A Diary as kept by WM. H. SHAW, during the great Civil War, from April, 1861 to July, 1865.
Preface.

A Diary as kept by Wm. H. Shaw, during the three years and three months of service in the great civil war. A few incidents have been added from memory, but a large part of it is just as written in camp, on the march, and on the battlefield, not enlarged upon or overdrawn. I have put it into print to preserve it, as it was written with pencil and was growing dim.

This diary is not a history of the civil war; only a two millionth part of it; as there was over two million young men enlisted in the Union army from 1861 to 1865. Four hundred thousand of them lost their lives. What a sacrifice that the Union might be preserved? May the young men of future generations realize this and ever strive to keep it intact from all foes.
William H. Shaw, born in Cummington, Hampshire County, Mass., May 14th, 1833, was residing in Meriden, Connecticut at the breaking out of the Civil War.

At the first call for seventy-five thousand troops for three months by the President, Abraham Lincoln, April 15th, 1861, I enlisted in Company B., 3d Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. No person not living at the time can have the faintest idea of the intense excitement that prevailed. Nothing was talked of but war. On the 17th of April which was Sunday, about 11 A. M., there was a telegram received in Meriden saying; that a regiment of troops would be there at 1 o'clock, and would like something to eat, the message was taken to all the churches and read from the pulpits as soon as received. The congregations were immediately dismissed and all started for their homes to get food for the troops and be at the station at one o'clock. A great many were there on time with everything good to eat and drink. At that hour the train arrived preceded by a Pilot Engine to see that the track was all right, for at that time there were many who would have thrown the train from the track if they could.

The boys were abundantly fed and in about one-half an hour they started again followed by many a “God bless you.” On the 20th news was received that the boys we fed had been mobbed in Baltimore. Then the excitement was more intense, if possible, no one could work, every man and boy was on the street talking war. Soon the enlistment papers were in circulation and who would enlist? Great war meetings were held night after night, speeches from prominent citizens, bands of music in attendance playing National airs, and all was war, grim war.
Many Democrats in Meriden and throughout the North were opposing the war very strong, saying:—let the South secede if they want too. No coercion for them they would say. These men were called “Copperheads.” A trio of them in Meriden resolved themselves into a committee and visited nearly all the manufacturers of the town trying to persuade them to oppose the war, especially those who had a large southern trade. They went to one Charles Parker whose trade south was large in hardware, but mostly in coffee and corn mills. The latter were for the slaves to grind their corn. Mr. Parker had many thousand dollars due him from the South at that time, but he told the committee that all could go and more with it but, the Union must be preserved. They went to a Mr. Pratt, a large manufacturer of fine combs. they said to him the South would buy no more combs of him unless he opposed the war. He heard them through, then his reply was:—Gentlemen if the South do not want to buy my combs let them go lousy, good-day and he turned and left them.

At one of the war meetings I enlisted, a company was formed with Jared Cook as our captain, went into the camp at Hartford for organization, our company was put into the 3d. Connecticut Volunteer Regiment, as Company B. of the regiment. In a short time we were organized and equipped and started for the seat of war, going by steamer from New Haven down the coast and up the Potomac river to Washington, D. C. Our steamer was the last one to go up the river as the rebels had it blockaded. We passed three rebel earthworks mounted with cannon and expected to be fired upon, but passed by without receiving a shot.

On arriving at Washington we marched up 7th Street and camped in a sheep pasture. The other regiments of our brigade were the 1st. and 2d. Connecticut and the 2d. Maine. We remained in camp nearly two months, drilling and doing camp duty. Occasionally we got passes to go down to the city and look around and visit other regiments. The President drove out to see us several times, always alighting from his carriage as soon as he reached the guard line and shook hands with the boys. Towards the last of June we broke camp, crossing the Potomac river at Georgetown, moving out as far as Falls Church, and going into camp. The same routine here, camp guard and picket duty, until the 16th of July
when the whole army under General McDowell advanced towards Bull Run, meeting the enemy first on the 17th at Blackburn's Ford where we had a sharp fight. The 62d New York regiment of Zouaves were about one-half mile back of where we were, but when the firing began, along in a hurry came three of the boys, I asked them where their regiment was? they said back here, I said where are you going? their reply was, up here, don't you hear them firing, we cannot wait, we want to get into the fight, and they did, as after the fight was over, three of my comrades and myself went over the field, we found the dead bodies of the three boys lying almost side by side, I knew them by their dress.

On the morning of the 21st, very early, we started from Centre-ville marching towards Bull Run, arriving near the battlefield where we halted in an open piece of woods right by a little red school house, (the only one I saw while in Virginia), formed in line of battle, loaded our muskets and while loading, in the excitement one of the rear rank men accidentally shot one of the men in the front rank. We marched by the right flank in columns of fours, taking a circuitous route instead of keeping along the turnpike and crossing the stone bridge, (as it was reported the enemy had the bridge mined, but we learned afterwards it was not.) Coming out on the field where the scattering dead lay, marched across the field (with the enemy throwing shot and shell at us), down into a ravine and up a rise of ground and halting. Our regiment and the 2nd Maine formed line of battle. Our objective point was a line of breastworks mounted with cannon and filled with infantry, some sixty rods up the hill, that we were to capture, if possible. Soon the command forward sounded along the line and we started, after going up the hill twenty-five or thirty rods we crossed the turnpike west of the stone bridge that we left at the school house and got upon some higher ground. Then the enemy opened on us with artillery and infantry the best they could (and we thought it was enough), yet on we went almost up to the works but the enemy was making it so hot for us that we could go no farther, and the order was to fall back which we did to the turnpike, and as the ditch side of the road was quite deep we filed into that and flattened ourselves out as best we could.
Our regiment in advancing from the road was partially shielded by a peach orchard, and a few small buildings, but the 2nd Maine had to advance across an open field and their loss in killed and wounded was very heavy. While lying in the ditch, which we did for half an hour or more, I had a chance to see what was going on in another part of the field. I saw the celebrated black horse cavalry have a fight with the 62nd New York regiment (Zouaves) and the 62nd came out best. After this we fell back to the ravine and remained there for an hour or more. While lying there a surgeon came along and wanted to know if we were the 7th Virginia regiment? we told him no and took him prisoner, he had lost his regiment and came to us through mistake. We were marched back to the school house, we expected we were going into another part of the field and attack the enemy again as we could not see anything that looked like defeat, and was not in the least afraid of being driven from the field. Again forming line of battle, (our brigade) we waited for the troops to pass then we fell in the rear covering the retreat. While standing in line at the school house, the Black Horse cavalry rode down to within five rods of us and halted, sitting on their horses looking at us and we at them. We did not know at first who they were, so did not fire on them. The captain of a battery on our right loaded his pieces and was going to fire on them, when some one shouted, “for God’s sake captain don’t fire on them they are our men”. So another moment passed when a lieutenant came running along the line and shouting, “Why in the Devil captain don’t you open fire on them they are not our men” I know who they are. The captain then fired on them, and we also, and we sent them flying through the open timber that they were in, but not all escaped, for we emptied a good many of the saddles.

The Union troops withdrew from the field, but for what reason the boys in the line did not know, did not feel as though we had been defeated, it is my opinion that General McDowell became frightened and withdrew from the field. Many of our troops went fleeing towards Washington. The enemy followed us as far as Centreville. Our brigade under General Tyler covering the retreat of our army and saving a vast amount of property and army stores from falling into the hands of the rebels. At Vienna station where we found most of the army stores, we sent to Alexandria for railroad trains,
they were sent out to us, and we loaded them, working at this for three days. After three days our brigade returned to Washington, there I found my brother Charles who had enlisted in the 10th Mass. regiment, in camp, after a few days we left Washington and returned to Hartford where we were mustered out of the service, the term of our enlistment having expired. This ends my three month's service.

In the spring of 1862 the President called for three hundred thousand more troops. I was then living in Cummington, Massachusetts, but I heeded the call by again enlisting July 21st 1862. In a week we were ordered to Pittsfield, to camp and drill, preparatory for the field service. The regiment having been fully organized and mustered into the United States service August 30th as the 37th regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, was ordered to Washington the 7th day of September. We left the hills of Berkshire County with anticipations of work for our country, and the determination to win for ourselves a place in history that we should not be ashamed of in years to come. We stopped first at Hudson, N. Y., where we left the cars and took a steamer for Jersey City, arriving there on the morning of the 8th. Here we took the cars for Philadelphia, Pa., reaching there the same evening, we had to wait until midnight for a train to take us to Baltimore. When about four miles out of the city our train ran into another train that was standing on the track, telescoped three cars. Our train consisted of forty freight cars. We were delayed until nearly 10 o'clock on the morning of the 9th. Several men were injured and one or two were killed by the accident. We reached Baltimore about midnight, remained until the morning of the 11th when we again took the cars and proceeded to Washington, where we remained over night. In the morning we marched over the long bridge across the Potomac to Arlington Heights and camped.

Here we drilled and made preparation to join the army, which at this time was in Maryland. While in this camp, I one day went out some distance from the camp to a house and bought a small peach pie and of course ate it. In a short time I began to feel sick and grew rapidly worse, I went to the surgeon but he could not relieve me and all thought I would die, after a while I felt better and gradually came out of it. There was probably some kind of poison
in the pie, as the family where I bought it were strong secessionists.

September 30th we were ordered to join the army. We started immediately for Washington and there took the cars for Frederick City, Maryland, where we commenced our soldier life in earnest. We marched to Downsville, where the army of the Potomac was encamped. In going from Frederick City, to Downsville, we passed over the battlefield of South Mountain. The battle was fought two days before. We saw by the roadside where the rebels had buried many of their dead, and it was so rocky and full of roots there was very little earth on them. Their feet, hands and faces were all in sight, as they had to bury them in a hurry. We were attached to Devens’ brigade, Couch’s division. In our brigade were the 36th New York Volunteers, three year men, the 7th and 10th Massachusetts, also three year men, and the 2d Rhode Island Volunteers. After remaining in camp a few days we were ordered out on the march. We were nearly out of rations when the order came and the officers and men, being rather green, in our excitement of having a march and perhaps a battle, we neglected to take rations. We started at dark and marched about fifteen miles to Clear Springs, where we rested about two hours, then marched to Hancock, where we expected to meet the enemy for the first time, but were disappointed. We remained here a few days with but little to eat, then returned to Downsville, our old camp, and rested. This we thought a hard march, about twenty miles, but we were destined to see harder ones before the war closed.

We were in camp but a few days here when we were again ordered on the march, marched to Berlin, and crossed the Potomac river on a pontoon bridge into the state of Virginia, as the rebels had burned the bridge. A long tedious march was before us. On the 8th of November we arrived at White Plain, Virginia, while here, we had a fine snow storm and with no shelter tents it was very uncomfortable sleeping in the snow; yet we made the best of it and looked around the lots for something to eat, found a flock of two hundred sheep and soon made mutton of them. Had plenty of meat that night and I guess some ate more than they slept. Here Co. D of which I was a member was ordered to report at General Franklin's headquarters, General Franklin at this time having command
of the left grand division of the army of the Potomac, here we are guard and police.

On the 10th about ten o'clock, A. M., General McClellan, Franklin, Burnside, Kilpatrick and their staff reviewed the army and General McClellan took leave of it, he being relieved by orders of the war department. General Burnside taking command. On the 16th we marched en route for Stafford court house, where we arrived on the 18th. The village is very small consisting of only the court house, jail, two dwelling houses and a blacksmith shop which we occupied. December 5th marched to White Oak Church, which we reached the 6th. Elliott Bliss, a young man from Longmeadow, who enlisted in our Company, but was afterwards transferred to Co, K, was found dead by the roadside, his head badly bruised. Jacob Neff, of Wilbraham, received a short furlough to take the body home to his friends in Longmeadow. It was said Bliss had a sum of money with him and that was probably why he was murdered. No doubt one of his comrades was the guilty one.

On the morning of the 11th the cannonading commenced at Fredericksburg, on the 14th moved to the Rappahannock river and on the 15th our company was upon the heights, (opposite Fredericksburg), where we had a fine view of the battle going on down on the plains below the town, and also back of it where our forces were trying to carry Mary's Heights, forming line after line of battle and sending them in all day long, but of no avail as they were cut down by the enemy posted behind stone walls on the heights, as fast as the lines could form and advance. We could see one, two and three lines form, and in ten minutes nothing but fragments left of them. At night the ground over which these charges were made was covered with dead and wounded men. My brother Horatio was in one of these charges and was wounded in the left arm. I learned of it from one of his company and at night went looking for him in the several hospitals where the surgeons were dressing wounds and amputating legs, arms and feet, but did not find him. I saw them take off an arm for one man and a leg from another. Near the hospitals were piles of legs, arms and feet. Visiting the hospitals at such a time you will learn the tremendous cost of war, this was only one of the many heartrending scenes. This
is called the first battle of Fredericksburg, General Burnside in command.

On the morning of December 18th we marched back two miles and went into winter quarters near White Oak Church. Gradually the weeks wore away, when the weather would permit the day was largely occupied in drilling and the duties of camp and guard with an occasional tour to the outposts for picket service. It was usually for three days at a time and it was there the new year of 1863 found our regiment. January 20th a part of the headquarters moved today. It rained and the mud is very deep, the troops have all moved but the going is so bad that it is almost impossible for teams to move. The 23d after three day's march the troops have returned, this is called Burnside's mud march. 26th General Hooker takes command of the army and General Sedgewick of the 6th corps, retaining Co. D of the 37th Massachusetts volunteers as his headquarter's guard. February 8th, General Smith starts on an expedition. 26th all citizens in the army, white or colored, either as teamsters or mechanics are ordered to leave as there was more of them than was needed. 27th. Morning rainy. Started for home on a ten day's furlough. Arrived in New York at midnight, at brother Frank's, found them well. March 1st my brother Francis came over to Frank's, had a good visit, in the evening all went to see brother George. On the 2d went to Meriden, Conn. met my wife whose name is Julia there with other friends. The 3d, visiting all day. 4th fine but cool, went to Middletown, to attend the funeral of brother Horatio's little boy, came back, brother John and myself went as far as Springfield towards home. 5th took the first train for home, found father and mother well and glad to see me as I was to see them. 6th was snowing, went to the village calling on friends, also called at Mr. Guilford's and Mr. Crosby's at Swift River. 7th returned to Meriden. 9th a fine warm day, bidding all good-bye I left on the first train for New York, found brothers Frank and Francis at the depot. 10th arrived in Washington, took the boat at 8 o'clock, A. M., arrived at City Point at 2 o'clock, P. M. 11th pleasant, had a game of ball for the first time in camp 13th very cold. 14th got up a pile of wood for Sunday. 15th drill and game of ball. 20th snowed all day. 27th Sergeant Sheldon and myself grubbing stumps for wood. April 3d General Hooker and staff
called at General Sedgewick's headquarters after reviewing the 6th Corps. 8th a grand review of the army of the Potomac by President Abraham Lincoln, his wife and son. It was a grand sight to see the army in line as far as the eye could reach, marching with division front, and artillery, cavalry and baggage wagons in the rear. It took from 9 o'clock, A.M., until nearly night for them to pass the reviewing officers. 11th slicking up around headquarters for the sabbath. 13th cavalry moving. 14th making ready for a march with eight day's rations, 60 rounds of cartridges and all our clothing which was a great load for sure. 15th rains like a flood. 24th signed pay-rolls. 25th received pay for four months. 27th orders to move to-morrow morning. 28th broke camp, army on the move. 30th Company D., reported to regiment in the morning, evening the 37th regiment went with a pontoon train as guard up the river about ten miles, the roads were very bad and we had to help the mules in many places. One of the drivers was knocked from his mule and killed. We returned the next morning.

May 1st. Marched all last night with the pontoons, tired and hungry when we got back at ten o'clock, this morning. 2d lost on my diary to-day, have been marching back and forth to blind the rebels. In the evening received a nice watch from my company as a present just before we crossed the river. 3d at daylight we marched into Fredericksburg, had been there but a short time when the rebel batteries on the heights opened their canister on us, a brick ash-house near us received a charge scattering the brick all over us, one of the men John Bissel received a slight wound in the face. We then moved to the railroad cut and remained until the charge was made by the 36th N.Y. and the 7th Mass. regiments about ten o'clock, when we drove the rebels some five or six miles where we met the whole of Lee's army, we fought until after dark, neither losing or gaining any ground, but many were killed. After dark Co. D. was sent on the skirmish line and remained until the morning of the 4th when we returned to the regiment which was in the front line of battle. At ten o'clock, A.M., the enemy came upon us in three lines of battle, we could not stop them until within ten or fifteen rods, then by stubborn fighting with the aid of plenty of artillery whose guns were double shotted with grape and canister we held them and sent them back. The artillery at so close a range
made fearful havoc in the ranks of the enemy. We remained here until five o'clock, P. M., with only an occasional shot, then Co. D was again sent on the skirmish line. We were hardly in position when the rebels advanced on us, we fired a few rounds at them and were then ordered to retreat which we did after dark to the river where our pontoon bridge was laid, we awaiting our turn to cross.

There was the whole 6th army corps to cross one bridge, and while waiting the enemy found our position and gave us a severe shelling. We had nothing to do but stand and take it. Officers as well as men were blue that night and all thought we should be captured before we could get across the river, but morning found us all across at Bank's Ford where went into camp, some of the boys threw away everything but their guns and equipments. General Sedgewick displayed as great generalship in getting his corps back across the river that night without being captured as was ever displayed by any General on any battlefield during the whole civil war. General Lee after defeating General Hooker at Chancellorville in the forenoon came down on General Sedgewick with his whole army in the afternoon, but we held them in check until after dark, when Sedgewick (at this time) had a distance of only one thousand yards between the rebel lines to get his corps through and over a large river. This was the second battle of Fredericksburg fought by the 6th corps under General Sedgewick.

The 5th we are resting in a piece of woods 4 miles above Falmouth for we are all very tired. Thunder shower at night, the boys get very wet as many of them had thrown away their blankets and shelter tents. 6th and 7th cold and rainy, we are yet in the woods, cold, wet and hungry. 8th we marched back to the old quarters of the 37th about ten miles, glad to get back and lie down as soon as we had pitched our tents. 10th our regiment went out on picket down to the river, remained all day, the moved back about five miles, reached there about ten o'clock, P. M. and lay down to rest tired enough. 11th all is quiet along the line, one-half our regiment acting as a reserve. 12th we took the picket posts and left the other one-half of the regiment as a reserve. 13th came back to camp at night and glad to get something to eat as our rations ran out yesterday. 14th two heavy thunder showers. Drew clothing. 15th company and battalion drill. 17th wrote home and
to Julia, brother Charles called on me, he was in Company D of the 10th Massachusetts regiment, in the same brigade with myself. 18th was reviewed by General Sedgwick and had inspection, wrote to Rev. Mr. Dana. 24th hot, had our usual Sunday inspection. 26th drilling. Our Company on guard. Received letter from Julia, I wrote to her. 25th, wrote to Julia's brother Wallace, who was a member of Company D, 8th Connecticut regiment. 30th grading our Co. street, went over to see Charlie, he came back with me. June 1st, cooler but very dusty, received letters from home, Julia and brother Elijah and sister Minerva. 2d. A fine day, brigade drill, wrote to brother Horatio and cousin Almon Mitchell. 3d. Brigade drill, wrote a long letter to Elijah and Minerva. 4th routed out this morning at one o'clock, packed up ready to start, as a report came that the rebels were crossing the river below us, but it was a false report and at daylight we unpacked and had our regular drill. 5th Company on guard, wrote to my friend Webster Nash and home. Have had marching orders troops moving, all is excitement. Have packed up ready to start. Some cannonading and musketry. 6th Started for the river at nine o'clock, A. M. Went to Franklin's Crossing. 6 P. M., Shaler's brigade crossed the river, we remained on this side. All is quiet. 7th. The troops have not changed position since last night. 8 P. M. our brigade goes over the river to dig rifle pits working all night. 8th. Pleasant. Pickets firing. We have about three miles of good breastworks, extending from the Rappahannock on the north in a circle to the river on the south below the Bronard house. We re-crossed the river and lay in camp until night when we went on picket duty on the east side of the river below the Brenard house. As I was Sergeant I had a large number of picket posts to look after and it was just impossible to keep the boys awake as we had but very little sleep for a week. When the officer of the day came along at one o'clock, at night, coming to me first, he says; Sergeant you go along ahead of me and tell the boys the officer of the day is coming along and have them all awake for I do not want to find them asleep; I know no one can go through what we have the past week and keep awake on a picket post at night. The penalty for being found asleep at your post was death. The only way I could keep awake was to walk along the line back and forth as far as my posts
extended and pound myself or inflict some pain on myself and that was very hard work. 9th. A beautiful day, wrote to Julia. 6 P. M the rebels threw a few shells amongst us creating a little scare, but hurting no one. Some of the boys were cooking coffee over a fire a shell struck the fire scattering both fire and coffee, another shell struck an officer of a Pennsylvania regiment and killed him. 10th. The rebels had this morning’s Richmond papers and some of our boys went over and exchanged papers with them. At night we were relieved from picket by the 2d Vermont regiment and went across the river to support the skirmish line in the rifle pits. 11th. Across the Rappahannock, sharp-shooters at work on our right picking off officers and men. There was one confederate sharp-shooter that seemed to be doing most of the deadly work and no one of us could just place him. The officers had their field glasses out trying to locate him, at last one of Beredan’s sharp-shooters came along, called “California Joe” one of the best in our service, he had a telescope rifle; our Colonel spoke to him about it and asked if he could find where the man was concealed. Joe was looking through the telescope on his rifle when another shot came, Joe instantly saw the puff of smoke, he drew up and fired and that ended the sharpshooting from that quarter. There was a very large black cherry tree standing just within the rebel lines, the heart of it was all decayed so that the rebel dug it out leaving nothing but the shell, making him a fine place for his hellish work. He had cut a hole in this to fire through, so thought he was perfectly safe. Joe fired through the hole, probably killing the man. The next day we marched by the tree and found it just as Joe had described. The rebel sharp-shooter had been picking off our men for three days. 12th, Fine day. On picket. Exchanged papers with the rebels.

At six P. M., rebels throwing a few shells and shouting to us, but doing no harm. Letters from Rev. J. J. Dana and sister Louise. June 13th. Warm. All quiet. This morning a squad of us went bathing in the river. 5 P. M., the rebels are throwing a few shells one struck very near us, but hurt no one. At 11 P. M., we re-crossed the river. 14th. On the march at 6 P. M., reached Stafford Court House at 10 P. M., then started for Dumfries, marching all night without rest. 15th. A terrible hot day, arrived at
Dumfries at 12 M., officers and men completely exhausted, they kept dropping out all along the way, seeking the shade of every bush and tree. Thirty-six men in our division were sunstruck. Halted until 1 o'clock, at night, when most of the stragglers had caught up with the division, then all pushed forward again. 16th. Marched to Wolf Run Shoals reaching there at half-past eleven, where the whole 6th army corps went in the river bathing, more than ten thousand soldiers in the water at once. At 3 o'clock, P. M. we marched to near Fairfax Station, where we halted for the night. To-day many men dropped dead by the wayside, we have had no sleep for a week. 17th. Had a good sleep last night, remained at the station all day. The 36th New York regiment drank a great deal of whiskey and the provost marshal undertook to arrest some of them. They gave him a few blows and he cut one man’s head open with his sword. He called out the 37th Massachusetts regiment and arrested the whole 36th New York regiment and took them to headquarters but nothing was done about it. 18th. Hot, hot, marched to Fairfax court house, many men fell out on account of the heat, we pitched our tents on the battlefield of Chantilli, near where the brave Kearney fell. Heavy showers at night. 19th. Cloudy and cooler, cleaned my gun, had inspection, wrote to Julia and brother Herbert, received letters from Julia and Webster Nash.

20th. Rainy. All quiet, wrote to sister Louise. 21st. Pleasant. Heavy cannonading in the direction of Snicker’s Gap where the cavalry had a hard battle. 22d. A beautiful day. Rebel prisoners coming in that we took in yesterday’s fight. 23d. All quiet, a few more prisoners brought in, a worthless fellow from the 10th Massachusetts drummed out of camp, wrote to Elijah and Min. 24th. Pleasant. Company drill at 9 A. M., batallion drill at 5 P. M., wrote to Julia, marched to Centreville, Va., a distance of six miles, halted for the night on the same ground that we camped on the night before the first battle of Bull Run. 25th. A little rainy, moved a little to the front, halted in the center of the town. 6 P. M., very wet. 26th. Wet. Marched 22 miles to Drainsville, a very pretty village, it was a hard march. 27th. Wet. Marched to Edward’s Ferry, 20 miles, another hard march. 28th. Morning cloudy, we were awakened at 2 A. M., and started at 4 o’clock, on a long march halted at Burnsville, at 9 A. M. for lunch, when we heard a strange
sound, a church bell, halted for the night at Urbang. 29th. Another tedious day's work. Marched to Clam Run, a distance of 30 miles arriving there at midnight, pretty well played out. 36th. Rainy. On the march again a 5 o'clock, passed Taylorsville, Spring Mills, Westminster and halted near Manchester, a march of 20 miles, boys lame and tired. July 1st. Morning raining, rested all day, but at 9 o'clock at night had all turned in when the bugle sounded, fall in. We got up, packed up in the rain and started for Gettysburg. After marching six or eight miles we met troops going in the opposite direction, we says boys, what corps? they said the 6th, we are on the wrong road, turn about, so we did.

We passed several villages in the night, we were to have forty-five minutes for breakfast, the boys had just started their fires to cook their coffee, when a horseman rode into camp with an order from General Meade to General Sedgewick to bring his corps to Gettysburg as soon as possible. We pushed on without breakfast. We rested ten minutes every hour, marching fifty and resting ten, until we reached the field at 4 o'clock, P. M. The people on the road were very kind, placing tubs of water and bread besides the road for us, but we could not all get enough then. We passed through Littleton, at 2 o'clock, P. M., halted a few minutes and made ourselves some coffee, when we were ordered to the front at Gettysburg, where the battle was raging. We were now about two miles from the front and had marched 46 miles since the night before, we went to the front on the double quick loading our guns on the way, but just as we arrived on the field, we found our boys holding confederate General Longstreet from further advance. A guard was appointed in each company to give the alarm if the rebels returned. All night the ambulances were passing with their loads of wounded men across the fields and we were glad when morning came, for the cries of the wounded as they rode over the stones and sticks made us sick at heart. Now two nights had passed and we had not a moment's sleep. On the morning of the 3d, we were put in the front line of battle, we were soon relieved by Stannard's Vermont brigade and went on reserve. At 4 o'clock, A. M., heavy fighting on the right. 9 o'clock, A. M., we were rushed there in hot haste to help support the line of battle. At 12 o'clock, M., we
came back to the center of our line. Some of the boys thought they would make a little coffee, but had hardly got their fires lighted when the enemy opened on us with 125 guns, we replying to them with from 80 to 100. We lay right in the line of their shells, (where Carleton, the war correspondent of the Boston Journal, said six shells burst every second.) No coffee that time, we got out of that place in a hurry, marching double-quick to the left passing through a peach orchard into a piece of woods where we halted. We lost 17 men while going the length of the regiment at double-quick. While the boys were making their coffee just before the heavy cannonading commenced I went down to a small ravine near by to get some water to make coffee, I saw a comrade there sitting on a large stone, I asked him if he was wounded? he said no; he had a furlough to go home as his wife was very sick, and not expected to live, I said I am glad you got a furlough, he said he was going to make some coffee and then he would start. I got some water and went back to where the boys had started the fire, while standing by the fire waiting to put my cup over it the enemy opened the terrible cannonading. Almost one of the first shells I saw burst, was I thought right where I left this comrade sitting. I says to the boys I believe that soldier was hit by that shell and I will run down and see, (it is only a short distance) and I did, I found his head cut from his body as though it had been done under the guillotine, his head on one side of the stone and his body on the other. Remembering that he told me when I talked with him, that he had written to his wife that he had a furlough and was about to start for home, I thought as he had written his wife he was coming home, that she or her friends should know of his death, so I opened his knapsack and found paper and directions, sitting down on a stone I hastily wrote a few lines telling what I knew of his death and what he had told only a few minutes before, his home was in Brooklyn, New York. The air was full of bursting shells. No language can describe the scene and the noise and screeching of the shells. This heavy cannonading preceded Pickett's great charge.

July 4th. Morning rainy. Our brigade takes the front line of battle and relieves the soldiers that have been lying here all night. We remain here a few hours and then move back and throw up
light breastworks with our bayonets and tin plates, there is a flag of truce up while we bury the dead. No fighting, only a little skirmishing. The battlefield is terrible, men are lying all around some of the wounded have lay there since the first day of the battle, there have been hard showers and intense heat. The dead are carried off on stretchers and boards. The stench that arises is sickening. The wounded are carried to the hospitals, and the dead, both union and rebels are gathered up and laid in rows to be buried. It was said by those who saw it, that one could walk on General Pickett’s dead men without stepping on the ground from our line of battle (the low stone wall) to Emmetsburg road, a distance of one-half mile.

At night we threw up breastworks using our bayonets for picks and plates for shovels, and the rain was coming down in torrents, yet we worked until nearly midnight. July 5th. Rainy. We find the rebels are retreating and we follow after them, had to pass over a part of the battlefield, it was just terrible as neither men nor horses had been buried. In one place I saw seven horses and eight men that had been killed by the explosion of one of their Caisons. Many of their wounded had been carried to the barns and houses, using them as hospitals. Their wounded filled dooryards; corners of fences, and every place where there was the least shade for them to lie in. The country for miles back was full of the wounded. They had left a large number of surgeons in charge of the hospitals. We kept picking up prisoners all day, squads that were played out and had to fall in the rear, and our advance guard would capture them. After going five or six miles we halted for the night, got supper and laid down to rest, very tired. 6th. Damp and foggy. Got up at 3 o’clock, A. M., made coffee, then started on, went but a little ways, when we halted, feeling out the enemy. Started again at 4 o’clock, P. M., marched all night to Emmetsburg one of the hardest marches we ever made. The roads were narrow and rough and very muddy. Many of the boy’s shoes had played out and they had to march in their stocking feet. I loaned them what stockings I had as when they had on two pairs of stockings the stones did not hurt their feet quite as badly. Some of us had not had anything to eat for the past 36 hours. 7th. Wet. Drew rations this morning and received a large meal and again on the
march, marched all day and at night came to the foot of Catoctin mountain in Maryland, we were very tired and it commenced raining, but still we kept on. There was no regular road, so we took a cart road up the mountain. I could not go any farther, so comrade Sheldon and myself stopped and laid down to rest in the rain and sweet rest it was. We had made a march of 25 miles in rain and mud to-day with many of the boys in their stocking feet. 8th. Marched to Middletown, six or seven miles, raining hard all the way and mud nearly knee deep. Here we drew rations, clothing and shoes. July 9th. Fine day. Marched to Boonesborough. The leading columns had a battle here last night with the rebels. Received letter from home and from Julia, should have written to them, but could not find time. 10th. Warm. Have just arrived on the field at 10 A. M. Firing commenced, we in line of battle, not much fighting to-day, wrote to Julia and home. 11th, Warm and Fine. 7 o'clock, A. M., all quiet, remained so all day. 12th. Warm. Pursuing the retreating rebels. Now at Funkstown, in line of battle in a wheat field, firing on our right, heavy skirmishing all day, we driving the enemy’s pickets in, some of our men wounded. July 13th. Warm and Rainy. Worked all last night throwing up breastworks. the rebels throw a few shells over to us, to-day, wrote to Julia, home, brothers Horatio, Frank and Francis. 14th. The enemy fell back last night and we are after them to-day, went to Williamsport, they had crossed the river, we took many prisoners. The enemy in crossing the river left many of their beef cattle and much of their wagon train. 15th. Hot day. Marched from Williamsport to Boonesborough, a hard march, 2000 prisoners came back with us that we took yesterday. 16th. Warm. Marched to Berlin, near Harper's Ferry. 17th. Rainy. Remained quiet all day, have seen brother Charlie to-day. 18th. Quiet all day, had a good rest, received letters from Julia and Charles K. Perkins, of Meriden. 19th. Fine day. We crossed the Potomac into Virginia again went as far as Filmore City, a hard march, it being so warm, a number died on the way. 20th. Pleasant. Marched over bad roads to within eight miles of White Plains, where we halted. The boys killed a lot of hogs, sheep and hens and we had a good supper and breakfast. 21st. Cool and pleasant. Remained quiet all day. Six from our regiment went home after conscripts, the
boys have been living high to-day on mutton fried pork, veal and chicken. Picked some blueberries. July 22d. Warm. Marched to Upperville, boys are busy building fires and putting up shelter tents. 23d. Warm. Marched all day and until 1 o'clock, at night, halted tired, sleepy and hungry, lay right down without any supper. We are now at Manassas Gap. 24th. Hot. Up at five o'clock, and off without breakfast, hungry as a bear, came to Linden, remained that night, stole some potatoes of a secessionist, now will have a good meal. Marched back towards Warrenton, 10 miles, and Oh! how hot, many being sunstruck, some died, halted at dark, tired and footsore. 25th. Another hot day. Marched from Orleans to Warrenton, a hard march of 15 miles, it being so very hot. Picked a cup of berries for supper, (had a great time with a secessionist farmer, the boys got his cows, pigs, hens and potatoes. When the boys were going through the old farmer's garden patch after sweet potatoes and other eatables, he came out on the porch of his house, gun in hand and told the Yanks to get out or he would shoot them. The boys did not mind that, but told him if he did no go into the house, they would put 20 holes through him, he went in and that was the last we saw of him. The colored people told me that he had three sons in the rebel army, but two of them had been killed. They also said it was a great rendezvous for the enemy's cavalry and the guerrillas. We always got the truth from the colored people. My brother Charlie was ordered to burn his barns when the army moved.) Done some washing, rested all day, wrote to William Robbins' wife as he is sick and in the hospital. 27th. Very warm again to-day. Picked more berries, moved camp a little up on the hill. Mail arrived and I received letters from Julia, Home, Horatio and Rev. Mr. Dana, also four papers. 28th. Warm. Still resting, we are near Warrenton, Virginia, a secesh hole. Wrote to Julia, Home and Charles K. Perkins, brother Charles bought paper and envelopes and gave me half, we sent a fat letter home containing six sheets of paper. 29th. Damp morning, looks rainy. Received letter from Julia, wrote to George Perkins and Webster Nash. 30th. Warm and showery. Charlie came over to see me and I went back with him, had a pleasant visit talking over old times. Wrote to Elijah and Min. 31st. Warm and cloudy. Our regiment (the 37th) and 5th of Wisconsin leave for New York this morning. We are
ordered to New York to quell the great draft riots there. General Meade ordered General Sedgwick commanding the 6th corps, to send two of his best regiments there, so the 37th Massachusetts and the 5th Wisconsin were the two. Arriving in Washington about 8 o'clock, P. M., waited nearly all night before the train was ready. August 1st. Pleasant. On the road to New York, passed through Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia, (here we had a good supper,) and on to Amboy, New Jersey, via Railroad, then by steamer to New York.

2nd. 6 o'clock. A. M., have just arrived at the wharf and waiting to go ashore. 2 o'clock, P. M. We go to Fort Hamilton to stop. 6 o'clock, P. M., arrived at the Fort pretty well tired out, but feeling well. The street from the wharf to the camp was crowded with people who had come to see us. We were a rough looking set of men, compared to the soldiers at the fort. They were proud of their good clothes, and rather snuffed at us, as we were both ragged and dirty, but we were as proud as they were and marched up the street in fine style. When we broke ranks we went down to the beach in squads and went in bathing.

August 3d. Hot day. Cleaning up a little but have more to do. Wrote to Julia and Charlie as well. 4th. Another hot day. Fixing up generally. Regimental inspection. We soon had new clothing and our Colonel was bound we should surpass anything there was at the fort. We were a good drilled regiment before, but now we were inspected and drilled every day. When we had been at the fort two weeks we were called out in our best style with the 12th regiment of regulars the battalion P. G. (permanent guards,) stationed at the fort. Our regiment was considered the best drilled and the most soldierly looking battalion of the three. Aug. 5th. Fine day. Nothing new, only friends from home coming to see us. 6th. Warm, had a heavy thunder shower. Built a bunk in our tent, went up street and had some ice cream. 7th. Warm. Went on guard. Friends still coming to see their friends, received letters from Julia, Elijah and Min. 8th. Morning showery, came off guard, still they come, received a letter from brother Henry, wrote to brother Horatio and wife. 9th. Very warm. Inspection in the morning, review at 5 o'clock, P. M., then a short drill, wrote to Julia, Home, Charlie and Horace Smith and wife. Very warm.
10th. Another hot day. Sent William Robbins his letter. Battalion drill at 4 o’clock, P. M. Sergeant Sheldon gone to Brooklyn, to see a friend. Sergeant Sheldon and myself slept under the same blanket for three years and I think as much of him as if he was my own brother. 11th. Another terrible hot day, thunder-shower in the afternoon. All quiet. 12th. Still hot. 13th. Cool and beautiful.

Aug. 14th. Warm. I am Sergeant of the guard, friends still arriving. 15th. Still warm, just off guard. Getting ready for tomorrow (Sunday) inspection. 16th. Still very warm. Had inspection. Brother George came over to see me, had a very pleasant visit with him. 17th. Stormy. 18th. Fine day, on guard. Brother Francis and Julia arrived at noon, was very glad to see them. 19th. Beautiful day. Had orders to go up to the city and did so last night. We are now on Washington Square, Francis with me all day, Julia in the evening, after we had been on Washington Square a short time, a comrade came to me and said some one wanted to see me at the gate, I went expecting to see brother Frank (who was then living in the city,) but could not see him as I passed along. Stopping just outside the gate, a young man and two young ladies, stepped to me and says: Is this Sergeant Wm. H. Shaw, of Co. D, 37th Massachusetts volunteers? (they knew I was Sergeant by the cheverons on my arm.) I said yes; then they said you are the soldier that wrote that letter on the battlefield at Gettysburg, telling us of our brothers death during that awful cannonading, who had just received a furlough to go home to his sick wife? I said that I was. Then they wanted I should tell them all I knew about it and I did so: They asked what hour he was killed? I said I thought about one o’clock, they said his wife died about that time. The young man and one of the ladies were brother and sister to the soldier’s wife, and the other lady was a sister of the soldier who was killed. They thanked me over and over, for writing to them, wanted I should go to their home for a few hours. I got a pass and went, was very kindly entertained and had a pleasant time, they called on me once after that. 20th. Francis still with me. 21st. Warm. All quiet as yet, wrote to sister Louise, afternoon returned to Fort Hamilton. 22d. Cleaned my gun for Sunday inspection. 23d, Hot! hot. Had inspection and review in the afternoon.
24th. Drilling as usual. Francis, Julia, and baby Edna and Emma Wright, came to see me. Julia and baby remained all night.  
25th. Julia and baby still here, in the afternoon we had a thunder shower. 26th. Cool and pleasant I went to the city with Julia, had a good visit with brother Frank, returned to the Fort in the evening.  
27th. Julia came back in the evening. The regiment paid off to-day, having six month's pay coming to us. 28th. Julia and baby with me yet. 29th. All quiet in camp. 30th. Beautiful day. Morning inspection, brother Frank and wife came down to see me. Julia and Miss Lyman went back with them. 31st. Fine day, all well.  

September 1st, 1863. Julia and Miss Lyman came back from New York, to-day. 2nd. All quiet. 3d. Nathan Jenkins, an old schoolmate of mine who was living in Morristown, N. J., called on me, I went through the Fort with him. 4th. All quiet. Brother John and wife came to see me, Julia went back to the city with them to-night. 5th. No drill to-day. Clean up for Sunday. 6th. Morning inspection Brother Frank, John and his wife and sister Ann, Julia and the baby came down to-day, all went back to-night. 7th. Fine day. Julia and baby gone home to Cummington, God only knows when I shall see them again. 8th. Wrote to brother Charlie and Charlie Perkins. 9th. Fine day. Mr. Nehemiah Crosby, of Cummington, called on me. 16th. Report says we leave the Fort and go up to the city. 11th. No drills to-day, we expect to start for the city at any minute. 12th. Broke camp and went up to the city, arrived there at six o'clock, P. M. I am Sergeant of a squad of men to unload the boat of our camp equipage, which was left at Washington, in our haste to get to New York, we were to guard the same over night. 13th. Pleasant. Brought our things up from the boat to the camp, pitched our tents and arranged things generally. Brother George and wife then living in Brooklyn, came to see me. 14th. All quiet. Wrote home and to Julia. 15th. Three companies detailed for provost duty, one-half of our company went to No. 185 6th. Avenue, the other half went to 63, 3d Avenue, wrote to Elijah and Min. 16th. Beautiful day. I took a squad of men and went to Ricker's Island with some conscripts, came back in the evening, wrote to Charlie. Now, right here let me tell you what conscripts are; They are men that have been hired by drafted men to take their places, all drafted men had to go to war or furnish
a substitute or pay $300. Our troops were in the city to maintain order while the draft and substitute business was going on. We were distributed over the city at different places. 17th. Examining conscripts as usual. Received letters from Julia, Charles Perkins and Nathan Jenkins. 18th. Sent off eight conscripts (after having been examined) to Ricker’s Island, they have a guard along with them. Wrote to Julia. 19th. Cold and stormy. Went to Ricker’s Island with conscripts. 20th. Went down to brother Frank’s went to church with him. My father’s birthday, 73 years old. 21st. Went off with nine more conscripts. 22d. Went over to Stewarts’ Store to see Frank, received letters from home, Julia and Herbert. 23d. Had my coat and boots mended. 24th. Sent off 15 conscripts, stood for photographs, called on Francis. 25th. Nothing new to write, 26th. Cool. Received letters from Esquire William Packard, of Cummington, quite an old man. 27th. A beautiful Sabbath day. Went down to Frank’s, went to church and the Mission Sunday School. 28th. Went over to see the first platoon, wrote to brother John and Mr. William Packard. 29th. Went over to Brooklyn to see George and family. 30th. Got my pictures. In the evening I went to Cooper Institute to the great Union ratification meeting.

October 1st. Fine day. Wrote to Charlie, received letters from Julia, Elijah and Min. and Webster Nash. A great turn-out to receive Rear Admiral Leoffski, a Russian officer, both civic and military. 2nd. Wrote to Julia, was paid off to-day. Went to Cooper Institute in the evening. Lieutenant Sheldon and I went out and bought some ice cream. 3d. Nothing new. 4th. I wrote to Horatio and wife. About the same routine until the 11th. Sunday, went down to Frank’s, went to church, in the afternoon, Frank and wife and Francis and Emma Wright and myself went to Greenwood; what a beautiful place. 12th. Received letters from home and Julia, wrote to her. Evening Frank and I went out and bought some things for brother Charlie. 13th. Received orders to return to the army of the Potomac. While in New York doing guard duty we enjoyed ourselves well, was much on guard duty, but when off duty could go where we chose. In the evening I went down to bid Frank and Francis good-bye. 14th. 11 o’clock, A. M. have just come down 5th Avenue and Broadway receiving great
ovations the entire distance, waiting on the dock to take the steamer. 3 o'clock, P. M., went on board, landed at Port Monmouth, New Jersey. 5 o'clock, P. M., took the cars for Philadelphia, arriving there the morning of the 15th in time for breakfast at the old cooper shop as usual; and what a breakfast we had, fit for a king. 8 o'clock, P. M., arrived in Baltimore, where we had supper. 16th Came from Baltimore last night. 9 o'clock, A. M., in Alexandria, on the way to the front, marched to Fairfax Court House, it raining very hard, drew eight day's rations, camped for the night. The troops stationed here, took us for raw recruits, as our clothes were clean and our guns bright. They thought we were just from home, we had some fun asking them questions about the front. 17th. Last night was cold and wet, we slept out without nothing but our clothing over us and we were very cold to-day. Marched to Chan- tiley and joined our old brigade. 18th. Pleasant. Up at 4 o'clock, this morning, formed in line of battle expecting an engagement. 19th. Started on the advance in the rain. 12 o'clock, noon, on the old Bull Run battlefield eating dinner. Things look familiar as I was here at the first battle of Bull Run, on July 21st, 1861 in the 3d Connecticut regiment of volunteers, General Tyler's brigade, then I never thought I should see the place again, but here I am, still working for Uncle Sam. 20th. A beautiful day. We are at Gainesville, arrived last night, went out on picket. 6 o'clock, P. M., have just started for New Baltimore, have orders to go on to Warrenton, to night, the boys are all very tired. 21st. Arrived here at Warrenton, last night at ten o'clock, we stay here to-day and we are all glad of it, wrote to Julia and home, moved camp a little ways, saw Charlie. 22d. Moved camp two miles. 2 P. M., I am now on guard over Quartermaster stores at our old camp. Lieutenant Sheldon has our tent all ready for use. 23d. All quiet, wrote to Julia and Horatio and wife, cold and rainy night. I sent to North- hampton for a pair of good boots. 24th. Wet, lay in my tent all day to keep dry and warm. 25th. Cloudy and cold. Received letters from Julia, Adaline Shaw, and home. Charlie came over to see me. 26th. Cold. Moved our camp up under some woods where it was warmer, cannonading in front. 27th. Clear and cold. Our company on guard, Charlie came over to see me, brought me his overcoat. 28th. Cold winds. All quiet in camp, wrote to Mr. Guilford,
Charlie was over again, was glad to have him come. 29th. Fine day. Charlie and I went to a colored woman's house and bought some mush and milk, paid her twenty-five cents, is was so nice, it made us think of home. 30th. Warmer. All quiet, I am over with Charlie, as we are in the same brigade, he being in the 10th Massachusetts regiment. 31st. Mustered for two month's pay.

Sunday, November 1st, 1863. In the forenoon, brigade review and inspection. Charlie here, in the evening I called on him. 2d. Our division reviewed by General Sedgewick, it looked fine, our company went on picket in the afternoon. 3d. On picket duty, like it when all is quiet, wrote home and to Julia. 4th. Still on picket moved camp a little ways out on the Salem road. 5th. Still on picket, but will be relieved to-night by another company, received letters from home, Frank, Horatio and Mr. Dana. 6th. Off picket went over to see Charlie, let him read some of my letters. 7th. Broke camp at Warrenton, marched to Rappahannock station, had a sharp fight with the enemy, drove them across the river, captured 1200 prisoners and 7 pieces of artillery. Many rebels were drowned while retreating across the river. General Sedgewick had command of the army a few days at this time. 8th. Up at 4 o'clock, A. M., and marched to Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock river, halted at 9 o'clock, for breakfast and remained there through the day. The 3d corps took a rebel train of cars to-day loaded with army supplies. 9th. Still on the road acting as a reserve and doing picket duty, the rest of the troops are over the river feeling out the enemy. 10th. All quiet. Letter from Mr. Guilford. 11th. All quiet. Charlie has been here, received papers from home. 12th. Marched to Hazel run, went like lightning, making but two halts. Have our tent up but probably shall not want it but a few days. 13th. All quiet. 14th. Beautiful day. Nothing new, detailed on fatigue duty at the General's headquarters, arranging his tent, in the evening a heavy thunder shower. Sunday, 15th. Cold and rainy. Heavy firing in front, do not know what it means, later, have found out about the firing. The 3d corps have taken the heights beyond the Rapidan river, with a brigade of rebel prisoners. We were nearly drowned out last night in our tent. 16th. Cold and cloudy. Regimental inspection this afternoon by Captain Young of the 2d Rhode Island regiment, brother Charlie here in the evening talking
over old times. 17th. Received letter from Julia, answered it and wrote to Herbert and Francis. 18th. All well to-day. Charlie and I wrote to cousin Deborah Snow. 19th. Fine. The regiment paid off to-day. Received a letter from Julia's brother Wallace (who was in the 8th Connecticut regiment,) and answered it. 20th. Had a corps review by its commander General Sedgewick, which was very fine, wore our overcoats and almost roasted. Russian officers present. 21st. Cold and rainy. All quiet. 22d. Beautiful day. Marching orders for to-morrow, received letters from home, and Mr. Dana. 23d. Brigade inspection, have orders to march this morning, drew five day's rations. 24th. Did not move to-day on account of the rain, roads so bad, but expect to move to-morrow, received letters from home and Julia, am not feeling extra good to-day. 25th. Beautiful day. On the march, what a day for the Thanksgiving at home? wish I could be there. Crossed the Rapidan at Germania Ford at 10 o'clock, P M., and halted for the night, it was cold. 27th. Morning cold, lying still in line of battle. 4 o'clock, P. M., has been heavy firing by the artillery in front all day and now the musketry has commenced in earnest with grape and canister. At 6 o'clock, P. M., have driven the enemy 2 miles, many men on both sides cover the ground. 28th. Up at 1 o'clock, and off for some place, marched until 7 o'clock, A. M., then halted for breakfast, (which usually consists of salt pork, hard-tack and coffee,) near Chancellorsville. Off again at 9 o'clock in the rain and mud, went up to the front, picket firing, but no general engagement on account of the rain. We passed an old foundry used by the rebels for casting shell. Sunday, 29th. Cool. Off at 6 o'clock, A. M., all excited, we expect a great battle to-day, went to extreme left of our line to help the 2nd corps, but no engagement. 30th. Up early, marched to the front formed in line of battle, was sure of a big fight to-day, they had one at the right of us.

We had nothing but picket and artillery firing. While lying in line of battle waiting for the signal gun to sound, for us to charge on the enemy's works, the boys were busy marking their clothing in some way by putting their names on it, for we all seemed to feel we would not reach the enemy's works alive. We well knew if we made the charge it would be a desperate one. I never saw the boys
in just such a mood before, when they were expecting to make a charge. It was terrible cold and we knew a wounded man could not live long. That might have had something to do with our feelings. I went on picket, cold enough to freeze, many of our wounded froze to death. On the picket line a soldier on a post next to me, on my right, when I went in the morning to call him off I found him frozen to death. We were so near the enemy, we could not move in the least without a bullet being sent at us by the enemy’s pickets.

December 1st, Tuesday, lay in the woods all day and rested with thousands of great fires to keep warm. Now 3 o’clock, P. M., all quiet, not a gun fired so far to-day. General Meade has been having a consultation with his corps commanders and they decided it would be a useless slaughter of lives to try to dislodge General Lee from behind his heavy entrenchments. At 8 o’clock, P. M., we started on the retreat, marched all night. 2d. Fine day. 7 o’clock A. M. have just recrossed the Rapidan at Culpepper Ford, have marched 25 miles since last night at eight o’clock, the men are all very tired. At 12 o’clock, noon, have just started again, went 12 miles and halted for the night. Have marched 40 miles in 18 hours with but one halt. 3d. Marched back to our old camp, near Brandy Station, commenced putting up tents. Here we remained sometime before building winter quarters. 4th. Pleasant. All well, received and answered letters from Julia, also two letters from cousins Frank Orcutt and Deborah Snow, brothers John and Frank, all excellent letters. 5th. Cloudy. All quiet, resting to-day. Cleaned my gun, have orders to be ready to march at a moment’s notice, do not think it will amount to much. Sunday, 6th. Clear and Cold. Letters from Julia and Adeline Shaw, went over to Charlie’s and had supper with him, had baked beans and brown bread and butter. Charlie at this time was in the quartermaster’s department. 7th. Clear and Cold. Moved camp a little ways for winter quarters, comrade Sheldon and myself have now been at work on our shanty, as have all the rest. received letter from home. 8th. Clear and cold. We have worked on our house all day, a genuine log house, but have not finished it yet. 9th. Still at work on our house, all well. 10th. Finished our house to-day and it is warm and nice, the chimney is built of small logs chinked in with Virginia mud, have a little fire-place and chimney, for a roof we used our shelter tents and tied them on, shall
write to Julia this evening. 11th. Put a door on our house, now it is all ready for winter if they will let us remain here. 12th. Rainy. Loitering around camp and cleaning up generally. Charlie called and brought me some plum pudding, made me think of home. Sunday 13th. A Beautiful day. Charlie came and invited comrade Sheldon and myself to dinner, had sweet potatoes, plum pudding, with sauce, (quite a change from army rations,) so much for being in the quartermaster's department. 14th. Heavy thunder shower. Wrote to Horace, Adaline and Julia. 15th. Fine. Had a corps review, long letter from home, Charlie here, I enjoy having him come. 16th. Cold. Had brigade inspection and dress parade, the first one since leaving New York. 17th. Cold and rainy. Wrote to Julia, Herbert, Adaline and Francis. At night went on guard in the rain. 18th. Fair. On guard, wrote to Elijah and Minerva. 19th. Had short cake for supper, letter from sister Louise and answered it. Sunday, 20th. Clear and cold. Morning inspection. 21st. Cold. 22d. Clear and cold, all quiet in camp. 23d. Another cold day. I am detailed to go on picket, we have another cold night before us. 24th. Very cold, on picket last night and almost froze, the men were relieved every hour to keep from freezing, I did not sleep any, but stood by a fire. 25th. Morning fair, but cloudy before night. On picket to-day, all quiet as usual. 26th. On picket to-day, but shall be relieved in the afternoon. Afternoon returned from picket to camp, glad to get in my little log house again. Sunday the 27th. Rainy. All well. Charlie here this morning. 7 P. M. still raining. 28th. Raining. Sent to Francis for a diary of 1864. Another year almost gone, how many have been taken, yet I am spared. 29th. Beautiful day. Went with a squad of men into the woods to cut wood for the regiment. Received letters from home and brother Wallace Allen. 30th. Fine and warm. Called on Charlie, found him at work on his shanty, has it nearly finished and it is a nice one. 31st. Very rainy. All quiet in camp. Another year has gone and many with it, both old and young, for death is no respector of persons, I am thankful my life has been spared through all the dangers that have threatened me and may I be mindful from whence all blessings come in the future. Good-bye Old Year.

January 1st, 1864. Fair day. All is excitement in camp to-day,
expect to march but do not know what is up. Sheldon's box came to-day and it is a good one, he does not know what to do with it if we move. Received a letter from Julia announcing the death of our little girl Edna. God's will, not mine, be done. Wrote home and to Julia. 2nd. Fine but cold. Brought a lot of wood from Wheaton's old camp that was left there when they moved, fixed our cabin a little. 3d. Sunday, a beautiful day. On guard. Wrote to Wallace and Elijah. 4th. Cloudy with snow. Charlie called. 5th. Rainy day, doing next to nothing. Bought a pair of shoes, sold my old boots, had my knapsack repaired. 6th. Pleasant. On fatigue duty building horse sheds. 7th. Cold and cloudy. Brought a little wood, Charlie here in the evening. 8th. Fine day, did my washing, three inches of snow fell last night. No mail to-day. 9th. Fine. On guard, went up to see Charlie in the evening. Received letters from Julia, Adeline Shaw, Louise and Webster Nash. 10th Sunday, still fine. Morning inspection, wrote to Julia. 11th. Winter's day. 12th. Warmer. 13th. Fair, all quiet. Fuller of Co. A. died last night, was sick but a few days, and so they keep going to their final resting place, slowly but surely going, may we all be prepared when our time comes. 14th. Fine. Company drill one hour each day, until further orders. 15th. Fine Called on Charlie. 16th. Fine. All quiet in camp, letters from home and Mary Narramore. Sunday, the 17th. Some cloudy. Morning inspection as usual, wrote to Julia, letter from Francis and a diary for 1864. Charlie here to supper. Dr. Richards and others have just arrived from Cummingston, also Andrew J. Babbitt of Windsor very glad to see them. 18th. Rainy. Went on picket in the mud, had a hard time getting out there, but was comfortable after arriving at the post. 19th. Cold and windy. On picket, four of our company and two of the Rhode Island on duty with me, saw a few rebel horsemen at a distance. 20th. Fine day. Still on picket and all quiet, shall be relieved to-morrow, no mail to-day as cars ran off the track. 21st. Was relieved from picket to-day, when I got back to camp found a long letter from Julia awaiting me, answered it and sent her a paper. 22d. Fine. All quiet, wrote to my friend Webster Nash. To-day, comrade Vinica, the captain's cook went to the railroad station and bought a barrel of apples, paying $14 for them, he is now going through the camp selling them five
for twenty-five cents, at night he had twenty dollars for his barrel of apples. 23d. Still fine and warm. Cleaned my gun and equipments ready for inspection to-morrow, Charlie called twice to-day. Sunday, 24th. Fine, warm as May. No frost in the ground and not muddy. The chaplain held a meeting in the new chapel. Morning inspection as usual. 25th. Another fine day. Company and battalion drill, the first battalion drill since we left New York. 26th. Fine and warm. Dug up a large white oak stump in front of our tent, had a good time at it. 27th. One more of those fine warm days. Grubbing stumps in our company street, brigade parade, wrote to Julia. 28th. Still fine. Policing camp, (men detailed to clean up all around.) Went on guard. Charlie went back to his regiment from quartermaster's department. 29th. Same. Charlie's and my box arrived from home to-day; how thankful to receive it, and all the good things it contained, it reminded us so much of home and the many happy hours we had spent there in our boyhood days, but how quickly flown. Right here let me say: That we are receiving soft bread now and have been for some time, it comes to us by the trainload fresh every morning, one loaf to a man, and that had to last the three meals. What a luxury? Cold mornings the cars came into the station, the bread steaming. It is then taken to the different regiments in army wagons and issued to the boys immediately. The government has immense baking ovens at Alexandria, Va. where they use from 600 to 800 barrels of flour every twenty-four hours, working day and night without a halt. Wrote to father and mother. 30th. Cloudy and damp. All quiet, cleaning up for inspection to-morrow, wrote to Mary Narramore, Charlie took supper with me. Sunday 31st. Wet day. Company inspection, quiet for a Sabbath in the army, and it seems good. February 1st. Damp day. 2d. All is quiet, heavy thunder shower in the evening with sharp lightning. 3d. Cold and windy. Had a spelling school at the chapel in the evening. We had a large tent where Mr. Morse, the chaplain of our regiment held religious services on Sundays, and prayer meetings on some week day evenings. The tent was used for entertainments of different kinds. We had debating clubs with some good speakers and spelling schools, etc. For outdoor sports we had base ball, wrestling matches, Quoits. For games cards, checkers, backgammon, cribbage and some others.
There was some gambling with cards, especially after pay-day, but taken as a whole the morals of the army were very high. 4th. Cool and windy. Detailed for fatigue duty to-day. received letters from Julia and Mr. Dana. 5th. Battalion drill. 6th. Damp day. All excitement in camp, received orders at 3 o’clock, A, M., to pack up and be ready to move at 8 o’clock, the rebels were on this side of the Rapidan, we did not go but other troops have been on the move all day, heavy firing in front, musketry sharp at night, do not know what it will amount to, but it is bad for the wounded to lie on the field as it rains hard. Sunday 7th. Fair. No news from the front as yet, cannonading on our right this morning, wrote to Julia, Almaretta Thomas and cousin Almon Mitchell. Our troops took 1060 prisoners yesterday, all very ragged, some of them seemed glad they were captured. 8th. Fair. All well and quiet in camp. 9th. Horace Collier died last night in the hospital, (he had three brothers in the army, two of them could not endure the hardships and died in a few months,) he was buried to-day, and so they keep going whether in camp or on the battlefield. Last night the rebels surprised our pickets and captured one Sergeant and seven men, I had a letter from Julia, called on Charlie in the evening. 10th. Fair. A few recruits arrived to-day, three for our company. The men that re-enlisted left for home to-day on a twenty-five day’s furlough. 11th. Pleasant. Wrote to Julia and Francis, went to call on Charlie, he had gone on picket, I remained to the Lyceum. 12th. Fine day. Our regiment held their first Lyceum this evening, had a good one. 13th. Fine day. No drilling to-day, getting ready for inspection to-morrow. Sunday 14th. Windy. Morning inspection, wrote to Elijah, and Minerva, evening Charlie called coming in from picket, snowing, had brigade review to-day. 16th. Clear, cold and windy. Our company on guard, I am Sergeant, how fast it grows cold? 17th. Very cold. Went on picket, suffered with the cold, did not sleep any, spelling school in camp to-night. 18th. Another cold day. Still on picket, received letters from Julia with her photograph, also letter from John. 19th. Not quite as cold. Still on picket, letters from Almon Mitchell and sister Louise. 20th. Warm and fine. Relieved from picket this morning and returned to camp, cleaned up ready for inspection to-morrow, paid Mike Munsing fifty cents for fixing my pants.
Sunday 21st. A Beautiful day. Attended church, heard an excellent sermon from the chaplain of the 4th Vermont regiment, Rev. Mr. Mack. Charlie was here and went to church with me, wrote home and to Julia. Feb. 22d. Pleasant. All quiet. Washington's birthday, held meeting in the chapel in honor of it, had a good meeting, brigade band playing at headquarters. 23d. Corps review by General Sedgewick. 24th. Pleasant. All quiet in camp, Charlie called. 25th. Officers and privates together played a game of ball, received letters from home and Julia and Adaline Shaw, evening I went over to see Charlie, remained to the Lyceum, a good one, Charlie was one of the debaters. 26th. Windy and dusty. Received letters from Elijah and Minerva. Received orders to march in the morning with four day's rations. We had a good lyceum, Charlie over. 27th. Broke camp at nine o'clock, A. M., and started for Madison Court House (only the 6th corps), went as far as James City, 18 miles, a hard march it was, so warm and dusty, the boys were tired and footsore, our regiment went on picket. Sunday 28th Cloudy and warm. Started again to-day, reached Robinson's river and halted until we could bridge it, then our brigade went over, went a mile and then halted in line of battle for the night. The Jersey brigade went to the court house. 29th. Cold. Still lying in line of battle. The cavalry started on a raid last night, feeling out the enemy, hope they will have good success. Firing in front we lay quiet all day.

March 1st. Rainy. We shall have mud enough when we go back, we are lying still here, expect the cavalry back to-day. 6 o'clock, P. M., the cavalry are coming in, we are to fall back across the river. 8 o'clock, P. M., snowing fast, but we packed up and moved back across the river in mud and darkness. The river was rising rapidly and we were afraid our bridge would go off, so we go back across the river. One of our new recruits just from Boston, in climbing up the bank in the mud, which was nearly a foot deep, stepped out of a new pair of boots, but could not stop to pull them out, if he did he would have been trampled to death. He had to march back to camp about twenty miles in his stocking feet. As fast as one pair wore out, some comrade would give him another pair and sometimes he had on two pairs. We halted in a large field, stacked arms and
the order was given to make ourselves comfortable for the night. What an order? (we thought), with three inches of snow on the ground, dark as could be, and not a tree or fence rail to be seen. To stop here over night without a fire, meant freeze, so comrade Sheldon and myself started out to see if we could find a rail fence. After going about one-half mile, we met some of our boys coming down loaded down with fence rails. We asked where did you find them? They said out about half a mile, we pushed on meeting hundreds of the boys loaded down with rails. We got our load and marched back to camp and built a big fire, spread out our rubber blankets and laid down to rest with our feet towards the fire. It was not long before there were thousands of fires burning all around us. 2nd. A beautiful day. Started back for camp with the negroes and prisoners, the cavalry brought in, besides destroying much rebel property. Had a hard march back to camp, it being very windy, and the distance 25 miles, but we all got in, tired, lame and footsore, letter from Julia. 3d. Another beautiful day. Cleaning up for company inspection. 4th. Fine day. All quiet. Wrote home. Lyceum in the evening. 5th Cloudy Charlie over here, wrote to John, Horatio and Herbert. Sunday 6th. Fair and cool. Wrote to Mr. Guilford, home and to Julia. 7th. Warm. All quiet in camp, had company and battalion drill. 8th. Rainy. Wrote to cousin Almon Mitchell; received letter from Julia. 9th. Beautiful day. Co. F. gave our Co. D a challenge to play a matched game of ball with ten on a side, did not finish the game, but expect to do so to-morrow, had a good spelling school, an excellent paper read, gotten up by the regiment, Charlie was over here to attend. 10th. Rainy. Finished the ball game, we were beaten 16 tallies to 52, but we had a pleasant time and lots of fun. 11th. Very wet day. In the evening went to the lyceum, had a good one, Charlie here, we wrote home and to Finley Bates, about helping father until Charlie goes home as his three years will be up in June. 12th. Fine. Our company on guard to-day. Received long letter from Julia and one from her brother Wallace who was in Co. K, 8th Connecticut regiment. 13th. Fine. All well and quiet in camp. Came off guard. Charlie came over and we went to church, received a letter from my friend Almaretta Thomas, wrote to Julia. 14th. Lieutenant Edwards' wife went home. Battalion drill. 15th. Had
a snow squall. Skirmish drill by the company. Evening, Charlie came over, wrote to Frank and Wallace. 16th. Cold and windy. Evening, Charlie here and we went to the spelling school, also had a temperance lecture. 17th. Pleasant. Division review, went over to see Charlie and went to lyceum, letters from home. 18th. Had inspection of quarters, cleaned all up. Myron Taylor of our company died this morning at one o’clock, buried to-day with military honors, Lyceum this evening, Charlie here to attend. 19th. Beautiful day. Letter from Julia. Sunday 20th. Inspection, wrote to Julia, brother George and Louise. 21st. Cold and windy. On fatigue duty. 22d. Our company on guard, wrote to cousin Deborah Snow. Some recruits came to the regiment to-day. Wm. Hitchcock of Springfield, came to our company. 23d. Clear and cold, six inches of snow fell last night, the most we have had this winter, but it is leaving to-day. 24th. Pleasant. Went on picket out three miles. Most of the snow gone to-day. 25th. Cold and cloudy. Still on picket. In the afternoon it commenced raining, rained all night, did not sleep any, had a very disagreeable night. Daniel Lathrop of Longmeadow, came after the body of Myron Taylor. 26th. Still on picket. Sunday 27th. Beautiful day. Relieved from picket duty and returned to camp, found letters from Julia and Louise with their pictures, Charlie here and we wrote to Julia and Louise. 28th. Warm. Wrote to father and mother. 29th. Called on Charlie. 30th. Wrote to Adaline Smith. 31st. Cloudy. Had target practice by the regiment, Company C. making the best shots, went over to see Charlie and remained to the lyceum, letters from Julia and Louise, also one from Finley Bates. Charles Bly was taken sick to-day with small pox and was sent to the pest house. William Thompson was sent to care for him. April 1, 1864. Cold and Rainy. Our company on guard, I am sergeant. Charlie here this evening and went to lyceum, had a good one, wrote to Julia and Louise. 2d. Cold and stormy, first snow then rain which makes plenty of mud. The paymaster has arrived and and paid off part of our regiment, and the boys are feeling well, for some of them have not been paid for six months, he will finish the payment of our regiment to-morrow, relieved from guard this morning, Charlie gone on picket. Sunday 3d. Have been paid off to-day. 4th. Cold and rainy. 5th. Cold rain storm. Charlie still on picket
guess he will think it rather tough, received letter from Julia and answered it. 6th. Fair. Called on Charlie, he came over and had dinner with me. 7th. Fine. Had target practice to-day, Fast, Day in Massachusetts, Charlie over, letters from Julia, Louise and Webster Nash. 8th. Fine. Charlie and I had some pictures taken and sent them home. (sister Louise was teaching school in our district, at home at this time.) Evening had our lyceum and a good one. 9th. Cold and rainy. Charlie here, we wrote to Horatio and wife. 10th. Showers. Charlie here and we wrote to father and mother and to Julia. 11th. Fair. All quiet. 12th. Brigade review, had to brush up for that, received letters from Julia, mother, Herbert and wife, Mr. Dana and William Robbins. 13th. Company drill, called on Charlie. 14th. Had target practice. May, the sutler sold his goods at auction to-day, as all the sutlers have to leave the army, Charlie was auctioneer, received letters from Francis, Elijah and Minerva, wrote to Elijah and Minerva. 15th. Cloudy. The 5th corps reviewed by General Grant. 16th. Rainy. 17th, Sunday. Windy. Morning inspection as usual, Charlie over and took dinner. William Kingsley returned from his furlough. 18th. 6th corps reviewed by General Grant, made a fine appearance letters from Julia and George Perkins, evening called on Charlie. 19th. Fair. Had target practice, wrote to Julia and her mother and to William Robbins. This morning King, of Company F. was caught by the chaplain opening the mail and was arrested, it was found he had some money from some of the letters. He was marched through the streets with a brand on his back with these words on it; "I am a contemptible thief, I robbed the regimental mail." 20th. Cool, called on Charlie. Our regiment and the 7th Massachusetts had a matched game of ball, the 7th beat, letters from Julia, Francis and Horatio. 21st. Fair, did my washing, our company on guard. 22d. Beautiful day. All quiet in camp, but playing ball, Co. H and K, Co. K winning, Fuller of our Co., half-soled my boots, wrote to Julia. 23d. Warmest day of the season. Sunday, 24th. Another warm day. Morning inspection, wrote to father and mother. 25th. Beautiful day. Had a ball game, Charlie here, letter from Julia, wrote to Louise. 26th. Fine. All quiet. Charlie gone on picket. 27th. Fine day. Nothing to do, but play ball, read and write letters. 28th. Fine. The officers of
the 37th and 10th regiments played a matched game of ball, the 37th winning by large odds, went to the 6th Vermont regiment to see my friend Edward Spear, long letter from Julia, fine again to-day, wrote to Julia. 30th. Fine day. Rumors of moving. Great ball game between the 10th Massachusetts and the 1st New Jersey regiments, the 10th came out 20 tallies ahead.

Sunday May 1st, 1864. Beautiful day. Would like to be at home and go to church, knapsack inspection this morning, our company on guard. 2d. Fine. Letters from Horatio and Lucy. 3d. Wrote to brother George. 4th. The bugles called us from our slumbers at two o'clock this morning. Pack up! Pack up! went sounding up and down the line, the army is going to move. Got up prepared a hasty breakfast, packed knapsacks, took the shelter tents off the roof of our log cabins for we must have them, then came the decision that all must make (officers and men alike,) what shall we take and what to leave for the colored people and natives, for much had accumulated during the winter that could not be taken along. Most of us came right down to bare necessities, for we learned the year before that we could not march and carry heavy loads. At 4 o'clock, A.M., we broke camp and started. Good-bye old camp, you have served us well through the winter, was said by many. Our winter camp at Brandy Station was a model of its kind, regularly laid out streets, each company occupying one street, ten companies, therefore ten streets. The log cabins on each side usually occupied by four men. Company officer's quarters were at the head of each street. The whole being kept perfectly clean during our stay in camp. It was conceded by all that it was one of the best regimental camps in the Army of the Potomac.

As long lines of infantry, (reaching miles) in many columns marched along. What a splendid sight? their burnished guns glistening in the morning sun. Then came the artillery thundering along, the long wagon trains also, with their white tops, all was a sight never to be erased from one's mind. We marched towards Fredericksburg crossing the Rapán at Germania Ford, on two pontoon bridges, went on four or five miles and halted for the night. We had a hard march and many of our boys fell by the way. I am well except a bad cough. Charlie well. 5th. Warm day. We advanced
in three lines of battle, met the enemy in the woods, and had a terrible battle, neither side gaining any ground. Our brigade was in it and lost many men. Charlie was wounded, a bullet through his ankle, that was the last of his fighting, he soon after got his discharge. The 10th Massachusetts lost many men, we lost a few, S. L. Niles and E. P. Hadley, of Co. D, were wounded. 6th. Hot. We attacked the enemy again to-day, pushing their right flank back one mile. Our regiment was in it and lost 150 men, our company losing 20, five killed. No advantage gained on either side. John Hyde, Daniel Currie, George Clark, John Smith and George Wilcutt were killed, also our color bearer, Fields of Co F. was killed. Corporal Hooker of our company who was one of the color guards, picked up the flag and carried it until the close of the war, he was made sergeant. George Clark fell against me and across my feet, spattering me with his blood. I could not stop to look at him but kept on sending the shots at the enemy as fast as we could load and fire. They were but a few rods in front of us at this time, and in great numbers and in ten minutes drove them back to a line of breastworks where we held them. In the ten minutes our regiment lost 150 men out of 600 that went into the fight. They fell thick and fast around you. The battlefield of the Wilderness was in a very thick underbrush. It took fire at this time and burned up 300 of our wounded, which were unavoidably left on the field. About noon we made another charge, drove the rebels back a short distance, but we had to fall back again. Saturday 7th. Morning cloudy. Last night our corps moved to the right and now are lying in line of battle, have been marching back and forth and building rifle pits, not much fighting but a lot of work done. Fighting on another part of the field. At 5 o'clock, P. M., I was detailed to go to the surgeon's tents where they had been at work for 36 hours, there I saw large piles, (several cart-loads) of hands, arms, feet and legs and a detail was made while I was there to bury them. Sunday 8th. Hot day. Marched all of last night and am doing the same to-day, this afternoon had a fight with the enemy near Spottsylvania Court House. How hot to fight, many being sunstruck, our Colonel was one of them. We took one regiment of rebel prisoners to-day. 9th. Hot again. Lay in the line most of the day, building rifle pits and supporting a battery of eight pieces. At one time the rebels were
advancing and was very near when the captain of the battery gave
the order to load and fire as fast as possible, I timed them and
they discharged one gun three times every minute, making twenty-
four shots a minute from the battery which sent the enemy back in
a hurry. Some hard fighting, in this engagement S. C. Bryant was
wounded and died in a few days. S. P. Fuller wounded, taken
prisoner and died in Andersonville prison, both of our company.
At night we went on picket. General Sedgewick, commander of
the 6th corps killed this morning by a rebel sharpshooter, while ad-
justing the line of battle. The sharpshooter had been sending
some shots towards the General and his orderlies, the orderlies had
been doing some dodging, when the General says: What are you
dodging for? they could not hit an elephant at that distance, the
words had hardly left his lips, when a bullet struck him under the
eye killing him instantly. No officer of the army of the Potomac,
stood as high or was thought as much of by officers and men alike,
as General John Sedgewick. He always went by the name of
Uncle John. On the march he was always right along with the
boys looking after their welfare. Where he led they would follow
and with perfect confidence. His last night of life was passed
among his faithful soldiers, like them sleeping upon the ground
without tent or blanket. To sum it all up, the boys of the 6th corps
almost worshipped him. General Sedewick’s adjutant says of him
when his death was reported: “Each one in that tent, old and grey
bearded warriors, burst into tears and for some minutes sobbed like
children crying for a father. They built a bower of evergreen
among the pine woods and laid him out upon a rough bier made for
him by soldier hands, and all day long there were strong men weep-
ing by the funeral couch. They came from all parts of the army,
the old and the young, the well and the wounded, officers and men
to take their last look at their belovedchieftain. Many thousands
of brave men who composed that army were familiar with death in
all its forms. Not once, nor twice had they seen strong men stricken
unto sudden death. Not once, nor twice had they beheld men of
high rank, in high command, fall amid contending hosts. They
had perhaps grown hardened and indifferent to what was necessarily
of frequent occurrence and the common expectation of all, but when
the news went that day like an electric shock along the lines of the
army of the Potomac that John Sedgwick was dead. A great loneliness fell upon the hearts of all and men that hardly ever heard his voice, many that scarcely knew him by sight, wept bitter tears as if they had lost an only friend, and all recalled how on many occasions hearing on right or left or the rear, the thunder of hostile guns. All anxiety passed away from the minds of the men at the simple remark “It must be all right,” Uncle John is there.”

18th. Warm again to-day. Terrible fighting all day. I am on the skirmish line, and I am thankful to God I am yet alive, while thousands have fallen, we have carried the enemy’s left flank and they are falling back. We took 3000 prisoners. Edward Burt, of our company wounded to-day. 11th. Wet, rainy day. Nothing doing with us. Lying still and resting, wrote to Julia, just at night fell back a little and halted for the night. 12th. Rainy. We charged on the enemy’s works at three o’clock. A.M., drove them out and held the works, taking 4000 prisoners and 20 cannon, 30 stands of colors, one major general, two brigadier generals and several colonels. Hard fighting for twenty-four hours, as General Lee said he would re-take the works if it took his whole army. So they made charge after charge marching up only to be mowed down by our guns. General Lee wanted to lead one charge in person, but his corps commanders persuaded him not to. Some of the enemy finally got up to the opposite side of the works, they would put their guns over as far as they could and fire and we was doing the same. We had ten men in the works to their one, as only a few got up so near. We kept this up for twenty-four hours without a stop or rest, with nothing to eat or drink, unless we chanced to have water in our canteens. There was an oak tree twenty inches in diameter standing in the works which was entirely cut off by bullets striking on our side of the works, about 11 o’clock at night (some histories have it,) that it fell on the enemy’s side, but it is not so, as I viewed the tree in the morning and noticed its top cut into shreds by minnie balls, the trunk of the tree is preserved in the war department at Washington, as a memorial of the terrible struggle at the Angle. This battle is called the Bloody Angle of Spottsylvania. After the enemy had retreated and it became daylight, I got up on the works and went up and down looking over the enemy’s side. What a sight to behold? their dead and wounded
literally piled on top of one another, some of the way you could not step between them. The groanings and appeals for help was heart-rending. I could not look in their faces any longer, so I jumped down on our side again. Many of them were in water several inches deep where the dirt had been dug out to build the breastworks. It had been raining for twenty-four hours. One of the party detailed to bury the dead told me that they buried 3000 of the enemy by piling them up like cord wood along under the works and then throwing the dirt from the works on them. Friday 13th. Cloudy. Our brigade fell back, being relieved and we are resting to-day, we need it, for we have been fighting twenty-four hours without a halt, evening, went up to the front, wet and rainy, wrote to Julia and Francis. 14th. Still raining, mud knee deep, up before daylight, packed up in the rain and were off, marched around to our left and formed a junction with the 9th corps, have stopped now to make coffee, our bread consists of hard-tack now. This is my birthday, 31 years old to-day. Sunday 15th. Still rainy. We keep crowding the enemy on their right flank, gained the heights beyond the river Po last night, digging rifle pits to-day. S. C. Bryant died to-day 16th. Still wet. Have not moved yet, afternoon cleared off warm, it has been quiet all day, the army resting. Wrote to Julia, John, Herbert and Elijah, heard from Charlie, he is better. 17th. Warm. All quiet to-day so far, at night the 6th corps went up to the right, marching all night. 18th. Warm day. At four o'clock, A. M., we made a charge on the enemy's left, but not driving them, they being behind strong fortifications, we lost many men. Corporal Holbrook and George Bisbee wounded. Our corps moved to the extreme left of our line. The rebel's shot and shell cut off many of the fine trees over our heads. A few of our regiment taken prisoners. 19th. Cloudy. We advanced the left of our line as far as possible and now we are fortifying. Received mail for the first time since leaving camp, our corps having three army wagon loads, it comes in large sacks, letters from home. 20th. Pleasant. All well and quiet to-day. Wrote to Julia and Horatio, just resting, which we all so much need as the boys are all very tired. We have had continual marching and fighting since we left our winter quarters at Brandy Station 15 days ago. Our regiment has lost over 200 out of 600 men by bullet and marching, and the army of
the Potomac has lost 40,000 thousand men. At night went on
picket, the line was very heavy as much so as a line of battle, about
1000 men on the line, under a major of a Vermont regiment, and a
captain from our own regiment and one sergeant which was myself,
all was quiet through the night and part of the next forenoon.
We expected to be withdrawn in the morning and rejoin the army
as usual, when on the move, but for some reason we were not, some
thought we were left on purpose, others said it was a mistake, how-
ever, we remained on picket all day and that night. About
11 o'clock, A. M. I heard the enemy in our front but a short dis-
tance from us. I could hear the commands of their officers put-
ting their men in line of battle and knew very well they were going
to charge on us, so I thought I would look up the major and cap-
tain who were in command of the picket line. I went from one
end to the other twice but could not find them on the line, the boys
had heard the rebel officers giving their commands and knew as
well as I did what was going on and what was to be, and were in-
quiring where the major and captain were. I said I cannot find
them. The boys were uneasy and some were frightened and said
we would be captured, a few left us and pushed on after the army, I
kept going along the line and giving the boys all the encourage-
ment I could telling them to keep cool and take good aim as soon
the enemy should come out of the woods where their lines of battle
were formed. We were behind very strong breastworks with a
head log on top and heavy slashings in front for five or six rods.
I knew that before they could work their way through there, we
could lay out some of them. About 1 o'clock P. M., I heard the
command, forward march, (the boys heard them as well) and we
knew they were advancing. I went over the line again telling the
boys to keep cool and take good aim, don't waste your ammuni-
tion but let them have it. Soon they came out of the woods and then
we opened on them in earnest, twenty of the rebels got over the
works and we took them prisoners, as soon as they got on top of
the works a number of guns would be pointed at their heads and
all shout "surrender" which they were glad to do. There was a
captain jumped up on the works where I was and as he did so, said
come on Joe, come on Tom, here they are, my gun with others was
pointed at his head in a second, saying, surrender, which he did
with the other two men. The battle lasted about one hour when the rebels were glad to retire to the woods again. I asked some of the prisoners how many men they had, and he said three brigades, of North Carolina troops, putting their brigades at the smallest they must have had 5000 men and we had about 1000. At night we buried our dead (which were few), digging their graves with our bayonets and tin plates, the rebels must have crawled up and taken their dead away in the night as we did not see anything of them in the morning. About ten or eleven o'clock, at night I heard low whistling down in the slashings and wondered what it meant, I spoke to one of the boys about it and said I thought some of the Johnnies (as the name given to the rebels) wanted to give themselves up and I was going down to the breast works and see, comrade Charles Babbitt said if I did they would capture me, and that I should not go alone, so he went with me. We went down and the Johnnies continued to whistle, I says boys what do you want? They said we want to give ourselves up, I says how many? they says seven, I says is that all? they said yes. Then I said lay down your arms and one advance, and only one. They did so, and soon they were crawling along through the slashings (which was not an easy task,) when I thought he was almost up to the breastworks, I halted him, asking if there was more than one? he said no, then I told him come over the breastworks. I took the seven in the same way. The morning following which was the 22d, I took my command and started to find the army. After marching six or eight miles in passing a small house, who should come out of it but our major and captain, who had deserted their commands the morning before when fighting looked sure and left me to see to it, which I did. The major took command and we went on and caught up with the army. My company were surprised to see me as they heard we were all captured. In this battle there was a Vermont soldier who stood at my side who was killed, falling against me. His first words after being hit were: Mother did not want me to come. Then speaking to his comrade says: Harry won’t you write to mother and tell her all about it? send her my picture and he mentioned some other little things and was dead before he was through talking. I laid him down off me and the fight went on. 21st. This afternoon the line fell back to the rifle pits and the enemy came upon us.
but we gave them a good whipping, killing many, our loss was few.

Sunday the 22d. The enemy changing base, but we do not know where, think we shall have some hard marching to-day, received letters from Julia, John, Horatio and Louise. Monday, 23d. Cloudy and warm. We are on the march towards Richmond, reached the North Anna river at night after a hard march. The 5th corps had a fight with the enemy but we held our ground. I am not feeling very well. 24th. Our corps crossed the North Anna river this morning and we are now lying in line of battle, we rested all day, at night moved forward into the rifle pits. Hot day. Heavy firing on our left. 25th. Hot day. Moved forward a little, halted, threw up breastworks, working all night to do it, rebel sharpshooters at work to-day, some firing on our left, wrote to Julia and John. 26th. Morning rainy, cleared off warm, all quiet up to noon. Broke camp, marched all night in the mud, had a hard time. We are moving down to the left towards White House Landing. 27th. Hot. This morning found us on the road having marched all night, halted at 7 o'clock, A. M., for coffee and drew rations, then on again all day. The men were very tired. Now at 7 o'clock, P. M. have to march again, perhaps all night. Can we do it? we shall try, we know not where the morning will find us. This terrible marching night and day, drops from the ranks more men than cannon shot and bullet combined. 28th. Warm. Have been marching to-day, crossed the Pamunkey river on a pontoon bridge, advanced on the heights and threw up rifle pits. I am out on picket, some fighting to-day with the cavalry. Am well and thankful to God for it. Sunday 29th. Fine day. Quite cool last night, still on picket. Beautiful Sabbath day, wish I could be at home and go to church, but that cannot be, for war has no more regard for the Sabbath than any other day. 30th. Warm. J. W. Nichols died, we have been marching around all day and lying in line of battle. Heavy firing on our left at night. The enemy tried to break through our lines, but we laid them out right and left and they fell back. Received letters from Julia, John, Francis and Adaline Shaw. 31st. Warm. Have been resting all day, cannonading on our left, what is up, I do not know? wrote to Julia, Francis and Herbert, do not know when I can send the letters. Wednesday,
June 1st. Hot day. Our corps marched to Cold Harbor, a hard march, it being so warm, found the enemy in force and had a fight with them, took 1000 of them prisoners, our loss small. We went out on the skirmish line, captain Edwards played out and fell back to the rear. 2nd. Another warm day. Was relieved from picket at noon, had all the ripe cherries we could eat, at night threw up rifle pits, heavy thunder shower, Edward Burt died to-day. 3d. Wet to-day. Heavy charge made the whole length of the line at 5 o’clock, A. M. we drove the enemy back on the right and left but did not gain anything and the loss of life was heavy on our side. 2 o’clock, P. M., we are now lying in line of battle, fighting still going on. The enemy made a night attack and were repulsed with heavy loss. 4th. Hot day. In rifle pits all day, sharp firing by sharpshooters, the enemy gave us some shells and canister. At night received mail, letters from Julia and Louise, wrote to Julia. 5th. Cloudy and rainy. Firing on the skirmish line as usual and some firing by the batteries, received letters from Horatio and Charlie, he is doing well, wrote to him and to Julia, we rested all day. 6th. Lying in rifle pits all day, all quiet, received a long letter from Julia, wrote to Wallace and Elijah. Flag of truce two hours to-day, for both armies to bury their dead that were killed within the lines. We have enjoyed these two hours very much, in one way, for we could stand up and stretch ourselves, get upon the breastworks, look around and chat with the Johnnies, especially those that were detailed to gather up the dead between the lines and bury them. When the flag of truce went down, you would hear the commands, “Now boys keep your heads below the breastworks.” How strange, one hour mingling with each other as friends, the next hour shooting each other. Such is war.

The effect of this hot weather on the dead is almost unendurable, neither side could bury their dead that fell between the lines in the charges and counter charges that were made, nor hardly those that were killed within the lines. The party detailed to gather up and bury the dead found several wounded men alive that had lay there for three days and nights with neither food or water, one man had gone insane from suffering. One night when all was quiet, I heard his groans but could not relieve them. 7th. Warm. Our regiment came back to the rear to rest and wash up, will remain 24 hours,
then go to the front again, have done my washing to-day in a mud-hole, received a handkerchief from Julia and wrote to her, drew rations. 8th. Pleasant. At 2 o'clock, A. M. went to the front, all quiet as yet, have been lying in the rifle pits all day, wrote to Julia, Horace and Adaline. The breastworks at Cold Harbor were very extensive and heavy, running at all angles. We built two large forts, well out from all the other works, out of bags of sand. To get the batteries out there we dug large deep trenches twelve feet wide and eight feet deep, so they could drive the batteries out to them and not get shot by the enemy. This trench was all dug out in the night, and through heavy pine woods, what advantage was gained? we boys could not see. 9th. Fair. Firing on the skirmish line as usual, cheering by our men, but do not know what for, drew clothing, wrote home. 10th. Warm. Out on the picket line, lying low, all quiet, received letters from Julia, Louise and George L. Streeter of our company who was wounded and is now in the hospital at Washington. 11th. Warm. We are in the second line of breastworks, have to lie low, the sharpshooters pick off every man that shows himself above the breastworks. There have been one or two killed and several wounded from our regiment. Sunday, 12th. Warm. Nothing to write about to-day, expect to march to-night around on the James river, think the whole army is going to swing around. 13th. Warm. We marched from Cold Harbor, crossing the Chickahominy river, marched all last night, and up to eight o'clock, to night and we are all very tired and hungry. It was a hard march and then to finish our day's work, went out on picket all night, which was not very pleasant. 14th. Cool and cloudy. Up and off at 4 o'clock, A. M., for Charles City Court House on the James river, arrived here at 10 o'clock, A. M., now we are lying still and resting, which seems good. 15th. The army is crossing the James river here at Charles City Court House to-day. Our division is rear guard, so we shall not be able to cross until tomorrow, if then. We are crossing on pontoon bridges, the largest ones laid. The teams came up and we drew rations. The wagon train of the army of the Potomac is sixty miles long and was all day and night crossing the James river. Letters from Elijah, envelopes from Julia, wrote to her and Elijah and my comrade George Streeter. 16th. Warm. We have moved up to the river,
and are throwing up rifle pits, have been in bathing and done some washing. The army is crossing as fast as possible and it is a great sight. 17th. We crossed the river at dark last night, marching all night and to-day, reaching near Petersburg at 5 o’clock, P. M., very tired. The 1st and 3d divisions of our corps are already fighting the enemy. I am not feeling well. 18th. Another warm day. Have been fighting most of the day, near Petersburg, driving the enemy back and taking a few prisoners. The roar of the artillery and crash of musketry has been almost incessant all day, many of the brave boys have done their last marching and laid down for their final rest. I am sick and have been at the hospital to-day, received letters from Julia, Louise, John, Frank and Francis. Sunday 19th. I am feeling a little better to day, not much fighting only by sharpshooters. Our brigade relieved from the front. This is the Sabbath, but one would hardly believe it, may the time soon come when we can have a quiet Sabbath. 20th. Hot. Not much doing, the enemy shelled us some in the morning. The 10th Massachusetts regiment left for home to-day, their time having expired. I am yet at the hospital. 21st. Warm day. Nothing new, still in the hospital. Our corps move on to our right to-night, I do not feel like marching far, wrote to John. 22d. Warm again to-day. Our corps arrived on the right this morning, marching all night again, has been quiet the rest of the day. I am feeling no better. F. D. Simpson of our Company died to-day in the hospital at Washington, another fine fellow gone. War will trouble him no more. 23d. Hot. All quiet with us, but how hot and dusty, it seems as though we would all die. I returned to duty again to-day, wrote to Julia. 24th. Nothing new on the left of our line where our corps lay. Very heavy firing on our right this morning. The 2d corps attacked to-day by the enemy but were handsomely repulsed. 25th. Another hot day. All quiet on both sides, have been resting and trying to keep cool, received letter from Julia and answered it. Sunday 26th. All quiet to-day, how glad we all are to rest this hot weather and have a quiet Sabbath, wrote to mother Pollard. 27th. Another hot day. Letter from Francis, wrote to father and mother and a line to Julia, thunder shower in the afternoon and it is a little cooler. 28th. Cooler and how good it seems, wrote to Francis. 29th Pleasant. I feel about the same, our corps marched around
to Reams Station on the Petersburg & Weldon railroad and now tonight we are destroying the road. I got very tired before reaching here, letters from Julia and Louise. 30th. Fine day. We are still at work tearing up the railroad, burning the ties and bending the rails by heating them. At night we fell back a few miles, having accomplished all we intended to. Friday, July 1st. Hot and dusty. Have remained still all day, I feel miserable, it is so warm. 2d. Hot. We came back to our old place and a hot march it was, all quiet. Sunday 3d. Hot, been trying to keep cool and this is about all we have done, had dress parade. 4th. Cooler. This is the 4th of July, but all is the same here, I wonder what the folks are doing at home? letter from Julia. 5th. Warm. Quiet all along the lines, I am on guard and am feeling better. 6th Hot and dry. Our brigade moved and threw up new rifle pits and earthworks. The 3d. division of our corps have gone to Harpers Ferry, think we may go in a day or two. The enemy are trying to make another raid into Maryland, guess they will not succeed. 7th. Warm. Feeling better, all quiet, our small brigade joined the 1st. division to-day, wrote to Julia and Louise. 8th. Still warm. 9th. All quiet, cleaned up our guns and equipment, as we have inspection tomorrow. Sunday 10th. Hot. Orders came last night at 10 o'clock, for our corps to pack up and report at Washington. We started, marched all night reaching City Point on the James river at 8 o'clock this morning, took the steamer at dark and started for Washington. Letters from Julia, Louise and Charlie. 11th. Still hot. Now at 9 o'clock, A. M., we are sailing up the Chesapeake bay, sun shining very hot, but there is a good breeze which makes it endurable, band playing which sounds good. Heavy thunder shower. I had a sick spell to-day caused by sun stroke, but am feeling better to-night. 12th. Hot. Landed in Washington at noon, found the citizens in the greatest excitement, the rebels being just outside the forts. The military, citizens and even the soldiers left their beds in the hospitals and were out around the works. As soon as possible, we marched to Fort Stephens (had a thunder shower on the way, which cooled us off a little) and the 2d. division had a sharp skirmish. The 37th was put on the skirmish line and we had a few shots at the Johnnies, we drove them about two miles and as it was growing dark we lay on picket at night, wrote to Julia. 13th. Cool
and beautiful, we drew rations of soft bread and yet the roads were full of teams with provisions of all kinds for us from the citizens, but the authorities would not allow any to be given to us then for fear we should make ourselves sick, thinking perhaps we might be poisoned by the secesh element which was plenty here at this time. At 2 o'clock, we marched about fifteen miles going through Georgetown and Tenleytown and halting at the Baltimore Cross Roads, weary and tired it was so warm. 14th. Hot We, the 37th Massachusetts regiment had our old Springfield rifles exchanged for the Spencer repeating rifle, a seven-shooter, a splendid arm. The 37th was the only regiment in the corps that had them. Our brigade was rear guard for the train today, a slow tedious march of 7 miles. A heavy guard has to follow the trains to keep the enemy's cavalry from capturing it. The train when on the move travels as compact as possible, moving on different roads, but all leading to the same point. As the wagon train was 60 miles long when placed in a straight line, it could not be moved in that way. The train carried army supplies, such as rations, clothing, ammunition, entrenching tools, (picks, shovels, axes, etc.) The trains were kept separate, as one division of wagons would have all ammunition, another division clothing, another rations, and so on. Each division had a train-master, whose duty it was to look after his own train, and see that it kept up with the moving of the army. 15th. Hot, hot! Received mail, marched to Poolsville. There was a spy hung there from the 67th New York regiment, he deserted and was a spy for the rebels, when he was at headquarters spying, he was recognized, court-martialled and hung on the spot. 16th. A little cooler. Now on the road to Leesburg, marched to White Ford, here the rebels were the other side of the Potomac, we lay a few minutes until the batteries were put into position when we shelled them. At 10 o'clock, A. M., we are just crossing the Potomac, drove the rebels and followed on to Leesburg, where we halted, having marched 20 miles, guess the most of us are leg-weary, I know I am. Sunday 17th. Warm. Have been lying quiet all day near Leesburg and resting, wrote to Julia and home. 18th. Warm. Marched from Leesburg, through Hamilton, Purcelville and Snickersville, crossed the Blue Ridge mountains at Snicker's Gap. When going up the mountains on the east side and looking back the scenery was most grand, you
looked upon a country that had not been trampled over by either army, and to us to look upon such a spot was refreshing indeed. At the Shenandoah river the 8th corps were having a fight with the enemy and were getting the worst of it, but when we came up, we turned the tide. The 37th went on picket at night along the bank of the Shenandoah river and the enemy were on the other side, when our battery came up in the morning they shelled them out. 19th. Another warm day. Have been lying still all day, still on the picket line, we drove in a flock of sheep and made mutton of them, drew three days rations. The owner of the sheep came around (an old man) scolding about losing his sheep and wanted pay for them, we did not blame him any for that, had quite a chat with him, asked him if he was a Union man, if so he would get pay for his sheep. The old man got into the wrong crowd to get much sympathy, we wanted a change in our bill of fare. 20th. Hot day. We advanced crossing the Shenandoah, wading up to our hips, in crossing the river we had to hold up our cartridge boxes to keep them from getting wet. The stones in the bottom of the river were so slippery it made it hard getting across, one comrade of our company who always carried a heavy load, played Baptist very suddenly by making a mis-step and went in all over, losing his gun, we fished it out and helped him to the other shore. We went on about five miles but did not find the enemy, we had a very heavy thunder shower, but we kept right on marching just the same, did some foraging in the pig, poultry and beef line. 21st. Little cooler. Had orders last night to report to Washington immediately, so at dark we started back marched all night, wading the Shenandoah river again, and marched all day to-day, halted at 8 o'clock for breakfast near Goose Creek, all tired out having marched 28 miles. Many of our stragglers were captured by citizens who are guerillas, when the corps passed through Leesburg there was hardly a person in sight, but when the tired stragglers came along they shot or captured most of them. One little drummer boy from Chicopee was shot down. The men of the 37th asked our Colonel if we might go back and destroy the town? but he said no, we boys were mad clear through.

22d. Cooler. We marched to Difficult Run, 20 miles, a hard
march as the men were tired and footsore. 23d. Fine day. Marched to Tenleytown where we expect to stop a few days, get paid off, then return to the army of the Potomac in front of Petersburg, have done some washing to-day. Sunday 24th. Warm. Have been lying still all day, some of the troops have been paid off, received a large mail, letters from Julia, mother Pollard, home and sister Adaline Shaw, wrote to Julia and Francis, drew clothing 25th. A rainy day, the first one for some time, and we need it. We expected to embark for City Point to-day, but the order was countermanded. 26th. Warm. At noon marched five miles beyond Rockville, Maryland, a hard march, distance 16 miles, all tired out. 27th. Warm again to-day. Marched to Hagerstown, am not feeling well, received letters from Julia, Charlie and Horatio, Julia wrote of the death of her brother Wallace who died in the hospital at Fortress Monroe, July 7th from a wound received at Bermuda Hundred. 28th. Hot and dry. Marched to Jefferson, a long hard march, many falling out by the way, myself for one, as I could not go any farther. Had orders from our captain to fall out with a sick comrade and look after him, and rejoin the regiment as soon as we could, we remained at the house of a colored woman over night, she hid us up in the chamber; the way we got up was through a scuttle going up a ladder and then drawing the ladder up after us, did that to keep from being gobbled up by the rear guard, for if they found us we would have to go along, able or not. At midnight I heard them coming, they came into the yard and into the the house and asked the colored woman if any soldiers were in there, she answered “no sah! I 'spect not.” This was a plantation and the large two-story house where the owner lived was full of our officers and men getting something to eat. The officer of the rear guard with his men went into the house and told them they must move on immediately, the house had been full all the evening and I knew better than to stop in there, for the officer of the rear guard has all authority to clean up everyone as he moves along, no matter what kind of shoulder straps he wears. If you are sick he will put you in an ambulance and take you along. 29th. Hot day. We started this morning after a breakfast of warm hoe cake and milk, in return I gave the colored woman some coffee as I had plenty with me. Went to Jefferson, stopped at a Mr. Littles, had the best
of care and got rested some. We remained with them all night. They were fine people, strongly Union. When the 6th corps was passing through Jefferson as it did two different times, Mr. Little's family put out on the sidewalk in front of their house several large tubs of good well water for the thirsty men and helped them fill their canteens. They kept those tubs filled while the corps was passing, this was great treat and highly appreciated by the soldiers. 30th. Hot day. Left my friends this morning, went to Harpers Ferry, found the troops coming back, when I stopped and remained all night on the side of the mountain (to keep away from the rear guard). Sunday 31st. Hot. Got up early and my comrade and myself started back to join the column, that had passed in the night, found them at Petersville, halted an hour or two and then started on, took dinner with my friend Mr. Little in Jefferson. Brother Charlie had been there before which made them seem like old friends. We marched to Frederick, many died on the way from sunstroke. August 1st, Monday. Hot. Been lying still all day, a rest much needed by all of the boys. 2nd. Still warm. Lying still and resting near Frederick City, Maryland, wrote to Julia and home. 3d. Beautiful day, a little cooler. Marched to Monocacy river and went into camp, think we may rest here a few days, went in bathing and done my washing. 4th. Warm again. All quiet, National Fast Day, wrote to John. 5th. I am not feeling well, all quiet, still resting, 9 o'clock, P. M. order came to pack up and fall in, wonder where we are going now. 6th. Hot. The corps moved last night, but as our brigade was rear guard for the train we did not move until this morning. I was sun-struck and had to fall out went as far as Mr. Littles, in Jefferson, and remained over night. Sunday, 7th. Hot as usual. The corps have gone to Harpers Ferry, I am still at Mr. Littles, think I shall go to Frederick City to the hospital, some of Sheridan's cavalry passed through here today. I remained at Mr. Little's until the 11th, then went to the hospital at Frederick City. 12th. Another hot day Wrote to Captain Edwards of my company. 13th. Still hot. Have no appetite. Sunday 14th. Still hot. A heavy thunder storm at night, it rained into the barracks and came near unroofing the building, wrote to Julia. 15th. Little cooler. Feeling a little better, wrote to my friend F. K. Sheldon, of my company, to have him send me
my mail 16th. Still warm. Miss Sallie Little called on me and brought me some apples. 17th. Wrote to Horatio and wife. 18th. Have had a fine rain to-day, it has done much good it was so very dry. How thankful we should be to God for the many blessings bestowed upon us. 19th. Cloudy with some rain. Mr. Little and daughter Sallie called, brought apples and peaches and some fine flowers. I got a pass, went down town, sent in for a furlough of ten days to go out to Jefferson. 20th. Cloudy and rainy. Not feeling much better, have sent for a furlough to go home, do not know as I will get it. Sunday 21st. Fine day. 22d. Still wet. All quiet here, report of fighting at the front, a number of the sick from this hospital are to go to Baltimore, Maryland to-morrow, received letter from Julia. 23d. Fair. Went to Newton University hospital, Baltimore, to-day, I got very tired. 24th. Found one of my company in the hospital doing duty, was glad to see him wrote to Julia and the postmaster at the general hospital, at Frederick City to forward my mail. 25th and 26th. Just the same. I went down to the dock to see the exchange steamer unload its freight of living skeletons right from the rebel prison at Andersonville, Georgia. Comrades who had been taken prisoners and now had been exchanged; what a sight, as they filed off the boat and up the stairs, 300 of them. I walked along beside them, talking with some of them, one comrade told me when he went into the prison, his teeth were all sound, and now he had not a tooth in his head. 27th. Beautiful day. Got a pass and went around the city a little, Baltimore is a fine city, it is called the monumental city, there are so many monuments there. Sunday, 28th. Fine. This is the Sabbath and how good it sounds to hear the church bells ringing, wrote four letters. 29th. and 30th. About the same, wish I was able to be with my regiment. 31st. Cool and cloudy. Was mustered for pay to-day, but do not know when I shall get it, letters from Julia and friend Sheldon, wrote to Julia.

Thursday, Sept. 1st. This is the first day of autumn and a beautiful day it is, got a pass to go on the street, received eleven back letters, had a pleasant time reading them, not feeling quite as well to-day. 2d. Fine. 3d. Was transferred to Wilmington, Delaware to-day, am very tired. Sunday, 4th. Rainy, rained hard all
last night, church bells are ringing. 5th. Wrote to friend Sheldon. 6th. Cold and rainy, a long cold storm, and it seems cold, feeling a little better to-day, wrote to Elijah and Minerva, how still and lonesome it seems, sent in for a furlough to-day. 7th. Beautiful day. Feeling a little better. 8th. Got a pass and went on the street, Wilmington is quite a fine city. 9th. Feel better. Received letters from Julia, Charlie and Adaline Shaw. 10th. Went on the street again, bought a loaf of bread and had all the peaches and apples given me that I wanted. Sunday, 11th. Had a shower last night and one to-day, wrote to Julia. 12th. My furlough has come and I am very glad, will now go home and see my friends once more, I am feeling no better. Reached New York on the 13th called on brother Frank. 14th. Reached Meriden, called on friends there. 15th. Started for home, arriving at night, how glad to meet the dear ones again, am thankful to God for sparing my life thus far, found them all well. Nov. 22d. Am getting ready to go back to the hospital as I am feeling able to do military duty again, it has taken some time to regain my health and strength. 23d. Snow squalls. Started for Meriden on my way to the hospital. 24th. Thanksgiving to-day, took supper at Horace Smith's, Mr. Pratt and wife were there, in the evening went down to John's, Horatio and family came over from Middletown, tried to see all my friends and bid them good-bye. Dec. 7th., I left for New York, found the friends here all well, made them visits, then on the 12th at 7 o'clock A. M., I left for the hospital at Wilmington, Delaware, arriving at 2 o'clock, P. M. 13th. Got a pass to go on the street, but it was so cold I did not stay long, wrote to Julia (who was in Meriden), and Adaline Shaw. 14th. Wrote to Elijah and home. 15th. Du pont's powder mill blew up to-day, 10 persons killed. I went to see the ruins, what a sad sight? Sunday 18th. Fine. Went to church in the morning, wrote to Julia and Louise, sent Julia a silver pencil. 20th. Clear and cold. Remained in the hospital all day, letter from Julia, wrote to comrade Sheldon and mother Pollard. 22d. Very cold. Went out and bought a paper. A call for 300,000 more troops. 24th. Beautiful day. I am feeling quite well. The ladies of Wilmington gave us a splendid dinner to-day, it was as fine a table as I ever sat down to. God bless the loyal women of the north, and especially those of Wilmington. Sunday
25th. Xmas day, the day of our Saviour's birth, wrote to Adaline, Francis and Charlie. 26th. Rainy. Good news from Sherman, he has taken Atlanta, Georgia. 27th. Wrote to cousin Almon Mitchell. 28th. Rainy. Received letters from comrade Sheldon, John Bissell, and Julia, answered her letter. 29th. Cold. Drew clothing, overcoat, coat, pants, blanket, shirts and two pairs of drawers. 31st, Saturday. Stormy, some snow, this is the last day of the year. How many commenced the year with high hopes and expectations? but how soon blasted. How many who commence the coming year will live to see its close. Shall I? God grant that I may live to see my friends once more.

Sunday, January 1st, 1865. Clear and cold. Wrote to Julia, Elijah and Minerva. 2d. Received a nice long letter from cousin Almon Mitchell. From the 2d to the 18th. is about the same every day, received many letters and answered them. 18th. Fort Fisher taken by our army, good news, went on the street, bought a silk handkerchief, paid $1.50 for it. 20th. Hemmed my handkerchief. 23d. Had general inspection, I am marked for my regiment and am ready to go, 60 from here going to the front. 25th. Clear and cold. Left Tilton hospital for my regiment, went as far as Baltimore, received letters from cousin Deborah Snow and Francis. 26th. Cold. Waiting here for transportation, wrote to Julia, Francis and Charlie. 27th. Still waiting to go to my regiment, but there is so much ice in the harbor that vessels cannot go out. 28th. Still very cold. Ice still in the Harbor, thousands are skating on it to-day, wrote to cousin Deborah Snow. Sunday 29th. A little warmer, shall be glad when I get back to my regiment. 30th. A beautiful day. We left Frederick hill, Baltimore, and took a steamer for City Point, but did not leave as she was not coal'd, cold on board the steamer. 31st. Coaled the steamer last night, to-day they have taken in water and a few rations, we expect to start soon. Wednesday, February 1st. Cold and cloudy. Did not start yesterday, as the engine gave out just as we started, but we started today, but got along very slow on account of the ice in the harbor and bay. 2d. Have got through the ice and reached Point Lookout, have sent a boat ahead after rations, got soft bread, coffee and bacon, now we are really started. 3d. Reached Fortress Monroe,
last night and anchored until this morning, as we are to report here.
11 o'clock, A. M., have started again for City Point. 4th. Fine
day. Have at last reached City Point and are off the old craft,
have washed up and now am waiting to be sent to my regiment.
Sunday, 5th. Beautiful day. Arrived at my regiment to-day, and
happy to get here, found our division packed up ready to move; went
at 7 o'clock, A. M., to support the 2d and 5th corps which have
gone down to the left. 6th. Fine day. Did some washing, some
Johnnies came along that our troops took yesterday, I hear we have
got the South Side railroad, received letter from Julia and wrote to
her and home. 7th. Cold and rainy. The boys on duty must
suffer with cold, very heavy firing on the left this afternoon, wrote
to cousin Frank Orcutt and Arnin Bemis. 8th. The regiment re-
turned to camp this morning, the boys pretty well tired out, I am
not feeling very well. 9th. Went on picket, quiet along the lines.
10th. Fair. Came in from picket, had a cold night of it, but am
feeling better. 11th. Still fine weather, not doing much, wrote to
Charlie. Sunday, 12th. Clear and cold. Sunday morning inspection
13th. Cold. All quiet, wrote to Julia. 14th. I was detailed on
fatigue duty with a squad of men to work on Fort Fisher. 15th.
Rainy. Doing nothing, letter from Charlie, wrote to Gatie Taylor.
16th. All quiet in camp, heavy firing on our right, that means that
many of the boys are dropping out of the ranks for good, wrote to
Elijah and J. W. Gurney. 17th. Wet day. 140 rebel deserters
came into our camp last night, they were sent to the rear under
guard, deserters from the rebel lines are coming in now quite often.
18th. Fine overhead, but very muddy, letter from Almon Mitchell.
Sunday, 19th. Beautiful day. Morning inspection, wrote to Wm.
W. Orcutt. 20th. Fine. I am on camp guard, grand review of
the 1st division, 6th corps to-day, received letter from Sallie Little.
21st. Another fine day. Glorious news, Charleston in our pos-
session, 100 guns fired in honor of the victory. 23d. Rainy. We
were up this morning at 5 o'clock, formed in line of battle expect-
ing an attack but none was made. 24th. Went on picket. 25th.
Came in from picket, deserters still coming into our lines. Sunday,
26th. Pleasant. All quiet, wrote to Julia, Mr. Dana and James F.
Allen. 27th. One of our regiment was accidentally shot, which
proved fatal. 27th. Rainy day. Mustered for pay to-day, Julia's
birthday, wrote to her. March 1st, Wednesday. Cloudy. All quiet, received a good letter from my friend Webster Nash, the portrait painter. 2d. Rainy. All quiet, went to the woods, got a back load of wood for our fire, all the boys had to get their wood in that way. 3d. Still rainy. General Early captured by General Sheridan yesterday, 38 rebels came into our lines, one was accidentally killed coming in. 4th. Still rainy. All quiet, received letters from Gatie Taylor and Adaline Shaw, was paid off to-day. Sunday, 5th. Beautiful day. Morning inspection. 6th. Pleasant. Went on camp guard, all quiet. 7th. Came off guard. 8th. Rainy. Letter from Julia, wrote to Gatie Taylor. 9th. Cloudy. Wrote to Frank and Charlie, had some pictures taken. 10th. Wet day. Wrote to Austin Bates, sent him one of my pictures. 11th. Wrote to Julia and sent her my picture. Sunday, 12th. Fine. Received letters from home, Francis and J. W. Gurney. 14th. Company and battalion drill under captain Edwards, all excitement in camp, received orders to be ready to move, pack up all surplus baggage in cover and send to the rear. There was a bad case on the picket line to-day, 2 mounted men supposed to be rebel spies run the pickets, a pretty bold thing to do. 2 men and an officer were arrested for letting them through without shooting them. 15th. Warm. Have not moved yet, but have orders often to be ready, pontoon train moving towards the left. At 11 o'clock this morning the line formed in the pits and stood at arms about one hour and then broke ranks and lay around, received a letter from Almon Mitchell. 16th. Warm and very windy. Had brigade dress parade, the wind blowing a gale this P. M. 17th. Had horse and foot races in the 2nd corps to-day. Had a metly inspection, our shirts inspected on us, letter from Mr. Guilford. Sunday, 19th. Beautiful day. Morning inspection, received letters from Julia, Elijah and Sallie Little, wrote to Julia and home. 20th. Fine. Our division of the 6th corps was reviewed by General Meade. 21st. Rainy. Company drill, wrote to cousin Deborah Snow. 22d. Very windy. 23d. Tents blown down, all quiet except the wind. 24th. Fine. Went on picket, all quiet along the lines. 25th. At 4 o'clock, A. M., the enemy charged on our works in front of the 9th corps at Fort Stedman, were ordered up, but before we could get there, the 9th corps boys had re-taken the works and some 2500 prisoners, we returned
to camp, then was ordered to the left, there was heavy fighting the whole length of the line. President Lincoln and General Meade here. At 3 o'clock this afternoon we charged on the rebels at Fort Fisher, captured their skirmish pits and about 3000 men, our loss was 1500. Paul Trotier, one of our company was wounded by a shell. Sunday, 26th. Still on picket, the two picket lines are so close together, that we can call to each other as we do often. Wood is getting scarce, we have to have it for fires for coffee, there was a tree that stood between the lines near where I was on picket, to-day a reb. yelled over to me and says: Yank! (they called us yanks and we called them Johnnies) will you help me cut that tree and divide the wood? Yes, says Yank, so they met and cut down the tree, when they had it cut, Johnny says to Yank, you help me carry my wood over to our lines and then I will help you carry yours over to your lines, so Yank did and when they had the last of it brought to our lines, Johnny says: You look comfortable over here and I am not going back and he did not. A short time before this there was four Johnnies with a six mule team going for wood between the lines, they did not stop for wood, but drove right on into our lines and gave up the team to our provost marshal. 27th. Fine day. Major Young of General Sheridan's staff is in camp to-day to see the boys. Major Young is a great favorite of ours and a fine officer. Sheridan and his cavalry are at headquarters, are going on a raid with part of the 5th corps. 28th. Rumors of a move, afternoon a general movement is in progress towards our left, drew six day's rations, expect to go with Sheridan. 29th. The 24th, white and the 25th colored corps have gone to the left, and Sheridan's cavalry started. Heavy cannonading on the right, at night the cannonading was kept up and so constant was the firing from the heavy mortars, that we could see as well as if the moon shone, although the hardest firing was nearly fifteen miles off. The burning fuse of the shells passing through the air from the great mortars was what caused the light, these mortars were on our gun boats on the James river, shelling the rebel camp, we fell in and remained in the rifle pits, are under orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice. 30th. Rainy day. Hore fighting on our left, at dark received orders to fall in, we took down and packed tents and lay in line until midnight, when we went to our quarters and put up tents.
again. This is what wears on the boys, no sleep or rest. All pioneers have axes but no guns. Captain Hopkins is in command of the regiment. 31st. Rainy. We have been fooling around all day, packing and unpacking, falling in and standing a while and then breaking ranks, but still in camp, all this and much more for the Union. Hard fighting on our left, General Grant pounding away at them.

Saturday, April 1st. Fine day. Rumors that we are to get out of this to-night, heavy firing on the left. Last night we broke camp and moved as near to the enemy's lines as possible without they knowing we were there, formed in line of battle, skirmishers and pioneers in front. The two lines were not more than eight or ten rods apart, firing between the two skirmish lines all night, at one time it was very heavy, Lieutenant Sheldon (who bunked with me all through the war) was very anxious and was whispering, the rebels know we are here, such times as these are what tries men. When we knew at day-break we were to charge the enemy's works, and wondering who of us will be here when night comes on again. Sunday, 2d. Beautiful day. We made an assault on the enemy's lines at 4 o'clock, this morning and carried them, our regiment took one fort with three guns and a rebel battle flag. Corporal Welch of company E knocked down the color bearer and captured the flag. In taking the fort we had to climb over or scramble through a heavy line of abattis, jump down into a wide deep ditch that surrounded the fort, then help each other out, climb over the parapet of the fort and jump down inside, while working to get through the abattis, comrade Sheldon was wounded in the hand. Morning we reformed our lines and pushed on towards Petersburg and halted for the night within a few hundred yards of the city. At 4 o'clock this afternoon went on the skirmish line with many others under colonel Edwards, which brought us very near the city. We could plainly see the enemy hard at work throwing up breastworks and their officers riding back and forth along their lines, while we were picking them off with our rifles. Midnight, the enemy are burning the city, the great fires light up the whole country around, they must be going to evacuate the city, we said, and are going to leave it in ashes. General A. P. Hill shot dead to-day, he was one of General Lee's most able corps commanders. Monday, 3d. The
enemy evacuated the city last night and we are entering it this morning, when the mayor came out and surrendered the city, what there was left of it, as they had burned considerable of it to Colonel Edwards, who had charge of the skirmishers. The skirmishers were the first to enter the city of Petersburg. There has been some dispute as to who were the first to enter the city, but I know for I was there. Lee's skirmishers had been gone hardly 20 minutes, when our skirmishers entered the city. The 37th Massachusetts regiment were at once ordered into the city, to preserve order and were the only troops from the 6th corps to enter the city. We remained in the city but a short time, and then pushed on after General Lee and his forces. 4th. We are pushing on after Lee and his demoralized army. At night where we halted, we found a man that had been murdered, (probably a Union man,) his head was smashed and he was stabbed through the heart, supposed to be the work of guerillas, we buried him. 5th. Still driving Lee up with hard marching. In the morning an order was read to each regiment, asking the troops to cheerfully endure hardships and hunger if necessary, in order to insure the speedy downfall of the rebellion which was greeted with cheers and followed by another hard day's march, the corps joining Sheridan's forces at Petersville late in the evening. Sheridan captured 6 pieces of artillery, three miles of wagon train, one brigade of pioneers, and 16 battle flags. 6th. Early in the morning we formed in line of battle, throw out our skirmishers and advanced through a large piece of woods, expecting to find Lee's forces entrenched there, and have a battle, but he gave us the slip in the night. Then we pushed on after him, Sheridan and his cavalry leading. We caught up with Lee about noon, when they had a running fight for several miles. As we were pushing on following Sheridan we crossed a very large open field where Sheridan caught up with Lee's forces and had a hard battle. We found many of the dead of both sides. Sheridan's men were all stripped of their clothing and some of the bodies horribly mutilated. We said we would have our revenge. Finally they got in a position where they held Sheridan, a place called Sailor's Creek. Sheridan opened on them with his artillery, but could not dislodge them. He waited until the 6th corps came up, after which we formed our lines, then marched down quite a hill, crossed the creek, wading
waist deep in mud and water, reformed our lines in line of battle, then lay down and waited for Sheridan to file around to the rear of the enemy. When all was ready we rose up and began an advance up a hill through scattering pines and some brush, after advancing about 40 or 50 rods we found them, (knowing well where they were.) They gave us a terrible volley sending some of the line back a little, but we gave them shot after shot as fast as we could, which was not slow for our Spencer rifles, (the only magazine gun in the army.) In about 20 minutes we had the best of them, then they threw up white flags which means surrender, so we stopped firing and many of the boys walked right into their lines, (we were not more than five rods apart.) Supposing they were honest in their white flag business, but when we got among them, they pounced on us like tigers, using their bayonets, swords and butts of their guns. In an instant we saw their game, and met them on their own ground, using the same weapons. Those of our line that had not mixed in with the rebels opened fire again and we soon had them prisoners, for Sheridan was in the rear and they could not retreat. We captured 15,000 prisoners, including the rebel General Ewell, and his staff, General Curtis Lee, (son of Robert E. Lee,) several batteries and six miles of wagon train. When the battle was about over, and we had fallen back a little, I noticed an old grey-bearded rebel looking around among our dead and wounded, I soon learned he was shooting our wounded as I saw him shoot one. I said to myself, you old devil, you shooting our helpless wounded men. I raised my rifle and fired and he dropped. There said I, you have fired your last shot. On some of the prisoners we took we saw the Union blue clothes of Sheridan's soldiers that was killed back on the large open field that we passed in the forenoon. This is the 21st, battle I have been in and the only one where the bayonet was used so freely. Mr. Samuel Eddy of my company was run clear through with a bayonet. I saw him after the battle sitting on the ground. I says to him are you wounded? he said they have run a bayonet through me, I looked and saw where it entered his body and came out on his back. He said it did not hurt so very much when it went through, but the man twisted it when withdrawing it but the man never bayoneted another soldier, for Mr. Eddy was so indignant, that he shot him then and there. I told him they would
come with an ambulance for him. I never expected to see him again, but at this re-writing of my war diaries, January, 1904 he is living in Chesterfield, Mass., and quite well. Our regiment lost many in killed and wounded in this battle which was the last one of the great civil war before General Lee surrendered.

In the midst of the battle when we were using our bayonets and the butts of our guns, and shouting to them to surrender, a private of our regiment came face to face with a colonel of a South Carolina regiment, the private says: surrender, "the colonel says I cannot, my pride will not allow me to surrender my sword to a private, where is your colonel? I will surrender my sword to him" The private says: he is somewhere in the field, but you must surrender to me or I will shoot you down. The Colonel says: I cannot, the private shot him. As the Colonel fell, the private bent over him and says: Do you think I done wrong to shoot you? The Colonel says: No, you did not, I was a fool to throw away my life for my pride. He asked the private if he was a Christian? he answered yes! Then said the Colonel: won't you pray for me, I cannot die like this, and while the tempest of battle was raging the soldier knelt by his side and offered up a short fervent prayer for the departing spirit, and at its close the dying officer joined in the Amen. He gave his sword to the soldier, also his gold watch a few keepsakes and a message for his wife, asking him to send them to her at the first opportunity giving him her address, the soldier said he would, he then picked up his rifle and continued on in the battle. 7th. Cloudy, with some rain. Still pushing on after Lee and the remnant of his army, reached Farmville, at 11 o'clock, P. M., halted for an hour in its main street. The boys loaded themselves down with tobacco as there were two or three large warehouses full of it, I did not take any as I never use it. The cavalry captured artillery and prisoners to-day we marched some four or five miles then halted for the rest of the night. 8th. Still crowding on after Lee, taking prisoners and wagon trains, we passed where the rebels had burned a large wagon train of their own, 200 wagons and a number of cannon and caissons to prevent them from falling into our hands. The contents of the wagons strewn on the ground. To-day, General Grant demanded a surrender of Lee and his forces but it was
not accepted. Sunday, 9th. Fine day. Still pushing on after Lee. About 3 o'clock, this afternoon we arrived to within 3 miles of Appomattox Court house, a flag of truce in our front and cessation of hostilities for a time. Grant and Lee are holding a consultation for peace, at 4 o'clock, P. M., General Lee surrendered himself and his entire command to General Grant. The glorious news of peace has come. Oh! what a day. We are all tired, but seem to forget our weariness. Such cheering and shouting, hats going into the air, bands all playing, the batteries have all opened, far and near firing blank cartridges, and everything looks like a grand jubilee, which in a half hour more would have been a battle, had not Lee surrendered. Soon an orderly came riding along, saying: General Grant requested us to be quiet as he did not wish to mortify the feelings of General Lee, his officers and men, more than the surrender would do. Monday, 10th. Remained quiet all day, having a good rest. No more tramping after the rebels, wrote to Julia, home and my brothers. 11th. Wet day. This cruel war is over, thank God for it, and that I have been spared to go through it alive and whole. To-day, we started back towards Richmond, went to near Farmville about 20 miles, a hard march the roads being so muddy. 12th. Still marching back, passed through Farmville, found rebel soldiers that were captured before Lee surrendered. Am feeling well. 13th. Morning rainy. Reached Burkesville, this afternoon at 2 o'clock, pretty well played out. 14th. Beautiful day. Lying still and resting, which we all need, having had but very little rest or sleep since we broke the lines at Petersburg on the 2d of April. Farmville is a right smart town, as the colored man said, and a great tobacco center. Received letters from Julia and from my cousin Deborah Snow, wrote to Julia. Was promoted to orderly Sergeant to-day, drew two day's rations. 15th. All quiet in camp at Burkesville, resting. Sunday, 16th. Beautiful day. All quiet. Have just heard of the assassination of President Lincoln, What will the rebels do next? Received and wrote letters, one from J. W. Gurney. Monday, 17th. Still resting in camp, receiving and writing letters, one from Lieutenant Sheldon. 18th. We boys put a fence around Sergeant Ezra P. Cowles' grave of my company, who was killed in the battle of Sailor's Creek. Parker reported back from the hospital for duty, wrote to Frank. 19th-
Fine day. The papers are in mourning for the death of President Lincoln, whose funeral occurs to-day. 20th Monthly inspection and dress parade to-day, and an illumination of the camp in the evening. We took candles and put in the tops of our tents, (the camps for miles around were lighted up,) we then formed in line and carrying our lights with us, marched through each other's camps and past headquarters. An aid from corps headquarters came and ordered us into our quarters. It was the most magnificent torchlight procession I ever saw, there being probably 15,000 men in the lines. It all started from a camp rumor that Johnston had surrendered. Wrote to comrade Sheldon. 21st. Warm day. Had company drill and dress parade, 9th corps moved, reported they were going to Washington, wrote to Julia. 22d. Drew three day's rations of everything, five of potatoes. Orders that we should all wear government caps and shoes. Sunday, 23d. Fine day. Had orders last night to be ready to march at 5 o'clock, this morning towards Danville, which we did to the disappointment of us all, as we were expecting to go to Washington. Had a hard march of 22 miles, stopped that night at a small village, Keysville. 24th. We marched to Stonington river, 25 miles. The country is very fine, well fenced and in good condition. At noon we halted for coffee and hard-tack, (as we called our bread,) and salt pork, many of the boys eating their meat raw. This was on a very fine plantation, our division filed out on the left of the road into a large clover field which was in full blossom and very heavy, we had a fine roll in it and got some of the dust off our clothes. The 2d division filed to the right of the road into a very large wheat field which was just ready to cut, we took some of the fences for fire to make coffee. We met a great many from Johnston's army down in North Carolina, who had deserted from their ranks and were going home, most of them lived in Virginia. We talked with them some, they said it was of no use to fight any longer, many of them had their horses with them and were going home to work their farms, some of them had been gone from home four years. The negroes who had deserted were coming in pretty fast, so glad to be free, they seem quite intelligent considering the advantages they have had. 25th. Warm. Marched at 6 A. M., passed through Laurel Mountain, a small village, arrived at Halifax Court House about 5 o'clock, P. M. The
negroes came in crowds to see us pass, old men and women
and children, it was quite amusing to see some of the little ones,
slightly resembling undressed kids. On our march today we pass-
ed another plantation (as we did many of them every day,) and at
the gate that crossed the road, leading to the house from the pub-
lic road there was quite a gathering of negroes, old and young, the
younger ones hanging on to the gate and the older ones peering
through it. Comrade Pepper of my company asked an old negro
how far it was to Petersville, a place we expected to pass through
during the afternoon. The old negro replied, "well sah! I reckon
it's about two looks and a horn blow, and a right smart chance
beyond." I asked comrade Pepper if he found out the distance to
Petersville? That is the way most of the colored people and many
of the whites reckon distances. The two looks would be from one
high point of land to another, and from that to another, and a horn
blow would be as far as you could hear one of their horns when
they blew it, (and you can hear them a long distance,) and the right
smart chance beyond, you would have to guess it. They would tell
you one, two, or three horn blows according to the number of high
points of land there happened to be. They knew but very little
about rods or miles. We stopped for the night at Banister, a
small village, it has the same dirty appearance as all Virginia towns
the marks of slavery upon it. 26th. Warm. Started at sunrise,
marched through Brookline, a village of one house, a store, tobacco
factory and three or four negro huts. Halted at sunset after mar-
ching 18 miles, passing through a fine country, expect to reach
Danville, to-morrow. Thursday, 27th. Hot. This morning we
started about 10 o'clock, The 37th was rear guard for the wagon
train, arrived in Danville in the evening, tired and foot-sore. It is
quite a large village. We have marched 100 miles in 5 days.
The advance guard arrived in town about 10 o'clock, A. M., to-day.
28th. Warm and pleasant. Resting. There is a printing office here,
some of the boys went in and started a paper calling it "The 6th
Corps." there are all trades represented in the army. There were
quite a number of cars and an engine at the depot, in good running
order. Sheridan and his cavalry came in to-day. A great many
negroes coming in from North Carolina, some of them right smart
ones. At night we hear officially that Johnston has surrendered on
the same terms as Lee did. There was an arsenal in Danville where
the confederates made small arms and cannon. The rebels tried to
blow it up but did not succeed very well, there was about 100 lives
lost, they had much better success, blowing up their own
citizens than they did blowing up the arsenal. We looked over their
work, saw their guns finished and unfinished, they looked coarse
and rough, not much mechanical skill about them. Saturday, 29th
Fine day. We go into town and buy a few luxuries such as beans,
corn meal and sorghum, so we had a good meal of Indian pudding
and beans. Near our camp is a large park and trotting course.
Sunday, 30th. At 11 o'clock this morning was mustered for pay by
Colonel Allen, of the 5th Wisconsin volunteers, all quiet, wrote to
Julia, home, Francis and Horatio, no passes to town to-day.

Monday, May 1st, 1865. All quiet. The 1st brigade moved on
the cars to-day. The 2d expected to move to-day, but did not. pulled
down tents and put them up again, letters from John and Mr. Guil-
ford. 3d. Fine. We took the cars for Burkesville, this morning
the railroad in bad condition and the cars more so, hardly safe to
ride in; but a little better than marching on foot, though not much
faster. Several car loads of soldiers from confederate General
Johnston's army living in Virginia, going home, and one or two
partly loaded with negroes. We passed through a fine country,
found the farmers plowing and planting. 4th. Fine day. Arrived
at Burkesville this morning, here we changed cars for Wilson's
Station. One year ago to-day we started from Brandy Station,
since then, our regiment has lost in killed and wounded 530 men.
When we left Brandy Station, we had some less than 600 men.
Since then have had veterans and recruits from the 7th and 10th
Massachusetts regiments added to ours, now we have about 300
men, all told. After drawing 2 day's rations we moved to Wilson's
Station and went into camp. The brigade is located along the
river. 5th. Warm. Some of the boys went fishing in a pond
about two miles from here. At night two corps from Sherman's
army came up to us on their way to Richmond and Washington.
6th. We have a very pleasant camp here, situated in a grove of
white oaks. Sherman's army is passing on a road about 5 miles
west of us, they march about 20 miles a day. There are guards sta-
tioned at the houses along the different roads. Wm. Parsons of our company is corporal of the guard. This guard is to protect the property, houses and their occupants from the bummers that follow along with the army. Letter from Charlie, wrote to Julia. Sunday, 7th. Cooler. Inspection this morning. Colonel Oliver Edwards of the 37th Massachusetts, started for home on leave of absence, wrote to John, Charlie and Mr. Guilford. 8th. Warm. Just doing camp duty, wrote to Horace Smith. 9th. Had a fine rain last night, to-day company drill. 10th. Cool. In the evening there was plantation singing by some contrabands, (both old and young) that came into camp. It was really quite entertaining, received a good letter from Webster Nash and his sister Mary. 11th. Had drill and dress parade, thunder shower at night, drew 5 days rations of everything in the eating line that we could get. 12th. Letter from Francis and answered it, wrote to Julia. 13th. Nothing to do, some of us boys went to see a dam built by beavers. It was about ten rods long, six or seven inches through and about three feet high. There were trees in it. Sunday, 14th. Warm. All quiet in the camp, some citizens attended church with us to-day, preaching by Chaplain Morse. This is my 32d birthday. 15th. Received orders to be ready to move Thursday for Richmond and Washington. Rumor that Jefferson Davis is caught. Daniel McCray, of our company was discharged as were several others for disability, worn out and gone home like a great many who could not endure it any longer. 16th. Fine day. I am not feeling well, had dress parade with brigade band to play. 17th. All quiet and lonesome, to me. A brigade inspection, every man must have a cap when they pass through Richmond, many of us were wearing soft wool hats, myself among the rest. 18th. Hot. Left Wilson’s Station at 5 o’clock, A. M., made 16 miles at noon, and 25 miles all day. Marched to within 3 miles of Petersburg, halted on the ground where we fought the rebels the 2d of April. Two men from the 2d Rhode Island volunteers died from sunstroke. 19th. Hot. Marched but 16 miles to-day, went through Petersburg this morning, then took the pike for Richmond, not feeling well. 20th. Showery. Reached Manchester at 10 o’clock, A. M., to-day, Manchester is just across the river from Richmond. Sunday, 21st. Hot. Had a heavy thunder shower in the night,
the wind blowing almost a hurricane, blew down some tents. 22d. Warm. Am just resting, as I am nearly played out, at night another heavy thunder shower, and very heavy wind. Received a long letter from Julia. 23d. Fine and cooler. I left Richmond with the sick and those that could not march for Washington by transportation, went as far as City Point. The 6th corps marched to-day. 24th. Beautiful day. Waiting here for transportation, looking around the city. 25th. Still waiting here at City Point, all quiet. 26th. Very rainy. 27th. Cold and stormy. Still waiting. Sunday, 28th. Pleasant. Wrote to Julia, attended church in the chapel. 29th. 10 o’clock, A. M., now on our way to Washington on board the steamer Massachussetts, good bye City Point. 4 o’clock, P. M., we are now at Fortress Monroe, leaving and taking on passengers. 30th. 8 o’clock, A. M., going up the Potomac have just passed Mount Vernon. 1 o’clock, P. M., have arrived at the Soldier’s rest at Alexandria, Virginia, have had dinner of pea soup, which was good, wrote to Charlie. 31st. Warm. Still at the soldier’s rest as our corps has not yet arrived, am feeling a little better, wrote to Julia, Francis and John. Thursday, June 1st. Hot day. The corps has not arrived yet, wrote to Herbert and Adaline. 2d. The corps has arrived and we shall join it to-morrow. 3d. Warm. Joined our regiment to-day at Bailey’s Cross Road, was glad to be with my regiment again, found my brother Henry from Cleveland, Ohio, waiting to see me, was very glad to see him, had a good visit, received letter from Julia with her picture, also letter from Francis and Louise. Near the Arlington Place, nearer the river is a large mule corral with more than 2000 mules in it, these mules were bought by the government for use on the wagon trains. The artillery always used horses as they were more reliable. 4th. Hot day. Henry is with me to-day, but starts for home this afternoon, went as far as the pines with him, about a mile. 5th. Warm. Major Tyler tried to have battalion drill, suppose he wanted to show off. The boys were rather saucy to him, called him “old goggles” (he wore glasses.) They knew the drill was uncalled for and I suppose, thought they had drilling enough, so he had to give it up as a bad job. 6th. Cloudy. Wrote and received letters. 7th. Drew clothing. 8th. Hot. Review of the 6th corps to-day in Washington, the other corps had their reviews a few days before
we arrived from Danville, Virginia. The boys had a hard time of it, many men dropped down in the street, some died. I did not go as I was not able to. 9th. Warm. 10th. Cool and cloudy. Thunder shower this afternoon. Waiting for the muster-out rolls to come and be filled out, so we can go home. Sunday, 11th. Morning inspection as usual, dress parade at 7 o'clock, P. M. 12th. Our muster-out rolls have come and we are now at work on them in earnest, shall have them done in a few days. 13th. Warm. Working on the rolls. 14th. Cool. Wrote to Henry. 15th. Cool. Still working on the the papers, am feeling a little better. 16th. Cloudy. 17th. Rolls nearly done. Sunday, 18th. Hot. Wrote three letters and received one. 19th. The rolls are done, but have to be examined by the mustering officer. 20th. Had a heavy thunder shower this noon, now it is much cooler. 21st. Warm. Mustered out of the United States' service to-day, and it is a happy day to us all, start for Boston to-morrow. Received a long letter from Julia. 22d. Hot. Broke camp early this morning for Washington. Left Washington at 12 o'clock, noon, for home. Good-bye to old Virginia. The 82d Pennsylvania escorted us to the Potomac river where we bid them farewell, waited a few hours in Washington, then took the train for Baltimore, arriving there at 3 o'clock, P. M., and left at 6, arriving in Philadelphia this morning the 23d, where the citizens gave us a good breakfast at the cooper shop, we were always treated right royally there, and shall ever remember the meals we ate in the cooper shop, as some of the best we ever ate.

The citizens of Philadelphia fed more than 2,000,000 soldiers at the celebrated cooper shop during the civil war, as troops were continually passing through the city, no matter whether day or night, or how many, when you arrived you were always invited to the cooper shop where you found plenty to eat, and the best of it, and what was best of all a fine place to wash, with good clean towels, 1000 soldiers could wash at the same time. We took the cars to South Amboy, then by steamer to New York, where we were received by citizens of our own state. They gave us a good dinner of clam chowder, after which we had 400 baskets of strawberries, and 8 bushels of cherries, we all felt happy, unless some who had left a brother buried on southern soil, all of us left friends and we did not forget them in our happiness, but we all felt happy in the
thought that we were soon to meet friends whom we had left at home and who were anxiously awaiting our return. I called on my 2 brothers Frank and Francis while in the city. After dinner we marched up Broadway, Cornell street, then to the wharf where we took the steamboat for Hudson at 6 o'clock, P. M. The scenery was very fine going up the river until to dark to see. Arrived at Hudson on the morning of the 24th where the fire company, band and citizens gave us a warm reception and a good breakfast. Left at 7 o'clock, A. M. for Pittsfield, a reception awaited us there at 9 o'clock, A. M. Stopped there 3 hours, then left for Springfield, where another reception awaited us, left there at 5 o'clock, P. M. was in Boston at 9 o'clock, A. M., Saturday. Sunday, 25th. Beautiful day. Now in Readville, came here from Boston, last night, glad to return to old Massachusetts once more. Monday, 26th. Went down to Swampscott to see brother Herbert and wife, found them well. 27th. Remained with Herbert all day, returned to camp in the evening. 28th. Fine day, wrote to Julia, John and Charlie, went back to Herbert's as there was nothing to do in camp. 29th. Adaline and I went berrying. 30th. Hot day. Came back to camp, found we were not going to be paid off until Sunday. Saturday, July 1st., went into Boston and looked around some. Sunday, 2d. Pleasant, we were paid off and got our discharge papers to-day, and it has been one of the happiest days of my life. A free man and a citizen once more. Monday, 3d. Beautiful day. We left Readville for home this morning. Oh! what a day for us all? arriving at home found all glad to welcome the soldier boy home once more.
Explanation.

Our rations (what we had to eat and drink) when on the summer campaign usually consisted of salt pork, hardtack, (something like a cracker, only harder) and coffee. That was our bill of fare, morning, noon and night, or whenever we had a chance to cook our coffee, sometimes we had a little sugar. At one time for a few weeks we had fresh beef for meat, large herds being driven along with the army, and what was wanted for a day's ration was killed, dressed and issued at night after the day's march was over. The boys did not like this and threw a great deal of it away. Many had no convenience for cooking meat, though some carried a small sheet-iron frying pan. I carried one all through the war and brought it home as well as my Spencer rifle, equipments, tin plate, cup, knife, fork, spoon, and canteen. Salt pork was eaten raw by thousands of the boys.

When in winter quarters our rations varied a little, at times we had beans, dried peas, and what was called dessicated vegetables, sort of a mongrel mess, most of the boys threw it away.

An abbatis (or slashings as it is sometimes called,) is where earthworks are thrown up along the edge of a woods or through them, and all the trees for three or four rods in width in front of the earthworks are cut down and fell on the works, no limbs are cut off but all trimmed out and cut off to a point which makes it almost impossible for one to crawl through and scale the works.

A pontoon bridge is made by anchoring boats in the river about 12 feet apart, then laying timbers or stringers from one boat to the other, they were so made that they could be fastened to the boats very quickly, then by laying plank on the stringers. Some of the boats were made of wood and some of canvass. These bridges were carried along on wagons to be ready for use when wanted. This was called a pontoon train.
Officers and Privates of my Company that came Home.

Charles K. Edwards, Captain.
Flavel K. Sheldon, 1st Lieutenant.
David M. Donaldson, 2d Lieutenant.
William H. Shaw
    Orderly Sergeant,

SERGEANTS.
Bennett H. Pepper,
John H. Brines.
Edward W. Hooker,
Frederick A. Moody.

CORPORALS.
John H. Bissell,
George A. Bisbee,
Dwight M. Chapman,
Henry G. Chapin,
William E. Parsons,
John C. Rockwood,
George L. Streeter,
Albert O. Stratton.

PRIVATE.
Talcott Bancroft.
Augustus P. Bates,
Charles H. Bly,
Walter G. Brewer,
Amaziah E. Burcham,
Horatio K. Calkins,
John C. Chapin,
Calvin S. Cooley,
Cyrus W. Cross,
Albro C. Hale,
Henry Hall,
Frederick M. Hannum,
Timothy W. Hoag,
Charles B. Knowlton,
Charles W. Mansfield,
Charles W. Nash,
Sumner L. Niles,
Ephraim W. Pittsinger,
Hiland Porter,
Reuben S. Searle,
John Speight,
William Thompson,
Albert O. Upham.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Sergeant John M. Worthington,
Corporal William M. Kingsley,
Corporal Timothy D. Smith,
George C. Clark,
Henry H. Clark,
John S. Hyde,
John D. Smith,
George M. Wolcott.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

Ezra P. Cowles,
William J. Nichols,
Sylvanus C. Bryant,
Daniel D. Currie,
Edward Burt,
John Shea.

DISCHARGED FOR PROMOTION.

Watson W. Bridge.
DISCHARGED FOR WOUNDS.

Corporal Chester D. Holbrook,
Corporal Jefferson C. Walker,
William W. Hitchcock,
George W. Gray,
William Shaw,
Paul Trotier,
Samuel E. Eddy,
John F. Keyes,

DISCHARGED FOR OTHER CAUSES.

Enos W. Munsell,
Francis P. Lemon,
Darwin C. Robbins,
Thomas W. Collier,
Samuel Orr,
Daniel G. Collier,
Hugh Magee,
Benjamin F. McCray,
William Clements,
Daniel Green,
David Brookings.

TRANSFERRED.

John L. Gaffney,
Thomas J. Porter,
Dwight H. Parsons,
James Stacy,
Daniel Knowlton,
Francis H. Wright,
Justin E. James.

DECEASED.

Darius Collier,
Robert Parsons,
Horace Collier,
Myron D. Taylor,
George Pease,
John W. Phelps,
Frederick D. Simpson,
James Dargan,
Alfred Hitchcock,
Sumner P. Fuller,
Nathaniel P. Taylor.

TRANSFERRED TO VETERAN
RESERVE CORPS.

George C. Daggett,
Henry A. Searle,
Elbridge G. Vinica,
Thomas J. Mills,
William A. Bartlett,
Jacob Neiff,
Spencer H. Wood,
Michael Munsing,
William W. Robbins,
James F. Ross.

DEserted.

Sergeant Francis Brooks,
Henry Bramble,
Thomas Moakler,
John Orr,
Charles S. Ransom,
Wilbur F. Dwight,
William H. Clapp.
Engagements.

Bull Run, - - - July 21st, 1861.
Fredericksburg, - - December 13th, 1862.
Mary's Heights, - - - May 3rd, 1863.
Salem Heights, - - - May 3d, 1863.
Gettysburg, - - July 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1863.
   Hard fighting each day.
Antietam Creek, - - - July 13th, 1863.
Rappahannock Station, - November 7th, 1863.
Mine Run, - - November 30th, 1863.
Wilderness, - - May 5th, and 6th, 1864.
   (Hard fighting both days.)
Spotsylvania Court House, May 9th, to 18th, 1864.
   (Desperate fighting each day.)
North Anna River, - - - May 24th, 1864.
Cold Harbor, - - June 1st, to 10th, 1864.
   (Terrible fighting each day.)
Battles around Petersburg, - - June, 1864.
Fort Stevens, - - - July 12th, 1864.
Hatchies' Run, - - - February 6th, 1865.
Fort Fisher, - - - March 25th, 1865.
Petersburg, (broke Gen. Lee's lines,) April 2d, 1865.
Sailor's Creek, - - - April 6th, 1865.
WILLIAM H. SHAW.
1863.