Camp near Fairfax C. H. Va.

January 8th 1862

Thursday

My dear Sister

I wrote a letter to-night.

I will continue my diary from where I left it a month or more ago. Some days I have written nothing else. I might as well have done so for it don't seem to count. To much after all, still I may be glad to look it over in after years. I notice the first date in my book Camp Va. from Alexandria Va.

Thursday Nov. 25th 9 o'clock P.M.

Quile quiet in camp. The 13th 14th 15th have just begun marching.
orders. It is very dark and begins to rain. I can hear the 14th gun
marching off to the time of "Old Shy" or "Away, Away, I can't stay with you
longer." They will have a wet time of it before morning. Possibly what
was our rest from so far is near it is on picket.

Wednesday Nov 26th M who are left in Camp are having an easy time as
there is nothing to do. I understand
that the Regts that left last night have
gone to Marks Station about 15 mls from
here. Ranner hard all night.

Thursday 27th. Pleasant again,
George is sick today with a cold.
Throat. My health near as well
than at the present time. Lettering
for a letter from home to night.
While I think of it let me ask whether
Towner ever arrested Fred Bates as
deserter from Co. G. 4th ?

Friday Nov 28th Nothing worth noting.

Saturday Nov 29th Battalion Drill
For a detail for a commissary & all privates for duty from our Co. for picket tomorrow. Capt. & myself are going. Looks like rain.

Received your letter of Sunday, Sunday Nov 30th. No camp after all. Had a fine time for picket so far.

Monday Nov 31st. Still pleasant.

Tuesday Dec. 1st. V. Pte. moved.

Wednesday 2d. Spruce Run Bridge.


Each other now the others are gone. I'll make no account of the day as as many of the boys are gone.

Friday Dec 5th. On Brigade Guard. Have an old log hut with a good fire place in it for my tent quarters. Dr. Osborn & Fred Merrill are here. Snowed quite hard all day.
Saturday Dec 6th Very Cold. Saw a total Eclipse of the Moon last night about 2 A.M.

Sunday Dec 7th waited for Smiley again. Started at 7 30. Pretty Cold. The other kept his back so we shall have help again. They have been doing picket duty out on Belle Plun.

Monday Dec 8th Was released this morning by the 14th. We are going to stay over our 24 hours at a time here after instead of 48.

Tuesday Dec 9th Good weather again. Am not gone yet.

Wednesday Dec 10th George & I have been over to visit the convalescent Camp 3 miles from here. Looks rather hard to see. Uncle Dan's worn out of course as they are.

Thursday Dec 11th Been busy with our tent & preparing to live comfortable. 7 P.M. We have just
read an order to be ready to march with 2 days rations tomorrow morning. It comes very unexpectedly & we rather hate to leave our comfortable quarters.

Friday Dec 12th. Started with the rest of the Boigans at 5 A.M. We are stopping in the woods near Fairfax City to night. I think we have marched from 15 to 20 miles a day.

Saturday Dec 13th. Started again at 8 this morning, for Centreville, it is about 8 or 10 miles from here. We missed the road & went around by Chantilly battle field making about 3 miles more. As we passed the field saw flint of Quinces, from June 20. May of the graves there are marked 5 Fl. La. Rept. saw one mans skull plicken out of the ground. One of Co. D. boys went up & pulled our one of the eye teeth & put in his pocket, says he is...
Sorry to make a bragg pod of it. When the Rebs do as we complain of their barbarities. (By the way, after we got down to Bull Run one of our bullets retrieved the battlefield to come back with a handful of human bones.) Arrived at Centerville about 2 P.M. Encamped a mile or two beyond. Half the Regt have gone on picket a mile or two beyond our encampment. Williams has gone with our Co. considerably warm. We can hear the Cannonading at Fredericksburg.

Sunday Sept 11th. Went on picker with the other half the Regt to day. Took dinner with a family near the picker line. The family consists of an old lady her 2 sons one daughter (about 18) & the oldest sons wife. Think them very agreeable folks. The Col. discovered a boy at their lawn this morning
Nothing is spared thinking. Perhaps it might contain arms, found inside a common wooden coffin, inside that a metallic one did not open. The metallic one our took the man's word for what was in it. The said is contained the body of an officer (did not state his rank) from (I think) the 9th La Regt. Said his name was (I think but am not certain) Wims. Said the Rebs left it there when they fell back from here in the spring, to use going to send for it was going to New Orleans.

Monday 15th. Received about noon today. The relief I had charge was on in the daytime as I slept last night in the Rebs house with Capt. Foster. Have been cooking over the fortifications this P.M. about Centerville. There are 8 or 10 forts & all connected by breastwork. A mighty strong point. Broken guns sabers are scattered
Tuesday 16th Rainy very much &  
as a little colder today. Been doing  
nothing but making ourselves comfortable  
as possible through the day.  

Wed. 17th The 12th came down  
this morning to relieve us. We started  
back this P.M. & arrived here  
at Fairfax Ca. about sundown.  
Encamped for the night in the woods.  

Thursday 18th Mr. about 2 miles  
from here to a Brigade Review.  
Cool weather.  

Friday 19th Moved our camp  
about 100 rods further south into  
the pine woods. Heard of news of the death of S.E. Conner  
of our Co. He was left behind in the  
force, when we moved from Camp Dumont.  
He was a fine fellow & a good soldier, one  
of the best & the first death in our Co.  

Saturday 20th Had Battalion  
drill all day for the first time since  
we left Camp Vi.  

Sunday 21st Have not  
written since the 20th &  
then was nothing of any account  
Had an occasional Battalion  
drill etc.
Monday the 29th

Last night about 7 we received orders to be ready to march with our companies at a moment's notice. About 8 we were ordered to fall in. It was a beautiful moonlight night, then could not possibly have been better for a march. It seems there was fear of an attack from Steward's, a town which is in this vicinity. The 13th and 14th were starting near Fairfax C.H. We (the 16th) at Fairfax Station about 3 miles from the C.H. Our camp is about half way between the two. We were drawn up in line of battle along by some old Catholic Church and ordered to sleep on our arms. The Cap. & myself with some officers from other Co.'s went into the Church & slept on the floor. We were not disturbed during the night, but the Regt. sometimes at the C.H. for a shot or the kets as they were passing sometime in the
night. They killed one horse & took one prisoner. Don't know the force that passed. We came into camp about 3 P.M., today.

Thursday the 30th nothing much.

Wednesday the 31st Peer orders about 3 P.M. to be ready to march with 2 days ration at a moment's notice (7 P.M.). M. here now got marchers now are the orders countermanded. Tomorrow is our turn for picker again. Capt. Sawyer & Lieut. Danborn of Co. H, (Felchville) & Lieut. Sherwin, Co. D, (Townsend) have resigned & tonight their resignations came back accepted as they are clear of the Service.

Mustard day with the Rest.

Thursday Jan 1st 1863 - New Year's day. Bright & early our Rest was on the march for Centerville. It has been a beautiful day, like Indian summer.
so our pickets posted about noon. Co. A. & B. taking it first. There
is perhaps from a dog. to 15 Standing
in this place & as many or more
have been burned down, among
them a very nice steam grist & saw
mill. Half the houses now standing
are empty, & the other half occupied
by Seceals. Our Co. is quartered in a
very good house. Since we were out
before the picket line has been moved
up nearly Centreville, so the Regt is
quartering in. The Dr.
has taken quarters in a house occupied
by a family. The family live in one
end of the house & he has rooms in
the other. Family consists of an old
gentleman, wife & two daughters; a
middle aged lady & daughter, the 3
girls are (I should judge) from 18 to
24, & they are very pretty, & sensible.
Williams was not very well so he did
not come out with us. The Capt.
I quarter with the Dr. [Geo. Park
staid in camp] To day I have been
looking around among the ruins of
Centerville. This is a desolate country
our must have been pleasant before the
war.

Friday Jan 2d. Another beautiful
day, The Capt. Myself & our Co. (E)
are on picket to night. Our cavalry
have been skirmishing with rebel cavalry on
the right this morn. Nobody killed
however.

Sat Jan 3rd. Wm. was relieved by Co.
K this morn. This P.M. The Dr. His
Husband, Chaplain, Lieut. Peabody & I
have been over to Chantilly battle field
which is about 4 miles from here.
Discussed nothing new of interest. It
in a beautiful moonlight evening, so it makes
me think of Greenbush, as it used to be
to see the streets full of small boys at
play.

Sunday Jan 4th. Chaplain preached
in an old Episcopal Church to day.
Called on the family in the upper
part of the house this evening. The
old man said he had a son in
the rebel army, & one of the young ladies
said she had a father here. One of
the old mans daughters said she
had rather her brother would en
more than to stay at home to see the girls. I thought they were sensible enough.

Monday Jan 5th. One of the girls spoken of yesterday asked me this morning if our ambulance was going to Fairfax City to-day, and she would like to ride there in it if it was, for she had just heard that her father was a prisoner there. Our was not going but she got a ride in one of the 1st Va's (Cav Regt) which was going there. She came back this P.M. with her father with her. It seems he was taken by the 15th Bickeret & sent there. I have not seen him but he is here to-night. I don't know whether he was paroled or not. The Col. read a dispatch from Strong in to-night saying we should be relieved tomorrow by a Regt from the Tasses Command which is at Union Mills.

Thursday Jan 6th. Dined what provision we had left after breakfast to the family in anticipation of being relieved this
morning, at Passens Rest arrived about 2 P.M. We took dinner with the family. The rebel rascal ate with us, he is a reasonable, sensible, honest sort of a man. He talked freely about the war, said if they had thought it would have been so grand a war they would never have commenced, said he wished S.C., no, when Va is, etc. Commenced raining about 3 P.M., about the time we started for camp, did not rain very hard however & had entirely stopped when we got into camp; got in a little after dark.

Wed. 7th Nothing worth notice.

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Came on account of her son who is sick in A.C. (Kendal). 

Mrs I will ans your letter which I read last night. I have no one for writer, shall get one if I have a chance but shall not detail one from the Co. Some of the officers resigned on acct of sickness & some because the Col. advised them to do so.

The 2d Com. Batten is attached to our Brigade, I wish it had been the 2d Ill, wouldn't it be fine. I think so. I had almost forgot there was such a person in the world until you mentioned it.

I have written a long letter to-night & it is getting late as I will close. Love to all.

Father, Mother, Grandmother & Co. 
As ever your aff. Brother.
P.S., since Geo. bought his letter in to have me put in mine, I have managed to use the mistletoe he gave me to put in it.  I will tell him tomorrow & he may send some more in a letter or paper.