Monday August 23rd

There was no fighting today at Petersburg. We made no progress.

Several attempts to dislodge the enemy from the Pt. were made but all our efforts thus far have been fruitless.

The enemy are very strongly fortified and I am afraid it will baffle all of our efforts to regain possession of the road.

We have captured three thousand prisoners in the last three days. Our loss is also quite heavy. The Yankees in our front are giving us a good deal of trouble.

Shells blown at our lines from their gun-boats. We had a heavy garrison this evening, and had a howl. We all
Tuesday Aug 23' 1864

The Yankees still have possession of the River near Petersburg and entrenching themselves very strongly. We are also strengthening our position. Every thing has been quiet today but matters cannot remain so very long for one side or the other will doubtless commence offensive operations. I have been hearing all day long having nothing else to do. Have had no letters from home in a long while and am in great sorrowful suspense to hear from Atlanta but as our mail communications have been again arrested, there is no telling when we will see letters. The weather is very hot.
Wednesday Aug 24th

I have been quite busy most all day except the office. This afternoon I finished reading "East Lynne" by the Carlislaughters. It is a well written novel and all the characters are very good and well sustained. I have not read a novel for a long while that I enjoyed more than East Lynne. The work has been dramatized and is now being played at the Richmond Theatre. I should like very much to see it played on the stage. We had orders this afternoon to march to Petersburg—we left about 5 o'clock. This evening visited the James and Cornwells. Andrew Bunning's Barge on the Ohio was left over on the north side of the lake. I walked until dark (8 miles) & the sun set with the wagon—the sun is quite warm & dry.
Thursday Aug 23d 1861

Our dir is at least 18 mi. from the city of Petersburg about 1000 of our waggons got in abt the same time ours did & they are established in the eastern part of the city just inside the incorporated limits. There has been a night spirited engagement going on this afternoon on the Weldon Road. The cannonading is terrific. Only one Brigade of our dir. (Andersons) is engaged in it. He captured 200 prisoners. Several pieces artillery. I am very tired through fatigue from the march I took yesterday morning to come. Slept last night I feel quite a stupid to day. weather is quite hot & oppressive.
Friday Aug 26th 1864

We had quite a heavy blow last night accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning, our tent made to fly as if it was bent on going over but we managed to keep it up by a little extra exertion. Early this morning we were disturbed by a very heavy artillery duel on our left in front of Petersburg. I presume the results are of no importance as usual only a useless expenditure of ammunition for no purpose. With the exception of the firing this morning I have been rather quiet on the lines. I have been able to pretty much all day nothing to do but read and write. I am perfectly miserable considering it.
Saturday Aug. 27

We had another storm of rain last night after we had retired, but had to set up the canopy on the tent to prevent it from being over. I am getting up my "Manta Ball" to-day only three Brigades sent in their reports, so I did not finish it to-day. The work on hand to-day of the army that I am aware of—everybody is rather busy. The troops are resting that is a portion of our army. The weather is delightful, cool & pleasant.
Sunday Aug 28/64

There was considerable mortar shelling on the lines last night by both sides. So day has been rather quiet with the exception now then of a shell being thrown into the city. I have had a little copying to do in the office this forenoon and after getting through read quite a number of chapters in the Bible. This afternoon, I attended the Methodist Church in Petersburg. The text was taken from the 62nd Psalm. Several verses of that chapter. The sermon was plain and practical. The Choir singing rather ordinary. The Congregation consisting principally of soldiers was rather small. The weather is extremely
Monday Aug 29, 1864

there is no change in the situation of affairs around Petersburg. The enemy have been shelling the city for the last two or three days. Our Batteries are not idle for they reply to the enemy with much spirit & vim. So day the Great National Convention in the 21 States meets at Chicago for the purpose of naming nominees for the forthcoming Presidential election. The result of this Convention is looked for with much interest and anxiety by all the Northern & the Confederate States. We at the South hope & trust that a peace Candidate will be the nominee for the President. But it is hard to conjecture at the present the results we live in hope that something may turn up that will bring about an adjustment of our National Troubles.
Tuesday Aug 30, 1863

I have been busy all day copying orders and finishing my monthly return which has been a light job but a very tiresome tedious one. I have been so busy all day that I failed to read my bible as is my daily practice. I had a letter from Sister Mollie who has this evening the first tidings I have had from home in nearly a month. It was a great relief to get it. I had been very uneasy about the family ever since the Enemy have been Shelling Atlanta and I am still in suspense until the hateful Yankees can be driven back. The Yankees have been shelling Petersburg with a perfect roar all day through with our little 4 pounders. The nearest one to our house is about 100 yards.
Wednesday Augt 31 1864

There was very heavy
conflagrating & picket
firing kept up all
last night on our lines.
but no firing on the
City as usual. So day
has been unusually
quiet. No firing at all.

The news from Ga to
day stating etc et etc.
Sherman
had Secured the West
Point Road & was pushing
on not very cheering;
but the movement it is fear
that he will force Genl. Schoed
To surrender Atlanta thereby
exposing the City to the
mercy of raiders. I hope
though it may all work
out right yet though we
are almost out of patience
and acting more cheering
news from Ga. The weather
is cool & pleasant but the
nights are really cold.
for the season I sleep
cold under 2 blankets.
Thursday, September 1st, 1862

The Yankees commenced shelling Petersburgh this morning about 11 o'clock. I kept it up for about 3 hours. The firing was very brisk and heavy. Our batteries opened a withering fire in the mean time. When the enemy's lines were firing, we were reported to be throwing some of their forces over on the North Side of the James. They are constantly shifting from the South to the North Side of the river. But they always find a heavy force of Rebels to confront them. Let them come up, where they may. Have done but little writing to day—only a few pages of my letter. However, I have not been altogether idle to day for I have been sewing on my clothes.
Friday, September 2, 1864

There has been a perfect dearth today in the way of news. We have no tidings from any of the different theaters of war. The usual shelling and artillery dueling has been going on to-day on our lines but with no important results. Time today has been occupied in various ways viz: copying orders, reading newspapers, sewing. Our rations of late are rather scanty. Consists in fat bacon and flour. Sometimes meal is issued in lieu of flour. We are thankful we get what we do. The weather is delightful but the nights are cold.
Saturday Sept 3 1864

I have been busy this forenoon copying orders. This afternoon I have devoted to reading. There has been considerable shelling again to-day in front on our lines. Treatman of the shells exploded in a short distance of over 26 guns but all fell short though some of the pieces comes too near to be comfortable. We have been holding ourselves in readiness for another attack for the last two days, as the Yanks have been making an attack demonstration on the north side of the James. It has been rather quiet on the picket line to-day and no small arms fire, no firing of artillery, which is still kept up every day.
Sunday Sept 4th 1864

We have had bad news to-day from Ga. which casts a gloom over every one. Official despatches have been received giving a brief account of a reverse to our arms near Atlanta which involved the capture of lines were taken by the Yankee and Sherman marching the rest of his army to our left after we had repulsed them three or four times they finally succeeded in breaking through our lines of defence thus cutting our army in two so this successful movement on the part of the Yankees caused the evacuation of Atlanta which
forces on the 10th of the month—Gen. Hood has certainly been put Generals by the Yankee and Sherman. This unfortunate affair is rather a serious one for our cause just at this time while the peace element at the South was gaining ground so rapidly. But this reverse to our arms will I fear distinguish this element that so much desired— I feel dreadful for sheltered & warned greatly about our family as a part of them must certainly be in the Yankee lines I hope all will work out for the best though I cannot but fear the worst is still in store for us. I attended the Presbyterian Church this afternoon in Petersburg Rev. Dr. Miller preached— He is still a good preacher very
Monday Sept 5th 1864
April 13 12 o'clock last night the enemy opened a terrific fire
upon the city and our lines generally. Our batteries all up along
the lines replied vigorously to the firing. Continued for some 30 or 40 minutes
then ceased. The shell and fragment had all around us at 10 & 11 but no one
was hurt. We have no additional news from our Army in Ga. to-day
but the situation in that part of the Confederacy is rather gloomy to say the
least of it. Matters are rather quiet in our front we hear an occasional
shot from the different batteries during the day. I have had a very sore thumb
for two or three days past. Had a long letter from Sister Mary
today the last I have heard from.
Wednesday Sept. 21st 1864

It is reported that Grant is massing the almost of his forces on the Wilderness Road with the intention of throwing his left around toward the South side R R that runs from Petersburg to Lynchburg. In all probability by extending this line in that direction will bring on an engagement soon. There has been the usual shelling on the lines to day. Some picket firing. The Yankees are reporting over the capture of Atlanta, say that the Rebels will soon be crushed, but they have crushed it so often that it has become an old song. The weather is quite fine, the nights are really cool.
Thursday Sept 8th 1864

This has been another long tiresome day. Very little business to do in the office; therefore the time dragged heavily by. We have had the usual artillery firing to-day though as usual it didn't amount to anything more than a little practice between the batteries. The enemy still throw occasionally a shell into the city though with but little damage. I have had a sore throat for several days past which renders me very uncomfortable. It is rather painful to eat notwithstanding we don't have much to eat. It consists mainly of bacon which is of a very poor quality and the meat is not very fit, and has been a rainy day.
Friday Sept 9th 1864

I had a letter this morning from sister Mollie, dated at Atlanta 31st Augt. The family had first moved back home from Dr. Herdo where they had been seeking refuge during the shelling of the city at the time of Mollie's writing. She has no idea that the next day they would all be in the Yankee lines as the city was evacuated on the 1st. The Yankees immediate took possession. I feel deeply worried about the family but I will trust in our Heavenly Father to watch over and protect them from all harm and danger. I have been very blue these past few days on account of our misfortunes. No change in the military situation at this place...
Saturday Sept 15th 1864

There was considerable firing on the lines this morning before day of Artillery & Small Arms. Also there has been some Artillery firing throughout the day but without any important results. This forenoon I have been quite busy applying & correcting the instructions relative to the different kinds of the Div. This afternoon I have spent in various ways reading, writing, etc., we have had no news today from any quarter even the rumors of a boat which is quite unusual for this time of year. The weather is quite pleasant though the night last night was really cold for the season.
Sunday Sept. 11th 1864

This forenoon I attended Divine Service at the Second Presbyterian Church in the City, also attended the same Church this afternoon.

Rev. Mr. Miller preached on both occasions - I enjoyed his Sermons to the fullest extent - he is quite an interesting preacher, this day is very fine, indeed. I have spent this Sabbath very pleasantly, being permitted the times to attend Divine Service indeed a privilege that I am very thankful for - I wrote two letters this evening to the wife to go in a few of hours - we had a fine rain this evening lasting a half hour. It is quite pleasant on the 18th.
I never saw or heard to hear a word said of my family or of the papers, this means that General Sherman has offered Bennett Hood an armistice for 10 days, in order that the loyal citizens of Atlanta may be sent with our lines of those who wish to go to the coast to the 15th of the month, to the coast in the Panhandle. This is presumably the Armistice, as announced by General Hood, though he has not yet written me any notice — I refer to the poor confederate family who were captured in the lines about Atlanta. The will not be allowed to take out anything with them, + anything not belonging to the individual in a handcarriage.