

**The Civil War Journal of James Samuel Fogle
11th Indiana Zouaves, Company F**

The Marches of the 11th Indiana Regiment

About James Samuel Fogle and This Journal

James Samuel Fogle was born on January 22, 1837 in Hope, Bartholomew County, Indiana, the son of Thomas Christian Fogle and Christena Letitia Holland. At the age of two, he moved with his family to a farm in Hartsville, Indiana, where his father and mother lived until their deaths in 1885 and 1890, respectively.

James was a member of the 11th Indiana Zouaves, Company F, and fought in the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. He was killed at the Battle of Champion's Hill near Vicksburg, Mississippi on May 16, 1863, at the age of 26.

Throughout the war, James wrote home often and kept a journal of his life as a soldier, which was returned to his family after his death. Eventually, a few of his letters and his journal ended up with the family of his g-g-nephew, Harry O. Fogle, of Hartsville, Indiana. Harry's granddaughter, Faith Flanigan Lee, transcribed those letters and James' journal in the early 1980's.

I recently decided to continue the research that my Aunt Faith began. I was thrilled to discover an additional 35 letters written by James to his family during the war that we were totally unaware of. Transcribed copies of these letters are located in the Indiana State Archives. The woman who originally transcribed them, Anita Steinkamp, is a very distant relative whose family apparently had possession of those letters.

It is believed that James Samuel Fogle remains buried at Champion's Hill, Mississippi, under a tree where his uncle had him placed. His name is listed on a memorial marker at the Newbern Christian Cemetery, Newbern, Indiana, dedicated "in memory of the soldiers that never returned" to their homes and families after the War.

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We left home on the 16th of August 1861 and started for the 11th Regiment. It is very hard to see the faces of my mother and sister. I bade them farewell. My brother took me four miles in the buggy and would much rather went with me and taken upon himself the life of a soldier with all its hardships than return home, but would not go against the will of his parents. I stayed all night at John Wright's and took the morning train from Elizabethtown for Indianapolis in company with several of the boys. We arrived at Indianapolis at 11 o'clock AM and walked to Camp Robinson which is about three miles from the depot. When we got to camp it was past dinner time though they had dinner prepared for us by my friend George Wright. After dinner the oath of allegiance was administered by Leiut. Cannan.

August 18, 1861

It is Sunday and everything about our tents has to be put in order – our knapsacks have to be done, tents and streets swept and dirt carried away. I am well and almost wish myself at home but a little amusement among my acquaintances removes such thoughts and I must try to be as cheerful as any of them.

August 28

I am on guard today – the second time since I have been at camp. At noon, Showers and several others arrived here today and take the oath.

Sept. 4

Everything is confusion here. We are under marching orders and the boys are preparing their rations and knapsacks. We have ham and a few biscuits for our trip. At 5 PM we are ordered in line and started for Indianapolis. The roads are extremely dusty. The boys suffer from the dust. The knapsack is very heavy for I have my overcoat and blanket in it. We are finally halted in the commons near the depot in order to lie down where the boys are very noisy and act more like intoxicated than anything else. The sky is cloudy and threatens rain. We are marched to the State House where we sleep during the night.

Sept. 5

We have again marched to the commons near the depot where we stayed till night and have some visitors from various regiments. At 8PM we were ordered in line and marched to the cars. They met and concluded that we are to go to St. Louis. The cars will stop at Lafayette. The cars stop – we have got off and lay on a nice hill overlooking town.

Sept. 6, 1861

I am on guard this morning and ordered to let all of our Regt. in but none of them out. There are queer patterns of breech loading cannons exhibited here. The inventor wishes Col. Wallace to recommend it to the Sec. of War. At 9 AM everything is ready and we get on the great Central railroad and start for Alton, Illinois. The country is near the Walbash and full of little shrubs. At noon we cross the river and get in the prairie which is overcovered with flowers of every description and the velocity of the cars give them the

picture of a large piece of calico. Night overtakes the prairie It is getting so cold it is disagreeable. At midnight we pass through Springfield.

Sept. 7

We are still going as daylight overtakes us and most of us wish a slice of bread with butter for our rations have given out. The beautiful prairie is passed through and the country becomes broken. The track runs through and the country becomes broken. The track runs through deep cuts and over chasms. We arrived at Alton at 10 AM. Got off of the cars to get on board the steamer David Fantam. We boarded about one PM and started for St. Louis where we arrived at four PM and went to Camp Benton. Camp Benton is a large camp with barracks all around it and a cooking house in the rear of the barracks, and a nice drill ground in front and Gen. Fremont's headquarters near the center of camp. It is a beautiful – a beautiful two story frame, finished with taste. There are plenty of peaches and apples to sell at a very moderate price.

Sept. 9

We are ready again to start and the boys are almost crazy at the prospect of getting in a skirmish with the secesh. We are marched to the wharf after dark and put on the steamer Hannibal City and sleep in the cabin over the boilers. It is dreadful warm and we are almost smothered.

Sept. 10

The boat goes down the river and a pleasant breeze plays on the hurricane deck. About 9 AM we are halted at Fort Girardeau by firing a blank cartridge at us. The boat was halted and examined and we proceeded down the river and to Cairo. We are again stopped and inspected then go up the river as far as Paducah, Kentucky where we go off and march through town to hunt a camping ground. We found it on back of the court house where we stacked arms, go back to the boats and carry our tents and mess boxes. Our tents are only large enough for sitting and are set in two rows so as to form two streets. Everything is now in order. E search for our water – find plenty. The citizens appear to fear us and some seen peering at us through their windows for most of us boys carry pistols.

Sept. 18

There has been several hard rains since we came and we find our camp to be a perfect swamp and very hard to drain. The water is nearly shoe mouth deep and is in our tents.

Sept. 25

We went to Viola yesterday and stayed there till 3 PM – started back at 11 PM. The country is hilly with some small riverlets but most of them are dry. Soon after we got there it began to rain. Viola is a small village with a store, grist mill and a few houses. Soon after we got there, some of the boys broke in the store and tried to sleep but got hold of some gool olg (?) Rye whiskey and watermelon wine. Col Wallace gives them a leacture on honesty. I went on picket about a half mile from town. The hazel bushes are

very thick but the hazel nuts are not quite ripe. We turned six miles toward camp where we halted for the night.

Sept. 27

We started at daylight and arrived at camp by noon and found Robert Crittenden dead. He died last night.

Sept. 28

Whitcome Blair died last night both Blair and Crittenden were taken to the boat to be sent home. The entire co. followed with reserved arms.

Oct. 5

We did not get to sleep much last night for it was thought that the rebels would attack us. We were alarmed twice through the night and marched in line of battle.

Sunday the 6th

There was no church today.

Oct. 10

Our company slept on their arms last night so as to be ready any moment and give the rebels battle.

Oct. 14

I am on guard today at General Smith's headquarters. There are some rebel officers here. They came from Columbus. They have a flag of truce.

December 10

We went to Viola today – burned all the lumber that was there, destroyed the engine of the mill but found that we were too late for the rebels for they left last night. We were too late to catch them. It began to rain about the time we started home so that the roads were almost impossible. One of my messmates dismounts and lets the Gen. Wallace ride. Guard duty is very heavy at this time. We are on duty every third day and it is very disagreeable to stand on picket at night without any fire.

December 25

This day has passed without anything that would remind one that it is Christmas. I have stayed in my tent all day. At night I went to town to go to church but am disappointed for there is no church and go to a place where there is a burying. On my road to camp I see a small house which I take to be a theater and am very politely invited in by some young Leuit. of the 9th Ill. Regt.

Jan. 1

I am on guard today. It is very cold and disagreeable. Some of the boys are getting drunk. Among them is the sentinel and among them there is quite a number in the guardhouse.

Jan. 15

We left Paducah this morning at 8 o'clock and marched fourteen miles through the sleet. Encamped in an open field and are forbidden to burn rails. We have carry wood a half a mile and to cut brush for beds and sleep on them very well.

Jan. 16

We left camp early this morning. The ground was frozen this morning but thawed about noon and is quite muddy at this time. The Union sentiment is rather stronger in the part of the country than any we have passed through since we came to this state (Ky.) we are frequently greeted by the waving of handkerchiefs. The country we have passed through is rather hilly and houses are of log (round). We are encamped tonight on the grounds of Clay King the guerilla Chieftain of dixie.

Jan. 17

We are called up early and by daylight we are on the march. Marched about a mile and halted for the first brigade to pass us, which was about nine A.M.. We marched to Mayfield and learned that Camp Beauregard was evacuated. We turned to the left and came into a nicer part of the country than any we have seen in Ky. There are some poplar timber through here. The wagons and artillery are ahead of us and they are cutting up the roads badly. It began to rain at 4 P.M. and continued till dark. The wagons have to be unloaded by us. Finally we go in camp at 11 P.M.. we have our tents to pitch and everything is wet and mud boot top deep. We again resort to the bushes for beds.

Jan. 18

We are awake about daylight and it is raining. We got breakfast as best we could for it is raining yet and our tents are in the wagons and we are standing in the rain around a few coals trying to keep warm. About noon there is a detail made to cut road and go ahead in front of our brigade under command of Lt. Hayes. We cross land and go about a mile then we are ordered back for the river has raised so much that it is impossible to forge it and one team has stumbled and one of the horses is damaged and the wagon has drifted down some distance where Col Robinson and some of the boys are gathering. There are two loads of provisions destroyed and several wagons are on the other side but ours is on this side but can't get to the hill with its load so we have to carry part of our tents about a half a mile to a suitable place to camp where we pitch our tents and build fires and dry our blankets and our clothes, cut bushes for beds and try to sleep as good as convenience will admit.

Jan. 19

We had a mess of mutton for breakfast. The tents are struck at eight and loaded in the wagons and everything is ready to start. There are twenty men detailed from each co.. We have plenty of work to do pulling out the wagons. We pitch our tents in a half prairie which is covered with small Jack oak. Wood is very scarce. Some of the boys have gone to a fence which is some distance. They build fires. We are waiting for the co. to come up tonight. Our blankets and overcoats are wet and our haversacks are very heavy. My candle is suspended in a bush that is in the tent while I am writing.

Jan. 20

Today is Sunday but we have no bell to warn us of the sacredness of the day and there seems to be no Sabbath in the army. We had a good night's sleep and feel much refreshed this morning. It is thundering in the S.W. and there a pleasant breeze blowing this morning. We left camp early this morning and traveled til noon in small undergrowth when we got in better spirits and made good time. We passed through the town of Murray. It is a small village and a strong secesh place. Near here is a creek. The country changes very much. There is plenty of sugar and ash trees here. We have marched twelve miles today and encamped near some large farms. The boys got some chickens.

Jan. 21

Through some very hilly country and saw some of the first beech timber of any size since we left Indiana.

Jan. 22

We are encamped at Crown Point twenty miles below Fort Henry. There is a gunboat transported up that is loaded with rations and forage. The gunboat has gone up to Fort Henry and fired several shots at long range without any effect. Today is my birthday and I have been on fatigue and no dinner but my messmates have prepared a good supper. We have honey and fried chicken and fresh pork.

Jan. 23

We started back to Paducah and marched 16 miles at the head of the division and camped on a beautiful hill near a nice spring.

Jan. 24

We started early and marched to Paducah and found everything right at camp. Pitched our tents where they stood before and enjoyed a good nights sleep.

Feb. 5

We worked till 11 o'clock and get things belonging to the Regt. on board of the Erlich Scott. The boat is much crowded for all of our teams and wagons are on board and one battery. The river is high and it's banks are over flowed at many places. There are some small cane breaks.

Feb. 6

We came in sight of our camp at dark. We were a few miles below Fort Henry. It was a beautiful sight to see. The many camp fires on the hills more than a mile along the river were seen – the many warriors and boats. True it would form a beautiful picture for a painter. It rained very hard last night and some of the boys got quite wet. I was on the hurricane deck early this morning - - the air pleasant. Our Co and Co "I" have been stored in the sleeping room and are very much crowded. Our boat and the eighth Mo. landed close together and our flag staff broke and killed one of the 8th Mo. Boys. After we landed, we marched about four miles and halted, waited for a signal which fired at 2 PM and lasted till a quarter past 3 when the Fort unconditionally surrendered. The camp

opposite river deserted but everything belonging to camp is left. Our flag waves over Fort Heiman. The Fort is incomplete. We are on picket tonight without a coat or blanket.

Feb. 7

We are some distance from the fort and are in fine spirits and learn that Fort Henry contained 18 guns and that Gen. Tillman (*Tilghman*) and staff were taken.

Feb. 8

It rained and sleeted last night and we almost froze for want of shelter and blankets. It is raining this morning and there is a fatigue party taken from each brigade to build a bridge across a bayou (*bayou*) so as to land our baggage and teams. Some of the men are in the water waist deep.

Feb. 9

Our company was detailed for picket last night, after working hard all day. The day is beautiful, cool and everything reminds us of happy times at home. Our co. was detailed to guard the post commissary.

Feb. 12

The weather is fine and looks more like spring than winter. I have washed my clothes and am ready for another march. The canons are roaring at Fort Donelson and everything is indicating brisk cannonade. It is reported that thirty thousand troops left Fort Henry for there are several boats come down the river. Two of them have rebel boats in them. They have three rebel flags and rebels on board.

Feb. 14

We were aroused last night by the beating of the long roll at 11 PM and ordered to get ready for a march immediately with three days rations in our haversacks. The country is very hilly. The ground is covered with snow. It is very cold. We came to the encampment a half an hour by sunrise and spread our blankets in the snow and lay down to sleep.

Feb. 15

We woke up this morning and found ourselves covered with snow. It is very cold about one inch deep and the wind is blowing very keen from the North East. About 3 PM the bugle sounded and we fell in line and marched toward the scene of action near a battery and halted til further orders, but the orders soon came for us to take our position on the right of our line where McClernand's division was repulsed. As we went out we found every few steps ambulances filled with wounded and dying and others cliping along full of blood from severe wounds, telling us that their Regt. was cut all to pieces and we would get Hell. But our boys paid little attention to them and pressed forward after our galant Col.. When we came near the enemy we were ordered in line of battle and heard a rapid discharge of musketry ahead of us for the gallant Col of the 8th Mo. had engaged the rebels and had a sharp skirmish, but when the rebels seen that we had formed in the line with the gallant 8th Mo. and were about to make a charge at them, they gave away and retreated toward the Fort and were closely followed by us. When we came two

hundred yards of the Fort, they opened on us from three batteries, poured forth shot and shell, grape and canister and killed two of our co. and wounded two more. The order was given for us to pull to a ravine. We removed from under a heavy fire from there to the head of a hollow where we laid for the night on our arms but did not sleep for it was too cold. We could hear the cries of the wounded all night.

Feb. 16

We were in line at the break of day and a heavy body of skirmishers thrown. Co. G boys were sent out to reconnoiter and watch the enemy and let them know immediately. We soon found that they had a flag of truce over the Fort but were not aware that they were willing to surrender. We went back and found the troops in line of battle and reported to Gen. Smith then took our places in our Co. when our adjutant came riding up and said the Fort had surrendered. The boys gave three cheers and went forward to take possession of the Fort. We passed over the bodies of fallen comrades almost every step for some distance. Our Regt. was the first to enter the Fort. After we enter the Fort we were formed in a square and stacked arms and put a guard around the Regt. to keep the boys from leaving too far from the Fort. But most of the boys had to have water and went to the river after water and found plenty of fresh pork, beef, flour and plenty of skillets to cook in of every quality and arms of every description.

Feb. 17

We were ordered to draw three days ration and prepare to go back to Fort Henry. We started back about 10 AM and got to camp about dark. I was too sick to march with the Regt. and came very near to playing out.

Feb. 23

I was on picket yesterday. It rained very hard til nearly dark when it cleared off and there was a beautiful rainbow in the sky. The night was beautiful and clear and many thousands of stars smiled on us reminding us of happy evenings at home. The sun rose in all his splendor, reminding us of Spring. All inanimate seems to be rejoicing. But alas there is no church bell to remind us of the sacredness of the day. There are many extravagant rumors in camp and all need confirmation.

Feb. 27

The weather is fine and warm as spring and we have frequent thunder showers. I was on the foraging excursion yesterday some 7 or 8 miles from here. The country is very hilly and poor but we saw some beautiful farms well stocked with negroes and the white appear to have no occasion to associate with them.

March 2

We are under marching orders at present. It is raining thundering very hard this morning. The elms are in bloom and everything looks like Spring. There is a court martial sitting in our Regt. at this time.

March 3

It turned cold last night and is snowing.

March 4

Today one year ago, Abe Lincoln was inaugurated president of the U.S.A.. The boys were much elated by the recent victories here and at Fort Donelson but their spirits are rather low and most of them think that the war will be long and bloody.

March 5

The day is clear and ground is frozen this morning. I am on fatigue today helping to remove the quartermasters store to Fort Henry. We received a paper containing the message Jeff D..

March 6

We are ordered to march by six o'clock and start west and march through some unimproved roads. They are very crooked and we could not see our column coming around a hill not more than a hundred yards from us, but that part of the column will march over a mile before they come to where we are. We came to a landing six miles about the Fort. Our Regt. and the 8th Mo. are on board the John J Roe.

March 7

We found ourselves at Fort Donelson. It is quite cool. We are at the upper landing this evening taking on board some mules and wagons. The boats are drifting down to the fort.

March 8

We slept in the boats last night but were ordered out this morning by Maj. Elison for fear the boat might catch fire from our candles. Some of our candles are scattered all over the boats.

March 9

We came off the boats this morning and are on a high bluff near the mouth of the Big Sandy. The hills are covered by pine bottoms and small cane. We have plenty peaches ever since we came on this boat.

March 10

Huffer and I were out on picket last night – rained very hard we went to a negro quarters for the night. It is rather hard for a gentleman to sleep in a negro hut without any blanket. We went up to the boat early and went up the river and passed the famous railroad bridge that was burned by our cavalry some weeks ago.

March 11

We run to 11 PM and tied up for the night. It is so foggy that we cannot see more than the boat from us. The fog cleared off so we can see. We went up the river. There is a change in the country – the timber is much larger, the bottoms are wider and the hills are much higher and more precipitous and rocky. At some places we were greeted by the waving of handkerchiefs.

March 12

The day is beautiful and warm. The gunboats fired some shots last night. We are on the shore but our knapsacks and vc are on the boat. We had dress parade and batallion drill and then were permitted to ramble through the cane braker and cook our dinners on the shore. We are opposite to Savannah and ordered to leave the boat at a moment's notice.

March 13

We left the boat at Crump's Landing last night at midnight and to support the cavalry while they cut a railroad bridge. It began to rain till nearly noon today. It was as dark a night as ever I saw but part of our road was lit up by cotton houses that were burning that was burned by the war guard of the rebel army. I slept some today and some rails to keep out of the wet and spread my gum blankets over me. I am on guard this evening.

March 14

We started back to the boat at dark. It was very muddy and bad marching. We arrived at 1 PM and slept under the hurricane deck under wet blankets. We are on picket today. It has rained very hard and we are very wet.

March 15

We were relieved at dark last night and spent a miserable night on the hurricane deck in the rain. Our blankets and clothes are as wet as rain can make them. There are many sick on board and every landing is marked by the grave of some comrade. The day is cloudy and disagreeable.

March 16

The 8th Mo. left the boat and went ashore.

March 17

The day is fine and everything is drying fine. We go in camp this evening.

March 18

We are in our tents once more. Our tents are pitched in thick woods. The day is fine. I washed my clothes. My socks are sent away.

March 19

It rained last night but is fair today. There was a detail sent to Savannah today to unload the commissary stores. Lt. Richardson was sent to the hospital today.

March 20

The day is fair but I am unwell and cannot enjoy the fine weather. WE had a mess of greens today.

March 21

We drew 13 rations today.

March 22

The day is calm and beautiful. Just such a day as one would like to go to church but there is not church and most act as if there is no God.

Sweet day of rest

That saw the Lord arise

Welcome this receiving breast

And these rejoicing eyes.

March 30

There has been two deaths in our company this week. David A. Baker – Frank T. Dayton died from the effects of too much opium which he took through mistake thinking it was quinine. There was everything done for him that skillful attention could do. The weather's fine, the woods are green.

April 3

There is a heavy cannonade up the river. There are about 100 bales of cotton here. They have all left here but our brigade.

April 17

We went to Adamsville on the night of the 5th. It rained all the time we were on the road and the mud was knee deep. It was extremely dark at one place where there was a dead horse in the road. Our Lieut. fell lenthways on it for it was too dark to see the horse. When we came to Adamsville we found two brigades of our troops there. We stayed there till 1 PM and then returned to our camp. On the morning of the sixth we heard heavy cannonade in the South but things went on as usual. I was detailed on picket but came in about noon and found that our Regt. was under marching orders. There was a man sent in place on picket. I went along with the Regt.. We marched nearly to the scene of action when found that the enemy was in vast numbers on our road, so we turned back and took another road and came to our friends with opposition and found that they had been driven nearly back to the river about 3 miles from where the battle began. Also heard that Gen. Buell had crossed the river with forth thousand troops. We lay on our arms on Sunday night in the line of battle and were aroused twice – once by the firing of our pickets and once by our cannon. It rained nearly all night. A little after daylight on Monday morning we went into action. The fight commenced by the ninth Ind. Battery. We fought till nearly night when the enemy left the field in confusion leaving wagons, cannons, and ammunition and many of their wounded. We lay in the field without tents or blankets from over a week and it rained nearly all the time. We moved our camp yesterday and are on the advance and are ordered to be ready to fall in line at a moments notice. The Cavalry has bushwacked day before yesterday.

April 22

The day is cloudy and disagreeable. It has been raining for three days but clouded off last night and is quite warm today. Our tents are moved to let the ground dry. There are many rumors in camp.

April 24

There was a reconning made and resulted in routing two Rebel Regt. and burning their tents. We were ordered to have two days rations in our haversacks and be ready in an hours notice.

May 1

We were out on scout yesterday and marched some miles when we met some boys that informed us that they captured a locomotive and five prisoners. They took a Lieut. that was taking his lady a buggy riding and let her take the buggy home. We returned to camp yesterday evening and were mustered for pay.

May 2

The day is beautiful and clear. David Coler came from home and says that the purports are good for the was closing soon. It is reported that Yorktown is taken with 40,000 prisoners but is not confirmed. I helped bury a number of 29th Ill. Regt.. They died yesterday evening at sunset.

May 5

We left our old camp at 10 AM yesterday – took our tents and everything pertaining to camp. It rained nearly all the time while we were out and continued to rain all night and everything is wet and muddy. Today we pitched our tents on the ground that the 52nd Ind. Regt. left a few days ago.

May 6

The day is clear and present. The mud is drying up very fast but still there are many teams stalling. We are close to Pearidge. In shape it resembles a huge potato ridge and has its lowlands. The timber is hickory and oak. The ridge is almost entirely composed of gravel. It is reported that the rebels are evacuating Corrinth.

May 15

The weather is warm and dry ever since we came here. There has been almost constant skirmishing along our advance for the last ten days. Capt. Strickling came by here on his way home on leave of absence and says that we are ten miles in the rear of any troops. The 8th Mo. left our brigade. We have drawn flour and soda and bake very good biscuits.

May 19

It has been clear for several days but it is cloudy this morning. We are on a high hill and can see a great way off. We had a batalion drill today and are to drill everyday till further orders. The country is stripped of almost everything there is and everything that can be eat. The rails are burned for miles around – both Union and Rebel armies have poured over here.

Sunday 21

The day is warm and clear with here and there a cloud and thunders once in a while. Everything is still quiet here and it is said that the two armies are very near each

other. We heard of the evacuation of Yorktown last night and that McClellan was in pursuit and likely to capture part of Lee's forces. There was preaching in our Regt. today by an old preacher and heard an excellent discourse. It is thought

June 3 1862

We left our camp at noon yesterday and had to cut our way through the thick woods for some distance. It began to rain yesterday evening and continued to rain all night. I am with Gen. Wallace's team.

June 4

We are at Bolivar in camp on a nice day in a meadow. When we came here we passed through some nice country and some splendid farms most of which are in corn and wheat and slightly sprinkled with cotton. The hills are poor and the timber is small and stunted but the bottoms are rich and the timbers are large. We passed through Purity. It is a neat village and probably in time of peace contains five hundred inhabitants but its houses are so much scattered to make a good appearance. The railroad runs about four miles from Purity and has a station at a small village called Bethel where the rebels had a camp and it appears that they had been sickly by the number of graves along the road. Most of them are from Georgia. The railroad bridge over Hatchie is a long and beautiful structure built on the self supporting system. It is 70 yards between the pillars. It is the height of wheat harvest. Dewberries and plums are ripe.

June 9

We had some splendid dewberry pies today. Bolivar is a large village and has some of the finest buildings I have seen in Dixie land and appears to be unfit for rebellion and probably in time of peace contains 800 inhabitants but at this time a few children and women slaves remain. Last Sunday as me and Showers were rambling about the town, we discovered in a graveyard a place where there has been something buried in a hole thirty inches square that was carefully leveled that was probably some rebel plunder buried.

June 13

We left Bolivar the 10th and marched over some of the nicest country I ever saw. The buildings are good and some are perfect places. The farms are also in good repair. The corn which is the main crop is mostly waist high but some is not more than knee high. There is a smart cotton crop too and a smart sprinkle of yams. The plums are plenty all along the route. We are nearly suffocated with dust and water is very scarce and what there is is the poorest kind of swamp water and Gen. Wallace placed a guard at every house for fear our presence might the fine feelings of traitors. And it appears he would rather see the Union soldiers suffer than to see the secesh slightly _____. The work appears to be performed by the negroes who come to the fences and gawk at us as if we were monsters but few of them manifest any desire to escape their masters. Summersville is a neat town about the size of Columbus, Indiana and has a splendid court house. All of the buildings are large and neat. The Union sentiment appears to be stronger than southern towns we have been in yet. We saw Union flags wave from two houses but the city people are mostly secesh and acknowledge themselves such. There was three regiments left at Bolivar, two at Summersville and Union station. The first day we went

26 miles, the second 18 miles, the third till noon – 19 miles. We are guarding a high bridge here and are on short rations. We captured several lbs. Of sugar and molasses and some lbs. of flour and a few prisoners.

June 17

We were aroused at midnight and ordered to strike tents and have three days rations in our haversacks – but did not leave camp till after sunrise and there were put in the rear of the entire division. The day was cloudy and the dust is so thick that we can scarce see our file leaders. We are encamped near Memphis. Water is not as good as we have been used to. We are on camp guard – the first time for a month, but I have secured enough apples to do me for several days. There are prospects for better living than we have had for some time.

June 22, 1862 – MEMPHIS

We were aroused from our slumber at midnight on the night of the 17th of June and are ordered to go to the city. I was detailed to go with Gen. Hovey's teams. It rained and thundered very hard soon after we left camp but I took shelter in front with Gen. Hovey's team. I helped to unload Hovey's teams and carried his plunder to a flight of stairs and then went to camp which I found in front of the Gayose (*Gayoso*) House but rain is so scarce that our tents are not more than halfstretched. Our dress parades are largely attended by citizens and frequently great cheers of applause. We were on guard yesterday and the guards got drunk and let some of the prisoners out.

June 30

Our camp is one of the most disagreeable in the state. The sun is extremely hot not a shade tree in camp. Many of the boys are sick. Memphis is the largest city I have yet seen but is in very poor repair and is scattered over twice as much ground as a northern city of the same number of inhabitants. The county square is a beautiful park and is set with many beautiful shrubs and flowers. But what most attracted my attention was the monument of Jackson on which was engraved, "The Federal Union must and shall be preserved." But the traitors tried to cut the words –Fed. Union out of the monument and only partially succeeded.

July 6, 1862

Fort Pickering – We left our camp before the Gayose House on the 1st and are encamped in a beautiful grove just below Fort Pickering. The Col.'s tent is pitched on a beautiful mound some twenty feet higher than the surrounding and Gen. Hovey's tent is pitched on a similar mound about 200 yards nearer the river. The river is divided into four different channels by the islands. The largest is said to be nine miles long. The 4th of July passed away without much fuss. There were some shooting done. We fired three rounds in the honor of the day. As day breaks the gunboats fired a national salute. At noon there was another salute fired by the artillery. I was on picket on the fourth but it passed away very nicely for I had plenty of cucumbers and radishes and blackberries which made quite a feast. And on the 5th I got a haversack full of onions and brought them to camp. We have plenty of vegetables. There is a fort building here. Gen. Grant has issued an order to take 1000 negroes from disloyal men and make them build it. There is

a government receipt given for each negro. The cavalry had a squirmish yesterday – one man killed and several wounded. Health is improving since we came here. There are rumors in camp concerning the army at Richmond. The opinion of the soldiers is much divided. Jeff Thompson sends regularly letters to Gen. Grant by one of the 24th Ind. who was taken prisoner a few days ago and returned on parole of honor. There is more card playing going on than there has been since we left Paducah.

July 9

The fort has begun and is large enough to contain five thousand in line of battle. The negroes are divided in squads. Men from our regiment oversee them and a Leuit. of the 76th Ohio Regiment. The negroes dug up the bones of a man near the old reb. fort. They sand and prayed til nearly midnight. The particulars of the fight before Richmond are in the morning paper.

July 13

We were aroused last night – must have things ready for a moments warning. At 1 AM they raised the long roll in the artillery camp. The alarm was caused by some fellows trying to take some negroes from the fortifications. The guerillas are in the neighborhood and attack our scouts nearly every day. The last five days they killed five. We had preaching today on the mound nearest the river. It was about twenty feet higher than any surrounding ground and commands a nice view of surrounding objects.

July 18

There was a detail call on the night of the 13th at 11. We were ordered to get what rations we could and get ready to leave immediately. We went to the wharf and got on board the steamer Scarion and went to Hellana, Arkansas where we found part of Curtis' army in want of rations with which our boat was loaded. When we came opposite the village, they fired from one of the batteries. We returned the salute and went down to round in and they supposed that we intended to go on and fired a shot in our front. The river is very crooked and has low banks – high curves on each side. It's generally covered with small cottonwood timber and once in a while a large plantation but they are few and far between and well stored with negroes. As a general thing have ten to fifteen negro cabins on a plantation. We saw many cattle along the river bottoms – look as if they would make good beeves. We had a fine rain night before last. There is some disturbance on the picket line and our scouts are much annoyed by the guerillas. It was reported that there was a heavy body of rebels marching to this place. The negroes are progressing fine on the fortifications and coming in all the time (last night).

July 20

We were aroused from our slumber last night at eleven o'clock and formed into line where we stayed about an hour, then we returned to quarters. The alarm was caused by some persons firing a few shots near the camp. The fifty second Ind. came here the day before yesterday and are nearly naked.

July 22

It is Sunday – but no preaching. I was on picket yesterday and had a fine time eating peaches and melons, green corn and potatoes. Discovered two C.S. wagons and quite a number of C.S. quartermaster's returns cots (were sent to). The receipts and so on were sent to General Sherman who is in command here; but the quartermasters were not arrested. We came to camp at 11 AM and found everything ready for a march We are on the steamer Alton City. The sun has just set back of a cloud and most beautifully lingered in the western sky with orange, yellow, purple and scarlet.

Helena – its surroundings – march after the rebels

July 26

We left the wharf of Memphis this morning at eight o'clock and arrived here (Helena) at two PM then went down to the river about a mile where we landed and unloaded our camp equipment; and pitched tents after dark in an open field between the river and the levee. There is a large cypress swamp in the rear of the levee that is connected with a lake extending about two miles down the river. In the rear of the swamp are hills of a considerable height and are very abrupt; at many places so narrow that scarcely room is left for a wagon road on top of the hill. The plantations are and appear to be well stocked with negroes, but the masters are all gone or nearly so. All of Curtis' army is here and also Wallace's division of Grant's army. Health is not good at present, many of the boys are sick with ague.

July 27

We are encamped on a sandy soil, commonly called William's Farm. There is sand flying in the air nearly all the time and everything we eat or drink mixed with sand. John Petree and McNulty went to the hospital yesterday – eight of my messmates are sick. We drew some ice today. It is Sunday but nothing to remind you of the fact save the usual Sunday morning inspection.

July 28

We were called out at noon yesterday and marched down to the levee – a distance of seven miles in search of some guerillas which were said to be lurking in a cane brake but they could not be found; returned at sunset after a fatiguing march of a few hours. Saw some large cottonwood trees. They resemble our poplar trees more than anything else I have seen.

August 1 – Sunday

There was no monthly inspection yesterday on account of rain. It has rained almost every day since we came here. The fleet that lay near Vicksburg passed up the river last night. It was a beautiful sight to see so many lights and black columns of smoke as boat after boat rounded the bend which is about ten miles down the river. It is reported that they raised the seige on account of the heat and sickness on the gunboats.

August 4

We have been fishing for two days and only caught four fish – two weighed fifteen lbs., one forty and one twenty. We took in our lines this morning and when we were to have one day rations in our haversacks and ten days rations in the wagons. We are to take our knapsacks with us.

August 5

We left camp at nine in the morning and marched ten miles through a nice country – then encamped in a woods pasture three miles in advance of our ordinance camps. We signed the payroll last night after dark and were payed at about 10 PM. I received \$20.40 – We left camp early – passed through some nice country, crossed two small creeks. We encamped in a low and dismal looking place where bushes and weeds were plenty but water very scarce. We had some pork and plenty of peaches and green corn. The country we passed through in this state is not as thickly settled as Tenn..

August 6

We were aroused early this morning and ordered to get breakfast as early as possible but did not start til late and then placed in the rear of all the troops. Went back four miles on the road we came yesterday and one mile south in search of some guerillas. The cavalry scouted the country and shelled some clearings but found no guerillas. We about faced and passed our old camp and encamped on Cypress Creek where teams had gone in the morning. We had to use swamp water.

August 7

We started early and marched through some nice country; saw some beautiful pine timber halted at noon and rested till 3 PM and then resumed our march and arrived at Clarendon at 11 PM and spread our blankets in an open field and slept soundly till daylight.

August 8

Clarendon is a nice village on the left bank of the White River and in time of peace contains three or four hundred inhabitants; but is nearly deserted at this time. The boys have the few nearly empty stores and taken what suited them best. We left the open fields this morning and took up our quarters in a shady grove in the rear of the village. Gen. Hovey has taken up quarters in a nice to story frame house in front of our regiment. About noon there is a detail of eighty men called for each regiment called to bail out an old coal boat. I was among the unlucky number. We bailed till dark and made but little headway for it was scuttled at several all of which had to be stopped before there could be much done at bailing. I had a good melon and a mess of green corn.

August 9th

Today the same detail that was at work yesterday was continued today. We cleared the boat at noon and towed it up to the landing. At 3 this afternoon there was one company from each regiment sent scouting the Red River. Our company was taken and deployed as skirmishers. As soon as we advanced, we found the cane brake so thick that it was impossible to go further. We were relieved and stood picket all night. Leicut. Baker

and a few privates went out on the road a short distance and found some cane huts that had lately been occupied by the rebels and found that it was a quarter of a mile across the bend.

August 10

We were relieved early this morning and the line moved to the rear of the bend. There was nothing of suspicion took place today except two rebel cavalrymen came to our lines and were fired on but without effect. There were two companies sent on the road some distance but found nothing except dense cane brakes.

August 14

We were ordered to camp yesterday and found Sarg. Winchell of company B had been killed yesterday while in command of a forage train by some guerillas. He had six buck shot and a musket ball the remains of Co. I was badly wounded. Sarg. Winchell was buried last night. We were waked up early this morning and ordered to get breakfast as early as possible. We were on march at daylight. We marched nearly south and passed the place where Winchell was. There was a man named Washington arrested on suspicion of murdering Winchell. Some of the boys set fire to his house and would not let his negroes put it out. We went to camp at noon and had plenty of ripe peaches to eat. We have been on half rations for some time but I never fared better since I have been in the army than I have on this march.

August 15

We were aroused at 2 AM and were on the march by 4 AM – marched 12 miles through pine land; crossed cypress swamp at 9 AM and halted an hour to rest and get water – then marched six miles farther and halted through the night and had to use swamp water, but had chickens, peaches and plenty of green corn. There was hog with a ball on it caused much disturbance among the boys for everyone claimed the belled hog. There was an artillery and a cavalry man killed today.

August 16

We were roused up early and by eight AM were on the march – marched 15 miles then went in camp early on Pine Creek. There are many of the boys under arrest for stealing. It is just one year this evening since I left home and can see my mother almost fainting as break from her embrace and bid her farewell to join the regiment. Indeed every scene is as vivid in my memory yet as though it were yesterday.

August 17

As usual we were aroused early and started on the march at 2 AM at the head of the division. We reached camp at 8 AM after a march of thirteen miles and learned that our sick men and the 12 Mo. regiment had a fight. The latter were replused with losses.

August 18

Started \$20 home by the Adams Express Company.

August 19

Received a letter from home containing the sad news of Joanna Holland and Henry Torr.

August 24

We were aroused at 10 o'clock last night and ordered to have 40 rounds of cartridges in our cartridge box and three days rations in our haversacks. We marched up to the levee at the wharf and got on board the steamer White Cloud and went down the river 14 miles to pull a gunboat off a sand bank, but when we got down found she had gotten off the bar. Our boat then rounded up the river and at daylight at our camp.

August 29

There were 38 men of Co. G. to go as an escort for some officer to Little Rock to make arrangements for the exchange of prisoners.

Sept. 4

Co. G. returned from their trip to Little Rock. They went on the road to De Vals Bluff then to Little Rock by the cars. They report troops at many places.

Sept. 7

There were four boatloads of prisoners passed here yesterday. Some were captured at Fort Donelson.

Sept. 14

Seven boatloads of prisoners passed here yesterday on their way to Vicksburg to be exchanged. There was one boat exclusive for rebel officers. The papers of the 11th stated that there were 150 thousand rebel crossed the Potomac at or near Harper's Ferry and threaten Washington.

Sept. 17

It has rained two days and nights but has cleared off this afternoon. Papaws, muscadines, and grapes are plenty. We have had pies twice a day for a week. Drill twice a day – battalion in the morning and Co. drill in the afternoon. Two boatloads of exchanged prisoners passed up the river this morning.

Sept. 22

There are many dying here. Last Saturday, there was one of company E seen fell dead while walking into co. headquarters. He had chronic diarrhea for some time. I was out walking a short time and heard the muffled drums beating at two places proclaiming that death had claimed two more victims.

Sept. 23

It has rained all day and everything is wet and muddy. John Keppy died today and was buried this evening.

Sept. 24

Frank Hughes died last night and buried today with the usual military honors. But poor honors they are. After all they do not sooth the sorrows of bereaved friends nor all the sufferings of sick soldiers that when death overtakes him is buried in the land of the stranger. His grave is known to his friends and when the traitorous inhabitants pass over the grave, they curse the cold ashes that lie there.

Sept. 28 Sunday

The day is cloudy and pleasant and all nature appears to be at rest as if conscious that it was the day that God ordained for rest. We were under marching orders a few days ago and drew 10 days rations and 5,000 five thousand round of cartridges to the company. But it appears that they were countermanded. The sick are nearly all sent to Mound City Hospital. There was a slight shock of an earthquake this morning just as the sick call was beating. I have been at the fort six days. It is a square earthwork about 100 yards square and 12 feet high. It is unfinished and has not guns mounted yet. It is guarded by the 12th Mo.. They admit no one inside neither soldier nor officer. On my way to the fort I passed a Catholic church. The congregation appeared very attentive. They were nearly all soldiers.

Oct. 1

We had general review and monthly inspection here yesterday morning. Gen. Hovey was reviewing officer. Five men belonging to Co. K went across the river today and one of their numbers John Gassy was killed by the guerrillas. Thus it appears, "He shedth man's blood by man, shall his blood be shed," for this same Gassy mortally wounded one of the 12th Mo. a few days ago, in riot.

Zouaves

Gayly the bold Zouave
Dash over the plain
On through the enemy
On over the slain.

While Federal Banner waves
O'er us on high
Bold Zouave, Bold Zouave
Conquer or die!

Rough is the Soldier's life,
Hard is his fare.
Yet in the gallant strife,
Death he will dare.

While Freedom's banner be peaceful at the dead of night,
Soldier's may dream till at the morn's gray light
Fires cease to gleam will freedoms VC?

March, march, Your country calls
Strike for your land.
Hearts still united be
Hands joined in hand
While freedom's the warrior's glorious crown
His victory is gained
While he lays his armour down.
Proud and unstained
While freedom's banner waves
O'er up on high.

Bold Zouave, Bold Zouave
Conquer or die.

Oct. 2

It rained this morning but cleared off about noon and is quite pleasant this evening. I have left camp and gone to a small hill about a half mile distance to write a few letters. My position commands a nice view of the river for miles with its dark waters, dark sand banks and beautiful green forests on either side of the river and to add to the beauty of the scene, there is a regiment of infantry and cavalry in battalion drill at this time.

Oct. 4

Frank Hughes brother came here today and had him taken up to send to Greensburg. Lt. Baker received notice that his resignation was expected. He is going to leave this morning.

Oct. 6

We were paid off yesterday for two months. I was on picket yesterday. Picket line runs along the lake for over a mile and is a very beautiful place if the mosquitos were not so bad.

Oct. 11

It rained nearly all the day yesterday and turned cold last night but it is very pleasant today.

Oct. 17

I was on detail and crossed the river on a foraging excursion. Got 19 wagon loads of corn for the commissary and about twenty hogs of which some of them are quite fat. Got a few yams. A couple of cavalry was with us on the expedition and sent out pickets on each road some of which went farther then they were sent. And when we started home, they were sent for but could not be found. Some infantry and cavalry were sent in searce and found them all right on the road and called them in countermarch. And returned to the upper landing and saw some fine corn and quite an amount of cord wood. We were detailed on picket and returned to camp this morning.

Oct. 19

It is Sunday today, but the usual Sunday morning inspection was omitted this morning on account of many being on duty. The duty is so heavy that we have to be on duty every other day and on sentinel every day. Most of the boys have built their winter quarters and have fireplaces in them, but we are still in our tents and have furnaces in it.

Oct. 25

The weather has been very fine and pleasant till last night. It has turned cold and the wind blows from the north. This morning the few citizens that were here have left by the steamer. They have gone to Cairo and St. Louis for fear there will be a fight at this place. We are throwing up rifle pits. It is snowing and much colder than it was at Paducah this time last year.

Oct. 27

I was on special guard across the river and went foraging – got two chickens and helped to get two hogs but they were claimed and taken away by a man on the other side of the river. He has a protection for his property from the Commanding General. There were three of the 48 Indiana killed by a squad of guerrillas. Two were surrounded by the same squad. There was ice a quarter of an inch thick yesterday morning.

Oct. 29

The weather is fair and quite warm and looks as if the Indian summer has fairly begun. There was a Rebel steamer came in this morning and exchanged prisoners under a flag of truce.

New Yankee Doodle
Away down south in other days
They used to sing so handy
The tune our fathers loved to sing
Of Yankee Doodle Dandy.
 And Hail Columbia once they sang
 But now they're growin' uncivil
 The starry banner how they hate
 They hate it like the Devil.
And the flag, the brave old flag,
No more with them will take sir.
They've buried that and in its place
They've got a pesky snake, sir.
 But we're the boys to keep the flag
 Our Washington fought under.
 Long wave that flag, that good old flag,
 The Stars and Stripes by thunder.

Oct. 30

We have had review today and found there was a new regt. in our brigade. The cannons at the fort and the gunboats were fired today in honor of the completion of the fort. Understand it will be called Fort Hovey.

Helena, Arkansas

Nov. 2, 1862, Sunday Evening

The weather here has been very fine for some days and there has been much duty to do but the fortifications are complete at this point between the river and levee. There were three companies of this regiment left yesterday morning. I have washed all of my clothes and blankets this forenoon. All of my clothes are wet so I am not at worship at this time.

Nov. 6th

The weather is fine and beautiful, but the weeds have the purple hue of fall on account of the recent frost. I was on special guard across the river yesterday and helped to get some fine beef. There were six wagon loads of corn came in this morning and one boat load of troops that are landed on the Miss. Side of the river.

Nov. 7th

The day is quite clear and cold and was wintery this morning. We have no special guard duty to do on the other side of the river on account of a Wisconsin Regt. going in camp on the other side of the river. We heard of the death of Gen. Richardson this morning.

Nov. 8th

The day is clear and cold. The cottonwood trees are bare and the oak leaves are purple. I am on provost guard. The Maria Jennings came down with a load of prisoners.

Nov. 9th

I am unwell and did not go to church today. There was a cotton speculator hired us to guard some cotton last night and payed us twelve dollars (\$12).

Nov. 11th

I have had the sick headache for two days past and am unwell yet. I received a box from home today. Lieut. Rudd returned this morning.

Nov. 15th

We received marching orders at noon and were ordered to cook three days rations and to be ready to march by this 7 PM, but at 8 PM received orders to be ready by 11 PM and at this time on board the steamer Rocket. All the men in quarters but four _____. Our Co. turned out 110 men in ranks. The night is cloudy and threatens rain.

Nov. 16th

We received a small mail on account of the mail steamer Eugene being snagged and sunk about a hundred miles above Memphis. The morning is cloudy. Most of the

boys here have gone down the river, the gunboat Corrondolet in ther advance. The following boats are in the expedition: Liz Rochel, city belle, Hiriatha, _____, Catabula, Champion Ohio Belle, Tucumsah, Iowa, Tecatune, _____, Robinson, Gunboat – Key West, Nebraska, Corrondolet, Gladiator, Meteor, Imperial, and Lake City. Our boat left the landing and went down the river about twelve (12) miles and tied up in sight of the village of Pryors Point (sic – must be Friar’s point because it is about 12 miles south of Helena). Pryors Point is a neat village and in times of peace about 800 inhabitants. But is appears almost deserted now. It has a court house and signs of open stores and a hotel. About sunset we were fired on by some bushwhackers, but no one was hurt. One of our guns went off accidently and shot one man’s finger off.

Nov. 17th

It began to rain at dark last night and is raining still. Many of us spent a disagreeable night for want of shelter. The guns ran on a bar last night and did not get off till this morning, then the whole fleet went down the river. The day was cloudy and rained a little this evening. The Decatur landed some troops at Montgomery’s Point and took some prisoners.

Nov. 18th

We are lying opposite the village Victoria at the mouth of the White River. All of the boats and the Regt. must have gone up the river to get rations from the commisary boat. The boats returned about noon and went up the White River about a mile and tied up for the night and put out pickets. The morning was fair but rained this evening.

Nov. 19th

The day is fair but rained very hard last night. All of the boats dashed down the river on account of the shallowness of the water on the bar which was only 3 ft. deep. We left the mouth of the White River and went up above Montgomery’s Point and halted for the night and got some beef for rations.

Nov. 20th

We left the landing above Montgomery’s Point and went down the river to Nalden at north of coks river. There was six cars got off the boat and captured three ferrys and several flat bottom and falls which we destoryed and took several citizens on board that were about to starve. Napoleon is a miserable village with a wooden jail and an old shabby court house and several old churches that look like they have been deserted for years. The only good building in the place is the U.S. Marrion Hospital. Before the war broke out it properly contained 3 or 4000 thousand inhabitants. We left Napoleon at 1 PM came to the rest of the fleet at sunset. On our way up the river, we passed through the GunMount City at anchor without coal. The Maria Dening is gone down with coal.

Nov. 21st

We went up the river a few miles and were ordered down to the top of the mound city. All of the boats have gone up the river except the Gladiator and the Corrondolet and a ram.

Nov. 22nd

The morning is clear and frosty but the sunshine warmed. We lay at anchor last night but started at 6 ½ o'clock this morning. We passed the place that we were fired on as we went up the river. The boys fired a number of shots in their houses. We came to camp at 9 o'clock PM and found everything in a better condition than we expected.

Sunday Nov. 23

I was on picket this morning. The day is fine but rations are scarce.

Nov. 27

We have been under marching orders for several days. This morning I was detailed for picket. The reg. Has gone down to the river. There are four of mess no. 3 left, Huffer, Carter, Brown and myself. Our co. has taken nearly all the rations with them.

Nov. 29

I was relieved from picket yesterday morn. and detailed for picket today at 11 AM. The troops disembarked a few miles down the river on the Miss. Side and took a heavy supply train.

Nov. 30th

I have just been relieved from picket and never saw such a sight; It was a Negro wedding. The bride and bridegroom were dressed in black as crows. The bridegroom was dressed with a white plug hat on; The bride wore a changeable dress. The bride wore a silk dress to an enormous size, decked with beads and boys jewelry. The negroes danced nearly all night. Some of the boys were much astonished. The negroes had preaching in the same house. One prayed that the Lord send Jeremiah with the sledge hammer of conviction to the least hearts of all the hard hearted sinners in convicting them from the errors of their ways, etc.. They used many such expressions but it is not all to be wondered at when the laws punish the poor negro for learning to read. The negroes are dying at an average of one hundred to hundreds per day.

Dec. 1st

We were on picket yesterday and last night. It rained a little more this morning and was cold and cloudy all night.

Dec. 5th

Has rained last night and this morning, but cleared off about nine o'clock and is quite pleasant now. The 9th Louisiana Reg. Released our picket yesterday. So there is no detail from our reg. today.

Dec. 7th

It has been cold and clear for several days. It did not thaw any today. The nights are beautiful for the moon shines all night. On last night I was walking out, I found a can of fresh and elegant oysters – enough for supper and breakfast. The boys returned from their march to the Miss.. They were at cold waters and upland from it. The 1st Ind. Cavalry were in a fight last Sunday.

Dec. 13

It has been raining all yesterday and today.

Dec. 14

There has been some boats landed on the other side of the river today. I was at a Roman Catholic Church. It was a very novel sight to one who is not used to their mode of worship. The church is a very small church with a large Capela across but very attractive _____. They had worship after their usual mode with many crosses and bows. The Priest was a medium size, very dark complected, probably a Spaniard or Italian. I returned to camp and heard a very good sermon. I passed by our church and heard a very good sermon preached by Rev. Fitch, Chaplain of the 24th Ind. Reg.. I saw some girls and I doubt their ever being nuns. They looked too smiling at handsome soldiers. The Decatur tried to run the blockade but was fired on by one of the gunboats. Her officers are under arrest. She was loaded with quinine, shoes, and clothes for the rebels.

Dec. 16

It rained hard last night and cooled off on Monday and is very pleasant. I heard a good practical sermon from the Rev. Rabls – chap. 24 Ind.. Gen. Gorman is expected at our dress parade this evening.

Dec. 18

WE are ordered to draw 13 days rations today which is to last us till the year expires. I was a prayer meeting last night. It was a tolerably good meeting. At twelve o'clock last night, there was a detail from our company to go to the city for the boys from various regiments were alarming some sutlers. The nights are cold and frosty but quite pleasant. The boys of Co. F had a game of ball today. Most of the troops at this place are under marching orders. The Col. of one of the Ohio Regts. shot one of his men for misconduct. It took two of the Mo. Regt. to keep from killing him on last night.

Dec. 19

I was at church last night and heard a letter that was written by Mrs. Winchell to Col. Maveanley on the death of her son who was killed by bushwhackers near Clarendon. It was a very expressive mother's love and also very patriotic. She wanted the war to continue till the last rebel was subdued and the stars and stripes should wave over every town from North to South, from East to West, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. After the letter was read, Prof. Hickman made some very appropriate remarks showing that the liberty of the entire world depended on the effort they made – showing that if the independance of the southern governments were to be acknowledged by the principal popular sovereignty of the Rebel Gov., if the Reb. Gov. were extinguished forever. I put a box in the express office today. There is some stir among the express officers as this whole army is under marching orders and are sending off their extra troops.

Dec. 21

There were boats passing nearly all night and are tied along the bank from above tow. It is Sunday and I am on picket.

Dec. 22

There were 40 boats – part of McClelland's army that is to operate against Vicksburg. I was on picket yesterday and last night and saw a negro burrying someone very old, at least so appeared to me. There were 60 or 70 negroes following the wagon that the corpse was on. Two little negroes sat in the wagon on the end of the coffin to hold it steady. After they arrived at the grave, they put the coffin in immediately then sang a long tune and preached the funeral. Finally they sang, Hark from the Tomb, and then every one of them took a clod and threw in the grave, then began screaming among the women as I never had heard before.

Dec. 23

I heard a lecture last night on Nebulosity and plurality of the world. The speaker tried to prove that the sun and moon and stars were inhabited. The news of General Burnside has caused some depression among the boys and part of Housers _____ has drowned last night. McClelland's entire army is said to have passed down the river.

Dec. 24

It is raining a little. Co. F has left and gone to town today. I drew a dollars worth of sutlers socks today.

Dec. 25

The day is warm and pleasant and the sky is covered with thin clouds but sun shines through them sometimes. Many of the boys began Christmas yesterday by getting drunk and kept cursing all night. At midnight one of the mortars was fired. It took 17 pounds of powder for a charge. There were guns fired every little while all night in our camp.

Dec. 26

The day is cloudy and rained a little. There was an alarm raised last night. Most of the officers were absent in the Reg. – Fell in line of battle but of themselves seemed hurried up. We staired a short time in the line and then returned to our quarters. Our pickets on the other side of the lake aroused some negroes on the other side of the lake.

Dec. 27

It was very pleasant this morning but through the day there came up thunder storms and rained very hard.

Dec. 30

The weather is fine and beautiful. Last Sunday was a nicest day I ever saw in all of my life.

Dec. 31

Tom Douglas' funeral was in Newbern last night. He used to camp with M. Broadshaw. We mustered out four months pay and the officers are ordered to make out our payroll immediately. There are many rumors in camp about Vicksburg. One is that

they are evacuating, another is that they are making a desperate effort to keep our troops from landing and that Capt. Burton is killed and the rebels are shooting through our gunboats. Co G. has returned and says that Rebels were fighting our infantry last Sunday.

Jan. 1, 1863 New Years

There was a meeting last night but I did not get to go. The night is warm and pleasant. There are fine indications for an _____ _____. I had a fine New Years dinner – chicken and dumplings and potatoes and a mess of oysters for supper.

Gen. Gorman's orders are to take one hundred thousand pieces of artillery besides a large amount of heavy cannons. It is raining today. We put a floor in our tent. I am going to sleep alone.

Jan. 4

There are some very hard rains today and night before last and yesterday but cleared off last night. It is fair now. There are many rumors in camp now about Vicksburg. But the prevailing opinion is that it is not taken. There is a rumor that Gen. Burnside is within twenty miles of camp of Richmond but is not credit.

Jan. 6

It rained and blowed and lightened last night, but is cold now and cleared off.

Jan. 7

The day is cold and clear and I am fatigued from chopping wood. There is a boatload of troops come down the river. There are rumors in camp of several small victories of Blunsh at Henyth over Morgan over in Kentucky and also over Gen. Forrest's cavalry.

Jan. 8

There are several boats camped up the river and report that Vicksburg is not taken and that our forces are hard – Gen. Smyth and Col. Smith wounded. A full company of the right have gone down with three days rations and a detail from each other co.

Jan. 9

It is raining and has been for two days past. General Gorman has gone down the river. The wharf is clear of boats today. We received marching orders yesterday of noon and are ordered to cook three days rations. We had just drew ten days ration of flour which had to be returned and drew crackers in its place. I was fatigued on last night for guarding two stores. I was relieved this morning at four o'clock and got on the steamer AngloSaxon at ten AM.

Jan. 12

We left Helena at dark last night and found ourselves at the mouth of the White River this morning. The night was clear and pleasant. Our Co. is quartered at Irlans guards (?). There are some negroes arrived and availed themselves of the Emancipation Proclamation. We started up White River at night again and landed at Prairie Landing

about sunset. The second growth of timber is mostly cottonwood, sycamore, and willow. The banks are tolerably high mostly covered with cane.

Jan. 13

We started early yesterday evening up the river of Prairie Landing and ate our breakfast and supper on the shore. The banks are low here – almost covered with water. The weather is fine and warm, so warm that the blankets are almost useless. There is a Arkansas Post surrendered after nine hours of heavy fighting with 10,000 prisoners. Gen. Washburn went over last night. There are several new steamers along but the steamer Ruth attracts the most attention. She is neatly painted and cross letters between her smokestacks – Ruth. And on her wheel house was a beautiful painting representing Ruth gleaned after reapers. The golden sheaves are lying about her on the green earth. The river is very crooked, it banks low and overflowed. Gen. Hovey has ordered boats to tie up and not whistle. Our boat has run ashore several times today turning bends.

Jan. 14

It rained hard all night. There were two gunboats passed up the river this morning and found St. Charles evacuated. St. Charles is a small village – part of it burned by our troops. There are natural fortifications and the rifle pits surrounding the city and several magazines partly furnished. There are two 64 pound guns but the Rebel have removed on a steamer Louseen (?) later captured at the mouth of the White River.

Jan. 15

It snowed last night. The snow fell to a depth of ten inches on a plank where it did not melt. We left the Landing St. Charles at noon today and we passed several small villages after dark and came to Clarendon at dark.

Jan. 16

We lay at Clarendon last night and nearly froze in spite of all that we could do. We came to DeValls Bluff at 8 P.M.. It is a clay bank 30 or 40 feet high and had plenty of rifle pits and places fixed for three seige guns and is naturally a strong position, but the Rebels declined to fight and left two 64 pound cannons and several railroad cars. There is also another hill some distance below has some rifle pits.

Jan. 17, 1863

It was very cold last night. Most of the boys say that they suffered more with cold than they ever have since they were in the service except at Fort Donelson still I think I saw colder weather in Kentucky last winter. I was over the fortifications this morning and the ice was thick enough to skate on. Our sick have been sent away.

Jan. 18 Sunday

Charles Wright on picket today. The snow is six inches deep. It is cloudy and looks like falling weather. The timber is oak and seldom over 2 feet thick. The land is broken and hilly soil poor, principally white clay. I was out at the edge of the prairie. There can be seen a strip about 25 to 30 miles long and about 15 miles wide. I only saw

two houses and they were about 15 miles off. There are several groves of small timber to be seen through the prairie. The boys have caught a number of rabbits today.

Jan. 19

We were relieved early this morning after spending a most miserable night in the rain and the snow. It began to rain at dark last night and rained all night. We burned three cars in the depot this morning. It was noon before we got away. There was some cavalry at the landing and several boats tied up there. We landed there and got some beef. It was very poor. We tied up a few miles about St. Charles.

Jan. 20

We started down the river at daylight and stopped at St. Charles as we went down. Our rations gave out today. We drew some rations today.

Jan. 21

The weather is very cold. Our pilot runs the boat among some willows and broke the wheel. We came to the mouth of White River at 1 pm and took on 25 bails of hay. After the Rocket came out of White River, she became unmanageable and ran against the U.S. commissary boat Sovereign, smashed the wheel house base and knocked the kitchen off the Sovereign and smashed her hull.

Jan. 22

We tied up a few miles below Caldron Landing. I have completed my 26th year today. This morning was so foggy that we did not start up the river till 9 am. We arrived at the old camp at 1 pm and found it occupied by the same cavalry that we had seen at De Vall's Bluff and most of our shantys were down to make stables for their horses.

Jan. 23

We got off the boat last night and lay on the bank and left early this morning and are going to camp about three miles from town on the Clarendon road where the 43rd Ind. was encamped. There are some shanties there. Still it was very muddy and the Reg. march over hills. Slept three in a small cabin with a comfortable fireplace. The sick are still on the boats.

Jan. 24

Today has been very cloudy and has rained little. I was on fatigue at the boat. The roads are very bad.

Jan. 25 Sunday

Today has been cloudy, rained a little. There has been no religious worship today on account of bad weather. I have written three letters today and spent most of my time in our shanty.

Jan. 26

The day has been cloudy and rainy. Carter and I were out some distance from camp and saw some suspicious characters that told us there were bushwhackers about but they looked like bushwhackers themselves. We saw several large holly trees.

Jan. 29

The last three days have been pretty cold and the ground is froze every morning but thaws about noon. There are many of the boys getting sick with the diarrhea. Some of our Regt. went out yesterday and for three quarters of beef. I was on fatigue yesterday sutting timber to make a corduroy roads from the fort to the landing. The fort at Helena is transferred to Grant's army.

Jan. 30

The day is pleasant and warm, more like spring than winter. Two boys and I went out and killed some squirrels.

Feb. 1st

The day is pleasant. There has been no religious worship today.

Feb. 3rd

The weather is fair and cold. It froze quite hard last night. We drew 10 days ration today. Lt. Wood tried to keep back one third of our coffee to increase the Co. fund. There is a rumor in camp that Fort Henderson is taken by Gen. Banks. I was weighed today and weighed 165 lbs.

Feb. 5

Co. F was on picket yesterday. It began to rain and snow and sleet and continued all night. There were quite a number of citizens who came into our lines yesterday. They had plenty of cotton but were all detained til this morning. They sold their cotton at 58 cents per lb. They say it is very difficult to get cotton in on account of the bushwhackers and cotton burners. I killed a rabbit this morning with my bayonet. There were two deserters came in this morning with their shot guns. Part of our mess is going in another cabin. The detail that went down the river returned this morning and say that they were below Helena and cut the levy at Yazoo and say that they beleive that it will do well so that the boats can pass in the rear of Vicksburg via Cold Water and Yazoo River. There is a small snow on the ground.

Feb. 6

The eaves of our shanties are adorned with icesicles. Last night was very cold so that we kept a fire all night.

Feb. 8 Sunday

The day was cloudy and passed away as Sundays usually do without anything to remind us of the sacredness of the day except the Sunday morning inspection. I was over to see the 34th Indiana Regt. on drew parade. They done quite well. After dress parade

their Col. gave them a short lecture on the duty of a guard tomorrow. It is said that the small pox is in the 29th Wisconsin Regt..

Feb. 10

I was on guard yesterday. It was a damp drizzly day. It is cloudy and rains a little today. Duty is very heavy at present. There are 21 from Co. F on duty every day. The day is cloudy and warm. The elms are in full bloom and things begin to look like spring. I have done some washing today. Part of our mess is moved into another shanty. We had dress parade this evening.

Feb. 12

I am detailed for picket tonight. The morning is rainy and has the appearance of continuing.

Feb. 13

I was on picket last night and heard a red bird whistle and a squirrel bark about ten pm. The weather is pleasant and warm. We drew 10 days rations today.

Feb. 14

I was detailed for chopping wood for the company this morning. The 43rd Ind. Regt. left this morning for the Yazoo Pass. There was a detail from our Regt. to relieve them from picket and picket is so heavy that there are none in quarters.

Feb. 15

This morning is fair and pleasant. There is a nice breeze blowing and all nature seems to rejoice. The birds are singing their songs of love and peace, but alas not so with us. The cloud of war is getting darker and darker. There is some dissatisfaction among us and there are some rebels in the loyal states that would cause our peaceful homes to be the site of battles if they could and are trying to stir up all fears and doubts in the hearts of our soldiers. But still we look forward to see the time come when peace and harmony may again dwell in this once happy land.

Feb. 16th

The day is cloudy and warm. There is much talk that the paymaster will not pay us for two more months and it has caused dissatisfaction among the boys.

Feb. 18th

The weather is cloudy and rains a little for the last few days. I was out this morning and gathered a mess of greens, saw plenty of wildflowers.

Feb. 19th

The day has been windy and fair. I have been chopping wood for our Co. today. We are ordered to have a days ration in our havers and be ready at a moments warning.

Feb. 20th

The day has been fair and pleasant. I done some marching today. There was a company drill this morning and dress parade this evening.

Feb. 21st

The day has been cloudy and rained the forenoon. At noon we received marching orders and were ordered to have two day rations in our haversacks. We left camp and 3 P.M. and marched to Helena. The roads were very muddy and disagreeable. We got on board the steamer Marion a little before dark. Our Co. was quartered on the boiler deck among the horses and dirt. 3rd mess went on the hurricane deck and slept there. Brown and I slept under the yawl. There was a man fell off one of the wharf boats and passed our boat crying most pitiously for help. He was picked up by a boat below us. We left the wharf at daylight and steamed down to the mouth of the Yazoo pass and went through it into Moan Lake. The pass is very narrow and crooked. The current is very swift so that it is difficult for a boat to pass through. Moan Lake is about four or five miles wide and fifteen or twenty long. We saw five gunboats laying at anchor. The Chilcothe, a Monitor, DeKalb, three fletted layed with heavy oak timbers inside. There was no current in the lake – the wind strong so that it was with difficulty that there was a landing made. After we landed we marched five miles through a low country to where there were several regts. on guard which we releived.

Feb. 23rd

The days are pleasant but nights are cool. There was a white frost this morning. There were two foraging parties sent out today and got quite a number of pork and ten fat hogs besides salt and chickens and others got corn which is grinding on Slone Mill here. There were two boats. They had been in cold water 20 miles. The 24th Ia Regt., Gen. Washburn and staff were on board. They captured 3 prisoners which they left here for us to take care of.

Feb. 24

The day was fair and pleasant. We have plenty of meat and corn meal to eat. But we have nothing to cook in so we bake journey cake or fry meat on a stick or roast it on skillet lids or almost anything that we can get for there is but one frying pan in our company.

Feb. 25

We are quartered in a negro cabin. It rained very hard so that the ground was almost covered with water. A cabin caught fire last night and came well nigh burning down. Col. Nash an educated man says that there is danger of the negroes rising in the South. There was a man came to Miss. State and bought a large tract of land with three or four negroes working on it and about 40 or 50 little negroes. He built a high plank fence around it and put all the little negroes and the old wenches to take care of the little ones and made long troughs to throw fragments n it and stir it up for the negroes to eat. And he said that they would take off all their clothes in summer for the want of a cup or spoon and that they would dip up the milk with their hands and that the milk would run down and drip off their bellies.

Feb. 26th

It rained last night but cleared off this morning. The iron clads passed down the river this morning with much difficulty for the pass is very narrow and crooked. The trees are hanging so that they knock the smoke stacks off of the boats. There is a detail from our Regt. to cut down overhanging trees that block the pass.

Feb. 27

Many of the boys are riding in the chanel in their skiffs and dugouts. It would put one in mind of the Mosquito fleet. We left the pass about noon and came to Moon Lake about 3 P.M.. Some of the boys were out scouting and found that their Regt. had gone and came to us supposing that we were their mess mates and had brought their guns and straps along. But they were mistaken. There was a detail sent back with them but their guns were gone. They came to the pass but their bayonets left them. There were two that deserted at the pass.

Feb. 28

We lay at Moan Lake last night. The Boncarn(?) Star came along this morning and took us to Helena. We found that our Regt. had been marched to town. Our camp is situated on a hill where there was some cavalry encamped on the left of Hinman's House. Hinman's House is concentrated into a general hospital.

March 1, 1863

The day is warm and pleasant. I was detailed this morning to go to the old camp to get lumber and boards. Got back at noon and went to the fort this afternoon to hear preaching. There were several chaplains present and all spoke very cheering and patriotic. Gen. Prentis was expected but did not come. A number of the semitary comittee from Ind. are here. They have brought us potatoes, dried apples. It has caused some of the drooping ones to cheer up that we were not forgotten by their friends at home.

March 2nd

The day is fair and pleasant. I washed some clothes today. We have been paid off for two months. There are still four months due to us.

March 3rd

The day is fair and pleasant. We cooked our dried apples and peaches this morning and ate them for breakfast. I bought some jackets and had my picture taken. There was a microscope in camp today with pictures for carrying our friends miniatures. Quite a number of the boys had their pictures taken. They were very natural. I sent Mother and Louesy minatures. They look quite natural.

March 4th

Nights are quite cold but days are warm and pleasant. There is ice this morning. I am on fatigue today making gravel roads from the levee to Hinman House.

March 5th

The day is cloudy. Fatigue guard duty is very heavy at present. There is no news of any importance in the papers.

March 6th

The day is cloudy and rains a little once in a while. I was detailed to read the papers this morning. I got a Memphis Bulletin of yesterday. The news is meager and not very patriotic.

March 7th

It rained last night in perfect torrents. There was much lightening and thunder. The roads are very bad especially in town. It is a very common thing to see mules mired in the streets. But if the river gets a few feet higher and it will clean town nicely for it is getting over the banks on this side. The Memphis Bulletin of yesterday said that Lake Providence Canal is in operation, that the steamers continually at work and several brigades have passed down.

March 8th

The day is cloudy. I was at the Catholic church but it was so crowded that I did not get a seat and came to camp. The steamer Emma came up the river with her smoke stack knocked off and the wheel house badly injured. There was a rumor in camp that we were to do down the river in a few days and take our turn in the ditches before Vicksburg.

(cont.) Saturday April 25

It is reported that several divisions have refused the orders.

April 26, 1863, Sunday

The day is pleasant and a pleasant breeze blowing. We drew four days rations today and had inspection, but our guns did not pass Lt. Wood, so he commanded that we should have inspection at 2 P.M.. We received orders to save three days rations and be ready to march by four in the morning.

April 27, Monday

We camped at 6-30. The regt. on guard ahead. We crossed three canyons on pontoon bridges. One pontoon I saw was over two hundred yards long. I saw some yams growing or rather what they call yams here. They grow about two or three feet high spread out like fans, but most of them are spindly and eaten off by animals. The woods are very thick and most of the trees almost covered by "Spanish Moss." I saw dewberries and mulberries nearly ripe. It rained very hard today and the roads are quite muddy. We went in near the river camp about 4 P.M.. Everything is wet and we had some difficulty finding places to sleep. We received some mail this evening, but I did not get any letters. There was some cannonading on the river this morning. We are in sight of the river this evening.

April 28, Tuesday

I was detailed on fatigue yesterday evening and sent after rations to the boats about two miles from here. But when we got there we found we had to go to our division commissary on Gaines Plantation about 7 miles from here. We found pickets on the road and had to go back to get the countersign and had to go back to half a dozen Cols. and Generals at headquarters before we got the countersign. After we got the countersign we went up to the levee about five miles near the river before Carthage? To the commissary and soon loaded our days ration but the tugg was yet to come for we had to walk back and the levee was so slick and muddy that it was hard work to keep from falling down. And in spite of all my efforts, I walked for the mud a time or two. I got back this morning at 3 A.M. and had a short nap before daylight. Then I got up at roll call, ate my breakfast and lay down to take another nap. The rations were distributed to the men this morning so we again have four days rations. We drew 50 rounds of cartridges yesterday evening. So now we have a hundred rounds. Gen. Clais (?) division left yesterday evening. Gen. Steams – Thachens (?) division was expected to leave last night or this morning. There are seven transports between Vicksburg and Port Hudson. There was some cannonading down the river, supposed to be at Grand Gulf. It is reported that the rebels have fortifications at Grand Gulf. The day is sultry and at the river below it looks like rain. There are heavy clouds flying. We left camp at 11 A.M. and marched to the river where we lay some time for boats. We are ordered to leave our knapsacks and such articles that we will not need. I saw some “hay barges” that run the blockade at Vicksburg. One was pierced through barge and hay by a cannonball. Several boats came up the river, all have holes through them but only one is much injured. The AngloSaxon has her wheel shot away and her steam chest infused (?). We go on a barge a little before sunset. The barge is in lou of the Forrest Queen.

Wednesday, April 29

We left the landing at 3 PM and steamed down to Grand Gulf. Arrived there just before sunrise. Got off and cooked our breakfast in sight of a bluff where rebel batteries are said to be. Our Sargents got out orders to shot the first man that run and to use the butts of their guns if the men began to talk. But such orders are considered useless as the men will be likely to go as far as the officers are willing to go. The gun boats moved down at 8 AM and opened fire. The fire was brisk for sometime. Several boats have passed the batteries and worked from below.