PEIRCE, ROBERT C. - DIARY
Sept. 24, 1862-Feb. 7, 1863 1 volume

Diary of the acting paymaster of the U.S.S. Dawn on blockade duty off the mouth of the Ogeechee River.

Purchase: 1972
Sept. 24 Wednesday - Left home this morning and proceeded to Boston on the 11 o'clock train on the Eastern road. Upon arriving in Boston proceeded immediately to the Navy Yard. Saw Charles E. Mahoney, my steward and learnt from him that the Rhode Island was to sail the next day. Returned to Boston in the afternoon, saw John Treadwell and George Bartlett, made some purchases and transacted some other business - went up to Mrs. Parkers to tea. A friend, of Mr. Peabody, Dr. Langley came in and I was pleased to find that he was to take passage the next day in the Rhode Island to join the U.S. Steamer Desoto. In the evening went to Mr. Robinson's to bid Josh good bye. On the 9th of August I made application for an appointment in the Navy as Assistant Paymaster and about the 20th received my appointment as Acting Assistant Paymaster and on the 9th of Sept. received orders to report to Commodore (sic) Montgomery for a passage in the Steamer Rhode Island to Fort Royal there to report to Rear Admiral DuPont for duty on board the U.S. Str. "Dawn".

Sept 25 Thursday - Mild and pleasant. In the morning finished up all my business in Boston, bid good bye to my friends and went over to the Navy Yard a little before noon. Took dinner with Mr. Mahoney the supt. of the Rope Walk and father of the young man who was going out with me as Steward. All officers were ordered to be on board at one o'clock, but owing to the usual delays and some derangement in the machinery we did not haul out from wharf until about 7 o'clock. Took supper on board and runs down to the Roads and anchored and turned in for my first nights sleep on board ship.

Sept 26 Friday - Warm and pleasant. Got under way about daylight. The Pilot left us at about 7 o'clock. At 11 A.M. we were off Cape Cod where we saw a large right whale, and in the course of the day two or three schools of Porpoises. At 7 P.M. we were off Holmes Hole. Made several pleasant acquaintances amongst whom was Dr. Lawson who was going to join the "Patroon".
Sept. 27 Saturday — Pleasant in the forenoon, rainy (sic) and squally later in the day. The Rhode Island turns out to be a fast vessel going, most of the time with a head wind about 12 knots per hour. Find it rather hard to kill time with nothing to do.

Sept. 28 Sunday — Very pleasant and warm. About noon we reached Hampton Roads and came to anchor off Fortress Monroe. About 15 minutes after anchoring we were greeted with the pleasant sight of a dead body floating past and later by two funerals from an English Sloop of war laying near us. We are now fairly in Seccesia and about 5 or 6 miles from the location of the celebrated fight of the Monitor and Merrimac and the same distance though out of sight of the place where the Cumberland & Congress were sunk by the Merrimac.

Sept. 29 Monday — Pleasant and quite warm. Early in the morning we hailed in to the wharf to take in shot and shell. All of the passengers, myself among the number went on shore, and most of us inside the Fort, the largest in the United States. The inside of the Fort is thickly planted with trees, mostly sycamore. We had liberty as far as I could see to go anywhere but it was too warm for much walking so I returned back towards the Ship: stopped on my way and sat for some time in front of the "Hygea" Hotel, to take a look at the inhabitants etc. Can't say much for the surroundings which are mostly sand. The above Hotel was to be torn down in a few days as well as several other buildings to give way for the range of the guns of the Fort in expectation of the arrival down the Harbor of Merrimac No. 2. On my way to the ship visited the large 15 in. Lincoln and Union Guns, both of which for the time being were mounted on sand banks in front of the Fort. Took dinner on board the Str and passed the afternoon mostly on board.

Septem gio Tuesday — Mild and pleasant. Passed the forenoon on board. The Str receiving shot and shell. At 12 ool left the wharf having received 1000 shot and 2000 shell which brought the vessel down so much that many were the predictions that we should not pass Hatteras without trouble.

October 1862

Oct. 1 Wednesday — Continues pleasant. Spoke and boarded a brig from Cuba and spoke (to) two other vessels. Saw in the afternoon a school of Flying fish.

Oct. 2 Thursday — Continues pleasant. Fair wind and all sail set and going through the water 12 knots with all the heavy load. Reached Port Royal about 6 ool and after supper went on board the Vermont and reported to Capt. Godon, Senior Officer Comm. Rear Admiral DuPont being north: was ordered to report on board the "Potomska" for a passage to Ossabaw Sound where I should find the "Dawn". Proceeded on board the "Potomska" and reported and upon going down into the Wardroom found an old colleg classmate on board as Paymaster. Passed the evening conversing with him: got a bed rigged from a sofa chair.
Oct 3 Friday - Variable sunshine & rain. The Potom ska got under
way about day light and upon getting outside found a fresh breeze
and some sea which gave me an opportunity of witnessing the abilities
of the Potom ska in the rolling line and came to the conclusion that
she is very near perfection in that art. Reached Ossabaw at about
12 ocl and in answer to our signal the Str Vixen came out to pilot
us in. After dinner Paymaster Forbes Parker of the Dawn who I was
to relieve came on board and I returned with him to the "Dawn", where
I found much better accommodations than I expected. Ossabaw Sound
where the "Dawn" is stationed is surrounded by marshes and this is
pretty much all there is to say about it except that sand Flies are
very abundant and attentive & mosquitoes also - About sunset up
anchor and run up to the night anchorage at mouth of Florida Pass
about two miles: boarding netting tied down and guards stationed.
There is a masked battery in sight on shore and there have been
expectations of a boat attack from there as there were a large
number of soldiers there though most of them have now left. Besides
the Dawn there are stationed here the barque Fernandina and the
steamer Vixen.

Oct 4 Saturday - Very pleasant and warm. Passed the day in learning
from Paymaster Parker the condition of his affairs examining (sic)
and transferring the accounts. Capt. Moses of the Fernandina, a
Portsmouth man came on board this morning. This evening while
running up to our anchorage made out a light coming down the
Florida Pass, burnt signal and not receiving an answer soon enough
the crew were called to quarters and a gun fired over which brought
an unintelligible answer: the crew were kept at quarters and there
was every prospect of an engagement but upon getting near enough to
hail she turned out to be the Florida. no damage done though our
shot passed over her deck forward of the foremast.

Oct 5 Sunday - Continues pleasant, the thermometer from day to
day now average (sic) about 85º in the the (sic) shade with a good
breeze most of the time. All hands at muster this morning, being
the first Sunday in the month. About 10 ocl went on board the
Vixen and made a call( ) had claret, ale, sandwiches etc in the
ward room it being a parting, impromptu spread to Parker who is
going north. In the afternoon got under way and started, with a
brig in tow, for Warsaw (sic) with Capt Scott on board who was going
to join the Sebago. Owing to towing the Brig outside, we were too
late to get in to Warsaw(sic).

Oct 6 Monday - Continues pleasant, with a high wind, run into
Warsaw (sic) and left Capt. Scott and were under way again about
8 ocl. Found it rather rough outside. The Dawn rolls most as much
as the Potom ska. Reached Port Royal about noon. In the afternoon
Mr. Parker went on board the Vermont and in the evening returned
and got his bagage and took up quarters on board the Vermont to
wait for a vessel going north.

Oct 7 Tuesday - Continues pleasant and warm. Carpenters on board
to day and began arranging a Cabin out of the After part of the
ward room for the Capt who has heretofore messed with the Wardroom officers.

Oct 8 Wednesday - Continues fine weather. In the morning, with the Dr., went on board the Wabash to see about getting some money for ship's use. Carpenters still at work in the wardroom which makes it rather uncomfortable.

Oct 9 Thursday - Rainy in the morning afterwards warm and pleasant. In the afternoon the Dawn hauled alongside the Vermont and put on board of her 2 Rifle Guns 20 lbs and received from here a 100 lb Parrott, so that her armament now consists of the latter gun, 2 long 32 and, 1 20 lb rifle on the forecastle. The Dawn is about 400 tons. While alongside the Vermont went on board and saw Parker.

Oct 10 Friday - Pleasant and in the first part of the morning very close and warm thermometer 80° afterwards a good breeze. Steam tug came alongside and delivered shot & shell.

Oct 11 Saturday - Cool and rainy. Went on board the Vermont with the Capt. One boat (went) to Hilton Head and just after it came back a signal was hoisted on the Flag Ship forbidding communication with the shore on account of yellow fever having started there. Pleasant news for us here only two miles from the shore.

Oct 12 Sunday - Continues cool and rainy. No fear of Yellow Fever spreading much with this cool weather and north east wind. Reading most all day. Much annoyed in the wardroom and state rooms by an awful stench of bilge water made unusually (strong) by there being no fire in the engine room and the damp weather and by its not having been pumped out, the pump being out of the vessel for repair. White paint everywhere colored black by it.

Oct 13 Monday - Continues cool and cloudy - Went on board the Vermont this morning to get some stores. Parker returned with me to the Dawn to say goodbye as he will leave in a day or two for the north. Carpenters still at work on the Cabin - on board a trading schooner with the Capt; the prices they demand for their goods are frightfully high but so great is the want of things that they bring that they find a ready sale. Mail came to night through there was nothing for me my letters with my address not having reached home soon enough to be answered yet -

Oct 14 Tuesday - Continues cool and lowery. Carpenters still at work on Cabin and State Rooms. Taking coal (sic) out of a schooner and painting ship. Went on board the Wabash with the Capt. in the afternoon and brought back papers.

Oct 15 Wednesday - Continues cool though the sun was out most of the day. To day is sort of a holy day with the men to have boats and go to the trading schooners to buy things. In the morning went with the Dr. on board the Wabash. In the afternoon was on board the Vermont = Carpenters still at work.
Oct 16 Thursday - Continues pleasant and much warmer. In the forenoon the carpenters finished up their work and in the evening or rather afternoon we got up steam for the first time since coming to anchor here, and went alongside the Vermont and took in some water, our own condenser not yet being in order, and some other stores for ourselves as well as for the other vessels at Warsaw (sic) and Ossabaw. Mr. Murray of New York also came on board for a passage to Ossabaw to join the Fernandina as Paymaster. Left the Vermont about 6½ oel. and run down as far as the Wabash and came to anchor for the night.

Oct 17 Friday - Continues warm and pleasant. At 6 oel. A.M. I started with three boats for a provision schooner laying near the Vermont, to get fresh provisions, ice etc - made two trips and went on board the Vermont and signed my papers - about 11 A.M. up anchor and run down to the Vandalia where we took on board a 12 lb howitzer and started for Warsaw (sic) and Ossabaw heartily glad to get away from Port Royal, for since we came here till the time we left it has been nothing but, dirt, paint, hurry and confusion. Reached Warsaw (sic) at sunset, gave the Pawnee and Sebago their mails etc and came to anchor for the night.

Oct 18 Saturday - Continues very pleasant. Up anchor and left Warsaw (sic) at about 8 oel: upon getting outside found a stiff breeze blowing and considerable sea and the Dawn went through some beautiful evolutions (sic) in the rolling line and there was considerable pitching and tumbling on deck, rolled the guns under most every time. Reached Ossabaw at about 12 and came to anchor and signalled (sic) for a Pilot. The Vixen came out and showed us the way in. The Fernandina's boat came alongside and carried off Mr. Murray(.). Came to anchor near the Florida and sent the mails and express matter on board of her, she being Flag Ship. Tomorrow we take the Vixen's birth; (sic) she going to Port Royal for repairs - Nothing new since we left.

Oct 19 Sunday - Continues pleasant though cool. Early this morning we picked up five Contrabands who had run from up above the batteries. The Vixen left about 7½ oel for Port Royal leaving three vessels on this Station viz the Florida, Fernandina and Dawn. General muster at ten oel. and the articles of war read by the Capt.

Oct 20 Monday - Continues pleasant. At 10 oel. went to general quarters, myself with the Dr. being on the birth (sic) Deck. Exercising the crew at the 100 lb Parrott. Capt. Moses and Dr. Boyer of the Fernandina came on board in the morning. In the afternoon Capt. Barnes went on shore shooting and on his return made the mess a present of snipe & plover.

Oct 21 Tuesday - Continues mild and pleasant. The crew in the morning clearing out & cleaning the hold at which I was present all the time to look after my provisions - Thermometer 82° in shade.

Oct 22 Wednesday - Continues cool and pleasant. The crew in the morning on shore cleaning boats - Capt. Barnes on shore shooting a short time. Nothing unusual occurred.
Oct 23 Thursday — Continues cool and pleasant with a high wind. Early in the morning made out a Brig outside apparently making signals for a Pilot; ran up to the Florida and took the Pilot on board intending to run out and tow her in if the wind moderated enough; but at night she was out of sight. Capt. Moses came on board and brought half a bushel of very large Oysters.

Oct 24 Friday — Continues pleasant and cool. About nine o’cl. up anchor and run up towards the Bulah Batteries and when within about two and one half miles of them ran out our 100 lb. Parrott to try the range for the first time. Fired seven shots and found that at that distance could throw out of sight beyond them against a strong wind. Our last shell struck the corner of the battery but unfortunately did not explode. We got no reply from the battery. Took the Ogeechee river in our way coming back and ran up that river to have a look at the Ogeechee Battery; when opposite the Bulah Battery got a shot from them and another when coming back, both of which fell short. Could see the battery and tents at Ogeechee and a little str. flying the rebel flag and the cavalry drawn up on Coffee Bluff. This was the first time any str. has been up the Ogeechee and the nearest to Bulah Battery. Having passed the forenoon away pleasantly in this way we returned to our old anchorage. Capt. Moses came on board soon after we had anchored to get an account of what we saw and did.

Oct 25 Saturday — Continues pleasant though warmer. Thermometer at noon 87°. Capt. Barnes went on shore shooting in the morning but brought in only a few birds. Myself quite under the weather with a bad cold and below stairs most of the day. Nothing unusual occurred till most night when a steamer was made out near the outside bar and soon afterwards she fired a gun showing that she must be ashore and at the same time made her number which proved to be the Wissahicon coming up to relieve the Florida. We got up anchor and had run part way down to her when she signalled (sic) that she was not in need of assistance, so we anchored where we were for the night it being then about 8½ o’cl.

Oct 26 Sunday — Continues pleasant and in the morning warm with some rain, though about noon the thermometer began to fall and at night was about 50° with a cold wind and everybody most froze; as cold as 40° north. Ran down to the str. Wissahicon the first thing in the morning and she followed us up to the Florida’s anchorage and sent a mail on board and somewhat to my disappointment I got nothing. All hands getting their letters ready to go by the Florida. Went on board the F. and got a barrel of sugar. Wrote Ann.

Oct 27 Monday — Continues cool & pleasant. Thermometer at 4 o’cl 43° but it moderated much during the day. We got under way about eight o’cl. in company with the Florida and run out as far as the outer buoy to bring the Pilot back (when we got back in sight of the Wissahicon we found there were two vessels in company with her which proved to be the Madge a little side wheel str. which was taken on the expedition to St. Johns River. They were on their way or rather the Parum COX was on her way to Warsaw (sic) and we
were ordered to escort her part way to that place and the Pilot to
carry her in as far as necessary by an inside passage while we
remained outside to help her in case she should be attacked from
shore.

28 Oct Tuesday - Lowery and cool. Got under way about 8 ocl and
in company with the Puri run down to the mouth of the passage she
was to go by and dropped anchor and put the Pilot on board. About
noon I went on shore with Capt. Barnes for a ramble he taking his
gun with him but although there were a good many birds in sight he
shot none. The boat came back with him Puri about two ocl and
having left him on board of us kept on to the Fernandina(.). About
noon Mr. Saunders was dispatched in a boat to a Brig outside to
pilot her in if possible or as far in as possible, he has not yet
returned the wind being ahead thus compelling the brig to anchor.
About four ocl in the afternoon as I was sitting in the Wardroom
heard a great noise on deck and upon running up found the whole
of the forecastle apparently (on fire): the hose was bent in
and with the help of the donkey pump the fire was out in five
minutes or less. A pot of boiling pitch caught fire and was upset -
no damage done except one man being burnt a little.

29 Oct Wednesday - Continues pleasant and warm. After quarters,
the Capt proceeded to appoint every one his quarters in case of
fire after which the alarm was given and all hands run to quarters.
My own station being at the hatch with side arms to superintend
passig (sic) provisions into the boats. Capt. B. went on shore a
short time and shot a nice Curlew. About three ocl the Wissahicon
was seen going out, probably to tow in the Brig - Capt. Moses was
on board a short time this morning. The Darlington came in from
Port Royal and went up to the flag ship Wissahicon. In the evening
with the Dr. in the cabin till 10 ocl.

30 Oct Thursday - Continues mild and pleasant. The crew painting
ship and boats &c. Nothing unusual occurred(.). Mr. Saunders
returned last evening about nine ocl the Wissahicon having gone
out and towed in the Brig outside which proved to be laden with
coal.

31 Oct Friday - Continues mild and pleasant. Nothing
unusual in the morning. About one ocl the Massachusetts was made
out outside and the Wissahicon went out to pilot her in: in the
meantime we run up alongside the Brig and began to take in coal:
when the Massachusetts got up within a mile of us, her flag was
seen to be at half mast, our own was immediately lowered to half
mast, the caused (sic) proved to be the death of Gen. Mitchell at
Fort Royal of yellow fever. Capt. Barnes went on board and soon
after a signal was made to send boats for fresh provisions. I
proceeded on board at about four ocl and got a boat load of fresh
beef and vegetables and sent the boat back to the ship to return
for ice and shell, before she reached the ship they got up anchor
and run back to their anchorage so that the boat did not get back
to the Mass. till after six ocl. when we put into her the ice and
50 shell and a chest of tea and started for the Dawn against a
strong tide with about 3 tons in the boat, just after starting
broke two cars and had to return to the Mass. and beg one: we did
not reach the ship till after eight and with the boat about one
quarter full of water; found Capt. Clary the former commander of
the Dawn on board, he being a passenger in the Mass. and came to
make a call: also found what pleased me more a letter from my
Father, two from Sarah and one from George Bartlett and two newspapers.

NOVEMBER 1862

Nov 1 Saturday - Continues pleasant. Early this morning the
Massachusetts was piloted out to sea by the Wissahiccon. Nothing
unusual occurred, wrote a letter to my Father.

Nov 2 Sunday - Continues mild and pleasant. Engaged all day in
filling out a new Muster roll which came by the Massachusetts and
had to be prepared to go north with the first conveyance. Wrote
Sarah in the evening. In the latter part of the forenoon the
Wissahiccon was seen to leave her anchorage and run up towards the
batteries firing as she went, but soon returned though not till the
Battery had fired a number of shots at her.

Nov 3 Monday - Continues pleasant and quite warm Thermometer at
noon 86°. The Pilot came on board to day from the Wissahiccon and
told that they run up yesterday in pursuit of some boats that came
out towards them but could not get within range of them on account
of the shoalness of the water, no damage done. Just after dinner
the str Western World came down the Florida Pass on her way to
Port Royal: sent our mail on board of her and likewise I sent
some Requisitions to Paymaster Isaacs on the Vermont.

Nov 4 Tuesday - Continues pleasant and much cooler with a high
wind. Nothing unusual.

Nov 5 Wednesday - Continues warm with rain in the morning but
pleasant in the afternoon. Capt. Moses, Dr. Boyer and Paymaster
Murray on board in the morning the latter to borrow some Bread.
Capt. Barnes off shore in the afternoon shooting.

Nov 6 Thursday - Rainy all the morning and quite cool, and in the
afternoon cloudy though it did not rain(.) Capt. Barnes was off
part of the day after ducks but without success. Nothing unusual.

Nov 7 Friday - Pleasant and somewhat warmer though cool enough for
comfort. Early this morning the Uncas came in here and Paymaster
Taylor boarded us with clothing and small stores for me and I had
to turn out of bed to sign the invoice. About eleven ocl. the
Wissahiccon got under way and made us a signal to do so, and she
proceeded up towards Coffee Bluff, we following him, when about
three miles from the battery the W. ran aground on a shoal. We
got out a hawser and endeavored to tow her off but the tide was
ebbing so fast that it was impossible, so Capt. Davis came on board
of us and we proceeded on up towards the Battery, until we too were
stopped by a shoal. About this time a schr laying near the battery made sail and endeavored to escape, when we opened fire on her with the 100 lb Parrott, the battery replying (.) in a short time the tide made enough to enable us to go nearer and soon the schn was discovered to be on fire and about the same time the battery ceased firing and was apparently abandoned. After laying by long enough to ensure the destruction of the Schr we turned and steamed down river it being then dark and too late to think of going up to the battery. The schn was loaded with Naval Stores. One gun was kept playing on the woods about 400 or 500 yds distant from us to drive off what we supposed was a Ficket there in as we could see the smoke of their fire and were in expectation of some rifle practice from them if we left them undisturbed. Most of the shot from the battery fell short. Had we started at the proper time the Wiss. would not have got aground and we should have had plenty of time to go up to the battery and perhaps get or destroy some guns and probably camp equipage for there were two good sized camps in plain sight and when we first began to fire men could be seen moving round in them. We got back to our anchorage at about seven ocl and soon afterwards the Wiss. passed us on her way to station, none the worse for her two or three hours ashore.

Nov 8 Saturday - Pleasant though uncomfortably cool. Not feeling very well. I passed most of the day in the Wardroom. Nothing in particular going on.

Nov 9 Sunday - Continues pleasant and much warmer though at 4 ocl A.M. the thermometer stood at 36°(.) Muster of crew at 10 and inspection of the ship; everything quiet through the day.

Nov 10 Monday - Continues warm and pleasant. About day break a steamer was discovered coming (through) Florida Passage which proved later to be the Wamsutta for Port Royal. Sent the mail on board of her and she started at about nine ocl. In the afternoon with the Dr. on board the Fernandina and passed most of the afternoon (.) did not see Capt. Moses till just as we were leaving he having been on shore; brought back with us as presents a bushel of fine sweet potatoes and some oranges which the officers of the F. had got ashore. In the middle of the afternoon a steamer towing a sch was made out coming in but about dusk they got aground and a boat with the Pilot went to them from the Wissahicon.

Nov 11 Tuesday - Continues warm and pleasant. The Str and schr seen last night, came up this morning and anchored near the Fernandina and prove to be the St. Waterwitch and the Sch a Mortar schr. She is to relieve the Fernandina and the latter with the Waterwitch will return to Port Royal immediately. The Schn's mortar throws a 13½ inch shell.

Nov 12 Wednesday - Continues warm and pleasant. Thermometer 86°. Early this morning the Fernandina and Waterwitch got under way for Port Royal. We are all sorry to lose Capt. Moses and his officers for they were sociable and pleasant and the former excellent company.
Nov 13 Thursday - Continues pleasant and warm. Nothing unusual occurred. Capt. Davis was on board in the afternoon and we tried some new 100 lb shell which we got out of the Waterwitch and they proved like all the others non-explosive.

Nov 14 Friday - Pleasant and warm. In the morning Dr. Holmes, Mr. Saunders and myself took the dingy (sic) and went on shore, followed the shore round till we were stopped by a creek and then struck off towards the center of the Island; we travelled (sic) for about an hour across the marsh and found nothing but marks of ocons besides mud and the little crabs called fiders; there is a thin grass growing all over the marsh about knee high and covered with thin mud, so that when we got back to our boat we were completely covered with mud and the Dr. nearly exhausted with dragging his 180 lb bathva the mud and 11 of us thoroughly disgusted. When we reached the ship the "Darlington" was coming up with the 1st S. Carolina Regiment of negroes on board bound to St. Johns I think.

Nov 15 Saturday - Continues pleasant with considerable wind which in the evening increased to quite a little gale with considerable rain. Nothing occurred through the day.

Nov 16 Sunday - Rainy and windy. No muster to day on account of the rain; Nothing unusual occurred.

Nov 17 Monday - Pleasant and mild. One of the officers from the Mortar Schr on board and brought their Chronometer, the major being so severe when the mortar explodes as to disarrange it. In the evening the Pilot came on board from the Wissahiccon, it being intended in the morning to go up and have a look at Genesis Point Battery.

Nov 18 Tuesday - Foggy and windy in the morning so the expedition up to the Battery was postponed. Capt. Barnes and the Pilot went on board the Wissahiccon in the forenoon and in the afternoon went shooting and brought back 6 doz nice Curlew of which he gave two to the Wardroom and when cooked they proved to be very nice, tender and rich, much like duck.

Nov 19 Wednesday - Pleasant and warm. Thermometer at noon 84°. Got an early breakfast and about seven ocl up anchor and took the Mortar Boat in tow and steamed up Ogeechee River the Wissahiccon joining us when we passed her anchorage. As soon as we opened (on) the Battery round the Point, cast off the Mortar boat and she came to anchor and we proceeded a short distance further up and anchored and the Wissahiccon above us: fired a few shots from this point when the Wissahiccon got her anchor and steamed slowly up the river we following her, both firing as (we) went and the Mortar also firing. The Wiss. proceeded up river till within about 100 yards of piles driven in the river and then the Battery opened fire and at their first shot put a solid shot into the W. 3 ft below her water line causing of course a bad leak, she then dropped down a little still firing while we retained our position and though the Battery fired a good many shots and all of them good ones no more took effect though they came near enough. The Wissahiccon got a man
overboard and managed to stop the worst of the leak our Carpenter being aboard to help. We anchored and continued firing at intervals. Our expedition was partly to find out where the piles were driven and partly what their guns would do. They have one gun, a good one trained on a certain spot near the piles and can drop a shot on that spot every time; the W. happened to get almost exactly on that spot. 30 ft nearer and the shot would have swept her decks. Our shells must have done a good deal of damage and also the mortars. The W. was of no use as far as shooting went her largest gun, a 11 inch shell not coming in accuracy or range with our 100 pdr Parrott. Not many were killed at the Battery for we could see them run for their holes when they saw the flash of our guns. Returned to our anchorage about 4 ocl. leaving our carpenter on board the W.

Nov 20 Thursday - Rainy though warm. Went on board the Mortar boat in the morning and passed an hour or two there with the Commdg Officer Mr. Freeman. Brought back a lot of bread. Nothing unusual.

Nov 21 Friday - Continues pleasant and quite cool in the morning(•). In the morning with Capt. Barnes on board the Wissahiccon: found the Paymaster Mr. Nelson just on the point of starting off with two other officers for a tramp on shore, and they inviting me to join them we pulled down to the point of Raccoon Island and landed there on a good hard beach. Saw lots of Curlew and quite tame too but had no gun; travelled (sic) through the woods and over the beach till we got tired of it and returned, they putting me on board my vessel on their way back. Found on getting aboard that the Darlington was near by coming down on her way to Port Royal: had just time to seal and send a letter to Ann. About five ocl a steamer was made out outside bound in, which proved to be the Waterwitch with a large mail, but much to my disappointment no provisions of which we are in need very much. Found a letter from Sarah, two from Ann, one from Gus, one from G.B. & one from J.P.T. and one from Forbes Parker, also a lot of papers. Was kept busy till after two ocl reading (and) answering letters. Sent Sarah, George & John T and Miss F.B. each one letter.

Nov 22 Saturday - Continues mild and pleasant. The Waterwitch started for Port Royal at daybreak. In the afternoon a party went out after oysters and brought in a good mess which we disposed off (sic) in the evg. They are pretty good but very salt(y). Yesterday there was a fishing party with fair success, caught some bass, drums &c.

Nov 23 Sunday - Continues very pleasant. In the morning muster all hands and Capt. Barnes read prayers for the first time, and announced his intention of doing so every Sunday in (the) future. It sounded very natural to hear the Episcopal service just at Church time at home.

Nov 24 Monday - Continues very mild and pleasant. Nothing unusual occurred through the day.
Nov 25 Tuesday — Continues mild and pleasant. Soon after quarters got up anchor and ran down to the deserted Battery on Green Island and landed three boats crews armed to get lumber. I went ashore with the Capt and looked the battery and surroundings all over. It must have been a very strong battery: the bomb proof and magazines are still in good order. While lookin(g) around we discovered a place where there had been a three gun battery perfectly masked commanding the approach up river. Soon after noon having got all the lumber wanted we got under way and returned. In the afternoon Capt. B. on shore shooting.

Nov 26 Wednesday — Continues mild and pleasant. Wanted very much to go over to the plantation which is on Ossabaw Island but the Capt did not wish anyone to venture so far inland without an armed force. Capt. B. on shore in the afternoon shooting.

Nov 27 Thursday — Continues pleasant though much cooler. Thanksgiving at home though it is hard to realize it down here; rather slim dinner compared to northern ones to day. no fresh meat or flour and nearly out of vegetables and no sign of a Beef Boat. One of the Officers from the Mortar Sch on board for a short time in the forenoon to borrow our seines.

Nov 28 Friday — Continues pleasant though cool. Soon after breakfast got under weigh and ran down to Warsaw (sic) point and came to anchor. Before starting a boat full of armed men with three officers from the Wissahickon joined us. After anchoring the W.s boat and one of ours in which went Capt Barnes, Mr. Saunders and myself and the boats crew with six more men all armed, went on shore on a foraging expedition. We found Cattle, sheep and hogs on the Island and brought off 1 steer, 5 sheep and some birds: should have had two more beves if the men who fired at them had known anything at all about shooting. pigs & hogs we saw but did not kill any for want of time to get them off. Heard heavy firing in direction of Savannah.

Nov 29 Saturday — Continues pleasant and warmer. In the afternoon Mr. Saunders and Dr. on shore at Ossabaw Island to get some provisions from the Negroes, they having come down to the shore; got only some sweet potatoes and pumpkins.

Nov 30 Sunday — Continues mild and pleasant. At 10 ool muster and prayers read by Capt. Barnes. Nothing unusual occurred.

DECEMBER 1861

Dec 1 Monday — Very pleasant. First day of winter and the thermometer stands at 76°. This afternoon a schooner was observed under the guns of Beaulah Battery and also a small steamer both of which had been for some time past up near Genesis Point, as we had learned from deserters, loaded with Cotton and waiting for a chance to run out, so as the night promised to be thick after dark we shifted our position over near Green Island where we could more readily intercept them.
Dec 2 Tuesday - Warm with a heavy fog in the early morning afterwards pleasant. About 6 ocl the Water-with (sic) was made out coming in and later in the day the Blackstone also arrived with fresh provisions in the place of the Massachusetts which str is being repaired. Was occupied all the afternoon in boating fresh meal ec. from the Blackstone and some supplies, (sic) from Port Royal, which which (sic) came by the Waterwitch which vessel also brought a mail. I received a letter from Joe, Ann, Sarah, and George B. and sent one to Ann and one to M.W. Sheafe.

Dec 3 Wednesday - Foggy and showery though still warm, we continue anchored near Green Island. Nothing unusual occured.

Dec 4 Thursday - Lowery and misty but mild. Nothing unusual occured.

Dec 5 Friday - Rainy and windy. Busy all day in getting ready monthly returns.

Dec 6 Saturday - Pleasant but cold. About 10 ocl the Wissahickon came down to our anchorage and we got up anchor and with her proceeded up the Little Ogeechee River and fired a number of shots at the Little Schr up near Bulah. No harm was done there being a high wind and the range very long: managed to get rid of ammunition (sic) enough to buy her twice over. On our way back in the afternoon made out a Schr near the cutter buoy apparently bound in but it was too late to go out to her today.

Dec 7 Sunday - Continues pleasant though cool. General muster and the articles of the Navy and prayers read by the Capt. The Wissahickon went out and towed in the Sch seen last night and she proved to be the F.P. Simpson loaded with fresh provisions; I was occupied all the afternoon in Boating Beef & vegetables. In the evening wrote Guss, Sarah and George B. to go by the Schr in the morning.

Dec 8 Monday - Continues pleasant and cool. In the morning on board the Wissahickon, found Pay'r Kelsie quite unwell. Busy with returns.

Dec 9 Tuesday - Continues pleasant and warmer. Nothing unusual occured.

Dec 10 Wednesday - Continues pleasant and mild(.) About noon a steamer was made out coming down from Florida Passage: which turned out to be the Paul Jones Jr. from St. Simons. She was an army surf boat with an engine in her which was taken out of a mill down there and the rest of her apparatus, paddles ec. were fitted up by the Negroes there. She was bound for Port Royal and we sent a mail on board, with which went my monthly returns for Nov.

Dec 12 Thursday - Continues mild and pleasant(.) Nothing unusual(.)
Dec 12 Friday - Continues warm and pleasant. Capt. Barnes busy to day building a sort of floating island on a shoal to shoot ducks from.

Dec 13 Saturday - Continues mild and pleasant. In the forenoon a schr was made out outside making signal for a Pilot. The Wissahickon went out and brought her in and she proved to be the "Hope" on her way from Port Royal to St. Simons and stopped here to leave some express matter among which was my gun. she also brought some ordnance for us and a small mail; but no letters for me. After leaving all she had for this Port she went to sea immediately. I was on board of her for an hour or two. She is one of the fastest vessels in the service and very handsome.

Dec 14 Sunday - Continues very pleasant. Muster in the forenoon and prayers read by Capt. Barnes. Nothing unusual occurred.

Dec 15 Monday - Misty and warm with a little rain during the day. Shooting part of the day with Capt. Barnes but found the ducks very wild and only got one, dined with Capt. B.

Dec 16 Tuesday - Continues pleasant with a high wind and cooler. Nothing unusual.

Dec 17 Wednesday - Continues pleasant with much wind and quite cool.

Dec 18 Thursday - Continues pleasant though cool. Last night the Thermometer 34° the lowest yet.

Dec 19 Friday - Continues pleasant and a little milder. Out shooting with the Capt and got some ducks and curlew and one Raccoon; dined with the Capt.

Dec 20 Saturday - Continues pleasant. In the afternoon with Capt. Barnes and the Pilot went over to the pond on Raccoon Island, but did not find any duck in it.


Dec 22 Monday - Continues pleasant and much milder. A very high tide this morning, so with Capt. Barnes immediately after breakfast took the dingy and pushed over the marsh which was overflowed thus scaring up the marsh hens of which we shot about a dozen and a duck and some curlew and caught a Raccoon alive.

Dec 23 Tuesday - Continues pleasant and quite warm thermometer 32°(-) The Pilot went out to a steamer outside this morning and brought back a mail but no letters for me though there were two papers from Sarah(-)one from R.B. and some official documents.

Dec 24 Wednesday - Continues mild and pleasant. About 7 ocl the Wissahickon came down to our anchorage and Capt. Barnes and the Dr.
went on board, when she proceeded down to the end of Warsaw (sic) island and anchored and sent two boats on shore for fresh meat: they returned about 6 PM with some very wretched beef and Pork and two live coons one of which they caught and the other was given to them on board the W.

Dec 25 Thursday - Christmass (sic) day. Mild and pleasant, thermometer 61° (°). Nothing unusual occurred and no good dinner was forthcoming in honor of the day.

Dec 26 Friday - Continues mild and pleasant, summer weather (°), nothing unusual (°).

Dec 27 Saturday - Continues mild and pleasant for the most part though it sprinkled once or twice. On shore with Capt. Barnes and duck shooting (sic) (°). In the afternoon the Seneca came in from Fort Royal to relieve the Wissahickon, the latter vessel being bound to Fort Royal for repairs. The S. brought a mail in which I received a letter from George B. and one from John T. (°) but none from home - busy till most 1/2 Col AM, answering my letters and writing for Capt. Barnes. Wrote George B & John T. and Joe and Sarah.

Dec 28 Sunday - Cloudy in the morning afterwards pleasant. The Wissahickon started at sunrise for Fort Royal and about nine we ran down outside seeing a Schr there which we thought wanted a Pilot.

Dec 29 Monday - Very warm and pleasant (°). R.G.P. away with Capt. Barnes the most of the day shooting ducks and curlew. Some of the men while on shore caught another Coon and a very handsome one.

Dec 30 Tuesday - Continues mild and pleasant. Nothing unusual occurred during the day.

Dec 31 Wednesday - Continues pleasant though cooler. Capt. Barnes out shooting part of the (day). I declined going being busy with my Quarterly returns.

1863

JANUARY

Jan 1 Thursday - Continues pleasant. Busy on Quarterly returns. Three officers from the Seneca on board for a short time and Capt. Gibson of the S. to dine with Capt. Barnes.

Jan 2 Friday - Continues mild and pleasant. Dr. & Mr. Saunders away on shore part of the day and brought back another Coon. About two o’clock I steamer Blackstone with fresh provisions and a mail by which I reced a letter from my Father and one from Miss Fanny, the latter I answered the same day (°).

Jan 3 Saturday - Continues pleasant - Occupied all day with Quarterly returns. Capt. & Mr. Saunders shooting in the afternoon with fair success (°).
Jan 4 Sunday - Windy but pleasant. General quarters & muster and Navy laws and prayers read by Capt.

Jan 5 Monday - Foggy though warm in the forenoon. At noon clear. After dinner Capt. Barnes started for the Seneca and the Dr. Mr. Saunders and myself in the dingy started out to go shooting but had not gone farther than a quarter of a mile before the fog shut in thicker than ever and we were obliged to return. Late in the afternoon the Waterwitch came in and brought a few letters and some Engineers stores.

Jan 6 Tuesday - Pleasant in the early part of the day afterwards rainy - Capt. Gibson of the Seneca and his chief engineer on board most of the day. The Waterwitch went out about 10 ocl and by her I sent a letter to my Father.

Jan 7 Wednesday - Mild and pleasant. About ten ocl got under way and ran into Hell-gate and put the Steamer ashore and the remainder of the day was spent in scraping her bottom it being very thickly covered with barnacles and grass. The engineer of the Seneca on board examining the engine returned to our anchorage about 6 ocl.

Jan 8 Thursday - Continues pleasant though cooler. Got under way at 9 ocl and ran through Hell-gate and anchored. The Seneca came alongside and we spent the day in taking in coal from her returned to our anchorage about 6 ocl.

Jan 9 Friday - Continues pleasant - about 10 ocl got up anchor and in company with the Seneca ran up the little Ogeechee river and took a look at Fort McAllister on Genesis Point. On our return came to anchor off Green Island. In the afternoon with the Capt. shooting and amongst other things got one Canvass-back duck the first we had seen - we brought down two more but could not get them - also got some teal and curlews - Seal and Canvass-backs are the finest of any of the duck kind, feeding only on herbs.

Jan 10 Saturday - Continues pleasant and mild with a slight shower in the evening. About seven ocl made out a man hailing and swinging his arms on a point near little Warsaw (sic) Island. Sent a boat and brought him aboard when he proved to be one of the "Anemaughs" crew, and said there was another in the marsh some where who had separated from him the day before. that they left the Anemaugh four days before having come ashore with a boat's crew on great Warsaw (sic) to get wood and these two had strayed off to shoot pigs and got lost and had been wandering in the woods and marshes for 4 days without food or water except what oysters they could pick up of course the man was exhausted and was put under the Dr's care and the boat sent back to search for the other and about noon returned with him in the most wretched condition, without shoes his feet entirely cut up with oyster shells, without pants and the legs of his drawers gone up above his knees and perfectly helpless and speechless nearly they found him considerably above his waist in mud and water and there he had been for more than twenty hours the most comfortable of which was when it was high tide and the water came up to his throat and kept him warm. They had
seen our vessel and started for it day before yesterday and
coming to a river they seperated, one swimming it and keeping on to
finally get stuck in the marsh the other going up stream to find a
narrow place to cross which after he had done he hailed the vessel
for half a day in the marsh and yesterday took a higher stand and
commenced again and the wind being fair made us hear(•) he was
afraid in his weak state to cross a creek he had come to. Both
doing well now.

Jan 11 Sunday - Continues pleasant. Muster in the morning and
prayers read by Capt. Barnes. Most of the day was passed by Capt.
B. on board the Seneca and upon his coming on board in the afternoon
he told us that when we went up the Little Ogeechee on Friday the
"Nashville" could be seen from the mast head of the Seneca quite
plain and and (sic) in good order just back of Fort McAllister and
evidently waiting a good night to run out: and the watch officers
were told that if the Seneca fired a rocket to wait for no orders
but call to quarters and get under way immediately. About 9½ a
rockett (sic) was seen in the direction of the Seneca and in less
than two minutes we were under way. ran thru Hell-gate when the
Seneca made a signal that all was right and we returned to our
anchorage all hands pleased to find how quick we could get under
way and be ready for action(•)

Jan 22 Monday - Continues pleasant. The cause of the alarm of
last evening proves to be the Str. Madgie which came through the
Florida passage with Paul Jones Jr. The Madgie returned this
morning and the Paul Jones Jr. went on to Fort Royal taking the
two men picked up in the marsh, back to the Ansemaugh. A sch and
Str off the bar at anchor just before dark(•)

Jan 23 Tuesday - Continues pleasant. The Pilot was sent off to
the vessels outside last night and this morning beat the sch up to
the other side of Hell gate. The Str which proves to be the
Canadagua remains at anchor at the forks of the channel blockading
for the Nashville, as we learn from the Admiral this morning that
it is expected an ironclad ram will shortly come down from Savannah
and engage us and at the same time the Nashville will run out and
the Canadagua is to stop her out there - "The Schr brought a mail
by which I got a letter from Sarah and one from Mr. Hatch.

Jan 14 Wednesday - Continues warm and pleasant. Alongside the
Schr all day taking in coal(•) Another str outside this evening
which looks like the Wissahickon.

Jan 15 Thursday - Continues pleasant. The Str turns out to be
the Wissahickon and came in this morning. The Waterwitch also
came in this morning. The Waterwitch also came in towing a Beef
Schr. The Paul Jones (Jr.) returned from Port Royal yesterday.
The Seneca alongside the coal schr all day taking coal. This the
Wissahickon took the mortar schr in tow and carried her up near
the Florida Passage where she anchored; the Wissahickon returning
and anchoring near us this side of Hell gate. Wrote Sarah a letter
to go by the Waterwitch to Port Royal. The Seneca is to go into
Warsaw (sic) Sound. Boating provisions &c. from the Waterwitch, neither she nor the Seneca caring to go out in the high wind which is blowing.

Friday - Continues pleasant though quite cold with a heavy NW wind. The Seneca and Waterwitch still remain here.

Jan 17 Saturday - Continues pleasant though cold. Ice made on deck before daylight. Soon after daybreak started with two boats for the Provisions schr and before we got the boats loaded the Dawn came through Hell gate and went alongside the Schr for coal. Seneca and Waterwitch both went out about 7 am but about noon the former returned with orders from Capt. Green of the Canadagua. At night we steamed up to Florida Passage and anchored.

Jan 18 Sunday - Pleasant but quite cool(.) Muster omitted(.) Nothing unusual occurred. Yesterday 7 contrabands came down to the Schr and were transferred to the Provisions schr for passage to Fort Royal.

Jan 19 Monday - Pleasant with a high wind. Nothing unusual occurred through the day.

Jan 20 Tuesday - Rainy all day. Busy with Quarterly returns(.)

Jan 21 Wednesday - Pleasant though windy. Capt. Freeman and his Paymaster from the Mortar Sch on board.

Jan 22 Thursday - Continues pleasant and much warmer. The Seneca came round from Warsaw. In the course of the forenoon took mortar sch in tow and carried her through Hell gate to the mouth of Adam's creek and we went up and anchored near the mouth of Little Ogeechee River.

Jan 23 Friday - Continues warm and pleasant. Capt. Barnes out shooting a short time but the Seneca came round from Hell gate on her way up the Little Ogeechee to have a look at the Nashville and Capt. B. went on board to go along with them.

Jan 24 Saturday - Continues pleasant and quite warm. A day of events. About 3 a.m. 4 contrabands from Savannah came on board and brought information that the ram was expected to come down here to day or next day. About seven heard two guns seaward apparently from Canadaga and soon afterwards firing commenced in the direction of Fort Pulaski and continued till noon rapid and heavy. About eight got under way and ran through Hell gate to communicate with Wissahicken and just upon reaching her the Mortar sch signalled Enemy's Gunboats in sight and fired a gun. We immediately turned about and with the Wissahicken ran down to the Schr. She had seen three gunboats in the direction of Warsaw firing and we then saw soon afterwards a steamer coming through Remly (sic) marsh which proved to be the Planter from Port Royal. About noon saw two steamers seaward one of which we supposed to be the Quaker City towing an ironclad - these two ran down and communicated with the Canadagua and the Wissahicken ran out to them. After this fog shut
in too thick to make out anything though we suppose the ironclad to be destined for this place.

Jan 25 Sunday - Pleasant and foggy by turns. About eleven o'clock the ironclad "Montauk" commanded by Capt Worden, formerly of the Monitor, came in and anchored near Hell-gate - Capt. Barnes went on board and remained till night. The Wissahickon dam was set come in.

Jan 26 Monday - Mild and pleasant. Capt. Barnes on board the Montauk till afternoon. The Wissahickon came in in the course of the day also the "James Adger" which later vessel was the one seen towing the ironclad - and by her we got a mail in which I received two letters from Sarah one from Ann and one from Joe with two papers from Porsmouth and one from Boston. After Capt. Barnes came on board we got under way and taking the Mortar ship in tow with the Seneca, Wissahickon and Montauk ran up the Ogeechee River and anchored just out of range of Fort McAllister. The steamer Daffodil also came up from Port Royal with orders - During the evening finished a letter to Mr. Hatch and began one to Sarah.

Jan 27 Tuesday - Continues pleasant till afternoon when some rain fell. At about seven o'clock all the vessels got under way and ran up towards the battery the Montauk leading - the latter continued to advance until stopped by piles in the river and we lay some ½ mile below her and all commenced shelling the battery and continued till all our shell were gone and likewise the Montauk's - As usual the Seneca & Wissahickon were of no use whatever with their 11 inch shell guns their shot not reaching or going wide of the battery and the same was the case with the Mortar; our 100 pd Parrott made first rate (sic) shots as did also the Montauk's guns - About one o'clock all ceased firing and the Montauk came alongside and ordered us to return to our anchorage of the previous night - The Montauk was struck 12 times in her hull & turrent but no further damage was done (other) than a very slight dent where the shots struck. One of the shots struck the turret and bounced back into their boat and was picked up. They say in the turret the sensation when a shot strikes it is the same as if a person was cracking a nut on it. Nearly all the shots from the battery were directed at the Montauk and excellently aimed. Our gun kept them from using their mortars in the battery, they only firing some 3 or 4, times at the wooden vessels. Capt. Worden complimented Capt. Barnes on his gun and shooting. In the afternoon the Str. Daffodil was sent back to Port Royal probably for ammunition (.)

Jan 28 Wednesday - Pleasant though cool with a high wind. Five or six contrabands came in this morning from some place above the battery but as they left before the attack, they knew nothing. Nothing done to-day.

Jan 29 Thursday - Continues pleasant and milder. About noon the Daffodil returned from Port Royal bringing a little ammunition for the other vessels and orders for us to proceed at once to Port Royal, accordingly as soon as possible (.) we got under way but owing to the Engine being out of time we did not get any further
than the Light Ship off Port Royal, where we anchored for the night.

Jan 30 Friday - Continues pleasant but cool. After rolling miserably all night it was a relief to get under way the first thing in the morning and run into Port Royal. A board of Engineers came on board about noon and examined the engine and concluded she'd hang together a little longer. In the afternoon we went alongside the Vermont to get in ammunition & stores - On board the Wabash in the afternoon and again in the evening when I found Capt. Barnes in the ward room and passed a pleasant evening.

Jan 31 Saturday - Mild & pleasant. Busy in the morning paying out money and making up Mr. Bates our 1st Asst Engineers Accts he being ordered to report on board the Vermont - Later went on board the Vermont to get some accts and returned with Capt. Barnes when we immediately got under way for Ossabaw again, where we arrived about dark. The "Ironsides" was alongside the Vermont when we left having her spars taken out. Upon reaching Ossabaw, Capt. Barnes immediately went on board the Montauk and informed us on his return that we were to attack the battery next day.

FEBRUARY 1863

Feb 1 Sunday - Warm and pleasant. About eight ran up to our former station in front of the battery and began hammering away - Much bothered by the smoke, there being no wind - fight and result same as before, except that the former was a little rougher - and we got in the Dawn the entire attention of the Mortar and one gun but finally silenced them though they passed the pieces of shell all round us and plenty near. On board the Montauk after it was done, she was hit 46 times, boat stove, flag staff shot away &c but still uninjured - On the 30th I received another letter from Sarah and one from John T. and wrote the former.

Feb 2 Monday - Continues pleasant. In the course of the forenoon the Wissahickon took the Mortar Sch in tow and carried her outside. By her sent a letter to Joe - Nothing unusual through the day.

Feb 3 Tuesday - Continues pleasant through quite cool. Busy most of the day on accounts.

Feb 4 Wednesday - Rainy most of the day - a Steamer belonging to the Engineer Corps came through from Port Royal this morning and by acting queerly in the creek made us suspete hereof being in Secesh hands so we kept the guns trained on her till she got within hail.

Feb 5 Thursday - Rainy & cold. Nobody moving that can help it.

Feb 6 Friday - Pleasant but cold. Nothing unusual thru the day. About 10 PM the Daffodil came in from Port Royal and gave us some fresh beef and vegetables(.*) The Engineer Str returned early this morning, what she came for, can't tell(.*)
Feb 7 Saturday - Pleasant and much milder, though last night the thermometer fell to 30° - at eight the Daffodil left for Port Royal. Sent a letter to John T. and one to Paymaster Isaacs.
Peirce, Robert C. - Diary
Acting Assistant Paymaster, U.S.S. Dawn
Sept. 24, 1862 - Feb. 7, 1863.
Wednesday. Left home this morning and proceeded to Boston in the North train on the Eastern Road. Upon arriving in Boston proceeded immediately to the Navy Yard. Saw Charles E. Mahoney, my steward and learned from him that the Rhode Island was to sail the next day returned to Boston in the afternoon, saw John Treadwell and George Bartlett, made some purchases and transacted some other business went up to Mrs Parke to tea a friend of Mr Cabot. Dr Langley came in and I was pleased to find that he was to take passage the next day in the Rhode Island to join the U.S. S. Pendleton De Soto. In the evening went to Mr Robinson's to bid Josh good bye. On the 1st of August I made application for an appointment in the Navy as Assistant Paymaster and about the 20th received my appointment as Acting Assistant Paymaster and on the 20th of Sept received orders to report to Commodore Montgomery for a passage in the Steamer Rhode Island to Fort Royal thence to report to Rear Admiral Dufour for duty on board the U.S. S. Du Pont.

Sept 25. Thursday: Mild and pleasant. In the morning finished up all my business in Boston, bid good bye to my friends and went over to the Navy Yard a little before noon. Both dinner with Mr Mahoney the cook of the Rope Walk and father of the young man who was going out with me as Steward. All Officers were ordered to be on board at one o'clock, but owing to the usual delays and some derangement in the machinery we did not haul out from Wharf...
1862

all about 9 o'clock. Post supper on board and went down to the Roads and anchored and turned in for my first night's sleep on board ship.

Sept 26
Friday Warm and pleasant. Got under way about daylight. The Pilot left us at about 9 o'clock. At 11 A.M. we were off Cape Cod where we saw a large Right Whale, and in the course of the day two or three school of Porpoises. At 9 P.M. we were off Holmes Hole. Made several pleasant acquaintances amongst whom was Dr. Dawson who was going to join the sloop.

27 Saturday. Pleasant in the forenoon, rainy and equally in the day. The Rhode Island turned out to be a fast vessel going, most of the time with a head wind about 15 knots per hour. Find it rather hard to kill time with nothing to do.

28 Sunday. Very pleasant and warm. About noon we reached Hampton Roads and came to anchor off Fortress Monroe. About 15 minutes after anchoring we were greeted with the pleasant sight of a dead body floating past and later by two funerals from an English sloop of war laying near us. We are now fairly in Lynceen and about 50 miles from the location of the celebrated fight of the Monitor and Meruma and the same distance though out of sight of the place when the Cumberland Congress were sunk by the Meruma.

29 Monday. Pleasant and quite warm. Early in the morning we hauled in to the wharf to take in shot and shell. All the passengers, myself among the number went on shore and most of us inside the Fort, the largest in the
United States. The inside of the Port is thickly planted
with trees mostly cypress. We had liberty as
far as I could see to go anywhere but it was too
warm for much walking so I returned back
towards the Ship, stopped on my way and sat
for some time in front of the "Hygea" Hotel to
take a look at the inhabitants we spent some
money for the surroundings which are mostly sand.
The above Hotel was to be torn down in a few
days as well as several other buildings to give
way for the range of the guns of the Fort in
expectation of the approach down the Harbo of
Memmlae No 2. On my way to the ship visited
the large 15 in Lincoln and Union Guns, both
of which for the time being were mounted on
sand banks in front of the Fort. Dined dinner
on board the 1st and passed the afternoon
mostly on board.

Oct 1
Wednesday. Continued pleasant. Spoke and boarded
a bug from City and spoke two other vessels saw
in the afternoon a school of Sealing Fisch.

Oct 2
Thursday. Continued pleasant. Fair wind and all
sail set and going through the water 12 knot well.

Tsunami. United States. The inside of the Port is thickly planted
with trees mostly cypress. We had liberty as
far as I could see to go anywhere but it was too
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October 3

1862 to report on board the "Osborn" for a passage to Nassau Sound, when I should find the "Dawn." Proceeded on board the Osborn" and reported and upon going down into the Wardroom found an old College classmate on board as Paymaster. Faced the evening conversing with him; got a bed rigged from a sofa chair.

Frightly Variable, unshining sound. The Osborn got under way about day light and upon getting outside found a fresh breeze and some sea which gave me an opportunity of witnessing the abilities of the Osborn in the rolling wave and came to the conclusion that she is very near perfection in that art. Reached Nassau at about 12 o'clock and in answer to our signal the Steerage came out to pilot us in. After dinner Paymaster Forbes Porter of the Dawn who was to relieve came on board and I returned with him to the "Dawn" where I found much better accommodations than I expected. Nassau sound when the "Dawn" is stationed is surrounded by marshes and the is pretty much all there is to say about it except that ants flies are very abundant and alligators also. About sunset up Anchor and run up to the night anchorage at mouth of Nassau face about two miles boarding melting hickory dawn and guards stationed. There is a marked tattle in sight on shore and there have been expectations of boat attack from there as there are a large number of soldiers there though most of them have run off. Besides the Dawn there are stationed here the barque Fernandoa and the Steamer...
Saturday. Very pleasant and warm. Passed the day in learning from Paymaster Page the condition of his affairs whilst and transferring the accounts. Capt. Moses of the Fernandina, a Potomac man came on board this morning. The evening while coming up to our anchor we made out a light coming down the Florida Pass, bent up maps and not receiving an answer soon enough the crew were called to quarters and a gun fired over which brought an immediate answer; the crew were kept at quarters and there was every prospect of an engagement but upon getting near enough to hail the signal out to be the Florida no damage done though one shot passed over the deck forward of the foremast.

Sunday. Continues pleasant, the thermometer from day to day now averaging about 80° in the shade with a good breeze most of the time. All hands at pleasure this morning, being the first Sunday in the month. About 10 o'clock went on board the Virgin and made a call on Clerk, ale, sandwiches etc in the wardroom it being a passing, impromptu spread to Barker of going north. In the afternoon got under way and started with a big sea tow, for Warsaw with Capt. Scott on board who was going to join the Sebago. Owing to having the brig outside we were too late to get in to Warsaw.

Monday. Continue pleasant, with a high wind. Run into Warsaw and left Capt. Scott and were under way again about 8 o'clock. Found it rather rough outside. The dawn rocks most as much
1862 as the Cohoeska. Reached Port Royal about noon. In the afternoon Mr. Parker went on board the Vermont and in the evening returned and got his baggage and took up quarters on board the Vermont to wait for a vessel going north.

Oct 7, Wednesday. Continued pleasant and warm. Carpenters on board to day and began arranging a cabin out of the after part of the ward room for the Capt. who has been lodged with the ward room officers.

8 Thursday. Continued fine weather. In the morning, with the Div went on board the Usson Wabash to see about getting some money for ships use. Carpenters stool at work in the ward room which makes it rather uncomfortable.

9 Friday. Rainy in the morning after noon, warm and pleasant. In the afternoon the Dawn hauled alongside the Vermont and put on board of her 2 rifle guns 20 lbs. and received from her a 100 lb. Parrott so that her armament now consists of the latter gun 2 long 32's and, 1 20 lb. rifle in the forecastle. The Dawn is about 400 tons. While alongside the Vermont went on board and saw Easter.

10 Saturday. Pleasant and in the first part of the morning very close and warm thermometer 86° afterward a good breeze. Steam tug came alongside and delivered shot & shell.

11 Saturday. Cool and rainy. Went on board the Vermont with the Capt. One boat to Wilton Head and just after it came back a signal was
1862

hostled on the Flag Ship forbiding communication with the shore on account of Yellow Fever having started there. Pleasant news for us here only two miles from the shore.

12 Saturday. Continue cool and rainy. So fear of yellow fever spreading much with this cool weather and north east wind. Reading most all day. Much annoyed in the stateroom and state rooms by an awful smell of help water made unusually bad by there being no fire in the engine room and the damp weather and by it not having been pumped out the pumps being out of the vessel for repair. White paint every- where colored black by it.

13 Monday. Continue cool and cloudy. Went on board the Vermont this morning to get some shore. Parker returned with me to the Dawn to say good by as he will leave in a day or two for the North. Carpenters still at work on the cabin. On board a trading schooner with the Capt. the price they demand for their goods are frightfully high but so great is the want of things that they bring that they find a ready sale. Mail came tonight though there was nothing for me. My letter with my address not having reached home soon enough to be answered yet.

14 Tuesday. Continue cool and lowest. Carpenters still at work on Cabin and state rooms. Taking coal out of a schooner and painting ship. Went on board the Wabaah with the Capt. in the afternoon and brought back papers.

15 Wednesday. Continue cool through the sun
1863 was out most of the day. To day is a sort of holy day with the men to have boats and go to the trading schooners to buy things. In the morning went with the Dr. on board the Nabash; in the afternoon went on board the Vermont. Carpenters still at work.

16 Thursday. Continues pleasant and much warmer. In the forenoon the carpenters finished up their work and in the evening or rather afternoons we got up steam for the first time since coming to anchor here, and went alongside the Vermont and took in some water, our own condenser not yet being in order, and some other stores for ourselves as well as for the other vessels at Warsaw and Otsabau. Mr. Murray of New York also came on board for a parson to Otsabau to join the Seminole as Paymaster. Left the Vermont about 6 o'clock and run down as far as the Nabash and came to anchor for the night.

17 Friday. Continues warm and pleasant. At 9 o'clock A.M. I started with three boats for a provisioning scheme laying near the Vermont, to get fresh provisions, and I made two trips and went on board the Vermont and signed my papers. About 11 a.m. up anchor and run down to the Vandalea where we took on board a 12th bolder and started for Warsaw and Otsabau. Reality glad to get away from Port Royal, for since we came there till the time we left it has been nothing but dirt, paint hurry and confusion. Reached Warsaw at sunset gave the Pawnee and Lebajo their mail so and came to anchor for the night.

18 Saturday. Continues very pleasant. Up anchor
and left Nassau at about 8 o'clock upon getting outside found a stiff breeze blowing and considerable sea and the Dawn went through some beautiful solutions in the rolling line and there was considerable pitching and tumbling on deck, rolled the guns under most every time. Reached Ossabaw at about 12 and came to anchor and signalled for a Pilot the Vixen came out and showed us the way in. The Fernandina boat came alongside and carried off Mr. Murray. Came to anchor near the Florida and sent the mail and express matter on board of her she being the ship. Tomorrow we take the Vixen's birth she going to Port Royal for repairs. Nothing new since we left.

19 Wednesday Continue pleasant though cool. Early this morning we picked up five Contra bands who had run from up above the battery. The Vixen left about 9 o'clock for Port Royal leaving thier vessel on the station by the Florida. Fernandina and Dawn general muster at ten o'clock and the article of war read by the Capt.

20 Monday Continue pleasant. At 10 o'clock went to general quarters myself with the Dw being on the after deck. Exercising the crew at the 10 o'clock. Capt. Moses and Dr. Boyer of the Fernandina came on board in the morning. In the afternoon Capt. Barnes went on shore shooting and on his return made the crew a present of nice fowl and wine.

21 Tuesday Continue mild and pleasant. The crew in the morning cleaning out and clearing the hold of which I was present all the time to look after my provisions. Thermometer 92° in shade.
22 Wednesday. Continue cool and pleasant. The crew in the morning on show cleaning boat. Capt. Barnes on show shooting a short time. Nothing unusual occurred.

23 Thursday. Continue cool and pleasant with a high wind. Early in the morning made out at 8 o'clock outside apparently making signals for a pilot; ran up to the Florida and took the pilot on board intending to run out and tow her in if the wind moderated enough; but at night she was out of sight. Capt. Maffes came on board and brought half a bucket of very large oysters.

24 Friday. Continue pleasant and cool. About nine sail up anchor and run up towards the Biloxi Bat- tery and when within about two and one half miles of them run out our 120 lb. Parrott to try the range for the first time. Fired seven shots and found that at that distance could throw out of sight beyond land against a strong wind. Our last shot struck the corner of the battery but unfortunately did not explode. We got no reply from the battery. Took the Ogeechee river on our way coming back and ran up that river to have a look at the Ogeechee Battery; when opposite the Biloxi Battery got a shot from land and another when coming back both of which fell short. Could see the battery and tents at Ogeechee and a letter flying the rebel flag and the cavalry drawn up on Coffee Bluff. This was the first time any thing has been up the Ogeechee and the nearest to Biloxi Battery. Wearing persistently from every way pleasantly in this way we returned to our old anchorage. Capt. Maffes came on board soon.
1863

25 Sunday. Continued pleasant though warmer. Came in at noon & Capt. Barnes went on shore shooting in the morning but brought us only a few birds. Myself quite under the weather with a bad cold and below deck most of the day. Nothing unusual occurred till night when a hawser was made out near the outside boll and soon afterwards she fired a gun showing that she must be others and at the same time made her number which proved to be the "Vessaloon" coming up to relieve the Florida. We got up anchor and had run part way down to bed when she signalled that she was not in need of assistance, so we anchored where we were for the night it being then about 8 P.M.

26 Monday. Continued pleasant and in the morning warm with some rain though about noon the thermometers began to fall and at night was about 50° with a cold wind and everybody most frozen as cold as 40° north. Ran down to the "Vessaloon" the first thing in the morning and she followed us up to the Florida’s anchor and sent a small one long and somewhat to my disappointment I got nothing. All hands getting their letters ready to go by the Florida. Went on board the S. and got a barrel of sugar. 10th A.M.

27 Monday. Continued cool and pleasant. Thermometer at 4 P.M. 42° but it moderated much during the day. We got under way about light & in company with the Florida and ran out as far as the pilot buggy to bring the Pilot back when we got back in sight of the "Vessaloon" we found they were
28th Tuesday. Lowery and cool. Got under way about 10 o'clock and we company with the three men down to the mouth of the passag she was to go by and anchored anchor and put the boat on board. About noon I went on shore with Capt. Barnes for a walk he taking his gun with him but although there was a good many birds, he did not shoot none. Then came back with the boat about two o'clock and men left him on board. if us kept on to the Fernandina. About noon the sammer was dispatched in a boat to a Boy on board to pilot her in if passable or as far as possible, he has not yet returned the wind being ahead thus complicating the Boy's anchor. About four o'clock in the afternoon as I was sitting in the wardroom heard a great noise on deck and upon running up found the whole of the forward deck apparenantly the noise was sent over and with the help of the donkey pump the fire was out in five minutes or less. A part of being paint caught fire and was swept no damage done except one man being burnt a little.

29th Wednesday. Continue pleasant and warm. After quarters, the Capt proceeded to appoint every one his quarters in case of fire after which the
alarm was given and all hands run to quarters. My
own station being at the hatch until 2d arms to sus-
perintend passing provisions on to the boats. Capt. B.
got in shore a short time and shot a man in
Arcau. About three o'clock the Messahem was seen
going out, probably to hire in the Brig. Capt. Moines
was on board a short time this morning. The
Darlington came in from Port Royal and went up
in the flag ship Messahem. In the evening with
this Mr. in the Calm till 10 o'clock.

30. Thursday. Continue mild and pleasant. The crew
painting ship and boats &c. Nothing unusual occurred.
Mr. Simmons returned last evening about nine o'clock.
the Messahem having gone out and hired in the
Brig outside which proved to be laden with coal.

31. Friday. Continue mild and pleasant. Nothing
unusual in the morning. About one o'clock the Massa-
chusetts was made out outside and the Messahem
went out to pilot her in; in the meantime we
ran up alongside the Brig and began to take on
c coal; when the Massachusetts got up within a
mile of us, her flag was seen to be at half mast.
our own was immediately lowered to half mast, the
cause proved to be the death of Lieut. Mitchell at
Port Royal of yellow fever. Capt. Barnes went on
board and soon after a signal was made to send
boats for fresh provisios. I proceeded on board
at about four o'clock and got a boat load of fresh
beef and vegetables and sent the boat back to
the ships to return for red and shell, before she
reached the ship, they got up anchor and ran back
to their anchorage so that the boat did not get
back to the ship till after six o'clock, when we put
1862 and saw the sea and 50 shill and a shill of tea
and started for the Dawn against a strong tide
with about 8 tons in the boat; just after starting
broke two oars and had to return to the Maple and
lay over; we did not reach the ship till after night
and with the boat about one quarter full of water
found Capt. Clay the former commander of the
Dawn on board, he being a passenger in the
Maple and come to make a call; also found what
pleased me most a letter from my Father, two
from Sarah and one from George Bartlett and two
newspapers.

Nov 1

Sat. Chilly and Continue pleasant. Early this morning
the Massachusetts was piloted out to sea by the
Wisconsin. Nothing unusual occurred. Wrote a letter
to my Father.

2.

Sunday. Continue mild and pleasant. Engaged all
day in filing out a new muster roll which came
by the Massachusetts and had to be prepared to
go north by the first conveyance. Wrote to Sarah
in the evening. In the latter part of the forenoon
the Wisconsin was seen to leave her anchorage
and run up towards the batteries fixing as she
went, but soon returned though not till the
Battery fired a number of shots at her.

Mon. Continue pleasant and quite warm
Thermometer at noon 86. The Pilot came on board
to day from the Wisconsin and told that they
ran up yesterday in pursuit of some boats
that came out towards them but could not
get within range of them on account of the
murkiness of the water, no damage done. Just after
dinner the Dr. Western's World came down the
Florida Pass on her way to Port Royal; sent our mail on board of her and likewise sent some Requisitions to Carymaea Isaccs on the Vermont


Wednesday. Continues warm with rain in the morning but pleasant in the afternoon. Capt Mosco, Dr Coyer and Carymaea Murray on board in the morning to borrow some Bread. Capt Barnes on shore in the afternoon shooting.

Thursday. Rained all the morning and quite cool, and in the afternoon cloudy though it did not rain. Capt Barnes was off part of the day after ducks but without success. Nothing unusual.

Friday. Pleasant and somewhat warmer though cool enough for comfort. Early this morning the Vincas came in here and Carymaea Taylor boarded us with Clothing and small stores for me and I had to turn out of bed to sign the Invoice. About eleven o'clock the Wiasahcow got under way and made us a signal to do so, and she proceeded up towards Cooper Bug, we following her. When about three miles from the Battery the US ran aground on a shoal. We got out a shanzer and endeavored to tow her off but the tide was ebbing so that it was impossible, so Capt Davis came on board of us and we proceeded on up towards the Battery, until we too were stopped by a shoal. About this time a schooner coming near the Battery made sail and endeavored to escape, when we opened fire on her with the 15th Barrott, the battery rulding. In a short time the tide made enough to enable us to go nearer and soon the schooner
1862. Discovered to be on fire and about the same time the battery ceased firing and was apparently abandoned. After laying by long enough to ensure the destruction of the Schr. we turned and steamed down river it being then dark and too late to think of going up to the battery. The Schr. was loaded with naval stores. One gun was kept playing on the woods about 400 or 500 yards distant from us to drive off what we supposed was a picket there as we could see the smoke of their fire and were in expectation of some rifle practice from them if we left them undisturbed. Most of the shot from the battery fell short. And we started at the proper time the Wiss. would not have got aground and we should have had plenty of time to go up to the battery and perhaps get or destroy some guns and probably camp equipage for their more two good sized camps in plain sight and when we first began to fire man could be seen moving around in them. We got back to our anchor at about seven a.m. and soon afterwards the Wiss. passed us on her way to her station more the worse for her two or three hours ashore.

8th. Thursday. Pleasant though uncomfortably cool. Not feeling very well. Passed most of the day in the Wardroom. Nothing in particular going on.

9th. Friday. Continues pleasant and much warmer though at 4 a.m. the thermometer stood at 96° Master of crew at 10 and inspection of the ship everything quiet through the day.

10th. Monday. Continues warm and pleasant. About noon a steamer was discovered coming Florida Passage which proved later to be the Wamsutta for Port.
Royal, but the mails on board of her and she started I about noon the same day. In the afternoon she left the Devon and passed most of the afternoon. She did not see Capt Moses till just as we were leaving. She having been on shore brought back with us as presents a basket of fine sweet potatoes and some oranges which the officers of the ship got ashore. In the middle of the afternoon a steamer bought on board. She was made out coming in but about dark they got aground and a boat with the pilot went to find her. Was the Massacono.

Friday. Continues warm and pleasant. The sea and schooner been last night, came up this morning and anchored near the Demondina and prove to be the St. Waterwich and the schooner. Monday. Schooner she is to relieve the Demondina and the latter with the Waterwich will return to Port Royal immediately. The schooner Morton shoots a 1 1/2 inch shell.

Wednesday. Continues warm and pleasant, thermometer 82°. Early this morning the Demondina and Waterwich got under way for Port Royal. We are all sorry to lose Capt Moses and his crew for they were Sociable and pleasant and the former excellent company.

Thursday. Continues pleasant and warm. Nothing unusual occurred. Capt Davis was on board in the afternoon and we tried some new 12 lb shell which we got out of the Waterwich and they proved like all the others non-explosive.

Friday. Pleasant and warm. In the morning Dr. Holmes, Mr. Saunders and myself took the Drongy and went on shore, followed the shore round
1863

15. Saturday. Continuous pleasant with considerable wind which in the evening increased to quite a little gale with considerable rain. Nothing occurred this the day.

16. Sunday. Rainy and cloudy. No mister to day on account of the rain; nothing unusual occurred.

17. Monday. Pleasant and mild. One of the officers from the Mortar Schoon board and brought their Chronometer, the motion be so even, when the Mortar exploded as to damage it. In the evening the Pilot came on board from the Messhicken, it being intended in the morning to go up and have a look at Geneva Point Batley.

18. Tuesday. Foggy and cloudy in the morning so the expedition off to the Batley was postponed. Capt. James and the Pilot went on board the Wasshicken in the forenoon and in the afternoon went shooting and brought back 12, 20 nice quail, of which we gave two to the Wardroom and when cooked they proved to be very nice, tender and rich, much like Seeks.
Wednesday, Pleasant and warm. Thermometer at noon 84. Got an early breakfast and about seven o'clock up anchor and took the Morton Boat in tow and steamed up Ageehee River the Wesahieckin joining us when we passed her anchorage. As soon as we opened the Battery round the Point, cast off the Morton boat and she came to anchor and we proceeded a short distance further up and anchored and the Wesahieckin above us; fired a few shots from this point when the Wesahieckin got her anchor and steamed slowly up the river we following her, both firing as we went and the Morton also firing. The Wesahieckin proceeded up river till within about 100 yards of Julie downs on the river and then the Battery opened fire and at their first shot put a red hot shot into the W. 3 ft below her water line causing a course a ball leak, she then dropped down a little still firing while we retained our position and through the Battery fired a good many shots and all of them good ones no more took effect though they came near enough. The Wesahieckin got a man overboard and managed to stop the worst of the leak our Carpenters being aboard to help. We anchored and continued firing at intervals. Our expedition was partly to find out where the bullets were driven and partly what these guns would do. They have one gun, a good one trained on a certain spot near the jiles and can drop a shot on that spot every time; the 6's happened to get almost exactly on that spot so the menaced and the shot would have swept her decks. Our shells must have done a good deal
of damage and also the mortars. The U.S. was of no use as far as shooting went. Her largest gun, a 11 inch shell not comparing in accuracy or range with our 100 lb. Parrott. Not many were killed at the Battery for we could see them run for their holes when they saw the flashes of our guns. Returned to our anchorage about 11 o'clock leaving our гармони on board the U.S.

20 Thursday Rainy though warm. Went on board the Mortar boat in the morning and planted an hour or two there with the Commdg. Officer Mr Freeman. Brought back a lot of bread. Nothing unusual.

21 Friday. Pleasant, and quite cool in the morning. In the morning with Capt. Banks on board the Warwick. Found the Paymaster Mr. Hill just on the point of starting off with the other Officers for a trip on shore, and lay waiting me to join him as we pulled down to the point of Racoon Island and landed there on a good hard beach. Saw lots of Cattle and quite small lots but had no guns. Travelled through the woods and over the beach till we got back of it and returned, they pulling me on board my scull on their way back. Found on getting aboard that the Darlingdon was near by coming down on her way to Port Royal. had just time to seal and send a letter to Ann. About five o'clock a steamer was made out outside known as which proved to be the Waterwitch with a large mail, but much to my disappointment no provisions of which we are so much in need. Found a letter from Danl, two from Ann, one from Miss, one from Miss B. and one from Miss P. T. and one from Forces Parker. also a lot of papers.
1863

10th. Busy till after two o'clock reading answering letters to Sarah, George & John F. and Mrs. E. T. each one letter.

11th. Continue mild and pleasant. The Waterwitch started for Port Royal at daybreak. In the afternoon a party went out after oysters and brought in a good mess which we disposed of in the evening. They are pretty good but very salt. Yesterday there was a fishing party with fair success, caught some bass, drumme.

12th. Sunday. Continue very pleasant. In the morning met at all hands and Capt. Barnes read prayers for the first time, and announced his intention of doing so every Sunday in future. It seemed quite natural to hear the Episcopal service just at Church time at home.

13th. Monday. Continue very mild and pleasant. Nothing unusual occurred through the day.

14th. Tuesday. Continue mild and pleasant. Soon after quarter got up anchor and ran down to the dividing battery on Green Island and landed their boat crew, armed, to get lumber. I went ashore with the Capt and looked the battery and surrounding area. It must have been a very strong battery; the bomb proof and magazines are kilt in good order, while lookout around we discovered a place where there had been a three gun battery perfectly masked, commanding the approach up river. Soon after noon having got all the lumber wanted we got under way and returned. In the afternoon Capt. F. in shore fishing.

15th. Wednesday. Continue mild and pleasant. Wanted very much to go over to the plantation which is on Beaulieu Island. But the Capt did not send any one to continue.
1863 so far inland without an armed force. Capt. B. on shore in the afternoon shooting.

Nov 7. Thursday. Continues pleasant though much cooler. Thanksgiving at home though it is hard to realize it down here; rather a slim dinner compared to workdays out at sea; no fresh meat or fish and nearly out of vegetables and no signs of a Beef Boat. One of the Officers from the Mortar boat on board for a short time in the forenoon to borrow our rope.

28. Friday. Continues pleasant though cool. Soon after breakfast got under weigh and ran down to Marsee point and came to anchor. Before starting a boat full of armed men with two officers from the Massachusetts joined us. After anchoring the two boats and one of ours in which went Capt. Barnes, Mr. Saunders and myself and the boat crew with six more men all armed, went on shore on a foraging expedition. We found cattle, sheep and hogs on the island and brought off 18 head of sheep and some birds; should have had two more beeves if the men who fruit at them had known anything at all about shooting. gave those we saw but did hold any for want of time to get them off. Heard some heavy firing in direction of Savannah.

29. Saturday. Continue pleasant and warmer. In the afternoon Mr. Saunders and Do on shore at Osabawa island to get some provisions from the Indians, they having come down to the shores; got only some sweet potatoes and pumpkins.


Dec 1. Monday. Very pleasant. First day of winter and the
1862

Th temperature stands at 76. This afternoon a schooner was observed under the guns of Beavilah Bayley and also a small steamer, both of which had been for some time past up near Tensic Point, as we had learned from deserters, loaded with salt and waiting for a chance to run out, so as the night promised to be thick after dark we shifted our position over near Green Island when we could more readily intercept them.

3rd Tuesday. Wind with a heavy fog in the early morning afterwards pleasant. About 8 o'clock the Waterwitch was made out coming in and later in the day the Blackstone also arrived with fresh provisions in the place of the Massachusetts which she is being repaired. Was occupied all the afternoon in boiling fish meat etc. from the Blackstone and some supplies from Fort Royal, which we arrived late in the Waterwitch which vessel also brought a mail. I received a letter from Mr. Ann, Sarah and George B. and one to Ann and one to Mr. W. Cheese.

3 Wednesday. Foggy and showery though still warm. We continue anchored near Green Island. Nothing unusual occurred.

4 Thursday. Showery and misty but mild. Nothing unusual occurred.

5 Friday. Rainy and wintry. Busy all day in getting ready monthly returns.

6 Saturday. Pleasant but cold. About 10 o'clock the Massachusetts came down to our anchorage and we got up anchor and with her proceeded up the Little Peechee River and find a number of places at the Little Scher up near Bulah. No
1863 harm was done. They being a high wind and
the range very long, managed to get rid of
ammunition enough to buy her twice over. On our
way back in the afternoon made out a Scho-
ner near the outer buoy apparently bound out and
it was too late to go out to her to day.

22nd November. Continues pleasant though cool.

General muster and the articles of the Navy
and prayers read by the Capt. The Wiscakeen
went out and towed in the Schooner last night
and she proved to be the J. J. Simonson loaded
with flour. Provisions. I was occupied all the
afternoon in buying beef and vegetables. In the evening
wrote to Miss, Sarah and George O. to go by the
Schooner in the morning.

8th Monday. Continues pleasant and cool. In the
morning on board the Wiscakeen, found Pvt.
Kelsie quite unwell. Busy until returns.

9th Tuesday. Continues pleasant and warmer.
Nothing unusual occurred.

10th Wednesday. Continues pleasant and mild.
About noon a steam ship made out coming
down from Florida Passap, which turned out
to be the Paul Jones Line from St. Emon. She
was an army surf boat with an engine in her
which was taken out of a mile down river and
the rest of her apparatus, paddle etc were fitted
up by the Yankees there. She was bound for Port
Royal and we sent a man on board, with which
went my monthly returns for Jan.

11th Thursday. Continues mild and pleasant.
Nothing unusual.

12th Friday. Continues warm and pleasant. Capt.
Dec 13

Yesterday, Continue mild and pleasant. In the forenoon a ship was made out outside making signals for a Pilot. The Wissahcotton went out and brought her in and she proved to be the "Wife" on her way from Port Royal to St. Simons and stopped here to leave some supplies among which was my gun. She also brought some ordnance for us and a small mail, but no letters for me. After leaving the ship I had for this Port she went to sea in mid-morning. I was on board of her for a hour or two. She is one of the fastest vessels in the house and very handsome.


15 Monday. Misty and warm with a little rain during the day. Shooting part of the day with Capt Barnes but found the ducks very wild and only got one signed with Capt B.


17 Wednesday. Continues pleasant with much wind and quite cool.

18 Thursday. Continues pleasant though cool, last night the thermometer 34° the lowest yet.

19 Friday. Continues pleasant and a little milder. Out shooting with the Capt and got some ducks and sugar and one Raccoon; dined with the Capt.

20 Saturday. Continues pleasant in the afternoon with Capt Barnes and the Pilot went over to the
Dec 21
Thursday. Continue pleasant and quite cold.
Thermometer at 4 A.M. 32°. Very few
mist to day. Nothing unusual.

22
Monday. Continue pleasant and much milder.
A very high tide this morning, so with Capt. Bums
immediately after breakfast took the dinghy and
pushed over the marsh which was overflowed
thus serving up the marsh hens of which we shot
about a dozen and a duck and some curlew
and caught a Raccoon alive.

23
Tuesday. Continue pleasant and quite warm
Thermometer 33°. The Pilot went out to a steamer
outside this morning and brought back a small
but no letter for me though there were two papers
from Sarah one from G. B. and some official documents.

24
Wednesday. Continue mild and pleasant. About noon
the Wickabick came down to our anchorage and
Capt. Bums and the Dr. went on board, while she
proceeded down to the end of Wassaw Island and
anchored, and sent two boats on shore for fresh
meat, they returned about 6 p.m. with some very
wet and fresh beef and pork and two live hogs one
of which they caught and the other was given to
being on board the US.

25
Thursday. Christmas day. Mild and pleasant
Thermometer 31°. Nothing unusual secured and
no good dinner was forthcoming in honor of the
day.

26
Friday. Continue mild and pleasant, summer
weather nothing unusual.

27
Saturday. Continue mild and pleasant for the
1862

most part through it stumbled once or twice.
On shore with Capt. Barnes and duck shooting.
In the afternoon the Seneca came in from
Fort Royal to receive the Micahcima, the latter
vessel being bound to Fort Royal for repairs.
The I brought a mail in which I received
a letter from George B. and one from John
10 but none from home. busy till 4 p.m.
14 received my letters and writing
for Capt. Barnes. wrote to George B. & John C. and
Gay and Sarah.

28 Sunday Cloudy in the morning afterward
pleasant. The Micahcima started at 9 a.m. for
Fort Royal and about midday we ran down
outside plump a schooner which we thought
wanted a Pilot

29 Monday Very warm and pleasant R.C.P.
away with Capt. Barnes the rest of the day
shooting ducks and Airlets. Some of the men
while on shore caught anothercoon and
a very handsome one

30 Tuesday Continued mild and pleasant. Nothing
unusual occurred during the day

31 Wednesday Continued pleasant though cooler.
Capt. Barnes out shooting part of the day.
I declined going being busy with my quarterly
returns.

Thursday Continued pleasant. Busy on quarterly
returns. Three officers from the Seneca on board
for a short time and Capt. Gibson of the S. to
dine with Capt. Barnes

Friday Continued mild and pleasant. Dr.
McLaunders away on shore part of the
day and brought back another Coon. About
1863 Tues. the Steamer Blackstone arrived with fresh provisions and a mail by which I received a letter from my Father and one from Mr. Tenny, the latter I answered the same day.

3 Saturday. Continues pleasant. Occupied all day with quarterly return. Capt. & Mrs. Saunders shooting in the afternoon with fair success.


5 Monday. Foggy though warm in the forenoon. At noon clear. After dinner Capt. Barnes started for the Diana and Mrs. Barnes and myself in the steamer started out to go shooting but had not got to the line quarters of a mile before the fog closed in thence in town we went to the mail office to return letters. In the afternoon the Wallawas came in and bought a few letters and some provisions store.

6 Tuesday. Pleasant in the early part of the day after wards rainy. Capt. Shipman in the Diana and his chief engineer on board meet of the day. The Wallawas went out about 10 o'clock and by he's I sent a letter to my Father.

7 Wednesday. Mild and pleasant. About 10 o'clock got under way and ran into Hellsgate and put the Steamer ashore and the remainder of the day was spent in keeping her bottom in good order and the engines of the Diana on board examining the engines returned to our anchorage about 8 o'clock.

8 Thursday. Continues pleasant though cooler. Got under way at 9 o'clock and ran through Hellsgate and anchored. The Diana came alongside and we
1863

thout the day in taking on coal from her. Return to
our anchorage about 6 o'clock.

9

Friday. Continues pleasant. About 10 o'clock got
up anchor and our company with the S. 
as up the little R. etc. and took
a look at Fort McAllister in Georgia Point.
On our return came to anchor off Green Island.
In the afternoon with the light shorthing and
amongst other things got one canvas Mack
duck. The first we had seen. We brought down
two more but could not get them. Also got
some seal and curlew. Seal and Canvasack
backs are the finest if any of the duck kind. Finding
only on her.

10

Saturday. Continues pleasant and mild with
a slight shover in the evening. About seven-
and a half miles out at a man hailing and bringing
his arms on a plant near Little Wareau Island
kept a boat and brought him aboard when
he proved to be one of the 'Cinemaugh's' crew
and said there was another in the smack
somewhere who had deserted from him the
day before that they left the 'Cinemaugh' four
days before having come ashore with a boat
crew on great Wareau to get wood and these
two had stayed off to shoot pips and got
Lost and had been wandering in the woods
and marshes for 14 days without food or
water except what oysters they could pick up.
Of course the man was exhausted and was
just under the Divo can and the boat went
back to search for this man and about noon
returned with him in the most wretched
condition, without shoes his feet entirely cut up with oyster shells, without pants, and the top of his drawers gone up above his knees and perfectly helpless and speechless nearly. They found him considerably above his waist in mud and water and they had been for more than twenty hours the most comfortable of which was when it was high tide and the water came up to his shirt and kept him warm. They had seen one vessel and started for it a day before yesterday and come to a place they separated, one coming in and keeping in to finally get strait in the marsh the other going up stream to find a narrow place to cross which after he had done he hailed the vessel for half a day in the marsh and yesterday took a higher land and crossed again and the wind being fair made us hear to he was afraid in his weak state to cross a creek he had come to. Both doing well now.

11 Sunday. Continues pleasant. Mass in the morning and prayers read by Capt. Brown. Most of the day was passed by Capt. D. on board the Senea and when his coming on board in the afternoon he told us that when we went up the sills were cleaned on Tuesday the "Kashville" could be seen from the main head of the Seneca quite plainly and in good order just back of Fort McAllister and evidently waiting for no orders but call to quarters and get under way immediately. About 4 o'clock was seen in the direction of the Seneca and in less than two minutes we were under way ran the
1863

12 Monday. Continues pleasant. The cause of the alarm of last evening proved to be the 40 Madjie which came through the Florida passage with the Paul Jones Jr. The Madjie returned this morning and the Paul Jones to be Fort Royal taking the two men picked up on the March, back to the Canadagu, 0.10 and 0.50 off the bar at anchor just before dark.

13 Tuesday. Continues pleasant. The Albat was sent off to the vessels outside last night and this morning beat the schooner up to the other side of all gate. The schooner proved to be the Canadaga remains at anchor at the fortes of this Channel blockading for the Tasker as we learn from the Admiral the morning that it is expected an ironclad ram will shortly come down from Savannah and engage us and at the same time the Tasker will run out and the Canadaga is to stop her out there. The schooner brought a mail by which I got a letter from Savab and one from Mr. Watkins.

14 Wednesday. Continues warm and pleasant. Alongside the schoon all day taking in coal.

15 Thursday. Continues pleasant. The schooner went out to be the Wiseshecan and came in this morning.
1863 The Waterwitch also came in today a little after 7 o'clock. The Caule Jones returned from Port Royal yesterday. The Seneca alongside the coal dock all day taking coal. This afternoon the Waterwitch took the mortar echo out and carried her up near Florida Passage when she anchored. The Waterwitch returned and anchored near us this side of Nell's gate. wrote sailing a letter to go by the Waterwitch to Port Royal. The Seneca is to go into Warsaw Sound. Boating provisions of from the Waterwitch. neither she nor the Seneca coming to go out in the high wind which is blowing.

16 Thursday. Continues pleasant through quite cold with a heavy mean wind. The Seneca and Waterwitch Plato remain here.

17 Friday. Continues pleasant through cold. Ice made on decks before daylight. Soon after daybreak started with two boats for the衰 destinations and before we got the boats loaded the dawn came through Nell's gate and went alongside the echo for coal. Seneca and Waterwitch both went out about 7 a.m. but about noon the former returned with orders from Capt. Green of the Canadagas. At night we proceeded up to Florida Passage and anchored.

18 Saturday. Pleasant but quite cold. Mueller'sett nothing unusual secured. Yesterday 9 contrabands came down to the echo and were transferred to the Orumgen echo for passage to Port Royal.

19 Monday. Pleasant with a high wind. Nothing unusual secured through the day.

20 Tuesday. Camp all day. Busy with duties.

21 Wednesday. Pleasant though cloudy. Capt. Freeman
and the Carymatuck left the Mortau boat on board.

Thursday. Continued pleasant and much warm.

The steamer came round from Warsaw. In the
course of the forenoon the Mortau left us but and
came here through Hell gate to the mouth of Adams
creek and we went up and anchored near
the mouth of Little Achehee River.

April 15th. Continues warm and pleasant. Capt
Carrues out shooting a short time but the steamer
came round from Hell gate on her way at
the Little Achehee to have a look at the steamer
and Capt. G. went on board to go along with
them.

Friday. Continue pleasant and quite warm.

A day of events. About 3 a.m. 4 contractors
from Savannah came on board and brought
information that the rain was expected to
come down here to day or next day. About
seven heard two guns peel away apparently
from Canadigua and soon afterwards firing
commenced in the direction of Fort Clastic and
continued all night rapid and heavy.

About eight got under way and ran through
Hell gate to communicate with Weesahicken
and just upon reaching her the Mortau set
signalled Bermuda gunboat in eight and fired
guns. We immediately turned about and
with the Weesahicken ran down to the
fleet the had seen three gunboats in the direc-
tion of Warsaw firing and we then saw soon
afterwards a steamer coming through early
morn which proved to be the Atlantic from
Fort Royal. About noon saw two steamers
1863. The wreck of one of which we supposed to be the
Essex City lying on its side. These two ran
down and communicated with the Canastota
and the Wissahickon ran out to them, after
this fog shot us on the dick, to make out anything
though we suppose the iron clad to be destined for
this place.

25. Monday. Pleasant and foggy by times. About eleven
we saw the iron clad "Montauk" commanded by Capt
Warden, formerly of the Monitor, came in and anchored
near Nell gate. Capt Barnes went on board and
remained all night. The Wissachickon did not come in.

on board the Montauk all afternoon. The Wissachickon
came in in the course of the day also the "James
Adger" which later vessel was the one seen leaving
the iron clad and by her we got a mail in
which I received two letters from Haral. one from
Ann and one from Ivy with two papers from Port.
and one from Boston. After Capt Barnes came
on board we got under way and taking the
Montauk back (but with the heads), Wissachickon
and Montauk ran up the Ogeechee river and
anchored just out of range of Fort McAllister. The
Steamer Daffodil also came up from Fort Royal
with orders. During the evening finished a
letter to Mr. Hallet and began one to Sarah.

27. Tuesday. Continued pleasant till afternoon when
some rain fell. At about seven o'clock all the
vessels got under way and ran up towards the
battery. The Montauk leading the latter continued
to advance until stopped by piles on the river
and we lay some 9 miles below her and
all commenced shelling the battery and continued
the all my shell was gone and likewise the
Montauk's - As usual the fire from the
Merril was very slow they didn't want to
ouch me whatever with their 11 inch shell guns
their shot not reaching or going under the battery
and the same was the case with the Mortars.
Our 12 field Carrott made a few shots and so did
also the Montauke's guns - About noon one
set all ceased firing and the Montauke came
alongside and ordered us to return to our
anchorage of the previous night - The Montauke
was struck 12 times on her hull turret
but no further damage was done than
a very slight dart where the shot struck.
One of the shot struck the turret and turned
back into their boat and was picked up. They
say in the turret it was the same as if a person was
cracking a nut on it. Nearly all the shots
from the battery were directed at the Montauke
and exceedingly accurate. One gun kept them
from using their mortars in the battery, they
only firing some 8 or 10 times at the wooden
Cape...Wooden complimented Capt. Barnes in his
gun and shooting. In the afternoon the U.S.
Duffield was sent back to Fort Royal probably
for ammunition.

28 Wednesday. Pleasant though cool with a high
wind. Five or six contrabands came in this
morning from some place above the battery
but as they left before the attack, they knew
nothing. Nothing done to day.

29 Thursday. Montauke pleasant and mild. About
1863 from the Daffodil returned from Port Royal bringing a little ammunition for the other vessels and orders for us to proceed at once to Port Royal. Accordingly as soon as possible we got under way, but owing to the engines being out of time we did not get any further than the light ship off Port Royal, where we anchored for the night.

So Friday. Continues pleasant but cool. After rolling miserably all night it was a relief to get under way the first thing in the morning and run into Port Royal. A board of engineers came on board about noon and examined the engines and concluded they'd hang together a little longer. In the afternoon we went alongside the Vermont to get in ammunitionockets. On board the Wabash in the afternoon and again in the evening when I found Capt Barnes on the Ward room and played a pleasant evening.

Saturday. Mild & pleasant. Busy in the morning paying out money and making up Mr Bates men. 1st best engineers all to be being ordered to report on board the Vermont. Later went on board the Vermont to get some acet and returned with Capt Barnes when we immediately got under way for Osawatomie again where we arrived about dark. The Ironclad was alongside the Vermont when we left having her spars taken out. Upon reaching Osawatomie Capt Barnes immediately went on board the Wabash and informed us on his return that we were to attack the battery next day.

By 1 Sunday. Warm and pleasant. About eight ran up to our former station in front of the battery
and began hammering away. Much bothered by the smoke, there being no wind—fight and result same as before, except that the former was a little rougher—and we got in the shade the entire attention of the Montauk and one gun, but finally silenced them though they passed the pieces of shell all around us and plenty near. On board the Montauk after it was done. She was hit 46 times, but stove, flag staff shot away & got still remain
paried. On the 30th received another letter from Rachel and one from John C. and wrote the former.

2 Monday. Continues pleasant. In the course of the forenoon the Wissachickon took the Montauk Schooner and carried her out.
By her part a letter to Joe—nothing unusual through the day.

3 Tuesday. Continues pleasant though quite cool. Gun most of the day on account.

4 Wednesday. Raining most of the day. A steamer belonging to the Engineer Corps came through from Port Royal this morning and by acting queerly in the creek made us suspect her of being in successful hands so we kept the guns trained on her till she got within hail.

5 Thursday. Rainy & Cold. Nobody moving that can't help it.

6 Friday. Pleasant but Cold. Nothing unusual this the day. About 10 AM the Daffodil came in from Port Royal and gave us some fresh beef and vegetables. The Engineer's Sto returned early this morning what she came for. Can't tell
1863 Saturday Pleasant and much milder, though last night the thermometer fell to 30° at eight the Daffodil left for Port Royal. Sent a letter to John X. and one to Caymaterl Sease