CREDITS

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To all these, warm thanks and deep appreciation.

Mrs. Price Doyle
W. J. Stubblefield's Diary
Bought April 4, 1862

Not knowing whether I shall return to my family and friends, I have taken the first opportunity to secure this book in which I will record the many events of the past part of my term of service and then propose to keep a diary of the future except when deaths or casualties prevent and in this event I will supply the facts my memory will afford.

I entered service and took the oath on the 10th day of October 1861 for the period of one year. Our Company was organized by electing the most of its officers on the 24th of October 1861. Eleven of our Company joined the 3rd of October; twenty-five on the 10th; and ten on the 24th of October; four on the 2nd of November, and the remaining members at different times and we have had in all sixty-nine members though not so many at any one time on account of deaths and discharges.

On about the 18th of October I had eight days leave of absence in which to make on horseback sixty miles and return during which I saw my family and had another leave of absence beginning on the 31st of January of 1862 for fifteen days though was only able to stay about five days with my family on account of the fall of Ft. Henry which occurred on the 6th of February and my family lived in six miles of it.

At the time my health was bad from the 10th of October 1861 till about the 1st of December when I improved a good deal.

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We had officers drill in the morning and officers school at night while I stayed at Camp Burnett in Hickman County, Kentucky.

On the 7th of November 1861 the fight of Bellmont occurred. On the night of the 8th we left Camp Burnett and marched down to Columbus, a distance of 8 miles not withstanding I was sick and had a high fever. On the 7th though, I got up and had a horse borrowed to come down on the 7th if we had been ordered. The Company had measles soon after we got in camp and few of them had them before. Therefore, few of them escaped them.

We moved from the first camp we had at Columbus on top of the hill down into a swampy place near the railroad till about the 22nd of November when we moved up next the bluff on the river and began to police the town which we continued to do until the 3rd or 4th of July 1862. Not withstanding, we were not drilled and just recovered from the measles.
We were in our tents till about the first of January 1862 at which time we pretty generally got into our winter houses made of cottonwood poles rafted and poled down the river. We were permitted to remain in these houses till the first day of March 1862 at which time we moved to Humbold, evacuating Columbus, Kentucky.

We walked about twenty miles of the trip and went on open cars at night for the remainder of it and it was so cold that some of us got slightly frosted and the doctor and I thought fifteen boys amongst that number but if so I now think it was very slight though. I suffered a great deal not withstanding all the stamping and slapping I could do and I determined to labor my best rather than suffer or freeze and I did without murmuring and complaining.

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On this trip we sometimes slept out of doors by the fire without house or tent which produced some sickness together with some marching through the rain which we did.

We remained at Humbold till the 16th of March during which time I visited James Bowman's family home 2 or 3 times and dined once upon invitation which was quite a relief to me as they were very kind and pleasant and their very good dinner did not pass without my special attention as our rations were without variety nearly.

On the 16th of March we moved the cars down near Bethel in McNary county in Tennessee and not quite to that place and camped there till late at night on the 18th when we put our baggage and ourselves on board the cars for Corinth, Mississippi and I seated myself and went to sleep from which I did not fully awake till we ran into a train before us killing most of the horses belonging to our staff officers and wounding four or five persons.

We were worse alarmed at the conductors and many others who cried at the top of their voices "jump off". Another train did strike us in a minute, and knowing that other trains were behind, we jumped off and some of us ran through the ditches and some fell into them and we had quite a time of it.

While it was very dark and raining very hard but day came soon and we removed seven or eight cars and their wheels from the track and got off at about 12:00 o'clock on the 19th and arrived at our camp three miles from Corinth the same evening. While we remained at this camp, Thomas E. Venable ...(illegible) on the 26th of March and we buried him near a walnut tree on a hill some 300 paces beyond the railroad and marked the spot which is

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near where I am today the 13th of April 1862.

On the 27th, at night, we loaded the cars with our baggage and we moved to a camp near to Bethel and had a nice place and two pretty good springs which helped us much as I had taken an ache at the camp near Corinth and the stomach and bowels of most of us were disorganized.

We remained here until the 4th of April when most of our baggage was sent to Corinth and we marched nearly to Purdy that evening and stayed out of doors not withstanding a storm that came up about 1:00 o'clock and it continued to rain till day. We rested in Purdy for a time and then had a forced march of 18 to 23 miles around about way camping near the enemy and that night after I cooked rations I slept out of doors on a little pile of brush I picked up wrapped in my blanket.

The enemy had a great number of gun ports and transports up the Tennessee river and were themselves encamped in large numbers over a great deal of the surrounding country though they had been driven off their camps by a skirmish Saturday, the 5th. The fight beginning, and we were marching through thickets of blackjack and rough timber, through brooks, jumping over ditches, marching the front and the flank on the double quick time. After we had gone a great way, we approached the scene of fight and a cannon ball passed about 40 yards behind where I was and struck the next rising ground. About this time Capt. Firtle of Company "A" received a round in the foot which disabled him.

Next we came to a Yankee camp where we 

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saw several ghastly figures. One Yankee had his head shot off a little over halfway down and others of both sides were wounded variously.

I spoke to one Yankee, a Dutchman named Mitch who was wounded and he desired me to move him to a shade which I was about when I was ordered forward and had to leave him.

After some further time, turning about, we were introduced to the enemy's artillery which made terrible havoc of horses, timber and every thing it could reach. We were ordered to lay down which we did for some time when our Colonel ordered us back to give room for our artillery which moved. General Cheatham seemed to have misunderstood for a retreat and ordered us back and we promptly went back and I ordered my men to lay down but concluded I would stand up as tall as the General till he ordered us to lay down and I then did so.

Pretty soon the General ordered a charge across an open
field some 300 yards to take the enemy battery in ignorance, no
doubt of a large body of the enemy infantry and sharp shooters
on the left in ambush covered by a fence and the timber and being
in a ravine or hollow. We began this charge in good spirits but
when we got well into the field the enemy infantry as well as
artillery turned loose on us with terrible effect and our Colonel
commanded us out to the right in the timber. My 3rd scout and
3rd sargent and Private Mallory got wounded and five or six were
killed in some companies. The balls jumped me on each side and
in great profusion during the charge and after we got into the
timber they continued to pass us.

We made a second charge into the field but had to take
shelter in an orchard behind a little rise in the grove and
finally we were ordered to fall back which we did under the fire
of the enemy. And we withdrew to the woods again and Capt.
Boniford, Company "B" and mine which was "G" made another charge
into the edge of the orchard and lay down and fired as we saw the
enemy. Some of my boys told me that Boniford's company had gone
back and I pretty soon fell back under the fire of the enemy to
the woods. After this, we were kept now and then moving to and
from till the ...(illegible)... of the enemy were taken but they
fought desperately and effectively and our Colonel got his horse
shot under him and our Major received wounds supposed to be mortal.

The taking of this body of the enemy and this battery ended
our service for the day and after marching around a little more
the regiment stopped for the night in one of the enemy's camps
where we found plenty of good victuals and plenty of blankets to
sleep on. Our Colonel, Lt. Colonel, and Adjutant went out to
our former camp, probably to make some arrangements for the
wounded etc., and did not return next morning till we had been
marched out and placed under other command. We were put in the
fight next day and fired with irregularity but vigorously and
made one good charge but in another charge a regiment on our right
broke which threw us into disorder and ours retreated a short
distance but we rallied and made some other movement but broke
when it came to charging, in one of which our own Col. Wickliffe,
who had now gotten with us, was wounded on the head and was
carried from the field.

In the last retreat, I with such of my men as could see me
took a ...(illegible)... to the left of the one the regiment took.

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Seeing they could not be gotten to stand and as we were
clearing a whole field, I found some advantageous ground and the
enemy having appeared and opened on us I ordered our boys to lay
down and return the fire. And as we were doing this, Morgan W.
Martin was shot about the elbow and fell over by me. I then
ordered a removal back to better ground where we took shelter
and cleared the field killing some of the enemy. One of my men
had a good long range rifle which in that move was shot through the breech, tearing away the cap box. And with this gun he killed one of the enemy. W. Bowland, with others of my company, was standing by my side and the other boys saw him fall. Others probably were killed as my boys took excellent aim.

After the field was cleared, the enemy began to use about the only piece of cannon they had on us and not seeing any to shoot at and our numbers and the opening of the ground forbidding a charge, we found it necessary to fall back as it was then apparent that the enemy were getting some advantages over our forces as they fought all fresh troops and we had no fresh ones whatever.

Our whole forces were then withdrawn farther from the river and drawn up for future attack but none was made and in order to retain Corinth, most of our forces were moved without haste to that place leaving a rear guard to protect the wounded.

On the next day, our cavalry took the prisoners and drove the enemy back towards the river.

We probably took nearly 4,000 prisoners in this engagement; drove the enemy completely from the field on the first day. We took and saved 72 pieces of cannon and lost but a few prisoners and I think 6,000 will cover our loss in killed, wounded and missing and that of the enemy is set down at 20 odd thousand but I put it at 15 thousand which I think fair.

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This has been perhaps the bloodiest battle on the continent not excepting Manassas but will not end our troubles for the enemy seems to have a hearty voice of a just sense of social duty and fatally bent upon mischief and while we fight to maintain our rights and quality, they, while they pretend they fight to maintain their government and to protect life, liberty and property, are really and certainly undertaking to deprive us of these things and now to subjugate us and make us serfs and slaves to themselves and yet they vigorously deceive their people and thus raise men and money, and posterity will see these things no more among them. I now think I see it and have long seen it and for this I offer myself a sacrifice though I never desired to be a warrior and do it only on principle only.

I desire here to say for the benefit of my family and boys that I have been where I ought throughout this engagement and have done or omitted nothing that they will have occasion to be ashamed of. There were nine wounded in this fight. In my own Company none fatally I think and none killed. Reference to the muster rolls I have and may make out will show the names of those in my Company if this should ever become necessary for any purpose.
I will here state that one of my great grandfathers fought in the old revolution and the other in the war of 1812 and I do not wish my sons to be hasty to join the service nor to do so till they have made long consideration of it. But if upon such consideration they find it to be their duty let them carefully select their place and station and join to free the oppressed and never to swell the numbers of the oppressor.

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On the evening of Monday the 7th I came out to our camp at which we had stayed on Saturday night and found a tent of some regiment vacant and took my squad and slept there for the night. I found in the tent a uniform and a pair of pants belonging to a Confederate officer and on examining I found that a ball had entered the thigh of the wearer and wounded him as shown by the rent and the blood. It rained that night a great deal and the water rose through the blankets on which we slept.

On the 8th we began our journey to Corinth, Mississippi early while it was still raining and the roads in the worse condition for traveling I scarcely ever saw, being cut to pieces by more wagons than I had ever known to pass one road in the same length of time and on account of the raining referred to, we moved very slowly and were much exhausted and fatigued and when night drew near we went off the road a short distance and got our supper and the privilege of sleeping on the floor of a house in the yard with a dwelling used to put cotton in and some lumber etc. and thought ours very happy and fortunate especially in the course of the night when we heard it raining again. On the morning of the 9th we rose early and began our trip while it was again raining. After we had gone part of the way, we saw about 40 Federal prisoners pass us. They had been captured the day before as we learned.

At about 12:00 o’clock, we removed our regimental camp near Corinth and got to see the wounded and for the first time since the fight, who were Elisha Hopkins, A. G. McDonald, Reuben Thomas, W. H. Mallory, G. Garner (?), Lt. S. S. Mix, Sgt. W. H. Roberts, and J. Ferguson, and W. W. Martin which last was taken prisoner and put at Camp ......(illegible)

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I returned remarking of this and Martin did not get in till about the 26th of April when he made his escape through the enemy pickets. He had his right arm broken above the elbow which was set by the citizen of the house where he was confined but the Federal doctors did nothing for him.

I was not well from the time I had theague in March till I started this fight but I felt better and continued very well through the rains, hard marching and fighting till I got nearly
back to camp when I was attacked by a flux which lasted me till about the 26th of April and then I began to have fever every day and soon saw that I had a severe case of yellow jaundice. I was pretty sick with it and I continued so till the 4th of May when we had orders to march to our entrenchments around Corinth which were tolerable extensive. I was not able to march and therefore rode in a wagon but we had no fight but a rain and I got back to camp near midnight worn out with fatigue and salivated by physic I had taken.

I remained at camp till the 7th when I came out to the house of a Mr. Bridges where I now am to stay and diet till I can mend some.

I found Capt. Gray Campbell of our regiment sick. I also found a consumptive man of Campbells Company the name of Mahan here. He is a man of singular conformation. He has the shape peculiar to the breast to those liable to consumption and all his limbs seemed hinged to him on a plan different to the ordinary ones. I tried sleeping with him that first night but his symptoms were so disturbing that I could not sleep and I got up and slept before the fire till near day.

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He is said to be a man of ordinary strong mind when in his best state of health and he is not demented now nor so feeble in mind as so many sick, as he can walk and ride about but yet his mind is like that of a child that wishes sometimes to lean on others and sometimes to lead others and particularly itself. He has a watch that he dotes on greatly and shows it frequently to persons who come to this place and yet it is only a good silver watch and he has money, land and slaves and he is thirty years old. But this watch seems to be the toy of his mind. The human mind has to be braced and carefully watched if it does not at some time, or under some circumstances exhibit something weak even for the imperfect thing it purports to be.

Mahan is gone now intending to visit the Gibson Walls and thence go home to see relatives. I do not wish him any harm but hope he will succeed to his liking as his disease naturally makes a well man feel gloomy to see it and I can improve faster when no one is sick but myself.

This morning is the 8th of May and I read some in the New Testament and had a conversation with Capt. Campbell about the various petrified shells of oysters, etc. that are found upon many bald or sterile knobs of this vicinity and under the surface of the earth in digging walls and cuts on the railroads but we could not say exactly how they came where they are but of course we each has some notions about it. A great many soldiers come here during the day to buy food that they like better than their
rations in camp. Though many of them pretended to be sick, but they don’t near all look so and this is true notwithstanding a fight is expected.

This evening Dr. Humphreys and Capt. Hale came to see us and we spent the time very well

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and pleasantly. There has been some fighting this evening between the armies as we have heard a good deal of artillery during the afternoon. The people with whom we are staying are plain but very nice clever people and seem “another’s war to feel” and they are careful to gratify each wish of ours in diet or otherwise but in turn we are careful not to be foolish nor more troublesome than we cannot help, believing that a man does not show good breeding or genius or talent nor anything of the kind by pretending to have never seen anything common. These people have had to move out of their home into the cabins we are sick in to get out of the way of our fortifications and entrenchments but while they are cabins and rather shabby we are well pleased with our home.

MAY 9: I had not felt so well today as usual and I slept a good deal. I have taken some exercise and hunting the Indian turnip which I intend to use as physic. We have a report that we took possession from the enemy in an engagement which we had yesterday and that we lost three pieces of artillery. We have heard a good or great many arms-fire today and there seems to have been quite an engagement, the result of which I do not know yet. Two of the men in my company came to see me this morning to let me know that an order had come to reorganize the companies and regiments today. My company was the 7th that was made up of Galloway county men and is composed of more than two-thirds married men who went together with one condition, we could afford to give our country one year’s service and could make arrangements to have our families cared for during that time and we looked around

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to see if we could get in for that length of time and if not we would not go in. Col. Wickliffe was then making up such a regiment under proper authority and we joined the regiment with the understanding that we could organize with forty men, which was also by order, and I was elected Captain. When we had forty-five or forty-six men, to serve through our term, unless I should commit some offense that would deprive me of such office. Our state has not seceded but only attempted to do so provisionally and we have no reasonable hope that it will soon, if at all, before the end of the tour nor have we any reasonable ground to believe that the Confederate Government can offer families protection or even subsistence at the end of our time and that state
is now in the hands and under the control of the United States and made to pay taxes unto it.

Now in the face of these facts, we do not propose to act, vote or seek office under the Conscript or Two-years Act and by doing bind ourselves two other years, six months before our time is out and when we do not know how affairs will stand at home nor abroad in the end of our time, but we are willing to serve out our time honorably and if a crisis is then on hand to stay till it passes if possible but we refuse to fix our fate now and protest against reorganizing and think as we have borne our full share of affliction, done our full portion of policing towns and other work and have fought honorably and bravely and suffered long at Shiloh we are entitled to the chance to white men and do not believe that laws passed by the Southern Confederate Association binds any as citizens but such as one citizen and will bind such as do become citizens but think ourselves liable to their just laws and rules of military during our term of one year which

(laws and rules must be consistent with our rights as such 12-month men and must not be such as will make us more than 12-month men whether willing or not and whether citizens of the Southern Confederacy or only assisting our state to secede for there is a distinction large enough for any sensible man to see, who is unbiased, between an unsuccessful effort to secede and an effort which does not include and thereby a state is freed from one government and places itself and its citizens under the law and control of another, which is done by its citizens solemnly and soberly. I say if there are any Frenchmen or Englishmen or Russians, in this service for a limited time, the Southern Government could not claim to keep them in for any further time without their consent and let their families and affairs go to the four winds.

MAY 10, 1862: I felt very well this morning compared with my normal feeling usually and I read a good deal in the New Testament and spelling book in both of which I felt interest.

The men of my company sent out for me to come in to see them as they had reorganized by electing me to my office of Captain and re-electing each other officer. They having been prevailed upon to reorganize to prevent being disorganized or have officers appointed for them they did not like but I look upon the running for office for two additional years and voting in such elections as being equal to agreeing to serve during that time, and as I did not intend to serve more than the term I enlisted for, unless a crisis should be on hand or my condition should be altered for grave reasons which I do not have set down as they are pretty private, I did not promise what I had

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no idea of performing and I have scarcely ever promised what I knew I could not perform. If the authorities could be content with reorganizing us when our time was out, or nearly so, I could have known better what I could do as I think. But as I came out to fight in order to resist oppression and have not inclined after the statements made one or two pages back to submit quietly to oppression or injustice from any quarter. I still refuse to undertake any further service till my time is out and in this I have my company's consent.

I was riding out to my sick quarters with a sick friend who stays at the same place and had gone into camp with me when I met Col. A. P. Thompson my school fellow, Preceptor-in-law, Partner-in-law, and brother-in-law by his first marriage (he having been three times married). He went into three years service at the beginning having at the time no living wife and a vigorous constitution and having figured largely before the people, held office, made many (secession?) speeches and no one-year's service officers at the times, as I think. He afterward married his last wife and I will here state he was in camp to stay but a short, a very short, time before I was notwithstanding a very weak constitution and having a wife and children and I will further say that while my family is in Kentucky under the power of Lincoln. I have not been home, only just passed and stopped nights till I had a furlough about the fall of Ft. Henry and stayed four or five days and not seen Mamma since. Yet Thompson's papa was sick and he was absent at the Shiloh fight, although he says he would rather see his wife or his children die than to give up to Lincoln's domination. The Colonel accosted me and desired me to hear his reasons why

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I ought to go back and retract what I had done and commit myself, which he said was not committed, as the law had fixed my fate already and I had not time, it being late, to hear him and besides I had made up my mind after mature thought and had acted so, so I tried pleasantly to get off and told him I would hear him patiently and give him good reason for my course at the first convenient time, but that would not do and without any using of any unpleasant language and only told him I had acted and would not retract on any account. He said if I would not hear him be considered it as good as to cut his friendship and being thus irritated he continued in the same way and I only telling him I was independent on the subject and he finally went off with the understanding that our friendship was cut off and I record this that my family and friends may know now and when friendship was discontinued between us. I knew from his breath that he was drinking some and I do not think he would have acted so if he had not, though he was a great hand at over-whelming and making his friends go his way. I do not feel yet I have done wrong. We got to our boarding house a little before dark after I had so
parted with Thompson and I write this on the 11th of May which is Sunday and I rose early and washed and put on clean clothes and read the New Testament. No fighting occurred on today, as I can learn. I read some and talked some with Col. Campbell and thus passed the day.

**MONDAY, MAY 12th:** I rose early brought a bucket of water, read some in the New Testament and some in "Mr. Slick" and found a great many useful and practical ideas but the language is bad and after reading it a while you mark the style and vein of the writing and have properly secured as much as will serve you any good purpose, and if one should fall in love with the work, it would probably injure his language more than it would benefit his mind.

In the afternoon I walked up to the regiment and had my hair trimmed and found that my company had been forced to reorganize under the Conscription Act and as they had only elected me under it and I had begged off on account of health and peculiar family circumstances and they could not get any time allowed them, they did not re-elect me which was according to my wish as I hope to be with them and that will do me and I could not think of undertaking to serve two years more. The best of feelings prevailed between me and the company though according to what has happened usually no report could reach home in accordance with the truth. I walked back with Capt. Warren and he walked too fast for me and I felt worse for the tramp.

**MAY 13:** Rose late not feeling well at all though the jaundice is leaving me and my skin looking better. I have not felt well during the day but took a walk this evening to get exercise and found a few strawberries and felt fatigued and weak with my walk. Dr. Humphreys and G. W. Jetton were here in our absence and Jetton is to bring his wife over to stay tonight. I heard today that there was a little fighting yesterday between parts of the armies and that the Yankees are coming on us gradually but surely, which I hope is correct.

**MAY 14:** I rose early and brought bucket of water and washed nicely with cold water. I felt better today and am certainly mending better finally though have not recovered my strength sufficiently for marching or walking far and could not double-quick but a short distance. Neither have the symptoms of jaundice disappeared yet and I think it better to remain in the country till I am able for duty as I will get able much sooner and be more likely to have permanent good health hereafterward. I have walked some and shot off and cleaned my pistol for use and I have read a good deal in "Sam Slick" still finding some pieces of
merit that are of some use to nearly everyone who has understanding as it tends to make one practical in what he knows and practices and it is a great thing to know what we do know well and execute well and rapidly. I learned late yesterday evening that we had some more fighting and lost some prisoners. I hope to hear more by Jetton late this evening.

**MAY 15:** Spent as the 14th and no improvement in my health. Read some and talked some.

**MAY 16:** Rose early, brought bucket of water and went on foot to camp and was most broke down after walking slow and rode back on a wagon and have been sick all day and night though not very sick. My liver is diseased and I am not doing anything for it of value. The 16th is the day, approximately, the president set for a day of fasting and prayer.

**MAY 17:** I am still sick but not dangerously so. I am in a condition that I am of no service

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and cannot enjoy myself any. Mrs. Jetton is leaving for Galloway County, Kentucky after a short visit to see her husband. She has made a trip on horse-back of 140 miles, probably passing through Northern and Southern pickets.

**MAY 18:** Rose early this morning as we are going to move. Saw and shot at a squirrel with my large pistol and hit it but did not get it. We left a little after 12:00 o'clock and had some trouble to pass the pickets as Joe had not been put in possession of our sick furloughs but we got through and into our new home near night without any serious accidents but were fatigued considerably by the ride. We found much better and healthier water here than at Corinth and we are in two miles of Kosmuth and nine or ten from Corinth and one mile from the bone yard, Tiskomingo Co., Mississippi.

**MAY 19:** Rose late and have rested badly from fatigue, etc. We have read some and talked some in the fore noon and walked some and in the afternoon Capt. Campbell and I and Granville Bridges and a negro man went fishing in a little creek near us and caught a few in which I was most lucky, later I wrote part of a letter to mother and supper came.

**MAY 20:** Early I finished my letter to Ma and to brother and then slept a little while. Capt. Campbell and Capt. Warren went to the next neighbor's house on whose land we lived and got eight or ten onions and could not make the change to pay for them. The good lady, Mrs. Shambles (a small ill favored red headed and freckled woman) insisted that, you gentlemen should be sure to pay her before they should return to camp and at the
same time these people have land as stated and negroes and money
and other properties to fight for and have no children nor anyone
representing them in the war which is poor encouragement to us
who have thrown down what we had and offered ourselves a sacri-
fice for the protection of others. The Captains got some books
from them to read and I am reading one called ...(blank space left)
and that occupied most of the remainder of the day.

MAY 21: Went fishing again this morning and I caught quite a
number and more than either of my companions though mine were
small and theirs of good size. We got no news yet of any fighting
and do not get any paper though we look for one this evening.
Common whiskey would sell for $20 to $40 per gallon if it could
be had but the way to make cherry tree bitters for jaundice is
to chew the bark which is really quite bitter. The symptoms of
jaundice have nearly left me but am too sick for any service
unless I could just take my own gait and my liver is not yet in
condition and I think it prudent to remain a little longer till
I think I can stand camp a while. The fishing and hunting give
me exercise and beside they accord with my early habits, and with
good water and proper diet and a good article of Johnnie (?) ....
that is homemade, I hope to be stout soon. The paper has come
and speaks of good prospects that England and France will inter-
fer to try to make peace and contains a good deal that is
interesting which

helps us to pass the time off better, ...(illegible)... with the
few books we had and particularly as we feel such vital interest
in the current events.

MAY 22: Rose pretty early and Capt. Campbell and I went with
Mr. Bridges in an ox wagon six or seven miles out to a mill on
the east fork of Hatchie intending to fish in that stream. We
saw some good farms and buildings on the way but most of the
route was hilly and pines grew tolerably plentifully most of the
way. We reached the mill at about 11:00 o'clock and went to
fishing pretty soon. I caught a fine large perch and Capt.
Campbell caught several cat fish of good size, Mr. Bridges a
small perch and we could catch no more. I saw two wagons and
some horses with packages on them which were reported to be and
to contain Gen. Sterling Price's papers pertaining to the enemy
that were sent off out of the way as a fight seemed imminent and
firing had begun at daylight that morning. This report was
confirmed by others though the firing must have been by pickets
only but heavy and indicates actions of importance we think. I
had occasion to try my strength in walking up some hills and
returning and it would be quite insufficient for marching or
moving rapidly and not being restored to proper health, I will
remain at my boarding house till I am able for duty and in the
meantime to take such exercise as will be a recreation and tend to strengthen me. Use me to (illegible word) I can more willingly do this since I was in the last fight and was bombed out the lines once since I could not walk and my pride does not permit me to weep over these accounts and besides I am not in

(command of my company since the Conscript Act has taken effect.

MAY 23: Rose later feeling some worse from my trip. Read "Theodosia" on the (illegible word) of Faith" some and the Testament and found in Acts that Apollus had after Christ, as condition (?) of baptism, like John, unto repentance which he done near Ephesus and then Paul baptised them over again and laid hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost. I had an argument with Capt. Campbell as to the justice of God creating man with the passion that he has which drives him to do evil when do he does not resist it and his punishing him for doing evil and I think I proved it just and that while God foreknew who would do ill and decreed that such should be punishable he also knew that these individuals could do good and avoid evil and did not make them do evil nor make them so they could not avoid it and then punish them. That he ordains by classes (?) that the good shall be saved and the evil punished and ours not to point by names or persons (illegible) and say, "you shall be saved and you shall be damned" and that because he knows who will do right does not make God to send their Fate but yet God foresees them seal their own Fate and if he is to blame at all, it is because he does not force on free agents coming (listening) to his voice to do right and be saved.

Mr. Harrison sent us the Memphis Appeal of the 21st and I gave his little sons money for

(bringing it. It contains a good deal of interesting material. Beauregard's official reports of the fight at Shiloh make 10,697 casualties in all which is more than I thought. There is a good deal said in the paper about intervention by England and France to make peace on this continent and I think if we have beat the enemy at Corinth and in Virginia, most likely something of the kind will occur. I continually hear of some wonderful exploit of Capt. Morgan and he will doubtless have an enviable name with posterity. We are doing nothing of value on the water but we whip the enemy every now and then on the land in actions of some importance and heavy skirmishing still continues as we suppose from the firing of cannon.

MAY 24, 1862: It rained a good deal all yesterday evening and last night. The winds sets from Corinth this way and I can hear
distinctly the cannon and regret that I am not well and able to be there with my Company and friends to share their fate and if I was there, I could keep up a while though have but little strength and would soon give out unless the excitement or some other cause should prevent. The cannon are still more frequent while I write and I think there is little doubt but a moment of history is transpiring now though it may be a moment to enable the enemy to take position or something of that kind.

MAY 25. Sunday: We still hear cannon but too learn that the enemy have been firing and that we have not replied at all. We, Capt. Wasson and Capt. Campbell went up to Mr. Harrison's and got some books. I got Dr. Gunn's last edition of his medical work

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which proves interesting to me and I hope will be useful also. I learned from it that the liver is implicated and concerned in jaundice that it frequently is in diarrhea and it is frequently in ague also, and I know from experience that I am liable habitually to torpidity of the liver and since I have had ague, flux, and diarrhea and jaundice one or the other ever since the 22nd of March, some three or four days before and during the fight at Shiloh and find myself still weak. I have come to the conclusion that unless I manage well and get fixed up pretty soon, I will be of no service for some time if I do not become lastingly diseased and hence will stay here longer than I would like.

MAY 26: Capt. Wasson went to camp this morning and sent us a paper with some news of a little fight in Arkansas in which we had the best of it. Also Stonewall Jackson had whipped the enemy in Virginia in a decisive action looked for about Richmond but there is not much reliance to be placed in these reports and when we heard the cannon two days lately at Corinth, it turned out no fight.

Capt. J. L. Nowlin writes me his health is bad and does not see how he can continue and do the Company any service without doing himself great injustice. Thinks it is best for him to withdraw and me to take command but I think he and Lt. Hardison and I all would not make a stout man. And Lt. Hardison speaks of resigning he says and I seem to be stronger than either of them but little force at that.

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Nowlin writes that Col. Crossland has arrived and has charge of the regiment. That the First Kentucky refused to go in under the Conscript law and has been disbanded and that Capt. C. C. Bowman is there and many of the Company have ...(illegible)... toward home.
MAY 27: Capt. Campbell rode up to camp today to see his brother-in-law and attend to some business but is to return. I exercise some every day that I may get my strength and health and be able for service when I get to camp. I was shown some black root or Bowman root, of which liptondrin is made and I desire to find a good deal of it to set my liver up with, as it is said to be excellent for that and good in diarrhea and many diseases in which the liver is affected or becomes torpid. Manlike to burn and see dandelions which is good for something. The black root is also called Bowman root, Culver's physic and Speedwell's and it grows from two to four feet high has leaves in clusters from four to seven coming out around the stock, one not higher in the cluster than the others and these clusters began not far from the ground and continuing at intervals to the top which when it blooms (in the fall) has three or four white tassels like corn tassels. It has some roots, sometimes one-half inch thick, with many small ones an eighth inch or up thick and several inches long all of which are good as physic and it is used as a purgative by drying in the shade and pounding it and taking the powder, 30 to 60 grains with a little morphia or opium or you may make tea of it and take one, two, three or four tablespoons at night-time every three hours till it operates

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and you will regulate the amount according to the violence you will want it to operate. Liptondrin is found in drug stores and is better and you are referred to Dr. Gunn's book for directions and you will find yourself well employed to read it at odd times no matter what your profession or business.

A gentleman passed late who says the Yankees have passed the M. and O. railroad towards the Memphis road, driving our pickets and cavalry who said they would be re-enforced and drive them back and he was near and saw the cavalry and had afterwards heard cannon and I heard something like it at a distance or musketry, one of the two, and saw no reason for believing it to be thunder in that kind of weather, though it might have been thunder.

MAY 28: Went as early as dew dried off to Mr. Chambles place and he helped me to find and dig a large quantity of Black-root and we found it in damp rich ground in a field where the cattle could not get it, for they eat it when they find it. The leaf is not very large or very long and is not so rough quite as bone-set but is not slick and you need a hoe to dig with to get all the roots as you have to take up a good large turf to get all the roots. I have picked and washed them very nice. I think I may have one-half pound. We heard the cannon as we came up from digging the Black root and since then musketry all in the same direction of the place where our cavalry were driven from yesterday and it must have been a considerable sight Mr.
Harrison thinks from the

numbers of wagons that have passed out that we are evacuating Corinth but I do not think so and think to go up to the big fight which I think will come off tomorrow and next day, and I think our wagons were sent out with baggage and a few sick so as not to be in the way of the enemy's bomb shells. If I return or do not go, I will continue the diary and finish my autobiography.

May 29: I rose early and hiked off to Corinth on foot with my five shooter set, my six shooter, and rations and my old cloth cap and I walked slowly knowing my lack of strength and I pretty soon found a half mile as much as I could make without resting and had made about four miles in this way when Capt. Campbell came on back from Corinth and told me there had been nothing but heavy skirmishing, and would be no fight that day of any importance, so I turned about and came back to my boarding house, riding part of the way on a lead horse by the kindness of a cavalry man but from the moving of the wagons and the rations that had been issued and put nowhere in the wagons, and other reports, I became convinced we would evacuate Corinth, and Campbell and I determined to buy us a horse each as we saw we could not march and in this way we would keep near the army so as to be in any fighting that may come up of any size and will go into camp soon.

May 30: Rode out toward Walker Allen's who came from North Carolina and is kin to big Joe Allen of Rockingham to see him about buying a horse but he wanted too much and we returned and went in the morning to Kosuth where we bought the only

horse I found that suited me and was at a reasonable price and his qualities had to be considerable to make him reasonable. I also saw N. O. Bowman as the 154th Senior Tennessee Regiment passed and I walked with him a half mile or so. He had not been hurt by the fights and picketing but had also had jaundice but looked much better. I thought he was well. I have not seen N. O. Bowman as he passed and have learnt something of him from Nat. I returned home and bought an old saddle from Mr. Chambles and a pair of saddlebags also which was about all the day's transactions, save that Capt. Campbell bought a horse from Mr. Harrison after he returned from Kosuth and I learned from Watt Allen that Thompson Underwood, son of my aunt Lott, lived two and a half miles from my boarding house.

May 31: Capt. Campbell and I tried to catch up with our regiment to let them know we would be on after a short while but we could not catch them and we hunted up my cousin Underwood and he fed us and our horses well and treated us well and kindly, both
be and his family, and they are workers and clever people and have plenty and are well fixed, and I like them well. We went by Watt Allen's and Capt. Campbell bought a saddle, etc. There I swapped with my cousin and got a tolerable good old saddle that was smaller and suited me better than the other one. We learned that we had to burn six trains of cars, or five at least, on account of our burning the railroad bridge too soon on the Memphis road but the cars had come later than daylight the time the bridges were to be fired and there was much provisions and supplies lost thereby. We further learned that the enemy had gone a piece down the Mobile road and burned some cars and a depot and a good deal of ammunition of ours on the 30th.

JUNE 1, Sunday: We rose early and I fixed up ready for my journey tolerably and soon, though some trouble about papers prevented Capt. A. A. White, and finally we bid the good people at Mr. Jesse P. Bridges (who now lives in two miles of Rossuth) good-bye, leaving our trunks and several articles there. We regretted to leave them as they had treated us kindly. We came out by my cousin's and he directed us to the road we preferred. We got our drivers and our horses fed on the Ripley and Jint into road and I read the character of the family this way: that this gentleman had been tolerably wealthy but now did not own so much and that his mind was not right and that while they all seemed to have common sense yet there was a grave or church-yard close to the house and everything looked a little dilapidated and the indoors and outdoors all seemed somber and in keeping with each other. We got a very good dinner and set out to come through Juniper Town it is called, but there was no town but the name was applied to the neighborhood. We came on through the same neighborhood to one Mr. Carpenter's 3 miles from a town called Blackland and 7 from Booneville, where the ammunition and cars, etc. were all burned as stated and stopped early because Joe and my heavy packed horse were exhausted, and therefore have leisure to write this, though night riding helps me.

JUNE 2, 1862: Had comfortable time and good night's rest, good common fare and our horses likewise and paid $2 for it. We rode down towards Blackland where a part of the army are and saw two of our men as we went on that said they had been taken prisoners of the enemy, and our forces coming up they were released.

We had dinner with us and ate it and gave our horses some wheat to eat. We were in a very heavy shower before we reached camp at Carrollville in the afternoon.

JUNE 3: Took cold last night and don't feel well. Rode out in the country to get a good dinner. Bought some meal from the
farms; onions and a chicken and a bottle of honey. Nothing of interest occurred that I can spare room for but some matter a little amusing did occur. After returning, and late in the evening Col. Ed Crossland asked me to act as Adjutant till his intended appointee should arrive from the Kentucky 1st in Virginia.

JUNE 4: Rose early had to mount the guard by the Confederate regulations and to make morning reports, all new to me, and gave me some trouble and had to discharge the duty of said office at dress parade and made a mistake, but it was all new to me and I had not had time to read the law on these things nor the tactics sufficiently. The said work and cold together gave me a violent headache to which I am liable lately when I take exercise.

JUNE 5: Contracted more cold, had headache again, worked hard as adjutant, had many petty interruptions, made no material mistakes at dress parade. Read sundry orders and among others one to be ready to march at daylight, the sick having been sent forward yesterday.

JUNE 6: Slept out of doors near my horse and watched him because there was danger that he would be stolen to ride on to march. I took the dew out of heaven and more cold with them. Someone came near me and was doing or about to do something when I awoke and he started off immediately but I challenged him to know what his object was and he could not account satisfactorily but I did not interrupt him further. We remained on the ground nearly all day. In the evening I rode out to Baldwin's on the M and O railroad intending to catch up with our wagon trains but they did not take that way and after asking around some, taking various roads, till I found each one to be the wrong one and seeing some burning cotton set on fire by the C.S.A., I returned and slept as the night of the 6th just as above stated.

JUNE 7: Rose early and our troops started south at once. I rode with them several miles till I had gotten a sick man into a wagon and the remainder seemed able to march and then I went on to Tupelo where our wagons were and slept out at night again, sleeping with two Martin's and two others and nothing of note. Tupelo is about 26 or 28 miles from Carrolsville and in Itawamba County, Mississippi.

JUNE 8: Engaged in cooking, reading, and grazing and feeding my horse till the regiment came in. Read the Testament some (being the Sabbath) and read a story of Indian character. In the afternoon I rode out to see where I could get some washing done for myself and Col. Crossland and saw some fine farms and fine crops of cane and found Mrs. Dickenson willing to do the washing and very nice and pleasant. It is quite a treat to one who has been confined in camps with strong diets of the usual kind to
get into the country and now and then get some wholesome diet and see everything as it used to be in happier days. I had a pleasant bath too which helped me much.

JUNE 9: Rode out to Dickenson's this morning and ran around some to catch some fowls and found that I had but little strength and took severe headache from it. In the afternoon I rode out with Dr. Humphreys to secure a boarding house for Mrs. Crossland who had come alone from Kentucky to see her husband whom she had not seen since August 1861. On these trips I got good water which was of itself worth going for. I find my little horse performing well and I have taught him to pole some and he walks finely. Col. Thompson visited me at my quarters on the 3rd of June in my absence and left word for me to visit him which I did and he seems as before but there has been but little reference to the unpleasant affair between us nor do I know just how it stands but I do know he does not like to lose a friend who might be of service to him in attaining his aim and purpose and yet I will not insist that he acted on such motives in my case. On the 10th we moved out to Camp Preston on the edge of Pontotoc County, four or five miles from where we had stopped and were all day nearly in so doing. Nothing of importance transpired nor for several days save that I have on occasion rode out to the country and have been more or less unwell all the time; sometimes having sick headaches and sometimes having violent throbbing headaches of another kind. Have been easy to overdo in the Adjutant's place which is arduous enough for a stout man when he is acquainted with it and worse on a sick one which is just growing familiar with it. We have had various news up to the 17th of foreign interference but there is no certainty in it and in fact I find that I cannot lay down any program for our army or government that it pursues long, and while we travel, observing wants of other kinds and have been able to see through from first to last. I find this impossible in this war but I think that none are great reasons dividing between the people that composed the old government with each, often both, with those in the same climate and in the extremes, and if they all knew this truth, the matter would be settled no doubt and from this I deduce the conclusions and misrepresentations ...(illegible)...
us are fighting us just for the same reasons they refuse to give us our rights. Some of our people think we would get our rights and will do nothing for us, and the whole continent seems wild with one fighting on his own idea or declining to fight for cowardice or other reasons and thus now what was a great nation is bankrupt, having lost from three to six thousand troops by disease and casualties and we are approaching ...(illegible)...

to be realized in six months, a state of anarchy and lawlessness whose might and determination most questions of property and security of life. I am among the friends of each party and the sanctity of the home and female virtue will be disintegrated or (exhusted) and we may witness war, famine, pestilence and all kinds of outrages and this not confined to either side nor suffered alone by either but it must progress. Nothing will stop it. Like to ...(illegible)... can do no more unless some inter

We have a beautiful camp, shady and pleasant and clean, ...(illegible)... tolerable water.

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18th: Nothing extraordinary marked this day though in the afternoon we received some orders; no reference to moving, rations, etc. and later on an order came to be ready to move at sunup on tomorrow and we busy cooking rations late at night.

19th: Breckinridge's Division, to which I belong if to any, moving off toward Pontotoc and I went back three miles for some clothes and then pursued and overtook our forces and we all arrived at Pontotoc where we camped till the 20th. I had a sick headache nearly all day on the 19th and slept out at night but it was very cool for the time of year.

20th: We took up our line of march toward Oxford and marched 12 or 15 miles to Lafayette Springs in the county of that name where we encamped for the night and again slept out of doors. Our camp had a good deal of pines in it and we saw a good deal of pines, numbers of which would have been nice ornaments in the yard though they are not much desired for such purpose where they grow abundantly. The soil is poor where we found the pines.

21st: We began our marching by turning off to the right and proceeding to the Oxford road to the left. We found the country similar to the one we passed yesterday, timber and all included and proceeded about 12 miles and encamped on a fine creek a great while before night. There were pines at the camp and we were near the hill where ...(illegible)... grass, willow and goose berries abounded and as it was Saturday evening, I enjoyed myself ...(illegible)... grazing my horse and passing through cool shade about the brook or creek. It put me in mind of childhood days and I thought of the old folks at home and my wife
and little folks too and parents know how much I loved them. I slept on the side of the hill near my horse (which I always do) under and above 4 little bushes down amongst the herbage alone, which is my custom, disregarding spiders, snakes, and it was a handsome little couch and I should like to rest there once more.

22nd, Sunday: We rose early and took our force toward Oxford but changed and took the Abbeville road which we pursued within 5 miles of the place and encamped before 12:00 o'clock on another good branch in which I bathed and then I put on clean clothes which made me feel much better though afterwards I had a colic growing out of constipation and the bathing. I read Shakespeare choosing "Macbeth" and read all the witches said which is interesting though like such things not ... (illegible) ... I read at other times in the forenoon the good book and found it interesting. It was warm tonight. I have to sleep outdoors.

23rd: From sleeping without cover till late, I took cold as I do every night and find in passing up the hills where we are encamped that I have but little strength. I have been very busy all day with detail papers, etc.

JUNE 24: Made application to be relieved from duty as Captain and was relieved from the Adjutant office which I had assumed for ... (illegible) ... only and am glad that I have been so relieved as the duties worried me too much and I desire to go to Kentucky.

JUNE 25: This morning we moved to trick in one mile of Abbeville and stayed all day and night and my paper did not arrive but was sent to Headquarters of A. - (?) 0. Visited the camp of Stocks Company with Dr. Humphreys and had some nice honey. At night I slept out near my horse in bushes by myself.

26th: We marched up to the depot and remained till night. I got up another application and carried it through and was dismissed from service as I desired. The most of the regiment left at night on cars for Vicksburg but my old company and the company "B" did not.

27th: Left for Kentucky. Rode as much as I could well ... (illegible) ... and stayed at Capt. Bottner's that night and at widow Riddle's Parker's 6½ miles from Ripley night of 26th. At Capt. Hussom's on night of 29th; at Richard Burroughs night of 30th; near Hunting night of 31st, and at Paris night of 2nd and at home night of 3rd ... (illegible) ... I used ... (illegible) ... and prudence and did not have any accidents occur to me.

There was a wounded man with me who desiring to deceive a person he stayed with said his mule had thrown him that morning when in fact everyone could see he was riding a large black horse and not a mule. Besides everyone would have expected acute pain from the look on this man as it had been done that
morning but I said it had.

(July 4, 1862) From this till the 27th I rode about and saw my family and friends and recovered my health a good deal. On the 27th I started to the army. Made a good many crooks and turns. Was in pretty close places although I did not go to join it. On the 9th of August I got into camp at Comit Bridge on a small river of that name in East Baton Rouge parish.

I do not think the incident that occurred where I was missing that time scarcely worth relating though my trip back was more dangerous than the one going and I at one night had to travel at night to escape being interrupted as I would not have been permitted to go through although not intending to join service. I had to walk nearly all the way from ...(illegible)... to the bridge on Comit 10 miles from "B" range, a distance of 48 or 49 miles.

I now record some of the incidents and events that occurred where the 7th Kentucky Regiment, to which I have belonged, on the 27th of June it left Abbeville for Vicksburg, Mississippi though a part had gone the night before and the train had run off killing John Jones of Graves county. 23 others of the regiment remained at Vicksburg for a month during which time the Ram Arkansas and the bombardment of the Vicksburg occurred.

Shells frequently passed near the men but none were hit nor was anyone at all lost but 2 or 3 citizens. Health was not good and living was hard enough during this time. J. K. P.

Wells was appointed 1st. Lt. of Cavalry (my old company).

(July 27) The regiment left Vicksburg same day I left Kentucky and arrived at ...(illegible)... on the (blank left) day of July where they stayed till the (blank left) day of August when they left for Baton Rouge and on the 5th day of the month, at daybreak, they commenced an attack on the forces there. While it was expected that the Ram Arkansas would attack the fleet of the Federals but her machinery was defective and some material part of it gave way so that the Ram was destroyed to prevent it falling into the hands of the enemy.

The fight was a severe one. The Federals have as we learn some 7,000 troops and we 2,500. They were driven back from their camps in shelter of their gun boats and to the arsenal. Their camps and a good many stores were burned and their loss was as we learn heavy. Gen. Williams was killed and other officers wounded and report sets down their loss at 800. There were 250 killed and wounded on the Confederate side. Gen. Clark was badly
if not mortally wounded. Col. Allen had both legs broken.
Col. Thompson wounded in neck and other officers of smaller rank
and perhaps other Colonels. The dead were not taken from the
field by the Confederates and they lost some prisoners that were
and some that were not wounded. All was accomplished that can
be done where the gun boats are and that it was of such character
that both parties claimed the victory.

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The Federals because they remained on the ground and buried the
dead (which technically is a victory); the Confederates because
they had much smaller losses and destroyed a good deal of
property and left the field because it was not possible for
infantry to fight gun boats and a superior force of infantry
although they had and might drive infantry yet. They could not
hold the place while the gun boats ...(illegible).... It is a
question that I need not decide, that the Confederates should
feel worse for losing the name or the Federals for losing the
substance of the victory. I do decide this much, we think it is
...(illegible).... either party should be so circumstanced as
to feel rejoiced at such scenes.

The 7th Kentucky, 1st Lt. Ashley killed dead and others
wounded, none from Company "G". The Kentuckians are highly
praised for their behavior in the affair. Col. Thompson acted
bravely if not wisely of his own safety and so did many but I
speak of him in this place because I have spoken of his faults
heretofore and I desire to do him justice and to do the same to
everyone. The regiment fell back 10 miles to the bridge of
Comit river where I found them on the 9th. The wounded being
sent 7 miles to Greenville Springs. My health had improved a
great deal. Again I got to camp in 3 days. After I got in, I
began to go down, suffering from the dyspepsia and my liver
which is always

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affected with dyspeptic persons.

We had no tents, or I did not have any and we slept on
the ground and on the evening of the 14th, it rained very hard
and long and as we were in a swampy place, our lodging was both
uncomfortable and unhealthy as the ground was half covered with
water and the ...(illegible).... was very wet. Some of the
soldiers gathered the palmettos which abound there and made beds
of it and others made shelters of it and others simply placed
their blankets (where they had such) upon the wet ground and threw
themselves down to asleep when they had finished cooking rations
for 2 days as ordered. This summary(?) was no small one in some
cases for as this move was supposed to be temporary that brought
them down to this place. Some companies had few and some no
cooking utensils so that they must wait or borrow and in this way
someone was awake all night. I cut ...(illegible).... brush for
a bed on which I laid my oilcloth and on that my blanket and slept with my feet to the fire.

15th: The regiment moved early toward Fort Hudson, 28 miles above Baton Rouge and I came off in company with Col. Crossland toward and to ...(illegible) ... to get my baggage which I could not take down being in great haste and having to go on foot. We ...(illegible) ... I on foot 19 miles although ...(illegible)...

We got dinner at the house of a blind man and while my companions slept I improved the time and learned of the palmetto and how it is prepared for making mats and saw a bunch of dried plants that was dried. I also learned that live oak is found there, that it is always green; that pin oak is evergreen and

(end of page)

the magnolia is also an evergreen. The live oak resembles pin oak only its branches are very long and crooked. A tree sometimes covers nearly one-fourth acre. The magnolia has the largest blooms I ever saw and it is pearly white. They are to be seen on one or other of the trees through the whole year. They grow tall and large and in appearance between a beech and a hickory having the leaves not like either but ordinary size or of very thick heavy and slick. Pine covers nearly all the country except the flat lands near the streams and brooks. Pines are found and presently I found the long leaf pines, the common yellow pines, and the spruce pine.

We were taken that evening by a heavy long shower of rain and Colonel being unwell, loaned him my oilcloth and got very wet. At night we stayed with a Mr. Acorn who should have been named Oak and many small ones about that might have been called Acorns. There is another reason why he should have been Oak, his wife was quite a stormer and that night she had liked to have been a magnificent hurricane as Daddy Oak or Acorn undertook to keep us when he had but two beds for himself, his wife, his mother and all the small Acorns and the kitchen fire having to be raised to quite a flowing. And I believe great heat is said to produce the ...(illegible) ... creating a vacuum where the heated air and gas ascends.

The wife I think would do nothing toward supper and she did not preside at table nor offer to wait on or assist anyone.

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We had a poor supper but sick, tired and wet as I was, if the good lady had been pleasant and agreeable, matters had gone on quietly, I could have enjoyed the coarse meal at 50c. Oh, it is so bad for those who are bound to others for life, to be unpleasant and rough, one to the other, and each strive for the mastery.
16th: We left without breakfast and I was sick and had been through the night and I walked up to a Mr. Williams across Amite near which it is larger and handsomer than Comit and runs into the lake. We got breakfast at Williams and were sent 15 miles on the way on horseback to Greensburg court house, County of St. Helena. From this place we walked to Tangipahoa before night. I stayed there with the boys that were there and sick from my old case.

17th: Early this morning I washed in a clear, cool, deep pool in a branch and changed clothes and then slept most of the day but was still sick and grew sicker all the time. I took physic at night.

18th: Sick again or still through this day and took blue snap at night as dyspepsia and my liver were and are my troubles.

19th: Improved some today, had paper and had at night an interesting conversation with M. S. Rowland about the bible.

20th: I will state here that we had a cobbler earn $5.00 yesterday. Today I am better than yesterday. Have been to town and mailed a letter to A. P. Thompson. My bowels and stomach are out of commission but the treatment of my liver is benefiting those things.

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AUGUST 21, 1862: We have heard that our regiment is removing from Port Hudson to Tangipahoa and even if I were able to go, I would not do it till I hear further from them. Got permission to shoot off my pistol and in doing it I hit a tree and the ball rebounded and struck me about midships doing no injury. I went into a fine clear creek bathing with Dr. Humphreys and Col. Grossland.

22nd: The regiment arrived this morning and we got orders to meet it. We had no rations cooked nor did the regiment and some of them had not eaten anything since the morning before and we did not get anything till dark that day. We got on the cars and ran up to Jackson, Mississippi and slept till morning.

23rd: We lay at depot; ranged through the city till about 12:00 o'clock.

I went up to the Bowman house, got my breakfast, got pretty good biscuits and butter and fair coffee, fat bacon and ill cooked and tough beefsteak and clean goat milk and paid $1.00. Bought four fine peaches for 25¢ and saved the seed. Bought some peaches and some melon for the boys for a dollar. After the regiment moved off, 20 remained to talk to a Federal (Kentucky prisoner). Walked through the city, bought a pie, a loaf of baked bread and some pecans. I got on a wagon and rode most of the way to camp beyond Pearl river six miles from Jackson and
when I arrived, I found most of the company and was glad to see them and they to see me.

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24th: Washed up, put on clean clothes and felt much better. I read a pamphlet written by Mrs. G. B. Beecher in 1846 entitled "The Illnesses of American Women and Children". She writes very sensibly but as all other Yankees she is trying to accomplish something else than what she pretends. We seem to take in more readily the truth or seeming truths which are said incidentally or accidentally than when the object is plainly allowed and no one is more sensible of this than a Yankee. They know the habits of a rat and at once can take advantage of those habits and build a trap that his habits and passions drive him into. When they see a new piece of human "nature" (if any is new to them) they at once get the leading points and take it in to the extent desired. This pamphlet is sectarian and there is abolition in it and yet the intention is to obscure now and impregnate the mind of the reader unawares of the doctrine the fruits of which are to be gathered many days hence.

25th: Nothing new occurred. The health of the troops seems to improve at this camp as it possesses some advantages and their rest is regained and they are promised clothes and that they shall advance northward.

26th: I heard from a meeting of the officers of the regiment at Col. Crossland's office, in which it was pretty well manifested, that if this regiment is discharged in the end of its year, it will be without his consent and if a few hard cases leave out, it would be but little hardship, though I should like to try to get out honorably but not otherwise.

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I have had the benefit of 2 papers to read which was a considerable source of enjoyment to me. I found how the pay and dues of diseased soldiers may be collected. I perceive that I have not been mistaken in the view I have long maintained, that this is a magnificent war and that fighting is going on nearly every day. I think the war will last a little more than a year from this date, but much suffering must occur and great loss of life, destruction of property and finally bankruptcy.

27th: Feel pretty well and took to the writing. Wrote confidentially of a discharge for James Mahan and these memorandum. I am to dine with James H. Bowman today and the inducement is a peach cobbler as well as friendship. But if a soldier could not guess whether my devotion was greater to my friend or the cobbler, I fear he can decide from the proof. One month ago I started from Kentucky and the regiment started the same day from Vicksburg toward Baton Rouge. They got to Port Hudson on the 16th of
August and left the 19th for Tangipahoa enroute for this place. The regiment arrived at Tangipahoa on the 22nd day, the day I have stated they left for Jackson, Mississippi. Afternoon I had a nice dinner. As I apprehended, I have had so much diet that it is rather hard by reasons of its heating qualities, inferior to common quality or the imperfect preparation (growing out of want of facilities) that I have made up my mind to give more attention to diet when I return home, if I shall, especially as I am a hereditary dyspeptic and by casualty am more diseased than I look by nature.

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28th: Had sick headache today increasing as the day grew older and of course there was but little enjoyment for me. At night read late papers by firelight some and find many items of news in favor of Confederates. I saw Jeff Davis' message to Confederate Congress of the important character containing many subjects for legislation that require attention. Saw President Lincoln’s speech to the negro on the subject of Emancipation Colonization. I feel happy as one could do in camp as my company loves me and continues to give me evidence of it. The troops are drawing clothes and organizing and being fitted out generally. I desired to get my company out of service at the end of the year for which I had enlisted as some of them have helpless families which need their assistance greatly and the money they get here will serve them no purpose whatever and they had not made arrangements for more than one year. The regiment and the 5th and 6th (as I learned) said a good deal about going out anyways at the end of the time and I told them I would write a petition to disband and get out honorably and persuaded them not to leave otherwise. I wrote the petition but Col. Crossland cut off any such striving by his remarks to the officers so I found I could not be heard upon honorable petition. I have as always declined any other interference whatever as I will never be party to what is unhonorable in any event and I so advise all others.

This cuts one young man off from returning to his mother who is a widow with 7 children besides him and he is a little over 16 years old and their home not paid for and but little money.

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Several similar cases exist in my old company, two thirds of whom at beginning were married men and all of us poor or in moderate circumstances. I think the boys will be quiet and that there will now be but few deserters in the regiment.

29th: I am feeling pretty well this morning. I read papers before breakfast and made muster roll to assist officer of
company and thought if I can leave Myer(?) and company knowing how to do these things, and paid up to present and get sick discharge which should be for disability, I could then feel, under all the circumstances, rather free to go home though I regret that I cannot take them honorably where I found them.

At 10:00 o'clock my headache has begun.

30th: We are looking out to have muster roll and pay. Rolls ready and I am helping to fix up these things that my old company may get their rights. Nearly every day news arrives of some fight. Generally some victory of more or less importance in favor of the G.S.A. The news and business referred to are all that I have to relieve the tedious hours as I have no duties being out of service.

31st: This is the Sabbath. I rose early, got clean linen, washed and shaved for the day, felt very well. At 10:00 o'clock I went to the 3rd to see Col. A. P. Thompson. Found him much better of his wound and able to ride some. At night and in afternoon heard sermons. Had pleasant and improving conversations.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1862: Felt badly after poor night's rest. Regiment mustered and inspected.

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Muster called for and used. Lt. William Seay was mustering officer. W. S. Rowland preached at night and talked very sensibly, illustrating the truth of the adage that action speaks louder or more forcibly than words. Abraham's faith being proven by his proceeding to offer up Isaac. Elijah by his sacrifice and the circumstances. The text was "They That Say Such Things Declare That They Seek A Country". He wound up by exhortation. Chaplain called upon to conclude service and he dropped the thing with as few words he could make serve him. Which acts of his heart to illustrate the text I have just written.

2nd: By hard day's work, the company was finally released and I drew my balance too which nearly winds up my business here and at convenient time I will leave. I felt light-hearted as I have the desire to do the next best thing I could for the company since I could not get them released honorably and this was that the officers newly appointed should know how to fix up papers and secure rights of the Company and that they should have their pockets full of money. At night went down to Col. Grossland's tent and heard Amos Lonnie talk lightly and amusingly. Heard news of victory by Jackson in Virginia. Our ...(illegible) ... F. Harned tell more reliably of the fight alluded to yesterday. Saw Col. Thompson, still mending. Paid to Company bill all but $21.00 which I cannot pay because I have been put in this Division and the Commission I owe it to is in another one. Late in the evening I saw the Memphis
Commercial Appeal and Jackson Mississippian both which

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contained accounts (meager) of the fight on Manassas plains by T. J. Jackson (Stonewall) and Gen. Pope's, viz: That on the 28th and 29th of August the right and left of Stonewall's army were respectively attacked and the Federals repulsed and on the 30th (Saturday) Jackson made a general attack on them and routed them entirely, taking 30,000 prisoners. That there has been a great fight I believe the number of prisoners are not so many I think.

4th: This morning I finished reading the two papers. Read of a fight at Bridgeport not completed at the last account. Another fight at Boliver, Tennessee in which the Confederates took 71 prisoners and drove the Federals into town. These things may not be true as told.

I read a pretty stringent article on Gen. Bragg for not moving on the enemy and desiring Generals Beauregard and Breck-

3 nridge to be placed in command saying that Gen. ...(illegible) ...health is recuperated and he will soon take command where he may be ordered. The Confederate Congress seems to be considering the 6 tallions (or law of retaliation) seriously. And I saw John H. Morgan's proclamation on the same subject. These things I think indicate the coming of a better state of warfare which I shall be glad we could all avoid as it brings quiet citizens into the struggle or rather occasions such sacrifice and it is enough that those in the field should suffer in a severe war such as this.

I helped to get breakfast this morning and was glad when that was over. I have undertaken

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to make some preserves out of watermelon rinds. My rinds were late getting done but did very well. I talked with some of the officers and men about obtaining a ballad of the song "Old Kentucky Home" which was agreeable to all. I was present a little while at night where some of the soldiers were amusing themselves with music and dancing and the Col. and Major afterward came up.

5th: Find my health getting worse by degrees. Did not get anything much more satisfactory than I had about the fights. Things go on about the same way. In camp, preparation being made to move when ordered. My time was sent in as reserve recently. "And the evening and the morning were his 5th day."

6th: I was sick during last night and ate no breakfast nor rose till about 11:00 o'clock. I had the Appeal and Mississippian
to read and they report a fight at Denmark, (?) Tennessee in which the Confederates took 213 prisoners and two pieces of artillery and routed the Federals though the Appeal speaks of it as a drawn fight. Denmark (?) is from 8 to 10 miles southeast of Jackson and northwest of Bolivar. I was at regiment headquarters and heard John C. Nobles notions of the war and considered them in connection with what I know is fact. I venture nowadays to believe and think for myself and have done so for a great while and find every day good evidence of the fact that few men have talent of a higher order than good common sense and the last named talent is, with me, preferable to all others.

I took medicine tonight from Dr. Humphrey.

7th: Rose, washed well and put on clean clothes. Visited Capt. Bowman and Holt and had agreeable conversation and have returned and written this. I am very weak and I yet have headaches.

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8th: Still have headaches and indeed most of the symptoms of intermittents. I get a paper nearly every day and it affords a very pleasant employment to my mind which would be nearly idle otherwise, or unprofitably engaged. I think frequently of home and its advantages, particularly in the way of diet which in my case would bring healthiness unless exposed. We are looking for orders to move in nearly any time and when the moves occur, I shall probably start for home soon.

9th: My health is not improved nor do I believe I need physic but to live indoors and eat vegetables and be regular in habits. I had some interesting conversations with Col. Meyer and Dr. Martin and Dr. Humphreys speculating as to when the war will probably terminate and giving and exchanging reasons for opinions I expressed.

10th: Slept most of the morning on account of ill health. Helped to write up some papers for final discharge of forms given and proved them exactly but as usual fools are technical and they were not exactly right. It rained in the morning and yet later on an order came to cook two days rations, etc.

11th: 3:00 o'clock morning reveille. Being unwell I did not rise till later. Walked up to Jackson with Maj. Hale and Dr. Humphreys. Got my breakfast at hotel and bought some rations for the trip. I had some peach brandy, some melons, etc. I got on cars at 2:00 p.m. and was all right.

12th: Rose early, managed to get a wash. Saw a man at Oxford that the cars caught and killed belonging to the 3rd Kentucky. We were going slow

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at the time, just starting and in trying to get aboard, his foot was caught by the wheel; probably after he fell. We ran up to Waterford where I jumped off and remained for the night.

13th: Rose early, took some peach brandy, had some good breakfast, went up to the depot and remained till the cars came. Bought an Appeal, read Fremont's speech and other things in it. Passed the day pleasantly, though was not well.

14th: Sunday: Rose early, shaved, ate breakfast and got ready to start as soon as the cars should come so I could get a paper. I got the paper and rode with a Mr. Britton and another gentleman 10 miles and continued until 12:00 o'clock when I reached Col. Potts and took dinner. He could not change $2.50 and made unpleasant remarks about this to which I replied suitably as I had less change and it was not done on purpose as it would not have been honorable to get rid of just bills.

Rode till night and stayed with a Mr. Godwin who is greatly drawn with rheumatism. Found him sensible and agreeable and that by energy he had made his living, bought land, owned land independently, although he could not walk, even with crutches. So much for sense and energy and honesty.

15th: Rode through Ripley to widow Riddle Parker's and stayed till next morning. Very kindly treated and reasonably charged.

16th: Rode to my cousin Thompson Underwood by night. He and all treated me very kindly and I like them a great deal. They are affectionate. And without affection, the world would be a disaster and I would not like to stay in it. Not well and my throat also diseased.

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17th: It rained most of the day. I had most interesting conversation with my cousin and children. They are pleasant and good looking and make themselves useful. They are governed by affection principally and there is Union and Concord and Happiness with the heads of this family.

18th: Rained most of the day, had some of Spurgeon's sermons and he has his weak and strong points. He, in my judgement, reasons fallaciously sometimes and it is hard to avoid this very long if one argues a good deal. Rode to Jesse P. Bridges late in evening two miles from Rosanuth where there are two regiments of Federal soldiers but as I am out of service, and will remain out, I am not much afraid of them if I should meet the gentlemen.

19th: Rode back to my cousin's and spent the day pleasantly
and I think I will leave in the morning but I shall be sorry to do so though I ought to be at home where I propose going if permitted.

End of diary
Note of Nathan B. Stubblefield

I wish to offer an apology for having used the blank paper out of this book (though not one line or word of context is gone). Did this before I had been able to decipher the contents (some 10 years since, I will say) and appreciate its value. I unthoughtedly tore out paper for use owing, I remember, to a scarcity of writing paper which prevailed with us about that period.

Shall be glad for all who wish to read and copy the book but as this is one of the few keepsakes of Father's, I would like to keep it for myself and children.

Rapy.

(Signed) Nathan B. Stubblefield