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The Civil War Diary of John A. Blair

John Alan Blair

CIVIL WAR DIARY

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The Civil War Diary of

John A. Blair

By

John Alan Blair

A Thesis

In Partial Fulfillment of

The Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

The University of New Mexico
December 7, 1948

This thesis, directed and approved by the candidate's committee, has been accepted by the Graduate Committee of the University of New Mexico in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

Rance V. Stolan
DEAN

March 4 - 1949
DATE

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Thesis committee

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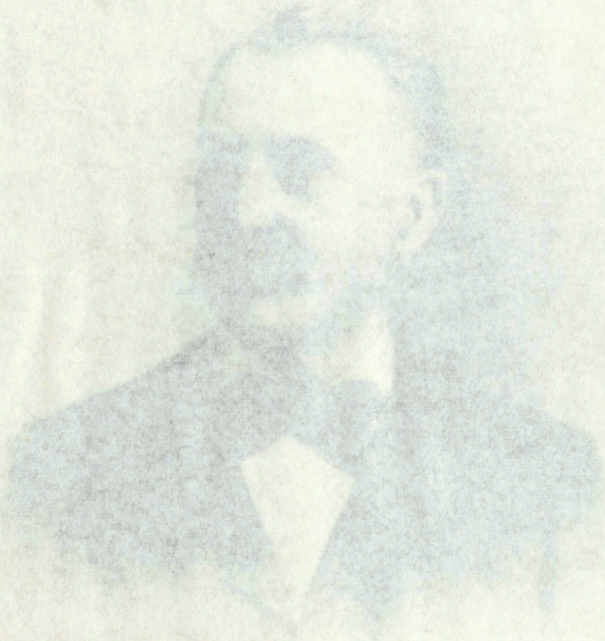
TABLE OF CONTENTS



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Although the Civil War Diary of John A. Blair does not shed new light on the catyclysmic events of the war, it, however, contributes a picture eminating from scenes of troubled times in the life of these United States.

The Diary reflects impressions felt by this Southern officer in his 30th year, of actions in an area and in a period upon which the eyes of the world were focused, and which historians have long attempted to understand. His viewpoints are those of a patriotic Southern soldier who saw righteousness in the cause of the Confederacy and shared a determination that they must succeed. It was recorded for his own satisfaction. The man emerges in the expression of a sense of humor, the emotions from fear and despair felt by a soldier, and the happiness experienced when at home on leave and while visiting in the home of his fiancee. Some of the hardships endured by all the soldiers are revealed.

His style is clear and concise, and at times shows evidence of his legal training.

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John A. Blair was born in Germantown, Tennessee, November 1, 1838. While a small boy he moved with his parents to Tippah County, Mississippi. There he received his early schooling. He graduated from the University of Mississippi with a degree in

law and began to practice, but the unrest preceding the Civil War soon interrupted his career.[1] Although, as a delegate from Tishomingo County at the convention at which Mississippi chose to secede from the Union, he opposed that policy,[2] he went with his state when it left the Union in January, 1861. On April 6th in the same year he was mustered into the newly formed "Iuku Rifles" of Tishomingo County as a private.[3] The "Iuku Rifles" formed a part of the 2nd Mississippi Regiment which, under the command of John Marshall Stone, later governor of Mississippi, saw early and continuous action during the war. The Regiment was attached to Brigadier-General Joseph R. Davis' Brigade, Major-General Harry Heth's Division, Lieutenant-General Ambrose P. Hill's Corps: Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee commanding.[4]

Private Blair became a staff officer and held the post of sergeant-major at the first battle of Manassas.[5] He was promoted to the rank of major in 1863 and to lieutenant-colonel on July 3,

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[1] Blair, Family Records (unpublished). These records are in the possession of Mrs. O. L. Stribling, Waco, Texas.

[2] Obituary in the Tupelo (Mississippi) Journal, November 13, 1898.

[3] J. C. Rietti, Military Annals of Mississippi Confederates. (No publisher, no date), p. 35.

[4] Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi Official and Statistical Register, 1908. (Nashville, Tennessee: Brandon Press, 1908), p. 86.

[5] Rietti, op. cit., p. 36.

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At Gettysburg, on the first day of July, Colonel Stone was wounded and retired after turning over the command of the regiment to Major Blair.[6] Some time later the 6th Wisconsin Regiment commanded by General Dawes trapped the 2nd Mississippi in a railway cut. One-fourth of the southern regiment was killed, wounded or captured that day.[7] This was no doubt consoling to the regiment from Wisconsin which had lost sixty per cent of its forces to the 2nd at the battle of Antietam the preceding year.[8] Major Blair was captured at this time and held prisoner by the Union Army for approximately eight months. Sometime before April 15, 1864, he was exchanged and returned to his regiment. At this time he began to record the thoughts and experiences that comprise the diary, ". . . just to preserve in my mind with some distinction such a time."

After the war Colonel Blair returned to Mississippi. On November 30, 1865, he married Josephine Clifton, a sister of his future law partner. They had five children. He made his home

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His wife died in 1884. Several years later he married Julia Clifton, sister of his first wife. They had two children.

Colonel Blair was a successful lawyer, and even though the hardships suffered in the war had weakened his body, he never retired. He suffered an attack at his desk in 1898 and died two days later. He was 63 years of age.

The Diary which Colonel Blair began on April 15, 1864, covered the period of the siege of Richmond, when Grant and Sheridan were bearing down on Lee, and Sherman was out-manuevering Johnston and Hood in Georgia. It stops abruptly on February 13, 1865, probably because there was no time for making entries as Grant moved in for the kill.

On the first or second day of April, 1865, the Diary fell into the hands of one Stephen P. Carter, a young Yankee soldier of the 11th Vermont Volunteers. In 1903, five years after the

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[9] "The following order will not surprise those of our readers who have had their eyes on the district guillotine since the passage of the late obnoxious law in regard to officials in the unreconstructed States." Editorial in the Tupelo (Mississippi) Journal, March 18, 1869.

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death of Colonel Blair, Mr. Carter returned the Diary to the colonel's widow with regrets

> . . . that it had not been sent while Mr. Blair was alive. I could tell him many things about how the writer, then a young Yankee soldier captured his papers. I could tell him how the Vermont Brigade lay all night so near their Fort that we could hear them talk, and how just before daylight we made the charge and how the 2nd Miss and other Confederate Troops pourd their fire into us.
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> It is not very probable that Colonel Blair ever knew what became of his papers, Now I will tell you how it happened. We took the Fort and part of the Garrison. Those which escaped had no time to collect any of their personal effects it was with them as with the Inhabitance of Sodom, Escape for thy life. It seems that the Colonel had been writing as his papers was all spread out on some kind of table in his Tent and a candle still burning. So as we passed through the Camp my curiosity led me to just go in and see if our Southern Neighbors were up and if so tell them what had happned. I never knew whether he Mr Blair was Captured that day or not, if not, he would be Surrendered one week after with Lees Army at Appomattox.[10]

There is no indication that any part of the Diary was re-read for the purpose of corrections by its writer. Certain very logical mistakes occurred throughout. However, a consistency of grammatical errors proved to be his manner of presentation. Few commas were used; no apostrophes; the use of the dash for periods, and occasionally in place of commas; and in place of changing a y to an i and adding es, he simply added s. In a very

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[10] Letter of Stephen P. Carter to Mrs. John A. Blair, December 5, 1903, (unpublished). In the possession of Wiley A. Blair, Tupelo, Mississippi.

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Mr. Carter, after taking possession of the Diary, contributed a fitting conclusion to the Diary as well as to this Civil War.

CHAPTER II

THE DIARY

April 15th Reached Lynchburg to-day- quite unwell-

April 28th Left Lynchburg this morning- During the intervening days I have been quite sick- I am by no means well yet- Earnestly hope I am «not» seriously afflicted-

May 4th Left the Regiment to-day Sick & went to Orange Court House. Was assigned to Hospital at Lynchburg- Concluded to remain in Orange to night- Put up at Mr Eckloffs.[1] Soon after getting there I «was» ordered to the Provost Marshalls Office in a very ungentlemanly manner by one Lt Keeting.[2] He hadn't sense enough to know whether my papers were right or not. I had to report before the Provost with the appearance of a criminal- Very unpleasant & after the investigation I told this Lt He had acted in «a» very ungentlemanly way- Went back to my quarters-

May 5th 1864. Rested tolerably last night. Started for Richmond 10 AM. The Battle began to day.[3] Reached Richmond

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[2] I have been unable to identify Lieutenant Keeting.

[3] This is the first day's battle of the Wilderness Campaign. Grant's forces crossed the Rapidan River, May 4, and on the 5th opposed the Confederate corps of Ambrose P. Hill and Richard S. Ewell. Lee, in reporting the engagement to the Confederate Secretary

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May 7th Genl Lee telegraphed that he again repulsed the enemy with great slaughter & captured many prisoners & more pieces of Artillery.[6] Went to Mrs. Lees boarding house this evening.[7]

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of War said, "the enemy subsequently concentrated upon General Hill, who . . . successfully resisted repeated and desperate assaults. . . ." Lee to James A. Seddon, May 5, 1864, Official Records (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901), Series I, vol. 36, part 1, p. 1028.

[4] As divisions of General Hill's corps were being relieved, the Federal troops advanced and caused "some confusion." Lee reports that the "ground lost was soon recovered as soon as fresh troops got into position . . . and drove them back to their original lines, turned the enemy's left . . . drove it from the field . . . ." Lee to Seddon, May 6, 1864. Ibid.

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May 9th No Material news.

May 10th Left Richmond for Lynchburg to day- Genl Lee repulsed the enemy from Spottsylvania [sic] Court House twice to day, with Longstreets Corps under R H Anderson-[8]

May 11th Reached Lynchburg this morning about day light & put up with my uncle.[9]

May 12th Registered at . . . Hospital- To day Genl Lee fought his severest battle with the enemy & suffered considerably loss in men & artillery at Spotsylvania- I think they gained some advantage though not a victory.[10] Dr. Lewis[11] promises to have me well in ten days.

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[8] Lieutenant-General R. H. Anderson, who had replaced the wounded General James Longstreet, "repulsed the enemy with heavy slaughter. . . ." Lee to Seddon, May 7, 1864. Ibid., pp. 1028-1029.

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[10] "This morning at dawn the enemy broke thru . . . and gained possession of a portion of our breastworks, which he still holds. A number of pieces of artillery fell into his hands. . . . In the beginning of action we lost a large number of prisoners. . . ." Lee to Seddon, May 12, 1864. Ibid., p. 1030. Grant reports that between 3,000 and 4,000 prisoners were in their hands after this day's work, "including two general officers and over 30 pieces of artillery. . . ." Grant to Major-General Halleck, May 12, 1864. Ibid., p. 4.

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May 24th Genl Lee at Hanover Junction.[12]

May 25th Genl Johnson[13] has been falling back before the advance [of] Sherman for the week past-[14]

May 26th No news. I feel a little better to day- Hope I will improve- Rain this evening.

May 27th Bright morning.

May 28th Cloudy Later- Raining gloomily- No news to day So far- I am still improving a little- Hope to [be] able to go to the army in ten days. The advance of Sherman will test the strength of the Confederacy-[15] If he can occupy Atlanta any length of time the South will be subdued, if the North Conducts the war with average ability. On the other hand if he is defeated & ordinary

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[12] Lee had retreated south about thirty miles toward Richmond to Hanover Junction, which is about thirty miles north of Richmond.

[13] General Joseph E. Johnston commanding the Confederate Army of Tennessee at Dalton, Ga., above Atlanta. Ibid., vol. 38, part 3, p. 637.

[14] Major-General William Tecumseh Sherman commanding the "Military Division of the Mississippi, embracing all the armies and territory east of the Mississippi to the Alleghenies, and Department of Arkansas, west of the Mississippi, had the immediate command of the armies operating against Johnston [July 22, 1865]." Grant report covering operations from March, 1864 to May, 1865. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 14.

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consequences flow from defeat in Such a position the ability of the South to defend itself & protract the war indefinitely will be pretty clearly established. I have a lively hope that Sherman is marching to destruction. The Wisdom of our Rulers Will or the Valor of our troops constitute our strength- The latter is established & the former must exhibit itself against Sherman- Failure in either department may involve any people or any Cause in ruin- We neglect to cut off the limbs to save life- though the preserved life goes about on crutches- Should not North Miss- West Tenn, & all parts of Ky be for a while be left to the protection of a line of skirmishes that additional forces may be concentrated for the overthrow of Sherman.

May 30th Johnson is fighting-[16] Grant is still Maneuvering. Has crossed the Pamunky.[17] No further news to day-

May 31th No news to day- Ate Strawberrys yesterday- Wont agree with me- Went to the City & to the Hospital twice- Too much walking- Had an unpleasant night- Feel better this evening-

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war resources. . . ." Grant to Sherman, April 4, 1865. Ibid., vol. 32, part 3, p. 245.

[16] He must have again meant Joseph E. Johnston. Major-General Edward Johnson had been captured at Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864. Lee to Secretary of War. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 1030.

[17] "The Army has been successfully crossed over the Pamunkey and now occupies a front about 3 miles south of the river." Grant to Halleck, May 29, 1864. Ibid., p. 9.

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May 20th. Johnson is fighting-[18] Grant is still Manouvering. Has crossed the Pamunky.[17] No further news to day-

May 21th. No news to day- Ate Strawberry yesterday- Went across with Mrs- Went to the City & to the Hospital twice- Too much walking- Had an unpleasant night- Feel better this evening-

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war resources. . . ." Grant to Sherman, April 4, 1865. Ibid., vol. 32, part 3, p. 246.

[16] He must have again meant Joseph E. Johnston. Major-General Edward Johnson had been captured at Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864. Lee to Secretary of War. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 1060.

[17] "The Army has been successfully crossed over the Pamunky and now occupies a front about 2 miles south of the river." Grant to Halleck, May 28, 1864. Ibid., p. 9.

June 1st Bright warm day- No important news- Some fighting.

June 3rd Considerable fighting-

June 4th General fighting & all in the last few in our favour-[18] Warm to day & yesterday-

June 5th rain little- Cloudy Sunday- Didnt go to Church. Went to the Depot of the Orange Rail Road to Cousin Emy Blairs, but she didnt leave Lynchburg this morning & returned- will go to morrow. My health is Still improving-

June 6th Went out with Cousin Emy Blair to day to the place over owned by My Grand Mother Blair-

June 11th Left Lynchburg for Richmond.

June 12th Reached Richmond about 1 Oclock- Reached the Wagon Yard at sundown.

June 13th Reached the regiment at White Oak Swamp this morning- The camp was our Camp of July 1st 1862.

June 14th We are now on the road which was travelled in pursuit of McClelland in 1862-

June 15th Genl Heth[19] made a reconnoisance [sic] in force to day down the Long Bridge Road nearly to the Long Bridge & down

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[18] This is the Battle of Cold Harbor. The Union forces opened their attack at 4:30 A.M., and drove Confederate troops within "his entrenchments at all points but without gaining any decisive advantage. . . . our loss was not severe. . . ." Grant to Halleck, June 3, 1864. Ibid., p. 11. Meade reported to Grant, November 1, 1864, that the losses of the Army of the Potomac from June 7 to June 10, were 13,000 men. Ibid., p. 195.

[19] Major-General Harry Heth, division commander in A. P. Hill's Third Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 1025.

June 1st Bright warm day- We start warm work- Come fighting.

June 3rd Considerable fighting-

June 4th General fighting & all in the last few in our favour-[18] Warm to day & yesterday-

June 5th Rain little- Cloudy Sunday- Didnt go to church. Went to the Depot of the Orange Rail Road to Cousin Ky Blairs, but she didnt leave Lynchburg this morning & returned- will go to morrow. My health is still improving-

June 6th Went out with Cousin Ky Blair to day to see place over owned by My Grand Mother Blair-

June 11th Left Lynchburg for Richmond.

June 12th Reached Richmond about 1 O'clock- Reached the Hogan Yard at sundown.

June 13th Reached the regiment at White Oak Swamp this morning- The camp was our Camp of July 1st 1862.

June 14th We are now on the road which was travelled in pursuit of McClellan in 1862-

June 15th Genl Keth[19] made a reconnoissance, also, in force to day down the Long Bridge Road nearly to the Long Bridge & down

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[19] Major-General Darry Keth, cavalry commander in A. P. Hill's Third Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. *Ibid.*, vol. 25, part 1, p. 1[illegible].

the Charles City road several miles- Genl Cooks[20] Brigade on the latter & Genl Davis[21] Brig on the former- Davis found but a few cavalry & had no loss. Cook had quite a severe skirmish with the enemys Cavalry & lost Considerably- Both Brigades returned late in the evening to the general line of battle formed smartly in rear of the position we started from- Forrest met the enemy Cavalry on the 11th & routed them with heavy loss & capturing artillery wagon & prisoners-[22] It is excessivly «sic» dusty not having rained in more than ten days-

June 16th Morning bright. All quiet generally on the north side of the James.

June 17th Still clear hot & dusty- rumored early this morning that Petersburg was taken-[23] The morning papers States that a portion of the outer fortifications were captured-[24]

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[20] Brigadier-General John R. Cook, brigade commander in Heth's Division. Ibid.

[21] Brigadier-General Joseph R. Davis, Brigade commander in Heth's Division. Ibid.

[22] "On the morning of the 10th of June «1864» Gen. Sturgis met the enemy «Forrest» near Guntown, Miss., was badly beaten, and driven back in utter rout and confusion to Memphis, a distance of about 100 miles, hotly pursued by the enemy." Grant to Secretary Stanton, July 22, 1865. Ibid., pp. 34-35.

[23] Petersburg was not occupied by Federal troops until April 3, 1865. Lincoln paid a visit to Grant's headquarters in that city shortly after its evacuation. Lincoln to Edwin M. Stanton April 3, 1865. Ibid., vol. 46, part 3, p. 509.

[24] Major-General Benjamine F. Butler reported to Grant that

the Charles City road several miles. Genl Cooke[20] Brigade on the latter & Genl Davis[21] Brig on the former. Davis found but a few cavalry & had no loss. Cook had quite a severe skirmish with the enemys Cavalry & lost considerably. Both Brigades returned late in the evening to the general line of battle formed nearly in rear of the position we started from. Fortunat met the enemy Cavalry on the 11th & routed them with heavy loss & capturing artillery wagon & prisoners.[22] It is exceedingly nice duty not having rained in more than ten days.

June 10th Morning bright. All quiet generally on the north side of the James.

June 17th Still clear hot & dusty. Rumored early this morning that Petersburg was taken.[23] The morning papers states that a portion of the outer fortifications were captured.[24]

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[20] Brigadier-General John R. Cook, brigade commander in Beth's Division. Ibid.

[21] Brigadier-General Joseph R. Davis, brigade commander in Beth's Division. Ibid.

[22] "On the morning of the 10th of June 1864, Gen. Sturgis met the enemy at Forrest's near Dawson, Miss., was badly beaten, and driven back in utter rout and confusion to Memphis, a distance of about 100 miles, hotly pursued by the enemy." Grant to Secretary Stanton, July 22, 1864. Ibid., p. 84-85.

[23] Petersburg was not occupied by Federal troops until April 3, 1865. Lincoln paid a visit to Grant's headquarters in that city shortly after the evacuation. Lincoln to Edwin M. Stanton April 3, 1865. Ibid., vol. 46, part 3, p. 809.

[24] Major-General Benjamin F. Butler reported to Grant that

June 18th Moved to the south side of the James & near Burmuda Hundred conforting «sic» old Butler-[25] A severe battle at Petersburg to day. Result not known.[26]

June 19th In the trenches since yesterday supporting Pickets Division-[27]

June 20th Moved up the line & took the place occupied by

"the enemy's line was evacuated . . . to go to Petersburg . . . ." but were to leave a picket line "which should amuse us until Early's Division should arrive to take their place. By a blunder the pickets were withdrawn on a part of the line. . . ." The error was discovered and an advance was ordered which succeeded in flanking the remaining pickets. Butler to Grant, June 16, 1864. Ibid., vol. 40, part 2, p. 101. Lee stated, on the same day, that the fortifications were being retaken that evening, and that train schedules should be resumed. Lee to the President of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, June 16, 1864. Ibid., p. 660.

[25] Butler, commanding the United States Army of the James, with two corps, had been on the south side of the James River since May 5th. He was protected on his flanks by a bend in the James River well in advance of the main portion of the remaining Federal forces. Butler to Stanton, May 9, 1864. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 20. Mr. Fleming, in his on the scene accounts of these campaigns, expressed the feeling that Butler was bottled up, "and Beauregard held the cork. . . ." Viviam Minor Fleming, Campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865 (Richmond: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1928), p. 136.

[26] An attack was made on the Rebel forces about one mile from Petersburg in an endeavor to force them across the Appomattox River. The assaults began at 12 M. and lasted about two hours. "Our losses . . . have been severe. . . ." Meade to Grant, June 18, 1864. Official Records, vol. 40, part 2, p. 157.

[27] Major-General George E. Pickett, famous for his charge at Gettysburg, was a division commander in R. A. Anderson's First Corps. Ibid., part 3, p. 761. Pickett's Division was on the line of the western and southern side of the James, facing Butler. Colonel George H. Sharpe to Major-General Humphreys, United States Army, July 5, 1864. Ibid., p. 7.

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Kempers Brigade.[28]

June 21st Changed position to the left & Kempers Brigade retook its old position, which was a very fine one- Our new one was also good- Recrossed the James to night about 12 Oclock PM having left our camp about half an hour by sun- Travelled (sic) until two Oclock in the morning-

June 22nd Got started early without breakfast down the New Market Road & travelled (sic) to New Market Hill- I had been placed in Command of the Skirmishers of our Companys- I went to the front line soon after the enemy advanced & after little fire our men fired according to orders Brigade moved back about half (a) mile & threw up entrenchments. During the night the Gun Boats kept up a continuous fire, throwing the largest shell I ever saw.

June 23rd A new line of battle formed in rear of yesterdays operation. An occasional Shot & Shell-

June 24th Commenced Shelling us about twelve Oclock last night & Col Stone & myself moved our bed-

June 25th Quiet.

June 26th It was supposed that the Yankees had crossed back, but it was found otherwise- Sunday & quiet- Sherman crossed

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[28] Major-General James L. Kemper, brigade commander in Picket's Division. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 1058.

Kemper's Brigade.[28]

June 21st Changed position to the left & Kemper's Brigade retook its old position, which was a very fine one. Our new one was also good. Recrossed the James to right about 12 O'clock PM having left our camp about half an hour by sun. Travelled also until two O'clock in the morning.

June 22nd Got started early without breakfast down the New Market Road & travelled also to New Market Hill. I had been placed in Command of the Skirmishers of our Company. I went to the front line soon after the army advanced & after little fire our men fired according to orders Brigade moved back about half a mile & threw up entrenchments. During the night the Gun Boats kept up a continuous fire, throwing the largest shell I ever saw.

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28 Major-General James L. Kemper, brigade commander in Pickett's Division. Ibid., vol. 36, part I, p. 1058.

over to the south side of the James last night-[29]

June 27th Thought we would have rain yesterday, but the cloud passed around giving us only a few drops- Yesterday & day before were extremely hot days- the hotest [sic] of the year so far- The air feels rather cool this morning. The day grew warm until late in the evening when the clouds thickened & a light shower fell followed by a cool breeze- Two years ago was fought the Battle of Gaines Farm a desperate fight & decisive of McClellands position-[30] How much blood has been Spilt & anguish endured since God only truly knows- Tis horrible to think about-

June 28th Morning Cool-

June 29 & 30th & the 1st of July Quiet & nothing changing or Occurring-

July 2nd Received orders this evening to be ready to move at sundown- Rolled up blankets, Saddled horses & etc waited long time for the March- finally the order is counter manded to move at sundown, but required to be ready to move at any time- Went to bed expecting that we would certainly move some time during the night.

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[29] He undoubtedly meant Sheridan who crossed the James on the 25th of June. Grant to Halleck, June 25, 1864. Ibid., vol. 40, part 2, p. 402.

[30] June 27, 1862 the Battle of Gaine's Mill in which the Confederate forces held the field. The Federal loss was 6,837; the Confederates must have lost 6,000. Mathew Forney Steele, American Campaigns, (Washington: Bryan S. Adams, 1909), vol. 1, pp. 204-205.

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July 3rd Morning finds us on the old camp- had unexpectably a good nights rest- Moved about 10 or 11 Oclock AM- Marched all day. Crossed to the North side of the James & Camped within two miles of Petersburg-[31] Genl Davis went to Richmond & Col Stone Commanded the Brig- I commanded the Regiment- Received orders to be ready to march at 3 AM-

July 4th Had the Regiment aroused at 15 to 3 AM & moved off in the direction of Petersburg in a few moments- Marched to the Appomattox & halted for several hours, waiting for orders- Took our position on the line at Boling No 35 & about the extreme left at 12 or 1 Oclock AM- The works are tolerably good- The battery poorly Constructed- The front is entirely open for half mile & an approching [sic] enemy would be exposed to fire to a long distance. The Yankees will hardly attack this place- The people & the Richmond press predict that Grant will make a furious attack on Richmond & Petersburg to day- Stimulated by the moving importance of the day- The people of Petersburg are excited & marching & moving in every direction-

July 5th The people of Petersburg were spared the awful shelling they expected Grant would give them out of respect to the 4th of July- nor was there any sort of attack any where contrary

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[31] He went to the south of the James River, not to the north.

July 3rd Morning finds us on the old camp- had unexpectedly a good night's rest- Moved about 10 or 11 O'clock AM- Marched all day- Crossed to the North side of the James & Camped within two miles of Petersburg-[31] Genl Davis went to Richmond & Col Stone Commanded the Brig- I commanded the Regiment- Received orders to be ready to march at 3 AM-

July 4th Had the Regiment aroused at 1½ to 3 AM & moved off in the direction of Petersburg in a few moments- Marched to the Appomattox & halted for several hours, waiting for orders- Took our position on the line at Boling No 58 & about the extreme left at 12 or 1 O'clock AM- The works are tolerably good- The battery poorly Constructed- The front is entirely open for half mile & an approaching enemy would be exposed to fire to a long distance. The Yankees will hardly attack this place- The people & the Richmond press predict that Grant will make a furious attack on Richmond & Petersburg to day- Stimulated by the moving importance of the day- The people of Petersburg are excited & marching & moving in every direction-

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to popular belief- To day is quiet so far & has as yet produced no change-

July 6th Quiet all day- No news

July 7th Bright & beautiful Morning- Dry & warm day-

«The remainder of the page and the following two are faded and illegible.»

. . . . . .

& again & again on earnest & imploring looks to the bright sky of heaven for blessing & upon his soul are the tributes of the soldiers love & grief- We wish for them battle, We wish for them Whim, we are gay or gloomy, We wish that they might have lived to witness the triumph of their Country & return to the hearts of relatives & friends- But they are gone. So many are gone never never more to return- It is Consoling that the dead were loved, were noble & brave, are mourned by hundreds of friends, that they died in a righteous cause- Died fighting to protect the Children, the Women, the aged from outrage & torture & subjugation by the Vilest horde that ever disgraced & poisoned «sic» the earth- I know you have been consoled by these things & had the heroism of your heart awakened- We must all share the great debt that God wisely imposed on us as the price of liberty & independence. When our chief Citys, our rural streets, our valleys & plains are . . . & held by the enemy & their vassals & garrisoned & patroled «sic» by Federal Soldiers, when the entire political power of the state & all the local

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authority are exercised by our conquerors who among our fine, spirited, brave & sensitive people would wish to be the poor abject slave of such a people & such a Condition of things. Who desires to live to see this- Let all perish to prevent it. Let them exterminate, but never Conquer- May God in his infinite Mercy & Wisdom find it Consistent with his wish & providence to Shild «sic» & protect from So awful a doom- & if not Oh God let us all die before the dark day arrives. But I feel assured that the Great & Merciful Father will end our great & severe trials & sufferings in that perfect & durable independence which we are strugling «sic» for-& then that bright sweet day of peace shall come the grave shall be covered the vine & willow & precious gratitude fill the heart Christian . . . .

July 8th 1864 Warmer & not so breezy as yesterday- More Cannonading & sharpshooting also-

July 9 th About 5 Oclock this evening the men in the trenches the Cannon all opened or was to open & the men to give three cheers immediately on the cessation of Artillery fire-

What is FOR'S new policy-[32]

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[32] There was much controversy at this time whether General Forrest should be operating along Sherman's lines of supply, or in Mississippi and Alabama. For this controversy read R. S. Henry, "First With the Most" Forrest (New York: The Bobbs Merrill Company, 1944), chapter 20. Also Official Records, vol. 38, part 4, pp. 689, 723, 724, 726, 755, 756, 772, 774, 802, 803, 805.; part 5, pp. 858, 951.

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July 9 th About 8 Oclock this evening the men in the trenches the Cannon all opened or was to open & the men to give three cheers immediately on the cessation of Artillery fire-

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10th All quiet in the forenoon & early evening- Received orders to be ready to move at sun down-with one days ration-

July 11th Moved yesterday a while after sundown about three miles down the Weldon R Road-[33] remained on the tracks all night- This morning moved a few hundred to the rear in a dense & hot piece of woods- A rumour that the enemy were forming on our front to advance brought us back to the Rail Road- Where quiet & a good breeze prevailed all day-

Stephen Carter[34]

July 12th Remained over the R Road all night- Good deal of wind & thunder late yesterday evening with slight rain- Moved about 6 Oclock AM in the direction of our old position in the trenches- Got back about 9 Oclock AM- More wind thunder & clouds this evening-

July 13 A month since I returned to the Regiment- On the evening of the 11th I received my letter of appointment, appointing me Lieut Col 2nd Miss to . . . from 3rd day of July 1863- Considerable Artillery firing this morning-

Capt Cameron[35]

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[33] The Weldon Railroad south of Petersburg.

[34] Stephen Carter, the name of the Federal soldier who captured the Diary in 1865.

[35] The name of Captain Cameron is also written in the hand of Stephen P. Carter. I have been unable to identify him.

10th All quiet on the foreman a early evening- Received orders to be ready to move at sun down-with one days ration-

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July 19th Intermediate days all quiet on the lines around Petersburg; but the news has been exciting from Maryland- Gel Early after driving Hunter from around Lynchburg proceeded up «the» Valley of Virginia- After capturing Martinsburg, Harpers Ferry & destroying the B & Ohio R Road, crossed the Potomac & advanced his lines within sight of the Federal Capital- He has now recrossed into Virginia-[36]

July 18th Raining slowly & steadily- Clouds watery & deep- I think we will have enough rain this time.

July 20th 21st All quiet.

July 22nd All quiet.

July 23rd Good news from Georgia- Genl Hood has gained considerable advantage of the enemy, taking between 2 & 3 thousand prisoners & twenty-five pieces of artillery. The fight occured «sic» on the 22nd-[37]

July 24th Official Dispatch from Genl Hood confirming

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[36] It is "currently reported in Richmond and Petersburg that Early, in command of two divisions of Ewell's Corps, with Brekenridge's Command and other forces, was making an invasion of Maryland with a view of capturing Washington. . . ." Meade to Grant, July 5, 1864. Ibid., vol. 40, part 3, p. 5.

[37] Joseph E. Johnston relinquished his command to General John B. Hood on July 17, 1864. Johnston had been removed due to public pressure as a result of his continued defensive measures, and because Johnston had expressed "no confidence that . . ." he could "defeat or repel «Sherman» . . ." Adjutant and Inspector-General Sam Cooper to Joseph E. Johnston, July 17, 1864. Ibid., vol. 38, part 5, p. 885.

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the above-[38]

July 25th Commenced raining yesterday evening & continued through the night- Had a severe time of it- I suppose it might be called a circumstance of Glorious War- Some time during the night I was waked by the pattering of the rain in my face- Was cold & unpleasant. I endeavored to protect myself & succeeded in covering my face, while my head was exposed- While enduring this & mental deliberating upon how long I could stand it, & how I could avoid it & etc, I felt a little stream creeping slowly under me; feeling for it I found a quantity of water on the blanket spreading & soaking in generously- Soon from my hip to my feet I was wet- Just then the fly flew down & splashed & splattered the water all over me- Got up to fix fly- had on only my socks- got in water ankle deep- My hands felt like they were being frost bitten- The coldest rain I ever felt for July- By repeated efforts the fly is reestablished- I by now very damp all over & the water rising & increasing continually- The prospect is quite gloomy

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[38] "The army shifted its position last night fronting Peach Tree Creek, and formed line of battle around the city with Stewart's and Cheatham's corps. General Hardee, with his corps, made a night march and attacked the enemy's extreme left at 1 o'clock today; drove him from his works, captured 16 pieces of artillery and 5 stand of colors. Major-General Cheatham attacked the enemy at 4 P. M. with a portion of his command; drove the enemy, captured 6 pieces of artillery. During the engagement we captured about 2,000 prisoners, but loss not fully ascertained. . . ." Hood to Secretary of War Seddon, July 22, 1864. Ibid., p. 900.

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[23] "The army shifted its position last night fronting Peach Tree Creek, and formed line of battle around the city with Stewart's and Cheatham's corps. General Hardee, with his corps, made a night march and attacked the enemy's extreme left at 1 o'clock today; drove him from his works, captured 18 pieces of artillery and 3 stand of colors. Major-General Cheatham attacked the enemy on K. M. with a portion of his command; drove the enemy, captured 6 pieces of artillery. During the engagement we captured about 2,000 prisoners, but lose not fully ascertained. . . ." Hood to Secretary of War Seddon, July 22, 1864. Ibid., p. 900.

for sleep- But under the blankets we go & snuck up in a knot into the driest place to be found. The oil cloths over the blankets afford but little protection- the water collects on them in drops & the slightest movement of the body empties them on perhaps the only dry spot left- While the fly was up we amused ourselves with the misfortune- The wind blew hard & tossed the clothes & blankets very much- down comes the fly again- up it goes again- A few moments elapse, again the fly is down to be put up once more- down again & there we let it remain- I had during one of these intevals turned over the blankets that we were sleeping on & put down a blanket which I had been sleeping on- This made our bed only. . . & so we worried out the cold, rainy, sleepless night of the 24th day of July 1864- Felt sleepy & had headache all day- Such nights are as disagreeable as any part of war- I mention this one out of many, just to preserve in my mind with some distinction such a time.

July 26th Morning a little cloudy & warm- Last night was remarkably quiet-

July 27th Left trenches in front of Petersburg on the left of the line about 3 Oclock, marched north across the Appomattox, took the cars on the Petersburg & Richmond Rail Road for Rices Crossing which place reached about 11 Oclock PM- Marched thence to

the lines on the left of Chaffins Bluff- A place we had occupied several days the latter part of June & the 1st days of July- Reached this place

July 28th about day light- Rested a few hours, when we marched a mile further up the line- Here we remained during the day & night of the 29th day of July- The place was a beautiful open pine grove- local troops having previously occupied it we found some desired conveniences prepared for us- Such as arbors & beds- I had the best bed here I have had in Winter or Summer during the war- But we didn't enjoy these beds & arbors long-

July 29th Got breakfast & smoked- improved arbors, made seats- Very comfortable- Received orders to move to the left near our old position- Reached our position after dark- Went to bed supperless-

Saturday July 30th 1864 The enemy having returned to the south side of the James, we began our march to our old positions about 11 Oclock AM. Crossed the river Chofers- took the cars at Rices Crossing. Reached our old quarters & position about 9 Oclock PM. The first we heard of the springing of the mine & the fight was when we reached Rices Crossing- Here we only learned silently that a fight had taken place, that Grant had sprung one of his mines & that we had repulsed them.[39]

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[39] "At 5 A. M. the enemy sprung a mine under one of the

the lines on the left of Chaffins Bluff- A place we had occupied several days the latter part of June & the 1st days of July- Reached this place

July 28th about day light- Rested a few hours, when we marched a mile further up the line- Here we remained during the day & night of the 29th day of July- The place was a beautiful open pine grove- Local troops having previously occupied it we found some desired conveniences prepared for us- Such as arbors & beds- I had the best bed here I have had in Winter or Summer during the war- But we didn't enjoy these beds & arbors long-

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Saturday July 30th 1864 The enemy having returned to the south side of the James, we began our march to our old positions about 11 Oclock AM. Crossed the river Chickahominy- took the cars at Bloss Crossing. Reached our old quarters & position about 3 Oclock PM. The first we heard of the springing of the mine & the fight was when we reached Bloss Crossing- Here we only learned silently that a fight had taken place, that Grant had sprung one of his mines & that we had repulsed them.[39]

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[39] "At 3 A. M. the enemy sprung a mine under one of the

July 31st All quiet this morning- The engagement on yesterday was a decided advantage to us-[40] our loss about one thousand- the Yankees loss about thirty-five hundred- We took over a thousand prisoners- among them upward of a hundred Negroes- It is said the Negroes came with the cry of Fort Pillow & No Quarter- but I doubt this very much.[41] This affair is called

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salients on General B. R. Johnson's front and opened his batteries upon our lines and the City of Petersburg. In the confusion caused by the explosion of the mine he got possession of the salient. We have retaken the salient and driven the enemy back to his lines with loss." Lee to James A. Seddon, July 30, 1864. Ibid., vol. 40, part 3, p. 818. "Having a mine prepared running for a distance of eighty feet along the enemy's parapet, and about twenty feet below the surface of the ground, ready loaded, and covered ways made near to his line, I was strongly in hopes, by this means of opening the way, the assault would prove successful. The mine was sprung a few minutes before 5 o'clock this morning, throwing up four guns of the enemy and burying most of the South Carolinia Regiment. Our men immediately took possession. . . . The effort to carry the ridge beyond and which would give up Petersburg and the south bank of the Appomattox failed. Grant to Halleck, July 30, 1864. Ibid., p. 636. Grant lost 3,798 men in his experiment. William F. Fox, Regimental Losses in the American Civil War (Albany, N. Y.: Albany Publishing Company), p. 547.

40 "Gen. A. P. Hill reports that Gen. Mahone in retaking the salient possessed by the enemy this morning recovered the four guns with which it was armed, captured 12 stand of colors, 74 officers, including Brigadier-General Bartlett and staff, and 855 enlisted men. Upward of 500 of the enemy's dead are lying unburied in the trenches. «His Hill» loss slight." Lee to Seddon, July 30, 1864. Official Records, vol. 40, part 3, p. 818.

41 In capturing Fort Pillow, Tennessee, April 12, 1864, Forrest is alleged to have "murdered" all Negroes who had opposed him. Much was made of this affair. It was reported that all Negroes who joined the Union forces in Memphis took an oath to avenge Fort Pillow and show the troops of Forrest

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[40] "Gen. A. P. Hill reports that Gen. Mahone in retaking the salient possessed by the enemy this morning recovered the four guns with which it was armed, captured 12 stand of colors, 74 officers, including Brigadier-General Bartlett and staff, and 886 enlisted men. Upward of 500 of the enemy's dead are lying unburied in the trenches. Hill's loss slight." Lee to Seddon, July 30, 1864. Official Records, vol. 40, part 3, p. 818.

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the battle of Griffiths farm- Genl Mahone[42] commanded most of the fighting on our side- The Assaulting party belonged to the 9th Corps.

August 1st Unusually quiet- but very hot- No news

August 2nd Atlanta is still in our possession- The Yankees have cut up our Rail Roads considerably- The condition of affair is critical there, but I firmly believe the result must be decidedly favorable to us- Have secured orders to be ready to move at sundown further up to the left in the trenches- where the Yankees are close at hand- The change is not to our advantage- We may be blown up at any time- We perhaps may sleep each & each over a powder mine in the hands of the enemy- This is not calculated to awaken pleasant sensations-

August 3rd Reached our position to the left of the Reaves House & to Genl Mahones left a short time after dark- Got up this morning & looked at fellow citizens of the United States- works, cannon, men & all & every unit before us & yet we don't fight- Mighty funny- A shell was thrown at this evening passing close to our "flag & killing three men" just to right & wounded four.

"no quarter". Forrest to Major-General C. C. Washburn, United States Army, June 14, 1864. Ibid., vol. 32, part 1, p. 586.

[42] Major-General William Mahone division commander, A. P. Hill's Corps. Ibid., vol. 42, part 1, p. 853.

the battle of Griffith farm- Genl Manson[42] commanded most of the fighting on our side- The Assaulting party belonged to the 5th Corps.

August 1st Unusually quiet- but very hot- No news

August 2nd Atlanta is still in our possession- The Yankees have cut up our Rail Roads considerably- The condition of affair is critical there, but I firmly believe the result must be decidedly favorable to us- Have received orders to be ready to move at sundown further up to the left in the trenches- where the Yankees are close at hand- The change is not to our advantage- We may be blown up at any time- We perhaps may sleep each & each over a powder mine in the hands of the enemy- This is not calculated to awaken pleasant sensations-

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"no quarter". Forrest to Major-General O. O. Howard, United States Army, June 14, 1864. Ibid., vol. 32, part 1, p. 558.

[42] Major-General William Manson division commander, A. P. Hill's Corps. Ibid., vol. 42, part 1, p. 952.

God works- Several others soon followed but I have heard of no damage done-

August 4th The killing & shelling above alluded occured [sic] on the 4th instead of the 3rd- We have rumours of mining from deserters Yesterday & to day- The Yankees accounts of the battle of the 30th place their loss higher than our estimate- Their estimate being five thousand, our estimate not higher than 4 thousand. I think now twas not less than six thousand-

August 5th Finished examining Major Parker of the 26th Miss Regiment yesterday-[43] From the testimony submitted to the board, we were compelled to pass favorably in his case- A mine was blown up late this evening followed by heavy artillery firing.[44]

August 6 A report of the part taken by the Regiment in all the engagements from 4th of May to present time is called for. I have hired Duberry- He commenced drawing my extra rations yesterday-[45]

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[43] Major Tully F. Parker of the 26th Mississippi Regiment, Joseph R. Davis' Brigade, Heth's Division, A. P. Hill's Corps. Ibid., vol. 46, part 2, p. 1182. I have been unable to discover the reason for the examination.

[44] This was a Confederate mine which was exploded at 6:30 P.M., on the 5th, in front of Petersburg, causing little damage. General Adelbert Ames to Major William Russell August 6, 1864. Ibid., vol. 42, part 1, p. 807. General Beauregard called it an experimental mine. Ibid., p. 1163.

[45] Duberry could possibly have been a slave. They had been used for menial jobs in the service of the Confederate Army, but never bore arms. December 5, 1864, General Order # 86 out of the Adjutant and Inspector-General's office stated that there was to be brought "into service the 20,000 slaves authorized by the Act of

god work. Several others soon followed but I have heard of no damage done.

August 4th The Milling & shelling above alluded occurred also on the 4th instead of the 3rd. We have rumours of mining from deserters Yesterday & to day. The Yankees accounts of the battle of the 30th place their loss higher than our estimate. Their estimate being five thousand, our estimate not higher than 4 thousand. I think now twas not less than six thousand.

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Drew no before- The Scene of the Artillery firing was . . . yesterday evening. Col Stone went to the rear, short distance this morning- perhaps to Waggon «sic» Yard- unwell.

«Misdated» July 7th Sabbath day- It has been a long time since I spent this day according to the forms & dutys of a Christian people- It comes & goes now- like other sacred things of old- unobserved in heart or practice- What a dreadful State America is in- The entire population of the only race of superior intelligence & cultivation on this the Western Continent Wholy «sic» obsored «sic» body & mind on the useless & cruel outrage & slaughter of their kind- It may be very well said- Oh judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts & men have lost their reason[46] & religion & influence become powerless or Whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad-[47] The North is certainly perfectly mad- Instead of the word of Christian greeting & religious devotion we only hear the crack of the rifle, the terrible scream of the bursting shell. Humbley «sic» & sincerely before God as a Southern Soldier I can see no escape from that wall of defense we are exacting every Human each or the

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Congress approved February 17, 1864." These slaves were to be received "for labor in the engineer and other departments of the service." Samuel Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector-General. Ibid., Series 4, vol. 3, pp. 897-898.

[46] Shakespeare, Julius Caesar, act 3, scene 2, line 109.

[47] "For those whom God to ruin has designed/ He fits for faith, and first destroys their mind." John Dryden, The Hind and The Panther, part 3, line 2,387.

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least right on the part of the North to endever «sic» by arms to secure our submission to the laws & Government of the United States-

Monday 8th Hot weather. Considerable Shelling to day- No News-

August 9th Reported that Grant is moving off portions of his troops.[48] This is merly «sic» guess work- Reported that we have sent Cavalry & Artillery from Petersburg in the direction of the Rapid Ann «Rapidan River»-[49] Bad news from Mobile in the last few days-[50] Also a force of six teen thousand of the enemy at Holly Springs. The peril to the general Su cess «sic» of our Military operations is by no means over-

August 10th Slight rain last night- The battery on our left which has So annoyed us has been silent to day- From this it

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[48] Major-General Philip Sheridan with the greater portion of his cavalry, and part of the 18th and 19th Corps, had left, but there was still a formidable force confronting Petersburg. Lee to Seddon, August 12, 1864. Official Records, Series 1, vol. 42, part 2, p. 1170.

[49] Lee ordered General Wade Hampton's Cavalry Division to join R. H. Anderson's Division, to operate north of the Rappahanock, in order to "demonstrate" against Washington should the Federal forces move to the west of the Blue Ridge range. "Any enterprise that can be undertaken to injure the enemy, distract or separate his forces, embarrass his communications on the Potomac or on land, is desirable." Lee to Anderson, August 11, 1864. Ibid., p. 1171.

[50] "Deserters and refugees report to-night that Farragut has passed into Mobile Bay with his gun boats and transports, and it is believed in Atlanta that he has Mobile." Major-General George H. Thomas to Sherman, August 9, 1864. Ibid., vol. 38, part 5, p. 436.

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is presumed the fort has been evacuated- Large volumes of smoke were visible to day in rear of the Yankees lines & to night a brightness reflects against the sky. It is thought that the Yankees may have Petersburg to night-

August 11th Last night an Officer in command on the Picket line, waked up Col Stone & informed him that the Yankees could be seen leaving. The Col got up went out to see, but was by no means satisfied that they could be seen leaving- I was interested to see the alterations made & got up early this morning but could discover no sign of evacuation- If anything there is a stronger force on our immediate front this morning than yesterday- I have ordered Duberry to proceed to No Carolina on a foraging expedition-

August 12th "Our Battery assured this morning" that was not evacuated- Considerable shelling to the the right & to the left of us & in front of us- Each side hollowed [sic] as a good shot was made & the increasing excitment promised to end in a difficulty- In front of the 55th N C their flag was planted on the breast works & the Yankees fired several time rifle shots at it- The Yankees hollowed [sic] at each good shot- The dust was thrown all over the flag & the firing endangering the men it was taken down- then the Yankees cheered lustily- Then every one regretted its being taken down- Our big guns opened this

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evening on some Yankees approaching their lines some distance in the rear- One Shot routed them- they ran like frightened sheep- Twas very rich & expect some became very warm & exhausted- This was the signal for every thing to open- firing became brisk & animated- the men entering into the fury of it- I would not be surprised if we get up a "War with our friendly neighbors" on such an occasion, before it is repeated very often-[51] There was very heavy artillery firing up the river this morning- which excited interest & remarks-

August 13th Nothing unusual occured [sic] to day- I went to Petersburg for my trunk sent up from Lynchburg- It contained apples, onions, butter . . . from Aunt Mary Blair [Mrs. John S. Blair]-

August 14th Sabbath all quiet-

August 15th Attended Military Court to day as Council for Maj Buchanan-[52] Can put off until Wednesday the 17th.

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51 "September 13th, while General Lee, Colonel Stone and Captain Walker were looking over the line, Walker was killed. Men were frequently killed in the rifle pits." Dunbar Rowland, The Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi, 1908 (Nashville, Tennessee: Press of the Brandon Printing Company, 1908), p. 436.

52 Very probably he was referring to Major J. H. Buchanan of the Second Mississippi Regiment. I have been unable to find the reason for the case. Both Colonel Blair and Major Buchanan were wounded in the Weldon Railroad engagement on the 18th of August. Ibid., p. 438.

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August 18th Attended Military Court to day as Counsel for Maj Buchanan.[52] Can not act until Wednesday the 17th.

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August 16th A portion of our troops have gone to the South side of the James to a demonstration or real movement of the enemy over there- Some fighting has occured [sic]. We left trenches this evening about 1/2 8 Oclock & occupied a retired position on the extreme left.

August 17th Maj Buchanans case Came off to day. Papers report heavy fighting Yesterday on the Darbytown & Charles City road. Our lines were broken through at one time, but Soon restored- The enemy made a determined attack & was repulsed-[53]

August 18th Papers report that we captured (600) six hundred prisoners yesterday- Weather the most oppressive I ever felt- Suddenly orders came to move- The enemy have taken possession of the Weldon Rail Road & in Col Stones absence I command the Regiment move across the road & pitch in-[54] I recive [sic] a severe wound & retire- Sent on to . . . & . . . Hospital-

19th Suffered terribly yesterday & feel easy to day- Start to Richmond at 1 Oclock-

August 20th At General Hospital No 4-

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[53] A portion of the fighting in the operations on the north bank of the James River covering August 13th through the 20th. Official Records, vol. 42, part 1, p. 2.

[54] Major-General Warren had been sent by Meade to destroy as much of the Weldon Railroad as he could. Major-General Heth engaged him and "drove him a mile, capturing 150 prisoners." Lee to Seddon, August 18, 1864. Ibid., p. 1185.

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[54] Major-General Warren had been sent by Meade to destroy as much of the Weldon Railroad as he could. Major-General Hill engaged him and "drove him a mile, capturing 600 prisoners." Lee to Seddon, August 18, 1864. Ibid., p. 1288.

Sept 18th Yesterday evening I walked with my crutches about ten step- To day I have walked more. One Month Since I was wounded- Up to about the 9th day I suffered good deal with wound. Since that time it has been comparatively easy- My leg was very much swollen over my foot- The swelling has gone down very Slowly- & the wound healed slowly also- The swelling in my feet continues- to some extent. About the 8th of Sept I was taken with sore throat, from which I suffered very much for a week- When that passed away I immediately had a chill- but by prompt treatment I had no more & got over the effects of chill & medicine in three or four days- For the last few days I have felt well & I hope to recover now without any other afflictions. This is Sabbath day & perhaps the last one for this wound at least I will spend in this Hospital- My treatment has been very good from all partys. I am in great trouble about my coat-

Adaline Johnson[55]

Sept 26th Have directed Adjutant Harman[56] to procure my Coat from . . . have it fixed & send it to Baldwin «Mississippi» or some other point on the Rail Road for me & to write me at Okolona «Mississippi» or Richmond- & if dont have my coat fixed

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[55] I have been unable to identify Adaline Johnson.

[56] Adjutant Harmon is unidentified. He may have been a member of the Second Mississippi Regiment.

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Adaline Johnson[55]

Sept 26th Have directed Adjutant Barron[56] to procure my Coat from . . . have it fixed & send it to Baldwin «Mississippi» or some other point on the Rail Road for me & to write me at Okolona «Mississippi» or Richmond- & if dont have my coat fixed

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55 I have been unable to identify Adaline Johnson.

56 Adjutant Barron is unidentified. He may have been a member of the Second Mississippi Regiment.

to leave to day- Traveled very well until some time in the night when the train broke down & remained until daylight.

29th when the cars moved off again Reached Danville «Virginia» about 1 Oclock & took dinner- Left Danville about 8 Oclock- Reached Grensborough «sic» N C about 2 Oclock.

Sept 30th Went to the Wayside Hospital & remained until about 9 Oclock, when the cars moved off- Missed the connection here as well as at Danville- progressing slowly-

H.R. Hooper[57]

Maj 1 s Mo Cav

Army Tenn

Crawfordsville, Miss

Oct 1st Reached Agusta «Georgia» in the Middle of the evening- Left Agusta after dark- had a terrible rain between Agusta & Millen «Georgia» where we changed cars for Macon «Georgia» -

Oct 2nd Reached Macon this morning about 6 Oclock- Went to the way side Hospital- Had a difficulty with the ward Master & went to a private Home- Remained all day in Macon (Sunday) started 8 Oclock PM for Columbus.

Oct 3rd Reached Columbus «Georgia» at day light- Left an hour after- Reached Montgomery «Alabama» about 3 Oclock- Got

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[57] Major H. R. Hooper was brigade quartermaster in Brigadier-General Cavell's Brigade, Major-General D. H. Maury's Division, Confederate States Army of Tennessee. Ibid., vol. 27, part 1, p. 400.

aboard the steamer Senator No 2-

Oct 4th Got on the cars at Selma «Alabama» - Reached Demopolis «Alabama» about 12 AM Got a Boat travelled down the Tombigbee 4 miles to McDowell «Alabama» - took the cars at McDowell & arrived at Meridian, Mississippi at dark-

Oct 5 Left Meridian at 7 Oclock- Reached Ololona «Mississippi» at 4 Oclock PM- & put at Hospital.

Oct 6th In Hospital Okolona Miss- Get plenty to eat-

Carter Carter

Miss E[illegible]m Boagon

Morilton Ala

My Country tis of

Thee sweet land-[58]

Oct 8th Reached I-u-ka «Mississippi» to day after sunset after an absence of more than three years- But few citizens still live here- The town is not much damaged- Remained here until the 18th when I started for Fulton «Mississippi» -

For gold the merchant ploghs «sic» the main the main

The farmer ploghs «sic» the Manor-

But glory is the Sodgers price-

The Sodgers wealth is honor-[59]

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[58] The names and quoted matter appear to be in the hands of Stephen P. Carter.

[59] Robert Burns, The Poor and Honest Sodger, lines 57-60.

aboard the steamer Senator No 2-

Oct 4th Got on the cars at Selma «Alabama» - Reached Demopolis «Alabama» about 12 AM Got a Boat travelled down the Tombigbee 4 miles to McDowell «Alabama» - Took the cars at McDowell & arrived at Meridian, Mississippi at dark-

Oct 5 Left Meridian at 7 O'clock- Reached Okolona «Mississippi» at 4 O'clock PM- & put at Hospital.

Oct 6th In Hospital Okolona Miss- Got plenty to eat-

Carter Carter

Miss Kirtrin Boagem

Meridian Ala

My Country tis of

Thee sweet land-[89]

Oct 8th Reached I-u-ka «Mississippi» 10 day after summer after an absence of more than three years- But few citizens still live here- The town is not much damaged- Remained here until the 18th when I started for Ruldon «Mississippi» -

For gold the merchant plights «sels» the land the man

The farmer plights «sels» the Manor-

But glory is the Soldiers prize-

The Soldiers wealth is honor-[89]

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[88] The manor and quoted matter appear to be in the hands of Stephen F. Carter.

[89] Robert Burns, The Poor and Honest Soldier, lines 27-30.

I could na sing- I could na say
How much- how dear I love thee
I only live to love thee-[60]

I swear and vow that only thou
Shall ever be my dearie
Only thou I swear & vow
Shall ever be my dearie-[61]

Oct 19 1864 Stayed with Mr Wm J Hart at Big Springs Factory last night- Reached Fulton about 3 Oclock-

Oct 20th Visited Miss Josie Clifton last evening- found her looking more lovely & beautiful than I could imagine-[62] Spent a delightful time here-

Nov 1st Left Fulton this morning- reached Dan Capers, near Richmond Miss same day & remained until the 6th- when I left for Verona «Mississippi» -

Nov 8th Left Verona about one PM & reached Ololona just before dark-

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[60] Burns, O, Were I On Parnassus' Hill, lines 11-12.

[61] Burns, Wilt Thou Be My Dearie, lines 6-9.

[62] Miss Josie Clifton became Mrs. John A. Blair, November 30, 1865. Blair, Family Records.

I could sing- I could say
How much- how dear I love thee
I only live to love thee-[60]

I swear and vow that only thou
Shall ever be my dearie
Only thou I swear & vow
Shall ever be my dearie-[61]

Oct 19 1866 Stayed with Mr & Mrs J Hart at Big Springs Factory last night- Reached Fulton about 5 Oclock-

Oct 20th Visited Miss Josie Clifton last evening- found her looking more lovely & beautiful than I could imagine-[62] Spent a delightful time there-

Nov 1st Left Fulton this morning- remoded Dan Capers, near Richmond Miss same day & remained until the 6th- when I left for Verona ,Mississippi -

Nov 8th Left Verona about one PM & reached Oloxoa just before dark-

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60 Burns, O. Were I On Parnassus' Hill, lines 11-12.

61 Burns, Will Thou Be My Dearie, lines 5-8.

62 Miss Josie Clifton became Mrs. John A. Blair, November 30, 1866. Blair, Family Records.

Nov 9th Still in Ololona «Mississippi» -

10th Reached Maridian «sic» Miss-

11th Reached Brandon about 3 Oclock PM-

Nov 17th Will leave here to day for Maridian «sic» Corinth «Mississippi» etc- Have spent the time delightfully with my dear Aunt & Uncle & lovely kind Cousins- It makes me sad to leave them- We may never meet again. Three years since I saw them before- God spare me to meet them again- & if not may it be the Will of the Great Good God to meet us in heaven.

Nov 18th Reached this place (Maridian) «sic» at 6 Oclock PM yesterday- Three months to day since I was wounded- All danger of permanent disability is now passed- & I am almost well again-

Dec 6th 1864 Arrived in I-u-ku 24th, remained until 29th. Started for Fulton & Reached there on the evening of the 30th- Remained in Fulton until the 4 of Dec, when I started for I-u-ku, which place I reached yesterday evening- I bid my sweet & darling Josie loving & affectionate farewell on Saturday night 3rd day of Dec 1864- When will we meet again-

Dec 8th Left I-u-ku & reached Corinth- Weather cold & increasing in severity-

Dec 9th Very cold & snowing & freezing hard- No train for below-

Dec 10th No train yet- Will be one perhaps to morrow-

Nov 9th Still in Oloiome "Mississippi" -

10th Reached Meridian "Miss Miss-

11th Reached Brandon about 5 Oclock PM-

Nov 12th Will leave here to day for Meridian "Miss Corinth "Mississippi" etc- Have spent the time delightfully with my dear Aunt & Uncle & lovely kind Cousins- It makes me sad to leave them- We may never meet again. Three years since I saw them before- God spare me to meet them again- & if not may it be the Will of the Great Good God to meet us in heaven.

Nov 14th Reached this place (Meridian) "Miss" at 8 Oclock PM yesterday- Three months to day since I was wounded- All danger of permanent disability is now passed- & I am almost well again-

Dec 6th 1863 Arrived in I-u-ka 24th, remained until 28th. Started for Fulton & Reached there on the evening of the 30th- Remained in Fulton until the 4 of Dec, when I started for I-u-ka, which place I reached yesterday evening- I did my assist & darling Josie having & affectionate farewell on Saturday night 3rd day of Dec 1863- When will we meet Again-

Dec 8th Left I-u-ka & reached Corinth- Weather cold & increasing in severity-

Dec 9th Very cold & snowing & freezing hard- Me train for below-

Dec 10th No train yet- Will be one perhaps to morrow-

. . . is . . . along the M & O R R-

Dec 11th Terribly cold- Left Corinth this morning & made the most tedious & disagreeable trip I ever made in my life- Stayed all night at the Hospital Okolona Miss-

Dec 12th Left Okolona at 7 Oclock this morning & reached Maridian «sic» about 6 Oclock-

Dec 13th Left Maridian «sic» at the usual hour this morning- Reached McDowell about one Oclock PM- Took a boat here & ran up the Tombigbee River to Demopolis Ala- Reached Selma about 8 Oclock behind time there for the Steamer going up the Ala River for Montgomery. Stayed all night in Selma.

Dec 14th About dark the Steamer Cherokee left Selma for Montgomery Ala-

Dec 15th Had tolerable pleasant ride from Selma to Montgomery. I delight in steam boat riding- Took the cars at Montgomery for Columbus & reached the latter point about 5 Oclock- having left the former at 8 Oclock PM- Started for Macon Georgia about 6 Oclock- On the way from Montgomery to Columbus I formed the acquaintance of Mrs Genl Early- A pleasant fine looking & intelligent lady- About 10 Oclock PM I discovered that I had left my Haver sack in the ladys car at Columbus- Started back from Butler «Georgia» when the trains met- arrived at Columbus about 5 Oclock & had the extraordinary fortune of finding the haversack with all my articles- Started

. . . is . . . along the M & O R R-

Dec 11th Terribly cold- Left Corinth this morning & made the most tedious & disagreeable trip I ever made in my life- Stayed all night at the Hospital Okolona Miss-

Dec 12th Left Okolona at 7 O'clock this morning & reached Meridian ,also about 6 O'clock-

Dec 13th Left Meridian ,also at the usual hour this morning- Reached Madowell about one O'clock PM- Took a boat there & ran up the Tombigbee River to Demopolis Ala- Reached Selma about 8 O'clock behind time there for the steamer going up the Ala River for Montgomery. Stayed all night in Selma.

Dec 14th About dark the Steamer Cherokee left Selma for Montgomery Ala-

Dec 15th Had tolerable pleasant ride from Selma to Montgomery. I delight in steam boat riding- Took the cars at Montgomery for Columbus & reached the latter point about 6 O'clock- having left the former at 8 O'clock PM- Started for Macon Georgia about 6 O'clock- On the way from Montgomery to Columbus I formed the acquaintance of Mrs Genl Early- A pleasant like looking & intelligent lady- About 10 O'clock PM I discovered that I had left my Haver sack in the ladys car at Columbus- Started back from Butler ,Georgia when the train met- arrived at Columbus about 3 O'clock A had the extraordinary fortune of finding the haversack with all my articles- Started

back on the freight train in half hour & reached Macon about 4 PM-

Dec 16th No Government line between here Macon Ga & the Rail R-

Dec 17 & 18 Left Macon in a Waggon (sic) about 6 Oclock 18th & reached Greensboro just before sundown-

Dec 19th Left Greensboro Georgia on the cars at 11th Oclock AM & arrived at Agusta after dark-

Dec 20th Left Agusta 6 Oclock & reached Columbus a while before dark-

Dec 21st Reached Salisbury N C about 12 AM- The train here was pressed by the Authoritys to transport a Regiment of Home Guards, I suppose to Wilmington N C & while I succeded in getting a seat on, most were left- Arrived at Greensboro (North Carolina) about 3 PM- No Train-

Dec 22nd Stayed in this place Greensboro last night & here yet 12 Oclock noon- have a little hope of getting off this evening- Weather cold- Left Greensboro N C about 1/2 after 5 Oclock PM.

23rd Travelled very badly- Up to 5 Oclock have travelled only 30 miles-

24th Reached Danville about 10 Oclock- about forty hours between Greensboro & Danville a distance of forty eight miles-

Dec 25th Arrived in Richmond about 10 Oclock after an absence

back on the freight train in half hour & reached Macon about 4 PM-

Dec 16th No Government line between here Macon Ga & the Rail R-

Dec 17 & 18 Left Macon in a Wagon wide, about 6 O'clock 18th & reached Greensboro just before sundown-

Dec 19th Left Greensboro Georgia on the cars at 11th O'clock AM & arrived at Augusta after dark-

Dec 20th Left Augusta 6 O'clock & reached Columbus a while before dark-

Dec 21st Reached Salisbury N C about 12 AM- The train here was pressed by the Authority to transport a Regiment of Home Guards. I suppose to Wilmington N C & while I succeeded in getting a seat on, most were left- Arrived at Greensboro North Carolina about 5 PM- No Train-

Dec 22nd Stayed in this place Greensboro last night & here yet 12 O'clock noon- have a little hope of getting off this evening- Weather cold- Left Greensboro N C about 1\2 after 5 O'clock PM.

22nd Travelled very badly- Up to 8 O'clock have travelled only 50 miles-

24th Reached Danville about 10 O'clock- about forty hours between Greensboro & Danville a distance of forty eight miles-

Dec 25th Arrived in Richmond about 10 O'clock after an absence

of three months- I am Standing by the mantle listening to the roar of the waters of the James as they ruch along over the Rocky bed- It is Melancholy Music- Where will I be a year hence at this hour- Spottswood Hotel Va- 7 Oclock PM-

Dec 26th Left Richmond at 7 AM- & reached Petersburg about 10 AM- Started the hunt for my Command- Found the Hospital- Dr Holt sent me to the Regiment in an ambulance- Found the officers & men in comfortable winter quarters- & all quiet- Weather bad-

27th Cloudy foggy morning- Went to Petersburg after my baggage, which I left the day before- having to walk some distance- Partook of a Splendid dinner with Col Nelson,[63] Adjt Gen Parson Witherspoon of the 42nd Miss- Had a Splendid dinner- pleasant gentlemen- Turnips, beef, Sauce, turkey, pickle, Coffee, Cake & wine- Nicely cooked & Seasoned- I enjoyed the feast highly-

Dec 28th Weather very gloomy- Dr Hubbard[64] called to see us to day- Read my testiment this morning for the first Since I came to Camp- The times are very dull- but few or no sources of any pleasure or enjoyment of any kind- I Swear here to day that I have no hope for my Country- I Regard <u>all</u> as <u>lost</u>- God May bring

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[63] Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew M. Nelson, Davis' Brigade, Heth's Division, A. P. Hill's Third Army Corps. <u>Official Records</u>, vol. 46, part 2, p. 1182.

[64] I have not been able to identify Doctor Hubbard.

of three months- I am standing by the mantle listening to the roar of the waters of the James as they rush along over the rocky bed- It is melancholy music- Where will I be a year hence at this hour- Spotswood Hotel Va- 9 Oclock PM-

Dec 26th Left Richmond at 7 AM- & reached Petersburg about 10 AM- Started the hunt for my Command- Found the Hospital- Dr Holt sent me to the Regiment in an ambulance- Found the officers & man in comfortable winter quarters- & all quiet- Weather bad-

27th Cloudy foggy morning- Went to Petersburg after my baggage, which I left the day before- having to walk some distance- Partook of a splendid dinner with Col Nelson,[63] Adjt Gen Parson Witherspoon of the 42nd Mass- Had a splendid dinner- pleasant gentlemen- Turnips, beef, Sauce, turkey, pickle, coffee, cake & wine- Nicely cooked & seasoned- I enjoyed the feast highly-

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[63] Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew H. Nelson, Davis' Brigade, Keth's Division, A. P. Hill's Third Army Corps. Official Records, vol. 46, part 2, p. 1182.

[64] I have not been able to identify Doctor Hubbard.

us out- My heart is very Sad- Ruin un happiness & disgrace will cling to us-

January 3rd 1865 And all things, whatsoever ye ask in prayer, Believing, ye shall receive-

January 6th 1865 I wish very much to survive this war but here is my feeling "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: neverless not as I will, but as thou wilt- St Matthew Cap 26th verse 39th-

January 13th Col Stone left to day on recruiting service- A perfectly fair & pleasant day-

Captain Winthrow

Company 17th N C

2 shovels & 2 spades & one pick-

January 18th General Davis having gone to Richmond I being the senior officer present, was notified that I was in Command of the Brigade- I remained at my Regimental Hdqrs & go up to Brigade Hdqrs to sign papers every evening.

January 25th Saw Col Lewis[65] to day for the first time in several years, since January 61- He was looking well- Francis Blair Sr left Richmond to day-[66]

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[65] I have not been able to identify Colonel Lewis.

[66] Francis P. Blair, Sr., founder and editor of The Globe, friend and supporter of Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln. He was very distantly related to Colonel Blair. On December 28, 1864,

us out- My heart is very sad- Ruin in happiness & disgrace will cling to us-

January 3rd 1865 And all things, whatsoever ye ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive-

January 6th 1865 I wish very much to survive this war but here is my feeling "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt- St Matthew Cap 26th verse 39th-

January 18th Col Stone left to day on recruiting service- A perfectly fair & pleasant day-

Captain Winthrow

Company 17th K C

I shovels & 2 spades & one pick-

January 19th General Davis having come to Richmond I being the senior officer present, was notified that I was in Command of the Brigade- I remained at my Regimental Hdqrs & go up to Brigade Hdqrs to sign papers every evening.

January 20th Saw Col Lewis[65] to day for the first time in several years, since January 81- He was looking well- Francis Blair Sr left Richmond to day-[66]

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[65] I have not been able to identify Colonel Lewis.

[66] Francis P. Blair, Sr., founder and editor of The Globe, friend and supporter of Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln. He was very distantly related to Colonel Blair. On December 28, 1864,

January 26th Richmond Enquirer Reports that Mr Blair proposes to give us all the guarantees we may ask if we will return to the Union- This was declined- A Compromise was suggested- Recognising the Independence of the Confederate States, a treaty of Commerce & a league offensive & defensive &c?s and the application of the Monroe Doctrine- That Mr Blair talked thus it is hard to believe & that he was sincere is only to be believed on the supposition that the Federal Government regards a war with at least a part of Europe as certain- I fear that he has artfully endeavored to discover our policy & had us form bold declarations to all others, with a view only of uniting his own people & exciting against us as much foreign prejudice as possible- It is surprising & startling to see at this time an announcement of such a proposition as being to day made by the Federal Government in the Columns of a respectable journal as the Enquirer is-

13th Feb 1865 The peace mission has played completely out- Though I expect the Yankees to try it again-[67] On the 5th of Feb

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he was given permission to go to Richmond, "but he was given no authority to speak or act for the government. . . ." Lincoln, Report to the House of Representatives, February 25, 1865. Ibid., vol. 46, part 2, pp. 505-506.

[67] The Peace Commission, appointed by Jefferson Davis, consisting of Alexander H. Stephens, J. A. Campbell and R. M. T. Hunter, met with President Lincoln, February 3rd, at Hampton Roads, and informally discussed possibilities of the "restoration of peace to the people of our one common country." Edwin M. Stanton to Charles F. Adams, February 7, 1865. Ibid., vol. 42, pp. 471-474.

activity out here began- A portion of Heths, Gordons, Mahones, «and» Davis men demonstrated on the left of Hatches run- On the 6th Mahone, Pegram[68] & Gordon[69] were seriously wounded in repulsing the enemy- On the 7th there was some brisk Skirmishing on our right- The 7th of Feb was an extremely bad one- Rain, sleet & a cold wind all day- On the 5th this Brigade (Davis) made a demonstration on the enemys line on the right of Genl Cook- The operations continued three days- Each night the Regiment returned to quarters-

Mollie Willie Blair

Glasgow Station

Amherst Co Va

«Note: The following enteries must have been made by Stephen P. Carter after capturing the Diary.»

Tuesday Apl 4th- At 4 A.M. got up and after making Coffee was out on the track of Lees Army . . . at 9 P.M. and slept.

Wednesday Apl 5 After Lees Army at an early hour.

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[68] Brigadier-General John Pegram was a brigade commander in Major-General Jubal A. Early's Division, Lieutenant-General Richard S. Ewell's Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 1023. General Pegram died of his wounds. Fox, Regimental Losses in the American Civil War (Albany, N. Y.: Albany Publishing Company), p. 571.

[69] Brigadier-General John B. Gordon, brigade commander in General Early's Division. Official Records, vol. 36, part 1, p. 1023.

activity out here began. A portion of Moth, Cordova, Mahnken, and Davis was demonstrated on the left of Matthews run. On the con Manoma, Fegram[88] & Gordon[89] were certainly wounded in repulsing the enemy. On the 7th there was some brisk skirmishing on our right. The 7th of Feb was an extremely bad one. Rain, sleet & a cold wind all day. On the 8th this Brigade (Davis) made a demonstration on the enemy's line on the right of Coal Dock. The operations continued three days. Each night the Regiment returned to quarters.

Mollie Millie Diary

Glasgow Station

Amherst Co Va

Note: The following entries must have been made by Stephen F. Darter after capturing the Diary.

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[88] Brigadier-General John Pegram was a brigade commander in Major-General Jubal A. Early's Division, Lieutenant-General Richard S. Ewell's Second Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Ibid., vol. 36, part 1, p. 1022. General Pegram died of his wounds. Joe, Confederate Losses in the American Civil War (Albany, N. Y.: Albany Publishing Company), p. 371.

[89] Brigadier-General John B. Gordon, brigade commander in General Early's Division. Official Records, vol. 36, part 1, p. 1021.

Thursday Apl 6 Much hard marching and came up with the Johnies.[70] Lt. P. Z. Davis [?] had a fight and captured many prisoners.

Friday Apl 7th- Genl Custer[71] passed us to-day with 30, thirty, Rebel Battle flags- Arrived at Farmville to day.

Sunday Apl 9th Lee in camp at Farmville to day. Lee Surrendered to day.

Monday Apl 10 Marched up to join the corps.

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[70] The Northern term for Confederate Soldiers.

[71] After the war George A. Custer became a commander in the west and defeated the Indians on several occasions, but in opposing Sitting Bull at the Battle of Little Big Horn, 1876, he and his immediate command were annihilated. Major-General Custer was, at this time of the Civil War, a division commander in Major-General Philip H. Sheridan's Cavalry Division, Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside's Ninth Corps, United States Army of the Potomac, Major-General George G. Meade, Commanding. Ibid., vol. 46, part 3, p. 1049.

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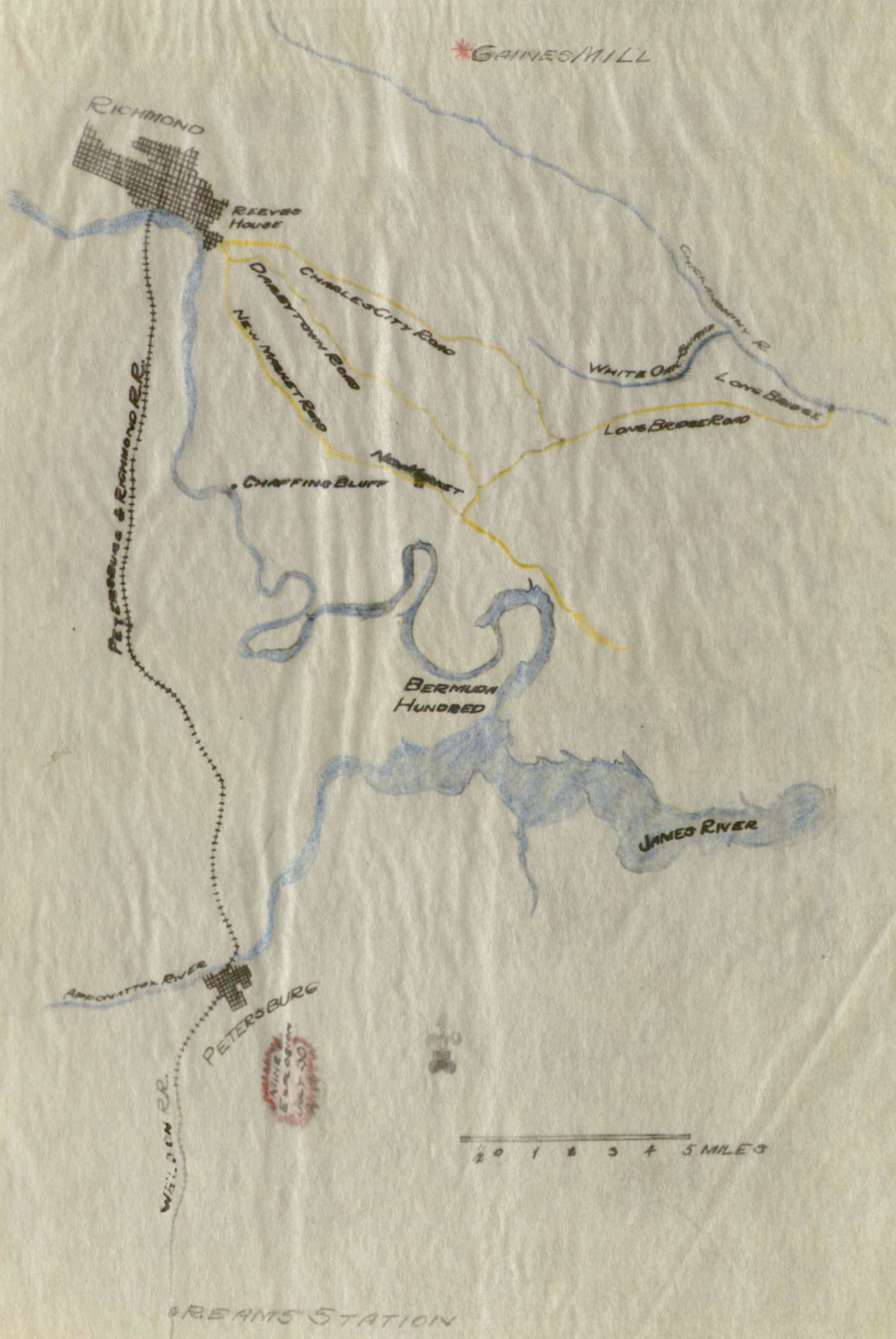
GAINES MILL
RICHMOND
REEVES HOUSE
CHARLES CITY ROAD
DARBYTOWN ROAD
NEW MARKET ROAD
WHITE OAK
LONG BRIDGE
LONG BRIDGE ROAD
NEW MARKET
CHAFFINS BLUFF
PETERSBURG & RICHMOND R.R.
BERMUDA HUNDRED
JAMES RIVER
APPOMATTOX RIVER
PETERSBURG
WELDON R.R.
REAMS STATION
0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

B. T