THE CIVIL WAR DIARY

of

William Boston

A Union Soldier

of Company H,

Twentieth Michigan Volunteer Infantry,

Ninth Army Corps.

August 19, 1862 – July 4, 1865.
FOREWORD

It was not until after my father's death, in the Spring of 1915, that two small books, found among his papers, were identified as a diary kept by him during his nearly three years' service as First Corporal in the War between the States. I have spent many evenings reading this diary, and, with maps, have traced his movements on the actual battlefields. I have been possessed by the feeling that he was with me, relating again, these experiences.

It is with the idea that this diary, which he kept so consistently through these long, trying years of war, may have interest and value for others, that I am presenting it in this manner. None of the original statements has been changed, although a few paragraphs from letters written by him at the time have been inserted as part of the diary. Also, a few short statements, set off in all cases by parentheses, have been added to indicate location, direction, or other practical information.

The Twentieth Michigan Infantry was recruited in the counties of Washtenaw, Jackson, Calhoun, Eaton, and Ingham of the Third Congressional District, under the call for 11,686 soldiers issued July 15, 1862, by Governor Austin Blair. This was Michigan's quota of the "three hundred thousand" called for by President Abraham Lincoln on July 1, 1862.

Ten companies were organized to form the regiment, with Company H being recruited from Ann Arbor and Lodi of Washtenaw County during August 8 to 18, on which date it went into camp with 110 men.

The officers of the company were as follows:
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Captain, Wendell D. Wiltsie  
First Lieutenant, Edward P. Pitkin) the University
Second Lieutenant, Walter McCallum ) of Michigan
Orderly Sergeant, Horace V. Knight
Second Sergeant, Frank Kingsley
Third Sergeant, Frank E. Lansing
Fourth Sergeant, Daniel Sheehan, Jr.
Fifth Sergeant, David C. Holmes
First Corporal, William Boston
Second Corporal, Ira G. Betts
Third Corporal, Abram C. Voorhees
Fourth Corporal, James A. Dell
Fifth Corporal, Martin Comstock
Sixth Corporal, Peter J. Montgomery
Seventh Corporal, Cornelius Lyons
Eighth Corporal, Charles H. Wood
Musician, David J. Durand

The regiment reported to its division on September
23 at Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland. It was as-
signed to the Second Brigade, O. B. Willcox's
Division, Ninth Army Corps, to which division it
remained attached during its entire service.

In preparing this introduction, I have based his-
torical data on statements from the "History of the
Twentieth Michigan Infantry in the Civil War" as
compiled by Byron M. Cutcheon, former Colonel of the
regiment, in 1904, and published by the Robert Smith
Printing Company of Lansing, Michigan.

I greatly appreciate the courtesies received from
the National Park Service of the Department of the
Interior, and I am indebted to them for the maps
of Fredericksburg and Petersburg included.

Ann Arbor, Michigan. 
November 15, 1957. 

Orlan W. Boston 
(Son of William Boston)
FREDERICKSBURG AND SPOTSYLVANIA
COUNTY BATTLEFIELDS MEMORIAL
NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

This park was established under the authority of an Act of Congress of February 14, 1927, to commemorate six major battles fought during the great sectional conflict between 1861 and 1865,—the two Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Salem Church, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House,—and to preserve for historical purposes the remains of earthworks, roads, and other sites of importance on these battlefields. A map and a brief description of each of these battles are included within this booklet.

Not by chance were these great battles fought within a few miles of Fredericksburg. In the Civil War the capture of the enemy’s capital became as important as the defeat of the army. In the East, the Federal Government was anxious to embarrass the Confederacy by securing possession of Richmond, its capital. The Confederacy in turn was able to gain moral support both at home and abroad by threatening Washington.

Since the Federals would undertake no campaign in the East unless Washington were well covered, and since Fredericksburg was situated on the Rappahannock, midway between the two capitals, that town and the river fords above it became the hub around which the eastern armies swung.

Under the administration of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, these areas have been developed in such a manner as to make old infantry trenches, artillery emplacements, fields of attack, and other key points of the battles accessible to the visitor. The system of roads and trails is so designed that one may follow the course of the battles in their chronological order. A series of historical markers combine with this to make comprehensible to the public great chapters of American history.

Members of the Park Service Historical Staff are available at all times for personal guidance in the park. This service is available, free of charge, at Park Headquarters in Fredericksburg, and at visitors' contact stations on the field.

Fredericksburg and the national military park may be reached by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, and by automobile, over U.S. Highway No. 1 and Virginia Highways Nos. 2, 3, and 17. Regular bus service is maintained to Fredericksburg from Washington and Richmond.

Fredericksburg is the northern gateway to a great battlefield tour, which includes not only the fields mentioned above, but also those about Richmond, Petersburg, and Appomattox Court House.

Fredericksburg has many features of interest pertaining to Colonial history, including places of intimate association with Washington, Monroe, Paul Jones, Hugh Mercer, and other great Americans.

Wakefield, the birthplace of George Washington, is only thirty-eight miles southeast of Fredericksburg. Information on this national monument, also under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, can be had at the Fredericksburg National Military Park Headquarters.
Illustrations

Frontispiece, William Boston -- taken in Ann Arbor about July 1, 1865

National Military Park Circular-Map of Fredericksburg, Virginia. . December 18, 1862. . . . . . following page 14

National Military Park Circular-Map of the Battle of the Wilderness. . May 8, 1864. . (see Circular and Map of Fredericksburg after page 14)

Map as surveyed in 1867
Map as surveyed at the present time

Honorary Discharge of William Boston. . May 30, 1865. . following page 95
BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG

After the Battle of Antietam, September 16-17, 1862, a very strong public demand arose in the North for a movement on Richmond before the winter weather put an end to military operations. On October 26, McClellan began his movement south across the Potomac, and by November 7 had concentrated the Army of the Potomac in the vicinity of Warrenton. Lee, leaving Stonewall Jackson's Corps in the Shenandoah Valley near Winchester, took up his position in order to block McClellan's move, and by early November had concentrated Longstreet's Corps near Culpeper Court House. While McClellan was making plans to strike between these two Confederate units, he was relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac. Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside assumed command of this force on November 9.

Burnside presented to President Lincoln a plan, which involved making a rapid movement on Fredericksburg. After taking that city, he expected to march southward. His army was to be supplied from a new base at Aquia Creek, fourteen miles north of Fredericksburg.

Burnside's forces began arriving on the banks of the Rappahannock opposite Fredericksburg on November 17. A delay in the arrival of pontoon bridges prevented a crossing at that time. By November 30; Burnside's army occupied the heights along the north banks of the Rappahannock facing Fredericksburg, but the delay in crossing had enabled Lee to concentrate his two corps on the heights to the west and southwest of Fredericksburg opposing Burnside.

Early on the morning of December 11, the Federal army began laying three pontoon bridges opposite Fredericksburg and two more below the mouth of Deep Run. Late that afternoon General Franklin and General Sumner began crossing their troops. On December 12 they completed the crossing and massed on the south bank.

General Burnside ordered General Franklin to attack the Confederate right near Hamilton's Crossing. General Meade with a division of 4,500 men was selected to make the attack on the morning of December 13. About 9 o'clock Meade began to move across the plain, but was delayed by the Confederate artillery fire until shortly after noon. At that time he again resumed the advance and at about 2 o'clock broke through the Confederate line. Confederate reserves were brought up and Meade, who was unsupported, was forced to withdraw.

At noon, prior to Meade's real assault at Hamilton's Crossing, General Sumner sent Couch's II Corps against Marye's Heights just west of the town. At the foot of these heights ran a sunken road flanked by a stone wall which formed a parapet. Seven major attacks were launched against this position. All failed. The Federal attacks ceased with darkness.

For two more days the Federal army held its position in town and along the river. It began its withdrawal on the night of December 15, the last of the troops crossing on the pontoon bridges about 8:30 the following morning.

Federal strength: 142,551
Confederate strength: 91,760
Total Federal losses: 12,653
Total Confederate losses: 5,309
Off to the Front — The Maryland Campaign,
August 19 - November 16, 1862.

August - September, 1862.

August 19, Camp Jackson, Jackson, Michigan. I was mustered into the United States service today. We have been in camp here about a week, and have had a good time so far. (The camp was on the "Marvin Farm" one-half mile out of Jackson on the Lansing Road.)

20. We received our month's pay in advance today.

25. I just returned to camp. I have been home on a furlough of two days, and I was sick all of the time. Oh how I wish I could have visited all of my friends. I wanted to go to Oatville and Detroit, but could not, and now it will be impossible, as we leave for Washington next Monday.

September 1. We left camp today at 9 o'clock a. m. and arrived safely in Detroit. After marching around the city, we took the steamer "Morning Star" for Cleveland. We had a good time, as our friends along the route were kind enough to furnish us with lots of good things for the inner man. After the boat started, six of us made a picnic, and what one didn't have, another did. A good many were seasick, but I was not.

2. We arrived in Cleveland about 7 o'clock a. m. After waiting here an hour, we took the cars for Pittsburgh (on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh R. R.). We were cheered all along the route. The country is very hilly and stony.
THE CHANCELLORSVILLE CAMPAIGN

During the winter of 1862-63, after the Battle of Fredericksburg, the Federal and Confederate forces continued to face each other across the Rappahannock.

In April, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, who had supplanted Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac, decided that his Army should take the initiative once more. His immediate efforts were directed toward turning Lee's left flank. On April 27, Meade's, Howard's, and Slocum's Corps moved up the north bank, and three days later, after crossing the Rappahannock and the Rapidan, occupied positions at Chancellorsville. They were followed by Couch's, Sickles', and Reynolds' Corps. Sedgwick's Corps, part of which had crossed the river below the city on April 29, threatened Lee's right.

Meanwhile, Lee dispatched Anderson's Division of Longstreet's Corps westward toward Chancellorsville, and McLaws' Division followed in support. A brisk skirmish ensued about noon on May 1 when these troops obstructed the Federal advance eastward toward Fredericksburg. Thereupon Hooker ordered his forces to fall back on Chancellorsville and intrench. Jackson, leaving Early to hold Sedgwick at Fredericksburg, had by this time reinforced Anderson and McLaws. He followed up Hooker's withdrawal to within approximately a mile of the Federal position.

At a campfire conference on the night of May 1, the last between Lee and Jackson, it was decided to throw Jackson's Corps of some 32,000 men in a flanking move against the exposed Federal right, consisting of Howard's Corps, near Wilderness Church. Lee was to remain in Hooker's front with about 14,000 men. About 7:30 on the morning of May 2, Jackson's Corps began moving southwest on the Catherine Furnace Road. The column reached the junction of the Orange Turnpike and the Brock Road in the late afternoon, formed three lines of battle, and, advancing along the Pike about 6 o'clock, struck Howard's unsuspecting corps which fell back in confusion. Jackson steadily pressed these retreating forces, menacing Hooker's entire army. When a stop was made in the early evening to bring together his badly disorganized divisions, Stonewall Jackson was within a mile of Chancellorsville. Here Jackson was mortally wounded by his own men, who mistook his reconnaissance party for the enemy. Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart was called to assume temporary command of the Corps.

At daylight on May 3, Stuart renewed the attack and effected a junction with Lee's left. Hazel Grove and Fairview were occupied in turn. Hooker's position was rendered untenable, and he fell back to an intrenched line covering the river fords.

At this juncture Lee received word that Sedgwick had forced Early from Fredericksburg and was moving toward Chancellorsville. McLaws' Division was detached to meet this new danger; Sedgwick's Corps after severe fighting was intercepted at Salem Church. On May 4, Anderson's Division joined McLaws, and Sedgwick withdrew his corps across the Rappahannock by way of Banks Ford on the night of May 4-5.

Lee again turned his attention to the situation at Chancellorsville. Whatever his plans may have been in regard to continuing the battle, he had no opportunity to act upon them. Hooker, on the night of May 5-6, transferred his army to the north bank of the Rappahannock.

Federal strength: 133,868
Confederate strength: 60,892

Total Federal losses: 17,278
Total Confederate losses: 12,821
2. We arrived in Pittsburgh about 5 o'clock p.m., and marched to supper in a large hall where tables were set for a regiment. At the end of the hall in large letters was "Pittsburgh Welcomes her Country's Defenders." The girls were very lovely. I should liked to have stayed a week here. The country is very hilly and stony.

3. We left Pittsburgh at 9 o'clock last evening and arrived in Baltimore, Md., at 6 o'clock p.m. The country is very mountainous and all stones. This is the first city that we entered in silence -- not a cheer greeted us. The American Flag is seen everywhere, but on inquiry I find that half of the citizens are "secesh". We were furnished a supper and then a few friends and I primed our revolvers and started to see the sights. We went to Federal Hill, which is a fort with its guns turned on the city ready to blow it up. We got back safely about 11 o'clock p.m. It is a splendid city. We take the cars now for Washington, D. C. (after marching across the city from the Pennsylvania R. R. to the Baltimore and Ohio depot.)

4. We arrived safely in Washington, D. C. at 3 o'clock p.m. The first thing I saw was eleven hundred paroled Union prisoners taken at the last Battle of Bull Run. They are to go to Annapolis.

15. It has been some time since I have written anything. We have been on the move ever since we arrived in Washington. We rested about two hours, and then (at about 5 p.m. on September 4 we marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to Seventh Street, thence to Virginia Avenue to Long Bridge across the Potomac) 2 miles to Arlington Heights. The next morning, September 5, we moved to Alexandria and five miles further (to Cow Hollow). After resting one day, we moved (September 8) to Washington and camped one day. I went up to the city and saw some of the sights. It is a splendid city. At 8 o'clock p.m. (September 8)
we moved again to Leesborough, which is 11 (6) miles from Washington, out Seventh Street. We stopped there until morning (September 10), and then moved to our present position (Camp Dodge) 5 miles further. The regiment is almost used up. We lost our first man (W. Dixon) in Washington, when he was shot by a "sopea". The boys caught him, and I think he will be hung. Porter's Division passed here this morning. He is after Jackson. We are now in Maryland, and 16 miles north of Washington. We have no tents yet, but sleep on the ground. The regiment is healthy as yet. We are to overtake Willcox's Division of the Ninth Corps and then intercept Lee, who is marching on Frederick.

14. Sunday once more and we have had quite a time for the last twenty-four hours. Yesterday and today fighting has been going on north of us. We were called out last night and formed in battle line, but no enemy made his appearance. We can hear the roar of artillery quite distinctly (the Battle of South Mountain). It is reported that our advance army is whipping the enemy. A messenger was sent to Washington today for two hundred extra ambulances. We are under marching orders and may march any minute.

15. We have received marching orders to march 16 miles to Harrisburg. This afternoon we received news that Jackson's army is badly cut up and that General Lee is a prisoner. I hope it is so. Great cheering in camp. The boys want to move onward to the battle.

21. We began our march to Frederick (and Sharpsburg) Thursday morning (September 18). It has been a weary march of about 45 miles in three days. Nothing particular has happened on the route. We march all day and camp in the field at night. We passed through a few little towns, of which I remember Winchester and Damascus. We arrived in Frederick
During the night of May 3-4, 1864, the Army of the Potomac left winter quarters at Culpeper. Marching in two columns, it began crossing the Rapidan at dawn. Grant planned to push past Lee and proceed toward Richmond.

Informed at noon, May 4, of Grant's movement, Lee resolved to strike the Federal columns, if possible, in the heart of the Wilderness. He immediately ordered Ewell's and Hill's Corps eastward from Orange Court House and Longstreet's Corps from Gordonsville to Parker's Store.

Ignorant of Lee's dispositions, the Federals resumed the march at dawn on May 5. Warren's Corps, followed by Sedgwick's, started from Wilderness Tavern for Parker's Store. Hancock's Corps took the Furnace Road from Chancellorsville, via Todd's Tavern, toward Shady Grove Church.

At 8 o'clock the appearance of Ewell on the Orange Turnpike caused Warren to face west and attack before his lines were properly formed. Repulsed at all points, the Federals intrenched. In the meantime the storm center of battle shifted south. Moving eastward on the Orange Plank Road, Hill passed Parker's Store and pushed on toward the Brock-Plank Road intersection. Convinced now that Lee was advancing in force, Grant sent Getty's Division of Sedgwick's Corps from Wilderness Tavern to hold Hill at the Brock intersection until Hancock's Corps arrived from Todd's Tavern. Getty held, and Hancock's leading division reached the intersection shortly after 2 o'clock on the afternoon of May 5.

Still impatient to force the battle, Grant ordered Hancock to attack. Three divisions went forward late in the day. Darkness ended the bloody combat.

At dawn, May 6, the Federals, reinforced during the night by Burnside's Corps, attacked all along the line. Warren's operations degenerated into a harmless artillery bombardment. Burnside went astray with two divisions of his Corps in the woods while attempting to pass between Warren and Hancock to hit Hill's flank. Hancock broke Hill's line and drove his scattered formations 14 miles through the forest.

At the peak of Hancock's advance, Longstreet's Corps arrived and rushed into action. The impact of fresh troops brought the Federals to a standstill.

Perceiving the futility of a frontal attack in the tangled woodland, Lee and Longstreet planned a flanking movement via the unfinished railroad. While Hancock vainly listened for the crash of Burnside's musketry on Longstreet's left, four Confererate brigades struck his own left rear. The Federal line, as Hancock told Longstreet in later years, "rolled up like a wet blanket." The Federals staggered back to their intrenchments on the Brock Road.

Fired with the possibilities of achieving a second Chancellorsville, Longstreet rode recklessly forward to reconnoiter. Like Jackson, he met the fire of his own men and fell, dangerously wounded. Field superseded Longstreet and, at Lee's order, paused to reform his lines before advancing against Hancock's works. Four hours later Field was completely repulsed.

The promise of another Chancellorsville had vanished. Gordon's brilliant attack at sunset on the Federal right came too late for decisive results. During the night of May 7 Grant began the march to Spotsylvania Court House.

Federal strength: 118,769
Confederate strength: 61,953

Total Federal losses: 15,387
Total Confederate losses, approximately: 11,400
last evening. It is quite a city with about 8,000 inhabitants. A week ago the Rebel Jackson and his army were here. We are now encamped about a mile above (west of) the city in plain sight of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We could see the Sugar Loaf Mount- tain yesterday, from New Market to our left. We crossed the Monaquac (Monocacy) River yesterday. There is a splendid stone bridge over it, which was built in 1808. A monument on the east end shows the name of the builder and others. We could see many wounded soldiers in the streets of Frederick. (The Battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg was fought on the seventeenth). I have seen more pretty girls the last three days than I have seen since I left Pittsburgh. They are all for the Union, if you can believe what they say. I visited some wounded Rebel prisoners today in Frederick. There are about one hundred where I was. They are well taken care of, and most of them will recover. One poor fellow will die with brain fever. I had a talk with one from Alabama. He is as anxious to fight as ever, and thinks we never can whip them. I told him time would tell. To-morrow we march again to join General Willcox's first Division, Ninth Army Corps.

22. We marched ten miles today over the Blue Ridge Mountains. We passed through Middletown. The Rebels burned the bridge and a barn and blacksmith shop there. We camped on the eastern foot of South Mountain, on the battlefield. Twenty-seven Union men were buried in one grave in the field. On the mountain in plain sight is where General Reno was killed in the fight of Sunday, September 14. We meet a good many wounded on their way to Frederick.

23. Once more we are on the march. We reached the Brigade on the Potomac at last. We passed through Sharpsburg, and saw some of the effects of Wednesday's battle at Antietam. Some of the houses are riddled with balls, and the churches and every
About 9 p.m. on May 7, 1864, the Army of the Potomac resumed its movement southward toward Spotsylvania Court House from its position in the Wilderness, Warren's Corps taking the advance via the Brock Road. The progress of the Federal column was impeded sufficiently by Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry to permit the Confederate I Corps, commanded by Major General R. A. Anderson, which was also marching from the Wilderness, to get into position across Grant's path northwest of the Court House. The next morning at 8 o'clock Warren struck Anderson's line of battle on the high ground about a mile from the Court House and was repulsed with heavy losses. During the day Warren joined by Sedgwick's Corps, while Ewell's Confederate Corps formed on Anderson's right about 5 o'clock that afternoon, just in time to repel Warren's attack.

On May 9, Hancock's Corps formed on the right of the Federal line, with Burnside's Corps holding the left. Late in the evening Grant, misled by reports that Lee was withdrawing from the Federal right and moving toward Fredericksburg, sent three of Hancock's divisions across the Po River to attack Lee in the rear.

Early on the 10th, the three divisions were ordered to recross when it was learned that Lee was not withdrawing. While recrossing they were attacked by Early, who had moved over from the Confederate right to oppose them. At 6 p.m. on May 10, Col. Emory Upton with twelve picked regiments from the VI Corps attacked the western face of the Bloody Angle, held by Doles' Brigade, Rodes' Division, Ewell's Confederate Corps. He carried the first line and captured Smith's Battery.

Upton was driven back when Mott's Division of the II failed to support him, being held back by Confederate artillery.

May 12, about 4:30 a.m., Hancock's Federal Corps made a surprise attack on Ewell's Corps at the apex of the Bloody Angle, capturing 20 guns, and Johnson's division, including its commander and Brigadier General Steuart. Lee's troops fought for more than twenty hours to regain their lost works, finally retiring to a second line in rear. During the day all of the troops on both sides became engaged. Hancock's success was made possible by the withdrawal of all Confederate artillery from General Johnson's front during the night of May 11. In the hotly contested salient, so appropriately known as the Bloody Angle, the fighting lines were so close together that the opposing troops were firing into each other's faces.

On May 18, about 4 a.m., Hancock again attacked Lee's line of battle at the base of the Angle, but he was driven back by Confederate artillery with heavy losses.

The next day, about 5 p.m., Ewell's Confederate Corps attacked Tyler's Division of Hancock's Corps near the Harris House. The attack failed when Tyler received reinforcements. This was the last engagement at Spotsylvania Court House. On the night of May 20, Grant's army, followed by Lee, began the movement from Spotsylvania Court House to renew the engagement at the North Anna River.

Federal strength: Approximately 110,000
Confederate strength: Approximately 50,500

Total Federal losses: Approximately 17,555
Total Confederate losses: Unknown
September - October, 1862.

vacant house are filled with wounded. We are camped on the Potomac 2 miles south and west of Sharpsburg. We are ordered to march to Harpers Ferry today.

24. We have not moved yet, and we don't know when we will. I visited some of the old Michigan regiments today and also about 20 wounded secesh in a barn. I had a visit from my half-brother, John A. Sutton, of the First Michigan Volunteers.

28. Sunday. Nothing particular has happened during the last few days. Our company was out on picket last night and yesterday. I went out with an artist to take a sketch of our position and to see where the river would be fordable. We found no place where we could cross with safety. One boy of the company shot his fingers off and had the satisfaction of having them cut off again by the surgeon. He was afraid to fight. We marched 2 miles down the river and joined the Division. We are now in Colonel Christ's (Acting General) first brigade and General Burnside's ninth corps, and an integral part of the Army of the Potomac. (The first brigade consists of the fiftieth Pennsylvania, twenty-eighth Massachusetts, seventy-ninth New York, and the seventeenth and twentieth Michigan regiments.)

October 1. We had a review of the Division yesterday by General Burnside. Excepting that, nothing unusual has passed besides our routine of drill which is as follows: reveille at sunrise, breakfast call at 6:30, company drill from 7 to 8, battalion drill from 10 to 11, dinner at 12, company drill from 1 to 2, brigade drill from 3 to 4, dress parade at 5:30, supper at 6, tattoo at 9:30, and taps at 9, when we all must be in bed. You will see they keep us busy. We have a nigger cook for our squad which consists of First Lieutenant, four Sergeants, and five Corporals.
A SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS IN THE EASTERN THEATER
OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

The term "War in the East" is here meant to include the operations of the armies in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Most of the important operations occurred in the area between Washington and Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy. A circle drawn on the map with Fredericksburg, Virginia, as center and the distance from Washington to Petersburg as a radius would take in all the important battlegrounds. A line along the diameter of the circle from Richmond to Washington represents the direct line of attack and defense, with the western periphery of the circle, the Shenandoah Valley region, existing as Lee's open road to the North, and the eastern periphery, the Chesapeake Bay, as the easiest approach to Richmond. Confederate forces could quickly protect the few passes into the Valley, and the Federal navy commanded the sea.

There were seven distinct campaigns made by the Federal army in the eastern theater: those of McDowell (1861); McClellan, Pope, and Burnside (1862); Hooker (1863); Meade (1863); and Grant (1864-5). Two major invasions of the North, ending at Antietam and Gettysburg, were made by Lee in 1862 and 1863.

The first great battle in the East took place near Manassas, or Bull Run. Here, on July 21, 1861, the southern generals, Joseph E. Johnston and Beauregard, defeated McDowell, ending the first "on to Richmond". The next campaign, under General McClellan, in 1862, was by way of the sea to Fortress Monroe and then overland toward Richmond, by way of the Peninsula, between the James and York Rivers. Meanwhile, Jackson scattered the Federal forces in the Shenandoah, and McDowell, supposed to make a junction with McClellan, was recalled to protect Washington.

At Fair Oakes, May 31, 1862, within sight of Richmond, the main Confederate Army stopped McClellan's advance; General Johnston was wounded and replaced by Robert E. Lee. Jackson, having accomplished his purpose in the Valley, now swiftly joined Lee near Richmond. In the Seven Days Battles, June 25 - July 1, 1862, McClellan was driven back to a new base on the James and from there returned to Washington. The next commander, Pope, attempted another direct move to the South, which Lee crushed at Second Manassas (August 29-30), holding Pope off with one part of his army while the other attacked in flank.

Lee now moved northward, using his "covered way", the Shenandoah Valley. McClellan, again in the field, met him at Sharpsburg, Maryland, on Antietam Creek, September 16-17, 1862, in a fierce but indecisive engagement, after which the Confederate army fell back. McClellan followed slowly, so slowly that the Government replaced him on November 9.

Burnside, the new commander, planned to cross the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg before Lee reached there with all his forces, but was unable to accomplish this. Crossing at last and attacking a strong Confederate line on December 13, he was completely repulsed.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, having assumed command, moved the bulk of the army up the north bank of the Rappahannock, toward the last of April, 1863. At Chancellorsville Lee defeated Hooker, in no small measure a result of Jackson's brilliant flank march, but Jackson was mortally wounded on the evening of May 2, 1863. Lee now moved northward again.

The Army of Northern Virginia moved north and to Gettysburg, Penn., where Gen. George G. Meade defeated it, July 1-3, 1863, and ended Lee's last offensive thrust. After the Confederate retreat, maneuvers along the Rapidan, about twenty-five miles west of Fredericksburg, ended with the armies going into winter quarters.
October, 1862.

Each officer has a squad to see to and see that they are taken care of and keep clean. We are now camped 1 mile from Antietam and a 1/2 mile from the Potomac River. The Chesapeake & canal runs this side of the river. It is dry now. Jackson cut the bank and let the water out. Sundays we have preaching and Sunday evening prayer meetings. Today is my birthday.

4. I have just been in swimming and now sit on the bank of the Potomac. There are lots of pawpaws and walnuts here. We have eaten all we can, and while resting, I will write. Yesterday we had a grand review of the whole of General Burnside's Corps by the President. I saw old Abe, Burnside, McClellan, and many other officers.

8. Wednesday. Yesterday morning we struck our tents and marched over Elk Ridge across the mountains. We marched 14 miles and camped in Pleasant Valley about 5 miles from Harpers Ferry where Jackson's army camped two weeks ago. Our advance had to clear the road of trees and stone filled in by the rebels in their retreat. We lost two men by fatigue. The sun rises about 7 o'clock.

12. Last night and today we are guarding the camp of the third brigade. They were ordered off last night in such a hurry they could not take anything with them. They took the cars at Harpers Ferry and have gone — nobody knows where.

15. We heard heavy firing south of us today. We struck our tents last night at 1 o'clock and had a forced march to Noland's Ferry (about 5 miles below Point of Rocks). We camped 5 miles this side of the ferry. We marched 17 or 18 miles today. I am on picket this afternoon, and will guard the ford where Stuart, with a division of Rebel cavalry, tried to
The Petersburg National Military Park was established by Act of Congress, July 3, 1926, in order to commemorate the military operations around Petersburg in 1864–65, and to render, through means of the terrain and earthworks remaining there, interesting instruction to the public in the important phase of American history which these battles represent.

THE PETERSBURG OPERATIONS, JUNE 15, 1864, TO APRIL 2, 1865.

Having failed to crush the Army of Northern Virginia at Cold Harbor, Grant moved his forces on Petersburg. His primary objective was to cut Lee's lines of communication and either envelope his army or compel him to abandon the Confederate capital. On the night of June 14, 1864, Grant's troops began crossing the James. Next day his leading corps attempted to carry Petersburg by assault. The effort, continued through four days of furious fighting (June 15–18), resulted only in forcing the Confederates back about a mile on a portion of their line. Here they entrenched along a new front from the Appomattox to the Jerusalem Plank Road. Facing this line the Federals also entrenched.

Grant then began a series of operations to extend his left wing, with the ultimate view of encircling Petersburg and cutting the two railroads that supplied Lee's army. There were six of these extension movements, covering a period of approximately ten months. When Grant's envelopment aim was achieved Lee's only recourse was evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond. Retreat and surrender at Appomattox resulted.

June 22, 1864, Grant sent the II and VICorps to attempt extension of his line from Fort Sedgwick to the Weldon Railroad. Lee parried with A. P. Hill's Corps, which thwarted the effort by thrusting Mahone's Division between the two Federal Corps and inflicting considerable punishment on the II Corps.

Between June 25 and July 30, Col. Henry Pleasants' 48th Pennsylvania Volunteers dug a mine under the Confederate lines at Elliott's Salient. The mine exploded July 30 and the IX Corps made an effort to penetrate to Petersburg at this point. Due to faulty Federal plans, and a prompt counter attack by Mahone's Division, the effort failed.

August 18–25, Grant succeeded in taking the Weldon Railroad after severe fighting by the II, V, and IX Corps opposed by A. P. Hill's Corps. Fort Wadsworth was then built.

On September 29, Grant was successful in extending his left beyond Peeble's Farm to the present site of Forts Fisher and Welch.
March, 1865.

fight was over, a flag of truce was out, and permission was given the Rebels to remove their dead and wounded.

26. Today is Sunday and all is quiet. We had inspection at 10 o'clock this morning. We had a flag of truce out and the rebels got the balance of their dead. I exchanged papers and had a letter from John Moran. The weather is pleasant but cold, with high winds.

27. I have been on picket last night and today. There was very heavy picket firing. Charles Schlag of my company was wounded in the back with a minnie ball. Sheridan's cavalry has reached Petersburg, and is moving to the left.

28. All is quiet today. We had an alarm last night. There was heavy picket firing last night. The twenty-fourth corps is moving to the left. We had a flag of truce out this afternoon, and exchanged papers. I got the rebels' account of this fight -- it is a little different from our account. I see the rebel total loss on the twenty-fifth is between five and six thousand.

29. All is quiet today. Suspicious moves are being made across in Rebeldom.

30. Rebels commenced raising a fuss at 10 o'clock p. m. We all fell out and had a heavy musketry and artillery fight until midnight. The Rebels did not break our lines. It rained all night. We all had to remain up until daylight. I captured a spy this morning. There was fighting on the left yesterday afternoon. Several in my regiment were wounded last night. I go on picket tonight. There was a warm rain today.

31. I came off picket at dark. We expected to charge the rebels' works this morning, but they were
March - April, 1865.

found to be too strong. All kinds of rumors in camp. Some say we charge the Rebel line tonight, others that we expect an attack. Heavy fighting has been going on on the left all day. No reliable news from the left, but plenty of rumors. Heavy picket firing here. The ninth corps is holding the whole line from the Appomattox on the right to Weldon railroad on the left.

April 1. All is quiet here today. Fighting on the James River and on our left was heard this morning. Several recruits came up today. I received a letter from M. and answered it.

2. We were called up at 10 o'clock last night and had a heavy artillery and mortar duel for two hours. We were then ordered to charge, but the order was countermanded until 4 o'clock this morning. We then made a demonstration, but the enemy's fire was too heavy and we moved to the right under a heavy artillery fire to support the first Michigan sharpshooters. The third division and the first brigade of my division charged and took the Rebel works and five forts. The Rebels made five charges to retake the works, but they were repulsed each time with heavy loss. Big fires in Petersburg. I think they are preparing to evacuate. All is quiet at 7 o'clock p.m. A 20-pound shell struck in my tent (in Battery 9) this morning, not doing much damage.

3. The Rebels evacuated Petersburg last night. Our division (the first Michigan sharpshooters, the second Michigan, and the twentieth Michigan) entered the city (above the City Point Road) at 4 o'clock this morning without opposition. We were the first to enter. The Rebels burned all the bridges across the river, but we saved one railroad bridge. We took about 2,000 straggler prisoners. The Rebels left all their large mortars and some heavy guns and lots of ammunition and all of their camp equipage.
April, 1865.

The army is following them up today. Our army entered Richmond this morning — this has been a glorious day for us. My brigade remains in this city for the present. I go on picket tonight.

4. I am on picket in the suburbs of the city. All is quiet here. We hear rumors of further victories. I was relieved from picket at 4 o'clock p.m. My regiment has packed up and is ready to move at a moment's notice.

5. I took a stroll around the city this morning. We took up our line of march (out of the city along the Cox Road) towards the west, along the South Side railroad at 10 o'clock a.m. We marched 10 miles and camped for the night. I think we go to Lynchburg or Danville. We are in camp 10 miles west of Petersburg at Sutherland Station. (Staid here until the ninth).

6. There has been fighting in the advance today. All is quiet here. We have not moved today. The cars run out as far as here. Today workmen are engaged in making the track narrower so our cars can run on them. A good many prisoners passed through here last night.

7. We still remain quiet in camp, and pick up a good many prisoners. We had a dispatch read to us this afternoon that Sheridan had whipped the enemy again and captured six generals and from 15,000 to 20,000 prisoners and the pieces of artillery. The rest of the rebel army is moving into
April, 1865.

North Carolina. Our forces are in close pursuit. We forage pretty freely and live on turkey, chicken, and sheep. I go on picket tonight. The weather is pleasant.

8. It is quiet and pleasant. We continue to pick up a good many of Lee's scattered army. Over 150 came into our brigade today. An order has been issued to prevent foraging by the soldiers. I took a stroll around the country this afternoon.

9. All is quiet and pleasant. We had a sermon by Chaplain Jones. About forty rebels came in today. A dispatch came in that Lee and Grant are holding a council at Appomattox, west of here. I had two letters today from Rosa and Emma.

10. General Lee surrendered his army, all his ammunition and ordnance, and all confederate property to General Grant this morning at 11 o'clock. The balance of his army, 50,000 strong, are disbanded and go home. The army of North Virginia is no more. The weather is pleasant. In the evening we had speeches and an illuminated camp. Thank God for this day!
April, 1865.

11. Rain today. About 9,000 prisoners passed here today for Petersburg. I saw Generals Lee and Ewell. There were many other officers, from major generals down. All is quiet.

12. All is quiet today. I took a stroll around the country this afternoon. It is a beautiful country, and is visited by Federal troops for the first time. It is very dull here at present.

13. All is quiet, in fact, there is no rebel army in Virginia. It has been very dull today. I received a letter from M. B. The sixtieth O. V. I. moved up the railroad about 9 miles.

14. It is quiet and very pleasant weather. I was on picket last night. The editor of the Petersburg paper has taken the oath, and now edits his paper in the city for the Union.

15. It rained very hard most all day. There is no news, and all is quiet.

16. All is quiet and pleasant. I took a walk about 5 miles in the country and had an hour’s chat with several fine young ladies. A wounded confederate reached camp at 6 o’clock p.m. We hear the sad news that President Lincoln and Secretary Seward had been assassinated. It is thought they, as well as Seward’s son, will die.

18. All is quiet and pleasant. Sheridan’s cavalry has been passing here today going towards Petersburg. The twenty-fifth corps went to Petersburg yesterday.
April, 1865.

19. This has been a very pleasant day. All is quiet. A letter from John Moran that President Lincoln was buried today. Uncle Tom went fishing today, and we had a good mess of fish for supper. Official news that our forces have taken Mobile, with 3,000 prisoners and 500 cannon has come in.

20. Orders to march have been given. We broke camp at noon and marched at 5:30 o'clock p.m. We halted for the night within 2 miles of Petersburg. It has been showery and very sultry all day.

21. Reveille at 3, and marching at 5. We passed through Petersburg at 6 o'clock a.m., and marched to City Point. We halted within 2 miles of City Point for dinner. We got on the steamer "Josephine" at 2 o'clock p.m., and started down the James River, but anchored at 9 o'clock p.m. for the night. It is stormy and blustery.

22. We passed Fortress Monroe this morning. It is a pleasant day. We go to Washington. We had a very pleasant trip across the bay and anchored for the night in the Potomac River.

23. We weighed anchor at daylight this morning and reached Alexandria at 10 o'clock a.m. We disembarked and moved out to the suburbs of the city, and went into camp. The city is in mourning for the President. We had a pleasant trip up the Potomac River. All is quiet and no news in particular. We moved camp about a mile from town this afternoon. (In Cow Hollow, near Fort Lyon).

24. I took a stroll down town this afternoon and bought a mess of fish. News came in this evening that Booth, the murderer of the President, was captured about 15 miles from here on or near Occoquan Creek in Maryland. I received a photo of Frank Kingsley and David Holmes.
April - May, 1865.

25. Today is quiet and pleasant. We enjoy ourselves first rate here. I drew clothing today.

26. We marched through Alexandria, through Washington, and Georgetown, and encamped about 4 miles west of Georgetown (beyond Tenallytown in the District). It has been a hard march, and very warm weather.

27. The nineteenth corps has been in camp here, but they packed up this morning and left for parts unknown. I since have heard that they moved only a few miles. It is official that Booth, the murderer of President Lincoln, was caught today by some cavalrmen. He refused to give himself up, so they shot him dead. They took another member of the gang, who was with him, alive. The men who made the capture get $100,000. All is quiet and pleasant.

29. I received a letter from M. and one from Emma. I obtained a pass and went to Washington. I took the car in Georgetown and rode up to the Capitol and went all through it. Official notice of the surrender of Johnson to Sherman came in. I passed a very pleasant day going through the city, and returned to camp at 5 p. m. A heavy shower came up before we got back to camp, and we got wet through.

50. I borrowed $5 of Tom Spears. We had inspection at 10 o'clock a. m. and mustered for two month's pay. Lounsberry is our lieutenant colonel now, and took charge of the regiment this morning. Major Porter came to the regiment yesterday -- he has been home on furlough.

May 1. It is cold and windy, and all is quiet. We had drill and dress parade.

2. My company has been consolidated with company B. It is quiet and the weather is pleasant. We have
May, 1865.

drill and dress parade now, daily. The Governor of Michigan, with some other Michigan men, was here today. I had a letter from Aunt Rosa (Brown) today.

5. All is quiet and pleasant. The eighth Michigan has gone to Washington on guard at the White House. It is very dull here, and time hangs heavily on our hands. I took a walk and visited Fort Gains this morning. It is a strong work and mounts heavy guns. We have a splendid view of the country for miles around from our camp.

4. Heavy guns have been firing all day in honor of our beloved President Lincoln, who is buried today in Illinois. Very quiet and pleasant. We had brigade dress parade at 6 o'clock p.m.

6. I went fishing today near the Chain Bridge, but caught no fish. Got back to camp about noon, a little tired. I was on camp guard last night.

7. Sunday. I had a letter from Aunt Emma (Wood). We had inspection at 10 o'clock a.m., and a sermon at 11 o'clock. Lieutenant Knight of my company, taken prisoner in Kentucky two years ago, returned to the regiment today. It is very warm today. I attended prayer meeting in the evening.

10. Nothing unusual has occurred the past few days, though we have had a good deal of rain. The second and fifth corps will be here in a few days, also Sherman's army. Then we expect a grand review, after which we expect to be sent home. It rained all day.

11. I am on picket today, about a half mile on the road left of Kenneytown (Tenefflytown).

12. I came off picket at 10 o'clock this morning. I had a very wet time last night, but it is pleasant today.
May, 1865.

14, Sunday. It is quiet and pleasant today. Official news comes in that Jefferson Davis has been captured by the fourth Michigan cavalry. Davis is President of the Confederacy.

15. The boys are all as mad as hell about old McCloughlin's order. Marion Ardell (of Company H and a close friend) was promoted to corporal on January 1, 1865.

16. We were provided with A tents today. We will turn our shelter tents in. A commission of first lieutenant came for Dan Shehan today. We had brigade drill and brigade parade. It is very warm.

17. It is very warm today, and we had no drill this morning. I have been policing camp and fixing up tents this afternoon. We had the last division review by General McCloughlin.

18. I am on camp guard today. Mrs. Braynard of the Michigan relief was here today and brought some things for us.

19. It rained all last night, but is pleasant today. We had a review of our division by General Willcox. A good many people came up from Washington. The grand review is to come off next Tuesday and Wednesday.

22. We had inspection at 11 o'clock this morning. We were ordered to move at 2 o'clock p. m. We passed through Georgetown and Washington and bivouacked for the night on the common, a half-mile east of the Capitol on Capitol Hill.

23. The grand review of the army of the Potomac came off today. It was splendid. We passed the President's stand at about 11 o'clock a. m., and reached camp again at 2 o'clock p. m. I must refer the reader of this to the papers and historical
May, 1865.

records for the particulars of the review, as well as a good deal written in this book. This has been a beautiful day with cool winds, and the citizens gave us a splendid reception. This has been another great day in the history of our beloved country.

24. This has been another pleasant day. Sherman's army was reviewed today. About half of our regiment went to town to see it. The grand review is over now. It has been a stupendous undertaking, beautifully executed.

25. This morning Governor Crapo and Lieutenant Governor of Michigan, with our representative to Congress and several other gentlemen from Michigan, paid us a visit. We had a pleasant time. The following gentlemen made speeches: Crapo, Governor; Gregg, Congressman; Wallcox, General; Grovenor, Lieutenant Governor; Grover, citizen; Robertson, A. G.; Crapo, Jr.; O. M. Poe, Colonel; Dickenson, Colonel tenth Michigan; and Baxter. Our muster-out rolls are here, and we expect to go home next week.

26. It rained all day quite steadily. We turned in our shelter tents today. There is no news.

27. It stopped raining at noon today. I am on picket about a mile from camp. There was a fight in Tenallytown between soldiers.

28. I returned to camp at 10 o'clock this morning, and all is quiet. The regiment is busy making out our discharge papers.

29. It is pleasant weather, and all is quiet. We had brigade dress parade.
October, 1862.

cross Sunday. We saw some of the effects of Jackson's raid in the form of burned bridges. The canal is repaired and boats are running again.

18. We are out scouting today. Our group comprises our colonel, one lieutenant, and 25 men and surgeon. We are at the base of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, where it is reported Rebels are in hiding. Five of us are on picket on the road to Buckstown, while the rest scout the other side of the mountain. This is the most splendid country I have seen yet -- it looks like good farming.

21. We were called up this morning and formed in line of battle to repel the Rebels who were crossing the mouth of the Monocacy. After waiting a couple of hours, we were ordered back to camp.

23. I went out scouting about 5 miles and captured a secesh. I expect to go out again tomorrow.

25. I am on picket today about a mile from camp down the river. We have a splendid view of Virginia across the river. There are no rebels in sight, and all is quiet on the Potomac.

28. I am on picket today. It has been raining for the last 24 hours.

30. It is pleasant today. We struck our tents yesterday morning and marched to the Point of Rocks where we forded the river and once more we are safe in Virginia. After resting and putting our pants on, we marched to Waterford, Va., where we now are encamped. We marched 16 miles yesterday.

31. We were mustered for pay today. This is the most loyal part of Virginia. They have raised two Companies of Cavalry in this county for the Union. We are expected to be attacked at any time. We are
On October 27, the II, V, and IX Corps attempted to establish the line to Hatchers' Run at the Boydton Turnpike. Mahone frustrated the effort by repeating his feat of getting between two Federal Corps, but this end was finally accomplished February 5, 1865, by the II and V Corps acting in cooperation with Gregg's Cavalry.

Lee's situation was now extremely perilous. On March 25, in an attempt of desperation, Gordon's Corps broke through the Federal cordon at Fort Stedman. This effort to cut off Grant's right wing failed chiefly through Hartranft's bold presence of mind in directing reinforcements to the counterattack, and the absence of anticipated Confederate support.

Then followed the crushing of Lee's right wing at Five Forks by Sheridan's and Warren's Corps, on April 1. Petersburg and Richmond were evacuated April 2, 1865.

ESTIMATED LOSSES, PETERSBURG OPERATIONS:

Federal......................... 42,000 killed, wounded, and missing
Confederate.................... 25,000 killed, wounded, and missing

REVOLUTIONARY WAR EVENTS AT PETERSBURG

On April 25, 1781, a British force of about 2,500, under Benedict Arnold, debarked at City Point and marched on Petersburg. General Steuben, aware that his small force of 1,000 American militia could not gain a victory against such odds, placed his troops so as to delay the enemy and allow an orderly retreat. An advance guard of about 300 men under Col. Dick was posted on the ridge on the west side of Harrison Creek. After firing a volley into the advancing British, Col. Dick's small command fell back until it joined the main force in Petersburg. The Americans then withdrew across the Pocahontas bridge, destroying the planking behind them. In this battle the Americans lost about 60 men, killed and wounded, and the British lost 14.

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

The park contains approximately 1,200 acres, including the lines of earthworks encircling the city and a large block of land to the east. At present the park is in a relatively early stage of development, but the historical staff is prepared to conduct visitors over a large part of the area and explain the military operations which were carried out here. Conducted caravan tours under the guidance of staff members start from the Chamber of Commerce on schedule. There is no fee for this service.
To all whom it may concern:

Know ye, That William C. Sheldon, a

second of Captain Albert A. Days

Company, 7th Regiment of Michigan Infantry, Volunteers, who was enrolled on the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, to serve three years or during the war, is hereby Discharged from the service of the United States, this 20th day of May, 1865, at Detroit, Michigan, by reason of disability, the 22nd day of May, 1864. (No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)

Said William C. Sheldon was born in New York, in the State of New York, is nineteen years of age, 5 feet 8 inches tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, and by occupation, when enlisted, a farmer.

Given at Detroit, this twenty-first day of

May, 1865.

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

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[Signature]

A. Stagg

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30. We were mustered out today.

51. Part of the brigade went to the city to stop a fuss amongst Sherman's soldiers. We packed up at dark, and are ready to march to the city. The order was countermanded. We had a speech from Colonel Ely in the evening. We expect to start for Michigan tomorrow.

June 1. Reveille at 5 o'clock, and we marched at 5 O'clock. We took the cars on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at 8 o'clock a.m., and left Washington at 9. We arrived in Baltimore at 2 o'clock p.m., and got dinner at the Soldiers' Home. We then marched to Baltimore station, where we are now waiting for transportation. General Willcox made us a short speech this morning, and Colonel Ely came with us to the depot. We parted with both with three hearty cheers, and a good bye to the Southern States.

2. We left Baltimore at 7 o'clock last evening and arrived at Harrisburg at daylight this morning. We reached Pittsburgh at 11 o'clock p.m., and got a good supper at the city hall. This is the third supper we have had at this hall in the last three years. A brass band from the city escorted us to the hall and back to the cars. We changed cars and rode until morning.

5. Morning found us on the road to Cleveland. We arrived there at 1 o'clock p.m., and were served a good dinner at the Soldiers' Home. We embarked on the steamer "Morning Star" which leaves here this afternoon. I took a walk around town. The steamer leaves at 8 o'clock, and is the same boat we left Detroit on three years ago. We have had pleasant weather, and if all is well, we will reach Detroit tomorrow morning.
June, 1865.

4. We arrived in Detroit at 8 o'clock a. m., and were served a good breakfast on the dock. We had speeches by Howard and others. I saw Ellen Howley and several other friends. We took the cars at 11 o'clock a. m. The train ran most of the stations which disappointed us a good deal. We arrived in Jackson at 1 o'clock p. m., and got dinner of fat pork and poor coffee. We raised hell and threw the stuff on the floor. We ran the guard and went down town. The guards loaded their guns and threatened to shoot, and we threatened to clean them out and make it a war for freedom.

5. We have conquered and now go where we please. I went down town and bought a hat on credit. I met Mrs. Bryant on the street and went home with her and had a good visit. I got back to camp at 6 o'clock and found a letter from B. We commenced signing the rolls tonight. The weather is warm.

6. A splendid dinner was served us today by the ladies of Jackson, and we had a speech by Ex-Governor Blair. Later we were addressed in camp by Colonel Cutcheon. We turned in our guns and equipment today.

7. The paymaster is drunk, so we will not get our pay until Friday. I took the evening train to Ann Arbor, reaching there at 1 o'clock a. m. I stopped for the night at Fred Elster's of my company.

8. I took breakfast with Krapf of Company D and then went to my sister Emma's for dinner.

9. I returned to Jackson today and got discharged, and got my pay of $180. I stopped with Cook over night.

10. I went back to Ann Arbor today and deposited $150 in the Miller and Davis bank. I staid around town all day visiting with friends.
June - July, 1865.

11. I took a walk with John Moran, making calculations to make brick here some day.

12. I paid $47.50 for clothes, and took the cars for Dexter, and the stage from there to Howell. I had a pleasant journey, and arrived in Howell at 4 o'clock p. m. I went to Marion in the evening.

14. I staid two days in Marion visiting Joseph's (and Aunt Rosa Brown's) folks.

15. I went to Boyds this morning, where I took dinner and then walked to Howell. I expect to stay in Howell until Saturday.

27. I sold a city lot to Buckos for $225, and put $200 in P. Bach's hand for 7 per cent interest. The weather is cool.

28. I went to Detroit today. I paid a visit to Phoebe and staid at the city hotel all night. I saw a number of the boys of the twenty-fourth Michigan, and went up to the camp to see them have dress parade.

29. I boarded the cars at 8 o'clock this morning for Saginaw, reaching there at 1 o'clock p. m. Saw J. V. (John Van de Haven?) in town, and went home with him and staid all night.

30. I took a walk around town. This is quite a stirring place, and a good many buildings are going up. I went 7 miles up the river this afternoon, and staid all night at H. There are a good many mosquitoes in these parts.

July 1. I boarded the cars for Detroit at 12 o'clock noon, and reached there at 5 p. m. I paid Mr. H.'s folks a visit in the evening. I took the cars at 11 o'clock p. m. for Ann Arbor, and reached there at 1 o'clock in the morning. I went to my sister Emma's for the night.

4. I went up town visiting all day, and had a soldier's dinner. The Misses Clark's school burned
the advance of the left wing. Our cavalry occupy Leesburg, 6 miles from here. Each of us now has 60 rounds of ammunition.

November 1. We are under marching orders. We expected to be attacked last night. Our pickets were driven in. Thousands of troops are passing us today, and heavy firing can be heard south of us.

2, Sunday. The firing is kept up this morning. Our tents are all struck. We marched out, stopped in a nice grove in Hamilton Village for dinner, and then reached Philmont about 9 o'clock and camped for the night.

3. We marched about 6 miles today and camped.

4. I was arrested today and put in charge of the Provost guard. I don't know for what, as I am now paroled until a charge is preferred. We are camped on the Rebel General Ashby's farm. He was killed. There is great squealing amongst the General's pigs today.

5. My arrest was a mistake and I was released. We made a forced march beyond Ashby Gap and we are now camped some miles from there. We marched eleven miles this a.m. This is a beautiful country, but laid waste by war.

6. Today we struck our tents at sunrise, and were ordered to march to Waterloo, 15 miles from here.

7. We arrived in Waterloo about 8 o'clock last evening. This morning the boys found a flock of sheep and commenced killing them. They keep fetching them in, and it is fun to see them. We passed through Salem yesterday, a small town of about 800 inhabitants in times past, but some niggers and a few women are all we could see in this place. It is
November, 1862.

is a small stream but quite deep. We are out of hard tack (hard bread) since yesterday morning. I bought some corn meal from a nigger and made pudding.

15. I obtained a pass from the colonel to pass the pickets to find some tobacco. After going to some dozen houses, we found some. My friend Doc and I bought the entire lot for 25 cents. There were three widows — all of the women are widows here, I reckon — in the house, the old lady and her two daughters. We visited with them for about 1 hour. Not one of them could read, and they say it is the same with all of the poorer class. It seems queer to us, but one may travel for days and not see a schoolhouse. We are not ordered to move yet.

Orders were read on dress parade that McClellan is succeeded (November 9) by Burnside. Our rations have come at last. The rebels had cut off 250,000 rations, which made us short, but we did not suffer. We kept the old mill going night and day on confiscated wheat.

14. All is quiet, and the weather is pleasant. No orders yet.

15. Struck our tents at 8 o'clock a.m., and marched to White Sulphur Springs 6 miles further on.

16. Sunday. Our brigade is in the advance today. One regiment is guarding the ford, another regiment is supporting a battery, and two companies besides our own are on picket, (while the rest of the corps and trains passed on toward Bealton Station). We are a half mile from the Ford. The rebels are in strong force on the other side. It is said they will make a stand there. We struck our tents at 4:50 and marched 16 miles to Fayetteville (Bealton Station on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad). We arrived there at 11 o'clock p.m. We had a drizzly rain most of the
way. I wanted to visit the springs, but could not, as I was on picket. The buildings are in ruins now. Siegel destroyed them in his retreat.

The Fredericksburg Campaign,
November 17, 1862 - February 5, 1863.

17. We are ordered to march this morning on a forced march for Fredericksburg. We marched 8 miles today.

18. We marched within 6 miles of Fredericksburg and camped. The first corps passed us to the left and the eighth is a mile ahead of us. About 150 prisoners were brought in today, ragged and dirty, and almost barefoot. This is a beautiful country we have passed through the last few days.

19. We left our old camp this morning at 6, and arrived here about 2 p. m. We passed through Falmouth Village and are now in plain sight of Fredericksburg on the other side of the river. We are now camped about 2 miles below Falmouth (on the plateau back of the crest of Stafford hills on the east side of the Aquia Creek road in a pine grove). The country is very level. A light rain fell all day. Fredericksburg is in the hands of the enemy. They must evacuate or we will have a fight soon. We are the right wing of the army, Couch's second corps and the ninth corps, about 75,000 or 100,000 men commanded by General E. V. Sumner.

20. All quiet so far with the exception of throwing a few shells over the other side of the river this morning to keep the cars from running under a flag of truce. Burnside told Lee, (whose army is concentrated on the heights back of Fredericksburg) to leave or move the women and children in 24 hours. It has been raining hard all day.
November - December, 1862.

21. It continued to rain hard all day, but cleared up about 4 o'clock. All quiet today.

22. Sunday. No movement made yet, but it is reported that we will move tomorrow. The weather is pleasant with frosty nights. One of our boys shot his finger off today.

26. I visited the first, fourth, and sixteenth Michigan regiments today. They are about 3 miles from here. I was on picket last night. I am detailed for one of the color guard which relieves me from roll call, picket, and all duty but regimental duty.

29. All quiet on the Potomac. This is a splendid morning -- no marching orders yet. Yesterday we had a grand inspection of the whole division. Everything looks as if we were to stay here for some time. Some of the boys are building log houses. There is talk of a settlement -- I wish it would come true, as I have been a soldier long enough.

December 1. All is quiet along the Rappahannock. I visited the twenty-fourth Michigan regiment yesterday. They are guarding the railroad to Aquia Creek. It is raining today, but not hard. The boys are building houses.

5. All is quiet -- the rebels came over the other night and took about 200 prisoners. They are making strong fortifications on the other side of the river. They have mounted a 100 pounder and other smaller guns. We received the President's message last night. It is liked very well in camp.

5. It rained all day.

6. The rain turned into snow last night, and it snowed about 5 inches, but is thawing today. All is
quiet along the lines. The boys continue to build houses. There is some talk of going into winter quarters here.

7. Sunday. All is quiet, but it is very cold, with snow on the ground.

8. We finished our fireplace today, and are now more comfortable. We are having very cold weather.

9. We had inspection today, and we are ordered to have 5 days' cooked rations and be ready to march at any time. The pontoons have been moving today.

10. We were ordered to be ready to march at 5 o'clock a. m. tomorrow.

11. We were called up at 4 o'clock a. m. and ordered to march at 7. At 5:30, the firing commenced and kept up until about 1 o'clock p. m., when, after an hour, they commenced again and kept it up until after dark. At sundown the second corps crossed over the river. We (the ninth corps) had been waiting ready to march all day. At sundown we started and marched to the river, when the order came to march back to camp. The city is all on fire and about burned up. This side of the river is lined with about 150 cannon. One hundred and eighty-five go over the river, most of them today and night. Heavy musketry firing until long after dark.

12. We crossed the river on pontoons (at Hawks Street) opposite the city gas works about 9 o'clock a. m. and laid there in the light snow on the frozen ground, just south of Hazel Run, until night, under cover of the 20-foot high bluff next to the river. Part of the time we were under a very heavy fire, the enemy on Mary's Heights pouring shot and shell into us. Our guns were on the heights on the other side of the river, firing over us, and soon silenced them. Several were wounded in our regiment, but none was killed. The city is torn to pieces with shot and ransacked by the sol-
December, 1862.

diers. I took a walk through part of the city, and it looks awful. Most of the citizens, what few were left, took refuge in cellars and the gas works. (We lay on our arms under the bluff all night.) (See the National Park Service maps included.)

15. It is now about noon. There has been heavy firing on the left wing by Franklin's Division. The fire has opened on the right (by Couch's second corps in the city). We are in line of Battle, and have been ever since 7 o'clock this morning. I have heard from some one who saw him fall that my half-brother, John A. Sutton, of the First Michigan Regiment, was killed this afternoon while charging in the rear of Fredericksburg. A ball passed through his abdomen. He was buried there by a comrade.

14. Our Adjutant shot himself in the leg last night, an accident. At night our boys went out and supported the pickets (on the Richmond stage road). We came back at daylight this morning, after a long cold night. Firing has kept up heavily this morning. We have no news as to how the battle is going. Firing is not very heavy today.

15. We have been in line of battle all day expecting to charge a battery (up the Valley of Hazel Run in front of our position), but I guess they thought we had lost men enough, for at about 8 o'clock p.m. the army (we) commenced to retreat across the bridge over the river. Our Division covered the retreat and was the last to cross. The wounded all were brought off and most of the dead buried. The loss on our side has been heavy, the enemy's equally so. We crossed about 12 o'clock at night, and we now are at our camp (on the northeast side of the river on Stafford hill). I hope we will stay here, for I have seen enough to last me a lifetime.

16. After so much fatiguing work, we are back at our old camp where we can have a little peace for
Grant, who took supreme command in the spring, planned concerted action for all the Federal forces. In Virginia these were the Army of the Potomac, Butler's Army of the James, moving toward Richmond from the East, and various forces in the Shenandoah Valley.

Grant crossed the Rapidan and met Lee's army in the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864, in a drawn battle, following which the Federal Army was able to make another move to the southeast toward Spotsylvania Court House. Between May 8 and 21 there occurred here a grim series of attacks and counter attacks, centering around the Bloody Angle salient. Grant finally resumed his movement toward Richmond.

Out-maneuvered at the North Anna River, Grant made at Cold Harbor an attack on the Confederate line which ended in the most costly repulse he had met in the campaign, but which was followed by a successful shift to the south bank of the James in an attempt to get around the strong Richmond earthworks by attack from the south at Petersburg. General Beauregard with a small force successfully defended the town for four days, June 15-18, while Lee's army came up. Then both sides settled into the relative positions they held until the final move to Appomattox. Grant, with the right of his line north of the James, attempted steadily to extend his left southwest of Petersburg and thus cut off the railroads and highways upon which Lee now depended for supplies.

Lee attempted a diversion by sending Early to clear the Shenandoah Valley and threaten Washington and Baltimore, a gallant effort which failed so far as relieving Petersburg was concerned and ended with Sheridan's successful campaign in the Valley. On July 30, 1864, the Federals made one more attempt at direct assault on the line at Petersburg by exploding a mine under the Confederate works. This was the Battle of the Crater, another Federal repulse.

Finally, March 25, 1865, an attempt was made by the Confederates to break the ring of iron around Petersburg, resulting in the temporary capture of the Federal Fort Stedman. At Five Forks, April 1, 1865, Confederate forces met defeat in the last of the engagements involved in Grant's effort to extend his left. The thinly held Confederate line had at last been stretched to breaking. Lee gave up his Richmond and Petersburg lines and retreated westward. At Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865, the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered.
JACKSON MEMORIAL
WILD FLOWER
PRESERVE
CHANCELLORSVILLE BATTLEFIELD

WHILE THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE OF THE PARK IS HISTORICAL EDUCATION, ITS PROGRAM IS BY NO MEANS CONFINED TO THIS LIMITATION. IT OFFERS IMPORTANT RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL FEATURES ALONGSIDE CRITICAL MILITARY HISTORY. THE JACKSON MEMORIAL WILD FLOWER PRESERVE, A VIEW OF WHICH IS PRESENTED ABOVE, AFFORDS EXCELLENT INSTRUCTION IN BOTANY. EVERY SPECIES OF WILD FLOWER AND BLOOMING SHRUB NATIVE TO THE GENERAL REGION IS REPRESENTED IN THE PRESERVE, AND IS LABELLED UNOBSTRUSIVELY WITH ITS BOTANICAL AND COMMON NAME. THE DEEP WOODLANDS OF THE AREA, THREADED WITH FOOT TRAILS LEADING ALONG THE OLD TRENCHES, ARE A DELIGHT TO LOVERS OF THE OUTDOORS. AN ATTRACTIVE PICNIC GROUND, EQUIPPED WITH STONE FIRE PLACES AND RUSTIC TABLE-BENCHES, IS TO BE FOUND ON EACH OF THE FOUR BATTLEFIELDS.

May 20, 1936.
December - January, 1863.

a few days, I hope. I guess they opened their eyes over the river this morning to find us all gone. All the wounded were brought off.

19. All quiet today. Our loss across the river is about 12,000 killed and wounded. The enemy loss is not known, but it cannot be so heavy as ours. There is prospect of us going into winter quarters, but we do not know for certain yet.

25. Today is Christmas. Our state banner was presented to us today by the Major, from the ladies of Jackson. All has been quiet. Since the fight, we have been building log houses and there is more talk of our going into winter quarters, but we may move any day. Our folks have been bringing up heavy guns and we may go over the river again soon. We were reviewed Thursday by General Sumner and General Willcox.

26. Our regiment has gone on picket today, and it is quite lonesome in camp. The non-commissioned officers got their warrants of office yesterday.

28, Sunday. The weather is quite warm and pleasant. Our (ninth) corps was reviewed today by Burnside. Our (twentieth) regiment is very unhealthy. One or two men die every day. Last night four died. They will be buried this afternoon. There is some talk of us going to Washington to do provost duty. We will know this week if we are to go.

January 1, 1863. Today is the first of the new year, 1863. All is quiet here. We are still in camp on the heights of Stafford Hill, opposite Fredericksburg, but we expect to move in a few days — we don’t know where. We were mustered for pay yesterday and will get it in a few days. We are all short of money. I spent my last this morning for butter and cheese, pen and ink. Butter is 75 cents a pound, cheese 50 cents, but I had to have a little extra food today.
January, 1863

14. All is quiet, the rebels continue to throw up works and dig rifle pits. We have not been paid yet. We have just heard of the battles of Murfreesboro and Vicksburg. We get a daily paper so we hear most of the news. The weather is pleasant, and the nights are cool. No frost, but day before yesterday it rained all day and today is cloudy, but warm. We drew new clothing today. A good many of the boys are sick, and we average one death each day.

17, Sunday. The weather is quite cold. We have been under marching orders for the last three days. Our cartridges have been filled up to sixty, and we keep three days rations ahead. We expect to go across the river about 12 miles above here. A force will cross 6 miles below, and I think they will try to flank the enemy. It is reported the enemy are leaving from in front. I think as soon as the weather gets a little warmer, look out for stirring news from the army of the Rappahannock. I have been sick for two days. I took my shirt off to wash it and caught cold. It has settled in my back and bones, but I think I will be well in a day or two.

19. All is quiet. Franklin's grand division and about 120 pieces of artillery passed here this morning going up the river. It is reported that our guns in front here are being moved and that wooden ones are being mounted in their place. I think we will move as soon as the weather will permit. It is quite cold yet, with frosty nights but pleasant days. I am quite unwell yet.

22. It has been raining very hard for the last two days. It is all that has stopped one of the biggest battles of the war. On the nineteenth our troops began to move up the river. Franklin's and Hooker's grand Divisions had started. We were called up at 3 a.m. of the twentieth, but it had been raining all night and ever since, and we have not moved yet. We
January, 1863.

keep three days rations ahead yet, and may move to-
morrow, but it is my opinion that it must be put off
a few days until the weather gets better. Because of
the continued rain, troops are ordered back to their
camps. All did this gladly, except the Artillery and
Pontoons. They would not return, but finally suc-
cceeded in getting the pontoons near Falmouth, and for
three or four days artillery and worn-out soldiers
were passing us, going up the river. I am still
quite unwell, but improving some. Hope to be well
when the regiment moves.

25. Once more the army makes a retreat and has
moved back to its camp. The roads are so bad that
the pontoons and artillery cannot be moved and are
left in the mud. The roads are awful. It takes 8
mules to move an empty wagon. It has stopped raining
and looks some like clearing. All day yesterday, the
enemy was moving troops up the river in plain sight
of our pickets. In my opinion, this rain saved them
an awful whipping, or us a fearful defeat. I think
some of the biggest battles must yet be fought, if
the North prevents the secession of the South. I
don't think the North will give up as long as foreign
powers will let her alone. I am still unwell. Re-
ceived a box from home today with plenty of good
things to eat, also, some sugar, butter, cheese, cakes,
fruits, dried meat, tea, etc.

24. The weather is pleasant and warm. Troops
and artillery are coming back slowly. The roads
are very bad.

28. Snowing and thawing -- cold nasty day.
Yesterday we were paid up to the first of November.
I got $20.36. Our company is on picket. Wood is
very scarce. I got a drink of whiskey today, and
had an oyster dinner. Also, I bought a gold pen for
$1.95. It is now snowing very hard.
January - February, 1863.

29. Last night was one of the coldest and stormiest nights we have had yet. It snowed about 12 inches. It is pleasant this morning. The snow will all be gone before night. The boys on picket suffered. Some of them offered $2 for a substitute, but could get none. I have sent $10 home by Porter — he starts for Michigan tomorrow.

50. The weather is cold but pleasant. We had a frost last night. Our regiment has to go on picket every other day.

February 1. It is Sunday once more and all is quiet. The weather is cool and it looks like rain. Our company is on picket today. It is very muddy. Wood is getting very scarce here. First we chopped down all the trees and then we had to cut the stumps close to the ground.

5. It is very cold, and we had a heavy frost last night. Some of the boys are getting furloughs to go home for fifteen days. One out of a company may go, and when he comes back another can go.

5. It commenced to snow this morning and is still snowing. Sickel's troops have been passing up the river this morning to some place not yet known to them. All is quiet. No drill today, as it is too stormy. The non-commissioned officers have lessons in tactics every night at the Captain's quarters to fit them to drill the privates in squads according to the book.

Fortress Monroe,
February 6 - March 20, 1863.

6. We received marching orders to proceed to Fortress Monroe. We expect to go in a day or two. I hear the second and ninth corps go. Some divisions and batteries started this morning. We go by way of Aquia Creek and take transports from there. It rained all night.
February, 1863.

7. Troops are moving to Aquia Creek as fast as the cars can carry them. Artillery is passing today. The sick of our regiment have been moved to Washington today. Our pickets have been drawn in and we will move soon. Splendid weather — warm.

8. Pleasant weather. We are still in our old camp, but probably will move tomorrow. Our Division-General Burns has been removed, and General Willcox now commands our first division — it gives good satisfaction to the division.

10. Pleasant weather. We have not moved yet, but the troops are moving all around us and our first brigade is about all that is left, some cavalry excepted. Fresh troops keep coming here on the cars. I hear they are nine-months men. Our regiment is relieved from picketing by them. Orders are received to pack up and be ready to march at a moment's notice.

11. Warm rain most all day. Ordered to march.

12. Order to march countermanded — we march tomorrow morning.

13. Pleasant weather — warm. We have not moved yet. Part of the brigade is gone. The boys have been playing ball and pitching quoits most of the day. Company and battalion drills were held today and yesterday.

14. We left camp at 4 a. m. and took the cars at the depot at 6 for Aquia Creek (on the Potomac 14 miles northwest of Fredericksburg). We took the boat at Aquia Creek about noon and started for Fortress Monroe. It has been a pleasant day, and the boys are in good spirits. The name of the boat is the "Robert Morris".
February, 1863.

15. Sunday. It is noon and we are about 5 miles below the lighthouse at anchor. The boat did not run last night, but anchored near the lighthouse. This morning we ran here and probably will lay here all day. It is too rough to venture on the bay. Some of the boys ran a small boat up beside us with a load of oysters. We got all we could eat. We got a half bushel for 25 cents. It is very cheap. We have been paying $1 for a can of three dozen in our old camp. This is a beautiful river (Potomac), and beautiful country on both sides. I notice that some of the vessels that pass us carry two or three guns on them.

16. Our boat started about 5 o'clock this morning and at about 8 o'clock we reached the (Chesapeake) bay. It is a pleasant day and the bay is not rough but quite smooth. It is expected that we shall reach Newport News about 5 o'clock this afternoon.

17. We had a pleasant voyage today. We touched at Fortress Monroe for about ten minutes, and arrived at Newport News about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. We are in plain sight of the place where the naval battle took place between the "Monitor" and "Merrimac". I can see the "Cumberland" and "Congress", sunk by the "Merrimac" a year ago -- their masts are above water. The "Congress" is lost forever, but we are told the "Cumberland" can be raised. We will stay on the boat tonight and land in the morning.

18. It rained all night and today. We landed about 7 o'clock in the morning. The regiment has camped about 5 miles on the left, on the east bank of the James. I stopped in town and probably will go to the regiment tomorrow.

19. It is still raining. We get lots of oysters at low cost. I will not go to the regiment today. It rains too hard to go about much. The soil is sandy.
February, 1863.

20. I have just been looking around town. About 40 acres are inclosed by a ditch and breastwork. There is a breastwork in front for five guns, but no guns. The "Cumberland" is sunk about 40 rods from shore. There is nothing here but barracks and sutler shanties. The ninth corps is all here. The barracks are full, and the balance of the men are in tents outside the rifle ditch. I am going to my regiment tomorrow. It has stopped raining, but there is a cold wind. We hear a report that part of our corps go to Roanoke Island. The sutlers sell supplies quite cheaply.

21. I reached camp last night. It is in a beautiful place on the banks of the (James) river about 2 miles above town. The soil is sandy with plenty of pine timber back of camp. We have the "A" tent now. We also have company cooks. Everything that we left behind now has come up. The prospect is that we will stay here for some time. Pleasant weather — warm. Part of our company has gone on picket. My health is improving.

22. It rained all night and turned to snow today. Now it is very cold.

23. There is a cold raw wind. The sun shines and it is getting warmer. We had brigade drill today. Lieutenant Pitkin of Company H returned to his regiment today. He has been home on a furlough. I took a walk on the beach this morning, and found some beautiful shells.

25. We were reviewed today by General Dix. He is quite an old man with white hair. Warm weather.

28. It is quite cool today. We were mustered for pay today. Rumors through camp are that we are to move soon. We are getting our camp and streets fixed up nicely. We have been put through plenty of drill and strict discipline, and the health of the regiment is improving.
March 1, Sunday. The weather is warm. We had preaching today by the chaplain. Congressman Longyear from the third district of Michigan was here today and made a few remarks to the regiment. We had orders on dress parade to wear white gloves, black our boots, and keep ourselves very neat and clean.

8, Sunday once more. The weather is pleasant. Some of the boys went in swimming today. Ira Betts and Frank Lansing came to the regiment from the convalescent camp this last week. I took a walk up the river (James) about a mile today. The tide was out and we could have collected some shells had we wanted them. The color guard have tents by ourselves now and we do our own cooking. There are seven of us, and living is much better.

11. The weather is pleasant. The whole division was called out this afternoon. A new flag was presented to the Michigan eighth regiment. It cost $140. The whole division gave the new flag three cheers and three more for the eighth regiment. The chaplain of the eighth goes to Michigan tomorrow to stay.

15. The ninth corps is once more on the move. The third division started for Norfolk today. We don't know whether or not we go.

17. Beautiful weather. Our captain and first lieutenant are under arrest. I will find out the reason in a day or two. I have found that several of our commissioned officers were arrested for sending a petition to Governor Blair of Michigan to have the colonel removed. The Governor sent the petition back to the colonel, and he arrested them. We now have orders to have two days' cooked rations and be ready to march at an hour's notice.

18. Our order to march has been countermanded. We were ordered to Suffolk, but our folks drove the enemy back and we were not wanted. Most all of our commissioned officers are under arrest by the regiment.
March, 1863.

Colonel (A. W. Williams) for sending the petition to Governor Blair. The devil is to pay. It is a rainy day. We hear that Vicksburg is taken with 27 vessels and 7,000 prisoners.

19. We received orders last night to be ready to march this morning at 7 o'clock with five days' rations. This morning at 7 o'clock we started, and we are now on the boat at Newport News bound for -- we don't know where. I think by the most probable rumors that we are going to Tennessee via Baltimore to reinforce Rosencrans. I think the ninth corps is broken up. The third division is at Suffolk, and the second is here yet. Snow and rain today. Our colonel is very sick. It is rumored that he tried to poison himself. The officers admitted they did wrong, and are released and do duty again.

The order of Hooker succeeding Burnside was read to us. Whether he (Hooker) will do a better job remains to be seen. Burnside had the confidence of the Ninth Army Corps but the rest of the army did not like him. With them it is all "little Mac" -- "Little Mac" would do this and would do that, and one would think him to be a little god to hear them talk.

20. Our boat ran up to Norfolk last night and coal'd. It is snowing and foggy and bad weather. We are to lay here until it clears up. Norfolk is a large place. Some of the officers went to the theater last night. Portsmouth lies on the other (west) side of the Elizabeth River. We can see the wrecks of several boats near Portsmouth Navy Yard. The water in the river is brackish. There are some 30,000 inhabitants and many niggers here.

The Kentucky Campaign,
Louisville, Ky. - Albany, Tenn.,
March 21, 1863 - June 9, 1863.

21. We weighed anchor and started for Fortress Monroe, where we will lay all day. The river is
March, 1865.

quite rough -- too rough to venture on the bay. There are lots of steamers and vessels waiting for pleasant weather.

22, Sunday. We anchored near Point Lookout (at the mouth of the Potomac) last night. The bay is quite rough, and a good many are seasick. We arrived at Baltimore about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and we are now on the cars. We expect to start out tonight.

23. We arrived at Harpers Ferry about daylight this morning, and got some coffee and bread. This is a hard-looking place, most of the houses are in ruins. We staid here about half an hour. We were met with cheers at every stopping place. The country is very mountainous, and we passed through several tunnels. The fifteenth Virginia Volunteers guard the track we passed over today. There are many places where the rebels have torn up the track, then heat the rails in the middle and bent them. They also have burned up several bridges, but the road is in good condition now.

24. I woke up this morning in the nice little village of Grafton. We will get some coffee here. It is 100 miles (west) from here to Parkersburg (West Virginia), where we will take the boat (down the Ohio River). Mostly Virginia regiments guard this road. We are getting into a better farming country as we move west.

25. We arrived in Parkersburg about 6 o'clock last evening, and got on the boat. We left the city at 9 this morning. We have one of the best boats on the river, the "Bostona". Part of the brigade left last night.

26. We arrived in Cincinnati about 9 o'clock this morning. After marching around the city about an hour and giving three cheers for Burnside, who has charge of this department now after being relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac, we marched in a
March - April, 1863.

long hall, where we got one of the best meals we have had since we left Michigan, and got all the apples we wanted (it was the Fifth Street Market). Once more we are on the boat bound -- we do not know where (down the Ohio River).

27. We arrived in Louisville, Ky., about 7 o'clock last evening. We staid on the boat all night and went on shore this a. m. After marching through part of the city, we got some bread and coffee from the citizens and marched about 3 miles out of town and camped near the fair ground. This is a beautiful place, but we will not stay here long. It is said we go to Lexington in a day or two. We are now the First Brigade of the First Division of the Ninth Army Corp, address via Cincinnati, Ohio.

28. We are all packed up ready to march. I think we take the cars to some place about 60 miles from here to Danville. It has been a pleasant day, with rain last night.

29. We took the cars at dark last night for Bardstown, 40 miles south of Louisville, and arrived there at 5 o'clock this morning. We are now camped about one mile from the city in a nice grove. The country is full of guerillas and we may expect some pretty lively times. There are only about 3,000 of us here, although our whole corps is in Kentucky. I am in good health now and weigh only 165 pounds. There are 1,700 Union soldiers buried in Louisville, Ky., and about half as many Confederates. All of the rebels have tomb stones placed there by the ladies of Louisville. Not one in a hundred of our soldiers has a marker, and yet over half of the citizens are loyal to the Union.

31. I went to church last night after getting a pass to go to town. I took dinner at the Bardstown Hotel, and then took a walk around town and visited
April, 1865.

the cave that extends under the city. We went to church Sunday night also, and saw some good-looking girls in town. We are having quite a snow storm today. There are no signs of moving yet. We are camped on Senator Wickliffe's farm.

April 1. We had inspection today and received orders to be ready to march any time after sundown, with two days' cooked rations. There was a man in camp today looking after his nigger who had run away.

2. We marched 18 miles (southeast) today to Springfield through a nice country, and camped in the fair ground about a half mile from the village.

3. Camp was broken at 5 this morning, and we marched to Lebanon, 9 miles south. We arrived there at 9 o'clock in the morning, and are now camped one-half mile east of the village. The twenty-third and twenty-fifth Michigan regiments are here, also four Kentucky regiments, two of cavalry, the fifteenth and sixteenth, and two infantry, the eleventh and twelfth, and the second Indiana cavalry. Our whole brigade is here now. This is a nice country, but the weather is cool, with snow and rain.

4. This has been our wash day. It has been cool but pleasant. No orders to march yet, but we expect them soon. The eighth Michigan regiment had a fight with the sixteenth Kentucky Union cavalry last night. Several were wounded.

5. Sunday. It is very warm. We had a sermon by the chaplain, and we signed the pay roll. We get paid tomorrow.

6. We were paid four months' pay today. I went to town and took dinner, heard Senator Wickliffe make a speech, and had a pleasant time. Wickliffe is an old man of 75 years and is ex-governor of this state.
April, 1863.

10. We attended a nigger concert last night and had an interesting time. Our brigade was reviewed yesterday by General Manring (Manson). The eighteenth and twenty-second regiments came here today. They are being paid off and leave tomorrow for Tennessee. Pleasant weather. The boys took possession of the printing office in town and have issued a paper called "The Union Vidette".

15. It is raining quite hard today. We are to be mustered today to find out how many there are in the regiment and brigade. I took dinner down town yesterday. The eighteenth and twenty-second regiments left for Tennessee yesterday. They nearly had a fight with the Kentucky regiments about some niggars. News has been received that Charlestown is taken, but I doubt that it is true.

17. All is quiet and the weather is pleasant. We moved camp nearer the city yesterday. It looks as if we are to stay here some time. We have company drill twice a day, battalion drill twice a day, and brigade drill three times a week. The eighth Michigan regiment is doing provost duty in the city.

19. Sunday. We had preaching today by the chaplain of the second Michigan regiment. The weather is pleasant. General Willcox is at Lexington. There is not much news. We have a wicket, and ball playing takes all of our spare time.

22. The weather is pleasant and all is quiet. We are having quite a time at the expense of our brigade postmaster. He turns out to be a girl, and has deserted when her lover, Inspector Read and General Poe resigned. She went by the name of Frank Crandall (Thompson), and was a pretty girl. She came out with Company F of the second Michigan regiment, and has been with them ever since. We learned there had been a little skirmish west of here the other day.
April, 1863.

28, Sunday. A pleasant day. Our Colonel Williams got back to the regiment yesterday. The boys were glad to see him and cheered him lustily. Most of the officers look sober. Several promotions were read on dress parade last evening. Our captain is under arrest by order of the colonel for not saluting him and otherwise insulting him. We are under orders to have thirteen days' rations, three in haversack, the rest in wagons, also two pair of shoes and 60 rounds of cartridges, and be ready to march at a moment's notice. It is thought we will advance soon. We have regiment inspection every Sunday morning. We had a good sermon from the chaplain of the sixteenth Kentucky Volunteers. I went to church in the city in the evening.

27. We are now resting about 4 miles from Lebanon. We got orders to march last night, and this morning at 5 we broke camp and started southward (under the command of Colonel Morrison). We have marched 21 miles today, and are now camped a half mile from the little village of Campbellsville. We march again tomorrow. The boys threw most of their overcoats and extra clothes away on the road.

28. We commenced our march at 6 o'clock this morning, and (after marching 14 miles) are now camped about 2 miles across Green River for the day. Morgan burned the bridge last New Year so we had to ford the river. It is a nice little river about 30 feet wide and 3 feet deep, with a stony bottom where we crossed. We left the rest of the brigade there to repair the bridge. Our regiment marched 2 miles farther on and camped in a nice field. It is a beautiful country that we have passed through. We march again tomorrow, some say to Columbia.

29. We are now camped in sight of the village of Columbia about 40 miles south of Lebanon. We passed through a most beautiful and romantic country.
April - May, 1863.

There are two Kentucky Cavalry regiments here, and part of an Indiana Battery. We are ordered to have three days' rations and go in light marching order, as we are to march this afternoon. We left Columbia at 2 o'clock p.m., and marched about 10 miles, and are now camped (bivouacked) for the night. We came in light order, bringing nothing but our blankets and rubbers, not even our tents. We marched over 20 miles and had to ford Rustans Creek, knee deep. It has rained most of the day. We have one section, or two pieces of artillery. The twenty-fourth Indiana chaplain just came in with a dozen chickens. (Our Colonel Williams bade goodbye to the regiment today, and Colonel Smith is now in command.)

50. Yesterday was the day appointed by the President for a fast and prayer, but we had too much hard marching to keep it. Our pickets brought in two prisoners last night, and several of us with Captain Wiltsie (of Company H) went about 6 miles after two more. We did not get them, although we had a good time. We marched 18 miles to the Cumberland River Horseshoe Bottom (Bend) today. We passed through Jamestown 3 miles back of here. We have expected a fight all day, but our cavalry drove the rebels across the river yesterday. Their loss was not heavy, although we took several prisoners.

May 1. It has been quiet today. The local people are very poor, and the country is very rough and interesting.

2. We were ordered to march at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. We had to wait at the (Cumberland) river until the parts of two cavalry regiments went over. The horses had to swim, and the men took the saddles and went across in the boat. It was 12 o'clock at night before we all were across. We then marched 2 miles and lay down for the night.

We arrived in Monticello at 8 o'clock this evening. There was a fight here yesterday, and our
May, 1863.

forces drove the rebels out of town, taking some prisoners and killing a number. The rebels have to go to Albany, about 20 miles from here. We will follow them up as soon as we can get rations.

3, Sunday. We have received no rations yet, but expect some today, and will move tomorrow. This is a very interesting town.

5. Yesterday 1,500 of our cavalry and 5 pieces of artillery went to Albany, 18 miles southwest from here. The rebels had not stopped there, but kept on into Tennessee. Our force came back this morning about 4 o'clock. Our regiment, with two pieces of cannon, took our back track for Greasy Creek Ford on the Cumberland River. We met our ration train on the road, and we are now stopping for the night 5 miles from the river. Some guerrillas fired in our train yesterday -- we caught one of them.

6. We broke camp at 7 o'clock this morning, and we are now resting on the bank of the river until the cannon and horses are across.

7. All are not across the river yet. It rained last night. Today the river is raised several feet. The wire across the river is broken, and the flat boat is not operative. Part of the cavalry is across, but several of the horses were drowned.

9. About 150 of our men went on a scouting trip last night to be back at noon today. The boats are fixed and the artillery is across. Our scouts have been attacked and the whole infantry regiment has gone out skirmishing until dark. All the cavalry have crossed, so we are without horses to help us.

10, Sunday. I was on advance picket last night. The rebels charged on us, but they were repulsed. There was hard fighting on both sides all day. Our loss is quite heavy, that of the rebels more so. We retreated across the river before dark under cover
of our two cannon. (This was the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.)

11. We are having beautiful weather, and all is quiet. I think we will try to hold this place until reinforcements come up. They are expected tonight.

12. We are once more in Columbia. We left the Cumberland River yesterday about noon, and met the seventeenth Michigan regiment, coming to our relief, about 8 miles from here. We had been fighting against Morgan. He had ten regiments and we had three, but we had the advantage of the bridge. We lost three lieutenants (Green, Lounsberry, and Knight), and twenty privates -- killed and wounded. All of our brigade is here but the eighth Michigan regiment. They are on the Green River 8 or 10 miles away.

14. Pleasant weather. We were ordered this morning to be ready if attacked. We stacked our guns in line of battle. Some of the boys started home on furlough today, more go tomorrow. Two men go out of a company for 20 days. Rumor has it that Morgan has received reinforcements and has crossed the river.

15. The main force of Morgan has fallen back to Monticello. Our ambulances went back today under flag of truce to bring up our wounded. About 20 men are home from our regiment on a furlough. Today Charles Wood went. I visited our wounded today, two died last night, but the rest are doing well. They are in the cemetery up town. The loss from our regiment was five killed and fifteen wounded. The cavalry in proportion. We lost three lieutenants, but we hear the rebels loss was nearly 200.

17, Sunday. All is quiet and we are having pleasant weather. We changed camp yesterday. We are now a half mile beyond the city towards the Cumberland River. I put in a petition today for a
May, 1865.

furlough. I expect to get it in a couple of months. We expect an attack from Morgan soon. Drilling will commence tomorrow.

18. We are ordered to keep our haversack full and be ready to march at a moment’s notice. It is reported that Morgan is crossing the river with 20,000 troops. If true, we will have to fall back or receive reinforcements soon.

19. It is rumored that reinforcements of about 3,000 men and a battery of six guns have come up. We are ready now for the rebels and we probably will make an advance if they don’t attack us soon. The brass band gave us a serenade last night.

21. We had brigade drill today. All is quiet here. It is rumored that Wolford has been fighting Morgan yesterday and today.

24. It is Sunday again, and all is quiet. I bought some lettuce and onions from the farmers, also a large turkey. We can get plenty of small biscuit at ten cents a dozen. We have a good place to go in swimming in Rustans Creek. We also catch some fish there. Our wounded have been taken to Louisville.

25. It is very warm and quiet. We drill just enough for exercise. Battalion drill is held once a day, and company drill once a day. Afternoon: We are now ordered to have three day’s rations cooked, and be ready to march at a moment’s notice.

27. Our captain and our whole company went today to visit a cave (Todd Cave, Adair County, Kentucky) about 4 miles from camp. We obtained a guide near the cave, which is over a half mile through. We had to carry candles. It is divided into several large rooms. The passages from one room to another are so low that we had to go on our knees part of the way. The rooms are large and from 11 to 50 feet high. They
May, 1863.

are named, one is the Smokehouse where one can see hams smoking; another is the Tannery where beef hides are hanging over a pole quite naturally; the Clouds Room in which the ceiling looks like the heavens on a cloudy day; the Well Room in which there is quite a natural pump; the Adam and Eve Room which contains a perfect image of two persons; the Star Room which is a beautiful sight; and the Specimen Room from which most of the relics are brought. There are several other names I have forgotten. Altogether it is a beautiful place and well worth seeing. I brought 7 relics with me from the cave. The third brigade has joined us. There is an old beech tree with Daniel Boone's name cut in it in 1776 at the mouth of the cave. There are several caves in this vicinity, Mammoth Cave being 40 miles from Columbia. Our brass band played in this cave last Sunday. It was splendid. It is now 7 p.m. The eighth and second Michigan and the seventy-ninth New York regiments of our brigade, with the two Kentucky regiments of cavalry, have just gone on a scouting trip to the Cumberland River. The cavalry brought in six prisoners today.

28. The seventeenth Michigan was paid today, and now have orders to march at 5 tomorrow. Our regiment (the twentieth) signed the pay roll today and we are to be paid tomorrow. Another battery came up today. The news is confirmed that Vicksburg is taken. Our company (B) is on picket.

29. It has rained most all day. The seventeenth Michigan and the third brigade left today. Our regiment and the twenty-fourth battery are here yet. We expect to move soon. We were paid two months' pay today. Our company is on picket.

30. Several prisoners were brought in today. We have received no orders to march yet. No further news from our front.

31. Sunday. The second and eighth Michigan and the seventy-ninth New York regiments came back last
June, 1863.

night. They brought in a few prisoners, and had
been to Jamestown. The weather is pleasant and all
is quiet this morning. I went to the funeral of a
private of company K. We expect an attack tonight,
and we are ready for them. It is said that 1,500
rebels are near here. Our force now consists of 4
regiments and 1 battery. We are having a heavy rain
and the thunder and lightning is very sharp.

June 1. All is quiet this morning. Our company
has gone on picket. We are now in the third brigade.
It is composed of the second, eighth, and twentieth
Michigan, seventy-ninth New York, and one hundredth
Pennsylvania regiments. The first brigade consists
of the seventeenth and twenty-seventh Michigan,
thirty-sixth Massachusetts, and forty-fifth Pennsyl-
vania regiments. We have orders to march with eight
days' rations and are to take nothing but our rubbers
and woolen blankets and a piece of tent with us.

2. We have sent all of our extra baggage to the
rear, but no movement yet. We expect to move any day.
We had two men die in our regiment today, a good many
are sick. I am not very well myself. I have
diarrhoea. Our cavalry crossed the river the other
night, and stold Lieutenant Lounsberry. He had been
wounded and was a prisoner, having been taken by the
rebels in our Sunday fight of May 10. He has gone to
Michigan now.

4. We received orders last night to draw eight
days' rations and be ready to march at 5 o'clock this
morning, so at 5 this morning we struck our tents and
marched to Campbellsville, 20 miles north, on the
road to Lebanon. We expect to go on another 20 miles
to Lebanon tomorrow. The farmers are just setting
out their tobacco plants.

5. We arrived in Lebanon at noon, took dinner,
and then got on board the cars for Louisville.
6. We arrived in Louisville at daylight this morning, and then took the boat and crossed the river to Jeffersonville just opposite Louisville in Indiana. We are now camped in a nice grove, but probably will move yet tonight or tomorrow.

7. We took the cars about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon on the Jeffersonville and Indianapolis R. R., and, travelling north, arrived in Seymour, Indiana, at dark tonight. We got some coffee and changed to cars on the Ohio and Mississippi R. R., and travelled west. We got some coffee at Vincennes, a little town on the banks of the Wabash River. This river is quite large, and divides Indiana and Illinois at this place. We have crossed the river and are now in Illinois, still going west. Our destination is supposed to be Vicksburg. We arrived in Sandoval about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and then changed cars again. We are now going south on the Illinois Central R. R. We have passed through a beautiful country today. A good part of it is prairie. We passed through several beautiful villages. We went about 5 miles south on this road, when we came to the pretty and lively village of Centralia. Here we got a good supper and staid two hours. Once more the iron horse sounds his whistle and we start south for Cairo on the Mississippi River, about 150 miles from here.

8. We arrived in Cairo about 6 o'clock this morning. The country here is very low and the soil is clay. The second division of our corps is here, but they leave today.

9. I took a walk through the city yesterday, and went up to the Fort where I saw some splendid 11-inch guns. It is said some of them go with us. I got on board the steamer "Nebraska" last evening, but up to 6 o'clock this morning we had not left port. All of our corps that is here is on boats
June, 1965.

and will go down the river (Mississippi) with us. Two or three small gunboats are out in the stream. We left Cairo about 7 o'clock this morning and had a pleasant time. Our first stop was at Columbus. We passed several places of interest, amongst them Island Number 10, where there are about a thousand troops, mostly negroes. It is quite strongly fortified. We are now tied up to the bank about half way to Memphis, where we will lay for the night.

10. It has rained part of the day. We arrived safely in Memphis about 5 o'clock this afternoon and tied up for the night. I obtained a pass and went up town. In the evening I went to a theater. Altogether we have had a good time of it on this trip.

11. I went up town again this morning, and the boat went off and left me. She went across the river and laid there all day, coming back in the evening. There are hundreds of bales of cotton in Memphis. This is a most beautiful city. Some regiments that were here go south with us.

12. We left Memphis this morning at daylight and we are now tied up at Helena, Arkansas. We reached here at 12 noon. General Prentiss commands this post. We laid here about an hour, then ran down the river until dark when the boat tied up for the night.

13. We started down the river again at daylight and had a pleasant trip until about 10 o'clock, when the guerrillas along the shore commenced firing into us. They kept it up until our boys fixed breastworks and gave them as good as they sent. They killed none on our boat, but wounded a couple of men and a horse. Our gunboats left us about 4 o'clock this afternoon, and went back up the river. We have troops from here down on shore. We ran until quite late in the night, when the boat was tied up again.
June - July, 1863.

14. Sunday. We landed on the Louisiana side where Butler cut his ditch (canal). It is 6 miles to (above) Vicksburg. They have been shelling the city all day. We have a good view of the city. We have orders to march at a moment's notice with three days' rations.

15. Our troops went about 6 miles below Vicksburg, where part of them crossed the river. Grant sent them back, as he could not use any more men. A heavy battle was fought at Vicksburg yesterday. Our troops are all back in camp (at Young's Point above Vicksburg) tonight. I did not go with them down the river, as I was not feeling very well.

16. We took the steamboat this morning and went up the Mississippi until we came to the Yazoo River, up which we went to Snyders Bluff. Grant took it this spring, and has fortified it with some very heavy guns, some of which weigh 13,000 pounds. We staid on the boat all night.

17. We landed this morning and marched south 3 miles and camped.

July 1. It is a long time since I have written in my journal. I have been sick for the last three weeks, and only yesterday stopped taking medicine. Our forces are fortifying all of this range of hills, planting cannon on the hills and digging trenches from one breastwork to another. A regiment has to go out once in four days and work four hours a day, working one hour and resting one hour. Our brigade has gone out about 10 miles to do some work there. I am left behind with the sick. We get lots of blackberries here.

10. It is quite a spell again since I have written any in this journal. Well, Vicksburg surrendered July third, so all is quiet there. We took
July, 1863.

some 80,000 prisoners, 8,000 of them sick and wounded. We are busy parolling them and letting them go. It was a great victory. On July fourth all the force that could be spared started (under General W. T. Sherman) after Johnson across the Blackwater (Big Black River). They expect to take part of his army. I did not go with the regiment, but had to stay behind on account of sickness. A good many are sick, and several have died. I am beginning to gain strength, and hope soon to be as strong as ever. It is very warm here now.

13. My health improves slowly. Port Hudson was taken on the eleventh, and the Mississippi River is now open. The rebels have lost their last stronghold on it. We expect our corps back here in a few days, and then expect to go north again. We hear good news (if half of it is true, and I hope it is) from the army of the Potomac. We can hear nothing reliable as to how our forces are getting along with Johnston, only that he seems to be falling back (to the east). Our cause looks bright all around at present.

14. About 50 of our convalescents started for the regiment today. They were to take the boat to Vicksburg and the cars from there to the Blackwater. They went to the boat and found it had been gone an hour, so they had to come back. We hear the twentieth Michigan regiment has lost about sixty men charging on a battery. The weather is cloudy and cool today.

16. All is quiet and very warm. We get no news. Everything now goes by Vicksburg, and it leaves us in an out of the way place. We expect to move soon.

17. It is very hot today. Our regiment has not come in yet, but we expect it soon.

19, Sunday. It is very warm again today. It is
July - August, 1863.

rumored that Johnston got away across the Pearl River and that our corps is coming back. We expect our regiment here Tuesday. Then we go back to Kentucky, where Morgan is raising the old "harry". Our troops here now hold the city of Jackson.

22. It is very hot, and a good many are sick. The regiment has not yet come in, but we expect them every day. As soon as they come, we are to start for Kentucky. Part of the sixteenth corps came back last night.

23. Our regiment returned about 10 o'clock this morning. They have been about 12 miles beyond Jackson tearing up around 6 miles of track and burning up depots. Johnston got away, losing some guns and a good many prisoners. Our regiment (twentieth Michigan) did not have any killed and only a few wounded. The second Michigan lost 60 men. Peaches and figs are now ripe. This is a nice country around Jackson. All through the state is planted mostly to corn — there are fields of hundreds of acres. We expect to leave here in a few days for the north.

30. We have not moved yet, but we expect to in another day or two. Our regiment is very sickly, and we had two men (Gillet and Riley) die in our company this week. We had a very hard rain storm on the twenty-eighth, and it almost drowned us out.

August 3. We received orders to march to the boat, and about noon we embarked on the steamer at the (Snyder's) landing. Our regiment and part of Edward's battery go on one boat, while the second Michigan will go on another. I am glad to leave this place. I bought a splendid muskmellon.

4. We weighed anchor at daylight this morning. We go back up the Mississippi — good bye old Vicksburg. General Grant has given us permission to put Vicksburg and Jackson in letters on our flag and thanked us in a general order.
August, 1863.

5. We move along slowly, but expect to reach Memphis tomorrow morning. We are not troubled by guerrillas, but half of the regiment and all of the doctors are sick. One private died last night.

3. We stopped at Helena, Arkansas, about 4 o'clock this morning, and left one dead man and got a coffin for Doctor Payne, who died last night. The coffin cost $10.

7. Another man died yesterday. We will leave him here. We arrived in Memphis about 6 o'clock last evening, and we expect to leave this afternoon. I went all over the city and bought some eggs, butter, cheese, etc. Things are very expensive here.

9. Sunday. We arrived in Cairo about 6 o'clock this morning. Corporal R. Corbit died this morning about the time we landed. Some of the boys go home on furlough. Some of our worst sick are left here. We left my uncle, Charles Wood, who is quite sick with fever. We boarded the cars on the Illinois Central, and started north about 5 o'clock this evening.

10. We reached Centralia about 11 o'clock last evening, and got some supper, changed cars at Sandoval to the Ohio and Mississippi R. R. to travel east to Cincinnati.

11. We arrived in Cincinnati about 11 o'clock this morning. We had dinner in the Fifth Street market (where we had breakfast on March 26), and then crossed the river to Covington. We stacked arms in the street and took a walk through the city. It is found to be quite a large city as we come to go through it.
The Second Kentucky Campaign
Cincinnati - Knoxville
August 12, 1863 - March 28, 1864.

August, 1863.

12. We moved about a mile out of the city (Covington) and put up at the barracks. I was paid two months' pay today. From here, we are to go to Hickmans Bridge, and thence through to eastern Tennessee, where fighting is now going on.

13. We took the cars last evening on the Kentucky Central railroad, and arrived in Lexington at sunrise this morning. We stopped here for breakfast. This is beautiful country, and we are having pleasant weather.

14. We arrived in Nicholasville about 10 o'clock this morning and camped in a grove at the edge of the village. The Kentucky Central railroad ends here.

15. We broke camp and marched south about 5 miles on the Frankfort road, where we expect to stay some time to rest and recuperate, as we are almost worn out. (This camp is known as Camp Parke.)

September 8. It is a long time since I have written. I have been sick most of the time, but I am getting better now. We are now camped at Crab Orchard over 30 miles south of our last camp. We expect every day to start for Knoxville, Tennessee. There is a water cure here, and several kinds of water are available. It is quite healthy here. I hear that Charles Wood died coming up the Ohio River, near Henderson, Kentucky, where he was buried.

10. The regiment moved today with eight days' rations, expecting to go to Knoxville. I am left behind at the convalescent camp with the sick.

13. There was a heavy rain last evening for about 2 hours. The country looked like a lake with the water 3 inches deep.
September - November, 1865.

20. Over 2,000 prisoners passed here yesterday. They were taken (by Frazer's brigade) at Cumberland Gap. I hear that our brigade is at the Gap now. We had a heavy frost last night, and the weather is cool.

October 1. Today is my birthday, and I am 26 years old today. We are still at Crab Orchard. The weather is cool but pleasant. (The ninth corps was at and about Knoxville, Tennessee, until November 9.)

2. I have been away from the regiment for three weeks because of sickness, and I am getting homesick to be back to it. I expect it will be a month yet. We have a beautiful camp here, and our choice of several kinds of water. The people bring us plenty supplies, milk at ten cents a quart, and potatoes at $1 a bushel. I am getting acquainted with some of the farmers, and have been out to dinner with them on several occasions.

A good many troops are passing here almost daily from Illinois and Indiana to join Burnside.

November 1. Today is Sunday and pleasant. I am now at Camp Nelson in the convalescent camp. Have been here two days. My health does not improve much. I now have the jaundice and chronic diarrhoea. I have had no mail for 5 weeks, as it has gone to the regiment. It will be sent back here. I hear our regiment has been in another fight since I left them.

26. I am still in the hospital, and almost well. We are having pleasant weather with frosts. We had a grand dinner today, turkeys and oysters in plenty, and lots of sauce and preserves. There is heavy fighting in front.

27. Prisoners pass through here every few days. I have talked with a good many of them, and they tell hard stories of their suffering in the south. They say if we can keep our attack as strong next year, they cannot stand it. One fellow asked me what we did in Michigan for a living. He thought it was so far
November, 1863 - March, 1864.

north that we could not raise anything. He was surprised to learn the truth.

January 1, 1864. It has been very cold here for a week now. The ground is frozen and we have 2 inches of snow, the first of the season. Old settlers say today is the coldest in a good many years. We had a good New Year's dinner furnished by the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

22. I have had a severe attack of erysipelas. It came on me suddenly and my eyes were closed. They painted me with a tincture of iron and iodine, so I am stained like an Indian, but it responds to the treatment.

28. My face and neck have been swollen to twice their natural size. My eyes are weak, and I am deaf in one ear. There are about 30 cases of smallpox here. They are mostly rebels, and are confined to a tent some 80 rods away. I have been vaccinated 3 times, but it does not take.

February 17. I am still at Camp Nelson hospital but I am a great deal better. I am just getting over the severe attack of erysipelas. I am now appointed first nurse in the sixth ward. It has been quite cold for a few days past. Most of the old regiments are now reenlisting for the war. My regiment has been badly cut up out at Knoxville. My Captain (Wiltsie) was killed, as were a good many of the boys on November 25, 1863.

29. I have left off nursing and am now in the baggage room in charge of all knapsacks of this camp. I have a good frame building to stay in, and am very well satisfied. The weather has been very pleasant for some time back. We muster for pay today. This makes three times I have mustered and have received no pay yet. Six months' pay is due me. My descriptive list has not arrived here.

March 5. My descriptive list has come at last.
March, 1864.

Pleasant weather -- no news -- all quiet.

10. The board of doctors made a grand examination today. They discharged about 50 men, and put about 75 in the invalid corps. I was not examined, but am still on duty.

12. The erysipelas has started on my face again and it has swollen up a good deal on my left cheek and around my eye.

13, Sunday. The left side of my face is all swollen up and my left eye is closed, otherwise I am in good health. The doctor thinks he has the disease under control now. We had preaching this morning, and a lecture on infidelity this evening by the chaplain.

18. I have the erysipelas stopped, but my face is swelled yet and is as black as a nigger. I have had a hard time of it, as it also got in my neck. I received two letters from home today, one from Aunt Emma (Mrs. Charles Wood) and one from Aunt Rosa (Mrs. Joseph Brown). We are having pleasant weather, but high winds.

24. The weather is still pleasant. All of the ninth corps invalids were ordered to fall in line to be sent to Annapolis to join the corps. My regiment (the twentieth) was not on the list, so I did not go, but expect to go in a few days. I am getting better very fast.

26. I was paid six months' pay today. Pleasant weather. Another squad started from the lower camp for Annapolis today.
Returning to the East
Camp Nelson, Ohio - Annapolis, Md.,
March 28, 1864 - April 21, 1864.

March - April, 1864.

28. It is very windy today. I sent $60 home by express. The express cost was 75 cents. We expect our regiment through here this week.

21. The ninth corps passed here today, and I saw my regiment. They had marched over 200 miles on foot in 11 days. We took the ambulance to Nicholasville, and go to Covington tonight.

April 1. We arrived in Covington at daylight this morning, and put up at the barracks. Warm rain today. I passed most of the day in bed.

3. Crossed over the Ohio River on the ferry to Cincinnati and took the cars on the little Miami railroad. We arrived in Columbus about dark, and got our supper. I am now with the regiment (first time since September 10). Pleasant weather. I received a back mail of five letters.

4. We rode all last night and got a good dinner at Steubenville, Ohio. The ladies brought us all we could eat, in baskets, and the best the country affords. We are now stopping at a little town for a few minutes. We get supper at Pittsburgh tonight. Rain and cold all day.

5. We arrived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, about 2 o'clock this morning. I went up to the hall and got a good supper, and then changed cars to the Northern Central railroad. We are now in Pennsylvania. It is still raining and some snow is on the ground.

6. We arrived in Baltimore, Md. about noon. We get dinner here and then go to Annapolis. It has
April, 1864.

been quite pleasant today, and we have got along as well as could be expected. They are having election here today to know if Maryland shall be a free state or not. All is quiet here.

7. I went aboard the boat before dark last night. It laid there all night. After a pleasant trip, we arrived in Annapolis about 10 o'clock in the morning. We moved out about a mile on the railroad, and camped in an orchard.

8. We are having pleasant weather. Two negro regiments left here for the south today. They made a good showing. Most of the regiments that reenlisted have returned with their companies mostly filled up.

9. It is cold and stormy again today. General Burnside passed here this afternoon. We fell out in line and cheered him, as the boys like him first-rate. They almost worship him, and well they may, for he is a good man and general.

There is a parole camp here with some thousands of Union paroled prisoners. We get all the latest news from Libby prison and Belle Isle. ... I am glad I am not married, so if I should die or get killed, I don't leave a wife to mourn for me. Friends may mourn for the absent, but there must be a great difference in the tie that binds man and wife from other relationships.

10. The second Michigan arrived today. The whole corps is to be vaccinated. Part of our regiment was vaccinated today.

11. I was vaccinated today. Dan Price's circus is here now for three days.

12. We received our new A tents today. Some of the boys have gone to the circus. Most of our convalescents have come up now.
April, 1864.

13. The regiment was paid four months' pay to-day, and we were reviewed by Generals Grant, Meade, and Burnside. They seemed to be well pleased. General Meade made the remark that he thought we could stand a campaign. I went to the theater last night. The circus stays three days longer.

14. Nothing of interest -- all quiet, plenty of drill. We are having pleasant weather.

15. Pleasant weather. Some of the boys are getting seven days' furlough.

16. Sunday. I went to church in the evening. I took a walk around town and ran against a patrol at every corner, but came out all right.

18. Went to town this afternoon, and had a good time. I visited the state capitol.

19. We are ordered to march Saturday.

22. I have just sent my old diary, my overcoat, one pair of pants, 3 pair of drawers, and some old letters home. We have turned over our A tents and we are once more in our shelter tents. We expect to move every day now.

The Wilderness Campaign
Annapolis, The Wilderness, Fredericksburg
April 22, 1864 - May 21, 1864.

23. We marched this morning at 7 o'clock with an extra pair of shoes. We marched 14 miles today. The weather is pleasant.

24. Sunday. We marched about 20 miles today, and it is very warm. Two or three men died on the road.
April - May, 1864.

25. We passed through Washington today. Marching down Pennsylvania Avenue, we saw the President and Burnside at Willards Hotel. We crossed the long bridge over the Potomac River, and camped near Arlington Heights.

26. No marching today, but we march tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock with four days' rations.

27. I sent an overcoat and blanket to John Moran at Warrenton Junction today. We marched westward to Fairfax and camped.

28. We continued our march to Bristol Station and camped for the night. This has been a hard march so far. I am quite lame, and it is all I can do to march.

29. We marched on to Warrenton Junction. The fifth corps have been doing duty here. They leave for the front today, and we stay in their place. I was mustered today; most of the regiment is on picket. Damp weather.

May 1, Sunday. All is quiet in the company. It is going to keep us busy doing picket and guard duty.

2. I am picket today, and all is quiet.

5. I am still on picket. We had a heavy rain last night, and I got soaking wet. We will be relieved today.

4. We broke camp today at 7 o'clock and marched south about 12 miles. We crossed the north branch of the Rappahannock River and camped. We started again and marched about 2 miles and came back again. We camped for the night at Rappahannock Station. Weather is pleasant.
May, 1864.

5. We broke camp at 5 o'clock this morning and marched south, crossed the south branch of the Rappahannock (the Rapidan at Germanna Ford) at 8 o'clock this morning. Burnside came up. We took dinner at Kelly's Ford. (Perhaps this should be Germanna Ford on the Rapidan River, as Kelly's Ford is about 8 miles due north on the Rappahannock.) After dinner, we crossed the ford and marched about 2 miles, and I am now lying in the woods (beyond the Widow Willis' place in the Wilderness). Heavy artillery and infantry firing is heard south of us. The rebels are close by.

6. We march (south on the old Germanna plank road toward Wilderness Tavern. We turned south on the west side of Wilderness Run past the "Lacy House" to a position south of Hagerston's place and north of the Chewning Place) (see the maps in the National Military Park Service Booklet inserted near December 13, 1862) about 4 miles and met the enemy in force. A big fight (the Battle of the Wilderness) is going on today. Our regiment supports a battery. Heavy fighting.

7. The troops have gone towards Chancellorville, 4 miles from here, there to turn south to Spotsylvania Court House.

8, Sunday. The army moved towards Fredericksburg. My ankles are so lame I had to report to the hospital unable to march. I am left with the wounded and am still at the hospital. (While no mention is made here of his wounds, Boston later told that he had been shot in the heel by a Minnie ball from a rifle and in the side of the nose by a bursting shell. The children remember feeling the lump on the side of his nose, and were told it was part of the shell still there.)

(In later years Mr. Boston many times told that, after being wounded, he lay on the field un-
May, 1864.

able to walk. After his regiment had withdrawn from the field, rebel cavalry came across him and other wounded comrades and ordered them to follow to their rear as captives. Boston stated that he could not follow and gave the confederate cavalry captain the sign of distress of a certain lodge. Whether believing Boston to be too weak to follow, or recognizing the signal, the captain turned away and ordered his command to follow him. Boston lay for some time where he was, and later crawled to his lines and was taken to the hospital. The official records of the twentieth Michigan report "Boston missing in action at Wilderness, Va., May 8, 1864."

J. B. Saunders of Company H of the twentieth Michigan later wrote of his experiences after the Battle of the Wilderness on the sixth as follows: (see "The Ann Arbor Courier" of March 29, 1895.)

"On the evening of the eighth, those of us who were in the hospital were notified that the army was about to make a flank movement to the east, and leave the hospital tents and those who staid, to the tender mercies of the rebels, who probably would parol the prisoners, and that all those who could, should join their commands. Not desiring to fall into the hands of the rebels, I bid good-bye to my friend and company-mate, Billy Boston, now commander of Jeffords Post No. 82 of Nashville, Michigan. After bestowing upon him all the extra clothing my knapsack contained, I sauntered off in search of some of our teamsters to get a lift on the march of the day. As luck would have it, I fell in with George Walker of our company and requested him to put my baggage into his wagon to help me along. On the next morning, the ninth, with the Ohio sixtieth, I was in an engagement across the river Ny. Here I was wounded and captured and transported to Andersonville prison in Georgia, where, with Frank E. Lansing and many other captives, we arrived on June 4, and were incarcerated until September 11, when we were moved to a similar prison at Florence,
May, 1864.

S. C. The latter part of February, 1864, we were turned loose, my weight reduced to 90 pounds from 162, which I weighed when captured ten months earlier. The horrors of those ten months could not possibly be described."

11. They are sending the wounded to Washington. Still fighting, but further off (at Spotsylvania). There is a rumor that Richmond was taken. I am very lame. The weather is pleasant.

14. Still fighting. Ten thousand prisoners passed through here for Washington yesterday. Reinforcements are going to the front every day. My captain (Walter McCollum) was killed on the twelfth at Spotsylvania, also several of the boys and a number are wounded. This city is full of wounded and going to Washington every day. Colonel Fox of the twenty-seventh came today from Michigan with 500 recruits. It is said we are gaining on the enemy. It rained yesterday and the roads are muddy, but the weather is pleasant today.

16. I am still in Fredericksburg taking care of wounded -- the city is full. It is estimated that 14,000 are killed and wounded now. They keep sending them to Washington as fast as they can. The fight is not over yet, but I hear that Butler has taken Richmond. Heavy rain last night, but pleasant today and cool.

17. The twenty-second corps, 50,000 strong commanded by General Sugar, passed here for the front today. The wounded keep coming in. The citizens here feed the rebel wounded. Pleasant weather -- cool.

19. Pleasant weather. The ninth corps made a grand charge last evening, driving the enemy a mile and taking three lines of breastworks and many pris-
May, 1864.

Oners. (This must have been Burnside's last day at Spotsylvania.) I am still in the city, where we get plenty to eat. Now there are about 50 of us who expect to be sent to Washington before long. The wounded are doing well. Many die. Troops are still going to the front.

21. Pleasant weather. Still fighting at the front. About 1,000 prisoners passed through here for Washington. Reinforcements are still going to the front. I went out this morning with a squad of men and buried seventeen men who had died of wounds. A good many die, some days as high as 100. The wounded are still coming in -- we are driving the enemy south slowly.

To Petersburg
Fredericksburg - Petersburg
May 22 - August 13, 1864.

22. Part of the boys refused to work any more, so the provost marshall put them under guard yesterday, and this afternoon ordered us to report to the Colonel of the eighty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers 4 miles from here. We marched south on the Bowling Green road about 10 miles and camped.

23. We arrived in Bowling Green about noon and took dinner, and then went southwest to Milford Station, and stopped for the night. It is about 3 miles from Bowling Green.

24. We drew 3 days' rations today from the eighty-second and marched another 3 or 10 miles south. Heavy thunder showers. We stopped for the night. We passed about 1,000 prisoners going to the rear. This is a beautiful country we have passed through, and spring crops are well up, but a good deal are destroyed by marching over them.
May, 1864.

25. We crossed the North Anna River today at noon. Meade's headquarters are here. We went about 4 or 5 miles, and then the regiment which has now joined their brigade formed a line of battle, and skirmishing is going on. The colonel sent us to the rear, where we now are. The ninth corps is here.

26. We are still in the rear, and wish we could get to our corps which is on the left at Hanover Junction, which they took 2 days ago (now Doswell). Rainy weather.

27. The eighty-second left this morning without giving us notice. The whole corps recrossed the north Anna this afternoon. We went back with them. We marched about 6 miles back and staid in a church for the night. The whole corps is moving to the left.

28. We marched about 20 miles in a southwest-erly course (southeasterly?). Pleasant country and weather. We cannot find our corps -- moving in all directions.

29. Sunday. We got up to the eighty-second Pennsylvania regiment across the Pamunkey River about 4 o'clock this afternoon, and reported to the colonel. He reported us to the division provost marshall, and he to the corps headquarters. They sent us to the Provost Marshal General Patrick where we staid all night under guard. Pleasant weather. We started this morning about 10 o'clock with an orderly to find our corps. We reported to General Burnside and we are now waiting his decision. We were sent to General Willcox's headquarters, but we could not find Dr. Bonine, so we went back to Burnside's. We have been living six days on three days' rations. The supply train has not come up, and the army is on half rations or less. Pleasant weather. Skirmishing ahead.
May - June, 1864.

30. We remained under guard all day with nothing to eat. I offered $1 for two ears of corn, and was refused. The provost marshal discharged us and told us to stay at the division hospital at the rear.

31. We camped at the side of the road last night, and got up early this morning. I got some beef off a beef's head, and begged a hardtack from a cook. That made my breakfast. I went to the division hospital and reported there. Got some bread and meat and took a good nap. Our corps is in the advance about a mile from here fighting all day. The enemy is being driven slowly. They charged our lines three times last night, and were repulsed.

June 1. I started this morning at 2 o'clock in the ambulance for Whitehouse Landing (about 25 miles east of Richmond). I went about 6 miles and then took the wagon train going after rations.

2. I traveled all day. Troops passing to the front. I reached the landing about dark, and went to the second corps hospital and stayed all night.

3. I started this morning for the ninth corps hospital about 1/2 mile lower down. The river is full of boats and transports. This is to be the base of supplies now. Cars are brought up and the railroad will be put in running order soon. Heavy fighting by the second corps today.

4. All the sick were ordered sent to the Whitehouse, so I made up my mind to go with them. We started at 12 o'clock last night in ambulances and rode all night and all day today until about 2 o'clock this morning. A lot of prisoners passed us today. It is 6 miles to the Whitehouse. Troops are still going to the front. Pleasant weather.
June, 1864.

12. Sunday. Still at Whitehouse Landing taking care of the wounded. All is quiet at the front. For a few days past there has been talk of our moving to Harrison’s Landing on the James River. Most all of the wounded have gone to Washington. Some of the sick are here yet. A good many hundred men are going to the front every day. 500 prisoners arrived yesterday. Pleasant weather.

14. All the sick and wounded are to be sent to Washington. We have taken down the tents, and I am now on board the steamer “New Jersey” bound for Harrison’s Landing on the James River. We went a few miles down the river and anchored for the night.

15. A man fell overboard last night and drowned. We had a pleasant trip today, and reached Fortress Monroe after dark, and laid over for the night.

16. The boat started early this morning and ran up to Harrison’s Landing. It was a pleasant trip. It is said the pontoon is across the river and so we are anchored in the stream and will wait here until tomorrow. A tug brought us some hard bread.

17. We are not landed yet at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. We have pleasant weather. Our army is crossing the James River to the south side.

18. We steamed up to City Point (just east of Hopewell) and landed. This has been a very pretty village, but is now desolate. We went about a mile back to a place where we will start our hospital. Our corps was engaged yesterday (at the Shand House), and we will soon be filled up with wounded. Heavy fighting at Petersburg yesterday and today (the twentieth Michigan charged Cemetery Hill). Pleasant weather.
June - July, 1864.

19. About 4 o'clock this afternoon our wounded began to come in. My regiment is badly cut up. They made four charges, the last charge with only 47 men. Our Major (George C. Barnes, commanding the twentieth Michigan) is mortally wounded, also many line officers. The corps lost heavily. Pleasant weather. (This is the beginning of the Petersburg Campaign.)

20. We are hard at work dressing wounds all day. The wounded keep coming in. Two boat loads were sent off (to Washington) today. I am now detailed in the hospital.

28. Pleasant weather. I am still at City Point. The siege of Petersburg is still going on. First rain yesterday for some weeks. It has been very hot, but is cool today. Some of our boys go to Washington today. The wounded are coming in every day.

July 2. I received orders to pack up and go to Washington with a load of wounded. We took the steamer "Daniel Webster", with 200 aboard and we moved about 20 miles down the river and anchored for the night.

3, Sunday. Pleasant day. We reached Alexandria about dark and removed the wounded to the hospital.

4. I went ashore this morning and had a good ramble. About noon the steamer moved about 3 miles up the river and took on about 150 horses. We are now on our way back to the front. The weather is pleasant.

6. We reached City Point about noon and I reported to Dr. Wheeler, who sent us to our quarters. I wrote two letters today. The weather is warm. We have a hospital post office started now, so we soon will have some mail.
July - August, 1864.

8. We hear the rebel "Pirate Alabama" has been sunk after an hour's fight on the coast of France by the U. S. Steamer "Kearsage". Heavy artillery fight yesterday at the front. Grant is moving heavy siege guns and mortars up to the front. Hot weather, but a light rain this afternoon made it cooler. Most of the wounded have been sent off, and now we have mostly sick here.

10. Sunday. Pleasant weather. I went to a funeral today; our graveyard is getting quite large. The nigger troops took a battery last night, heavy fighting last night, and we are filled up with wounded today.

30. Another big fight (Battle of the Crater) is going on at Petersburg. Our forces mined and blew up one fort and made a charge taking the forts and works, but the niggers (of Ferrero's Division) broke and ran and we were driven back with heavy loss. My regiment was most all taken prisoner.

31. Sunday. Wounded coming into the hospital fast. Some who had to lay on the field for 50 hours are pitiful sights.

August 5. Last night the rebels charged on our works and blew up one of our forts. They were handsomely repulsed with heavy loss -- all quiet today. My regiment (twentieth Michigan), the second and first Michigan Sharpshooters are consolidated. Weather very hot.

9. A barge loaded with ammunition blew up at City Point today, killing and wounding about 200, and doing a great deal of damage.
The Petersburg Campaign
August 14, 1864 - April 4, 1865.

14. Sunday. I was ordered to the front today. I joined the regiment about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and about an hour afterward the brigade started for the rifle pits on the front line. There was quite sharp picket firing.

15. Very hot till about 4 o'clock p.m., when a heavy rain set in, washing in about 100 feet of our work. Both sides commenced firing quite sharply, and for an hour balls were flying around quite freely.

18. It rained last night. At 2 o'clock this morning the enemy opened very heavily on us with artillery. It lasted until about daylight. Shells were flying in all directions. We all fell out expecting the enemy would charge on us. We had some narrow escapes from shells. Picket firing continues very hot.

19. The rebels opened fire on us about 2 o'clock this morning. Sergeant Spears was wounded. We were relieved by the niggers from the eighteenth corps. We moved about 7 miles (to the southwest), and camped in the rear of the fifth corps on the Weldon railroad. The rebels (General Mahone) charged on the fifth corps and drove them back and took 1,000 prisoners. Our division charged on the rebels, drove them back, and took 500 prisoners, and also recaptured the works. (See the National Park Service Maps included.)

21. The rebels charged again this morning. During heavy fighting, we captured eight regiments, five stand of colors, and drove the rebels back with heavy loss, estimated at 5,000. The loss in my regiment is light.

23. Very lame today. Have been laying over.
August, 1864.

25. We were ordered to march at 2 o'clock. We made a forward march about 7 miles to the left. The second corps had been out here two days, tearing up the track. Today the rebels charged on them. They repulsed the rebels three times, but the fourth time the rebels drove them back and took seven pieces of cannon. Our division got there at Seoms Junction (Ream's Station on the Waldon railroad about 9 miles south of Petersburg) just in time to be too late, but we held the ground. The second corps fell back. We all moved back this morning about 7 miles. The second corps tore up about 12 miles of track of the railroad. Heavy firing on our right this morning by the fifteenth corps. My foot lays me up again for today. We are now laying about a mile from where we were yesterday (near the Aiken House). All quiet at present, and very hot.

27. We moved about a mile and relieved the niggers in the pits. All is quiet. It rained last night, but it is hot today.

28. All is quiet. We expect an attack any hour. We were called up at 4 o'clock this morning to repulse an assault. We have lots of work to do, picketing one night and the next in the trenches.

29. Heavy firing is going on on our right. I was in the pits last night. We have to fall in line of battle every morning from 4 to 5 o'clock. The weather is pleasant with cool nights.

31. I was mustered for pay today. I have six months' pay due me, and about $20 clothing money.

September 1. I am on picket today. There is heavy firing on our right. It is about a mile from our line here to the enemy. No picket firing.
September, 1864.

2. I am still on picket. The weather is fine. I have got everything packed up to march at a moment's notice. At 10 a.m. all is quiet along the lines. The niggers are building a large fort here.

3. We are building a new line of works about 8 rods in advance of our old ones, and we expect to finish that tomorrow. All is quiet today, and the weather is pleasant.

4. We work night and day on breastworks.

5. We are now building a new line of works about 2 miles in our rear. I was up all night last night. The weather is very rainy.

6. We expect an attack in our rear. Everything is all packed to march at a moment's notice. Our rear is now about as well fortified as our front.

7. We moved this morning about 5 o'clock, and I am now working on breastworks. It rained last night, but is pleasant today. We expect an attack in our rear at any moment. We captured some of the enemy's advance yesterday.

8. We camped near the breastworks and lay quiet all day. It rained toward night. Our army is getting stronger every day with recruits and convalescent. I think our line soon will be extended around the doomed city. Orders have just come for us to build another fort which will take us about 2 days. Talk about MacClellan digging -- Grant has done more of that in this campaign than has been done before in the whole war. The health of the army is improving, and it is in good spirits. We are confident of victory sooner or later.

9. We are still at work on the breastwork and redoubts.
September, 1864.

10. All is quiet, but there is heavy picket firing. The weather is pleasant.

11. We lay quiet all day. I received letters from home today.

12. We put three lines of abattis in front of our works today on the Jerusalem plank road.

13. We lay quietly today. I went to a nigger meeting this evening.

14. Two letters from home today. The weather is pleasant, and all is quiet.

15. I received a letter from John Moran today and I answered it.

16. We had inspection today by the brigade inspector. We went out today and built some skirmish pits. We have been expecting an attack today. The fifth corps has been in line of battle all day.

17. All is quiet today. We had drill, and several recruits came up. The niggers are working night and day on the fort. The weather is pleasant.

20. We received news that Sheridan had gained a great victory in the valley.

21. This morning opened with very heavy artillery firing which lasted an hour. We had a skirmish drill today. The rebels made a raid to City Point and captured a large drove (2,000) of cattle the day before yesterday. Recruits are coming in fast. The weather is pleasant and cool.

22. I went on picket about 2 miles down the Jerusalem Road. The second Michigan came out and helped us build skirmishing pits.
September, 1864.

23. I came in today at noon. I had a letter from Mate and answered it. My tent mate has just gone to call the first Michigan about 1/2 mile north of here on the right. I think the twenty-fourth Michigan is south on the left, near the yellow house nearly 3 miles away.

The chaplain of the twenty-seventh Michigan came with our chaplain and preached us a good sermon, using as a text the seventh chapter of Mathew. Since then I have had dinner consisting of a cup of coffee, a piece of fried pork, and some hardtack, which is our general living. We have soft bread twice a week, fresh beef three times, and beans once or twice a week. Occasionally we get potatoes.

The paper we received this morning gives us an account of Sheridan's victory in the valley, first reported to us on the twentieth. When a victory is gained and telegraphed to Grant, we hear of it the same day, but if it is a reverse, we have to read of it in the papers. We now get the "Washington Chronicle", "Philadelphia Enquirer", and the "New York Herald". Through the mail we get the Detroit "Tribune" and "Free Press" and the New York "World".

25, Sunday. I was paid six months' pay today. The second division and the niggers are under marching orders and left at sundown. All is quiet here yet, and the weather is pleasant.

26. I sent $110 home to Mrs. Charles Wood by express. I worked on the fort today. This last is named Fort Stevenson, and it is on the rear line of defense.

27. The weather is pleasant. We had drill today. We hear heavy firing on the right of the line.
September - October, 1864.

28. I worked on the fort today. All is quiet. Heavy musketry firing for about an hour was going on on the front line about 8:30 in the evening. We were ordered to march at a moment's notice about 12 o'clock. We were ordered to march at 4 in the morning with four days' rations. I am on pit guard tonight.

29. We got up at 2 o'clock this morning and marched at 4 o'clock about a mile and lay here all day. A division of cavalry passed at daylight and have gone towards Ream's Station. All is quiet at 2 p.m. At 5 p.m. we moved about a mile towards the Yellow house (Tavern) and bivouacked for the night. There was a cavalry fight at Ream's Station.

30. We are all packed up and ready to march at a moment's notice. The fifth corps also is all packed up. The weather is pleasant, and all is quiet at 8 o'clock. There was fighting on the right by Butler yesterday. The fifth corps marched out of their works and took the first line of rebel works. Our corps moved up to their support (north of the Pegram House to the crest. Fort Welch was later built near the Pegram House site.). The second division charged the second line of works, but were repulsed about dark.

October 1. The second corps came up today, but there is not much fighting. We are manoeuvring and entrenching. My regiment lost 25 men and 2 officers, killed, wounded, and missing yesterday (Orderly Sergeant Dan Shechan captured). I am laid over with a sore foot today.

2. All is quiet today, but picket firing has kept up. Twenty-nine recruits came up for our regiment today.
October, 1864.

3. Advanced our line 1/2 mile (to near the Boisseau House), where we built very strong works. (Probably Forts Fisher and Welch.) There was no picket firing today.

4. The regiment is at work on a large fort. I received two letters from home today. We have to keep four days' rations on hand all of the time.

5. The regiment is on picket. I received a letter today from my sister, Emma Sutton. All is quiet.

7. I am on duty today in the pits. The weather is pleasant and all is quiet.

8. Ordered to march this morning in light marching order. At 6 o'clock we went on a reconnaissance to the left (to the west of Clements House). We went 2 miles and started the rebels, and drove them a mile. We maneuvered around until after dark, and came back to camp, with no loss to my regiment. The rebels have left their works and fallen back. A letter from home today, with a photograph of B.

9, Sunday. We drew clothing today, but all is quiet.

10. The regiment, (twentieth Michigan) has gone on fatigue today. There was cannonading on our right last night at midnight. The rebels are cheering all along the lines -- I think they have heard good news to them. The nights are cold.

21. This is a beautiful day -- regular Indian summer. There was heavy firing on our right last night -- seldom a night passes without it.

I am laid up again with a sore foot. It has bothered me a great deal this summer. The trouble
October, 1864.

starts by swelling and burning like fire, and then it breaks out in sores which require a week to heal.

We are at work making our tents warmer, for the nights are cold. Colonel Cutcheon is now in command of the (first) brigade and he is in his glory. We are strongly fortified here now -- so are the rebels in front of us. I expect them to evacuate Petersburg soon, for I don't think they can protect such a long line -- with the crooks and turns, it must be 25 or 30 miles long from our left to the right. We are making slow progress toward taking Petersburg and Richmond. We have plenty of sutlers here. Some of their prices are: butter 80 cents a pound, cheese 50 cents, potatoes 10 cents, and milk 80 cents for a 1-pound can.

27. I have not written any for some time, as I have not been very well and there has not been much going on. This morning we started with four days' rations and 60 rounds of cartridges. All baggage was sent to the rear. We moved on the left (from Clement's House, later Fort Cummings, to the east side of Hatcher's Run). We drove the rebels about 2 miles into their strong line of works. Our regiment was on the skirmish line all day. We threw up the breastworks and lay on our arms at night.

28. David Monroe was wounded in the head with a minnie ball this morning. We commenced falling back about noon, and at dark we were all back into our old camp (on Peeble's Farm about 4-1/2 miles southwest of the city). The loss in our corps was light, but the second and fifth corps lost quite heavily.

29. All is quiet today. We had drill.

30. Had preaching twice today, once by the chaplain of the twenty-seventh Michigan.
October - November, 1864.

31. I was mustered for 2 months' pay today. All is quiet. We have drill now every day.

November 1. Steady rain for two days.

5. George Martin returned to the regiment today but is under arrest and will be court-martialed for deserting on August 19 in face of the enemy. I am on duty in the rifle pits today and night. Cold weather. The boys are building log houses and fireplaces.

6. My eyes are very sore, as I got them full of smoke. There was heavy firing on the right last night, both heavy guns and musketry. All is quiet now, and the weather is pleasant.

7. This is a nasty rainy day, and we are glad to stay in our tents. All is quiet.

8. We had an election today, and it passed off quietly. My regiment gave a large majority for Lincoln.

Our move of a few days ago is now called a reconnaissance, but we know that we started for the railroad and could not take it. The rebels have strong works for miles around, and before we can get to them, they are reinforced from less exposed positions. When we advance, every man and boy they can scrape together is put in the trenches.

14. I am on picket today. The weather is quite cold, with sharp frosts.

15. We hear that Burnside has got back and is to take command of the ninth corps. The weather is pleasant and all is very quiet here.

16. We are looking for a move before long. The weather is splendid.
November, 1864.

17. It set in to rain at dark. We have built quite comfortable quarters. We make ourselves comfortable whether our stay is long or short in one place. In one day we can build a pretty good house and fireplace.

18. Rain all day and night. Major Grant returned to the regiment today. He has been recruiting in Michigan for about four months.

19. Still raining and very gloomy weather. I am devoting the day to reading and writing letters. I have some good books and the daily paper.

20. I am on picket, and it is still raining, with no sign of stopping. There was sharp picket firing last night. Both sides are looking for an attack on the picket lines.

21. The regiment is on picket. It has been raining all day and night, but all is quiet. A letter came today from (sister) Emma.

22. It cleared off, and is cold this morning. I came in from picket. All is quiet here. I sent a letter to Charlie Wood.

29. We had a brigade drill today. General Meade was riding along the lines. All is quiet.

30. Orders were received to move at a moment's notice. We broke camp (here near Poplar church) at sunrise. We were relieved by the second corps, and take up our line of march to the right toward the Appomattox. We arrived there about 8 o'clock this evening. Our regiment moved into Fort (Battery) number 9 (an inclosed work about 100 feet square on the left of the City Point railroad). Part of the regiment was sent out for picket.

Our corps is now doing picket duty from the Appomattox River to the Yellow House. The rebels
shelled us quite freely today, and picket firing has kept up. Balls whiz all about us. There are two brass 12-pounders here and three 24-pounder brass mortars. The rebels have a fort about 40 rods in front of us, and several others are near by. We have a splendid view of Petersburg a mile in front of us. We can hear the town clock clearly.

December 1. I am on picket tonight, and made an agreement with the rebels not to shoot.

2. I came off picket after dark. Some think the rebels are trying to mine us and blow us up, so a counter mine is dug in the fort. We keep 3 men in the mine 20 feet below the fort on the watch so that rebels cannot mine us without giving us notice. We had quite a lively shelling last night and lively picket firing.

7. My regiment has fired over 5,000 rounds since we have been here. Now sharpshooters are detailed from each regiment. They will do better work with less ammunition.

I believe we enjoy ourselves here more than in the camp on the left.

Heavy reinforcements have been coming up for a few days past. About a week ago our brigade took a distinguished prisoner. A rebel officer, saying he was a major, came up and wanted to exchange papers. The officer of the picket took him prisoner and sent him to General Willcox. He was identified as Major General Pryor. A federal major had been taken prisoner a few days earlier in a similar manner.

8. I was on camp guard last night and today. All has been quiet until today. Picket firing and occasional shelling excepted, but now a large force has gone to the left and a big battle is expected every day on the right and left of the lines. We expect to be left to hold the lines. The lines here are not
December, 1864.

very strong now, and I hope we will stay here.

9. We are still in battery 9. All has been quiet here, except picket firing and our daily shelling, which still keeps up. The move on the left was a success, they tore up about 50 miles of railroad and destroyed a good deal of confederate property. There was not much fighting, but they had a hard time of it, as it was very cold and rained and snowed for three days. It is now very cold, and everything is frozen solid. I am on camp guard tonight. We had very heavy shelling this afternoon. Several shells burst over the fort and at times three and four shells passed over us at a time. I had two letters from home yesterday, and answered them today.

15. We had monthly inspection today. The weather is pleasant. I drew clothing. There was shelling for an hour this afternoon.

16. I am on picket last night and today. The usual shelling and picket firing was heard.

17. The weather is pleasant. There was very heavy shelling this afternoon, which lasted until dark. It is rumored that the rebels are evacuating Petersburg.

20. It is very quiet today. I went on picket last night and came off tonight. My regiment has a new national flag. The weather is pleasant but cold.

21. It rained all last night, and is still raining this morning.

22. A cold windy day. We expected to be attacked this morning, but it is too cold for either side to do anything. I go on picket tonight.

23. I came off picket tonight. Very cold, not much fighting today.
December, 1864 - January, 1865.

24. A telegraph dispatch was read to us this morning that Sherman has taken Savannah with 16,000 prisoners, also, that Butler has taken Fort Fisher at Wilmington, North Carolina. Cold but pleasant weather.

25. Christmas day passed off very quietly. A salute was fired in the morning.

27. All is quiet. We took our ration of shelling as usual today. A box came from Lodi (Michigan) for the company, and we had a good Christmas dinner.

28. I received three letters. We have had 3 men wounded within the last few days, one of them died. We had heavy shelling this afternoon.

29. It rained last night, and is cold and damp today. It is very quiet, except for heavy picket firing.

30. I go on picket today, and it is very cold. Not much firing in picket. A good many deserters come in to our regiment every night.

31. We are having a cold rain today, with some hail. It is very muddy in the trenches, but all is quiet along the line. I mustered for two months' pay today.

January 1, 1865. It is very cold today, and very quiet along the lines. Some of the boys start for home on furlough today. Chaplain Day is here.

2. The weather is moderating. We had an hour of pretty hard shelling about dark, but have no more firing on picket now.

3. We had about an hour of shelling at noon. Snow fell this afternoon, but it melts as fast as it falls.
January, 1865.

4. I was on camp guard last night. It was cold and stormy, but this afternoon it is thawing and is very muddy. It is very quiet today.

5. It is pleasant today. I took a squad of men after dark and fixed the abattis in front of the fort. Heavy picket firing in the horseshoe (in front of Fort Stedman).

8, Sunday. It is very quiet and we are having pleasant weather. We had a sermon by Chaplain Day this afternoon. This morning the brigade band came in to the Fort and played us a few tunes. I got a letter from Aunt Emma (Wood), and answered it. Our Christmas dinner from the ladies of Saline came yesterday, and we have had several good meals and enough left for several more. The ladies of Saline have our sincere thanks. Also, a box from Ann Arbor filled with turkeys came at the same time. Many thanks to the donors. Also thanks to Chaplain Day for tobacco donated to us.

9, The weather is pleasant. We had the heaviest shelling today we have had yet. It wounded one of the boys in the company I. He will lose his left arm. We had several narrow escapes, as a number of shells burst in the fort.

10. It commenced raining last night and has kept it up all day, and is now raining very hard, with some thunder. It has been very quiet today. I go on picket tonight.

11. I came off picket tonight. It cleared off and is cold. We had an hour of shelling today, but all is quiet -- no news.

12. It has been very quiet today, with no news. The weather is pleasant.
January, 1865.

15. It has been very quiet today, but sharp picket firing. General Butler has been relieved. Sherman's and Thomas' armies are reported to be moving. A ball passed through the tent I was sitting in today.

15. I received two letters today, one from Rosa B. (Brown), and one from Aunt Emma (Wood). It is quiet today with pleasant weather. Briggs came to the regiment today. I was on camp guard until 2 o'clock in the morning, and go on picket every third night.

16. The weather is pleasant, and it is very quiet with no news. I am on good terms with the picket line. No firing today. Many boys are taking warrants on 160 acres of land in Minnesota for $20, but I'll wait until I am out.

Soldiers killed are buried in their blankets, unless comrades see fit to get old boards and make a coffin — this is seldom done. The government sends no coffins to the front, but at City Point and at general hospitals, coffins are furnished.

17. We heard the good news today that Fort Fisher was taken. A salute of a hundred guns was fired.

18. I was on picket last night and came off tonight. Not much firing and the weather is pleasant. The rebels would not exchange papers today, and fired on our flag of truce. Strong talk of peace soon.

19. Pleasant weather, but quite cold, and quiet.

20. We had an hour of shelling today. One of the boys of the second was wounded today, and will die. I had a letter from M. L. Pleasant weather,

but cold. Private Cliff of my company was promoted to surgeon in the seventeenth Michigan Volunteers.

21. It commenced raining last night and has kept it up all day — a cold rain which keeps all not on duty in their tents. I go on picket tonight.

22. It has been a wet, nasty day. I came off picket tonight. All is quiet, and there is not much news. Our corps expects to be relieved from the front line soon, and go to the rear for a few weeks.

23. Pleasant but cold.

24. There was heavy firing last night in the direction of Dutch Gap. Four rebel gun boats came down the river and ran ashore near the canal. This was the cause of the firing.

25. There was heavy firing on the James River about 3 o'clock this morning. One of the rebel boats was blown up, and another disabled. I heard that the other two got back to Richmond. I was on picket last night, and it was very cold.

26. A Johnny came in here last night. He never stopped at the picket, but ran to the main line and brought up in a bomb proof, most scared to death. Several more are expected. It is very quiet and very cold. We have had no papers here for two days, and we have no news.

27. We were called up last night on a false alarm. One of the videttes, a recruit, thought he saw a line of battle coming. The mistake was soon found out, and we went to bed again. It is very cold weather.

28. I am on camp guard today. It is very cold. We looked for an attack on the left last night. It is very quiet today.
January - February, 1865.

29, Sunday once more. We had an hour of shelling this afternoon. We shelled the rebel picket line. After that was over, a flag of truce was out, and we had a good look at the Johnnies and their works.

50. Alexander A. Stephens of the Confederates was expected over today under the flag of truce, but as Grant is in Washington he could not come. It has been quiet today.

51. We had a couple of hours of hard shelling today. The rebels did us more damage this time than at any previous time since we have been here. Samuel Waldron of my company was shot through the head this afternoon, and died about ten minutes later. He had a brother killed at the North Anna. I go on picket tonight.

February 1. I am on picket today. It is pleasant weather, and is all quiet up to 10 o'clock a.m. I came off picket this evening. We expect to march, as 60 rounds of cartridges have been dealt out to us.

5. All is quiet today except an hour of shelling. Several men were killed and wounded in battery 8. It rained toward night. No news. I forgot to mention that three commissioners from Richmond went to Washington a few days ago.

4. It is pleasant and warm today. I had a disagreeable job today, making a man carry a knapsack with a label on it and a log for 4 hours. He must do the same tomorrow and the next day as punishment for insulting his officer.

5, Sunday. We had heavy shelling for 2 hours after dark last night. It is a splendid sight to see the mortar shells coming. No one was hurt in our fort. Our fort did not return fire. The weather is pleasant. Parts of the fifth, second, and sixth corps have gone on a raid or reconnaissance to the left.
February, 1865.

6. Pleasant but cold. I had a letter from Aunt Emma this morning. All is quiet, and no news up to 12 noon. Yesterday and today there has been heavy fighting on the left. We took from 800 to 2,000 prisoners, and captured 20 wagons from the enemy yesterday to the left. Rebel loss was heavy. Lieutenant Hudson of my regiment was badly wounded in the leg this afternoon by the bursting of a shell.

7. It rained and hailed all day — very stormy. We could hear heavy guns on the left. We think there has been heavy fighting. A rumor that our forces have taken the Southside railroad. We expected an attack here last night. All is quiet this morning.

8. The weather is pleasant, with a cold wind. All is quiet today, and no news. I go on picket tonight.

9. There was a heavy artillery duel from 10 to 11 last night. Stevens of company A was shot through the body this afternoon — it is feared mortally. The weather is pleasant but cold. I came off picket tonight.

10. It is quiet and pleasant, with no news.

11. It is still quiet and pleasant. Stevens of Company A, wounded a few days ago, died this morning at division hospital.

12, Sunday. We had inspection this morning at 10 o'clock. It is cold but pleasant, and all is quiet. I wrote a letter to Aunt Emma and to M., and received a letter from E. W. this evening.

13. It is cold but pleasant. I am on camp guard today and night.
February, 1865.

14. Splendid weather today. Captain Robinson of Company K was killed today. He was riding along the lines with Colonel Cutcheon (between Forts Stedman and Haskell) when a rebel sharpshooter shot him through the body.

15. There has been a warm rain all day. It is very quiet, and no news. Davis started for home on furlough this morning. On account of the rain, our monthly inspection is put off until tomorrow.

16. It was pleasant and warm until night, when a warm rain set in. We had brigade inspection at 10 o'clock a.m. We expect an attack tonight -- at least we are ready to fall in at a moment's notice. Sharp picket firing tonight.

17. Cloudy and rain. Very quiet, and no news. I spent most of the day playing checkers and reading.

18. The weather is warm and pleasant. All is quiet, and no news. I go on picket tonight. I have commenced to copy off my diary in letter form, and I am going to send it home.

19. I am on picket today. It has been warm and pleasant, and very quiet -- no news. A letter was received from M. B. Two deserters came in to our regiment last night.

20. It is pleasant and warm. We hear the rumor that Sherman has taken Charleston. All is quiet. I received a letter from Aunt Emma.

21. Pleasant weather. We had an hour of shelling today. A salute of 100 guns was fired today in honor of Sherman's victories at Charleston and Columbus, S. C.
February, 1965.

22. A salute of 100 guns was fired. We had 2 hours of very heavy shelling today. It wounded several men in the second Michigan. One man lost both legs, another one leg, another an arm, and several were slightly wounded — all with one shell. Several shells burst in our fort, but no one was hurt. It is very pleasant weather.

23. A warm rain today. We had an alarm last night — a rumor that the rebels are evacuating Petersburg. Most of our brigade was on picket last night — ready to march at a moment's notice. We were on the alert all night, but it is quiet today with no news.

24. Pleasant weather. A sotted salute was fired this afternoon at 4 o'clock in honor of the capture of Wilmington. I go on picket tonight.

25. We have had a warm rain all day. We had 2 hours of shelling in the evening. I came off picket at dark. A building burned down in the city of Petersburg this afternoon.

26, Sunday. It is warm and pleasant. All is quiet and no news. A detail is made to dig up the dead that have fallen before Petersburg this summer. All are to be buried in one burying ground.

27. All is quiet today. Thomas Spears and Doc Mills returned to regiment from furlough this morning at 3 o'clock. The rebels threw a few mortar shells this afternoon, but there was no damage.

28. It is quiet and warm today. I was mustered for two months' pay. Six months' pay is due us now.
March, 1865.

March 1. It has been quiet and warm all day, but no news. I wrote two letters today, one to B. and one to W.

(The following for this day was written later in Fort Stedman.)

The twentieth Michigan has been in front of Petersburg since the sixteenth of June, 1864, and since that date a good many of our boys, including Colonel Barnes, had lost their lives, and most of them now sleep in the Wot (National ?) Cemetery there. Since June 16, my regiment had met the enemy at Petersburg on June 17 and 18, and at the Crater on July 30. After I joined the regiment before Petersburg, on August 14, we fought at the Weldon railroad on August 19 and 21; Ream's Station on August 25; Boyden Road on October 27 and 28; and Poplar Springs Church on September 30. Besides there was hardly a day we were not under fire, and although we did not seem to accomplish much, we began to think we were nearing the end.

We had made several attacks on our left, on the South Side and Weldon railroad. I presume just for exercise and to keep our hand in for the Spring campaign which we expected, judging from the past, was to be a severe one. All the sick and wounded had been sent to City Point, and I noticed some of the officers were resigning and some of the privates would have if they could. I must say that most of them were willing to see the end, or stay until their time was out in the following August.

We were holding Lee's army in a vise and were weakening his army in our front and keeping him from sending reinforcements against Sherman. We always felt greatly elated to hear of Sherman's and Sheridan's victories, and every few days we would fire a hundred shotted guns at the enemy in honor of one of Sherman's or Sheridan's victories.
March, 1865.

About March 1 we noticed the enemy in our front was strengthening his lines and had put in an extra line of abattis. Picket firing was almost constant and artillery duells were frequent. Almost every day some one was killed or wounded.

Some days we would put out a flag of truce, and then Federal and Confederate would meet between the lines to exchange newspapers and trade coffee for tobacco. We had plenty tobacco, but no coffee, for coffee in Petersburg at that time was $50 a pound. While we were having a good time with the Johnnies, suddenly a gun would be fired and a bullet would whistle over our heads, which was a hint that the truce was broken. Yank and Johnnie would start for their respective lines on a run, then more shots would be fired too high to hit any one until all were safe inside the lines. Then the truce was broken and we would fire to kill, and woe unto the man who exposed himself after that. These truces were by the men in the trenches in the first line, the rear lines not participating. It generally would begin by one side or the other putting a newspaper on the bayonet of a gun and waving it and the other side would respond the same way, then we would meet between the lines. Our head officers seldom knew anything about it, but towards the last it was strictly forbidden.

2. I am on camp guard today. A warm rain has fallen all day. All is quiet -- no news.

5. All is quiet. I was paid 4 months' pay today. I paid Bill Brown $20 for his watch. I went on fatigue at dark, and worked until 11 o'clock p.m. on the works in front of the sixtieth O. V. I. There was sharp picket firing.

4. It is warm with some rain. I paid my washing bill, $2 on Waldron account, and paid the sutler for my bill of $4.20. I received a letter from Aunt Emma. All is quiet.
March, 1865.

5. Sunday. H. P. Lamb starts home on 20 days' furlough, and I sent 4:30 by him to be left at Maynard's store for John Moran. The company (H), through a committee, made Charles A. Chapin a present of a set of chessman. I was on the committee with L. S. Allen and D. S. Monroe. The weather is pleasant and warm. We had inspection this morning at 10 o'clock. Two deserters came in here last night. We have had no news.

6. All is quiet. I took a ramble up to corps headquarters and visited the division cemetery. They have a good fence around it, and it is filling up fast. They keep taking up the bodies that are scattered along the line. There are six of my regiment there now, and a number more to remove yet. A few are within the rebel line on the left and cannot be gotten now. I go on picket tonight.

7. Part of the brigade packed up last night ready to move at a moment's notice. We are ordered to have 60 rounds of cartridges on hand. The weather is pleasant, but the wind is cold. There was some firing on the left of us about 2 o'clock this morning. I came off picket at dark. All is quiet.

8. A warm rain today. I drew clothing. All is quiet here. There has been fighting in the valley. We hear Sheridan whips and captures Early.

9. It rained in the morning, but cleared up in the afternoon. An official dispatch was read to us of the victory in the valley by Sheridan. He captured 70 odd officers, about 1,700 men, and 20 cannon, and much other material.

10. It rained all last night and today, and is very muddy. Colonel Grant and several of the boys start home on furlough this morning. Very quiet and pleasant toward night.
March, 1865.

11. Quiet and pleasant. I paid a visit to the corps headquarters and the division hospitals, and bought a sack of buckwheat flour to make cakes. No news.

12. Sunday. Warm and pleasant. We had inspection this morning at 10 o'clock. I went to church in our new chapel, and preaching was by the chaplain of the first sharpshooters from text, chapter 8, verse 11 of Matthew. We have another sermon this evening, and a temperance lecture Monday evening. I go on picket. I received a letter from Emma.

13. I have been on picket today. The weather is pleasant, and all is quiet, except for some shelling in the horseshoe this afternoon. The nights are moonlight, so we do not have so many deserters come in as before.

14. The rebels made a charge on our pickets last night, but were easily repulsed. We have been on the lookout for a charge today, but all passed off quietly. An order came at dark to send off all of the sick. The weather is pleasant. Good news has come from Sherman's and Scofield's armies, also that our forces have taken Lynchburg.

15. Warm and pleasant until toward night, when a warm rain set in. Our sutlers have been sent to City Point. A move is about to be made on the left. I had a letter from John Moran and answered it.

16. We were ordered last night to be ready to march at a moment's notice. All is quiet today. I had a flag of truce out today and exchanged papers.

17. I am on camp guard today, and all is quiet yet. Pleasant but blustery weather.

18. Quiet and pleasant -- no news.
March, 1865.

19. All is quiet and pleasant -- no news. I received a letter from M. B. I sent my overcoat home.

23. I came off picket last night. Very high winds for the past few days. There was sharp picket firing. We had a flag of truce out today, and exchanged papers with the rebels. All is quiet.

25. The rebels charged on us at 4 o'clock this morning. They took Fort Stedman and battery 10 on our left, and held them until 9 o'clock in the morning, when they were driven back. The loss in my regiment is from 10 to 15 wounded, but we took over 300 prisoners. The total rebel loss was very heavy, ours was light.

An 8-inch shell dropped in my tent, but did not burst. We had a flag of truce out from 2 to 4 o'clock this afternoon for the rebels to get their dead and wounded that lay between the lines. We also gave up all their dead that lay inside our lines. I wrote a letter to Aunt Emma. We could see a big fire in Petersburg at 7 o'clock this evening. A. Socket of my company was shot in the hand. All was quiet at 8 o'clock p.m.

(The following account for this day was written later in Fort Stedman). Jordan Farm, Battery 5.

On the morning of March 25, 1865, the second brigade of first division of the ninth army corps composed of the first Michigan sharpshooters, the second and twentieth Michigan infantry, and a New York regiment, I think the forty-sixth and Roemers Battery. The seventeenth Michigan was at Division headquarters (at the Friend House). We lay in the works in front of Petersburg, the first sharpshooters on the south bank of the Appomattox River, the New York regiment on their left, and the twentieth Michigan on their left in Battery 9, and the second Michigan on the
March, 1865.

left of the twentith Michigan; with Colonel Ely of the eighth Michigan commanding.

About 4 o'clock in the morning the second Michigan pickets came into our Battery No. 9, and said the Rebels had captured Fort Stedman. In a few minutes every man was in his place. Hardly a gun was fired from either side, and as we peered through the darkness we thought it must be a false alarm. Soon the second Michigan was all with us and confirmed the report. We waited anxiously for the Johnnies' next move. Soon we could see a dark mass looking like a fog rising out of the ground, massing on our flank and rear, with the evident intention of sweeping our line to the river and taking us prisoners. They had reckoned without their host. Just as they were getting ready to charge, we opened on them with grape, canister, and minnie balls. It was now getting daylight, and we could see their officers trying to reform them and get them to charge. They stood their ground bravely for a while, but our batteries in the rear had now opened on them. The brave seventeenth Michigan and other troops were attacking them on their flanks and rear. No body of troops could stay there long and not be annihilated. They broke and ran and we charged after them. They were completely demoralized.

I know my regiment, with less than 200 men, took over 500 prisoners. As General Gordon, the rebel commander, rode back and forth on his horse trying to rally his men, I shot at him two or three times, but he seemed to bear a charmed life, for he escaped unharmed. The rebel loss was terrible, the ground was strewn with their dead and wounded, while our loss was comparatively light. It was a great satisfaction to us, for we almost always had to do the charging. We were perfectly willing to change the program. I think with the exception of Fort Saunders in Tennessee, it was the nicest little fight we had in our three years' experience. Before 9 o'clock the