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**Sgt. Melville B. Foote
Co "E" 115th Reg.
from Northville
Fulton Co.
NY**

Melville started writing his diary on Jan 1st, 1864, in the Elmira, N.Y. recruiting center. Strangely enough, there is an entry on the last page of the diary by a different Union soldier, also recruiting in Elmira, by the name of John E. Whipple from DeKalb, N.Y.

The entry dates to the fall of 1863 and so precedes everything that Melville wrote. Why is it on the last page? Why someone else than Melville wrote there? Was he the original owner of this 5x7 lined, but otherwise blank book? Did Melville buy it but didn't feel like writing just yet and lent it to John E. Whipple to jot down his impressions of escorting his freshly recruited black soldiers to -----? We will never know. What counts is that that last page is but a footnote to the account of Melville's experiences of the War of the Southern Rebellion, however incomplete it may be.

January 1st 1864.

The year opens on Friday. To day is New Year's Day. Another year has passed away and a new year finds us still engaged in the great Struggle for the perpetuation of the Union and I seriously hope that before the end of the year we shall conquer a peace and drive every traitor from the land.

January 2nd 1864

Rec'd a letter from home to day. Friends are all well except Mother* who is suffering with the Erysipelas** in the face.

January 3rd 1864

To day is Sunday but how different from the usual quiet Sunday at home. Answered Father's letter today.

January 4th 1864

Pleasant but cold to Day but not snow enough for sleighing.

January 5th 1864

Cloudy and snowing some this morning. It snowed about 5 inches deep last night. Have sent in an application this evening to be admitted as a member of the Masonic Fraternity and if successful I shall be initiated two weeks from to night.

January 6th 1864

Pleasant but cold this Morning, passed the evening at the Public Reading Room (*YMCA Reading Room in Ely's Hall*) which I find is better employment of time than going to the theatre or lazing around Rum Shops.

January 7th 1864

To day is the twenty fourth birth day that I have seen, how short the time seems since I was a school boy and those were my happiest days. Samuel J. Walthart and Andrew P. Palmer arrived here last night, volunteers for the 4th Heavy Artillery.

* Really a stepmother. Melville's mother, Harriet (Bell) Foote, died when he was just over one year old. Melville's father then remarried to Elizabeth Slocum who had been an older sister of Lt. Aaron Case Slocum of the 115th Regiment. Elizabeth had no children. After her death, some time after 1850, he remarried again. His new wife, Lydia Corey bore him another son, Charles Eugene, in 1855.

**Redness or inflammation of some part of the skin due to a streptococcal infection, with fever, and, generally, vesiculations on the affected part, and symptomatic fever. It is also called St. Anthony's Fire, Ignis Sacer ("Sacred Fire"), the Rose and other names.

January 8th 1864

Clear and Pleasant this morning. Charles Greenman, Joel Russell and some 10 or 12 other boys from Northville arrived here this morning going to the 4th Artillery, it seems home like to see so many from home & the neighborhood.

January 9th 1864

It has been a very pleasant day to day, have been to town with Sam and Andrew and went to the Theatre. The play was Don C zar De Bazan*** & a comedy entitled "The Serious Family" by Mollie Williams. The star actress is a splendid performer.

January 10th 1864

To day is Sunday. It is clear and cold and the sun shines beautifully

January 11th 1864

Clear & Pleasant to day there is a dearth of items to record to day.

January 12th 1864

Pleasant to day C. Greenman, J. Russell, S.J. Walthart, and A.R. Palmer went to town with me to day and we held a Sociable together. Received my pay to day, also attended the theatre and saw Uncle Tom's Cabin.

January 13th 1864

Pleasant to day. There has nothing of any consequence transpired to day.

January 14th 1864

Obtained Passes for Greenman, Walthart and Russell & Palmer. Went to town with them. We visited the Rolling Mill and saw the process of manufacturing Railroad Iron. It is manufactured from old Rails which are cut up into pieces about 5 feet long, are then put into a Furnace & heated almost so that they melt & are then run through Iron Rollers. They pass through 7 times and come out about 6 inches wide 1 thick & about 20 feet long. They are then cut in pieces of about 5 feet long by a pair of power Shears, are then weighed and carried out doors to cool. After being cooled they are put into the furnace and reheated and passed through the Rollers again 13 times. The rail is then run onto a set of Rollers which forms a Carriage to the saws. The gearing is applied and the rail is sawed to its proper length, it is slid off onto a platform and next passes through the process of straightening by means of a powerful press. It then passes into the hands of town men who clip off the wire edge caused by the Saw after which it is complete and ready for use.

January 15th 1864

Cloudy with every prospect of rain & snowing slightly. This evening the weather has changed & a lot of cold wind is blowing out of the North West. I have paid a fee of one dollar (to night) for the use of the Library of the Y.M. Christian Association & drawn the first book, Lossing's "Field Book of the American Revolution."

***By Adolphe d'Ennery and Philippe Fran ois Pinel Dumanoir

January 16th 1864

Pleasant & cold to day. Have been to the Reading Room this evening. No news of any importance to record.

January 17th 1864

To day is Sunday & I have not been to town.

January 18th 1864

It snowed about 4 inches last night and is still snowing this morning. It has rained almost all the afternoon and is still raining. 9 PM it commenced to freeze. Wind from the N. East.

January 19th 1864

Cold & clear to day. Received letters from Capt. Shaw and Van Steensburgh by to night's mail. Was admitted as a member of the Freemasons and took the first degree to night.

January 20th 1864

Clear & Pleasant, not much snow. The roads in good condition and good wheeling.

January 21st 1864

Clear & cold this morning. The air is fine & bracing. The sun shines most beautifully

January 28th 1864

Since making my last entry the weather has been very mild & pleasant just like spring.

January 29th 1864

Last evening I took tea with the family of Mr. G.H. Cotton. After tea he posted me up in the lecture.

January 30th 1864

It has been cloudy to day but warm. This afternoon we have had very high wind & this evening a heavy thundershower which is remarkable for the time of year.

February 2nd 1864

The weather still remains warm & pleasant. Rec'd my 2nd degree of Masonry this Evening.

February 4th 1864

Staid with Lieut. Vandesande last (*unreadable*) to day, He being sick with the Billious fever.

February 5th 1864

Staid with Lieut. last night & to day, he has been worse to day.

February 7th 1864

Called on Mr. Cotton to day & he called around & introduced me to Mr. Monson's people, very pleasant folks.

February 9th 1864

Staid with the Lieut. last night. He had a very high fever about 3 o'clock this morning. Has been able to sit up to day.

February 10th 1864

Lieut. has been sitting up to day. This afternoon about 4 o'clock his fever came on again. It was not quite as high as yesterday.

February 11th 1864

Rec'd a letter from Uncle this morning, he is visiting at Father's.

February 15th 1864

Staid with the Lieut. since last Monday. He is better & I have returned to camp.

February 16th 1864

The Wind commenced blowing to day & it is growing colder.

February 17th 1864

The wind is very cold and piercing to day & the recruits have to fill the stoves often to keep warm.

February 18th 1864

It is pleasant but cold to day, the wind has almost ceased blowing.

February 24th 1864

Awoke this Morning & found myself suffering with a bad cold. Have had a high fever all day & some pain in my head.

February 25th 1864

Had a restless night last night with a good deal of fever but felt some relieved to day shall be out soon.

February 26th 1864

Better to day but have no appetite possibly because I have nothing good to eat.

February 27th 1864

Feel a great deal better this morning. Think I will go down town to day for exercise will not do me any harm.

February 28th 1864

To day is Sunday. Pleasant weather.

February 29th 1864

To day we have mustered for pay which makes the 9th muster & our time is half out.

March 1, 1864

Saw an account in the papers of a Battle near Olustee, Florida in which my regiment was engaged. They held the advance and the extreme right of the line. Their loss amounted to about 300 in Co. E. 3 killed & 28 wounded. My old tent mate M. Van Steensburgh is reported among the killed which I hope will not prove to be a fact, for a better hearted man could not be found in the Regiment

March 5th 1864

Received a letter from home containing the substance of a letter from Lt. Slocum confirming the death of M. Van Steensburgh.

March 6th 1864

This is the holy Sabbath, the day of rest & it is pleasant and the sun shines most beautifully

March 8th 1864

Warm and pleasant to day with a bright Sun. Received our pay to day. Saw an account in the paper of the arrival of Col. Sammons, Capt. McKittrick, Capt. French on the Arago from Port Royal.

March 9th 1864

Rained just at night. Sufficient to manufacture mud.

March 10th 1864

Rained again this afternoon.

March 12th 1864

Received mstr. action (?) from Major McIntyre in the third degree.

March 13th 1864

Called upon Mr. Monroe with Sergeant J.E. Whipple for the purpose of obtaining Masonic information, which was cordially extended to us.

(Also on this page of the diary is the signature in ink of John E. Whipple followed by a drawing of a nib. Below is his military affiliation and place of origin: Co. A, 92nd N.Y.V., DeKalb, St. Law. Co., N.Y.)

March 14th 1864

The Fair for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission opens to day. May it prove successful.

**(February 20 1864 Olustee Florida*

In February, the commander of the Department of the South, Maj. Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, launched an expedition into Florida to secure Union enclaves, sever Rebel supply routes, and recruit black soldiers. Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour moved deep into the state, occupying, destroying, and liberating, meeting little resistance on February 20, he approached Brig. Gen. Joseph Finegan's 5,000 Confederates entrenched near Olustee. One infantry brigade pushed out to meet Seymour's advance units. The Union forces attacked but were repulsed. The battle raged, and as Finegan committed the last of his reserves, the Union line broke and began to retreat. Finegan did not exploit the retreat, allowing most of the fleeing Union forces to reach Jacksonville.)

March 15th 1864

Attended Lodge this evening and assisted in raising Brother Foreer (?).

March 18th 1864

In lighting the gas at the 1st Presbyterian Church this evening (where one Department of the Fair was being held) fire was communicated to the evergreen ornaments in the interior of the building and it was soon wrapped in flames. Nothing was saved. A number were badly burned in making their egress from the building.

March 19th 1864

One life was lost in the burning of the Church last evening.

March 20th 1864

Whipple and I called upon Brother Monroe today

March 22nd 1864

Attended Lodge this evening. 1st degree conferred upon three and the 2nd upon two.

March 27th 1864

Whipple and myself called on Bro. Monroe. Bro. Cotton was also there. We took Dinner and had a sociable time.

March 29th 1864

Attended Lodge this evening 3rd degree conferred upon two invalid officers.

March 30th 1864

Received orders this morning to report to Major General Casey at Washington without delay. Probably will not have a chance to go home.

March 31st 1864

Snow fell, the deepest last night that it has at any one time this winter.

April 2nd 1864

Attended Lodge this evening. 2nd and 3rd degrees conferred.

April 3rd 1864

Whipple and myself attended Beecher's * Church this evening.

April 4th 1864

Left Elmira for Washington by way of Williamsport and Baltimore.

April 5th 1864

Arrived at Baltimore about 12 o'clock M (*noon*) and left for Washington. Arrived at Washington about 5 o'clock. P.M. went to a private boarding house and took respite.

April 6th 1864

Went up to the capitol, finished all trim on the building. From there we went to the Patent Office and then to the Smithsonian Institution. Our Lieuts. reported to Maj. Gen. Casey and were ordered to report to Convalescent camp** for duty. Started out for Convalescent camp about 2 o'clock, arrived there about 3 o'clock. I was ordered in charge of Barrack No. 3.

*Thomas K. Beecher was born in Litchfield, Connecticut to [Lyman Beecher](#) and his wife Harriet Porter. He was one of eleven children, including: [Henry Ward](#), William, [Catherine](#), Edward, Mary, George, [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#), [Charles](#), [Isabella](#), and James Beecher. In 1826 the family moved to [Boston, Massachusetts](#), and then to [Cincinnati, Ohio](#) in 1832. From 1836 to 1839 Beecher began fitting for college in Marietta, Ohio. Then in 1839 he attended college in Jacksonville, Illinois; he graduated in 1843. He then spent a year with his father in Cincinnati and a year with his brother, [Henry Ward Beecher](#) in [Indianapolis](#), studying [theology](#). Beecher then spent a year at the Ohio Medical University, as an aid to the professor of chemistry and pharmacy.

In 1854 Beecher moved to [Elmira, New York](#), to preach at a local church, and, there, became a close friend to the famous author [Samuel Clemens](#), better known as "[Mark Twain](#)." From this time until the completion of his cottage in 1857 he would live at the Gleason Sanitarium on Watercure Hill. Thomas K. Beecher married Olivia Day in 1855; she died a year later. In 1857 Beecher took another wife, Julia Day, cousin of his previous wife and granddaughter of [Noah Webster](#), the author of [Webster's Dictionary](#). In 1863 to aid the cause of the Union in the [Civil War](#), Beecher started a regiment with A. S. Diven, the 107th regiment that would soon be sent to the front. Later, Beecher would aid Colonel Hathaway in raising the 141st regiment and would

go into the field with them as a chaplain until 1864. He sailed to South America with depleted health in November 1866, only to return May 1 of 1867 with rejuvenated health.

**The Convalescent Camp was located on the 4 Mile Run. In January 1864 it was reorganized under the name Rendezvous of Distribution Camp.

April 7th 1864

To day has been very long and weary.

April 8th 1864

Pleasant to day.

April 9th 1864

Rain and cold to day making it unpleasant to go out.

April 10th 1864

It is Sunday and the weather is pleasant

April 12th 1864

Turned over the men in my charge to their Regiment

April 13th 1864

Moved from Ward 9 into ward 46

April 15th 1864

Pleasant and warm. Eight Months ago to day, we left the Regiment. Left Camp Distribution for Camp Grant under command of Lieut. Col. Stevenson. Nearly opposite of where we camped one year ago last December.

April 16th 1864

Cold and rainy to day.

April 17th 1864

Showery and cold to day with the sun shining warm at times.

April 24th 1864

Broke camp and started for Fort Monroe. Pulled up camp about 3 o'clock, got to Alexandria (VA) about sundown. Went aboard the boat immediately. Have been sick about 3 or 4 days with cold and sore throat and slight touch of rheumatism.

April 25th 1864

Left Alexandria about 12 last night, it commenced raining about 10 last night and rained nearly all night. Our voyage down the Potomac is as monotonous as usual with the exception of a man overboard who was promptly rescued.

April 26th 1864

Arrived at Fort Monroe about 12 last night and lay there until 12 M (*noon*) when we set sail for Yorktown. Arrived at Yorktown about 2 o'clock, found our Regt. here and started for the Co. (*Company*); as soon as I got off the boat found the boys well and pitching shelter tents.

April 27th 1864

Am suffering with rheumatism in the Small of my back. It seems lonesome not to see Matt (*Matthew Steensburgh*) around and there are some number absent.

April 28th 1864

My Rheumatism has got into my right knee and it is very much swollen. The pain is almost unendurable. Cannot bend my knee at all.

April 29th 1864

My leg is worse than it was yesterday. Cannot bear any weight upon it.

April 30th 1864

My leg is about the same as yesterday. It is Muster to day.

Sunday, May 1, 1864

Has rained all day. My leg remains about the same, very sore.

May 2nd 1864

Ordered to the Hospital this morning with a number of others from the Regiment, were taken on board of the steamer Monitor (*not the USS Monitor which sank in 1862 but rather one of its successors known generically as monitors*) and landed at the U.S. General Hospital at Hampton, VA. It is a very pleasant place, cool sea breeze blowing most of the time.

May 3rd 1864

We had a very hard shower last night, considerable thunder and lightning & heavy rain and cold, with a cold west wind blowing this morning.

Sat., May 7th 1864

The weather has been pleasant and agreeable since making my last entry. Learned to day through Sergeant Hicot that our Regiment landed at City Point* yesterday and were ordered to advance immediately. The Rebs had evacuated Petersburg.

***Grant's Headquarters** **City Point, Virginia**

The Center of the War

Providing food, clothing, and medical supplies to 100,000 Union soldiers and 65,000 horses and livestock was no small task for Ulysses S. Grant and his army during the Civil War. In 1865, Grant could not rely on today's technologies — airplanes, telephones, fax machines, and the Internet — to help provide his army with the supplies they needed to not only stay alive, but to put an end to the deadliest war in our nation's history. In Civil War times, one of the most efficient means of transportation was by way of the river. And that is why, in his effort to bring an end to the Civil War, General Grant strategically set up his headquarters next to the James River in City Point, Virginia. (The town of City Point is now known as Hopewell.)

As one can imagine, City Point was at the center of the Union Army's operations. The area was a hub of activity with tons of supplies arriving daily, via the James River. In fact, City Point became one of the busiest ports in the world for a brief, 10-month period during the war. Logistical operations were enormous. An elaborate railroad, ship supply, and communications operation was set up at City Point to distribute supplies to men in the field. A bakery was erected and produced over 100,000 rations of bread each day. In addition, seven hospitals were located at City Point. One of those hospitals, the Depot Field Hospital, would actually treat 6,000 patients on an average day and as many as 10,000 on a busy day.

Why Is This Site Important?

City Point served as the headquarters of the Union armies under the command of Lieutenant General Grant during a crucial time in the Civil War. It was from this site that Grant planned and organized the Siege of Petersburg, which ultimately helped bring about the end of the Civil War in Virginia. It was at City Point that President Lincoln, Grant, and key military leaders met to discuss how to reunify the country once the war was over. As a result, this site holds special significance in American history.

Sunday, May 8th 1864

It is Sunday once more and how pleasant all nature is smiling. The birds are sweetly singing and all nature seems to worship the Supreme Architect of the universe. Who on beholding this beautiful Sabbath would think that this & our country was plunged in the vortex of civil strife that the evil passions of men were let loose & they are endeavoring to take each other's life; but such is war, cruel, devastating war.

Mon., May 9th 1864

Were ordered to the Regiment this morning. Marched from the hospital to Fort Monroe* and were embarked on a transport. At 12 M (*noon*) we started up the James River for City Point. Had a pleasant trip up the river. Splendid scenery and some very fine plantations. Passed the old Rebel Ruin, Atlanta about 8 or 10 miles below the Point,

(there is no town of Atlanta in Virginia, perhaps Melville refers to a wreck of the Confederate ship Atlanta). Landed at City Point about 6 o'clock. Some fine land at the Point. Some of it under cultivation. One large field of wheat about a foot-high.

**(Completed in 1834 and named in honor of President James Monroe, Fort Monroe is recognized as the largest stone fort ever built in the United States. Nicknamed "Freedom's Fortress," this Union-held fortification provided a safe haven for hundreds of runaway slaves during the Civil War. It was also the site where the Army of the Potomac landed before beginning the march toward Richmond during the Peninsula Campaign.*

Tues., May 10th 1864

Lay at Bermuda Hundred all day waiting to be ordered to the Regiment.

Wed., May 11th 1864

Left Bermuda Hundred about 7 o'clock for the Regiment. Had hard work to find it. Traveled nearly all day, found the boys well.

Thursday, May 12th 1864

Our Troops moved to the front this morning. Moved about 5 miles and came upon the enemy. Skirmishing quite heavy about noon, drove the enemy back and advanced our lines. Rained considerable to day.

Friday, May 13th 1864

Advanced our lines about 2 miles this morning. Had some heavy skirmishing this afternoon.

Sat., May 14th 1864

The enemy fell back from their outer intrenchments last night. Our lines were advanced about one mile today. Had very heavy skirmishing all day, drove enemy back. Samuel Clemons mortally wounded. H. McLaughlin, A.C. Canfield slightly wounded. About 5 o'clock our batteries shelled the enemy very heavily on the left.

Sunday, March 15th 1864

Pleasant to day. Little Showery. Not much skirmishing or fighting today. Both sides seem to respect the Sabbath so far as consistent with their duty.

Mon., May 16th 1864

Roused up this morning at 3:30 o'clock. Formed in line about 4:30 o'clock. The Enemy opened on us with shell. We fell back in the rear of the intrenchments and were soon ordered to the rear. The enemy massed his forces on the right and opened with artillery and infantry very heavily causing our forces to fall back. After going to the rear were ordered to march to the right where the enemy were making a demonstration formed line of skirmishes and advanced. Remained in line until dark and then withdrew and returned to camp.

Tuesday, May 17th 1864

Lay in camp to day.

Wed., May 18th 1864

Lay in camp until about noon when the enemy made an attack upon our outer lines. Moved out to the earthworks and lay behind them until night when our Regt. was detailed upon fatigue. Were divided into parties, one worked until midnight and the other until morning.

Thurs, May 19th 1864

Went to camp about 2 o'clock, were glad to obtain some rest.

Friday, May 20th 1864

Were called out last night about 12 o'clock on account of sharp picket firing and dismissed to our quarters again. Started for the front about 11 o'clock, were ordered out on the skirmish line had a sharp turn with the enemy this afternoon. No firing of any account this evening.

(May 20 1864 Ware Bottom Church

Confederate forces under General P.G.T. Beauregard attacked Butler's Bermuda Hundred line near Ware Bottom Church. About 10,000 troops were involved in this action. After driving back Butler's advanced pickets, the Confederates constructed the Howlett Line, effectively bottling up the Federals at Bermuda Hundred. Confederate victories at Proctor's Creek and Ware Bottom Church enabled Beauregard to detach strong reinforcements for Lee's army in time for the fighting at Cold Harbor.)

Sat., May 21st 1864

Were relieved about 2 o'clock this morning by the 4th NH, (*New Hampshire*). Returned within the intrenchments, lay behind the works until about 5 o'clock and then marched back to camp.

Sunday, May 22nd 1864

Roused up last night about 11 o'clock by very heavy firing at the front. Fell in and marched nearly to the intrenchments. Then about-faced and marched to camp, fell in this morning and marched to the front again, lay in our old place during the day.

Mo., May 23rd 1864

Returned to Camp this afternoon.

Tu., May 24th 1864

Turned out this morning at 3 o'clock packed knapsacks, struck our tents and moved our camp to within about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the fortifications.

Fri., May 27th 1864

The last 3 days has been quiet and the men doing fatigue. Last night received orders for 2 days, cooked rations and go-rounds of cartridges and be ready to march at a moment's notice. Marched about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles and bivouacked in a large open field with the rest of our division.

Sat., May 28th 1864

Marched about dark to night. Crossed the Appomattox River at Point of Rock on a pontoon Bridge.

Sunday, May 29th 1864

Arrived within about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of City Point this morning about 9 o'clock. Bivouacked until about 6 o'clock and marched to the landing embarked on board of the steamer "DeLinda" (*could not find any record of this ship, perhaps Melville meant the Linda of Philadelphia*). Left City Point about 3 o'clock going down the James River

Mo., May 30, 1864

Arrived at Fort Monroe about noon. Were ordered up the York River. Passed Yorktown about 1 o'clock. The course of the River above Yorktown is very winding and devious.

Tues., May 31, 1864

Ran aground last just after dark in the Pamunkey River about 7 miles below White House landing. Were transferred to the George Leary (*a ship*), and landed at White House Landing about daylight. Started about 5 o'clock for the front to form a junction with Grant's army.

Wed., June 1, 1864

Marched all night until 4 o'clock. Halted until 8 o'clock and started on again. Came up with the left of Grant's army about 4 o'clock. Our corps formed in line of battle and advanced. About 6 o'clock a general engagement commenced in front of our corps and until after dark.

Our Brigade charged and took the Rebel rifle pits with about 500 prisoners. The 115th took between 2 and 3 hundred of the prisoners. Arch McGlachlin was wounded in the foot while making the charge. Have been sick and had bad diarrhea. Fell back as the Regiment formed line.

Thursday, June 2nd 1864

Lay to the rear to day. Bad headache and pain through my limbs with diarrhea. Fighting in our front light to day.

Fri., June 3rd 1864

Unwell to day. Headache and general debility. Heavy fighting on our left, just at dark our troops repulsed the two charges of the enemy on our left.

Sat., June 4, 1864

Some rain today. Stephen A. Johnson was mortally wounded today. Shot in the bowels on the right side.

Sunday, June 5th 1864

S.A. Johnson died last night about 2 o'clock. Was wounded yesterday morning and lived until 2 this morning. Buried to day. Jas. F. Hollett wounded in the right hand this morning. Will probably loose his thumb and fore finger.

Sunday, June 12th 1864

Nothing of importance has transpired during the past week but little fighting, except skirmishing. Have been the most of the week with poison in my face, right eye swollen shut. To day our corps started on its return to Bermuda Hundred.

I started with the sick and cooks of our Brigade about 4 o'clock for the white house, marching irritates the sores on my face and neck causing it to pain me considerable.

Monday, June 13th 1864

Arrived at the White House* this morning at day break. This place is celebrated as the place where Washington was married to the Widow Custis. The Chimneys are all that remain to mark this classic locality. Our Brigade lay in Camp to day.

Tuesday, June 14 1864

The Brigade embarked about noon to day. Our Boat ran aground 3 times within a mile of the Landing.

Wednesday, June 15th 1864

Found ourselves on the York River at sunrise this morning. Some fine locations along this river. Landed at Fort Powhatan on the James River at about 10 o'clock.

**White House, an 18th-century plantation on the Pamunkey River in New Kent county Virginia, was the home of Martha Dundridge Custis and Daniel Custis after they were married in 1750. The manor house at White House Plantation, which was burned in 1862, had been the second of three that occupied the site of over the years.*

White House was at the site of the crossing of the Pamunkey River by the Richmond and York River Railroad, which was completed in 1861 between Richmond and West Point, where the Pamunkey and the Mattaponi Rivers converge to form the York River.

Thursday, June 16th 1864

Lay in rear of the Fort last night. Started to march to City Point this morning. The country (*we*) marched through to day is fine. Some very fine plantations, crops in a fine condition. Headquarters of the army passed us on the road. Any number of stragglers following up cherries both cultivated & wild along the road. Arrived at City Point about dark.

Friday, June 17th 1864

Took us from City Point to Point of Rocks on transports and marched from there to the front by way of 10, A.C. Hd. qrs., lay behind the breast-works a little at the sight of the signal station.

Saturday, June 18th 1864

Called out last night about 11 o'clock. Marched down towards the right outside the fortifications and prepared for a charge. Lay in that position about an hour when we were ordered back.

Mr. Fisher is here & it seems pleasant to see a familiar face from the neighborhood of home. He is laboring with the Christian Commission.

Monday, June 20th 1864

Moved Camp last night about 1 mile to the left. Pleasantly located in a pine grove overlooking the Appomattox River.

Wednesday, June 22nd 1864

All the men for duty in the Regt. came out on picket last night. We have no firing on each other. Exchanged papers to day with the Rebs & learned that cousin J.E. Clark had been sent to Charleston.

Thursday, June 23rd 1864

The Regt. left camp just at night for some unknown destination. I staid back with the sick.

Friday, June 24th 1864

Learned that the Regt. was at Petersburg attached to the 18th A.G.

Tuesday, June 28th 1864

The sick were ordered to the Regt. to day. Started about 4 o'clock. Marched to the corps hospital within about 2 miles of the Regt. and bivouacked.

Wednesday, June 29th 1864

Came up to the Regt. found them in the second line of intrenchments.

Thursday, June 30th 1864

Nothing has transpired to day except the usual picket firing. About 2 o'clock our brigade was formed for a charge but owing to some mismanagement, the order was countermanded.

Friday, July 1st 1864

Was detailed on Picket to night.

Saturday, July 2nd 1864

The post that I am on is distant, about 200 yards from the enemy's works. The pickets shoot from portholes, dare not stick their heads above the pits.

Sunday, July 3rd 1864

It is not very quiet to day, considerable firing by both sides. The chaplain preached to the Regt. to day.

Monday, July 4th 1864

To day is the 88th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and it finds us engaged in a gigantic civil war which I pray God may cease before another anniversary rolls around. The enemy shelled us considerable last night. Col. Barton was ordered before a court of Inquiry to have his conduct investigated in relation to the formation of his Brigade for the charge the other day.

Tuesday, July 5th 1864

The 2nd, 4th and our Regt. relieved the other half of our Brigade (in the front pits). Guard at dark last night also the pickets.

Wednesday, July 6th 1864

Nothing of any moment (*importance*) has transpired to day except heavy shelling by the enemy.

Thursday, July 7th 1864

Were relieved by the 48th and 76th just at dark and moved to the rear. A & S Johnson had a narrow escape in the picket pits yesterday from a mortar shell which struck between them, they having just time to roll onto the bank of the pit before it bursted, breaking one gun stock by the guard & shattering it lower down & ripping the other ones knapsack.

The enemy opened a heavy cannonade on our lines this morning throwing a round of shells over us.

Friday, July 8th 1864

Relieved the other half of the Brigade about dark. Nothing worthy of note transpired to day.

Saturday, July 9th 1864

In the first lines of trenches but little cannonading. Detailed on picket to night.

Sunday, July 17th 1864

John W. Ward was wounded slightly in the head after being posted in his pit on picket.

Friday, July 22nd 1864

W. B. Howe of Co. C was killed this afternoon upon the picket line by a bullet hitting him in the brain. He was from the Town of Day, Saratoga Co. NY.

Saturday, July 23rd 1864

J.L. Manannam & Sammy Walthart of the 4th Heavy Artillery came over to see me to day. Jake looks well. Have not seen him in about 1½ years. Sammy looks as hearty as a buck.

Sunday, July 24th 1864

Went over to the 4th Artillery to day. Staid about 2 hours with the boys when they had to go on fatigue.

Thursday, July 28th 1864

Relieved from Barton's Brigade and ordered to report to Col. Bell commanding 3rd Brigade.

Friday, July 29th 1864

Lay in the trenches to day. Our Division has been relieved, just at dark we were relieved from the trenches and marched with the rest of the Division out to the 9th Corps. Lay upon the ground until about 2 o'clock of the 30th when we were marched out in rear of the front line of intrenchments & closed in mass. One of the Regiments of the 9th Corps had undermined one of the enemy's forts which was to be blown up about ½ past 3 o'clock but the fuse failed the first time & had to be fired again. The explosion took place about half past 4 AM.

A portion of the 9th, 18th corps were formed for a charge. They charged, took the fort and a portion of the works & held them until near night when the troops were driven back to where they started from in the morning about 4 PM. Our Division was relieved and fell back to our old position.

Sunday, July 31st 1864

Lay in our old line last night. This morning were relieved and started for City Point when about half way there the order was countermanded & were ordered to Point of Rocks which we reached about noon.

4 men of the Regiment died from sun stroke & number of others were badly heat up so that they are in the Hospital. J.W. Waurd (*actually John W. Ward, mentioned previously on July 17th when he was wounded slightly in the head*) came near falling dead.

Saturday, August 13th 1864

We have now been laying in camp since the 31st of July. Rec'd orders this morning to be ready to march at a moment's notice. The order came about 11 o'clock PM for to march.

Sunday, August 14th 1864

Our column reached Deep Bottom this morning about 6 o'clock, were immediately formed in line of battle & advanced to the pickets. Lay in line until about 4 PM when we were moved toward the right & then ordered back near our former position. Was detailed on picket to night.

Monday, August 15th 1864

Our division was ordered to the right last night. Was relieved from the picket line about 1 AM, got to the Regiment about 7 o'clock, they were laying in mass, about 8 AM were ordered to move forward, moved to near Fuzzles Mills (*the orthodox spelling is "Fussel's Mill"*) & formed for action. Some skirmishing this after noon.

Tuesday, August 16th 1864

The Brigade moves from right to left as they are needed for support.

About noon a charge was made & our Brigade sent in to support & hold the works. Advanced beyond the works, were driven back with considerable loss. Sergt. G.M. Van Renschler, Sgt. P.J. Keck, J.R. Jacoby, C.M. Allister, C.W. Saner, P. Doxtader were wounded & taken off the field. E.D.M. Lee, & S. Johnson wounded & taken prisoners. J.H. Hale missing, S.P. Little, Wm.H. Scorsby, R.J. Wells, & A. Johnson were sun struck making 12 casualties out of 17 men.

Wednesday, August 17th, 1864

The fighting has been confined to skirmishing to day. Have lost none in our Co.

Thursday, August 18th, 1864

Considerable artillery firing during the day. Lt. Col Johnson in command of the brigade. The Col. was ordered to detail a picket from the brigade & instead of obeying the order took out the whole brigade leaving the works occupied by them bare about 6 PM. The enemy charged our pickets driving them in and capturing all but 3 of Co. A of our Regt.

Friday, August 19th 1864

Slight skirmishing to day. The cooks, convalescents & Hospitals were ordered to the rear this evening.

Saturday, August 20th 1864

Our division moved still further to the right last night, lay in mass to day. The position is ordered to be evacuated, all those of our brigade who did not feel well were

permitted to go to the rear about 5 PM, as our brigade was to cover the retreat and have hard Marching.

Sunday, August 21st 1864

Reached our old camp this morning about sunrise. The Regt. got in a couple of hours later.

Wednesday, August 24th 1864

Rec'd orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice. Have been in camp since the 21st.

Thursday, August 25th 1864

The enemy made an advance & took our picket line last night. This morning our troops charged and retook the pits. Rec'd pay this afternoon.

Friday, August 26th 1864

Sent home \$20 to day. Also my trowel. Are expecting orders to move at any moment.

Saturday, August 27th 1864

Still remain in our old camp.

Sunday, August 28th 1864

Rec'd orders to march about 4 PM. Took the road to Petersburg. Reached headquarters of the 10th A.C. about 8 PM, bivouacked near headquarters.

Monday, August 29th 1864

Rec'd a letter, 2 papers & a package of medicine from home this Morning. Pitched our Camp a little to the right of our last night's bivouac. The 4th N.H., 9th M & our Regt. went into the trenches to night.

This is the last entry for 1864. Several pages are blank except for stains left by a purple piece of fabric. The fabric looks like silk.

Finally there is a new entry in the same hand, but in larger script:

Diary For The Year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred & Sixty Five

Sunday, January 1 1865

Another Year has passed away and a new year has been ushered in. The coming year still finds us in the midst of civil war – but in the year that has passed we have made considerable progress crushing this hydra-headed rebellion. Everything at present looks towards a speedy crushing out of armed traitors and it is hopeful that the war will be closed before the end of the year.

The weather to day is clear & cold.

Monday, January 2nd 1865

Stormy to day. Snow fell just at night

Tuesday, January 3rd 1865

The storm still continues. About 1 inch of snow has fallen to day.

Wednesday, January 4th 1865

Weather cold so that the fire in the fire place looks comfortable. The ambulances returned to day from the expedition. Saw rough weather, lost some horses and some of the ambulances stove up.

Thursday, January 5th 1865

Was detailed yesterday to go with the expedition which is starting out the second Division. Embarked yesterday and troops were embarking all last night. Embarked on board the McClellan this morning with the ambulance men. The McClellan is the Headquarters' Ship. Brevet Major General A.H. Terry in command. Left the wharf at Bermuda Hundred about noon & proceeded down the James River. Arrived at Fort Monroe about 8 PM.

Friday, January 6th 1865

Shortly after 12 o'clock this morning were roused up so the ship could be coaled and lumber was brought aboard to build docks about 4 PM.

Proceeded towards our destination which is unknown as yet. A number of vessels in sight. The sea has commenced to grow rough & there are strong indications of a gale. 9 PM it is raining & a strong head wind prevails. Slightly sea sick to day.

Saturday, January 7th 1865

To day is the twenty-fifth anniversary of my birth day. Time is indeed short for it seems as it were but a day since I was a small boy enjoying my best days & I look forward & endeavor to see what the coming year will bring forth. I find myself on the recurrence of my birthday upon the bosom of the broad Atlantic tossing & pitching about

at the mercy of the wind & waves. The sea runs high with strong head winds. Am most woefully sea sick to day.

Sunday, January 8th 1865

Ran into Beaufort Harbor, N.C. early this morning & cast anchor. A number of Gunboats & Monitors are inside.

Monday, January 9th 1865

Pleasant & warm, growing cloudy towards night. A Blockade runner recently captured while endeavoring to run the Wilmington blockade was brought into port last night.

Tuesday, January 10th 1865

Still in port. Raining with high wind. A Thunder shower just before dark. 2 heavy peals of thunder. The lightning continued about two hours.

Wednesday, January 11th 1865

Clear & cold this morning with high wind. The sea has subsided somewhat since morning. A number of the Gunboats left the harbor about 4 P.M.

Thursday, January 12th 1865

Weighed anchor this morning about 7 o'clock & proceeded to sea. The remaining vessels of the fleet following in regular order

The naval vessels in one column & the Army transports in parallel line. Reached Federal Point about 4 P.M. Nothing of importance was done after arriving. The evening is a splendid moonlight evening reminding me of the many pleasant moonlight evenings spent at home in winter. To morrow will doubtless prove an eventful day to the nation.

Friday, January 13th 1865

The naval fleet commenced moving this morning about 7 A.M. shelling the beach as they advanced. About 10 A.M. the Troops commenced to disembark & met with no opposition. Commenced to unload our Hospital stores this evening but did not go ashore.

Saturday, January 14th 1865

Cloudy with a heavier sea than yesterday. Put our stores on board the C. W. Thomas preparatory to landing this 8 A.M. Landed about 4 P.M. There has been some skirmishing. 5 men were wounded with one shell. Endeavored to get them off to the Hospital boat but the surf being heavy, it was impossible & it was deferred until morning. The navy has been bombarding the fort this afternoon.

Wednesday, January 15th 1865

Pleasant with sun shining warmly. Very cold last night, ice froze about 3/8 inch thick. The navy are bombarding again this morning. The Frigates and heavy boats are

engaged. A heavy force of Marines were landed this forenoon to assist in operations against the fort. About 10 A.M. were ordered up with the stretchers upon coming within sight of the fort. Found our skirmishers nearly up to the Abatis (*a term in field fortification for an obstacle formed of the branches of trees laid in a row, with the sharpened tops directed outwards, towards the enemy. The trees are usually interlaced or tied with wire*). About 100 yards from the Fort is a small square Battery where we obtained shelter from the sharpshooters.

1 P.M. the troops commenced forming line. 1st Brigade forming the 1st line, 2nd Brigade the second & 3rd Brigade the 3rd. At 3 P.M. the command to charge was given when the 1st Brigade charged & obtained a foothold upon the parapet, planting our Colors over one of the bomb-proofs, at this time the 2nd Brig. moved up to the support of the 1st & they advance & take 2 more traverses when the 3rd Brig. moves up the in the meantime. 2 or 300 prisoners captured & sent to the rear, the troops kept advancing foot by foot until dark, at which time we have gained half of the distance from the left of the fort to the sea wall, after dark not much firing.

About 10 P.M. our forces move around to the right on top of the parapet & come down in rear of the bomb-proofs by which means the enemy are flanked & the fort is ours.

Rousing cheers by the victors. One of the greatest victories of the war. Something near a 100 guns & ammunition without end, also Maj. Gen Whiting & staff, Col. Lamb & a number of officers of lesser grade & about 2,300 privates.

January 1865 -- Fort Fisher, North Carolina

After Admiral David D. Porter's squadron of warships had subjected Fort Fisher to a terrific bombardment, General Alfred H. Terry's troops took it by storm on January 15, and Wilmington, North Carolina, the last resort of the blockade-runners, was sealed off. Next day, on January 16th the main powder magazine accidentally exploded. This killed 25 and wounded over 75 Union troops.

Monday, January 16th 1865

Were engaged in removing the wounded all last night. Gen Whiting was wounded in the right leg. Think our loss will reach to nearly 600. Captured a knapsack yesterday with an officer's uniform complete. Silver fork & spoon & several other useful articles such as shirts & drawers. 9 shirts, 3 drawers &c. Were at the hospital all last night. Went up to the fort this morning for the purpose of looking around just after passing in at the sally port (*a secure, controlled entryway, as at a fortification or a prison*) a terrific explosion occurred. Moved up to the part of the (*fort*) where it took place. Found that it was a magazine. The 3rd Brig. lay near it & a large number were buried alive.

Captain Shaw was jarred, commenced to dig them out. George Luck badly jarred & leg broken. Peter Van Loon – leg broken. J. Getman, leg broken. A. Hillabrant, foot hurt.

Col. Bell mortally wounded yesterday. Also Col. Alden of our Brig. Col. Pennypacker commd. 2nd Brig. wounded. Jas.B. Brooks hurt by the explosion, died about 12 M, buried by the boys. Went to the base hospital this afternoon & was sent to the Fort for the captured supplies. Upon reaching the fort it was dark & could not get the stores until morning. Put out & fed my team & staid with the Lieut. all night.

Tuesday, January 17th 1865

Staid with Lieut. Slocum last night. This morning looked around the Fort & saw one of the English Blakely, a Whitworth, an Armstrong gun & a piece which shoots 121 times. Got the stores & returned to the hospital. Found them moving the Hospital up to the flying hospital, removed everything to night & remain here until morning. Capt. Shaw sent North.

Wednesday, January 18th 1865

Loaded our rations &c & moved up adjacent to the hospital. This afternoon were engaged in removing rebel wounded from the fort.

Thursday, January 19th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Doing nothing to day. 5 P.M. commenced raining & grows colder.

Friday, January 20th 1865

The storm still continues. 11 P.M. does not storm much. Ordered to the Hospital to remove the wounded to the boat. Removed about 150. Went to the cv, found the boys building stockades & fireplaces. Peter Van Loon died today from the effects of injuries received by the explosion.

Saturday, January 21st 1865

Storm continues. Removed another lot of wounded to day.

Sunday, January 22nd 1865

The weather still continues cloudy & raining by spells

Monday January 23rd 1865

Weather clear & cold

Tuesday, January 24th 1865

Pleasant & cold

Wednesday, January 25th 1865

Pleasant with chilling wind.

Thursday, January 26th 1865

Sun shining. Clear with cold piercing wind. Boys got up this morning before daylight & went to the Fort to remove Rebel wounded.

Friday, January 27th 1865

Clear & cold. The ground has remained frozen all day. Ice about 3/8 in. thick this morning.

Saturday, January 28th 1865

One of the coldest days we have had since we started on the expedition. The ground has remained frozen for a number of days.

Sunday, January 29th 1865

Pleasant and warmer than yesterday.

Monday, January 30th 1865

Warm & pleasant. Finished lining my pants to day.

Tuesday, January 31st 1865

Warm & pleasant. The month has passed away very quickly.

Wednesday, February 1st 1865

Somewhat cloudy this morning but cleared off before noon. This is the shortest month of the year & will soon be passed & gone.

Thursday, February 2nd 1865

Pleasant with considerable wind. Assisted in disinterring the remains of E.K. Wightman*, a Lieut. Major of the 3rd N.Y. Vol. (*New York Volunteers*) for transportation home. His Father presented us with \$5 upon the completion of our labor.

Friday, February 3rd 1865

Cloudy with promise of rain. About 12 M. commenced to rain. Ordered to move nearer the Hospital but deferred it on acc't of the rain.

Saturday, February 4th 1865

Visited the Co. (*commissary*) to day & had a pretty good time. Got my watch repaired. Lt. Slocum informed me that he had tendered his resignation.

Sunday, February 5th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Moved within a few rods of the hospital in order to do the hospital fatigue.

*Edward K. Wightman lies buried together with his father, Stillman K. Wightman under a single brownstone in a Cromwell, CT cemetery on Hillside Avenue. S.K. Wightman traveled to North Carolina upon notification of his son's death in the attack on Fort Fisher

on 1-15-1865. He got as far as Federal Point where he disembarked from the boat and walked to the fort. There he found many unmarked graves and, among them, the grave of his son marked by a piece of pinewood.

Monday, February 6th 1865

Warm & sunshiny this forenoon. Towards night commenced to cloud up as if preparing to rain. Wind Northeast.

Tuesday, February 7th 1865

Commenced to rain last night. Frequent showers all night & raining very hard this morning until near noon when the sun came straggling through the clouds.

Wednesday, February 8th 1865

Cold & clear with the sun shining brightly. The 23rd corps landed to day.

Thursday, February 9th 1865

Pleasant & not quite as cold. Yesterday rec'd orders to be ready to march with 3 days rations.

Friday, February 10th 1865

Pleasant & cold. Wind North west. Rec'd orders to night to be ready at 6 ½ o'clock.

The evenings are moonlight clear & cold reminding me of Home.

Saturday, February 11th 1865

Marched this morning about 8 A.M. Moved out about 2 miles from our advanced works. Not much fighting today. One man of our Division killed & 5 or 6 wounded to day. Fell back a short distance to camp.

Sunday, February 12th 1865

Pleasant & cold. Quiet to day & scarcely a gun fired. The troops fell back to the beach just before dark & about 8 P.M. moved back into the woods & bivouacked.

Monday, February 13th 1865

Last night the coldest night we have been in N.C. (*North Carolina*), ice frozen about 5/8 inch thick. Sun shines pleasantly with a cold wind from the North.

Tuesday, February 14th 1865

Cold with wind from the Northeast. Began to cloud up towards night.

Wednesday, February 15th 1865

Raining hard this morning. The troops moved up the beach to an inlet which makes in from the ocean. Could not succeed in anchoring the pontoons. Consequently we had to return. The distance was about (*blank space*) miles.

When within about 2 miles of camp it commenced to rain. It cleared off about noon to day & wind changed to South west. Moved our camp from the Hospital to where the troops are.

Took my rebel uniform to the Fort and left it in care of Lt. Slocum. Foggy ton. and night.

Thursday, February 16th 1865

Clear & Pleasant. No more to day.

Friday, February 17th 1865

Still fair & pleasant. Think there will be a move to night. The gunboats are shelling in the river this 3 P.M. Struck our tents & prepared to move the regiments, halting up the tents we followed suit & had the pleasure of striking them again in about an hour. The troops commenced to move about 8 P.M.

Saturday, February 18th 1865

Pleasant & warm. The troops moved to the extreme Federal Point last night.

Sunday, February 19th 1865

Troops moved to Federal Point last night & were taken upon small steamers to Smithville about 6 miles down the river. Moved out from Smithville about 3 o'clock. Our course is Northwest. The land is poor & sandy, covered with pines. Marched until shortly after dark & bivouacked on high ground. Came up with the rear of Gen. Schofield's troops.

Monday, February 20th 1865

Commenced our march about 12 M. It is rumored this morning that Fort Anderson was evacuated last night about ½ past 5. Reached Ft. Anderson & found the troops embarking & going up the river. The Fort is a strong earthwork. Inside the fort is the walls of an old church (*St. Philip's*) said to have been built 200 years ago. It is built of imported brick, has 4 windows & a door on each side. 1 door & 2 windows in the South end. 1 large & 2 small windows in the North end. In the yard adjoining was a tombstone of 1766 with a number from that to 1800 & upwards.

Tuesday, February 21st 1865

Troops moving up the river all night. The last of our Div. left the fort about 10 A.M. & were landed up the river about 8 miles. Moved up the point immediately about sundown came up to the rebel works about 5 miles from Wilmington. The colored troops had the advance all day & drove the enemy 6 miles.

Wednesday, February 22nd 1865

Our Div. moved towards the river this morning to flank the works ahead but they extended to the river & it was not deemed expedient to attack them. A skirmish line was deployed & moved up. About 20 wounded upon the skirmish line to day. The hospital established about 1 mile in the rear turned into a small house near it.

Thursday, February 23rd 1865

Were roused up last night about 11 P.M. to remove the wounded to the boat. Transported them to the river in army wagons. Reached the river & got the men aboard. The small boats about 4 A.M. & built a rousing fire & turned in. About 10 A.M. another lot of wounded arrived which were duly transferred to the boat – I was sent to bring off the stretchers & 4 men remained to carry them. The remainder with the knapsacks went with the team. About 2 P.M. got ashore and started on after the rest, saw nothing of the rest & followed the column to Wilmington (*N.C.*). Reached the city about 5 P.M. Our troops entered the city about 10 A.M. Just at the outskirts on the south there is a heavy line of works & breastworks on some of the streets – the streets are not paved except in front of some of the nicer dwellings, some fine churches & residences. Some of our prisoners were burned in the city last night by the rebels setting fire to buildings in which they were confined.

The troops having moved a number of miles out of the city we have found quarters and shall stay all night. I have nothing with me but the clothes I have on.

Stayed in a building under the control of a Mr. Cross. He sent us over wood to make our fire.

Friday, February 24th 1865

Started this morning about 9 o'clock. Came up with our Div. about 9 miles from the city & bivouacked near the rail-road. The weather cloudy & every indication of rain.

Saturday, February 25th 1865

Rained nearly all night & still continues. The rest of the boys came up today. The day has been a cold stormy one.

Sunday, February 26th 1865

Clouds & an occasional shower. Have got one day ahead in my diary. A number of our prisoners came in to day. It is a hard sight to see them, some so weak they can scarcely stand & all of them ragged. Some without shoes &c, about 1,000. Wind N.E.

Monday, February 27th 1865

Still cloudy with slight showers. More prisoners to day. About 1,000. Wind N.E.

Tuesday, February 28th 1865

Still remains cloudy. About 1,000 more prisoners came in to day. To day is muster day. Can not muster for my descriptive list here. Wind North east.

Wednesday, March 1st 1865

Still cloudy. It is the first day of spring. About 1,000 more prisoners came in to day, principally Officers. Many of they declare it to be the happiest day they ever saw.

Wind North West.

Thursday, March 2nd 1865

Still cloudy. Washed to day. Another lot of prisoners to day. Our Division moved back near Wilmington. The colored troops holding this front. We remain until the prisoners all get in.

Friday, March 3rd 1865

Warm & cloudy with slight showers. About 1,000 more prisoners came in to day.

Saturday, March 4th 1865

Cloudy with warm showers. The last of the prisoners came in today about 1,000. Showery during the forenoon.

Sunday, March 5th 1865

Began to grow cold towards night yesterday & is several degrees colder to day than yesterday. Rec'd orders to move back to the division to day & packed up & started about 8 A.M. Upon marching the Division found that the train was in town & pushed on & joined them. Found that only a post had arrived. Was glad to get back once more. Rec'd letters from home. Some papers and a letter from Saratoga.

Monday, March 6th 1865

Cold last night but clear to day with raw wind. Attended the Theatre to night with Van Renschler, Shaver & Hanner. Saw Capt. Shaw at the Theatre, just came in on the boat to night.

Tuesday, March 7th 1865

Pleasant to day & cold last night. Rec'd a letter from home.

Wednesday, March 8th 1865

Warmer last night & cloudy today with a little rain.

Thursday, March 9th 186

Cloudy but warm. Raining heavily this evening. It is reported that the pay masters are going to pay our Brigade in two or three days.

Friday, March 10th 1865

Warm & cloudy this morning.

Saturday, March 11, 1865

Pleasant. Moved my quarters across the Street.

Sunday, March 12, 1865

Warm & pleasant – the church bells are ringing & it seems something like the holy Sabbath.

Went up to the Regt. this afternoon, found all the boys in usual health

Monday, March 13, 1865

Pleasant to day. Nothing of any news except communication has been opened with Sherman at Fayetteville.

Tuesday, March 14, 1865

Warm, commenced to cloud up towards night. A number of refugees came in to day from Fayetteville, N.C.

The balance of our ambulances came this afternoon. Also rec'd Marching orders.

Note: The next two entries had pencil lines and squiggles through them as though Mel had changed his mind about them. They were not rewritten somewhere else. They were still readable

Wednesday, March 15th 1865

High wind with occasional rain. It is reported that we leave tomorrow at 3 A.M. Since ordered to be ready at 8 P.M.

Thursday, March 16th 1865

Left Wilmington last night about 10 P.M. Reached the old Hdqs. of Terry just after sun-rise. Turned out & fed. Moved on up about 3 hours after halting. It was afternoon when we crossed the Pontoon.

Friday, March 17th 1865

Commenced to rain last night about dark & rained very hard until about time the moon rose when it cleared off. Parked near a church about 9 miles from the river.

Saturday, March 18th 1865

Our march to day has been through a rather uninviting country, it is principally Pine timbered land.

Sunday, March 19th 1865

Pleasant & pretty warm. Near night we struck into a better farming section. Passed through the Village of Kenansville about 8 P.M. parked about 10 P.M.

Monday, March 20th 1865

Warm & sunny. Our march has been through a good section of the country to day.

Tuesday, March 21st 1865

Pleasant this morning with some indication of rain. Did not Park last night until about 3 A.M.

Wednesday, March 22, 1865

Has been raining considerable to day. Came about 3 miles & parked. Formed a junction with Sherman's force to day.

Thursday, March 23, 1865

Cleared off pleasant after the rain. Moved up to the Division this forenoon. High wind to day. 17th corps passed us to day. *All manner of vehicles following in their train.**

Friday, March 24th 1865

Clear & cool with high wind & the air full of sand. Have lain in park all day. Rec'd orders to be ready to move at daylight.

** The sentence in italics was mistakenly entered by Melville in the description of the March 24th. He'd crossed it out, along with the statement about the 17th passing but did not re-enter it under the correct date.*

Saturday, March 25th 1865

Clear & warm this morning. Cleared out the hospital & loaded the sick into the ambulances. The troops moved about 7 A.M. about 11 P.M. we parked near Facion's (?) Station on the Wilmington & Weldon RR (*Rail Road*).

Sunday, March 26th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Unloaded the sick at the hospital near Gen. Terry's Headquarters. Are parked near Headquarters.

Monday, March 27th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Put up our shelters to day. Shall probably lay in park a few days.

Tuesday, March 28th 1865

Somewhat smoky but warm. Think it will settle into a rain storm.

Wednesday, March 29th 1865

Warm but cloudy. Teams went out after forage, raining in slight showers towards night. Rec'd a letter from home, all well. Also a couple of papers.

Thursday, March 30th 1865

A warm rain. It rained considerable last night, cleared up somewhat before night. Wrote home. Wrote to Jimmy Swartwout & cousin Elisha.

Friday, March 31st 1865

Pleasant with chilling wind. Have written to Uncle Josef, Friend Whipple & cousin Lottie.

Saturday, April 1st 1865

Pleasant & warm.

Sunday, April 2nd 1865

Warm & pleasant. On fatigue at the hospital this forenoon.

Monday, April 3rd 1865

A pleasant day. A detail has been made to go to Goldsboro after teams & ambulances could not go on the cars. Came back & start at 2 A.M. tomorrow.

Tuesday, April 4th 1865

Pleasant. Boys started this morning for Goldsboro.

Wednesday, April 5th 1865

A pleasant day.

Thursday, April 6th 1865

A little cloudy this morning, but cleared off after the sun got up. Dispatches rec'd at Hdqrs. that Petersburg & Richmond were ours. Glorious news.

Friday, April 7th 1865

Cool & pleasant. Reported that Lee has surrendered his army, but not believed.

Saturday, April 8th 1865

Cool this morning but pleasant. A detail went after mules this afternoon.

Sunday, April 9th 1865

A beautiful morning but cool. A dispatch came last night that Lee's army were deserting by the Brigade & we were ordered to move upon Johnson's army.

Monday, April 10th 1865

Broke camp this morning. Probably moving upon Raleigh (NC). Marched about 20 miles. Raining by showers this morning.

Tuesday, April 11th 1865

Did not get into part until about 2 A.M. Started about 9 A.M. Marched about 15 miles & parked in the woods.

Wednesday, April 12th 1865

Parked in the woods last night about 3 A.M. & started about 8 A.M. & were until about 6 P.M., after which we met with no obstructions.

Thursday, April 13th 1865

Parked about 3A.M. & hitched up early. Had the advance, close to the troops. Went into park about sun down about 12 miles from the city of Raleigh.

Friday, April 14th 1865

Warm & pleasant. The rumor of Lee's surrender confirmed. Raleigh entered by Kilpatrick's Cavalry this morning. Our march yesterday & today has been through a pleasant part of N.C. The land is hilly & well watered. The soil is sandy. About 3 P.M. came in sight of Raleigh, the capital of N.C. It is situated on high ground and has plenty of shade trees. The streets are unpaved

The Capitol is built of hewn stone with a large dome surmounted by a smaller one. Some fine churches and private residences. Parked about dark just in the outskirts of the city.

Saturday, April 15th 1865

Raining this morning. Moved our park nearer the city with plenty of water handy. Rumored this morning that Johnson's army has surrendered. I hope it will prove true.

Sunday, April 16th 1865

Cleared off last night & is pleasant to day. Went to town to day & what I have written the 14th I should have written to day. It is a Beautiful day, fit emblem of Peace.

Monday, April 17th 1865

Put up our tent to day. The news of the assassination of President Lincoln rec'd. A dastardly murder & a great calamity to our country. He was assassinated in Ford's Theatre about 10 PM the 14th and the assassin escaped. He, (Lincoln) died about 22 min. past 10 AM on the 15th.

Tuesday, April 18th 1865

Pleasant – no news of importance. Put up our tent to day. Rec'd a letter & 4 papers from home and one from Uncle Oren.

Wednesday, April 19th 1865

A heavy shower last evening which cooled off the atmosphere. There is every prospect of speedy peace.

Thursday, April 20th 1865

Pleasant. The 10 AC passed in review near the capitol square this A.M. & we moved our park near the RR (*Rail Road*) depot. Rec'd 2 papers from home.

Friday, April 21st 1865

Moved camp again this morning over into the eastern part of the city. The 20th A.C. Reviewed this AM.

Saturday, April 22nd 1865

Pleasant. The trees have nearly resumed their full foliage.

Sunday, April 23rd 1865

A beautiful day. The churches were open for divine service. The wind is cold & piercing making one feel uncomfortable.

Monday, April 24th 1865

Pleasant & warmer than yesterday

Tuesday, April 25th 1865

Pleasant. The Army of the Ohio rec'd orders to be prepared to march to morrow at 6 AM. Was up to the Regt. to day. Boys all well.

Wednesday, April 26th 1865

Were hitched up & prepared to move but the orders were countermanded. Four months from today my time expires.

Thursday, April 27th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Some of the troops turning in their ordnance supplies & loading the wagons with commissary supplies.

Friday, April 28th 1865

The report of the surrender of Johnson's army confirmed in this morning's paper, glorious news. Slight showers to day. Rec'd a letter from Jas. F. Swartwout.

Saturday, April 29th 1865

Pleasant & cool. Obtained quarters in an old store in close proximity to our park.

Sunday, April 30th 1865

A beautiful Sabbath. The sky clear, weather cool and bracing. The air is loaded with the sweet perfume of lovers and peace is about to spread over our land. Have written to Father and Uncle Oren & Jimmy Swartwout.

Monday, May 1st 1865

Pleasant with cool and bracing air. Traded quarters to day with the Orderly. Oh fatigue at the hospital. Green apples are as large as fully grown butternuts.

Tuesday, May 2nd 1865

Clear & cool so that a fire is not uncomfortable in the morning and this evening. Peaches, plums and cherries are quite large.

Wednesday, May 3rd 1865

Pleasant and warmer than yesterday. Rec'd a letter from home. G.B. Harrison is sick with Typhoid fever. Not expected to live*.

Thursday, May 4th 1865

Pleasant & warm

Friday, May 5th 1865

Pleasant & warm

Saturday, May 6th 1865

Pleasant & extremely warm. Some of the boys going on furlough. Rec'd a letter from friend Whipple by which I learn that my dues are paid.

Sunday, May 7th 1865

A beautiful Sabbath, very warm. How pleasant to contemplate that the perils and hardships of war are over. Detail went to Goldsboro to draw new ambulances.

Monday, May 8th 1865

Another warm & pleasant day. Was over to the Regt. Boys all well

Tuesday, May 9th 1865

Cool & pleasant slight showers last night. Saw Mrs. Ferrol shelling green peas.

Wednesday, May 10th 1865

Pleasant & warm. 20 new ambulances came from Goldsboro. 2½ days on the road.

Thursday, May 11th 1865

Pleasant. A mass meeting held here today & illumination this evening. My mare had a horse foal last night. It is a bay.

Friday, May 12th 1865

Pleasant. Rec'd 4 papers from home. Showery last night.

Saturday, May 13th 1865

Warm considerable. Air stirring.

Sunday, May 14th 1865

A beautiful morning. The sick of the 1st Brigade sent North this morning.

**George B. Harrison survived his illness.*

Monday, May 15th 1865

Pleasant & warm. More sick men going North. D.H. Dalrymple was examined this afternoon & goes North with the rest.

Tuesday, May 16th 1865

Pleasant. On guard last night. Visited Hiram Lodge No. 40 of Raleigh, N.C. last evening, a pleasant visit.

Wednesday, May 17th 1865

Pleasant & warm.

Thursday, May 18th 1865

Clear & Pleasant

Friday, May 19th 1865

Pleasant this morning but very heavy showers before night. Our Amb. Corps reviewed this PM by Dr. Barnes.

Saturday, May 20th 1865

Showery. Have had bad diarrhea for 2 or 3 days but is getting better.

Sunday, May 21st 1865

Cool & pleasant and the air bracing. Have written home to day. Rode out into the country which looks desolate after our armies have marched over it.

Monday, May 22nd 1865

Pleasant.

Tuesday, May 23rd 1865

Pleasant & clear. Boothby picked some mulberries and we stewed them for supper.

Wednesday, May 24th 1865

Clear & pleasant. Had to get up several times last *night* & feel quite unwell this morning. Taken about sunrise with vomiting & purging about 10 AM. The Doctor came to see me said I had the Cholera Morbus. 6 AM feel easier rec'd a letter & 2 papers from home.

Thursday, May 25th 1865

Pleasant. Feel better this morning but am weak with strange feeling in my head.

Friday, May 26th 1865

Cloudy and rained some last night. Feel better than yesterday. Has continued rainy by spells all day.

Saturday, May 27th 1865

Still continues cloudy & showery & the air cool enough so a fire is comfortable. Feel considerable better than yesterday.

Sunday, May 28th 1865

Clear & pleasant, also warmer than yesterday.

Monday, May 29th 1865

Clear & Pleasant.

Tuesday, May 30th 1865

Pleasant & clear

Wednesday, May 31st 1865

Clear & warm. Orders rec'd for the old men of our Regt. to be mustered out immediately & muster out rolls rec'd. Lt. A.C. Slocum's commission as Capt. came by to day's mail. Rec'd letter from home.

Thursday, June 1st 1865

Warm & pleasant. Been to the Regt. boys all well, pleased with the idea of going home.

Friday, June 2nd 1865

Pleasant & warm. Have washed clothes to day.

Saturday, June 3rd 1865

Pleasant. The hottest day of the season. Captain has his rolls partially made out.

Sunday, June 4th 1865

Pleasant & full as hot as yesterday. Have written home.

Monday, June 5th 1865

Pleasant & warm relieved & ordered to report to my co. commander.

Tuesday, June 6th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Feel lonely for want of something to do.

Wednesday, June 7th 1865

Pleasant & warm.

Thursday, June 8th 1865

Warm & pleasant. Rec'd a letter from home. All well.

Friday, June 9th 1865

The hottest day of the season

Saturday, June 10th 1865

Cooler than yesterday, with slight showers towards night.

Sunday, June 11th 1865

Pleasant & cool. Rained considerable last evening

Monday, June 12th 1865

Cool & pleasant. To work on muster rolls

Tuesday, June 13th 1865

Cool & pleasant. At work on muster rolls

Wednesday, June 14th 1865

Hot & uncomfortable at work on muster rolls

Thursday, June 15th 1865

Pleasant & warm at work on muster rolls

Friday, June 16th 1865

Pleasant & cool at work on muster rolls. Mustered out this PM about 4 o'clock

Saturday, June 17th 1865

Cool & pleasant.

Sunday, June 18th 1865

Pleasant & hot.

Monday, June 19th 1865

Broke camp about ½ past 7. Escorted to the Depot by the 47th & 48th NY vol. line of march by Corps Hdqrs. Gen Ames Quarters & 3 Bri. Hdqrs. left the Depot about 8AM arrived at Gaston about 4 PM. Ferried across the Roanoke river (VA) at the point the RR bridge being burned do not leave until morning.

Tuesday, June 20th 1865

Left Gaston about 5 AM about 4 miles from Gaston crossed into Va. We ran to within about 18 miles of Petersburg. Upon leaving they started to march direct to Petersburg. A great many did not get through to night.

Wednesday, June 21st 1865

Staid in an old foundry about 2 miles from the City. Went in as soon as it was day break. Found the boys at the City Point Depot. They kept straggling in until noon.

Left Petersburg for City Point about 7 PM. March to the old rebel prison and quartered in it. No transportation, will have to wait until Saturday. Pleasant.

Thursday, June 22nd 1865

Pleasant & warm. Lay in barracks all day.

Friday, June 23rd 1865

Pleasant & hot. Embarked on transport about 1PM. Capt. Shaw is left, he having gone to Petersburg. Run down the river until about 8PM & anchored.

Saturday, June 24th 1865

Pleasant & hot. Raised anchor at day light, reached Ft. Monroe about 7 AM & anchored. Raised anchor about ½1 PM & started for New York.

Sunday, June 25th 1865

Pleasant & cool. Will reach New York by night. Reached New York by dusk & anchored just above the Battery.

Monday, June 26th 1865

Landed about 10AM. Marched the 8th NYSM (*New York State Militia*) Armory & were furnished with dinner. Staid there until about 4 PM & marched to the Battery & embarked on a North River boat for Albany about ½5 PM.

Tuesday, June 27th 1865

Landed in Albany about ½ 5 AM. Marched to the Stanwix Hall & took breakfast which was furnished by the citizens about 8 AM. Marched out to the barracks on the road. Drew shelters & pitched our camp.

Wednesday, June 28th 1865

Pleasant & warm – cool last night

Thursday, June 29th 1865

Pleasant with cool breeze blowing. Father came to camp about 11AM & went to Troy. Came back about 3PM, went down to the city with him. Turned in our ordnance this afternoon, also signed the payrolls.

Friday, June 30th 1865

Pleasant in the forenoon, showery in the afternoon. Expect to get paid to morrow.

Saturday, July 1st 1865

Raining this morning. The paymaster does not come – no pay to day. Went to the city this afternoon. Said to be paid Monday.

Sunday, July 2nd 1865

Raining this forenoon. Cleared off before night. Weather cool with considerable wind.

Monday, July 3rd 1865

Pleasant & warm. Were paid this afternoon & rec'd our discharge. Stopped at the Merchants Hotel to night.

Tuesday, July 4th 1865

Pleasant & hot. Left Albany at 10:30 AM reached Amsterdam about noon. Arrived at Fonda's bush about 2PM. Celebration here to day. Reached home 6 PM Celebration to day fire works this evening.

Wednesday, July 5th 1865

Pleasant & warm, been calling on the friends around the village. All well.

Thursday, July 6th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Went to uncle Sims (*Simeon Christie*), rode out with Uncle Fitch (*Joseph Fitch Spier, husband of J. Lydia Foote, Melville's aunt*). Uncle's folks all well.

Friday, July 7th 1865

Pleasant & warm. Willie & I went to Kingsboro to James' (*most likely cousin James Christie*), all well. Found cousin Maria (*Lydia Maria Christie-Jackson, daughter of Simeon Christie and Lucy Foote, Melville's aunt*) there & had a good visit. Rained considerable last night.

Saturday, July 8th 1865

Pleasant & cool. Uncle & William (*William Elias Spier, uncle Fitch's brother*) & some hired help are hoeing corn.

Sunday, July 9th 1865

No entry

Here the diary ends.

Back of the book lists sundry accounts listing rations bought, laundry done and costs. Also a listing of articles of clothing and their costs.

Names for future research:

David H. Dalrymple
Joseph Meleski

Samuel Hurd
John Cudny
Gen. W. Childs
John E. Whipple