Kinley Collection Letters

Guide to Oliver Cromwell Kinley Archival Collection (b.1844-d.1923) Sergeant, Company I, 10th 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

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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 10th 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 26th. Today I bid adieu to my dear friends and started for the camp at Iowa City.

September 7th. 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 23rd. We drew our tents and camp equipment and moved our camp one mile east of the depot.

September 24th. 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 25th. 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 26th. Pass Alton, Illinois arriving at Benton Barracks at 9 o'clock P.M.

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

September 29th. Drew our fatigue uniforms. Now we actually look like soldiers!

September 30th. Embarked aboard the steamer “Empress”

October 1st. Arrived today at Cape Girardeau, Missouri and marched into camp just at the edge of town. There we found the 11th Missouri and the 17th Illinois Regiments.
October 4th. 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 14th. A large force started for Fredrickstown, Missouri under Colonel Plummer of the 11th Missouri upon hearing that the Confederates under Jeff Thomson is there with a large force.

October 16th. 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 25th. Today the 17th 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 2nd. Thirty four of our men were sent out on picket duty and all quiet until......

November 5th. 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 6th. 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 9th. 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 10th. Marched to White River, a distance of 35 miles and pitched our tents.

November 11th. 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 13th. 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 14th. Arrived at “Birds Pointland” just as the 7th Iowa was heading off to St. Louis to do some recruiting.
November 16th. On bridge guard today.

November 19th. 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 21st. Began building barracks for the regiment.

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

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

1862

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

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

January 7th. 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 10th. We were payed two months pay today that included our state pay amounting in all to $29.90.

January 11th. Our gunboats returned from down the river.

January 12th. Rebel guerillas killed four of the 2nd 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 14th. Colonel Biders property was seized and confiscated. His three sons were brought in along with all of his Negros

February 21st. 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 1st. Company returned from Charleston where they had been scouting.
March 4th. 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 7th. We marched from Charleston to Bertand six miles and laid in camp til--.

March 9th. 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 12th: 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 13th: 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 17th. Inspection of arms today and a Grand Review.

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

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

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

April 19th. Embarked on the city steamer, “City of Alton” and received two months pay. Still not well but on duty.

April 21st. 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 24th. Uncle Issac Kinley of the 30th Indiana came to see us today. I and father went back with him and went to the 6th Iowa to see Daniel. We found him in the hospital but doing well.
April 30th. More troops coming into camp all the time. On scout today to within 10 miles of Corinth. Lay in the woods all night.

May 1st. Returned to camp and mustered for pay.

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

May 13th. We pitched our tent near the picket lines.

May 17th. We moved three miles nearer the fortifications near Farmington.

May 18th. Digging rifle pits all day.

May 24th. We moved our camp near town.

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

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

May 29th. Heavy firing all day driving the enemy all the time.

May 30th. 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 1st. Layed in camp all day

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

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

June 7th. Arrived at Boonville that lies 40 miles south of Corinth. While here the 2nd 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 12th. Arrived back to within 3 miles of Corinth and went into camp.
June 15th. We moved our camp 3 miles onto Clear Creek for better water.

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

June 30th. 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 4th. Fired a “National Salute” with our artillery and in the afternoon moved our camp 3 miles nearer to Jacinto.

July 7th. We moved a mile and layed on our arms all night.

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

July 16th. Received 4 months pay.

July 25th. Eight companies drew new guns today, “Whiting Rifles”.

August 14th. Went into camp moving 10 miles south and 3 miles east of Jacinto, “Camp Davenport”.

August 17th. Company out foraging.

August 18th. Company sent out on picket guard for 3 days.

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

September 2nd. Company sent on 3 days of Pickett guard duty.

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

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

September 19th. 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 20th. The enemy evacuated their position leaving great numbers of their dead and wounded in our hands. We per sued them 8 miles but could not overtake them.
September 21st-24th. We marched to Jacinto the first day and lay in town all night. Spent most of the time on guard duty.

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

October 3rd. 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 11th. 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 till 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 18th. 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 21st. We marched back to Corinth getting into camp just north of the town.

October 24th. Election Day! Iowa soldiers were permitted to vote!

October 31st. Mustered for our pay.

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

November 9th. Marched out a few miles and returned to do picket duty.

November 13th. 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 15th. Heard a man named Rollins of Company C was accidentally shot and killed.

November 16th. After a Grand Review a few recruits came from Regiment ____, two for our company.

November 17th. 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 21st. 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 29th. 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 30th. Today a severe shock of an earthquake was felt lasting for about a half a minute. Rained all day as the 109th Illinois joined up with us.

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

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

December 21st. 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 25th. Christmas Day! Layed by all day as we watched several divisions pass us.

December 26th. 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 27th. Marched another 7 miles, and more rain.
December 28th. Passed through Vilalia and camped within 7 miles of Memphis.

December 29th. 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 30th. Loaded our train with provisions. I was in town all day.

December 31st. 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 1st. Marched today from Germantown to Lafayette some 22 miles.

January 2nd. Marched back to Germantown leaving our train at Lafayette.

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

January 7th. Ordered to build a stockade today.

January 15th. It snowed in the afternoon. On picket guard all day.

January 19th. Received two months pay.

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

February 1st. In camp all day

February 2nd. 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 12th. Went to town and mailed a “Rural Annual” to Alice.

February 13th. Sent out foraging. Rebel guerillas had burned the bridge across Nonconnah 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 15th. Received two months pay.

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

March 4th. 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 5th. 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 9th. 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 11th. 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 15th. 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 22nd. 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 24th. 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 27th. Arrived in Cold Water at noon today and placed on guard
duty.

March 29th. Our fleet is much scattered. Landed early and policed our boat.
March 30th. Arrived in Tallahatchie at 9'o'clock passing a gun boat at the mouth of the Cold Water.

March 31st. We have now passed several large plantations but they are all deserted by the white folks. The Negros 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 5th. Very foggy this morning. We started very early up the river sailing about 80 miles.

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

April 10th. Wrote letters home.

April 14th. 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 15th. Left Providence arriving at “Millikens Bend” at around 4 o'clock. This is a very pretty place but no town here....WARM.

April 21st. On guard.

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

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

April 30th. 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 1st. After marching 6 miles and crossing the river 5 miles below the Grand Gulf, we heard firing all day.

May 2nd. Hear fighting in the direction of Fort Gibson. Heard that 1500 prisoners were taken. The 28th was engaged and lost but a few men.
May 3rd. More fighting today. We were deployed as skirmishers once but no fighting took place.

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

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

May 7th. In hospital now and sick with Intermittent Fever.

May 8th. Hospital. Somewhat better.

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

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

May 13th. 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 14th. 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 15th. Started for Vicksburg arriving at Clinton around noon. We marched all day.

May 16th. 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 17th. I joined up with our regiment in the evening. Our men had captured 17 pieces of artillery at Black River. The 22nd Iowa distinguished themselves here.

May 19th. Our brigade took its place in line. Heavy firing all day.

May 20th. My birthday today. I am 19 years old
May 22nd. 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 26th. Took the place of the first brigade. They were ordered to the Black River. Heavy firing all day.

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

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

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

June 13th. 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 17th. Father started home today.

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

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

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

June 28th. A feast! Roasting ears for dinner!

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

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

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

July 11th. General camp inspection today. Paroled prisoners can be seen passing by all day.
July 12th. Inspection and a chance to do some swimming. Orders are to be ready at any moment.

July 13th. 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 15th. 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 16th. 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 17th. Started on the road to Vicksburg with the knowledge that the guerillas burned our hospital wagon last night and captured 60 prisoners

July 23rd. On fatigue unloading cars

July 29th-31st. Been in camp all week. Saw Gus on the 30th. 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 15th Army Corps, and we were part of that corps in the 3rd 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 the 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 23rd.
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 15th 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 93rd 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 1st, 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-31st. Most of my time was spent this month in camp and on picket, guard or forage duty. On the 8th we marched to Huntsville, Alabama and there was a snow storm that night. Got to go to town on the 22nd having some fatigue duty. On the 28th 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 1st, 1864. I went to see Dan at Scottsboro some 62 miles by rail and found him well. He enlisted in the veteran service.

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

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

February 14th. 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 15th-29th. Mostly in camp the entire time doing chores like chopping wood or on fatigue duty. Received letters from home on the 25th, 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 27th. Still warm and pleasant. Had an alarm early on the 28th 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 1st-7th. Marched on the 2nd to Chattanooga and I saw where our regiment had been engaged last November the 25th. On the third we marched following the railroad tracks all day camping 4 miles west of Whiteside Mountain. Weather was cool and pleasant.

March 5th. Arrived back in Huntsville in the afternoon and found our tents
ready for us. Warm and pleasant now.

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

March 7th. In camp and wrote some letters home.

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

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

March 15-March 31st. 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 30th, I was mustered into U.S. Service for 3 years by Captain York. This reenlistment now makes me a veteran.

April 1st through April 14th. 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 16th. We foraged for two days out 20 miles from camp. Our regiment drew new guns, The Springfield Rife.

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

April 26th. 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 27th. Bought a watch for $18 from the A. M. Heifner Company.

April 30th. 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 1st -May-25th. On constant picket, guard or fatigue duty the entire time. The 14th saw the 5th Iowa return here from home. On the 19th part of our regiment boarded a gunboat to capture a rebel battery but did not succeed. May 20th. I am noting today that I am twenty years of age. May 25th while in camp I heard that General Mathais has resigned and gone home.

May 26th. The 13th 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 28th. 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 6th Iowa.

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

June 1st, 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 5th. In camp receiving 2 months pay today. Spent $8.25 for a hat and trimming.

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

June 15th. 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 16th. Started at 3 o'clock P.M. arriving at Louisville, Kentucky at 5 o'clock the next morning.

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

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

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

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

June 22 and 23rd. At home.

June 24th. Had the orchard plowed.

June 25th. Ladies Aid Society visited and entertained us.

June 26th. On Sunday I attended Sabbath School.

July, 1864. Spent the 4th 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 31st. 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, 4th of 15 A.C. Guarding the railroad with John
E. Smith in command over us.

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

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

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

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

October 27th. In camp all month doing picket guard duty or on fatigue.
Received a letter from Gus on the 25th 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 7th, 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.

for Abe and 43 for Mac.

November 11th. Still in camp and wrote letters. Paid two months pay and a
$50 bounty.

November 12th. Marched for Atlanta passing Altoona and Ackworth, a total
of 15 miles today.
November 13th. Upon passing Marietta, our troops were busy destroying the railroad as fast as possible.

November 14th. 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 15th. 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 18th. 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 17th 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 21st. Marched early as it rained all day 13 miles meeting the advance of the 17th A.C. And had to take another road. This country is very fine.

November 22nd. After camping the night at Gordon, we met up with the trains of the 15th and 17th 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 23rd. Lay all day by our troops that busy destroying the road. Very cold now. Heavy frost at night.

November 27th. 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 30th. 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.
is a desolate portion of Georgia with all forests and swamps. We traveled a total of 10 miles.

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

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

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

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

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

December 7th. 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 8th. Layed in camp all day and drew rations of flour. Heard cannonading at Savannah 25 miles distant.

December 9th, 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. 17th 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 4th Division was in front leading. We captured one gun. Weather was cool.

December 11th, 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 12th, Monday. After marching 6 miles we camped 8 miles from Ft. McAllister on a fine plantation and set out foraging.

December 13th, 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 16th, 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 17th, Saturday. Got a 11 letters today, 3 from home! All is well I hear. Heavy fog this morning but little firing.

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

December 21st, 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 22nd, 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 Casamir 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, 9th 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 24th. Christmas Eve. On “Grand review” from General Sherman and we were out 5 hours. Warmer than yesterday.

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

December 30th, 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 31st. 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.
January 1st, 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 2nd-16th. 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 19th, 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 23rd. Marched about 10 miles getting in sight of our pickets at Pocataligo. Lots of rain and the roads are very bad here.

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

February 1st, 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 3rd, 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 6th, 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 loosing a single man. Then we marched another two miles and went into camp. Our cavalry had a little fighting.

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

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

February 11th, Saturday. Marched 15 miles today and generally in a easterly's direction. I saw Dan and there was no fighting today.
February 12th, Sunday. The 2nd 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 16th, 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 17th, 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 18th, Saturday. Layed about in camp all day and the weather here is warm and pleasant.

February 19th, 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 21st, 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 25th, 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 27th, Sunday. Marched 12 miles on good roads today. No enemy seem to be in our sights.

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

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

March 7th, Tuesday. Marched 12 miles and went into North Carolina to forage. The weather is pleasant.
March 10th, Friday. Marched 5 miles and built roads all day. This is hard work.

March 11th, 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 12th, 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 13th. Layed in camp and wrote a letter home.

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

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

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

March 18th, 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 14th Army Corps.

March 20th, 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 21st, 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 23rd, Thursday. Marched 10 miles to near Cox's Ferry and the weather is warm.

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

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

March 27th-29th. In camp and writing letters home.
March 30th, 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 9th 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 4th Iowa until we were mustered out on August 18th 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. __________________