

Diary of Lieutenant James H. Linsley, 10<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers, Expeditions in South Carolina and Florida, Volume 2, 1863-1864

[Pocket notebook of 106 pages in black leather binding with flap. The first 61 pages are numbered in ink.]

[Title page]

Black Island, S.C.

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

Morris Island, S.C

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 1863

St. Augustine, Fla. Oct. 31 1863

Jas. [James] H. Linsley

Lieut. 10<sup>th</sup> C.V. [Lieutenant, 10<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers]

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[First entries are from the previous 1862 diary and included here in their proper chronological sequence].

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> 1863. Leave Newbern and go on board Steamer Vidette at Monehend [?] City.

[Jan.] 29<sup>th</sup>. Start out over the barr [*sic*].

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Enter the harbor of Port Royal [South Carolina].

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. Go on shore on St. Helena Island where we remain till March 27<sup>th</sup>. Go on board Ceahawtan [?]

[March] 28<sup>th</sup>. Leave and go to Stono Inlet, S.C. and skirmish till dark. Sleep on the ground.

Sunday [March] 29<sup>th</sup>. Rain, rain, rain. Lie on the ground under palm leaves. Chase a rabbit occasionally. Start back to our lines in the rain. Get our tents out and pitch them in the rain and worry through to the night.

[March] 30<sup>th</sup>. Get the rest of our stores on shore, re-equip [?] our camp, &c, &c.

Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>. Last night struck camp and got everything aboard. Went on board today ourselves and were immediately ordered back to camp again.

Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>. Visit Seabrook Mansion [Edisto Island, S.C.]. The garden the most magnificent in its desolation of anything I ever saw. Figs, oranges, and lemon [?], strawberries, roses, [illegible], cotton & corn are gathered, cotton & [illegible] mill engine and boilers going to ruin. On Botany Bay Island live oaks, pine, and undergrowth are thick on land apparently once cultivated. An army of fiddlers (blackfish bait) unequaled by anything I ever saw moving in parallel columns covering almost the ground for yards.

Left Seabrook July 7<sup>th</sup>, landed on James Island July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Morning of July 16<sup>th</sup> attacked by rebels while on picket. Negroes on our right fought splendidly. Several rebel officers killed. [missing text] Island at night.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. Embark at night. Go to Folly Island 18<sup>th</sup> land on Morris Island & take part in the engagement at Fort Wagner. On picket at night making four days of severe fatigue.

July 23

Work on battery for Sumpter [Sumter]

[Diary begins here on leaf 30]

Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1863. On picket on Black's Island, S.C. Since being here, one month, we have helped erect batteries and mount 2 30 pdr. Howitzers [two 30 pounder howitzers] and one 100 pdr. [pounder] gun, and a magazine. The island has been shelled four different days. Ordered to camp as soon as dark, crossing the bridge to Morris Island.

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1863. About half hour sleep and preparations made for storming Wagner. Regiment ready with Stevenson's [Colonel Thomas G. Stevenson's] Brigade. Command second company. A deserter brings intelligence of evacuation which proves correct. Advance up the beach under a severe fire from James Island batteries. Pass Wagner and advance upon Gregg which is also abandoned. Maj. Sanford captured about 80 of the last with his pickets. Being exposed to fire from both flanks we return before daylight. Wagner showed that our heavy artillery could even plough down sand banks which had become the last hope of the rebels defending this stronghold of secession. Return to Black's Island by boat.

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Ordered to camp about noon. At five move for an attack on Fort Sumpter [Sumter] with 24<sup>th</sup> Mass. 7th Conn. 2 howitzers, with 50 men from our regiment. Capt. Goodyman & myself are to attack the wharf and sally port. We embark and wait at the mouth of the creek for the regiments. Drift near [Fort] Johnson's batteries. At length all being ready we give way for the fort. Arriving about 300 yds. the naval attack commences and by arrangement we hold off. The firing is sharp for a few minutes, and

batteries open in all directions. Seeing no signal of success we withdrew and return to camp, tired and sleepy, arriving about daylight.

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Resting as well as we can. We return again to Black Island. The Navy lost about 100 men and five boats, making no attack on the wharf.

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Work going on dismounting the guns erected to shell Charleston. Gregg is nearly a mile nearer. Deserters say that the reason we are not fired on is that it is supposed we have a nest of batteries which it is not desirable to wake up.

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Go to camp find that orders ought to have reached us to return. Receive express from New York. Picket return at night. Mail received.

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Getting settled in camp which is more disagreeable from our long pleasant dwelling in the wilderness of Blacks.

[Sept.] 13<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Last night in command of 150 men at work on Battery Gregg. Under fire from [Forts] Moultrie and Johnson. Rifle on Johnson throwing solid shot with amazing velocity sweeping our road, once in 15 minutes, but have to wait 45 when we quit work to have a clear road.

[Sept.] 14<sup>th</sup>. Monday. Get a daguerreotype at Cooleys to send home.

[Sept.] 15<sup>th</sup>. On picket near the bridge. Magazine at Fort Bragg blown up.  
[written between the lines] Battery Cheers  
Command the regiment into camp!

[Sept.] 18<sup>th</sup>. On guard. Regiment again on grand Guard. Black Island shelled by Rebel Batteries. Mark Tomlinson dismissed by court martial.

[Sept.] 19<sup>th</sup>. Small mail received.

[Sept.] 20<sup>th</sup>. Regiment on fatigue. Weather extremely cool for season and latitude.

[Sept.] 22<sup>nd</sup>. Arrival of Arago's mail. Commission of Maj. Gen. Gilmore. [Major General Quincy Adams Gilmore]. Salute fired in his honor. Earned which is more than can be said of many of the double starred gentry.

[Sept.] 23<sup>rd</sup>. I find myself nearly buried in sand this morning. Very windy. Clear out tent and turf it with sods from Rebel Mortar battery, which is better than no floor at all.

[Sept.] 24<sup>th</sup>. Review in honor of Maj. Gen. Gilmore. 21 Regiments & 3 Batteries. A fine parade on the long beach.

25<sup>th</sup>. Sept. Regiment paid by Maj. Babbitt. Settled mess account to date. Servants wages to Sept. 1st. 3 men of 7th return from Richmond, escaping the guards.

[Sept.] 26<sup>th</sup>. Mailed letter home containing check No. 77 for \$100.00 from W.M. Babbitt Paymaster.

[Sept.] 27<sup>th</sup>. Detailed for Grand Guard.

[Sept.] 28<sup>th</sup>. Commanding at Fort Gregg. Fine view of Charleston and adjacent villages and forts. Our engineer killed and two men wounded by a shot. Enemy's firing pretty good. Sumpter's [Sumter's] damages appear more distinct than at a greater distance.

[Sept.] 29<sup>th</sup>. On sick list from severe cold, not common to me in this climate.

Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Another attack of intermittent fever.

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Mail received.

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Another mail. Letter from home. Post of Regiment on picket at Gregg. Gen. Gilmore gives 60 days furlough to 3 men of 7th escaped from Richmond.

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Arago's mail received after long detention on Folly Island. Mail arrangements certainly need revising.

[Oct.] 10<sup>th</sup>. The weather is beautiful. The sea calm and a walk on the beach at low tide the most profitable recreation to be found about here. Called on Dr. Harrison of the Independent Battalion.

[Oct.] 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Detailed for fatigue at Gregg. Rapid shelling from Brooks Rifle and Mortars. Near being loaded with sand bags. One man seriously wounded by some shell. Piece of shell through 200 prds [pounder's] gun carriage.

[Oct.] 12<sup>th</sup>. Find myself very lame from strain and injuries by the sand bags yesterday. Gave out the state bounties. Regiment on picket.

[Oct.] 13<sup>th</sup>. Officer of Day. General order for guard mounting in heavy marching order. Guard turned out six times per day. Regular besides occasional.

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. A little rain.

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Mail received.

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. Fulton's mail received. 7<sup>th</sup> leave for St. Helena.

[Oct.] 17<sup>th</sup>. One of those beautiful Autumn days. "Sweet day so cool, so calm, so bright," the Indian Summer of more northern latitudes when the death of Nature seems to be exemplified in the still quiet of the atmosphere. But the sea, was that ever quiet? I think not. Even when no breeze raises a ripple on its glassy surface, and its blue grandeur

stretches undisturbed as far as the eye can reach, those long lazy swells rise near the shore and dash themselves on the beach.

[Oct.] 18<sup>th</sup>. Preaching by Mr. Emmons of the Christian Commission.

[Oct.] 19<sup>th</sup>. Regiment went out last night on grand guard.

[Oct.] 20<sup>th</sup>. Regiment on fatigue. Harrison came from home. Some of the sick to be sent away .

[Oct.] 21<sup>st</sup>. Detailed for grand guard.

[Oct.] 22<sup>nd</sup>. At Fort Wagner which is indeed a stupendous work. Much improved by our labors. The ground around is thickly strewn with fragments of missiles as various in kind as the genius of man has invented. A collection might be made which would form a heavy museum of curiosities.

[Oct.] 23<sup>rd</sup>. Severe rain this morning.

24<sup>th</sup> Oct. Counted over 200 graves in the burying ground mostly of men died of disease on this island.

[Oct.] 25<sup>th</sup>. Detailed at night to load baggage on the Monohansett, to remove to St. Augustine, Fla. Right wing come on board about 10 o'clock.

[Oct.] 26<sup>th</sup>. Leave Morris Island about 6 o'clock A.M. Go to coal up Seabrook Landing.

[Oct.] 27<sup>th</sup>. Bury Cutts at the Landing and return to the Head whence we leave about 4 o'clock. Lieut. Keith arrives at Head with conscripts for Sixth.

[Oct.] 28<sup>th</sup>. Put into Fernandina on account of the weather. A small village terminus of Gulf Railroad. Senator Yulee's [David Levy Yulee] speculation. Residence of Gen. Finnegan [General Joseph Finegan]. Take a ride out on the railroad which is being taken up to be taken to [~~Morris~~] Folly Island.

[Oct.] 29<sup>th</sup>. Visit "Oldtown" and Fort Clinch situated in a most desolate position. A large number of 9<sup>th</sup> Me. [9<sup>th</sup> Maine] in the burying ground. Some fine marble stones erected by the officers and men of the companies.

[Oct.] 30<sup>th</sup>. Officer of day. Still remain at Fernandina. Men allowed to go on shore.

[Oct.] 31<sup>st</sup>. Leave at 2 A.M. Enter St. Augustine about 11 A.M. Entrance narrow and devious. Salute fired from fort and grand rush to get ahead of us at Hotel table by 24th Mass. Go into camp North of city. Marching from Plaza through St. George St.

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. 1863. Had the satisfaction of seeing one genuine Union man in this rebellious

section, an Irishman, old line Whig who is Union to the death. Lost one son and 500 head of cattle by the rebels. Went with Col. Hawley [Colonel Joseph Roswell Hawley] to drive in cattle. "What a shame! What a shame! to drive away the people's cattle." "Yes! but when you took mine it was a God's blessing." Could make more with the labor of his family from his farm than his neighbors with 160 slaves. Always voted at every election, when he had to come 38 miles, and always licked one or two Democrats. Can lick every rebel in St. Augustine now if he was well! Served in the Indian wars and knew all the old officers of the army. Bully for Quigley! The Union Irishman of Florida. Union forever!

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. A rainy unpleasant day. Men doing well fishing and oystering fixing camp and growing!

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Engaged board at Mrs. [Quigley's] Mather's [Sarah Mather, schoolmistress, provided rooms to lodge officers] An excellent place to recruit one's health! Visited the Cathedral which I shall describe more minutely at some future time. Dress parade, first time.

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. As an instance of orange fruitfulness I am told of one person picking 2400 from one tree worth \$72.00.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Hawley's schooner arrives with the sutler's goods. Weather mild and air bracing.

[Nov.] 8<sup>th</sup>. Arrival of steamer Tiller with mail. Service by Mr. Wayland in Episcopal Church. Mrs. Hawley & Wayland have to hurry away by boat at three o'clock.

[Nov.] 9<sup>th</sup>. Officer of Day & Guard. Have a dress parade in town yesterday.

10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Intensely cold weather for this latitude, occasioning much suffering among the soldiers. Thermometer down to 46° in morning, which affects our thin blood amazingly. A fall from 82° since noon of the 8th of 36° is such a difference as would be materially felt anywhere at any season.

[Nov.] 11<sup>th</sup>. Another cold morning. Thermometer 48°. Post Commissary Capt. Swetland found 45 sacks Salt & 12 lbs. Lime in a house of which he received no account and there was none in the accounts. Col. Hawley found the Public Stores in 18 different places. The appointment of a permanent Commissary for the Post will materially diminish the confusion arising from frequent changes of troops. Weather materially moderates toward night.

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. On Board of Survey to investigate discrepancies between packages of goods and invoices turned over from previous P.Q.M. [post quarter master].

[Nov.] 13<sup>th</sup>. Made out report of board six pages Cap paper. Mail arrived on steamer Monohansett. Going into Fernandina yesterday met Tillis coming out having been there since Sunday.

[Nov.] 14<sup>th</sup>. Rainy morning.

[Nov.] 15<sup>th</sup>. Clear and pleasant.

[Nov.] 16<sup>th</sup>. Had a small singing party at Miss Mather's. Made up a box for home with lemons, limes, oranges, guavas, lily roots, etc.

[Nov.] 17<sup>th</sup>. Officer of Day and Guard. Review by Col. Osborne [Colonel F. A. Osborne] and staff! Lemons produce constantly. Miss Mather has one which has had lemons on for three years.

[Nov.] 18<sup>th</sup>. Visited military burying ground. Maj. Lowd [Major Allen Lowd] and wife in a fortnight died & buried here. Capt. Hanham [Captain J.B.D. Hanham] and Lieut. Col. Hardee [Lieutenant Colonel William J. Hardee] have buried their wives here. A beautiful monument to Lieut. [blank space here] consisting of a broken column on a pedestal. On the column are hung the American flag, a sword belt & sash. A large monument to the officers & men who fell in the Florida war and committing the care of it and the grounds to the garrison of the post. Visited Mrs. Anderson in the evening. Were well entertained by the Glee Club of the 24th Mass. Mrs. & Miss Smith & Miss Stricker [?] with a large share of the 24th officers present. [??] were a fair and loyal! rebel sympathizers!

[Nov.] 19<sup>th</sup>. Visited Capt. Fowler and Mrs. Drummett [Dummett], Gen. Hardee's mother in law. Poor enough now except for charity and [??]

[Nov.] 20<sup>th</sup>. Arrival of Tilly, Cosmopolitan and Monahasset. Mail.

[Nov.] 22. Visited Cathedral. About as miserable preaching as I ever heard except 2nd Advent men. Among [Among] other things "God might have mad[e] the world ten times better but at the creation he did not stop to study on it!" Colored Sunday School under Mr. Brinkerhoff.

[Nov.] 23. Start on a scout but return on reaching outer pickets. Cosmopolitan with Gens. Seymour [General Truman Seymour] & Sprague [General John W. Sprague] arrived.

[Nov.] 24. Review of both regiments. Gen. Seymour said "The best manual he ever saw and the best drill in the Department!" Complimented also our sentinels. Evening generals and other company at Miss Mather's. Serenade by our band.

25<sup>th</sup>. Evening at the Agency of the Treasury. New England forever. Chivalry and Southern society be hanged!

[Nov.] 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving Service by Mr. Brinkerhoff. Dinner Turkey &c. 24th Mass. dinner at 3. 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 to convalescent officers. Concert by Glee Club of an interesting character.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Ice formed and ground frozen slightly. Not enough to injure orange trees. Shots fired at night from the fort at barrel buoy or something unknown.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wright (English) and his wife came through the lines bringing papers and news of Bragg's [General Braxton Bragg's] defeat, with Grant's [General Ulysses S. Grant] dispatches before we get the news of a battle. The people are longing for "peace at any price." Let the army be destroyed.

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Meeting by the regiment to hear the experience of Mr. Trummeu [?] in the rebel prisons. He found many Union men in Hospitals as nurses and among the guards. Nurses were frequently changed but with all this effort at least 3/4 were Union men and showed what kindness. One loud mouthed brawler of Secession found an opportunity when the face of the guard was averted to whisper, "I'm with you. I hope to be fighting on your side yet, but I can't come yet." Another said he was a Union man, being asked if there were many in his company replied "not many I don't know but one that I would trust." Another better posted said that one third of the company would rebel if they had a favorable opportunity for success. He paid a high compliment to the constancy of our men who were offered money without stint and liberty to betray their knowledge of the Ironsides, but nothing could be learned except from a deserter from the English Navy. At the close of the exercises a fine sword was presented to him from the enlisted men of the "Tenth," a fitting testimonial of their appreciation of his worth.

Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. A most unfortunate affair occurred today. A party of our men surprised and 21 captured and 2 killed. A Lieutenant [of the] 24th wounded and 3 men taken. It would seem that with the knowledge professedly had beforehand some precaution might have been taken to prevent it.

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864. Anniversary of President's proclamation of Freedom celebrated by Freedmen of Florida. Addresses on the Plaza by Anti-Slavery men of New England to the negroes of this slave ridden state of Florida. Music by the colored schools who came out in procession in gala dress. Winding up with fine collation provided by the colored people, to which the army officers of both regiments and the hospital and others were invited.

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Greeley's [wife of Lieut. Col. E.S. Greeley] party. Very pleasant evening. Splendid Tableaux.

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. Complimentary Concert by Tenth Conn. Board.

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Performance by Minstrel Band.

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Arrival of Gunboat Oleander and Steamer Mary Benton.

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Forgot my hat! Why? Consequences?

[Feb.] 13<sup>th</sup>. Left Augustine looking more attractive than ever before! Even the scrubby

sand hills in the mild and balmy morning, seemed hard to part from. Shall we ever walk these streets again? Or enjoy the society of the friends we have met here? The sea was calm and our voyage pleasant. Night beautiful with moon and stars. The men with jest and song pass the evening in enjoyment.

[Feb.] 14<sup>th</sup>. Sunday at Hilton Head. Turned out of church! No business to have been a white man!!!

[Feb.] 15<sup>th</sup>. Sand flying in clouds. Deliver us from this place!

[Feb.] 16<sup>th</sup>. Embark on Atlantic for New York.

Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>. Visit [the] Bartholomew Marbles at Hartford, [Connecticut]. "Eve Repentant" is the best face ever, living, breathing[?] Sappho, Diana, and Evening Star. [These are all works by the sculptor Edward Sheffield Bartholomew, a native of Connecticut].

Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>. Left Hartford on Steamer as much mud as was agreeable.

[Apr.] 12<sup>th</sup>. Arrive in New York. Breakfast at barracks. Go to [Perth] Amboy on ferry. Same sympathy in Jersey manifested by waving large flags &c and cheers. Reach Philadelphia at evening. Supper in Volunteer Dining Saloon, which is kept up with as hearty a sympathy for the soldier as ever. Though passing through city at midnight, the demonstrations of the people not wanting and remind us of our ovation three years ago.

[Apr.] 13<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast with Union Relief Association in Baltimore which is much better than New York. Baltimore as also Camden are brick cities which I much dislike for appearance beside such cities as New Haven. Arrive in Washington in evening. Put up at National Hotel.

[Apr.] 14<sup>th</sup>. Go into barracks at [River???] of Distribution, Va. Detachments of veterans, conscripts, sick, deserters, etc. make up camp. Fine Library and large chapel. Appointed Quartermaster and visit Washington several times during our stay. Find Upson in Treasury. Warren etc. Institute. Capital and other places of interest require much time to see to advantage.

[Apr.] 24<sup>th</sup>. Leave for Alexandria. Stay over night with Capt. Lee.

[Apr.] 25<sup>th</sup>. Go down the broad Potomac passing Mt. Vernon. A pleasant passage.

[Apr.] 26<sup>th</sup>. Arrive at Fortress Monroe. Go back to Gloucester Point.

Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>. Muster. Review by Gen. Ames [General Adelbert Ames] & again by Gen. Butler [General Benjamin Franklin Butler].

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hailstorm and wind, hold up your house or have it blow down. 6th Conn. without tents. Most of our officers and men are drowned out.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. Break camp. Embark on Gen. Hooker [General Joseph Hooker]. Lie in York River till after dusk.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. Find ourselves at Fortress Monroe “Go up James River.” Pass a few fine places. Woods obscure most of country. Arrive at City Point in the evening, up [?] on deck till midnight.

[May] 6<sup>th</sup>. Get ashore about 3 o'clock. March about five miles. Bivouac dig all night.

[May] 7<sup>th</sup>. Stand to arms at morning.

[May] 10<sup>th</sup> Army corps dig several miles of trenches. Gen. Butler comes near being shot, loses his orderly. Spencer rifle.

[May] 7<sup>th</sup>. [*sic*] March out in the sun and remain several hours. Finally march off in the direction of Petersburg. Severe fight near the railroad. One regiment of our brigade engaged. We go on the turnpike, and destroy the telegraph. Birds and Rabbits come out of woods. Our negro officer's servant makes a strike for Freedom. Our losses severe by sunstroke. Return to camp and move it to the rear.

[May] 8<sup>th</sup>. Move again. Detail for fatigue. At night go on picket. Rebs close by us. Dog reconnoiters our post. Day has seemed little like Sunday.

[May] 9<sup>th</sup>. Our forces move out to railroad. Part of brigade occupy River Bottom Church. Good progress so far as we can learn by troops in front— Reach near Petersburg. Heavy cannonading all afternoon.

[May] 10<sup>th</sup>. [*sic*] Fighting severe last night— trying to drive back Gen. Terry [Union General Alfred Howe Terry]. Heavy fighting at our front and right this morning. Our forces driven back at first. Recover their position before night. Return to camp.

[May] 11<sup>th</sup>. Dozen rebel prisoners at headquarters. No two hats, coats or pants alike in crowd. One had evidently stripped one of our soldiers to equip himself. Just get to bed “Linsley you are detailed for fatigue.” Work till one or two o'clock.

[May] 12<sup>th</sup>. Ordered off to “support a movement.” Halt within 11 miles of Manchester. Go in camp usual amount of jumping up at night.

[May] 13<sup>th</sup>. Hurried up more or less during the day. I was sent by Gen. Gillmore [Union General Quincy Adams Gilmore] to take a picket. But there was no one there. A very intelligent negro guide directs the general to the flank of the works which we carry with little fighting. Strong and very firm works. Go on picket at night.

[Written in margin to left:] Salem Church 1797

[May] 14<sup>th</sup>. Up at three. Start at daylight find a part of works evacuated. Fight soon

begins. Go in as skirmishers about 7. Exposed to sharpshooters carry the ridge with the company. Receive a hot fire from the enemies skirmishers, and several pieces of artillery narrow escapes for several men. Steady fighting from daylight till nine at night.

[May] 15<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Very still all day. Skirmishing all day. Ammunition filled up again to sixty rounds.

[May] 16<sup>th</sup>. Foggy morning. Rebs flank 18th Corps and then come down on us. Terrible fighting. Our forces driven back. Our regiment drive the rebels with third New Hampshire. We catch another shelling on the turnpike supporting a battery. There is something grand in the whizzing and bounding of round shot when no one is hurt. We cover the road and leave at last as we turn into camp. Meet Loveland again.

[May] 17<sup>th</sup>. Officer of Guard. Regiment goes out at night picket fight of 11th Maine.

[May] 18<sup>th</sup>. Picket skirmish nearly all day.

[May] 19<sup>th</sup>. Rebs open with artillery some of which reaches our camp. Our regiment not been in trenches since yesterday morning. Monitor's shelling up the river.

[May] 20<sup>th</sup>. Fighting all day at front. Rebs twice take our rifle pits and are at last driven back with severe loss. Gen. Walker [General Francis Amasa Walker] captured. [???] spend most of our time in trenches.

[May] 21<sup>st</sup>. Go to front but return shortly. Rebs building works to shell us. 10 1/2 at night brisk battle. Artillery engaged on both sides.

[May] 22. Sunday. Artillery discharged 300. Work on breastworks.

[May] 23. Lay out after 12 o'clock till noon. Go on picket at night. Company out seven nights in succession.

[May] 24. Picket fight at 3 1/2. Company briskly engaged.

[May] 25. How I did sleep after 24 hours wakefulness! Move company.

[May] 28<sup>th</sup>. On picket. Rebs familiar "Never trust a Virginian."

May 31<sup>st</sup>. Detailed [?] to command sharp shooters.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Go to front with sharpshooters and do some shooting lively time at night. 100th N.Y. get out of ammunitions.

[June] 3<sup>rd</sup>. Garrison redoubt in front of battery No. 1.

[June] 5<sup>th</sup>. Relieved by companies of 24th Mass.

[June] 12<sup>th</sup>. "100 Day's Men" commence arriving, want to buy some hardtack.

[June] 16<sup>th</sup>. Rebs evacuate their works. Tenth pickets capture about 30. Monitors open on us and come up to receive surrender. Informed by Chaplain that our forces are eight miles beyond. Didn't get up very early in the morning. Chaplain being about dining returned "Thanks for preservation from friend and foe!"

[June] 18<sup>th</sup>. On picket. Severe shelling. Spherical case in showers. Command Co. H. One man's head taken by a cannon ball eight feet from me. Negroes do well at Petersburg. Children and teacher captured. Negroes remember Fort Pillow. "Shot in the Brain" becoming epidemic.

[June] 20. Move over the James. Command sharpshooters of the Brigade. Commence intrenching [*sic*].

[June] 21<sup>st</sup>. Do nothing.

[June] 22. Pot of gold & silver variously stated from \$1000 to 6000 taken by the grubs [?] digging. Many excited.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. Fifty volunteers and two officers called for by Gen. Butler. Lieut. Sharp and myself undertake it.

[July] 12<sup>th</sup>. Return successful capturing one Lieutenant and 13 men, burning all the buildings at Cox's Landing, securing a torpedo, battery & two boxes of powder.

[July] 15<sup>th</sup>. Rebels drive gun boat down river and shell our camp.

[July] 24<sup>th</sup>. 19<sup>th</sup> Corps relieve 11<sup>th</sup> Me. [Maine] on Malvern Hill side of creek.

[July] 26<sup>th</sup>. Zouaves pickets driven in. 11<sup>th</sup> Me. [Maine] had to go over at midnight to hold the ground. Tenth go over this morning. I was sent with sharpshooters to assist 11<sup>th</sup> Me. in retaking line which we did and a few minutes after I received a severe wound in head and was carried to camp.

[July] 27<sup>th</sup>. Removed to hospital at Point of Rocks, rough riding over corduroy and stumps.

[July] 28<sup>th</sup>. Placed on transport.

[July] 29<sup>th</sup>. Arrive at Chesapeake Hospital Fort Monroe, where my wound begins to receive proper care. Roughest experiences at front preferable to Hospital.

[July] 30<sup>th</sup>. Make acquaintance of Dr. Lee a genial fellow and resembling Bell [Colonel Louis Bell, commanded in St. Augustine, Fla.] in no slight degree. This will tend to

relieve the monotony of Hospital life.

Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>. Get an order to report to Annapolis as the result of a recommendation for 13 days leave.

Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. In Baltimore more favorably impressive than formerly with its appearance. Visit Butler and Washington Monument.

20<sup>th</sup> Aug. Arrive at Annapolis Hospital.

Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Start for home. Twenty days leave of absence.

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Return to Hospital.

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. Leave Hospital for the front. Spend an hour or two in Washington. Again voting to have only a hasty glimpse of what you would spend days in looking at. Pass Mt. Vernon where repose the ashes of the founder of the Republic, sold by one [of] his relatives for so many thousand hard dollars to support himself in all luxury. Eminent types of that Southern chivalry which fattens [?] in vice by the sweat and blood of unrequited labor, trafficking in the bodies and souls of men. Kindred to the northern Copperheads who have sold themselves for paltry gold to a few [???] Jews.

[Oct.] 11<sup>th</sup>. Rejoin regiment and receive commission of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. A pleasant greeting from the men, brigade commander, and officers. Homelike to sit again by the campfires and listen to the rehearsal of what had been done in my absence. Terrible enough much of it is. Much that is rough and dangerous enjoyed with a peculiar jest [?] Sharpshooting, hunger [?] &c &c. Abuse of the men by Commanding officer.

[Oct.] 15<sup>th</sup>. Fight on Turleytown Road. Terrible day for the regiment.

[Oct.] 18. Ben & George go home. Most of the officers leave which has a depressing effect on the men many of whom enlisted expecting their officers to remain with them. I cannot leave the men to return, I am bound by so many strong ties, while I have no more pressing duties elsewhere.

[Oct.] 27<sup>th</sup>. In action at Gerhurett's [?] plantation. [??] remains of field till late in day and return to camp.

[Oct.] 29<sup>th</sup>. Pickets driven in and we go out and give them a few pills, taking the line again for the cavalry.

[Oct.] 31<sup>st</sup>. Muster rolls for two companies to make out.

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Just getting comfortably settled in quarters ready to work off some of my accumulated business and correspondence. Waked up last night at twelve. "Turn out the men and pack up everything." A cold, dreary, rainy night. Get away just before daylight

march in mud to Deep Bottom. All sorts [?] of surmises as to where we are going. The most probable of which is that we are going to dig a trench and put up a *chaux de frite* between Canada & New York to keep the Canadians from coming over to vote! Lay around in mud all day, and in dark at night on Monohansett.

Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. Go down river to Fortress Monroe. Six months lacking a day, these troops went up the river. Those who have fared best have about a third left, while some regiments are cut down to one tenth!

[Nov.] 5<sup>th</sup>. On Stmr. Gen. Lyons [U.S.S. Steamer General Lyon] for New York.

[Nov.] 6<sup>th</sup>. Lying in North River.

[Nov.] 7<sup>th</sup>. Land at Fort Richmond 2 o'clock this morning. Inspection in mud. Have hardly felt so reckless since I have been in service. Move into casements of fort. At sundown pack away blankets and knapsacks and wait order to move. Lying down on the cold wet stones of the casements the night is the most tedious since Roanoke Island.

[Nov.] 8<sup>th</sup>. Still waiting, but we cannot always be miserable. So the spirits rebound and one enjoys even his misery a certain amount of when is necessary to the full on [en]joyment of happiness. In the afternoon we embark for the city. Pass a French vessel of ours and play the Marseillaise. Going up East River a gunboat lays at the foot of Wall St. We anchor near Grand St. Having to go to the wharves we find McClellan's [General George G. McClellan's] rampart. Let the day pass off quietly.

[Nov.] 9<sup>th</sup>. To the wharf and remain an hour but don't hear McClellan's name mentioned.

[Nov.] 10<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Col. Greeley [Lieut. Colonel E.S. Greeley, Commanding] leaves us.

[Nov.] 11<sup>th</sup>. Return to Fort Richmond.

[Nov.] 13. Cold, cold, cold. "Why don't the army of the James move?" Much that is interesting must be omitted when the diary is written up. Three mouths at a time [?] shouted [?] salute.

[Nov.] 14<sup>th</sup>. Sailed for the South. Boys glad to move anywhere a great trial to them. How much they endure that none at home can conceive of!

[Nov.] 15. A pleasant voyage on Str.[Steamer] Ashland. Pleasant accommodations in every way. Sparrow on quarter deck.

[Nov.] 17. Reach Deep Bottom and our old camp at the front. Not one stick left to tell the tale. Northern campaign not desirable. A new camp to be built without tools or materials.

[Nov.] 19<sup>th</sup>. [???] as Captain

[Nov.] 20<sup>th</sup>. Raining still. Water, mud, and mire oozing into tents, cold misery!

[Nov.] 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving. No turkey, but find some satisfaction in recalling experience of last year.

[Nov.] 25<sup>th</sup>. Our turkeys arrive, and the soldiers have a reminiscence of home which is substantial.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Letter from Str. A.

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2009