

“Here Can Be Found the Realities of War”

Diary of a Nine Months Volunteer
By Corporal Casper W. Easley



TRANSCRIBED AND ANNOTATED
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Many soldiers on both sides of the conflict kept diaries of their wartime experiences. This one survives because it was part of the Dwight Roberts Collection donated to Johnstown Area Heritage Association by Mary Roberts Adair, granddaughter of Mr. Roberts, a prominent Johnstown banker and noted historian.

This diary documents a blend of well known events—battles of Frederickburg and Chancellorsville, Burnside’s Mud March, and Lincoln’s meeting with McClellan after Antietam—and lesser known events—Professor Lowe’s balloon demonstrations along the Potomac River after Antietam, the route of the march from Antietam to Falmouth, and Hooker’s flanking movement to Chancellorsville. The diary is well written, although sometimes inaccurate, by a college educated soldier who became the first local or city reporter for the Johnstown Daily Tribune in 1873. In his obituary, Casper Easley was described as bright, buoyant, hopeful and a non-complainer—qualities that permeate his prose. If the 1862-1863 winter encampment at Falmouth, Virginia was as severe as some say, it is not apparent in this account. The reader will be introduced to the vernacular of the time—portfolio, soft tack, scouse—and also be able to retrace the movements of the 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry along modern byways.



Corporal Casper Easley, of the 131 Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, kept a diary during his nine months of volunteer service. The original is held by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association and was digitized by the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Library.

Corporal Easley's "Diary of a Nine Months Volunteer:"

—1862—

AUG. 4 / The first Cambria County company under the nine months requisition being filled, we take our departure for Camp Curtin at six o'clock on Monday morning.¹ Arrive in Harrisburg at two and are examined by the Post Surgeon. Sleep on hotel floor.

The above entry is the first in Corporal Easley's diary, but the journey of these nine months volunteers from Johnstown, Pennsylvania began in late June, 1862, when George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac was driven away from Richmond by the Confederate forces of Robert E. Lee, following a series of battles now remembered as The Seven Days. The 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was raised as part of President Abraham Lincoln's call for additional troops, which followed the shocking results of the Peninsula Campaign.

On July 2, Lincoln called for 300,000 three-year volunteers. On July 17, the president also signed the Federal Militia Act of 1862, which authorized him to call state militias into federal service for up to nine months. That summer, most Pennsylvania county quotas were filled by the nine month men assisted in no small measure by the liberal offer of bounties.²

Easley answered the call of 1862 much like he had done in 1861, when he served for 90 days as a private with the Johnstown Zouaves in Company K, 3rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.³ During the period August 5-18, Company A, 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was organized, clothed and armed before leaving Camp Curtin by train to Washington, on the 19th, via Baltimore. In Washington, they slept at the Soldiers Retreat before marching a hard, hot six miles across Long Bridge to Camp Chase in Arlington Heights. On the move on August 27th, the brigade entrenched to the left of Fort Ward in the Washington Defenses where on the 30th they heard "the heavy cannonading of the contending armies [at Manassas] of Pope and Jackson only a few miles in front..." Picket duty near Fort Ward and Bailey's Cross Roads during early September alternated with "nothing unusual — days quite arm, nights very cool." On September 15, having been furnished with Springfield muskets, the regiment left for Rockville, to join McClellan and the Army of the Potomac.⁴ Easley, however, could not march with the company having become very sick following a drenching overnight rain on the 12th. He and fourteen others were left behind as a "bag-

gage guard" in downtown Washington. They left by train for Frederick, "a beautiful city of 8,000 inhabitants," on September 20th.

Corporal Easley's diary resumes:

SUN. SEP. 21 / Leave Frederic (sic) at 7 a.m., taking the Sharpsburg pike, arrive at Keedysville [via Middletown & Boonsboro] at 5 in the evening, having marched 19 miles.⁵ Our boys two miles beyond Sharpsburg—being 7 miles from here. Will camp until morning and then move on.

Note: Passed the battlefield of last "Sunday" and "Wednesday". The former Middletown, the latter on the outskirts of Keedysville, where dead rebels yet lie unburied—a horrible picture of the realities of war.

From Keedysville the line of battle extended nearly 12 miles to the right and left.

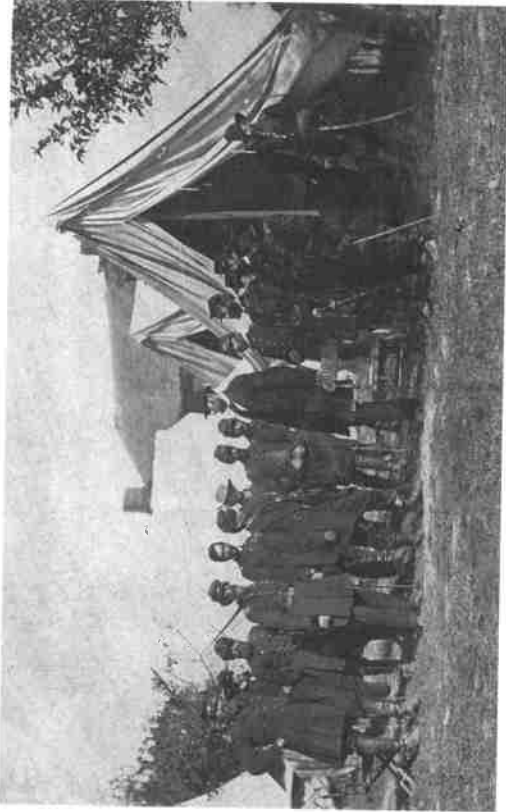
The slaughter was immense.⁶

MON. SEP. 22 / Start at 6 a.m. Cross Wednesday's battlefield—a horrible and inhuman sight—come up with Regt about 8 a.m. All the barns, wood-sheds, etc, in the neighborhood used as hospitals for rebel wounded. 'Tis enough to make the sick shudder come over the most hardened to look upon the butchered mass of humanity who occupy these places. Here can be found the realities of war.

On September 23rd, Easley's regiment went into camp near the Potomac River, 12 miles above Harper's Ferry. They spent their days there on picket duty, drilling, fishing, and watching Professor Lowe's balloon ascensions.⁷ They were assigned to Major General Fitz-John Porter's Fifth Corps, Brigadier General Andrew A. Humphreys 3rd Division, Colonel Peter H. Allabach's 2nd Brigade.

Growing increasingly impatient with McClellan's inactivity, Lincoln travelled to Sharpsburg to encourage the commanding general in person to advance against the enemy. We pick up Easley's account at that time.

FRI. OCT. 3 / Two grand events occur to-day—A grand review of Porter's Corps by Lincoln and McClellan, and the payment of our bounty.⁸ The glittering pageant of war with all its pomp and panoply fully exemplified, yet invested with a terrible reality. Amid the wildest cheering they ride through our ranks and—are gone.



Alexander Gardner's photo of President Lincoln and General McClellan and his staff following the grand review of the Fifth Corps at the Grove Farm. General A.A. Humphreys is second from the right.

Thus ends the romance, next the real.

Our bounty came in good time, as there was scarcely a man in our company could muster five cents.

SAT. OCT. 4 / Two months since leaving home. Nothing unusual.

SUN. OCT. 5 / Two months since being mustered into the service of the United States. Take a swim in the Potomac. Inspection of arms etc. Corp'l of guard tonight.

MON. OCT. 6 / The most beautiful sky I ever seen. It was really magnificent.

TUES. OCT. 7 / I forgot to mention the arrival on Thursday last of P.H. Levergood. On the same day the 136th R. in which is one other Johnstown company, arrived—Frederick 24 miles from here.⁹

WED. OCT. 8 / On picket. Our mail came last night, with dates to 2d. Oct.

THUR. OCT. 9 / The heat of the last few days almost unbearable. Indications of moving. No drill this afternoon. The boys all gone to the woods. Jim and

I talk the matter over seriously and come to the conclusion to re-enlist as soon as our term expires. The company we desire enlisting in is the "Home Guard Calvary Co."—Jim to curry horses and myself to black boots.

On Thursday last Jim got about as mean a looking "portfolio" as would be possible to imagine.¹⁰ He wanted me to notice it and methinks I have. Gageby just came over and the two go to the woods.

FRI. OCT. 10 / Skirmish drill by moonlight with the bugle last night. Inspection at 4 p.m., since which it has been raining steadily (now 8). Beautiful appearance of camp tonight.

SAT. OCT. 11 / Rained all last night. Wind of this morning soon dried the mud. Evening very cool; nights very dark. Pete L., Jim D. and Dave M'G [Corporal D.G. M'Gloughlin] out through camp while alone I occupy our tent as "Lord of all I survey".

SUN. OCT. 12 / Go on picket to our rear. Rains heavy. Corporal of an outpost squad of five on the "Antietam battlefield".

MON. OCT. 13 / [Cpl. William] Slack and I go over the Antietam battlefield. Scattered over an area of two miles are some 4,000 graves those of the rebels in trenches of "140", "80", "31" bodies unrecognizable by friends they go to make up the "great unknown" who will "sleep in peace" until the last trump shall summon them with the generations gone before to their final account. Such is war. The horrible sights we saw I will not detail.

Will go off picket this evening. Walker's grave (see note).

Note: Walker's Grave, on the Antietam battlefield, about one mile from Sharpsburg. Poor fellow! [sketch of a grave and trees here]

Little I thought when jokingly telling him that "if he would enlist he would be bored through the head by a bullet" that the foolish prediction would be verified to the letter. He was shot through the head on the 17th day of September, 1862 and died instantly.

The above is an imperfect sketch of the place he was buried—at the foot of a gigantic oak, his name, town, state and Regt inscribed at his head. His remains were subsequently removed to his home near Alexandria, in Blair (or Huntingdon) County. I felt more than ordinary friendship for Walker and 'twas with feelings of deepest sorrow I heard of his untimely fate.

TUES. OCT. 14 / The 136th in camp to our right, about one mile away. Several of their boys will call to see us. Write home and predict a battle in 11 days.

WED. OCT. 15 / Move camp ½ mile to our left. Our position an excellent one were it not for a scarcity of water, which is nearly two miles away. Put up our "marquee" in regal style. Two ladies visit us.

THUR. OCT. 16 / Heavy firing in the direction of Harpers Ferry. A continued and increasing roar of artillery leads us to suppose that a battle is being fought. (this is 8 o'clock in the morning)

Evening—firing continued at intervals all day. Downey and I visit the camp of the other Johnstown boys. While there they receive orders to cook two days rations and be ready to march at a moment's notice—a fearfully excited set of men. Raining tonight.

FRI. OCT. 17 / The firing yesterday occasioned by a reconnoissance [sic] to Charlestown. Go on picket this evening.

SAT. OCT. 18 / Co. A on the "reserve". Duncan and I return to camp and find M'Gloughlin deep in the mysteries of a box sent by Mrs. McL. Proceed to help Dave pick out and classify the good things, and then return to our post. Made a Right Gen. on Thursday 16 Oct. 1862. Return to camp at 6 p.m.

SUN. OCT. 19 / [Andrew J.] Hartsock preaches today. Dave Wilson down with Typhoid fever.

MON. OCT. 20, 1862 / Last night awful cold.

Dave Wilson died at 8 o'clock this evening of Typhoid fever. With no friends near to receive his dying breath he passed from time to eternity. Poor Dave—generous hearted and beloved by all who came in contact with him, his death has cast a gloom over the whole company.¹¹

TUES. OCT. 21 / Orders to cook two days provisions and be ready to march at a moment's notice. The Capt., Speer Orr and I go down to make arrangements for sending Dave's body home. No coffin to be had, so we buy \$5. worth of lumber and Speer and I commence the box. Take charge of his effects. 6 o'clock p.m. —finish the coffin and send him home in charge of Duncan.

WED. OCT. 22 1862

An awful windstorm. Weather getting colder.

News of Will King's death—another of our Company gone. Died at the house of Mr. Shryock in Hagerstown this morning.

THUR. OCT. 23 / Passed a tribute of respect to the memory of our two comrades. [Sergeant Theo. L.] Heyer, Pres., Easley, Secy.

FRI. OCT. 24 / An inspection of everything to-day. Weather very cool. Letter from home. Orders to march. Co. A letter published. Some eyes shut up.

SAT. OCT. 25 / This morning beautiful; a dreamy Indian Summer day. Evening cold.

SUN. OCT. 26 / Raining hard all day. More letters from home. Funeral sermon of Wilson and King by [Andrew J.] Hartsock, Chaplin.

MON. OCT. 27 / Last night cold, wet and stormy by turns—an awful night. To-day very cold. A letter from Ernest Rhey with photo.

TUES. OCT. 28 / Jim Duncan returns. All the boys glad to see him. A cool day. The 136th left for Pt. of Rocks yesterday.¹²

WED. OCT. 29 / Our first Brigade drill today. Presentation of a pistol, sash and belt to Capt. John Downey.

THUR. OCT. 30 / While on brigade drill get orders to march. Break camp and at two are en route. Cross the "Cohoctin" or South Mountain and bivouac for the night at the mouth of "Pleasant Valley". Marched 8 miles.¹³

FRI. OCT. 31 / Take up on line of march at 6 ½. On through Pleasant Valley, one of the most beautiful landscapes it was ever my lot to behold.

At present writing we are lying by the road resting. About 20,000 troops in our line. Pass Harpers Ferry at 12 (m) and get some of our stored goods. At 1 p.m. start—cross the "Shenandoah" and move along Leesburg pike.¹⁴ Halt for the night about 5 miles from Harpers Ferry. Night cool. Jim Dunc. and I spread our blankets and with the sky for our "tent" we go to bed (?). 8 o'clock. Virginia.

SAT. Nov. 1 / Mustered for pay this afternoon. Received three days rations and the probability of fighting soon. Jim and I put up our shelters and now (7 p.m.) are enjoying our evening smoke and talk. The day has been a beautiful one, and we can imagine how well we might enjoy ourselves if we were in Johnstown this evening. Horton tries to persuade Hartsock that a bottle labeled "Brandy" was "molasses". Accuses Joe [Horton] (very justly) of breaking his pledge.

SUN. Nov. 2 / Move again at 6—at seven we hear heavy firing to our front. March till five, a distance of 17 miles, to Snickersville—very tiresome.¹⁵ Go on picket. The enemy near—prospects of a brush. Evening cool. Over 100,000 in this vicinity—a living sea of humanity.

MON. Nov. 3 / "Stonewall" Jackson's grand army not 4 miles away. Rebel camps in full view from the hill. Expect the "bale" to open every minute. Relieved from picket at 11 in the morning—will remain here to await developments.

TUE. Nov. 4 / 3 months today since leaving home. Cannonading today. John R. Acres [sic, John B. Akers], another of our company, died at Sharpsburg, Md. on the 2d inst. of Quinsy. [Peritonissillar abscess. George Washington was thought to have died of Quinsy but more probably epiglottitis was the cause of death.] He was thought to be one of the stoutest of the company.

Duncan bought (?) a turkey last night, and tonight I get two cans and Jim one of tomatoes. Inspection today. [Lt. Powell] Stackhouse, Downey and I go up the mountain and get a magnificent view of Loudon [sic] Valley.¹⁶ Hartsock holds prayer meeting. Jim attends, and professes to be better. Could the turkey speak etc.

WED. Nov. 5 / 9 ½ a.m. Orders to pack up and be ready to march immediately. Morell's (Butterfield's) Division files past us. Morning beautiful. Jim and I been sleeping with the Chaplain for the past two nights, and as a consequence feel that our chances in getting to heaven are much improved. Dave thinks he'll try it—attends prayer meeting, but don't stay long as it might "strike in" if taken in too large doses at first. Sutler's stores going rapid. 12 m—on the move; follow the Alexandria pike to within a mile of Aldie (passing Philemont [sic, Philomont]), where we take the Warrenton road.¹⁷

Camp for the night within 1 ½ miles of Middleburg. 14 miles. Division Rear Guard.

THUR. Nov. 6 / Start at 6 1/2. Pass through Middleburg, a beautiful town of some 600 inhabitants. At 1 p.m. arrive at White Plains, a distance of 10 miles, and go in camp.¹⁸ The "grand army" here. Jim and I confiscate an old horse, a splendid article to carry our knapsacks. Name him "Flying Cloud". He has the "fly" very bad.¹⁹ Put up our tent and as Dave is no longer with us, we have plenty of room to spread ourselves. We both begin to get good—Hartsock thinks so at least.

FRI. Nov. 7 / First snow of the season—about 1 ½ inches. (3 o'clock) "Flying Cloud" improves in personal appearance. Our new stove a great institution. A cold, wet and disagreeable day.

{picture of shelter tent and Jim's patent stove Nov. 7, 1862}

SAT. Nov. 8 / Our stove worked to a charm last night. Start at 7 ½ & travel 10 miles in the direction of Warrenton. Halt within 4 miles of that place and camp in the woods.²⁰ Snow almost disappeared. The horse ("Flying Cloud") played rather a severe joke on Jim and I. We had strapped our knapsacks on him and got Armbrush [sic, Cpl. Jas. P. Armbrust] on top. Everything went nice for the first ½ mile when, on descending a hill, he slipped and fell bringing knapsacks and all to the ground. Owing to his dilapidated condition he could not get up again and we were forced to shoulder the knapsacks and resume our weary march. We consider it quite mean for the horse to play such a trick after feeding him 23 ears of corn and a great deal of hay. We put up our tent and amuse ourselves as usual.

{picture of "Flying Cloud" Our horse that didn't carry our knapsacks Nov. 8}

SUN. Nov. 9 / At 10 a.m. again en route. March two miles in the direction (and within 1 mile) of Warrenton—a picturesque village of 2,500 inhabitants. Encamp in the fields. Porter's whole corps in the vicinity.²¹ Think I'll get religious and sing "Old Hundred" in honor of the day.²² Erect our stove which comes near burning our house down.

Day quite cool.

MON. NOV. 10 / Gen. Geo. B. McClellan takes leave of the army and Gen. [Ambrose] Burnside assumes command. Our Division in line to bid adieu to our gallant young leader. He appears deeply affected. He leaves with the satisfaction of knowing that he is beloved by our entire army. Weather cool and bracing.

Notes: Nov. 10, 1862, McClellan bids adieu to the Army of the Potomac. It is supposed the object of our late rapid movement was to secure Gordonsville, and thus cut off R.R. communications with Richmond.

We have failed in this and a new "base of operations" will no doubt be commenced. In the meantime we take things easy and reflect that there is but six more months to be fooled around.

TUE. NOV. 11 / A beautiful Indian Summer morning. Last night was very cold. No prospect of leaving here to-day.

WED. NOV. 12 / Porter bids adieu to his corps.²³ Thus the work of displacing officers goes on bravely. Evening cool, with prospect of rain.

Note: Nov. 12, Fitz John Porter (our Corps commander) bids adieu to his corps. Thus the work of decapitation goes on.

THUR. NOV. 13 / [John B.] Hay got a commission yesterday as a 2d Lieut. Duncan gets a pipe like mine they are two of the prettiest in camp, both got under very suspicious circumstances.

[Pvt.] George Saylor taken to the hospital this evening—inflammatory rheumatism the cause.

FRI. NOV. 14 / Orders at half past two to "pack up" and "pack up" means "move". Our move this time is only move camp. Duncan comes across "soft tack"—first time in six weeks.²⁴

SAT. NOV. 15 / Pay the small sum of \$1.50 for a piece of Navy Tobacco. 8 cent loaves of bread sell for 45 cents here. This morning decidedly cool. Jim, as Sergt. of the guard last night displayed his genius by sleeping sound all night.

A letter from father this morning—my first letter in two weeks. Write to Joe Easley.

SUN. NOV. 16 / Grand Review by Gen. [Joseph] Hooker, a tall, red faced, grey-haired man. Humphreys Division in line. Terrible toothache to-night.

MON. NOV. 17 / Orders to march—routed out at 4 this a.m. Start at 7—pass through Warrenton. It is a very pretty town of some 2,000 inhabitants.

Some of the prettiest private residences I have yet seen in either Md. or Va.

At 4 p.m. arrive at "Warrenton Junc.," having marched 12 miles.²⁵ Find Heintzelman's Corps in this vicinity. We are now part of the Centre Grand Division of Potomac Army. Our march for the last 8 miles was very tiresome. It is now raining and the night will be very disagreeable. Rebels reported in Warrenton one hour after we left.

TUES. NOV. 18 / Dunc. [Sgt. James B. Duncan] got a streak on this morning and routed me out at 4. At 8 ½ resume the march [probably along the Falmouth and Fredericksburg State Road]. At 4 this a.m. we halt within 12 miles of Fredericksburg,²⁶ having marched 18 miles. The country we traveled through was a beautiful one. Jim and I get our blankets along by a new process. Each day brings us in closer proximity to the rebels and their stronghold—Richmond.

By the way—I must not forget that the "burs" (if I get them home) were got near Warrenton, and are from "pitchpine".

This country abounds in Cedar & Pine.

WED. NOV. 19 / En route at 8; march till 2 ½; a distance of 8 miles, and go into camp.²⁷

Assert my rights as "Gen. Guide" and get knapsacks hauled in "staff wagon". Of course Dunc's blankets goes along, thus relieving us of very tiresome loads. A mail this evening, but no letter for me.

THUR. NOV. 20 / Contrary to expectations we were not routed out at the usual hour. It is now 9 o'clock. A private of the 155th [Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry] died in the ambulance while on the march yesterday—1 o'clock. Jim and I get some flour and are just now luxuriating on "Flap-Jacks". Come to the conclusion that they are a big thing. Raining like h—l. Our camp a swamp and everything uncomfortable, but I am in a good humor—like the d—l [devil].

FRI. Nov. 21 / Rained last night hard. Mud—nothing but mud. A chance to send mail. Write 4 letters in a hurry.

SAT. Nov. 22 / March at 8 and advance to Ammunition Train. Make a detour and arrive within 3 miles of Falmouth. Our march was about six miles, and the day was beautiful. We passed the old camp that the "Penna Reserves" occupied prior to their leaving for the Peninsula (March last). It was fancifully decorated and must have been beautiful. Arches of cedar and decorations of pine made it look splendid. Got some white stones near here to send home; also some mistletoes. Our present camp a splendid location.²⁸ 10-night—up to this hour there has been an unceasing train of men, wagons and artillery going past us. The daughter of the Regt. of the Zouaves d'Afrique in her fanciful costume, good looking.²⁹

SUN. Nov. 23 / The "Right" (Sumner's) and "Centre" (Hooker's—ours) Grand Divisions of the army here.³⁰ The surrender of Fredericksburg demanded. The rebel Gen. Longstreet there. One letter and 4 papers.

MON. Nov. 24 / Company drills ordered. No news from the front today. Get two letters and two papers to-day—got the mitts yesterday evening. Dunc. and I very flush of mail. Day quite pleasant. Nights very cold, with heavy frosts.

Nov. 25 / Send mistletoe home. Nothing of importance occurring.

WED. Nov. 26 / Cold rain last night—very heavy. To-day quite cool. A little short of rations for the past few days—yesterday some of the boys went to bed supperless (sic). And yet we are supposed to be keeping 3 days ahead. Dunc. and I "by strategy" manage always to have plenty.

THUR. Nov. 27 / [Pvt.] Tom Taylor and [Pvt.] Frank McClelland leave for home—discharged [on surgeon's certificate]. [1st Sgt. James A.] Kenly and [Cpl. George C.] Fisher sick from taking a dose of what the Dr. furnished as Peppermint. Our surgeons appear to think it their duty to make sick men worse.

I think today is "Thanksgiving" in Penna.

We keep "Thanksgiving" as a day of fasting—cause out of rations.

The brigade formed when Col. [J.B.] Clark (of 123d R.) delivered an oration. "Played out".

FRI. Nov. 28 / 23 sick reported today. Our mess fix up our tent in new style, fireplace, etc. {picture of "Our Mess" here} Myers & C/O—Duncan & Easley.

SAT. Nov. 29 / Our chimney burned down last night. Fix it right to-day, and to-night I am writing this by firelight. We are now protected from cold. Our uniforms came to-day—will be distributed on Monday.

Got a fierce letter from home to-day—a muddy one.

SUN. Nov. 30 / Got new uniforms to-day—pantaloons sky-blue. Blouse dark blue. A letter from Father [Judge George Easley] and one from Lizzie. Regimental inspection to-day.

MON. DEC. 1 / Details from different Reg'ts go on picket to our rear. Slight fall of rain.

TUE. DEC. 2 / General inspection (knapsacks & all) this morning. Jim and I go over to the 136th.

Sew stripes.

WED. DEC. 3 / Fix our tent in "ne plus ultra" style by digging it down 2 feet and arching a fireplace. The Col. and nearly all the officers and men in the Regt visit our tent and admire its comfort and convenience. Got a letter from Anne, dated Nov. 2.

THUR. DEC. 4 / Brigade drill this afternoon. Letter from Jennie dated Oct. 23. Weather very cold. Take Slack in our tent—dangerously ill with Typhoid fever. His infernal lazy mess can't take care of him.

FRI. DEC. 5 / Sit up last night with Slack. Raining this a.m. 5 of our company go on picket for 3 days. Slight cannonading to our front this morning. Commenced snowing and at 7 over 5 inches has fallen. The ground being wet it does not lay. Still snowing.

SAT. DEC. 6 / Ordered out for review, but owing to inclement weather it is not held. We help Slack's mess build their tent. Our Capt. detailed as Provost Marshall.

SUN. DEC. 7 / Keep Sunday by once more fixing the tent, this time we have got it. The day very gold. Placard stuck up on the opposite side of the river with "How are your Winter Quarters?" in large capitals.

MON. DEC. 8 / A man of Co. B—[Pvt.] David Ream—died this evening, making the twelfth in our Regt since coming out.³¹ Such is life and such is the service. Weather cool—in fact too cool for comfort.

TUE. DEC. 9 / Witnessed the burial of the man in Co. B. Nothing new occurring; the occasional burning of a chimney being our only source of amusement. Order for inspection tomorrow and prospects of a move soon. Our "loafers" sign Jim's model candlestick. "Our Mess" is now as follows:

Jim Duncan alias Burnside

C. Easley " McClellan

H. Meyers [Henry Myers] " Rosecrans

G. Matzabaugh [sic] " Hooker

C. Koontz [sic] " Sigel

We are the "Model Mess".

WED. DEC. 10 / Orders to move in the morning. Day quite pleasant.

THURS. DEC. 11 / Heavy firing commenced at 5 a.m. (to our front). At 6 we are in line, and at 8 start. Now within one mile of the river. Continued and unceasing fire to our front (10 o'clock). Part of the way we came on double-quick. A heavy battle is doubtless being fought and we may be in the thickest of it ere many hours. ½ past eleven. The army drawn up in line from the river to this point. An incessant roar of artillery. We await with anxiety the developments of the next few hours. Cannonading ceases, and is resumed at intervals. From the smoke we judge Fredericksburg is in ashes. Go in camp to our right at 5 p.m.



General A. A. Humphreys' division charges at Fredericksburg

FRI. DEC. 12 / Aroused at 4 a.m., and at 8 are in line. March to the hill in front of Fredericksburg. Our army crossing. At two the enemy begin shelling, but are silenced by our guns. Several of yesterday's killed are buried to-day. Night approaches. We go in camp and, as nearly all are across, we will likely cross early in the morning. From a high point I witness the "shelling" and for the first time realize "the bombs bursting in air". We will doubtless see the elephant to-morrow.

SAT. DEC. 13 / **The Battle of Fredericksburg**

Get up at 4 and in line at nine. March to the river and cross at two. Form battle-line on river street. Shell meanwhile bursting overhead. At 2 ½ we form on next street, and 10 minutes after we commence advancing.³² Halt for a moment on the brow of the hill, and then On! We charge up the hill amid a shower of leaden hail, and deliver our maiden fire.³³ Our men fall fast, Adj. [James C.] Noon the first victim. Lieut. [William A.] Scott killed. Capt. [John M.] Jones farally wounded (died tonight). Capt. Schrock, Capt. Shibly, Capt. [David L.] Tressler, Lt. Aschom, all wounded.

Lieut. Hay wounded—he acted bravely.

John Williams shot through arm. Do not yet know the extent of our losses. The 131st and 155 came to relieve us, but broke and ran, carrying

away with them all of ours but Co. A. This was at 4 ½.³⁴ We kept our position until ½ past six and then fall back on the Regt (in town).³⁵ We cannot ascertain(sic) our loss.

Our boys behaved well and Col. [Joshua T.] Owens (sic) of the 69th (Acting Brig. Gen.) complimented our company highly.

Some few of "our boys" skedaddled with the other Regts.

SUN. DEC. 14 / Sleep till 3 a.m. on our arms and then get our ammunition for to-day. March up the field and take cover on the brow of the hill. The Rebs are about 200 yards head of our skirmishers.

Between them and us an incessant firing has been kept up since we came here (at 4 o'clock). It is now two, and I am writing this on the battlefield, with dead bodies, their ghastly faces upturned, lying thick around, and the whistle of bullets flying overhead. An occasional Reb. Sharpshooter from some eminence making me duck occasionally.

I have not yet ascertained [sic] our loss. About 20 of our company are missing.

The bodies of Capt. Jones, Noon and Scott have been recovered and are now in town. We may have a general engagement between this and night. If not we expect to catch it on the morrow.

At six we go into town, and Dunc., Speer [J. Speer Ort], Jones, Saylor, Spig, Brown and I take possession of a house (Second Story). It is a splendidly furnished arrangement, and quite a curiosity to us, being our first house for some time.

Fisher and [Pvt. David] Goughnour wounded yesterday in the hand.

Note: December 14, 1862 -To be remembered-That some of our boasters ran at the first fire, and we guess are now safe beyond the river.

Also, Metzgar plays sutler.

I write this on the field.

After mature reflection I come to the conclusion that we seen the elephant-tail and all-on the 13th of December, 1862.

MON. DEC. 15 / Wake up at nine and, finding flour and "side arrangements" in our house, we get to work and cook a splendid breakfast (flap jacks, pork & coffee) on the parlor fire.

Picket firing and occasional "shelling" during the day. At nine o'clock to-night the right grand division begin evacuating.

At seven we are run out within 30 yards of picket-line to the right of town and, at eleven, are marched away to the left and within a few hundred yards of the Rebel lines, when the "Centre" [Grand Division] begin evacuating the city.

At two we take the quick-step and noiselessly cross the river, the pickets following immediately after.

Fredericksburg is thus evacuated after sacrificing hundreds of lives.³⁶

My impression of a battlefield are anything but favorable.

Noon, Jones and Scott buried in Fredericksburg.

The following are our [Company A] wounded

Lieut. Hay-paralyzed in bowels by shell.

John Williams-in arm.

Morris Lewis-in arm.

Anthony Carroll-in arm. (slight)

Goughnour-in hand. (slight)

Geo. C. Fisher-in hand. (slight)

TUES. DEC. 16 / The brigade after splashing through mud and rain for about three hours pull up in our camp, occupied previous to crossing the river. After the halt of an hour we start for our old camp (3 ½ miles from Fredericksburg). Thus ends our ill-starred expedition. Our huts are full of mud and water, tents and blankets lost, and altogether we are in bad condition.

The number of men wounded in Co. B are sixteen. Capt. Jones of Co. F was first wounded in the leg and, dropping to the ground, said to some one near him "Keep the knowledge of his wound from the men".

The words were scarcely out of his mouth until a "grape" struck him in the head, passing down through his under jaw and on through his stomach.

He died on Sunday night in great agony. Capt. Lee Anshutz killed in Saturday's battle. Hunter is shot through the lung.

Must remember the captured wine and our pillaging.

WED. DEC. 17 / An inspection held and account taken of our losses.

Luckily my blanket and tent are safe. Sleep until 10 this morning. Slight fall of snow. Condon added to the "Model Mess".

THUR. DEC. 18 / Day quite pleasant. Letter and tobacco from Simmie and letter and stamps from Ernest. I feel tired and worn out after the excitement of the past few days.

FRI. DEC. 19 / Phil Noon and Jim Collins came last night. "Our Mess" takes charge of them. Weather cold. Inspection again to-day.

SAT. DEC. 20 / Our visitors leave to-day. I send articles home by Phil. The latter could not succeed in getting Jim's [Adj. James C. Noon] body.

SUN. DEC. 21 / Nothing important. Mrs. Williams here. Weather pleasant during the day, but quite cold at night.

MON. DEC. 22 / Paper etc by mail last night.

TUE. DEC. 23 / A canteen of "Eau de Vie" procured. "Our Mess" have a large time generally. "Tribune" and "Our Mess" [Johnstown Tribune visits the mess?]

WED. DEC. 24 / Phillips calls to see us. Bowser came last night. Preparations for

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 1862 / Wake up this morning but the old familiar sounds of home do not greet my ears. Instead of this the sound of bugle and drum painfully reminds me that this day of rejoicing over the whole Christian world will pass unobserved by us—not altogether unheeded either. We procure sweet potatoes, steak and an article to make "potent punch", with which we intend duly celebrating this, the anniversary of the birth of a Savior.

2 p.m.—that momentous affair—our dinner—is over. Potatoes boiled and fried, crackers, beef fried, crackers, boiled beef, crackers, onions & crackers was our "bill of fare" and I must say that I never enjoyed a "Christmas dinner" as I did this one.

The weather to-day is beautiful, an Indian summer day. Duncan takes the lead in cooking scouse [a British nautical term for a baked dish or stew usually made with meat and hardtack].

Note: Christmas Day in camp near Falmouth Virginia. Forcibly convinced that camps are poor institution for the observance of this great day.

26th —Weather pleasant.

SAT. DEC. 27 / Do my washing. A member of Co. H died today. Lago [Andrew J. Lego], of Co. B. wounded at Fredericksburg, died on the 25th [21st] at Washington

SUN. DEC. 28 / Weather beautiful. Company inspection. Letters from home.

MON. DEC. 29 / Spig very tight. Rumors, vague and indistinct, of a retrograde movement.

TUES. DEC. 30 / 3 days rations and orders to be ready to march.

WED. DEC. 31 / Last night of the old year.
Cold.

—1863-1863—
NEW YEAR

JANUARY 1ST / Thursday —Weather beautiful. Don't see New Year's until night. (A Division Review in the morning and all "Shoulder bars" invited to the Gen's tent to partake in punch). One Easy succeeds in getting a very large drink of whiskey, and in the evening Haws comes with a box for Kountz.

The result is we get up a "New Year dinner" at 11 o'clock at night.

We hold a "council of war" and come to the conclusion that it will be the last New Year we will spend in this fashion—unanimously agreed by the mess. —Played out!!!!!!!!!!!!

FRI. JAN. 2 / Kenly gets furlough (20 days) and leaves for Johnstown tonight with A.J. Haws.

SAT. JAN. 3 / Some of the 136th visit us. The "subscriber" sick for the last few days. 91 P Jim, Noon and I at the Pro. Mar.

SUN. JAN. 4 / Company inspection. Phil Noon came yesterday. Company now numbers 68 men for duty. Collins [gets] gloves as a N. Year gift.

MON. JAN. 5 / Five months to-day since we were sworn into service of the U.S. Battalion drill this afternoon. Still a little sick. Easley succeeds (sic) in getting another drink. Duncan and I send for a box, the box to contain butter and whiskey. 4 mos. Yet.

TUES. JAN. 6 / Reported—that Duncan and Easley were "tighually slight" last night. Brigade drill. Prospects of rain.

WEDS. JAN 7 / Weather cool. Brigade drill. Still sick. Quite an accession made to our stock of household and kitchen furniture on the night of the "tigh", in the shape of "stool", messpan, etc.

THUR. JAN. 8 / Grand review of the Corps by Burnside. Weather cool. I am getting no better fast. Our mess a hospital Condon, Matzabaugh [sic, Geo. W. Metzbaugh] and myself sick.

FRI. JAN. 9 / The "Model" begin the erection of a log house. Regt & Brigade drills today.

SAT. JAN. 10 / Raining hard nearly all day. Our log house not quite finished, but we move into it. It is decidedly the most comfortable in the Regt and sustains the character of the "Model Mess".

To-night the rain is almost pouring. I must not forget that when we built our first house we dug down 2 feet. The other boys all followed our example, and to-night they will all be flooded. Our log house is not dug down.

SUN. JAN. 11 / Company and regimental inspection. Weather again pleasant. House finished.

MON. JAN. 12 / Weather pleasant. "Report for duty". Mutiny in [Erastus B.] Tyler's brigade. Our brigade kept in line to quell it.

TUES. JAN. 13 / Dreary monotony of camp unbroken by even customary rumors. Oh! What a life is this.

WED. JAN. 14 / Our Regt goes on picket to the rear for 3 days. I remain in camp, being unable to stand 3 days exposure. Jim [Sgt. James B. Duncan] commands the company, and has for nearly a month.

THUR. JAN. 15 / Sick are removed to Washington, and rumors of our leaving. Draw 3 days grub.

FRI. JAN. 16 / Will likely move in the morning. Regt still on picket.

SAT. JAN. 17 / Last night very cold. Boys still out. I write to Duncan—on picket. Got up at 4 this morning and captured a great deal of Co. D's wood. Boys come in at 7 to-night.

SUN. JAN. 18 / Orders to march at 1 o'clock—countermanded for 24 hours.

MON. JAN. 19 / Marching orders again postponed for 24 hours. Good by 22—boyhood days—my 22d birthday.

TUE. JAN. 20 / Strike tents at 10 o'clock. March at 3 o'clock, a distance of two miles occupying 3 hours. Dark portentous clouds scud through the sky. Go in camp in the woods. Begins raining and continues without intermission through the night. Sit up all night and get wet through. Duncan in command.

WED. JAN. 21 / Start at seven, and splash through mud up to the knees a distance of 3 ½ miles at the rate of about 1 mile per hour. Encamp in the woods, and understand that the whole army (including Sigel's) is to our front. Speer and I drop off about a mile back, having literally "stuck in the mud."³⁷

Raining still and no prospect of stopping. pontoons in front; river two and one half miles distant.

THUR. JAN 22 / No signs of a forward move. The condition of the roads beggars description. Dead horses, ammunition wagons, cannon & caissons strewn along the road.

Rebel batteries in position on the opposite side of the river (3 miles distant). Our Division (with others) detailed to build corduroy road—fences

and trees disappear rapidly. Rain ceased. The army returning to their camps. Hear that the pontoons are across. On inquiry I find it is across the road & not the river.

FRI. JAN. 23 / Batteries and wagons with from 10 to 16 horses attached work their way back to camp. Our Regt out of rations. I go back to our old camp. I must mention here that 600 of the sick of our Corps were put on the boat to be sent to Washington when we started on the move, and through neglect were left out 18 hours. 40 were carried off dead, one of Co. F and one of E, of our Regt among the number.

SAT. JAN. 24 / Start at 8. Our company as rear guard and get in camp at two. Thus terminates our fool advance, by which we have the fact illustrated that Burnside is a fool, Halleck an idiot and Geo. B. McClellan the only man capable to manage this army. Write to Bowman.

SUN. JAN. 25 / Rain last night. To-day write Rhey, Quinn and Jimmie. Snyder in camp.

MON. JAN. 26 / Nothing important. Spend the day making a pipe of laurel.

TUE. JAN. 27 / Rain during the day. Capt. returns to the company yesterday. Site for a new camp picked out and the Regt march to put it in order.

WED. JAN. 28 / Rain turned into snow last night—continues all day. An order issued by Gen. H. for the companies to turn out under arms at the approach of troops.

The 1st trial results in Co. D (Somerset) being the only one out. Jones's "See how docile they pass" & "turn out A in dress coats" and Saylor's "Be firm as steel, Co. D" occasions considerable merriment. Gen. Hooker in command.³⁸

THUR. JAN. 29 / Snow about 10 inches deep—begins disappearing rapidly under the rays of a warm sun. Dress coats etc issued yesterday.

FRID. JAN. 30 / Get a whiskey ration and Jones and I succeed in getting two. Result: feeling pretty patriotic—in fact very pat-ri-otic. Sign payrolls and are paid for three mo's.³⁹

Note: Weather decidedly wintry—cold piercing blasts.

SAT. JAN. 31 / A "convivial" held over a canteen of whiskey in the Capt's tent [Downey], in which Downey, Heyer, Duncan, Jones and I take the "leading parts". About 13 of us have quite a lively time, and pass a few hours very happily. Jim and I do our washing and then "dress up."

SUN. FEB. 1 / Morning beautiful. An order read informing us that Gen. Briggs has been assigned the defences (sic) of Baltimore. Allebaugh [sic, Allabach] will doubtless be our Gen. now.

Evening—commences raining. Dress parade. Write to Bowman.

MON. FEB. 2 / Move to our new camp. [Illegible] We are now located within one mile of Falmouth. Weather pleasant to-day. I am writing this by firelight on a beautiful moonlight night.

Think of a few such nights I used to have Ah! Days gone by.

TUES. FEB. 3 / Cold as h—l. Get our house about half finished. This has been the coldest day of the season. Receive box sent some two weeks ago.

WED. FEB. 4 / Another cold day. The "peaches" came to hand. Present Singleron with a "few"—result Sammy [Pvt. Samuel Singleton] very tight.

THUR. FEB. 5 / Six months since we were cursed into the service. 3 more and then hurrah for home. Commenced snowing this morning, but turned into rain. Now (8 p.m.) raining hard. 3 days rations and orders to be ready to march at a moments notice. Troops moving to the rear.

FRI. FEB. 6 / Wet and cold by turns. Write to Bro. C. as also to Tribune. Must remember that I fell in l--- with E---L; write a certain letter of late date.

SAT. FEB. 7 / Condon and Hopkins receive their discharges [both discharged on surgeons certificates this date] to-day.

Send 30.75 home by the former, who goes to-morrow. Weather pleasant to-day.

Ninth Corps embarked on transport. Write to Bowman.

SUN. FEB. 8 / Company inspection. Condon bids us good-by this morning. Weather pleasant to-day. Soft bread issued—first time in 4 mo's.

MON. FEB. 9 / Weather beautiful to-day. Regiment went on picket at 8 a.m. to remain three days. Brigade bakery built. Ordered by Hooker—that we be furnished with bread 4 times per week; potatoes and onions three times, and to be well fed generally. So note it be.

TUE. FEB. 10 / Day quite pleasant. Spend it assisting to transfer accounts. Night —get up a valentine for the benefit of A.K. in Johnstown. Weather cold to-night. Regt still on picket. On Sunday wrote an ex [? excerpt] from camp to Jno. Trb. to be pub this week.

WED. FEB. 11 / Rain, snow and sunshine by turns. Jake F. [Pvt. Jacob Fockler] sends a valentine to Johnstown more expressive than elegant. Still on picket.

THUR. FEB. 12 / Morning cool, with high winds.

Regt returned from picket.

Night —an awful wind-storm accompanied by rain.

Get a novel sent by Ernest.

FRI. FEB. 13 / Weather cool to-day. Go into the "tract" business, an original kind of valentine. A Brigade bakery established.

SAT. FEB. 14 / Until the 1st of May two and one half months. Jim, Jake, Downey and I send 26 valentines to-day to the young ladies of Johnstown. The valentines are in the shape of religious tracts, and will doubtless effect a great deal of good. Weather pleasant.

SUN. FEB. 15 / Weather rainy. Duncan gets a furlough for 9 days—starts tomorrow.

MON. FEB. 16 / Duncan leaves for home. Dick Jones in camp. Weather pleasant. Write to Bowman.

TUE. FEB. 17 / Commences snowing this morning, continues during the day and, by evening, is 5 inches deep. [Lt. Powell] Stackhouse returns.

WED. FEB. 18 / Nineteen of Co. go on picket. Am told that Fisher's [Cpl. George C. Fisher] wound was terrible. A piece of skin as large as 3 cent piece was actually knocked off his finger—Alas! poor Fisher! 10 o'clock —commences raining and continues without intermission until now, when it commences pouring—will doubtless rain all night.

THUR. FEB. 19 / Rained the greater part of the night. Weather pleasant to-day. Mud 2 feet deep.⁴⁰

FRI. FEB. 20 / Weather pleasant, and also pleasant remarks on "the time" drawing to a close.

SAT. FEB. 21 / Bill Eldridge in camp. Roads drying up fast.

SUN. FEB. 22 / Washington's Birthday. Began snowing last night—over a foot deep now and still snowing. Review ordered for to-day, but postponed on account of the weather.

MON. FEB. 23 / Weather pleasant overhead. Snow thaws some. Wood getting very scarce. Letters from Dunc. and Condon (ans'd).

TUE. FEB. 24 / Warm today. Snow disappearing fast. Col. Speakman returned on the eve of 21st. [Pvt. James] Eldridge leaves.

WED. FEB. 25 / Our calvary pickets driven in by 800 rebel Cavalry. Our brigade form and march out, but the rebels retreat. Several of our cavalry wounded.

E.C. Bender [Bendere] (formerly a 2d class bartender) appointed Adjutant. A disgrace to the Regt. Jones and Smith leave camp.

THUR. FEB. 26 / Rained the greater part of last night. Duncan returns this evening "them boots". I catch a bad cold.

FRI. FEB. 27 / Regt goes on picket this morning. Evening—Fish returns to company. Heyer gets his furlough.

SAT. FEB. 28 / Last day of February. Heyer goes home on 10 days leave. Weather pleasant to-day. Write to Bowman & M. to-day.
"When other friends around thee and other hearts are thine".

MCH. 1 / Morning—slight rain. Evening—pleasant with wind. Night cool.

MON. MCH. 2 / Co. returned from picket. Weather to-day beautiful. Have been suffering with an awful cold for the past few days.

TUES. MCH. 3 / Inspection and muster for two months to-day. Roads getting in good order. Major and Capt Schrock each get two kegs butter and again commence sutrling. Weather very stormy.

WED. MCH. 4 / Division Review this afternoon. Weather cold and stormy. 4th anniversary of Mother's death.⁴¹ Cold getting no better fast.

THUR. MCH. 5 / Battalion drill—first since Fredericksburg fight. Weather clear but cold. Letter from Condon to-night. 7 months to-day since we were "cursed" into service.

FRI. MCH. 6 / High winds—cold

Received news a few days ago of the death of F.B. McClelland, late a member of this company.

SAT. MCH. 7 / Rain and wind to-day. Private of Co. H died yesterday. Write to Condon.

SUN. MCH. 8 / Regt goes on picket. Rained last night. To-day dull and foggy with occasional showers. Listened (by special request) to a sermon by Hartsock—luckily it was not a long one.

MON. MCH. 9 / Rained the greater part of last night. To-day is a beautiful one. A regular spring day. Write to Capt. Quinn.

TUES. MCH. 10 / Sergt. Heyer returns. Snow and rain to-day.

WED. MCH. 11 / Regt called out about 10 o'clock and stack arms in line. Vague reports of the rebels crossing and also of a Brig. Gen. and 110 men captured yesterday at Fairfax C.H. Ordered to be ready to fall in line at a moments notice. Answer the "C.F.M." valentine.

THUR. MCH. 12 / Reviewed by Humphreys and quarters inspected. Day quite cool.

FRI. MCH. 13 / Inspection of ammunition. Weather cold. Write to M. Furlough sent up.

SAT. MCH. 14 / Regimental drill. Fish [George Fisher] and Eldridge on the rampage.

SUN. MCH. 15 / Company inspection. Thunder and lightning, with hail and rain to-night. Colonel's wood pile grew "small by degrees and beautifully less" last night. "Now I lay me down to sleep".

MON. MCH. 16 / Wet ammunition destroyed and 40 rounds supplied. Snow two inches deep this morning and by evening disappears in mud.

TUES. MCH. 17 / "St. Patrick's Day" celebrated by the "Irish Brigade", who are encamped within sight. Our camp is in the vicinity of Washington's boyhood home.⁴² Here's to be found the site of the orchard wherein the favorite tree was chipped by the hatchet.

WED. MCH. 18 / Leave camp at 11 a.m., arrive at Acquia at 12, and at Washington at 5:30. Start for Philadelphia at 6:20 and arrive at 1 a.m.
At 6 visit Christian St.

THUR. MCH. 19 / Leave at 10 night for Johnstown and arrive at Altoona at 8 on 20th.

FRI. MCH. 20 / Stop till evening and leave for home at 3 p.m. Hooray! home at six.

Note: Snowing all day. Our reg't. comes off picket.

SAT. MCH. 21 / Commence "bobbing around" generally.

Note: Continues snowing. Ordered to be ready at a moment's notice with overcoats and equipment on.

SUN. MCH. 22 / Like a good Christian I go to church. Weather beautiful to-day. "E" [Easy] getting notorious on account of a letter to the Trib!

MON. MCH. 23 / Go to Ebersburg this morning. Have a large time generally. **Note:** And the cry is "still more mud". Inspection, etc.

TUE. MCH. 24 / Return home. Call on Duncan at 9 to-night and leave about eleven. Fell in with McDermitt to-day.

Note: Reviewed by Gov. Curtin.

WED. MCH. 25 / Holy day -go to church. Go out to dinner at K's. Supper at Pete M's.

THUR. MCH. 26 / Jim K and I go to Q's for dinner. Start at 8 p.m. for camp. Arrive in Washington on

FRI. MCH. 27 / Friday morning, 27, and remain there until 8 on the morning of Mch. 28.

SAT. MCH. 28 / Arrive at camp about 12 m after an absence of 10 days. Find that boys are on picket. Rains hard.

SUN. MCH. 29 / Can hardly realize that I am again a "Sojer."²⁴³ Dry winds. Roads very muddy, and talk of a move.

Governor [Andrew Curtin] in camp.

MON. MCH. 30 / Brigade Review and inspection to-day.⁴⁴ Weather beautiful.

TUE. MCH. 31 / 4 inches snow ends in rain and mud. Col. & Ober [Cpl. Oberon] Ramsey under arrest.

WED. APR. 1 / Routed out at 4 a.m. to prepare for the rebs, but they fail to make their appearance. Cool and windy today. Supposed to be "All Fools Day". Evening very pleasant.

THUR. APR. 2 / Grand division review. Our division as seen by [Fifth Corps commander Maj. Gen. George G.] Meade. Weather pleasant.

FRI. APR. 3 / Battalion drill. Weather fine. President Lincoln said to be in camp. Francis Tierney of 125th calls to see us. Good Friday.

SAT. APR. 4 / To-day 8 months ago we left Johnstown - 8 mos. of bitter experience in the "art of war". 45 of company go on picket.

SUN. APR. 5 / 8 mos. since we were "cussed" in. Snowed this morning to the depth of 4 inches. Turns into rain. Very high wind the greater part of the night. Easter Sunday.

MON. APR. 6 / Weather damp and heavy.

[Pvt.] John Eldridge dies at 3 o'clock this evening at Lin Hos. [Division Hospital, Falmouth, VA]

Regt. returns from picket.

TUES. APR. 7 / Reviewed by Lincoln, Hooker and others. Weather cool, with rain last night.

WED. APR. 8 / Review of the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th Corps (70,000) by Hooker and Lincoln. A grand and imposing sight. Weather pleasant.

Note -April 8, 1863 -Reviewed by the Prest. [Lincoln] and Hooker on the plain above Fredericksburg and in full view of the Reb. camps.

Over 200 drums and 60 fifers in line ahead of Corps.

THUR. APR. 9 / Kountz and I visit Falmouth, and from there pass down along the river to opposite Fredericksburg. See a regiment of Rebs. on battalion drill. Get a good view of rebel earthworks and entrenchments. Pass the "Lacy House", built on the bank of the Rappahannock. Get a view of our exploits on the memorable 13th Dec, 1862. Weather pleasant to-day. Battalion drill this afternoon.

FRI. APR. 10 / A beautiful spring morning. "Tribute of respect" to memory of Eldridge. Battalion drill. Night beautiful. Such nights as this in days gone by. Ah me!

SAT. APR. 11 / Tiresome battalion drill. Web. [Webster] Lowman, 2d Lt. 136th, in camp. Weather very warm.

SUN. APR. 12 / Maj. Gen. -----, a Swiss officer, reviews us. Usual Sunday inspection. Commencing raining this evening.

MON. APR. 13 / Ordered to be ready to march after 8 o'clock. Weather damp, sombre and dreary. Write "M."

TUES. APR. 14 / 8 days rations with orders to picket until to-morrow and then move forward. Start at 10 a.m. Tightly slight to-night.

WED. APR. 15 / Commenced raining last night, and at present (9 a.m.) it is coming down in torrents. Our sick sent to Div. hospital and to Washington. 2 p.m.—continues raining. Sick sent back to camp. Night—still raining. Another ration sent to the men, thus keeping 8 days ahead.

THUR. APR. 16 / 10 o'clock a.m. Rain ceased last night. Dick and I together. Boys still on picket and another day's rations sent to them. Letters from X, Jimmie, M.L. & [?].

FRI. APR. 17 / Return from picket and get a ration of fresh meat.

SAT. APR. 18 / Weather to-day beautiful. 8 days rations still kept up.

SUN. APR. 19 / Weather fine. Inspection. Report that Lincoln and Halleck are in camp.

MON. APR. 20 / Commenced raining this morning. An order received, regulating the mustering-out. Co. A goes home on the 5th of May. Cloudy and showery this eve'g.

TUES. APR. 21 / Weather pleasant this evening. Question asked who will re-enlist. Nary one. Write Alma.

WED. APR. 22 / I walk to "Stoneman's Switch"⁴⁵ to-day. Weather fine. Write May to "Dem."

THUR. APR. 23 / Raining hard since midnight. Regt goes on picket except Co. A. Detail of our Co. goes to "Stoneman's" to unload supplies. Evening Geo. S. slightly obfuscated (sic).

FRI. APR. 24 / Raining very hard. Wood awful scarce. 3 qts. oysters (1.50) and a half-pound butter (33) for our breakfast.

SAT. APR. 25 / 7th N.Y. mustered out of service. Weather pleasant with wind. "Dem" with L & M.

SUN. APR. 26 / Most of "A" goes to [Stoneman's] switch to unload cars. Weather pleasant today. Regt comes off picket.

MON. APR. 27 / Ordered to march at 12 m. Get started at 3. At nine halt at Hartwood Church (10 miles). The 11th, 12th and 5th Corps in the march. Camp for the night at Hartwood Church. 11th Corps (Gen. Howard's) in advance. 12th Corps (Gen. Slocum's) next, and ours (the 5th under Meade) brings up the rear. Our Div. in the rear.

TUES. APR. 28 / Start about 10 a.m. for the river. March 10 miles over a rough muddy road, the most tiresome I ever experienced.⁴⁶ Now in camp three miles from the river. I go out to the 12th Corps and find George Mitchell.

Our division in front of the Corps today. Expect fight in the morning. 50 of Regt. go on picket. Gen Hooker passes to the front. Drizzling rain.

WED. APR. 29 / Start at 10 ½ a.m. Rear Div. of Corps. Now (2 p.m.) lying within ½ mile of the river and close to the church and village. The pontoons laid [April 28th] and 11th Corps across .

The 12th and ours now crossing the Rappahannock. Report that the pontoons were laid at 10 last night—the 11th crossed at that time.

At 4 p.m. we cross the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. Beautiful view from the hill before we cross.

2 Corps advancing in battle-line.

Our Div. the Rear Guard of the army. Skirmishing on the right & left.

THURS. APR. 30 / Knapsacks on all last night. Move about daylight.

About 10 we cross "Mountain Stream" and at 2 arrive at the "Rapid Ann" [Rapid River], after one of the most tiresome marches any of us ever experienced.⁴⁷ No time for breakfast this morning, so we eat it now, and move again this afternoon. Our crossing place is at "Ely's Ford", 17 miles from Fredericksburg.

Our advance has met with but little opposition thus far, there being but slight skirmishing. Report is that Fredericksburg is evacuated. At 3 we cross the Rapid Ann by wading (neck-deep) [several soldiers were swept away by the swift current and drowned] and go three miles beyond. Our battery in "posish" with Co. A to support. Marched about 13 miles to-day, and I was never so exhausted before.

Expect "the ball" to open to-morrow. An issue of fresh beef this evening. Speer Orr sprains his ankle [sic] badly.

This is supposed to be the President's Fast Day.

We crossed at Kelly's Ford by pontoons made of canvas. The pioneers of this Corps acting as pontoniers (sic).

Our Div. brought up the rear of the whole army.

A distance to here of about 40 miles.⁴⁸

THE BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE

—1863—

FRI. MAY 1 / Start at 6 o'clock. Now bivouacked in the woods. Will move soon. Order from Hooker read congratulating the 5th, 11th, and 12th Corps on their successful advance, and predicting that the "Butternuts" must either ingloriously fly or come out of their entrenchments and get whipped [on ground of Hooker's choosing]. The 2nd Corps is lying here, having crossed at U.S. Ford last night. The

general impression is that there is going to be a terrible battle in the rear of Fredericksburg. I will write this, dating by hours, as I have the opportunity.

8 ½ O'CLOCK

Band of the 2nd strikes up "Hail to the Chief". We hold an inspection of ammunition and arms. 10 o'clock — Move forward. The "big dogs" begin to bark. Halt at the brick [Chancellor] house, ten miles from Fredericksburg.

1 O'CLOCK

Mead's Corps, consisting of Griffin's, Sykes' and our Division [Humphreys'] commence advancing in the direction of and to the left of Fredericksburg, Sykes in the advance.

After marching a few miles Meade orders us about face.⁴⁹ The order is none too soon for an overpowering force is thrown on Sykes, and he fights his way out with great difficulty & heavy loss.

Musketry now terrific. We again take up our position at the brick house. The 3rd Corps passes.

5 O'CLOCK

Our Division moves down a defile and in the vicinity of the river.⁵⁰

Tomorrow there will be thunder.

I am writing this by moonlight at our bivouac.

Now 9 o'clock p.m.

Jim McG. calls to see me.

SAT. MAY 2 / Awoke at 4 ½ and get our breakfast. 7 o'clock our battery put in position. Our regt and 131st as support. Left of 155th rests on river. There has been but little firing this morning.

Our position now is on the extreme left—or rebel right. 8 ½ o'clock. Firing commences in our front. We begin to fortify our position by throwing up earthworks. We expect our position to be attacked within the next hour.

Part of our Brigade [Company B] thrown out as skirmishers. It is thought that the principal fight will be in this vicinity, as they may attempt to drive our position to cut off our retreat at U.S. Crossing, but a short distance from here. The cannonading is quite heavy just now.

(The weather yesterday & to-day beautiful. Nights moonlight.)

11 O'CLOCK

Finish our earthwork. 4 shells sent by our battery at Rebs, who are throwing up an earthwork about ¾ of a mile from here. Not replied to, but Butternuts scatter. Our position is strong, in fact impregnable.

4 O'CLOCK

Heavy musketry to our right, which soon ceases.

5 O'CLOCK

Nothing of consequence has occurred within the past two hours.

5 1/2 O'CLOCK

Battle begins raging fearfully on the right—on the Culpepper road.⁵¹

Continues up till nine o'clock.

Beautiful moonlight night. Cos. A and F on picket to the front—

balance of Regt occupies the entrenchment.

The firing was terrific.

SUN. MAY 3 / Morning. 6 o'clock. Firing begins on the right. Report is that our Right was partially turned last night. We are just about moving—to the right, I think.⁵²

Heavy firing all forenoon. Our Right driven back out of their rifle-pits.

At 7 our Division (Corps) taken out to the right.⁵³

Co's A. G. & K. not relieved until 9 o'clock.

Our Division gets into an engagement. Several wounded is the result.

The three companies move out.

6 o'clock p.m.

Skirmishers on the left (our late position) begin firing. The 11 Corps relieved us. The brick [Chancellor] house (Hooker's Hd. Qrs.) burned.

Heavy firing heard in the direction of Fredericksburg all afternoon.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 11th and 12th Corps here now.

MON. MAY 4 / 10 o'clock a.m. —all quiet along the line except occasional sharp shooting. Our company detailed to fix the road to the river.

Adj't. E.C. Bendere killed yesterday by a shell; body recovered and buried this morning.

Killed & Wounded of Yesterday:

E.C. Bendere Killed

Allen Shunk (Co. B) Neck

Lieut. Culin (Co. B) Breast

John Phillips (Co. B) Leg (slt.)

Isaac Jones (Co. B) Knee (flesh)

Co. I —two

Co. C —one wounded.

About 4 this afternoon the Rebs make slight advance, but are checked.

Report that Sedgewick has possession of the heights above Fredericksburg.

Yesterday's was a skirmish, Co. B and part of Co. A as skirmishers, with Regt to support. Bowser plugs his man. Co. A out today fixing road.

Now 6 night —10 p.m.—draw five days rations. Lay down, but are drawn up in line. Firing in front—ceases soon. Moonlight night.

TUES. MAY 5 / 8 o'clock a.m. —Our term of service expired last night. Boys say they will not do duty any longer.

Move battle line up to near entrenchment.

Co. A sends up a request to Gen H. that they be mustered out, as their term has expired.

To-night we got orders to fall in at a moment's warning. Commences to rain terribly.

WED. MAY 3 / Start at 2 a.m. to evacuate our position. The river rising.⁵⁴

At daylight we are near the river. Every precaution adopted to detain the enemy if they pursue.

Our Corps covers the retreat, which is successfully accomplished by 11 a.m.⁵⁵

The grand army take up their line of march for their old camps — dispirited. Has been raining ever since last evening, so that the mud is actually knee deep.

In the meantime Sedgewick (sic) with the 6th Corps advances on Fredericksburg, gains the heights, and drives the rebels.

The next day Sedgewick attempts advancing, is flanked and driven beyond the river at the point of the bayonet.⁵⁶

Sum total: that the events of the past few days have turned up a failure.

Canteen full tonight.

THUR. MAY 7 / Co. stacked their arms to-day—will not do duty any longer.

Col. takes possession of the arms. Raining to-night. Get mail of 10 days.

FRI. MAY 8 / Downey released. 123d go home. Our boys refused to do duty.

SAT. MAY 9 / Weather warm and pleasant. Efforts made to coerce this company into doing duty.



The 26th annual reunion of the 133rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Roberts, September 23, 1920, at their neoclassical mansion built in 1907.

Order on dress parade stating that if [Gen. George] Stoneman had known it he could have gone into Richmond.

SUN. MAY 10 / Speakman put under arrest. Boys consent to do guard duty as a special favor to [Lt. Col. William] McCartney. Assured that we will leave next week.

Weather quite warm.

Mustered for two months to-day. [Cpl. Jas. P.] Armbrust & Young and I take walks during the day and eve.

MON. MAY 11 / May weather this morning—beautiful. Regt. goes on picket—except Co. A. Awful warm during the day.

TUES. MAY 12 / Very warm. 2 Regts. of Tyler's brigade leave to-day for home.

WED. MAY 13 / 131st leaves tomorrow. Jones goes to Washington to hunt up articles. Weather quite warm to-day. We are to leave on Saturday.

THUR. MAY 14 / Thunder and rain. The 131st leaves this morning. P. Confer visits us. Regt. comes off picket.

FRI. MAY 15 / Days quite pleasant. I get a "picsher" taken in camp.⁵⁷ It is presumed that we leave for Washington to-morrow.

SAT. MAY 16 / Inspection of arms and ammunition to-day. Evening—turn over our ammunition and get orders to leave for Harrisburg in the morning.

SUN. MAY 17th / Left camp for Washington at 12 o'clock. Arrive in the city at 6 p.m. Take lodging for the night at the "barracks".

MON. MAY 18 / Start about 10 o'clock for Baltimore. Arrive there about 3 p.m. Start at 5 for Harrisburg, where we arrive at 5 o'clock on the morning of the 19th.

TUES. MAY 19 / Take up our quarters near Camp Curtin. Get tents etc. Turn over our arms this afternoon. Run through town promiscuously.

WED. MAY 20 / 10 Regts. of 9 months men here.

1863—On the 26th of May we are mustered out of the service, paid off on the 28th, and depart for home. Arrive there in squads.

And this is the end of the Nine Month Service.

MAY, 1863

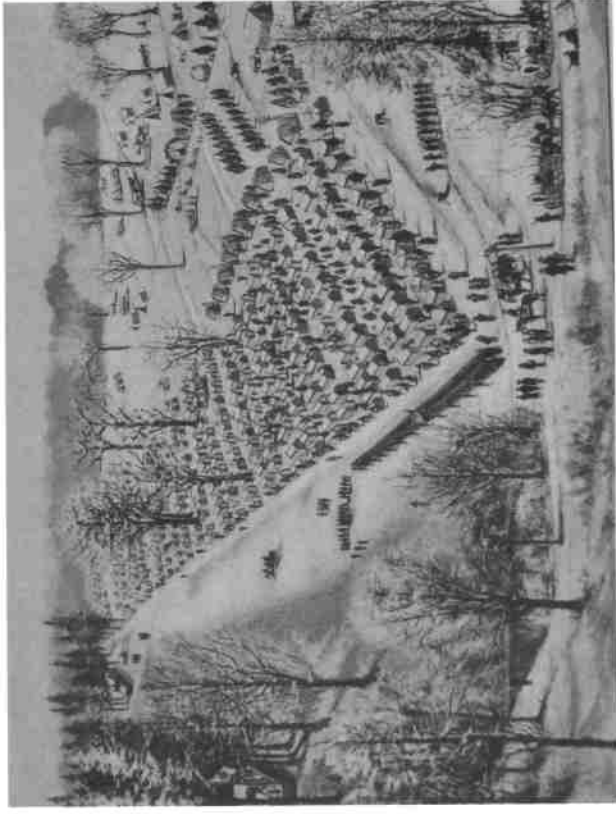
From History of Pennsylvania Volunteers. BATES.

Field and Staff Offices 133d Regt. P.V.I.

F.B. Speakman, Colonel	David D. Kennedy, Surg
Abraham Kopelin, Lt. Col.	Thomas E. Statehem, Asst. Surg.
Wm. A. McCartney, Lt. Col.	John W. Keys, Asst. Surg.
Edward M. Schrock, Major	Wm. Thompson, Asst. Surg.
James C. Noon, Adjnt.	Andrew J. Hartsock, Chap'n.
Edward C. Bendere, Adjnt.	Robt. M. Messimer, Sr. Maj.
John B. Castner, Q.M.	John A. Thompson, Com. Sr.
Oberlin (sic) N. Ramsey, Q.M.	J. Ellis Gray, Hos. St.

NOTES

1. Named for Pennsylvania governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, who sent more than 300,000 well trained and equipped troops to the Union Army. Organized on Dauphin County Agricultural Society land north of Harrisburg, Camp Curtin was an ideal location for moving men and material to armies in the field because of major north-south and east-west railroad lines.
2. Samuel P. Bates, *History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1865* (Harrisburg: B. Singerly, State Printer, 1869-1871); Easley's bounty check is in a 1916 Dwight Roberts journal into which he meticulously copied Easley's diary from the original. This diary and his account of the 1861 enlistment (April 20—to July 29) are in the Dwight Roberts Collection at Johnstown Area Heritage Association. The 1861 diary is currently being transcribed by co-author Daniel Chorik.
3. See Bates.
4. Personal communication with D.P. Newton, of the White Oak Museum, in Falmouth, VA, suggests that the 133rd PVI was the only regiment in Humphreys Division with these rifled weapons. Mr. Newton and his colleagues have done extensive excavations of the Union camps in and around Fredericksburg and Falmouth. During their study of Camp Humphreys, they discovered that the 133rd PVI



Camp Humphreys—Falmouth, Virginia

5. Present day Alt US 40 (The National Road) and MD 34.
6. Easley's particularly graphic description of the carnage was published in the Cambria Tribune on Oct 17, 1862.
7. There is no evidence of balloon ascension at either the Battle of Antietam (Sep. 17th) or the Battle of Shepherdstown (Sept. 19th & 20th). In a letter dated Oct. 8 and published in The Cambria Tribune on Oct 17, 1862, Easley noted: "Professor Lowe makes balloon reconnaissance almost daily, but I think it would require a pretty good glass to discover any rebels."
8. They reviewed Fitz-John Porter's Fifth Corps on the Stephen P. Grove Farm along the Shepherdstown Pike (MD 34 today). A Maryland Civil War Trails marker for the Grove Farm is on the right when traveling toward Sharpsburg on Route 34.
9. The 136th PVI was also a 9 month outfit (see Bates). Co. K, recruited from Cambria County was eventually captained by Dr. Webster B. Lowman, who had served with Easley in Co. K, 3rd PVI. He and his son,

- Dr. John B. Lowman, were highly esteemed surgeons of the Cambria Iron Works Hospital in Johnstown for many years after the war. See Samuel T. Wiley, ed., *Biographical Portrait Cyclopaedia of Cambria County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: Union Publishing Co., 1896), 19-21. Probably a photo session.
10. Probably a photo session.
 11. Easley honored his fallen comrades by placing boxes around their diary obituaries. He wrote touching obituaries for Wilson and King in the Cambria Tribune, 31 Oct 1862. King also fell victim to typhoid fever.
 12. Actually, they left on the 26th, making up part of the Left Grand Division of the Army of the Potomac. They crossed into Virginia on a pontoon bridge at Berlin, now Brunswick, MD, on the 30th. Memoirs of Sgt. Austin Stearns "Three Years With Company K," (Fairleigh Dickinson Press, 1976) and the unpublished memories of Sgt. John S. Fay, Company F, 13th Massachusetts, describe the march south.
 13. Probably Elk Ridge, which some consider a part of South Mountain.
 14. The stored goods referred to here was the baggage that had been stored in Washington. The army crossed the Potomac on pontoon bridges. There were three major north-south invasion routes into Loudoun County: 1) The Old Carolina Road (now US 15) south of Point of Rocks, MD, 2) the Berlin Turnpike (now, VA 287), and 3) the turnpike that ran westward from Leesburg through Hillsborough (now VA 9) and then north to Harper's Ferry (now County Route 671). This westernmost thoroughfare was used by the right wing of the Army of the Potomac. Its name on the 1858 Yardly Taylor map of Loudoun County was "Hillsborough and Harper's Ferry Turnpike Road". Refs: Loudoun County Visitor's Center, 112-G South St. Leesburg, VA; "A Civil War Chronology of Loudoun County, Virginia", in *The Loudoun Times Mirror-Civil War and Historical Edition*-Vol 162, No.46, Nov. 16, 19691
 15. Snickersville is now called Bluemont. The exact route of the march is unknown, but it is possible to speculate a bit with Google/Mapquest help-Harper's Ferry to Hillsborough (12.0 mi.) to Round Hill (6.4 mi. via Woodgrove Road-County 719) to Snickersville or Bluemont (4.0 mi) totals 22.4 miles. Throughout his account, Easley has an uncanny ability to precisely record marching distances. Picket duty was on the left of Snicker's Gap-letter to Cambria Tribune published 2 Nov. 1862.

16. Their mountain view was at Snickers Gap-VA 7.
17. The reference to Alexandria pike is most likely because the Snickers Gap Turnpike, on a direct line, connects to Little River Turnpike at Aldie, which continues southeast to Alexandria. The Warrenton Road is probably the Ashby Gap Turnpike.
18. White Plains is now called simply The Plains. Their route may have been Halfway Road-County Route 626.
19. The "fly" probably refers to one of the horsefly diseases.
20. Camp was at New Baltimore, VA. James B. Hewitt, ed., *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, II, Vol. 62* (Wilmington, NC; Broadfoot Publishing Co, 1998) 293.
21. The route of the march from Oct. 30th to Nov. 21st is documented in an addendum to an after action report of the Maryland campaign (Sept 3-20), written by Maj. Gen. F.J. Porter on Oct. 1, 1862.
22. A well known Christian melody which gets its name from an association with the 100th Psalm-an exhortation to praise God cheerfully and be thankful.
23. In Jan 1863, Porter, a close friend of McClellan, was court-martialed and convicted of insubordination at 2nd Manassas, becoming the scape-goat of that Union defeat. See John J. Hennessy, *Return to Bull Run, the Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993), 464-465.
24. Soft tack is fresh bread made for immediate consumption. It is the opposite of hard tack. Both are nautical terms. Hard tack is still made by the G.H. Bent Co. in Milton, MA, for sale to Civil War re-enactors.
25. Camp near junction of the Warrenton Branch R.R. and the Orange and Alexandria R.R. near present day Calverton, VA. Heading southeast out of Warrenton on County Route 643 (Meezze Rd) to County Route 616 (Casanova Rd) approximates this segment of the march.
26. Camp near Spotted Farm. Going southwest on VA 28, then southeast on County Route 649 (Germantown Rd.) and 610 (Midland Rd.) to Somerville, then southeast on County Route 616 (Bristerburg Rd./ Poplar Rd.) then south on 612 (Hartwood Rd.) approximates the route of the march. The camp was just north of Dodd's Corner-the junction of 614 (Spotted Tavern Rd) and 612 (Hartwood Rd.), which is 8 miles from Hartwood church where they camped the following day.

27. Camp near Hartwood C.H., VA. It was written Hartwood C.H., rather than ch. in F.J. Porter's report, but there has never been a courthouse at Hartwood.
28. Camp near Potomac Creek, VA.
29. The Zouaves d'Afrique were an independent company recruited in Philadelphia by Charles H.T. Collis. This company included many French soldiers who had served as Zouaves in French North Africa. When they were attached to the 114th Penn. Infantry as Company A, in Oct/Nov, 1862, they retained the uniform of the French Zouaves d'Afrique. Vivandieres, often acting as nurses, were transplants of the French military practice selected by some Union and Confederate regiments. The idea was an attractive young woman wearing an attractive uniform. A woman who fulfilled this criteria was known as "the daughter of the regiment". Fearless French Mary Tepe was vivandiere to the 114th Penn Infantry. See Couzzens, Peter. "Fearless French Mary". *America's Civil War* magazine (Weider History Group, Leesburg VA, March 2012).
30. Burnside had organized his Army of the Potomac into three Grand Divisions—the Right Grand Division was commanded by Maj. Gen. Edwin V. "Bull" Sumner, the Center Grand Division by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, and the Left Grand Division by Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin.
31. Of the 135,000 soldiers who camped in Stafford County, 3,500 died of disease, exposure, accidents and other causes. After the war, their graves were moved to national cemeteries.
32. Hooker's assault began around 3:30 pm with sequential divisional attacks by Charles Griffin, Andrew A. Humphreys, and George W. Getty. Hooker, after personal reconnaissance, returned to Burnside's headquarters advising against further attacks to no avail. See Francis O'Reilly, *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter on the Rappahannock* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 2003) 363.
33. Allabach's brigade was deployed with the 155th and 133rd in the front and the 123rd and 131st behind—about 2,300 men. See O'Reilly, 402-411.
34. When Hooker returned at 4 p.m., Humphreys was already attacking, leading his division on horseback through the human debris of previous attacks to within 50 yards of the stone wall at Marye's Heights. It was the closest advance of any Union division, aided by exhaustion of the Confederate battery ammunition. A monument erected by the citizens

- of Pennsylvania in 1908 at Fredericksburg National Cemetery commemorates his heroic leadership of the division—the 91st, 126th, 129th and 134th PVI of the 1st Brigade, BG Erastus B. Tyler commanding and the 123rd, 131st, 133rd and 155th PVI of the 2nd Brigade, Col. Peter H. Allabach commanding.
35. Humphreys ordered the 123rd and the 155th to cover the 131st and 133rd as Allabach's brigade withdrew to Hanover St. See O'Reilly, 402-411.
36. The Union Army's disastrous tactics cost over 7,500 casualties compared to less than 1,500 for the Confederates. Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin told the President "It was not a battle, it was butchery." Allabach's brigade suffered about 24 percent casualties—581 in all. The 133rd had 20 killed, 137 wounded and 27 missing or around 30 percent of those engaged—the most of the four regiments in Allabach's brigade. See O'Reilly, 467-491.
37. This march would later be known as Burnside's Mud March. See Ernest B. Furgurson, *Chancellorsville 1863: The Souls of the Brave*, (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1992), 16. In a letter to the Cambria Tribune dated Jan 24th and published on Jan 30th 1863, Easley wrote "the late move [Mud March] has been very disastrous to our army here, and tended to demoralize it more than did the Battle of Fredericksburg. A new order of things must be inaugurated or this "Army of the Potomac" will be worse than useless."
38. Lincoln replaced Burnside with Joseph Hooker on Jan. 26th.
39. Paid up to Oct 31st—letter to Cambria Tribune dated Feb 1st, published Feb 16, 1863.
40. In a letter to the Cambria Tribune written February 21st and published Mar 6, 1863, Easley noted that "a slight amount of rain transforms the top strata into the consistency of mortar, and to move weapons through it becomes a matter of impossibility".
41. Easley's mother had died of tuberculosis.
42. Camp Humphreys is between Deichman Lane and Bellwood Lane off County Route 624 (Forbes Street) in Falmouth, VA.
43. Soldier.
44. Brigade review was by Colonel Peter H. Allabach, a veteran of the Mexican War, who was commissioned Colonel of the 131st PVI by Gov. Curtin on August 16, 1862. His brigade—123rd, 131st, 133rd, 155th PVI—was organized before Antietam and assigned to the 3rd Division

- (Humphreys), Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac. See Orwig, J.A., *History of the 131st Pennsylvania Volunteers, War of 1861-1865* (Williamsport, PA: Sun Book Printing House, 1902), 238-239.
45. Stoneman's Switch or Station was a large Federal supply depot located on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. Humphrey's division camped north of the railway line, off Rice Rd in present day Falmouth, from Nov, 1862 to Feb, 1863 before relocating to Camp Humphreys.
46. Their route was probably Warrenton Road—US 17 and Sumerduck Road—VA 651.
47. Their 10-mile route (approximately) crossed Mountain Run, then south on Edwards Shop Road (VA 620), then on Fields Mill Road (VA 682), then on Ely's Ford Road (VA 610).
48. Leaving their camps in Falmouth, four corps of Hooker's army marched west, crossing the Rappahannock River at Kelly's Ford and then the Rapidan River at Ely's and Germanna Fords. Hooker's flank march surely surprised Lee. See John Hennessy, "The Killing Game," *Hallowed Ground (Civil War Trust, Washington, Spring, 2013)*, 17-21.
49. Down the River Road marched Allabach's and Tyler's brigades, for about 4 miles, leaving Sykes' division of U.S. Regulars alone on the Orange Turnpike. When Jackson attacked Sykes, Meade could not help. Their goal had been to seize Banks Ford and control the high ground 6 miles up river from Fredericksburg. *Ibid.*
50. The defile was probably Mineral Springs Road. Their position was on the Union army's extreme left where earthworks made the position virtually impregnable.
51. Jackson's flank attack occurred approximately four miles from their position. The Culpeper Road is now VA 3.
52. The brigade was moved to the U.S. Ford Road, near its junction with Ely's Ford Road, where they were placed in support of artillery batteries.
53. The division straddled Ely's Ford Road, just south of the Bullock House.
54. The Rappahannock River had risen 6 inches, threatening the pontoon bridges.
55. Allabach's brigade assisted in the crossing of the artillery trains. The pontoon bridges were dismantled ending Joseph Hooker's campaign. Lee would eventually head north, searching for another victory—in the fields of Gettysburg. See Furgurson, 311-319.

56. On the night of May 4th, Sedgwick escaped across the Rappahannock at Bank's Ford.

57. No picture of Casper Easy is known to exist, as of this writing.