

## Kinley Collection Letters

Guide to Oliver Cromwell Kinley Archival Collection (b.1844-d.1923) Sergeant, Company I, 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteers.

### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Language of Material

Material in English

#### Abstract

This collection consists of some 788 personal documents covering 69 pages and a time span of 3 years, 11 months, and 13 days of Sargent Kinley's Civil War experiences and includes a brief introduction to his diary.

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), Sargent Oliver Cromwell Kinley Collection (Company I, 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment Iowa Volunteers Infantry), Letters Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

#### Processing Information

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2012

#### Biographical note:

Oliver Cromwell Kinley was born on May 20, 1844 in Wabash County, Indiana. He was the first son by a second marriage and had one sister Marisa Hisdale. He also had a half brother, Dan R. Kinley. He enlisted in Company I of the 10<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regiment Infantry Volunteers mustering in on September 7, 1861. Private Kinley reenlisted on March 30, 1864. He was promoted in the field twice, to Corporal on October 1, 1864 and achieved the rank of Sargent on January 15, 1865. He was discharged on August 15, 1865 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Oliver C. Kinley died on August 20, 1923 in the Old Soldiers Home at Marshalltown, Iowa, and rests in the Soldier's Cemetery there.

### COLLECTION OVERVIEW

The introduction to Sargent Oliver Kinley's collection includes a fiery summation of the reasons why the Civil War occurred and what motivated him to enlist in the Union Army. His narrative diary begins with his enlistment in August, 1861, in Newton Iowa, saying his goodbye to relatives and his new military life in camp drilling to be a soldier. Much of his diary entries are as little as one or two sentences listing daily drill routines, orders to march, reports at the front of battle as well as casualties of a day's battle or skirmish. Because there are so many daily

entries and many include minor details, I will instead draw upon those entries that give a more complete and lasting picture of Sargent Kinley's war experiences that give a clearer illustration, meaning and understanding of the action (battles, locations, etc.) and his personal reflections to those events he experienced firsthand. (Please Note: There are some 780 "pocket diary entries" written by Sargent Kinley spanning the entire length of the Civil War from August 18, 1861, through September 7, 1865). It is impossible to number and process all of them, so they will be entered by the date they were written).

## 1861

August 19, 1861. Father and I enlisted in Captain John Garretts Company today that was formed here in Newton, Iowa.

August 22, 1861. We were sworn into state service and stayed at home until the 26<sup>th</sup>. Today I bid adieu to my dear friends and started for the camp at Iowa City.

September 7<sup>th</sup>. We were mustered into U.S. Service by Captain Chambers. Several of the boys were actually rejected and cried about it. One man deserted and was brought back and then drummed out of camp to the boys' great amusement!

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. We drew our tents and camp equipment and moved our camp one mile east of the depot.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. We received our marching orders for St. Louis and by sunrise we were all on board the cars and off for the city of Davenport arriving there by 10 o'clock A.M. We then embarked on the steamers "A.D. Hine" and the Davenport ferryboat watching quietly the city of Muscatine as we passed it.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. Passed the cities of Burlington, Keokuk, and Hannibal, Missouri. At Quincy we noted U.S. Troops on guard duty. The weather was cold and rainy, very disagreeable.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. Pass Alton, Illinois arriving at Benton Barracks at 9 o'clock P.M.

September 28<sup>th</sup>. Heard the Irish Brigade was captured at Lexington, Kentucky fighting against superior numbers. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Iowa Regiments are also here.

September 29<sup>th</sup>. Drew our fatigue uniforms. Now we actually look like soldiers!

September 30<sup>th</sup>. Embarked aboard the steamer "Empress"

October 1<sup>st</sup>. Arrived today at Cape Girardeau, Missouri and marched into camp just at the edge of town. There we found the 11<sup>th</sup> Missouri and the 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiments.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. Forty-five men from each company in the regiments were picked today to work on the fort for four days. The work was hard but we have since gotten used to the work.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. A large force started for Fredrickstown, Missouri under Colonel Plummer of the 11<sup>th</sup> Missouri upon hearing that the Confederates under Jeff Thomson is there with a large force.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. One of the men from a Cairo regiment was shot and killed by the guard in the town. Am on guard duty now indefinitely.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. Today the 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois returned from the Battle of Fredrickstown after a hard fight they defeated the enemy and killed the rebel Colonel Lowe and around 100 of his men.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thirty four of our men were sent out on picket duty and all quiet until.....

November 5<sup>th</sup>. We marched at daylight on the Bloomfield Road for a good nine miles when he met up with the Swamp Road. Found the bridge across White Water had been destroyed so we had to build a temporary one to cross. After marching 22 miles, we camped for the night at Round Ponds. We're very tired.

November 6<sup>th</sup>. We marched all day camping on the Castor River near where rebels crossed. Then we drove their pickets for some distance marching a total of 28 miles for the day.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. Marched until noon to "Birds' Point" and pitched our tents at the edge of a great swamp. Went out after dark hunting rebs but couldn't find any

November 10<sup>th</sup>. Marched to White River, a distance of 35 miles and pitched our tents.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. After a long march of 20 miles, we arrived into camp around 3 o'clock P.M. The ladies came by and "crowned our flag" with a large bouquet of flowers.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. Embarked today on the steamer "James Montgomery" for down the river sailing only a few miles due to the heavy fog and had to stop until morning.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at "Birds Pointland" just as the 7<sup>th</sup> Iowa was heading off to St. Louis to do some recruiting.

November 16<sup>th</sup>. On bridge guard today.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. Sent in pursuit of Jeff Thompson. Returned to camp at dark without seeing the enemy. It rained all afternoon and the water was “knee deep” in our tents!

November 21<sup>st</sup>. Began building barracks for the regiment.

December 27<sup>th</sup>. Moved into our new rooms and managed to build a large chimney and get ready to live in fine style!

December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are enjoying ourselves in our new building and doing well. This is the last day of 1861.

## 1862

January 1<sup>st</sup>. Today is the beginning of the New Year. Part of our regiment drew arms today, Springfield Muskets.

January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ira Blackwood of our company died last night after a short severe attack of fever. He was buried today with honors of war.

January 7<sup>th</sup>. Company on picket duty. Our regiment was ordered out again to go out after Thompson. That night 17 were killed or wounded. Rained nearly all night.

January 10<sup>th</sup>. We were payed two months pay today that included our state pay amounting in all to \$29.90.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. Our gunboats returned from down the river.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Rebel guerillas killed four of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Cavalry who were out scouting early this morning. An order had been issued to clear the country for five miles of all citizens.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Biders property was seized and confiscated. His three sons were brought in along with all of his Negros

February 21<sup>st</sup>. Today there was a heavy gunboat fight in Luca Bend resulting in driving the rebel's boats under cover of their guns at Columbus, Kentucky.

March 1<sup>st</sup>. Company returned from Charleston where they had been scouting.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. Leaving our comfortable quarters we marched on to Charleston for the purpose of joining General Popes army. Then we sieged New Madrid and marched 12 more miles.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. We marched from Charleston to Bertand six miles and laid in camp til--.

March 9<sup>th</sup>. Today we marched to Sikeston, the present terminus of the C&F Railroad. I slept in a corn crib and it rained all night long.

March 12<sup>th</sup>: Near New Madrid bombardment started around 5 o'clock A.M. and the fighting continued all day with neither side having the apparent advantage. A few large shells burst near where we were on post, but done no damage. Quite a little fight took place in front of our line between the enemy's sharpshooters and ours. We were relieved in the evening and went into camp but were told to be ready at one in the morning to march with one day's rations.

March 13<sup>th</sup>: Marched into town but found that the enemy had evacuated during the night leaving 25 pieces of artillery and over one million dollars of military stores.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. Inspection of arms today and a Grand Review.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. Had a very severe attack of the mumps, my first sickness since entering the service.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Today gunboats ran the batteries of Island Number 10. Three transports came through by way of the canal.

April 7<sup>th</sup>. Our troops started out early this morning for the capture of Island Ten if possible. I am still unwell and cannot go.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. Embarked on the city steamer, "City of Alton" and received two months pay. Still not well but on duty.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. We passed Fort Donelson last night and I did not get to see it. Our boat got us to Pittsburgh Landing late in the evening near the scene of the recent great battle of Shiloh.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. Uncle Issac Kinley of the 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana came to see us today. I and father went back with him and went to the 6<sup>th</sup> Iowa to see Daniel. We found him in the hospital but doing well.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. More troops coming into camp all the time. On scout today to within 10 miles of Corinth. Lay in the woods all night.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Returned to camp and mustered for pay.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. I became sick with chronic diarrhea and did not join the regiment out on scout.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. We pitched our tent near the picket lines.

May 17<sup>th</sup>. We moved three miles nearer the fortifications near Farmington.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. Digging rifle pits all day.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. We moved our camp near town.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. While on picket guard, Colonel Worthington of the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa was accidentally shot and killed by one of our own men.

May 28<sup>th</sup>. We made another advance on Corinth. There was heavy cannon-adding all day. Musketry was beginning very brisk when nightfall closed the fighting.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Heavy firing all day driving the enemy all the time.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. We found the town of Corinth to be evacuated by General Buell's advance. The enemy had left the night before taking everything they could along with them and burning the rest. Nothing of value was captured. We started in pursuit and marched until midnight finding the road burning with rebel clothing and commissary stores.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. Layed in camp all day

June 4<sup>th</sup>. Marched early and camped for one night one mile south of the town of Rienji.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. After laying all day in camp yesterday due to the heavy rain, we started early and camped in the swamp. Very wet.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Arrived at Boonville that lies 40 miles south of Corinth. While here the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa burned a large train of cars and captured a great number of prisoners. We expected a fight but the enemy would not stand.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. Arrived back to within 3 miles of Corinth and went into camp.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. We moved our camp 3 miles onto Clear Creek for better water.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. Marched 8 miles and camped on the Hatchie River. This is the best blackberry region I have seen yet.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. Marched 5 miles west of Ripley. This is one of the prettiest towns I have seen yet. Neither army has disturbed the town yet.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. Fired a "National Salute" with our artillery and in the afternoon moved our camp 3 miles nearer to Jacinto.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. We moved a mile and layed on our arms all night.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. We had a false alarm today. Our whole force was out in line.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. Received 4 months pay.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. Eight companies drew new guns today, "Whiting Rifles".

August 14<sup>th</sup>. Went into camp moving 10 miles south and 3 miles east of Jacinto, "Camp Davenport".

August 17<sup>th</sup>. Company out foraging.

August 18<sup>th</sup>. Company sent out on picket guard for 3 days.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. Drill and target practice. Captain John A. Garrett left us this time being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Iowa that was just forming but was finally promoted to Colonel of the 40<sup>th</sup> Iowa.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Company sent on 3 days of Pickett guard duty.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. Marching orders but did not move. Sent our scout team to Corinth.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. Ordered out at 11 o'clock at night and marched one mile. We layed on our arms until daylight.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. Started a second time for Iuka driving the rebel pickets for about 9 miles. At 4 o'clock the enemy made a desperate stand 3 miles from town and we had hard fighting until darkness fell. Neither side lost ground. Our regiment was not so heavily engaged as the center.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. The enemy evacuated their position leaving great numbers of their dead and wounded in our hands. We pursued them 8 miles but could not overtake them.

September 21st-24<sup>th</sup>. We marched to Jacinto the first day and lay in town all night. Spent most of the time on guard duty.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Received orders to march to Corinth and went into camp 2 miles south of the town.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We were awakened at 2 o'clock A.M. and were ordered to be ready to march at 4 A.M. Near the north side of the town we formed a line of battle, and after a few hours we heard cannon fire to the far west. Our general told us that the battle had opened. None of us suspected we were going to have a fight. The enemy drove our men all day and by dark we had great hopes of taking the place. But General Rosecrans was quietly laying his plans for the morrow. In the evening our brigade made a movement on the enemy's left but we went to near the center it failed. We had a few men wounded and taken prisoner. We retreated in good order and formed with our reserve.

October 11<sup>th</sup>. Our whole regiment was on "Grand Guard" all of last night and we are very tired. The battle opened early this morning with the enemy shelling the town with their battery of seven guns but that did not last long. The fight raged with great fury along the whole line til 9 o'clock when there was a lull in the firing at 10 o'clock. The enemy made a grand charge on our right and center but they were repulsed on every side! They began to retreat immediately and by 4 o'clock there was not an armed rebel within 5 miles. Our regiment lost 39 killed and wounded while 3 were wounded in our company.

October 18<sup>th</sup> Continued with our marching to find the retreating enemy and ending up near the town of Ripley were we camped this night on the Hatchie River.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. We marched back to Corinth getting into camp just north of the town.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. Election Day! Iowa soldiers were permitted to vote!

October 31<sup>st</sup>. Mustered for our pay.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Upon our orders to march westward to Grand Junction, we crossed the Hatchie River near where General Hurlbut fought the enemy on the 5<sup>th</sup> of last month. Very rough marching country.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. Marched out a few miles and returned to do picket duty.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. After camping 6 miles north of the town of Holly Springs, we marched into the town and in a skirmish killed one of the rebels as they

retreated. We lay in town towards nightfall and then marched back to our previous location where we had camped the night before.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Heard a man named Rollins of Company C was accidentally shot and killed.

November 16<sup>th</sup>. After a Grand Review a few recruits came from Regiment \_\_\_\_, two for our company.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. Experienced heavy rains in our march from LaGrange to Moscow. LaGrange is a pretty place and we camped on the west side of the Wolf River.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. Companies I and C were ordered out to forage and were attacked by rebel guerillas. Part of our supply train was captured due to the neglect of the wagon master allowing the train to get to much scattered. Remainder of the time I spent on picket guard duty.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. Marched through the beautiful town of Holly Springs camping at Lumpkins Mills. Beautiful Holly Springs is a town destined to be ruined by this war!

November 30<sup>th</sup>. Today a severe shock of an earthquake was felt lasting for about a half a minute. Rained all day as the 109<sup>th</sup> Illinois joined up with us.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. After laying in camp awaiting orders yesterday, we marched 4 miles camping on the Tallehatchie River.

December 12<sup>th</sup>. After marching to the town of Oxford and camping there, we marched 6 more miles and camped on the Tacoma River.

December 21<sup>st</sup>. Ordered to march back to Oxford as the enemy had cut our supplies by capturing and burning Holly Springs. Layed on our arms all night long but the enemy chose not to visit us. On very short rations.

December 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Day! Layed by all day as we watched several divisions pass us.

December 26<sup>th</sup>. Ordered to march to Tallaloosa on the road to Memphis, Tennessee. Here we guarded a provision train of five hundred wagons. Rained hard the entire day.

December 27<sup>th</sup>. Marched another 7 miles, and more rain.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. Passed through Vilalia and camped within 7 miles of Memphis.

December 29<sup>th</sup>. Marched through this large city camping on the southern edge of the town. This is one of the prettiest cities in the South of about 40,000 inhabitants. It is intensely rebel having furnished some 19 full companies for the rebel army.

December 30<sup>th</sup>. Loaded our train with provisions. I was in town all day.

December 31<sup>st</sup>. We started on our return and marched 15 miles to Germantown that evening. This is the best cultivated part of Tennessee I have yet to see. The land here is nearly all under cultivation.

1863

January 1<sup>st</sup>. Marched today from Germantown to Lafayette some 22 miles.

January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marched back to Germantown leaving our train at Lafayette.

January 4<sup>th</sup>. Marched 5 miles near Memphis and went into camp near White's Station. Raining and very muddy here!

January 7<sup>th</sup>. Ordered to build a stockade today.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. It snowed in the afternoon. On picket guard all day.

January 19<sup>th</sup>. Received two months pay.

January 21<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. On picket guard daily and it is still very cold here!

February 1<sup>st</sup>. In camp all day

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Went into Memphis and saw the famous Andrew Jackson Monument. It is a beautiful structure but shamefully spoiled by the rebels. On the north side was carved, "The Union must and shall be preserved." This is all spoiled but it still can be read.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. Went to town and mailed a "Rural Annual" to Alice.

February 13<sup>th</sup>. Sent out foraging. Rebel guerillas had burned the bridge across Nonconah Creek and we had to build another before we could cross.

Part of the Second Illinois had a skirmish with the enemy just south of the creek. By evening a few prisoners had been taken and we did not get back to camp until after dark.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. Received two months pay.

February 19<sup>th</sup>. The town of Hopefield was burned today by our forces because rebel guerillas had been harbored there.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. Ordered to pack our knapsacks the previous day and today marched to the landing and got aboard the steamer "Iatan". We were busy loading the rest of the day. The whole division is going down river. Passed Helena at 1 o'clock P.M. The banks are all overflowed and because of the recent heavy rains, the river is still rising. Helen is dilapidated looking place. I recall it was just one year ago we had left "Bird's Point".

March 5<sup>th</sup>. Passed "Greenville Bend" early this morning. There is splendid plantations on the point Landed later in the afternoon at "Ashton" near the Louisiana state line. Put on guard duty after pitching our tents for the night.

March 9<sup>th</sup>. On board the boat all day. Cousin Horace came down to see us. This is first time I have seen him since I can remember.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. Dropped down the river one mile and went into camp. Horace left us in the evening. His visit with us was "warm" and "pleasant".

March 15<sup>th</sup>. Our boat had to go into Moon Lake to carry the mail. This is a beautiful lake. It is warm and the trees are budding.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Marched aboard the steamer "White Rose" at noon. The water is still rising. Worked hard until late afternoon and went to Moon Lake after work. Lay all night at the head of the pass. The land is overflowed as far as the eye can see.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. Started early down the pass. It is very narrow and deep. In many places the water runs very swift around the many short bends and our boat has to be let down by ropes.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. Arrived in Cold Water at noon today and placed on guard duty.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. Our fleet is much scattered. Landed early and policed our boat.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. Arrived in Tallahatchie at 9 o'clock passing a gun boat at the mouth of the Cold Water.

March 31<sup>st</sup>. We have now passed several large plantations but they are all deserted by the white folks. The Negroes only remain and they are in many cases in starving condition. The land is very low on the banks. Rebel guerillas are numerous on the shoreline and they have fired at some of our boats.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. Very foggy this morning. We started very early up the river sailing about 80 miles.

April 9<sup>th</sup>. Landed near our old camp below Helena. Policed the boat and cooled.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. Wrote letters home.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. Passed Napoleon early this morning arriving at Lake Providence at 4 o'clock. This had been a pretty place but the levees have been broken and the whole country is flooded.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. Left Providence arriving at "Millikens Bend" at around 4 o'clock. This is a very pretty place but no town here....WARM.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. On guard.

April 25<sup>th</sup>. Started to Richmond arriving here at 7 o'clock in the evening. Very warm here.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. Roads better today. Marched 10 miles to river at Perkins Plantation. Troops are crossing all the time. Prospects of a fight seem inevitable.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. Marched 20 miles and bivouacked for the night on Raritan Farm. On this farm is now 600 acres of corn growing. This is near St. Joseph Lake. We have passed some of the finest plantations today that I have ever seen! Very warm here.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. After marching 6 miles and crossing the river 5 miles below the Grand Gulf, we heard firing all day.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hear fighting in the direction of Fort Gibson. Heard that 1500 prisoners were taken. The 28<sup>th</sup> was engaged and lost but a few men.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. More fighting today. We were deployed as skirmishers once but no fighting took place.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> went reconnoitering 4 miles to the front. We saw a few rebels and took 5 prisoners.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Layed in camp and got a lot of mulberries. Not feeling well.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. In hospital now and sick with Intermittent Fever.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. Hospital. Somewhat better.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. Marched early in the morning and layed in the ambulance all day. Camped on some high pine hills.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. We had a hard battle near Raymond losing a great many of our men but whipping the rebels. Our division was not engaged.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Marched 9 miles through Raymond and Clinton which are both beautiful places. At Clinton is a large hospital. A great many of the Murfreesboro are wounded here.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. Today our division fought their way into Jackson, Mississippi with a loss of 120 killed and wounded. We did manage to capture a battery of 4 guns. Our regiment was not engaged.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. Started for Vicksburg arriving at Clinton around noon. We marched all day.

May 16<sup>th</sup>. Our army had a terrible fight today near Bakers Creek or Champion Hills. Our regiment lost one half of the men engaged. Our company lost 23 killed and wounded with 6 killed on the field including Captain Poage. I stayed back to help take care of the wounded.

May 17<sup>th</sup>. I joined up with our regiment in the evening. Our men had captured 17 pieces of artillery at Black River. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Iowa distinguished themselves here.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Our brigade took its place in line. Heavy firing all day.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. My birthday today. I am 19 years old

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A grand charge was made on the whole line. Our brigade was heavily engaged all day. Father was slightly wounded in the left thigh. Heard that Colonel Boomer was killed late in the afternoon while commanding the brigade.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. Took the place of the first brigade. They were ordered to the Black River. Heavy firing all day.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Heard about the death of Gustav George Hutchinson who was killed at Champion Hills.

May 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Continuous heavy firing every hour and very warm here. Awakened at 4 o'clock A.M. on the 31<sup>st</sup> by our own batteries that were shelling the forts. Shells simply flying in all directions! Still very warm!

June 1<sup>st</sup>. In the rifle pits all night with heavy firing on the left at 10 o'clock.

June 13<sup>th</sup>. Have now been in the rifle pits almost a week and still very warm. The rebs continue to throw large shells over us. Still in camp.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Father started home today.

June 21<sup>st</sup>. A rebel mortar shell came near and dismounted one of our nine inch guns by striking square on top of it.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Marched out 2 miles where our right wing was and left to guard the road. There are plenty of blackberries to eat growing wild here.

June 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. After marching 7 miles, the 35<sup>th</sup> Iowa relieved us. Also saw the eighth and twelfth Iowa regiments. Now only 15 miles from Vicksburg. Very warm here.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. A feast! Roasting ears for dinner!

July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Walked 6 miles to see Dan. Found him well. Very hot!

July 4<sup>th</sup>. Independence Day! The official news of the surrender of Vicksburg was read to us in the evening. Great rejoicing!

July 5<sup>th</sup>. On picket guard duty. I hear firing toward Jackson as our troops are moving in that direction under General Sherman.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. General camp inspection today. Paroled prisoners can be seen passing by all day.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. Inspection and a chance to do some swimming. Orders are to be ready at any moment.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Today we marched 12 miles camping finally on the Champion Hills Battleground. I passed by where Captain Prago was buried. At some ripe figs.

July 15<sup>th</sup>. Started early for Jackson and camped on the Jackson Battleground. We went back to Clinton in the evening to protect the town from rebel guerillas.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. Called into line early but there was only skirmishing north of the town. Marched at noon camping 6 miles west of town. Met General Sherman's supply team.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. Started on the road to Vicksburg with the knowledge that the guerillas burned our hospital wagon last night and captured 60 prisoners

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. On fatigue unloading cars

July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Been in camp all week. Saw Gus on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Have moved our tents.

NOTE; The balance of this year has been lost, so I will write from memory.

1863 (The National Soldiers Home, Tennessee)

August, 1863. We lay at Vicksburg, Mississippi some time, then went to Helena, Arkansas. We had orders to cook 5 days rations and then march to Little Rock, Arkansas to help out General Steele.

The battle of Chickamauga was fought and Rosecrans army was shut up in Chattanooga. Our order was recalled and we went to Memphis where our division was made part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, and we were part of that corps in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division under General John E. Smith during the rest of the war.

We lay at Memphis until all things were ready and then lit out for Chattanooga. Fathers 30 day furlough had been extended 30 days and it having expired, he returned to the company in good health, his wound having healed.

Sometime near September 1, 1863 we left Memphis for Chattanooga by rail to Iuka via Corinth, Mississippi crossing the Tennessee River through Pulaski at Fayetteville, Winchester, Dicherd Station, and Stephenson to Bridgeport on the Tennessee River. Grant had taken command of the army

in Chattanooga and they were on the point of starvation. The only way to supply them being from Bridgeport 19 miles through a terribly mountainous country. A team could haul only their own feed on this trip. It was said that dead mules on this road (if laid heads and tails) would reach the full distance 19 miles. The men were living on anything they could get, many of them stealing ears of corn from the pack mules and parching. We marched through by way of Whiteside Station reaching the base of Lookout Mountain late in the evening. The hills we saw were covered with rebel fires. Our men laying in the valley. We crossed the Tennessee River just below Lookout at Brown's Ferry and took up our camp behind a range of hills out of the rebels sight. From the top of these hills we could see the rebel works on Mission Ridge including their flags and batteries but little of their lines. Grants plans being completed on the night of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sherman's men crossed the river in boats capturing the rebel pickets and then laying a pontoon bridge.

By 8 o'clock our lines were secure and along about noon advance was made on what was supposed to be the north end of the ridge but proved to be detached hills. Our bridge was the Third Brigade commanded by General C. L. Mathais of the Third Division of the 15<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

We fell back to the river for the night under the Division Commander, General John E. Smith. On the twenty fifth we advanced and were hotly engaged on the top of Tunnel Hill. Father was struck by a ball in the neck and was killed at once. He fell at the farthest position in the line that our regiment made, and he was buried near where he fell and his place was lost.

With this comes General Mathais report of the battle, also a part of Colonel Boswells report of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Illinois. Our officers made no report.

General Braxton Bragg's rebel army was driven off the ridge and started their way south

General Burnside at Knoxville was relieved and we returned to Bridgeport, thence via Stephenson to Larkenville where we were on New Year's Day of 1864.

1864

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864. In camp at Larkenville, Alabama on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad between Bridgeport and Huntsville. Detained to get wood for headquarters. Coldest day ever known in this region!

January 2nd-31<sup>st</sup>. Most of my time was spent this month in camp and on picket, guard or forage duty. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we marched to Huntsville, Alabama and there was a snow storm that night. Got to go to town on the 22<sup>nd</sup> having some fatigue duty. On the 28<sup>th</sup> we marched at 2 o'clock for Mooresville, a total of 17 miles. During the balance of the month we did day marches numerous times.

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864. I went to see Dan at Scottsboro some 62 miles by rail and found him well. He enlisted in the veteran service.

February 1<sup>st</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>. On the third the 68<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Indiana started for home, very cold here. Spent much of the time in camp drilling. Received marching orders on the 11<sup>th</sup> and left at 4 o'clock for the town of Bridgeport. We marched 75 miles and it was cold!

February 13<sup>th</sup>. Orders today to march towards Chattanooga. Camped for night 4 miles east of Whiteside Mt. The temperature was pleasant.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. Finished our march to Chattanooga today camping one mile south of the town. Troops are moving all the time. A lot of rain here but the roads are still good here.

February 15<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. Mostly in camp the entire time doing chores like chopping wood or on fatigue duty. Received letters from home on the 25<sup>th</sup>, my first mail since leaving Huntsville. The weather now is warm and pleasant, more like summer than our cold northern winters. Still on a lot of picket duty all the time. Wrote some letters home on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Still warm and pleasant. Had an alarm early on the 28<sup>th</sup> and no one was permitted to leave camp. A large force of rebel cavalry was reported a few miles out. Henderson rejoined the regiment after being home on furlough. Still doing a lot of picket duty here and there is lots of rain now.

March 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Marched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to Chattanooga and I saw where our

regiment had been engaged last November the 25<sup>th</sup>. On the third we marched following the railroad tracks all day camping 4 miles west of Whiteside Mountain. Weather was cool and pleasant.

March 5<sup>th</sup>. Arrived back in Huntsville in the afternoon and found our tents

ready for us. Warm and pleasant now.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. Chopping wood all day. Managed to attend church in the evening. Read some new letters from home.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. In camp and wrote some letters home.

March 8<sup>th</sup>. Made some purchases (55 cents for paper, \$1.45 for sundries, and bought a silver ring for \$1.00).

March 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Continued to remain in camp and drill. Went to church on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> and heard a good sermon.

March 15-March 31<sup>st</sup>. On duty a total of 6 days. The balance of the time was spent in camp drilling and reading some letters from home. Especially liked cousin Joseph Kindley's last letter. Either chopping wood now, drilling, or on guard duty. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, I was mustered into U.S. Service for 3 years by Captain York. This reenlistment now makes me a veteran.

April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 14<sup>th</sup>. Getting much warmer now and with more rain. Started the month out by foraging with two days rations. In camp now most of the time mostly drilling or on guard duty. Have been writing some letters home. Occasionally we have an inspection.

April 16<sup>th</sup>. We foraged for two days out 20 miles from camp. Our regiment drew new guns, The Springfield Rife.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Received a letter from home. Heard an excellent sermon on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. Drew a bounty of \$100, an installment of \$60 and 4 months pay for \$52, the total coming to \$212.00 I deducted \$6 for clothing leaving me a balance of \$206.

April 27<sup>th</sup>. Bought a watch for \$18 from the A. M. Heifner Company.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. After receiving our marching orders to the railroad and doing so, we got on cars bound for Decatur, Alabama arriving there in the evening. Heard some little picket firing. In April on duty a total of 16 days.

May 1<sup>st</sup> -May-25<sup>th</sup>. On constant picket, guard or fatigue duty the entire time. The 14<sup>th</sup> saw the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa return here from home. On the 19<sup>th</sup> part of our regiment boarded a gunboat to capture a rebel battery but did not succeed. May 20<sup>th</sup>. I am noting today that I am twenty years of age.. May 25<sup>th</sup> while in camp I heard that General Mathais has resigned and gone home.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. The 13<sup>th</sup> Iowa camped on the opposite side of the river and are bound for home while our cavalry had a fight with Roddy, whipping him badly and capturing several prisoners and their camp.

May 28<sup>th</sup>. I was assigned guard duty at the Commissary and managed to write some letters to my brother Daniel who is in Company A of the 6<sup>th</sup> Iowa.

May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Back in camp on fatigue and noting how very warm it is here.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864. The regiment was out 8 miles from camp scouting with 2 pieces of cannon and 150 cavalry. We met the enemy in superior forces and we were obliged to retreat. Thankfully no losses on our side but several of the rebs were seen to fall as they were struck by our shells.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. In camp receiving 2 months pay today. Spent \$8.25 for a hat and trimming.

June 6<sup>th</sup>-14. In camp and on picket duty. The 18<sup>th</sup> Michigan and 34<sup>th</sup> Indiana arrived in camp on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. Orders to start for home. Got off early in the morning arriving in Nashville at 8 o'clock. This was on our veteran furlough while the rest of our brigade went to Huntsville.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. Started at 3 o'clock P.M. arriving at Louisville, Kentucky at 5 o'clock the next morning.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Left Louisville to get a pass and started for Chicago in the evening and arrived there early on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Left Chicago at 10 o'clock A. M. for Rock Island when we arrived at dark in heavy rain.

June 19<sup>th</sup>. After arriving in Davenport, Iowa we were in town there all day.

June 21<sup>st</sup>. Arrived this afternoon at 4 o'clock in Grinnell, Iowa and was then in terminus of C.R.I and P.

June 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. At home .

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Had the orchard plowed.

June 25<sup>th</sup>. Ladies Aid Society visited and entertained us.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday I attended Sabbath School.

July, 1864. Spent the 4<sup>th</sup> in Newton and most of the boys there had a jolly good time.

July 21, 1864. My furlough is out at last and I am again on my way south. Now at Davenport, I have enjoyed myself well all the time. I made lots of friends many of whom I prize highly. I bid goodbye my dear mother and sisters at Grinnell. How bad I felt to leave them but I go to do my duty. From Davenport I went to Chicago, to Louisville, to Nashville, to Bridgeport, to Chattanooga, and finally to Kingston, Georgia. Our division is in Kingston guarding the railroad.

July 31<sup>st</sup>. Finally arrived at Kingston at 11 o'clock P.M. We are safe and I am well. Here we found the boys (the non veterans) who were quartered in a church. Our division, 4<sup>th</sup> of 15 A.C. Guarding the railroad with John E. Smith in command over us.

August 1<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. In camp for the entire month. Got sick on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The usual marching orders mixed in with picket duty. On the 18<sup>th</sup> the railroad was repaired at Chattanooga Spent much of my free time writing letters home including letters to L.H. and J.J.

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864. On the train to guard Rome, Georgia and then to visit the 39<sup>th</sup> Iowa.

September 3-30<sup>th</sup>. In camp and on picket most of the month. On the 27<sup>th</sup> non veterans received their orders for mustering out of service leaving only 25 men in our company.

October 8<sup>th</sup>. 105 rebel prisoners came in from Altoona and also two brigades for Rome under General Couse of Iowa.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. In camp all month doing picket guard duty or on fatigue. Received a letter from Gus on the 25<sup>th</sup> and one from mother today. Today we received several new drafted men into our regiment. Was on duty a total of 14 days this month.

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1864. Sent out on picket this afternoon to a town 3 miles from camp. A deserter came in from the rebels who belonged to Wheeler's old regiment.

November 8<sup>th</sup>. "Election Day." Got a beef. Our regiment polled 365 for Abe and 43 for Mac.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. Still in camp and wrote letters. Paid two months pay and a \$50 bounty.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. Marched for Atlanta passing Altoona and Ackworth, a total of 15 miles today.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. Upon passing Marietta, our troops were busy destroying the railroad as fast as possible.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. Marched 15 miles passing through Atlanta and camping 2 miles west of town with the remainder of our corps. Our troops are burning the very best part of the town. Saw Dan and Wes and they are well. Drew clothing including 2 pair of pants, 1 pair of socks, 1 pair of shoes, and 1 pair of drawers.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Marched from Atlanta at 10 o'clock passing through "Rough and Ready", a total of 20 miles today. This country is very rough with plenty of water.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. Started at 6 marching over 3 miles to Ockmulgee Mills near the river by that name. Spotted a large cotton factory near the mills in advance of the 17<sup>th</sup> A.C. which came in at noon. Crossed the river at 3 o'clock. Marched 2 more miles and camped in the evening. Then marched another 6 miles.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. Marched early as it rained all day 13 miles meeting the advance of the 17<sup>th</sup> A.C. And had to take another road. This country is very fine.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. After camping the night at Gordon, we met up with the trains of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> A C's and two other divisions. There was fighting in the direction of Macon. At 8 o'clock we were ordered to tear up the railroad and work until 12. The rails are laid on stringers. We are now 139 miles from Atlanta and 170 from Savannah.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lay all day by our troops that busy destroying the road. Very cold now. Heavy frost at night.

November 27<sup>th</sup>. Starting at 8 o'clock our troops crossed the Oconee River at noon. Our troops shot some 300 horses and mules to keep them from falling into the hands of the enemy. In the afternoon we marched 7 miles passing several large fine plantations, the best we have seen yet. Camped in a beautiful place that had plenty of water and forage. Weather is fine and the roads are splendid. We crossed several swamps. We never felt better.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. We marched 14 miles today passing country heavily timbered and a few small farms.

December 1, 1864, Thursday. Marched at 8 o'clock and camped at 6 P.M. Brouse was unable to travel. We are now 94 miles from Savannah This

is a desolate portion of Georgia with all forests and swamps. We traveled a total of 10 miles.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Traveled in swampy country today. The farms here are very small. Weather is fine and we marched 15 miles on half rations.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday. Layed in camp all day. Had plenty of potatoes and meat. The weather is fine.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. A skirmish with the rebels after marching 7 miles. Some little fighting in the rear.

December 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday. Started early passing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division at Statesboro, the county town of Bullock County. In camp by 4 o'clock and then on picket duty.

December 6<sup>th</sup>. Finally relieved from picket duty. The regiment is building works now and out foraging on horseback. The weather is fine.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. Marched at 8. Rained in the morning and the roads are very bad. Cleared up in the afternoon and we went a total of 10 miles including wading through a swamp.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. Layed in camp all day and drew rations of flour. Heard cannonading at Savannah 25 miles distant.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday. Started at 6 o'clock and marched until 4 P.M. crossing the Oguchee River in the morning on a pontoon of 10 boats. 17<sup>th</sup> Army Corps is in a fight to our left and there is heavy firing in the front. In the evening we crossed a canal that ran from Savannah to the Oguchee River. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Division was in front leading. We captured one gun. Weather was cool.

December 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. The rebels gave us heavy shelling just after daylight but did not hurt any of us as their shells were going entirely to high.

December 12<sup>th</sup>, Monday. After marching 6 miles we camped 8 miles from Ft. McAllister on a fine plantation and set out foraging.

December 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday. Our division took Ft. McAllister as we could hear the musketry plain. Received orders late in the evening to support the 1st Brigade

December 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday. Went out to the Oguchee River where we saw 2 gunboats going up the river. The river is very large here and said to

contain 100,000 acres. The weather is very fine today.

December 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. Got a 11 letters today, 3 from home! All is well I hear. Heavy fog this morning but little firing.

December 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday. Detailed for picket at 4 o'clock and saw the rebel camp. Heavy firing until 3 A.M.

December 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday. Relieved from guard duty at noon and marched for Savannah which had been evacuated by the enemy last night, leaving all their heavy guns. Marched 15 miles. Arrived at camp 2 miles south of town at 5 o'clock.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday. Pitched our camp in regular order west of the railroad and went into town in the afternoon. It is a beautiful place. Saw a marble monument built to the memory of Count Casimir Pulaski. It is about 12 feet square at the base and nearly 30 feet high. The inscription on the south side read: "Pulaski, the heroic Pole who fell mortally wounded fighting for American Liberty at the Siege of Savannah, 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 1779. On the north side it showed an eagle protecting "the Liberties of America" and an image of Pulaski falling wounded from his horse. It is one of the most beautiful specimens of art I ever saw. The rebel vessel Savannah blew up last night.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve. On "Grand review" from General Sherman and we were out 5 hours. Warmer than yesterday.

December 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. Christmas Day and very dull in camp. I am spending the day writing a few letters home.

December 30<sup>th</sup>, Friday. Have been on picket guard duty nearly all week and was finally relieved of it today. A blockade runner ran in last evening and cast anchor, opposite the harbor light before she discovered the city to belong to the Yanks. The runner boat was loaded with 30 tons of coffee, and sugar, etc..

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. On drill today and mustered for pay. Last day of the year. Farewell old year with all its joys and troubles, pains and sorrow; Fare thee well. We will long remember thee with all they triumphs and defeats including those days spent with dear friends at home. We hail thee New Year with new resolves to do our duty better and live a better life.

1865

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, Sunday. In camp all day and went to church in the Wesley Chapel in the city. The sermon subject was "God Granting Our Armies the Many Victories During this Past Year".

January 2<sup>nd</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. In camp the whole time on drill or guard duty and writing many letters in my free time. The weather changes from warm and pleasant to cool.

January 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday. Received new orders to march and we started at 6 A.M. crossing the Savannah River and bayous over 3 pontoon bridges. Rained all afternoon and we camped 17 miles from Savannah.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Marched about 10 miles getting in sight of our pickets at Pocatigo. Lots of rain and the roads are very bad here.

January 29<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. While in camp I received a package from New York.

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, Wednesday. We marched today 7 miles in a northwest direction through a low rough country. The roads were good and we passed the first white citizens since leaving Savannah. Our men destroyed a great deal of private property. A little fighting in advance.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Friday. We marched 5 miles and it rained early in the morning. Got plenty of foraging in. One of our regiment was taken prisoner We now find ourselves in the finest part of South Carolina. Here there are large and fine farms.

February 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday. Our brigade encountered the enemy in a swamp at 10 o'clock after marching 12 miles. Our brigade was deployed as skirmishers and crossed the swamp in front of enemy fire. We finally charged and drove them out without losing a single man. Then we marched another two miles and went into camp. Our cavalry had a little fighting.

February 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday. After marching 5 miles to the railroad, our troops then destroyed the track. It rained nearly all day.

February 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday. After marching 7 miles we burned the railroad in the afternoon. Very cold now.

February 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday,. Marched 15 miles today and generally in a easterly's direction. I saw Dan and there was no fighting today.

February 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division advanced today and saw considerable fighting but at the North Edisto River none of our division were engaged. That night we camped 6 miles from Orangeburg.

February 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday. Relieved early from picket duty and marched towards the town. There was hard fighting in front and we were in sight of the city all day. We marched on a hill road, the valley being 2 miles wide. With the rest of the army in sight, we marched up the valley. It was truly a grand sight!

February 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday. Our Corps crossed the Broad River early in the morning and drove the enemy back and succeeded in taking the city! Then we succeeded in plundering that defies description! By nightfall the city was more than half burned.

February 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. Layed about in camp all day and the weather here is warm and pleasant.

February 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. Washed my clothes and went to see Dan. Heard that the arsenal had exploded killing and wounding a great many men. As I write this the city is still on fire.

February 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday. Marched 20 miles in the direction of Camden, South Carolina. The country here is mountainous the marching is hard. While the weather continues to remain pleasant, we are seeing escaped prisoners coming in all the time. Foraging now is scarce as the enemy has been very busy foraging too.

February 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. Lay in camp all day. A division of rebel cavalry scattered our foragers this morning, capturing and killing several of our good men. General Smith had 2 prisoners shot.

February 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. Marched 12 miles on good roads today. No enemy seem to be in our sights.

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1865, Wednesday. We had orders to be on the march but did not move due to the heavy continuous rain.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865, Friday. Started at 6 and marched 25 miles. Enemy killed one of the 59<sup>th</sup> Indiana in sight of their column. It was a hard days march. Saw barren pine land most of the day.

March 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday. Marched 12 miles and went into North Carolina to forage. The weather is pleasant.

March 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday. Marched 5 miles and built roads all day. This is hard work.

March 11<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. Marched 11 miles getting into camp at midnight. The roads here are very bad, the worst I have ever seen to march through.

March 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. Marched early and camped 3 miles out of Fayetteville. We passed a large cotton factory and our men then burned it. Then we crossed Rock Creek on pontoons.

March 13<sup>th</sup>. Layed in camp and wrote a letter home.

March 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday. Drew 3 days rations and left camp at 2 o'clock. Marched 11 miles in hard rain.

March 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, Still raining. The roads are very bad now. Saw Dan.

March 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday. As we marched the 8 miles, we passed an A.C. Train and ended up camping near the 4<sup>th</sup> Division.

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. We marched 15 miles in the afternoon and had a light skirmish near the Reuse River. No one got hurt and we built works at night. Some hard work on the left in front of the 14<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

March 20<sup>th</sup>, Monday. Started out before daylight to get and burn the bridge before the enemy could. We accomplished our mission but at a loss of 3 men. We returned to camp to guard Army Headquarters and trains. I was sent out on picket. Our men were skirmishing all day.

March 21<sup>st</sup>, Tuesday. Lay in camp reserve all day. There was heavy fighting and the enemy made several attempts to break our lines but failed every time. The hardest fighting came after nightfall.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>., Thursday. Marched 10 miles to near Cox's Ferry and the weather is warm.

Marched 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday. Marched 12 miles to Goldsburg and went into camp. Saw Dan. We are now foraging 22 miles from camp!

March 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday. In camp with inspection today. Received some mail, the first for 53 days.

March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. In camp and writing letters home.

March 30<sup>th</sup>, Thursday. At this part of my writing I have started my journey homeward. I am well and in good spirits.

I did not keep the record from this time on but write this from memory. Word came to us at Raleigh, North Carolina of the murder of President Lincoln and no one can forget the intense feeling of bitterness of our Army at the news. If General Johnson had made a fight at us at that time, I am sure there would have been no quarter shown the enemy. Lee had surrendered on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April following the surrender of Johnson and the total collapse of the Confederacy. After four years of the bloodiest war this world had ever seen, Sherman's Army was soon on its way to Washington, passing through Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia and also Mount Vernon as well as many of the battlefields from there to our nation's capital.

We arrived at Washington a few days before passing through the Grand Review with the Army of the Potomac passing one day and we the next. Two hundred thousand men in two days passed down the great Pennsylvania Avenue by the President's stand. Lincoln was not there. How sad we all felt.

From Washington to Parkersburg, Virginia by the way of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and the Ohio Rail Road to Louisville, Kentucky where most of the Army was mustered out. But a division including our regiment under General Oliver of Detroit was sent to Little Rock, Arkansas via the Ohio, Mississippi, and White Rivers to a place known as Duvalls Bluffs. We arrived there about the Fourth of July, 1865. We stayed in log barracks with the 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa until we were mustered out on August 18<sup>th</sup> and started for our homes.

We arrived in Davenport, Iowa around September 7, 1865 being paid off and given our discharges. We then left for home to try to gather up the threads where we had dropped them.

Many of us succeeded and many failed. Do we deserve praise for our success or for the many trials we have made, where we failed;

The total length of service to my country was 3 years, 11 months, and 13 days.

---