

1981.4.18

Charles S. Parker
CoB 11th Reg. Mass. Vols
1865, "Happy New Year"

Sunday, January 1, 1865

Storm of last night ceases before daylight. Tom Glynn was with us to dinner. Had tomato soup, pickled onions and mince pie. After dinner wrote letter no. 31 to wife and sent her as a present a picture of our home. Spent evening in the house reading papers from home. Weather clear and cold. Received letter 41 from wife.

Monday 2

Rose this morning with sick headache, which has lasted me all day. Weather clear and cold. John on duty all day at Division Headquarters. Made fish hash for dinner for John. Lt. J.S. Wyman of the 32nd Regt. called on us this evening.

Tuesday 3

Early in the morning started down own lines to visit the 5th Corps. Called on Barrett, at Brg. Com., Found him well. Saw Billy Monroe at Provact Marshal's, H2. Next over to 32nd Reg., saw the boys and took dinner with Lt. Wyman. Came home in a driving snow storm. Sent letter No. 32 home. At 8pm. ground well covered with snow.

Wednesday 4

Was on orderly duty at H.Q. all day. Yesterday the first death occurred in our company. P.W. Penpres of Woburn, died at Div. Hospital. John was mustered as 1st. Lt. C.A. Mo Ronald as 2nd Lt. and Hastings was promoted orderly sergeant. Chapin is now Capt. of Co. 6. Wrote letter no. 33 to my wife and one to Sue. John was officer of the day today. Weather clear and cold.

Thursday 5

Received letters 42 & 43. Had an inspection by Brev. Brig. Gen. Ramsay. Battalion turned out in heavy marching order. In the absence of Col. Rivers, Capt. Bennett had command of the Battalion. Lt. Chapin was mustered Capt. of Co. 6. Sent letter No. 34, containing present to my little son Eddie. Weather continues clear and cold. Snow which fell two days ago still on the ground.

Friday 6

Drills in the Battalion were resumed this morning. I was out in the woods two hours practicing. This afternoon a heavy rain set in and there were no drills. Recd letter no. 34. Made out Chapin's muster

rolls. Commenced making door for house but had to stop on account of the rain. In the evening wrote letter No. 35 to my wife. Weather warm, wind south. Heard frogs chirruping in the meadow nearby.

Saturday 7

Went out this morning with the drum corp for one customary two hour practice. The major was much pleased with my playing. After I came in, made a door for our house from the cut we received from home some time since. It makes a nice one and give the house a more finished appearance. Rained some this afternoon and then cleared off very cold. Capt. W.H. Childs was made Sergeant to fill the vacancy made by promotions.

Sunday 8

Went out and played revilee for the first time this morning. John went on picket. Now I have gone on duty as musician. Pm. C.T. Woods is cooking for John. Reg. inspection at 10 ½ o'clock. In the afternoon I wrote letter No. 36 to wife, and in the evening had the pleasure of receiving no. 45 from her. Spent the most of the evening in reading Harper's magazine.

Monday 9

At nine o'clock this morning went out for practice with the drums corps. This afternoon there was a Battalion drill for the first time. The officers need drilling more than the men. Played at dress parade this evening for the first time. The Div. Band is now playing at the Brig. Com. Without an exception it is the best and I ever heard in my life.

Tuesday 10

Last night at about 12 o'clock, a heavy rain set in and it continued until sunset this evening. I never saw such a rain storm in my life. It came in torrents most of the time. On account of the rain there were no drills or parade. Mr. Woods was detailed this afternoon as nurse at Div. Hospital. John was officer of the day today. Sent letter no. 37. 4 mas of my time express today and this is Eddie's birth-day.

Wednesday 11

Was on orderly duty today. This afternoon there was Brigade Dress parade. Brig. Gen. McAllister having returned from his leave of absence. The parade passed off well. The Division Band was in attendance and played splendidly. Rec'd letters 45 and 46. Sent letter 38. Mr. Woods is 'camp nurse' instead of hospital as I heard yesterday. The officers are reciting tactics this evening to the Colonel.

Thursday 12

Today has been an unusually pleasant one. This afternoon there was a Batt. Drill. I went out in the woods for a couple of hours practice. John had one load of logs for a new house drawn today. Sent letter

no. 39. Weighed 145lbs in my fatigue coat. The drains for the company sheets were completed today. Ground still very wet from the effect of the recent rains.

Friday 13

By last evening mail received a fife and letter no. 47 from home. Went out for practice this morning. This afternoon there was another Brigade Dress Parade and review. Have not been at all well today – don't know what is the matter. Capt. Bennett and Sgts Hastings and Glynn were in this evening talking over tactics and other military matters.

Saturday 14

This afternoon we had no drills. After dress parade a part of Co. B with Co. A escorted the colors to HQ. a new wrinkle. The Colonel goes home tomorrow on a short leave of absence. Made a Corps badge for my watch chain today. Have promised to make one like it for Lt. Wheeler and for Collins, the P.M.

Sunday 15

John went on picket this morning but was taken sick and had to come in. The Colonel left for home this morning. Capt. Dunham is in command part of the time and Capt. Bennett part of the time. Capt. B took charge at inspection this morning. Rec'd letters 48 & 49, and one from Mary Lincoln. Sent letter No. 40. Capt. Mansfield returned to the Batt. This evening.

Monday 16

Went down to the 5th corps on a visit today. Sam Barrett, Billy Monroe, Sam Coldwell and Jim Reed. Took dinner with Lieut Tidd of the 32nd Regt. This afternoon the rebs made some kind of a move and our Division even turned out in line of battle but nothing came of it. John is much better today and has been up and about most of the time. Rec'd letter no. 50.

Tuesday 17

The principal part of today was taken up with a Division Review by Brigadier, by Maj. Gen. Hampreys & Matt. Our Brigade presented a fine appearance. After Review we had dress parade which took up most of the day. In the evening a dispatch was received announcing the fall of Ft. Fisher. The men greeted the news with three hearty cheers. Received letter No. 51 and sent No. 41.

Wednesday 18

Was on "orderly" duty today. This morning 91 one men from our Battalion were detailed for fatigue on a new fort near Corps Headquarters. Capt. Chapin had command of our detail. The new fort is to be a very large one. The 120th N.Y. went on a foraging expedition today and came back loaded with plunder. Owing to the large number of men detailed we had no dress parade.

Thursday 19

This morning Lts. Wheeler and Bott went home on furloughs. John went on picket. Had Brigade Inspection this afternoon. Adj. Page was relieved from his post this afternoon and reported to his company. Lt. McDonald acted as adjutant on dress parade this evening. The men were ordered to take off boots and put on shoes by Capt. Dunham. He burned a lot of hats yesterday morning. Sent letter 42.

Friday 20

Today is the second anniversary of my marriage. Finished two 2nd Corps badges today. Got \$1.00 each for them. Had Brig. Dress parade this afternoon, and afterward passed in review before Maj. Gen. Humphry and Matt. The weather was very cold and playing I suffered much. John was off as mtnee on a Court Martial case this afternoon. Rec'd letter No. 52. Charlie Leonn called to see us today.

Saturday 21

A severe storm set in this morning and it has rained hard all day. In the forenoon I made a Corps badge for Lt. Brown and this afternoon wrote letter No. 43. Rec'd No. 53 this morning. Owing to the storm there have been no drills, and a fatigue party of 71 men sent out returned. This evening the rain ceased and it has cleared off very cold. I hope the wet snap will not last long.

Sunday 22

Was taken sick this morning but though I felt badly went to church. Text was Ps. 27:2. Went to bed as soon as I got home and laid there the rest of the day. Doctor came in in the evening and gave me some medicine. Rec'd letters 54 & 55 from home. It has rained most all day today.

Commented [A1]: When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

Monday 23

Was sick all day today, and confined to the bed most of the time. John was also suffering from an attack of neuralgia in the face. It has rained hard most of the time, and there have been no drills. Lt. McDonald was returned to Co. B today. The new Adj. Delany having taken his place. Sent letter No. 44.

Tuesday 24

Have been some better today though confined to the house most of the time. It has been quite pleasant. Another detail of 71 men went out from our Battalion this morning to work on the new fort. There was a rumor that Ft. Hell was blown up last night. Rec'd letter 56 this morning and 57 this evening.

Wednesday 25

Was on orderly duty today and had a large amount of running to do. In the afternoon there was a Brigade dress parade and review. Wrote letter No. 46 to my wife. John was much better today. A

number of men from our Battalion went home on furloughs this evening. Wish I had been one of them. Heard Paymaster was coming Feb 1. Hope he will!

Thursday 26

In company with Sargt. Glynn went down to the 5th Corps. to see the Woburn boys in the 32nd Regt., and had a very nice time. I took dinner with Lieut Tidd. Stopped on the way and saw Barrett. Got back at dress parade. Lt. Tidd is going home on a furlough.

Friday 27

This morning I was up again before 4 o'clock playing revilee as a large fatigue party was going out to work on a fort. Had the pleasure of receiving three letters from home today, two in the morning and one in the evening. Nelie has a little party on the 20th inst, the anniversary of our wedding day. The weather has been very cold for the past few days and nights. Sent letter 47.

Saturday 28

This has been a very cold day, with high wind, and I had to keep the tent in order to be comfortable. At 2 o'clock our Battalion was inspected by the Division Inspector. It was a cold job standing in the wind. Sent letter No. 48. Capt. Dunham had two large pines, very fine ones, which stood in front of headquarters, cut down today.

Sunday 29

This has been a very pleasant day, and much warmer. After inspection I went to church in the chapel of the 120th Reg., and heard a fine discourse. Went over to Division Headquarters in the afternoon, and wrote letter No 49. Received letter No 60 from home. The chapel of the 7th N.Y. was dedicated today. Gens. Mott and McAllister were present at the dedication.

Monday 30

Another large detail to work on Fort Fisher went out from our Battalion this morning and in consequence we have had no drills or dress parade. John got the logs for a new house today. They are fine ones, and will make a good house. Rec'd letter No. 61, and wrote No 50. They are having a dance in the officers' quarters of the 120th Regt. this evening. It seems good to hear a fiddle once more.

Tuesday 31

In the morning went down to the 5th corps. Stopped with Barrett a short time and then went on to the camp of the 32nd Regt. Saw Lieuts Tidd and Wyman, and then came back to Barretts, took dinner with him, spent the afternoon and stopped to tea. I had a first rate time. The weather has been very warm and pleasant all day and the walking was very nice.

Wednesday, February 1

Was on orderly duty today. There is a prospect that we shall move, and orders to be in readiness to march at a moment's warning have been promulgated. Sixty rounds of cartridges per man have also been given out and everything seems to indicate that our "winter quarters" will soon be broken up. Received a letter from home this morning and wrote no. 51. In view of the anticipated move there is some whiskey in camp.

Thursday 2

The prospects of our moving soon are not so numerous as they were yesterday and I guess the anticipated occasion going on an expedition has blown over. 105 men for fatigue went out from camp this morning. The weather has been very pleasant today. Wrote letter No. 52.

Friday 3

This afternoon we had Brigade Dress Parade. Just at night rain commenced falling so I guess we are stuck here for a spell longer. I hope so. Received letter 64 and wrote 53rd. This evening Capt. Dunham ordered me away from John's tent to quarters with the drum corps and to take off my coat and put on a blouse. I'll get even with him some time if we both live to see civil life again.

Saturday 4

Took up my new quarters with the drum corps this morning. The Battalion went out to the picket line target shooting this forenoon. John's tent caught fire from his stove and burned off the shutters. He lost nothing except his shutters but burned his hands quite badly. Sam Abbott called here today. Just after dress parade orders to pack up and be ready to fall in at a moment's notice were issued. 4 days rations issued at dark.

Sunday 5

Moved at 7 o'clock. Advanced about 3 miles on the left of our lines and built a line of breastworks. The rebels made an attack about 4 o'clock, but were repulsed with heavy loss. I stopped at night in the woods about a mile to the rear. Was taken sick in the night. It was bitter cold and I suffered much. The 6th and 9th corps passed up towards the front about 8 o'clock. The engineer corps were building breastworks all night.

Monday 6

Was sick all day, but was able to be about and came up to the regiment and had the pleasure of receiving a letter from home. In the afternoon there was a heavy fight on the left of our lines, held by the 5th Corps. Loss heavy on both sides, but our folks held the ground they had gained. Stopped about ½ mile from the regt. in an oak grove. The 6th corps passed with batteries to aid the 5th corps. Was much better at night, and slept well. Had my shelter tent stole.

Tuesday 7

Joined the regiment this morning. The regiment engaged in filling the timber in front. But little firing has taken place today, and that on our left. It rained hard all day and was very disagreeable. At night it cleared off and was splendid. I was on duty as orderly. Received a letter from home and wrote a hasty note to my wife.

Wednesday 8

It cleared off last night and this has been a splendid day. No movement has taken place either on the right or left, but large parties have been clearing away trees in front of our lines and now it is cleared for miles in our front. Received letter and papers from home. The letter contained \$1.00 and one of the new 3 cent currency. In the evening went to the officer's quarters and had a good sing.

Thursday 9

Everything has been quiet today and the Brigade have been engaged in strengthening our lines by the erection of a new line of works outside of the hasty line thrown up when we first arrived. A ration of soft bread, onions and potatoes were issued. From where we now are, the whistle of the engine on the South Side R.R. can be heard, and at night the music of the rebel bands. John was detailed as Adjutant in place of Leary, sent to his company.

Friday 10

Was on orderly duty today. We now have to stand 24 hours to keep Capt. D's fire going. Lieut Smith had a splendid sword presented to him by his company. A fort near the left of our regt. is being built. Tom Wever cut his foot today. The first wound in the company. I guess from appearances, we shall make a new camp here. Complete 5 mas. service today. Two letters from home, 1 from wife, 1 from Sue.

Saturday 11

The excitements of the past week have cooled off and once again we are being **sated (?)** in the usual routine of camp life. All are busy in the time they can get from fatigue work, making themselves comfortable, though no camp has as yet been laid out. Capt. Dunham had the drum corps at work around his quarters. Wrote a letter home. Went to our old camp in the afternoon.

Sunday 12

Have been sick all day today and have not been able to do anything. Tried to work cleaning the ground in front of headquarters but had to give up and went to bed. Received two letters from my wife which were a great solace to me. Capt. Dunham laid out our camp today. It has been a bitter cold day all have suffered much. The Regt. were at work on Battery "E".

Monday 13

On orderly duty today. Last night was the coldest I have yet experienced here, and I suffered much. Several of our men returned from furloughs this morning. Received a letter from home. Folks all well. The guard over our old camp came up this morning, and the men commenced putting up log houses. Pleasant, but quite cold. Slept warm for the first time since leaving old camp last night.

Tuesday 14

Saint Valentine's day. Rec'd batch of papers from home. Capt. Bennett had his house brought up from old camp and got into it last night. Wrote a long letter home. The men have been busy putting up new quarters. Good wood is quite handy. Drew a new pair of pants. Warmest day we have seen for two weeks. Looks like rain. Baked a lot of beans for breakfast tomorrow morning.

Wednesday 15

Most of the regiment were at work on Battery "E" near our breastworks. In the afternoon went hunting for a sutler to get some tobacco, but could not find one. Weather clear but cold. The drum corps are getting their houses along finely. I do not fare quite as well as when I tented with John, but then, "it is all in a year". Capt. Bennett is in command of the Battalion today.

Thursday 16

Early in the morning started off to find the 32nd Reg. Traveled about 2 hours, crossed "Hatches Run" and the battlefield of H & C (?) and finally found them not a mile from our camp. The Woburn boys were all right. Took dinner with Jim Reed. Col. Rivers returned this morning. This evening the regiment gave him a formal reception with a band of music. John was today relieved from the office of Adjutant and Leary reinstated. John is to go on McAllister's staff. I heard that is why he was chosen.

Friday 17

John went to City Point this morning. I visited the 39th Reg and Barrett at the 3rd Brig. 2nd Div Commissary. We had an inspection by the Brig. Inspector at 2 ½ o'clock. Charlie Conn and Billy McHewitt have both been mustered as 2nd Lts. In the 39th Regt. Col. Rivers gave Capt. Dunham "fits" last night for the manner he has conducted himself in his absence. A nasty rain set in this forenoon. A man in the 124 NY was executed today by our provost guard.

Saturday 18

On orderly duty today. John left the Battalion this morning to go on Gen. McAllister's staff as Aid de Camp. The weather has been fine all day. Received two letters from home. My letter of Feb. 6 was the first that reached town after the Corps moved to its present positions and relieved many anxious hearts. The Sergeant Major and Lt. Courdry went home on furloughs this morning. Wrote a letter home.

Sunday 19

This has been one of the most beautiful days we have known for some time. Received a long letter from home and wrote an answer in the afternoon. A large detail went out from the regiment this morning to work on Battery "E", which is nearly completed. Jim Kaine returned from his furlough this evening. He and I are to tent together.

Monday 20

Commenced our home this morning and with the help of the boys got it so we could sleep in it tonight. I never saw a house put up as quick before. It is three logs high and a tent & a half long. It will be a snug little house when completed. John was over to see me today on his horse. He is pleasantly situated at Brigade headquarters. Shall finish our house tomorrow.

Tuesday 21

Commenced work on our chimney early this morning, and had it up and a bunk built before night. As I sit by the light of the fire this evening and enjoy its warmth, I begin to feel quite comfortable and contented. Paymaster arrived this evening. Received a letter from home. Weather warm and pleasant all day.

Wednesday 22

Paymaster commenced paying the Brigade this morning. Wrote a long letter home. Slept soundly on the new bunk last night. Had baked beans for breakfast. Orders to pack up and be ready to move at a moment's notice were given this evening. The report is that the paymaster has returned to City Point. Two regiments (7th & 8th NY) were paid today.

Thursday 23

This morning received four months pay \$(59.20) Went over to the 5th Corps and bought some provisions of the 2nd Div. Commissary. Sold my watch for \$35.00 to Fred Woodbridge. The whole army of the Potomac is now being paid. A rain storm set in this morning and has continued all day. So long as it continues there is no danger of a move.

Friday 24

The rain storm of yesterday continued through the night, but cleared away at noon. In the afternoon the drum corps of the Brigade reported to the Drum Major of 120th N.Y. Reg. for practice and drill. Rain commenced falling again last night. Wrote a letter home. News of the capture of Wilmington and the probable evacuation of Petersburg was received today. We are expecting orders to move nightly. Heard heavy firing on the right today.

Saturday 25

On orderly duty today. By morning's mail received a letter and batch of papers from home. Wrote a letter home. The rain storm of last night has continued and the walking is now horrible. My little tent is as snug as any of them and I enjoy it much. Heavy firing in front of the 9th Corps.

Sunday 26

It has been very warm and pleasant all day. Wrote a letter home in the forenoon and in the afternoon attended service at the Brigade chapel. Text, "Christ, the end of the Law." Spent the evening with John at Brig. H.Q. Read a letter from wife. She was spending a few days in Boston. Had Dress Parade this evening. Capt. McQuade had a elegant sword & fixings presented to him by his Co.

Monday 27

Spent the forenoon in cutting the stumps in front of our quarters. John went to City Point this morning. A large detail is clearing a parade ground in front of the Colonel's quarters. The weather has been very warm today, rendering a fire useless. Received and wrote a letter. Weather clear and quite warm. Wrote letter to Mary Lincoln.

Tuesday 28

Rain commenced falling last night, and it has been stormy all day. John did not go to City Point until this morning. This afternoon men were mustered in for two months pay to March 1. Owing to the storm there was no inspection. Drew a small ration of vegetables today. Heard loud cheering in front of our picket line just after "retreat" this evening. Wrote a letter to wife. Jim Kain was on "orderly" duty today. Good-by old Winter.

Wednesday March 1

The month of March dawned upon us this morning raw and cold. In the forenoon are we busy clearing the ground in front of his quarters. Received a lot of "goodies" from home. It has been a long time on the road, but everything was in good condition. In the evening attended a debating society of the officers at Brigade chapel. John had the opening of the debate. Wrote a letter home.

Thursday 2

It has rained hard all day and I have remained indoors making Corps badges. I have finished off four today. I received for them \$3.25. A fair day's work. I have five more to make, which I shall try and get through with this week. Owing to the storm we have had no duties to perform. Late in the evening, received a 12 page letter from home.

Wednesday 3

Another day of rain has made this month as far "the stormy March". In the forenoon I completed another badge and in the afternoon done the rough work on four more. Wrote a letter home in the afternoon. John was over to call on me today. There was heavy picket firing out on the picket line at some deserters who were attempting to reach our lines. They succeeded in reaching our lines.

Thursday 4

On "orderly" duty today. About 8 o'clock a perfect hurricane of wind and rain set in and continued for more than an hour. The rain came in perfect torrents. I never saw anything equal to it before, for a storm. I got wet through. Received a letter from home, and wrote one to wife. Rain ceased in the afternoon, and it was quite pleasant.

Sunday 5

Went over and called on Barrett. Found him getting ready to pay us a visit. Returned and wrote a letter. Spent the afternoon with John. In the evening attended service at the chapel. Rev. Dr. Hale preached text Mar. 8:32, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul." He was an able speaker and handled his subject in a masterly manner.

Monday 6

Worked on Corps badges all the forenoon. Completed 1 for Col. Rivers, 1 for John and 1 for Jim Nichols. In the afternoon we had a Brigade dress parade. John assisted in forming the line. In the evening some of the officers "flew their kites pretty high". Trouble may be anticipated tomorrow in consequence. Maj. Dunham was the caner of the row.

Tuesday 7

As a consequence of last nights' proceedings, Lt. McDonald was under must this morning. Lt. Leary was relieved from the Adjutants office, & Lt. Harrington took his place. Afterwards Harrington was put under arrest, and Leary resumed his duties as Adjutant. Maj. Dunham was in command on dress parade. Had my picture taken this forenoon to send home. Received letter from wife by the morning's mail.

Wednesday 8

Orders for a Corps review were promulgated this morning, but a heavy rain storm setting in, it was postponed. The rain fell fast all day. In the afternoon my tent mate and I went out to procure some wood, and before we got back we were wet to the skin. I received two letters this morning from home. Wrote letters to my wife and George Cowell.

Thursday 9

During last night the rain ceased and this morning opened clean and bright. In the afternoon there was a Brigade dress parade and review. Were out practicing in the forenoon. Wrote a letter home. Soon after dark rain commenced falling again and the night was very stormy. Billy Brison 39th Regt. was over to see me this afternoon.

Friday 10

Today completes the first half of my term of service. Rain continued falling until just at night, when the weather became clear. Mended the A.A.S.'s pipe for him by putting a silver ferril (?) where it was broken. Wrote a letter home. In the afternoon went over to see John at Brig. H.Q., and got some papers and magazines. Still no letters from home. Firing along the picket line this forenoon and some more just at night. Probably at deserters.

Saturday 11

Pleasant all day. At 8 o'clock a Corps review was held. Gens. Grant, Mead, Warner, Humphreys and others were present. Mrs. Grant, son and daughter and a larger number of ladies were present. It was a grand affair. After the review, the Generals visited the new line of works. The ladies, in carriages, followed. As they passed our camp, I had a good chance to see them. Wrote to wife and Dr. Long.

Sunday 12

Received 3 letters from home by the morning's mail. Wrote one. Had regimental inspection at 10 o'clock. The weather has been very warm and pleasant all day today. Spent the evening with John at Brig. H.Q. Some firing on the picket line was heard this evening. Have not attended service today – had too much reading matter on hand.

Monday 13

Went over to the 5th Corps early in the morning, and spent some time with Barrett. Had an extra nice drink. The weather was very warm and pleasant – almost summer like. Called at 2nd Corps HQ on my way home. Had news of Shindon's success at Synchbury in the evening. Received a letter from home and wrote one.

Tuesday 14

This has been one of the beautiful days of Spring. Had a Brigade dress parade this afternoon. Col. Price (7th N.J.) was in command of the Brigade. About 200 recruits joined this Brigade yesterday. Had orders to be ready to move at a moments notice again today. Wrote letter home. A fence and fancy entrance has been put up in front of our headquarters.

Wednesday 15

Worked on badges most of the day. Finished one between 1 and 3 o'clock last night. Rain this afternoon. Had letter by morning mail. Wrote letter. Battalion drill this afternoon. George Guild called here this evening much to my surprise. He is on a visit to the army. Earned \$3.25 at making badges today. This evening it is clear and very warm.

Thursday 16

The 5th Corps was reviewed today. John and George went over to see the display – they also went through the camp in this vicinity. George left for home this evening. Had Brigade dress parade and review this afternoon. Wind has blown a gale about all day. Blew over a tree on front of H.Q. smashing most of the new fence. Some rain has fallen. Sent home \$85 by George. Earned \$2.00 today. Wrote letter to wife. Picket firing last night.

Friday 17

At reveille (?) played "St Patrick Day in the Morning". Spent the forenoon with John, he being alone, the other officers having gone to the race near Patrick Station. In regard for the day there was no drill or dress parade. Earned \$1.35 at badge making. Wrote a letter home. The day has been clear but quite windy. Some of the men were playing ball all day. Received a long letter from wife with papers by evenings mail.

Saturday 18

On "orderly duty" today. Private John Smith, Co. "H", 8th N.J. Vol. was executed at 12 o'clock, near the Smythe House for desertion. He expired at the first discharge, rolling from his coffin to the ground upon his face. Our whole Division was present. This afternoon the members of Co. "E" present Capt. Mansfield with an elegant gold watch, valued at \$65.00 appropriately engraved. Had Brigade inspection this P.M. Wrote letter home containing \$5.00. Weather pleasant and warm.

Sunday 19

This has been a very pleasant day. Received letter by morning and evening mail – Nos. 96-97. Went over to the 32nd Mass. Regt. this forenoon. Wrote letter home. The 2nd Division of our Corps was received and inspected this afternoon. Spent a portion of the afternoon with John. This has been essentially a quiet day.

Monday 20

A very pleasant day. In the forenoon made a badge for Capt. Bennett. Lieuts McDonald and Harrington has their trial today. There was a Brigade dress parade this afternoon. Received a letter from George Rowell and some papers from home. Wrote letter home. Spent the evening with John – had some singing. Looks like a storm.

Tuesday 21

Worked all the forenoon at badge making – Earned \$2.00. Mended Henry Suci's pipe in the afternoon. Rain commenced falling about noon, and has continued all day. Wrote a letter to my wife. Jim Kain is on orderly duty today. Several of our men returned from furloughs last night.

Wednesday 22

Today has been clear, though the wind has blown a gale. Two trees in Co. B street were blown over this forenoon. I made a badge, 75c and then went over to the 5th corps. Owing to the wind, there were no drills or dress parade. Spent the evening with John at Brig. H.Q. The wind went down with the sun. Wrote a letter home.

Thursday 23

Today the wind has blown a perfect hurricane. Great fires in the woods surrounding our camp. Review of the 2nd Corps this afternoon. Maj. Gens. Meade, Woven, Smith and others, and a large number of ladies were present. It was a fine sight. It was the first Corps review I ever witnessed. Several houses in camp were blown down and the Commissary tent "went under".

Friday 24

A very pleasant day. Wrote letters to wife, Dr. Long, Thes. Dudley, and George Rowell. In the evening went over to Brig. H.Q. Found John sick. Wrote letter for him. Miss Gibson of the Sanitary Commiss. And Mayor Fay, of Chelsea, were there. Division Band came over and gave a serenade in honor of their presence. Miss G. made a short address to the men.

Saturday 25

Had orders to strike tents at 8 o'clock. Heavy firing on our right last night. The regiment moved out to the breast works and about 2 o'clock advanced out in line of battle. A heavy engagement has taken place this P.M. The 2nd and 5th Corps were engaged. Our killed and wounded forts up big. The result is not yet known. I came back to our camp to spend the night. At 9 o'clock all is quiet. John was sent to Div. Hospital.

Sunday 26

Only one man wounded in our Regt. yesterday. In the forenoon went over to see John at Div. Hospital. Found him much better and anxious to get back to camp. James Russell, of Winchester was at the Hospital, and John invited him to stop overnight with him. He came back to camp with me. I sent John's horse over to him and he soon returned. I spent the evening at his tent. Wrote letter home. Received three letters. Weather pleasant, but cool. Our Brigade loss was about 100. The new picket line was held.

Monday 27

The picket line was advanced about half a mile this morning. We were under arms about two hours. Spent the forenoon going through our Corps with Russell. He was much pleased. John is much better, but weak. Mr. Russell left here at 3 o'clock. Wrote a letter home. Received No. 3 (new series) from wife. The day has been very pleasant. I hear the pickets are to be again advanced tonight or tomorrow morning.

Tuesday 28

Early this morning went over to the 5th Corps, to get tobacco sent by my wife. Found them all getting ready for a move. Returned home, and learned that our Corps had orders to move at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning. Wrote a long letter home. Received two letters and a paper by the evening mail. John is much better. Packed up all my things. Revilee is to beat at 4 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Wednesday 29

Moved out from camp about 6 o'clock. Our corps was relieved by the 24th Corps. Gen. Mead and staff passed the hospital, where I was detailed about 10 o'clock. Gen. Grant and staff went up about noon. There has been very little firing heard here and nothing is known of what has been done. Took possession of deserted officers quarters at the hospital. Cooked supper and turned in. It commenced raining about midnight.

Thursday 30

Got pretty wet last night. Put up shelters covering the whole of the house this evening. The 25th Corps (colored) passed here about daylight. The rain still continues and the niggers are passing back singing "John Brown". About 3 o'clock the Hospital was moved up to the line of works built last night, and pitched their tents. Everything is soaking wet and there is prospect of a very bad night. There has not been much firing near here today.

Friday 31

The rain continued until about noon. Soon afternoon the wounded came pouring in. Several of our regiment. At 5 o'clock the Hospital was moved up nearer the front, a short distance from a deserted rebel camp. The camp had been burned. The firing all day has been very heavy. Rumors are numerous, but nothing authentic is known. The sight of wounds is sickening. This evening is warm and pleasant.

Monday April 1

This has been essentially a quiet day. A few have been wounded and some killed on the skirmish line. Old Clough, Co. B, had a leg taken off below the knee. The day has been beautifully pleasant. Two of the drum corps were up to the regiment, and brought back 3 letters for me, from Rowell, Mary Lincoln and

wife. Wrote a letter home. Capt. Bennett and St. Hastings are reported prisoners. Just at night heavy firing was heard N.E. of us.

Sunday 2

A very pleasant day, and quiet as well. Our Brigade turned the rebel flank in the front, and captured two long earthworks. Nine wounded in our Regt. were brought in. The Hospital was moved at 4 o'clock. We marched until about 10 o'clock, within two miles of Petersburg. The city was occupied by the 9th Corps. Was on duty in care of the wounded half of the night. This move has been a success. Petersburg + all, Richmond must fall. Hurrah!

Monday 3

Gen. Ord rode through camp this morning bringing intelligence to the men of the capture of Richmond and the flight of Lee's army. He was cheered by the troops as he rode by. Left camp about 7 o'clock and marched until 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. Halted in the forenoon near Gen. Lee's old headquarters, and secured some papers and a grape shot. The home was burned. A large amount of ammunition and shells were near the house. Gen. Lee's tent was left standing when he retreated. From this point the lookout at Patrick Station could be seen. The 9th Corps was in Petersburg. The roads were very bad and we moved slow. Some outlier got missed, and we camped in the road. Passed numerous casseur and negroes destroyed by the rebs. on their retreat. The day was warm and pleasant. Threw away my woolen blanket. We are pursuing Lee's army.

Tuesday 4

The trains were got in motion about 5 o'clock. Cooked breakfast and moved on Overtown Barrett, and spent most of the day with him. Got some sugar, coffee and soft bread. Though the weather is very pleasant and warm, the roads are in an awful condition. Passed through several little villages, in one of which there was a church. Gen. Meade and staff passed us at noon. Saw numerous rebel officers-prisoners. Camped for the night about 9 o'clock, in a large field and rations were issued.

Wednesday 5

We were routed out at 3 o'clock this morning, and then waited until after 8 before we moved. On our march we passed through several villages and the most beautiful country I have seen. Most of the farms were devoted to the cultivation of tobacco and corn, and the storehouses were full. The march was without incident; and much more rapid than the preceding days. Came up with our Brigade about sundown and camped for the night. Saw John and the boys. Received 4 letters from home. The army was encamped just across the Lynchburg. R.R. Gen. Shouder was here.

Thursday 6

The Brigade moved last night. We came up with them about 7 o'clock. The army had been re-arranged and was moving off in different directions. Our corps took the road to Amelia Springs. Gen. Mott was

wounded this morning. Established a Hospital about 2 miles beyond the Spring. The wall was strewn with rebel ambulances and artillery trains. The fight today has been severe. A large number of wounded rebels are at the hospital tonight. We are running the rebels at the top of their speed. The weather still continues fine.

Friday 7

This morning the ambulances moved off, and left one surgeon and the 3rd Brigade musicians to attend to the sick and wounded at Mr. Vaughn's home. Our rations were out yesterday, and this has been a hard day. Parties have been out foraging, but as yet have found nothing. The subsistence teams have got lost, and there is likely to be much suffering. It rained hard today.

Saturday 8

Two of the boys killed 2 yearlings this morning. I eat my last crumb this morning for breakfast. It cleared off pleasant last night. I got some veal and corn for dinner, + some coffee + hard cook crumbs for supper. Three of the rebel Sanitary Commission were here today, but they left nothing. The party out foraging today secured some bacon and corn meal, but only enough for the sick and wounded. I don't know what we shall do for grub tomorrow. Two died.

Sunday 9

I begged my breakfast this morning and went hungry for dinner. Was on duty in the "cellar ward" all the afternoon. Just at night the 9th Corps ambulances, who are gathering up the wounded left in the wake of the army. I never saw a more welcome sight than these ambulances. It commenced raining just after dark. The men are all merry as crickets. Wrote a letter.

Monday 10

Left the Vaughn house for Burksville about 8 o'clock, and after a severe and muddy marsh of 15 miles in a pelting rain arrived at Burksville. A general hospital is established here. It is the junction of the South Side + Lynchburg R.R. and a place of great note during the past four years. Grant has extended his railroad over the old grade to this place. The rumor today is that Lee has surrendered. Got a nice supper from the Sanitary. A battery of Armstrong guns over here, captured from the rebels.

Tuesday 11

Twenty-six years old today. Gen. Grant and staff arrived at this place about noon and took the cars for City Point. Three trains of wounded were sent off during the day. The day was very unpleasant, but there was very little rain. Troops and wagon trains are pouring in from all directions, and all of them are in the highest spirits. Even the rebels seem glad that the war is over. And express the feeling that two months will see a paternal feeling more established. Wrote letter home.

Wednesday 12

Gens. Sheridan and Custer arrived here this forenoon. They were loudly cheered. It is one week today since I heard from home or our regiment. The trains of the whole army of the Potomac have arrived at this place, and are parking. The whole army is to be massed here. Army headquarters are about half a mile from here. I went over to our wagon train ~~yesterday~~ this afternoon and got six letters from home. It commenced raining just at night.

Thursday 13

Four years ago today the first shot was fired in this rebellion – what changes have these four years seen, and what obstacles have been surmounted. At length the day star of peace is dawning upon us. There has nothing transpired today to relieve the monotony of this hospital life save the arrival of a large lot of wounded rebel prisoners. Three trains arrived and departed here today. Wrote a letter home. Drum major returned from furlough.

Friday 14

The day has been very warm and clear out. About 3 o'clock we left Burksville with the Hospital. Had not gone far before we encountered our Brigade and got permission to rejoin our regiments. Saw John and got letter from father, and three from wife. We had a jolly time talking over the events of the past three weeks. Pitched tent with my old tent mate. During the night a rain storm set in. Wrote letter home.

Saturday 15

Rain has fallen at intervals all day. We are now quietly encamped, resting from the fatigues of the past three weeks. Shoes and stockings were issued this afternoon, also a small ration of potatoes and pork. Reville and tattoo were resumed today. What is to be done with the volunteer forces is now about the only thing discussed, and some of the answers are laughable in the extreme. Wrote letter home.

Sunday 16

The sad news of the assassination of President Lincoln and his probable death, read to us this morning, created a profound sensation. He was loved by all the soldiers in the army, and every one feels that in his death they lose one of their best friends. Such genuine expressions of sorrow are seldom seen in an army. The day has been very pleasant and warm. Went over and saw John. Received two letters and wrote letter home.

Monday 17

Our camp was laid out in streets today and the ground neatly policed. The ground chosen is a small knoll, and is the most convenient and hearty of any we have yet occupied. The weather continues pleasant, and our stay here bids fair to be very agreeable, though rations are quite scant. Wrote letters to wife and George Rowell. Spent the evening with John at Brig. Headquarters.

Tuesday 18

The day has been very pleasant. The 24th Corps has been passing our camp all day. I have been on "orderly" duty today, and have had considerable traveling. Orders appointing tomorrow to be observed with appropriate services in token of respect to the memory of the late President were received. Received a letter. Did not find time to write.

Wednesday 19

Throughout the army flags were hung at half mast and draped in mourning. Services were held at the camp of the 120th N.Y. – the whole Brigade being in attendance. They were of a solemn and impressive character. A salute was fired at meridian. The day has been very pleasant. A sorrow, almost too deep for words, swells the heart of every soldier. All work has been suspended. Wrote a letter home and one to Geo. Rowell.

Thursday 20

Seemed like rain this morning but it soon cleared off, and we had a pleasant day. Nothing of importance transpired until evening, when the news of the surrender of Johnson to Gen. Sherman and other military and civil items of great importance was received. Wrote letters to father and to wife. Troops have been passing all day. The cavalry have gone out to look up stragglers. Rumors say we are soon going home.

Friday 21

Henry Luce reported back to the regiment this morning. He will tent with us, and we three have put up a summer house, with good bunk. The principal theme of conversation seems to be "when shall we go home?" The day was very pleasant, though a slight shower came on just at evening. A number of deserters, some of whom have been away two years, joined the regt. today having given themselves up under the proclamation of the President granting pardon to all who returned.

Saturday 22

We are still enjoying good and pleasant weather. The rest of the drum corps have got up their summer houses. By morning mail received a picture of my little son. Our camp has been thinned of some of the trees, thoroughly policed, and now looks finely. Wrote a letter home. Some more deserters joined us today, under the call of the President, granting pardon to all who gave themselves up before the 10th of May.

Sunday 23

Last night the wind blew cold from the north-west, and this has been a very disagreeable day. It has been hard work to get warm. Went out and got a load of rails to make a fire. Received pictures of wife by morning's mail. Services were held at some of the regiment but I did not attend. John was over to see me this evening. Wrote letter home.

Monday 24

A company of 800 Union prisoners with their guard of 1000 rebels under command of a rebel colonel reported at Corps Headquarters today, having escaped from, or rather, left the prison at Greensborough, N.C. They foraged their rations on the road. They brought about 400 horses and mules with them. They left immediately on hearing of Lee's surrender. Weather pleasant. Wrote and rec'd letter.

Tuesday 25

Today a salute of 13 guns were fired at sunrise, and at intervals of 30 minutes a single gun, and at sunset a national salute of 36 guns, in honor to the memory of the President. Our colors and the swords of the officers are to be draped in mourning. The officers are to wear a badge of mourning for 6 months. Spent the afternoon with John. Weather pleasant. Received a letter from wife.

Wednesday 26

The day has been very warm and pleasant, but with nothing save a rumor that we were to move tomorrow morning, to break the monotony of camp life. Were out practicing both forenoon and afternoon. Spent the evening with John. The news from Sherman has disgusted this portion of the army with him. Received a letter from wife by the mornings mail. Wrote letter home.

Thursday 27

The warm and summer like days continue. Drill and practice occupy most of our time. A batch of late papers received from home, several to while away a few hours of leisure. News of the shooting of Booth, the assassin, and the capture of his associate was officially received last evening. Booth would not be taken alive. Maj. Finklemier is sick and John is acting as Adj. Gen. Wrote letter to wife and received one from her.

Friday 28

Still we have pleasant weather, warm and summer like. In the afternoon official news of the surrender of Johnson to Sherman was received. At evening many of the camps were illuminated and the officers made speeches. Cheering and discharging fire arms was carried far into the night. Wrote a long letter, on the war. Went over to see John in his new office.

Saturday 29

The quiet of our camp life was broken by no incident today. A detail of 100 men from the Battalion for Corps guard left so small a number in camp that there were no parades or drill. Received a batch of papers and two letters from home. Wrote a long letter. Just at evening we had a refreshing shower and the rain continued two or three hours. After the rain the night was splendid. A letter from Capt. Bennet was received today. He is at home well.

Sunday 30

At nine o'clock this morning we were inspected and mustered for two months pay. The weather is perfectly splendid. Eve. The day has been a quiet one. The papers contained particulars of the capture of Booth. About midnight a rain storm set in. Received a letter from home, but being on orderly duty did not find time to write.

Monday 1

Orders for the 2nd Corps to report at Manchester, Va. Were received this morning and as soon as the necessary pontoon trains arrive we shall start. I hear our destination is Alexandria, but I think we shall go from the former to the latter place by transports. By an order from the Sec'y of War, it is probable that we shall be mustered out of service in the course of a month. Weather pleasant and warm. Wrote and received letter.

Tuesday 2

Moved out from camp at 1:20 and marched towards Manchester halting at 8:45 in a large field about 10 miles from an old camp. Got supper and turned in. The roads were in good condition, and the weather being cool and comfortable, it was good marching, though the last five or six miles they hurried us considerable. Our route was through Burksville Station, and towards Jetersville.

Wednesday 3

Broke camp at 6 o'clock and marched without a halt until 11, when we rested for two hours for dinner. Passed through Jetersville, Small cottage, Fire Forks, New Stone and Amelia Court House. The latter is a large and fine looking village. Took up the line of march at 1 o'clock, and continued without halt until 3:40, crossing the Appomattox, and going into camp in a large field about ½ mile beyond the river. Received two letters from home + sent one. The weather remains warm and pleasant.

Thursday 4

Moved out of camp at 7 o'clock + marched four hours without halt. Stopped for dinner 2 hours and then marched 3 hours without halt, going into camp about 8 miles from Richmond. John got thrown from his horse, but was not hurt. The march was awful. Rained at night. During the day we passed through

Friday 5

Moved at 6 o'clock and marched to within a mile of Richmond near a deserted earth work, without halt and went into camp for the day. The 5th and 24th Corps are here. Large numbers of officers have been to the city. John was in R. and saw Norris and C Jay, from home. Received a letter from home and wrote one. Miss Gilson rode through camp in the p.m. In the evening there was a splendid illumination through all the camp. It is a shame to march men as we have been on this march.

Saturday 6

At twelve o'clock today, to the strains of martial music, we march through the city of Manchester and Richmond, passing in view before Gens. Hallack + Meade. Our route was by "Libby Prison", "Castle Thunder" and the burnt district. The reviewing officers were on the C.H. steps in front of the Capitol Building. The 24 Corps was in the city, and stood in line at "shoulder" as we passed. I was much pleased with the city. Moved out about 4 miles and camped for the night.

Sunday 7

Broke camp at 6 o'clock and started north, across the Peninsula. Passed through Hanover Court House and in the course of the day crossed the Pamunkey, Chickahominy, and several smaller streams. The day was very warm, and I suffered much with an attack of sick headache. Went into camp near a running brook and the men all took baths. We had a slight rain at night. Had my haversack stolen.

Monday 8

Got pass from the doctor, and rode in an ambulance through the day. I suffered considerable pain, but was better at night and much rested. Passed through the scene of a portion of last summer's campaign. The roads were very bad and we did not get into pack until 12 o'clock. Our division had got separated from the corps, and gone off on another rode, so I remained with the ambulance all night. During the night it rained hard.

Tuesday 9

Left the ambulance this morning and soon found the regiment. They had been off the right road about three miles and so had got behind the corps. The march was without incident during the day. The roads were quite bad, and our progress was very slow. We halted twice during the day, and went into camp about 11 miles from Fredericksburg for the night about 6 o'clock. We had some showers during the day.

Wednesday 10 (8 months service expires today)

Moved out of camp at 5 o'clock and reached Fredericksburg about 2 o'clock. Our division now formed just outside the city and then marched through. (passing in review before Gen. Humphreys) The city can only be called a mess of ruins though there are some fine looking residence and streets. Before the war it must have been a beautiful place. Crossed the Rappahawnock on pontoons. Passed through Falmouth, (a small, though rather pretty place) over the old battle fields and camp guards of two years ago, and went into camp 5 miles from the city. Got letters from home.

Thursday 11

Broke camp at 8 o'clock, went a short distance and halted to repair roads until 10. Marched until 2:30 and halted for dinner. The weather was very hot and several men were sun struck. Gen. Noble was

among the number. We marched slow. About 5 o'clock a thunder storm burst upon us accompanied with hail. I never saw such a storm. The hail stones were as large as minnie bullets and pelted us mercilessly. We camped in a large field at 6:30 and made ourselves as comfortable as possible, the rain falling in torrents. Passed several creeks during the day and saw the Blue Ridge Mountains. At night the weather was very cold.

Friday 12

Last night was the most miserably disagreeable night I ever "put in" in my life and one of the greatest suffering. Rained all night with cold northwind. Moved out from camp at 9:30. Halted for dinner at 2 o'clock and went into camp at 5 in a large field. The roads were in bad condition, but we made about 12 miles. The march was without incident, though we passed through some fine belts of country, and pretty residences. The D.C. are at the head of the Brig. And play occasionally. The weather was pleasant but cool.

Saturday 13

Three days rations issued this morning at 2 o'clock. Moved out of camp to the music of the D.C. at 6 o'clock and passing by some leveled rebel works, crossed the "Wolf Run Sholes" on pontoons, about 10. The Sholes are very wide and shallow. Reached Burks Station in the afternoon and rested in a large field. The roads (a kind of "by pass") from Burks Station were in horrid condition, almost a mass of mud, and we had to find one stream about knee deep. Went into camp about 6:30 and after supper turned in without pitching tent. The march today was easy.

Sunday 14

We have today been allowed a refreshing day of rest and quiet in a pleasant and airy camp. Large number of visitors have come out to see the troops from Washington – sutler's shops have been opened, and our camp present a lively and pleasant appearance. Orders to move tomorrow to "Four Mile Run", and go into camp have been received. We are about 8 miles from Washington. Wrote a letter home. The day has been very warm. I slept most of the time.

Monday 15

Broke camp at 8:30 and moved off in the direction of Washington. About noon we arrived at "Four Mile Run" and went into camp on a high hill on the south side in full view of the city of Washington. Bought 12 loaves soft bread of a 5th corps Commissary. Our camp ground is covered with a thick growth of "scrub" oak. Rations were issued in the p.m. John heated one to an ice cream. Received 6 letters from home. Corps Tay has a sutler shop near here.

Tuesday 16

Early this morning we commenced operations on a tent, and had in finished before night. The weather was very warm. Found Coyne's Tay's sutler shop and got some butter. He is doing a good business. Had

ration of potatoes issued today. Q.M. Sergt. Has been commissioned. St. Billy Davis has been appointed Q.M. Sergt. A new state color was received this evening by express. Wrote letter home.

Wednesday 17

The day was spent quietly in camp, the men all of them spending much time in discussing when we shall get out of this show. The day was oppressively warm and I found it most comfortable to remain in my tent. Went down to the "Run" and done some washing, and had a splendid bath. Wrote a letter home. Henry and Justus Weston were over to see me. The former is at Lincoln Hospital, Washington.

Thursday 18

Early this morning went over to the 5th Corps. Saw Joe Wyman, Co. Tay, Jim Reed, and Barrett. Took dinner with Barrett. Had a fair time. About noon a heavy thunder shower set in. Four men were killed by lightning on the railroad near the Run. The weather was very cold at evening, and the shower settled into a steady rain. Received a letter from home and wrote one. Orders to get the rolls ready for mustering out the 1 yrs men received this afternoon.

Friday 19

Was on "orderly" duty today, and had a large amount of running to do. The getting ready to muster out a portion of the takes considerable time and a larger number of orders. The day was very unpleasant, a drizzling rain falling most of the time. Oscar Coram, Hosp. Sterr, was mustered out and started for home today. Received a letter from Theo Dudley and wrote one home. Part of Sherman's army arrived near here today.

Saturday 20

The stormy weather still continues. Rain most of the time all day. I was quite sick last night and have passed a miserable day. Was better at evening. Drew two new pairs of drawers. It is certain we shall go home in a few days. John is going to Washington tomorrow on a 24 hour pass. Received a letter from home and wrote one. The 14th A.C. arrived near here today.

Sunday 21

Another very stormy and very disagreeable day. John left camp for Washington about three o'clock this afternoon. Preparations for the grand review are going forward and inspections are quite in vogue. Have been very much better today. Owing to the rain we have had no inspection, though the officers have had orders to be very careful in the inspections at retreat. Wrote letter home. It rained very hard just at night.

Monday 22

This morning the sun rose clear and bright and we have the cheering prospect of a good day. Went over to the 5th Corps this forenoon. The Woburn boys are all well. On my way back saw portions of Sheridans cavalry going towards Washington to bivouac for the night. In the afternoon was very busy in the muster-out rolls of our company. Wrote letter home. John returned from Washington this p.m.

Tuesday 23

Today the grand review of the army of the Potomac and Sheridans cavalry has taken place. We entered the city over Long Bridge and formed in company front at the head of N.J. Avenue. Moved about 3 o'clock down Penn. Av. By the capitol. Treasury buildings, by the serving officers, past the "White House" over to Lexington and crossed the Potomac on a pontoon bridge just below Aqueduct Bridge. The day was splendid and the display grand. It was a day long to be remembered.

Wednesday 24

The second part of the closing out of this grand drama of war, was enacted in Washington today, in the review of Shermans grand army. They made a fine display. I worked all day on our muster-out rolls which I completed. Weather very clear and pleasant. Wrote letter home. Jim Kain and Radington went to see the review. Came home pretty well "set up".

Thursday 25

Got the balance of our discharges completed this forenoon and the whole of the papers were forwarded to Corps Headqrs. The day was clear and pleasant. Gen. McAllister had his wife and daughter with some lady friends out here to visit at his headquarters. The "vets" are feeling badly about being retained in the service now the war is over. This laying in camp is a "homesick" life anyway.

Friday 26

The day was quite pleasant until towards noon, when a rain storm set in cold and very disagreeable. In order to keep comfortable I had to go to bed and cover myself with my blankets. Received a letter at night from my wife. She was in Newark, on a visit to her relations. Wrote letter home. Have not been very well today.

Saturday 27

The storm which commenced yesterday has continued and this has been a very cold and disagreeable day. One could not be comfortable anywhere even beside the fire. Our papers all came back this evening for correction in some slight matters. This will delay out muster out two or three days. Gen. McAllister is going home with the 11th N.J. – his old regiment.

Sunday 28

During last night the weather cleared off and this has been a very fine day, though not as warm as we should expect at this season of the year. Had inspection this forenoon and dress parade this evening. At Brig. H.Q. they have quite a number of lady visitors. The 120th Band went over and gave them some music. Our rolls have been corrected, and will go forward tomorrow. Wrote letter home.

Monday 29

On "orderly" duty today. I hope it is for the last time. Took our papers to Div. Headquarters. Had quite a rain storm last night, after dark. I have not been well today, but have kept out my duty. Our rolls came back for some slight changes this afternoon. I made them and John took them over again. The day has been very pleasant and quite warm.

Tuesday 30

A review of the 2nd Corps took place this afternoon at Baileys Cross Roads. I was sick and did not go over. The 141 Pa. Rgt. Went home this morning and some men from the 32nd Mass. Went home. Sts. Tidd and Wyman were over to camp this morning. The 39th Mass will be mustered out this week they think. The weather has been very warm and pleasant.

Wednesday 31

We have seen the close of the month of May, still in the service and the day of our muster-out is still distant. The 120th N.Y. made up a torchlight procession and went over to the 4th Excelsior this evening accompanied with their band. They had quite a time. The vets in the 120th are going into the 4th Ex. Pleasant all day. Was some better today. The 120th expects to be mustered out tomorrow.

Thursday June 1

Summer dawned upon us today, bright and pleasant – and very warm. Our muster-out is still delayed for some cause, though I hear application has been made for our transportation. The 120th did not go yesterday. The 4th Excelsior returned the compliment of the 120th last evening by a similar display. The boys had a good time. Dancing, singing and music was in order. Received two letters from wife. Wrote one.

Friday 2

John went to Washington today, and was mustered out of the service. He is going home with us. He goes to the city tomorrow to settle up his accounts. The day was very warm. The veterans in the 120th were transferred this afternoon and this evening the boys going home paid them a visit. I am some better today. The 6th Corps arrived near here this morning. Received a letter from home this evening. Wrote one home.

Saturday 3

John L. Parker, citizen, left camp this morning, the envy of more than one. We shall follow him in a day or two I hope, and possibly we may arrive home first as he has his accounts to settle. The day has been very warm. I have been at work on a pipe for Jim Kain. Received a letter from wife.

Sunday 4

The 120th New York left here for home this morning, at 4 o'clock. Last night was very damp and foggy. Today has been very hot. Our papers came back this afternoon, with transportation. Our muster out dates from today and we are to start for home tomorrow forenoon, in charge of Capt. Chapin, Co. C. We are to report at B + O R.R. at one o'clock tomorrow. Good by soldier – Tomorrow will be a happy day.

Monday 5

Left camp this morning about 10 o'clock and arrived at Washington at 2. Took cars for Baltimore at 8:30 p.m. where we arrived at 2 at night. We had old coal cars to ride in and got pretty dirty. Baltimore by night was not very attractive. We left Baltimore just before daylight and pressed on towards Philadelphia.

Tuesday 6

We left Baltimore about daylight and arrived at Philadelphia at noon. Partook of a splendid dinner at the "Soldier's Home" after which we took leave for Camden. Leaving there we arrived at Ambay at 9:00 and took boat for New York, which we reached at 11:30, and got supper and good rest at the barracks. The weather during the day was cool and quite pleasant. We had good cars today.

Wednesday 7

Left the barracks early, and went to Brooklyn. They did not recognize me at uncle Miles'. Took breakfast, and then called on Anna. Found them all well. Left the Barracks at 4:30 and went on board the Steamer "City of Norwich" for Norwich. Conn. This was the freight boat, and we had accommodation on the upper deck. The night was warm and pleasant and then men all passed a comfortable night.

Thursday 8

Arrived at Norwich at 7 o'clock and took into cars at once for Boston. This time we had good passengers' cars, and the ride was a pleasant one. We arrived at Worcester at 11 o'clock and I got some breakfast. We reached Boston at 12:30 and I left the party for home. Came to Woburn in the 2:30 train on the Lowell R.R. and took the folks by surprise. I was glad to get home and they all seemed glad to see me. John arrived yesterday.

Friday 9

Went to Boston this morning and saw some of my old acquaintances. This afternoon the town gave all the returning soldiers a grand reception on the common and afterwards a supper at the Central House. J.G. Pollard made the address of welcome, which was good. Hall's Band furnished music. The whole town was out in its gala dress to welcome us home.

Friday 16

This forenoon at Beach Street Barracks, Boston, was paid in full to June 8th and received #33.33, and got the "turkey buzzard" which proclaims that I have received an honorable discharge. The whole amount recd was \$117. So ends my career as a soldier in the service of Uncle Samuel. By being discharged before the expiration of my term of service I lose #33.33 U.S. Bounty and \$60 State bounty. It is mean treat soldiers so who have served honorably to the close of the war and been discharged because Government no longer has need of us, but we will have to stand it. In our case we find the old adage true that "Republics are ungrateful". The whole regiment is expected home soon.

Tuesday July 18

The 11th Mass Vol. Inf. Arrived at Readville this morning about 4 o'clock under command of St. Col. Dunham and soon after dispersed to their homes. They will be paid off and discharged in a few days. Since I left, Col. Rivers has resigned, Capt. Mansfield has been made Major, Adj. Boucher Captain, Sergt. Major Macintire, + Ord. Sergt. Auty, Lieutenants, St. Leary adjutant and several others in line have received promotions. The Battalion numbers 230 effective men.

MEMORANDA

Summary of events from Sept. 10th 1864 to January 1 1865:-

On the 10th of September took the nine o'clock train for Boston, was examined and sworn into the U.S. service for the term of one year. Remained in Faneuil Hall until six o'clock, and then went on board the boat for Gallop Island. That night slept on the floor of No. 13 Barrack. On Monday, 12th went into the cook house with Tom Glynn to cook for the Barrack. Remained there one week and then was transferred to No. 6. Remained here three weeks, and then with all the other recruits for the 11th Regt. was transferred to No. 16. In No. 6 + 16 I acted as Sergeant of the Barracks, and had most comfortable quarters. My wife visited me three times during my stay on the Island. N the 18th of October John was mustered in as 2nd Lieut, on the 20th J.L. Chaplin was mustered as 1st Lt. and on the 22nd W.R. Bennett was mustered as Captain. Our company was organized at once. I was appointed Corporal. The week after I resigned, and was detailed as bugler and fifer for the company. Our company numbered 82 men. On Sunday Oct. 31st, our company received orders to get ready to go on board the transport lying off the wharf as guard over some 600 recruits for various organizations in the field. At six o'clock Monday

morning we were on board, and at ten o'clock we cast off and ran into the stream. My wife came down on the Island City on a pass to see me, and was much disappointed to find us gone, but that boat having to come off to us to bring a steam engine for Gen. Butler she came with it, and I had a chance to see her and bid her goodbye. About one o'clock Capt. Bennett came on board, and immediately after we started off. Rain commenced to fall about this time, and the weather continued bad all the voyage. We reached Ft. Monroe in the evening of Nov. 2nd. The next morning John and Capt. Bennett went ashore at the Fort, and he mailed a letter home for me. As soon as they returned, the pilot came off + we started up the James River for City Point. Arrived at City Point about dark, and at 8 o'clock received orders to disembark. The recruits we were guarding were unloaded first. This took till near 12 o'clock. About 1 o'clock we were all off, and in a pelting rain, with mud ankle deep, we were marched to a kind of shed, open at both ends, and left for the night. There was an inch or two of mud on the floor, but the men were too tired to heed that. I made my bed on an old slat ladder, which served to keep me out of the mud, tho' the slats of the bed were rather too far apart for comfort. The next morning we were marched to the adjutants, and about noon took the case on the "U.S.M.R.R." to join our regiment. We left Capt. Bennett, Tom Glynn + Walter Allen at City Point. We disembarked at "Meade's" station, and after marching about a mile found our regiment, encamped in the rear of Ft. Morton. Our reception was a warm one, for that afternoon a number of rebel shells burst in the field directly opposite our camp, and a number of bullets lodged in the trees. The next night John + Lt. Chapin were detailed for picket. At 10 o'clock we had orders to pack up and move as an attack was expected. The regiment was moved to Ft. Morton. At 12 o'clock the rebels attacked our picket line, and captured 10 pits. They were retaken next morning. The rebels lost in this attack: 28 killed 100 prisoners, and a large number wounded. Laid at Ft. Morton, under fire all the time night and day, until Nov. 30th when orders to move were issued. That afternoon I received a box from home, containing a coat, boots, nuts, apples, cake, etc. John had box at same time. Got his carried in the teams. Eat all I could, gave away some, and carried the rest on my back and in my hands. First night marched about three miles, and encamped for the night in a field opposite the "Tressle Bridge". Started at sunrise next morning, and marked 8 miles to the rear of Ft. Emery + encamped for the night in a pine grove. Next morning went to a camp in front of Ft. Emery near Poplar Grove Church. Here we remained until the morning of Dec. 6th, the men being engaged in putting up winter quarters and cleaning up the camp ground for drilling purposes. On the evening of Dec. 5th orders to be ready to move at daylight on the 6th were promulgated. Moved at daylight. Two Divisions of the 2nd Corps, under Gen. Mott formed in line of march near the Gurley House on the U.S.M.R.R. Started on the march at 10 am. Struck the Jerusalem Plank Road about 3 miles from our old camp. Followed this road all day, making a forced march and just at night halted in a field about ½ mile this side the Nottoway River to make coffee. The whole of the 5th Corps were encamped on the opposite side of the road. About 7 o'clock started again + crossed the river on pontoon bridge, and encamped for the night just beyond the river in a large field. Got into camp about 9 o'clock. Towards morning had a heavy shower of rain. In this first days march I struggled, and came in about 2 hours behind the regt. About 2 o'clock next morning, the 5th Corps passed us. We started at 7 o'clock. Reached Sussex Court House about noon. Encamped for the night in a field about 3 miles beyond the C. H. Started at daylight next morning, passed through "Jarretts Station", burnt last year by Wilson's cavalry, and reached the Weldon at about 11 o'clock. Tore up the R.R. the length of our two Divisions, and then passed on by the 5th Corps (who has passed us while we were at work on the road) who were who were teasing up and burning the road as we had done. After tearing up another stretch of the road our Divisions encamped for the night on the opposite side of the road. After dark the whole force on the raid, about 40,000 men, were

marched in light marching order as far as Three Mile Creek, and tore up the road to that place. Having encountered a large force of the enemy, orders to return were given and the next morning at daylight we started on our return trip. We had had rain every day since starting, and the roads were in horrible condition. We made 22 miles the first day, camping at night within 4 miles of Sussex Court House. On this march saw the bodies of three men who had been murdered by guerillas. Gen. Warren, who had command of the whole force, gave orders as a retaliation, to burn everything on the road. The next morning passed through Sussex C.H. again. After we passed, the cavalry burnt the whole village. The murderers of the three men spoken of were caught and hung. The men many of them found large quantities of "apple jack" at some of the houses, got intoxicated, and perished from exhaustion and exposure. This afternoon we reached the Nottoway River. Our regiment were thrown out as skirmishers, and covered the retreat of the army across the Nottoway. Got over just after dark, marched about five miles, and encamped for the night in a grove of pines. The night was clear and cold and the ground froze hard. Started next morning soon after daylight. It was awful walking, and they marched us very fast. I kept up until we reached our lines, and then fell out, and took my own time, being very lame from the effects of an old injury to my knee pan. Came up with the Reg. near Ft. Emery. In our absence our old camp had been destroyed to give range to the guns of the forts, as an attack from the rebels was expected. A new camp ground was selected for us near Ft. Duchien, and we marched to this place in the P.M. Camped that night (Dec. 12) in a field. Next morning (13th) moved ¼ mile nearer the Weldon R.R. to a small grove of pines, which was at once cleared away, and our camp staked out. From that time until now (Dec. 29th), the Regt. has been engaged in building winter quarters, and have them nearly completed.

On the march, as in front of Petersburg and Ft. Emery, I tented with Lt. J.L.P. At our present camp we have a nice log house, with a little camp stove in it. It is very comfortable. When I got back from the raid found 4 letters from home. On Monday 19th received a large box from home, sent by Nelie and Amelia to John + I, for Christmas. It contained pies, cakes, doughnuts, milk, tomatoes, sardines, eggs, sugar, coffee, lemons, nuts, apples, popped corn, salt, Christmas pudding, medicine, tobacco, spruce gum, crackers, stockings, spoons, Bologna sausages, smoked halibut, sausages, cranberries, dried apple, pigs tail, penny whistle, squeaking toy, china doll, toy hen, the greatest thing in the shape of an army box I ever received.

Dec. 28 – Received diary as Christmas present. Was on orderly duty all day.

Dec. 29 – Received No. 35 letter from wife. Had previously received Nos. 36 + 37. Inferred a little. Put up chimney made from an old hollow apple tree stump. Stove took notion not to draw. Smoked us out + was unable to cook. Made supper at Capt. B's fire. John spent evening with Lts. Wheeler + Lennihan. Hastings made us present of some pie, doughnuts + apples, just received from home.

Dec. 30 – Received letter No. 38. Sent No. 30. James Griffin chief clerk Forage Dpt. City Point, called to see us, and stopped to tea. Had a pleasant time talking of old times. He has a good place. Chimney caught fire and burnt up. John on fatigue duty at Brig. H.Q. Weather clear + cold. Received in the evening No. 39 letter.

Dec. 31 – Mustered in for 4 months pay. Stormed all day. In the afternoon commenced snowing, and at night the ground was well covered. Set out to see the old year out, but got tired and retired soon after 10 o'clock. By the evening mail received letter No. 40 from my wife. Good bye to old 1864!