of our men went to camp got back at dusk no news, I had a good sleep afternoon, plesant day

Sunday Dec the 27th 1863 – the weather is moderating fast was on duty since two O'Clock and had a little sprinkle of rain, but not enough to amount to anything sitting about the quarters most of the day Sergt Thompson, Cook and Hann of ---- Co. come up from Camp The Sergt brought the clothing rolls for us to ----- I went to Metcalfs and engaged dinner for the party it is drizzling and wet No news, after dinner they started up to Conrods Ford. My horse is very bad no signs of his getting well I turned in early not feeling very well

Monday Dec the 28 – rained most all night wet and disagreeable this morning After sitting about awhile I saddled a horse and took a ride up to Mrs Haytes took dinner had a fine chat While just finishing one of the men come from camp with the information of our having to report to headquarters at Muddy Branch. Went to Camp fixed up evrything to leave and started but they all soon passed me as my horse was very poor, one of Co C's men kept back with me, We called in to Mrs Haytts got as much hot ---- as she calls it as we could drink, then she put us up some Butter Eggs etc to take with us she acted very kind with us I then went along with my horse very moderately getting to Camp about nine O'Clock through the mud etc

Tuesday Dec the 29 – foggy muddy and disagreeable in Camp straightning things up a little got a letter from Father and answered it doing nothing of importance evrything goes of muddy reced a Sacramento Union this eavning no important news

Wednesday December the 30 – Muddy and disagreeable about camp stoped in the Sergts

tent since I come down have to do evrything by the sound of the bugle again, was detailed with three men to guard some stores in the warehouse at the canal Went to the post about nine O'Clock comenced fixing up grain is scatered around on the floor at a great rate got things streightened up some & scraped all the loose grain up in the corners, got a place fixed to sleep tonight, comenced raining this eavning, no news, we get our meals up at camp

Thursday December the 31st – rainy and windy. Slushing about in the mud on duty from four to seven A.M. The canal that were unloading yesterday went up the Canal this morning. Co. C has gone up to Conrods Ford to releave the rest of our Co. there doing nothing of importance wet all day the Government boat from Washington has just come with Commissiary goods for the post We have to guard it tonight been hauling away some grain from the warehouse all day

Friday January the 1st 1864 – very cold morning the teams are hauling away the provisions from Camp doing nothing more than fix up a little in the warehouse, nothing new

Saturday January 2nd 64 – went up to camp, got a pass to go to Poolville after a pair of boots find it very cold riding got to Poolville found the Shoemaker had not made my boots staid there but a short time. Went down on the river road stoped in at Mrs Hyatts a short time, returned to camp about seven O'Clock its very cold all day no news of importance

Re-typed from transcription by Larry and Keith Rogers
Grammatical errors reproduced as faithfully as possible

Epilogue

The entry dated January 2, 1864 was the last recorded by Corporal Roberts in his 1863 journal. Whether he kept a diary for later years remains a mystery. Although we are generally aware of his travels for the balance of the war, the interesting insights offered into a Cavalry trooper's life by his writings will be left to our imagination.

Charles was born in 1843 in New Brunswick, Canada. It appears that his family eventually relocated to California, as he notes that his parents were living in the Bay Area at the time of his enlistment in the Cal 100. He reached 5'7½" in height with dark hair and hazel eyes and was a skilled carpenter and teamster although his varied interests and abilities are borne out in his journal. His frequent notations regarding improvements made to tents, campsites and corrals indicate his industrious nature. Charles appears to have been somewhat temperate in his personal life and mentions (as seemingly viewed from afar) the gambling, fighting and drinking that were common to military life. His sense of fair play is exhibited as he grumbles about being deceived by a superior officer, when duped into volunteering along with others from his company to load hay bales onto a canal boat. (See November 18). There are no complaints over the rigors of soldiering and Charles's sense of humor is evident as he compares the ill-tempered farmers who are

missing turkeys and chickens with the soldier's love of poultry.

Charles appears to have held a close relationship with his father who came to San Francisco to say goodbye before his departure by steamship for the war. Charles notes his enjoyment of the closing hours before his departure, leisurely strolling around town with his father, and later that his father lingered aboard the steamship until all non-passengers were asked to go ashore. What must this farewell have been like for a father and his 20-year-old son?

Charles also seemed to appreciate the beauty of the land. He mentions the snow capped mountains around him while crossing the Sierra Nevada by stagecoach, and notes a memorable sunrise at sea as he watched the "sun peeping up over the world of waters in her majesty".

In the months following the close of this account, Corporal Roberts and the 2nd Mass Cavalry saw a dramatic change in their daily regimen. The spattering of carbine fire and the cat & mouse fighting with Mosby was replaced by the crash of artillery and musketry as the 2nd Massachusetts Cavalry assumed a greater role in the closing battles of the war. Charles was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in March. 1864. During the regiment's heroic involvement at Cedar Creek, Virginia, on October 19 he survived a wound to the thigh and was promoted to 1st Sergeant two weeks later. His service was interrupted at this point, possibly due to complications in his recuperation, but he rejoined the Regiment in February of 1865.

Lt. Roberts mustered out of the service at Fairfax Court House on July 20, 1865 and returned to California. He married Catherine Degau in San Francisco on 14 July 1866, almost a year after his discharge. He spent his remaining years in Oakland and died in 1896, to be buried in Mountain View Cemetery.