

## Excerpt from 1865 Diary of Jerome Bliss

Transcribed and donated to the New York State Military Museum by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Youker

(I typed the diary as he wrote it. I did not correct his spelling. There was essentially no punctuation so I did insert periods at the end of sentences to make it more readable. I chose this section because it includes his life in the army, his getting wounded and his experience in the hospitals. S.Y)

January 14, 1865

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on fatigue today. We are to work up to our ammunition train to work chopping down trees for to make shingle bolts to cover a shed for the mules. It is awfull cold here today. Some of us are sawing up bolts with a crosscut saw & splitting them. I got a letter from Margrettan Perry this morning. They had a dress perrade tonight. I did not go out. I bought a paper & gave 10 cts for it. I got an order of a suttler today.

January 15

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

We had a regimental inspection this morning. I went out. I gave 10 cents for a paper. I gave a dollar in suttlers tickets for a jackknife. It is very quiet here today. We drawed two days rations today. Harvey Valentine came here to see me today. They had a dress perrade tonight but I did not go out. I was after wood for our shanty.

January 16

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on camp guard today. They were a detail sent out of our regt on pickett today. They are a detail out on fatigue today cleaning up a drille ground. I gave 10 cents for a paper today. I traded overcoats with Lieutenant Curley. He is to give me ....boot pay day. It is very pleasant here today.

January 17

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I came off from camp guard about 6 o'clock this morning. It is very cold here today. Our regt had a monthly inspection today but I did not go out. They had a dress perrade. I went out. They read a telegraph dispatch to us from General Grant that our men had taken Hart Fisher(?) on the Cape Fear River near Willmington. I helped to get some wood for our shanty tonight. We drew two days rations tonight.

January 18

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on fatigue today. We are chopping stumps down for a drill ground. I got a letter from Maria E Bliss today. She sent me 8 postage stamps in her letter. We had a dress perrade. I went out. I helped to get some wood for our shanty tonight.

January 19

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on fatigue again today. They are 85 men detailed out of our regt. We went up to Fort Stevenson & then we went off to the left of the rear line across the Norfolk & Petersburg railroad to Fort Bross. It is about 8 miles from camp. We are to work repairing the fort. We got back to camp about 5 o'clock tonight. It is very cold here today. We drew two days rations tonight. I played several games of checkers tonight

January 20

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

They were a detail sent out of our regt today to work on the forts on the rear line of works. I am on pickett today. We got out on pickett about 9 o'clock. This afternoon it is very cold here today. They are some very heavy cannonading on the front line of works.

January 21

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on pickett today. It commenced to rain or hail this morning about 4 oclock. I was on post when it began. It rained & hailed very hard all day. We got relieved by the reserve picketts about 5 oclock this afternoon & we went back to the reserve post. It stayed raining after dark.

January 22

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on pickett yet. They were a detail sent out from the brigade to build shanties for the picketts. We got relieved about 3 oclock & went to camp. We got into camp about 4 oclock. They drew rations yesterday for two days. I got a letter from Jane E Bliss tonight. It stayed raining.

January 23

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

It is very rainy today. They were a detail sent out on fatigue today from our regt but they came back. It rained. I went over to the 189 regt NY to see Jerome Bleekman. He had a box that was sent to him from home. He gave me some of it to eat. I wrote a letter to Jane E Bliss tonight. They are awfull hard cannonading on our right tonight all towards the James River.

January 24

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

It is very cold here today. I am on fatigue today. We are to work repairing Fort Blasdell. We got back to camp about 1 oclock. Lieutenant Curly gave me an order on the suttler for \$9.00. He owed it to me between overcoats. I sold my watch to Richard Jarvis for \$15 & wait until next pay day for my pay.

January 25

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on fatigue today over to the supply train. Some of us are cutting shingle bolts & some are building a corduroy bridge. It is very cold today. We heard that Colonel Wheelock was dead. They got an account of it from Washington. They read it to us tonight on dress perrade. He died in Washington the 21<sup>st</sup> with gastrick heaves. They had a dress perrade tonight but I did not go out.

January 26

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on fatigue today. We are down to Fort Bross to work repairing the fort. It is very cold today. I got back to camp about one oclock. They had a dress perrade tonight. I did not go out. I was after wood for our shanty. It is very still here today.

January 27

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road Va

I am on camp guard today. It is very cold. I am on 4 hours out of 24. I got a box from home tonight. I went over to brigade head quarters after it. I got a pair of boots & two pairs of socks & a pair of shearth home pie (?) & cakes & dried beef & butter & some dried apples

January 28

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I came off from camp guard this morning about 9 oclock. I went over to the 189<sup>th</sup> regt to see Jerome Bleekman & he came back with me. I gave him some of the stuff I got from home. I got two letters this morning one from Eugene Bliss & one from Henry Fical. I wrote a letter to Eugene Bliss tonight. It is very cold today.

January 29

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

We had a regimental inspection this morning. Our old cols funeral sermon was preached at one oclock today. It is very cold here today. Pete Simons came over here today. We had a dress perrade tonight. We drew 2 days rations tonight.

January 30

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

We had a company drill this morning. They were a detail sent out on pickett this afternoon from our regt. We had a battalion drille this afternoon. We had a dress perrade tonight. It is very cold today. I went down to the paper office & bought a paper. I gave 10 cts for it.

January 31

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on fatigue today. They were a detail sent out of our brigade today on fatigue. We are putting covers on the shanties out on the pickett line. We got back to camp about 4 oclock. I got a letter from Jefferson M Bliss & one from Permelia Mallett. I got \$5.00 & 12 postage stamps in a letter from Jefferson M Bliss. I wrote a letter to Jefferson Bliss& one to Permelia Mallett. It is very pleasant today. I went out on dress perrade. We drew 2 days rations.

February 1, 1865

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I went over to the 2d corps today. I went to the 11<sup>th</sup> Regt.....I went over the 2verdans Sharp shooters a....Alonzo Voorhees I got back here after dark I bought this book today I gave \$1.25 cts for it. I gave 18 cents for a song book The Corps had marching orders ....I got a pair of mittens from home today It is very warm here today They went out a detail on pickett today from our regt I went over to the 189th rgt this morning. I stayed in ...They were building a hook out down to the second corps & repairing the forts along the line.

February 2, 1865

Near the Jerusalem Plant Road

We went out toward the pickett line and shot at a target this forenoon. We had a Battallion drille this afternoon & we fixed up a sidewalk along past our shanties after Battallion drille. It is very pleasant today. We drawed 2 days rations tonight of sugar & coffee and hard bread & tack & onions & potatoes. I played cards a spell tonight in ...shanty. It is very quiet along the lines today & tonight.

February 3

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am detailed to go on pickett today & we got out to the pickett line about 2 oclock. Our regt is on the reserve today. We have got log shanties built out on the pickett line. It is very quiet along the lines today. It is very pleasant here today.

February 4

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

I am on Pickett yet. It was very cold here last night. It is very ..... out here today. We went out on reserve & relieved the men that went out yesterday. We got out on post about 2 oclock this afternoon. I was not on post. I acted as corporal & went with some of the ..... We have got shanties all along our lines. It is very cold here tonight.

February 5

Near the Jerusalem Plank Road

We got relieved from pickett about 5 oclock this morning & went into camp. We met our cavalry going out. We got into....and about 6 oclock we left here & went off toward ....station. We went about 12 or 15 miles from camp then & staid there until most morning. I got a letter this morning from Luisa Bliss. It is

very cold. We left our knapsacks & blankets & tents. All we took was a .....

February 6

Hatchers Run, Virginia

We left here about 2 oclock and started back toward the left of the Second Corps. They had a hard fight yesterday. We got back to the 2 Corps & staid here until about 2 oclock this afternoon & then went out in front on the works and attacked the rebels. We drove them.....We went up again & got driven back. When we got most to our works I got wounded through the left leg & bruise on my right leg.

February 7

About 5 miles from Patrick Station.

I got my leg done up here& we was sent from here to Patrick Station in an ambulance. Then we were put aboard of the cars & sent to City Point hospital. We got to City this morning about 6 oclock. It snowed & hailed some. I am in the ..Division hospital. My leg is very sore. They were a lot of wounded came here when I did. We laid on the ground near to the field hospital & like to froze before we come to the ....

February 8

In City Point hospital

They were a lot of wounded sent in here from the front. It is reported here that our men has taken the south side railroad. Salmon Dupont, Amos Chamfraig came in here to see me. I wrote a letter to Jefferson....today. the Sanitary Commission came in here with a lot of ....today & gave me a ... They gave me a cotton shirt and a pair of drawers. They gave us some wine. My leg is very easy today. It is very cold.

February 9

In the hospital at Citty Point. It is very cold today. My leg feels very sore today. They were one man died here last night & one night before last. ....got ...cts worth of tobacco today. The Sanitary gave us some wine today. They washed my pants & gave them to me today. We had some oysters for dinner today. I bought a paper tonight. Solomon Dupont of my co.came here to see me today. He is in the hospital sick.

February 10

In Citty Point hospital. We got orders to get ready this morning to take the boat for Baltimore. I got up & dressed myself & was standing by the fier & fainted away. We took the boat at Citty Point about 10 oclock. I went down there on crutches. We left here abou t1 oclock. We got dinner & supper on the boat today. I have got an awful head ache & my leg is very painfull. I heard today that a ....has been wounded in the leg & had his leg amputated. It is very warm on the boat.

February 11

On Board of hospital steamboat on the James River

We got breakfast this morning on the boat. We got to Baltimore at 7 oclock this morning but did not get off until about 2 oclock. We were taken up to Newton hospital Baltimore citty. We got a change of clothe shere. We are in a very pleasant place. I bought a paper & gave 5 cts for it. Some women came in here & gave us some apples & cake . Today it is very cold here. We was brought up here in an ambulance from the landing.

February 12

Baltimore Citty Marylnad in Newton hospital house 3 ward one.

It snows here today like fury. I wrote a letter today to Peter Lackner & I sent him two stamps to send me my diary & album. I gave 4 cts for a paper today. A woman of the Christian Commission wrote a letter for me to Jefferson M Bliss. My leg

pains me very bad. I changed beds today. They had an inspection of the hospital today. I read in a book a while today about rattle snake dick & a Londener. They are going through the streets here with bells today.

February 13

Baltimore Citty Maryland

My leg pained me so last night that I could not sleep much. It is very cold here today. I saw a man of our rgt here that is nurse today by the name of Gust Tonto. He came in here to see me this forenoon. I read that novell through today. I gave 6 cents for a paper today. It is reported that general Sherman had captured Branchville today. It is awful cold here today.

February 14

Baltimore Citty Maryland

My leg pains me very bad today. I bought a quart of beer today & gave 15 cts for it & 20 cts for two pies & 10 cents for a New York Herald. I wrote a letter to Henry Fical today. It is some warmer here today. It is reported here that the rebs are evacuating Charleston South Carolina.

February 15

Baltimore Citty Maryland

It rains & hails here this forenoon. I wrote a letter to Eugene Bliss this forenoon. My leg did not pain me so much last night & today. It rained here all day. I gave 5 cts for a paper. I had some beer to drink 2 or 3 times today. I took some medicine this forenoon to move my bowels. I played checkers with one of our nurses a little while tonight.

February 16

Baltimore Citty Maryland

My leg did not pain me much last night. I slept very well. It is very pleasant here today. I wroe a letter to Louisa M Phipps this

forenoon. A woman of the Sanitary Commission gave me a pocket hankerchief & an apple today. I wrote a letter for a boy that is in here wounded out of co D 80<sup>th</sup> rg. His name is Wallace Barnes. I have got an awful headache tonight. It is a year ago today that I swore in the last time.

February 17

Baltimore Citty Maryland

I was very sick last night & today. I did not sleep much last night. I had an awfull headacke. I have not much of an apetite to eat anything. I bought 25 cents worth of apples. I gave 5 cents for a paper tonight. They were some women came in here this afternoon & brought us some cake & apples. It is very pleasant here today. It is reported here that general had taken Branchville.

February 18

Baltimore Citty Maryland

I feel some better today. My head does not ache so bad today as it did yesterday. I bought a box of ayres pills. I gave 25 cts for them. It is very still here today. The organization of our regt runs out today. The old organization. I gave 8 cents for a paper tonight. They are not much news in it.

February 22

Baltimore Citty Maryland

My leg feels some better today. I got a pair of curtches & walked around the house some. I went out in the hall a while. We had a good dinner today. They are celebrating Washingtons Birthday here today. The evacuation of Charleston is confirmed in this mornings paper. The rebs left 200 cannon & spiked them. They say that general Sherman has taken Columbia South Carolina the capital of the state & it is reported here that the rebs has evacuated Willmington. They are firing a salute here.

February 27

Baltimore City, Maryland

My leg is getting better. I got a man to fix some cloth on top of my crutches so they would not hurt my arms. I went outdoors & went up aways on the sidewalk. I gave 10 cts for some apples & 10 cts for some tobacco. It is very pleasant today. I played checkers awhile today. I gave 8 cts for a paper tonight. They came around this afternoon taking down the names of the men that have had money sent to them from home & not got it. They have a new mail carrier here now . They were a woman came in here & gave us apples.

February 28

Baltimore City Maryland

My leg feels very sore this morning. The came around taking names of men to be transferred to Philladelphia. They took my name & another in this ward. It is very pleasant here today. They mustered us for pay here today. I played checkers awhile today. I gave 8 cents for a paper tonight

March 5

Baltimore City Maryland.

My leg feels very sore today. They had an inspection of the hospital this forenoon. It is very pleasant here today. I played checkers with a wounded man in this ward by the name of Klebenow. I wrote a letter to Lewis Phipps this afternoon. It is reported here that general Sheridan has had a fight up in the valley & got whipped but we do not believe it. It is a report of the cittaizins of Baltimore City.

March 6

Baltimore City Maryland

My wound is getting better. This mornings paper says that general Sheridan has had another fight with General Early & whipped him. He captured Early. & 800 of his men. It is a report

from rebel deserters into Grants lines & a dispatch from general Grant to the Secretary of War. I went outdoors today. I gave 10 cts for a paper & 10 cts towards a pack of cards. They came in & told me tonight to be ready to go away tomorrow morning at 6 oclock. It is very warm here today.

March 7

Baltimore Citty, Marryland

We left the hospital this morning about 7 oclock in ambulances. We went down to the railroad & staid there some time & they said that the ice was breaking up in the river that we had to cross. It was dangerous to cross so we came back. We got back here about 11 oclock. I went out in the dyning room to dinner. It is very warm here today. My wound is on the gain. I played several games of checkers today. They was a lot of sick parolled prisoners of ours sent here tonight from anapolis md.

March 8

Baltimore Citty, Maryland

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They are no war news of any consequence.

March 10

Baltimore Citty Maryland

I played several games of euchre this forenoon. They are scrubbing the floor today . We got orders to be ready to go to Philadelphia at 9 oclock. We went down to the rail road & sat in the cars until about 5 oclock & we got to Philadelphia about 9. We got supper there & staid to the cittazen Hospital in Philladelphia. I gave 25 cts for 4 eggs & 20 cts for two pies & 15 cents for two cakes. They had some troubles of getting the ferry boat started at Flarerdy Grass. It is very pleasant today. My leg feels very sore tonight

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March 11

Philladelphia Pa Cittazen Hospital

We eat breakfast here this morning & then we got into ambulances & went to Cuyler Hospital Germantown Philladelphia, PA. We got here about 10 oclock this forenoon. I went down to dinner. They gave me a check for my things. I am on bed 9a. It is very pleasant here today. We are in a pleasant place

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I went in the bathing room & washed myself all over.

March 12

German town Philladelphia P.A.

My leg is very sore today. They had an inspection of the hospital today. I wrote a letter to Eugene Bliss. It is very warm here today. It is very lonesome here today. We have to make our own beds. They have a platform fixed to let us down when we go to our meals all that goes on crutches.

March 13

Germantown Philladelphia P.A.

I got a pass to go out this afternoon in the streets. I bought me a cap & gave \$1.25 for it. I had some photographs taken. I got 4 taken for 50 cts. They were two men had a fight in the hospital tonight.

March 14

Germantown Philladelphia P.A.

We drewed some clothing here today. I drewed a black pair of pants & a pair of drawers. I played several games of euchre today.

March 15

Germantown Philladelphia P.A.

My wound is very sore today. It is very cloudy here. I played several games of euchre & old sledge. My father & uncle came here tonight to see me. They stayed here in the village all night.

My father brought my portfolio to me from my regt & two of the boys that owed me sent \$7.00 by him to me. One was William B., Abrams & paid \$5. James Sutherland paid \$2. I gave my father one of the photographs & my old diary

March 16

Germantown Philadelphia

My father & uncle John Bliss came here this morning & staid until about 10 oclock & started for home. They tried to get me a furlo to go with them. I put in an application for a furlo. The doctor came around & examined us all this morning.

March 18

Sheridan is to the South Anna River & had had a fight there & drove the rebs & took 220 pounder parrott gains. We played whist here tonight. Two of the boys came in drunk tonight. They had a pass.

March 21

Germantown Philadelphia

My furlo came here about 4 oclock. It is for 18 days. I got my things & went & took a street car for the City of Philadelphia. I got here about dark. I went to the Soldiers refreshment Saloon & got my supper & to stay all night. It rained some there tonight. It cost me about 40cts to ride down here. They were a man gave me one dollar up in the street.

March 22

Philadelphia Pennsylvania

I .went & got transportation up in the city to the quartermasters office. We left here about 12 oclock today for Newyork City . I came to South Andboy & then rode about 7 miles up on the river to New York City. I got here about 8 oclock to the Soldiers Saloon. They gave us our supper & breakfast & lodging. I had my wound dressed here. It pains me like fury.

March 23

New York City Soldiers Saloon.

They took us down to the quartermasters office in an ambulance. We got our transportation & started for the Newyork Central railroad depot. We left here at 4 oclock this afternoon for Albany. We got to Albany about 12 oclock & staid there a spell & went on to Little Falls

March 24

Little Falls Newyork

I got here about 9 oclock this morning. I staid to the depot until after daylight & went up to the Nelson house & got my breakfast. I gave 50 cts for my breakfast. I rode up with Case from Little Falls home. We tipped over once in a sleigh on the road. I got home about 8 oclock & found Daniel Perry here to our house. They were a dance to the burg to Bishops. I went down & staid all night. Lurenzo Snell was there. The dance went off very well. Daniel Perry lent me \$1.00 tonight to go to the dance.

(He stayed home until April 28 and then returned to the hospital)