

DECEMBER, 1863

- 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. Weather pleasant. Nothing unusual going on.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. Sent letter to tract Society.
- 6<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Preaching in the big tent. Bible class in the afternoon.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. Got letter No. 43 from my Wife with Summons enclosed.
- 8<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Brigade drill.
- 9<sup>th</sup>. Cloudy. Sent a letter to Bowman.
- 10<sup>th</sup>. Sent letter No. 56 to my Wife.
- 11<sup>th</sup>. Received letter No. 44 from my Wife.
- 12<sup>th</sup>. Showery. General Inspection this afternoon.
- 13<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Went to Church, Bible Class, and prayer meeting. Weather rainy in the morning and a cold wind in the afternoon. Stopped reporting to the Surgeon.
- 14<sup>th</sup>. A cold night. A pleasant day. Wrote No. 57 home enclosing a little book to Libby. Brigade drill this afternoon.
- 15<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Co. H drew 9 second hand tents.
- 16<sup>th</sup>. A very heavy rain last night and today, with high winds. We put up our new tent today. This morning about 9 O. clock the Floating Bridge across the Big Black was swept away by the flood. A cavalryman was drowned while attempting to cross the River. Four teams from the country came to the River and had to stay there as our Pickets would not let them go back and they could not cross the river.

- 17<sup>th</sup>. A cold windy night and a cold day. Went to Vicksburg. Saw Carpenter, Evans, and Seymour. Carpenter looks healthy and is fat. Wrote and mailed No. 58.
- 18<sup>th</sup>. Another cold night. Had a good bed and a good breakfast. Took a walk around town, rather a dull place now. Got back to Big Black at noon all right. Got letter No. 45 from home. Asahael T. Judd detailed to 1<sup>st</sup> Miss. Heavy Artillery (Colored). Brigade drill in the afternoon.
- 19<sup>th</sup>. Gen. Leggett came out today and reviewed us on Brigade drill. Weather pleasant.
- 20<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Sunday. Preaching at 10 1/2 A.M. Baptism was administered to \_\_\_ Browning of Co. F in the creek. It was witnessed by a large crowd of Soldiers. A Rebel Lieut. Col. came to our lines with a flag of truce this afternoon. He was met by Lieut. Col. Howe.
- 21<sup>st</sup>. Cloudy and mild. A succession of shots were fired this morning on our left, between 2 and 3 O. clock, supposed to be the Pickets of Gen. Crocker<sup>s</sup> Division. One report is that it was done by some soldiers who had re-enlisted and got drunk. Done my washing today.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cloudy. Wrote letter No. 59 to my Wife. More than half of the Company put on extra duty for absenting themselves from Battalion drill. Col. Sloan came out to the Regt. today.
- 23<sup>d</sup>. Cloudy and mild. Wrote a letter to T. G. Damon of Aurora, Ill.
- 24<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Gen. Leggett come out today and witnessed our Brigade drill.
- 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas day. The men of the Regt. by Order of Gen. Leggett received three rations of Whiskey. The Officers received four rations, to keep Christmas with. Some of the Boys stole the Capt<sup>s</sup>. jug of Whiskey and hid

it and kept it from him all day. The Capt. in retaliation refused to draw the three rations of Whiskey for them. So they had to go dry too. The day passed without serious disturbance. There was only two or three small fights, though some of the Boys in the Regt. were pretty well set up. In the evening I wrote part of a letter to my Wife.

26<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Volunteered to go after wood for the company. In the afternoon got a pass and went to Vicksburg. Went to see Col. Leib of the 1<sup>st</sup> Miss. Heavy Artillery (A.D.). Saw Carpenter, Evans, and Seymour, and Ewbank of Co. C. In the evening I had an outside ticket to a Negro Wedding at No. 2 Hospital. The Bride was a cook in the Hospital, the Bridegroom was a Corporal in the 12<sup>th</sup> La. (A.D.) Regt. They had music and Dancing in the regular darkey plantation style. Some of the dancing was the genuine "jubu". Refreshments were handed around after they had danced a few times. The expenses were borne by the Surgeon and Officers of the Hospital for the sake of enjoying the scene. The Darkies enjoyed themselves highly and kept it up till after midnight. Gen. Leggett was present and a number of Officers of lesser rank.

27<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Staid with Carpenter and had a good breakfast. A hard rain last night and a drizzling rain all day. Saw Baker and Murray at church. Went to the "Soldier<sup>s</sup> Home" and took dinner and Supper. Went to church three times.

28<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Saw A. B. Mowry this morning. Took lodging and breakfast at the "Soldier<sup>s</sup> Home" a well conducted Institution, good Victuals and lodging. Saw Mrs. Bickerdyke there. Saw A. T. Judd. Came out to Big Black at 11 A.M. Brought out some Photographs for Byron Snow. Henry Fransham and myself appointed Corporals.

29<sup>th</sup>. Detailed as Corporal on R. R. Guard. Went about five miles from camp. Gen. Force and Aid came out

to the post and told us that he would have the cars stop for us and take us to camp in the morning. Bought a pint of Milk for 10 cents.

30<sup>th</sup>. A Pleasant night. Had a good fire of dry rails all night. About daylight it began to rain. Was relieved at 10 O. clock A.M. and came to camp on the cars.

31<sup>st</sup>. A raw cold day with rain and a squall of snow. Was mustered for pay. Washed my clothes. Received letter No. 46 from my Wife, answered it by letter No. 60.

*and witnessed our brigade drill.*  
25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas day. The men of the Regt by order of Gen Leggett received three Rations of Whiskey. The Officers received four Rations to keep Christmas with. Some of the boys stole the Capt's jug of Whiskey and hid it and kept it from him all day. The Capt in retaliation refused to draw the three rations of Whiskey for them. So they had to go dry too. The day passed without serious disturbance. There was only two or three small fights. Though some of the Boys in the Regt were pretty well set up. In the evening I wrote part of a letter to my Wife.

JANUARY, 1864

- 1<sup>st</sup>. A cold night and a cold day. Very quiet in camp. Not much doing any where out here. No Whiskey. Partly wrote letter No. 61 to my Wife.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. Another cold day. My clothes frozen up solid in the tub. It took me till 3 P.M. to thaw them out. Copied my Diary to the 20<sup>th</sup> of Dec., 63.
- 3<sup>d</sup>. Sunday. Preaching at 10 1/2 O'clock A.M. by Bro. V. M. Dewey of Co.D. In the afternoon the Chaplain of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ills. preached to us, and administered the "Lords Supper". Prayer meeting in the evening well attended. Weather rainy.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. A rainy night and cloudy day. Occupied part of the day in mending my clothes.
- 5<sup>th</sup>. Cloudy and cold. Sent letter No. 61 home with part of my diary enclosed. Wrote a letter to Carpenter. Got Corporals Stripes put on my coat. Bought a dollars worth of Sutlers tickets. One of Co. H<sup>s</sup> men died in the Hospital last night and was buried today. Three of Co. H have died since the Regt. came to Big Black river.
- 6<sup>th</sup>. Went out on Picket in Byron Snow<sup>s</sup> place. He lent me his Boots. I was put on the extreme outpost on the east side of Clear Creek with 6 men during the day. At night we fell back on the reserve at the house. Two Secesh Boys came through the lines. We had a very comfortable place to stay during the day. We had a lively company at night and a good deal of amusement out of a man trying to drive a nail with a piece of shingle. Weather Fair and cool.
- 7<sup>th</sup>. Did not get much sleep on account of the cold. We were relieved at 9 A.M. Shot at the target and hit it

three times out of five. Cleaned my gun and sewed up my pants. A cloudy day.

- 8<sup>th</sup>. A fair day. Byron Snow and H. Mostow started home on furlough. I drew a pair of Boots \$2.87, and a Blanket \$3.60. Felt quite well today.
- 9<sup>th</sup>. Fair and cool. General inspection and review by Major Gens. Hunter and McPherson and Brigadier Gens. Leggett, Dennis, and Force. We had a pretty severe drill this afternoon. Bought a loaf of Bread.
- 10<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Mild. Preaching at 10 1/2 A.M. by Bro. Dewey. Bible class in the afternoon, and prayer meeting in the evening, all of which I attended and enjoyed. The lesson for the Bible class was the 6 chapter of Hebrews.
- 11<sup>th</sup>. The 20<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and 45<sup>th</sup> were making a good deal of noise in honor of 3/4 of their number having re-enlisted. They marched to Brigade Head Quarters with lighted torches and Regimental music. After they arrived at Head Quarters, the Brigade Band played a few tunes. All was quiet again before midnight. I spent the most of the day at work making a desk to keep the company books and documents in. Weather damp and cloudy.
- 12<sup>th</sup>. Cloudy. Went out on Picket. Went to Bovina. Was sent with three men to an outpost to the north of the R.R. on the road to Gen. Crocker<sup>s</sup> division. Found a comfortable She-Bang already built of small logs split through the middle and covered with Moss canebrakes and dirt. There is a good deal of travel past here from Gen. Crocker<sup>s</sup> camp to and from the depot for Rations. The Picket Officer (Coonskin) passed out of the lines just before night and gave me instructions how to receive him without the countersign when he came back, which he did about eight O'clock and passed in by

giving the countersign, which I had received but a few minutes before from the Sergeant of the Post.

13<sup>th</sup>. Rainy through the night but not very cold. Had quite a comfortable night of it. Was relieved at 9 A.M. and started for camp. Fired at the target and hit it three times out of five. Received letter No. 47 from my Wife and one from my Mother. Cleaned my gun. The Lieut. Col. and some of the Officers and Soldiers went out on a hunt today. A wild Turkey and a few Squirrels were brought in. Wrote part of a letter to my Wife. Drew a forage cap price 56 cents.

14<sup>th</sup>. A pleasant day. Washed my clothes this morning. Inspection by the Brigade Inspector. Wrote letter No. 62 to my Wife in regard to reenlisting &c.

15<sup>th</sup>. Fair. Worked on the Capts. desk. Made a coffee boiler to take out on Picket. Lieut. Potter gave me some dried apples some of which I made sauce of. Attended a Business meeting of the Regimental Christian Association in the evening.

16<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Finished the Capts. desk today. An Order was read on Dress Parade, dismissing Col. Thos. J. Sloan from the service for conduct unbecoming a Gentleman and an Officer, and for disobedience of orders &c. An order was also read giving the 124<sup>th</sup> the highest praise for the best appearance in Quarters, Clothing, Equipments, and Arms, at Brigade inspection. Martin Tarble came to the Company today. He has been absent at Memphis nearly a year.

17<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Showery. No Preaching. George White came to the Regt. today. His wife came with him. Gen. Grierson came out to Big Black with his Staff Officers on a visit. It was he that commanded the famous cavalry Raid through this State last Spring. We were all day expecting to be called out on review. No Bible class this

P.M. Attended Bible class and prayer meeting in the evening in Gravendikes tent, Co.C.

18<sup>th</sup>. Cloudy and windy. Washed my clothes.

19<sup>th</sup>. A beautiful day. Sent a letter to my Mother, partly wrote one to George.

20<sup>th</sup>. A beautiful day. Detailed for Picket. Was posted at Bovina, on the outpost south of the R.R. Lieut. Bailey of the 20<sup>th</sup> in command of the reserve. The trial drill of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade for the "Excelsior Flag" came off today. Made some apple sauce while on Picket. At half past eight there was a big scare among the Darkies. A Squad of Rebels were seen at a house about two miles from our post, on the road to Vicksburg. It is thought that their object was to kidnap Negroes. The First Kansas (Mounted Infantry) were called into line and sent out on a scout after them, but could not find them. They returned a little after midnight. Heavy firing was heard at noon today. Supposed to be our Gunboats.

21<sup>st</sup>. A fine day. Was relieved from Picket at 9 A.M. Footed it to camp. Fired at the target and hit it three times. Cleaned my gun. Found letter No. 28 from home, waiting for me in the tent. Lieut. Potter<sup>s</sup> discharge papers came today. Just at night a part of the Engineer Corps came out from Vicksburg and camped on the Bluff near the Road.

22<sup>nd</sup>. Sent a letter to George Snedeker. We were called into line near noon and the report of the Committee on the trial drill was read to us. The 124<sup>th</sup> drilled the best, the 31<sup>st</sup> second, the 45<sup>th</sup> third, the 20<sup>th</sup> fourth. A train of cars is to come out tomorrow to take us into Vicksburg to drill against the 17<sup>th</sup> Ills. and the 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regts. for the "Excelsior Flag". Wrote letter No. 63 to my Wife. We had a pretty severe drill this afternoon. Cleaned up my gun and accoutrements at night.

23<sup>d</sup>. A fair day. Regt. called into line at 8 1/2 O. clock. Got aboard the cars and started for Vicksburg at 10 minutes before 9 O. clock. When we arrived at Vicksburg we formed in line and marched to Gen. Leggett<sup>s</sup> and Gen. McPherson<sup>s</sup> Head Quarters and Saluted them. We marched from there past the Court House to the drill ground, two miles below the city on the river flat. We then stacked and ate our dinner, and rested till the other Regts. got on the ground. The drill commenced at one O. clock, the 78<sup>th</sup> Ohio drilled first, the 17<sup>th</sup> Ills. next, and our Regt. last. Each Regt. was allowed 40 minutes to drill in. Guards were placed about 20 feet apart all around the space for drill. They were from the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and did it up in style. After the drill was over, the three Regts. formed three sides of a square, the 124<sup>th</sup> in front of the Generals and Staff Officers. Gen. McPherson then advanced and in a short but very complimentary speech presented the "Excelsior" flag to our Regt. The other two Regts. then gave three cheers for us as the "Banner Regiment". We returned the compliment and then marched back to town, and after saluting Gen. Leggett and the Assistant Adjt. Gen., we got aboard the cars and started for Big Black. Got there about an hour after sunset and found the 20<sup>th</sup> Ills. drawn up in line to receive us. We then marched to camp and ate a hearty supper of baked beans and also some apples that the Capt. treated us to. We were pretty well tired and willing to rest. While in Vicksburg, I saw Carpenter and some others of Co. H. Carpenter brought down some biscuits and apples, some of which he gave me. Lieut. Potter went down and drilled with us but did not come back with us. He goes home by the first Boat up the River. I got a letter from Bowman stating that the lawsuit with the Read Estate was settled, all right.

24<sup>th</sup>. Fair and warm. No preaching today as the chaplain is absent. Bible class at three P.M. The Brigade Band played for our Regt. on Dress Parade tonight. The Lieut. Colonel made a speech after sundown.

25<sup>th</sup>. Clear and warm. Washed my clothes. Mr. A. B. Mowry of Co. E (now detailed as detective) treated the Regt. to 10 barrels of Apples (three cheers for Mowry). A Paymaster came out this afternoon and paid us two months pay.

26<sup>th</sup>. A fine day. Co. H received their pay this morning. Wrote letter No. 64 to my Wife enclosing \$10.00, one to Bowman enclosing \$2.00 to pay lawyers fee. One to Am. Tract Soc. enclosing \$2.00. Paid the Sutler \$2.00 that I owed him, bought a handkerchief 50 cents. Lieut. Spear came back to the company today for duty. Worked on Capt. Sigley<sup>s</sup> desk this afternoon. Received a letter from Wm. Carpenter with some Bills for me to collect among the Boys. Went on to the Pontoon Bridge in the evening.

27<sup>th</sup>. Clear and warm. Detailed for Picket in Baker<sup>s</sup> place. Was fortunate enough to get posted at Brigade Head Quarters. Finished Capt. Sigley<sup>s</sup> desk this morning. The men detailed for recruiting started for home today. Sent a letter to Lieut. Potter by Orderly F. L. Campbell enclosing \$2.00 that I borrowed of him. At 8 P.M. I was sent with three men to guard two Rebels, at the house near the R. Bridge. They are Machinists and left Mobile about a week ago.

28<sup>th</sup>. Had a comfortable place and a comfortable time doing guard duty in a rocking chair in front of a good fire in the fire place. Ate breakfast at the table with the Prisoners, had biscuits and fried potatoes. Had a conversation with the Prisoners. One of them had on a pair of Boots that he paid \$150.00 for in Confederate money. The other one had an undershirt on that he paid \$20.00 for, a hat that cost him \$10.00, and a white cotton handkerchief \$5.00. Flour is \$100.00 a barrell. Their wages were \$75.00 a week, and they could not live at that. We took them to the Provost Marshall<sup>s</sup> tent at 8 O. clock A.M. We were relieved soon after. Weather warm and clear.

FEBRUARY, 1864

- 29<sup>th</sup>. Warm. Sent a letter to Wm. Carpenter enclosing \$4.40 which I collected of the Boys for him. Fired at the target this morning, hit it twice, one shot 1 1/8 inch, the other 2 3/4 inches from the center. It was the best shooting done this morning and I am excused from Picket duty on my next turn. Capt. Sigley paid me 75 cents for fixing his desk. Copied part of my diary. Attended meeting.
- 30<sup>th</sup>. Cloudy with rain in the evening. Cleaned my gun. Received letters Nos. 49 and 50 from my Wife. Copied my diary to this date.
- 31<sup>st</sup>. Sunday. Cloudy and warm. Attended prayer meeting at 10 1/2 A.M., Bible class at 2 P.M., and prayer meeting in the evening.

*about a week ago.*  
28<sup>th</sup>. Had a comfortable place and a comfortable time doing guard duty in a rocking chair in front of a good fire in the fire place. Ate breakfast at the table with the prisoners. Had biscuits and fried potatoes. Had a conversation with the prisoners. One of them had on a pair of Boots that he paid \$15.00 for in Confederacy money. The other one had an undershirt on that he paid \$2.00 for. A hat that cost him \$10.00, and a white cotton handkerchief \$15.00 Flour is \$1.00, or a barrel. Their wages were \$75.00 a week, and they could not live at that. We took them to the Board Marshall's tent at 8 o'clock at eve. we were relieved soon after. Weather warm and clear.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. We had a hard rain last night. Washed my clothes this morning. Weather warm during the day.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>. White frost last night. Attended meeting last night. Sent letter No. 65 to my Wife, with two sheets of my diary enclosed. Order read on Dress Parade for the Regt. to be in readiness to march at an hours notice, with two days rations (in) our haversacks. Weather clear and warm.
- 3<sup>d</sup>. Clear and warm. A Brigade of cavalry came to this place about 8 A.M. and halted till noon, when they began to cross the river. About 10 A.M. the Infantry began to arrive. They halted and stacked Arms on our drill ground. Our Wagons are loaded and teams harnessed and we are ready to march long before noon. The 5<sup>th</sup> Ill. Cavalry crossed the river in the advance. The 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade of our Div. came in at half past one P.M. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade arrived between 3 and 4 P.M. and stacked Arms in front of our camp. One of the Pontoon Boats sunk and delayed our Div. till Sundown when we marched across and camped 4 or 5 miles east of the Bridge at 8 1/2 P.M. Plenty of rails and a good fire on Widow Cook's Plantation. In marching over the river bottom we had to cross some bad miry places. Some of the Wagons were stuck and some of the Boys got daubed with mud. Our camp fires made a beautiful (sight) as our Division was camped on two side hills. It is near the place where we lay on the 17<sup>th</sup> of last May while waiting for the floating Bridge to be built across the Big Black.
- 4<sup>th</sup>. A still clear night. I did not sleep good. There is a good deal of fun going on among the Boys this morning before marching. Called into line at 8 A.M.

Marched out into the road and Stacked Arms. Started again at 10. The houses at Edward Station nearly all destroyed. We came to the Battle ground of "Champion Hills" at 1 P.M. It extends two miles along the road. The trees, Buildings and ground still give evidence of the Stubbornness of the fight. I got a bullet that was shot in the Battle. We halted there nearly two hours. We camped at 9 P.M. in a cornfield 7 or 8 miles from Clinton. Some, about half, of our men carried rails a mile to make a fire with by the advice of our Adj. and after all found plenty of rails at our camp. Our advance has been skirmishing with the Rebs all day. Several of our men were killed and wounded and a "Mountain Howitzer" dismounted by the Rebs. Fine weather.

5<sup>th</sup> Pleasant. Made a bed of dried grass and slept first rate. Got up at 5 A.M. and got breakfast. Started out at 6 1/2 our Division in the advance, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade ahead. Skirmishing began at daylight and continued all day. We entered Clinton at 11 A.M. Just before we got there the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade took the lead. The 16<sup>th</sup> Army Corps came up with ours just at the edge of town, Gen. Hurlburt commanding. Saw Gens. Sherman and Hurlburt, and Staff officers. After passing through the town we halted nearly two hours when our Brigade took the lead. While lying in line of Battle three of our Regt. were wounded one in Co. A by one of our own shells, one in Co. K by a bullet and Acox of Co. B, it is feared fatally by a shell plugged with a corn cob which broke his left Arm, and injured both legs. We then followed our Skirmishers in line of battle across the fields and through Woods for a mile or more. Gen. Hurlburt's corps came upon the Right flank of the Rebs about 3 P.M. by another road and came near cutting off their retreat. They got away but in doing so they gave us practical illustration of getting up and dusting. They raised a cloud of dust

that rose above the woods through which they were skedadling. Our whole force was in sight in battle order at this time, both the 16<sup>th</sup> A.C. and the 17 A.C. It was a most imposing and beautiful sight, to see the different Divisions and Brigades in line of Battle with colors flying, the Artillery in position, the signal flags waving. It was a grand sight, the pomp of war, and it stirred within me feelings which are indescribable. We marched in line of battle till near sundown when we took a by road to the right of the main road, and marched on quick time towards Jackson which we reached about 8 in the evening. We marched through the town and camped on the north side, on the Cayton road inside of the fortifications. The 124<sup>th</sup> Regt. was the first Infantry in town. We entered with music and cheering. One woman waved a lighted lamp as we passed and a little boy sung out "Hurra for the Yanks". Being tired and sorefooted, I captured a darkey and strapped my knapsack on his back, and marched him to camp. He was a willing captive. We got our supper, made a bed of cedar twigs and laid down to sleep. We marched nearly 25 miles. In the early part of the day I saw one of our soldiers with the top and back part of his head shot entirely away, and some wounded. The Secesh left in such a hurry they left some of their wounded on the field. Weather pleasant.

6<sup>th</sup> A Windy day. Slept good on our cedar bed. Nearly all the large buildings here have been burnt. The Rebs have built extensive breastworks and rifle pits on all sides of the town. There are a good many buildings being burnt today, and the Soldiers are doing a big business in the foraging line. Jackson was the capital of Miss. and was a very wealthy and aristocratic place before the war. The State Prison and Lunatic assylum were here. We staid in Jackson all day. Partly wrote letter No. 66 to my Wife.

7<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, a fine day. We started before 7 A.M. and marched through the town. A good many of the citizens were along the streets looking on. The place looks like destruction. Saw a little darkey thumping away on a dismounted Piano that lay in the gutter. We crossed Pearl River on a fine Pontoon Bridge of Rebel manufacture. We halted on the east side of the river till 11 A.M. for Crocker<sup>s</sup> Division to pass us, when we started in the rear of the Corps Amunition train. We passed through Brandon just before sunset and camped two miles east of it in the edge of some Young timber. We marched 15 miles today. Brandon is a small place of about 500 Inhabitants. Saw the ruins of the buildings burned by our cavalry last summer. There is considerable pine in these parts, soil not very good, land hilly and rolling. After we got to camp a detail was made to tear up R.R. track. Saw some prisoners coming to the rear under guard. Made a bed of pine twigs and dried leaves.

8<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Started at 9 A.M., passed through a hilly country timbered with small oaks and pines. Soil sandy. Got into camp at 7 P.M. Marched 16 miles.

9<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my marriage. Slept cold last night. Started at 9 A.M. and got into Morton 7 miles about 1 P.M. and camped. Our Regt. was the rear Guard of the Division train. We lay here for the 16<sup>th</sup> A.C. to pass us and take the advance. Saw the 178<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Regt. from N.Y. city. A part of our force detailed to tear up the R.R. Country hilly and sandy. Weather fine.

10<sup>th</sup>. A fine morning. The 16<sup>th</sup> A.C. have all passed. Had boards to sleep on last night. Enjoyed good rest. Started at 10 1/2 A.M. Our Regt. was the center train Guard. Some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade were taken

prisoners at Morton after we left. We travelled slow during the day. We passed through Hillsborough in the evening. The advance of the 16<sup>th</sup> A.C. had a sharp Skirmish with the Rebs here this morning. There is hardly a house left standing in the town. After dark we marched on quick time. We crossed a creek where the Rebs had burnt the Bridge. Got into camp at 10 P.M. having marched 15 miles. Country very thinly settled, land mostly level and soil poor. Weather fine and cool.

11<sup>th</sup>. Slept sound. Got up at sunrise, got breakfast and washed a pair of Socks, A Squad of about 50 under Guard in our camp, mostly Texans. We lay in camp till nearly 4 P.M. when we started in the rear of Crocker<sup>s</sup> Division. Went about 2 miles and halted till past midnight for Crocker<sup>s</sup> train to get across the swamp. We got into camp in a miserable place, both wood and water scarce, at 3 A.M.

12<sup>th</sup>. Did not lay down to sleep till daylight when I slept an hour. Called into line at 9 A.M. and crossed a bad swamp. We then halted for other troops to pass. We went into camp at 7 P.M. at Decatur. A Squad of Reb Cavalry attacked the rear of Hurlburt<sup>s</sup> train there this afternoon and killed 17 mules. They were driven off by the train Guard and did no further damage. Decatur is a used up town. We marched 15 miles today. Weather fine. I was detailed on Picket.

13<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Was Posted on the road that we came in on. The rear Guard did not get in till 1 A.M. Had rather a light breakfast, got a piece of chicken afterwards. Was relieved at 9 A.M. and started on the march at 10. Our Regt. act(ed) as train Guard. About a mile from camp the Rebs fired into our train but did no damage. We had some very good road, and some very bad corduroys to travel over. We passed the 16<sup>th</sup> A.C. train in



Carell near a swamp. After we had passed they fell in our rear and came on. We got into camp at 8 P.M. having marched only 8 miles.

14<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Had a good rest last night. Got up at 5 A.M. and got breakfast. At 6 we got into line and Started for Chunkey Station, 8 miles from camp, with orders to destroy the R.R. Bridge over Chunkey Creek, tear up the track and burn the unoccupied buildings. We got there about 9 A.M. and after a sharp Skirmish with the Reb force consisting of about 1500 Cavalry with 3 Pieces of Artillery, under Gen. Wirt Adams, we routed them and captured 5 wagons of their train some of which they left in the Creek, cut the mules loose and went on double Quick time towards Meridian. We accomplished our object. We burned one storehouse with a considerable quantity of cotton in it. The Rebs had two well built stockade forts, one of which we burned. Our loss was three wounded. At 10 we were on our way back and got to the main road at 1 P.M., 10 miles, having marched 18 miles since 6 A.M. Our Boys foraged some Meat and Poultry on the way back. We took the Rebs by surprise. When we came near the station, they were eating their breakfast and we came upon them so unexpectedly that they left some Butter and Corn Bread ready buttered &c. They followed us back but did not get near enough to disturb us, but they came up to the road a few minutes after we got in and fired a few shots into the train of the Iowa Brigade, but did no damage. Weather cloudy most of the day.

15<sup>th</sup>. Camped last night near the supply trains of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> A.C.s. Enjoyed a good rest. It rained for 4 or 5 hours this A.M. About 11 we started on the march and camped at 7 P.M. near the Chickamaha Creek, 12 miles. The streams

were much swollen and marching in some places was very bad. We crossed "Stony Hill" at noon. It was expected that the Rebs would make a stand here and give us battle. It is about 14 miles from Meridian. It is a strong position and they could have given us a severe fight, but they thought best to keep running. In several places they had felled trees across the road to hinder us. We passed over a good deal of stony ground today.

16<sup>th</sup>. Clear and Windy. Got up at 6 A.M. and at 9 started for Meridian, five Miles. Got there at 11 A.M. There are quite extensive Barracks and cabins for soldiers quarters here, besides large storehouses and Hospital buildings. There is an Arsenal here too. There must have been quite a large force of Rebs here. There is a great many new buildings, some of them not yet finished. In fact the town looks as though it had all been built within six months. The Mobile and Ohio R.R. and the Vicksburg and Charleston R.R. cross each other at this place. Our troops are now busy (destroying) there R.Roads as fast and as thoroughly as possible. Our Regt. is detailed to this duty this afternoon. I am left to look after the Co.<sup>s</sup> things. When the Co. came in we had a good supper for them of Corn Bread and Boiled Beef. Our Boys say that they broke the Rails in two by main force without fire. This is a beautiful day and around here is a beautiful country.

17<sup>th</sup>. A frosty night and a cool clear day. This morning we moved our camp half a mile to the Southeast of the town near Gen. Hurlburt<sup>s</sup> Head Quarters. We had pancakes and some Biscuit baked today. 8 men and a Corporal detailed from Co.H for Picket. Some of the Storehouses and depot buildings burned today. The R.R. track is completely destroyed. Two engines and a number of cars are rendered entirely useless.

Nearly all the male citizens of this place are held as prisoners. They evidently did not expect that the town would so soon fall into our hands. Co.<sup>s</sup> C and H captured nearly three barrels of peanuts.

18<sup>th</sup>. Had a good rest on a bed of corn husks. This A.M. it is Snowing and the air is raw and Chilly. Gen. Hurlburt moved his Head Quarters out of town today. The 45<sup>th</sup> Ill. Regt. came in today. They have been Guarding a Bridge 5 miles west of town. 7 men and a Corporal (myself) detailed from Co. H. for Picket, being all the men present fit for duty and not on duty. We were posted 1/4 of a mile south of our camp near a creek.

19<sup>th</sup>. A frosty night, ice formed 3/8 of an inch in thickness. Did not sleep good on account of severe cough. We were relieved at 1 1/2 P.M. by some of the 45<sup>th</sup> Ills. Went to camp and found that the Boys had foraged two sheep for the Co. and "Wash" was trying to roast them over a pit with live coals in it, but they were awfully cooked and not much tougher than sole leather. Tonight heard the cheering news that we were to start on our return to Big Black at 6 A.M. tomorrow. I was sick all day with a cold and diarrhea.

20<sup>th</sup>. The 4 Left Companies of our Regt. detailed to burn all the unoccupied buildings in the town. We started soon after 6 A.M. after setting fire to our She-Bangs. A Squad of prisoners guarded by our Regt., Several White families and an almost endless number of darkies starting with Ox teams and on mules to go back with us. We got into Camp at 4 P.M. near where our supply train had been corralled while we were at Meridian. We marched 18 miles. The country around M. is slightly hilly, timbered with Pine and Oak, Peach and Plum trees are in blossom. A good deal of land has already been ploughed this year.

21<sup>st</sup>. Sunday. Pleasant. Started about 7 1/2 A.M. and camped in Decatur at 3 P.M., 12 miles. We passed some

Choctaw Indians on the road within a mile of Decatur. Two Regts. of Reb cavalry reported to be following our Army. Today they have been on our right flank. Our Squad of prisoners was turned over to Gen. Malthy. I rode a mile or two on the Cpts. Pony today.

22<sup>nd</sup>. Washingtons birthday. Slept good last night. Started at 8 A.M., marched 19 miles, within 8 miles of Hillsborough. Got into camp at 8 P.M. Camped in the woods, drew 1 days ration of coffee and hard Bread. Was sick all day. Weather pleasant.

23<sup>d</sup>. Left Camp at 8 A.M. Passed the 16<sup>th</sup> A.C. 3 miles from camp. Our advance passed the road that they came in on only 15 minutes before their advance came up. We got into Hillsborough and went into camp at 1 P.M. The Supply trains of both A.C.s are here. Saw the 17<sup>th</sup> N.Y. (Zouaves) a rough hard looking sett. Had a good wash and got my shirts washed. Two hard tack given to each man for two rations. We marched 8 miles today. I rode a mile on the Cpts. Pony. Weather fine.

24<sup>th</sup>. Started at 6 A.M. Our Division in the advance. Slept comfortable last night. We got all our knapsacks carried on the wagons. A detail made from each Co. for foraging. We struck off to the right of the main road and camped at 3 P.M., having marched 18 miles. This is the most level country that we have marched through in Miss. Small Oak and Pine timber, sandy soil. Our foraging parties made a big haul of Meat, Poultry, Meal, Flour &c. Our Regt. got a wagon load of forage and a wagon and Ox team to bring it to camp. Weather pleasant and marching easy. Saw an Artillery man stick a hog, cut off his head and take the guts out of him almost before he got done kicking. Picked some Wild Flowers.

25<sup>th</sup>. Pleasant. Slept good on a bed of Pine twigs and leaves. Left camp at 11 A.M. Our Brigade in the rear, the 31<sup>st</sup> are rear Guard. Got into camp at 4 P.M. having marched 5 miles.