

**CAPTAIN CYRUS MARION ROBERTS**  
**78<sup>TH</sup> OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY AND**  
**U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS**  
**CIVIL WAR DIARIES**

**Transcribed by Bradley T. Lepper & Mary E. Lepper (Sweeten)**

**Great-great grandson and great granddaughter of Cyrus M. Robert**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Cyrus Marion Roberts**

**78<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry**

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Excerpts from the Civil War Diary of  
Sgt. William P. Gault, 78<sup>th</sup> O. V. V. I.

McConnelsville Herald 16 January 1902

Cyrus Marion Roberts was born in Deerfield Township, Morgan County, Ohio, on January 14, 1839. Left fatherless at the age of five years, he went, with his mother and sister, to Philadelphia, his mother's native city, where they remained 7 years, during which time he and his sister attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Street School of the Society of Friends.

He returned to Ohio in 1851, and soon after entered Athens College, which he attended for two years. At this time he was compelled to leave school and seek employment, which he readily found with the late C. L. Barker, with whom he remained for two years, after which he was employed by J. B. Stone & Co.

Ambitious to pursue his education, he entered the McConnelsville High School in 1858. He taught in Pennsylvania during the winters of 1858 and '59, continuing his studies in the meantime, and graduated with his class in June 1860.

In November following, he went to New Orleans on business, where he was delayed on account of the blockaded condition of our country, until June, 1861. On his return to McConnelsville he found his mother's health in an alarming condition, and devoted himself to her until her death, one month later.

October 30<sup>th</sup> he enlisted in the service of his country, and assisted in recruiting Company E, 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment, O.V.I., of which company he was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, and went with the Regiment to Camp Gilbert, and later joined the Army of the Tennessee at the battle of Fort Donelson. In 1863, after being promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, he was detailed for duty in the Signal Corps, in which position he remained through the Vicksburg campaign, and afterwards on G. Curtis's staff, in Missouri and Kansas, until January, 1865, when he was appointed Captain, and relieved from duty in the Signal Corps, returned to the Regiment, and was assigned to the command of Company F. He was in command of the company but a few weeks when he was detailed on the staff of Major-General Frank P. Blair, Jr., as Commissary of Musters, mustering out the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, at Louisville, Kentucky, July 31, 1865.

Returning home at the close of the war, Captain Roberts entered into business in McConnelsville, and in March, 1867, was married to Ella C. McCarty, who, with five children -- Mrs. J. S. Cleveland, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio; Mary W., Martha K., Edwin C., and Ella Marion -- still survive him.

He served two terms as Clerk of the Courts of Morgan County, during which time he thought it best, on account of his health, to leave the Muskingum Valley and, in 1878, removed to Columbus, Ohio, where he lived for sixteen years, engaged in active business pursuits, and filling positions of great trust.

Upon the advice of his physician he sought out-door life, and located on a farm near Granville, Ohio. In September 1893, where he lived until his death, December 15, 1900.

He "stood up for Jesus" during the morning meetings of 1858, and united with the Baptist church, of McConnellsville. From that time, while in health, his place was never vacant in the Sabbath School, prayer meeting, or the public gatherings of God's people. After his removal to Columbus he united with the First Baptist church, and later became one of the constituent members of the Hildreth Church, of that city.

In 1894 he united with the Baptist church of Granville, where he retained his membership until death. During his lifetime he was a faithful and consistent Christian, serving the churches, with which he was connected, in nearly every official capacity within their gift.

Tender and impressive services were conducted in the church, by his pastor, Rev. C. J. Baldwin. His remains were carried through the open ranks of his comrades, of '61-'65, and laid in their last resting place in Maple Grove cemetery, Granville.



Captain Cyrus M. Roberts, whose death occurred on December 15, spent the last years of his life at his farm, near Granville, to which he retired from active business life for the benefit of his health. As one who became well acquainted with him during these years and knew him in the home and in his various relations to others, it is a pleasure for me to speak of his manly, Christian character, as it was revealed to me during this time. A prevailing trait of his character was modesty. This was, perhaps, developed especially during these declining years, when he felt that his active services for his country, in business and in society had earned the reward of rest. So quiet was his life among us that, perhaps, only a few appreciated his sterling worth. He had made a career for himself that was honorable and worthy of pride. Yet he never boasted of his achievements, but preferred to stand on the solid merits of his present attainments. His military record was illustrious, yet he scarcely ever referred to it, and few knew how distinguished his service had been. Only by reference to his war diary, which he allowed me to read a few years ago, I found that he performed special and dangerous services in the Signal Corps, and as aid-de-camp to Gen. Pleasanton in the struggles in the West. His valuable services brought him promotion to the Captaincy of his company, and he returned to his regiment in time to participate in the closing scenes of Sherman's march.

His faithfulness in everything relating to duty was one of his most pronounced characteristics. This was especially noticeable in his church work, in which his service was freely bestowed, and efficiently rendered. Every Sunday found him in his accustomed place in the church, and this continued to within a few weeks of his death. He looked forward with pleasure to the services of the Sabbath, and relinquished his place only when failing strength made it impossible for him to attend the services longer. For several years he had served the church as trustee and deacon.

Yet only those who knew him in the home can appreciate the sweetest graces of his character. There he was friendly and cordial to his friends to a rare degree. His home was ever open to them, and his hospitality made it a welcome spot to all visitors. No one ever took more delight in family life. All the members of the home circle shared the affection of his warm, personal nature and were endeared to him by the strongest ties of love.

His life had not been free from trials, but these he bore with patient, uncomplaining fortitude. The most severe of all was reserved for the last. Death, whom he faced unscathed on the battlefield, was destined to come after a long and weary struggle, in which strength ebbed slowly away. But he faced the last foe with courageous trust. For months he knew that the end was approaching. Yet he went about his duties calmly, as his strength permitted. During all the long summer and fall he bore up bravely under the terrible struggle, supporting himself on the "precious promises" which he cherished. The memory of his love, his faithfulness and his patient, Christian living, will ever remain fragrant in the hearts of his friends.

W. A. Chamberlin,  
Granville, Jan. 4, 1901.



The extant portions of the Civil War diaries of Cyrus Marion Roberts begin two years into the war. The following notes are added to provide background and context for the diaries.

**31 October 1861** Cyrus Marion Roberts enlists in the 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry as a private.

**23 December 1861** Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Company E, Camp Gilbert, Zanesville, Ohio.

**11 February 1862** 78<sup>th</sup> O. V. I. Departs from Camp Gilbert.

**16 February 1862** 78<sup>th</sup> arrives at Fort Donelson.

**7 April 1862** Battle of Shiloh: 78<sup>th</sup> in reserve on the right.

**20 August 1862** Lt. Roberts is detailed to serve on Court Martial of Corporal Hubert Henry, Co. F, 78<sup>th</sup> O.V.I., Bolivar, Tennessee. Corporal Henry is found guilty of forging a pass on August 9, 1862 at Bolivar, Tennessee and is "reduced to the ranks, with a reprimand . . ." (General Order No. 11, 78<sup>th</sup> O.V.I., Col. M. D. Leggett).

**28 August 1862** "On last Monday morning, at two o'clock A.M., Companies A and E went on a foraging expedition, having thirty wagons in our train. We went about eighteen miles, stopped at a plantation, ordered dinner, and then made an attack upon corn cribs, watermelons and peaches while dinner was in process of preparation. Three young ladies discoursed us interesting music upon the piano. They were good singers, and sung us songs by the dozen . . .

After passing a few pleasant hours, we made preparations to leave. One of the young ladies spoke to me privately about some of our Lieutenants --- told me to let it be known that our company was very acceptable and would be so again, provided certain Lieutenants came without train and men.

We then left with about two hundred bushels of corn. We went to a neighboring plantation, about two miles distant . . . We met quite a number of women and young ladies here, decidedly the most intelligent and handsome we have met in Tennessee. Their education was of the highest caste. But they were secession all over and entertained the most bitter feelings toward the Yankees . . .

One of the young ladies, unsurpassed in beauty of person and appearance, as well as in every accomplishment of a prepossessing nature, made about as deep an impression upon the Second Lieutenant of Company E as he did upon one of the ladies of the former plantation, and went so far as to tell him if he would come and superintend the servants and the work upon the plantation, he should have whatever he asked.

But all this interesting attachment was cut short when, in a few minutes afterwards, the Lieutenant was sent with a guard to search the house for arms. This he did with some embarrassment. The ladies thanked him for the gentlemanly manner in which he did his duty. We all left for camp, the boys delighted with the day's enjoyment. We reached camp about two o'clock next morning." (Capt. Thomas M. Stevenson, Co. E., 78<sup>th</sup> O.V.I., *Morgan County Herald*, Friday, 12 September 1862).

**30 August 1862** Engagement at Spring Creek (near Bolivar), Tennessee. While on a reconnaissance patrol commanded by Col. Leggett two companies from the 20th Ohio and companies C and E of the 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio encountered a large rebel force, engaged the enemy and retreated. The companies from the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio were captured, but companies C and E successfully made their way back to the 78<sup>th</sup> regiment.

"The two companies of the Seventy-Eighth Ohio were nearly surrounded, but by the dexterity of Colonel Wiles, then Captain of Company C, were saved by wading a swamp and passing through cornfields, piloted by one of the faithful colored men who was acquainted with all the ravines and places of retreat between that and Bolivar.

Toward evening companies E and C, supposed by all to be taken prisoners, returned to camp and were received with many cheers; only one was missing, and he returned next morning (Stevenson 1865:172).

Col. Leggett wrote in his official report: "Lieutenant W. W. McCarty and Second Lieutenants Roberts and Seales . . . are deserving of the highest praise for their personal valor, and for their skill in extricating their companies when entirely surrounded by the enemy" (Stevenson 1864: 177).

"Mr. Adair: -- I hereby transmit to you the names of the members of Company E under my command in the fight near Bolivar on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, and who distinguished themselves for coolness and bravery seldom equalled by more experienced soldiers: . . . Second Lieutenant Roberts of Co. E, whose name appears in Col. Leggett's official report, rendered me material aid on the occasion, and is well deserving all the praise ascribed to him in that document" (Lieut. William Washington McCarty, Co. E, 78<sup>th</sup> O.V.I., *Morgan County Herald* Friday, 10 October 1862).

**18 November 1862** Lieut. C. M. Roberts announced as Aid de-Camp to Col. M. D. Leggett, Commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, in camp near La Grange, Tennessee (General Order No. 6, Col. M. D. Leggett).

**8 February 1863** Lt. Cyrus M. Roberts "detailed in Signal duty" reporting to Capt. O. H. Howard, Chief Act'g Signal Officer, at Memphis, Tenn. (Special Orders No. 14, Maj Gen'l McPherson, 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps).

**10 February 1863** "To-day Lieutenant Roberts left us to join the Signal Corps, which is being re-established in Grant's command. Ever since we left Lagrange he has been acting as Aid on Colonel Leggett's staff, and was missed by Company E very much, for he was always considered an efficient officer by all the company, and made a No. 1 Lieutenant . . ." (Typo., Camp near Memphis; Stevenson 1865:210).

**14 February 1863** Roberts promoted to First Lieutenant.

**15 February 1863** Roberts reported on Signal duty at Memphis, Tennessee.

**15 April 1863** Roberts reported on Signal duty near Vicksburg, Mississippi.

### **May 1863**

"During the march of the army from Port Gibson to Rocky Springs [Mississippi], the officers of the corps were constantly on duty, reconnoitering the country in front and reporting the result of their observations to commanders to whom they were assigned. Lieutenants [Cyrus M.] Roberts and [Jacob P.] Sampson, with General Logan . . . are entitled to notice for zeal displayed and services rendered during this time.

. . . the officers reconnoitered the country as far in advance of the army as possible, and established stations of observation upon such points as were suitable for that purpose. . . .

At the battle of Champion's Hill the officers were active, and rendered very efficient service. Lieutenant Roberts was engaged in signaling while he could do so, and

afterward served on the staff of General Logan, and was complimented by that general for his activity and bravery" (Capt. O. H. Howard, Acting Chief Signal Officer, Hdqrs, Signal Corps, Dept. of the Tennessee, Vicksburg, Miss., august 25, 1863).

## **REFERENCES**

Brown, J. Willard

1896 The Signal Corps, U.S.A. in the War of the Rebellion. U.S. Veteran Signal Corps Association, Boston.

Stevenson, Thomas M.

1865 History of the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment O.V.V.I., from its "Muster-in" to its "Muster-out" . . .  
Hugh Dunne, Zanesville, Ohio.



## THE DIARY

Lt. C.M. Roberts  
H'd Qr's Signal Corps  
August 31<sup>st</sup> 1863  
Vicksburg, Miss.

H'd Qr's "Signal Corps"  
Vicksburg Miss, Sept 1 '63

Morning is quite cool. After breakfast, I commence assisting Lt. Sample "Act-Adj't." to make out the payrolls for the Dutch- a very pleasant day. In the evening we take a game of "Prisoner's base" my side is victorious. Corp. J. B. Bennett returns from furlough. Some of the officers having brought a bbl of Ale - one of them passes around at 9 P.M. and orders all to get up and drink a glass or stand upon their heads. The most of them take a drink. Lieut. Sampson returns from New Orleans. Wilson gets back from home on furlough.

Sept 2, 1863

Cool and Pleasant. The Board of Examiners have their first meeting -- but examine no one to-day - was paid up to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> this afternoon - took a draft on N. Y. for \$140.

H'd Qr's "Signal Corps"  
Sept" 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

Very pleasant weather.

In the afternoon I visit the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Though more especially Co. "E" The boys were feeling pretty well as they had returned the evening before, from a tramp into La. Which lasted 10 or 15 days - today they had put on their new clothes and clean shirts, they had left behind when starting; I love to visit my Co. as the boys seem glad to see me and related their experiences. Good news from Home and c. besides, expressing a wish "that I would return to the Co." Took supper at the officer's mess.

H'd Qr's "Signal Corps"  
Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1863.

This morning the Board of Examiner's met at the Masonic Hall - and I was ordered to be ready to appear when called for. At about 10 A.M. the orderly came for me - and I reported -before them. The "Board" was composed of 5 officers - viz: - One Col. (Blood) One Lieut Col (Hammond) One Surgeon (Maj) and two Captains - (Howard & c)



A Physical Examination being the first on the Program, I entered a side room and stripped (as was necessary) entirely naked. The Surgeon's first remark was "You are a well built man." And after a close questioning was told, "That is sufficient." After this I appeared before the Board when I was examined in Spelling, Reading, Penmanship, Composition, Arithmetic, Chemistry, Philosophy, Topographical Engineering, Surveying, Signaling, My experience under fire, and in making out Returns - Requisitions - & c - & c - If I am commissioned a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut in the new organization - it will be more than my "mere examination" in the foregoing branches - alone - justifies.

The result of the day's proceedings will not be known for some time to come [See following page for results].

Having a note due Demster and Robert's since March 1862 - in New Orleans - I apply for a few days leave-of-absence and Capt. Howard gives me ten days. Upon sending my request to - Gen. Grant - his A.A.G. (Rawlins) made me out a twenty-day leave, and I immediately to go on board the "South Wester" - in company with Lieut Sampson, for the above named place. Go on board about twilight - expect to start during the night. Thought the boat being chartered for "government service" she will sail when ordered.

On board Str" South Wester  
Vicksburg Sept" 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

We did not leave during the night - and early this morning I walked down to the camp (about 1 1/2 miles) ate breakfast and returned to the boat. Ate dinner on board - (price 50 cts per meal) as we do not get loaded to day - I rode out to camp in the evening - and after supper - played a game of base. Sides equal and make a draw game. About 8 P.M. rode back to the boat for fear it might sail without me.

Lts. Baily, Plyby & White were examined to day. Lieut Plyby did not pass physically, being diseased in the heart.

Head Quarters Dept, of the Tenn.

The Board met pursuant to special order No 238 & special order 239 - Present  
Col J H Blood 6<sup>th</sup> Mo Vols.  
Lt Col J H Hammond A.A.G.  
Major CS Hewitt Surgeon U.S.  
Capt O. H. Howard Signal Officer  
Capt Jas B. Fitch 10<sup>th</sup> Mo Vols.

First Lieut Cyrus M. Roberts of the 78 Reg't of Ohio U.S. Vols. Inf. a native of the State of Ohio aged 24 years, educated at the McConnellsville common school and engaged as Clerk before entering the Service. Appeared before the Board. After Surgical Examination he was found physically qualified for the duties of a signal officer. Having

been examined upon the required branches of Education & c. he was found qualified as follows: -

Physical Condition	7 1/2	Good
<hr/>		
Reading	9	
Writing	7 1/2	
Composition & Spelling	5 10	
		6 7/16
Arithmetic	6 1/2	
Chemistry	0	
Natural Philosophy	2 1/2	
Surveying & Topography	1	
<hr/>		
Signal	9	
		9 1/2
Record	10	
<hr/>		

the Board recommend him for appointment in the grade of First Lieutenant in the Signal Corps of the Army of the U.S.

J. H. Blood Col 6<sup>th</sup> Reg  
Inf Mo Vols. Pres'dt

Jas B. Fitch Capt 10<sup>th</sup> Mo Infty Recorder

St'r South Wester  
Sunday - Sept" 6<sup>th</sup> 1863

Laid around the boat all day, hoping to get off it every hour. In the afternoon a Steamer B. arrives from Memphis - and our boat receives a large accession of passengers. "Soldiers returning" on "Furlough"

We finally leave about 8 p.m., after sailing about 6 miles we stick on a sandbar. After working an hour or two get loose - but tie up soon afterwards for the night.

St'r" S. Wester. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

Get under headway about daylight. Pass New Carthage & Grand Gulf. The latter about 11 a.m., and stop and put off some freight and passengers.

The river is very low. Causing our pilot to be very cautious. The lead is often used to try the depth of water at the bow of the boat - at which times the passengers would rush forward to be entertained by the soundings, and the peculiar cry of the leadsman in calling off to the Pilot, the no of fathoms.

Arrived at Natchez about sundown. Took some prisoners aboard - and staid all night. Natchez is the largest and prettiest City in Miss - In a hurried walk through some of the streets, I noticed a great many women and children - having congregated from various parts of the state.

A Division had just crossed the river to make a reconaissance into Westr'n Brig. Gen'l McArthur had come down this far with us - and now takes command of the forces at Natches.

St'r S. Wester- Sept 8, 1863

We started this morning about daylight - nothing, of interest, happened, particularly until we reached Port Hudson, just as we were opposite their batteries a solid shot was fired - (lighting between the boat & shore) to make us land. The Pilot immediately prepared to land, but before we could turn two shells were fired across the bow - and bursting within 50 or 100 yds of the boat caused all hands to dodge and hide or fall flat. I began to fear the rebels had taken repossession of the place, and we were to be taken, but upon a second look saw the federal uniform - although enclosing sable skins - As soon as we landed, Negro guards were placed by the gangway, and the soldiers on the boat, returning furloughed men, being under no commander and feeling piqued - because the shell were fired so close to them, and guarded by darkies - made all sorts of fun of the "nigger".

An Officer in white pants- seeming to be a little officious- and the crew let loose upon him- calling him "Johnny" with the white pants or spurs. Another Officer wanted to buy of the newsboys, some papers - but the crowd would not let the boy go off the boat - promising to buy all his papers. The Officer finally came aboard and got "what he wanted"

A man wearing uniform, Captain's straps & c. looked very much like a Negro - and was a source of new reviling - Arrived at Baton Rogue after night and tied up.

Str. S. Wester Sepr 9"/63

Left Baton Rogue just before daylight - The country on both sides of the river is laid off in Plantations and all are cultivated. A full crop of sugar cane seems to be growing - and the shores do not show destruction - as above Pt. Hudson. The scenery to day was grand.

Donelsonville was destroyed by Adm. Farragut - for harboring Guerillas - and is now very insignificant the entire best portion having been fired. A Fort is built N. of the Bayou - and garrisoned by the U.S.A.

Arrived at N. Orleans about 8 o'clock P.M. having eaten no supper. Lieut. S. and I walked up Canal St ate 2 doz. oysters - each - some ice cream & c. and took up lodging at private boarding house - kept by a Mrs. Bane - And for the 1<sup>st</sup> time since entering the army - I slept on a bed with bedstead, mosquito bar & c.

New Orleans La., Sept 10<sup>th</sup>

Did not get up too early - went to the St. Mary's market and made a breakfast on chocolate, boiled eggs, & c. hired a cab and went to the boat after trunk. Called at H'd. Qtr's Sig. Corps - but nearly every one had gone with Gen. Franklin to Texas on a March or Reconnaissance. Left our letters returned to room No 240 Camp St. About 11 o'clock went to Messrs Levi and Deiter, and collected my note on them for \$150, which I did not expect to get, as nearly all the old firms are busted up, and paying nothing. In such circumstances I consider myself very fortunate. Ate dinner at 1 1/4 P.M. at the Gilpin Restaurant on Soft Shell Crabs, Turtle Soup, Shrimps, Red Peas, Ice Water & c. I am having decidedly a good time!!

New Orleans, La., Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> '63

This morning, although a little cloudy, would be a pleasant time to visit the Lake, I have a light attack of colic, however, and am unable to go on a pleasure excursion. Two Teaspoons full of Painkiller give me much ease, but I do not go out until evening. Then as the Citizen Band is advertised to meet at the Jackson Square, and play a few select tunes I go and see the Square where Gen Jackson is in his uniform and upon his prancing war steed. Cast in iron and placed upon a foundation 10 or 12 feet high.

The stand for the band was close by and against they assembled. The grounds were full of Men, Women and Children, all gathered to promenade the walks and spend an agreeable hour. Nearly every one around me seemed to be speaking French, even the little children and Negroes; all were "lavish with their French". The crowd did not disperse until nearly dark. Horizontal - Rotary Swings or as they were called the "flying horses" were upon the outside of the Square - and by paying five cents I could mount a little wooden horse - and be carried around five minutes. Hand organs and over strained voices added music to the spectators.

New Orleans Sep 12<sup>th</sup> '63

Called on Mr. Benton's store but he was not in - Found out, at Dr. Segan's Drug Store, that Dr Dodson's office was on Canal St. Ate my breakfast at the Poydras St. Market - and from thence took the street cars for the half way house - from thence took a pleasure boat -drawn by a mule - for Lake Pontchartrain - went to the Bath house - and took a swim in the lake - besides a good wash in water too salty to drink. Returned to

Hancock's Entertainment and took dinner on cooked and raw oysters. After 3 P.M. returned by way of the racecourse where a race was trotted for, it was said, \$500. Did not get back to the city until after dark. Lieut. S. and I rolled two games tenpins, took an ice cream apiece, and finding I was very near Dr. Dodson's Office - called on him - after this returned to room 240.

New Orleans La. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 1863

Sunday - Visited the French Market where more than a usual display is made, outside of the Market House - were stands of every variety of goods. Dry goods Hardware, Queens ware &c. & c. & c. and nearly everyone you hear talk, is speaking French, from there we went to the "St. Peter" Catholic Church or Cathedral. The Music and decorations of the Church were most imposing. About 11 a.m. I found my way to Christ's Church - on Canal Street - where I remained during services. The attendance was not large. Gen. Banks was present, also - many other officers - The Church is Episcopal. The Ague attacked me to day and before I leave the Church my head is burning with fever.

N. O. Sept 14<sup>th</sup> '63

This morning I devote to buying all the articles I want to take up the river - as the Steamer Champion is advertised to leave at 12 M - About noon move to the boat, but find out she doesn't intend leaving until to-morrow. Ague again to-day

N. O. Sept. 15, 1863

Call on Dr. Dodson - again - find him packing up to start to Philada. To-morrow after wife and daughter. Ague comes on about 11 a.m. Boat leaves at 9 p.m. after waiting for Brig. Genl' Bowen, U.S.V.A.

On Board Steamboat Champion  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

Did not travel more than 15 miles last night. To-day we are making good progress. Reach Port Hudson after dark. Ague again to-day.

Stm' Champion  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1863

Traveled all night. This is a fine transport - and we have very pleasant passengers. The cabin is covered with Brussels carpet - and everything is new and nice with intelligent servants. Ague again

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 1863

Arrived at Vicksburg about daylight. Move to camp about 9 A.M. and report for duty. Ague today, but commence taking Quinine. Weather very cool to-day.

Vicksburg - Set 19, 1863

No ague today - weather very cool. As most all the "corps" is off on duty I get quite lonesome.

Vicksburg Miss Sept 24'

Nothing has transpired of particular interest since my return. Lts. Irvin, Wilson, Hurt, Sampson and I start a mess they appoint me "Purveyor" as the rest of the crowd are "strapped" - In the evening Capt. Howard details eight officers - including me to prepare to get on the way to the Dept. of the Gulf Hd' Qtr's New Orleans there to report to the Chief Signal Officers of Genl' Banks.

Miss. Sept' 25

Capt. Pigman, Lieutnt's Irvin, Harris, Roberts, Bailey, Warren, Sizer, and Higbee select our flag and train men - forty in no. - and with 2 trains march to the landing and get on board the Steamer "Emerald" bound to N. Orleans, La. But do not get loaded to-day, mustered as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut 78 O.V.I. to-day.

Saturday Sept. 26, 1863

Str' Emerald -

After loading a lot of Government Forage - 150 mules & c. - we leave Vicksburg in the evening, but do not go over 30 miles, when darkness surrounds us and we tie up for the night, close to a gun boat.

Str' Emerald

Sunday - Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

Our boat is a slow one - weather pleasant. Arrive at Natchez about 2 P.M. and commence unloading forage. I mount a horse and take a ride through the city.

Str' Emerald off Natchez

Sept" 28, 1863

Finish unloading forage - in the afternoon sail up the river 4 miles and load up with firewood - drop down to the City again where we remain all night.

Str' Emerald - Sept, 29<sup>th</sup> '63

Leave Natchez very early, about 12 miles below, we stop and take on about 30 cords wood. Weather stormy - all day. In the evening a gun boat hails us and reports 2,000 rebels with 4 pieces of artillery at Morgan's bend, and we are convoyed to Morganza, a small village 10 miles above Bayou Sara.

Gen. Huron's Division of the 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps was engaging the rebel Dick Taylor at Morganza or two miles back - as we passed by - our forces were burning the village when we landed. Stop over night at Port Hudson, La.

Str. Emerald, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1863

Leave Port Hudson very early, weather stormy all day so that we remained the most of the time in the cabin. Arrived at New Orleans about 5 o'clock P.M. and started to find the Hd. Qtrs. of the Signal Corps, but when there, the chief and party had preceded us, and was at Granklin, La. So we remained on the boat all night.

New Orleans, Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Called upon Post Q.M. Capt. Mark and procured the use of a large yard used for a cotton press. About 9 o'clock a.m. move to the cotton press and fix up Qtr's.

New Orleans Louisiana  
Monday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

Since Saturday - we have been unable to get transportation by R. R. to Brashear but are now told we may go this evening - so we pack up, cross the river by ferry to Algiers and find our way to the Depot, when we report to the Master of transportation, and his reply was, we would have to wait until another evening, as 400 cavalry were now being sent.

We went into camp by the Depot. Algiers is a good-sized town, and settled with mechanics and workingmen generally - Irish, French, Dutch and Americans. Our Camp was immediately beset by a score or more of women, peddling cakes, pies, applies, milk, Liquor, & c. & c.

While in the city of N. O. the boys improved their opportunity of seeing the sights. I visited the Lake again and returned "via" of Carrollton, had a pleasant time.

Algiers, La.  
Tuesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 1863

We remain in camp all day, about 5 o'clock P.M. we are ordered to strike tents and load our horses & c. on the cars, but against we get 3 of the wagons to the cars, the order countermanded or postponed until 11 P.M. I put up my tent again and tried to sleep, but in vain -

Brashear Louisiana  
Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

This morning, about 1 o'clock, we were ordered to load our traps on the Cars - we did so, and started for this place about 4 A.M. arrived about noon; sleepy, tired & hungry.

Brashear although called a City is rather a small town, being on Berwick Bay and a very good shipping port. In the afternoon we cross over to Berwick, a small town opposite Brashear. This being the head of the Bay - it is not more than two miles across.

As we landed, we noticed several soldiers fishing for crabs along the banks and as we went into camp near by some one brought a hard shell crab to my tent - saying he had caught it & told how easily. My Cook ("Joe") threw the crab into boiling water and in 5 minutes brought it back cooked. As it was very good I went to the wharf and finding a little pole with a string attached - also a piece of beef tied on for bait I went to fishing. After a little while I caught a large one by pulling him to the surface in his eagerness for the bait, and before he let go - slipped a little scoop net under him and secured the prize. I was pretty well satisfied, returned to my tent and had it cooked and eat before going to bed. The Berwick boys almost live on them.

Franklin La – Oct. 8, 1863

We started on our march about 6 1/2 A.M. our route is along Bayou Leche (Lash) or Atchafala River. The country low and level, the plantations most splendid, but the houses are all vacant - and going or gone to ruin. Almost every farm has a sugar house, and the orange trees are almost as numerous as apple trees in Ohio - and at this season of the year, loaded with fruit. We get long poles and knock off the ripe ones, until we are tired. The trees are about the size of thrifty apple trees. We stopped to dine near an orange orchard of about 100 trees. Arrived at Franklin about 5 P.M. and went into camp for the night, having marched about 28 miles.

Camp  
Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 1860

Marched about 26 miles to day, the road continuing along the Bayou. The country, although covered with sugar plantations has not the supply of oranges, as that we came through yesterday. The people are almost all French and are protected by safeguards, or the French flag. See many more people, citizens, than yesterday - catch up to the rear of the 13<sup>th</sup>". One French Lady owning a plantation had from 10 to 15 hundred hhd's sugar and a large amount of molasses - was supplied with a safe guard.

Hd. Qtrs. 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps near  
Vermillionville La. Oct 10" 1863

To day Lts. Sizer and Higbee commence running a wire from New Iberia toward Gen. Banks' Hd. Qtr. near Vermillionville. The country becomes rolling as we advance and cross some large prairies - catch up to the advance and report to Capt. Roe - Chief Signal Officer Dept. of the Gulf - A practical man.

Camp near Vermillionville La  
Hd. Qtrs. 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps Oct. 11 '63



March at 7 A.M. towards Opelousas - 12 miles - leave Lieuts. Bailey and Warren at Vermillionville at a church steeple for a station. About six miles establish another station, and go on to Carrion Crow Bayou and encamp. We drive some rebel cav., as we advance. Establish a station at Genl' Franklin's Hd Qtrs -

Hd Qtrs 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
In advance, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

We have established a signal station near Hd Qtrs Maj. Genl' W. B. Franklin and are doing good business -

This morning firing commences by the Pickets and after breakfast, Capt. Roe wanted Lieut. Irvin and I to accompany him to the front. We do so and find that, a large body of rebel Cavalry have appeared before us and our Artillery and skirmishers at work. Capt. Roe remains with the Gen. & Lieut. Irvin goes to the left and I to the right - and get on top of a house, from which I can see the enemy very plainly - send many messages during the engagement - the rebels withdraw about 11 1/2 A.M. and our Cavalry follow about two miles - had one man killed and about 12 wounded. The rebels seem to have made a reconnaissance in force. Thus ends the skirmish near Carrion Crow Bayou. I followed them beyond our advance Cavalry then returned to Hd Qtrs -

Hd Qtrs 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
In advance Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

Nothing more seen of the enemy, Gen'l Franklin had resolved to pitch into them if they appeared again, even if we were without a supply of rations.

Lieut. Harris arrived in the evening from N. O. and brought us mail, in which I recd' orders to go to Columbus Ohio and open a Recruiting Station for the Signal Corps, U.S.A. My companions think me much favored and would like to go Home on such an errand.

Hd Qtrs 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
Oct. 17.

Gen'l Franklin moves his Hd Qtrs 3 mile to the front to day. I am busy making out papers to turn over my horses and equipments. Very windy, not much Signaling done to day.

New Iberia La. Oct 18'

After breakfast this morning I take leave of my companions and go to Hd Qtrs Gen'l Banks, and after dinner with Lieut's Wicker, Sizer, Abbott and Jackson, Lieut. Sizer and I go to New Iberia and arrive 7 P.M. at Lieut. Higbee's Office of Signal Telegraph, the distance traveled 33 miles.

New Iberia La. Oct. 19

Remain at the above place all day waiting for a boat to Brashear but no one arrives. Lieut. Higbee is very busy with his Signal Telegraph.

New Iberia La  
Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 1863

The Steamer E. G. Brown arrives during the night and this morning I take my departure along Bayou Leche - nothing remarkable happens during the day, an alligator about 10 or 11 feet long is seen basking himself in the sun, but plunges off of his log into the water upon being fired at by a soldier with pistol. Enter the about dusk and Berwick Bay about 7 o'clock P.M. where a special train is waiting the arrival of Gen Banks' staff - as they are contending for the whole of the passenger car rather than insist, I take position upon the beds and baggage in the freight car and ride to Algiers very comfortably save the tormenting mosquito whose annoyance lasts from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January to the 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec".

New Orleans, La.  
Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

Arrived in the City this morning take up boarding with Mrs. Hamilton 269 Camp St. a good Union family - being a widow, and having two sons in the Federal Army. Reported to the Q.M. for transportation but no Government boats are leaving.

New Orleans  
Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1863

The Steamboat Citizen is to leave for the North this evening - consequently as this is my only chance I take passage.

Memphis, Tenn.  
Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 1863

Arrived here last evening. As it was late I did not find Capt. Howard, but this morning met Lieut. Sampson, and was soon shown to Hd Qtrs.

Presented my orders, and arranging to take Sergt. Homer G. Woodin to Columbus, Ohio with me. Memphis has improved very much since April, 1<sup>st</sup> nearly every vacant lot has been taken up and storerooms built thereon - and business seems most flourishing. Several packets are running to Cairo, with a good share of Patronage and Profit.

The Corps has been divided up to suit the present movements of the Army. Gen. Sherman takes Grant's position of the Dept. of the Tennessee - Gen. Grant has been given 3 Departments - The Ohio, Cumberland and Tennessee - To each Army Corps in the Dept. of Tenn., has been assigned one Capt. and seven Lieuts., Capt. O. H. Howard making his Hd Qtrs. near Gen'l Sherman. The weather is good.

Memphis Tenn. Nov" 2<sup>nd</sup> '63

Turn over my "Signal Kit" and go on board the Steamer "Commercial" bound for Cairo. Sgt. Woodin accompanying. At Memphis I recd' one months pay from Maj. McGrath - Weather fine.

Cairo, Ill's  
Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1863

Arrived here about 2 1/2 P.M. find the place very muddy and filthy. Stop at the St. Charles Hotel at 2 1/2 dollar's per day - and find it far below my expectations. Eatables poor no tablecloth on the table - room very common and bed very poor.

I have been on picket duty and slept in my blanket with more satisfaction. Procure ticket for myself and transportation for Woodin.

On R.R. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

Train started at 3,30 A.M. from Cairo Ill's - Reached Centralia for Breakfast. Arrived at Cincinnati, O. about 11 1/2 P.M. and changed cars - for Columbus, O. I took a sleeping car for the first time.

Columbus, Ohio  
Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 1863

Reached this place about 4 1/2 A.M. took a bed in the National Hotel and did not get up till near 8 o'clock A.M. - Saw the Chief Q.M. at the State house, but could not get any Public rooms - hunted for the balance of the day - to find a suitable room to rent did not succeed in finding one to day. Ate dinner with Dr. Kennedy at the Buckeye House.

Columbus, O.  
Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

Sergt. Woodin and I started out with renewed energy - and succeeded in renting a very good room - though in the 2nd Story of the Deshler building - rent very high, but could get none suitable at a less rate. Rented a stove and procured a table, chairs, bucket, broom & c, & c. Got up an advertisement for the Daily Ohio State Journal, also some Posters.

Columbus, Ohio  
Monday Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Yesterday - I went to Church and before the sermon was over, a chill came on me, when I shook like a leaf.

This morning I opened my office, hung out my flags, and was preparing for calls. Advertisements being in the paper - Weather pleasant.

Columbus O.  
Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 1863

This morning hired a Poster to put up my bills - in and throughout the City. Had several callers, but on acct of having no Bounty to give upon being mustered no one ventured to enlist.

Columbus, O.  
Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 1863

Men continue to call - send Posters to Mt. Vernon, Urbanna, Zanesville, Cambridge, McConnellsville, Malta and various other places. Weather clear and moderate

Columbus, O.  
Monday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> '63

No funds yet recd rather discouraging, when I am having many calls - Other Recr'tg Officers are offering large Bounties and receiving accessions slowly.

Columbus, O.  
Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1863

Weather damp with showers to day I enlisted Mr. Emil R. G. Sattes - of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Artillery. Though he is out of money and I can give him no Bounty yet.

Columbus Ohio  
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 1863

Weather "cold and wet" - recd another Recruit Wm H. McKinney - though I could not give him Bounty. Sent off my Tri-monthly report this A.M., my hands are tied as yet in the way of offering inducements. I reported in fall to Capt. Wm J. L. Nicodemus Asst. Supt. Corps Recruiting Service - have not recd. a line from him since my arrival.

Columbus Ohio, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> '63

Recd. A communication from Maj. Wm J. L. Nicodemus - requiring a full report of my doings since leaving the Dept. of the Gulf also the authority for opening my Recruiting Station in Columbus. This order seemed a strange one but I may answer in full

Col. O. Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

Recd. J.C. Gosling of Cin. O. as a recruit - explaining to him my inability to pay the first installment.

Columbus, Ohio – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

Recd William R. Owens into the Corps. Weather damp and cold - withdrew my advertisement on the 24<sup>th</sup> as I was unable to live up to my agreement therein - concluded to wait further instructions from Washington, as what men I now have are out of money, and dissatisfied, it is unpleasant to feel under obligations, and have nothing certain to relieve me. If I am to be put off much longer - I will refuse to receive anyone, that I lay myself responsible to.

Columbus, O. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Receive orders from Washington, also money to pay subsistence and Recruiting expenses, but am not allowed to pay anything but \$2 Premium. Send off my Reports for the month of November to Lieut R. P. Strong.

Columbus, O. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> '63

Receive one recruit James B. Haynes a Bookkeeper from the firm of Harris & Sigler. Weather pleasant – have not recd. any orders in regard to paying or getting Bounty for my men. It is quite discouraging - as I think I might have recruited 40 or 50 men by this time.

Columbus, O. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

We are having beautiful weather. Recd one recruit Mr. Reinhold Lanstrom, a native of Sweden, occupation Bookkeeper. Have made very few acquaintances and spend my time in the Office Board at the U.S. Hotel.

Columbus, Ohio  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

We are having beautiful weather. But I have got the blues for once. My funds to pay Bounty have not been recd and my men are applying to me for loans. I have not recd instructions to enable me to proceed, and am doing nothing, have just recd an order to furnish no clothing to my recruits as they will be inspected at Georgetown D.C. and then be uniformed.

How trying it is to be ordered to do something, and after striving to do your best, find you have done wrongly, and know not how to proceed.

Before receiving the order I had drawn money of my own to lend the boys, also drew clothing, under my present circumstances I am afraid to promise my men anything, as I have been frustrated several times already. I would rather be doing the most severe campaigning, than to be situated.

Columbus, Ohio  
Monday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 1863

For a few days we have had rainy, drizzling, weather. This afternoon, the wind is blowing and the mud drying up. Getting cold. A little snow about 2 P.M. I have recd nothing more from Asst Supt Rectg., Capt. O. H. Howard advises me by letter to close my office until I get full instructions. Indeed it is only kept open as a place to loaf and kill time.

Yesterday I attended Sabbath School, and Preaching in the morning at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church. In the afternoon went to a German Catholic Church - to hear the music. During the sermon I went to sleep. At night went to hear the Pastor of the Congregationalist Church, Mr. Goodman, and was very much interested. He gives me more elevating ideas than any other Pastor I heard in the City. I think I leave church better prepared to battle with every day life than when I entered!

A few pews were set apart or especially dedicated to soldiers, and every pew in the Church was supplied with a book containing hymns and written music (adaptable) on the same page. I think it was called the "Puritan's Collection" by Beecher.

Columbus Ohio  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

Started for McConnellsville at 4 A.M. when I reached Zanesville found the Muskingum River frozen over, so I took a space in a hack - already too much crowded.

After going 8 miles the axle broke and the load tumbled out, but procured a farm wagon and sent jolting along the balance of the way,- reached McConnellsville about 4 P.M.

Malta Ohio  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1863

Spent the morning in McConnellsville, but went back over the river to Mrs. James Rogus where a sumptuous dinner was prepared for the family gathering,- had a pleasant time and went home.

Spent the evening at Mr. James B. Welch's - where I was kindly entertained with music accompanied by voice's of Misses Frank & Kate. The ferry not running on account of ice I staid with Eck McConnell at Brewster and McCarty's store.

McConnellsville, Ohio  
Dec 26

Ran around the most of the day, but went out to S. C. Brewster's farm 1 3/4 miles and spent the night, also settled up my business of over two years standing.

McConnelsville, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

Weather wet and roads muddy, got back to town in time to go to church and Rev. Henry Barker preach an interesting sermon at the Baptist Church , remained at Mrs. Barker's the remainder of the day. Attended the Presbyterian Church in the evening and heard Rev. Kelly - Still raining.

McC- Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>

Today I sold the house and lot belonging to Sister Mattie and I, to Miss Matilda Pickett - for 11431-11114-11111.5 (\$350.00). In the evening attended an exhibition of "Dred" or "A tale of the Dismal Swamp" held in the Town Hall, by the young folks of McConnelsville was quite interesting and had a full house.

McC- Dec. 29 '63

Expected to return to Columbus today, but the hack left me, and I have to wait until tomorrow. Attend the exhibition again in the evening, house jammed.

Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 1863

The "Falcon" blows her whistle early in the morning and I jump aboard with my friend Martin R. Andrews who has enlisted with me. Reached Zanesville about 1 1/2 P.M., Mattie and I stop at the Zane House but as soon as she does a little shopping, starts back on the "Falcon". I meet 3 other recruits awaiting me, and start for Columbus at 10:30 P.M. with squad.

Columbus Ohio

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 1863

Reached this place about 2 A.M. and find 22 men awaiting me as I expected to start them to Washington to day. Buy transportation for 24 men, but think it best not to start until tomorrow morning train.

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Columbus, Ohio

Start 23 men in charge of Sergt. H. G. Woodin to the camp of Instruction at Georgetown, D.C. Weather extremely cold, and wind blowing fiercely. Commence making out my returns for December '63.

Columbus Ohio

January 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather very cold; during the past 9 days the thermometer has ranged from zero to 10 degrees below. Many have frozen to death in the different parts of the country, about 4

inches of snow is on the ground and the bells are jingling all the day, price for sleigh and Horse, one hour \$2.00 - if you are a particular friend you can get it six hours for nine dollars.

The ague has given me another trial this week, and I keep pretty close to the stove. The Legislature is in session here and the City - full of people. Dr. Dorsey gave us a lecture upon the Gen'l & Statesman Andrew Jackson - last evening in the Representative hall in Commemoration of the battle of New Orleans.

Columbus, Ohio.  
Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

This morning I started 16 recruits to the Camp of Instruction Georgetown, D.C. in charge of Homer G. Woodin.

We are having Spring weather - and the streets are crowded, almost, with soldiers Regiments that have served two years are re-enlisting and coming home to be organized into Veteran Reg'ts - and recruit to the maximum number. Recruiting has been pretty good.

Columbus Ohio - March 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

During the last month I have enlisted and accepted 106 recruits very many were rejected - others I had no time to wait on and went away. Had to work from 8 1/2 A.M. 'til 10 or 11 P.M. nearly every day. The draft is hurrying men into the service, and I am getting my choice of applicants.

Columbus, Ohio  
April 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

Having recd an order from the Sec of War discontinuing this station I am ordered to Indianapolis Indiana to open a Rectg Station for the Signal Corps U.S.A. Since opening my office at this place I have recd about 185 men 2 or 3 of whom were rejected after arriving at the Camp of Instruction, Georgetown D.C.

Have had a pleasant time here, though did not get acquainted with many who are equal to superior to my old associates in McConnelsville, Ohio, having been engaged in the way and its associations for nearly two years in the field, I do not feel like sacrificing any of my regard for the society I formerly was a member of, consequently did not cultivate my acquaintances in this place.

Had a very good and pleasant Boarding house at Mrs. Osgood's 210 Town Street, and pleasant room mates; Lieuts Lloyd Fisher, Wood and Lt. Col. Wall of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ill's. All wounded.



Rect Office Signal Corps U.S.A.  
Indianapolis, Ind. April 13<sup>th</sup> 1864

After much running about and enquiring - I obtained an office as Hd Qtrs - bought Table, chairs, stove & c. & c. and am ready to commence Recruiting in earnest, though have no place to board recruits at Government rates.

Indianapolis is a very busy and energetic place, at present crowded with solders, "Veterans" on Furlough. The prices of everything are enormously high for this country. I stepped into a 2<sup>nd</sup> class Hotel and inquired the prices of Boarding, the answer was \$14 Per week and \$45 Per month. One reason for these high prices must be, the Boarding houses have all they can attend to and the Hotels are crowded with Officers and soldiers, who, having just returned from the front are remarkably liberal and pay any price asked.

Rectg Office Signal Corp U.S.A.  
Indianapolis Ind. April 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather cloudy, has been wet, very wet, during the last month. Returned yesterday from a two days visit to Uncle Lucas Gillingham's family in Wabash Co. Ind. Found S.A. Tyson in a decline and not expected to live long.

Gov. Morton of Ind. Has called for 20,000 one-hundred day men to garrison the border town forts & c while the three year troops go to the front and close the war if possible, this campaign or year.

The stores and business houses close at 12. M. to pay all attention to recruiting merchants are offering to keep up the pay of clerks, and situation when returning, if any turn out.

The Government Bounty is \$100. And no Local Bounty in the State so there is little inducement to go for 3 years. Indiana is ahead of Ohio in regard to enthusiastic Loyalty. Every Veteran Regiment, returning home are met at this place with quite a reception, cannon firing an hour or two in quick succession and a dinner prepared by the Ladies who give a returning soldier a welcome and cheer the heart as only ladies can do. Every Regiment or detachment passing through this city has good quarters and plenty of good cooked rations, already furnished and at hand.

Recruiting Office S. C. U.S.A.  
Indianapolis, Ind May 13<sup>th</sup> '64

By order of the Secretary of War, I close my rectg station and am to report to the Commanding Gen'l "Dept of Kansas" but will wait until the 17<sup>th</sup> to close up my accts. The weather is excellent. The people are very hopeful about the operations of Gen'l Grant after his six days fighting near Richmond, and the news of this morning is the best we have yet received. We think the "beginning of the end" is approaching.

St. Louis, Mo  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Left Indianapolis, Ind. At 10:25 P.M. yesterday and arrived here about 11 A.M. to day, reported at the Hd Qtrs of Maj. Gen'l. Rosecrans. Recd. an order on the Quarter Master for Transportation, and a pass to remain in the City. Did not see Gen'l. R. as the Asst. Adjt. Gen'l. Transacted the business. After procuring an order for transportation for myself and two men, Sergt. Homer G. Woodin and James H. Hiatt, we went on board the Steamboat, M Mapham, which was advertised to leave at 4 P.M. but was informed (on board) she would not leave until next day, but as this was as soon as any other boat would go, I remained on board.

Towards evening I took a streetcar for "Lafayette Square or Park" - situated at the South Western extremity of the City. The Park contained about 10 acres and was well laid out although in poor repair. West of the Park was one of the line of forts in the rear of the City, built by Gen'l. Fremont in 1861 - it was a strong work, but as it was not garrisoned, was getting impaired.

St. Louis, Mo.  
May 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

This morning I visited the "Benton Barracks" about 3 miles North west of the "Court House. Went and returned by Street Cars. The Barracks were much better than I anticipated. In the eastern part was the "Genl. Hospital" situated in a very pleasant grove which was sodded nicely - and laid out in gravel walks - the grass was long and luxuriant, and protected by a light board fence, very nicely white-washed - the trees were also nicely whitewashed to the height of 8 feet, the out houses, offices, chapel and all the buildings were white-washed also, so that on as pretty a morning, the effect was excellent. The enclosure all together contains near 25 acres, I should think, and the buildings occupied by colored soldiers squads of men were seen drilling in different places, preparing for the field.

In the afternoon I attended the "Mississippi Valley Sanitary Fair" admittance one dollar. The building was erected of boards for the express purpose, and extended one square in length, had wings also, which gave it somewhat a shape of the cross. To give a description of the variety as seen in the different Departments, would take too long, besides, I had but two hours to go through the whole collection, for fear the boat would leave. Nearly \$200,000 had already been contributed in the variety. There were many inducements to spend the extra greenbacks. Viz. - the Skating Park, Holland & Yankee Kitchens, Ice Cream, Soda Water and Lemonade, eatables of all varieties, and goods of all descriptions.

May 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

Do not leave St. Louis until 7 o'clock A.M., as we leave the city the Manufacturing establishments are displayed along the river, and the wharf represents an arc, Twenty-five miles above city the Missouri river enters the Mississippi and Alton Ill's is seen upon the Ill's bank just above the entrance. The town is situated on a bluff, and has a commanding appearance.

Hd Qrs "Fort Leavenworth", K.

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1864

After 6 days of hard work and skillful Piloting our boat reaches this point. The river is low; the snags sand bars & islands innumerable are impediments that will always hinder a rapid and beautiful sail up the Missouri river; - when the water is very low, the channel is washed anew every season.

Many beautiful farms and plantations were passed; some on an extensive prairie bottom and others on the rougher broken country that is seen often upon both sides of the river, high and steep declivities of rock are often seen and the buzzard hovering or perching' round indicates the place of rearing their young. The timber along the banks was good cordwood selling from 2 1/2 to 4 dollars per cord, as we ascended the river.

The landing place, the battleground of our forces under Gen'l Lyon were visible, just below Boonville Mo. Also the fort surrendered by Col. Mulliken after a desperate contest at Lexington, Mo. to Gen'l Price of the rebels. The towns along the river are generally neat and cleanly in appearance - though unable to do much business on account of the war. The people seem enterprising; some hemp was seen at the landings ready (in bales) to be shipped.

Madam Rumor said our boat was in danger of an attack or capture by Guerrillas who infested the country though we came along unharmed. At Glassgow, on the North side of the river, the people and soldiers were organizing to repel an expected attack from Quantrile the Guerrilla Chief in Mo.

Kansas City in Mo. seemed to be the most enterprising place along the river. Wyandotte in Kansas is in sight and the State lines separate the places.

Leavenworth City the largest town and the place of destination, is the most business place, several of the passengers bound for California and Idaho, leave this place by Government train. Western traders here do a great deal of business.

Three miles from the City ("North") is Fort L. situated on a government reserve 6 miles square, 'tis not so much of a Fort as it is a Post or Hd Qtrs., large and extensive arsenals and other buildings are, and all built of stone or brick. I reported to Maj. Gen'l. Curtis, who had a very fine Hd Qtrs in a brick house, and as the Quartermasters Office was closed I could not be assigned to Qtrs until next day. Gen'l. Curtis kindly invited me to

remain with him during the night and I did so, and having lived in my section of the country in Ohio was interested in hearing from many old acquaintances.

Hd Qtrs Dept. of Kansas  
Fort Leavenworth, May 25<sup>th</sup> 1864

The morning was very pleasant in inquiring about Qtrs, houses and equipments Gen'l. Curtis informed me I could get supplied much better at Fort Scott, and issued an order for me, and a party to report to the Commanding Officer of the Fort. Accordingly I make the necessary arrangements, and receive an order for Transportation on the State Company, and proceed to the City of L.

Paola, Kansas  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

As I could not get a seat in the stage for myself and men, on account 13 passengers reengaged I waited 'til today Started from L- City at 6 1/2 A.M. and arrived here (60 miles) about 5 P.M. by stage and hauling 13 passengers - 9 inside and 4 outside besides the driver.

The country 6 miles from the city of L- is prairie and continues so all day. Oftentimes seeing nothing in some directions but earth and sky. The grass is about 8 inches high, the country rolling though higher along the streams than other places. Timber is growing only along the streams, many farms are seen and small log or frame houses are dotting the prairie in every direction though in some places far apart. Camps are passed in which teams and teamsters have not started on their day's journey, the cattle and mules enjoying the grass. Many farms are passed which are cultivated, and look as well as farms in general. Two Indians crossed the stage over the Kansas River and seemed intelligent, were dressed partly in Federal uniform.

The Kansas Regiments are all mounted, and contain very many Indians, though the commanders and people much prefer a Negro soldier to an Indian. The reputation given is they are a lazy, dirty, stubborn, pilfering people, they are good to follow an enemy on a retreat, but will not do to make a charge, or stand and be shot at.

The inhabitants of Kansas I am informed are intensely loyal, and, a ("Copperhead") rebel sympathizer in Paola, would have to keep very quiet or if his sympathies were made known he would be hung as quick as they could tie a rope to a limb. The contest between the Free-State and Pro-slavery men in 1856 only prepared them for determining for the Union at all hazards.

The burning and sacking of Lawrence and raids, besides the bushwhacking system of warfare in which a man is called up at the dead hour of night, and, as soon as he makes his appearance at the door - "Shot down in cold blood" has so enraged the populace of the border counties - that they can hardly contain themselves even in earnest conversation.

Paola is a town of 600 or 700 inhabitants I should think though was told it contained 1,000. In 1856 only two houses were standing. The country around is the best I noted on the road, four creeks joined very near by, saw mills are handy, water and timber plenty, and very good.

Hd Qtrs Fort Scott Kansas  
May 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

The day was quite warm - a ride of 65 miles brought me from Paola Miami Co. to this place. Bourbon Co. The country was rougher (much) than on the way from L. City to Paola. Yesterday (Sunday) the stage did not travel, the business suspended - even the Barber shop was closed - an example for places of "granted Christianity" - no preaching was had though there was a Sabbath School.

This Town is (I suppose) a sample of the country - nearly every man, soldier or citizen is carrying from one to 2 or 3 revolvers and knife - it looks strange though I suppose it is partly a habit as well as occasionally a necessity.

Two small "Lunette forts or Bastions are erected here - and are now being repaired and stockaded in the rear. I reported to Col. Blair Commanding Post, who seems to be much of a gentleman - am informed I can get Horses and equipments - tents & c. here.

The town I should think has 1000 inhabitants. Along the street I saw several Indians, mounted, who were traveling and in their native every day dress. Some paint was observable on the cheek bones, of the men and heads shaved, all but a tuft or patch of long hair on the top - such squalid disagreeable looking people I never saw before.

Hd Qtrs Fort Scott, Ks.  
Friday - June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Weather quite warm, made out requisitions on the Q.M. for 3 horses and the ordnance officer for equipments. The horses I drew were poor, having been once condemned but now recruiting on the prairies.

"Osage" Catholic Mission  
June 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

This morning I started to this place in company with Mr. Geo. Reynolds - an Indian Agent, Mr. Gordon, a merchant of Fort Smith, Arkansas; - who is taking his goods by mule teams from Fort Scott to his home. Also 8 or 9 soldiers returning to their respective commands beside one of my men - "Jas. H. Hiatt." Leaving at 9 A.M. The day was quite warm and our traveling pretty slow. The country was an open prairie as heretofore seen, though thinly populated - fifteen-miles south, we came to where a house had been burned but 3 days before, by the Bushwhackers. For Twenty-miles further we saw but two houses which were inhabited. The Mission owns a large far, and four good-sized log houses - weather boarded - besides the granary, mill, and other out-houses.

Composed of "Father" Shoemaker, 3 or 4 teachers or attendants, and about 65 Indian boys from 5 to 17 years of age, inhabit two houses on the right wing, while the Sisters and about 60 Indian girls occupy the left wing.

The Indians seeing the advantage of education offer their children, and a part of them are rec'd; generally at the age of 4 or 5 years before they habits got too strong a hold. The pupil is cared for bodily and spiritually according to Catholic usage - and instructed in the common English branches to include Algebra. Many of the educated pupils have entered the U.S.V. Army - those behind engaged in farming, and live near the Mission, on Sunday coming as far as 4 miles to church. The "Father" has much influence among them and has exerted it for the cause of the Union and loyalty, though many went South or into the rebel ranks. One company of the 15<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cav. are here on duty, and are assisted in scouting & c. by the tribe of Osages living in this vicinity.

25 miles South of the "Mission"  
June 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

This morning - (after resting well in a cot at the Mission furnished by "Father Shoemaker") I proceed to catch up to the Refugee Indians from Arkansas and neighborhood of Fort Smith - who have been making their homes for a year or two in Kansas on acct. of Secession, but now returning (under an escort of soldiers) to their homes. I caught up to the rear of the train about noon. Every wagon was loaded with their old tents & trumpery - a few chickens, dogs, pups, squaws, and children - the babies "papooses" being plenty. Very few men were along having joined the Federal Army - a great many old men & squaws were mounted on their ponies - their hair was long and hanging in profusion in all directions, hardly ever looking as if any care was taken of it - or their faces. Getting into camp about 3 P.M. the wagons were drawn up in line the tents and commissaries taken out while fires were built, wood gathered and ponies "lariated" on the prairie to feed. A shower coming up, and there being much thunder & lightning, a horse and Negro man were killed, and an Indian woman severely injured - there reported 5,000 Indians in this train from the tribes or what was left of the Chickasaws, Euchees, Cherokees and Creeks, the latter of darker complexion than the first and much more numerous. The train was in charge of the Supt. Mr. Coffin who ranks as Colonel - the Agents rank as Major. I was introduced among them and was very kindly treated. Slept on a buffalo robe and blankets for the night. These Indians are pretty civilized and dressed (though very poorly & in rags) as white people or more like the contraband Negroes, having few hats, bonnets or shoes. The men generally carried a rifle and hunted on the route. I saw 3 of them carrying each their portion of a deer, slung on their backs by means of hickory bark and sticks. Several Negroes were seen among the number who have inter-married - the Negro often being the interpreter to the whites.

Osage "Catholic Mission"  
June 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

Left the bivouac of the Indians after breakfast and rode 25 miles; through unsettled prairie country and arrived at this place about 2 P.M. saw several Indian graves along the road - consisting of a wood box about 3 feet high - in which the corpse is sitting upright facing the rising sun. His pony is slain and put in the same box - a pot of vegetables, bow & arrows, pipe & tobacco and blanket, accompanies. Stones are piled up around and on top of the box. In the evening I visited the Mission School, was introduced to the Father and brothers, visited the Library, Drug shop, P.O. school room and sleeping Apartment, heard the boys read in several readers - among them the 6<sup>th</sup>, heard them explain and answer several questions in Grammar - which were answered "verbatim et literatum" in this and Penmanship these Indians rather excelled the pupils of our country schools. The reading was not so good, probably because their teacher (an Irishman) accented poorly, and Pronounced as bad.

In the bed chamber - each boy (65 in attendance) had a small pigeon box or hole to keep his few articles of clothing in and each pupil had his separate couch or bunk, of iron frame covered with boards. The pupils are received from their parents at the age of 5, and are offered for education remaining until 17 years of age.

About 60 girls were instructed in the opposite apartment, which is kept separate and apart from the male.

A large garden is attached cultivated by gardeners which supplies the Mission with vegetables, a blacksmith shop, small gristmill & c. belong to the premises, and the large farm connected and owned by the Mission nearly pay the expenses or makes it self-sustaining.

About 6 1.2 P.M. a runner came from the Osage (Indian) village reporting a squad of men, supposed to be "Bushwhackers" were seen eight miles distant - and the Indians were mounting their ponies to start after them but requested our attendance (a company of cavalry posted here) in the pursuit. In fifteen minutes 20 men were mounted and a fresh horse being furnished me by the Capt., I attended.

Upon arriving at the village, the numerous dogs set up their barking, the old men, squaws and children or papooses came out in their blankets and we were told their warriors could not wait for us and had gone. Away we started on their trail - following in a gallop - till near 10 P.M. when the clouds hid the moon and stars and we lost the trail on the prairie 6 miles from timber.

Our consultation we started as we supposed directly towards camp but after traveling 6 or 7 miles were decidedly lost. So nearing a patch of timber observable between us and the sky - (as we were in a slight hollow) we dismounted, tied up our horses, and with my horse blanket for my covering laid my tired "self" down for sleep. A guard was posted and I dozed pretty comfortably till daylight.

Fort Scott "Kas" June 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

At daylight, after taking a good look where I lay down for my missing revolver and to no purpose, mounted and started for Camp. In one hour discovered our whereabouts and reached camp at 7 A.M. where we ate a hearty breakfast and mounting my own horse started for Ft. Scott, 40 miles distant, accompanied by 13 armed men. Guerrilla bands were reported to be hovering around, but we came through safely. A soldier was reported lying in the road dead, but upon examination I found him dead ("drunk").

In the afternoon the rain literally poured down. Arrived at the Fort about 5 P.M. tired and wet. Several letters were awaiting my return, but none to give me orders in reference to further operations of the "Signal Corps"

Fort Scott Kas  
June 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather quite warm. In the evening I rec'd. a communication from Capt. Tafft, instructing me to consult with the Commanding Gen'l. of the Dept. and have 6 officers detailed for the Corps, and to organize a detachment of 8 officers for this Dept. informing me that 54 men were ordered to report to me and complete equipments for such a Detachment.

Paola, Miami Co. Kas  
June 13<sup>th</sup> 1864

After turning my 3 horses into the Q.M. Dept. and getting 3 good ones for them - also transportation by stage for myself, to Ft. Leavenworth. I arrive here about 5 P.M. Put up at the Hotel till morning. Had a slight chill and fever and felt considerably blue.

Fort Leavenworth, Kas.  
June 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Arrived at this place this A.M. and reported to Genl. Curtis, who said he did not know where he could spare the officers, but would see.

Lieut. J.R. Fitch, A.S.O. was in the vicinity, but did not see him. Take up boarding at the Ft. and am assigned to duty at this post.

Ft. L. June 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather has been very hot. Sergt. H.G. Woodin and Corpl. James H. Hiatt arrive from Ft. Scott with horses and traps - are assigned for the present to the Attaché's Camp.

The horses were galled from the heat, and were very tired.



Fort Leavenworth Kas  
June 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather very hot. Sergt. Warriner with 52 enlisted men reported to me at 10 P.M. from the Signal Camp of Instruction, Georgetown D.C. , one man having been left at Cincinnati, Ohio. They are immediately given excellent quarters for the night.

Ft. L. June 21<sup>st</sup> 1864

Drew rations - wood & c. & c. camp and garrison equipage and fitted out my squad comfortably.

Ft. L. June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Moved into my quarters - Lieut. J. R. Fitch, A.S.O. with me. Have ordered an Inspection of men and quarters every evening at 6:30.

Ft. L. June 25<sup>th</sup>/64

Am informed by Gen'l. Curtis that "all necessary accommodations to carry out the designs of the Chief Signal Officer. The scarcity of officers' delays the details desired. I am now pretty well satisfied to await the Genl's. orders.

Ft. L. June 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sunday: Held an Inspection of men, arms, knapsacks, & qtrs" at 8:30 A.M. which was quite satisfactory.

Attended "Episcopal" services this A.M., heard the Rev. Hiram Stone - several men were in attendance. The officer's wives and daughters turn out, and assist in the exercises and music, accompanied by a Melodeon. Had very good music. Weather very warm - wanting rain.

Ft. L. June 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

The 138<sup>th</sup> Regt. (100 day men) Ill's men, arrive at this garrison, and the members of the Brass band move into the barracks with my Detchmt. The buildings are a little crowded at present by the arrival.

Hd Qtrs" Signal Corps.

Dept. of Kansas

Fort Leavenworth June 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather hot and roads very dusty. About 2 P.M. a dispatch arrived to Genl. Curtis that a lot of Guerrillas were within 7 miles of the City of Leavenworth, and approaching. The garrison was immediately in arms, and Genl. C. & Staff rode to the City accompanied by

the troops - (a Detchmt) - we passed on through the City to a high point on the South. Other high hills or points were seen to the front. A reconaissance was proposed. I offered to conduct it and sent one Lieut. J.R. Fitch, to a point on the right & front, and Sergt. Homer G. Woodin to another on the left & front and about 1 1/2 miles distant, but from which places they could reconnoiter 4 or 5 miles in advance. Sergt. Woodin sent the first message to the Gen'l., through me.

Lieut Fitch also signaled "No Guerrillas in sight." And the Gen'l. Commanding being well satisfied wished me to recall them. I did so and we returned to the Fort, keeping part of the garrison under arms and ready for a momentary call.

The only casualty happening was the expulsion or emptying of a beer keg to the dusty and thirsty Staff before their return. The equipments not having arrived, we substituted limbs of trees for poles, and having but 3 horses but 3 us (aforementioned) accompanied each of which ran a station.

Ft. L. June 30<sup>th</sup>

Nothing more heard of the guerrillas. The weather is very warm and disagreeable. In inspected and mustered the Detachment.

Office of the Chief Signal Officer  
Fort Leavenworth July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Weather pleasant. At 8:30 A.M. I inspect the command in arms clothing, accoutrements & quarters assisted by Lieut Julian R. Fitch Act'g Q.M. & A.S.O. Everything passed off pleasantly - the command in good style

Ft. L. July 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

The Genl. Comd'g (Maj. Genl. Curtis) Reviews the troops at this post at 10 A.M. I am invited by the Adj't. Genl., to accompany and accept, as about 1500 men in Inf. Cav & Artillery are out. After Review Brig. Genl. Davis invites Genl. Curtis & Staff to his house where we soon arrive, and pass a half hour in eating cake, drinking lemonade, punch & c. very pleasantly, then, go home!

Ft. Leavenworth July 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather pleasant - having had a heavy shower during the night - the day was pretty warm, in the evening a Storm of wind & rain came up preventing dress-parade & c. The wind was so violent that many of the limbs of trees were broken off, though no particular damage done.

July 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather hot - though a pretty good breeze stirring - received a lot of mail "via" Fort Scott, which has been delayed at that post, sometime, Inspection of Qtrs & men - reading orders & c at 6.30 P.M.

July 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant but warm weather. Inspection of men and qtrs at 6.30 P.M., qtrs were scrubbed out to day and look very nice. Attend to making out Payrolls for Detchmt. Attend dance & entertainment at Genl. Curtis' house - besides himself were Maj. Genl. Sykes & Blunt & Brig. Genl. Davies wives & the several staff. After supper the Brass band lay by their horns and use the violin - while many of the attendants "Trip the Light fantastic toe" among whom were not the "least conspicuous" - Genl. Blunt and Davis, Mrs. Sykes & c. & c.

Champagne and other wine, lemonade & c. was plentiful. Also Ice-cream and delicate cakes. Adjourning about 1 P.M.

Ft. Leavenworth July 8<sup>th</sup>

Day warm. Drill in Manual. Inspection of men and quarters at 6.30 P.M.

Ft. L. July 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather hot - Quarters scrubbed - no inspection, on acct. of preparation for Sunday morning Inspection. Appoint Mrs. Hess Laundress for Detachment.

Office of Chief Sig. Off. "Dept. of Kas"  
Fort Leavenworth July 10<sup>th</sup> 1864

Commences raining at 6.30 A.M. with thunder and lightning. Have no Sunday morning inspection. At 9 A.M. Genl. Curtis sends his A.D.C. Lieut Sam Curtis with invitation to go to Weston Mo. (6 miles distant) to accompany himself & Staff - if convenient - (of course I go) Lieut J. R. Fitch being sick & unable to leave his room I take Sergt. Woodin and one man - also pole & flags - in case of a "necessity for Signaling" At the "Ferry" to cross the Missouri, upon consulting Genl. Curtis, I left Sergt. Woodin to occupy the bank and keep a watch towards the town of Weston that he could see my flag if raised.

Weston, Mo. was garrisoned or strictly guarded, on account of an expected raid from some 500 rebels or Guerrillas roaming the Co. and threatening the town. All was quiet however in the place. Ascending a hill very near by, I opened communication with Sergt. Woodin. Also reconnoitered the country with my glass - could see Fort Leavenworth - the City of L. & far beyond - it is a fine country for Signaling.

A telegraph line is in working order connecting Weston to the Fort & City. No official messages were sent and the party returned during the afternoon.

Weston Mo. is a small City of perhaps 4,000 Inhabitants, though not so much of a business places now as formerly, it is compactly built by many brick houses. It is the termination of a branch of the Hannibal & St. Jo. R.R.

The sentiment of the people is much divided between Union and Secession - an unhappy society. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6.30 P.M.

Office of the Chief Signal Off. Dept. of Kas  
Fort Leavenworth July 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather hot - a force of Guerrillas calling themselves Confederates variously estimated from 500 to 1000 strong, are infesting Platte Co. Mo. Opposite here and to day are in possession of Platte City.

Missouri being in another Dept., Gen'l. Curtis cannot move on them as if the Dept. was in his control, though has sent a Regt. of Infantry (100 day men) to Weston on the opposite bank of the Missouri river 5 miles above. Inspection of Men & qtrs at 6.30 P.M.

Ft. L. July 12<sup>th</sup>

Detchmt. -Paid this morning, save 5 men whose Descriptive lists are minus.

Inspection of men & qtrs at 6.30 P.M. Lieut Fitch unfit for duty, sick since July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Requisition for rockets recd.

Ft. L. July 13<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather wet and cloudy. Genl. Curtis & Davies with their Staff go over to Weston Mo. I accompany, taking Sergt. H.G. Woodin to assist, in case of Signaling, Lieut J.R. Fitch, being quite unfit for duty. At Weston, a lot of Cavalry had arrived from St. Joseph, Mo. Commanded by Col. Ford of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Colorado. About one thousand troops are to start on a reconaissance in force to hunt up the rebel forces in the vicinity - having no Signal Officers and as neither of the Generals accompanies the expedition, I return to the Fort with Genl. Curtis. Make Requisition for horses to supply command through Lieut Fitch Q.Q.Q.M. Sig. C. U.S.A. to Capt. Insley, A.Q.M.

Office of Chief Sig. Officer Dept. of Kansas  
Fort Leavenworth July 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather Damp, & cloudy, though pleasant. The com'd is drilled in flagging, also in company movements on foot, and manual of "Pistol and Sabre" - both morning and afternoon. Inspection of men and qtrs at 6'30 P.M. During the day I chanced to see the

"Army and Navy Journal" and find a list of officers confirmed by the Senate - among the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants to rank from March 1864, is my name. It is needless to say I am very much disappointed.

Reported to this date Ft. L. July 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather hot. Drill in flagging, in sabre exercise and movements on foot. Lieut J.R. Fitch went to the country yesterday P.M. and remains absent without leave. Returns in the evening.

Office of the Ch'f Actg. Signal Officer  
Dept. of Kansas Ft. L. July 16<sup>th</sup>/64

Hot and dry. Qtrs scrubbed and renovated. Flag drill two hours in A.M.

Ft. L. July 17<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sunday. Morning inspections at 8,30 - Chapel exercises at 10,30 A.M. By Rev. Hiram Stone, of the Episcopal Church.

Ft. L. July 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Hot & dry. Maj. Adams, Inspector Genl. Of North Dist. Of Kansas Inspected the detachment of the Signal Corps at 8 A.M. giving much praise. Flag & sabre drill in the afternoon.

Ft. L. July 19<sup>th</sup>/64

Weather cooler. Flag & Sabre drill - morning and afternoon The A. Adj. Genl. Promised to detail 6 officers for instruction in Signal duty immediately. Inspection of men & qrs. At 6:30 P.M...

Hd Qtrs Fort Leavenworth July 20<sup>th</sup>/64

Cool. Flag and sabre drill morning and afternoon. Inspection of men & qrs at 6:30 P.M. Recd. S.O. 154 Hd Qtrs Dept. of Kansas, detailing Lieut J. C. Hubbard 11<sup>th</sup> Regt. Kansas V. Cav. for instruction signal service.

Fort L., July 21st 1864

Cool in the morning, but hot during the day. Scrubbing and renovation of Qrs. Drill in P.M. & Inspection at 6:30

Genl. Curtis leaves for Denver City riding in an ambulance.

Fort L. July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864

Cool and pleasant - cloudy. Drill A.M. & P.M. recommend the names of two officers for my detail. Inspection at 6.30 P.M.

Ft. L. July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Pleasant weather. Scrub & renovate qtrs. Drill in the afternoon.

Office of the Chief Actg. Sig. Officer  
"Dept. of Kas" Fort Leavenworth July 24<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sunday - cool & pleasant. Inspection at 8 A.M. attended M.E. Church in Leavenworth City.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1864

A.M. Cool, P.M. hot & sultry. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6.30 P.M. Lt. Ellis & Lt. H E Turner detailed

Ft. L. 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

Warm Flag & Saber drill A.M. & P.M. Insp. 6:30 P.M.

Ft. L. July 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Hot & sultry. Flag & Saber Drill A.M. & P.M. Insp 6:30 P.M. qtrs cleaned

Ft. Levan, July 28<sup>th</sup> 64

Hot & sultry. Flag & Saber drill A.M. & P.M. Target shooting at 9 A.M.

Fort Leavenworth July 29<sup>th</sup>

Very warm. Flag & Saber drill A.M. & P.M.

Ft. L. July 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather hot. Scrubbing of qtrs drill in P.M. At night attended the speech of Hon. James H. Lane, Senator from Kansas, who has just returned from Washington D.C. Will spend the summer electioneering for Lincoln-Johnson & himself.

July 31<sup>st</sup> 1864

Sunday. Inspection at 3:30 A.M. Weather pleasant. Attended Episcopal service at 10:30 A.M. Exercises conducted by the Rev. Hiram Stone.

Ft. L. August 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Sent off my monthly reports. Gave a furlough to Private Melvin A. Morse on acct. of very sore knee and the Surgeon says he will be unfit for duty for 2 or 3 months. Drill A.M. & P.M. Inspection at 6:30 P.M.

Ft. L. Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864

Weather hot. Have a windstorm in the evening. Drill A.M. & P.M. in flagging & Sabre. Had 1<sup>st</sup> Class Private A.H. Collum examined and recommended by the Surgeon for a discharge.

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Morning damp, but pleasant. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut H.E. Turner, Co. "K" 15<sup>th</sup> K.V.C. reported for instruction in signaling. Requested the examination put off until to-morrow morning. Drill in flagging & sabre. Inspection of men & qtrs @ 6,30 P.M.

Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Lieut H.E. Turner reported for examination, but did not stand it, pleading incapable. We gave him 'till 2 o'clock .M.

It being the appointed day by President Lincoln for Fasting & Prayer, we do not drill but attend worship A.M. & P.M.

Ft. L. Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Abraham Ellis 15<sup>th</sup> Kas Vol. Cav. Reported for Instruction in signaling; was examined & received. Drill in flagging & sabre.

Sunday, Ft. L. Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Inspection of command at 8:30 A.M. Services in the square by a member of the Christian Commission - collection taken up. Service in P.M. by Episcopal Chaplain - Rev. Hiram Stone.

Office of Chief Act'g Sigl. Officer  
Dept. of Kas. Fort Leavenworth Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant but warm & dry. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Josiah M. Hubbard Co. "K" 11<sup>th</sup> .V.C. reported for instruction in Signaling, was examined and received.

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut H.E. Turner was relieved from duty and ordered to report to C.S. Charlot. Lieut Fitch obtains leave of absence for 7 days. Flag & sabre drill A.M. & P.M. Inspection of Men & qtrs. 6:30 P.M.

Fort L. Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather warm & dry - quite dusty. Study hours established for officers from 9 to 12 A.M. and 2 to 4 P.M. flag & sabre drill A.M. & P.M.

Ft L-h Aug 10<sup>th</sup>

Warm, dry & dusty. Drill A.M. & P.M. - Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:30 P.M.

Ft. L. Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Drill A.M. & P.M. in marching and with flag & sabre. Genl. Curtis & escort left for Omaha City, Nebraska. Inspection at 6:30 P.M.

Hd Qtrs "Dept. of Kansas"  
Fort Leavenworth. Aug 12<sup>th</sup>/64

Drill in company movements and with flag & sabre - reconnoitered an excellent situation for a Signal Station - S. West of Leavenworth City familiarly known here as Pilot knob. Inspection at 6:30 of men & qtrs

Ft L. Aug 13<sup>th</sup> 1864

Warm & dry. Renovation of qtrs.

A race being advertised on the "Government track" - for the afternoon - many of the officers from the Fort attended, myself among them, but saw no gaited stock and very poor running.

Fort Leavenworth Aug 14

Sunday. Inspection of command at 8.30 A.M. Services by the Chaplain at 10.30 A.M. weather hot.

Hd Qtrs sig. Detachment. "Kansas"  
Fort Leavenworth Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Drill A.M. & P.M. with flag & sabre. Commenced storming about 12 o'clock M. forward certificates for the discharge of Allen A. Collum



Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> 1864

Drill A.M. & P.M. with flag and sabre. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:30 P.M.

Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 1864

Cool & pleasant. Ordered to have my com'd in readiness for Inspection at 2 P.M. by Maj. Adams, Inspector Genl. District North Kansas, but referred it to Maj. Charlot Adj't. Genl. Dept. of Kansas, who informed Maj. Adams, the signal Corps was not a part of the forces of this Dist.

Flag & sabre drill A.M. "company movement" instruction on foot P.M. Lieut Fitch returned. Inspection of men & qtrs. At 6:30 P.M.

Hd Qtrs Signal Detchmt. "Dept. of Kas"  
Fort Leavenworth Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Cool & pleasant. Received 3 boxes of Signal equipments & stores, and one barrel containing 5 or 10 gallons of turpentine - the barrel leaking badly.

A squad of 15 to 18 men of the detachment was permitted to accompany a Sabbath School excursion and picnic. Appointed "Board of Survey"

Drill with flag and sabre.

Fort L. Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Cool & pleasant. Got up at 5 A.M. to accompany my old towns boy John Hanna, on a trip to Kansas City, Mo. But the boat came too soon and I was left. Board of Survey met and examined 1 bbl Turpentine

Drill A.M. & P.M. with flag & sabre. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:30 P.M.

Hd Qtrs Signal Detachm't  
Dept. of Kansas, Ft. Leavenworth, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>

Scrub & renovate qtrs.

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1864

Sunday - cool & pleasant.

Inspection of command at 8:30 A.M. Chapel exercises at 10.30 A.M. I attend Episcopal Church in the city.

Ft. L. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864

Cool & pleasant. Drill A.M. & P.M. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:30 P.M.

Fort L. Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Warm - com'd drill in flag & sabre, A.M. & P.M. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:30 P.M.

Ft. L. Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 1864

Warm. Drill A.M. & P.M. in flagging -remake 3 enlistments for Lafayette McConnell and forwarded to Washington. Inspection at 6:15 P.M.

Ft. L. Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 64

Warm - Drill A.M. & P.M. with flag & sabre - Inspection at 6:15 P.M.

Hd Qtrs Sig. Detachment Dept of Kas  
Fort Leavenworth Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

Warm. Discharged 1<sup>st</sup> Class Private Allen H. Collum on Surgeon's Certificate - "Phthisis Pulmonalis" [Tuberculosis]

Drill A.M. & P.M. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:15 P.M.

This evening I saw an order from the War Dept. Ordering Capt. E. I. Meeker of the Signal Corps U.S.A. & of the Dept. of the Cumberland; to take com'd of the Dept. of Kansas.

I am well satisfied, for I can now expect to see more active service - before many weeks. Otherwise I would have to remain at the Hd Qtrs Dep't. of Kas" and instruct Officers in signaling.

Fort L. Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Warm - Scrub & renovate qtrs. Prepare for Inspection of the officers & men of Signal Corps U.S.A.

Hd Qtrs Signal Detchmt.  
"Dept. of Kas", Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Cloudy & wet in A.M. pleasant in P.M.

On account of the weather had no Inspection. Attended Chapel exercises

Fort L. Aug 29<sup>th</sup> '64

Pleasant. Commenced practicing the "officers undergoing Instruction" in Signaling at a distance - and sending messages - find them pretty well pasted. Drill in Sabre exercise. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:15 P.M.

Fort L-h Aug 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Officers practice signaling at the distance of one mile. Drill A.M. & P.M. in Sabre exercise.

Forward the names of two officers for detail in Signal Corps.

Hd Qtrs Sig. Detachment  
Fort Leavenworth Kansas  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Inspection & muster of Com'd at 8:30 A.M. Succeed in getting two officers ordered to report to me for Instruction in Signaling

Ft. L. Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Very warm. A wind from the South blows so hot it is impossible to be comfortable.

Lieutenants Hubbard & Ellis practice from stations 3/4 of a mile distant in P.M. practice in their rooms. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6:30 P.M.

Recd' a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut U.S.A. Signal Corps.

Sept. 2, 1864

The "Sirocco" continues - do a little practicing in doors too hot to drill during the day out of doors. Lieut Ellis too unwell to study through this; a little while in P.M. declined accepting a 2nd Lieut commission in Sig. Corps, U.S.A. and requested to be returned to my Regiment & Comp. At Atlanta, Ga.

Head Quarters Signal Detachment  
Department of Kansas  
Fort Leavenworth Sept. 3, 1864

"Sirocco" continues; the sky blue & clear. Not quite so hot as yesterday - this makes the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the hot wind. A shower of rain P.M.

Lieut. Ellis makes application for leave of absence of 7 days, upon plea of sickness - approved and forwarded to C. S. Charlot, Adj. Genl. "Dept. of Kas" re-enlist four of the Detachment - Sig. Corps & Physical examination

Ft. L. Sep. 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sunday - pleasant though raining several times during the day. Inspection of com'd at 8:30 A.M.

Attend Congregational church in Leavenworth City, which has received a fine Organ, the first one for the City.

Ft. L. Sept. 5 1864

Weather cloudy & pleasant. Sabre drill A.M. & P.M. Lieut Ellis sick & unfit for duty. Lieut. Col. Stark, Chief of Staff, refuses to order the discharge of 4 men for re-enlistment for want of sufficient authority. Lieut Hubbard practices in P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Ira Quimby reported in the evening - for Signal duty - but appoint the examination at 9 A.M. Sep 6<sup>th</sup>

Inspection of men & qtrs 6 P.M.

Ft L. Sep 6<sup>th</sup>/64

Wet & cloudy -

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Ira Quimby is examined at 9 A.M. and accepted. Flag drill A.M. & P.M. Lieut Ellis sick.

Salute of 35 guns fired by order of Brig. Gen'l. Davis in honor of the capture of Atlanta. Gen'l. (or Senator) James H. Lane made a speech in Garrison Square at 5 P.M. in favor of the Union. Candidates Lincoln & Johnson as Pres. & vice President of the United States

Fort L. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Practice in field signals at 5 miles distance. Lieut Ellis sick. Drill in sabre exercise. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6 P.M.

At 12 o'clock, by order of the Sec. Of War, 100 guns were fired in honor of the taking of Atlanta Ga., Fort Morgan, Ala., and our numerous late victories on land & sea.

Fort L. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Practice field signaling at 5 miles distance. Lieut Ellis sick. Lieut Quimby having been sent here to attend Court Martial cannot commence studying until released from Court. Sabre exercise A.M. Flag in P.M. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6 P.M.

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

Warm & windy - Practice Lieut Hubbard in signaling at the distance of 5 miles.

Flag & sabre drill A.M. & P.M. Lieut Ellis sick.

Hd Qtrs Sig. Detchmt. "Dept of Kas"  
Fort Leavenworth Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 1864

Hot. Took a trip 6 miles up the Missouri to see a farm for sale by a disloyal man now in guardhouse at this Fort. The land did not suit me in the least so returned, looking out the position for good signal stations. Renovation of "Arms and Qtrs"

Ft. L. - Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sunday - Inspection of com'd at 8.30 A.M. Attended church in the City of Leavenworth - visited Lieut Ellis, sick. Services in P.M. in accordance with proclamation by Presd't Lincoln in honor of our recent victories at Atlanta, Ga., and 3 Forts at the entrance of Mobile Bay. Also around Richmond, Va. Bishop "Lee" of the Episcopal Church presided and took "Profanity" for his subject and Said that we were the most wicked Nation on the Earth & that this War could not end when wickedness abounds so triumphantly. He particularized Profanity as the most prevalent sin, and especially in the Army, where it seemed a necessary qualification (almost) for an Officer - and had really form part of our "dialect."

Indians were obliged to learn the English Language before they could swear. In traveling thro this country in stages he made this proposition - (in order to not hear the disgusting habit), that the passengers should permit him to do the swearing during the trip. In one of the Iowa Regts he preached to, one Company having a pious Captain, voted that their Capt. Should do the swearing for the Co. during their term of service and that Co. had, since, made its mark wherever it went.

Hd Qtrs Sig. Detchm't "Dept of Kansas"  
Fort Leavenworth Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 1864

Quite warm. Flag drill P.M.

Sabre drill A.M. Inspection at 6 P.M. Gave instructions on the use of the Disc to class of Officers.

Lieut Ellis - sick - and made application for Leave of absence on Surgeon's Certificate. Lieut Quimby commenced study

Fort L. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 1864

Hot & windy - Flag drill A.M. & P.M.

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 1864

Cool and Pleasant Sabre & Flag drill A.M. & P.M. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6 P.M.  
Renovation & scrubbing of qtrs.

Ft. L-h Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Flag & sabre drill A.M. & P.M. Lieut Quimby instructed in Signaling by Lieut Hubbard, the latter is ready for the field. Weather Cool & pleasant. Try again for Horses, but get none.

Hd Qtrs Signal Detachmt.  
Fort Leavenworth Sep 16<sup>th</sup> 1864

Weather Pleasant. Lag drill A.M. & P.M. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6 P.M.

Ft L. Sep 17<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Renovation of qtrs. Lieut Quimby instructed in signals. Gen'l. Curtis arrives from trip West and North after Indians. Lieut A. Ellis goes home without leave. Sick.

Fort L. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Sunday - Cool & pleasant. Inspection of command at 8:30 A.M. Chapel exercises 10:30 A.M.

Fort L. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Cool & windy. Establish five Repeating Stations, three of them run by Officers, two by 1<sup>st</sup> Class Privates Hinman and Mansfield. Do pretty well. Send through several messages during A.M. Lieut Quimby instructed in qtr's during P.M. Lieut Ellis sick & absent. Inspection of men & qtrs 6 P.M.

H"d Qr"s Sigl Detch. Dept. of Kan.  
Fort Leavenworth, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Study in doors. Lieut Ellis remains absent. Com'd drilled in flag & sabre exercise. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut McGinly M. Neely of 16<sup>th</sup> K. V. Cav. Reports for Instruction in Signals, is examined and received. Make out requisition for wagons, mules & c & c

Ft. L. - Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 1864

Warm & windy. Lieut Ellis absent sick. Lieut. Neely is given two days to turn over his Q.M. property & c. Instruction in study rooms. Flag-drill Sergt. Woodin discharged on account of expiration of time.

Mr. King of Colorado speaks in the Garrison Square. Gen'l. Davis suspends dress parade & c. to enable all the troops to attend. Subject - politics, and re-election of Lincoln

Ft. L. Sept. 22nd 1864

Windy & unpleasant. Practice in rooms com'd drilled in flag & sabre - Lieut A. Ellis absent without leave. Am informed by A.Q.M. transportation will be furnished when ordered into active service.

Fort Leavenworth Sept. 23rd

Pleasant tho' quite windy. Com'd drilled with flag & sabre Inspection at 5 P.M. Lt. Ellis sick & absent without leave. Officers instructed in rooms.

Fort L. Sept. 24th 1864

Very windy. Scrubbing and renovation of qtrs- 2 officers instructed in rooms. Lieut A. Ellis sick & absent without leave.

Ft. L. Sept. 25th 1864

Sunday - Pleasant - tho' windy Inspection of com'd at 8:30 A.M. Chapel exercises at 10:30 A.M.

Ft L-h Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant tho' windy. Lieuts Hubbard & Quimby practice in rooms. Com'd drill with flag & sabre. Inspection of men & qtrs at 6 P.M.

Hd Qtrs Sig. Detachment  
Dept. of Kans. Fort Leavenworth  
September 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant. Lieuts Hubbard and Quimby practice out doors - distance 1/2 mile. Lieut Neely in room. Com'd drill in sabre exercise.

Ft. L. September 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Pleasant tho' quite cool without fire. Lieuts Hubbard and Quimby practice in Signaling distance five miles. Lieut Neely instructed in room. Capt. Meeker Signal Corps U.S.A. who was ordered to take command of the Corps in this Dept. arrives. Rain in the afternoon.

Ft. L. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 1864

Very cool without fire. Lieuts H\_ & Q\_ practice, distance one mile. Lieut Neely instructed in room. Com'd drill in Flag & Sabre exercise. Inspection at 5:45 P.M. of men & qtrs. Accompanied by Capt. E.J. Meeker.

Hd Qtrs Signal Detachm't  
Fort Leavenworth, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

Lieuts H & Q practice at 5 mile distance. Lieut Neely instructed in qtrs. Enlisted men drill with flag & sabre. Rain during P.M. Preventing inspection.

Captain Ed J Meeker, Signal Corps U.S.A. assumes com'd of the Detachm't in this Dept.

Fort Leavenworth Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> '64

Wet & cool, have succeeded in getting a stove for my room & have been appointed Instructor of Officers and men and am to prepare them for active service as rapidly as possible. In General orders No 1 (the Detachment is spoken of viz: "The Capt. Commanding takes pleasure in complimenting the Detachment on their fine appearance and soldierly bearing, a fact that reflects great credit on your former Commanding Officer - Lieut Roberts."

Recd. A "special order" from the War Dept. of Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1864 No 315 extract 20 viz: "Cyrus M. Roberts having declined to accept his commission as 2nd Lieut in the Signal Corps, U.S. Army the same has, by direction of the President , been cancelled."

I can hear nothing, whatever, about being returned to my Regiment - and am afraid that I can not return to it easily.

Ft. L. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864

Damp - in P.M. have considerable rain. Inspection of command at 8:30 A.M. Capt. Meeker as spectator. Attend Episcopal Service conducted by Chaplin Hiram Stone 10:30 A.M. during P.M. take a short ride with Capt. Meeker. Lieut Fitch & Lieut Halyard, Q.M. 16<sup>th</sup> K.V. Cav. The Capt. Wishing to see a little of the country around the Fort. We do not ride more than one mile before rain commences to fall.

Signal Detachment  
Fort Leavenworth  
Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

Wet and dreary. Examine Lieuts. Hubbard and Quimby and make of them acting Signal Officers, making the force ready for the field. 1 Capt. 3 first Lieuts & one 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, also 53 men. Send for Cincinnati Commercial for another month.



Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Very pleasant. Took a ride of 5 or 6 miles in P.M. stopped at the Washington Gardens and fired at a mark with our guns, also played a game of pins, - somewhat similar to ninepins - only the wood-ball is suspended by a rope to a crosspiece above - 9 pins are placed on the center. The player stands on one side and starts the ball forward as a pendulum - in coming back to him - the ball strikes wherever aimed and depending upon the skill of the player.

The garden or walk is laid out nicely - with shrubbery growing all around and seats, tables & c. to make visitors comfortable by spending their money. Sunday I am informed is the time of profit from customers from the City. Lieut Neely instructed in room. Inspection of men & qtrs at 5.30 P.M.

### **Volume 2: 10 October 1864 to 7 May 1865**

Head Quarters Dept. of Kans.  
Fort Leavenworth Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1864

Most beautiful weather! To day we draw from the Quarter Master at this Post, 25 horses and equipt. 25 men. Five officers and 25 men are now ready for active duties in the "Signal Corps" of the Army.

Lieut. A. Ellis who has been sick and absent without leave returned this evening.

The rebel Gen. Sterling Price is now on his way from Jefferson City, Mo. Towards Kansas and may visit this post in force. The "militia" has been ordered out and fortifications are being built rapidly, several Regts. of militia are at hand, but 3 year soldiers are scarce. We have not 1/2 of a Regt. of Soldiers altho' plentiful Generals. Major General Curtis comd's the Dept. and Brig. Gen'l. Davies the Dist. of North Kansas.

Oct. 11

Detailed as Aide de Camp to Gen'l. Curtis and started on a Campaign. Bivouac near the 8 mile house - travel 11 miles.

Oct 12

Left Camp about 7 A.M. and bivouac at Olathe Kansas - travel 27 miles.

Oct 13

Moved from Olathe about 9 A.M. and bivouac'd at Wyandotte, Kans. - travel 25 miles.

Oct 14

Remained at Wyandotte - all day - Genl. Curtis visited Kansas City, Mo - within sight of the place.

Wyandotte is named after a tribe of Indians, now nearly extinct, but many half-breeds live here yet they were at one time the richest Nation on earth, considering the wealth and numbers.

Oct 15

Genl. Curtis has dubbed his Army of volunteers and Militia the "Army of the Border" the badge is a red patch upon the cap or hat to distinguish the militia from rebels

Accompanied Genl. C\_ to Independence, Hickman's Mills, Kansas City, Mo and returned to Wyandotte. At Hickman's Mills Mo., the largest number of militia are gathered. A Brass band belonging to the 11<sup>th</sup> Kans Vol. Cav. Discourses its music and after being loudly called for Maj. Genl's Curtis & Blunt spoke followed by Genl. (or Senator) Jim Lane, Cols. Moonlight, Jennison & others. The Militia has bivouac'd inside of Mo lines. Travelled to day 50 miles.

Hd Qtrs "Army of the Border"

In the field Wyandotte, Kans. Oct 16th 1864

Getting in late last night, we remain here all day - weather cool.

Field Hd Qtrs, Kansas City, Mo

Oct 17th 1864

March to Kansas City & bivouac in the vicinity - travel 4 miles

Oct 18th Hd Qtrs

Remain in Camp tho' are harnessed & hitched up to move till 2 P.M. I accompanied Maj. McKinney to Col. Blair's command and return - travel 11 miles

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border

Independence Mo. Oct 19th 1864

Marched from Kansas City Mo to Independence Mo. Travel 12 miles.

Independence Mo. Oct. 20

Remained at this place all day. Very cold - have a little snowstorm.

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border  
Independence, Mo.  
Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

Meet the enemy at Little Blue Creek; about 5 miles East of Independence Contested the ground, at every favorable point, and fell back, about 11 or 12 miles to Big Blue Creek - 6 miles West of Independence. Gen'l. Blunt com'd'd and directed the fighting - losses not easily estimated - probably from 1 to 3 hundred killed, wound'd & missing - very few of the latter - 22 miles.

Oct 22nd Hd Qtrs at Westport, Mo.

Fine weather. Established a station of observation for Lieut M. M. Neely on extreme left of army, and waited in our fortifications for the enemy to appear, but he did not come. Our extreme station to the right reported a column moving that direction - and soon afterward heard firing in that direction. Price was flanking us on the right, so Gen'l. Curtis fell back to Westport - and the army changed front from the East to the South & S.E.

About 1 1/2 or 2 P.M. I was sent South 10 miles - to Hickman's Mills - to bring up reinforcements - (1 Regt. Of about 700 Militia & 2 Co's 15th K.V.C.). But, before getting more than 3 miles from the Mills, discovered the road in our front to be filled with rebels - for 3 or 4 miles. I had no confidence in Militia, and looking towards our left (West) to see if I could cross a creek and come around West of the enemy to report to the Gen'l. - but in that direction I saw many scattered horsemen so I must either surrender, fight or disgracefully - skedaddle. I could not think of doing the first or last, and made up my mind to help maneuver the Militia and make them hold the ground.

The position was a very favorable one - being on a high ridge, just before the descent to the crossing of the creek, and the sides (3 of them) were steep and gave us good range. Scarcely had we saw our position when the foremost of the column appeared at the foot of the declivity. The Regt. was dismounted the 4th man holding his own & 3 other horses a little in rear of the line of battle. A few shots were fired at the advance and they disappeared. Soon they formed in a squad or crowd, and started with a yell, but a volley from us made them give back in this way we held our ground for, perhaps, half an hour every rebel showing himself was in danger of our fire. The evening was getting late, the Militia, upon emptying their muskets, invariably started back, but I kept on my horse, the Col. also, and drawing our revolvers drove the men back into line, both threatening and encouraging.

So few rebels showed themselves, altho' the front constantly increasing, the order was given to mount and we cautiously and quietly retreated, bringing our one man killed and our wounded with us, but left the dead man at the nearest house during our firing the 2 Co's of 15th K.V. Cav. came up in our rear, but did not remain, so left us to fight it out, they leaving via of little Santa Fe, afterwards we followed, very cautiously, not knowing

who it was that had stirred up such a dust in that direction until arriving at little Santa Fe and inquiring, found out it was the Co's of the 15th K.V.C.

We marched 12 or 15 miles before I stopped, flanking our enemy on the West - My horse being very much fatigued as well as myself, stopped at a Mr. Rathbone's - (small log house) about 11 1/2 P.M. for the balance of the night. The Militia force, under Brig. Gen'l Grant, had been charged upon, several of them killed, wounded and prisoners, and the balance roaming over the prairies, lost and demoralized, each one telling his own story, of our Army being cut to pieces, and most probably capture of Westport, Mo, also Kansas City, and 3 or 4 parties stopped at the log cabin inquiring the way & asking for something to eat. I could not sleep more than two hours on account of my disturbed mind, sleeping on a soft (feather) bed, and not knowing, but what I would be captured by rebels before day break. Rode during the day near 60 miles.

Official Report of Lieut. Cyrus M. Roberts, 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, Acting Aide-de-Camp to Maj. Gen. S. R. Curtis, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Headquarters Department of Kansas  
Fort Leavenworth, December 15, 1864

Sir: Deeming it my duty, I most respectfully submit the following report:

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, during the afternoon, when Col. C. R. Jennison's command was attacked at Byram's Crossing of the Big Blue, you ordered me at Westport, Mo., to go to Hickman Mills, Mo., and order all the forces that might be there to immediately re-enforce Colonel Jennison. Arriving at the Mills I found Maj. John M. Laing in command of a part of the Fifteenth Kansas Volunteer Cavalry and delivered him your order. His command was feeding. I also saw the Twenty-first Regiment Kansas State Militia, which was just ready to mount. I delivered your order to the colonel (Lowe) commanding, and his regiment moved immediately forward "at a trot." I again went to Major Laing, as I did not see him preparing to march, and insisted upon his hurrying forward. Upon this he ordered his command to prepare to march, and I left him to follow on. I then rode forward and caught up to Colonel Lowe. When we arrived on the brink of the hill descending to the Big Blue we saw right ahead of us, as far as the eye could reach, clouds of dust along the road, and knew it must be the main column of the enemy advancing. In a very few minutes (perhaps five) the Twenty-first Kansas State Militia had dismounted and formed in line of battle along the brink of the hill, the horses were led a little way to the rear, but before the line was formed the advance of the enemy was coming up the road through a narrow defile at the foot of the hill. Those of the Twenty-first Regiment who could see the enemy commenced firing. Their advance immediately fell back out of sight and formed in a body, but in a few minutes came forward with a yell. The Twenty-first fired a volley into them and they fell back out of sight. While this was going on Major Laing's command came up where the horses were held, but instead of rendering the militia assistance they turned immediately back, leaving the Twenty-first Kansas State Militia to get out the best way they could. Several of the militia to the rear followed, but Colonel Lowe, Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson and myself, drew our

weapons and kept the militia (who were giving way) to the front. The enemy appeared very much demoralized and did not seem to want to give us battle after this. Holding our position for twenty or thirty minutes without another attack - the skirmishing was constantly going on - we concluded best to mount and pass around the enemy to the west, and, if possible, join you. It was getting late and darkness came on before we had gone one mile. On our way through Little Santa Fe we inquired and found out that Major Laing and his command passed through en route to Kansas. I have heard that the officers and men with Major Laing did not wish to turn back, but were eager to assist and thought it very strange that he did not help the militia. Believing that the conduct of Maj. John M. Laing should not go unnoticed is my reason for making this statement to you.

I have the honor to state that Colonel Lowe and Lieutenant-Colonel Robinson behaved gallantly, showing much bravery, although not accustomed to such heavy fired. Every suggestion that I made to them was immediately carried out.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

Cyrus M. Roberts

[Note: Major Laing subsequently was arrested, but "upon explanations, and in consideration of his gallantry elsewhere" Maj. Gen. Curtis ordered his release.]

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border  
Westport Mo. Oct 23rd 1864

Arose at daybreak - got something to eat and started to report to Gen'l. Curtis "via" Shawneetown, Kansas City and Westport over 20 miles. Cannonading commenced about 7 A.M. & I hurried on. Reached Gen'l. Curtis & reported to him about 1 P.M. The enemy had almost besieged Westport, Mo. Upon the South coming within one mile of the place. Our troops were deployed to the best advantage both for display & for service if the rebels ventured to assault the town, but they commenced to give back about 12 M - our forces advancing steadily, as the enemy gave way. About this time cannonading was heard on our extreme left & front and we knew Genl. Rosecrans' Calvary, under Genl. Pleasanton, had arrived. Genl. Curtis looked around and said "Where is some Staff Officer to go to Pleasanton, at the same time speaking to Capt. Seeley, an A.Q.M. and told him to go, then answered it will not do to send a Quarter Master - when I offered my services, the Genl. Remarked - "it won't do to send you "Roberts" you have just ran the gauntlet and escaped." I answered "don't think of that Genl. - I've got another horse now." He answered "Well I guess you may try it - if you think you can get through." (the enemy was between us & Pleasanton's firing). The message was viz: "Give my compliments to Genl. Pleasanton, and tell him I am bearing down on the enemy."

I soon passed over to Genl. P's column and inquired for him was answered, "He's to the front." I then rode to the extreme front, but could not see or hear of him, so I kept on towards the left of this column as they swung into line and following the rebels. The

prairie was on fire, but the grass was not tall. I rode thro' it in several places, and in the smoke got too far t the front - looking to my left I saw 3 columns of rebel Cavalry that were slowly marching along and had ceased firing. I looked at them some time and supposed they were about to surrender to Genl. P's forces and said to my orderly (Private Austin of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wis. Cav) We'll ride over there and see that surrender, also most probably find P\_n, when within 25 or 30 yards of the enemy, one of them had stopped to let his horse drink from a little puddle and riding to him, inquired where he belonged, as I could not see a red badge the sign of our Militia, and seeing he was fully armed he inquired where I belonged I replied "to Curtis' com'd" and then ordered my orderly to take charge of him.

The orderly rode to him and I started on but a word from him, calling Lieut - I looked around and tho't something was up - so putting my hand on my revolver rode up when the rebel handed me his Carbine and I ordered him to give his revolver & other arms to the orderly - then started ahead and told my Ord'y to bring him along at the same time I started towards the enemy again, when within 25 or 30 yds of them and on the side abreast of the front Regt., My orderly called "look out Lieut" and looking around saw him coming at a run with one rebel Cavalryman after him and several others starting so I spurred up and looking at the rebel saw him stop his horse and was taking deliberate aim at us when I dodged forward flat on my horse and the bullet went over striking the ground above and in front of us (the ground rising) I gave a yell and swung my cap at him - knowing I was safe - at a gallop and they dare not follow me - as our forces were a little ways in front.

I had to leave my prisoner, but brought off the arms. Gen'l. Curtis has let me keep the carbine, my orderly the revolver - as I could not find Gen'l. Pleasanton, I saw one of his Brigade commanders Gen'l. Sanborn who said he would see Gen'l. Pleasanton or send one of his Staff to deliver the message for me my horse being tired - and our forces had united - so that the position of both Generals could be seen by either - upon the open broad Prairie. Going back to Westport (6 miles) to report to the Gen'l., found he had gone forward to Little Santa Fe, 12 miles. I hunted around to get something to eat - a Negro woman gave me 2 corn fritters - the Hotel was used for an Hospital - and I could get nothing there - the Bakers shops were sold out and closed finding a Lager beer brewery I took 3 glasses of beer and the woman gave me 2 slices of Bread. After this, I started forward to catch up to Gen'l. Curtis, but did not find his Hd Qtrs till nearly 11 P.M. Traveled to day not less than 45 miles slept in a stockyard with Lieut Neely under my horse blankets as the wagon train had not arrived. Feel pretty tired - 45 miles.

Hd Qtrs "Army of the Border"  
In the field. Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move about 7 A.M. towards Fort Scott, Kansas. Travel the Stateline road. Continue all day and night - stopping about 1 1/2 hours just after dark for men to make coffee, let the horses pick a little prairie grass, get water & c. As Gen'l. Blunt's forces have been in advance since yesterday afternoon, he now stops by Genl. Curtis' order to let Genl. Pleasanton's com'd take the advance.

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1864

Catch up to the enemy this morning about 3 o'clock as the roads are heavy, and night very dark - we halt till daylight; in the meantime the cold rain pours down. Many of the men drop right down in the mud - and sleep some few rails were found and fires built around which crowds would gather the first one or two ranks would be down - around the fired - or sit down and with rubber blankets or ponchos over them doze as best they can - while the rain beats down at daylight cannonading is commenced tho' foggy & gloomy - the com'd wet, muddy tired & hungry - the horses fully as much so from a high mound or noll - the rear guard is watched by our advance Signal Officer Lieut Hubbard. After going about 2 miles we pass a place called the "Trading Post" the vicinity of the enemy's bivouac the men have all been conscripted & carried off from this post.

We now cross the Marias des Cygnes ("Meridezine") a large creek under the fire of the rebel rearguard - but push on. Gen'l. Curtis sent me to the rear to see that Gen'l. Blunt's Division is well closed up and report to him. I did so - but when I reached him, found our army had so pressed the enemy that they attempted to make a stand we formed only two small Brigands of cavalry and charged them - capturing Gen'l's Marmaduke & Cabel - also four or five Colonels, and several hundred other prisoners, artillery, and quite a good share of their train - and killed & wounded perhaps from 1 to 2 hundred - I passed over the field hurriedly and caught up to the advance which was marching in two lines of battle - reaching near one mile in length - and on the open prairie it was the grandest sight, of advancing for miles in lines well dressed & colors flying - that I ever saw the enemy tried to make another stand about 1 o'clock P.M. but we soon formed and rapidly advanced the enemy as rapidly retiring. Price had evidently tried to gain time enough to send a part of his forces on to Fort Scott - 18 miles in advance - and on his road - but we gave him no time - here we found many abandoned wagons, iron cooking utensils, and the road strewn with abandoned small arms - in his way - we drove him - and making a new trail across the prairie - left Fr. Scott - 5 miles to his right. The most of our forces bivouac at Ft. Scott. Travel 90 miles without rest.

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border

In the field - Ft. Scott - Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

After driving the enemy from 8 to 10 miles beyond this Fort, one Brigade was left to watch them, and the balance of the army bivouac'd at this post in order to get forage and rations having run down 3 horses - I get another one here and move out about 10 A.M. The enemy having destroyed a large part of their train still keep in front many wagons are abandoned and horses and mules that have been ridden till the saddles or harness would wear clear to the bone.

We bivouac at Shanghai - go 25 miles

Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

March from Shanghai to Carthage Mo - the place of Genl. Siegel's famous fighting on a retreat pass through lead mine regions. Travel all night

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Halt 3 hours at Carthage till daylight, then move on to catch up to the enemy our extreme advance come on him at Newtonia, Mo the advance under Blunt are met by a very superior force and fall back a few hundred yards, but upon Genl. Sanborn's force of 1 Brigade arriving, the enemy skedaddles after dark, leaving the dead & wounded in our hands. Bivouac at Newtonia after traveling 75 miles.

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border  
In the field. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 1864

During last night orders arrive from Genl. Rosecrans to his troops - to repair to their respective Districts in Mo. Thereby virtually disbanding the pursuing "Army of the Border" So we march in a home direction or to Neosho - where we can get forage for our almost worn-out horses as we enter the place - inhabitants (women & children) have taken their household goods out, by order of a "band of bushwhackers" who were just about to burn the place - we march 12 miles.

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

Receive orders during the night by the telegraph from Washington to Ft. Scott from the War Dept. or Lieut. Genl. Grant to follow Price to the Arkansas River upon this messengers are sent to the disbanded army to concentrate at Cassville, Mo. & we march back to Newtonia Mo - the women cry as we leave Neosho - fearing the town will be destroyed by bushwhackers - 12 miles

Oct. 31 1864

March towards Cassville Mo, but get on wrong road - and go to Keatsville Have a snowstorm during the night. 28 miles

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1864

Yesterday fulfilled my 3-year term of service to the Government. Bivouac near the Pea Ridge battle field trees are felled and there are many appearance of a battleground. Cold rain continues all A.M. Bivouac about 1 P.M. rain ceases and soldiers build large fires and dry out their clothes and blankets preparing to make a sleep if possible to night. 10 miles.



Nov. 2nd 1864

Remain here all day in the wet & cold. It rains unceasingly no troops have reported save 1 Brig of about 1300 men commanded by Lieut Col Benteen of 3rd Iowa Cav.

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border  
(in the field) Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864

Snow on the ground about 3 inches deep and continues snowing and raining all day leave camp about 7 A.M.

Pass out of Mo. Into Ark. At 9 A.M. also over the "Pea Ridge" battle ground. See the remains of the "Elk" Horn Tavern named so by our forces on account of a pair of elk horns, which were placed above the door - and were the only house in the vicinity that afforded good protection to the wounded. Country pretty well settled beyond this - also cultivated the houses are generally burned and places vacated and desolate boys get plenty of good apples on the road. Bivouac at Cross Hollows - snow & rain falling - making it very disagreeable - travel 15 miles.

Nov. 4th 1864

Move at daybreak damp, cool and cloudy expect to meet the rebels, but when within three miles of Fayetteville, Ark. We hear that the rebels have raised the siege & left arrive at Fayetteville about noon the 1<sup>st</sup> Ark Cav. (Col. Harrison's) are drawn up in line to receive us, and give a Maj. Genl's salute of 13 guns from Mountain Howitzers.

A rough tho' pretty strong fort was thrown up and the garrison numbered near 1500 men.

Fayetteville, Ark. is one of the principal towns of Ark. But does not number over one thousand inhabitants the scenery is delightful - as the town is upon high ground among the Ozark Mts. - and looking either N.W. or South the valleys are mountains, with the far distant reach, are seen - and last only because the atmosphere seems to grow foggy or smoky in the dim distance. Move today 20 miles.

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

Move about noon towards Fort Smith Ark. On Cane-hill road bivouac at a farm house on battlefield of Prairiegrove - where we got eggs, chickens & c. & c. Fine weather travel 11 miles.

Hd Qtrs "Army of the Border"  
Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move at daylight fine weather pass over the battlefield of Can Hill bivouac in the Cherokee Nation Indian Terr., travel today in good country & well settled saw quite a

number of rebel sick and wounded left in the houses on the road we can not take them along - & Gen'l. Curtis has Maj. McKinney patrol as many as he had time to attend to and not get too far to the rear paroled about seventy-five. Travel 25 miles.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move at daylight - along the Salasa Creek. About 11 A.M. we pass a horrid sight viz: - the remains of a man reported by a Pin Indian woman (or squaw) to have been a rebel bushwhacker and killed by those Loyal Indians the skeleton was partly covered with the cuticle and part of an old pair of pants still clung to him. The flesh had all "scyugled". Very few houses along the road are inhabited near here were two women and two half naked children half-breeds were seen. One reported her husband a "Loyal Pin" to have been bushwhacked - and a brother of hers was shot while sitting in the door of the house. A week previous, by a rebel Cherokee - her mother an old squaw, was shot in the leg below the knee - at the same time.

Price was reported one day ahead of us the country has been quite prosperous the land good and pretty well cultivated country rather mountainous tho' most fertile valleys - forage all gone we stop and let our horses make one meal on young cane. As soon as the moon is up we push on by the light of the moon. Halt about 12- at night, and as the train will not be up before daylight we kindle fires and lie down on the prairie our feet to the fire and go to sleep under an overcoat or horse-blanket March to day near 30 miles

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move after Price about 8 A.M. follow to the Arkansas River just as his rearguard had crossed a little skirmishing is heard - about 25 shots are fired from the 1<sup>st</sup> Colorado Battery in order to be heard at Fort Smith, 20 miles below, and to scare our retreating enemy. A few of our advance ford the river, but soon return, and our chase is ended.

We bivouac two miles from the river and about 25 miles from Ft. Smith in the Cherokee Nation. 10 miles

The prairie is very soft. The weather wet & cool. Nothing but beef for the command to eat & but prairie grass for the stock.

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move about 9 A.M. towards Fort Gibson. The troops now scatter on different routes for Kansas, in order to get forage and eatables the 2nd Cav. Of Colorado - accompany Gen'l Curtis as an escort.

Quite cold & damp. Capt. Meeker and I follow a Mr. McKee to Fort Gibson ahead of the command by permission from Gen'l Curtis pass several good looking houses and farms; also a salt works called Macky's Lick where the saltwater boils up from the bottom of the Illinois river troops are generally stationed here and salt is manufactured for the posts of

Ft's Smith & Gibson we cross the Ozark Mts. Tho' they do not appear very differently from high hills. Arrive at Gibson and a Mrs. Binneger, niece of Gen'l Blunts' cooks us up some oysters & c. for supper and Maj. Wright, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Regt. (from Columbus O. aged 21 yrs) provides us with his room and bed.

The post is out of forage, save hay. And no rations - travel 40 miles.

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 1864

Maj. Wright & Capt. Bruce entertain us for breakfast. Gen'l Curtis arrived about noon. A dress parade of an Indian Reg't is held in the evening remain over night, again with Maj. Wright. Several large stone buildings are built inside of the Fort, the fortifications are strong - but very rough the town is a collection of log shanties inhabited by Indian families.

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border  
Fort Gibson Nov. 11th 1864

Move at 9 A.M. cross the Grand River by a ferry boat - the Cavalry ford about 7,000 Indians are living in little huts & c. - on the North Bank - being refugees - are supported by the Government. Bivouac on Flat Rock Creek. Capt. Meeker is put under arrest by order of Gen'l Curtis. I am ordered to take command of the Signal Corps Detchm't - March 20 miles

Nov 12th

Move at 8 A.M. I am ordered to ride near the rearguard and permit no men to fall back if a horse cannot keep in front of the guard; he is to be turned loose on the prairie. Cap't Meeker released early in A.M.

Weather beautiful. Wolves surrounded our camp last night and I often awoke at hearing their howling during the day we passed thro' a strip of timber - where I saw two deer one came within 15 paces of me, and stopped. I snapped a cap from my revolver, but the load did not go off - the deer did - they are very plenty in this region. Travel 25 miles to day.

Indian Territory. Oct. 13th 1864

Move at 8 A.M. Weather beautiful I rec'd permission from Gen'l Curtis to accompany the Forage Master after Cattle running loose upon the prairie. After driving in several small bunches or hers from 5 to 25 each we had got behind the columns 3 or 4 miles so had to hurry & catch up. My orderly & I started ahead as we were not needed in driving. I passed thro' several belts of timber and creeks fired at ducks several times with my carbine - and my orderly at a wolf which we saw but all got away.

While anxiously looking for deer on Cabin Creek I found an Indian pony with a tether or lariat dragging behind him. He tried to get away, but I caught the leather as he passed and secured a good riding nag. No one seems to live in this part of the country apparently, tho' it is not a dangerous locality. A train was attacked and captured in this vicinity a month or two since. The Pony has evidently belonged to some Indian or bushwhacker as he is shod all round. His main & tail are full of burrs and he is covered with wood ticks.

Camp at Duck Spring - 25 miles

Nov 14th 1864

Weather cloudy & cool - afraid of rain - as it would raise the Neosho river and we could not cross but it keeps off and we ford it pretty easily - the water just touching the saddle blanket of the horses a few men got quite wet, their horses stumbling - Bivouac on the North side - travel 12 miles

Prairie chickens are very plentiful the men shoot them with revolvers.

Hd Qtrs Army of the Border  
(in the field) Neosho River - Nov 15th 1864

Just as we are hitched up and ready to move, two ambulances arrive from Fort Scott with 12 boxes of crackers, 5 sacks of corn and 1 of Flour cheering is heard on all sides thro' camp and men rush for hard tack - this making the eighth day since they have had any bread. The command get one pint of corn for each horse no more as soon as they eat this we move on.

At the next creek - 7 miles we met the train of 10 or 12 wagons loaded with rations, but only 3 sacks of corn the men are very much disappointed as their horses must continue starving for grain we are now 73 miles from Fort Scott, Kans. And Gen Curtis concludes to take some of the fresh mules and go thro' without bivouacking. - his staff accompany - all riding in ambulances save me, as I have a fresh pony. Stop at dark & rest for 2 1/2 hours until the moon is up in he meantime all hands eat a bite then travel on make about 35 miles to ay

Fort Scott - Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 1864

Traveled all last night - came across civilization about daylight when we stop at a farm and purchase forage for our horses & mules rest until nearly 9 o'clock A.M. then make Fort Scott by 12 M. Col. C. W. Blair Comd"g Post rides out to meet the Gen'l and gives us the news of Lincoln's election also State Officers as we entered the city a Maj. Gen'l's salute of 13 guns is fired.

The Gen'l started about 3 P.M. in his ambulance for Fort Leavenworth Kans - tho' the citizens urge him and staff to remain 'till the 17th as a party and dance will be given this evening. As four of us - viz: - Maj. Sam Curtis Capt Ed T. Meeker, Lieut Hubbard & I

can get no ambulance, we remain. A fresh team is promised us for to morrow. The Gen'l says it is not necessary for us to hurry - 45 miles.

Fort Scott, Kansas  
Nov.17<sup>th</sup> 1864

Am quite unwell this morning on account of sleeping in a close room all night - with 3 other men. Besides having a huge boil on my neck. Gt started about 10 A.M. for Fort Leavenworth. Travel thro' Mound City, Kans - a small town.

Stop with a Mr. Gad all night on the road to Lawrence - 35 miles

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move at 6 1/2 o'clock A.M. snow on the ground and frozen. Travel at a good gait all day. 50 miles

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 1864

Move at daylight, pass tho' Lawrence City - about 9 A.M. Stop at a Restaurant and get a No 1 Breakfast - oysters eggs & c, & c get newspapers & c. & c.

Lawrence is most beautifully situated on the Kansas river valley, on the prairie - can look in any direction for many miles save across the strip of timber growing along the river.

This city was burned down, and desolated - and it's men, women and children massacred last year, but now it is rebuilt by some most excellent 2 - 3 - & 4 story business houses.

A very large Hotel has not been rebuilt, but everything seems to have life and enterprise about the City - buildings are going up in all directions.

We pass over a most excellent bridge in crossing the river all the goods transported South from Leavenworth - go "via" this bridge wagons and trains of wagons are constantly passing over the bridge is owned by a firm in New York City I am told.

Nothing more transpired of much interest until we reached Fort Leavenworth - where our rooms with good fires burning lights burning - & friends to welcome us back. I never was more glad to get home & rest go to mess house and get an oyster supper at 9 P.M.  
53 miles

Fort Leavenworth Nov 20th

Remain quiet all day and rest - my neck troubling me "muchly"

Nov 22nd

Wrote to the ADJUTANT GENERAL U.S.A. requesting to be relieved from Signal duty and be sent to my Regiment. Detailed as a member of a General Court martial at this Post.

Am very busy answering letters and fixing up my official Business

Nov. 25th 1864

The Detachment of the Signal Corps under Lieut J. R. Fitch arrives also the troops - accompanying us from the Arkansas River.

As a Reg't arrives they are drawn up in line before the Hd Qtrs of the Gen'l Curtis the Brass Band in attendance and the Gen'l gives them a few words of praise and congratulations when they cheer and march off to their respective quarters.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

Capt Ed. J. Meeker issues a Special Order relieving me from duty (at my request) as Instructor, I cannot attend to this also a Court Martial - properly.

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

The General Court Martial appointed Nov. 22nd is dissolved but a new one appointed immediately - and I a member.

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

Receive the following extract from an official Endorsement on Capt Meeker's Report to Bureau of the Signal Corps U.S.A. "But Capt Meeker and his Officers, were very active and useful in the field and very gallant in the face of the enemy. I must especially mention Lieut Roberts who as an Aide, I sent through the enemies lines to carry intelligence to Gen'l Pleasanton before he joined us on the field of battle."

(signed) S. R. Curtis

Maj. Gen'l

Respectfully (signed) Ed J. Meeker

Capt. Chf Sig'l Officer D.K.

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1864

Very cold. Thermometer about 10 degrees below zero early this morning. Too cold for Inspection. Attend Chapel exercises at 10.30 A.M. by Rev. Hiram Stone - Episcopal Minister & Post Chaplain. Missouri river frozen over.

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 1864

Not very cold to day -went out hunting in the afternoon. In the low ground on the Government Reservation is a regularly laid out race course - a one mile circle - in the same field I saw five rabbits, but did not shoot one Lieut Arthur Ellis of the Veteran Reserve Corps was along before returning to my qtrs I found an order relieving me from duty in the Signal Corps - and ordering me to return or report to the com'd'g officer of my Reg't which is now with Gen'l Sherman on his raid thro' the South. I will have to join him at Savannah, Ga. I suppose - Hurra! Hurra!

Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

Pack up my traps - am too late for the Stage, but Capt Meeker agrees to loan me his Ambulance and I start at 3 o'clock P.M. Gen'l Curtis seemed to give me up very reluctantly, said he hoped we would be together again.

Dec 20<sup>th</sup>

Took the cars at Weston Mo. At 2 P.M. arrived at St. Jo' Mo. About 7 1/2 P.M. called at the store of Jacob Goodline Jr. saw his Father also sisters - and Mr. Jn"o Bell St. Joseph is becoming quite a city. There are many large firms and large business houses or blocks - also an immense business. Left St. J. for Quincy Ill's at 10:30 P.M. Took a sleeping car

Dec 21st

On the Hannibal & St. Jo R.R. called often the Horrible & St. Jo R.R. and is very appropriate. The weather was very cold as the ice on the Missouri river was a foot thick. Several cars were disabled on the way and one train ran off the track causing us to wait about 8 hours.

Dec 22nd

Arrived at Quincy Ill's by crossing the Miss. River on the ice, which was over a foot thick. Quincy is built on a bluff did not see the City beyond the side hill next to the river. Saw some very good business blocks. The Depot was a fine one with good accommodations. Left for Chicago about 3 P.M. and traveled more satisfactorily as we made only 5 miles an hour across Mo.

Dec. 23rd

Arrived in Chicago Ill's about 9 A.M. snow on the ground about 4 inches deep. The edge of shore of Lake Michigan was frozen and the evening decidedly Winterish having met a party of 3 men and 2 young ladies from Colorado Terr. On the 21<sup>st</sup> we came here together & all put up at the Tremont House. I had never seen Chicago before and proposed getting a carriage and taking a ride. A sleigh was proposed and about 12 1/2 P.M. 2 men 2 ladies and my self started out and had a fine drive. Came back about 2 1/2 P.M. highly gratified with my ride & acquaintance took dinner at 3 1/2 P.M. At 5 we separated going in different directions.

Dec 24th

Arrived in Indianapolis about 2 A.M. changed cars for Columbus O. arrived in C. at 2 1/2 P.M. ran up to the State House to examine the Roster of my Reg't the Clerk noticing that I was the Senior Lieut of my Reg't remarked there was vacancy of a Captaincy in Co. F and said wait a minute and I will give you a "Christmas present" - so after consulting the Adj't Gen'l came back and filled a Commission for me as Capt in my Reg't !!!!

After a little shopping I went to the Depot took a 6 P.M. train and arrived in Zanesville O. about 9 P.M.

Dec 25<sup>th</sup>

An express wagon was leaving for McConnelsville and with Capt Andrew Arrick and 2 other passengers I started for home. The roads along the river were almost impassable. We had to get out many times and hold up the wagon to keep from going over the narrow places into the river. Arrived in M.C- about dark. Went to Malta and met my Sister Mrs. Sprague also a little young, bald, pink gentleman of 2 days old.

Dec 27th

Visited many friends yesterday & today attended a little party at Miss Lib Dye's last evening - enjoyed myself much. My friend H. H. Adair, a young man - died last evening of Camp fever, having contracted the disease while on a visit to the Army at Nashville Tenn.

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

Just returned from the country after calling on my friends in Morgan Co. Called on John & Mahlan Pettit. Hiram Roberts also met Cous Lib Pennell. Called at David Butts', Peter Bankus', Robert Laughlin, Foster Edwards' & Resolve Porters' Met Sam'l Brewster. Nathan Pettit & Jason Roberts at Seth Brewsters' where we spent the night of the 30<sup>th</sup> to day am settling my business for 1864 as I will start for my Reg't in a few days Lib Pennell came to town to day and will remain at Sister Mattie's till Monday Jan 2nd to be near me.



Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1865

River frozen over; boats cross at quite a risk. Wm & I went to church in Malta. At night crossed over to McC. and attended the Baptist Church to hear Mr. Stone - collecting money for "Home Mission" slept at the Patterson house with Jason Roberts.

Jan 2nd 1865

Started on a sled for Zanesville, O. after paying \$3. Fare. Distance 27 miles walked half way to Duncans falls, 18 miles snow gave out also horses - got a farm wagon and preceded. Had 2 young lady passengers. Arrived in Zanesville about 7 1/2 or 8 P.M. put up at the Zane House. Repacked my baggage. Fixed up a box to send home and took the most needful articles along.

Jan 3rd

Left Zanesville for Pittsburg, Pa., had Miss Frank Leland as company to Beaver Pa, where she was going to school. Was an agreeable companion tho' had very little to say. Arrived at Pittsburg. About 5 P.M. took sleeping car for Philad'a.

Jan 4th

Arrived in Philada about 6 1/2 A.M. Depot in West Philad'a took Street cars and went down Market to 11<sup>th</sup> then up 11th to Wallace. Called at 1114 Wallace St. but found my Aunt had gone to her Schoolroom. So hurried to see her before school time. Did so & from there visited my other relatives in the City. Took dinner at the Continental with Ed Coxe. Philad'a is without any doubt the finest city I have ever seen one feature that is particularly observed very many of the squares are all connected as one building the same height shape & c, &c. the coal used in the City is of a superior quality - and does not make so much dirt and smoke as any other I have seen. The Streets are laid off at right angles and kept clean.

Jan 5th 1865

After spending the night with Ed. T. Coxe and lady, I took another ramble thro' the city. In the afternoon Cousins Ellen & Lillie Gillingham No 1516 Vine St., at 3 P.M. took a car for Wilmington Del. Arrived after dark. Called on my relatives - who like the others were completely surprised - and hardly knew me. Remained all night.

Jan 6th

Took the train for Philad'a at 9.30 A.M. stopping in Philad'a to get my traps. Went on to New York - arriving there about 9 P.M. stopped at the Astor House. Price \$4.00 per day

Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

Met Lieut A.W. Stewart of my old Co. just from Savannah Ga., also other officers from my division. Was very glad to see them and it seemed Mutual. During the P.M. visited Barnum and Performance - was much interested. Procured transportation for Hilton Head, S.C. to go on the 9th inst at 10 A.M. by Steamship Fulton from Pier 37 North River.

Jan 8th

Attended Trinity Church in A.M. took Streetcars for Central Park in P.M. The Park consists of perhaps 50 acres of rough stony ground laid out in walks, ravines, small lakes, or fish ponds, curiously constructed houses or resting places and supposed to be very grand during the summer. Reindeer, elk, deer & c. & c. roam thro' tho' now sheltered - some snow is yet to be seen - the lakes are frozen over and thousands of people, young & old male & female are skating, tis quite a scene. The Park is designed to be somewhat Picturesque and many thousands of dollars have been expended in fixing it up.

This City cannot compare with Philad'a in symmetry of buildings either in business or as residences but more especially the latter. Broadway is constantly crowded with people and vehicles - in all kinds of weather.

Jan 9th

When I came to settle my bills at the Astor house the clerk asked me if I belonged to "Sherman's Army" I replied "I do" he returned the money remarking "We are not charging Sherman's officers anything this time" I thanked him, pocketed the money, and started for the Steamship "Fulton" - by street car moved out from port about 11 A.M. After moving around the harbor about 2 hours - we took a schooner in tow - loaded with Government stores and made for sea. A good breeze stirring - weather clear.

Jan 10th

Rain most of the time today a heavy wind - and the sailors said " a very heavy sea" passengers are getting sick and heaving "Jonah" I remained in by bunk the most of the day in the evening heaved slightly and could not go out to suffer with safety.

Jan 11th

Weather and sea moderating tho' a pretty good breeze - in the evening saw the trees and lighthouse (just lit up) off Cape Hatteras. Quite a pleasant evening - the passengers feel better and enjoy supper.

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 1865

Fine weather today. The passengers all feel well - and spend most of the time on deck. Have 2 Brig. Genls' on board - erndervere and Harrow - both seem to be what are called "good fellows"

Jan 13<sup>th</sup>

Most beautiful morning and weather. Arrive at "Hilton Head" S.C. many ships are lying at anchor. The town is built on low flat ground and contains about 2500 Inhabitants - is guarded by colored troops - no soldier is allowed to go on land until furnished with a pass - from an officer just come aboard - A tug is lying close by bound for Beaufort, on Port Royal Island - where my Division of the 17th Army Corps - is lying - so I jump aboard - & found Maj Gen'l F. P. Blair on his way from Savannah to Beaufort. He commands my A.C, (the 17th) Arriving at Beaufort I found my Co. on duty at Gen'l Blair's Hd Qtrs - and the boys seem glad to see me. Also met several Signal Officers - Cpts Taylor & McClintock, Lieuts Sampson & Dunlap, the latter ones, old acquaintances during the Vicksburg campaign of 63. Got into an ambulance and rode about 3 miles. Then put my traps into a wagon and marched about six miles when I caught up to Brigade Hd Qtrs where I stopped for the night - as my Reg't had been out forward to cross a river during the night and secure the crossing that the Corps might cross tomorrow.

Jan 14th 1865

Reported to my Reg't for duty Capt J. C. Robinson in command. I was assigned to Co F as they had no officer and in an hour or two caught up to the rebels - in our front & fortified. Capt Robinson called together the Co. officers and said it was expected that we would have a battle and we must encourage our late accession (drafted men) and keep them up to the mark. My Brigade was in advance. I was ordered to take command of the first four Co's and march to the front and de The 20th Reg't O.V.I. was sent forward in our place as they were all veterans and the Reg't small so that in number it was about equal to my 4 Co's - tho' in efficiency - excelling the first Brigade having been sent off to the right. Soon flanked the enemy & they had to skedaddle - after some skirmishing on both sides. We marched today probably 12 miles - rather unusual business for me lately, but I stood it well. Today is my birthday am 26 years old.

Jan 15th 1865- Sunday

Marched about 3 miles and arrived at Pocotaligo, S.C. a station on the R.R. between Savannah and Charleston - 50 miles from the latter place We go into camp here and commenced throwing up a fortification in front of our Reg't & connecting with others. We threw up a line of works last night and night before also - leaving them at daylight in A.M.

Jan 16th

The 2nd Brigade under Col Wiles went foraging about 3 miles out & back - gathering cattle and sheep for the 3rd Division 17th A.C.

Jan 18th

Went on Picquet (or Grand Guard) had com'd of the Brigade Picket. A foraging party went out and met the enemy. A good deal of skirmishing was going on from 10 to 1 o'clock - about 3 miles in front of me, but my line was not interrupted.

Jan 19th

My Picket (or one post) was visited by 4 rebel Cavalrymen during the night but seeing the camp or post fire skedaddled just as the sentinel had bro't his gun to a ready - tho' did not shoot.

Jan 20th

Drilled Co "F" in skirmishing this A.M. Rain the remainder of the day.

Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

Rain the most of the day. The country being level, the water settles in puddles and mud is everywhere. About 4 1/2 P.M. we are ordered to march back towards Beaufort and help along a supply train. Arrived at the place just at dark found the train had corralled for the night. Getting out the Corps Hd Qtrs train and finding no wagons belonging to the 3<sup>rd</sup> (our) Division, we came back thro' the darkness. It was impossible to keep the Co's together and everyone seemed be ambitious to get to camp first. The rain was falling and the road being higher than the country on either side - was better to walk in, but here was water & mud for a hundred yds in a place from 6 to 16 inches deep. There were wagon rut holes in which men would sometimes step in and go sprawling their whole length in the mud. The men along would laugh at this the man would sware and go ahead. I did not fall but got into a hole over my high boot top. I think it the muddiest little tramp I ever engaged in. The men came into camp one or two at a time.

Jan 22nd

Rain again this morning. At 9 A.M. am detailed as Officer of the Police guard. Mount guard in the rain - nothing happened worthy of mention. Rained very hard in the evening and continued all night. The men could not lie in their bunks on the ground, but many sat up and took the rain as it came.

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>

Continues wet & cloudy - very unpleasant. Too wet to drill the Co. remain in the tent occupied by Chaplain Stevenson, Lieut. Ross, & Q.M. Serg't Charles C. Wiles - all good and intelligent companions.

Not so wet, but quite cool also cool wind. Took the Co ("F") out to drill. 4 of the drafted men could not keep step. Formed them into an awkward squad and ordered Corp'l Crane to drill them watched my Serg'ts Wymer & Sturtz drill the Co. tried it a while myself and after getting the men woke up - had a satisfactory drill both A.M. & P.M. held Dress parade at 5 P.M. My Co ("F") I find very loose - careless and undisciplined, but by taking pains in what I do myself - and in instructed my Non Comiss'd Officers - have got a better state of affairs to going, which I think will make all of them soldiers.

Jan 24th

Clear & cool. Drill A.M. & P.M. Dress parade at 5 P.M.

Jan 25th

My Co ("F") is all detailed for guard. (Piquet & Police) but I am not the Comd'g Officer of either. The balance of the Reg't is ordered to move at 7 A.M. to accompany a Forage train of about 30 wagons and if possible without going too far, fill up with corn & forage. Go the Sawkehatchie River - 5 miles - and find plenty of husked corn, fodder & rice ricks. The enemy is upon the opposite side, but as we are not seeking a battle fill up our wagons in plain sight of them - and start back to camp. Arrive about 2 P.M.

Dress parade in evening at 5 o'clock weather clear & cold. Ice about 1/4 inch thick in A.M. Detailed for Picket for the 26th

Jan 26th

Quite cold. Report for Picquet at 8 1/2 A.M. & am put in charge of about 50 men. All quiet on the line.

Jan 27<sup>th</sup>

Arrive in Camp from Piquet duty about 9 1/2 A.M. during my absence on duty the Mail arrived and about 20 commissions are received for the 78th Reg't. About 8 or 9 of the line Officers, which are, and have been, on detached service at Brigade or Div. Hd Qtrs, as Staff Officers, are entirely left out in the promotions consequently a great deal of dissatisfaction prevails. All such seem to think Gov. Brough (of Ohio) has made a mistake in the matter. A meeting was called and the officers in receipt of Commissions have agreed to accept them, but not to be mustered until hearing again from Gov. Brough.

About 5 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutents are made Captains and many 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeants are promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieuts. An officer, a junior Capt (Robinson) but the Senior Capt on duty in the Reg't is promoted to Major. Some of the Staff interested in the promotions start (by order) immediately for Ohio and visit the Governor. If I had not stopped in Columbus, Ohio and showed the order returning me to duty in my Reg't I would not have rec'd my present commission as Capt.

Lieut A. W. Stewart arrived from N. York City. called at Gen'l Sherman's Hd Qtrs to deliver a message from Gen. Curtis to him, but he was absent.

Jan 28th

Quite cool & frosty. Ice 1/2 inch thick. Called at Gen'l Sherman's Hd Qtrs and delivered my mess'g. was rec'd very cordially, asked to sit down and talked perhaps two minutes in answering questions in regard to the Dept of Kansas, seeing he was busy I soon left.

All extra baggage is ordered to be turned over Regt'l Hd Qtrs are not allowed to take anything but a tent fly for a covering. Officers and men are drawing Shelter tents. Drill in P.M. Dress parade in the evening.

Jan 29th

Sunday Inspection (Regimental) at 1 1/2 P.M. Church at 3 P.M. sermon remarks by Private Coffman Co "I" 78th and Chaplain T.M. Stevenson. Dress Parade in the evening. Ordered to be ready to March at 7A.M. Jan 30th 1865.

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>

The Army of Sherman again commences a Campaign. We move nearly N. West about 5 miles and Bivouac. The roads poor on account of swamps and low ground.

Jan 31<sup>st</sup>

Make out monthly reports of Co "F" frosty morning, but beautiful day. Detailed as Forage Officer for the Reg't. My party number 25 men. Our business consists of providing meat and bread for the Reg't - report to Brigade Hd Qtrs

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

A very pretty day.

Upon reporting at Brig. Hd Qtrs I find I am the Senior Officer of the four forage details from the Brig. and am ordered to take command, there are 3 Lieutenants, myself and near 90 men, we move forward about 6 miles, then send the details of 2 Reg'ts to the right of the road and two to the left. I accompanied the left and found the country already cleared

of eatables, but secured 16 head of cattle and about 40 head of sheep. The Detachment on the right brought in nothing. I divided the meat to the 4 Reg'ts in the Brigade.

Feb 2nd

Very pleasant weather. Move early. My Brigade has the advance this morning. Soon find a fine lot of bacon on a plantation, also some flour & meal, chickens, turkeys, & geese. During the day we capture 3 horses and 3 mules - also a cart which we fill with bacon, chickens, & c. & c. get up to the Reg't in the evening in time to hear and see part of a skirmish at Barker's Mills. The rebels soon skedaddled, we move forward one mile farther & bivouac at 9 o'clock P.M.

Feb 3rd

Rain all day. Move at 7 1/2 A.M. After moving 2 or 3 miles - saw a plantation off to the right - and started out - riding up on a gallop. Discovered three women burying some clothing & other goods in a corn field close to the house. They were much alarmed swung out a white flag and asked for protection. I informed them we would not injure their persons nor burn their property, but would take their horses, cattle, hogs, bacon and whatever is needed for the use of the army. Their best articles were buried in boxes and in the ground covered over with a little earth and old corn stalks piled on top. In these boxes were found some rebel uniforms also some Federal uniform drawers, socks & c. & c. that which belonged to the woman I did not allow touched, though the men's apparel, ammunition & c., found were appropriated. Today captured considerable bacon, flour, meal, honey, eggs & c. & c. Bivouac on the River where a skirmish or battle has been progressing all day. The Reg't was ordered to move four miles and started about 9 P.M., during the rain. Foragers and myself remain in camp. One cart full of bacon, flour & c broke down 3 miles from camp and we had to abandon it.

Feb 4th

Start about 8 A.M. - back to Bethel Church where our Cart broke down while there, found the bacon gone - the flour there yet. We put in sacks and returned to camp. About 1 P.M. moved our camp about 2 miles further in the evening receive an order to turn over all my captured animals after furnishing the Reg't with pack animals I turned over 8. The Provost Marshall permitted me to retain one for my own use while foraging.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>

Pleasant day. Foraged 1 cart and 1 wagon & filled them with Bacon, Flour, meal, potatoes (sweet), tobacco, molasses, Honey, turkey's, chickens & c. Also several horses and mules, got pretty close to the rebels. bivouac's in an open field - 4 miles from River's Bridge.

Feb 6th

Pleasant weather. As my Reg't was well supplied with rations, I concluded to forage today for horses & mules. Went about 3 to 6 miles S.E. of our line of march. Captured 12 or 15 horses - and among them, a superior Stallion 6 years old - bay - of Canadian blood, was estimated to be worth from 3 to 7 thousand dollars (Confederate money) his owner said he had been offered 3,000 for him but refused. A neighbor said he was worth 7,000. bivouac's near Salkehatchie creek, crossed a large swamp.

Feb 7th

Wet & very muddy & disagreeable. Let Maj. J. C. Robinson have my Stallion. Upon reporting to Div. Hd Qtrs my horse, going fast, stumbled and fell into a mud puddle in the road. Both she and I were covered with mud. Crossed Lemon's Swamp today, had to corduroy the road before crossing. Afterwards captured several horses & mules, a buggy and a cart load of meat & c. burned the house of Brig. Gen'l David Jamison, a great State Rights man and President of the Convention that voted S. Carolina to secede from the Union, thereby causing so much trouble. He is now dead I am informed, his family had left and taken their goods. Not a white person was seen on the premises, his cotton and Cotton Gin was also burn'd. Went to Midway Station, but found that my Div. had not yet arrived on acc't of 2 other Div. being in the way and much mud & bad roads. I put my party in a good camp and went back to find my Reg't.

Feb 8th

Moved early -bivouacs about 11 A.M. at Midway - myself & forage party took a Scout out 11 miles down the river beyond Branchville. Returned to Midway bringing 19 cattle for the Reg't. Turned over about 22 horses & about 5 mules.

Feb 9th

Left Midway Station on the Ga. R.R. and marched on a road parallel to the river. The 1<sup>st</sup> Div. in front are met by the rebels at the crossing of the Edisto River - at Benniker Bridge - who open upon us with Artillery, at 7 P.M. We have 3 Reg't's of Inf. across.

Cloudy & cold day, water freezing all day long. The country cleared of provision by troops passing before. Obtained some cattle & sweet potatoes Bivouac's at 6:00 P.M. But at 9 P.M. the order came to move over the river. So we started but could not cross, & bivouac's on the bank at 11 1/2 P.M.

Feb 10th

Cool morning. Start after forage about 9 A.M. Cross the river and go 4 or 5 miles into the country get 2 wagon loads of Flour, meal, bacon, & c., & c. return and find my Brigade on the North side of the river. Capture a Negro who has been in the rebel service over 3 years. Get 2 mules and two horses - hire the Negro, Thornton, for my servant.



Feb 11th

Go about four miles, get one wagon and three cartloads of Bacon, flour & c. enough of the bacon for two days rations. The 17th A. Corps move to the river - (North Edisto) where my Brigade is halted by the rebels having a battery planted - enfilading the road. We bivouac on the South side & one mile from Orangeburg.

Feb 12th

As Cavalry are seen passing by our Camp I was told we could get across the river. Accordingly got my forage party ready and started, but could not cross - the rebels yet holding the place. I had captured a seven-shooter carbine (Spencer) and was anxious to try it, so hid myself in the bushes and advanced to within 4 or 5 hundred yards of the enemy's works. And as the men showed themselves at the embrasure I fired 3 different times when the rebel sharp shooters opened on my situation - and threw two bullets with a few feet of - having nothing but little bushes to protect me from their missiles - & lying on the decayed trunk of a fallen tree - just over a ditch filled with water 3 or 4 feet deep - I concluded to change position. In a little time I heard that my Brigade was trying to cross the swamp & river south of the bridge - by the aid of a pontoon. So I took my party and went to them. A pontoon was soon thrown across & we crossed the river but had to wade the swamp - everyone getting wet at least as high as above the knee - & some fell down. Gen. Sherman crossed in the same manner - got into a place over 3 feet deep - the water quite cold and he called out loudly. Some of the boys of the 17th Wis. carried him the balance of the way. Brig. Gen'l Force - Comd'g my Division pointed to a corduroy road leading thro' the swamp. I told him I would take it - he said I wish you would and then send me the report I went thro' the swamp and up the bank on the other side surrounding and examining a large house and Negro quarters. At the same time saw a lot of rebel Cavalry moving up a road some 7 or 8 hundred yards from us. I commenced firing upon them and they soon got out of the way. Occasionally we could see some of them behind the houses at the next plantation and would fire. I sent word to Gen'l Force and he sent the 68th O.V.I. to hold the position. After securing the forage at this house I went forward and captured the next house - and the Railroad passing by in front of the house. Rebels could be seen in several directions, but my Brigade soon came up and commenced tearing up the R. R.

The rebels evacuated Orangeburg a little after I fired on them and our Army took possession of the place. Several of the people fired their cotton before leaving and the business part of the place was destroyed - fires were seen all night long and many families of women & children left homeless. Weather clear but cold for S. C.

Feb 13th

Left Orangeburg early - the town formerly numbered, perhaps, 5,000 people - now nearly empty. Traveled today about 14 miles. The Army was engaged in tearing up the R.R. all

the way. I went off on the right flank & got a large wagonload of meat, meal, corn, molasses & c., & c.

Feb 14th

Moved out with my detail about 9 1/2 A.M. to the right: many of the forage details from other com'd's were mounted; consequently went ahead of footman, and secured the forage. I did get but about 1 bbl of flour today carried it in sacks on a few mules I had along.

My division is engaged in tearing up the R. R. all day. Weather unpleasantly cold to ride - so walked most of the way. bivouac's near Louisville S.C. on the R. R.

Feb 15th

Quite a wet cold night. Started early this morning with mounted men alone, left the footman to come along with the Reg't As the road ran parallel with the river and about one mile distant - I took the left flank; traveled about 30 miles today was over ten miles from the main column moving on the State Road. The country passed over today is very poor & sandy traveled 4 to 5 miles without seeing a house or plantation. Forage very scarce. Got but 1 bbl of meal, about 50 lbs. of flour, and some honey & potatoes. Met the foragers from the 14" & 20" A.C. As I was within three miles of their column. Cannonading & musketry is engaged in today at the crossing of Congeree Creek - 6 or 8 miles from Columbia, S. C. The four Army Corps; viz: 14th, 15th, 17th & 20th are now within 15 miles of each other and concentrating.

Feb 16th

Leave Camp about 11 A.M. our march is over swamps and sandy hills. on a road parallel with the river (Broad) arrive on the bank opposite the City of Columbia & Capital of South Carolina. Cannonading and musketry at long range is engaged in

The City looks beautifully from our bivouac. The State House and churches are quite prominent. Get no forage today of consequence. The country poor and four Army Corps present and close together.

Feb 17th

Do not move out early as the 15" Corps is ahead and a pontoon Bridge is to be laid across the Saluda & Broad rivers before we cross, but the first is soon crossed the latter we have to be cautious about, however a Brigade of the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps is crossed in boats drive away the rebels and meet the Mayor of the City in his carriage who surrenders the City to Maj. Gen'l Jn. A. Logan. The pontoon was soon finished and Gens. Sherman, Howard & others crossed I followed closely with my foragers, and while they were marching thro' the City, I pounced upon 3 or 4 plantations near the City and obtained 6 loads of meal, flour, molasses, tobacco, bacon & c. & c. beside a rebel battleflag. The saltpeter

manufactory and several mules and horses - then marched into the City. Saw several intoxicated men (soldiers) on the streets. My Division does not get in till nearly 11 P.M., at which time the City is on fire. A strong wind prevails and desolation spreads far & wide. I never saw such a sight in my life and hope I may never have to see such again - women & children are clustered in the fields & out of the way places with perhaps two or three bundles of individual clothing - everything else burned. These have been worth from 2 to 3 hundred thousand dollars and how homeless - out in the night air witnessing the burning of their city. Such are the consequences of Secession.

Feb 18th

Move out early, thro' the city and along the Charlotte and South Carolina R.R. as we pass up the main Street every thing we see is smoke from smoldering ruins, brick walls - and here and there perhaps a house left unburned.

Today I forage South of the R.R. fire 2 or 3 shots at some flying rebels who get away and return to camp with 7 or 8 new mules and 3 or 4 horses.

Feb 19th

My Division & Corps is engaged in tearing up the R.R. again today. Rebel Cavalry dispute our advance and considerable firing is engaged in but few men are hurt.

My party go foraging South of the R.R. Meet several rebels who skedaddle at our approach. At one time however - a rebel column marching within a 1/2 mile of us is discovered retreating before the advance of our Army on the R.R. I deem it prudent to leave the column pass unmolested as I have but 22 men. After the column passed I advanced to a plantation in plain sight of their rear - 6 or 7 hundred yards distant - load my party - feed the mules & horses - stay about 1 1/2 hours and start back to camp unmolested by anything save our advance picquets who can hardly believe we are Federals as we come from the direction of the rebel column. Both sides prepare for battle but I advanced and satisfied both parties. Bivouac the same place as last night and six miles from Columbia, S.C.

Feb 20th

Move ten miles out the R.R. and bivouac near Doko Station - a female Academy is located within 1/2 a mile of this place and the young ladies of this vicinity seem better educated and more refined than usual - as far as seen in S.C.

Foraged on both sides of the R.R. today. Obtained 1 buggy and one wagon full of rations. My Brig. is tearing up R.R. today.

Feb 21st

Move up the R.R. again & pass Ridgeway Station. Bivouac within 5 miles of Winnsboro, S.C. I obtained a large wagonload of forage to day, but my wagon broke down & I was obliged to leave 2 bbls of cornmeal - but packed the most of the Stuff on the backs of my animals. Did not get into Camp 'till nearly 11 1/2 P.M.

Feb 22nd

Pass thro' Winnsboro early in A.M. The 20th Army Corps have occupied the place - the business portion has been burned. Bivouac near Poplar Spring Church. The 15th 17th & 20th Army Corps are together today - consequently I got no forage. The 20th A.C. was in front - & the 15" A.C. next.

Feb 23rd

March to the Wateree river & cross. An order has been issued to dismount foragers and other unauthorized mounted persons at the pontoon bridge so I try to get my party of 25 men across without loosing my nags. Build a raft but the water is too swift. Swim 1 horse across but he mires & is unable to get out on the opposite bank. In the evening I succeed in getting my party across being fully mounted. Bivouac on the eastern shore of the Wateree. Night wet & muddy. The Reg't not coming 'till late I took a bed with Serg't Vernon & Priv. Rodgers under a shelter tent.

Feb 24th

The Reg't did not get over the river and to its camping place until 5 1/2 A.M. Then its position was in a low, ploughed bottom field - mud shoe top deep and wood scarce. Moved out about 8 A.M. My Division is the rear Div. and in charge of the pontoon train of the 17th Corps. The roads are almost impassable, yet we travel over 12 miles. I went foraging but got nothing of consequence, save a small issue of corn meal. Rode nearly all day thro' the wet and rain and mud. Ran into the 15th & 20th Corps and their foragers everywhere. Bivouac near the Russell place. During the day pass thro' a little village called Liberty Hill where have been excellent schools. I stopped at one plantation a little time that my men might get away from the rain and clean and dry out their guns. In the mean time stepped into the house, found the Lady of the house, her Sister and daughter. Her Sister (Miss Patterson) played 3 or 4 pieces on the piano for men, and me, which we enjoyed. The house was nearly stripped of furniture, neither carpets nor any good furniture being left. The ladies seemed quite talkative, especially relating to their grievances.

Feb 25th

Horrible morning - being cold - windy - muddy & raining. March at 7 A.M. About 4 A.M., the water running under my bed saturated the clothes under me and I could sleep no longer - altho' I called Thornton (my Negro servant) and he ditched the tent with a

spade - but it did not dry my bed. I received an order to turn over my horses & mules - so took them to Brigade Hd Qtrs where they selected 5 mules and allowed me to keep the others for the present. Started out foraging, and after going about 3 miles saw a man lying dead in a field near the road. Had him carried to a house close by where I had a good fire built in hopes he might come to life. He must have fallen down in a fit - or in poor health & perished by the severe weather. A letter in his pocket was directed to Mr. David Grapes - 16th Iowa Vol. Inf.

Succeeded in getting rations of bacon & sweet potatoes. Came about 12 miles. Bivouacked near the Copeland place & 4 or 5 miles from Flat Rock P.O. Kearshaw District (Co) S.C. This makes 3 days the 3rd Division has marched in the rear of the 17th A. Corps.

Feb 26th

March at 7 A.M. Weather not quite as bad as yesterday tho' raining almost constantly. Clears up during the day. My forage party gets a good start. 15 men mounted. Get ahead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. but the 4th Div. is yet ahead. Strike off into the country on the left of the column cross little Leache's Creek by swimming a few horses. Obtain one ox wagon full of bacon, sweet potatoes & c. Also the oxen to pull the cart to camp, as the creek is very high my Brig (being in charge of the pontoon train) does not cross to day. My foragers do not re-cross the creek, so we bivouac away from camp to night alone.

Feb 27th

Leave my forage in charge of a guard, my Reg't to get it when it comes along. Having heard of Citizen train of 3 or 4 wagons hid away in the woods. I go after it. A few foragers are ahead of me, but I get two wagons & their loads of meat. On my way to camp get 7 or 8 bushels of corn meal at a Mill on the way. Get into camp early - (3 P.M.) bivouac on Big Leache's Creek & in Kearshaw Dist.

Feb 28th

Cross Leach's Creek about daylight, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Div. having bivouacked last night with the Corps. Today takes its place in the center and the 4th Div. in rear. I get about one issue of bacon & sweet potatoes today. On the left flank - towards Chester field - in C\_d District, the county is a very poor sandy soil - hilly, yet fertile valleys. Rain all day.

March 1<sup>st</sup>

The enemy, under Gen'l Hardee is demonstrating in our front, we do not move today as a Div., but my foragers go out on our left flank some 10 miles. Heard of a lot of corn meal at McQueen's Mills and hurried to secure it. Rebel soldiers had just passed by and advised the citizens to secure the meal - and they were doing so, when we arrived. Captured a dray & horse loaded at the Mill. Took the meal from the citizens and was getting it together when a few rebel soldiers made their appearance. A few shots from us

made them skedaddle. We crossed the bridge over the Mill dam and pond set the Mill and house on fire. Tore up the bridge to keep the cavalry from following us. Left a vigilant rearguard and went safely to camp. The cart broke down, but the meal was packed in sacks on our animals.

March 2nd

Remained in Camp all day. My forage party goes out far enough (4 or 5 miles) to get corn & blades for their horses, then return. In the P.M. a rebel prisoner is shot to death in retaliation for one of our foragers having been taken prisoner and murdered on the spot a number of tickets were drawn & the one drawing a certain one was to be shot. The lot fell upon a man perhaps 45 years old & said he had a large family of small children - 5 of them girls. He was a Christian man - engaged in prayer some time, then was blindfolded & stood up against a large tree. 12 men of the 30th Ill's Inf." did the shooting. - 6 guns loaded with powder & bullet. At the time they fired his arms were raised slightly, his lips moving and evidently engaged in prayer. At the close of the volley he fell down hill. 5 balls entered his breast & one his thigh. In his pockets was money and a Tract entitled "The Universalists' Daughter" Such are the necessities of War. Gen'l F. P. Blair issued the order - in compliance with an order of Gen'l Sherman's. The day was dark - showery and cloudy.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Morning cool. Ordered to report to Brigade Hd Qtrs with my foragers and after doing so was ordered to report to Lieut. Col. Hughes, Com'd 9th Ill's Inf." - for duty. Did so & followed him all day - & doing Cavalry duty - rode 16 miles to the right flank and took possession of Society Hill - a wealthy village. Near the Great Pedee River - We tore up the R. R. then secured a little forage - traveled 4 miles & bivouac's.

March 4th

Was released from duty as Cav. when I took my foragers back to Society Hill. Visited the residences of Messr's Pringley, Dr. Smith, Mrs. Williams & others. Got a nice lot of Hams, Flour, meal & c - &c. Returned to my Reg't & Div. in the evening at Cheraw on the Great Pedee River. Where the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. of the 17th Corps - charged the works of the rebels and took about 27 cannon. The enemy had scattered rosin on the bridge across the river and burned it before we crossed. Cheraw is built on high ground & on the West bank of the Great Pedee River occupies about one sq. mile of ground is sparsely built & well laid out - the streets very wide - with a row of trees on each side walk and a row in the center of the street - is the termination of a R.R. running south.

March 5th

My Reg't moved over the river during the night - by means of a pontoon bridge. This morning I took my party across. Go foraging within 5 miles of Bennettsville the capital of Marlboro District. Bivouac 7 miles from the place with my Reg't. Capture plenty of

excellent hams, shoulders, meal & c. Also 4 prisoners, several of my men skirmish with the enemy. Everywhere we go we find household goods - clothing & produce - buried in the ground or hid in swamp. We take of such what the army needs and leave the remainder. Today Capt. Mills got bottled wine hid in a swamp - brought it into camp and the officers and several men got quite jolly.

March 6th

Move forward and occupy Bennettsville. I foraged between it and the river S. West. Met Mrs. Col. L. M. Kitt - whose husband while living and as U.S. Senator was a famous Secessionist. Among the articles buried found some of the Col's clothes - library & c. & c. Return to her a set of fine jewelry my men found hid out with other things. Got several horses & mules also some forage.

March 7th

Move from Bennettsville at 8 A.M. I moved to the right flank. Captured a number of good horses & mules also plenty of forage. Fed at a little village called Clio., in P.M. made a dash after 5 rebels seen, but they took the woods & got away. Bivouac at Beaver Dam.

March 8<sup>th</sup>

Move at 8 A.M. Forage on the right flank again as no troops of ours are passing in that direction tho' report to Lt Col Hughes in AM to act with the Cavalry - and save the bridge across the Lumber River which we did. Then sent foragers to either flank - also crossed the river with four men - capture 9 horses and several mules. Bivouac at the College. Rain all day quite hard and almost unceasingly. My feet were very wet, as the water ran off my coat into my boots.

March 9th

Move at 8 A.M. on the lower road (plank) to Fayetteville. Expect to go 8 miles but get over 12 - although raining all day 3 or 4 of my men found a jug of Apple Brandy and gave me some trouble. The country here is very poor. Small plantations & few Negroes - get plenty of meat but hardly a barrel of flour was to be seen in a days travel. Cornmeal too - is scarce - families not having on hand (generally) but from 1/2 to 1 bus. We use the Negro men to ride our captured animals to camp - or drive in a loaded vehicle - then turn them over to the Pioneer Corps. The Reg't bivouac'd about 1 mile from the Brigade in order to guard a road.

March 10<sup>th</sup>

Move at 8 A.M. Foragers move to the right - during the P.M. enter a little village called St. Paul - in which is built the Robeson Institute - a flourishing school before the War,

country quite poor. Bivouac near "Rock Fish Creek" bridge. Captured several animals today. Weather damp & cloudy tho' clears up in the P.M.

March 11th

Move out about noon. An order comes allowing only one forager for 55 men consequently the detail from my Reg't numbers only 10 men which I have mounted on gray horses. Move forward and occupy Fayetteville N.C. on the Cape Fear River. A large party of foragers - who had quite a skirmish losing 6 men, drove out the enemy. The enemy skedaddled across the river to the N. East - burning the bridge after them. The town occupies a large area of ground tho' sparsely built - and a very poor place. The majority of the houses are old unpainted frames. the people look very poor. Very many poor women are seen on the streets & begging for a little corn to eat. Bivouac 1 1/2 miles West of the town.

March 12th

Remain in camp all day. A Boat (Tug) arrived in A.M. from Wilmington bringing dispatches. Goes back at 5 P.M. so have a chance to send a letter home the first chance to mail anything since Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant Weather

March 13th

Ordered to move at 12 M. Cross the Cape Fear River, about 1 1/2 miles South of the City, by means of a Pontoon bridge. The Hd Qtrs of Gen'l Sherman were made at the arsenal in the city - though most of the buildings are being battered down by the Engineers Reg't - although a U.S. building, yet it has been used by the rebels so we must destroy it to prevent further use by them.

March 14th

Go foraging about 9 miles South of Camp. Succeed in getting a full ration of bacon - Tho' but little flour or meal.

March 15th

Move to South river. My forage party travel 40 miles today and get full rations of meat (bacon) also meal. Are too far from Camp to reach it tonight, so bivouac with a Mr. Simpson within 12 miles of Camp. Raining most of the day. Forage in the Melvin settlement.

March 16<sup>th</sup>

Reach Camp about 11 A.M. Get dinner and move out at 1 P.M. Travel 10 or 12 miles. Find a mill and grind corn all night. Remain all night with a Mr. Owen within 7 miles of Owensville.



March 17<sup>th</sup>

Load up 2 or 3 wagons and several carts with bacon & meal and start for Clinton. Supposing my Corps would bivouac at that place. Reached the town about 1 P.M. and as no other "Yankees" had arrived I was the first one in town. Several men came to me saying they surrendered the place to me and handed over the keys to the storehouses containing Confederate Stores corn, oats, rye, bacon, cotton & c. About 2 1/2 P.M. Lieut Phillips of the 20th O.V.V.I. and I took dinner with Mrs. Col. Brown, her husband being at Mobile in the rebel army. Clinton is quite a pretty place and contains a Male and female Academy. Many well-dressed and intelligent young ladies are seen and seemed very much afraid the "Yankees" would injure them but I soon pacified their excitement. After getting a wagonload of meal plug tobacco & c. I left the place just as the 9th Ills Cavalry entered the town - and commenced to arrest the foragers for being in their front. Also informed me I was a long way from my Camp (17 miles) so I hurried off and arrived at Gen'l Blair's Hd Qtrs about 9 P.M. he informed me my Div. (3rd) would not be in till very late and I had better bivouac my forage train in rear of his Hd Qtrs. I concluded by taking his advice.

March 18th

Deliver my forage a little after daylight as my Reg't marched past on the road. Go out again and find plenty of fine hams. Get into Camp before my Div. at Piney Grove cross roads 2 Co's of my Div. were detailed to grind corn at a Mill near camp.

March 19<sup>th</sup>

Move at 7 A.M. to Smith's Chapel. My forage party cross the Wilmington & Goldsboro R.R. at Fagen's Depot then travel South thro' a very rich neighborhood. Capture a mill & about 20 bus corn meal already ground we ran the Mill and ground a little more. Get about 3 days full rations of meal & c. today. On the way to camp - visit the Widow Miller's plantation and find out from the Negroes that the horses are hid away in the woods or swamp. They do not know exactly where, but I took one black man - offered him a Silver half dollar if he would help us find the horses. He said he would do the very best he could for me - and led off - followed by my Serg't Sigman and I. After traveling about 2 mile we came to a thick and large forest swampy the darkey saw a track, which he was sure, was made by one of the horses. Soon after this we scattered about 50 steps apart and searched the woods well to the right of the road. Then the same on the left, after while found 2 carts loaded with meat & fresh tracks and after listening a moment heard voices of men as they were crossing a swamp. We double quicked after them - thro' the mud-vines briars - fallow trees & c. and soon got sight of 3 or 4 horses & men. My Serg't dismounted and ordered them to halt at the same time hurrying after them. We captured 3 horses 1 mule - 1 Negro boy & 1 white boy. The remainder of them were across the swamp & ran off. We soon followed after. Some foragers captured a few of the others, but one brave little boy of 13 years old Charley Miller was mounted on a 4 year old Stallion and was not to be taken so easily. His horse jumped a fence into a field

- was ordered to halt - and was fired at twice, but he continued across the field - his horse jumping a ditch & a fence and gained the woods to the rear. As it was getting dark I supposed the boy would go toward home, so followed after. In going thro' a dense woods - we heard a horse "winnow" went to him and found the Stallion. Then went to the house and found the little boy - unhurt. Invited him to go to camp with me and he went. Arrived in camp near 12 P.M. After riding about 45 miles.

March 20<sup>th</sup>

Foragers are ordered to remain with their Reg'ts today. March to Mill creek near Bentonville - where more or less fighting has been going on for two days. We take position and fortify.

March 21<sup>st</sup>

Go foraging to the East South East - run across the 24th & 25th Army Corps - com'd'd by Gen. Terry. One of his Divisions being Negro troops, we do not meet them until coming in on their rear, their supply train was behind and guarded - by Negroes - my men are partly clothed in citizens clothing & pass well for rebels. So two of my advance, noticing the Negroes unwatchful - charged up and demanded them to surrender - which they immediately did. Lying down their guns & traps - several others were captured. My boys exchanged rusty muskets for their bright ones and let them go - telling them the truth of the case. Two orderlies (white) of the Medical Director at Gen'l Terry's Hd Qtrs were straggling behind. My boys captured them - and paroled them. They asked to be taken good care of as they said they had been guarding rebel property - and produced memorandum books in which the young ladies at the house had complimented the boys on their gentlemanly Deportment. One of the Negroes said he wanted to get back to live with his "Massa" in Kentucky - that he was draf'd in the Army and was tired of Yankees. Bivouac's 15 miles from Camp - at a Methodist preachers - firing was going on all day & night at the front.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Arrived in camp about noon - found an order detailing me at 17th A. Corps Hd Qtrs as Ass't Com's'y of Musters. So report in P.M. and move my traps in the evening - all to Hd Qtrs.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Move from Camp at Mill Creek - 14 miles toward Goldsboro. I ride with Gen'l F.P. Blair & Staff. Weather windy & unpleasant. Fire is running over woods and fields - making the air very full of smoke.

March 24<sup>th</sup>

Move at 8 A.M. Cross the Neuse River about 9 A.M. Find it narrower, much, than I expected being only about 80 yards wide. Goldsboro is about 4 miles from our crossing where our Pontoon was laid - the other bridges being burned. Gen'l F. P. Blair & Staff rode up to Gen. W.T. Sherman's Hd Qtrs and halted. Quite a number of Gen'l's were present and as the troops marched past the Qtrs by Column of Companies - Officers would salute. Among the Gen'l's present were Maj. Gen's Sherman, Howard, Slocum, Schofield, Logan, Blair, Williams, Davis, Barry, Geary, & Brig. Gen'l's Greene, Dodd, and others I did not learn the names of.

Seven Army Corps viz: 14h 15th 17th 20th 23rd 24th & 25th are here within perhaps ten miles of each other; five of them encamped around the town Gen'l Schofield took the place and fortified within the first 24 hours strongly enough to defy an assault. When we arrived there was a general meeting of old friends - and much shaking of hands.

March 25<sup>th</sup>

Took Hd Qtrs in the town; taking 2 or 3 rooms in a house. The office of the Commissary of Musters is the parlor of a house owned and occupied by A. M. Knight and family. Our sitting & bed room are in the house of a Mr. Nelson and Wife - each contains a piano - My room mates are Capt. H. S. Nourse, Com's'y of Musters, Capt. Miller, Ass't Provo Marshal, Capt. Smith, Ord. Officer, Mr. Taylor, Artist for Frank Leslie's Illustrated paper.

March 30th

Capt. Nouse having been mustered out of service - I am appointed - Com's'y of Musters - by Gen'l O.O. Howard and commence my duties as such.

April 10<sup>th</sup>

Having been very very busy in my office I neglected all such things as could be got along without i.e. My Diary & c. Having become pretty well acquainted with Mr. Knight family - often step into their room and have a tune on the piano - as there are 3 young ladies - Miss Laura, Miss Nellie, and Emma, a little girl of 12. Emma and I are very intimate - as she often comes into my office - and has taken quite a fancy for me. We often go out to take a drive in my buggy in the evening.

Today we break up our Quarters & start on another campaign. Travel about 12 miles towards Raleigh and bivouac. Raining nearly all day.

April 11th

Move about 13 miles - and bivouac near Pine Level Station on the R.R. The enemy fall back and destroy R.R. as they go. Using Yankee prisoners who have taken the oath of Allegiance to the Confederacy - to do the work. Several of these men fell into our hands

we call them Galvanized Yankees - their story is that to keep from starving - they took the oath.

No guns have been placed in their hands but are armed with picks & shovels. Those who have reached our lines seem very glad to escape.

April 12<sup>th</sup> 1865

Travel over a very circuitous route thro' swampy country. Run into the 15th Corp, but strike off on another road. Travel about 12 miles - and bivouac on the ground the rebel Gen'l Johnson has just evacuated. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4th Divisions do not bivouac with us - not being able to get up.

April 13<sup>th</sup>

Move at 7 A.M. March about 14 miles on solid roads. The 3rd & 4th Divisions catch up to us. Bivouac 14 miles from Raleigh & on the opposite side of the Neuse River - near Battle Bridge. The Bridge had been burned before we came by the retreating rebels.

April 14<sup>th</sup>

Get to the river at 7 1/4 A.M. some of the Pontoon boats were already in the water. At 9 1/2 A.M. - we commenced crossing our forces. Burning the bridge delayed us about 2 hours - in order to lay our pontoons.

We arrived in Raleigh in the P.M. Marched thro' the City to the music of our bands. The tho' tired stepped promptly. I visited the State house - tolerable good building - was on the dome - also in the Senate Chamber & House. Good rooms but not at all extra. The building looks old. The grounds around are rather pretty & containing perhaps 3 acres - having forest trees for shade. A statue of Washington is between the gate & the building.

After looking over the City - I like it quite well. The Blind - & Deaf & Dumb Asylum is beautiful - very ornamental and an honor to the State. The Lunatic Asylum - is situated a little out of the City - is a large and very fine building. The State has no Penitentiary as yet - Tho't a Lunatic Asylum of more benefit. We bivouac'd about two miles West of the City. Gen'l Blair remaining in the City over night. Beautiful day.

April 15<sup>th</sup>

A very wet morning. Move at six o'clock - West. Do not travel more than 4 miles - when the news reaches us that - Gen'l Johnson has sent Gen'l Sherman a letter - requesting him to come no further - and wishes to arrange the preliminaries for surrendering. Orders soon come to halt the column, and we go into camp about 10 1/2 o'clock A.M. Hurrah! Hurrah!

April 16th

Remain in Camp at Page's Bend - no news - fine weather. Am not well - feel aguish and have a dull Head-ache all the time.

April 17<sup>th</sup>

Hearing that Gen Sherman was going to meet Gen Johnson - on terms of capitulation - mounted my pony rode 25 miles - in 3 hours - and arrived at the meeting of the Generals about 12 1/2 o'clock P.M. on the farm of James Bennett - living 5 miles above Durham's Station. Gen Sherman & Johnson had their consultation inside of the house (a small unpainted 1 1/2 story frame) while Gen Kilpatrick & Hampden (Cavalry Gen's) and the accompanying staff, did their talking outside.

About 1 1/2 P.M. we came away - as the meeting did not prove to be the final one. Gen Johnson desiring to see Jeff Davis before giving the final answer. So would meet again on the 18th at the same time & place - and 1/2 way between the Picket lines of either Army or 2 1/2 miles from either - Sherman took 250 Cavalry along for escort.

We rode back to Durham Station Gen Kilpatrick's Hd Qtrs. Took dinner and thence home by the R.R. cars. Sherman's Hd Qtrs remain in Raleigh.

April 18th

The Cars pass our Hd Qtrs about 9 A.M. but do not stop - having been to the gathering or consultation yesterday I remain quietly at home today. Pleasant weather. Am aguish again today. In the evening a report reaches us that Sherman & Johnson have agreed but will wait the decision of the Authorities at Washington D.C.

April 19th

Our Army concentrates around Raleigh. We take up Hd Qtrs in the City. Sherman issues an order saying in a few days - Peace will be declared to the Rio Grande River - and then he will march his Army home to Muster out of service. Hurrah, Hurrah, Hurrah.

Two or three Union papers - dailies are already printed in Raleigh by citizens and we have R.R. communications to Newbern, N.C. on the coast.

April 24<sup>th</sup>

The 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps is reviewed today by Gen'l Sherman, Gen'l Grant having arrived in the morning is present with Gen'l Sherman.

The Review passes off very creditably. The terms of Davis-Johnson & Co, (rebels) are not accepted by the Government. We receive orders to march at 7 A.M. the 25<sup>th</sup>, the

news of the Assassination of our President is a shock - a stunning blow to our Army and Country. Black crepe is becoming much worn in honor.

April 25th

March from Raleigh 10 miles West. Bivouac at Jones plantation.

April 26th

Gen'l's Sherman - Blair & others pass by our encampment by R.R. on their way to meet Johnson (rebel) and arrange terms of capitulation. An outburst of cheering follows. Come back about 7 1/2 P.M. and tell us Johnson has surrendered to Sherman upon the same conditions Lee did to Grant. As soon as the news spreads, bands begin to play - guns fire - rockets sent up - the men are cheering everywhere around Gen'l Blair being called on for a speech - tells the crowd the conditions of the surrender & states that to morrow we will march back to Raleigh - from thence to Richmond, Va. & to Washington & to home as fast as our legs will carry us.

April 27, 1865

March back to Raleigh - and take up the same camp & Hd Qtrs.

April 29"

The troops of the 17th Corps move out towards Richmond. Hd Qtrs will remain 'till tomorrow.

April 30th

Hd Qtrs 17th A.C. move 12 miles & across the Neuse river. Bivouac with the corp., which has remained in camp all day.

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Move to the Tar River & cross. Both the Neuse & Tar Rivers at our crossings are small and crossed by bridges already erected. The Tar River is called so on account of the blackness of its waters. Stop over night with the Rev. Mr. Riddick who came to camp and insisted on having an officer go and stay at his house - more "I think" for protection to himself & lady & property than anything else.

May 2nd

Marched 22 miles. Bivouaced at D. Hawkins plantation, within 8 miles of Va. & 17 miles of our crossing of the Roanoke river.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Reach within 1 mile of the Roanoke River, but go into camp until the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps - have crossed -

May 4<sup>th</sup>

Remain in camp all day, or until late when Hd Qtrs cross the river and camp 7 miles North of the crossing.

May 5<sup>th</sup>

March today 27 miles - and camp 35 miles from Petersburg - on the Plank road.

May 6<sup>th</sup>

Arrive within 13 miles of Petersburg, Va. Weather warm & roads dusty.

May 7<sup>th</sup>

Arrive and Camp in the vicinity of Petersburg. At the rebel Gen'l Hill's old Hd Qtrs. Attend Episcopal Church at 5 o'clock P.M. Capt Howard of the Signal Corps called on me. The city is a nice one and resembles other southern cities in shade trees & front yards.

### **Entries appended to Letter Book of Cyrus Marion Roberts**

May 8<sup>th</sup>

The 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps moves across the Appomattox river - and camp about 3 miles North of the City. In marching thro' the City we are reviewed by Gen'l Howard and Hartsull. Our Hd Qtrs march out about 9 miles and Camp. Gen'l Blair goes to Washington D.C., Gen'l Leggett takes command of the 17th Corps.

Before leaving Petersburg - I visited the fortifications East & S. East of the City - and in the vicinity of Forts "Hell" and "Damnation" the works were immense in strength - intricacy & c. And the lines were very close to each other - in many places, less than 100 yards.

May 9<sup>th</sup>

Reached Richmond, Va. but camped in the vicinity of Manchester on the South side of the James river - our Hd Qtrs are placed in Chesterfield Park a pretty place Mr. Murfree's wife "Kate", entertained us in the evening by singing "Sherman's March to the Sea" and related a few of the incidents and privations of the people in Rebellom, during the past four years.

May 10<sup>th</sup>

Visited Richmond on an errand after Mail &c. &c. - find it to be quite a City and filled with soldiers both union and rebel, the latter paroled, but wearing their uniform. The business part of the City is in ruins - many stores are open, however and considerable business engaged in - especially with Sutlers.

May 11<sup>th</sup>

Visited Richmond again - today called on my (Sutlers) friends Tip - Corner and James C. Morrison - of the latter borrowed \$25, and he accompanied Lieuts' Stewart, Town & myself to Hollywood Cemetery where we saw a beautiful grave yard. James Monroe's Tomb - also the grave of the rebel Gen'l Stewart marked neatly with a board - painted and lettered - returning passed Gen'l Lee's residence - also Jeff Davis' Mansion - State House - Custom House Libby Prison - Castle Thunder and from the Cemetery saw Belle Island - where the rebels guarded Union Prisoners.

May 12<sup>th</sup>

Raining early in A.M. Started on our March to Alexandria at 4 A.M. But could not go more than about 8 miles on account of the 20<sup>th</sup> A.C. being in front of us on the same road.

Saw very heavy fortifications on the North as well as on the South of the City - Country beautiful tho' devastated by War and its consequences. Camped in the vicinity of Chickahominy creek.

May 13<sup>th</sup>

Marched by Hanover C. H. - saw and was in the building - which was built in 1835 - and the home of Patrick Henry - and the place of his first efforts as a Lawyer - his father the Judge. Crossed the Pamunkey River and camped 3 miles beyond - Weather warm.

May 14<sup>th</sup>

Passed thro' good country today. Weather warm - camped near a place formerly called Goldenville - but one house is left standing. We camped in the front yard of a country residence - the owner being a bachelor, but having a slave (to all appearances a white-woman) as his paramour or concubine and she having several white children who were to be seen playing around the premises - one (a baby) being nursed by a black woman - and house servant.



May 15<sup>th</sup>

Weather warm - marched at 5 A.M. Marched to Massaponax church - and camped within 8 miles of Fredericksburg and 5 miles of Spotsylvania C. House.

May 16<sup>th</sup>

Weather Hot. Moved at 5 A.M. Gen'l Leggett and part of his Staff - wishing to visit the battle ground of Spotsylvania C. H. leave the marching column for that purpose. We discovered marks of skirmishing one mile from our camp - and passed many & heavy works before arriving at the C.H., when there the old Gentleman keeping the house of entertainment (before the war) got on a horse and rode out 1 1/2 miles to show us the position of our forces during the heavy engagements. Arriving near the spot we saw the timber cut and mangled by the missiles of warfare - so that not a whole tree was visible and the majority of them were cut off to stubs of from 3 feet in height, up. Graves were here visible where the men were not totally covered - and bones would protrude - often a head with gaping jaws, feet hands & c. - passing thro' a strip of timber some of the party counted 67 unburied Union soldiers or their skeletons - we did not see how many there were of this kind as it was not our object - suffice it to say there are hundreds of skeletons who have never been buried and lie as they fell dead in battle more than one year ago.

One oak tree 20 1/2 inches through was entirely cut in two by minie balls alone the tree was stationed about 12 feet in rear of the rebel parapet and upon higher ground than the vicinity - consequently very conspicuous. It was also in a salient angle - and in the works that Gen'l Bushrod Johnson and his Division were taken prisoners. I saw where there had been a ditch, perhaps a rifle pit, and where hundreds of dead were thrown in promiscuously - and covered up the direction and length could be traced by clumps of earth and uneven ground. One end of the ditch extended into a field now ploughed and planted in corn - which has just sprouted up. Skeletons of unburied soldiers were found lying close by - entirely uncared for.

Camp tonight 10 miles North of Fredericksburg - crossing the Rappahanock River on a Pontoon bridge. This City is much affected by the war. Several battles have been fought in & around it - and shell or other artillery missiles perforate nearly every house. The City is garrisoned by one small Brigade of troops - no business doing - besides that of the Army Sutler. Marching thro' the city we met Gen'l Sherman out riding and to my party of 4 officers and orderlies he raised his hat - saluted and smiled most pleasantly.

May 17<sup>th</sup>

The route today is by means of by roads - very crooked and hard to keep direction. Camped on a ridge - from which we could see the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mts - Manassa Gap - Briston Station - and the ground in vicinity of Bull run Battle grounds - also the village of Brentsville. The view was grand. Weather very hot and dozens of men gave out today.

May 18<sup>th</sup>

Did not march so far as yesterday crossed the Occoquan creek or river and camped 3 1/2 miles North. Weather hot - rain during the evening Hd Qtrs 1 mile from Fairfax Station.

May 19<sup>th</sup>

Moved near Alexandria Va - our Hd Qtrs within 3 miles of the river & City. Visited the place in the evening.

May 20<sup>th</sup>

Went to Alexandria and took ferry boat for Washington City - and from thence by street car - the Paymasters Office, opposite the Treasury Dept. Did not get thro' till after 5 P.M. then the Banks were closed - stopped at the Metropolitan Hotel. Took ice cream, strawberries, cake & c. at a Saloon with Brvt Maj. Gen'l M. D. Leggett - and a former member of my Co. William Heller.

**Excerpts from the Civil War Diary of:**

**Sergeant William P. Gault, Company F, 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer infantry,  
covering the period following the last entry in Roberts' account:**

[May] 23d [1865]. Marched and camped on the banks of the Potomac River, opposite the capitol, near the long bridge. The army of the Potomac (or eastern army) is passing in review over in the capitol.

24<sup>th</sup>. Pass in review through the city of Washington. There was none but "Billy Sherman's Raiders" reviewed today. An immense crowd of people gathered from all states and from all countries to witness the review and to do honor to the boys in blue. After passing through Pennsylvania Avenue in review, we marched about 4 miles outside the city and camped.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. Received orders to move to Louisville, Kentucky.

7<sup>th</sup>. Arrived in Parkersburg, W. Va.

8<sup>th</sup>. Took the steamer this evening for Louisville, Kentucky.

11<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Louisville.

12<sup>th</sup>. Went into camp 2 miles from the city.

18<sup>th</sup>. Changed camp to the other side of the city, where water was more abundant.

23d. Paid off today. Received 8 months pay.

July 14<sup>th</sup>. Our regiment received orders to report at Columbus, Ohio, for the purpose of being mustered out of the U.S. Army. As the war of the rebellion was ended and the honor of the stars and stripes was preserved and unsullied, the government had not further need of our services.

16<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Todd Barracks, Columbus, Ohio, this morning. The regiment was immediately mustered out of the U.S. service. Each comrade of the regiment receiving an honorable discharge from the service of the U.S. Army, and all the back pay due them. After bidding each of the comrades an affectionate farewell, each comrade immediately wended his way to the Depot, and took the first train out of the city for their homes.

[July 31, 1865 Cyrus Marion Roberts discharged from military service, Louisville, Kentucky. As Commissary of Musters of the 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps he was retained in service until the entire 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps had been mustered out.]