

Sunday, January 1, 1865

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C.

Weather fair, but cooler than at any previous time this winter. Icicles as large as my finger froze last night, and I slept rather cool with two Blankets—

D Died early this morning from the gun-shot of the abdomen.

I went to Presbyterian church in morn. Dr. Goodman came and inspected Hosp. in my absence according to notification. We had inspected before going to church and found things in fair condition.

I took my application to go to Cincinnati to Capt. Speed, & he ~~will~~ promised to send it forward without delay. It must be signed by Gen Ward.¹

Dr. Terry & I went to Episcopal ch. at 3½ PM. Minister omitted prayer for President of U.S.— I chatted with Gen. Sherman at door of church this AM.— Capt. of 85 Ind. came in sick, & Col Bloodgood came in also not very well to stay and eat—3 Cavalry Officers at Dinner.

Monday, January 2

Pavillion Hosp. 3rd Div 20th A.C. Savannah Ga.

Weather mainly fair, warmer than before—fire not necessary in middle of day.

Tuesday, January 3

Same Place.

Weather fair in morn cloudy in PM. & a little rainy to-night. Not cold.

I went to Corps Hd Qrs but did [not?] find Dr. Goodman, got circular of Dec. 26th with reference to organizing Hosp. Gave it to Q[uarter] M[aster] & he has gone to work, will have charge of all men except nurses and cooks, & my clerks & Stewards. Cleared out Med. Soc. room for Convalescent ward—will be nice.

Stopped to see the teamsters, saw little colored boy sick there.

Have been trying to arrange mess a/c—Hubbard bot 9 knives & forks for 7.50. & 9 Cups & Saucers for 7.50. Edgar Tallman let me have 5.00.

Paid Studley 71.00—owe him still \$17½. He thinks he can get fruit Oysters vegetable cheese &c. at boat. Officers apparel came on boat to-day.

Capt. Speed called here for a sponge.— Div troops all over. Confab with Col ____.

¹ On January 1 General Ward approved Bennett's request to go to Cincinnati for examination by the Army Medical Board, and Surgeon Goodman endorsed it on January 3. Bennett was granted a thirty-day leave of absence.

Wednesday, January 4

Chatham Academy Hosp. 3rd Div 20 A.C. Savannah Ga.

Weather fair and pleasant but somewhat cool.—

3rd Div. is not entirely over the Savannah yet—at least the train is yet here. Forage very scarce—our animals suffering.— I am not yet able to make any arrangement for buying sanitary stores except at enormous rates. Every body turned Sutler & working in many instances on small capital.

Gave Studley memorandum of Indebtedness to amount of \$17.50 and ordered him 2 lbs butter for his son.

Thursday, January 5

Same Place.

Weather fair—pleasant warmer than yesterday—only a little fire needed—

Dr. Goodman called this morn— Four patients with Gangrene & Erysipelas² sent from 2nd Div. Hosp. into the tents put up here for that purpose. One Moribound (a Reb.)—nearly—two more will probably die—one has lost an arm (a Reb.) Three men~~t~~ sent with them as nurses. (2 Rebs)

Mr. Lawrence of Christian Commission here at supper.— Col Dustin & Lieut Wing here to-night. Col. Dustin on a Board of Examination—Wing thinks of resigning—I thought to send to Hilton Head but seeing Gen Easton³ I am inclined to think it is of no use to try— Saw Willie Tenbrook there— Called on 23rd Mo. Lt. Col. Morton will muster-out.

Friday, January 6

Chatham Academy Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C.

Weather mixed—a little rainy & fair alternately—windy to-night.

Mr. Lawrence took away desks for 40 to Christian Com rooms—Surgⁿ Goodman thinks this will be for a Corps Hosp, soon— Rebel from 2 Div Died to-day of Gangrenous wound.— I started with Surgⁿ Terry to go to Div. but after crossing two pontoons we were stopped by reason of the third being disconnected to allow—Steamer to pass through—waited some time, but saw that we should be in the dark on bad road if we went on, so came back—meeting train on long pontoon—returned at 4 P.M.

² A disease causing inflammation to the skin and characterized by spreading to adjacent areas of the affected part.

³ Langdon C. Easton (1814-1884) was chief quartermaster for Sherman's armies from the Atlanta Campaign until the end of the war.

Rec'd order to go to Cincinnati— Called on Dr. Goodman—found Dr. Gill there— The latter gave me recommend[ation] to Dr. Stanton⁴—& went to his room—& got Virchow. Packed my trunk—ready for start in morn.—it is after 12 midnight.

Saturday, January 7

Same place.

Weather very pleasant.

I took my bay horse to Capt Whittlesey⁵ who paid me \$100.⁰⁰ for him & I paid \$20⁰⁰ for the capture[?]⁶— Saw Dr. Gill— Rec'd from Dr. Goodman letter of Introduction to Surg^a King.⁶

Dr. Terry will have charge here by seniority till Dr. Grinsted returns— Kept watch for boat to go away upon but could get none— Paid Marshall⁷ \$30⁰⁰ which pays him to Feb 5 '65— Wrote note to Lieut & sent by Dr. Hastings, commending him & by horse & mule to his care, if necessary—Dr. Terry paid me for Shirt 2⁰⁰. I Paid him mess for self & Dr Himes \$2⁰⁰.

Sunday, January 8

Chatham Academy Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Savannah Ga.

Weather pleasant a little cloudy & cool—

I rose at 6 AM & went to Quay to learn if any vessels would go to Hilton Head, found some in—Crescent⁸—just arrived with a load of convalescent soldiers—5 of 19th Mich. Many others of 20th A.C. No boat now to leave—

Went to church at 10½ A.M. Dr. Goodman came over here with me—did not make a formal inspection— We are ready to start at a moments notice— Dr. Himes & I went down at 3 P.M. found a boat coming in—the Mary Burton.⁹ Went aboard with our baggage— She will go to Thunderbolt—W.W. Coit¹⁰ came up with Gen Foster & staff about 5 PM.— Had some trouble in getting on her & after supper were notified that we

⁴ Probably John C. Stanton, Assistant Surgeon, 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry (117th Regiment).

⁵ Captain Henry M. Whittelsey was acting chief quartermaster for the 20th Army Corps.

⁶ William S. King, formerly Medical Director of the Union troops at Washington in 1861, was appointed Medical Director of the Department of the Ohio at Cincinnati in October 1863.

⁷ Possibly Private Mahlon W. Marshall of Company A, 85th Indiana Infantry, who may have been employed by Bennitt as cook or steward for the hospital.

⁸ *Crescent* was a U.S. Army transport steamer.

⁹ Possibly the British schooner *Mary P. Burton*, captured in 1864 attempting to run the blockade with a cargo of iron.

¹⁰ *W. W. Coit* was a steamer used as a dispatch boat.

could not remain—but that the boat would not leave till 4 in morn—leave our baggage & come back.

Monday, January 9

On Board U.S. Transport “Arago” Off] S.C. Coast.

Tuesday, January 10

On Board U.S. Transport “Arago” off N.C. Coast.

Weather Tempestuous & rainy.

I am most miserably sick & think a seafaring is a hard life.

One of the Wilmington Blockading fleet was spoken about 4 P.M but so rough that no boat was lowered.

Wednesday, January 11

8½ AM. in state room on board the Arago off Cape Henry.

Am a little better of sea sickness & have taken some tea & crackers—sea not so rough as through the night.

On Board U.S. Transport Arago. Off Coast of Maryland at 9 PM.

Weather rather stormy yet & sea so rough that I have been obliged to keep my bed at nearly all day & have eaten only a little cracker & tea twice.

It seems a little calm to-night I laid out till 2 AM. this morn in cold rain on upper deck being too sick to come down & dreading the closeness of the State-room— Thoroughly wet to the skin except the body.

Thursday, January 12

On Board U.S. Transport Arago in Hudson River N.Y. at 11½ P.M.

Weather has been extremely fine to-day & the ocean has come down to her proper levels—air cool but bracing—

My sea sickness all gone this morn & I have eaten heartily to-day—but the fare is stinted. Paid my \$9.⁰⁰ & 50^{cts} for portorage— Came in sight of lighthouses just before night & the Jersey coast— Beautiful Sea. Sails—Arago steams about 9 or 10 knots, & sails a little more. All day— We have sailed 720 miles from H[ilton] H[e]ad in 80 hours—two thirds of time with a rough sea & wind pushing us along. I have been too sick till to-day to stir.

Friday, January 13

Metropolitan Hotel New-York.

Weather very pleasant & clear. Colder than in Savannah.

Our company debarked at 6 AM. (an hour earlier than necessary)—paid ~~Stops~~ \$1.⁰⁰ for Carriage to Hotel. Dr. Himes at same time walked up— Breakfasted superbly but could get no room at once, took a walk of a mile or more up city first.— After breakfast mailed all the letters sent by me, except one to San[itary] Com[mission] from Mr. Hobblitz—which I handed in person. 823 Broadway.

Went to Opticians— Bought of Clothing—Coat. 52⁰⁰ Straps 6½ Vest 8. Pants 18.+1½ Shirts 13.⁰⁰+5½ Collars 1½ Socks 1¼ gloves 1½.

Of— Boots 12⁰⁰

Of— Stereoscope & Pictures 27.75.

All sent to Hotel—Room 310. 6th Story—“Tip Top”¹¹

Vis[ited] Gruno 52 East 30th St to get Microscope.

Dined & went to Randalls Island Foundling Hosp.¹² by boat—returned by 3rd Av. Cars. Fare up for 2—20^{cts} down—14^{cts}.

Wrote letter to Dr. King—Packed in goods retire at 1 A.M. of 14th.

Tuesday, February 9, 1864

Weather warm & pleasant.

Wrote letter 4 small pages to wife.

Made endorsement on letter from Surgeon Cansdell,—asking about tardiness of reports,—stating that the reports had been sent at regular time and that the trouble was in the irregularity of the mail.

Made discharge papers for Sam^l Vogan & W^m Harvie,¹³ ~~and~~ Endorsed a certificate for leave of absence for Chaplain Cave, but only as to facts as to his condition, but not giving it as my opinion that he should have leave of absence on account of health. His domestic afflictions a better reason for going home. He ought to resign.

¹¹ The Metropolitan Hotel, located at the corner of Broadway and Prince Street, was known for its “sky parlors” that allowed guests to watch the pedestrian traffic on the streets below.

¹² Because the New York Foundling Hospital was not established until 1869, Bennett is probably referring to the New York House of Refuge that was located on Randalls Island at this time. It housed delinquent children as well as orphans, and along with the Children's Aid Society, sent thousands of children to families in the Midwest on the "Orphan Trains" between 1854 and 1930. Bennett's interest in visiting the establishment may have been related to the fact that the very first Orphan Train delivered its youthful cargo to Dowagiac.

¹³ Possibly Private Samuel P. Vogan of Company B, 19th Ohio Infantry and Private William Harvey of Company H, 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics.

John Sutton¹⁴ came into Hospital looking very bad, this morning. I fear he has not thought himself as sick as he really is.

Wednesday, February 10

Weather warm and pleasant.

Rec'd letter from Surgⁿ Cansdell directing me to recommend 8 men for Brigade Ambulance Corps.¹⁵ I had sent the weekly Regimental report to mail in afternoon. John Sutton died to-night at 9 o'clock. Entered Hospital yesterday morning.— Had not seemed to be much sick till then. Dr. T[rowbridge] thinks there may have been peritonitis from perforation of the intestine. He had complained of diarrhoea for a few days past, but he tried to do duty too long. The labor of & exposure this winter have been too severe for him & he did not give up as long as he could stand. I ought to have attended to his case with more care when he first came to sick call. It is barely possible that his case was then remediable. I will try to improve from these dear bought lessons.

Thursday, February 11

Weather warm & pleasant.

Burial of John Sutton at 4 P.M. with military honors—Autopsy revealed perforation of intestine 2 feet above Ilio-coecal valve, which must have occurred the morning before he came into the Hospital—Inflammation of the entire peritoneum with diphtheritic exudation in many places. All organs covered by peritoneum involved somewhat in the infl[ammation]—Intense congestion of pulmonary mucus membrane, so that blood exuded abundantly, and run from the nares.¹⁶ Calcareous concretion in several Bronchial glands.— He seems to have suffered for some time without complaint. Wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Sutton after Prayer meeting.

Fire in town. Bebs¹⁷ Ho[u]se burns night before last. Grand illumination came near destroying the church.

Friday, February 12

¹⁴ Private John A. Sutton (1841?-1864) of Nottawa enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan in August 1862.

¹⁵ Early in the war it was seen that a reliable and fast method of removing wounded men from the battlefield was desperately needed. The Army of the Potomac organized the first such unit with trained men and specially designed wagons for the purpose. Not until March 1864 was a bill passed to establish the Ambulance Corps as a regular army unit under the control of the Medical Department.

¹⁶ The anterior and posterior pairs of openings to the nasal cavity through which air passes to the pharynx.

¹⁷ Bebb, first names not known, was a family residing in McMinnville.

Weather pleasant & mild.

Visit all the camps of the 23 Mo. & nearly all of 19th Mich.

There is much need of improvement in policing bedding & tents, in both regiments, but I must report the facts.

The men of the 19th Mich. especially have been worked hard lately that the bridge and fortifications may be finished, & the cannon brought up & the work put in a good defensible condition.

There is some excuse for a little slackness in policing if ever.

Lent Black Harry a dollar, Proba[bly] not to see it again.

Saturday, February 13

Mr. Champion returned from home. No letters from wife for five days— Letter from Dr. Green saying that he would accept a commission as asst. Surg in 19th Mich. I doubt if he will have an opportunity.

Inspected Hospital & found it in good condition generally.—

Wrote recommendation? for Carlos Baker¹⁸ for Hospital Steward in Colored regiment— did not commend him very highly.

Wrote Surgⁿ Cansdell nominating men from this regiment for Ambulance Corps.

Wrote Surgⁿ Mintzer unofficially enclosing a letter from his Sister which I had opened.

Made Post Sanitary Report.

Rumors of Rebels expected before many days. I don't believe any will come here in arms now.

Retire after 12 midnight.

Sunday, February 14, 1864

Held Bible class at Methodist church this morn at 10—Present Chaplain of 23rd Mo. and about 20 of the men, & the girls. Two classes of men & one of Ladies.—Lesson Acts V 1 to 12. Interest good. Hope some good may come of these lessons.

Rumors of rebels in large force coming here, and the men are kept at work on defences & securing stores & water in works, so that we can stand a siege of several days if need be. I do not believe we shall be attacked at this time. There is too little to be gained to them & too much risk of being injured in the operation.

Wrote letter to my wife 4 pages. Also to Dr. Clarke to send by Lieut. L. W. Seymour,¹⁹ who goes to Washington to-morrow.

¹⁸ Carlos Baker (born ca. 1828) of Allegan County enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan in August 1862 and would be discharged in July 1865.

¹⁹ Probably 1st Lieutenant George W. Seymore of Company I, 23rd Missouri Infantry.

Weather a little rainy but warm.

Did not attend Preaching.

Monday, February 15

Rainy, but still warm. Birds sing.

Lieut. Seymour of 23 Mo. goes to Washington by order of Gen. Thomas to be treated for Epilepsia.

Send letter to Surgeon Cansdell giving list of recommendation for Ambulance Corps.

Receive letter from Surgⁿ Hobbs directing me to report condition of Medical wagon, & Med. Stores &c. & to report on Wednesday.

No word yet from Whiskey for hospital.

A gun was fired at guard at Hickory Creek bridge last night & they fired in return.

No information from rebs.

Bought this book of Champion on a/c for \$2.50.²⁰

No letter from wife for a week now. If the little one is sick may God spare her.

Tuesday, February 16

Weather clear but a cold wind from the North makes it feel quite uncomfortable out, & it freezes all day.

Examined regimental Hospital stores & wagon so as to report condition & quantity.

Asst. Surgⁿ Trowbridge attends all the sick in Hospital. I att sick call of regiment.

Miles Cook²¹ of Co "E." died at 3 A.M. of measles, suppressed. Bronchitis. Gen congestion, all recent. Organs all apparently sound.

Fear of rebel raid here passing off.

Cue,²² got Drunk up in village & was sent to guard house. Reported the matter to Col.

Robinson & he had the Liquor seized, of the man (Henderson)²³ & says he will send it down to Hospital to-morrow. 12 to 15 gall[on]s peach Brandy. fair. We'll see.?

Called at Dr. Armstrong's.

Lt. Fonda²⁴ was drunk in street & behaved himself very —

²⁰ Although its entries begin on February 9, Bennitt is referring to his pocket diary that he bought from Champion, the camp sutler.

²¹ Miles Cook (born ca. 1846) of Sturgis enlisted in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in December 1863 and only arrived at McMinnville on February 1.

²² A soldier by the name of Cue (or Kew) does not appear on the rosters of the 19th Michigan or the 23rd Missouri Infantry regiments.

²³ Possibly Philo P. Henderson (born ca. 1837) of Girard. He enlisted in Company H, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

Wednesday, February 17, 1864

Weather cold & windy but clear. Thawed a little where sun shone.

Col. Robinson sent ten gallons "Peach Brandy" taken from Henderson last night—to Hospital. It is good & timely.

Made Requisition for new Register & cards.²⁵— Sent Monthly Report for Jan to Q[uar]ter M[aster] Gen[eral].— Wrote Dr. Hobbs of the condition of stores wagon, Tents & supplies, sending a list with quantities. Sent him also Weekly Sick report stating sanitary condition &c. & report of Med officers with some Remarks as to the manner in which we are employed.— Gave him the names of my Hospital att[endant]s for detail in Brigade Ambulance Corps.—

Wrote a letter to my wife 2 pages mentioning the Fonda scandal but giving no particulars.

Inspected Co "B." Good—very Good.

Retire very late.

Thursday, February 18

Weather still clear & cold.

Bought casmere gloves of Sutler on a/c yesterday, & took dinner with Capt. Lincoln.

No letter from home yet.— No mail to-day.

Forage train of 30 wagons & 100 men under Capt Calmer²⁶ sent back word that it was reported that Carter with 200 men was at the Caney Fork ford²⁷ on Sparta road awaiting their coming to dispute their advance & prevent their foraging—50 more of 19th Mich. men (Co. D) & 50 Mo. men were sent to reinforce. Dr. Trowbridge went with an ambulance. Tallman & French²⁸ also went. I doubt their seeing any enemy. They were off at 2 P.M. 20 minutes after notification.

Examined Capt. Lincoln. Fear he has tubercles—will resign. Man came in to-night who I fear has varioloid.²⁹

²⁴ Charles W. Fonda (born ca. 1840) of Centreville was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Company G in July 1863.

²⁵ I.e., patient registers.

²⁶ Charles H. Calmer (1834?-1864) of St. Joseph was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He was promoted to Captain in May 1863 and would be killed in action at Resaca, Georgia in May 1864.

²⁷ The ford was located about twelve miles northeast of McMinnville.

²⁸ Albert French (born ca. 1830) of Monterey enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

²⁹ A mild form of smallpox that occurs in persons with a high resistance to the disease, usually obtained through vaccination.

Sang an hour with Mr. Russel³⁰ & Daniels. Dr. T[errowbridge] left his wallet with me having in it cash \$15⁴⁰ & stamps 33^{cts}—may God keep them all in safety—
Cold & clear to-night. Moonshine.

Friday, February 19

Weather fair and somewhat warmer.

Made Weekly Hospital report—Weekly Post reports i.e. of sick and of Med officers.—
Report from 23rd Mo. came in about noon. Att[ended] sick call of Reg't & visited nearly all the sick, before noon. Did not visit third story till eve. Called to see Colored cook in town & sent med[icine?].

Made Certificate of Disability for Capt. Lincoln. He has Incipient Tubercular Phthisis³¹ & proposes to resign.

Lieut. Reynolds³² sent Abstract of Issues³³ to Reg'tl Hospital to me to-night. Steward copied statement of Fund. The other Has not come i.e. from Lt. Waters.³⁴

I think I may do better to-morrow than I have to-day.

Trouble of Major Griffin³⁵ with Lieut. Fonda on account of arrest.

No word from the Forage train.

Saturday, February 20

Weather mild & clear, still cool enough.

Have been trying to do my duty more faithfully but have not succeeded much better, yet I am not discouraged, "For in due time I hope to reap if I faint not." May God give me strength, & let His Love fill my soul, so that all my powers may be devoted to His work. Col. Robinson, & Majors _____³⁶ & Griffin, were at Hospital inspection. They seemed pleased with the appearance of things. Approved Certificate of disability for discharge of Aaron Hatcher Pri[vate] of Co F. 23 Mo. (Opacity of Cornea)

³⁰ Possibly W. N. Russel (born ca. 1827), a McMinnville farmer.

³¹ I.e., pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption.

³² Herbert N. Reynolds (born ca. 1836) of Niles enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry as Commissary Sergeant in August 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in July 1863.

³³ A report of medical and hospital supplies issued from a central depot.

³⁴ Possibly 1st Lieutenant Richard C. Waters of Company K, 23rd Missouri Infantry.

³⁵ Eli A. Griffin (1833?-1864) of Niles was commissioned Captain in Company A, 6th Michigan Infantry in June 1861 and resigned in June 1863. He subsequently joined the 19th Michigan Infantry as Major in October 1863 and would be killed in action at Golgotha Church, Georgia in June 1864.

³⁶ Bennett apparently could not remember the name of the officer from the 23rd Missouri Infantry who was Major Jacob A. Trumbo.

Forage train returned full—saw but few rebs—captured 5 or 6 Bushwhackers. Col. Stokes³⁷ had preceded them—Reb. Carter, is variously reported as wounded, & in Ky. No reliance.

Capt. Calmer accidentally wounded in thigh with his own pistol. Not serious.

Call at Dr. Armstrong's—Mrs. A. in my absence sent us 4 apples.

Sunday, February 21, 1864

Weather most lovely & springlike. Birds singing joyfully— A little cool early in morn. Bible-class did not do well to-day on account of there being no stove in the house. We must try to have a place to meet. It will not do to abandon it now. Mr. Price Preached a good sermon from Luke XV 11. &c. The Prodigal Son. It seemed to have a good effect. Mail came in bringing letter from wife (3 p.) All well at home. Hattie better.— Write letter to wife (2).

Reports of movements of armies into E. Tenn. & impending battle.

Did not go to meeting to-night as the Chaplain's preaching is not instructive nor pleasant to me.

39 on sick list of 19th Mich. Large proportion are recruits.

Monday, February 22

Weather most pleasant & warm. Like the last of April in Mich.

24 men at sick call this morning. Sent two with Ophthalmia³⁸ into Hospital & one with "Fits." Capt. Calmer came in to-night.

Sent McLachlin³⁹ & Cue home on furlough. Doubtful if the former ever goes into the field again.—

Inspected quarters and cooking of Cos. I. (good) B. (good) D. (kitchen good quarters dirty) H. (kitchen good quarters dirty) K. (kitchen good quarters dirty) I do not think their excuses are valid. They waste much time at cards &c. Do I improve all mine?(?)

Visited negro cook sick in town—Better.

Attended prayer meeting. Goodly number & good interest, but the Chaplain talks too long & loud. I want to feel more of the love of God in my heart.

³⁷ William B. Stokes (1814-1897), commander of the 5th Tennessee (Union) Cavalry. His regiment was active in anti-guerrilla operations at this time.

³⁸ A severe inflammation of the mucous membrane lining the interior or deeper regions of the eye.

³⁹ Archibald McLachlin (1828-1890) enlisted in Company G, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in January 1863 and would resign due to disability in May 1864.

Tuesday, February 23

Weather very fair mild & pleasant.

23 Mo. Reg't ordered to Murfreesboro to relieve 33rd Ind. which goes home as veterans.— 23rd Mo started about 1 P.M. Officers tarried to have a spree &c.— Commissary sent in abstracts of Issues to Hospitals which were very imperfectly made out. Corrected them so far as I could.

Gentry of 23 Mo died in hospital this morn. Autopsy showed pulmonary abscess, & extensive adhesions of pleura—Old—Ulceration of Intestines—⁴⁰

Black Dorcas child died of scrofulous affection of all the organs & glands. Hepatic abscesses.⁴¹

Dined at Mr. Price's. called at Capt. Cliff's⁴² to see Surgeons Major Griffin commands Post. Lt. Wing⁴³ Post Q[uartern] M[aster]. Capt. Bigelow⁴⁴ Provost Marshall.— Spent evening at Head quarters talking our affairs over.

Wednesday, February 24

Weather still fair & warm—Thunder lightning & rain for a few minutes about 10 PM. last night & then all quiet & clear again.

No events of special importance. Mrs. Price called to see me concern[ing] Capt. Lincoln's health.

Called to see Lieut. Rynex,⁴⁵ but he was out riding.

Inspected Quarters of three companies. Co. "A" moved to Round House fort.

At Dress parade, Lieut. Fonda appeared on duty again. It is proposed to retain him during good behavior.— Maj. Griffin announced as commander of Post &c.

Large amount of trade in town to-day. Made Weekly Reports for Brigade Surgeon, which will be sent by first opportunity. No mail.

Capt. Lincoln resigns on account of Phthisis Pulm[onalis] &c.

⁴⁰ The soldier had a severe infection of the lungs resulting in the formation of pus in the chest cavity; the intestinal ulcer may have been ulcerative colitis.

⁴¹ The child of a Black resident of McMinnville had tuberculosis of the skin as well as an infected liver.

⁴² Probably James Clift (born ca. 1811) of Company M, 5th Tennessee Cavalry. Before the war he was a McMinnville farmer.

⁴³ Lucius M. Wing (born ca. 1840) of Coldwater was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862, and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in May 1863. In March 1864 he would transfer to Company D and would be commissioned Quartermaster in May 1864.

⁴⁴ Charles W. Bigelow was commissioned Captain in Company G, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He would die of wounds received at New Hope Church, Georgia in May 1864.

⁴⁵ 1st Lieutenant Richard C. Rynex was Quartermaster of the 23rd Missouri Infantry Regiment.

Thursday, February 25, 1864

Weather fair and mild—soft wind promise of rain?

Att[ended] usual duties of morn.

Examined Fuller, Wilkerson & Crockett⁴⁶ & we think it best to discharge them.

Visited camps out of town. Made all Weekly Regt'l & Hospital Report & returns & Statements of Hospital funds for Jan. Recd several communications from Surgⁿ Hobbs & one from Surgⁿ Brento[?]⁴⁷ (11th A[rmy] C[orps]) complaining of the delay of my reports— Surgeon Hobbs explained to him & sent me copy because we have no mail.

Wrote to him. We will soon have however by R.R.

I am tired and a little unwell—indigestion.

Rec'd letter from wife of 14th—2 [pages]. She was about to move to Centreville. Wrote to her 3 [pages].— God preserve us all in His Peace.

Friday, February 26

Weather very fair and mild, no rain.

Sent five patients of the 23rd Mo. to their command by the Q[uartern] M[aster]'s train.

We will need to muster those that remain. All Weekly Reports went out. Visited Sambo⁴⁸ (of Co. "C") and found him not so well.—

Q. M. Rynex neglects to provide for the pay of the Black men at work at the Hospital, but says he will do it when he comes down here after a few days. I hope he will.

Meanwhile Lt. McLachlin will attend to the employment of all the "Contrabands."

Rode down to "Hickory Creek" with Major Griffin & "Staff" & crossed the new Bridge on the first train. All sound. The machanics of the 19th Mich. are "some." May they be as successful in all laudable undertakings as in this. Road rough.— Telegraph might soon be put up.

Have I done as much as I ought to-day? My health is a little better than yesterday.

Saturday, February 27

Weather very mild & fair, still.

Inspected Hospital & found all in good order.

⁴⁶ Benjamin Fuller (1842?-1864) of Matteson enlisted in Company H, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would die of disease at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee in July 1864. The other two mentioned are probably Sergeant John Wilkerson and Private William F. Crockett, both of Company C, 23rd Missouri Infantry.

⁴⁷ Possibly Assistant Surgeon Joseph L. Brenton, 115th Ohio Infantry.

⁴⁸ Sambo Colvin, a Black cook employed in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry.

Made Certificates for discharge of Benj. F. Fuller Co "H" 19th Mich. Phthisis Pulmonalis, & W^m W. Crockett Co C. 23 Mo. V.I—Chronic Diarrhoea. Lieut. Easton⁴⁹ left Hospital. Paid me \$19⁰⁰ for board & I paid Wilkes \$20⁰⁰. Paid \$1⁹⁰ for 4¾ lbs Maple Sugar at Mr. Prices store & left it there.

Good reports from the "Front." Rail Road open to Tullahoma first to-day— Surprized them there.

16 Rebels deserters came in yesterday to take the oath & behave themselves loyally.

Sunday, February 28, 1864

Weather a little rainy and somewhat cooler but not freezing.

Col. Gilbert returned from home last night with his little boy, James. Brought mail— letter from wife at Centreville, written on the 22nd 2 P[ages] in pencil. Little Hattie hot well. Fear of Scarletina. Dr. Bassett's children died two weeks ago of it— Wrote letter ½ P. to wife and sent it by Rail Road to Tullahoma &c. Major Griffin went to Murfreesboro.

Did not attend church nor Bible class to-day—no place for Bible class—& no preaching except Haggard's. Mr. Price went to Louisville yesterday.

Reported upon three men for whom letters of inquiry were sent here viz: Stephen Moulton—W^m Brubaker & W^m H. Garrett⁵⁰—last here sick. The others were sent away in Jan. 18th on crutches to Nashville. Col. Gilbert displeased about Capt. Lincoln's resignation.

Monday, February 29

Weather Rainy, all day.

Mustered 35 patients & 4 attendants present in Hosp. not including Steward 3 Att[endants], & 20 patients of 19th Mich in Hospital mustered with their companies— only 2 of 19th mustered here viz. Fuller & Sayles.⁵¹

⁴⁹ David J. Easton (born ca. 1841) of Coldwater was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 and was promoted Captain in May 1864. He had been wounded in action at Thompson's Station, Tennessee in March 1863 and would be again at Allatoona, Georgia in May 1864.

⁵⁰ Possibly Private Oscar W. Moulton of Company D, 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics; possibly Private William Brubaker of Company C and Private William Garrett of Company K, 21st Illinois Infantry.

⁵¹ Private Benjamin Fuller (1842?-1864) of Matteson enlisted in Company H, 19th Michigan in August 1862 and would die of disease in July 1864. Private Benjamin C. Sayles (1836?-1864) of Decatur enlisted in Company G, 19th Michigan in August 1862 and would die of disease at McMinnville in May 1864.

Made Post Sanitary Report & Return of Med Officers at Post & sent with them to Surgeon Perin⁵² a note stating that we had not received any Blanks for Monthly Report of Sick &c.

Rail Road communication to this place is uncertain, as the repairing of the road of the main line is contemplated with the rails from this.

No letters from home.

Would that I could have an abiding trust that all are cared for by a kind Heavenly Father, and go on in the discharge of my whole duty here, feeling that all is well.

Paid Steward \$10⁰⁰ on mess a/c.

Tuesday, March 1, 1864 McMinnville Tenn.

Summary of Strength of 19th Mich.

<u>Present</u>		<u>Absent</u>		<u>P & A</u>
Fighting Men				
Officers	18	Officers	9	
N.C. Officers	101	N.C. Officers	18	
Privates	424	Privates	58	
Total	543	Total	85	
Others	113			
Aggregate	656			
Sick	25			
			Aggregate	741

Weather still rainy nearly all day.

By request Col. Gilbert ordered a board of Survey, to report upon condition and deficiency of Med. &c. Invoiced to me from R. Fletcher, Med. Purveyor, Jan. 25th.

Capt. Baker,⁵³ Lieut. Easton & Dr. Trowbridge Reported in accordance with the facts as they had examined the stores at the time of their receipt three weeks ago. Report will be approved & sent by first mail.

⁵² Glover Perin (1823-1890) was the Medical Director of the Department of the Cumberland at Chattanooga.

⁵³ John J. Baker (born ca. 1835) of Sturgis was commissioned Captain in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would be promoted to Major in June 1864 and to Lieutenant Colonel in October 1864. In July 1864 he would be wounded in action at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia and would be discharged due to disability in May 1865.

Preparing "Remarks for Monthly Report." Made weekly Reports to Dr. Hobbs for tomorrow, which will go in the morn if there is a mail.

Write letter to wife 2 [pages].

Wednesday, March 2

Weather fair, but cool. Frost last night. Drying out rapidly to-day.

Major Griffin came back this morning with an order for our Regt to go to Pikeville⁵⁴ to return here after election next Saturday. Order evidently made with the impression that the 23rd Mo. was still here. Town all awake with fear and large numbers prepare to leave, for fear of Bushwhackers &c. Consternation prevails.

Col. Gilbert sends train to Tullahoma & telegraphs the facts. The reply is to send 5 companies, 5 remain here. Dr. T[rowbridge] will go with them, with ambulance.

Examined 44 "Home Guards." Reject 2. Called to see Mollie Price.⁵⁵ Pleurodynia.⁵⁶

Called (but did not see it till too late) to see a Colored soldier at Mr. Poindexter's.⁵⁷ Will try to see him in morn.

O. P. Hanks⁵⁸ Co E broke his leg in scuffle.

Started three men out to duty but they returned, with wagon train.

Thursday, March 3

Weather fine, clear & pleasant.

One half the Regt. went as far as Collins River (8 miles) toward Pikeville, but found it impracticable to get over on account of the high water caused by the recent rain. One Co. (H) passed, but intelligence reached Col. Gilbert that Carter had stripped Pikeville, & that the people had no knowledge of his coming to protect their election & would not therefore have any— A retrograde was ordered the battalion returned about 5 P.M. having passed the swollen River here twice without any serious accident.

I visited large ward in forenoon—& Mrs. Poindexter & the negro there.

In the P.M. a wounded Rebel Bushwhacker was brought in from about 20 miles distant. Shot in upper part of chest, & in the back & arm. Paralysis of lower part. Pulse 124—probably will die—⁵⁹

Prayer meeting well att. Bible class to be continued.

⁵⁴ Pikeville, Tennessee is located about thirty miles east of McMinnville

⁵⁵ The daughter of Mr. Price, the storekeeper and Baptist clergyman.

⁵⁶ A severe inflammation of muscular attachment of the diaphragm to the chest wall.

⁵⁷ An unidentified McMinnville resident.

⁵⁸ Oliver P. Hanks (born ca. 1833) of Adamsville enlisted in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would be promoted to Corporal in January 1865.

⁵⁹ Bennett later identified this man as Gilly. Living in the McMinnville area were A. Y. Gilly (born ca. 1833), a farmer, and Albert Gilly (born ca. 1830), a laborer.

Friday, March 4, 1864

Weather pleasant. Promise of rain to-night.

Write for information concerning the procuring artificial legs for soldiers to Surgⁿ Perin.—did so.

Visited with Col. Gilbert & Lt. Galbraith⁶⁰ of Gen. Howard's staff, eight of the Co.s and made report of award to Co Cooks, viz: B \$15.⁰⁰ E 10⁰⁰ "C" "D." "G." & H, each 5⁰⁰ "I" "A." & F each 4⁰⁰ "K." 3⁰⁰. The first two are premiums, the others simply extra pay for doing well.

Visited Miss Price quite sick.

Capt. L[incoln] is quite too attentive to look well to me.

Wrot letter to wife 4 [pages].

Saturday, March 5

Rained about an hour (from 10 to 11) last night, but it is fair and mild to-day.

Mail did not go out till this morn. None received to-day

Election to-day here passed off quietly, there seemed to be but one man drunk. The ballot box was protected by Federal bayonets. 132 votes cast. Every man voting took and subscribed to the oath proposed by Gov. Johnson. Some who claim to be loyal men refused to take & did not therefore vote. The loyalty of such men is rather suspicious. Asked Col. Gilbert to take care of the Reb sent here two days ago, as he is a nuisance, can do no good to keep him a prisoner. He can do no mischief if he be sent back home.

Visited Mollie Price. Private talk with her mother.— Dr. T[rowbridge] left me there and came home. I went to Capt. Cliff's and had a sing and chat.

Sunday, March 6

Weather very pleasant & warm.

Ten sick men at call this morn & 21 in Hospital of the 19th.

Affairs moving on quietly.

At Bible class were present only 5. Some remained away preparing for inspection. It seems as though Col. Gilbert tries to counteract—not openly however—any religious effort. Speaks as though he thought it my duty to be at Sunday inspection. I cannot see the matter in the same light he does.

Mail brought me official papers but no letters from home.

⁶⁰ Possibly Lieutenant Colonel Robert Galbraith, formerly of the 1st Tennessee Cavalry.

Visited Mollie Price, & dined there. Poor Mollie!—

Prescribed for “Liza” & other negroes. Took morph[ine] for my cold.

Monday, March 7

Weather fair in morn.—Rainy in P.M.

Bushwhacker Gilly sent out four miles at his request his father also being here. We are glad to be rid of him, for he is a complete nuisance. It is not probable that he will ever recover the use of his legs because of injury of the spinal cord at 2nd Lumbar vertebra. His punishment is no more than he deserves. Told him so.

Made certificates for Furloughs for A. Love, A. R. McCoy, J. Coy, T. Botzen & James Duff.⁶¹ Will send them up in the morn—also for Capt. Calmer.— Bought “Atlantic Monthly” for March for 50^{cts}.⁶²

Did not attend prayer meeting on account of finishing the furlough applications.

Cold better, still somewhat troublesome.— Began ploughing garden.

Thunderstorm gathering.

No letter to nor from home.

Tuesday, March 8

Weather fair and pleasant most of the day. Rain with Thunder last night. Wet ground unfit to plough.—

About thirty recruits from Mich. have come. Co. “C” will be filled to minimum.

Commissary stores sent up by R. Road at the same time as far as to within miles of here.

Visited negro soldier at Mr. Poindexter’s and made a note of disability on account of Rheumatism on his pass which had expired.— Had some music.

Part of ball removed from Reid’s⁶³ thigh that had been there 5 months—Chloroform used. Effected kindly.

Stated on paper around the applications for furloughs, that less [than] 14 per cent of furloughs were applied for.

⁶¹ A. Love was in the 72nd Indiana Infantry; Sergeant Alexander R. McCoy and Corporal Joseph W. Coy were in Companies A and G respectively of the 99th Ohio Infantry; Theodorus Botzen (born ca. 1817) of Fillmore enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862; and James Duff was in Company G, 19th Ohio Infantry.

⁶² Among the contents of this issue were poetry by John Greenleaf Whittier and Oliver Wendell Holmes, prose by Harriet Beecher Stowe and Edward Everett Hale, and an essay on General McClellan’s Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The newsstand price for the magazine was normally twenty-five cents.

⁶³ Possibly either Corporal Thomas B. Reid or Private James Reid, Jr. both of Company F, 23rd Missouri Infantry.

Did not see Mollie Price but saw her mother and learned that she is much better—Mr. Faulkner⁶⁴ stripped by Bushwhackers on his way to Nashville 10 miles—of Horse buggy & \$450⁰⁰.

No mail.

Wednesday, March 9

Weather fair and mild, a little cloudy & airy.

16 at sick call. 20 in Hospital.

Made Weekly Reports (3) for Brigade Surgⁿ which will go by first mail.

Bought some potatoes (yesterday) for seed &c. (2 bus[hels]).— Visited Mollie Price—much better. Mr. Price store entered by thieves last night? He is promised trouble for selling gun caps for “pills” to Citizens. Some suspicions I have, of the integrity of this family. I hope there is not good ground for it.

Visited the painter’s rooms above. He does not paint as well as Mr. Wilkes.

Have been feeling unwell all day and still to-night.

Recruits came up to-day 29 in number.

Col. Gilbert has on foot a project to tax citizens who have means, for the support of poor families to whom government rations have been issued.

Thursday, March 10, 1864

Weather rainy last night, fair and pleasant to-day with plenty of stirring air. Windy and a late rain to-night.

6 or 7 Citizens brought in as hostages for good conduct of bushwhackers around us.

Col. Gilbert affirms solemnly that one shall be hung for each loyal man murdered &c.

Train came within eight miles of here and camped. Lt. Wing coming in. No mail.

Prayer meeting with good interest. A new man, from among the recruits.

I am feeling a little better to-night. Weekly Hospital [reports] ready to send in the morn, if mail goes out.

Extracted a tooth for a Citizen this morn— Paid me a 25^{cts}—first money in this manner rec’d since I have been in the army.

Wrote letter to wife 2.

Friday, March 11, 1864

Weather fair but rather windy.

⁶⁴ Probably Asa Faulkner (born ca. 1802), a wealthy McMinnville farmer.

Hospital on fire at noon created some excitement for a time but by prompt & well directed efforts on the part of the attendants & others of the regiment & some Citizens the flames were subdued. It is not safe from fire as it is.

Mail Brought letters from Dr. Clarke and I must write him soon, for he seems to think I feel hard toward him which is not the case. He misapprehends me— & one from Surg^a Mintzer. He goes home soon. Commends Gen. Davies⁶⁵— from Dr. Hobbs with Blanks &c. Invoice of Pannier⁶⁶ & Med[ical] Case which were received in good order—receipt signed and mailed with a note to him.— Dr. Clarke advises me to apply for Examination for Staff Corps. ?

Recd two letters from Wife & Jennie—28th ult 2 Inst. Did not send letter to wife to-day but wrote one to Jennie & put in Geo W. Waters Note of \$5⁰⁰ given at Annapolis Apr. 25, 63. Will go tomorrow probably.

Saturday, March 12

Weather fair & pleasant like April of Mich. Gentle Zephyrs fan the brow.

Taxing the Citizens goes on briskly at head quarters and men of wealth are made to feel that there is a reality in this war they have encouraged here. But Col. Gilbert may have trouble about the matter, unless he is authorized to act in the matter.

Hospital Inspection showed a good condition, & patients doing well.

Visited camps & kitchens of Co's I. B. A. & D. In good condition.

The prospect is that we shall remain here for some months to come.

Prospect of rain again to-night.

I think I will send in another application for leave of absence.

Wrote letter to Dr. Clarke at Wash D.C.

Sunday, March 13, 1864

Weather fair but somewhat airy and cool enough to have a little fire at evening.

16 at sick call this morning— Two sent into Hospital with lung trouble & one Black boy—(small) with Measles. 54 in Hosp now. 21 of 19th Mich.

Att Bible class, only 7 present, but interest good & a pleasant and profitable time— Ac[ts]. V. 17 to 29.

Visited Negro Boy up town who is near his earthly end?

⁶⁵ Brigadier General Thomas A. Davies (1809-1899) was commander of the District of Columbus, Kentucky at this time.

⁶⁶ The Medical Pannier was a wooden or wicker box containing a prescribed set of medicines, instruments, and dressings that cost the government about \$100.

It seems to be necessary to look after them somewhat. I wish the children could be gathered into Sabbath school here. There seems to be a total inattention to religious instruction among the Colored, & the Whites too for that matter. Mr. Price was gone again to-day so that we had no preaching.—

Wrote a letter [to] Clara & tried to impress upon her & Jennie the importance of Piety. I am too much devoted to the world & worldly things. God save me.

A closely written ½ page to my wife [March] 13th on a blank end of one of her letters, put in with letter to Clara.⁶⁷

Monday, March 14

Weather Pleasant. Cool enough for a little fire morn & eve.—

14 men at sick call. Signed Abstract of issues to Regt Hospital for Feb. Called to see negro boy about to die of infl[ammation] of Medulla oblongata.⁶⁸

Made Certificates for furloughs for J. L. Jackson—J. C. Sims & Solomon Ishmael of 23rd Mo. & B. F. Sales of 19th Mich.⁶⁹

Visited sick negro child by the cemetery with Mr. Westerfield,⁷⁰ not much sick.—

Stopped at Steam saw mill on my return.

Albert drew of A.C.S. Reynolds⁷¹ \$70⁰⁰ on voucher. This will probably supply us for the month.

I have to some extent succeeded in following the dictates of conscience & the law of God—O that I may have grace to persevere in well doing.

No letters written nor received.

Tuesday, March 15

Weather cold & raw—snows to-night.

Took the furloughs to Col. Gilbert & he refused to forward the application for Sales because he brought the disease upon himself &c. &c. Just perhaps but hard.

⁶⁷ This letter is not in the collection.

⁶⁸ The medulla oblongata is the upper part of the spinal cord making up part of the brain stem. Any disease or injury to this area is usually fatal.

⁶⁹ J. L. Jackson does not appear on the roster of the 23rd Missouri Infantry; Privates Jeremiah Simms and Solomon Ishmael were enrolled in Company B and Company E, respectively, of the 23rd Missouri Infantry. B. F. Sales is Private Benjamin C. Sayles, Company G, 19th Michigan.

⁷⁰ A young medical student who, beginning in July 1863, served as a hospital clerk.

⁷¹ Herbert M. Reynolds (born ca. 1836) of Niles enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862, and was appointed Commissary Sergeant in September 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in July 1863, and served as Acting Commissary of Subsistence during February and March 1864.

Completed requisition for supplies for Gen. Hosp. & wrote a letter stating our number and circumstances &c.

Talked with Col. Gilbert about a Chaplain, & he says he will request the appointment of one if I want one. Dr. Trowbridge writes to Elder Hascal inquiring about Eld. McLeod, intimating to him that we would like to have him if he can be had.⁷² Hope we may.

Bushwhacker Carter picked up 3 men of Co H. (one of them a Tennessean) and stripped them of nearly everything and sent them in almost naked.

Mr. Faulkner's horse was re-stolen from the Bushwhackers last night & brought in.

Wednesday, March 16

Weather cold and stormy—raw, chilly.

Sam Henderson⁷³ bought 12 lbs butter for me @ 25^{cts} yesterday.

Two Companies of 17th Col'd U.S. came from Woodbury where they had over one day trying to catch Bushwhackers.

It is authoritatively stated that Stokes Cavalry have killed 30 of these Robbers within the last month. I hope they may be exterminated.

Made out Weekly Report in full to Brigade Surgeon, & put them in Carrier hand to take to Murfreesboro to-morrow.

Made application for Leave of absence. Wrote note to Sanitary Agent at Murfreesboro to send dried fruit and vegetables by Lieut. Reynolds.

6 or 8 men of 23rd Mo. will go to duty to-morrow.

No letters written nor reced from home for five days.

Thursday, March 17

Weather still cold but fairer=Milder to-night—

Sent off eight men of the 23 Mo. to duty by train to Murfreesboro. Left 47 in Hospital—three have been admitted.— Col. Gilbert's boy has diarrhoea—send him med.— Col. G sends my application for leave of absence, with an “urgent! approval?”

Unpleasant developments with reference to conduct of Negro woman with soldiers &c.

Sent the five negro women of the Hospital to Mr. Price's Store with an order for goods amounting to twenty five dollars (\$5⁰⁰ each) I becoming personally responsible for the payment when they get pay from government. It may be money thrown away, but the

⁷² Rev. Samuel Haskell (1818-1900) of Kalamazoo and Rev. J. L. McCloud of Schoolcraft assisted in the organization of the First Baptist Church of Three Rivers in 1861. Its first pastor was Luther H. Trowbridge.

⁷³ Probably a hospital steward.

women have washed and must be clothed— Prayer meeting not large, but the Divine presence was felt.

Mrs. Price gave me a cake of maple sugar.

No letters.

Friday, March 18

Weather fair & warmer but rather windy. Calm & quiet to-night.

Col. Gilbert's boy sick—10 men at sick call. Sent one into Hospital—

Stokes cavalry attacked a[nd] completely routed Carter's Bushwhackers, 17 miles north east of here—killing 4 or more of them & capturing large number of horses, saddles, arms &c. There were about 100 of them, 140 of Stokes men. One of the latter wounded in the right side—ball penetrating thoracic wall above diaphragm & passing down through diaphragm into abdominal cavity. Man will probably die of peritonitis⁷⁴ soon.

Weekly Hospital Report made also Clothing return for Feb. Statement of "Hosp Fund" & Return of Officers treated in Hosp. for Feb.

Recd of Capt. Calmer \$20⁰⁰.

No letters. No mail.

Saturday, March 19

Weather mild becoming warmer.

Christian,⁷⁵ the man brought in last night wounded died this morn at 11. Autopsy showed that the ball had passed through the cartilage of 7th rib—diaphragm Liver about two inches from anterior edge & two inches to right of mesian[?] line—missing gall bladder—through duodenum about four inches from stomach—impinging against right side of spine about the last dorsal vertebra,—tearing through the psoae muscles lodged against the right sacro-iliac synchondrosis.⁷⁶ Intense inflammation of nearly whole peritoneal surface with effusion of lymph & adhesions agglutinating the parts. Hepatitis considerable—complained of "Pain in the shoulder." Water drank soon passed out through the wound.— Another man came in to-night a scout—wounded in back. Escort sent for him, chase Bushwhackers.

No mail— Begin a letter.

Sunday, March 20

⁷⁴ An inflammation of the membrane that lines the abdominal wall, produced in this case by an irritating substance by a penetrating wound.

⁷⁵ Christian (first name unknown) was in the 5th Tennessee Cavalry.

⁷⁶ The psoas major and psoas minor are the loin muscles; the sacroiliac synchondrosis is the cartilage joint of the pubic bone.

Weather fair and pleasant but still somewhat cool.

Mr. Price Preached at Baptist church from the text "If the Lord be God Serve him; if Baal be God serve him."⁷⁷ Pressed heavily upon the "neutrals." Mail [came] a little afternoon,—Bringing applications for furloughs disapproved—discharge of Harvie. Letter from Dr. Hobbs to send statement of Hospital fund.— Blanks for Monthly Reports & others, 2 circulars pertaining to Med. Dep't. &c.

J. B. Nelson⁷⁸ died of Purpura this P.M. Mr. Wilkes wishes to go to Nash[ville].

Rec'd of Patient McBride 71.55 & Rebel Rags for \$400.⁰⁰ Suthern 11⁰⁰.⁷⁹

Letters from wife of Feb ___ ¼ [page], of March 10th 3—13th 3. From Clara Feb. 23 3, March 12th 2. Jennie March 6 2½—March 12 2. Hila Bennitt March 5th 3½—L. D. Tompkins.

Wrote to wife 4⁸⁰—Hila 3.

Monday, March 21

Weather still fair but cool. Blows up to-night as though about to rain.

Harvie—Discharged left this morn. Lent him 10⁰⁰ as he had not enough to get home with— Col. Gilbert vetoed Wilkes going to Nashville, much to my displeasure, but he is "the powers that be" and I must for the time submit. But he will regret some day such a course. Have a short talk with him.

Send Harvie's description List to Col. Nicholas⁸¹ 2nd Ky. Cavalry: & request him to see that the proper papers are made out.— Capt. Hubbard⁸² called to see me. Had a confidential talk with him about regimental affairs. Storm gathers around the "Head."⁸³ Dr. Trowbridge attends a parturient negress.⁸⁴

Burial of Nelson at 4 P.M.

Made Monthly Report for Feb.

⁷⁷ Josh. 24.

⁷⁸ Private John B. Nelson (ca. 1818-1864) of Trowbridge enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

⁷⁹ McBride (first name unknown) was a scout for the 5th Tennessee Cavalry. Rags (or Wraggs) is not found in Confederate rosters. Possibly Private Southern Monroe of Company G, 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics.

⁸⁰ A letter dated March 20, 1864 was probably lost en route to Centreville, as Bennitt indicates in letter 142.

⁸¹ Thomas P. Nicholas

⁸² Samuel M. Hubbard (born ca. 1829) of Otsego was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in May 1863 and to Captain in June 1863. He would be wounded in action in May 1864 and would be discharged for disability in November 1864.

⁸³ I.e., disaffection with Colonel Gilbert.

⁸⁴ Because childbirth was usually left to the midwife, the attendance of Dr. Trowbridge probably indicates complications with the delivery.

Sergeant Major Russel⁸⁵ came into Hospital to-night. Says he has had bad headache two days.

Paid back \$5⁰⁰ to Capt. Calmer.

No letters.

Tuesday, March 22

Weather cool and cloudy—need an overcoat riding.

Paid Capt. Calmer back \$5.00 because for the 7 days that he was here for Feb. a return has been made and will be charged against his pay account.

Took dinner at Mr. Price's.

Inspected Quarters & kitchens of all the companies and found them in a fair condition with some exceptions.

Have learned that Nelson who died of Purpura Hemorrhagica, Lived on Bacon Bread & Coffee almost wholly.

Major Cliff⁸⁶ called here with a Lieut. He says they are waging a war of extermination against Bushwhackers.

Taxing goes on. There is a suspicion that all is not right about it. The cloud gathers about the Head.

Col. Gilbert says he wants me to take his boy home. Hope I can—no letters.

Wednesday, March 23

Weather very pleasant.

15 men at sick call this morn. Sent one with Ophth[almia?] into Hospital. Have now 26 men of 19 Mich. in Hospital about 10 of them are fully convalescent.

A man of Stokes cavalry that had been sick at Nashville but was going home on furlough lives 10 miles from here,—walked from Manchester—was very tired & was sent here by Col. Gilbert.

No mail.

Thursday, March 24

Weather fair till eve.—is now windy & raining a little.

⁸⁵ George A. Russell (born ca. 1836) of Girard enlisted in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry as Corporal in August 1862. He was promoted to Sergeant Major in March 1864.

⁸⁶ William J. Clift was commissioned Captain in Company C, 5th Tennessee Cavalry in October 1862 and was promoted to Major, probably in late 1863. In April 1864 he would be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and took over command of the regiment from Colonel Stokes.

Made Hospital Reports for to-morrow.

Straightened up my papers—Wrote to Surgⁿ Hobbs, to accompany Monthly Report.

Rece'd Call from Miss Victorine Wade⁸⁷ & Sally—who seemed anxious that I should go home with them to tune the Piano— I partly promised to go down at some time. But I cannot fully trust to those who are enemies to our country.

Friday, March 25

Weather rainy & Shining alternately. So much snow fell on the mountain in front of our window that it did not all disappear on the North side. It is somewhat chilly this eve.

Visited a Negro family up town where are three children with Measles. Three have just had them— One child dead in the house.

Talked with Col. Gilbert concerning Capts. Lincoln, & Thompson, & Lieut. Easton.⁸⁸

Expressed my doubts of the first & last doing anything useful in the service. Col.

Gilbert Lent me \$20.00 without note. Thinks I will get leave of absence & I can then get pay at Nashville or Louisville.

Co. F about to move into Court house.

Col. Gilbert seems ready to leave here now, as he has “collected all the (tax) money he can.”

No mail no news.

Saturday, March 26

Weather very fine indeed.

15 at Sick call. Inspection of Hospital shows a good sanitary condition. Of 54 patients 26 are of the 19th Mich. 20 are fully convalescent—two must die ere long 6 be discharged 9 furloughed & the others recover in the course of a few weeks.

Played ball after dinner.

Mail came in advance of train, brought some Blank Monthly Rep.

S.J.W. Mintzer came late in evening—to inspect Hospital? Stays in our room.

Rumors of movements from here but nothing reliable.

Letters from Surgeon Hobbs concerning turning over Hospital property &c. &c.

Letter from Wife 3 of 17th & 18th.

⁸⁷ Victorine D. Wade (1846-1879) had moved to the McMinnville area after 1860. She married Dr. Benjamin F. Lackey in 1867; he had been Chief Surgeon of the First Cavalry Division in the Confederate army.

⁸⁸ David J. Easton (born ca. 1841) of Coldwater was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 and would be promoted to Captain in May 1864. He twice was wounded in action.

Sunday, March 27, 1864

Weather most lovely.

Sick call but few in attendance. One man Norman Davis⁸⁹ sent into Hospital.

Bible class very well attended with good interest. Prayer meeting to-night. Mr. Price could not preach on account of a bad headache.

Lieut. Wing returned to-day—thinks he lost our letters sent by him on Monday together with Harvies descriptive List, & the letter to Col. Nicholas. Hope it may prove untrue, that they may turn up somewhere.

The letters to wife informed of Lt. C. F's⁹⁰ conduct. The other to Hila—I will write her again soon.

Wrote letter to wife concerning buying house &c. &c.

Letter from wife. She must move. Talks of buying a house—Hattie's better. Letters from the Daughters. 2+2.

Sue Langley⁹¹ at home.

Monday, March 28

Weather terrible windy.

Inspected Hospital with Dr. Mintzer. He damns with faint praise. He Inspected camps of Cos B. & D. and reported them in good condition.

~~Wrote~~ Board of Claims for Citizens⁹² in session here now and applications for allowances for forage & damages are many and large.

Lent Capt. Lincoln Hair Mattress on account of his invalid condition and desire to remain with his company.

Wrote letter to Sister Alzina.

Tuesday, March 29

Weather milder in morn but chilly and cloudy toward night.

Sick call well attended—16.

Inspected with Dr. Mintzer Cos C. E. & F. & G.—in good condition.

⁸⁹ Private Norman Davis (born ca. 1839) of Pokagon enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 and was discharged for disability in December 1862. He reenlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry in December 1863 and joined the regiment in McMinnville in March 1864. He would be again discharged for disability in May 1865.

⁹⁰ I.e., Lieutenant Charles W. Fonda.

⁹¹ Susan B. Langley (born 1832) was the daughter of Thomas W. Langley who was the first settler at site where the village of Centreville was established.

⁹² Boards of Claims reviewed citizen requests for compensation for property destroyed, damaged, requisitioned, or stolen by the Union army. However, only citizens loyal to the Union had the opportunity for such recourse.

Dr. Mintzer asks for board of survey to determine what articles shall be dropped &c. as “worn out” & “used up.”

Visited two Black patients in town— Called with Dr. Mintzer at Mr. Price’s and Mr. Henderson’s—Mr. Price invites us to dinner to-morrow which we accept.— We propose also to see Miss Wade &c in the country four miles.

Wrote letter to Surgⁿ Hobbs.

Wednesday, March 30

Weather cool and cloudy quite chilly.

—20 men at sick call this morn. No severe cases—26 of 19th in Hosp. Acted with Dr. Trowbridge and Lieut. Easton on a board of Survey for Dr. Mintzer.

Took dinner at Mr. Price with Dr. M[intzer].

Issued clothing to men in Hospital—11. I hope it will be the last.

Called with Dr. Mintzer at Mr. Stuart’s to Mrs. & Miss Young & at Mr. Stuart’s to see Miss Wade and Miss Davis.⁹³ Returned at Dusk—a cool but pleasant ride.

Dr. T[rowbridge] is not well, is so disgusted with “Mogul”⁹⁴ as scarcely to treat him civilly.

Train went out into White County.⁹⁵ Foraging to return to-morrow.

No Letters.

Thursday, March 31

Weather fair in morn but cloudy toward night, with wind and some rain late in evening. 20 men at sick call this morn. Try to make Remarks for Monthly Report of sick &c, but was interrupted by call of Ladies & several officers at different times by— Preaching by Mr. Price in evening—not a large number present—but a good sermon.

Called at Mr. Poindexter’s in eve after meeting—Dr. Mintzer being there & Miss Young— Had music &c.

It is so late that I will retire.

Forage train not returned, & therefore—will not go to Murfreesboro to-morrow—. I can have the reports ready in morn.

Reported canonading toward Huntsville Ala.⁹⁶

Report of Bushwhackers not far off.

⁹³ McMinnville residents of which one is possibly Mary L. Davis (born ca. 1845).

⁹⁴ Probably a disparaging nickname for Colonel Gilbert.

⁹⁵ The White County line is approximately twelve miles northwest of McMinnville.

⁹⁶ No military operations took place around Huntsville at this time, although on March 30 there was a minor skirmish at Caperton’s Ferry, Alabama on the Tennessee River.

No letters.

SEVEN

“We Expect To Be Soldiers in Earnest Now”

April - June 1864

DIARY ENTRY

Friday, April 1, 1864

McMinnville Tenn.

Summary of Strength of 19th Mich for March 1864

	<u>P r e s e n t</u>	<u>A b s e n t</u>	<u>P r . & A .</u>
For Duty			
Officers			
Avge.	25	8	34
on 31 st	25	8	34
Enlisted men			
Avge.	628	73	726
on 31 st	642	67	738
Total			
Avge.	653	81	
on 31 st	667	75	
Sick			
	1+25		

Avge.	26	
	1+29	
on 31 st	30	
	Total	Aggregate
Avge.	679	760
on 31 st	697	772

Weather cool & Rains nearly all day.
 Completed monthly & weekly Reports—Ready to send by first mail.
 Forage train due last night has not yet arrived.
 The firing toward Shelbyville is said to be “jubilant.”

Saturday, April 2, 1864

Weather cool & somewhat cloudy.
 14 men at Sick call.
 Forage train came in about 11 A.M. & started for Murfreesboro at 2 P.M. Sent Deaver, Hammons⁹⁷ and a Negro man from Hosp to Regt's. Send by Dr. Mintzer memorandum of wants (see Memorandum).
 Send picture by the hand of Robt McElrath⁹⁸ who is going through Centreville Mich.
 Sent also by him a short letter to my wife & asked him to call and see her.
 Lieut Clark & 3 Privates also went for recruits—Lieut Easton went to Nashville for clothing—Lieut Ford to duty in Ambulance Corps as division commander.
 Hospital inspection showed a good condition.

Sunday, April 3, 1864

Weather warm and fair during the day but cloudy & windy to-night threatening rain.
 Bible Class this morning attended with interest. I hope some good may come of it—
 Preaching at Baptist Church by Haggard⁹⁹ to Negroes—nearly half of the congregation soldiers—But little good can come of such preaching under the circumstances. I have not attended, because I do not like to encourage such a man to preach—
 A good feeling pervaded the prayer meeting to-night.
 5 or 6 patients broken out with an eruption that looks verily like Small-pox.
 O my God preserve me from all sin and keep me in Thy Love!

⁹⁷ Possibly Ephraim M. Deaver of Company F, 2nd Tennessee Cavalry; Willis Hammons was in Company E, 3rd Tennessee Cavalry.
⁹⁸ Robert McElrath (born ca. 1836) of Mendon enlisted as Sergeant in Company K, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.
⁹⁹ Probably an unidentified McMinnville resident.

Wrote 2 page of letter to wife.

Monday, April 4

Rained nearly all day—cool.

15 at Sick call.

Established small-pox Hospital a little out of town & sent five patients to it viz: Kane, Rhinehart, Lovett, Butrick, & Wade.¹⁰⁰ The cases of the last three are modified by previous vaccination. Botzen & Norman Davis—with conjunctivitis but who had had small-pox volunteered as nurses. Geo. Lee¹⁰¹ of Co A. detailed as nurse for small-pox. One more will be necessary. There are 5 other cases in Hosp here that promise to be mild varioloid, and one that came in to-night of Stokes Cavalry is doubtful. This last has never been vaccinated.

Lt. Reynolds sent in Abstracts of Issues to Hospital for March all right—nearly— Mess pans of Q[uartern] M[aster] for Small-pox Hosp.

Finished letter to wife (3) and sent it by Adjt Aldrich¹⁰² 17th U.S.Co[lore]d.

Tuesday, April 5

Weather cool & cloudy rather raw and unpleasant.

Lieut. Fonda left Hospital yesterday owing our mess 8.25 which he will pay when paymaster comes.

McBride the Tennessee Scout brought in wounded in the Back on the died early yesterday morn.— Autopsy showed that the ball—a small one—had entered the back 3 inches from mesian line on right side, pass nearly horizontally toward the spine fracturing the Lamina of the 3rd Lumbar vertebra on right side—tearing through spinal marrow, nearly severing it lodged partly between the laminae of the 2nd & 3rd Lumbar ver. on left side— Abdominal viscera congested near injury— No effort to heal.—

No train to-night nor mail.

I feel rather miserable physically.

¹⁰⁰ In the 23rd Missouri Infantry there were two privates whose surname was Cain: George L. and John M., both of Company E. Private Emanuel Rhinehart (born ca. 1828) of Niles enlisted in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry in December 1863 and would be wounded in action at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia in July 1864. There were two privates with the surname Lovett in the 23rd Missouri Infantry: Alexander of Company C and Joshua of Company I. Private William L. Butrick (born ca. 1844) of Keeler enlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry in January 1864. James W. Wade enlisted in Company A, 23rd Missouri Infantry.

¹⁰¹ Private George Lee (born ca. 1823) of Keeler enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

¹⁰² Lieutenant Job H. Aldrich of Company G, 17th U.S. Colored Infantry.

Wednesday, April 6

Weather Very Pleasant and mild.

Saw on the 4th a Lieut. of Stokes Cavalry who said he would convey to his mother the intelligence of the death of McBride. He was buried yesterday with military honors.

Has no effects here except cash \$71.⁵⁵

15 men at sick call to-day.

Train returned from Murfreesboro. Mail in Ambulance—Circulars from Hobbs conc[erning] reorganizing Med. Dept.—Sevl Orders & Communications from Surgⁿ Gen. Office & Med. Dirc—Surgⁿ Perin orders discontinuance of this Hosp.— It will be some time first on account of Small-Pox.— Furloughs for 8 men, asked for 3 & 4 weeks ago ordered to be granted— My application disapproved by Gen Ward & returned by Gen Howard—Col Gilbert will send it direct to Gen Thomas—Capt Lincoln's Pap[ers] R[ecieved?].

Good letter from Mrs. Smith¹⁰³ of Mar. 24.

From Wife of Mar. 23 & 26th.

“ Clara, & Jennie

“ Jas^s Harris

A. Chaplain—Webb¹⁰⁴ from Kalamazoo Rec.

Thursday, April 7, 1864

Weather pleasant & spring-like.

15 men at sick call. One came into Hosp.—Dugan¹⁰⁵ of Co. B.

Small-Pox moving on regularly—no more cases manifest.

Capt. Lincoln's resignation return without being approved for that it was not stated in the certificate that he was or not physically suitable for the Invalid Corps.—I added this that he is Suitable & shall send it back without exhibiting it to Col. Gilbert. Capt.

better stay where he is.

Prayer meeting to-night. Well attended—6 or 8 Ladies present. Some of them fast, it is said.

Have written 6 pages of a letter to wife.

Friday, April 8

¹⁰³ Harriett T. Smith (born ca. 1819) was the wife of Perrin M. Smith, Bennitt's attorney.

¹⁰⁴ Webb (first name unknown) was affiliated with the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo, but he was not appointed Chaplain to the 19th Michigan. Bennitt gives more details about this man to Lottie in letter 145.

¹⁰⁵ Jeremiah Dugan (born ca. 1838) of Martin enlisted as Sergeant in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

Weather fair and pleasant.

Rumors of the 19th to be relieved by the 23. Mo.

Visited Small-Pox Hospital—Vaccinate men in Co “B.” & order them to report in a week.

Obtained a vaccine crust from one of them which seems good.

Make Post Report for five weeks and Monthly return of Med. Officers on duty at Post for March to Surg^a Perin— Weekly Reports for Hospital & Regiment— Inspect five companies' quarters &c.

Called to see Mrs. Price sick.

Took Supper at Dr. Armstrong's. Col. Gilbert, Major Griffin,¹⁰⁶ a clerk, & Mr.

Spurlock,¹⁰⁷ Citizen & the Ladies—Music &c. till 10 P.M.

Signed triplicate enlistment papers for 35 of Capt. Cliff's men.

Saturday, April 9

Weather fair but windy till near night when it rains.

13 men at sick call. 27 in Hospital. But little sickness that is severe.

Ranney returned the \$5⁰⁰ let him two days ago.— He drew from the Commissary for purchases for sick \$75⁰⁰.

Ext[racted] tooth for Miss Cliff¹⁰⁸— Vis[ited] Mrs. Price—much better—

Dorcas Colored woman in Hospital died to-day.

Appointed Choir meeting at Capt. Cliff's but on account of rain none were there, but Daniels & I. We sung an hour and a half.

Col. Gilbert, His Son & Major Griffin took dinner with us. They inspected Hospital. All in good order.

Forage train still out.

Two Bushwhackers were brought in by Baldwin's¹⁰⁹ Cavalry.

Sunday, April 10

Weather rainy & fair alternately—rather cool.

12 men at sick call—none bad.

¹⁰⁶ Eli A. Griffin (1833?-1864) of Niles was commissioned as Captain in Company A, 6th Michigan Infantry in June 1861. He resigned in July 1863, but reentered service in October 1863 as Major in the 19th Michigan Infantry. He would die from wounds received at Golgotha Church, Georgia in June 1864.

¹⁰⁷ At this time there were at least four Spurlocks in the mercantile trade as well as one lawyer by that name residing in McMinnville or environs.

¹⁰⁸ Probably one of the five daughters of Captain James Clift, 5th Tennessee Cavalry.

¹⁰⁹ Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver L. Baldwin commanded the 5th Kentucky Cavalry which at this time was part of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Department of the Cumberland.

J. Goodwin¹¹⁰ came in last night at 12 with severe cramps & urticaria¹¹¹ from Indigestion. Better to-day.

Bible class attended with interest.

To-day the Forage train returned—otherwise no work has been done by the men except necessary picket. One Sabbath in the army; a thing uncommon in the 19th Mich.

Prayer meeting to-night full: We are hungry for the truth. O that we had a good Chaplain. May God send us one, that will be faithful, & instrumental in leading many to Christ.

Autopsy of black Dorcas' body—Peritonitis from Ovaritis—ulceration of Cervex Uteri—Hydatids in ovarum—Pus &c. Left enlarged three times. Metritis. Membrana Caduca. Col. Gilbert sent the 7 furloughs filled out for the 12th.

Monday, April 11

Weather rainy.

Made Discharge papers for 5 men. Vogan—Garrett—Martin, Youngner—& Carter¹¹²—Wrote letter to Surgeon Hobbs—& copy—wrote note to accompany Capt. Lincoln's resignation papers.

Worked these till very late (11) & did not accomplish all I wanted to.

Back reports are sent in except Quarterly of Surgical operations.

We are now in 1st A[rmy] C[orps].¹¹³

Westerfield sick—possibly with varioloid.

Tuesday, April 12

Weather fair and cloudy & rainy mixed—pleasant to-night.

20 men at sick call—none severely sick.

7 men left Hospital on 30days furlough—1 Tennessean went to Murfreesboro to join part of his command said to be at Shelby.

Two 19th Mich men Returned to duty— Westerfield more comfortable—no eruptions.

Visited Small-Pox Hospital—doing well there. Vis[ited] Camps of Co.s A.

Steward went with train to Murfreesboro to get Sanitary stores. Lieut. Easton returned to-night.

¹¹⁰ Private Joseph Goodwin (born ca. 1837) of Nottawa enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would be wounded at Allatoona, Georgia in May 1864.

¹¹¹ An intense allergic reaction marked by swollen patches of skin usually caused by food or medication.

¹¹² Perhaps one of the five Private Martins in the 23rd Missouri Infantry; possibly Private Sidney Carter of Company F, 23rd Missouri Infantry; Youngner cannot be identified.

¹¹³ The 19th Michigan Infantry remained in the 20th Army Corps for the rest of the war.

A trip to Beersheba¹¹⁴ is proposed for to-morrow to return the following day.

Wednesday, April 13, 1864

Weather very pleasant all day.

Leaving Dr. Trowbridge of Hosp. I went to Beersheeba with a party consisting of 5 young Ladies, Col. Gilbert, Sutler, Capt. Baker¹¹⁵ an[d] Baldwin,¹¹⁶ Adjt Brown,¹¹⁷ Lt. Wing, & 20 mounted men—Pal[?]¹¹⁸—& one negro, & James Gilbert.¹¹⁸ Ambulance accompanied— Took our own food by the way. Was very Hospitably entertained by Col. Armfield and Mr. French,¹¹⁹ and shown the places of interest by them— These Springs are fine but need Yankee enterprise to make the matter pay after the war is over.

One Lady thrown from a horse sprained her ankle—one man kicked on knee— We were five and a half hours riding up. Very very pleasant.

Thursday, April 14

Weather promised rain to-night otherwise a fine day for the visit to the “Stone Door” & other places of interest— Here is some of the grandeur of nature in vast upheavals of mountains, & then breaking them to pieces, and reducing the material to soil suited to growth of vegetation. Col. Gilbert on account of ill health remained at Col. Armfield’s. The ambulance accompanied us though the road was rough. Stopped at Laurel Creek Falls—Small Stream falls in a beautiful sheet about 50 feet. Chalybeate Spring (58°) near by.¹²⁰ Conglomerate Sandstone.

¹¹⁴ Beersheba Springs is located about eighteen miles south-southeast of McMinnville.

¹¹⁵ John J. Baker (born ca. 1835) of Sturgis was commissioned Captain in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He would be promoted to Major in June 1864 and would be wounded at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia in July 1864. He would be promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in October 1864 and would be discharged in May 1865 because of disability.

¹¹⁶ Captain Frank D. Baldwin.

¹¹⁷ Henry M. Brown (born ca. 1833) of St. Joseph was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 and was commissioned Adjutant in May 1863. He would be wounded at Resaca, Georgia in May 1864 and would resign because of disability in October 1864.

¹¹⁸ Colonel Gilbert’s son.

¹¹⁹ Colonel Armfield was a resident of McMinnville. Probably J. H. French (born ca. 1819), a McMinnville farmer.

¹²⁰ Bennitt and his companions visited an area of sublime natural beauty about twenty miles south-southeast of McMinnville, with many scenic waterfalls and dramatic gorges. The Stone Door is a gap a few feet wide in the 150-foot rock face above Laurel Creek. Fortunately the “Yankee enterprise” that Bennitt wished for did not materialize, so the area has remained relatively free from developers and today attracts hikers and rock climbers.

Indian Legend. Bear Story of Mr. French—Heard Cannonading. Returned to Beersheba at 11½ & started for home at 12—with a lunch from Mrs. Armfield. Arr'd at 4¼— Pretty tired— Prayer meeting well att with good interest—Sunday School?

Friday, April 15

Weather somewhat cloudy—quite cool needed fire all day in room.

Feel somewhat sore from ride yesterday—17 men at sick call— Vis[ited] Small-Pox all doing well.

Called on Mrs. Poindexter & vaccinated her boy.

Mr. Westerfield still quite ill severe axillary Pain. Origin obscure.

Train returned from Murfreesboro to-day— Steward could get no Sanitary stores. None there.

Letter asking concerning W^m Eckels referred with remarks to Surgⁿ Clemens¹²¹—17th U.S. Col'd Troops.

Letter from Enoch Evans.¹²² Apr. 2. 4 [pages]

Letter from Clara of Apr. 2—4 [pages]

Letter from Jennie " 2 4

Letters from wife of March 31st 3

" " " Apr 2 3

Saturday, April 16, 1864

Weather cool & cloudy.

Made weekly reports of Hosp Post & Regiment.

Westerfield the Clerk very sick.

Finished letter to Jennie 6

Wrote letter to Lottie 3

Mail in morn.

Sunday, April 17

Weather still rather cool little rain to-night.

8 men at sick call.

Bible Class larger than usual interest good.

¹²¹ Possibly Private Henry Eckles of Company F, 17th U.S. Colored Infantry. Phineas H. Clemons was Surgeon in that regiment.

¹²² Enoch Evans (born ca. 1833) was the son of Centreville farmer Spencer Evans and his wife Esther.

Visited Small-Pox with Dr. T[errowbridge]. Mr. Westerfield very Dangerously ill from Septic poisoning?

Prayer meeting to-night well attended with good interest. Third meeting appointed for this week.

Mr. Poindexter did not preach to-day as expected.

Rumor of marching orders.

Lieut. Willett¹²³ of the Engineers Dept returned to Murfreesboro to-day taking the mail. Wrote long letter to Mrs. P.M. Smith 8 [pages].

Monday, April 18

Weather cool & showery.

14 men at sick call—39 sick in Hospital—23 of them of 19th Mich.

Information reliable that we will go to the front soon.

Steward began to take an account of property preparatory to transferring it to my successor.

All seem sorry to have us leave. I am willing to go at the call of duty.

Mrs. & Mr. Poindexter called to see us. Seem quite friendly & loyal.

Wrote to Surgⁿ C. W. Horner¹²⁴ U.S.V. in Ch[arge?] Hosp No.1 Nash^{le} for Mullican.¹²⁵

Westerfield is very very sick. Prog[nosis] grave, but some hope yet.

Wednesday, April 20, 1864

Weather very pleasant—a little cool. Bright moonshine to-night.

10 men at sick call.

All our men including small-pox patients, except Sales¹²⁶—are prepared to leave Hospital to-morrow on Light duty and march. We march to Cowan Tenn by easy marches— Receipts & Invoices nearly complete.

Letter from Surgeon Gen. concerning returning property to Med. Purveyor. Order from Adj. Gen. to make Post Return of Hospital for Feb. &c.

Called in Eve. at Capt. Clift's & Dr. Armstrong's—music—very pleasant.

Some work yet to be ready to start by noon.

Did not sleep till 3 o'clock this morn. Send to Nashville for 2 letters.

¹²³ Willett possibly was in one of the three battalions of the Pioneer Brigade, Engineer Troops attached to the Department of the Cumberland at this time.

¹²⁴ Caleb W. Horner of Pennsylvania was first appointed Assistant Surgeon in November 1862.

¹²⁵ Possibly Isaac Mullican of Company D, 51st Illinois Infantry which was part of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 4th Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland.

¹²⁶ Private Benjamin C. Sayles.

Letter from wife. Had not seen the "picture." Talks of buying Mr. Pierce's House.
Write letter to wife 4

Thursday, April 21

Near Hickory Creek 9½ miles S.W. McMinnville Tenn.

Weather very fair till 4 P.M. rain a little just before dark.

Left McMinnville at 9 AM. amid the expressed regrets of the people. Took till 11 to get across the river—reached here at 3½ PM.— Many waded the creek here 1 ft deep.

Several in attempting to ride fell into the water. Camp seems pleasant—men in good spirits. All came except Sales. Lodge 10 invalids in Hospital tent a few at a house.

Capt. Lincoln came 4 miles and went back.

Our march has been easy but many are foot sore!

Left Tent & Fly at McM[innville] bought 3 blankets more than was designed.

Left the letter to my wife at McMinnville—go to-morrow.

Friday, April 22

Hillsboro Tenn. 10 miles S.E. of Manchester—15 miles East of Tullahoma 18 miles N.E. of Cowan—22 miles S.W. of McMinnville. A place on sandy plains 3 or 4 miles from the mountains— Once had about 30 families now about 15 men in both armies— Town fast falling to ruin—no business now, once 3 stores— Have a school now of 25 to 30 scholars.

We had marched about 13 miles over a level country beside a mountain range— Has been a fine country—once a large portion "Barrens"—without trees—now has a growth of vigorous Chestnut, Hickory, Red Oak, Dogwood &c.— For a wonder we saw a live Tennessee school.

Day has been fine—a little dusty. Promises rain before morn.

Took a plunge bath in a small stream—& felt invigorated thereby.

Retire early.

Saturday, April 23, 1864

Camp 19th Mich 4 miles North of Cowan Tenn.

Weather has been fair all day a little cloudy— To-night windy with promise of rain.

Camp on low ground beside a brook. Have marched 14 miles a little east of south. Men have stood the march well. Road mostly good— Forded ~~the~~ Duck River 2½ feet deep.

Negroes men women & children followed us this morn—Rebel master came to camp for them be[fore] we started—and was obliged to come on too as a prisoner. Has been recruiting for Rebel army lately. Hope he may suffer for it.

Negroes without any covering.

Forage short—must go into Cowan in the morn for food for man and beast.

Wrote letter to wife 3¾ so as to send it as soon as we get to R.R.

Sunday, April 24

Camp of 19th Mich. I. Vols. Cowan Tenn.—

Weather rainy in the morning, but became fair about 9 A.M. little rain again to-night.

Marched 4 miles to this place arriving about 11 A.M.— 33 Ind. is out of our Brigade & 20th Conn.—Col. Ross—in its stead. Supposed to be for the purpose of being rid of Col.

Coburn. Camped near two very fine springs. Called on Surgⁿ Terry¹²⁷ for information,

but he has not given me any. Colonel G[ilbert] sent to Deckard¹²⁸ for Commissary

Supplies— Telegraphed for a pay master— Await the coming of the 22 Wis. & 85 Ind.

Col. Ross com[mands] 2nd Brig. Gen. Butterfield Div. 3rd—Gen. Hooker Corps 20th.

There has been so much of commotion that it has not seemed like Sunday—

Nevertheless God Has not forgotten us— I was sick in morn feel well to-night—

Pleasantly situated.

Added little to the letter to wife and sent them North.

Monday, April 25

Camp 19th Mich Cowan Tenn.

Weather fair but rather windy. Cool to-night but quiet. Moon rises clear about 10½ PM.

Sent to their respective commanding officers the descriptive Rolls of [?] James Duff, Co.

G. 19 O[hio] V.I.— A. McCoy & J. Coy of 99th O[hio] V.I.— A. Love of 72nd Ind. Vols Inf. & Willis Hammons 3rd Tenn E. Cav.

Made Certificates of Disability for Capt. Lincoln & Lieut. Hale.¹²⁹

Send—6 men & Lieut McLachlin¹³⁰ via Rail R. to Bridgeport. (11 P.M. They were unable to get on because the train was so full.)

Ordered to march at 7 AM. in morn. We are nearly ready.

¹²⁷ J. Wadsworth Terry was Surgeon to the 20th Connecticut Infantry Regiment.

¹²⁸ I.e., Decherd, Tennessee. This town is located about five miles west northwest of Cowan and was the junction of the Fayetteville and Nashville & Chattanooga railroads.

¹²⁹ Alonzo Hale (born ca. 1833) of Kalamazoo was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company F, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would resign because of disability in May 1864.

¹³⁰ Archibald McLachlin (1828?-1890) of Bangor enlisted in Company G, 19th Michigan Infantry as Sergeant in August 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in January 1863 and would resign because of disability in May 1864.

We expected mail to-night but received none.

We may be paid at Bridgeport.

Written no letters.

Tuesday, April 26

Camp 19th Mich 12 miles s.e. of Cowan Tenn. 18 miles north of Bridgeport Alabama.

Weather has been very fine to-day.

Started at 8 A.M.—leaving 7 sick & lame men to go by R.R. among them Lieut.

McLachlin— Took till 11 AM to climb the mountain which winds for about 4 miles up the rocky side. Limestone below—new red sandstone at top— Road comp[letely] level & sandy after that—on an elevated rolling country—trunk[?] Chestnut considered a desert here.— Plenty of good water now. Camp by side of a nice brook—very pleasant. Fire in woods.— Men have endured march better than was expected, & we have come farther than was the design, that we might reach here. Ambulances came up Mount nearly empty.— I feel well but not active—a little billious.

Wednesday, April 27, 1864

Camp 19 Mich. V.I. on Battle Creek 7 miles North of Bridgeport Alabama.

Weather has been delicious, promise of rain—

Came down mountain a thousand feet high into this narrow but rich valley—two miles of descent through Sandstone—Clay Shale into Limestone—fine springs & streams on the mountain side—rest by Big Blue Spring at noon for an hour and a half—follow down the valley at the south side. Camping at 3¾ distant 11 miles from start nights camp. Good bathing privileges well improved after the somewhat dusty march—health improving of the men. Several left at Cowan to seek easier marching. They'll find harder [marching].

Wrote letter to Clara 8 p to send on arriving at R.R.

Thursday, April 28

Camp 19th Mich V.I 2 miles North East of Bridgeport Alabama.

Weather fair and warm—Rained a little last night which made marching much more pleasant.

Started a little before 8 AM. 58 men at sick call—none sick however.

Mar[ched] down Battle Creek valley three miles, and down the Tennessee 4 miles.

Arr[ived] at Bridgeport about noon, took dinner with Surgeon Longshore¹³¹ of 28 147

¹³¹ William R. Longshore

Pa. in Brigade Hospital. Very fine. Found our men sent by R.R. at Conv[alescent] Camp, bro't them along.— Bo't bus[hel] Potatoes—24 lbs Ham for Mess \$4.00. Rec'd of W^m Harvie Cash \$10.00 &c.

Could learn nothing useful—shall keep what things I have till ordered to turn them over.

Cross the Tenn. on two Pontoon Bridges. Old Bridgeport burned—new of Tents.

R[ecieved?] Fletcher's¹³² letter—Q.M. Gen.

Deaver's description Roll.

Rec'd letters from wife & Clara.

Sent the letter to Clara last night to P.O.

Friday, April 29, 1864

Camp 19th Mich. 12 miles from Bridgeport 14 from Chattanooga in a narrow valley near Whiteside mountains.

Weather has been very fine to-day.

Large number dead mules on the roadside— Passed under high cliffs along the Tenn. River.

Passed a squad of Mich Engineers a mile from here at a Rail Road Bridge 125 [feet] high— A very fine stream of water falls from the rocks of the mountainside, here and disappears again in a few feet—

Dr. T[rowbridge] Kirkwood¹³³ & myself went to top of mountain to Coal mines (not worked now)—Coal stratum from 1 foot to 3½ feet deep. The mountain is about 2000 ft high above our camp. Coal within two or three hundred feet of the top.

Sent my letter written last night of six pages to wife.

No mail.

Saturday, April 30

Lookout Valley—Camp 19th Mich.

Weather rainy last night and to-day fair since 2 P.M. but Lightning with promise of rain to-night.

Found road very rough & slippery to-day—men have had opportunity to dry clothes— some have pine boughs to sleep on— Health of Regiment better than when we started from McMinnville— We are 2 miles N.E. of Gen. Hookers Hd-Qrs—

¹³² I.e., Sergeant Major Fletcher E. Marsh.

¹³³ Probably Alexander Kirkwood (born ca. 1835) of Cass County enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 as Corporal. He was promoted to 1st Sergeant in November 1863 and would be commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company I in November 1864. He would be wounded at Cassville, Georgia in May 1864.

I took dinner with Surgeon Grinstead¹³⁴ U.S.V. Med Direc of Gen. Butterfield's Div. He may prove (?) to be all that is required. I get no satisfactory information from him.

We march to front without any Reg. wagons. We look up to Lookout Mountain whose summit is about 4 miles in a direction almost due South. It is 2900 ft high above the Tenn. R. 20th Conn. camped opposite side of valley.

Paid Col. Gilbert all I owed him \$20⁰⁰.

Recd letter from wife & Jennie. Arr. 21st.

Sunday, May 1, 1864

Camp 19th Mich Lookout Valley.

Weather fair—a little cool to-night.

But few men at sick call.

I thought to spend the sabbath as a Holy day. Wrote a letter to my wife before dinner, and heard a little after that we would march in the morn, thought it best to be doing something. Went to Div Head Qrs. & found that the order did not apply to our Brigade— Met there Surgⁿ Hobbs—Called on Surgⁿ Hovey¹³⁵ of 3rd Brigade. I shall turn over the medical wagon & contents to Med. Purveyor at Chattanooga.

We shall have no transportation for private baggage. It is to be left at Bridgeport Tenn.¹³⁶

Met Surgⁿ Hatchard of 22nd Wis. Col. Utley &c.¹³⁷ T.G. Turner.¹³⁸

It is supposed that we shall move in two or three days to meet the enemy.

Wrote letter to wife 4½ & sent it.

Monday, May 2

Camp 19th Mich. V.I.

Lookout Valley Tenn.

Weather fair but cool & windy.

Called on Surgⁿ Hobbs for instructions. Went to Chattanooga and turned over Hospital wagon & contents to Asst Surgⁿ Ridgeley¹³⁹ U.S.V. Med. Purveyor—but got no receipts they are to be sent.

¹³⁴ William Grinstead was Surgeon-in-Chief, 3rd Division, 20th Corps.

¹³⁵ Bleeker L. Hovey (born 1817) was Brigade Surgeon to the 3rd Brigade.

¹³⁶ I.e., Bridgeport, Alabama.

¹³⁷ Thomas Hatchard of Milwaukee was commissioned 1st Assistant Surgeon in the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry in September 1863 and was promoted to Surgeon in April 1864. William L. Utley of Racine was commissioned Colonel in the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry in July 1862 and would resign because of disability in July 1864.

¹³⁸ Timothy G. Turner of Coldwater joined the 19th Michigan Infantry as Quartermaster in November 1862 and would resign later in May 1864 due to disability.

Took memorandum receipt for Capt. Lincoln's chest in which I had some books—will cost 9.75 to get it home—beautiful view from Lookout road.

Marching orders for 6 in morn. Called on Dr. Hobbs for instructions.

Letter from Deaver—answer sending him \$10⁰⁰ for Ed. Tallman—Wilkes.

Expect to see the enemy soon. God preserve our souls.

Wife has bought Mr. Pierces House \$1000. Letter from wife of Apr 24th & 26th & Clara of 24th.

Tuesday, May 3

Camp 2nd Brigade 3rd Division 9 miles south of Chattanooga in Ga— Weather has been fine.

Brigade broke camp early & were on the march a little before 7.¹⁴⁰ Matters were not a condition of perfect organization and hence did not work without friction. As Brig[ade] Officer of day, I took charge of Ambulance train—took more men to Gen field Hospital by 20 than were designated—of 19th Mich 12 viz. P. Shepard, B. Fuller—Poppino Bristol, Depue—Hanks, H. Wells, S. Philips—Eastman—West.¹⁴¹ Was obliged to go to Chattanooga for an order to admit them.

¹³⁹ Possibly Thomas H. Ridgely who was appointed Assistant Surgeon in August 1862. He was also Surgeon in the 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment.

¹⁴⁰ The Atlanta campaign began with General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820-1891) making preliminary movements with his 100,000-man force. It was organized into three parts: Army of the Cumberland, consisting of the 4th, 14th, 20th Army Corps and Cavalry Corps; Army of the Tennessee, made up of the 15th, 16th, and 17th Army Corps; and Army of the Ohio containing only the 23rd Army Corps. The Confederate army under General Joseph E. Johnston (1807-1891), amounting to approximately 55,000 men, was in defensive positions around Dalton.

¹⁴¹ Although Bennitt indicates twelve soldiers of the 19th Michigan Infantry were sent to the hospital, he only mentions ten: Private Purly Shepard (1834?-1864) of Silver Creek enlisted in Company A in August 1862 and would die of disease in October 1864; Private Benjamin Fuller (1842?-1864) of Matteson enlisted in Company H in August 1862 and would die of disease in July 1864; Corporal John H. Poppino (born ca. 1822) of Sturgis enlisted in Company E in August 1862; Private Leaman W. Bristol (born ca. 1830) of Constantine enlisted in Company D in August 1862; Private William A. Depew (born ca. 1844) of Sodus enlisted in Company I in August 1862; Private Oliver P. Hanks (born ca. 1833) of Adamsville enlisted in Company E in August 1862; Private Henry E. Walls (born ca. 1830) enlisted in Company G in January 1864 and would be discharged for disability in October 1864; Private Samuel H. Phillips (born ca. 1831) enlisted in Company D in August 1862; Private Jefferson W. Eastman (born ca. 1841) of Coldwater enlisted in Company H in August 1862. West is either Private Alonzo West (born ca. 1842) of Sturgis who enlisted in Company E in December 1863 or Private Charles H. West (1841?-1864) of Quincy who enlisted in Company C in August 1862 and would die of wounds at Resaca, Georgia in May 1864.

Overtook Brigade after about 3 miles march— Whole march 12 miles—around base of Lookout—Through “Mission[ary] Ridge.” Camped on Chickamauga Battle field— Remains of men still unburied or only ½ covered.
Report to Surgⁿ Hobbs—days march.

Wednesday, May 4, 1864

Camp 19th Mich. V.I. 2 miles South West Ringold Ga.

Weather fine.

Whole Divis. camped in Line [of] Battle. 14th A[rmy] C[orps] at Ringold on our left advancing toward Tunnel Hill. 1st Div. 20th A[rmy] C[orps] on our right.

Surgⁿ Terry 20th Ct. Med. Off[icer of the] Day.

Ambulance train nearly full. Sergt Butler¹⁴² severely sick variolous? Left at house just in rear.

Enemy supposed to be beyond the ridge that is about a mile in front of & stretching a S.E. & about 1200 ft high narrow on top steep on North side sloping more on N.E. side.

Smoke of Rebel Camps—Ridge said to have been occupied by Rebel Pickets till now.

Sent Deaver’s letter with the \$10⁰⁰ in it.

Wrote letter to wife.

Thursday, May 5

Camp 19th Mich V.I. 2nd Brig 3rd Div 20th A.C. near Ringold, Ga.

Weather fine—rather warm in middle of day—

Whole Regiment ordered on Pickett on the Ridge. Dr. T[rowbridge] & I went up—too steep to ride up—I see smoke of Rebel Camps 3 to 6 miles off—& 14th A.C. moving through Gap—Rebs appear to fall back.— It is said that Reb Cav. chased our pickets down the hill last night (?).

I came down just before ~~dark~~ night and sent Blankets and provisions to Dr.

T[rowbridge] & Tallman who remain on ridge to-night. View of “Buzzard’s Roost”¹⁴³ from top of Ridge.

Friday, May 6

¹⁴² Henry Butler (born ca. 1841) of Union enlisted in Company D, 1st Michigan Infantry in April 1861 for three months; upon discharge reenlisted as Sergeant in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He had been wounded at Thompson’s Station in March 1863.

¹⁴³ Buzzard Roost Gap was a notch in Rocky Face Ridge through which the Western & Atlantic Railroad ran from Chattanooga to Dalton. It had been strongly fortified by the Confederates.

Camp 19th Mich V.I. 2nd Br. 3 Div. 20 A.C. Leech's Tannery or Pea-Vine Church.
3 Divisions of 20 A.C. Camped in Line of Battle beside 16 A.C. on ~~left~~ right & 14th on left. 50,000 men in all.

We leave all Wheels except Ambulance & Supply trains to-morrow. 1st Div through Nichagook Gap—3rd through Gordon's Gap 6 miles S.W. & 2nd through Madix Gap still farther S.W.¹⁴⁴ Cavalry precede at 12 midnight 2nd Div at 2 A.M.—3rd at Daylight. We sent back to Ringold Buttrick of [Co.] I. Cooper¹⁴⁵ of [Co.] I & Lieut Hale.

Saturday, May 7

Camp 20th A.C. Ceresco Church Ga.

Weather fine. Roads rather dusty.

Many men fall out because of our rapid march through Gordon's Gap—to this place about 14 miles—

19th [Michigan] fell out less than others—only 3 riding in Ambulance.

Nearly whole Corps passed Taylor's Ridge to-day & we encamp in line of Battle. 2nd Brig. on Ridge expecting to meet the enemy as the[y] left here hurriedly this morn.

Reported to be in the valley beyond, 50,000 strong, near "Buzzard's Roost."

Inefficiency of Med. Director of Div. Industry of Surgⁿ Hobbs.

Very few of men who rode in Ambulances are much sick. Hosp. in House near-by—roomy but without windows.

Sunday, May 8

Weather pleasant & warm.

No attack last night—our picket shot another—misunderstanding—1st Div. near us—Slept with Drs. Hobbs & Wiles¹⁴⁶—& Ranney & Dix¹⁴⁷ in Shelter tents.

We are ordered out this morn but it was Countermanded, & the 3rd Brig went instead,—toward "Buzzard's Roost" to try to draw the enemy out, firing both with musketry & Cannon in that direction as I write in Camp (?)

¹⁴⁴ The 20th Army Corps, with the Army of the Tennessee, comprised the center of Sherman's forces as they advanced on Dalton. Nickajack Gap, Gordon's Gap, and Maddox (or Ship's) Gap are passes through Taylor's Ridge which is located to the west of Dalton.

¹⁴⁵ Private Asbury (or Ambrose) Cooper (born ca. 1844) of Jeffersonville enlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry in December 1863. He would transfer to Company K, 10th Michigan Infantry in June 1865.

¹⁴⁶ William V. Wiles was commissioned Assistant Surgeon to the 85th Indiana Infantry in September 1862.

¹⁴⁷ Private Edward E. Dix (born ca. 1840) of Bainbridge joined company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

5 P.M. I hoped we would rest to-day entirely, in honor of God's Law, and our own good after the fatiguing of the week. Will He smile upon us if we disregard His Commandments? May He forgive us.

Four men of 3rd Brig. wounded, Skirmishing— Came in later—one face 1 arm 1 thigh one leg. All but first flesh [wounds].

Monday, May 9 1864

Camp 20 AC Ceresco Church Ga.

Weather warm rather dusty.

I attending to Brigade or Div. Hospital—spent part of the day in Regtl Camp—broke up Hosp. at 8 to 10 PM. and joined the 19th which with the rest of the Brig is under arms to move Front—at a moment's notice.— Lie down to rest fully equipped.

This has been a day of some work, but I do not feel that my whole duty has been discharged.

O my God strengthen me for every duty to Thee & to all around.

Began a letter to my wife, but wrote only a few lines when the order came to break up Hosp.

Tuesday, May 10

Camp 19th Mich opposite Dalton Ga—3 miles distant over the ridge.

Weather a little rainy—

Moved from the ridge where we were encamped, with the 20th Conn. on a reconaissance,—at 1½ A.M. and arrived at this point—3 miles distant from point of departure—at daylight found, the rebels posted in some force on a ridge between us and Dalton—took coffee—put out Pickets—at 10 A.M. firing at base of ridge—& word came that Serg't Bunbury was wounded in thigh hurried to front and found comminuted fract[ure] of thigh—sent him to rear after dressing—need an ambulance—

Rebs, come down ridge to some extent—We camp on the ridge ~~de~~ on or rear, without fire or light that we may not show our position—rain threatens. Bed of straw & husks.

Recd letters from Jennie & Clara of May 1st. Write more in letter to wife. Wife at Orland Ind.

Wednesday, May 11

Camp on Quartz Ridge 2¾ miles East of Buzzard's Roost—

Rained pretty hard during night is cool this morn.

Firing at the Roost both of Canon & musketry brisk since 6 o'clock (now 8)— We are under arms to march at a moment's notice, or ready to fight— I feel less terror of Battle

than ever hitherto. The impression prevails that we shall be victorious here and our men are feeling well. I hope the shedding of much blood may not be necessary. May God forgive the wrong, giving true penitence, & set us all right before Him.

Marched just before noon—passed 2nd & 1st Div of 20th Corps, 4 miles into Snake Creek Gap—cool weather— Road rough & muddy— Camped at 6½ in cornfield—among tall dead trees— Met 48 Rebel prisoners—they looked clean.

One man rode 4 miles in an Ambulance.

Thursday, May 12

Camp 20th A.C. Snake Creek Gap.

Weather very cool & airy.

Slept cold but feel well this morn.

13 men at sick call—none much sick.

March at 1 P.M.—1st Division passed us before we started. Between two and three miles brings us to the end of Snake Creek Gap. Near the gap we all camp as a “reserve,” McPherson’s army being in front pushing the Rebs towards Resaca. Reb[s] have evacuated the ridge on our right ie to the North. 4 men of the 16th Corps brought back to their Hosp. at this place that were wounded in skirmishing to-day—one killed—others missing. Signal lights on ridge North & N.E.

Receipt of Purveyor Ridgely. Letter from Deaver. Rec’d letter from wife at Orland.

Friday, May 13

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Before Resaca Ga.

Weather during day pleasant.

Moved at daylight toward enemy—Div formed in line of battle after proceeding about two miles towards Resaca—& remained till noon. Moved on then saw Gens. Thomas, Hooker, Sherman, Whipple, Butterfield, &c.

Variety of orders concerning Panniers going to field— Our Div form on hill—

McPherson’s army on right & in front, skirmishing briskly—Canonading somewhat.

Rebs fall back to R.R.—Disable engine. Occupy ground—I vis[ited] Brig in field late at night Dr. Jewett¹⁴⁸ accompanying me. Many of 15 A.C. wounded in skirmishing—shell cut through tree nearly over my head. Sergt Maj Russel & Dr. T[rowbridge] with me. It is supposed that Rebs are trying to run. We ought to catch & punish them.

Remain at Hospital over night. A Corps Hosp. is to be established.

¹⁴⁸ Dan Lee Jewett, Assistant Surgeon of the 20th Connecticut Infantry.

Saturday, May 14

Weather very pleasant.

Skirmishing began early. Nothing new. Some wounded of 1st Brig. reported this morn.

Surgⁿ Hobbs sends me to field. Take out some food for Dr. T[rowbridge] & his Horse.

~~Not much~~—, Vis[ited] Mich 11th.¹⁴⁹

Dress several wounds on field at edge of woods—return to Hosp. & aft toward night
make two Capital Operations—30 of 3rd Div. wounded brought in, don't know how many
killed.

Hemorrhage from stump of leg troublesome at night—

Sleep with Surgⁿ Hobbs & McPheeters.

Call to see Dr. Packards¹⁵⁰—not in.

Sunday, May 15

Hospital 3rd Div 20 A.C. Before Resaca 3½ miles Distant.

Weather fine—

Started to left with Surgⁿ Grinsted to look [for] a place for Hosp. on right. Our return
found order to move to left—part of Hosp. moves off. Other do not understand order at
first—we don't know where to go— Inefficiency of med Direct[or] manifest— Delay in
establishing Hospital— Dine with Surgⁿ Bennet.¹⁵¹

Battle rages fiercely before our Hospital is located & wounded of our Div. come in before
anything is done to take care of them. Work nearly all night Operating. Dr. Jewett a
good assistant and fair operator.

Not room for more than 2/3 of wounded—many lie exposed all night.

Blood enough have I seen for one day.

Enemy give way—we occupy their works.¹⁵²

Monday, May 16

Hosp 3 Div.

Weather warm.

¹⁴⁹ The 11th Michigan Infantry was in the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

¹⁵⁰ Nelson I. Packard of Sturgis enlisted in the 11th Michigan Infantry as Assistant Surgeon in October 1862 and would be mustered out in September 1864.

¹⁵¹ William C. Bennett of Connecticut was appointed Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Volunteers in June 1863. He subsequently became Medical Inspector of the 20th Army Corps.

¹⁵² The Battle of Resaca began on May 14 with probing attacks on the Confederate right and center by Union forces. On the next day the Confederates halted two Union attacks and then were repulsed twice themselves in their attempt to outflank the Union left. General Johnston, made aware of Union troops trying to cut off his lines of communication, ordered a withdrawal.

Some wounded still coming in—Rebs retired last night.

Sunday, May 22

Weather very warm—

Removed the last of the wounded to Gen Hospital at Resaca—maggots in many of the wounds— Surgⁿ Cooper¹⁵³ has superceded Surgⁿ Perin. Surgⁿ Woodworth¹⁵⁴ in charge Hosp.

Col. Gilbert very low¹⁵⁵—seems to have faith in the future—seems delirious. He is in the hands of a merciful God— Capt. Sheridan of Signal Corps doing well— Our men glad to see us—McPheeters, Coakly & Beggs & Potter¹⁵⁶ Remain for the present and many of the men to nurse.

Called on Dr. Packard at 14 A.C. Hosp & got good dinner.

Col. Gilbert very low & Delirious.

Cross over River—Coosawatak¹⁵⁷ & Camp for night— Get ten days rations for selves & Horses in Div. Wagons. Take bath in River & Retire.

Monday, May 23

Weather very warm—

Started at 5 A.M. from Resaca. Marched 13 miles by 11. Stopped in grove near house—talked with an old man who had 3 sons in Rebel army, besides two that had been killed. Claims that he is a Union man. Discussed politics.

There was heavy skirmishing at this point on Tuesday of last week— Erie & Kalamazoo R.R. money—probably from 19th Mich. Rep—Geo Stewart's farm 900 Acres 250 under cultivation.

Stop at night 3½ miles from Kingston—sleep on feather bed in the house of a man that says he has always been opposed to secession.

Tuesday, May 24, 1864

¹⁵³ Surgeon George E. Cooper was Medical Director, Department of the Cumberland

¹⁵⁴ Milton (or Martin) C. Woodworth was commissioned Surgeon in the 51st Ohio Infantry in October 1861. He resigned in 1864 to accept appointment as Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Volunteers.

¹⁵⁵ Colonel Henry Gilbert, commanding officer of the 19th Michigan Infantry, was mortally wounded while leading his men on an assault upon a Confederate battery. He would die in Chattanooga on May 24.

¹⁵⁶ James E. Coakley of Lima Center was commissioned Assistant Surgeon to the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment in April 1864. George W. Beggs of Naperville was Assistant Surgeon in the 105th Illinois Infantry. Horace S. Potter of Chicago was Surgeon in the 105th Illinois Infantry.

¹⁵⁷ I.e., Oostanaula River.

8 miles South of Kingston Ga.

Weather warm & very Dusty.

Came to Kingston early in morn. Could Get no satisfactory information concerning the whereabouts of 20 A.C. Went two miles toward Cassville—returned— Panic on account of attack upon supply train. Shameful conduct of soldiers— P.M Follow 3 wagons of 2nd Div. loaded with Sugar out 8 or 10 miles across High Tower River¹⁵⁸ to Pontoon Bridge—which is being taken up.

Come into trains of 23rd & 14th A.Cs & are obliged to stop for the night. Rain begins a little after dark. Find a floor in a house to sleep on—Drs. Hastings¹⁵⁹ & Jewett with me. Men sleep in Blacksmith shop. 14th A.C. train Park near us as also 18 of 20 A.C. Ambulances.

Wednesday, May 25

Hosp. 3 Div. 20 A.C.—Hawkins house

Rained finely last night with thunder & lightning—

Started at 6 AM. Dr. H[astings] & Jewett myself left Hosp wagons & Ambulances which could not get along and pushed past Pontoon train & 23 A.C. train— 23 A.C. 3 Div. 20 A.C. train and came up to our Div at 11½ AM. having rode 15 or 16 miles. Divided my Hard bread with the mess who were short. 19th Mich & 20 Ct—Had been in two skirmishes—& Had men of 19th killed & wounded.¹⁶⁰

20th A.C. moved on S.E. 5 or 6 miles—2nd Div unexpectedly met the enemy near Dallas & had a staff officer killed about 3½ P.M. Went with Dr. Grinsted back ½ mile to find place for Hosp. Established at house—good water.

Some fighting about 5 to 6 many wounded not brought in. Ambulance Corps inefficient. Hawkins' House.

Thursday, May 26

Hospital of 3rd Div. 20th A.C.

Weather very fine this morning after the rain.

Many of the 3rd Div wounded not brought in but left lying in the rain on the field.

¹⁵⁸ I.e., Etowah River.

¹⁵⁹ Joseph W. Hastings was Surgeon in the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry. It was part of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

¹⁶⁰ Bennitt had left spaces in his diary to later fill in the numbers of killed and wounded from the 19th Michigan Infantry when he learned what they were. At Cassville on May 19 the regiment lost one killed and one wounded; at New Hope Church on May 25 the numbers were four killed and forty-seven wounded.

Lieut Mandeville¹⁶¹ was killed 35 wounded—2 others killed beside Negro.

Move Hosp forward to within a mile & a half of Battle lines—wounded continue to come in—many severe cases.

Worked late last night attending to wounded retiring about 2 AM. with A. B. Ranney in shelter tent by the chimney.

Friday, May 27

Weather still fine.

Continue at same place.

Battle continues mostly out Skirmish line.¹⁶²

Rebs Charge occasionally but are repulsed.

Severity of wounds.

Sleep in my shelter tent.

Saturday, May 28

Weather warm and fair.

Hosp in same place.

Skirmishing continues. Wounded still come in—a few.

Sunday, May 29, 1864

Camp 2nd Brig 3 Div 20 A.C

Near Dallas Ga. Weather fair.

404 men with muskets in 19th Mich. Sergt Leffler shot through chest dieing immediately very near behind breast works.

Select 34 men sick from Regt to take to rear to rest. Gen Butterfield Orders them back.

Division Hosp breaks up—wounded start for the rear. Kingston 35 miles distant. Hard trip for very many of them.

Bivouack near line of battle.

Part of wounded an[d] sick were sent in Army wagons.

Wrote a letter to my wife and sent it to Kingston by Dr. Bence.

¹⁶¹ Charles Mandeville (1823?-1864) of Constantine enlisted as 1st Sergeant in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in Company E in December 1863, and to 1st Lieutenant in Company H in January 1864.

¹⁶² Union and Confederate armies were by this time both entrenched around Dallas and conducted attacks at various points without much gain except the in the number of casualties. Losses in the two armies for the entire month of May would total about 9000 each.

Monday, May 30

Hospital 2nd Brig ½ mile in rear of line battle in ravine.

Weather fair.

Terrific fight with bullets rattling around us about 11½ PM last night—Dressing a wound when it began.

Changed our quarters to this place after the Storm was over. Prefer not to be so near firing. Dr. T[rowbridge] was under fire even more than I. Found him to day. Dr Hatchard sick.

Good water here. We will rest some.

Dr. Hobbs visits us.

Move under the bank & establish a sort of Brig Hosp. One 19th Mich—Enos White¹⁶³ shot finger off.

One 85 Ind—wounded in left ~~elbow~~ ulna near elbow.

Tuesday, May 31, 1864

Same place as yesterday.

Weather warm— Soldiers suffer somewhat from exposure in Breastworks to sun as well bullets.

Wrote letter to wife 2.

Wednesday, June 1

Camp of Hosp.

Teams 6 miles in rear of 20 Corps.

Ordered to move afternoon. 20 A.C. go to left 6 or 8 miles.¹⁶⁴

Send sick to Corps Hosp. I go with them. There fall in with the other Med. officers and join Hosp train a little after Dark. Move somewhat around to rear to avoid the dust of trains &c. Corps Hospitals do not furnish good accommodations to all alike. Soldiering rather hard business for sick men.

Our whole number of Killed up to this time about 24. Wounded 130—sick left back 60.

Major Griffin said he has a letter for me but cannot get at it now.

Thursday, June 2

¹⁶³ Private Enos H. White (born ca. 1845) of Adamsville enlisted in Company E, 19th Michigan in November 1863. In June 1865 he would transfer to Company A, 10th Michigan Infantry.

¹⁶⁴ Short of supplies and having made no headway against the Confederate positions, Sherman decided to move his army northwest to Acworth and the Western & Atlantic Railroad that passed through it.

Weather fine this morn—rained noon.

Find that we are 6 miles of rear of 20th A.C. We march 4 miles with train and then go on by noon to Regt which is about to move.

Had a pleasant nights rest. Get forage of Brigade Hosp. teamster— Kindness of Surgeons of our Division.

Copious shower while on the hill.

Follow regiment to rear of line of battle meet Surgⁿ Hobbs and return to Div. Hospital 1¼ miles in rear.— Police—put up tent.

Surgⁿ Hobbs sick— Mr Lawrence bought cow for Div. Hosp.

Surgⁿ Grinstead comes to Div Hosp. 2nd Div Hosp. about to locate here.

Letter from C. P. Lincoln of May 17th Wants Pres.

Friday, June 3

Hosp 3 Div Camp 19th Mich. In the mud 5/miles S.E of Ackworth.

Rainy—& muddy.

Surgⁿ Hobbs sick still.

Came down from Hosp. & learned that Surgⁿ Potter was killed by shell this morn—or last night. Body will be sent home after injection with Alcohol Qts iv—Kereosate 3 iv—Sol. ChlorZinc 3 iv. Skull broken in front.¹⁶⁵

Sell Surgⁿ Hatchard the sorrel Horse and equipments for \$120⁰⁰. Note should have been payable to A. B. Ranney as the horse was really his, although nominally mine and kept by me for past seven months.

Albert [Ranney] buys me a mule for \$15⁰⁰.

Saturday, June 4

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20 A.C. 4½ Miles S.W. Ackworth Ga. 1 mile North of 3 Div.—

Weather a little mixed rather rainy—

Examined the ground & country in rear of 3 Div. found a good location for Div Hosp where water would be convenient— Return to Hosp. 3 miles, & upon consultation conclude to move forward without Surgⁿ Grinstead's order— Find supply train in place selected for Hosp.— Hosp train stops Here at this house—put up tents for sick only— Man crush[ed] by fall of tree. Autopsy broken pelvis.

¹⁶⁵ The science and art of embalming came into its own during the Civil War. Many families demanded that their dead relatives be shipped home for burial and a process was needed that would arrest decay during the often lengthy transit time. Bennitt gives the recipe for embalming fluid generally used at the time: four quarts of alcohol, 4 drams of creosote, and 4 ounces of chloride of zinc. An unexploded shell that ricocheted from the ground and hit him in the face killed Dr. Potter.

Surgⁿ Hobbs still sick.

Pres for 23 men of 2nd Brig.

Sunday, June 5

Hosp 3 Div. 20th A.C. 4½ miles S.W. Ackworth Ga.

Weather mixed. Showers & sun.

Tried to make out Monthly report but did not finish it. Did not realize that it was Sunday until 3 P.M.— Dr. Terry invited me to preaching & I went but it was ahead of time & I was obliged to return to see to sick & could not to again. O my God for Christ's sake keep me ever in Thee.

23 men of 2 Brig. sick in Hosp. Dr. Maj. Hobbs very sick. Get a room & bed in a house for him.

Brigade affairs left in my care, as also are regimental & being so far distant it is troublesome to keep them up.

No tidings from loved ones at home.

Monday, June 6

Hosp. 3. Div Camp 4 miles from Ackworth.

Weather mixed, showers—hot & sultry.— Roads on the whole becoming a little harder.

Recd orders to march early this morning to follow the Division toward Marietta.

Advanced about 4 miles and find the enemy apparently in some force.¹⁶⁶ Make a cautious and extensive deploy of 20th A.C. & throw up a long line of breast works— I see to location of Asst Surgeons in field—& return to Hospital nearly 2 miles in rear & left of 3rd/Div.

Surgⁿ Hobbs feels somewhat better.

4th & 14th A.C.s come up to support in eve.

26 men of 2 Brig in Hosp. Learn of Capt. Bigelow's¹⁶⁷ death, & that Capt. Hubbard is in critical condition.

No tidings from home.

Tuesday, June 7

Fine pleasant morn.

¹⁶⁶ Johnston had shifted his army on June 4 to counter Sherman's movement to the railroad. The Confederates had taken up strongly fortified positions on high ground about halfway between Acworth and Marietta.

¹⁶⁷ Charles W. Bigelow of South Haven was commissioned Captain in Company G, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He died on May 29 of wounds received at New Hope Church four days earlier.

Very little firing in night. Rebs have probably fallen back after slight demonstration. Surgⁿ Hobbs seems a little better— We cannot take good care of sick—many of these here are not however much sick.

{Brig moves without notifying Surgeons with them. I follow up find their location
{return to Hosp, get lantern & return & pilot them through mud & rain two miles,
{arriving at 10 PM.

This P[aragraph] should have been for the 3rd

Receive order to take Hosp Stores and Att of 2 Brigade & go to Ackworth establish a Hosp. & report to Surgⁿ Gunkle¹⁶⁸ in charge of XX A.C. Hosp. Too late to do it to-night. Go in rain to Surg Atchison¹⁶⁹ to have the order revoked.

Wednesday, June 8

XX A.C. Hosp. Ackworth Ga.

Weather has been fair all day with a few clouds, but rain is threatened, French & Jones[?]¹⁷⁰ break tents.

Started early with 55 sick men of 3 Div to march (in Ambulances &c) 3 miles to Ackworth & establish a section of XX A.C. Hosp. Find Surgⁿ Gunkle Has a pioneer force on the ground. Get 8 tents up by 3 P.M. & the ground pretty well policed sick men at rest.

Surgⁿ Hamilton & Asst Surgⁿ La Due¹⁷¹ report to me for duty.

Surgⁿ Hobbs restless to-night, 99 men in my section of Hosp.

R.R. will be open to this point in four or five days.

Thursday, June 9, 1864

XX A.C. Hosp at Ackworth Ga.

Weather partly cloudy & pleasant balmy breezes.

¹⁶⁸ William H. Gunkle was commissioned Surgeon to the 73rd Pennsylvania Infantry in October 1861. His regiment was part of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 20th Army Corps.

¹⁶⁹ Atchison (Acheson or Atkinson) is not identified.

¹⁷⁰ Private Albert French (born ca. 1830) of Monterey enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. There were four men in the 19th Michigan with the surname Jones at this time: Charles H., John C., Martin M., and Schuyler P.

¹⁷¹ Probably William Hamilton, Surgeon to the 102nd Illinois Infantry which was part of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps. Edmund K. LaDue was Assistant Surgeon to the 107th New York Infantry which was part of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps; he received his M.D. from Albany Medical College in 1862.

Police ground & put up four Flies¹⁷² to accommodate 50 more men. 26 come in, 2 desert.

We cannot give men feather beds to sleep on, nor the best of dainties, but they are comparatively comfortable on their leaves[?] with a blanket over them at night & plenty of Pilot Bread,¹⁷³ some beef, plenty of Coffee & sugar. Some dried apples.

Require rations for 125 sick men & 15 others.

Some not very sick.

Friday, June 10

Camp 19th Mich 6 Miles South of Ackworth Ga.

Heavy rains begin about 1 PM. some in morn.

After prescribing for 27 men I go to Gen Hooker's Hd Qrs. & find that an order has already been sent to allow men to return to Brigade. Return to Corps Hosp. Get one wagon load of Hosp supplies & return to place of Div Hosp 5 miles. Leave wagon there with Anderson & Sam¹⁷⁴ & report at Brigade & Regt. about 7 P.M.

Brigade been in marching order all day—Known at Hd. Qrs. that this Div would not move to-day—military. Dr. T[rowbridge] gone to Prayer meeting.

The half starving condition of our men demands attention. Scurvy & Diar troublesome.

Find only six bottles of whiskey in one box (?)

Surgeon Grinstead's order to make Brigade report.

Saturday, June 11

Hosp 3rd Div 20th A.C. 5 miles South of Ackworth Ga.

Heavy Rain Nearly all day. Roads becoming almost impassible—

Remained at Regt last night. Consulted with all the Medical officers of Brigade & rec'd statements of sick & wounded for May & June to 8th.

Return to Div Hosp at 11 A.M. Nearly complet Monthly report for May— Took dinner & supper with Surgⁿ Hovey—& make my bed in his tent. A very comfortable place & bed.

I hope I am appropriately thankful for these providential favors.

Learned of nomination of Baltimore convention.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷² Additional sections of canvas were added onto the main hospital tent.

¹⁷³ Crackers or hardtack.

¹⁷⁴ Anderson is probably Bennitt's cook and Sam his Black servant whom he brought with him from McMinnville.

¹⁷⁵ On June 8 in Baltimore, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for a second term as President at the National Union Convention by delegates who represented Republicans and some War Democrats.

Sunday, June 12

Hosp 3 Div XX A.C. 5 miles South of Ackworth Ga.

Rained nearly all day. Roads becoming worse all the time.

Went down to Brigade, rec'd an order from Surgⁿ Grinsted to make weekly reports for May 28 & June 4 & 11th. Went to each Regt & rec'd their reports came back & consolidated them—finished May Monthly report & they will be all sent up early in morn.— Rec Notice tht Monthly rep. for Oct 63 not recd.

Surgⁿ Hovey lends me a Fly which Ranney puts up for himself & Sam & Anderson. I sleep in same place as last night.

Some demonstrations in our front by rebels as though about to attack us—some canonading & musketry nearly all day—

A good letter from wife.

Monday, June 13

Hosp 3 Div XX A.C. 5 miles South of Ackworth Ga.— Cool. Rained nearly all night, & furiously this morning, continuing till afternoon. Roads worse & worse.

50 men each from 19th Mich & 85th Ind. detached as train guard to relieve 20 Ct. which went to Ackworth to garrison that port.

Visit the detachment & then go to Gen. Butterfields Hd Qrs. to learn concerning movement of Hosp. Took dinner with this staff. Met Gen Hooker—an affible man.

Called on the surgeons of Brigade urging to more scrutiny in sending men to Hosp.— Hosp. Steward Schofield¹⁷⁶ came down to have me go to Ackworth & make requisitions for med[icine] for 2nd Brig by Dr. Hobbs request & probably receipt for Brigade Hosp. property— He is no better than when I left— Too late to go to-night. Rec note from Purveyor Ridgeley—supplies not yet sent.

Sent letter to my wife by Mr Frisby[?]¹⁷⁷ going home.

Tuesday, June 14

Camp 19th Mich 5 miles South of Ackworth Ga.

Very cool this morning— No rain since about 3 P.M. of yesterday. Somewhat cloudy all day— Roads drying rapidly where soil is gravelly.— I went to Ackworth to see Surgⁿ Hobbs and assist in making requisition for Brigade medical supplies for June which can be had of purveyor of Post.

¹⁷⁶ Proctor D. Scofield of Janesville enlisted in Company E, 22nd Wisconsin Infantry as Sergeant in August 1862. He would be officially promoted to Hospital Steward in December 1864.

¹⁷⁷ Possibly John F. Frisbie, a drayman living in Mendon.

Surgⁿ Hobbs somewhat better—thinks however he will resign as soon as he can settle his affairs.

I return to Brigade at 6 P.M. & remain— Div. Hosp had moved up nearer at a point that I do not know.

Wednesday, June 15

Hosp 3 Div 20 A.C. south of Ackworth Ga. 5 miles.

Weather fair—not very warm.

Visited Hosp after attending to the certificate of disability of Capt. Smith¹⁷⁸ Dr.

Trowbridge made. I approve as Brigade Surgⁿ—having an order to act as such from June 10th from Col. Coburn.

Our Divs moved forward about 2 P.M.— 1st Brig engaged about 6.¹⁷⁹ 70 wounded. I go to front & return before sun-down. Do not like the management of affairs here in Med Dep. Serg't Clay of Co I killed, Serg't Livingston¹⁸⁰ Co I severely wounded same time. Maj Griffin mortally wounded through chest about 8½ P.M.

Thursday, June 16

Hosp 3rd Div 20 A.C. in woods behind Battery 5 miles from Acworth—Weather fair.

Major Griffin Died of his wound at 6 AM. Expressing a trust in God. I receive his Pocket-book containing his money \$11⁴⁰—& Pen—& keys— Wants his body sent home. Injected it.

Moved two or three times the Hosp three times, & finally settled down at the place first selected in the woods. 2nd Brigade tentage came up from Ackworth. A few wounded came in— Heavy canonading above us till late in the evening. Slept nicely.

Learn that Crippen¹⁸¹ of Co E was shot to death to-day. John Doty¹⁸² shot through left leg—I amputated below knee 7 inches.

¹⁷⁸ Joel H. Smith (born ca. 1820) of Pokagon was commissioned Captain in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He would resign due to disability in July 1864.

¹⁷⁹ Sherman mistook a partial Confederate withdrawal from an untenable salient for a general retreat and ordered assaults on Johnston's left. The 19th Michigan participated in the attack at Gilgal (or Golgotha) Church.

¹⁸⁰ Frederick Clay (1840?-1864) of Royalton enlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry as Corporal in August 1862. George H. Livingston (1838?-1864) of St. Joseph enlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry as Sergeant in August 1862. He would die at Chattanooga from his wounds in July 1864.

¹⁸¹ Charles F. Crippen (1845?-1864) of Sturgis enlisted in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry in November 1863.

¹⁸² John S. Doty (born ca. 1842) of Constantine enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

Friday, June 17

Acworth Ga.

Weather fair—rain threatened.

Went to Gen. Hooker's to get permission to send Major Griffin's body home—Surgⁿ Foye¹⁸³ ordered me to Acworth with wounded & sick of Div. 160 in no. & I took body along & sent it through Sanitary Commission to Chattanooga to be there by them sent home.

Lieut Coblenz¹⁸⁴ going to rear on account of ill health, will look somewhat after it— Very defective arrangements for accommodations & care of sick. Sanitary & Christian commission give much aid invaluable—

Find Lieut Wing (& Pat) Did not bring my valise— Sup with him. Spend the time till 11 PM. looking after the wounded.

Sent about 80 of the wounded & sick off[f] to-night—12 ambulance loads remain in ambulances.

Approve Certificate of disability for Col Utley.

Saturday, June 18

Hosp 3 Div 20 A.C. 7 miles South Acworth Ga.

Rain began about 3 AM. & contin[ued] almost incessantly all day very Hard much of the time.

After much trouble I succeed in getting the remainder of the wounded & sick into cars to send them to Chattanooga but their condition is very unsatisfactory indeed.

Leave Acworth at 4 PM. feeling that I am indebted to the kindness of 20th Ct. Sanitary Commission &c & that after all I have done but little for those poor men. Soaked with rain I made my way 7 miles to Div Hosp. in no very enviable state of mind. Find some comfort before a bright fire—

Canonading Has been heavy all day. Rebs getting out.¹⁸⁵ Comparatively quiet now—(9 P.M.)

Sunday, June 19

Depot for wounded of 3 Div 20 A.C. in woods 2 miles S.W. Kenesaw Mount.

¹⁸³ John W. Foye of Massachusetts was appointed Surgeon, U.S. Volunteers in March 1863. At this time he was Medical Director of the 20th Army Corps.

¹⁸⁴ John J. Coblenz (born ca. 1835) of Sturgis enlisted in Company E, 19th Michigan Infantry as Sergeant in August 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant January 1864, and would resign in August 1864 because of disability.

¹⁸⁵ The continuing pressure on the Confederate left flank by Sherman again caused Johnston to withdraw his forces a few miles to perhaps his strongest positions yet on Kennesaw Mountain.

Dreary & rainy this morn—Rains very Hard nearly all forenoon—Clear in night.
Rebs gone again—follow them in rain & mud through swollen brooks & sloughs for
about two miles to near Kenesaw mountain—3rd ~~Brig~~ Div. go into woods. I follow 2nd
Brig Post Med. officers. Dr. Vincent¹⁸⁶ close in rear 3 others farther off—80 rods.
Rainy still in P.M.— Get Major's pony. Surgⁿ Grinstead sends for me over to House—
Hosp of 2nd Div.—25, 3 Div men wounded—1 of 33rd Ind. Resection Ulna— —
Amp[utate]d thigh of a 55th O[hio] man. Man will probably Die.
Skirmishing somewhat brisk for a time in P.M.—quiet at night— Canonading has been
heavy .
Sam'l White¹⁸⁷ makes Brigade Weekly report—send in in morn. Very little has the
Lord's day been kept Holy.

Monday, June 20

Hosp 3 Div. 20 A.C.—2 to 3 miles S.W. from Kenesaw mountain.

Weather mixed—almost fair till about 5 P.M.

Buy rations to am't of 300 including 1 ham 14lbs @ 12½ cts lb—Sugar &
Bread. Rations $\frac{3}{4}$ for Horses $\frac{1}{2}$ for mules—corn no Hay— we must forage for the rest.
Canonading, heavy some of the time. 3rd Div. not engaged much except in desultory
skirmishing in which a few are wounded. Heavy musketry about 7 PM.— Battery near
us throw shells furiously.

I will try and attend to the Evidence that the widow of Watson¹⁸⁸ Co. B. 19th is entitled
to pension—wanted by Letter from E. B. Bassett.

Tuesday, June 21

Hosp 3 Div 20 A.C. 4 miles S.W ~~Ackworth Ga~~ Kenesaw mountain.

Weather rainy—rainy.

We are obliged to move Hospital because of planting a Battery in 4th A.C. which drew
enemy fire into the place where we were, as soon as we could get out full to the south
west one mile.— 1st & 2nd Div. Hosp. remain nearer to their commands.

It is better to be in rear far enough to be out of the way, and out of immediate danger.
There is much responsibility upon Brig Surgⁿ.

¹⁸⁶ Jeremiah K. Vincent was commissioned Assistant Surgeon to the 33rd Indiana
Infantry Regiment in July 1863 and would resign in October 1864.

¹⁸⁷ Samuel White does not appear on the rosters of any regiment in Bennitt's brigade.
He probably was a hospital clerk.

¹⁸⁸ William Watson (1825?-1863) of Clyde enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan
Infantry in August 1862. He was captured at Brentwood, Tennessee in March 1863,
exchanged the next month, and died of disease in Michigan in June 1863.

Wednesday, June 22, 1864

Hosp 3 Div 20 A.C. 4 miles S W from Kenesaw Mountain.

Weather very fair all day.

I went to Brig. & found Col Coburn in Complaining mood. Made new disposition of Med. Officers.

Our Brig & Div in heavy skirmishing & repelling charge of rebs in which 48 were wounded and 4 killed of 2nd Brig ~~&~~ (10 wounded & 1 killed of 19th Mich) about 65 of 3 Brig wounded several killed about 20 of 1st Brig— Fighting quite furious part of the time.¹⁸⁹ I leave the field when the wounded of 2nd Brig begin to come off.

Work till 11 P.M. in Dressing wounds. Affairs not altogether pleasant.

Lieut Shaffer¹⁹⁰ of 19th Mich wounded in the thigh.

Wrote letter to my wife.

Thursday, June 23

Hosp. 3 Div. 20 A.C. 4½ miles S. a little west Marietta Ga.

Weather fair & warm all day.

20th A.C. move 3 or 4 miles to right. Send wounded to Ackworth as fast as 20 Ambulances of 3rd Div can carry them. The other teams have given out all tentage &c of 2nd Brig except 2 tents of goes forward with that of 1st to make new Hosp. 3 Brig remain—and Surgⁿ Bence goes to Acworth with wounded.

Moved 2nd & 1st Brig Tentage up, leaving Tentage of 3rd & 2 tents & 1 fly of 2nd to cover 110 wounded & sick of 3 & about 24 of 1st & 2nd—about 3 miles S.E. close to lines of 20 A.C. 3rd Div. Massed in front on Marietta and Atlanta Road.

1st Div & 2nd Extended to rear & left 23 [Army Corps] on right said to reach to Chattahoochee¹⁹¹ A few men of 2nd Brig come in wounded. One team went to Acworth for sanitary & med. stores.

Letter from wife & Jennie, good.

¹⁸⁹ Johnston, continually worried about the Union flanking movement around his left, ordered General John Bell Hood (1831-1879) to block this attempt with his corps. Hood saw an opportunity to attack what he thought was an unsupported part of the Union army, but instead assaulted elements of the 23rd Army Corps and the 20th Army Corps who were in strong dug-in positions at Kolb's (or Culp's) Farm. The Confederates were repulsed with heavy losses.

¹⁹⁰ George T. Shaffer (born ca. 1823) was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would be promoted to Captain in August 1864 and ended the war as Lieutenant Colonel in the 28th Michigan Infantry.

¹⁹¹ I.e., Chattahoochee River.

Friday, June 24, 1864

Hosp. 3 Div. 20th A.C. 4½ miles south Marietta Ga.

Weather fair and very warm. Roads improving very fast.

Two men came in wounded of 2nd Brig.— Visited Brigade & Col. Coburn. Requested detail of 17 musicians or other men of 22nd Wis & 33 Ind. for service at Div. Hospital.

Bullets fly thick and fast around me as there, going and coming.

Get Hubbard¹⁹² of Co G. for cook &c. for mess at Hospital. I shall have his pay deducted from mine if it is thought best— Find Willie Ten-Brook in 107 N.Y. 2nd Brig 1st Div 20 A.C. Seems like a good boy & looks back to Mich. as his home, with tender regard for his step-mother and sister.

Wrote letter to my wife 5.

Saturday, June 25

Hosp 3. Div. 20th A.C. 4½ S. of Marrietta Ga.

Weather fair and very warm.

Dr. Hovey going to 3rd Brig Hosp leaves me in charge of Div. Hosp.—Surgⁿ Foye Directs that wounded be sent to rear. 5 of 2nd Brig—1 of 3—7 + 2 of 1st sent in 5 ambulances.

4th team returns from Acworth with Sanitary & Hosp. Stores. Divided among Brigade.

There is too much of Brigade jealousy.

Reced letter from wife of June 13th & 14th mailed 16th.

Sunday, June 26, 1864

Hosp 3 Div 20 A.C. 4½ miles s & w of Marietta Ga.

Weather very warm & dry.

Two badly wounded men of 2nd Brig & 1 of 2nd Div came in very early this morn.

Gospel sermon by Chaplain of 105 Ill at 9½ AM from Jno XV.13— Not much fighting to-day—stray bullets occasionally fly among us.

God is our shield and no harm can befall us without his permission. Teach me O God! to love thee with the whole heart—make us a nation of Christians indeed—and remove this dreadful scourge of war from our land.

To-day has seemed more like a Sabbath. Willie TenBrook called to see me—gave him some envelopes & stamps to write to his mother.

Wrote letter to my wife 4.

Monday, June 27

¹⁹² William H. Hubbard (born ca. 1832) of South Haven enlisted in Company G, 19th Michigan as Wagoner in July 1862.

Weather still warm. Threatened rain of last night did not come.

Canonading began at 6 A.M. all along the line.¹⁹³

Our lines advance—4th A.C. about 10 A.M. Rebs skedaddle? Shell comes near Hosp. We look for a safe place, & Police some ground beyond next ridge preparatory to moving Hosp. if necessary— Shell passes high above Hosp & bursts near Ord[nance] train ¼ mile beyond.

23 A.C. advanced yesterday. 4th A.C. lost 2500 killed & wounded & succeeded only in driving the picket lines of enemy and making their own works in their place.

Surgⁿ Grinsted will receipt for Hosp. property— He has made a certificate for leave of absence for Gen. Butterfield.

Tuesday, June 28, 1864

Hosp 3 Div 20 A.C. 4½ miles S. W. Marietta Ga.

Weather very warm—rain threatened to-night—

Surgⁿ Foye orders wounded & severely sick to be sent to Big Shanty—may move that way to-morrow. Not much fighting to-day—Sell Major Griffin's pony for \$75⁰⁰ if a good title can be given. Money in my hands.

Write to Gov. Blair recommending the appointment of field officers stating our condition as a regiment— 4 men of 2nd Brig wounded—two flesh—two in head—one died soon the other probably will.

Made Invoices and receipts for Hosp. property—to Surgⁿ Grinsted. Vis[ited] Med. officers of Brigade. Dr. Wiles better.

We are all too close to line of battle.

Recd letter from wife 4. June 19th 21st & Jennie 2.

Wrote Gov. Blair.

Letter from Det[roit] Free Press—& Upham¹⁹⁴

Wrote to my wife 4.

Wednesday, June 29

Same place.

Weather fair and warm.

¹⁹³ Sherman's attack on the Confederate center in its Kennesaw Mountain positions began exactly at 8 A.M. with an hour of artillery bombardment. By noon this frontal assault had failed, costing the three Union corps engaged some 3000 casualties.

¹⁹⁴ Bennitt probably is referring to Charles Upson of Centreville.

Gen. Butterfield asks leave of absence—I did not send the letter to Gov. Blair which I wrote yesterday, but shall wait to see some of the officers and men concerning the matter.

~~Made~~ Completed Invoices of Hospital property for Surgⁿ Hobbs to turn over to Surgⁿ Grinsted, bearing this date.

Anderson, & Pratt¹⁹⁵ of Co B. 19th Mich wounded through thigh each, not severely.

Gen Ward takes command of Div.¹⁹⁶ ☞ It is to be hoped that he will look more to the wants and necessities of the men of his command than Gen. Butterfield, has.

EIGHT

“The Rebels Mean To Make an Obstinate Resistance Here”

July - August 1864

Friday, July 1

Weather hot. Rain threatened.

¹⁹⁵ Private William Anderson (1840-1904) of Gun Plain enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would be discharged in January 1865 for disability. Private Comstock H. Pratt (born ca. 1842) of Martin enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan in August 1862. He would be discharged in February 1865 for disability.

¹⁹⁶ On June 29 General Butterfield left for New York because of illness. Brigadier General William T. Ward became commander of the 3rd Division and remained so throughout the rest of the war.

Hourly expecting orders to move from here, or be under the necessity of moving because of shells or bullets that come whizzing about us and over us.

~~Order Comes late at night.~~

Saturday, July 2

Hospital 3 Div 20 A.C. 4½ miles S. W. Marietta Ga.

Weather hot.

Order late at night to be up at 2 AM in morn to march toward river—to right flank.¹⁹⁷

Send the letter with list of Killed & wounded to Gov. Blair.

Sunday, July 3

Hosp of 2nd Div 20 A.C. 4 miles south Marietta Ga.—

Weather hot.

Found the Rebs had gone this morn—followed on to Marietta—turned south—2 Horses & one man killed & four severely wounded of Battery— Hospital train of 3 Div cut off and unable to come up—sick men in ambulances to number of 75 sheltered and fed by kindness of Surgⁿ Fyfield¹⁹⁸ of 2nd Div.

I left Surg^{ns} Hovey & Grinsted at house gassing with women. Come to front—find position of Brigade & Division— Carlton Norton¹⁹⁹ of 19th Mich severely wounded by shell in back & a man of 85 Ind.—2 sunstroke.

Bad management of Gen Ward.

Has not seemed much like Sabbath—

Saw Bennie Benedict²⁰⁰ in

Monday, July 4

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 7 miles south of Marietta Ga.

Weather very warm & Dry not dusty yet however.

Hospital train comes along early. 3rd Div. sick fed by 2nd Div Hosp this morn—

¹⁹⁷ The failure of his frontal attack on the Confederates at Kennesaw Mountain convinced Sherman to continue the successful strategy of outflanking Johnston's army so as to threaten their line of communications. Johnston was aware of this latest Union movement and began a withdrawal towards the Chattahoochee River.

¹⁹⁸ A. R. Fyfield was Surgeon to the 29th Ohio Infantry Regiment that was part of the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 20th Army Corps.

¹⁹⁹ Private Carlton Norton (1843?-1892) of Martin enlisted in Company H, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

²⁰⁰ Probably Benjamin F. Benedict (born ca. 1844), although his name does not appear in any Indiana regimental rosters for Steuben County. He was the brother of Addison Benedict, Bennitt's brother-in-law.

Move on a half mile & after some delay camp in a grassy field long enough to get dinner and then ordered to move on, as the command had already moved s.w. 3 miles & pitched Hosp in front of 1st Div. & ½ mile in front and to left of 3rd Div. Drunkenness of Gen Ward & others—Gen Williams & Ward mistakes 14th Corps for Rebs & make fortifications & send skirmishers— I visit Brigade Head Qrs. & Div. Return to Hosp at dark— Some skirmishing & canonading all day. Rebs fall back. Deserters & Prisoners in large numbers.

Tuesday, July 5

Hospital 3 Div 20 A.C. 7 miles south of Marietta Ga.

Weather Dry & Hot.

Moved from place of camp last night falling in behind command moving back & to left, making long stops—pick blackberries a few.— See Lieut Wing— Get Horse shod. Let Lieut Wing have copy of letter to Gov. Blair—sup & five PM. come up with Hosp, pitch Hosp in wheat stubble—give the sick & wounded their supper before 9 PM.—about 40 patients of 2nd Brig. None very dangerously ill—3 severely wounded.

Too bad to be transporting them around— Very little fighting to-night anywhere within hearing. Report that the Rebs are beyond the river. We pass their strong & extensive breastworks which they have built within three days & left early this morn.²⁰¹

Large numbers of deserters & prisoners.

Wednesday, July 6, 1864

Hosp 3rd Div. 20 A.C. About 10 miles south Marietta Ga.

Weather hot—very hot

Start out early without any orders—or intimation as to direction move toward the River where we sup[pose] 3rd Div. ~~in that to~~ be. Found that we were on the wrong route and yet that we were right. Turned about—came over Nickajack creek—unloaded sick put up tents—dined in woods & fed sick & wounded & soon after had noticed that the Div would soon move to the East about two miles—Hosp moved also—I Passed Brig Hd Qrs. on the way, & talked with regt'l Field & Staff.

Dr T[rowbridge] sent 4 men to hosp as they passed— The Hosp is about ¾ mile in rear of our lines. Battery near us fires, but elicits no reply.

Wrote letter to my wife 4.

²⁰¹ Instead of crossing the Chattahoochee River, Johnston halted his army on the north side of it on July 5. He then established himself in a six-mile long array of elaborately prepared defensive works. Sherman cautiously approached but made no serious attacks while he repaired the railroad line from Marietta to Vining's Station.

Thursday, July 7

Same place as yesterday.

Weather very warm & roads begin to be dusty—

Three good springs in the ravine below hospital—Slope of ground too much for convenience.

Bullet exploded near our heads waking us a little before 5 AM but the enemy must be two miles distant at this time. Very little skirmishing or canonading within hearing—none in front of our division— —

Heard whistle of R.R. query whether friend or foe immediately east of us and not more than two miles distant. We expect to remain here abouts for a few days and that there will be not much fighting here.

Recd letter from my wife 3 & from Jennie 2.

Recd Package of Heralds' distributed them in Hosp.

Friday, July 8

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 10 miles south Marietta Ga.

Weather very warm & dry. Lightning to-night indicating rain to come.

Very little of firing in front. Federal trains run down even with us, delivering supplies near at hand to 4th & 14th A.Cs.

From elevations here Atlanta can be seen ten miles distant.

Grape-vine says we have captured a pontoon bridge—a factory & 400 operatives, from the enemy & that the 23rd A.C. has crossed the river.²⁰² Our Corps is resting behind breast-works with a nice camping ground on ridges—cleaning up.

Visit Col. Coburn &c. Dr. Bence detailed to serve with 136th N.Y. & Dr. Amsden²⁰³ to report at Hosp. here— We become bewildered on our return, but finally come out right.

Explosion of ammunition severely burns a teamster & breaks wagon to pieces—kills six mules, but hurts no others much. Dr. Bence gave me linnen coat.

Saturday, July 9, 1864

Same place.

²⁰² No intact bridge across the Chattahoochee seems to have been captured at this time. Union cavalry, scouting up river for possible crossing places, found three textile mills at Roswell still operating. These were soon destroyed and 400 young women workers captured. The 23rd Corps, having surprised a small force of Confederate cavalry guarding the Chattahoochee a few miles below Roswell, crossed the river in force in the afternoon of July 8.

²⁰³ Edwin Amsden of Allegan, Michigan was Assistant Surgeon to the 136th New York Infantry Regiment.

Weather very warm—dry.

Surgeon Hovey went to Marietta to-day for Sanitary Stores, leaving me in Charge of Hospital. Surgⁿ Reagan²⁰⁴ complains that proportionate distribution of Sanitary stores is not made by Surgⁿ Hovey. The complaint is founded in justice. But little received to-day however.

Order from Surgⁿ Grinsted to have sick & wounded ready to transport—by six in morn, with cooked provisions & Med. officer—no order.

We have about 40 men of 2nd Brig. need to go to rear for treatment many of them with Scurvy.

Some Skirmishing to-night nearby— Canonading by 14th Corp.

Wrote letter to my wife 7.

Sunday, July 10

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 10 miles south of Marietta Ga

Weather still warm, rained a little toward night cooling the air.

75 men (25 from 2nd Brig) sent to Marietta to Gen. Hosp.—in tents. 4th A.C. occupy a hotel as hosp.

It seems that Rebels have all withdrawn across the Chattahoochee last night and this morn.²⁰⁵ Deserters tell the story— Our skirmishers advance to river and find only a few hundred of rear[guard]—most of them willing to be prisoners.

Geo Klect²⁰⁶ of Co I. 19th Mich wounded in spine middle dorsal by Rebel over the River.

Ambulances return early from Marietta— Preaching this morn by Chaplain

Stillwell²⁰⁷—Good.

Read Book I, II, III of Pollock's "Course of Time"²⁰⁸ & Ezekiel XXXIII.

~~Write part of a letter to wife~~

²⁰⁴ Amos W. Regan of Mooresville was commissioned Surgeon in the 70th Indiana Infantry in August 1862. This regiment was part of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps, and was commanded by Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901), the future twenty-third President of the United States.

²⁰⁵ News of the 23rd Army Corps crossing the Chattahoochee led to the orderly retreat of the Confederate forces across the river during the night of July 9. President Jefferson Davis, concerned that General Johnston has neither attacked nor halted the Union armies advancing on Atlanta, finally removes him from command on July 17 in favor of the more aggressive General Hood.

²⁰⁶ Private George Klett (1837?-1864) of Keeler enlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan Infantry in December 1863. He would die from his wounds later in the month.

²⁰⁷ Probably James R. Stillwell of the 79th Ohio Infantry. His regiment was part of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

²⁰⁸ First published in 1827, *Course of Time* by Robert Pollok (1799-1827) was a long poem on the subject of human destiny written in the style of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. It enjoyed great popularity for half a century, but by 1864 interest in it was waning.

Monday, July 11, 1864

Same place.

Weather still hot—rain threatened but only sprinkles a little.

Affairs going on as usual— Traffic between Federal & Rebel pickets goes on to some extent.

Visited Brigade Head Qrs and approve certificate of disability of Capt Davis²⁰⁹, 85 Ind. & hand it to Col. Coburn. Examine Lieut Coblenz for disability— He is disabled now, but might be cured. It is as well that he resign for he seems anxious. I will approve or make him a certificate in a day or two. Vis[ited] 19th Mich. Urge the forwarding the request for Capt Thompson's²¹⁰ muster-out.

Dr. Trowbridge gives me a handkerchief to replace one he took of mine 16 months ago.

Good letter from wife 3. [July] 3rd & Clara 4. [June] 26th &c. Write a part of letter in answer.

Tuesday, July 12

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 10 miles south Marietta Ga.

Weather still warm but somewhat cloudy—sprinkling of rain.

With Lieut Wing I vis the 11th Mich. & see Frankish—Dr. Elliott, with latter a good chat. Hopeful of future of our country.

See over the river— See Col. Morton & Surgⁿ Cooper of 23rd Mo.²¹¹ Must take opportunity to settle with him soon.

Cook of Co C. 19th Mich has Scurvy & will need to go to rear when we march.

Finished letter to my wife which will go tomorrow.

Wednesday, July 13

Same place.

Weather warm without rain.

Surgeon Cooper of 23rd Mo came up to see me concerning the property turned over by me to him at McMinnville in April 64. The discrepancies are but slight and can be easily settled when my papers come up—

14th A.C. will move over the river this P.M.

²⁰⁹ Ellery C. Davis of Terre Haute was commissioned Captain, Company G, 85th Indiana Infantry in August 1862.

²¹⁰ Charles A. J. Thompson, Company F, 19th Michigan Infantry.

²¹¹ Quinn Morton was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in the 23rd Missouri Infantry in January 1862 and Howard A. Cooper was commissioned Surgeon in the same regiment in February 1864.

New organization of Div Hospital on foot to-day—but it may miscarry, as some other moves have. Visit Brigade Hd. Qrs. Capt. Kellum²¹² Sick also Turner. Certify to disability of Capts Seaton and Day²¹³ of 33rd Ind. that they may go to rear for treatment or resign. Day should resign at once. Seaton may be cured.
Mailed letter written last night.

Thursday, July 14

Hosp 3rd Div 20th A.C. 10 miles South of Marietta Ga.

Weather still warm but a fine shower with bright lightning & thunder just at dark, in which myself & Dr. Hatchard were riding from the Brigade to Hosp.

The new order relating to reorganization of Div. Hosp was sent to Brig Hd Qrs, and did not reach me. I do not feel that any effort is made to do justice to 2nd Brig. Not a Medical officer to remain at Hosp.

Found Dr. Trowbridge sick to-night but think he will be better soon.

Rumors & reports of Rebels advancing on Baltimore & fears of Washington.²¹⁴ All is in the hands of a kind Father.

We seem not to be doing much in this army, although there is some skirmishing—& some canonading on our front especially to the left.

Bought 20 qts Blackberries.

Capt. Kellum Better.

Surgeⁿ Hatchard pays for 20 qts Blackberries (2⁰⁰) on the 14th.

Friday, July 15

Head Qrs 2nd Brig. 3 Div. 20th A.C. 10 miles south, & little west Marietta Ga.

Rain last night cooled the air some; pleasant & still warm to-day.

No orders with reference to attendants, but it is understood that all will remain at Hosp. of Div. till further orders—Schofield to be principal Steward—Dr Jewett to attend 2nd

²¹² Alphonse G. Kellam of Delavan was commissioned Captain, Company D, 22nd Wisconsin Infantry in August 1862. He would be promoted to Major in November 1864.

²¹³ Charles Seaton was commissioned Lieutenant in Company A, 33rd Indiana Infantry in September 1861, promoted to Captain in January 1863, but would resign in September 1864. Charles Day was commissioned Captain in Company C, 33rd Indiana Infantry in September 1861 and would be mustered out in September 1864.

²¹⁴ To ease the Union pressure on General Lee's positions at Petersburg, Confederate General Jubal Early (1816-1894) with 20,000 men began an advance up the Shenandoah Valley towards Washington in June. Outmaneuvering the Union forces along his route, he reached the outskirts of Washington on July 11. The next night he withdrew, realizing that the city's defenses had been reinforced.

Ward—will give satisfaction more than any other arrangement of the present detailed force.

Bought 11 qts Blackberries @ 10^{cts} for Big ones—sent 5 qts in morn. Beside—bought also 5 loaves bread at 10^{cts}—two of which I gave to Att. at Hosp. the others to our mess— Gave— Move to Brig Hd. Qrs before dinner—return to Hosp. to see how affairs are going— There is a better appearance of things.

Pioneers put up my tent & bed—Sam'l & Anderson the table. All nice. I think I shall be comfortably & pleasantly situated at Hd. Qrs.

Saturday, July 16

Head Qrs. 2nd Brig 3rd Div 20th A.C. 10 miles south & a little west Marietta Ga.

Weather very warm—fine rain to-night about 8½.

19th Mich out on the Skirmish or picket line on the Chattahoochee River—Commissions rec'd for Lieut Ford²¹⁵ as Capt—Lieut Wing as R[egimental] Q[uartern] M[aster]. Lieut Reynolds as 1st Lieut—Lieut Edwards²¹⁶ as 1st Lieut—Sergts. Pullman²¹⁷ & NY man as 2nd Lieuts—

Notice of about 25 sick & wounded men of 19th Mich at St Mary's Hosp Detroit—& a request that descriptive rolls be sent.

Made circular to-night to be sent around to surgeons in morn, to send every morn & report of sick for Hosp & number requiring transportation.

Recd letters from Wife of 7th & 8th 4 [pages] & from Clara of 10th 4 & Jennie 10th 4.

Sunday, July 17, 1864

Head Qrs. 2nd Brig 3 Div 20th A.C. 7 or 8 miles North & a little east of Atlanta on left bank of Chattahoochee.

Weather pleasant—not excessively warm. Fine shower last night lasting but a few minutes—

Sent a circular to Surgeons of Brigade 22nd [Wisconsin] & 33rd [Indiana] failed to send in reports. Went to Div. Hosp. Affairs going well there— Att[ended] preaching at 33rd Ind.

²¹⁵ Henry A. Ford (1836?-1894) of Niles was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company F, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in November 1862.

²¹⁶ Isaac Z. Edwards (born ca. 1834) of Pokagon enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry as First Sergeant in August 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, Company D in May 1863 and to 1st Lieutenant in June 1864. He would resign in August 1864 because of disability.

²¹⁷ Paschal A. Pullman (1836?-1864) of Allegan enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry as Corporal in August 1862. He would be killed in action at Peach Tree Creek, Georgia on July 20.

Orders to march east at 3 P.M. Started at 4—19th Mich at 5½— I came by Div. Hosp. (eat supper) find 2/3 of it will remain two or three days—one third accompany command.

March about 4 miles East to Vining's ferry²¹⁸ & 3 or 4 miles farther—crossing river about 8 P.M. going into camp on a stony ridge about ten— Have tea. Trouble in locating Brig H'd Qrs. Closely crowded all around.

Rumors of occupation of Atlanta— Pass 23rd Mo.— Too much desecration of Sabbath for National prosperity.

Wrote letter to wife 6.

Monday, July 18

H'd Q'rs 2nd Brig 3 Div 20th A.C. Camp in woods 6 miles North Atlanta Ga.

Weather warm—somewhat cloudy. A sprinkle of rain a little before night.—

Remained in camp till noon. 3 Brig went on reconnoissance in force to Nance's Creek.²¹⁹

We follow, waiting at Williams Mills for completion of bridges—cross over about 2 PM.

Up the hill form in line of battle. At foot of hill form line by division front and march through woods—19th [Michigan] & 85th [Indiana] in rear—form in road ½ mile distant by large house by company—then by platoon—then in route column—along a good wide road Eastward—till near night. Gen Thomas passed & returned— We turn off and meander in woods—form a crooked line $\frac{3}{8}$ mile from road on south—parallel(?) in woods & go into camp—not fortifying—except 1st Brig on right by Com[mand] of Gen. Ward.— Sup & retire. Enemy nowhere in hearing except occasionally a cannon toward Atlanta.

Tuesday, July 19, 1864

Same place.

Weather pleasant and warm still.

At 5 A.M. ordered to be ready to march at a moment's notice. No musketry in hearing, Canonading at 7 A.M. toward Atlanta. Affairs moving rather quietly all day building bridges across Peach Tree Creek 4 miles north of Atlanta over which the 4th A.C. passed in part before dark—saw some of them passing over, & the skirmishing on the other side. Went down by Buck's Head to the Bridge with Col. Coburn & Capt Kellum—saw Gens Howard & Wood.²²⁰ Returned to camp at dark.

²¹⁸ I.e., Pace's Ferry.

²¹⁹ I.e., Nancy's Creek.

²²⁰ Brigadier General Thomas J. Wood (1823-1906) commanded the 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

Wrote letter to wife 3.

Wednesday, July 20

Hosp 3rd Div. 20 A.C. Near Buck's Head road toward Atlanta at the Bridge across Peach Tree Creek— Weather has been warm.

Order in middle of night to be ready at daylight to march, did start about 6 AM. Moved to left then right—then left again on account of bridge not being completed— Located Hospital with Surgⁿ Grinsted—as a battle seemed imminent on the other side.

3 Div. Passed over between 2nd Div. & 4th A.C. Sharp skirmishing. Went over with Surgⁿs Hovey & Grinsted to seek a better place for Hosp. Enemy charged our lines while we were there, but met with a fierce counter charge from 20th & 4th A.C. and were driven back with terrible slaughter. Wounded of 3 Div 350 to-night & about 25 Rebs here—wounds severe. I in chg. 2nd sec[tion] of Hosp. Dr. Hamilton²²¹ back with $\frac{2}{3}$. Battle terrific.²²²

Thursday, July 21

Same place.

Weather fair a little rain at eve 7 P.M.—

Very little skirmishing in our front to-day— It is believed that the rebs are thoroughly whipped & prisoners seem to think their case hopeless—McPherson in their rear “knocking” at the “gates” of Atlanta.²²³ Whole loss in the Div. in yesterday's fight 370 wounded 62 killed.

Friday, July 22

2nd Sec. Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. at White House $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles North of Atlanta.

Weather warm—

20th A.C. moved forward to within 2 miles of Atlanta— After the wounded were all dressed I went with Ranney & Dix two miles south to our Div. Saw Gen Hooker &c.

²²¹ William Hamilton was commissioned Surgeon in the 102nd Illinois Infantry Regiment in October 1863.

²²² General Hood, having taken command of the Confederate forces from Johnston only two days previously, saw an immediate opportunity to strike at the Union army. After crossing the Chattahoochee Sherman advanced on Atlanta in two separate columns, and Hood planned to attack and defeat each one in succession. His first target was Thomas's Army of the Cumberland approaching Atlanta from the north, which he caught by surprise at the Battle of Peachtree Creek on July 20. After some initial setbacks, the Union troops held their ground against furious Confederate assaults.

²²³ The Army of the Tennessee under McPherson had swung around Atlanta to cut the Georgia Railroad at Decatur and was advancing on Atlanta from the east.

Took dinner at Reg't with Capt Baldwin & Cahill.²²⁴ Went out in front on hill to see Atlanta & Rebel works indistinctly— Reported at Brigade Head Qrs. Dr. Coakly att. sick call at our Regt, but imperfectly. Returned to Hosp—examined this house and thought it a good place for a hosp.

Passed over Battle field saw graves of our dead as well as that of some rebel dead— Ordered by Surgⁿ Grinsted to return with Surgⁿ Hovey & Asst Surgⁿ Amsden to take possession of this house as Hosp. did so. with panniers &c.

Some prospect of fight.

Severe engagement of left wing & death of McPherson.²²⁵

Saturday, July 23

2 Sec. 3 Div Hosp. At same place.

Weather still fair.

Cleared off the ground &c around the house. 6 men come into Hosp wounded— No general engagement.—

I am feeling quite unwell—Lt Wing camped close by. Write letter to Sam'l Griffin—father of Major Griffin— Surgeon Hobbs returns & reports to Adj't Crawford²²⁶ of 2nd Brigade,—just before night.

Topographical engineer in the house— Brigade wagons in yard. Report of McPherson's death confirmed. Our [losses] less heavy—Rebs driven back with heavier²²⁷— We lost 10 canon ~~and~~

20th A.C. remains in same place as yesterday nearly—skirmishing still & some heavy firing with large guns. Comfortably bedded on cotton in a house to-night.

Letter from Mrs. Smith of the 15th deprecating the course of the Administration, & the renomination of Lincoln.

²²⁴ LeRoy Cahill (born ca. 1841) of Portage enlisted as First Sergeant in Company F, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in November 1862, wounded in action in May 1863, transferred to Company C in June 1863, promoted to 1st Lieutenant in January 1864, and would be promoted to Captain in Company A in October 1864. In July 1864 he was acting Adjutant.

²²⁵ Hood had learned that the Army of the Tennessee had left a flank unsupported and ordered General Hardee to move against it with his corps on July 22. At the Battle of Atlanta (or Bald Hill) once again the Confederate attack came as a surprise, but the timely arrival of reinforcements prevented a Union disaster. However, General McPherson was surprised by Confederate pickets and killed while reconnoitering with some of his staff.

²²⁶ Francis C. Crawford of Terre Haute was commissioned Adjutant in the 85th Indiana Infantry in August 1862 and would be promoted to Captain in Company G in September 1864.

²²⁷ Hood's forces withdrew into the defenses of Atlanta. His failures in the battles of July 20 and 22 cost the Confederates about 8000 casualties compared to the Union losses of around 5500.

Sunday, July 24

2nd Sec. 3 Div Hosp. 2½ miles North of Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair, warm & dry.

A few men come in wounded in skirmish line—Mr. Price from McMinnville called a moment while I was attending to a wounded man.— Received order from Surgⁿ Grinsted to report with hospital to first section immediately, with an intimation that there were raiders around (Gen. Sherman) that would disturb us. Went back over battle field with Surgⁿ Hobbs— Let him have my colt to ride for the present—saw four unburied rebel bodies slain on 20th Inst—black & bloated.

Ate dinner at Hosp. & after some delay started by another way to right to establish again. Surgⁿ Foye selected a place—a good one under fire—long way around to get ½ mile—I in charge.

Dr. Trowbridge here.

Monday, July 25, 1864

Hosp. 3rd Div 20th A.C. 2½ miles North of Atlanta Ga.

Weather still warm.—

Papers sent up to me as Brigade Surgⁿ show them to Surgⁿ Hobbs.—receive note from Crawford—Surgⁿ Hobbs goes down to explain—all right— Order by Col Coburn for my relief &c.

Most of the day is spent in policing ground for hospital putting up tents &c. so as to be fully ready in case of action— We now have up accommodations for 200 men & a nice place—good water—I am temporarily in charge of this section—

Sharp skirmishing & terrific shelling last night as well as to-night—24 seconds for Shell to go into Atlanta & its report return.

Put up personal tents & beds in good shape.

[Isaac Z.] Edwards & Lilly resign.²²⁸

Capt Baldwin comes to see me.

Recd letter from wife of 17th 3+ & wrote in answer 6.

Tuesday, July 26

Hosp. 3 Div 20th A.C. 2½ miles north of Atlanta Ga.

²²⁸ Augustus Lilly (1826?-1888) of Allegan enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 as First Sergeant. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in May 1863 and to 1st Lieutenant in May 1864. He would be discharged in April 1865 for disability.

Weather still warm but pleasant.

Balance of Hospital came up to-day with all sick & wounded not sent to rear.

Disordered state of reports of Surgⁿ Hamilton. By Order of Surgⁿ Grinsted I relieve Hamilton in charge of Hosp. and enter upon duty—Dr. Trowbridge attends to the regiment but remains at Hosp. except to make sick call—

I find it almost impossible to bring order out of the chaotic condition of things here, but will succeed ere long.

2 wounded men to-day— Shells burst uncomfortably near us.

Promise Geo Russell to help him if I can.

Wednesday, July 27

Same place.

Weather a little rainy though not heavy. Not fully regulated yet.

We expected to move to-night with a section of Hospital leaving sick here & we return, but our command did not go— Some jealousy among nurses—

Surgⁿ Grinsted relieved here to-night & W^m C. Bennet Surgⁿ U.S.V. takes the place. It is said that Hooker will go to some other command.²²⁹ I fear his place cannot be filled in the 20th A.C. God preserve us.

Order from chaos not fully restored in Hosp. here yet.

Make certificates of disability for Lts. Edwards & Lilly to resign—recommend Lt Norris²³⁰ not to apply at present for leave of absence. Try to straighten out reports for Dr Jewett.

Retire late. God be with me.

Some skirmishing—no canons firing to-night.

Thursday, July 28

Hosp 3 Div. 20th A.C. near Atlanta Ga.

Weather a little rainy—

Sent Hosp. team to Marietta for Sanitary stores—Christian Commission man Rich²³¹—

Came also Mr. Roberts.²³²

²²⁹ General Hooker had hoped to succeed to McPherson's command, but Sherman appointed General Howard instead. Hooker, in a fit of pique requested to be relieved and Brigadier General Alpheus S. Williams became the new commander of the 20th Army Corps.

²³⁰ William M. Norris (born ca. 1834) of Coldwater enlisted in Company H, 19th Michigan Infantry as Sergeant in July 1862. He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in Company I in December 1863 and would be to Captain in October 1864. He would resign in November 1864 because of disability.

²³¹ Probably Rev. J. D. Rich of Minneapolis.

Tremendous fighting a mile or two to the right, while the batteries close by here throw shell into Atlanta continually— Skirmish firing heavy in front of us—go out after dark to see shells fly .

One section of Hosp. to be ready to move at a moments notice. 3 Div. move out, but finding that the Rebs were driven back with great slaughter, they went into same place for to-night & we rest till morning.

W^m C. Bennett enters upon duty as Med. Director of Division.

Friday, July 29

Same place.

Weather pleasant—a little sprinkle of rain about noon—

3rd Div. moved far to the right (probably 4 or 5 miles)— One section of Hosp. followed— large number of sick fell out (34).

Have some definite account by Mr. Rich of the immense slaughter of Rebs yesterday— they made 7 charges upon our batteries and Infantry in open field & were finally repulsed and driven back. They must have lost 10000 men in all.²³³ We [hear] no tidings from our division to-night. They may have been fighting to-day but there does not seem to have been any general engagements. Sharp volleys occasionally.

Preaching in Hospital ground after dark att[ended] with interest by nearly all that could. May God dwell with us here, and keep us all in His Love.

Saturday, July 30, 1864

Hosp 3 Div. 20th AC. Near Atlanta.

Weather fair and warm.

Continue the work of policing. Surgⁿ Hovey sends a note from the advanced section that he has no food—utensils nor cook for all that are there. He was mistaken somewhat.

There is some prospect that we shall move forward in the morning,—the Division being about 8 miles on the extreme right.— Hospital in good condition but few seriously sick. Have put up two tents and 16 bunks for the more serious cases.— Much heavy canonading all of the time to-day.

²³² In 1864 there were six U.S. Christian Commission delegates in the field with the last name Roberts.

²³³ The Battle of Ezra Church on July 28 was Hood's third and final attempt to defeat one of Sherman's detached corps. The Army of the Tennessee had shifted from its position on the east side of Atlanta to the west and was on the march to cut the Macon & Western Railroad south of the city when suddenly attacked by two of Hood's corps. The Confederate formations charged repeatedly and unsuccessfully with casualties amounting to 5000.

Surgⁿ W. C. Bennett is stirring things up a little & doubtless will improve hospital matters somewhat. Christian Commission stops here.

Wrote letter to wife 5 but do not send it till

Send part of sanitary good[s] to Dr. Hovey

Sunday, July 31

Weather fair in morn.—rain with thunder and lightning a little after noon—pretty heavy—& continuing till night—

Surgⁿ W. C. Bennett went forward to command—8 miles they will return here probably—

Only 2 sick men admitted here—22 at the advanced section— Made return for 3 days rations for 600 men—Aug. 1st 2nd—& 3rd.— Sent part to (600) to advanced section.

3rd Div. went to-day on reconnoissance in force as far as in sight of Rail-Road. There has been but little firing to-day— — Preaching this morning by ___ ___ would have been to-night but for the rain.—

Tents not well trenched²³⁴ flies leak to much in heavy rain. Have calls sounded on horn— Write more in letter to wife. 2 Send it.

Monday, August 1

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 2S

Weather fair except a little cloudy with a sprinkling of rain.

Surgⁿ Hovey came down— Police a place for a row of tents to fill with bunks— Went out in evening with Surgⁿs Bennett & Grinsted to find a sheltered place for a hospital in case of leaving this one on account of a proposed attack upon the enemys lines in our front.

Call at Corps Head Qrs. See Gens Williams & Geary.

Notified to send 16 ambulances loaded with sick & wounded to Vining's Station. 27 men sent sick from advanced Sect of Hosp.— Work till near midnight in completing list of men to send.

Tuesday, August 2

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Near Atlanta.

Weather fair and not very warm—

Sent of patients 57 to Vining's Station—in care Dr. Preston.²³⁵ (He delivered them in good order.) One man sent the day before charged with being a deserter having

²³⁴ The channels around the perimeter of each tent to carry off rainwater were improperly dug.

consumption—could not be sent for want of room. (Jerome Franklin)²³⁶ Finished bunks (28)— Made some other improvements—
At Dr. Trowbridge's request he was ordered to his regiment till action. Sent Dr. Jewett to Advanced Section & return with reports— Drew 7 days full rations for 2 horses—Aug 1 to 7. Clear up the records very nearly.
23 A.C. move past us to the right. Look for another fight. Rumor of Calamity to McCook's command.²³⁷ Only rut[?] danger.

Wednesday, August 3

Hospital 3 Div 20 A.C. Before Atlanta Ga.

Weather still fair, rain threatened—

3rd Div. move back to the Rail-Road— Advanced Section of Hospital returns to this place— Drs Trowbridge & Amsden return to their Regiments.

About 100 patients come in in all. A little warm work in getting into position—2 men wounded.

Affairs here move on quietly I believe—Policing & improving still.

Thursday, August 4

Same place.

Weather fair—rain threatened.

Surgⁿ W^m C. Bennett assumes command here but Surgⁿ Grinsted remains here organizing Artiller[y] Med. Officers—Bennett remains here a considerable portion of the time.— 3 men wounded brot in—John Rea²³⁸ of 19th Mich &c.

Heavy fighting at various points. McCook's command in a large degree successful but losing heavily.

It seems as though a vigorous resistance is to be made here and may require a long seige to reduce this place—

Continue improving Hospital grounds & tents with bunks— P[ut] up 2nd flies for reading room &e Chapel— Rec'd my trunk & note from Adj^t Brown.

²³⁵ John C. Preston of Cleveland enlisted in the 73rd Ohio Infantry in March 1863 as Assistant Surgeon.

²³⁶ Private Jerome Franklin was in Company I, 55th Ohio Infantry. The regiment was part of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

²³⁷ Brigadier General Edward M. McCook (1833-1909) in command of the 1st Division, Cavalry Corps set about to disrupt the railroad around Jonesboro, about fifteen miles south of Atlanta. After some success, he was surrounded by Confederate cavalry and infantry and compelled to fight his way out. In the event he lost 600 in killed and captured but was not totally destroyed as initial reports made out.

²³⁸ Private John Rea (1831?-1898) of Bangor enlisted in Company G, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

Receive letter from wife 4 & from Sister Rebecca to wife 2.

Friday, August 5

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Before Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair, but rain threatened—& begins at 11 PM.

Rec'd note from Lieut. Ford, enclosing another to be opened in case of his death. I shall do his wish if possible.

Sent for additional articles Hosp^l Stores & corn starch.

Heavy Skirmishing a little to our right about 4 to 5 P.M., but 3 Div. not engaged. Two men mortally & two others severely wounded came in. All reports made out for to-day—letter from Dr Tompkins—I must write him.

Ordered to send 45 men to Vinings Station in morn.— Make lists & get all things ready.

Long Confab with Surgⁿ Grinsted upon religion—“Pearls before swine.”

Brisk Skirmishing firing & some Canonading nearly in front of us.

Letter from Dr Tompkins.

Chapel tent erected.

Saturday, August 6

Same place.

Weather fair till afternoon, quite severe rain toward night and till late in the evening.

Sent off 45 men to Vinings Station. Early in morn—

Went to Corps H'd Qrs. & was told by Surgⁿ Foye to send to Marietta for Sanitary Stores. Went on over to the batteries, returned via 2 Div. Hosp.— Sent team this P.M. to Marietta for S. Stores..

Policing continued—& bunks put up in one ward. Much work to be done in such an institution as this.

Recd letter from Dr. Tompkins yesterday.

Sunday, August 7, 1864

Hosp 3rd Div 20th A.C. 2 miles from Atlanta Ga.

Weather fine after the rain of last night—

We proposed to rest to-day except the necessary cleaning up & nursing. Inspection at 9½ A.M.— Things in fair order—

Preaching at 10½ A.M. by Ch. Stillwell—Very good—prayed for the re-election of Lincoln about which much fault was found.— Sunday-School at 3 PM. Attended with interest.

May God work among us to do of his will & pleasure. Preaching again to-night—too long for invalids in open air.

Inspection by Sanitary Inspector Dr. Webster.²³⁹

Serg't Hager²⁴⁰ Mortally wounded.

Wrote under date of yesterday recommending Lieut Wing for field officer in new regiment.

Write part of letter to wife.

Monday, August 8

At same place.

Weather rainy nearly all day—

Our patients suffer somewhat from leaky tents.

Sergt Hager Died this A.M. of his wound in abdomen.

Men shot in picket line and in the trenches come in occasionally.

A long talk with Surgⁿ Bennett concerning the future of this country almost discourages me. I hope however in God & the right.

Write more in the letter to wife.

Tuesday, August 9

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Before Atlanta Ga. Aug 9th

Weather heavy and rainy nearly all day—

1800 guns ordered to be fired from the 6 batteries of the 20 A.C. and the booming has been almost continuous— This seems to be an effort to divert the rebels from some more important movement on our part.— Heavy Canon came down to-day via R.R. & will be heard from soon.²⁴¹— Atlanta stands in her pride against us. Firing to-night sparse.

Spring put in good order to-day. Work of improvement going on in Hosp.—men.

It is said some long 34 pounders have been sent down to-day.

Finish letter to wife & send it. Receive letter from wife of July 31st & Jennie of same date— Clara unwell.

Wednesday, August 10

Same place.

²³⁹ Warren Webster (1835-1896) of Massachusetts. He was Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army when found guilty of disobedience of orders by a court martial in the autumn of 1863.

²⁴⁰ Phineas A. Hager (1820?-1864) of Otsego enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 as Sergeant.

²⁴¹ Sherman had realized that he was no longer able to maneuver the Confederates out of Atlanta and had requested siege guns be sent from Chattanooga. Bennett is probably referring to three 4.5-inch Rodman guns capable of firing a 30-pound shell.

Weather promised fair till afternoon, but so much canonading seems to have brought on a copious shower toward night—

Went to 2nd Div Hd. Qrs concerning a Lt of 55th O[ho] V.V. Whom arrested and sent there yesterday for drunkenness &c. Explained to Gen Geary.— Went on with Surgⁿ Bennett to 3rd Div Hd. Qrs. to determine about detaining music men at Hosp. Capt Speed²⁴² says they were ordered here, & must remain here till ordered back by Div Commander— Sought a place to which to move hosp.—found none very satisfactory— although we rode far. Visited 1st Div. Hosp on our return nearly 300 patients— They have not a good place—

Heavy firing nearly all day—Rebs do not reply much—large guns are talking to-night. 7 wounded on to-day's report.

Thursday, August 11

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Near Atlanta Ga.

Weather promised to be fair in morn but there have been several showers during the day & last night & continues yet.

I have been almost sick, but feel better to-night after taking six grs. Quin.—

Canonading frequent along the line with picket firing— We have received a large number of patients to-day have put about 45 from large into small tents. Surgⁿ W^m C. Bennett spent but a small part of to-day here.— We are trying to get all our patients off the ground. 29 are still with[out] bunks, but that will be remedied to-morrow.

I have not been able to find time to write any letters to-day— Spent two hours this evening in discussing professional subjects pertaining to our immediate duties here.

(Made a mistake in writing on this page)²⁴³

Friday, August 12

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C.

Weather a little better, sprinkles a little, but does not dry off much.

Affairs move on as usual. 9 men come in wounded—2 die.

W. C. Bennett moves down here to-night— Reports made in a regular manner but records are not satisfactory—10 wards fully bunked.

Saturday, August 13

²⁴² Captain John Speed was Assistant Adjutant-General of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

²⁴³ Bennitt evidently skipped a page in his diary and wrote this entry on the page for Saturday, August 13. The entry for that date he has put for August 11.

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. near Atlanta Ga.

Weather somewhat sunny, but no rain rather damp around us yet.

Four men have died of wounds within last 24 hours.— Nearly half of the men brought in have mortal wounds.

Cannonading has been brisk part of the day & is quite so to-night— A long quiet this morning led us to hope Atlanta had given up—

Col Shafter called this PM. not well—says John²⁴⁴ is restored to his standing as an officer. I doubt the propriety of this result.— Religious exercises in chapel tent to-night.

Sunday, August 14, 1864

Same place.

Weather fair till P.M. rain about 3½—

Some heavy fighting on the right at sundown. Cannonading pretty heavy nearly all day. Ezra Nichols wounded through right thigh & will probably die of the wound. Inspection this morning found things looking well.

Preaching at 11 AM. & 6 P.M. Good attention & serious impressions. May God deepen them in us all, and preserve us in him.

Have made preparations to send for Sanitary Stores to-morrow morning & will try and send letter to wife.

We have 389 patients in Hosp. Many dying soon after coming in— O my God give me wisdom for this work & patients²⁴⁵ and industry accord as I need.

Wrote three pages of a letter to my wife.

Monday, August 15

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 2 miles North of Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair nearly all day rained a little about 6 P.M.—

Heavy cannonading & Picket firing frequent.— I rode around with Surgⁿ Grinstead to Batteries and to Div. Head Qrs. Gen. Ward seems like a demented man almost.

The 2nd Brigade 3 Div. advanced about 3 AM. Closer to the enemy works, giving rise to a brisk fight of skirmishers, but no one hurt of our men.

²⁴⁴ John N. Shafter (born ca. 1839) of Galesburg enlisted as Sergeant Major in the 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in Company B in July 1863, but was court-martialed in McMinnville for his implication in theft of private property in December 1863. When court records were inexplicably “lost,” he was reinstated and would be promoted to Captain in October 1864. Shafter was the younger brother of Lieutenant Colonel William Shafter.

²⁴⁵ I.e., patience.

6 wounded men came in to-day 4 severe— 4 men died in the last 24 hours—3 of wounds.

Steward Scofield went to Marietta for Sanitary Stores—I sent my letter to wife by him. Little Hattie not well. Recd letter from Jennie & Clara & a letter from wife.

Tuesday, August 16

At same place.

Weather fair—ground drying off nicely—

Policing going on as much as practicable—moved our office tent this P.M. & have very comfortable arrangements, and will be pleasant when fully arrangedments.

Forage curtailed ½ because of Rebels having cut the R.R. at Dalton or some other point.²⁴⁶

Wednesday, August 17

Hosp 3rd Div 20 A.C. Near Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair, & pleasant and affairs move on as usual.

Rumors of

Order received to-night to be ready to break camp and move our Hospital to the other side of the River at 5 AM to-morrow— Full arrangements made but the order was [not?] carried into effect for some movement developed the fact that to raise the siege is necessary at present.

Thursday, August 18

Same Place.

Weather very fair but not excessively warm—cool in morn & eve.

Heavy firing early this morn occasioned by the supposition on the part of the enemy that we were about to make some kind of demonstration or fall back. They found our army ready for them and they were glad to get behind their works. Four wounded men came in—One fracture at Elbow.

I have not been well to-day, and am still feeling dull.

Religious meeting to-night attended with good interest.

Friday, August 19

²⁴⁶ On August 10 Hood ordered his cavalry commander, General Joseph Wheeler, to attack and disrupt Union communications and rail lines in the Union rear, hoping to force Sherman to retreat. On August 14 the Confederate cavalry had reached Dalton. The raid would last until September 9 but did not accomplish its intended objective.

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20 A.C. near Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair, Thunder Storm imminent now (9½ PM.) Rains hard.

Report of success of Kilpatrick at East-point in cutting and holding the Macon R.R.²⁴⁷

Our order to move two days ago was only a feint to deceive some rebel spies in camp at the time.— Our communication with our base of supply is open freely again, so that we can get full[?] forage again.— The heavy firing this morning was nearly all from our batteries. We are trying to demolish their forts & make the city untenable. Burning buildings were seen in the city this morn.

Weekly reports are made out & sent in.

O my Saviour dwell in me in love and keep me from sin.

Saturday, August 20, 1864

Same place.

Weather fair till about noon, and rainy all the remainder of the day.

No particular intelligence concerning our movements & successes but it is said that some heavy fighting was done by the 17th A.C. yesterday, worsting the rebels, The seige continues here but the rebels do not shoot at us so much as formerly. No wounded to-day from our divs.

Adjut Brown & Capt Hubbard both make application for leave of absence, & I must make their certificates of disability. Lieut Wing, & Capt. Anderson²⁴⁸ called to see me to-night. Wrote a note[?] Bill of \$35⁰⁰ for Anderson, the amount due him up to this night.

Reced letter from wife (4-) of the 12th mailed 13th all well.

Wrote 3¾ pages of a letter to wife.

Sunday, August 21, 1864

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Before Atlanta Ga.

Weather has been rainy nearly all day—rains quite fast just now (8½ PM.)—

²⁴⁷ Sherman, realizing that the majority of Confederate cavalry was away north of Atlanta, ordered Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick (1836-1881) of the Cavalry Corps to take his 3rd Division along with two brigades of the 2nd Division and attempt to destroy the Macon and Western Railroad south of Atlanta. It was to be hoped that this operation would force the surrender of that city, but Kilpatrick's attempt was largely unsuccessful and he returned to the Union lines on August 22.

²⁴⁸ David Anderson (born ca. 1825) of Matteson was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company H, 19th Michigan Infantry in July 1862. He was promoted to Captain in May 1863, was wounded twice at Atlanta in May and June 1864, and commanded the regiment from July 20 to September 1864. He would be promoted to Major in October 1864 and to Colonel in June 1865.

Inspection this morning showed a fair condition of things in the wards. We seem to have a large number of patients on our hands now (431) a large proportion however are not very sick.

Had we a good mixed diet for a few weeks a large proportion of our sick would require no medication.

Col Coburn, Major Miller²⁴⁹ & Dr Bence came down and took supper with us. Col.

C[oburn] thinks Capt. Anderson is the man to command the 19th Mich.

Moved our quarters out from sick quarters.

Wrote letter to Jennie & Clara 4 and enclose it with one to wife.

Monday, August 22

Same place.

Weather fair—no rain—a little cloudy—comfortably cool.

Work going on in Hospital as usual— Music men make a little trouble about work. Dr. Gill²⁵⁰ will be Chief Surgⁿ of 1st Div instead of 3rd. I am inclined to become a U.S.V.—

Very little musketry on the lines to-day— Cannonading continuous— Rumor that pay-masters are among us— No tidings looking to an end of this seige.

We open up the camp more and move office toward the field— Mules smells bad—

Wrote certificates of disability for Adj^t Brown and Capt Hubbard late to-night.

Rec'd letters from wife of 9th 3 and 14th 4 & from Clara of 14th—3. Added a few words to the letter written last night and sent them.

Tuesday, August 23

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20 A.C. 2 miles North of Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair—not excessively warm—

Moved officers quarters—in full yes[?]

Some body picked my pocket which was lying by my bedside last night—of my wallet with 15⁰⁰ Cash—Stamps about 1⁰⁰—Note against Dr. Hatchard of \$120⁰⁰ & some other papers—and Major Griffins Watch. No clue to the thief.

Receive order to send a medical officer & some workmen over the Chattahoochee to select and establish a Hospital early in the morning and move part of the sick in the P.M.

Wednesday, August 24

²⁴⁹ Major Levin T. Miller enlisted in the 33rd Indiana Infantry in November 1862 and would resign in September 1864.

²⁵⁰ Henry Z. Gill, Surgeon, U.S. Army.

New Site for Hospital 1½ miles S.W. Vining's Station Ga.

Weather fair—

Asst Surgⁿ Wood²⁵¹ started out early this AM. with 12 police—musicians to select a place for Hospital and clear up ground &c. I get a little more definite instructions from Surgⁿ Foye concerning the object and nature of the movement and start with the 4 wagons loaded with tents & boards to this place. Found Dr Wood had located here— Did not like it at first. Water too scarce— Not much done toward making a Hosp. before I arrive at 3¾ P.M.— (See Surgⁿ Cooper of 23rd Mo. on the way and received some papers from him)

94 sick men & wounded came late in evening— We have 3 wards up and one of them bunked—work late & feel tired. We cannot afford much comfort to these suffering men.

Thursday, August 25

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Near Vining's Station Ga. on the Rail-Road.

Weather fair—cool at morn & eve.

The whole Hospital moved to-day and a terrible job it is to move so many sick and wounded men—425—and move their houses too. We shall manage to place the sick up from the ground in a few days, as we have brought a large part of the bunk lumber from the other Hospital site.

It is expected that our A.C. will move to the rear to-night. R.R. trains pass with much noise. We change medical officers to some extent and consolidate the Surgeons messes into one.

I have worked hard to-day having started out hatchet in hand to open up the way for front line for wards, and am ready to retire very late. Surgⁿ Bennett has not been to see us.

Friday, August 26

Same Place

Weather fair with a little sprinkle of rain. Not very warm—nights cool.

Affairs going on well at hospital only it is difficult to get much work out of musicians.

30 good men could do more work than the whole 80 we have here.

Surgⁿ W^m C. Bennett called to see us & seemed to think all was doing well. Had Spring excavated so as to hold a supply of water & it promises well. Our great fear here is that water will fail us.

Recd a letter from wife of Aug 17th Mailed 18th 2—and from Jennie of 14th & 17th.

²⁵¹ Orlando S. Wood of the 129th Illinois Infantry Regiment.

I assign medical officers to duty in difficult wards.

Saturday, August 27

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Near Vinings Station Ga.

Weather fair, not very warm— Thunder shower last night, not a large amount of rain. But it was unpleasant to know that a large number of the sick were on the ground in untrenched tents. To-day they have been trenched & the policing & Bunking going on. The spring will give us a good supply of water but not quite enough.

3rd Div. attacked by Rebel Cavalry—with shell, killing two and wounding two of our men—sending a shell through Div. flag. Rec'd word to send operating staff to front while at dinner.— They were soon off but had nothing to do there. Will send them some bread in the morn early— Dr. Hatchard Paid me \$50⁰⁰ on the note for the horse for which I give him a receipt (the note having been stolen).

Sunday, August 28

Same place.

Weather fair—

Had preaching in front of Ward 11— 1st Brigade have moved into the rebel works near us & we are obliged to move our convalescent camp. In case of attack we shall be exposed to fire somewhat—but there is but little danger here— I went with W^m C. B]ennett] to Corps Hd Qrs.—learned that we would send some men to rear soon— No more trouble on our front—no enemy very near that can be found.

Called at 1st Div Hosp at eve, and heard a sermon. Surgⁿ Gill a good man.

Work suspended for the day.

Monday, August 29

Hospital 3rd Div. 20 A.C. 1½ miles from Vinings Station Ga.

Weather fair and warm.

Burning rubbish around Hosp. smoked us badly. Surg^{ns} Hobbs & Bennett came down early. Recd notice to have 55 men ready to send to Chattanooga in Hospl train in the morn.— Lieut Wing came down asking me to attend to Major Griffins business—I will try— Wing will take the horse at what two men shall value it if not more than \$80. I cannot keep it on short rations.

Anderson gets 6 days ½ rations for two horses—½ rations.

Work in policing goes on but slowly.

Recd letter from Mrs. Griffin requesting me to attend to her affairs here.

Recd letters from wife 4 & Clara 3 of August 21st.

Tuesday, August 30

Same place.

Weather fair,—not excessively warm.—

I am not feeling very well to-day.

Sent off to Chattanooga on a Hospital train 55 men sick and wounded— A man of 20th Ct brought in shot through the body with the ramrod of his own gun while in the act of drawing a load from it.²⁵²

Rec'd a paper from Capts Anderson & Baldwin valuing the Griffin Colt at \$70⁰⁰.

Paid Lieut Wing Cash \$10⁰⁰ on my note to him for mony borrowed nearly two months ago. He has the note yet—not having it with him.

Wednesday, August 31

Hospital 3rd Div. 20 A.C. one mile north Chattahoochee River Ga on R.R.

Weather fair—not very warm— Cool tonight.

Lt Wing gave me Major Griffin's money (\$10⁴⁵ U.S. money & \$11⁰⁰ other currency of doubtful value). Gave him a bill of sale of the Bay Colt for \$70⁰⁰—took up note against Griffin in favor of C P Lincoln of 115⁰⁰ on which had been paid \$75⁰⁰ previously and one of \$30⁰⁰ in favor of Patrick Gillon²⁵³ on which had been paid \$8.00—and received of Lt. Wing beside, Cash \$8.00 in full of the \$70⁰⁰.

Wrote letter to wife 4.

NINE

²⁵² "Drawing a load" was the procedure used to remove bullet and powder from a loaded musket. In this case it was not practiced with requisite care.

²⁵³ Private Patrick J. Gillon (born ca. 1834) of Pokagon enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

*“THE EVENTS OF THE PAST THREE WEEKS HAVE
RENEWED MY HOPES”
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1864*

Thursday, Sept. 1, 1864

Same place.

Weather fair.

Arbor constructed in front of Head quarters. Affairs going on very well here at hospital.

Received supply of medicines from purveyor as well as camp kettles—

Sam'l Tyler²⁵⁴ returned here from rear where he has been since Resaca fight.

We understand that McLellan is the nominee of the Chicago convention—& that Kirby Smith has reinforced us with 15000 men.²⁵⁵

No news from Sherman to-day— He is far to the South-East at last accounts.²⁵⁶

Wrote letter to my wife 4.

Return at 11 PM.

Friday, Sept. 2

Hospital 3rd Div. 20 A.C. One mile north Chattahoochee River.

Weather fair—

²⁵⁴ Tyler does not appear on the rosters of the regiments in Bennitt's brigade; he may have been a hospital orderly.

²⁵⁵ Bennitt is making a facetious remark, commenting that the anti-war candidates put forward by the Democrats would initiate military reinforcements under the Confederate General Edward Kirby Smith.

²⁵⁶ On August 25 Sherman pulled his army out of their siege lines, leaving the 20th Army Corps to guard the bridges over the Chattahoochee, and marched them towards Jonesboro about sixteen miles south of Atlanta to cut the Macon & Western Railroad. When Hood learned of this he sent two corps to halt the Union advance, but at the Battle of Jonesboro on August 31 and September 1 the Confederates failed in their objective. With Atlanta now isolated Hood abandoned the city during the night of September 1 and moved his army southwards into fortified positions.

Atlanta is evacuated last night mostly—they blew up their ammunition train & engines because they could not be got away—Sherman having cut off the Rail-Roads & in some degree dispersed their army.

Col Coburn is first to enter and take possession of the city & received the surrender of the mayor—Coburn however receives no credit however—²⁵⁷

2nd Brigade occupy the city. Rebs rear guard fight a little. Many of the people seem pleased at our entrance—

Saturday, Sept. 3

Same place.

Weather fair.

Evacuation of Atlanta a sure thing; but we go on putting things in order here, though we may not remain a day longer.

Sunday, Sept. 4

Hospital 3rd Div. 20 A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair rather warm.

Rec'd an order from Surgⁿ Foye before I was out of bed, written the night before,—to move the hospital immediately to Fair ground Atlanta.²⁵⁸ Could not get started much before noon. Leave Surg^{ns} Himes & Kling²⁵⁹ in charge of 120 patients in 5 wards—to come down to-morrow. We locate in a nice lawn in front of a house beside the “Fair Ground” Hospital instead of in the buildings, on account of cleanliness & the supposition that the Gen. Hosp. would be established there— 400 sick & wounded of 4th A.C. come in late—we feed them.

Monday, Sept. 5

Same place.

Weather rainy with severe thunder shower & some hail, which prevent our work of putting Hospital in order going on. Nearly 100 of the sick left the other side of the river came over to-day—arriving at the time of a shower, were place[d] in the Rebel Hospital building to remain until our tents can be sent up—

²⁵⁷ Colonel Coburn led elements of his 2nd Brigade, including the 19th Michigan Infantry, into Atlanta to verify the rumor that the city had been evacuated by the Confederate army. He met Mayor James M. Calhoun who formally surrendered the city to him.

²⁵⁸ The fairground was located on the southeastern edge of the city.

²⁵⁹ Isaac N. Himes of Cleveland was Surgeon in the 73rd Ohio Infantry Regiment, and after the war became a colleague of Bennitt in the Medical Department at Western Reserve College in Cleveland. Jay Kling of Monroeville was Surgeon in the 55th Ohio Infantry Regiment.

23 men remain the other side yet—2nd Div ambulances bring 24 sick over.

Tuesday, Sept. 6

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather rainy, discouraging to any effort at putting our hospital in good order. Our musicians are not worth much, to do work. We have sent two squads to their regiments & shall get rid of them as soon as practicable and get good men in their places.

A trouble arose among rebel prisoners because some of them proposed to take the oath of allegiance. Aⁿ Federal officer explained to them that rebel deserters would not be drafted into the Federal army.

Nashville train came through to-day bringing news of the fall of Richmond, not reliable however.

Capt. Hubbard's application for leave of absence returns approved. He pays me \$4⁰⁰ mess a/c and will start home in the morning. Lieut Brown Adj't got no answer from his.

Rumor that we shall go to Virginia.

Saturday, Sept. 10

Hosp^l 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair, warm and pleasant.

Sunday, Sept. 11, 1864

Same Place.

Weather fair, warm and pleasant.

Surgⁿ Hatchard wishing to attend church Surgⁿ Kling acts as officer of the day. Many of the men in Hosp seek to go to church. The Episcopal clergyman prays for the President of the United States with apparent earnestness. Too much business for me to-day—I cannot get to church.

No formal inspection. I think we shall try to have our inspection hereafter on Saturday at 3 PM. or a little later.

Monday, Sept. 12

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair and pleasant. Warm.

Affairs moving on tolerable well. No. of patients diminishing rapidly. Surgeon Foye directs that all man able to take care of themselves. This will soon send out a large

number. Vegetable[s] can be had in the regiments as well as here and scorbutic cases get along as well there as here.

It is intimated to me that I shall be sent to the North to gather up the absent—sick & wounded. Not a mission to be sought much. A work that requires clear-headedness.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Same place.

Weather fair and warm.

Ride up [to] the city with Surgⁿ Grinsted and call around by Capt Sacketts²⁶⁰ to see if he can furnish any soft bread. Get some blanks, go to the 19th Mich.—have chat with nearly all of the officers—see W^m TenBrook, in the street doing guard duty. Seems well, and as though [tough?].

19th Mich guarding supplies—Quarters and camp not as tidy as I have sometimes seen it.

I send my application for examination for commission in Staff Corps. The propriety of this step is somewhat doubtful.

Wednesday, Sept. 14

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather pleasant and fair.

Went with Surgⁿ W^m C. Bennett to see Dr. Calhoun²⁶¹ citizen—Asst Surgeon in 4th A.C. died last night, of Dysentery. Surgⁿ Woodworth of Dept Cumb'd Hosp receives 6 patients not belonging to our A.C.—see him at eve inquiring for Surgⁿ Grinsted.

Col. Coburn expects to be mustered out to-morrow with his regiment.²⁶² 55th O. Band & 33rd Ind Band serenade him to-night and return late—a little too late to be real sober. Adj't Brown's application for leave of absence returned disapproved—sends in his resignation— Capt. Anderson brought it down, and I shall make a certificate.

Received three (10 ea) nos of M[ichigan] Ch[ristian] Herald. The fall of Atlanta known in Mich.

Recd letters from each of the Dear ones at home. All well.

²⁶⁰ Captain Orange Sackett, Jr. of Company G, 136th New York Infantry.

²⁶¹ Ezekiel Noble Calhoun (1799-1875) was the elder brother of the mayor of Atlanta, James M. Calhoun, who had surrendered the city on September 2. Dr. Calhoun, although an opponent of secession, nevertheless supported the Confederate cause and served as Surgeon to the 4th Georgia Infantry Battalion until poor health forced his resignation.

²⁶² Their three-year enlistments having expired, Colonel Coburn and about 140 others, would be officially mustered out of the 33rd Indiana Infantry on September 19 and 20.

Dr. Trowbridge came down.

Thursday, Sept. 15

Same Place.

Weather fair and very pleasant—much more so than we could have expected so far south at this time of year. Rather dry and dusty, but there is a promise of rain.— Expected Dr. Kittoe²⁶³ here to-day but he did not come. Visited Dr. Calhoun with W^m C. Bennett.

Surgⁿ Foye returned [a report?] morning because the cause of “Dropsy” was not stated. Sent it up again all right.

Two women applied for statements that would exempt them from travel because of their expected accouchment²⁶⁴—Mrs. Bedford’s²⁶⁵ case is a little doubtful in my mind. Mrs Gossett²⁶⁶ seems in much better spirits than when here 10 days ago. Gen. Sherman seems to be administering affairs judiciously, and will do much to reconcile the people to the U.S. government.

Make Lists of Instruments to be inspected and condemned.

Numbers in hospital diminishing.

Friday, Sept. 16

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair and comfortably warm.

I take my list of Instruments to be examined to Surgⁿ Hobbs in the morning— Call to see Ward²⁶⁷ at private house—think he will get well without furlough or discharge— Visit the three regiments of the Brigade lying East of City— They are policing well. Call to see Surgeon Cooper concerning the disapproval of Adj’t Brown’s papers—also took as[?] Surgⁿ Wiles note & learned from him that he disapproved them without knowing that he had seen the cases on Foye’s disapproval.

²⁶³ Edward D. Kittoe, U.S. Army, was Medical Inspector, Military Division of the Mississippi.

²⁶⁴ On September 7 General Sherman ordered all citizens of Atlanta to evacuate the city, the people given the opportunity to choose whether to go north or south. In spite of outraged protests from the citizens themselves as well as from General Hood, the expulsions were carried out. The two women Bennett mentions were trying to avoid the order on the grounds of being in advanced stages of pregnancy.

²⁶⁵ Possibly the wife of either James Bedford, a brick mason, or W. C. Bedford, a plasterer. Mrs. Bedford may have been allowed to remain in Atlanta because her name does not appear among those on the official roll of evacuees.

²⁶⁶ Mrs. Gossett does not appear on the official roll of evacuees.

²⁶⁷ Possibly either of Privates George D. Ward or Martin L. Ward of Constantine. Both men enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

Did not have time to visit 19th Mich.— Capts Shafer & Easton called to see me.
People leaving Atlanta rapidly by Gen. Sherman's order.

Saturday, Sept. 17

Same place.

Weather fair and pleasant but rain is threatened to-night.

Our hospital is in very good condition however. Patients 202 diminishing rapidly in number. In camps there is also but little sickness comparatively. The rest that our men our enjoying seems to be just what was needed.

Put up the evergreen arch & large star over our hospital entrance. Get affairs in very good shape.

No certainty yet of my going north.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 1864

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather rainy last night and to-day, cutting short or Episcopal ministers sermon—which was very good—and made it necessary to improve our trenching a little.

Have spent most of the time this afternoon in reading. This morning the Abstract of issues to Hospital for Aug came in showing a fund of \$771.10 now due the Hosp. Surgⁿ Grinsted is ordered to furnish a resume of the operations of the medical department of 3rd Div. during the Campaign just closed. A thing very hard for him to do, under the circumstances.—

I have just been out to attend my horse, loose and to learn why the guard allowed him to stray. He seems to be too simple. Col. Coburn called. I have certificate of Disability for W^m Neet²⁶⁸ of 85th Ind. for discharge.

Write letter.

Monday, Sept. 19

Same Place.

Weather fair.

Nothing of Special interest to-day.

Tuesday, Sept. 20

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta.

Weather fair but comfortable in morn. Cloudy afternoon and rainy toward evening.

²⁶⁸ Private William Neet of Bridgton enlisted in Company G, 85th Indiana Infantry in August 1862.

Surgⁿ Hobbs sent W^m Neet's certificate of Disability to me for a full official signature of mine as Surgⁿ in chg. 3rd Div Hosp. Went to see him—he was gone to battlefield—Went again afternoon—argued the point—he is right— I went on to Surgⁿ Foye for direction concerning discharges furloughs & leaves— We can get cows, and other supplies—

Order to charge officers same as in Officer's hospital--\$1.00 per day. We will treat them a little better.

Mr. Brittan—Ch[ristian] Com[mission] man with us since Sunday.²⁶⁹

Wednesday, Sept. 21

Same Place.

Weather rather rainy—heavy rain in P.M.

Extirpated Osseous tumor from forearm of a soldier of 73rd O[hio] V.I. weighing 3iii 3iii—

Operator Surgⁿ Himes. Choloform act'd pleasantly— Phenol used.²⁷⁰

Fitting up Officers ward with floor used good bunks, so that if possible an officer may feel comfortable.

Sent an estimate of sanitary supplies wanted from Q[uartern] M[aster].

Made certificate of Disability for Maxon of V.I.²⁷¹

Surgⁿ Hovey returned—has been examined for surgⁿ U.S.V.—passed— Went to N.Y. state.

Endorsed Dr. Jones²⁷² application for leave of absence, that he could be spared.

Thursday, Sept. 22

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather somewhat cloudy in morn rainy with wind in PM. & to-night.

Made certificates of disability for Lemon of 129th Ill.²⁷³

Surgeon Grinsted in some trouble about summer campaign just past, reports. Wants me to keep a Hospital "Log Book." It will require some care and attention.

Floor in officer's ward complete and eight bunks.—

We have not as much attention to guard duty as is necessary.

²⁶⁹ Probably Rev. J. B. Britton of Chillicothe, Ohio.

²⁷⁰ A coal tar derivative better known as carbolic acid. Although its antiseptic properties were first widely promulgated by Joseph Lister in 1867, Civil War surgeons were aware of its medical value.

²⁷¹ Private Charles Maxson, Company H, 136th New York Infantry.

²⁷² Assistant Surgeon John E. Jones of the 79th Ohio Infantry.

²⁷³ Private Francis M. Lemon, Private John Lemon, and Sergeant William S. Lemon were all in Company D, 129th Illinois Infantry, and all were from Glasgow.

I sent communication to Surgⁿ Grinsted, asking him to see that Hospital Stewards be properly detailed. He presented the case to Gen Ward who ~~indorsed~~ said that he would do what was desired.

Made a certificate of disability for Adj't H. M. Brown—too wordy (324 words).

Friday, Sept. 23, 1864

Same place.

Weather pleasant in the middle of the forenoon—rainy in P.M. heavy showers, some lightning and thunder to-night, and will probably soon be a heavy shower.

It is rumored that there will be no fall campaign— Leaves of absence are directed to be granted freely, Gen Ward and Col Wood²⁷⁴ have gone to-day. Col Dustan²⁷⁵ of 105 Ill commands 3rd Div.

I ask concerning disposition of negroes & what shall be charged officers, anterior to this who have left here. I think \$⁵⁰/₁₀₀ about right for the past but \$1⁰⁰ in future when good recommendations are furnished. We are nicely prepared now.

Rumor of R.R. being cut at Altoona—of Sheridan's success in the Shenandoah Valley, and of reverses at Petersburg Va.²⁷⁶

Sent Adj't Brown's papers to him. We have but one officer in Hosp now.

Wrote 3 pages of letter to my wife. No letters from home.

Saturday, Sept. 24

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair to-day but windy. Rain threatened again to-night.

Adj't Brown visits me.— Lieut Norris sent his resignation yesterday—made a certificate for a furlough for Serg't. 102 Ill wounded in thigh.

Inspected Hospital at regular time 3 P.M. nearly every thing in good order. One wagon not in as good condition as it should be.— Cooks a little slack— Commissary department well.

Myself and Dr. Himes went to the concert with Dr. Hastings & Major __²⁷⁷ of 33rd

Mass.— Gen Sherman at concert. Mrs. Welch²⁷⁸ looks somewhat caseworn. Band of 33rd played well.— Shall [send] a Programme home.

²⁷⁴ Colonel James Wood, Jr. commanded the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

²⁷⁵ Colonel Daniel Dustin of Sycamore had transferred from the 8th Illinois Cavalry Regiment.

²⁷⁶ No significant operations occurred at Petersburg during September.

²⁷⁷ Officers in the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry with the rank of Major included James L. Bates, James Brown, and Albion W. Tebbetts.

²⁷⁸ Possibly an unidentified nurse in the general hospital.

Finished my letter to my wife 4 and sent it at 3 PM.

Sunday, Sept. 25

Same place.

Weather fair—quite cool in night and even to-day not very warm.

Allowed Surgⁿ Hatchard to go to Church, though he was officer of the day. Dr. Wiles and also went to the Episcopal church, but were late there. Lieut. Norris came here to see about his resignation being forwarded. I will send them forward to-morrow with such a certificate as will probably lead to his getting ordered to the rear for treatment or a leave of absence for 20 days—will start to-morrow if possible. Lieut. Col Dutton²⁷⁹ 105 Ill send a request for return to his command, of Pvt Silas Hughes²⁸⁰ of Co. K 105 Ill.— Contains an ungentle implication.

Monday, Sept. 26

Hospital 3rd Div 20 A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair. Cool at morn and eve—almost frosty. We need more clothing—

Dr. Wiles started home to-day. Surgⁿ Waterman²⁸¹ applies for leave of absence. I forward it stating circumstances. I write a certificate for Lieut Norris, but it implies a recommendation for leave of absence rather than a resignation—

Division review to-day—I could not well go—Did not feel well— W^m C. Bennett came in Does not feel well about being jumped by Goodman²⁸²— Bennett, Goodman & Jewett examine Hosp Stewards.

I see Sackett ~~A~~ C. S. Shall get stores to-morrow?

Dr. Jones sick to-day.

Wrote Mrs. Smith a long letter to-night 6 & sent the Concert programme.

Tuesday, Sept. 27

Same place.

Weather fair and comfortably warm not so cold last night, as before. Rain threatened again to-night.

Recd Sanitary Stores from Capt Sackett—viz fruit oysters ale &c. Cheese went to Dept Hosp. Dissecting &c.

²⁷⁹ Everell F. Dutton of Sycamore.

²⁸⁰ I.e., Private Elias Hughes of Clinton.

²⁸¹ Alfred Waterman was commissioned Surgeon in the 105th Illinois Infantry in July 1864.

²⁸² Henry Earnest Goodman (1836-1896), Surgeon-in-Chief, 2nd Division, 20th Army Corps.

Surgⁿ Grinsted dined with us.— Made a certificate for Emile Pette,²⁸³ to go before board for commission as medical officer in army.— Went to 19th Mich. Police not very good there. Albert came & got some medicines & one pair of flannel shirts which I had of Surgⁿ Grinsted worth \$8⁵⁰ to \$10⁰⁰.

Made certificates ~~of discharge~~ approving furlough for Smith [and] Olney.²⁸⁴

Spent two hours with Emile Patte reading French,

Recd letter from wife (7) of 12th to 18th Sept. Wrote letter to Madison Rodgers 3.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather a very little rainy, cloudy all day.—

Rec'd notice to furlough all Indiana soldiers sick in Hosp. that can travel,²⁸⁵ only 25 in Hosp including 7 attendants, about 30 more however have come in to-day, so that there will be a respectable squad. Dr. Hobbs asked me to see Surgⁿ Cooper concerning his brother W^m and get his resignation accepted if possible. Cooper says send it up again quietly (in sotto voce).

Had a call from Jos. M. Raymond of Co. "I" 101 Ohio V.I. from Reed O. Made out furloughs in part for men.— We shall get them off soon.

It is said that Gov. Brown of Ga is in consultation with Gen Sherman to get Ga back into the union.²⁸⁶

Let Albert Ranney have the flannel shirts that Grinsted got for me worth \$8.50 to 10⁵⁰— on A/L.

Thursday, Sept. 29

Same place.

Weather cloudy with a little sprinkle of rain—lightning to-night, threatening rain, comfortably warm.

²⁸³ Probably Emile Patte of the 136th New York Infantry. He later was Assistant Surgeon in the 24th U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment.

²⁸⁴ There were five soldiers with the surname Smith in the 19th Michigan Infantry at this time. Private Enoch Olney (born ca. 1837) enlisted in Company H, 19th Michigan Infantry in September 1862. He would be discharged in October 1864 because of wounds received at Allatoona, Georgia in May 1864.

²⁸⁵ Indiana was one of a few northern states that did not allow absentee voting by soldiers in the field. Seen as a key state in the upcoming presidential election, Lincoln asked Grant to allow Indiana soldiers to go home on furlough.

²⁸⁶ Joseph C. Brown (1821-1894), governor of Georgia from 1857 to 1865, had taken the state militia from Hood's command on September 10 so that those men could return to their homes for the harvest. General Sherman offered not to devastate Georgia if Governor Brown would remove his state from the rebellion and Georgia troops from the Confederate armies, but nothing came of it.

It is evident that the rebels are doing mischief at Marietta, and other places North. We are on half forage.

Made out 62 furloughs and sent up and, to-night 8 men more came in from Ind. Regts & 6 papers are made. The others will be made to-morrow.

Col. Micks²⁸⁷ of 8th Mich. Cavalry, direct from Charleston S.C. ate dinner with us. He looks as though the rebs had used him roughly. Does not complain much. He thinks they are Whistling to keep up their courage. They say “now we have Sherman just where we wanted him.”

Surgeon Himes resignation not accepted.

Lent Hubbard cash \$30⁰⁰.

Friday, Sept. 30

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair and warm till near night. Rains heavily with some lightning & thunder since dark.

Reports of successes to [o]ur arms in Virginia²⁸⁸—some trouble North of us, however the nature of which is not clearly determined—

Finished in all 73 furloughs and sent up the last this morn. Called at Div. Head Qrs. to show them what to do with the furloughs—all forwarded to-day, but an order is said to be received revoking all furloughs at present. Mich. soldiers can vote in the field. Went to 19th Mich. to see about forage, & the Adjt gave me Gov’s Message & act of Mich legislature allowing soldiers to vote.²⁸⁹

26th Wis man Belke²⁹⁰ died last night. Autopsy showed Infl[amed] Bowels with ulceration. Capt. Beecher²⁹¹ present.

Saturday, October 1

Same place.

²⁸⁷ Elisha Mix (1818?-1898) of Manlius was commissioned Captain in Company F, 8th Michigan Cavalry in November 1862. He was promoted to Major in March 1863, to Lieutenant Colonel in April 1864 and to Colonel in September 1864. He was captured during General Stoneman’s raid in August 1864 and had just been exchanged at the end of September.

²⁸⁸ Bennitt is probably referring to the capture of Fort Harrison on September 29, an important Confederate fort guarding Richmond.

²⁸⁹ Michigan Public Act No. 21 of 1864 provided for soldiers in Michigan units to be able to vote no matter where they were stationed at times of elections. It was approved on February 5, 1864.

²⁹⁰ Private Friedrich Balke of Honey Creek enlisted in Company K, 26th Wisconsin Infantry in January 1864.

²⁹¹ Captain Robert E. Beecher, Assistant Adjutant General, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

Weather fair to-day,—rained heavily last night—rain threatened again to-night but it seemed to pass to the North—

News of advance to within 3½ miles of Richmond— No mail here from North of Chattanooga—there is evidently trouble up above although the road is not cut. Paymasters do not pay up yet. The reason of this delay is not plain. It seems wrong.— No grain for my horse.

Made disability certificates for the discharge of two men.

1st Brigade moves back to the Chattahoochee River, a large accession to the hospital from them many coming without orders. Dr. Hovey & Dr. Hobbs come in. I ask to be relieved from charge of Hospital, & Grinsted says it may be so—267 patients in Hosp. Inspection showed a fair state of things. No outsiders except Dr. Preston at Inspection.

Sunday, October 2

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair till evening—rains some to-night, with lightning.

Attended church in forenoon—sermon from “one thing thou lackest.”²⁹² Saw Dr. Trowbridge at church. Came back with Dr. Hobbs and dined with them. Order relieving me and placing Dr. Himes in charge of Hospital received while we were at supper. I would have preferred that Dr. Hastings had been placed in charge instead for it would have given me more time to study, for it would not have been necessary for me to have taken Dr. Himes Wards.

Chaplain Allen²⁹³ stays with me to-night— It seems Christianlike to have prayer. Railroad Bridge over Chattahoochee River damaged much and the wagon bridge carried away.

Asst Surgⁿ Jones receives an order granting leave of absence and one to report for duty with artillery.

Monday, October 3

Same place.

Weather mixed—rain hard last night—sunshine and rain to-day.

I take charge of two wards with 32 patients—Tie Radial artery of a man who wounded it with his knife at the wrist— Used chloroform.

Report that all of Sherman's army have left here except 20 A.C. and that the rebels trying to get into our rear are fighting at various places²⁹⁴— Gen Sherman here yet.

²⁹² Mark 10:21.

²⁹³ Chaplain Allen (or Allan) cannot be found among the regimental rosters of Bennitt's brigade or division.

Gen Thomas North.²⁹⁵ Report of advance within 3½ miles of Richmond & to within 1½ miles with cavalry & the evacuation of Petersburg.

3rd Brigade being paid to-day. Furloughs for 72 Indiana soldiers come back approved.

My Hospital desk came down from Chattanooga.—

Write letter to U.S. Sanitary agent in commendation of the work & its good effects. It is late & I retire.

Tuesday, October 4

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather a little rainy nearly all day, but no heavy showers. I went immediately after breakfast to see Surgⁿ Foye & A[ssistant] Q[uartermaster] M[aster] Wetherell²⁹⁶ concerning transportation for the furloughed Indiana men. No transportation can be had at present on account of damage to the Chattahoochee Bridge & the disturbance by the rebels at and near Marietta, in large force. It is thought that Sherman will succeed in defeating their designs yet. Had a call from Mrs. Nash²⁹⁷ who wanted medicine. Had quite pleasant chat with her. Rebellion will stick out however? After all these women are to be pitied.—

Went to Reg't a[nd] got Pysiology—Virchow. Hartshorne's Prin & Orders for 1862.²⁹⁸

Spent a short time in scientific study.

No mail.

Wednesday, October 5

Same place.

Weather fair & comfortably warm without rain.

²⁹⁴ After he had evacuated Atlanta, General Hood had taken his army twenty miles southwest to Palmetto. On October 1 he began his operation to march northwest around Atlanta and fall upon the railroad and cut Sherman's supply line. As Bennitt indicates, on October 3 Sherman took a most of his army north to intercept Hood and support his small garrisons along the railroad, leaving the 20th Army Corps behind.

²⁹⁵ General George H. Thomas was sent to Nashville via Chattanooga with two divisions to help protect the rail communications from the depredations of General Forrest's cavalry.

²⁹⁶ Probably Robert W. Wetherell who was Quartermaster in the 19th Illinois Infantry. His regiment was part of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps.

²⁹⁷ Probably either Margaret Nash (born ca. 1824) or Josephine Nash (born ca. 1838), both Atlanta residents.

²⁹⁸ Virchow, Rudolf. *Cellular Pathology, as Based Upon Physiological and Pathological Histology* (New York, 1860); Hartshorne, Henry. *Memoranda Medica; or, Note-Book of Medical Principles* (Philadelphia, 1860); U.S. Adjutant General's Office. *General Orders Affecting the Volunteer Force, 1862* (Washington, 1863).

Dr. Grinsted brings the information that it may be necessary to move the hospital and finds a place on the West side to move to. It is not as pleasant as this, but will be within the contracted lines. Dr. Himes and I looked the city over for a better place, but it does not seem necessary to move yet.

Rumors of various successes for and against our arms, no positive news from anywhere. Reports of the Virginia Rebel army joining Hood, &c. &c. No communication with the North. We cannot tell what may be the result of all these movements, but hope for the best—that the Rebels may soon be inclined to discontinue this profitless conflict. God grant us an honorable peace, based on justice and righteousness.

No mail.

Thursday, October 6

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather rainy nearly all day.

Reliable reports that the rebels have been beaten in two engagements from the R.R. after having damaged 12 miles of it near Alatoona.²⁹⁹ Sherman telegraphs that full rations can be furnished here and that Atlanta is safe. We need not move our hospital at present.

Lent to Dr. Waterman 35⁰⁰.—10⁰⁰ of it a Vermont bill found in Major Griffin's effects, & it is to be returned to me if not good. Dates Aug 5, 1854 Letter A. ragged somewhat no. obscured.

Telegraphic reports to-night of fighting with rebels near Alatoona & their discomfiture.

No mail.

Friday, October 7

Same place.

Weather wet foggy in morn but cleared up, & has been very fine all day. Storm threatened again soon.

I as officer of the day have been busy but found time to read some.

Dr. Hatchard taking Dr. Waterman's wards leaves me but the 35 patients. Dr. Johnson³⁰⁰ will take Dr. Kling's.

²⁹⁹ On October 5 a Confederate division had surrounded and repeatedly attacked Union fortifications at Allatoona, but were repulsed and finally withdrew. Hood continued to push northward.

³⁰⁰ Darius Johnson was Surgeon in the 129th Illinois Infantry.

Dr. Waterman started home on leave but it is very doubtful if he gets there without delay. Confirmation of the success of our arms toward Chattanooga, So that several officers on have started, but it was thought best not to send the furloughed men yet. Learned something of the Frenchman's³⁰¹ history. I must learn the French. Soldiers at hospital require watching to have them do their duty. Fence built front of Kitchen— We may not be obliged to move from this spot. Surg^a Hovey called to see me. Dr. Gill was here when Dr. Grinsted was— Dr. Jewett also here to-day. No mail.

Saturday, October 8

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather cool and very windy since about 10 P.M.—

I was up as officer of the day attending to tents.— Wind abates to-night.

26th Wis. went to the River this morning, sending 8 or 10 men into Div. Hosp.

Telegrams that our communication is open North & that the R.R. will soon be open—

Heavy fighting at Richmond Va. with advantages in our favor.³⁰²

Move our kitchen into one of the buildings— Hospital Inspection.

Dr. Himes consulted with Dr. Foye about warming the Hospital. Dr. Foye seemed to think it would soon be warm, and that we would not need fires in wards which we remain in this place—but that it would ere long become necessary to remove within the “works.”

Sunday, October 9

Same place.

Weather cold somewhat windy—but still to-night, with temperature low enough to freeze.—

I slept cold last night as did many of the patients in the Hospital. Dr. Himes has had a long flue made in one of the long hospital buildings, for warming it but it is not complete yet. It was a dirty job for the Sabbath but seemed necessary.

I took charge of the 11th Ward in which are 32 patients.

We hear about 9 o'clock to-night the news of the fall of Richmond and are very willing to believe it. There seems to be much rejoicing all over the city among the troops. God grant that it speedily be true if not now.

³⁰¹ I.e., Emile Patte.

³⁰² On October 7 Confederate attacks on Union positions along the Darbytown and New Market Roads near Richmond were repulsed after some initial success.

I have not been at religious service to-day. Went to see Serg't Slipper³⁰³ at commissary depot—quite sick.

Monday, October 10

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair and a little warmer.

Account of the capture of Richmond confirmed. Lee evacuates. Don't know where he is.— Our Rail-Road will be open again soon.

I made for the Agent of the Sanita[ry] Commission a letter commending the good work.

I acted as officer of the day—

Warming apparatus in long ward does not draw well. Captain ____ in Command of barracks interferes with our proceeding, but it goes on. Captain Beecher comes down with Grinsted to-day— Paper requesting the relief from detail of Corp Hopkins³⁰⁴ comes here. There is a subterfuge in the matter.

O my Father, for Christ's sake forgive me the sins of this day and take me into a sacred nearness to Thee, that I stray no more.

No mail yet.

Tuesday, October 11

Same place.

Weather more comfortable—fair and pleasant—fire desirable at eve. Men not suffering from cold much.

The rumor of the evacuation of Richmond not confirmed yet. Rumored that the Rail-Road is open to Chattanooga, and again that 5 miles of road is destroyed. No reliability to any of the stories.

20 double bunks put in Convalescent ward—38 patients in there.

Sergt Slipper came over here quite sick. I have now 70 patients. Dr. H[imes?] has 114.

Compared notes with Capt Sackett and find that his charges against the Hospital are genuine apparently and must be submitted to—

Bo't 18 lbs of bread @ 8⁰⁰ for my horse to save him from Starving to death which I much fear.

Insane man of 21st Wis. came in late to-night. I spent about ½ to-day in study. O my God preserve me!—forgive my heart-wanderings—

³⁰³ William Slipper (born ca. 1818) of Penn enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan Infantry as Corporal in August 1862. He was promoted to Sergeant in February 1864.

³⁰⁴ Possibly Corporal Edmund S. Hopkins who was in Company F, 79th Ohio Infantry.

Wednesday, October 12

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather pleasant and comfortable a little prospect of rain—

No events noteworthy to-day. Dr. Trowbridge came here this P.M—thinks the 19th is not well commanded in which opinion I coincide.

Result of election at Hospital yesterday 6 votes all for Union candidates.

Thursday, October 13

Same place.

Weather fair & pleasant, rather cool morn & eve, but requiring no fire in the middle of the day—

Finished chimnies in the two wards to-day so that they are quire comfortable to-night—

Dr. Himes could not ascertain whether it was best to move into town or not— The convalescent ward has 44 patients and is in good working order. It will not be best to put many more in it.

No reliable news of the capture of Richmond. Favorable reports of movements of Federal army and prospect of success in disorganizing Beauregard's³⁰⁵— Some prisoners & wounded came from the North to-day—A Gen. Thomas³⁰⁶ of Rebel army with a leg off. No mail however, as the R.R. is not complete entirely through.

Being officer of the day, I have not had time to read.

Friday, October 14

Hosp 3rd Div 20 A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather pleasant—cool at morn & eve.

Receive instructions to report at Cincinnati.

Saturday, October 15, 1864

Weather pleasant cool at morn & eve.

Wrote letter to my wife informing her that I was going with foraging party.

Sunday, October 16

Lattimer Farm near South River Ga.—18 miles S.E. of Atlanta.

³⁰⁵ General Pierre G. T. Beauregard (1818-1893) commanded the Confederate forces at Petersburg, Virginia.

³⁰⁶ Bennitt is probably referring to Brigadier General William H. Young (1838-1901). He was taken prisoner at the October 5 action at Allatoona where his foot was nearly shot off.

Weather has been pleasant all day. Moon shines brilliantly to-night.³⁰⁷

Arrived in camp about 8 P.M. with the 85th Ind. with whom I was assigned to duty in the morning by Surgⁿ Hobbs. We started out very early (6 A.M) but was a long time in getting started with the train— Walked over ruins of Rolling mill— Rode over fortifications leveled to cover the slain in ditches two & a half miles east of Atlanta. Halted a long time at noon— I Rode Dr. Wiles Horse at the instigation of Dr. Hobbs and on account of the leanness of mine. Col Bloodgood³⁰⁸ & Brigade did not get into camp till about 11 P.M.

Monday, October 17

Camp at same place—Flat Rock—shoals.

Weather has been fair nearly all day. Cool to-night & in morn—

We moved out down left bank of River about five miles—with two Brigades and about ½ of the 700 wagons—posted pickets battery & 33 Ind. to support it— Found plenty of corn—much yams peanuts & some sheep, swine, cattle & fowls. Soldiers seem not to have scruples about taking these things. My Horse does not starve here, neither do I. This seems to be a medium agricultural district.

We did not load as many wagons as we might because the men run about so much, foraging for themselves. Returned to camp about 8 PM. We will go out again to-morrow and must work better.

This stealing and robbing is not in accordance with my taste however.— Took one prisoner a man at home on sick furlough.

Tuesday, October 18

Camp about a mile from Flat Rock shoals South River 18 miles S.E. from Atlanta Ga.— Foraging.

Weather has been propitious—pleasant. Fine moonlight to-night.—

Expedition not under orders in very good time, but foraging has been conducted with a little more system and better success. Nearly all the wagons being filled with corn in the husk—fodder &c.— Cattle sheep—swine & fowls have suffered, and some families rob[bed] of nearly all they had to live upon—many things taken that are of no use to the soldier.

Talk with secession Ladies whose cows we took on our “Pic-nic.” Honey—Chestnuts &c.

³⁰⁷ The full moon was on October 15.

³⁰⁸ Edward Bloodgood was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel in the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry in July 1862 and was promoted to Colonel in August 1864.

Small chase after rebel cavalry scouts— Our foraging on the right—(south) side of the River— Bare rocks in road & field. Return to camp about 6³/₄—
“Turn in” with Lieut Johnson³⁰⁹ in tent.

Wednesday, October 19

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair & pleasant—a little dusty— Cool in morn.—

Returned Hosp at dark— We left camp about as early as practicable this morn but moved slowly & the whole train will not have arrived before 10 o'clock. I left the 85th Ind. about 7 miles back and pushed on as fast as I could. Dr. Wiles pony is very tough but by no means a pleasant animal to ride.

Affairs seem to have moved on well here—no particular news from North except that the — Grant is pushing the Rebs.— Dr. Kling left this morn .

Ind^a furloughed men 70 in no. sent off[f] on the 18th.

Thursday, October 20

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather pleasant but cool at eve and morn.

3rd Brigade goes out with a large foraging party in the morn— Surgⁿ Grinsted asks me to attend to A[ssitant] Q[uartern] M[aster] Lacy³¹⁰ affected with irritation—a potn[?] in his absence— I call with him to see the patient. Bad looking case.

Friday, October 21, 1864

Same place.

Weather cool but pleasant. Dry & somewhat dusty.

Large foraging party went out again to-day. Surgⁿ Grinsted with them & 3rd Brig—

Two Hospital teams went along & 12 men from Hosp. to forage for Hosp.

See Capt. Lacy in morn & again afternoon— Irritation subsiding by omitting “ingesta” but I think he takes some “strong drink.”

Dr. Goodman thinks I would better not ask a leave of absence beyond Cincinnati.

Notification to have the sick, able to “travel” ready by 6 A.M. to-morrow. Train leaves at 8.

8—3 stamp of Schofield.

Wrote letter to my wife sending photographs of Hooker & Thomas—& Hospital.

³⁰⁹ Possibly 1st Lieutenant Henry C. Johnson of Company K, 33rd Indiana Infantry.

³¹⁰ Probably Quartermaster Nicholas Lacy who was in Company I, 10th Ohio Infantry.
His regiment was part of the reserve brigade of the Army of the Cumberland.

Election tickets from Clapp.³¹¹

Letter from my wife of 9th Oct mailed 10th in new home.

Saturday, October 22

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather cool but fair & dry.

Hospital fireplaces completed to-day— Sent off 97 patients north of Tennessee— It seems as though this looks like taking the field— Went on foot to 19th Mich—bought shirt & drawers.

Saw Willie Tenbrook who gave me \$80⁰⁰ to send to his mother. I send \$50⁰⁰ to Dr Jones who will express it from Cincinnati to my wife.— Took supper with the 19th “Line”— Notice that the remainder of the sick would soon be sent. Our Hosp. seems almost empty. 22nd Wis. sends in a good lot to fill up.

Campaign documents from Michigan.

Fatigue parties loading rail-road Iron as far as East-point³¹²—& guerrillas trying to prevent.

Sheridan whips Longstreet.³¹³

Capt Lacy much better.

Sunday, October 23

Same Place.

Weather fair but rather cool.

Attended to my patients and went to church— Heard a good sermon from the story of Lazarus.—³¹⁴ Good organ and fair singing. Slept some after din[ner].

Orders to send convalescents to the rear to-morrow morn. I send 20 from my care—6, 19th Mich. men came in.

Mr. Holdeman³¹⁵ will probably die to-night. Dr. Jones goes with the sick men. Dr.

Hobbs leaves for home also in morn.

Our severely sick men cannot go because of the break in transportation.

³¹¹ Probably Theodore E. Clapp who was Postmaster at White Pigeon.

³¹² East Point was the junction of the Macon & Western and the Atlanta & West Point Railroads, located about four miles south southwest of Atlanta.

³¹³ In the early morning of October 19 the Confederates under General Early surprised the Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley. The ensuing Battle of Cedar Creek saw initial Confederate success but an afternoon counterattack gave the victory to Sheridan. General Longstreet had just arrived in Richmond from his recuperative leave and was not with Early.

³¹⁴ John 11:1-44.

³¹⁵ Probably Private Joseph Holdeman of Company H, 55th Ohio Infantry.

Monday, October 24

Hospital 3 Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair and pleasant. Warm in middle of day.

We sent 53 men from 3rd Div Hosp. Asst Surg^a Hobbs started home.

Dr. Jones mistakes in getting to the place of starting . Dr. Foye leaves for New Mexico—

Address—Med Director Dept New Mexico—Santa Fee.— He asked me to write. Said he would render Dr. Jones any assistance he could—started a little after 10 AM.

I got hair cut (25^{cts}) bought Hat 8.00 band 1²⁵ Comb .25^{cts} Gloves 50^{cts}.

Med Dr Calhoun in street.

Recd letter from Madison Rodgers at Chattanooga.

I had left 23 patients but transfers & new ones have increased the number to 50—

Foragers returned with a bale of Cotton and a 15 bu[shel]s sweet potatoes.

Sheridan defeats Early 4th time on the 20th.³¹⁶

Tuesday, October 25

Same place.

Weather very pleasant, quite warm in middle of the day.

Completed the surgeons quarters co far as to be comfortably and cheerfully around a fire to-night—

Dr.s Grinsted & Bennett visited us this P.M.— Another foraging expedition goes to-morrow—2nd Brigade goes.

3rd Div Hosp will send 2 teams and 12 men under command of Steward Scofield—Dr.

Trowbridge will probably go with 85th Ind.—I must care for the 19th.

Capt. Baldwin returned from North. Walked __ miles from __ to __.

Sherman is in Northern Alabama after the Rebs.

It does not seem probable that we shall leave here soon.

Read Lecture vii in regular course in Virchow's Cellular Pathology— Return at __.

Wednesday, October 26

Hospital 3rd Div 20 A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair early in the day—cloudy in P.M.—rain threatened to-night & sprinkling a little before dark, & at 9 P.M.

Scofield Steward—went out with Foraging party, as did also Dr. Trowbridge. I went to 19th to attend to the sick—Ranney had prescribed for all the sick— I sent two—Craft &

³¹⁶ I.e., the October 19 Battle of Cedar Creek.

Nestor³¹⁷—to Hospital— Inspected quarters not in best condition—took supper with line officers— Left Capt Hubbards resignation with my certificate of disability for him with Capt Baldwin.— Lt. Alexander sick.

Paid Mr. Champion what I owed him viz: \$5⁵⁰—

Thursday, October 27, 1864

Same place.

Weather rainy nearly all day— Windy but nearly clear to-night—

Visited Co B. & sent Southworth & Purdy³¹⁸ to Div Hosp. Vis[ited] 19th Mich.— inspected Quarters found them in better condition. Took supper with Head Qrs. Came back late.

Ammunition house of third Div. struck by lightning seriously burning two men with the exploding small ammunition 400,000 of which is destroyed by the casualty. Injured men came in to Hosp. I saw the flash of lightning & the flames from the burning building—before leaving the 19th Mich.

Learn indirectly that my application for leave of absence is not granted. I feel a little hard about it.

Wrote letter to wife 4.

Friday, October 28

Weather fair.

Saturday, October 29

Weather fair.

Sunday, October 30, 1864

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair & pleasant.

Att[ended] church—lead choir without organ.

Inspected urine &c—

Have 30 patients not much sick.

³¹⁷ Private Oliver Craft (born ca. 1828) of Nottawa enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. Private Nicholas Nester (born ca. 1841) enlisted in Company I, 19th Michigan in August 1862.

³¹⁸ Private Charles H. Southworth (1843?-1864) of Allegan enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862. He would die from disease in Chattanooga in November 1864. Private Erastus Purdy (born ca. 1832) of Allegan enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan in August 1862.

Dr. Trowbridge returned last eve so that it was not necessary to go there to-day.

Recd letter from wife of 10 to 16 Oct. 7.

Wrote letter to wife. & enclose \$10⁰⁰ greenback & \$20⁰⁰ Rebel rag as a curiosity.

Monday, October 31

Same Place.

Weather fair—a little cloudy toward night.

Notice came early this morning that the 19th Mich. would be paid to-day and all the men here be allowed to go up.

We received 10 months pay. Mostly in Coupon Bonds. Mine \$1600.25 all of that kind.

Dr. Trowbridge paid me \$35⁰⁰. Lent Mr. Champion \$4.00— Hubbard paid me \$31. money lent—I gave him \$11.00 for Mess.

Major Whitney is a very prompt paymaster & finished up the business in good time.

I shall send the letter written yesterday to my wife to-morrow.

It seems to be pretty certain that we shall move southward after Election.

Tuesday, November 1

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather pleasant till toward night, though somewhat cloudy. Rains since 9 P.M.

42 patients in Hosp. this morn—about 40 have come in—mostly scorbutic and Night blind cases from 2nd Brig. Expecting to go to rear. Night blindness is a good disease to feign.

Took Reg'tal Report of sick & wounded to Surgⁿ Hobbs & bro't it back to Grinsted—

Went to Regiment to-night. Made purchases 7.00. Paid out Cash to Albert 49⁰⁰ Mess 10⁰⁰ Mr. Price 25⁰⁰ Recd Blaisdell's³¹⁹ 100⁰⁰ Coupon to send to Mich. at his risk. If it gets safe through I will pay him for it.

Talked about having a new Div Surgⁿ .

Sent in a letter to Mrs. C. M. Bennitt Centreville Mich. U.S. Coupon Bond No 128328 for one hundred dollars retaining the first coupon—making the Bond payable to the order of Mrs. C. M. Bennitt.

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Same place.

Weather rainy all day.

It becomes pretty certain that we shall move from here somewhere in a few days.

³¹⁹ Private Ira S. Blaisdell (born ca. 1835) of Fawn River enlisted in Company A, 19th Michigan in March 1864.

I am officer of the day, & remain in all day.

Thursday, November 3

Hospital 3rd Div 20 A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather rainy & very unpleasant—

Albert Ranney came here in morn[?] a[nd] left with me \$350⁰⁰ 3 \$100 Coupons payable to Joseph A Ranney. Express Co refused to take money to-day from one of the men. I did not by him. I can hold my Bonds as well, myself, unless Mr. Champion can take it. The prospect of a move from here is imminent—53 patients came in Hosp to go to rear, Lts Alexander & Norris of 19th Mich.

I bo't fine Blouse of Sutler for \$20⁰⁰ soldiers Blouse for 3²⁵ & boots for 3²⁵. Paid Anderson \$50⁰⁰—shall owe him on 5—\$10⁰⁰. Paid Grinsted for Shirts 8.00.

Friday, November 4

Same place.

Weather not settled.

Saturday, November 5

Hosp 3rd Div 20 A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather rainy.

3rd Div. moved out 3 miles and Hosp received orders to follow, but not till too late to do ~~any thing~~ start. Teams all ready & loaded,—Director Goodman said we could be ready to move early in morn—& send the sick to RR. at 7 A.M.

It is not pleasant to be thus torn up.

We pitch tent again and try to be comfortable.

Lent Ira Blaisdell \$5⁰⁰.

Sunday, November 6

Same place.

Weather ~~a~~ Cloudy but not much rain— Frosty this morn.

Hospital astir this morn, men drawn up & sorted out[?] to go to rear & sent down to Rail Road after much delay came back, the captain not being able to get them on the train.— Very considerable disorder.

We move into Barracks & House. Build fireplace in ward.— Take up our abode to be as comfortable as possible. Trouble that Dr. Himes[?] Has doing the work that another should do.— Anxiety of men to go to rear—regular panic.—

I got Paid by Maj Nichols³²⁰ to Oct. 31st two months \$316⁴⁰—I send by Lieut Norris \$2000⁰⁰ to my wife viz \$350⁰⁰ 100⁰⁰ for Blaisdell & 1550⁰⁰ for myself.

Payable to Joseph A. Ranney 3 X \$100⁰⁰

“ Mrs. C.M Bennitt 14 X \$100⁰⁰ viz Let “C”

189595—189551—189579—189575—189547

Nos. 189559—189555—189599—189587—128397

189563—189567—189583—189591

175441

Not payable to order of Mrs B[ennitt] Let A. Nos. 175437

175445

1st Interest Coupon retained by me of the last 1%.

Description in dupl.

Took Lieut. Norris receipt for \$2000⁰⁰ & sent a Duplicat with letter to wife by him.

Man of 33 Ind killed in skirmish in front. 3 Div returns to city.

Monday, November 7

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair, & mild,—the sun shining nearly all day, & the moon to-night.

138 men were sent to rear to-night and much labor was necessary to get them off in decent order— Many seem anxious to go, but it seems like running the gauntlet to go from here to Chattanooga with the present state of things, men riding on the outside of the cars—& the chance of being shot by guerrillas,—run of track &c.— To stay with the army is better.

It seems very probable that we will go on Southward within a few days—I am glad to learn this, for it looks more like doing something, than remaining inactive.

I find on setting up mess a/c that the actual amount expended would leave cash [in] my hands \$22⁴⁵—

I am very late in retiring.

We have comfortable quarters. No sick on hand.

I retire at 1½ morning.

Tuesday, November 8, 1864

Same place.

Weather somewhat cloudy with a little sprinkling of rain occasionally—

Went to Election at the Reg't—all going off very quietly, very few votes for McLellan.

³²⁰ Major Nichols was an army paymaster.

Called to see Lieut Wing who is Brigade Q[uartern] M[aster] & paid him note given Aug 31st for \$31⁰⁰ & \$3.00 for express charges on Major Griffin's Valise. Albert Ranney is writing for him.

Col Dustin assumes command of 2nd Brigade to-day— Preparations for the campaign active.— Some talk of detaching the 19th Mich, from the present organization.

Order to send sick to rear & leave none with command unable to march, recd late to-night.— Some trouble with Garnet[?] & Davisson³²¹ about absence without leave, & suspicion of watch stealing.

I retire at 12 M[idnight].

Wrote letter to wife 4.

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga. Nov.

Weather has been pleasant with a little sprinkling of rain occasionally.—

We were aroused early this morning (about 6) by sound of artillery & whistling of shells—the rebels having advanced upon our picket line, it seems with Cavalry with light howitzers— Their fire was promptly returned & the pickets maintained their ground— shells fell into camp of the 85th Ind.—hurting no one however—

Canonading for half an hour or more on the East S. & S.W. with some musketry. I understand that some of the 2nd Div. were wounded.

Albert Ranney says 19th Mich. goes North. Dr. Bence thinks the whole army will. He Dr. B[ence] paid me cash \$5⁰⁰ what he said was due on the mess a/c.

My letter sent off— 43 sick &c sent to rear. Others wish to go.

Thursday, November 10

Same place.

Rained heavily last night, but cleared off before morn, and has been quite fair to-day, tho rather cool.

Orders to-day to send to the rear every man that we did not feel pretty sure would be able to march. Accordingly 48 were sent away to Depot, including, many that were sent in to-day. Design evidently is to start upon this campaign without any sick men. Those at the rear will be placed on duty with other commanders, in Thomas's army, as fast as they are able. No news of a decisive character, concerning election.

³²¹ Possibly Private Thomas Garnett of Company K, 20th Connecticut Infantry and Corporal Charles Davisson of Company E, 73rd Ohio Infantry. Both regiments were part of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

Horses ordered to be on ½ forage by Capt. Lacy of 3rd Div. Q.M. My horse will probably be lost in consequence of short rations. I may be able to get another somewhere on the way.

I sent to-night, by Sergt ___ going with sick men to Mrs. Griffin, a statement of her husband's pecuniary affairs, stating that this were debts 69⁰⁰ to be paid, and on hand \$11.00 uncurrent money.

Friday, November 11

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather fair all day & very pleasant to-night.—

I had only 4 patients this morn.— Went to the 19th Mich, with Lieut Wing— Met Major Baker³²² on the way.— Bro't away some books that would be left abandoned— Directed Dr. Trowbridge to make a list of the articles necessary to be abandoned—to cut out the blank leaves of the prescription books, for use— Returned [to] Lieut Wing's quarters with him & Major Baker,—bo't 2 prs Socks of him at 35^{cts} ea—Lieut Wing burnt Major Griffin's receipt for two blankets—ate dinner with them— Went to R.R. Depot & sent off Eldridge Morey³²³ of Co "B."—returned to Hosp. & sent Graves³²⁴ of Co. D. to rear. The last arrived at R.R. just in time to get off.— Large number of Negroes & piles of trash being sent off on R.R. & some citizens with families—children & Ladies—Masonry has its influence in this matter.— Large amount of gov store & property to be destroyed— Fires in city to-night in several places. Lieut Edgerton³²⁵ Drew 4½ days forage for 2 horses for each to last for 5 days beginning on the.

Saturday, November 12

Same Place.

Weather fair all day and still to-night very fair & light—

The fire last night was in several places.— Gen. Slocum offers \$500⁰⁰ reward for the arrest of the persons incendiaries.— Several soldiers & some citizens arrested on suspicion.

³²² John J. Baker, 19th Michigan Infantry. He had become commanding officer of the regiment in June 1864.

³²³ Private Eldridge Morey (1830?-1890) of Cheshire enlisted in Company B, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

³²⁴ Private Charles F. Graves (born ca. 1831) enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in September 1863.

³²⁵ 1st Lieutenant Robert P. Edgington, Company C, 129th Illinois Infantry.

The work of destruction of work-shops & Depots, & Rail Heads has been going on briskly, & we may look for Bonfires, before we leave this city, though I hope the private dwellings will not be destroyed. But may be best to make a clean sweep of the matter and make the whole communi[ty] feel the war.—

Walked to 19th Giles Wright & John Kirby,³²⁶ sent to Div. Hosp. But they cannot be sent North. No more trains come to Atlanta. Saw the Engine house pulled down & much R.R. track torn up, immense destruction of property—the heart sickens at the sight of the effects of this horrid war!!³²⁷

No more mails at present— Our destination uncertain— Reading scientific & poetry— & Serenade from Wisconsin Band, &c.

Sunday, November 13

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Atlanta Ga.

Weather pleasant, not uncomfortably cool.—

I went to city to church, but none are open.— Went on to 19th Mich & found Lieut Wing there.— Rail-Road torn up and burning all through & around the city as well as some buildings.— At dinner with Maj. Baker &c.—Capts Easton, Anderson, Ford & Hubbard still absent, & communications cut off. Immense destruction of property of various kinds. War is a terrible waste of means & human life— In returning called on Surgⁿ Grinsted—He regrets(?) that I did not avail myself of the opportunity to go to Cincinnati. Had Polyglot Scripture reading at evening—5 languages.— Saw & spoke with Dr. Calhoun.

We shall probably leave here in three days— 15th A.C. came in to-day.³²⁸

Monday, November 14

Same Place.

Weather fair—a little cool—

I am officer of the day— No patients—only 12 sick in hosp.— I went to Cemetery with Dr. Himes to consult with reference to fitting up and fencing burying ground of 3rd Div. The work has been going on to-day & when completed—very respectable.

2nd Div. have a nice enclosure & fine monument—42 graves— 3rd Div have 18 graves.

³²⁶ Private Giles Wright (born ca. 1835) enlisted in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in September 1863; Private John C. Kirby (born ca. 1841) of Flowerfield enlisted in Company K, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862.

³²⁷ On November 12 Sherman's army severed its railroad and telegraph communications with the rear and prepared to leave Atlanta on the "march to the sea" toward Savannah with twenty days' rations.

³²⁸ The 15th and 17th Army Corps had been stationed on the west side of the Chattahoochee River since returning from the pursuit of Hood in October.

Made Monthly Report for Reg't for March in place of one lost, and gave to Grinsted's clerk—Hope. The April Report is also found—on North side of Chattahoochee.

Reading in Dalton's Physiology—Embryology.³²⁹

Orders to march at 9 A.M. to-morrow. Surgⁿ Hobbs wants me to go to Brigade.

Major(?) Anderson returned to-day—walked from Kingston. Some of 14 A.C. came in to-day—R.R. destroyed to Kingston.³³⁰ Depots & workshops here destroyed by pulling down & burning.— Vandalism?(?)³³¹

10 sick men to start with [us] in morn. 2 very sick.

TEN

*“THE REBELLIOUS ARMIES ARE WHIPPED, SUBDUED,
ROUTED, DEMORALIZED”*

NOVEMBER 1864 - FEBRUARY 1865

³²⁹ Dalton, John C. *A Treatise on Human Physiology, Designed for the Use of Students and Practitioners of Medicine* (Philadelphia, 1859).

³³⁰ In mid-November the 14th Corps had been detailed to destroy some ten miles of the railroad line between the Etowah River and Kennesaw Mountain, and some of those troops had just returned to Atlanta.

³³¹ Orders to destroy everything of military value in Atlanta were carried out by Sherman's soldiers with enthusiasm and particular thoroughness. Much private property unintentionally—as well as intentionally—was included.

Tuesday, November 15, 1864

Camp 3rd Div. Hosp. 20th A.C. 4 P.M. Near Decatur Ga.

Weather fair in forenoon—cloudy in P.M.

Orders to start at 9 AM.³³²—started in good time and season with Hosp.— Barracks began to burn before we were fairly out of them—Pitch pine— A magnificent Bonfire— Immense cloud of smoke over the devoted city— Must this fair land be desolated entirely? Aye! indeed unless the rebellion soon ceases.— We do not get fairly started till near noon. Halt at 3 P.M. an hour for dinner—as I write I see a dense column of smoke rising from the city about 6 miles to the west—& the heavens above blackened by it.— I learn by Maj. A[nderson] that Lieut Norris had my money safe at Chattanooga, & it is probably at home ere this 16th.— Marched through Decatur an old dilapidated town just before dark. Talked with an old man about war—election. He was non-committal— Many houses and barns burnt, but the way—one Church—a shame! March very late—much delay. 14 miles—road fair.

Wednesday, Nov. 16

Camp Hosp 3rd Div 20th A.C. Near Lithonia Ga—½ m E. Yellow River.

Weather has been very fine all day & is still so.—

Marched about 10 miles. Started at 7 A.M. after resting about an hour, & taking a hasty breakfast. Moved but a short distance before coming up with the 2nd Brigade & it was nearly noon before any considerable progress was made— Our men foraged somewhat to-day, so that we have some yams for supper & enough for breakfast & a sheep & steer which are slain—

Our camp is near Corps Head Qrs. & is very comfortable— We get the sick sheltered, fed & medicated and Reports made out and retire about 10 P.M.—5 sleeping in one tent. Very comfortable, sick men doing well—

No enemy in arms seen to-day, but it is rumored that there are some cavalry not far off—³³³

Orders to march at 5.

³³² On November 9 Sherman had reorganized the four corps remaining in Atlanta into two armies. The Left Wing, consisting of the 14th and 20th Army Corps, was also known as the Army of Georgia; the Right wing, made up of the 15th and 17th Army Corps, was also called the Army of the Tennessee. The Savannah Campaign, better known as “Sherman’s March Through Georgia,” began on November 15 when the 60,000 Union troops set off with instructions to forage “liberally” through the countryside.

³³³ There were, in fact, very few Confederate troops in the area to oppose Sherman. Hood had decided to move his 40,000 men north against General Thomas at Nashville.

Thursday, November 17

Camp 3rd Div Hosp. 4 miles West Social Circle Ga.

Weather very very pleasant.

Started in good time this morn, tho' the usual delays of getting train straightened— We were up at 4—Breakfasted at 5 & ready in ten minutes after.

12 men in Hosp. to ride—50 convalescents besides, that can march light.

Saw Lieut Cahill—says Maj Anderson is not pleased with the feeling manifest to him in the Regt. He has been double dealing and has but few friends.

We march till near 12 Midnight. I lie down to rest about 4 miles back, get to sleep, & wake up find myself far behind—delay caused at creek crossing & swampy road. I overtake train as they are halting for the night. Marched about 16 miles. We retire about 1 AM.

Friday, November 18

Camp 3rd Div. Hosp. 5 miles N. East of Madison Ga.

Weather delightful.

Started about 5 A.M., marched over a delightful country with excellent roads—arrived at Social Circle at 9 A.M.— 2 Div. & Cavalry arrived last night—a few minutes after a train of cars carrying a load of the citizens, &c., &c. had departed—“the last train of the season”— Depot burned as well as track, ~~and other~~ torn up & other public property destroyed.

We cannot spend time to tear up and destroy all—not much patriotism in this country—not much cotton growing here now.— Many negroes inclined to leave their “beloved masters.”

19th Mich guarding train, move along with us. I walk some distance on R.R. track with Lt. Fonda.— Go into camp just at dark & get ready to retire at 8³/₄—Dr. Himes reads a chapter on “Generation” from Dalton.

Saturday, November 19

Camp 3rd Div. Hosp 4 miles South Madison Ga.

Rained a little in latter part of last night—misty & cloudy to-day & rains again now (9 P.M.)—

We were up at 5 A.M. ready to start at 6¹/₂. Usual delays of starting—1st Div passed us—we ride our mules at harness our horses in ambulance— My horse lame from nail in foot at top of hoof yesterday—pulled out to-night.

We came into Madison about 12 M. A beautiful inland town fine residences—3000 to 4000 pop. before the war—splendid ever bearing roses in very many yards— Saw Col Hill,³³⁴—talked with his daughter—a miss of 12— A few Unionists here—Cavalry came in yesterday & plundered stores &c.— I found a Physicians office—skeleton, Library &c. Bro't away ___ ___ on the Heart.³³⁵ Camp in a cornfield in midst of trains— I Officer of Day.— 15 ride in ambulance sick.

Sunday, November 20

3 miles North of Eatonton Ga.

Weather a little rainy during night & all day, & still to-night. Road not very bad yet— soil somewhat sandy. Irony & loam.

Very good country & tolerably well cultivated nearly all the way from Atlanta here. We find plenty to eat for men, & animals. Try to keep our transportation good.

One of the convalescents bro't me a horse that he had captured, & rode to Eatonton. He (John Smith³³⁶ Co K. 19 Mich) reports that he heard canonading beyond the town & that the 14th A.C. had been skirmishing with the enemy.

2nd Div 20th A.C. went on to Union Point yesterday, leaving their supply train with us.

3rd Div. marched in advance of 1st passing them before daylight this morn— Much cotton burnt to-day.

My horse so lame that I fear that it will be necessary to leave him.

Many negroes joining us—Dr Himes [hires?] one.

Monday, November 21

Camp 3rd Div. Hosp. at Little River 10 miles North of Milledgeville Ga.

Weather rainy nearly all day from last night—

Roads beginning to be rather heavy, but we have marched about 14 miles from 6 AM. to 3 P.M. at which time we came into camp at this place. Passed through Eatonton about 7½ A.M.—a town rather seedy of 1500 to 2000 inhabitants before the war—we find but few men here—one rebel Captain at home on leave, captured— — Slave-pen & R.R.

³³⁴ Bennitt is probably referring to Madison resident Joshua Hill (1812-1891), even though the latter never held military rank. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1856 and because of his opposition to secession, resigned his seat in 1861 rather than withdraw with the rest of the Georgia delegation. He ran unsuccessfully for Georgia governor in 1863, but was elected to the U.S. Senate after the war. His strong Unionist beliefs and personal acquaintance with General Sherman, most likely saved Madison from destruction during the March to the Sea.

³³⁵ Evidently Bennitt was not above foraging. Here he has helped himself to a book, an unidentified treatise on the heart.

³³⁶ The only Smith in Company K was a Private Jerome Smith (born ca. 1839) of Cooper who enlisted in August 1862.

buildings burned.— This R.R.³³⁷ seemed to be of little account however & we do not spend much time with it. Capture 4 hhds³³⁸ Sugar—march on to Dennis—8 miles from Eatonton before 12—halt for Dinner—burn R.[R.] buildings— No village here—march at ~~12~~ 1 P.M. and stop here at 2½ or 3 & are comparatively comfortable—rain has stopped, but wind blows.— Negro woman & children still with us. My new horse is too old & clumsy to do me service.

Read Dalton.

Tuesday, November 22

Milledgeville Ga.

Weather nearly clear but cool and airy after the rain—

Pontoon laid before 8 A.M. but it takes a long time for a corps to pass one under the circumstances & the Hospital train does not get over till after sundown—1st & 2nd Divs having passed first—usual delays from bad places in roads so that we do not reach Milledgeville till in the morning of 23 although the troops reached it at 2 P.M.

Pioneer³³⁹ are not as useful as they might be— Penitentiary burning as we came into town. I laid down & slept on the ground some as we came along.

Wednesday, November 23

Camp 3rd Div. 20 A.C. ½ mile S.E. Milledgeville Ga.

Weather very pleasant though cool.

Arrived at camp at 4½ A.M.—had breakfast. Made beds for hospital and ourself[es] of three bales of cotton from a building hard by—tore down the building for fuel—retired at 5—arose again at 8. Expected to remain here till to-morrow—ate at 11½—found some forage in mill belonging to a large Irishman on the Oconee River hard by.

Mischievous soldiers set fire to the cotton—burning the rubbish of the building—moved over river at 1 P.M. ¼ mile—through a Covered bridge 350 feet long—came back with Dr. Himes & traversed City—Penitentiary—Governors mansion³⁴⁰—cemetery—State house & — —

Moved camp again after dark—to give room for 14th A.C. An uncomfortable job.

Thursday, November 24

Hospital 3rd Div 20th A.C. 12 miles S.E. Milledgeville Ga. 12½ PM

³³⁷ The Milledgeville & Eatonton Railroad was a branch line of the Georgia Central Railroad that ended at Eatonton.

³³⁸ Hogsheads. A hogshead is a barrel containing sixty-three gallons.

³³⁹ I.e., army engineers.

³⁴⁰ Milledgeville was the capital of Georgia from 1803 to 1868.

Weather pleasant cool (freezing a little last night & to-night).

Ordered to start at 7 AM. but did not march till 1 P.M. Much delayed by a bad place in the road at the crossing of "Town Creek" near our present camp. Too much burning of fences on both sides of the road as we came along since dark.

Left some of the patients in 1st Brig. ambulances, who have not joined us yet—we have 18 patients to transport to-morrow— Comparatively pleasantly situated since our coffee. At Breakfast and dinner before we started, and supper at a half [hour] before sundown—some butter to-night.

Agreed with a teamster for a man³⁴¹ which he had captured for \$25⁰⁰ blind in one eye but rides very well.

Friday, November 25

Camp Hosp. 3rd Div 20th A.C. at Buffalo "Creek" 20 miles S.E of Milledgeville Ga.—near Hebron—10½ PM.

Weather fair not so cold as yesterday—froze a little last night—

Went into camp at 12½ A.M. & reced orders to be ready to march at 7 A.M. Started at 8 A.M. Came in all about 8 miles over a sandy road with some swamps—through a rather poor country—timber almost all Pitch Pine. Halt at noon near here to wait for pontoon to be laid over the "Creek"—the bridge having been burned—it is said by one of the Citizens here— Did not get ready to go over till dark hence we move ½ mile nearer creek & encamp sup—& retire comfortably—about 30 men requiring med. att[ention]—18 to ride—I Off[icer of the] day.

Some skirmishing on east side of creek reported— Canonading about 5 P.M. toward Macon— Rumor of capture of Richmond, through citizens.

Saturday, November 26

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Saundersville Ga.

Weather has been fine to-day—

Orders to march at 6 AM. but we did not start until 7½— Citizens had burnt the bridges over Buffalo Creek & the swamp—ten in number but they had been replaced by our pontooners.— Road for two or three miles, swampy, & quicksands, after that, became better—still somewhat sandy—light soil—pines chiefly—products, corn—sweet potatoes & a little cotton— All unoccupied houses and all other property to be destroyed in the neighborhood of burnt bridges. The whole country is smoky.

³⁴¹ Bennitt here means horse.

We arrive here about 3 P.M, having marched 9 miles—I felt quite unwell last night & to-day—rode a short time in our ambulance, & slept—felt better.

Saundersville about like Centreville Mich. 14th A.C. joins us here—Wheeler tried to hinder our march here for a time but was glad to get out of the way.³⁴² One of his men killed here this morn at 8.

Sunday, November 27

Camp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Hosp. at Davisboro Ga.

Weather very fine warm enough to ride without an overcoat till 9 P.M. I feel better to-day— Order to march at 9 AM. but did not start till about 12— Halted in Sandersville— Burnt Courthouse & Jail yesterday—other shops &c to-day burning— much fear among the people that the whole will be burned not groundless— Cross R.R. near Powers about 2 P.M.—1st & 2nd Div destroying it— Trains ahead of ours delay our train so that we do not get into camp till near 12 midnight— Roads have not been bad except in a few places.

I came ahead and took supper at 3rd Div Hd Qrs about 8 P.M. & sat by fire till train came up. Patients promptly cared for—two men accidentally shot while foraging to-day not dangerous.— Immense destruction of property all along the road.

Wheeler did not burn Bridge here as was expected. It is not good policy. A poor manner of spending Sabbath.

Monday, November 28

Camp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Hosp Ogeechee River 4 miles West Louisville Ga.

Weather very pleasant 78° in shade at noon—

Orders to march at 6—started at 9 A.M.—road good. Came into camp at 1½ & learned after two hours that we would stay till morning for the pontoon to be laid. It seems that the rebels have ordered all bridges & forage to be burned before us, hoping thereby to starve us.— Ex-Gov. Johnson's³⁴³ residence visited to-day, and his valuables dug up in the garden, from beneath the cabbages. Other valuables found buried in various parts of the country— R.R. & all other contraband property destroyed, especially cotton in large quantities. Rumors again of the capture of Richmond by Grant, through rebel source.— 14th A.C. on our left to-day. It looks hard upon the people to spoil their country in this manner, but "It is legitimate result of rebellion."

³⁴² A brigade of Wheeler's Confederate cavalry was deployed in front of Sandersville but was forced to retire when Union skirmishers approached.

³⁴³ Herschel V. Johnson (1812-1880) served two terms as governor of Georgia from 1853 to 1857.

We have at present plenty to eat, obtained in a large proportion from the country.

64 patients in Hosp. 27 ride.

J.B.³⁴⁴ officer of the day.— All take a bath to-night.

Tuesday, November 29

Camp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Hosp. 2 miles East of Louisville Ga. at Big Creek.

Weather very fine. Warm enough to be comfortable to-night without a coat.

Ordered to march at 8 A.M.—14th A.C. started at that time but it was after 2 P.M. before the Hosp. started.— Long series of Bridges across the Ogeechee & Rocky Comfort C[reek] destroyed by Wheeler, for the space of a mile, swampy & bad road— Palms seen here for the first time.— Passed through the town of Louisville soon after passing the River—an old village of 500 or 600 before the war— 14th A.C. had spoiled the town & had guards at every house—this seems to have been the work of Gen. Baird—33rd Ind. & 84th Ind. fought each other by mistake.³⁴⁵ No one hurt.

20 Rebs,—including a Col. Capt & Lieut captured from Gen Wheeler 1st eve.— March 5 miles. Came into camp to-night at 7 P.M in good order. Have carried 28 men in ambulances. I visited 19th Mich.

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Same Place.

Weather very fine indeed except that it is quite smoky from so many camp fires.

Remained in camp all day—supposed to be waiting for the right wing to come nearer— I spent more than half of the day in making Monthly Hospital report.

2nd Brigade has not yet come up—they having remained behind till Pontoon should be taken up.—

Our Hospital is near 3 Div. Hd Qrs. not in the middle of the train.

I Slept in open air because of the crowd in the tent—dew very heavy.

Story of soldier having a hand to hand fight with a Rebel Cavalry officer that ordered him to surrender, but was beaten and slain.—

Gambling at 3 Div. Hd Qrs, shameful.

Thursday, December 1

Camp 3rd Div. Hosp. 8 miles East of Louisville Ga.

³⁴⁴ I.e., John Bennitt.

³⁴⁵ It was not an uncommon occurrence for friendly units to fire on one another due to mistaken identity; however, no record is found of this error between the 33rd and 85th Indiana Infantry regiments.

Weather very fine—a little cloudy at evening— Sun-set red.— Very smoky—very dark last from smoke & fog.

I slept in open air again, passed a very uncomfortable night, on account of indigestion and diarrhoea. Heavy dew & 2nd Brigade did not come up till middle of night, and found it very troublesome to keep together and find the road. We were to march at 9 AM. but did not start till 1 PM.—crossed two creeks, one without bridge—Rebels had burned bridge over Big creek, but our pioneers made a new one.

Gen Wheeler chased from before us by Kilpatrick. 14th A.C. on R.R. Their train is in our advance.— About 6 miles march to-day put into camp at dark—to march at 6 A.M.—ridiculous order frequently repeated— Gambling extensively in the army—an effort to do so in Hosp.

Friday, December 2

West side Buckhead Creek 8½ miles North West of Millen Ga.

Weather very fine—warm—roads fair, except a bad swamp in the morn which delayed us two hours, and a few other swampy places readily passed.

Sandy—pine plains—some extensive plantations with evidence of taste and good order, but owners absent—

Started in good time this morn (6½)—stopped from 12½ to 2½ for dinner & pulled into camp at sunset having marched 12 miles—main direction East— K

Kilpatrick had a fight with Wheeler near here two days ago,—in which both were losers to a considerable extent, Kilpatrick holding his ground, & cutting the Augusta & Savannah R.R. East of here.³⁴⁶ O! why is all this destruction of life & property necessary? O! God, make us know that truth & be obedient to Thy will.

Saturday, December 3

Camp 3 Div Hosp 4 miles South East Millen Ga.

Weather very mild, but cloudy and a little sprinkle of rain about sundown.

Burnt the barn where we stopped last night, & started on march at 6½ A.M. Crossed Buckhead creek—halted on left bank at what had been a very fair country meeting house—Baptist—Vandals at work.— Marched S.E. all day— Halted at 12½ P.M. an hour and a half for dinner— Crosse Mill Creek at a mill— Crossed R.R. through the dense smoke of a burning pile of pine wood—passed the house of a Mrs. Jones³⁴⁷ who

³⁴⁶ Kilpatrick's cavalry fought a series of skirmishes with Wheeler's Confederate cavalry at Waynesboro on November 27 and 28.

³⁴⁷ Probably located at Birdsville.

had befriended a Federal prisoner, sick, on which account she had a protection—all other houses of any note burned.

I understand that the Rebs evacuated Millen 4 days ago, & that the Right Wing visit there, Left wing keep to left. Extensive plantations and secondary Pine forests—Camp a little after dark in a worn out field—13 or 14 miles march.

Sunday, December 4

Camp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Hosp. 5 miles south of Sylvania Ga.

Weather a little cloudy but pleasant—a little cooler than yesterday but not uncomfortable— Rained a little last night.

Started at 6½ A.M. Marched about 2 miles & then halted three hours for the 1st Div to pull out ahead of us. Soon came to Bigh Horse Creek which was so high from the breaking of a mill-dam above³⁴⁸, as to detain us two hours till it fell—mill burnt—ate dinner.

Col Dustan came up—crossed over deep water and swampy bottom—2nd Brig train much delayed by this swamp, Hosp. train gets through promptly—pass on and camp in pine grove at 7 P.M about 8 miles from place of starting—fine place for camp good water a little distance off.

30 sick transported—10 K—32 for to-morrow. JnoB.³⁴⁹ Off[icer] of day— Canonading in north about 10 to 11 A.M. a feint?— Rumored evacuation of Savannah—& that Charleston must fall.

Bo't 12 lbs Butter of a soldier \$5.00.

Monday, December 5

Camp 3rd Div. Hosp. 20 A.C. Midway between Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers, 45 miles from Savannah.

Weather fair & comfortably warm, like mild October weather in Mich.

Started promptly at 6½ A.M, passed 1st Div. after coming two miles— Crossed Little Ogeechee about 3 miles N.W. of here— Reb cavalry 20 to 30 in number dashed on our pioneers this morn, & it is said captured several of them, but this is doubtful—some of our men fired upon from a fine house near here this morn—The man firing was captured and the woman notified to get out of the house immediately & then it was burned.

We march till 1 P.M. 6 miles.

³⁴⁸ Probably Jigler's Mill on Little Horse Creek.

³⁴⁹ I.e., John Bennett.

Level sandy plains with pine timber only small portion under cultivation somewhat swampy—Cyprus.³⁵⁰

Tuesday, December 6

Camp Hosp. 3 Div. 20th A.C. About 35 miles North of Savannah, near Turkey Brook. Weather a little cloudy—very foggy & smoky in the morn, & cool enough for overcoat riding till 10 A.M.

A little delay in starting this morn—3rd Div. still in advance— Right Wing only 5 or 6 miles West of us—14th A.C. about same distance East— Cavalry in front 15 or 16 miles—

Saw a lot of prisoners (about 40 to 50) among them a Colonel.— They speak confidently of success.— We get plenty of forage even in this flat sandy swampy country— Rains two or three weeks ago have not yet run off.— Sweet potatoes corn, cotton & Negroes chief articles produced. We have marched about 12 miles to-day—delayed for three hours to corduroy³⁵¹ a swamp. Came into camp at 6 P.M.— Saw Surgⁿ C. W. Bennitt.³⁵²

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 1 mile North of Springfield Ga.

Rain began about 7 AM. & lasted an hour— Cloudy all day—red sunset. Sky variable to-night.—

1st order to march at 7½—recd last night, then order to march at 6 rec'd at 5—then order to march at 7½ rec'd at 6—started finally about 8.

All Head Qrs. Pontoon train and a battery ahead.— Halted at 11 for 2½ hours at Turkey Creek to Corduroy the swamp & build bridge. We ford it with teams— Trees fallen across road in places to hinder us.— We march nearly ten 10 miles, camping just before Sundown—19th Mich. guard us.— 1st Brig. & part of third with a battery form in Line of Battle on this side of creek but encounter no enemy. Left Wing is to be “Army of South Carolina.”³⁵³

I Off[icer of the] Day— 37 Ride—40 Ride to-morrow. 3rd Div. in advance to-day— I take bath. Shall I soon hear from Loved ones at home?—O! my God keep them & me.

Thursday, December 8

³⁵⁰ I.e., cypress trees.

³⁵¹ I.e., to lay felled trees horizontally to make the way more passable for men, horses, and wagons.

³⁵² I.e., William C. Bennett.

³⁵³ No change from the designation “Army of Georgia” had been made at this time.

Camp Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 5 miles South of Springfield, Ga.

Weather fair—a little cloudy toward night, & during night—

3rd Div. in rear of all, guarding whole of Corps train.— Order to march at 9 AM. but do not start till 1½ P.M. have dinner at 12^M. Rebs obstructed road at Jack's creek & several other places,—with fallen trees. Halt till Sundown at Springfield—pass over a swampy roady 5 miles before 11 PM—halt there before passing a bad swamp of a mile before arriving here—eat our supper also the sick eat. I come on to this point alone about 2½ [A.M.]—find place of encampment, stop at turn of road by fire, & sleep about two hours— Hosp. train does not come up till about 7 A.M. of the 9th. I have slept 3 or 4 hours & feel pretty well this morn.

Friday, December 9

Camp Hosp 3rd Div 20 A.C. with the supply train 15 miles N.W. of Savannah Ga.

Weather cloudy all day & a little cooler than before.

Marched about 8 miles a little west of south starting at 11-20 AM,—Turned S.E. & marched about 5 miles,—halting a short time at dark—to cross a bad place— Road to-day pretty good after striking the Augusta Pike—2 houses burned at the ~~ple~~ turn of the road. Ride with Lieut Wing after dark. Encamp at 7½ having marched 13 miles.— Stuck in the mud with our Hosp team.

One man of 2nd Div.—Babington³⁵⁴—sick unto death with Dysentery. 40 transported to-day.

Saturday, December 10

Camp Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. At 5th Mile Stone N.W. Savannah Ga.

9 P.M.— Weather has been cloudy all day & a little cool, warmer to-night, and it sprinkles a little—

Marched 10 miles on excellent road--4½ miles nearly East & 5½ S.E.— Turnpike wide enough so that train doubled all the distance.³⁵⁵ Our forage wagon sent out this morn comes in at 9½ PM with 30 bus[hels] corn & some fodder—enough for two days.— Hosp train came into camp before dark having started at 10 A.M.— Passed two Redoubts where the Rebs had a Battery—at least one gun—& had obstructed the road by felling trees,—but the way was soon clear & the work charged by the 1st Div.— The gun escaped but the caisson was captured. Two Federals killed—a few wounded about 300 or 400 only of the rebs at this place. Heavy canonading on the right all day— We

³⁵⁴ Private Mitchell Babbington of Company G, 29th Ohio Infantry.

³⁵⁵ I.e., double file.

are within two miles of the Rebel works and one miles in rear of our lines. Gen(?) Harrison captured.³⁵⁶

Sunday, December 11

Camp Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 5 miles N.W. Savannah Ga.

Weather rainy last night, but only a little cloudy, but cool to-day.

Cleaned off ground & put up all the canvass we have, only about half of it needed for patients—

Rations rather short, but there are large quantities of rice & some stock on neighboring plantations. It is thought that we can subsist here comfortably, after the matter is fully adjusted, & the mills will [be] running.—

Steamer (small) captured by riflemen.³⁵⁷ Rumor that communication is made with the coast at Warsaw Sound³⁵⁸ & commissary stores may be had as soon as road can be opened.

Heavy Canonading on West of city by Rebs—we make no reply with artillery.

Monday, December 12

Same place.

Weather quite cool but clear. Ice $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick on water this morn. Moon bright to-night³⁵⁹—

Hosp. att[endant]s singing to-night— Our rations rather short still we are not likely to go hungry much for we shall soon have our communication open with the Seaboard. It is reported that there are less than 10,000 troops of all kinds in Savannah, & that there are provisions in the city for only 6 days— The question is one of seige or assault. If it can be done quietly it will be better.— Transport of Rebs captured on the River, in company with Gun-boat which withdrew in haste.³⁶⁰

We hold the rice plantations & mill. Some of our men cross into South Carolina for forage. Forage becoming scarce around here, except rice upon which, not only men but

³⁵⁶ George P. Harrison, Sr. (1814-1888), major general of the Georgia militia, was captured at his Savannah River plantation, Montieth, by General Howard.

³⁵⁷ On December 10, the Confederate dispatch steamer, C.S.S. *Ida*, was captured along with its crew by a forage party from the 150th New York Infantry and burnt on the Savannah River.

³⁵⁸ I.e., Wassaw Sound, at the mouth of the Wilmington River about 10 miles southeast of Savannah.

³⁵⁹ The full moon would be on December 13.

³⁶⁰ Of three Confederate ships attempting to descend the Savannah River, two gunboats were driven back and one armed steam tender, C.S.S. *Resolute*, was captured along with its crew by the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry.

horses must subsist in a great degree, for some days to come.— Not much artillery firing to-day on the whole.

No news yet from home. A 19th Mich man said to have been slightly wounded.

Tuesday, December 13

Camp Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 5 miles N. West Savannah Ga.

Weather cool in morn, fair all day & warmer to-night—

Surgⁿ W. C. Bennett vis[ited] Hosp & I went with him to Div. Hd. Qrs. He talked to Surgeon Grinsted about derelection of duty concerning Div. Hosp which resulted in there being a stirring up at the hospital & it is hoped improvement for a time. Lieut Herritt³⁶¹ of 20th A.C. Staff killed by Reb. Sharpshooter to-day— Much heavy artillery firing nearly South of here—supposed to be on the Savannah & Gulf R.R.—some very heavy guns booming at long distance—Supposed to be at Fort Thunderbolt³⁶²—Steam whistling on the River & some canonading— I take into my care & under my protection the yellow woman, wife of Capt. Baldwin's Servt. & shall try to furnish her enough to eat, & to do to pay for it, for the time being— I officer of the day— Well finished—water fair.

Wednesday, December 14

Same Place.

Weather fair—a little frost in morn—not uncomfortable to sit without fire to-night.

Business at hospital—re-arranging shelter for sick—making log sides for ward only partly done for one— Man of 102 Ill. shot through chest by rebel picket on skirmish line—brought in to-night. Not much hope of his recovery—

It is officially announced that Fort McAllister, on the Ocheegee River, surrendered to Gen Havens of 2nd Div 15 A.C. after a charge upon it by that Div. Garrison & armament captured. This opens our communication with the fleet & Gen Foster, & renders the fall of Savannah certain.³⁶³ 2nd Brig go 6 miles for Staves—Studley³⁶⁴ went 10 to 13 miles for forage &c. successfully—

³⁶¹ Lieutenant Charles A. Ahreets, Adjutant, 134th New York Infantry was at this time Acting Assistant Inspector General, 20th Army Corps.

³⁶² Fort Thunderbolt was a strong Confederate fort mounting a battery of nine guns on the Wilmington River about five miles southeast of Savannah.

³⁶³ On December 13, General William B. Hazen's 2nd Division troops assaulted and captured Fort McAllister, overcoming the last obstruction between General Sherman's army and the Union fleet waiting off the Georgia coast. General John G. Foster, Commander of the Department of the South, had a force of Union troops on Hilton Head Island.

O my God, keep the loved ones in Thy care, Keep us all in Thee—save this our country.

Thursday, December 15

Camp Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. At 5 Mile-post N.W. of Savannah Ga.

Weather very fine & warm enough to sit without fire in open air till evening.

1st Ward with log sides & fire-place completed so far as to place 44 patients on bunks to-night—nearly all that are sick. I went with Surgⁿ Himes to River & there fell in with Maj. Anderson & Lieut Russel,³⁶⁵ & with Dr. Hatchard went to rice mill, saw negroes at work—saw Rice-fields & dikes—Captured Steamer— Could see Savannah Spires & Houses, & the smoke of the gun as it fired shell toward us which exploded in the River about ½ mile from us in our sight—seemed to be firing at men in small boats crossing the river.

Beautiful live-oak orchards with long pendant moss (1 to 5 yards long)—Tree covers 1/5 acre— Plantation of ___ Gibbins, son of W^m Gibbins, son of “Tom” Gibbins—saw a native of Africa who had descended from Massa Tom down to the present owner—a sporting man with an income of \$300,000. ³⁶⁶

Friday, December 16

Same place.

Weather warm enough for comfort, & causing an inclination to seek the shade in the middle of the day.

Canonading quite brisk this morn on left, supposed to be rebs endeavoring to prevent the crossing of the three brigades of the 20th A.C. sent into S[outh] C[arolina] early this morn— Comparatively quiet in P.M. A little sharp firing in our front to-night. 20th A.C. train went to Ogeechee River for supplies—Lieut. Wing went. We expect a large mail when it returns, as it is said there is mail there for us in fabulous amounts³⁶⁷—Surgⁿ Grinsted & Dr. Wood took dinner with us— Had a Rice (ground) pudding—very good. It is said that an officer of Gen. Grant’s staff is at Left wing Head Qrs. It does not appear

³⁶⁴ Probably Quartermaster Sergeant James D. Studley (born ca. 1840). He enlisted in Company I, 9th Michigan Cavalry in December 1862.

³⁶⁵ George A. Russell was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in Company D, 19th Michigan Infantry in October 1864.

³⁶⁶ Major William Heyward Gibbons (1831-1887) came into a substantial fortune upon the death of his father, William Gibbons (1781-1845). His vast plantation, Shaftesbury, was purported to be one of the wealthiest on the Savannah River. Although born in New York and having business connections with New Jersey, he served as Assistant Inspector General of Field Transportation for the Confederacy.

³⁶⁷ Rumors in this case were quite true. The amount of mail that had accrued for Sherman’s soldiers over the four weeks since they left Atlanta weighed in at twenty tons.

that we are to take Savannah very soon unless by assault which must result in heavy loss to us.— Negroes are to be sent to Port Royal³⁶⁸—some went from here to-night— I wrote part of a letter last night & will finish in morn.

Saturday, December 17

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 5 miles N.W. Savannah Ga.

Weather very pleasant except the very heavy dews & the fogs in the morn—

Mail to-day—I am glad to learn of the good health of loved ones at home, & of the receipt of money, of the kindness of Mr. Smith to my family—I shall take occasion to write to him soon.—

It is said that a flag of truce was sent in to-day demanding the surrender of Savannah, but it does not seem to have had the desired effect for there is some heavy firing all along the line.³⁶⁹ Our fleet is said to be in a condition to bombard the town. I hope that will not be necessary.

Finished letter to wife begun Nov 15.³⁷⁰

Recd letter from Wife of Nov 6th Oct 30th Nov. 10th Nov. 14th & Nov. 20th, from Clara of O[ct] 23rd 30th & Nov 20th; & Jennie Nov 20th. Wrote a long letter to wife, & 8 pages to Clara giving some account of march to Madison—not sent.

Sunday, December 18, 1864

Same place.

Weather still fair, and warm enough to sit in the open air without coat & without fire in evening— Foggy in morn—heavy dew. I slept out of tent under fly.

On account of its being Sabbath work has been suspended here. I have spent the day mostly in reading and singing.— Latter part of night & nearly all day there has been but little firing. It is said that the pickets have agreed not to shoot at one another and have exchanged civilities & papers. We are placing a battery in our front that may draw the enemy's fire this way and compel us to move. I hope not. Rumored proposition of conditional surrender by Rebs. Not credited.

Write more in letter to Clara—Travels as far as Milledgeville.

Monday, December 19

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. 5 miles N.W. Savannah Ga.

³⁶⁸ Port Royal and Hilton Head Islands off the South Carolina coast were captured in November 1861 and were made into important Union bases.

³⁶⁹ General Hardee declined to accept Sherman's demand for the surrender of Savannah and its 10,000 defenders.

³⁷⁰ I.e., December 15.

Weather a little cloudy threatening rain, but still quite warm—

2nd Ward in Hospital complete—

I as officer of the day, try to hasten preparations for an impending conflict. It seems resolved on by a council of war, that Savannah must fall soon, & there may be some bloodshed first. Our “cracker line” is fully open to King’s Bridge, and Bread was issued to us to-day from New York.³⁷¹

We still forage 10 to 12 miles in the country in our rear without large force, tho’ Reb. Cavalry are said to be behind us— Some large Guns came up past here in last night & will be in position before long. 2nd Div. find some difficulty in establishing themselves on South Carolina shore. Several men wounded. Canonading since dark.

I did not finish letter to P. M. Smith, but sent my letters to home by Mr. Hoblitz³⁷² who goes to N.Y. in a day or two.

Tuesday, December 20

Same Place.

Weather pleasant tho’ somewhat cloudy and threatening rain—a little cool to-night, but not uncomfortably.

Affairs moving on well—3rd Ward pushed forward to completion—

Lieut Lewis³⁷³ of 20th Conn, wounded in leg—ball lodging in cancelli of Tibia—

Chloroform affected him unpleasantly— The case has an unpleasant prospect. He falls into my hands.

Some heavy firing on our left to-night from our (?) guns & some from Rebs.— They will get waked up to-morrow if they do not move out too soon, & it is rumored— It is rumored that Hardee offered to let Sherman occupy Savannah if he would let him leave peaceably. The story is doubtful— Visit from W. C. Bennett—who is going home—& from Dr. Hutchinson³⁷⁴ who stayed a long time, to-night, after supper. Some mail received, but none from me.

³⁷¹ At this time Sherman’s army was being supplied almost entirely by the Union navy. Although the use of the Savannah River was still denied by Confederate forces, small boats could bring cargoes into Ossabaw Sound and up the Ogeechee River. King’s Bridge over the Ogeechee stood about sixteen miles southwest of Savannah and about twenty-five miles from the sea as the river winds inland.

³⁷² Possibly the Mr. Hoblit (first name not known) who was an agent for the Western Department, U. S. Sanitary Commission assigned to Sherman’s army.

³⁷³ 1st Lieutenant Henry Lewis was attached to both Company E and Company K, 20th Connecticut Infantry.

³⁷⁴ Probably Edwin Hutchinson who joined the 137th New York Infantry as Surgeon in September 1863. The 137th New York was part of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 20th Army Corps.

Wednesday, December 21

Hospital 3rd Div 20 A.C. Savannah Ga—"Pavillion."

Weather a little rainy from 8 to 9 A.M.—~~fair~~ The remainder of the day cloudy & shining alternatively.

Heavy firing last night, till about 2 A.M. this morn— Announced this morn that "Savannah is ours" by a staff officer riding by the Hospital in the woods.— It was hard to believe, but was continually confirmed by others.³⁷⁵ Among them Surgⁿ Goodman.— After Breakfast—Dr Himes & I rode down to the city—overtaking Lieuts Wing & Horbert³⁷⁶ on the way—rained— We rode through city—stopped at Rebel Hosp. saw young asst Surgⁿ— Rode around to the "Pavilion" found Dr Grinsted Goodman & Himes there—I return at 10-10—stop to protect the mulatto women & arrest the soldier—Hospital arrives here at 3 P.M but we have so large an "elephant"³⁷⁷ that we cannot get it well cared for to-night.

Thursday, December 22

Same Place.

Weather cooler—sunrise bright but somewhat cloudy during day.

I have been officer of the day, and very busy with house-cleaning, & arranging our own room, and the wards. Surgn Himes took the outside.

17 Rebels convalescents & sick sent here this [day?]- They seem well disposed— Our supply of blankets small.

Mr. King, Principal of Female Academy & Bogart of Male academy have been carrying away their books.³⁷⁸ They seem quite surprized that they are disturbed in their school. The "Matron" of Wayside House seems disturbed & peevish because her affairs are interfered with.³⁷⁹ They have some things yet to learn of war.

Friday, December 23

³⁷⁵ On the night of December 20 Hardee, realizing that no reinforcements had been dispatched to assist him, evacuated the city. He was able to cross the Savannah River over improvised bridges with his entire force into South Carolina without being detected.

³⁷⁶ Probably 1st Lieutenant William S. Herbert who enlisted in Company C, 85th Indiana Infantry in May 1862.

³⁷⁷ I.e, too large a task to complete quickly.

³⁷⁸ Possibly Rev. Charles King; his school may have been the Savannah Institute for Young Ladies. William S. Bogart was the principal of the Chatham Academy Classical School for Boys; his school would be utilized as the hospital for the 3rd Division, 20th Army Corps.

³⁷⁹ A "Wayside House" neither appears in the city directories nor is mentioned in the newspapers of Savannah during this time. It is possible that the establishment Bennitt refers to was a house of prostitution and the "Matron" its madam.

Hosp 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Savannah Ga.

Weather cooler, but clear.

It was intimated that we would be obliged to leave this house for the occupation of the 17th A.C. Hosp, & Dr Himes and I rode through the city to look for another. Found two poor places but learn to-night that we can remain here, the 17th A.C. having found a place. Dr. Goodman called in morn, & again to-night sitting for some time chatting. Advized me to apply now for leave of absence. I have written an application and went to 3rd Div. Head Qrs but found no A[ssistant] A[djutant] G[eneral] nor Surgⁿ Grinsted.— Will send it in in morn. I must try to go home. Dr. Terry Off. of day—I have on[e] patient that must die soon, Fox.³⁸⁰ I do not feel well to-night, but think it is the result of large dinner—& so abstain from supper. Dr. Terry recd letters & papers. I none yet.

Saturday, December 24

Same Place.

Weather fair cool enough to need a fire to sit by.

Grand review of the 15th A.C. near here. Dr. Fritz & Dr. Pinney ³⁸¹ of the Cavalry moved into this Hosp with 56 ___ patients,—cavalry, among them three officers & a sutler. Fox of 55 O.V.I. Died at 4 P.M. of Typhoid Fever.— Lieut Lewis of 20th Ct very bad condition, Pyaemia?³⁸² Edward Dillon of 136 N.Y. wounded and captured while foraging near here two weeks ago,—left in Reb hospital, brought in to-day with left thigh shortened 2 inches. Dr. Johnson & I evacuate for the benefit of Cavalry surgeons & I am left without my bed.

Lieut Pursell³⁸³ left Hospital paying me \$10⁰⁰ for ten days board &c. I sent my application for leave of absence for thirty days, to Div Hd. Qrs. Surgn Grinsted having approved.

Sunday, December 25

Hospital 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Savannah Ga.

Weather a little cloudy all day with a little rain about dark & quite heavy rain from 8 to 10 P.M.

³⁸⁰ Private Henry Fox (1832?-1864) was drafted into Company E, 55th Ohio Infantry in September 1864.

³⁸¹ Thomas I. Fritts was Assistant Surgeon in the 8th Indiana Cavalry; Charles H. Pinney was Assistant Surgeon in the 9th Ohio Cavalry.

³⁸² A disease of the blood caused by purulent matter that ultimately affects the heart.

³⁸³ Charles G. Pursel (1840-1865) of Schoolcraft enlisted in Company F, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 as Sergeant. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in Company D in May 1864 and promoted to 1st Lieutenant in Company H in October 1864. He would be killed in action at Averasboro, North Carolina in March 1865.

I am officer of day, but still att church at 10½ A.M. at Presbyterian house across the street. Preaching by citizen—"Not a sparrow falleth to the ground with His notice."³⁸⁴ Good Sermon. Singing by choir of two men & congregation. Organist indifferent. Congregation about two thirds soldiers. A large proportion of the Ladies in mourning.— Everything passed off apparently as though no unusual thing had occurred here. Many soldiers seen drunk in the streets to-day— Officers as well as enlisted men— Lieut Lewis' leg gangrenous, & he must die. Dr. Hatchard takes dinner here— He is to return to hosp.— Mr. Chapman—Chaplain, also dines here. Mail received yesterday but I got none.

Monday, December 26

Same Place.

Weather a little rainy—lowry all day—

My application for leave of absence returned disapproved by Gens. Ward & Williams— Dr. Goodman made no endorsement. He doubtless did not wish to disapprove it, inasmuch as he had assured me that he would approve. His excuse doubtless would be that, "the order concerning another campaign & no leaves and fuloughs" to be granted. I have felt dispirited all day, from the disappointment. The Loved ones at home must wait much longer. But I think I can endure the long separation as well as others. If S.C. campaign ends well, & soon I m[a]y then go.— Drs. Hatchard & Amsden report at Hospital for duty—Drs. Fritz & Pinney with the Cavalry, took their departure. Cavalry officers come under my charge. Edginton³⁸⁵ pays \$20⁰⁰ on mess bill—Capt Bender³⁸⁶ \$5.00.

Heard that there is a letter at Regiment for me, but did not get it.

Tuesday, December 27, 1864

Hospital 3 Div. 20th A.C. Savannah Ga—

Weather mixed—rainy, and fair alternately—mostly rainy—

After attending to my patients I went to 19th Mich. & recd lett from stating that he was at Harper Hospital Detroit Mich. as was Sergt Harris & Marcus Daniels—they two, he & Daniels having no Descriptive Rolls—I urged their commanders to send them.

³⁸⁴ Matt. 10:29.

³⁸⁵ 1st Lieutenant Robert P. Edgington.

³⁸⁶ No officer by the name of Bender appears in the regimental rosters of Bennitt's brigade.

Talked somewhat with Lieut Barnhart³⁸⁷ about buying a horse of him— ~~Rode~~ Took dinner at Head Qrs 19 Mich— Rode with Col. Baker³⁸⁸ & Lt Barnhart, to River— Machine shop—saw steam tug sail vessel in River—and—Torpedoes & Torpedo boats— saw Albert Ranney who says his father has received the money all straight— Rumor from two sources that Jeff. Davis is dead.— Meeting of citizens called by Mayor &c.— Lt. Lewis body embalmed—to be sent home to-morrow morn. Wrote 3 pages to wife.

Wednesday, December 28

Same place.

Weather mixed—fair and showery—

Rode to 19th Mich. again to-day after dinner— Did not buy the horse— Called on Surgⁿ Hobbs who read to me his report of Savannah Campaign—asked me to come to Brigade, &c. Saw Brigade review by Regiments— Oysters at Regt— Called with Lieut Wing at his Qrs. & saw Lieut Harbert and made a prescription for his cough.

2 19th Mich. men sent in to-day. One 73rd O[hio man] shot great toe off, in my ward— Rumor repeated of Jeff Davis' death— Loyal Georgian gives account of Mayor and citizens meeting to-day, & the loyal Resolutions passed. I shall send a copy to my wife in a letter with directions to send it immediately to 3 Rivers Reporter. Collect money of Mess to Dec. 31st except sick officers.

Lieut Lewis body was sent home by a man with a 12 days furlough. He must hasten his return or not be in next campaign. Wrote nothing in letter.

Thursday, December 29

Hosp. 3rd Div. 20th A.C. Savannah Ga.

Weather fair but cooler than hitherto—

By Surgⁿ Grinsted at the request of Surgeon Himes, the latter is relieved from charge of Div. Hospital and I take charge. I shall make some changes in operations— Dr. Hatchard cut off [f] great toe of man wounded last night— Schofield appointed Hosp.

³⁸⁷ Lucien B. Barnhart (born ca. 1834) of Union enlisted in Company C, 19th Michigan Infantry in August 1862 as First Sergeant. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in January 1864, promoted to 1st Lieutenant in October 1864. He would be promoted to Captain in Company B in January 1865.

³⁸⁸ John J. Baker, 19th Michigan Infantry, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in October 1864.

Steward, goes to his regiment & Dan Schull³⁸⁹ acts as Steward here— I get 1st No of “Savannah Republican”³⁹⁰ & shall send it home by first mail.

Dr. Grinsted did not yet go to Hilton Head, as he ought.

Dr. Goodman looked over this whole house and thinks 400 patients can be accommodated here.

No letter from home.

Friday, December 30

Same Place.

Weather fair, pleasant—warmer than yesterday—no fire necessary, till eve— I have had more bunks made—one partition torn out in third story—had bath-room & fixtures put in good repair and cleaned (& took a bath myself to-night)— Made arrangement with Gas Co. for gas here—and am now enjoying its light—tried to make arrangement with 2nd Div. for bread baking, but could not succeed on account of the want of pans. Looked over 2nd Div. Hosp.— Studley bought for us a bushel of Oysters ²⁰⁰. A firkin of butter 100 lbs for \$85⁵⁰. I give Wymbs³⁹¹ 11 lbs. for two days supper for patients and we shall use the largest part of the remainder for officer’s mess.

With Dr. Hatchard, since dark to Reg’t for mail but got none— 3rd Div to move over River in morn.

Finish letter of 4½ [pages] to wife & will send it with papers of Dec. 27-8-9.

Shall retire at 11 P.M.

Saturday, December 31, 1864

Hosp. 3rd Div 20th A.C.

Weather somewhat rainy and cool.

3rd Div. moved to River and partly crossed over— Encountered Rebel Cavalry who wounded two men of 105 Ill. one fatally probably— 2nd & 3rd Brig. returned with train to camp in same place.— I went to Dr. Goodman’s to see about moving Hospital,—Dr. Grinsted being gone— He said it would not be necessary to move at present as it is not expected that Third Div. will be more than 4 or 5 miles from here— I remained two hours or more—talking with him & Drs. Bennett, & Riley—³⁹² They think I better go to

³⁸⁹ Private Daniel L. Shull of Company B, 136th New York Infantry.

³⁹⁰ The *Savannah Republican* actually began in 1858 but probably suspended publication during the siege. The December 29 issue was indeed called volume 1, number 1, but the newspaper reverted to its former numbering in February 1865.

³⁹¹ Private John D. Whymbs of Company H, 20th Connecticut Infantry.

³⁹² Probably James Reily, Surgeon to the 33rd New Jersey Infantry from September 1863.

Cincinnati at once, & he went with me to Corps Head Qrs.—& with counsel there became satisfied that it would be best to apply for leave in a regular manner—which I have written, but not sent yet, but think I will on Monday.

Dr. Goodman sent me a note to-night that he would inspect Hosp. here at 11.30 AM. to-morrow. I could much prefer that he would not make Sunday so much a day of business and allow us all to go to church. I will try [to] do what is proper in the matter—do my duty to man and to my God. Wilt Thou O God! who hast preserved me in health through so many vicissitudes and dangers in the year just closed still preserve me in body and mind, and especially be near to me by the influences of Thy Spirit that I may not fall into sin or be tempted beyond the strength that shall give to resist temptation— Grant that another year may find this whole Volunteer Army safely pursuing peaceable pursuits—peace & harmony in all our borders.