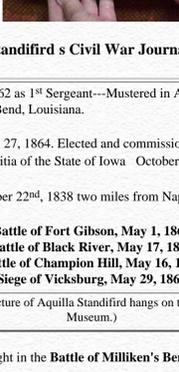


Iowa Buttons

"Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain."



Aquila Standifird's Civil War Journal- Part One

Enlisted at Corydon, Iowa—July 26, 1862 as 1st Sergeant—Mustered in August 23, 1862 Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, April 11, 1863 at Millitant Bend, Louisiana.
 Resigned at Pasca Valley, Texas, March 27, 1864. Elected and commissioned Captain of the Grand River Township, Wayne County Mounted Militia of the State of Iowa October 20, 1864 Disbanded May 4, 1865.
 Aquilla Standifird, born October 22nd, 1838 two miles from Napoleon, Ripley County, Indiana.
Battle of Fort Gibson, May 1, 1863
Battle of Black River, May 17, 1863
Battle of Champion Hill, May 16, 1863
Siege of Vicksburg, May 29, 1863
 (The above is on a document with a picture of Aquilla Standifird hangs on the wall in the Library in the Wayne Co Museum.)

*Aquila also fought in the **Battle of Milliken's Bend** on June 7, 1863

Terms that might be helpful to you:

Ague: shivering
Battery: Ideally, a Civil War field battery mustered 6 guns of the same caliber, each attached to a limber (a 2-wheel ammunition chest) drawn by 3 pairs of horses. Aquilla mentions a 3 armed battery in his entry on November 3, 1863.
Brigade: The common tactical infantry and cavalry unit, the brigade generally consisted of 4-6 Regiments.
Dropsy: Edema, congestive heart failure.
Egypt: The southern counties of Illinois were referred to as "Little Egypt".
Enfield Rifle: A rifle musket equipped with an angular bayonet; as accurate at the Springfield rifle musket.
File: A wind instrument
Foraging: "to live off the land" and "to plunder".
Hardtack: Called "Army Bread" by manufacturers, hardtack was a quarter-inch-cracker made of unleavened flour. It was a staple of Union and Confederate soldiers' diets. It was unpopular and unpalatable.
Haversack: A white canvas bag about a foot square which held the soldier's daily rations. Slung on a strap over the right shoulder, it had a waterproof lining and a flap that buckled over its top, and hung on the left hip.
Parapet: a wall
Pontoon bridge: The pontoon bridge was a floating caseway that facilitated the rapid transportation of men and equipment across water barriers. (See photo below).
Regiment: Composed of men usually from the same area.
Skirmish: limited combat, involving troupes other than the main body; engagement.

The Army Diary of Aquilla Standifird of Company D 23 REG Iowa Draft

"After the election of Abraham Lincoln the fall of 1860. The South or part of the slave states met at Montgomery, Alabama February 1861 and ceded and set up a Southern Confederacy. Jefferson Davis as its president. The South claimed the citizens first allegiance is due his state. The North claimed first allegiance to the general government, and the union of the States must be preserved and that secession was treason. The slavery question and the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency had more to do with secession movement than any other. On the 12th day of April, 1861 the first gun was fired at Charleston, South Carolina by the Confederates. Since then there has been a number of battles fought between the two contending armies, but the majority of the victories has been won by the North. But the end not yet. And a long and bloody war was the result of treason.

Under a call for more volunteers by the president I concluded to enlist.

July 26, 1862



Today this is to be company organization at Corydon, Iowa I, C. G. Mauk, Jacob A. Tabler, and John W. Eastman went to Corydon and enlisted for three years of until sooner discharged. After a sufficient number had signed the roll we proceeded to elect officers. Elected as follows:

Captain Samuel L. Glasgow	1 st Lieutenant Hiram Evans
2 nd Lieutenant James B. Orrusby	1 st Sergeant Aquilla Standifird
3 rd Sergeant Frank Crathorn	3 rd Sergeant William M. Littell
4 th Sergeant Cummings S. Mauk	5 th Sergeant Joseph F. Sharp
1 st Corporal Phillip Harrimack	2 nd Corporal Lewis Smith
3 rd Corporal Phillip Harrimack	2 nd Corporal Lewis Smith
3 rd Corporal James W. Knight	4 th Corporal Lewis H. Rankin
5 th Corporal Thomas H. Knight	6 th Corporal John W. Boon
7 th Corporal James A. Hasberd	8 th Corporal John W. Eastman
Musician Peter H. Baets	Musician Earnest Fisher
Teamster Edward B. Wilkie	Private Barita, Henry K.
Private Bridge, Josiah	Private Blana, Francis M.
Private Bobbinhouse, Henry	Private Browning, Robert G.
Private Browning, John F.	Private Blana, Joseph
Private Brock, Noah	Private Bond, John
Private Batterll, Columbus C. (killed)	Private Blunth, William
Private Brock, Phillip H. .	Private Collmieron, William L.
Private Campbell, Richard	Private Carnins, Martin L.
Private Collins, Morrison	Private Cavinder, Joseph (drowned)
Private Cavender, James	Private Coulburn, Lorerogo
Private Clancy, William K.	Private Douglass, William A.
Private Dean, George W.	Private Davis, Jared H.
Private Douglass, John N.	Private Davis, Andrew J.
Private Emerett, Jacob	Private Fritlon, John W.
Private Fitzgerald, Hatwell M.	Private Foster, John
Private Fransworth, Silas	Private Garaner, Lambert B.
Private George, Ednara W.	Private Gleason, Calvin
Private Greenman, Sylvester F.	Private Orven, Iorria E.
Private Greenman, Sylvester F.	Private Glasgow, John N.
Private Greenman, DeWitt C.	Private Hays, Samuel
Private Hogue, William	Private Hays, Cornelius
Private Hamlin, Curtis W.	Private Hacker, Brice
Private Journey, John H.	Private Kellogg, Martin T.
Private Lyon, John J. .	Private Laughlin, Thomas A
Private Lyon, Elisha C.	Private Munden, George M.
Private Milligas, Joseph A. .	Private Moose, James E
Private Misserva, Miller	Private Monk, Samuel T.
Private McMaster, John M. C.	Private Merris, Armonn E.
Private Morrison, William H.	Private Orven, Iorria E.
Private Osburn, Henry	Private Perkins, Alexander
Private Pribhara, Calvin	Private Roe, James
Private Rankin, John W.	Private Rankin, Lewis H.
Private Rankin, William N. .	Private Sharp, George W.
Private Sharp, Henry J.	Private Slavens, Daniel G.
Private Sturgeon, Francis A.	Private Shane, Henry
Private Stine, John M.	Private Torr, James M.
Private Trillis, Perry .	Private Tabler, Jacob A
Private White, James M.	Private Wilson, Andrew C.
Private Wolf, John W.	Private Wilkie, William F.
Private White, Joel W.	Private York, Hiram
Private Young, Michael G. (Died) .	Private Young, John C
Private Young, Johnathan	Private Yearwood, James J.

After the company organization and the election, I returned home and consulted Anna my wife as to who could be found to stay with her during my absence. We concluded to get her brother Adebett Gray to stay with her and Baby Ida until other arrangements could be made. The few days left for me at home was spend in making hasty preparation either for a long or short time we cannot tell. The fortunes of war is uncertain.

Aug 5th: Started this afternoon the goodbyes with wife and baby is the saddest of all to think possible for all time. It is something to remember in camp and battlefield. Starting going by the way of Christopher (brother-in-law) and from there by wagon to Corydon. He with Elias Jennison (another brother-in-law) and other takes a load each to Des Moines, Iowa where we will be drilled and equipped. Arrived at Corydon and stayed all night at W W Thomas Esquire with others of the company and was royally entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas.

Aug 6th: Fell in line this morning. The company was presented a flag by the ladies of Corydon. Mrs. Thomas delivering the presentation address which was truly loyal and good advice given. Which the boys highly appreciated. The flag was handed to me in behalf of the Company by Miss Booth. We got in the wagons and started with cheers and tears arriving at Bethlehem where the good people had a fine dinner prepared for us in the church of that little city. Several of the boys live near here. Their wives, fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers was there to give us a royal welcome and help with the dinner and bid them goodbyes. Started cheered by the music of the fife and drums arriving at Chariton and stayed all night at the hotel.

Aug 7th: We found it rather warm today but the boys kept up considerable noise either with their mouths or the fife and drum. Stopped at noon for lunch and feed teams. Heard a speech from some woman, but did hear her name. Arrived at Indianola and stayed all night at the hotel.

Aug 8th: Handed the flag to Sargeant Crawthorn and got in the buggy with A. A. Powers and went in advance of the company to find a place to stop at when they arrived at Des Moines. We secured board and lodging at the Union Hotel kept by Stout, Des Moines.

Aug 9th: Putting in our time drilling and looking around, some of the boys has the mumps must brought them from home. The teams that brought us up got their pay today and sent off for home tomorrow morning.

Aug 10th: Teams started on their return this morning. Mr. Christopher and E. Jennison bid me goodbye and was off for home. Preparing to build barracks and will soon have lumber on ground and details called to build them.

Aug 11th: Drilling mornings and evenings we have in our company three fellows that is rather dissatisfied get themselves in trouble by drink, don't think they will amount to anything as a soldier.

Aug 12th: Part of the company detailed to work on barracks.

Aug 18th: The same thing over and over again except Sunday, we don't drill, have dress parade Sunday evening. Some of the boys moved about the grub, rather poorly cooked. Barracks finished.

Aug 19th: Moved from the hotel to the barracks on the east side of the river and probably one mile and more from the river, the camp is very nicely situated near a cottonwood grove, we now take up camp life, cooks detailed. Camp policies and drilling and guard duty is the order.

From the last date to the 18th of September did not date the daily doings of camp. However the time was taken up drilling, guard duty and the routine of camp life. Draw our months pay, which came very convenient for most of us. Some of the boys was rather swift on some of the town girls of which their seemed to be plenty. Got examined as to our physical ability drew our uniforms, guns and cartridge belts. Sent a detail to Winterset to put down some trouble there and the stage coach up set and Perry Trillis of our company was badly hurt. We have dress parade each evening. And great crowds of people come out from town to see how well it is done, I usually supervise.

Sept 18th: Expect to be sworn in to the U. S. Service tomorrow our company is D and Regiment 23 Iowa.

Sept 19th: The regimental officers if Colonel William Dewey Lurst, Colonel William H. Richardson, Major Samuel S. Glasgow which leaves a vacancy in our company. Captain James W. Glasgow came to the company recently and it is probable he has been offered the position if he would come and he got it.

Sworn into the U. S. Services and drew \$20.00 bounty and one months pay. Sent some home to wife.

Sept 20th: Ordered to move five companies march to Eddyville and the other five companies to go by state.

Sept 21st: Five companies are on the way and part of what is left will go by stage.

Sept 23rd: Two companies goes this evening.

Sept 24th: Our company starts for Eddyville this morning stage crowded both inside and on top. Arrived at Pella for supper, a very good supper and plenty of boiled eggs. I rather think W. M. Rankin too more than his share. Traveled all night.

Sept 25th: Arrived at Eddyville about ten A. M. and got aboard coal cars for Keokuk. Arrived there at 7 o'clock night, hungry and dry, the sut and sparks from the engine made it anything but pleasant. The car our company rode on was a coal car and boards laid across for seats. The company camped in a schoolhouse tonight. I stayed at the Western Hotel with friend Siras Hollands of Drakesville, he belonged to the 30th Iowa. I also saw several other old friends belonging to the same regiment and from the vicinity.

Sept 26th: Wrote a letter home. I was very much surprised to see cousins Leon Broshar and Lewis Morris. They came to where we were camped, I was glad to see them. They are camped here. They belong to the 36th Iowa, I did not physical they had enlisted.

Sept 27th: Leave Keokuk on the boat metropolitian for St. Louis, part of the regiment has to go on barges lashed to the boat, not a very pleasant place to ride, but we must get use to such things.

Sept 28th: The pilot lost his bearings last night and landed on a sand bar and did not get off until this morning, making delay of about six hours. Arrive at St. Louis at 9 o'clock p.m.

Sept 29th: On board boat, this morning is bright and beautiful. We drew our first **hardtack** this morning and they happened to be wormy and was thrown overboard by the boys. They thought they would not hurt the fish as they were firm of that kind of diet. Moved off the boat at 2 o'clock p.m. and marched to Schofield Barracks and took possession, our regiment is detailed as post guards.

Oct 2nd 1862: Company drill from nine to 11 o'clock. Having a very pleasant time, duty light and a very comfortable place to stay.

Oct 3rd: Battalion drill 3 p.m.

Oct 4th: Sunday and general inspection at 9 o'clock a.m. Preaching at 11 by the chaplain (Barton).

Oct 5th: Our duty when detailed is to see that all soldiers out of barracks without a pass, is arrested and reported to headquarters for punishment. Oct. 5 received orders this morning to be ready to march by 6 o'clock a.m. We moved out and marched to the Iron Mountain rail road for some cause or other we were delayed until after dark. Some of the boys got some whiskey at a grocery store near where we stopped and got beastly drunk. The country we are passing through tonight is very hilly.

Oct 8th: Arrived at Ironton the end of the rail road at 2 o'clock p.m. (I found out the loading of horses, wagons and camp equipage caused the delay yesterday.) We were ordered off the cars and marched south and crossed a small stream and went into camp by the time we arrive in camp it commenced raining and before we could get out tents staked down our clothing and blankets was thoroughly soaked. Night came on and we were without fire or anything dry enough to start on. So we cut some brush and put in our tent. Spread our blankets on them and laid down cold, hungry and wet.

Oct 9th: Still raining this morning we got up looking rather tough and muddy. After some trouble we got our fire started and cooked our first meal in camp under rather damp difficulties. Some of the guards came in we, cold, hungry and mad. They was told this kind of weather was all right when thoroughly seasoned as a soldier, Colonel Dewey called the quarter master to issue brandy to the regiment which he did. Some drank it and some did not. The indications are for another disagreeable night.

Oct 10th: Raining this morning, but stopped toward noon. After dinner I and 4 of the boys of our company got in a wagon with a teamster. When we got to the creek between the camp and station we found it about three feet deep at the ford and running very swift. We got across fairly well. Back of us there was another team, when we got across we stopped to see how he would succeed in crossing with his bulky team. He started in and got in about the center of the stream, the team stopped, and the swift current commenced to drift the wagon below the ford into deep water which jerked the horses off their feet and as the wagon and team started down stream the wagon threw the horses near the bank. The teamster sprang from the wagon on the horses back and onto the bank he had not more than landed at the bend in the stream in shallow water about three hundred feet below the ford. Harness and wagon went in pieces and the horses nearly drowned. As it was not our business to look after that part of Uncle Sam's equipage we went our intended journey to the camp of Pilot Knob at the foot of the Knob there is an old smelter but has been partially destroyed. We went up the track that was once used to bring down ore from the side of the mountain. When on top you look south you can see the little town of Arcada and the Shepherd Mountain. Looking south east the few houses in the village of Ironton and the Iron Mountain rail road after looking around some time we returned to camp.

Oct 11th: On the move again started south at 12 o'clock a.m. Arrived at Arcada in the evening. We have very nice camping grounds it is Camp Davidson.

Oct 12th: General inspection at 9 o'clock a.m.

Oct 13th: Clear and pleasant, dress parade at the usual hour.

Oct 14th: Election day and the boys most all voted. Two-thirds of the votes was for the republican candidates. There is several of the boys got the measles.

Oct 15th: Ordered to move, got a late start marched 6 miles and camped in an orchard. The apples was all gathered and we had to content ourselves with the amount issued by the quarter masters.

Oct 16th: After another days march we camped on the bank of the clear waters of Marble Creek. The night is fine and clear. This is nothing a soldier enjoys better after a days march than fine weather plenty to eat and no guard duty.

Oct 17th: On the march again through a very hilly, rocky country pass through a place called the batteries the ground is covered with rock. And strange as it may appear, there is a large oak tree standing where the rock seem numerous. Arrived at Patterson. This our first march caused some blistered feet, but a few days rest will cure them with some attentions.

Oct. 18th: Our quarters is very nicely situated in a meadow with plenty room for drill and East of the little town of Patterson.

Oct 19th: Sunday general inspection, preaching at 11 o'clock a.m.

Oct 20th: Drill in fore noon, dress parade at 5 o'clock in evening.

Oct 21st: By order of Colonel Dewey the boys policed the street between the field and line officers tents putting it in shape for a dance this evening, I suppose the Colonel thinks we do not get exercise enough for the amount of rations we consume.

Oct 22nd: The boys had a fine time last night. Used bayonets for candle sticks. They went in for lots of fun and had it. I will say however there was not a woman in camp.

Oct 22nd: I am 24 years old today.

Oct 24th: Colonel Dewey received orders this evening to start to Pitmans Ferry on the Current River.

Oct 25th: The detachment of 500 started under the command of Colonel Dewey this morning for Pitmans Ferry. Appears there is a few rebels collected there and he goes down to stir them up. Our company was not included in the detail so we are left in camp.

Oct 26th: One member of Company B accidentally shot himself in the ankle.

Oct 28th: Received orders this morning to march. Call unit line Colonel Boyd of the 24 Mo. Rode along the line inspecting us very critically. Then gave the offers a short rough speech which was not relished either by the officers or men. We were ordered back to camp.

Oct 31st: General inspection at 9 a.m., mustered for pay.

Nov 2nd: Colonel Dewey arrived with his detachment from his expedition to Pitman Ferry with several prisoners and the 15 horses. There was but few shots fired and no one hurt.

Nov 3rd: 5 company's of our regiment was ordered to Dallas in Bollinger County for the purpose of capturing or drive away some rebels, commanded by Colonel Jeffery. Our company was included in the expedition. Also a three gun battery marched 5 miles and camped in a field.

Nov 4th: Marched hard all day and camped on side hill. Tried to cook an old hen captured by some of the boys but failed. I guess she was an old citizen. Spread our blankets down on a bed of leaves and had a good nights rest.

Nov 5th: Arrived at Dallas at 4 p.m. our company and Captain George's Company F was ordered forward as Skermishers Captain George in command. We moved forward, but could see nothing, moved down into a hollow across a small stream through a field up a steep hill into a timber found a citizen and a tough one at that. Sent him to the rear. Climb to the top of the hill, and down the other side to the bottom found a house and near it a smoke house and in the yard some bee hives. The boys got meat, honey and molasses. Confiscated a team to take their supplies to camp. Don't think they took time to pay for them, our salaries all gone. What we started with and the outlook for grub is not very flattering. Some of the boys of our company got a sack of flour and went to a private house and Geo. Sun raise baked several haversack full of biscuits. After which we returned to camp which was in the courthouse. Ate our supper, spread down our blankets on some paper and turned in for the night.

Oct 23rd: Ordered back to Patterson this morning. Some of the 12 Mo. States Militia came here about the time we came. They left in the direction of Cape Girardeau. As we were starting some of the buildings caught fire and soon the center of the town was in a blaze. The town was nearly deserted. The town was a rendezvous for Guerrillas.

Nov 8th: Arrived at Patterson at 3 o'clock p.m. several of our company had the measles and could not go with us, which they very much regretted.

Nov 9th: Preaching at 3 p.m. by Captain Goodman of Company H, in front of Colonel Dewey's tent.

Nov 16th: Skipped several days it was the same old routine. Taking the mumps they have been in our regiment ever since we left Des Moines.

Nov 20th: Cold and clear, my mumps are at their worst, but not very bad.

Nov 21st: General Davidson arrived from St. Louis and takes command of the brigade.

Nov 22nd: Inspection at 9 a.m. by Colonel Skerrk of the 18th Ind.

Nov 28th: I am able for duty again. A detail was sent from our company to work on fort and block house under construction here. Colonel Dewey is sick and moved from camp to Mrs. Gills in the neighborhood.

Nov 29th: The company detailed for picket I went out with them and was on post with Frank Strugeon. We had a lively old time and made considerable more noise than was in the instruction we concluded that rebels were scarce in that vicinity and a little noise more or less did not matter. (Colonel Dewey died).

Dec 1st 1862: The remains of Colonel Dewey was brought out of his tent this morning and placed in ambulance started out the 1st Nebraska as escort. This 23rd Ocrea following. Marched a short distance and on the banks of little stream. The body was taken out of the ambulance and laid on the ground. The salute was saluted by the 1st Nebraska. Then his body was taken up and placed in the ambulance and taken to Pilot Knob tent to his home in Iowa.

Dec 2nd: The death of Colonel Dewey created a vacancy. Lieutenant Colonel Kinsman was promoted to Colonel Major. S. L. Glasgow was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel Captain Clarke of Company B to Major.

A Block House
From: Library of Congress

Dec 3rd: Still working on the block house.

Dec 5th: General inspection by order of Colonel Hardee of the 25th Missouri. Colonel Kinsman started for St. Louis today.

Dec 9th: Some troupes leaving for Black River.

Dec 10th: Colonel Kinsman arrived from St. Louis. There some difference of opinion as to the treatment of the sick between the colonel and the surgeon in charge.

Dec 13th: Lieutenant ? was arrested for passing a flag of truce through the picket lines. Rained 6 days.

Dec 14th: Rain.

Dec 15th: Rain and water very high in the creeks, out of banks.

Dec 16th: Quite to day, expecting a raid from the rebels. I with others was sent out one mile to establish a chain picket. The sentinel will not be relieved but once during the night at 12 o'clock. While in company with Lieutenant Houston was placing the pickets. We came out of the brush in a road, they happened to be a German Captain of Cavalry passing and he heard us, and yelled halt, advance and give the countersign. The Lieutenant Deatia to advance and he yelled halt again, give the countersign and the Lieutenant had to give him the countersign loud enough to be heard forty rods. There was only one attack during the night and that was cold, which made us shake.

Dec 19th: Received orders to be ready to march tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock.

Dec 20th 1862: We are in the 2nd brigade of 1st division army of the Southeast Missouri. Moved out and going about eight miles and camped.

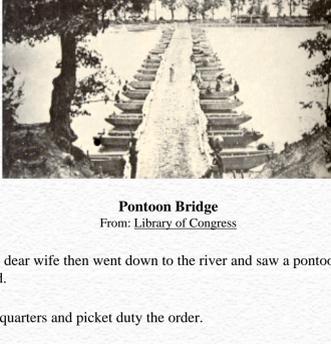
Dec 21st: Moving along slowly in the wet.

Dec 22nd: On the move again today and camp to night near Black River.

Dec 23rd: Our company rear guard today in crossing the river this morning on a log John Rankin fell off, James Roe was near him and he reached his gun out to him and he caught hold and he was pulled up again and landed safely on shore. We did not camp until late about dark. The after part of the day was very hard marching.

Dec 24th: Arrived at Current River near Van Bruon some 50 miles from Patterson. Some forage to acres taken by the rebels on the west side of the river.

Aquila Standifird's Civil War Journal- Part Two



Pontoon Bridge
From: [Library of Congress](#)

Dec 25th: Christmas wrote a letter to dear wife then went down to the river and saw a pontoon bridge for the first time. We have a very nice camping ground.

Dec 26th: Drilling and policing the quarters and picket duty the order.

Dec 27th: Company detailed for picket go out this evening.

Dec 28th: Returned from picket. The night was very dark and the tall pine timber very thick, which make it notoriously lonesome on picket post. This part of Missouri is very hilly and rocky. All the redeeming quality of the county is clear water and pine timber.

Dec 30th: General inspection and mustered for pay by General Boyd.

Jan 1st 1863: Moved across the river and camped to protect the pontoon bridge from a possible attack by the rebs.

Jan 2nd: Warm pleasant and still.

Jan 3rd: Moved camp today about one half of mile toward the river, John Frilton detailed on the engineer squad. He is staying in my tene, we cook our grub and bunk together and are getting along fine. He is a royal good fellow.

Jan 4th 1863: Guard review by General Davidson.

Jan 6th: And unusual large amount of pickets called for. The rebel General Marneaduk and his command is reported not far away. The Cavalry occasionally has some trouble with them.

Jan 8th: Brigade drill.

"We'll hang Abe Lincoln on a sour apple tree!"

Jan 9th: Marching again, and down thru the town ordered to. The roads was in a very bad condition and the artillery in advance of our regiment worked the mud up and made it in bad shape to march over on foot at least. After marching through heavy pine timber up and down hill for about fifteen miles, we camped. Three of the boys of the company went out foraging on their own account and got caught by 3 of the Boyd's guards. The boys had killed a hog and had it dressed and was about ready to return to camp when caught. There were three to three the guards wanted them to go to headquarters south which the boys refused to do unless first they would let them take their meat to camp which they reluctantly agreed to do. When they arrived at camp the boys of the regiment crowded around them pushing the guards back, and the 3 foragers was soon lost to the guards. One of the guards came to me and wanted me to point out the foragers. I told him there was in the company, pick out his men, but he could not do it the boys had in the mean time changed coats and hats and did not look like the same fellows. The guard went away madder then 3 wet hens. I had fresh pork for supper.

Jan 10th: Ordered to return over the same winding road of yesterday. Passing the old camp ground we vacated yesterday morning going about 2 miles from it and camped.

Jan 11th: Some of us went back to the old camp this morning and got the sick that was left there the morning of the 9th and brought them to our present camp called Emanicipation.

Jan 13th: Company C and G arrived, they was left at Patterson to guard the fort until some State Militia took their place. Received marching orders the evening.

Jan 14th: Raining this morning, but it does not hinder us from moving out. We leave several of our company behind, sick. Lieutenant J. B. Ormsby with them. It was useless to move them to this cap for they will have to be sent to the old camp again until they can get sufficient escort to take them to Rolla, Missouri. There is quite a number left from the different regiment. We had very bad roads today and the teams did not arrive until 10 p.c.m. They had winding road to travel.

Jan 15th: Commenced snowing about midnight and this morning we had an additional blanket of about 3 inches thick over us. Put up our tents this morning which makes it more comfortable than out of doors. There is one consolation we have plenty of wood, and we don't hesitate to burn it if it happens to be a rail.

Jan 16th: Marched today the snow did not add to the comfort of the ten hour tramp. Camped in an old field and used rails for fuel, had some straw for a bed. There is near here a spring called the Falling Spring. The water from it is used for milling purposes. They use an overshot wheel, the water falls several feet before it strikes the wheel.

Jan 17th: Today's march was through some of the roughest country we have yet traveled over. The road is over rocky ridges along narrow valleys. When in the valley the mountians on either side rear their rocky heads far above the tree tops. Arrived at Eleven Point River this evening. Some of the advance got across by driving teams in and making a bridge of the wagons. But the weather was so very cold it nearly paralyzed the teams and they had to pull out. Colonel Kinsman and a detail from the regiment, cut some long poles or small trees and dropped them in the river holding one end on the bank letting the swift current swing the other end against a large rock out in the streams when three of our laid side by side some one would go out and drag them on the rock when the first was build lain from both sides. Ropes wer used to pile logs across for the center ties. Which made a narrow bridge and a very risky one to cross unless you have your nerve with you. Went into camp and will not cross tonight. After night climbed the hill and took a view of the camp which made a grand appearance with it hundreds of camp. Fires in the valley below.

Jan 18th: In the crossing the pole bridge of yesterday evening construction, one of our company Joseph Cavinder got a dizzy and fell off the poles and drowned. It was very icy and the water run very swift. Some would not try to walk but crawled across. The body of Cavinder was not found, his brother James and others watched for sometime but concluded that his gun which was slung over his shoulder would prevent him from coming up to the surface of the water. Arrived at Alton a 4 p.m. and went in to camp.

Jan 19th: Alton is a small place it is the county seat of Oregon County and has a very fare courthouse. The country here is more level than any we have passed through for some time.

Jan 20th: Our rations are rather short and the commissary outfit between here and St. Louis some place. Have to depend on foraging for supplies, sometimes enough and other times very short. In camp today January 21st.

Jan 22nd: The boys are out foraging every day bringing in more or less. We have run out of salt and fresh meat.

Jan 23rd: Brigade drill today the General seemed please with the 23rd Iowa.

Jan 24th: General Benton's command, started for West Plaines today. Company A and B were detailed to Vanduser to guard the supply train. Colonel Kinsman was arrested for refusing to go in command of them. It was a majors command and not a colonel. Lieutenant Colonel Glasgow went in command of them.

Jan 25th: Detail sent out to forage and they straggled from the command and was caught by the rebs and paroled. So they say. Their story is not believed and if take prisoners again there parole would not do them any good, they should not leave the command. Ordered to march in the morning.

Jan 26th: Left Alton marching in a southwest direction and camped at Mill Springs. Some of the boys had quite a time foraging for grub.

Jan 27th: In camp today. A forage team sent out was fired at by guerrillas, but not anyone hurt. The mill here was used today to grind corn for troops there is always someone that can run a mill among the many.

Jan 28th: Started for West Plaines going a northwest direction camped in the woods.

Jan 29th: On again and very windy, came to some fine farms this afternoon. Saw where Benton command was camped, we were caught by sundown. One of the Colonels was arrested for bringing a horse.

Jan 30th: Moved forward again and when near West Plaines we met 6 companies of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. Saw cousin Edward Breshal and several other old acquaintance from Iowa. We marched through the town and about one half mile south and camped. General Mureen Division is here. The town is rather dilapidated condition at this time.

Feb 1st: Division drill whelmed very cold. Three Companies of Regiments were detailed for forage duty. We went out west about ten miles. Our scouts the Cavalry had some trouble with mavericks cavalry one of our cavalry was running so fast by the rebs he lost his hat. We got corn by getting it out of the field and filling the wagons with hay, corn and fodder and arrived in camp all right but very cold, while eating supper two of the boys got into a racket. When I told them if they did quiet down extra duty would be required of them. They quieted down.

Feb 4th: Sunday very cold.

Feb 7th 1863: Not quite so cold today got marching orders again.

Feb 8th: Started toward Eminence, we are brigaded with the 21st and 22nd Iowa, on the move all day.

Feb 9th: Arrived at Thomasville at 3 p.m. Thomasville is one fork of the Eleven Point River, not much town however.

Feb 10th: In camped today. The 3 Iowa Cavalry passed and camped a short distance from us.

Feb 11th: Dress parade this evening orders to move tomorrow morning.

Feb 12th: On the move over a very rough country getting in the hills again.

Feb 13th: After climbing up one hill and down another and repeat. We arrived at Current River. Several miles above here we crossed it going out. We camped in the edge of the timber near the river and near a fine bottom farm. Wood was plenty but rails handiest and they were dry.

Feb 14th: Crossed the river this morning on some logs. Passed largest spring I ever saw. It looked like a small river boiling out from under a moutain. We camped this evening near a cave, I, Lieutenant Evans, Sergeant Little and others. After all was quiet went on an exploring expedition, we some distance in the cave a stream of water ran through or rather out of it. Found some nice rooms, the water dripping from the ceiling of lime stone rock, causing a substance to form looking like icicles. Some reaching to the floor and making a white column, and a drip above would from a basin on the floor from one to three feet high. Returned to camp very well satisfied with our trip.

Feb 16th: On the move this morning. Some of the 3 Iowa Calvary caught a reb last night and he tried to get away this morning and was shot. We passed where he was laying. Arrived at Eminence and received four months pay.

Feb 17th: The calvary passed us this morning going advance, marched to day and camped near another cave very much larger than the other one we visited. There was a dozen or more were in we found it much larger and deeper than the other, and thousands of bats from the appearance they must have been there for ages. As we went out we met the Colonel and others going in to explore the inside of the earth. We went in at 8 and cam out at 11 p.m. in three hours.

Feb 18th: Moved out again marching up a creek, crossing it several times. Several of the boys got their feet wet. Camped in valley.

Feb 19th: On the move, our company in advance Snowed all day which made it anything but pleasant. Slip sideway, forward, but we thought mostly backward. We camped near a little town. Got some meat, Company E was put under arrest for taking it by force. We had a bed of hay and slept fine.

Feb 20th: Marched again this morning and went into camp about six miles North of Pilot Knob. J. Silas Farnsworth and John Rankin got leave to go to Arcada to see some of the sick in hospital there of our company. We got in a wagon with six mules attached and a good teamster to drive and pulled out. The roads were fearful, but arrived at Ironton before night and walked to Arcada to the hospital and stayed all night. Saw M. McKankin and others of the company. They seem to be improving.

Feb 22nd: Got out early this morning and went and got something to eat. Then stared on our return, arrived at Ironton and found Ed Borshar there and we went back together as far as his camp and they had pulled out for Ironton and left him. He followed after them and went on to camp.

Feb 22nd: In camp today but move again tomorrow. Got letter from Anna and her picture.

Feb 23th: Marched to Iron Mountain and went into camp.

Feb 24th: Camp at Iron Mountain or at the foot of the Surrie. We found some trouble in getting a smooth place to lie down. The ground is covered with small rocks. They are very heavy they contains quite a percent of iron. There is a small town here the inhabitants principally Irish, and their chief employment is working at the furnace here and getting out iron oar and converting into pig iron.

March 8th: For the last several days has been spent in drilling out to the 3rd Calvary camp, and they are often with us which we very much enjoy. We sometimes tramp around and over Iron Mountain and loaf around the furnace watching them mold pig iron. Some of the boys got rather top heavy from the effect of bad whiskey.

March 9th: Pulled up this morning and started for St Genevieve. We met the Third Calvary, they are ordered to Arcada. Bid Ed Broshar and others good bye. We are traveling what was once a plank road but it is badly worn and many of the planks gone. We crossed the St. Francis River, from appearance it is subject to over flow. The banks seemed low in proportion to the size of the streams. All streams in this country has to be forded. They don't bridge streams in this country. We passed through the Farmington in the evening. It is one of the richest little towns seen in this part of Missouri. The soil here is a redish cast, and they say produces fine wheat. Camped about two miles from town in an old field.

March 10th: Passed through a little town by name of Valley Forge. Part of the road today was very muddy. Camped this evening in the timber.

March 11th: Moved out again and arrived at St Genevieve. Passed through and above town and went into camp in a nice little grove on the banks of the Mississippi. Went in camp about 1 o clk p.m.

March 12th: I and others went down town. Climbed the high bluffs and took a view of the town the river and surrounding country. Returned to town went to a hotel and got dinner. Saw some tipsy officers at the table. Their actions and appearance was disgusting. Returned to camp, orders to move in the morning.

March 13th: Marched down to the river and got aboard the Steamer Champion. The first Missouri Battery was also taken aboard. It took so long to get horses, wagon and camp equipment aboard. The boat did not start down the river today.

March 14th: Left St. Genevieve this morning arrived at Cape Girardeau. The battery was taken off and we went on down the river crossing Cario at dark. Passing Columbus, Hickman, Belmont and pass Island No. 10 about 10 o clk a.m. Marched, arrived at New Madrid at 12 m and found the 38th Iowa Infantry got off the boat and went in to camp.

March 16th: Warm and pleasant. The country in the immediate vicinity is very good and probable very productive or at least it has that apprence. The town of New Madrid is a small place and at this time business is also small. The inhabitance are principally rebels or at least a person would suppose they were from what I heard a woman singing. **We'll hang Abe Lincoln on a sour apple tree.**

"I wonder if they thought of when they passed the Ordinance of Cessation"

March 17th: Lieutenant Colonel Glasgow arrived from St. Louis with orders to go to Vicksburg and will move as soon as we can get transportation.

March 18th: I and others went up to the river and took a look at the very much dilapidated place it shows the marks of war.

March 19th: Went out to the rifle pits dug by the Federal Troups arriving the night so that they could storm the post occupied by General Pillow. The Union transfers under General Pope succeeded in routing them and this place fell into the hands of the Federals.

March 20th: Waiting and watching for transportation. A marine brigade went down to day.

March 21st: Boat arrived, the White Cloud. Got aboard, started down bout sundown.

March 22nd: Arrived at Memphis Farm at ten p.m. Waiting on board for further orders. Got permit to go up town. Memphis is a very nice place high and beautifully situated. Found the city park and it's surroundings very fine. A monument created to the memory of General Jackson stood in the center of the park. On the monument was engrave with the words, **The Federal Union must and shall be preserved.** While the city was occupied by the rebel's some person or persons had tried to erase the word Federal from the monument.

March 23rd: On board boat waiting for orders.

March 24th: Left Memphis this morning, arrived at Helena at 8 p.m.

March 25th: On board boat, got permit and went out in town. The lower portion of the town is under water. Went up to Fort Curtis it is on high ground. The fort has guns of large caliber. I heard that the other six companies of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry were here. Went up to their camp and saw several of the boys of Company A. **Brother Edward T. Standifird** was a member of that company but was discharged about the time I enlisted. The Boys seemed healthy and very well and satisfied. They went in the service in 1861.

March 26th: Visited by Hanlin and Elliott of the 3rd Calvary on Board boat. (Old friends)

March 27th: Some more of the boys of the 3rd Calvary came aboard and staid until we started. 11 o clk. a.m. moved out and down the muddy Mississippi. The watter is very high and there is a large portion of the valley under water. The levees is a protection but in many places broken and the water comes through and covers the los lands. We passed the mouth of White River about sun down and Napoleon at dark.

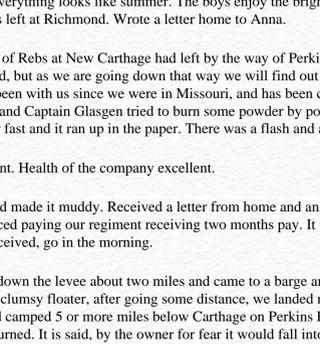
March 28th: Passed Providence this morning the levee was cut at that place and the water was rushing through at a fearful rate. The water was as high as 6 feet around the houses. Landed at **Millikens Bend, Louisiana**, marched out about one mile and went in to a camp.

March 29th: Camped in a very find country. Fine plantation and negroes of all colors and sizes.

March 30th: Went out to a plantation today. It has at one time been very fine. It s stately mansion and lawns of evergreen of several varieties, its dozen negro guards and large cotton gins. Black smith shop and carpenter shop, but war has left its mark on everything. **I wonder if they thought of when they passed the Ordinance of Cessation.**

April 2st 1863: Pleasant weather warm and a dry camp.

April 3rd: The last five days has been spent in drilling and looking around. Some sanitary goods arrived today for our company from Iowa in charge of Marsh Nelson a discharged soldier for the 4th Iowa Infantry. He was wounded at Pea Ridge in the hand. Battalion drill this afternoon. I was in command of the company got along very well. It was my first experience as a company commander on a battalion drill.



Vicksburg, MS - Levee & Steamboats; Wm. R. Pywel, Photographer
From: [Library of Congress](#)

April 4th: Went down to the levee and boat landing. Saw several boats, some discharging army supplies. It is a busy place.

April 5th: Inspection at ten a.m., preaching at 2 p.m. by Captain Roach.

April 6th: Pleasant weather, and duty light.

April 7th: Lieutenant James B. Ormsby returned for a few days service and is talking of resigning on account of poor health he complains of stomach and lung trouble.



April 8th and 10th: Grand review by General Grant, General McCun and General Logan, General McPhison and General Carr. It was the grandest sight I ever saw. The ground was level and plenty of room. How many thousands was in review I cannot tell, but it took us sometime to pass the reviewing squad of officers. We belong to the Fourteenth Division of the thirteenth Army Corps commanded by Brigadier General Eugene A. Carr, First Brigade consisting of the 33rd and the 99th Illinois and 8 and 18th Indiana, and its U. S. siege guns. Our brigade the 2nd is composed of four regiments, the 21st, 22nd and 23rd Iowa and 11th Wisconsin and the 2nd Illinois Light Brigade commanded by Michael R. Lawler. The 9th Division was commanded by Peter J. Ostrirham. The 10th by Andrew J. Smith, and the 12th by Brigadier General Alva P. Houbby. Total number of troupes in the 13th Army Corps about 25,000 thousand corps commanards by General John A. McBlernard.

April 11th: Lieutenant J. B. Ormsby got his resignation accepted and will start for home this morning. I am promoted for 1st Sergeant to 2nd Lieutenant. James Roe and Joseph Bland arrived from Iowa. They got a furlough when we was camped at Iron Mountain.

April 12th: Start on the march this morning at 10 o.c. The country over which we came today is very productive. Cotton appears to be the principal staple of the plantations. It was quite warm today and many of the boys threw away their over coats or was given to the black that lined the road just come to see the Yanks, they said, arrived at Richmond, Louisiana about 3 p.m. Our company was detailed for probe guard and went down in town and camped in a large store room. It requires about half of the company to go guard duty to protect the citizens and their property. We had calles from all over town which kept us on the move most of the night.

April 14th: Raining today and very muddy.

April 15th: General Smith's Division passed through in the rain. We feel rather comfortable with a good roof over us. The citizens are reb from top of head to the toe nails. They think we will never take Vicksburg.

April 16th: Our Division moved out, but we did not start with them. We were relived by a Kentucky Regiment at ten a.m. and lit out after the regiment and came up with them as they were going in camp near the levee in a cotton field.

April 17th: (Camp Carr) we can hear cannonading telling us the direction of New Carthage and Lieutenant Evans walked quite a distance down the levee. Saw some Ohio Regiment. Returned and signed the payroll.

April 18th: Warm and pleasant and everything looks like summer. The boys enjoy the bright sun and warm weather. Some of our camp equipage came up. It was left at Richmond. Wrote a letter home to Anna.

April 19th: Heard today the Garrison of Rebs at New Carthage had left by the way of Perkins Landing to Grand Golf where they will probably make a stand, but as we are going down that way we will find out if the rumors be true or otherwise. Negro go. A boy that has been with us since we were in Missouri, and has been cooking and foraging where grub was short, for Lieutenant Evans and Captain Glasgen tried to burn some powder by pouring it from a paper on a live coal of fire, but he let it run out rather fast and it ran up in the paper. There was a flash and a colored boy with a burnt face.

April 20th: In camp warm and pleasant. Health of the company excellent.

April 21st: Not so pleasant, rained and made it muddy. Received a letter from home and answered it. Possibly not have the opportunity soon again. Commenced paying our regiment receiving two months pay. It was 9 a.m. when we got ours. I received \$60.00 Marching orders received, go in the morning.

April 22nd: Started at an early hour, down the levee about two miles and came to a barge and crossed over on barge or large flat boat using oars to move the clumsy floater, after going some distance, we landed near the river and above Carthage. Marched down through and camped 5 or more miles below Carthage on Perkins Plantation. This place has been very fine at one time the house was burned. It is said, by the owner for fear it would fall into the hands of our troupes. He need not been in such a hurry, some of the boys could accomodated him.

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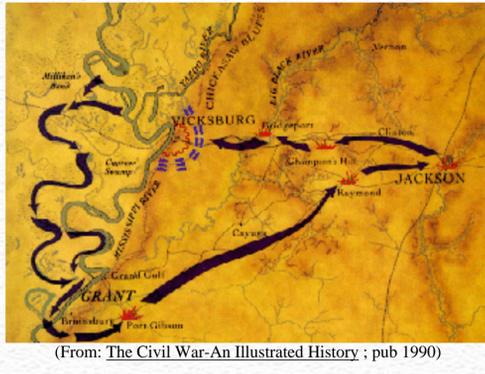
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Aquila Standifird's Civil War Journal- Part Three



(From: [The Civil War-An Illustrated History](#) ; pub 1990)

"Received a letter from home which is always the brightest part of a soldiers life to hear from home and all is well."

The Battles Begin). "We were fired on by the enemy." Battle of Port Gibson, May 1, 1863

April 23rd: (Perkins, Louisiana). Heard last night heavy cannonading in the direction of Vicksburg, but not know the meaning of it until some badly battered boats landed here. They ran apast the batteries at Vicksburg. Six started, one was sunk and the others got through badly battered. I was on the J. D. Chersman, and saw a man that was badly wounded by a piece of shell. The shells plowed their way through the smoke stacks through the upper deck, pilot house and cabin. One shell stuck the silver tank in the bar of the boat and scattered and drove it in and through the wall. Have not heard the number of killed, wounded and missing.

April 24th: Warm and pleasant. Went down to the once nice lawn of the rich aristocratic Perkins. The lawn is surround by a low hedge (possibly Barberry) once fine evergreens and magnola, and between where the house had stood and the river was a fine beech grove of perhaps two or more acres which makes a fine shade. On the lawn are two marble monuments and a vault is engraved the name Judge Perkins.

April 25th: The boys are putting their time in playing cards and dice and chuckluck. The beech grove is literally covered with them. Some are trying to keep from carrying the pay they drew a few days ago. Some however raised great howl when they lose. I think if I were trifling enough to gamble and lose, I would be quiet about it at least. Where there is a whole division of troops camp there are always more or less gambling. Went down to the river with some the boys and went in and took a bath, rather cold for comfort.

April 26th: Received a letter from home which is always the brightest part of a soldiers life to hear from home and all is well. Our baggage and commissary barge arrived this evening. Rations had ran short and nothing to draw from. What the rebs could not take with them, they burned. Carried our tents off and out to camp bout three quarters of a mile from the river. We had got our tent sent when a storm came up and we had to go to bed without supper. We made our beds on a corn row to keep out of the water. The planters is not paying attention to cotton plantations here this spring. But we find corn fields occassionly. The corn planted this spring is nearly knee high and looks fine.

April 27th: The tent we put up last night were claimed by others and we got another and put it up. Twelve noon received orders with 3 days rations. Leaving tents and baggage, again the officers carry only their side arms and two blankets and canteens. Soldiers their usual load knapsack, haversake, canteen, gun and cartridge box. The boat was crowded from top to lower deck. Lieutenant Evans and I got up on the pilot house deck and spread down our blankets and laid down and slept a little bit.

April 28th: (On board J. W. Cheesmen). Still loading transport batteries and horses on boats and barges. The name of transports is J. W. Cheesman, Forrest Queen, Horizon, Anglo, Saxon, Mediator, Silverwave, and Empire City, and one gun boat and the other General Price commenced moving down this 10 a.m., the gun boats in advance and landed two or more miles above Grand Gulf at Hara Tinus Landing and in sight of the rebel fortifications. There were three shots fired from one of the guns on the stern of the gunboat Tecumish possibly to try what affect it would have or to measure distance as to fuse.

April 29th: (Hara Tinus, Louisiana) A most ideal morning, warm, clear and still. The bombardment commenced this morning at 8:30 o c a.m. by the gun boats Louisville, Techumish, Lafayette, Pittsburg, Belton and General Price, and one other did not get the name. It was grand sight. The shells from the fortifications would often miss the boats and skip for a long distance on the water. Then a shot would strike the sloping side the boats and glance high in the air and burst and a little cloud of smoke would float off in the gentle breeze and another would strike and throw the water high in the air. The bombarment lasted over five hours, but did not silence the rebel batteries. We was on land but there was thousands of soldiers on the transport at the landing. After dark we marched down the levee and came to the river below the fortifications and went into camp. The losses of today are on boat, was 18 killed, 2 shell penetrated the side of one of the boats and exploded in side where the men were handling their guns. We also hear that here are between 50 and 60 wounded and during the engagement of today. General Grant was on the dispatch boat with Admiral Porter. After night the gun boats and transported the fort and landed below. When they passed the bombarment was terrific. Before they started down the troups were all landed and marched across or down the levee.

April 30th: The heavy cannonading of last night done but little damage to the fleet. Each gun boat took a transport in tow and on the side from the batteries which was a good protection. The boat we came down on from Perkins Landing had five horse killed by a shell. Got aboard the boats both transports and the iron clads. When all aboard the boats started up toward the fort and ran a short distance on the side of the river. We commenced landing very rapidly and about 3 p.m. started toward Port Gibson about 12 miles distant and sun down. We stopped and got supper but did not waste much time, and moved on again. Through dark valley and over high points, deep cuts and a rough road. Sleepy and weary.



The Enfield Rifle

May 1st: (Battle of May 1st). [***The Battle of Port Gibson**] This morning about 1 o c a.m. our advance guard was fired upon by the pickets of the enemy. We were halted and guns ordered loaded, move forward again. Skirmishers in advance, to where the road we were on intersected another road. We were fired on by the enemy. The Skirmishers were driven back. They commenced sending shell and canister over and among us but little damage done, one or two were wounded and one gun broken. We were ordered to get to the side of the road for the Indiana battery to pass. It crossed the road into a field. Untimbered and commencing shelling the enemy. We were ordered forward to support the battery. Passing behind and to the left and halting on ground down lower than that occupied by the battery. The shell sent over by the enemy was directed at the battery and to our right. The cannons ceased firing about three a.m. and all became quiet. Until early in the morning. When the battery commenced again to our left by the advance of General Osterhans. Soon after a battery was planted on a high ridge to our rear and threw shells over us in the enemy lines. As soon as the battery ceased firing in our rear we were ordered forward in line of battle crossing over and down the other side of the ridge into a small ravine through a can brake. As we came out and upon higher ground. The enemy was but a short distance from us they attacked us. As soon as our line could be formed, when out of the cane brake, we turned loose with our **endfill [Enfield] rifles**. We could see off to the right and front, a battery of the enemy turning toward us, but before they could fire the first brigade General Bentines charged them and they had to retreat. They are still in our front. Our Company lost C. C. Balterell killed, William Hogue mortally wounded and Jacob A Tabler through the arm. The regiment loss, killed and wounded 28. The enemy fell back about 2 miles and made a stand. We again followed up and was held in reserve. We would move one direction and then ordered to some other part of the field we was kept moving, but was at no time out of the reach of the enemy. In one of our moves across the field in line of battle the left of the regiment toward the rebs. We were jumping down 8 or 10 feet into a road cut through a hill. The enemy sent a shell at us intending to sweep the cut but it entered the bank just over the heads of those in the road and under the feet of some that was in the act of jumping down plowing the dirt from under them and letting them down in the road. Fortunately the shell did not explode and no one was hurt. We returned late in the evening to where we left our blankets and rashions and passing over the battle field of the _____.

This morning saw quite a number dead both Union and Confederate. Magnola Church was where the battle commenced was used for a hospital for both Union and Confederate. After we got our supper returned to the front again, part of us laying down near the battery to sleep, if we can. Thinking what of tomorrow.

May 2nd: Last night the long road was guarded and we were quickly aroused. The rebs only made a faint attacked to let us know they was in front while the main army was on the retreat. After breakfast we was ordered to move forward in line of battle skirmishers in advance. As far as I could see back to the right and left a line of Blue could be seen down through a hollow and upon a ridge. The rebs had occupied yesterday through some timber and out of it and in sight of Port Gibson but no enemy in sight, they have retreated. The line of battle changed to march, got onto a road and to town and camped. After dinner went up in town. It is a very nice city and the streets will shaded by large trees. The lawns with their evergreens and flowers of different colors and fine houses. Went down to the suspension bridge that spans Bayou Perie. The rebs had set on fire their morning on this retreat. A floating bridge was soon made from building near by and the advance soon was passing over.

May 3rd: The 17th Corps Major General James B. McPerson following the rebs. We was ordered out on the Grand Gulf Road and went as far as Bayou Perier and found the rebs had burned the bridge and retreat to Port Gibson. I was detailed for picket duty and went south of town.

May 4th: A negro came to the pickets last night and we had to keep him until this morning. We sent him back, he said he was coming in to see his girl and did not know there was any yank or pickets on the road. The colored people came in by wagon, on foot, and mule back, male and female, old, young, big and little of all colors. I was ordered to not allow them to come in side of our lines for we had neither food or transportation for ourselves and we could not be bothered with a lot of noncombatants. The order did not include all, if any young men came in and was willing to work I was to pass them through. Sending them to the headquarters of the pioneer corps. I passed several. May 4th quite warm and pleasant. Our picket is camped on the large lawn of the very fine plantation. We was relieved about 3 p.m. and returned to camp.

May 5th: Rained last night, got up and went in an empty house that stood nearby. We have no tents. Left them at Perkins Plantation. Received orders to march at four p.m. Colonel Rinsman arrived today, on the way at 4 p.m. and did not go into camp until ten o clk p.m. at North Fork.

May 5th: Last evening before we arrived at our present camp we marched up to a covered bridge. Company just ready to enter it, we was halted for the artillery in front to pass over us and some of the teams got frightened and made a terrible racket and those in front thought. That a team was coming out of the bridge their way and they jumped to the side of the road frightening those in the read and they all tumbled out of the road for some distance and some falling in the ditch on either side. It was laughable to hear the remarks of the slaves. You blamed fool, what did you get frightened at anyway, or haven t you got any more since than to run over a fellow. Or did you think the rebel army was coming out of that old bridge or say hadn t you better croked of and die!

May 6th: Said by today the weather pleasant and cool. Got some fresh beef, but short on bread. Some meal issued this evening. Order to march in the morning at three a.m.

May 7th: Moved out at 3 a.m. passing over a very rough country and the soil very poor, and near Black River. Halted in the afternoon and went in camp. I was ordered out with a detail for corn went some distance from camp and near Black River found plenty of corn in a barn loft, but could not find any team, my orders were to confiscate or take any team found and bring it in. We saw a middle aged colored man and asked if he knew where there was any horses or oxen. He said there were several yokes of oxen down in the timber near Black River. I asked him who was down there. He said soldiers. I wanted to know if we could go down and get them and not let the confederate soldiers see us, and he said no masa, spect not. Then I asked him if he could go down and get two yoke of cattle and bring them to us without being caught. He said he would try. We told him we would give him one half dollar and let him go with us to camp. He lit out and in about one half hour returned with two yoke, a wagon was in the barn and we loaded it up and another confederate man drove to camp. I turned corn, wagon, oxen and man over to the quartermaster. He said he expected but not so much beef. He told the colored man he could stay with him, he wanted more help.

May 8th: Review today was called into line and General Gran McClermand and Carr passed in review. Returned to camp and had inspection of arms. The mail goes out tomorrow. Wrote a letter home the first the 21st January.

May 9th: J. W. Rankin started to Grand Gulf with the mail, General Crockers Division passed today. Got some rations today, don t know where they come from.

May 10th: Called into line at eight a.m. and Colonel Rinsan gave us a short talk. Told us to do our duty as a soldier and patients. Moved out about 9 a.m. rather disagreeable, dusty and warm the dust made a regular fog. Went in camp at 3 p.m.

May 11th: In camp today in a corn field. Rations getting scarce again. General Steel Division passed today. It belongs to General Shermans Corps the 15th.

May 12th: On the march today, moved forward until we came to a road leading to Edwards Station turned in that direction and went some distance and crossed Fourteen mile creek. Moved on a short distance and turned to the left into the timber. Corn field in our front, fell in line of battle and went in camp.

May 13th: On the move at eight a.m., went back to the road turned to the right and crossed the creek again, and started toward Raymond. In the afternoon a heavy rain came up, which made it very muddy. We camped in a woods pasture the ground was cover with water. I and Lieutenant Evans got some small poles and laid them down, pin fashion, so the edges of our guns and blanket would lay on the poles all around. So the water would not run in between them, after spreading one for the bottom we spread down two woolen blankets, and then a gun blanket on top. We crawled in between the woolen blankets and slept very will if water was under us, and raining on top.

May 14th: On again and raining. Passed over the battle field of Raymond it was fought the 12th by Logans division of McPhersons Corps, and the confederate General Gregg. The latter was compelled to retreat toward Jackson. Some of the dead had not been buried yet. (The Confederates). Splashed along through the mud part of the time at the side of the road, any way to get on. Got in seven miles of Jackson and camped. Out of anything to eat I and Lieutenant W. Merrill started out and foraged on our own hook got a side of meat between us and some sturgeon. The meat was so very strong it could hardly be eat. I gave it to the boys and they managed to use it. We are all out of rations, ceased raining this evening.

May 15, 1863: Heard Jackson was taken yesterday evening. We started on the return passing through Raymond and went in camp about two miles from it. J. W. Rankin came in with the mail, got a letter from home. He brought quite a lot of mail for the regiment. The boys are in good spirits and are ready for a fight when it comes. Our trunk came up today, I was out one pair pants and one shirt, and the tail of Lieutenant Evans overcoat was cut off, which caused some comment and suggestions of what it could be used for by the boys. He thought it would not look well on the dress parade and threw it on the camp fire.

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Aquila Standifird's Civil War Journal- Part Four

The Battle of Champion Hill - May 16, 1863

"The ground was torn up by shell, rails from fences scattered and broken and the dead and wounded by the hundreds."

May 16th: [*The Battle of Champion Hill] We moved out this morning and we had not gone far until we could hear cannonading in our front. When we arrived near the battlefield we were halted and while inactive we could but think what would be the result. Who would be the victors? Wounded was passing us to the rear. About five o'clock we were ordered to the left and front to the support of other troops. We moved forward quite rapidly at first but soon halted. Fill in line of battle. Skermishers in advance skermishing would be lively sometimes but would not last long where a general advance was made. The rebs would fall back, we would advance and halt to get lines in shape. Our route was through timber, brush, across deep ravines matted with can brake, which made it impossible to keep in line making our movement slow. All at once firing ceased in our front. And we were halted a short time, moved forward again turning to the right and soon came out in open ground and up a hill on and around which shown the unmistakable signs of a fearful struggle. The ground was torn up by shell, rails from fences scattered and broken and the dead and wounded by the hundreds. Survived the hill, we turned to the left going across an open field and through some timber taking some prisoners. Came across a family or parts of families, three women and some children. They had hidden in the deep ravine while the battle raged over and around them. We turned to the right and came out into a road moving toward Edward Station it was now dusk. Crossed Baker Creek and arrived at the Station in the fore part of the night. When we got near here we could hear ever few minutes quite a clatter of which appeared to be small arms and the bursting of shells. On our arrival we found a train of ammunition had been left by the rebs. They did not want it to fall into our hands so they set fire to it. We heard that there was quite a lot of rations near the burning cars but the way the shells flew we concluded it would not healthy to make a too close investigation, if we was without rations. Our blankets was left behind this morning and we will have to lie down without any covering and it is quite cool.



The Battlefield of Big Black River, May 17, 1863.

Wm. R. Pywell, Photographer
From: [Library of Congress](#)

"The rebs could not stand the charge of the yanks and lit out."

May 17th: (Edward Station) Passed a very disagreeable night. I am chilled to the bone and nothing to eat. The shells and catrages is still making music at the burning train. We are ordered to move out toward Black River. After we had broken camp this morning and had marched probably three or four miles we passed some persons and they told us we would have to climb dirt before we would cross Black River, which proved to be true. When we arrived in sight of this intrenchment which we could see across the open field. They commenced sending shells over and about making it very unsafe place to stop. We were soon ordered to the right through some timber to the river. We were ordered to move down the river and to get as near the enemies intrenchment as possible which we did. Where we went down there was quite a growth of small timber between the bank and water which gave us good protection and we could get much nearer to the intrenchment and much safer than by the open field. We had not been there long until orders came for us to charge and take the intrenchment. Colonel Rinsman said I will if well supported. The Aid said he supposed that he would have the necessary support. The Colonel said I will see that I have, and started up the river but soon returned giving his Captains orders as he came down. The left wing to (a bend in the River) swing out in the open field and where he leaped upon the bank a perfect storm of lead was hurled at us but did not check those that was not hit. We went on the run the boys falling all the way across, plunged through a log in front of the intrenchment, then up and over the breast works. The rebs could not stand the charge of the yanks and lit out. We crossed over to the river and cut off the rebs that was to the right of us and we captured about fourteen hundred. Some made their escape by swimming the river and some was drowned and a number of them their arms in the river when say they were caught. The battle over who is killed and who is wounded. Stared on the return and heard the Colonel Rinsman was mortally wounded. Also found ten of my company wounded, some severe and others slight. The rest of the day was spent in looking after the wounded and burying the dead. I met General Lawler and he asked me to show him the place on the river bank where we started on charge as he wished to know the distance. General Lawler told me it was nearly on quarter of a mile. Went into an old stock field. In camp to night in edge of the timber. Got our blankets.



Big Black River, MS - Wagons & Sheds

Wm. R. Pywell, Photographer
From: [Library of Congress](#)

May 18th: (Black River) Colonel Rinsman died this morning. Our regiment will moan his loss, a good officer and loved by his men. Our regiment was detailed to guard prisoners and we marched back to Edward Station. Meeting a large lot of prisoners picked up since we left the Mississippi and we camped at the station. They did not succeed in burning up all of the rations. When they had set afire to the train. They can eat their own rations and have some to spare for us. After putting a chain picket around the prisoners, lay down to rest.

May 18th: (Edward Station) Went over to the depot this morning. Saw quite a lot of shot and parts of shells in the ashes of the burned cars. Well we don't care how much if all their ammunition is lost in that way. Lieutenant Colonel Glasgow called the officers of the regiment together. He wanted a recommendation from us for promotion to Colonel, which we gave him. Major Clark to Lieutenant Colonel, Captain Houston of Company A to major. About 2 o'clk, got the prisoners in line and marched back to Black River and camped.

(The Siege of Vicksburg May 18 to July 4, 1863)

May 20th: (Black River) The R. R. runs nearly through the center of the battle field of the 17th on the west side of the bank is quite high and the R. R. is on tressel north for some distance out in the bottom. Then is two stockades, one on each side of the R. R. bridge near the river. What they were put there for I can't imagine. We moved out early and was soon in a fog of dust. The Johnnies in the middle of the road and a line of troops on both sides. Two young rebs passed their house. Their mother and two sisters was at the gate with a pitcher of water for them (which they got) and to bid them goodbye. She told the yanks what she thought of them. She was just let talk. When we arrived near Vicksburg we went to the right and near the town was surrounded by our forces and they was pounding away at the with shot and shell. Passed the intrenchments occupied by the rebs where they so successfully defeated General Sherman in his first assault on the almost natural fortifications. Arrived at the Yazoo River and camped for the night. Dirty and hungry, find plenty of ratios here after a 20 day campaign part of the time we had something to eat but the greater part very little and sometimes nothing.

May 22nd: (Young's Point) I and others went down the levees to Shermans Canal, and down the canal to where it enters in the river or would if the river was high enough. Saw the gun boats shelling the reb fortifications on the other side. The rebs would sen shells at the boats striking the water or coming across in the timber which made it necessary to keep back of the levee. Looked until tired and returned to camp.

May 23rd: (Young's Point) Was detailed for duty this morning but happened to get command of the supervisors and did not have much to do. We have about 4,000 prisoners. Some are always wanting something they can not get. They sometimes quarled among themselves. Some claim to be good union men, but I think their loyalty is not very good.

May 24th: (Young's Point) Relieved from duty this morning. Quite a large percent of the company is on the sick list this seems a very sickly place. Troops have camped here for so long that the ground has become saturated with filth. I went to the convalescence camp of the Thirteenth Iowa. Saw but one that I knew.

May 25th: (Young's Point) Quite pleasant, over heard this morning ordered to take prisoners to Memphis, Tennessee. Our regiment, the 80th Ohio and the 108th Illinois. Takes them on five transports the Chancelor, Ohio Bell, Gladiator, Crescent City, and Omaha. I am on the first named boat with part of our regiment have to be divide up so that all five boats can have an equal number of guards. We have 4535 prisoners.

May 26th: (Aboard the Chancelor) Passed the mouth of the Arkansas River also the White River. Saw a Madrid Brigade the same that passed down when we were at New Madrid. Wrote a letter home will put it the office at Memphis.

May 28th: (Aboard the Chancelor) Passed Helena this morning after day light and arrived at Memphis at sundown and anchored out in the river and will not have any communication with the shore until morning.

May 29th: Still at anchor from the shore. The sick are numerous. A boat came out and took twenty-three of our regiment to the hospital. Captain Glasgow was of the number. This evening we were relieved by other troops and we were transferred to the Transport Emerald. Went up town and bought some clothes which I was needing very much. Returned to boat and changed clothes, went up town and went to the theater. Which was quite a treat to us it was a change from battle, march and camp. Return to boat and to bed.

May 30, 1863: (Aboard Emerald) Started down the river this morning at day light. Passed Helena about 10 o'clk. Stopped a few minutes. The evening the guerilla fired into the boat and wounded one belonging to the 108th Illinois.

May 31, 1863: (Aboard Emerald) Moving down the river. Preaching by the chaplain of the 108th Illinois. His text was remember the sabbath day to keep it Holy. Arrived at Youngs Point and disembarked. Moved down the river a short distance over the levee and went into camp. Got some mail. A letter from home, none can appreciate a letter more than a soldier. From home, from dear wife and baby.

June 1st, 1863: (Young's Point) The siege is still going in night and day. Lots of sickness in the regiment not very well myself. On duty, however, took a detail to the upper landing to move some corn and oats. Returned to camp in the evening.

June 2nd: (Young's Point) Pleasant today. A continual roar of cannon from the other side of the river and the ___ on this side, which sounds like a shell over in which can be seen very distinctly by the burning fuse. Nine of our company were taken to convenience camp. Eastman, Harmack, Mellis P. H., Brok, Journey, J. D. Young, Laughlin and Camerson.

June 3rd: (Young's Point) Wrote a letter to E. Jennison and received two letters from home, and one from John Smith of the Thirty-fourth. Out news from the other side and rear is very scrappy. (John Smith, Anna's sister's husband).

June 4th: (Young's Point) Has the appearance of rain, gloomy and unpleasant, makes one feel shifed and uncomfortable and the Mississippi is plainly smelled.

McCullough's attack on Milliken's Bend June 6 and 7, 1863.

"In a shorter time than it takes to tell it, Pinehard was shot through the head and killed."

June 5th: (Young's Point) We all expecting an attack at this point by the rebs of Brisby Smith, Commandor it is reported they occupy Richmond, Louisiana and some have been seen in the vicinity of Duck Post, above here on the river.

June 6th: (Young's Point) Cleared off and is warm again. We all ordered to be ready to move. About 9 o'clk the orders came, and we got aboard of the small boat, Fort Wayne for Millikins Bend, Louisiana a few miles above arrived here about dark and stayed aboard the boat. Here is the place we landed March the 28th.

June 7th: (Millikins Bend) Order came and we disembarked about daylight and got in line. I left the line and looked over the levee but saw nothing but some stock gazing in a field. I could not see very far on account of fog. I noticed while there that a ditch had been dug along the side of the levee. The dirt thrown on top making kind of a breast work, up the river several rods and other ditch was dug from the levee to the river. Dirt thrown out forming a parapet, and down below a short distance the same, making a three sided intrenchment and in this the colored troops were camped. When I returned after looking for Lieutenant Evans asked me if I saw any thing. I told him I saw some stock cattle and/or horses, most to foggy to tell. While standing there the colored troops took their position in the ditch to the left and right of us leaving a space to occupy if necessary. Colonel Glasgow rode out and looked over, turning around quickly called for Wolf to come and get his horse, and called to us forward double quick march. When we got to the levee and looked over, we saw the rebs coming four deep. When they got within hundred feet our troops gave them a volley. They gave the rebel yell and charged us, coming up on the other side of the levee. In a shorter time than it takes to tell it, Pinehard was shot through the head and killed. W. A. Douglas shot in the head falling against me as he fell, Gardner mortally wounded. Owen slight on the cheek. By this time the colored troops on our left and was swept away. The Colonel Gering our disparate conditions called for us to fall back which I did not hear until repeated by Sergeant Littell. Looking to him and left saw all had retreated looked in the ditch in front of me was Sergeant Smith. I called to him and we ran back together, overtaking the command at the bank of the river. There the gun boat out in the river commenced shelling the rebs. The first shell striking the bank near us and killing a little black boy. **The Colonel called us saying that we must not be taken with the negros.** We started down under the cove of the bank and came out below the breast work. Saw a few rebs along the outside of the works, but when we began to climb on the bank they retreated and we did not try to follow them. Went some distance below and halted. I will say right here that I think the Colonel made a mistake in leaving our position at the boat landing. Later we returned to the battle field. The rebs having retried taking their wounded with them. They could not stand the shells from the gun boat. Here on the rebel field laid 23 of our regiment dead. The 41 wounded had been moved to the boat and sent down to hospital 3 miles below. On the left of our dead I counted 55 colored troops dead, five piled on top of each other. I cross over the levee and counted 65 dead rebs and they had possibly taken some with them on their retreat. Why they did not follow up their victory is something I can not understand. They could of captured the whole outfit, accept the boats out in the river. Before leaving we buried one of our company, Calvin Pinehard. Our regiment in this battle was represented by but few of each company. There were one hundred on picket opposite of Vicksburg, and 35 detailed to guard Piscuss to Memphis and many sick only leaving 129 for this trip. 120 got off the boat this morning, leaving nine on board sick out of the 120. Their was 65 killed and wounded. More troops are landing here this evening. Curly Smith and his rebs will have to move out faster than they came in. Camp on the battle field to night.

June 8th: (Millikens Bend) Laid on arms all night expecting an attack but no attack made, and all quiet. Lieutenant Dorous of Company C was killed yesterday and he owed George Mundess but no company \$25.00 and he present his claim to the Captain of Dorous Company. The Captain told Mundess if there was any thing he could use of Lieutenant effects he could have them in payment of the claim. Mundess preferred to take the sword of Dorous if he could sell it to me, which I agreed to do, and bought it paying Mundess \$25.00. Lieutenant Dorous bought it while at Memphis on our trip up there with prisoners. Received orders to return to Young's Point. Got aboard of the Fort Wayne and landed at the point about two o'clock again in our old camp.

June 9th: (Young's Point) We were called in line this morning at three. We re expecting an attack but the rebels did not appear and returned to quarters. Some of the boys acted as if they were afraid they would get hurt, and afterward received the taunts of their comrade for their small amount of sand. Was detailed this evening to picket duty on the river opposite Vicksburg. One hundred men two Lieutenants and myself. Came up a storm on our way down causing us some trouble in finding the picket post.

June 10th: (Opposite Vicksburg) Shells from our mortar up the river came over us and occasionally one would burst on this side of the instead of the other side as intended. Which would make the boys hunt for a tree in a lively manner. When a shell would burst over them it did not require a command to get them to hunt cover. Received some startling news that the rebs would probably attack us before morning. Moved our picket post close to the lines.

June 11th: (Opposite Vicksburg) Established some more picket post. The rebs are surrounding the river every night. I suppose they think there are no yanks on this side, well there they are and we re all laying for them. I and some more of the boys went over on the other side of the canal (Sherman Canal) and picked some blackberries. The rebs on the other side acts as if they owned the patch. When ever we scattered out we can get them all right but if we get too thick they send a shell over to let us know they are still on duty.

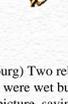
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Aquila Standifird's Civil War Journal- Part Five



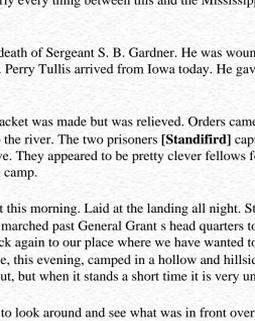
Another Standifird.

June 12th: (Opposite Vicksburg) Two rebs swam the river last night and by the corpse of the white brought them and turned them over to us. They were wet but did not seem to mind it but very little. One of them while sitting by our camp fire drew out of his pocket a picture, saying "I have drowned my girl. I asked to let me look at it as I wanted to see a confederate girl. He passed it over to me and after looking at it I said what is your girls name. He said **Sarah Standifird**. I told him that Standifird was my name. He looked at me as if he thought I was joking but some of the boys told him that was my name. I then asked him where she lived and he told me they above Yazoo City and he thought they come from **Harden County, Kentucky**. I told him she was probably a distant relative as there was where my father and uncles lived at one time. Sent the prisoners to the rear under guard. Relieved this evening and arrived at our camp, but found the regiment had moved to the upper landing. To dark to find them, and camped. Go the regiment in the morning.

June 13th: (Young's Point) I and others of my company spread our blankets on an old bridge over a bayou, we watched the shells from our mortar (a short distance below) until late. The shell could be seen or traced by the burning fuse. They would go up and up making a circle like a rainbow. Pulled out early this morning and arrived at camp for breakfast. Wrote a letter home today.

June 14th: (Young's Point) This morning a brigade of infantry and some cavalry and one battery being started out to Richmond, Louisiana to assist other troops in running the rebs at that vicinity. They have been hanging around ever since the battle of Millikens Bend, giving our pickets some trouble.

June 15th: (Young's Point) The cannonading is terrific in the rear of Vicksburg desertion from the rebs is of every day occurrence. They say that their officers say that J. O. Johnston is going to attack our army in the rear and then yanks will have to get.



Richmond - Destroyed

(From: [The Civil War, An Illustrated History](#); pub. 1990)

June 16th: (Young's Point) Some of the troops returned, that went out the morning of the fourteenth. They say they routed then burnt the town of Richmond and nearly every thing between this and the Mississippi. Possibly they have exaggerated the burning part some what.

June 17th: (Young's Point) Heard of the death of Sergeant S. B. Gardner. He was wounded on the seventh. Invasion of Richmond, Louisiana to assist other troops arrived from Iowa today. He gave us the news from home, Wayne County, Iowa.

June 18th: (Young's Point) A detail for packet was made but was relieved. Orders were made for us to go the war of Vicksburg. A lot of prisoners are taking transport for up the river. The two prisoners **[Standifird]** captured at picket post the 12th is with them. They came and bid me good bye. They appeared to be pretty clever fellows for rebs. We marched aboard the boat leaving some of our company sick in camp.

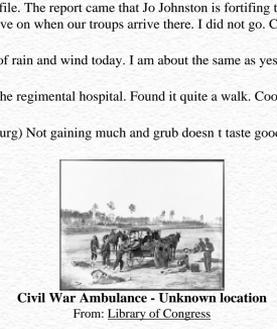
June 19th: (Young's Point) On board boat this morning. Laid at the landing all night. Started up the river about seven o'clock and up the Yazoo and landed and marched past General Grant's headquarters to the rear of Sherman's and McPherson's Corps. to our brigade and back again to our place where we have wanted to be for some time. We have been away from the brigade since May 18th. We, this evening, camped in a hollow and hillside. The water here we get out of the springs fairly good, when first taken out, but when it stands a short time it is very unpalatable and can almost say nasty.

June 20th: (Rear Vicksburg) I concluded to look around and see what was in front over to our right about twenty rods is some thirty-two pound rifle gun claimed to throw a shell five miles. To the front was several batteries all sending shell at the rebs. Breast works of the rebs on the hill, above us is a row of breast works occupied by our troops, and still in advance of that is another parapet and much nearer the intrenchment and forts of the rebs to get out to the advance works. Go by the way of a zig zag ditch, the dirt thrown from the ditch to the front making a very fair protection from the many bullets fired from the rebs. Forts in front, from our outer intrenchment. We can see the enemy's line of breast works and forts in front and to the left and right as far as can be seen. And when a person is looking, he has to be very care full that he doesn't get a bullet from some ever watchful rebs. Afternoon went over to head quarters and got my discharge as First Sergeant. In the evening our company was detailed for picket.

June 21st: (Rear Vicksburg) When we climbed over our works last evening the rebs fired at us but did not it any one. Which caused us to scatter rather quickly to be agreeable, and agreement between the two contending armies was that neither should fire on the pickets. Both sides start our from their intrenchments about the same time and when they came within two or three rods of each other they were to stop and both hold their positions until called in. In the morning at day break I suppose the rebs thought we were pushing out rather early would get to near a pile of dirt. At daylight we fell back on the other side and the boys commenced shooting at anything suspicious, and the supposition was they were at the same business judging from the amount of singing bullets passing over our heads. Relieved this evening and returned to camp. Made out payroll and my muster in roll.

June 22nd: (Rear Vicksburg) Went over this morning and got mustered in a Second Lieutenant (Charles Manhold muster in officer). On my way out to heard quarters, I saw a large oak tree that was used as a look out. Holes bored and pins put in so it could be climbed. Got our tents and camp equipage something very much needed.

June 23rd: (Rear Vicksburg) I succeeded in getting my tent set up after digging the side hill down using the dirt to level up with. When set up moved in and commenced to keep house. Detailed for picket again for tonight. On our way out this evening and near the advance rifle pits a shell from a gun of one our batteries threw a shell and it exploded a few feet above and to our right, parts of the shell going in front of us.



Vicksburg: Rebels and Yankees alike dug into hillsides during the siege.

(From: [The Civil War - An Illustrated History](#); pub. 1990)

June 24th: (Rear Vicksburg) A very disagreeable night dark and rainy. Our troops and the rebs was in a few feet of each other. They quite often traded with each other when not too closely watched. Orders against having communication whatever with the enemy. After our pickets were sent out I saw a group of officers between the two lines but was too dark to see who they were. The Colonel came along soon after and said it was General Pemberton and staff and for me to keep a sharp look out, it being dark and rainy they might try to make a break some part of the line, which they did away to our extreme left. Could hear it quite plainly.

June 25th: (Rear Vicksburg) Went on duty this morning. Working a squad of negroes, they are old and middle aged, all ex-slaves. They work and talk, telling their experience as slaves if it is half as bad as some represent it, it is extremely cruel. The blacks simply finished up what is left undone during the night. Troops in advance of nights, the rifle pits we are constantly pushing toward the rebel forts and parapets. We aim to work up to our pickets. Under the agreement we can work at nights and not be molested. How General Grant go Pemberton to agree to this picket business is beyond my comprehension. General Pemberton could gain nothing by the agreement. This afternoon on our left at three o'clock the intention is to blow up one of the reb forts. The funnel is dug under the fort and all will be ready. The troops will all be in the rifle pits and all batteries will be turned loose. My instructions was to have my squad to lie down and when the signal was given, one of the first shots fired from our guns struck the dirt on top of our rifle pit and just over where the blacks lay. They acted like they would crawl in the ground they would leap over one another hunting for a safe place. It was laughable to see how frightened they were. Sent them in this evening and brought out soldiers to work to night.

June 26th: (Rear Vicksburg) The later part of the nights is quite chilly which makes very disagreeable for ones to be on duty for twenty-four hours. Captain Lewis of the 11th Wisconsin goes on duty this morning and I will go on duty tomorrow morning. The attempt to make a lodgment when the fort was blown was a failure or at least nothing gained and the same old thing is going on today. The same work, the same duty. Not feeling very well today.

June 27th: (Rear Vicksburg) On duty today, warm and sultry and there are more sick than usual. Paying the regiment today. I got 19 days pay from the 11th of April until the first of May. But did not get the one month and 11 days pay due me as 1st Sergeant.

June 28th: (Rear Vicksburg) Captain Lewis goes on duty this morning and I can get 24 hours rest if it were possible to get rest. The mosquitoes are always ready to bit us soon as nights shadow appear and keep it up until the sun shines again. I am feeling very unwell.

June 30th: (Rear Vicksburg) Can hardly go this morning. If I do not get better, I can not go on duty again. This afternoon had to go to camp, could not keep up any longer. Some other will have to be detailed in my place.

July 1st: (Rear Vicksburg) Have the chills and fever, was too sick to write yesterday. A good drink of water is not to be had, and I often get mighty thirsty.

July 2nd: (Rear Vicksburg) Warm and sultry. Shook, got the ague and then the fever comes up, and then makes me feel just miserable.

July 3rd: (Rear Vicksburg) A flag of truce was seen on the rebel works about 10 o'clock, and firing ceased. It came out carried by Reb. General Brown and Colonel Montgomery. They asked for an armistice of a few hours with the view to arrange terms for the surrender of Vicksburg. Their terms sent out by General Pemberton to General Grant--was not accepted by the latter. General Grant's terms was unconditional. This ends the day. The question is what will they do tomorrow.

General Grant and Pemberton met at 3 o'clock, but did not come to any agreement but there was no more firing from either side.

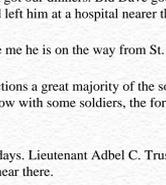
July 4th: (Rear Vicksburg) **Surrendered today.** The second reply or proposition of General Grant to General Pemberton was agreed to and our troops marching and took possession. The Johnnies stacking arms. The Stars and Striped floats over the courthouse. It has been a long and bloody siege and we are all thankful it is over

July 5th: (Rear Vicksburg) The 14th Division of our army Corps started for Jackson this morning. Our regiment what few were left in all about 100 rank and file. The report came that Jo Johnston is fortifying that place, and the intention of holding it. He will probably have to move on when our troops arrive there. I did not go. Could not walk 2 miles.

July 6th: (Vicksburg) A terrible storm of rain and wind today. I am about the same as yesterday.

July 7th: (Vicksburg) Moved down to the regimental hospital. Found it quite a walk. Cooler today.

July 8th: (Regimental Hospital, Vicksburg) Not gaining much and grub doesn't taste good.



Civil War Ambulance - Unknown location

(From: [Library of Congress](#))

July 9th: (Regimental Hospital, Vicksburg) Sent an ambulance for me and, I came to the Division Hospital.

July 10th: (Division Hospital) Some better this morning. This hospital is very large or at least the tent is a large one, and the cots is as thick as they can be and have room for attendants. More or less die every day.

July 11th: (Division Hospital) About same as yesterday.

July 12th: (Division Hospital) Sitting up some today and wrote a letter home. A Minister came to me and said that one of my company was dying and wanted to see me. I went with him and found Sergeant Lewis Smith. He tried to tell me something but he was too near gone, and I could not understand him. Something he wanted me to do for him, but could not speak so it could be understood. He was a good boy and a good soldier.

July 13th: (Division Hospital) Can walk around a little. They are sending a large amount of the sick to other hospitals up the river. Some as far as Keokuk, Iowa.

July 14th: (Division Hospital) I have not had a chill since I came here but so weak that I can scarcely walk.

July 15th: (Division Hospital) This hospital is going to be broken up. Some will be sent up the river, some to the Corps Hospital and others to the company.

July 16th: (Division Hospital) Waited sometime for an ambulance to take me and others to camp. But none came and I walked down to the camp with a man from Company B.

July 17th: (Vicksburg) The camp is on very low ground. When the regiment started for Jackson everything was left in charge of those that were unable to march. I got my tent moved up on the side hill. It is much cooler, drier, and gray, but the little ants is a pest at all times. Got their feet in everything.

July 18th: (Vicksburg) Reported that Jackson has been evacuated by the rebs and our troops has taken possession.

July 19th: (Vicksburg) Feel some better today. General Lawler and staff came in today can expect our regiment in a few days. There is more of the regiment here than out in the Jackson department.

July 20th: (Vicksburg) I am improving some in health. The regiment is on the improve, they're gaining in number, the sick returning for duty.

July 21st: (Vicksburg) In camp and all quiet but very warm.

July 23rd: (Vicksburg) I and Morrison Collins got a couple of horses and rode out in the country and brought some fresh butter, or at least they said it was. I don't believe the trip out in the country, riding in the hot sun was good for me.

July 24th: (Vicksburg) Shook with the ague again.

July 25th: (Vicksburg) Our regiment returned but stopped but a short time. Marched down near the river, a short distance below the Vicksburg land and camped.

July 26th: (Vicksburg) Got in an ambulance came down to the regiment - on the way down saw the caves that were dug for protection from shot and shell during the siege. The city is very dirty and very much battered up.

July 27th: (Vicksburg) Stormed today- blew over a number of tents and things generally, but did not shake any harder than I did and I had the fever also.

July 28th: (Vicksburg) Moved camp on higher ground. Had another doctor today, detailed from another regiment.

"How well a person can appreciate home."

July 29th: (Vicksburg) Orders came that a limited number of officers sick would be given a leave of absence and I was one of the few. The Surgeon gave me a certificate for a leave of absence. The Colonel signed it. Colonel Stone commanding the brigade signed it. General Benton's Division commanded and General E. O. C. Ord Corps commander, then there was a delay General Ord sent it to General Grant for his approval.

July 30th: (Vicksburg) George Dean and others of the company are on the sick list.

July 31st: (Vicksburg) Very warm and disagreeable and the water is very bad. Waiting for the return of my papers.

Aug 1st: (Vicksburg) My leave came. Waiting for a government boat, but none came today.

Aug 2nd: (Vicksburg) I will not wait for a government transport, but will pay my way on the Steamer Emma, fare eleven dollars to Memphis. While on the boat here at landing, thought of the short time it had been since we were picketing on the other side, looking through a glass for the Johnnies. We also saw women walking the street apparently indifferent as to danger from bursting shells. Still at the land and I went to bed.

Aug 3rd: (Aboard Steamer Emma) Left the landing at one this morning. An Orderly a Sergeant of one of the company of the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry fell over board and drowned. He and one of his company was sleeping on the pilot house deck. The boat whistled on the approach of another boat coming down the stream. The warm water from the whistle falling on his face while asleep, frightened him and he jumped up and went overboard. The boat stopped and sent back a boat to hunt for him but he was not found. I am feeling some better today.

Aug 4th: (Aboard Boat) Arrived at Helena at 10 o'clock, went to bed. Still somewhat impaired in health.

Aug 5th: (Aboard Boat) At Helena this morning taking on coal, moved out about 7 o'clock and arrived at Memphis in the afternoon. Got in a carriage and rode to the Jefferson Hospital. Saw Farnsworth, Boon and McMasters of our company from then to the Hardwick Hotel.

Aug 6th: (Memphis, Tennessee) The mosquitoes were extremely numerous, fought them all night. After breakfast I went down to the pay master and drew \$106.00 pay, then went and bought some things. From their to the provomarshal office to get a pass. From there to the hospital. Silas Farnsworth does the cooking for the matron and her lady assistants and he had a splendid dinner. After dinner Silas went with me to the hotel and got my things. Paid my hotel bill two dollars. Started to land met Frank Sturgeon of our company who was wounded at Black River. Arrived at landing, bid Silas good bye and got aboard J. D. Perry, left Memphis at five o'clock p.m.

Aug 7th: (J. D. Perry) The fair from Memphis to Cairo \$10.00. Passed island No. 10 at 5 o'clock p.m.

Aug 8th: (Cairo, Illinois) Arrived here last night at 2 o'clock a.m. got aboard car for Centralia. Fare \$3.35, got a ticket to Centralia to Burlington by way of Mindota.

Aug 9th: (Mindota, Illinois) Arrived here at 12 last night. Sunday and no trains running today.

Aug 10th: Got aboard train at 1.30 this morning and arrived at Burlington at 6 a.m. and at Ottumwa at 11 a.m. Got my dinner and took track for Drakesville and arrived home at 5 o'clock at Fathers, wife and baby staying here.

Aug 11th: (Drakesville, Iowa) **How well a person can appreciate home.** After an absence of one year and five days. It has been a busy year for me, marched and traveled by rail and boat several hundred miles. In 4 battles and the siege of Vicksburg, we often had pleasant camps, but part of the time laid down in snow and often in rain without tents. Often hungry and cold but such is war.

Sept 15th: (Home) Since I have been at home I have had my leave extended 30 days longer, and I and wife and Ida has been up at our home in Wayne County. Visiting G. M. Housley, E. Jennions and Miranda Christopher, Luseatta Christopher (sister) Eleanor Danielson (sister) and Mary Housley. Saw my place which looked desolate in the daytime. While there went out west of Clio in the timber with E. Jennions and J. W. Tabler to get plums and while out there had a chill. We drove from Drakesville to Wayne County in carriage. Got one horse and Robert Housley furnished one and he drove, he visited his son G. W. Housley while up.

Sept 16th: My leave will expire soon and I will start out on my return to the front. Father takes me to Ottumwa and Anna will go that far with me. He going to take some wheat to the mill at that place. When we arrived, Anna and I did some trading while Father went to the Upper Mill, but he could not get his grinding done there and returned and we went with him to the Lower Mill. He was told he could have his grinding done by morning. I and Anna stayed at a near by house. Father slept in the mill.

Sept 17th: (Ottumwa, Iowa) We ate our breakfast with the people we stayed with and Father came in and they would have him eat also, saying to him you must eat some of my fried fish, which was very fine. The great hearted lady would not take a cent for our night lodging. She was loyal to the soldiers and to the country. Father hired up his team, loaded in his grinding, I bid them good bye and they started for home and I took train for Keokuk. Arrived here and reported to hospital for medicine.

Sept 18th: (Keokuk, Iowa) Called on Dr. D. T. Fagler and he said I could not return to my regiment yet. That I was not fit for duty and that it would take me sometime to recruit sufficient for duty. I concluded to try for a discharge.

Sept 19th: (Keokuk, Iowa) This morning recommend for a discharge by Dr. Cleaver, but he seemed to think I would get all right in two months or possibly more.

Sept 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd: (Keokuk, Iowa) Just trying to get well.

Sept 24th: (Keokuk, Iowa) Dr. Fagler said I would go home for four weeks and will start in the morning at 7:30, and am glad to do so. Home is better than any hospital.

Sept 25th: (Keokuk, Iowa) Jacob Tabler carried my carpet sack to the depot and I got aboard cars and arrived at Ottumwa at twelve n. The stage to Drakesville was gone, but met two old friends Michael and William Baldrige and rode as far as Fathers with them. Got there at 11 p.m. and found all well.

Sept 26th and 27th: (Home) Drakesville, Iowa.

Sept 28th: (Home) Rev. Glanville and family stayed at Fathers last night.

Sept 29th: (Home) H. Musingo stayed over night, he is and old acquaintance.

Oct 1st: (Home) Father and Mother had visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Sales had quite a pleasant time.

Oct 2nd: (Home) Speaking today at the Christian Church between Captain Moore of the Second Iowa Infantry Republican and Harve Durlavay, Democrat. I and Anna and sisters Tabettha and Rachel went down and heard them. Durlavay was on the wrong side. The sympathy was with Captain Moore.

Oct 3rd: (Home) Rained this morning and turned cool. Tabettha and Anna gathering apples this afternoon, some appearance of frost. My Father and Mother, William and Rebecka in fair health.

Oct 5th: My leave has expired and I will return to Keokuk today. Alfred Medaris of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry is going. David his brother, is going to take him as far as Ottumwa in carriage, and I will go with them. Bid Father, Mother, sisters and Anna and Baby goodbye. We arrived at Ottumwa got our dinners. Bid Dave goodbye and Alf and I took the 2 o'clock train for Keokuk. Alf had a chill on the way down, and left him at a hospital nearer than the Estes where I was stopping.

Oct 12th: (Keokuk) John W. Baird came in to see me he is on the way from St. Louis. He lives at Drakesville.

Oct 13th: (Keokuk) Cool and gloomy today. Elections a great majority of the soldiers voted. Some few that was not certain of their loyalty did not vote. Some Irish got in a row with some soldiers, the former got in the cooler. I voted the Wayne County Union ticket.

Oct 17th: (Keokuk) Have been unwell for a few days. Lieutenant Adbel C. Trust is in the hospital here. He tells me he is going up home today. He lives at Drakesville or near there.

Oct 18th: (Keokuk) Sunday church bells rings and the streets are very quiet.

Oct 19th: (Keokuk) The busy workman commences his weeks labor, and the lofer to his useless occupation.

Oct 21st: (Keokuk) Got a letter from Anna and Beth, sister.

Oct 22nd: (Keokuk) Harrison Taylor came in to see me. He is on his way to his regiment the 37th Iowa. He lives near Father.

Oct 25th: (Keokuk) Having the ague every day.

Nov 7th, 8th, to 19th: The same old thing. If ague can't make a person feel miserable do not know what can.

Nov 20th: (Keokuk) Three of the boys of my company started for the regiment this morning. F. A. Sturgeon, J. F. Browning and J. W. McMasters, got one half dozen pictures taken. Felling better again after taking 60 grains of quinine, 20 grains at 6 and 20 grains at 12 o'clock and 20 grains at 6 in the evening.

Nov 21st: (Keokuk) My two room mates are Sergeant J. N. Dennis, and Corporal G. W. Erwin of the 38th Iowa, crossed over the river and went out as far as Oakwook. Got in a wagon and returned to Hamilton and got our dinners, paid 20 cents each. Then crossed over again and at hospital. Got a letter from Captain Evans. He has been promoted to Captain since I left. Captain Glasgow resigned, and I will loose my chances for promotion by being absent from the regiment.

Dec 1st: (Keokuk) Met Samuel Fouts an old Drakesville acquaintance and stayed with him until he started down the river. He is on his way to St. Louis. Came across James E. Moore one of my company. He is on his way to the regiment. I, J. A. Tabler, J. E. Moore and Alic Perkins went out this evening and got some oysters, had a good time.

Dec 2nd: (Keokuk) Perkins, Moore, Tabler starts for the regiment today, I wish I could go with them but the doctor says not yet.

Dec 3rd: (Keokuk) While down at the depot saw Mrs. Birk. She is on her way to Benton, Arkansas to see her husband, he is in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. She is and old school friend, went to the same school at Drakesville.

Dec 4th: (Keokuk) Saw today another old neighbor C. R. Medaris. He was on his way home from Indiana. Commenced boarding at a hotel, but know how I will like it but probable as well as hospital grub.

Dec 10th: (Keokuk) Going home again today got twenty days leave. Dr. Taylor has been very good to me. He has extended my leave from the regiment every twenty days giving me medical certificate of disability. Sending one to the war department, and one to the Colonel of the regiment. Took train for home arrived at Ottumwa. Got on stage in company with Sam Fouts (he was on his way home from St. Louis) and two other passengers, and arrived at Fathers at 10 p.m.

Dec 11th: (Home) Brother Edward and his wife Sarah E. was at Fathers. He was discharged from company A 3rd Cavalry and is now living in Wayne Co. They are down on a visit. We intend enjoying the short time together to the full extent.

Dec 12th: (Home) We went to the Methodist Church in the morning.

Dec 13th: (Home) Went to church took the wagon, nothing today.

Dec 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, & 19th: (Home) Spending our time visiting old friends and they visiting us, seen quiet a number of old schoolmates.

Dec 20th: (Home) I, Anna, Edward and Sarah visited with the family of C. R. Medaris.

Dec 21st: (Home) Hauled some wood or went along with Father and Ed, snow deep.

Dec 22nd: Father butchered hogs today. Samuel Brooks and William Collins helping Edward and Sarah intends to starting home in the morning.

Dec 23rd: Edward and wife started for home this morning at an early hour. In the afternoon went to the school house and came home with sister Beth.

Dec 24th: (Home) I and Anna visited fired at Drakesville.

Dec 25th: (Home) Christ was a good dinner I miss M. Tabler, and I had one year ago today near VanBuren on the Current River in Missouri. Went to the funeral of Miss M. Taylor, but I and Anna and the girls went to the Christen Church.

Dec 26th: (Home) Expect to return to Keokuk tomorrow. This will be my last trip home while in the service, will soon start to my regiment. I am getting quite strong again. The parting will only be from the fact I am going much farther away from home. Went to church this evening.

Dec 27th: Father and I will take me as far as Ottumwa horseback. Bid Mother, Sisters and Wife and little daughter goodbye. Father and I found it very disagreeable day rained and snowed. When we arrived at the river across from Ottumwa the ice did not live safe for horses and Father did not cross. I bid him good bye and he started on his return home, and I crossed the river into town and stopped for the night at the Ottumwa house. I thought of Father and his disagreeable ride. I am under many obligations to him for his kindness to me, also to wife and child while away from home.

Dec 28^{th</}

Aquila Standifird's Civil War Journal- Part Six

Back to Vicksburg - on to Texas - back to Iowa

1864

Jan 1, 1864: (Keokuk) The good people intended giving the soldiers an oyster supper this evening, and the boys are trying to get their stomachs in shape to hold a large ration.

Jan 2nd: (Keokuk) Fire in town on the corner of 3rd and Johnston Street. Some property destroyed.

Jan 4th: (Keokuk) The surgeon of the 23rd called to see me. He was on his way from down to the regiment.

Jan 5th: (Keokuk) J. H. Davis of my company got a several days furlow for home. He lives in the south side of Wayne County. It will take him 2 days to go and 2 to return. He thinks a short stay is better than none at all. Wrote home to the folks.

Jan 6th: (Keokuk) The weather very cold. Letter from home.

Jan 12th: (Keokuk) Haven't written any for a few days, waiting patiently as could be expected under the circumstances for an order to move. Received a letter from M. Christopher enclosed \$16.00 some money due me. Wrote home again.

Jan 13th: (Keokuk) Wrote a letter to M. Christopher.

Jan 16th: (Keokuk) J. H. Davis returned from his visit home. Stayed over time, but don't count, he is here to answer to his name.

Jan 17th: (Keokuk) Having plenty of time wrote home.

Jan 18th: (Keokuk) Got my medical certificates made out and signed.

Jan 19th: (Keokuk) A reception and dinner for the 2nd and 7th Iowa Infantry. They veteranized and are on their way to the front again. The dinner was served in the dining hall of the 1st Ward this hospital. They was a lively lot. I met two of the 7th boys at the hotel this evening and they were taking on considerable corn juice. They told me they would be commissioned on their return and it was making them feel good. I am afraid I had to fib to them to get away.

Jan 20th: (Keokuk) Got a letter from home, but will not answer it until or before I start south.

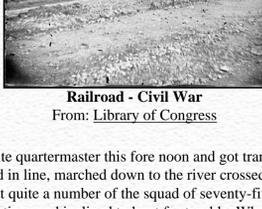
Jan 22nd: (Keokuk) Paymaster came today and will commence paying troops in hospital here.

Jan 23rd: (Keokuk) Received a letter from Anna. Went to the doctor's office and he said he was going to send 75 convalescence with me to the front, which makes it very nice for me. I will get my transportation furnished free.

Jan 24th: (Keokuk) It is warming up some and rather pleasant after the extreme cold. I and G. W. Erwin went to church at 11 o'clock. Wrote a letter home, possibly the last from here. Erwin and I went to church this evening. I first Sergeant Dennis and Corporal Erwin very agreeable gentlemen while rooming with me. Dennis's wife visited him a short time in October. She was a very fine lady.

Jan 25th: (Keokuk) Making preparation to start tomorrow. I will express a few things home to Anna. My regiment, is on the coast in Texas at Indianola on Matagorda Bay will take me several days to get there.

Jan 26th: (Keokuk) Will not get off today as expected. It always takes time.



Railroad - Civil War
From: Library of Congress

Jan 27th: (Keokuk) Called on Captain Dwite quartermaster this fore noon and got transportation and rations as far as Cairo, Illinois. This afternoon got my squad in line, marched down to the river crossed over the ice to Hamilton. While waiting for train to arrive I could notice that quite a number of the squad of seventy-five had taken on more whiskey than they could conveniently carry. Some rather tipsy and inclined to hunt for trouble. When the train arrived, got them aboard and off for Decatur, Illinois.

Jan 28th: Had some trouble with the muzzle loaded whiskey ammunitioned lot last night. They stopped the train twice. I had to order the arrest of any person pulling the bell rope. On our way to Decatur to Hamilton the rations had to be transferred. 2 soldiers was detailed to see to it but when we arrived at Decatur, there was neither rations or 2 soldiers. They had failed to obey orders. They will get into trouble and they have only themselves to blame. The boys will have to do without anything to eat until we arrive at Cairo. We stopped a short time at a hotel at Decatur waiting for train, but got off about daylight. Before I left Keokuk some soldiers came to me and asked me if they could not go with us to different point in Illinois. I told them it was all right with me if the conductor of the train did not find them out. I had the names of all in my charge. When the conductor came through they would ask how many men I had in charge. I would tell him the number and show him my transportation. Then the question would be is there any more on than I had transportation for for I would tell him to count them. As soon as he would commence counting the boys would raise the yell, and they would quit, finding business in some other part of the train. One soldier got off down in **Egypt**. He told me he had not seen his wife and their children for 2 years. Asked me to let him stop off for 5 days. He said his wife lived in a small town and near the railroad tracks. I told him if he would run the risk and not let the provo marshal get him, I would tell him my number and the children met him. The boys on the train swung their hats and gave a yell. They said it was good for the eyes to see and old soldier and family meet. We arrived at Cairo this evening and went to the barracks. The men could get rations and a place to stop.

Jan 29th: (Cairo, Illinois) Sent part of my squad up the Cumberland River on their way to the front. Got transportation and started down the river this evening. I lost part of my squad this morning, but I find when I started that I had gained more than I lost. There are always soldiers at the different points on their way to their regiment. Often they will stay quite a time at one point, quite often then are not sent forward rapidly as they should. No person to look after them, and get transportation for them. And often find furlough men without a cent of money on their way to their regiment. Such fellows are very willing to fall in with a squad so they can get their transportation and rations without trouble to themselves.

Jan 31st: (Memphis, Tennessee) Landed my squad at the barracks where they find very good rations and well cooked. I gave them the privilege of the city but not stay away long at a time from the barracks.

Feb 1st: (Memphis, Tennessee) The boys are enjoying themselves today. The 2 soldiers that neglected to change the rations on their way to Decatur came up today and they wanted me to take them in my squad again. I told their guards to take them to Fort Pickening that I could not trust them. The guard told me as soon as the train pulled out and left the, they tried to sell the rations. They expected to have a good time. But they were arrested by the provo marshal and sent on under guard. All soldiers not in charge of a commitions officer is sent to the fort, and they have no privilege until they are sent on to their regiment.

Feb 2nd: (Memphis, Tennessee) Got transportation to Vicksburg and will start down today. Leaving some and taking other in their place. Found a member of Company A of our regiment. He tells me he is out of money and out of rations in fact is having a hard time getting to the regiment. I will take him along.

Feb 5th: (Vicksburg) Arrived here this evening. Went to the barracks and found the same treatment we received at Memphis. Which is good.

Feb 6th: (Vicksburg) The city much cleaner than it was 6 months ago. Don't see dead carcasses lying in the hot sun and the dreadful stench. Everything which is buried or burned. My feet has swollen very much and I went to the hospital and the doctor examined them. They said it was dropsy. I was given some medication to bath them in, and returned called at headquarters and got my papers which will take us to New Orleans. My squad has increased to 150. Got aboard boat this evening and moving down the river.

Feb 8th: (On Board Boat) We find a great deal warmer weather then when we crossed the Mississippi at Keokuk a few days ago the ice was 2 feet thick. Here today it is flowers and blossoms, green grass and green forest, everything has the appearance of summer. On our way down we passed Port Hudson, Ellis Cliffs, Natchez and today Baton Rouge.

Feb 9th: (New Orleans) Arrived here this fore noon. We marched to the cotton presses and turned the command over to the officer in charge. Was informed that probably would get off tomorrow evening again. I went to Strongs Lodge and stayed all night.

Feb 10th: (New Orleans) Meet Morrison Collins of my Company. He is on duty at the commissary department. He and I made a trip through part of the city. The city is much lower or at least the same than the watter in the river. The river is held in its channel by a very wide and high levee. The waste watter from the city runs through and drains into Lake Ponchertiarn. We got aboard the George Peabody for Passcanalla, Texas this evening.

Feb 11th: (On Board George Peabody) We stopped sometime at Fort Jackson and arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi at about 8 o'clock a.m. We were just sitting down to breakfast when we struck the Gulf of Mexico. At the table there were 13 commition officers. And excuses to leave the table came thick and fast until all had left but I and one other. And it did not affect us in the least. There are about 500 troops aboard of which a large majority is sea sick.

Feb 12th: (On Board George Peabody) We see the blue above the watter beneath. Saw some flying fish and a few porpoise, a large fish with a nose very much like a hog. The weather is fine, sunshine and calm. The troops aboard is getting over their sick spell and say their feeling fine.

Feb 13th: Arrive this afternoon at Passcanalla, and part of us were transferred to one boat. The others would continue on their way to Brownsville, Texas. We found it anything but pleasant getting from a coast boat to the other. The transfer was anchored some distance from shore and George Peabody could not cross the bar, and the old gulf would not be still. One boat would go up while the other would go down and they they would jam together. When they would move apart on a regular seasaw. We came up the mouth of the bay past Fort Espuranza to Decroes Point and landed about sun down. The soldiers was to receive rations from the commissary here. 3 of us however had quite a time before we got anything. The cook on board seemed to be terror stricken when the captain of the boat was around. In fact the Captain looked as mean as a man as ever walked the deck. But we got our suppers when he got out of sight. We spread down our blanket in the cabin and went to sleep.

"Last evening came what they call a northerner it was the most disagreeable word I ever felt."

Feb 14th: Arrived at Indianola this morning and got off the old dirty coast boat and marched up the bay to New Indianola meeting our regiment and escort to another regiment that had veteranized. They will go down on the boat we came up on. Our regiment goes as far as the boat landing and will return. We found a very fine camp dry and grassy. This part of the coast was very low and the land lying back from the coast as far as I can see is very level. Looking from here toward Port Lavacka. Hundreds of cattle can be seen grazing on the short grass and they seem to do well on it this time of year.

Feb 17th: (Indianola, Texas) I was detailed for picket last night. Last evening came what they call a northerner it was the most disagreeable word I ever felt. The fore noon of yesterday was fine, but last night was one of the most disagreeable I ever passed on picket. Our port was up the bay and near it, and we had the full blast from the north west. It was not cold enough to freeze watter but could successfully chill to the bone.

Feb 18th: (Indianola, Texas) The troops have plenty of beef and oysters. Plenty of cattle on the plains or prairies and oysters out in the bay. The boys takes a boat and a rake made for the business, and go out and rake up bushels of them. They eat them raw and fried and every other way to suit their taste.

Feb 19th: (Indianola, Texas) Made out my papers to appear before a board of enquiry (as to my leave of absence).

Feb 20th: (Indianola, Texas) Appeared before the board and submitted my papers and was ordered to report for duty, and hope I can get my pay when the paymaster makes his appearance. Another cold blizzard today.

Feb 21st: (Indianola, Texas) I have caught cold and am not very well.

Feb 22nd: (Indianola, Texas) W. H. Clancy of our company was captured to day. He was detailed to help bring in cattle. Part of the detail made their escape. Those captured was taken to Port Lavacka. Sick today.

March 9th: (Indianola, Texas) Have been sick since the 22nd and cannot walk without assistance. Ordered to move from here. Jared H. Davis and R. G. Browning helped me on board a boat. Jared will go with me. Browning will march with the regiment. The boat is crowded with refugees mostly woman and children. They are following the army to be fed. They claim they are destitute nothing to eat and but little to wear.

March 14th: (Espuranza) (Matagorda Island) The whole outfit sick soldiers and refugees was landed here today. Jared got a tent and set it up and we are doing the best we can under the circumstances. We are camped near Fort Espuranza. This Fort commands the entrance to Matagorda Bay. It was built by the rebs but was taken by our troops on their arrival here. It is very pleasant and when the sun shines, it is very warm. I heard the doctor tell the captain that there was 99 chance for us to die than to live.

March 14th: The regiment is in camp out on the island and we are going to move out today, Jared and I. (Can't write).

March 20th: (Matagorda Island) Got so I can walk around again. A storm came up last night and blew down a number of tents. I walked out to the shore to see the gulf. It takes it some hours to calm down after the storm. I was resting and trembling. When two waves would come together, the watter would fly high in the air.

March 21st: (Matagorda Island) The surgeon Dr. Corwell advised me to resign, said it would take me months to get able for duty and possibly not at all if stayed in this climate. The trouble is chronic diarrhea, jaundice and general disability.

March 22nd: (Matagorda Island) Got my papers written out for a discharge and signed by regiment officers.

March 24th: (Matagorda Island) Examined by the Division Surgeon, and got my papers as far as division head quarters. (Very sick)

March 27th: (Matagorda Island) My discharge was handed to me by the Colonel this evening. As soon as I can get a boat I will start for New Orleans.

March 28th: (Matagorda Island) The regiment was paid today, but I will not get my pay until I arrive at New Orleans. Several of the boys got up a supper for my benefit and also present me with a small, but a very fine \$3.00 knife for which I am thankful. I have been treated very kindly by the company. If I had had the same treatment by the Colonel, I would think much better of him.

March 29th: (Matagorda Island, Texas) Making preparation to start home today. John Fulton went down to the quarter masters and got my transportation for one as far as New Orleans. Several of the company will send money home to fathers, mothers and wives. Total amount \$645.00. Bid the company good bye at 1:30 o'clock. Came down to the Fort got a small boat and went out to the ship, Platoon, and got aboard. Started out and in to the gulf about 4 o'clock. I find but little accommodation on board. The berths all taken mostly by women going to different parts of the country. Some as far north as Ottumwa, Iowa. They claim destitution and unsettled conditions of the country the cause of their exodus from their homes. I did not get aboard soon enough to get a berth and I will have to take my blanket to the fore-castle in the sailor cabin to sleep.

March 30th: (On Platoon, Gulf of Mexico) Since we started until this evening the weather has been fine but wind is coming up and is blowing very hard and the ship is pitching fearfully. At supper I found it any thing but pleasant, if the dishes had not been stationary they would surly slid all over the cabin floor. The coffee did not want to stay in the cups and in most cases would not stay in the stomach. Well I guess I will have to lie down. I am getting sick.

March 31st: Sick, sea sick, can't sit or even hold my head up and the wind still blows.

April 1st: (Platoon, Gulf of Mexico) Getting better this morning and the wind still blowing. This afternoon wind going down and I after some trouble and with the assistance of one of the soldiers got on deck and watched the old gulf. The ship just acted like a side boat. Occasionally the watter would run over the front of the boat when a long wave would strike it. Came up through the south west pass into the Mississippi about 4 o'clock and into smooth watter would run over the front of the boat when a long wave would strike it. There is something the matter with the masthead of the ship since it has calm down. They cannot use the sails we are going very slow. Well we can now get a good nights rest and eat our supper with some comfort. The passengers came out on deck and all engaging in the pleasant evening.

April 2nd: (Platoon, Mississippi River) Still fine this morning. Saw a man start up the levee in a two horse buggy, and he drove off and left us. The wind is coming up and the sails will help the speed of the ship. One large ship passes us. The Evening Star on her way to New York via Havana, Cuba. She was a fine boat and ran very fast. An officer on board had a microscope and we put in our time surveying the county, rice fields, orange orchards and fine plantations. Saw the homesteads of the Slidels and cemetery where some of them were buried. Passed English turn where the battle of New Orleans was fought between General Jackson of the American army troops and General Peckinham and the English forces.

April 3rd: (New Orleans) Arrived here last evening, but did not get off until late. We had to wait until we could get our baggage taken to the hotel, or Strongs Lodge. You pay 50 cts for bed, and you can go to a restaurant and get as little or as much as you please for a meal. The company gave me \$25.00 to buy them stamps. I went to the post office and bought them, put them in a large envelope and directed it to Captain Littell as requested. Went to the paymaster but did not get any pay. Met Morrison Collins of our company again and we took the town in as he calls it.

April 4th: (New Orleans) Went to the paymaster and drew pay \$889.83. Went and bought a trunk and a suit of clothes for a change and 11 yards of delarin for Mother, 33 yards of lawn for Anna and my two sisters (Tabitha and Rachel). Then put the time in looking over the town. Went out to the cemetery, which is a very fine one. The rich people have tombs of marble and rock and are not buried in the ground. Saw the tomb of General Bauregards wife. Saw the potters field where hundreds of unknowns and the very poor are buried. The street car runs out here. Collins and I went to the cotton presses and in the evening went to some places of amusement. When we returned to the lodge I bid Collins goodbye, expecting to start home tomorrow.

April 5th: (New Orleans) I and Sergeant Blackburn of company E of our regiment concluded to go as far as St. Louis together. We had some trouble to get a boat we concluded not to wait for a government transport but pay our way. This afternoon we concluded to go on the boat Pauline Carroll, got our baggage on board and ourselves.

April 6th: (Aboard Pauline Carroll) Quite a number of passengers aboard. Both civil and military. Two marine officers on their way home on leave, they are a gay outfit, also 3 gamblers of the avaricious kind. When they can get any person to play with them, they generally succeed in getting their money. They are a tough shipment of useless humanity.

April 7th: This morning at the landing Natchez. Putting off some goods and taking on some. Started up about 9 a.m. Passed Grand Gulf near sundown. It commenced to rain and get very dark. Saw what they call a Jack O Lantirn. The boatman tells me they are frequently seen here this kind of night.

April 8th: Arrived at Vicksburg last night and still here this morning. Some troops came aboard. General McArthur was on the shore a short time, the General in command here. His staff came aboard and filled up with liquid refreshments. They had some trouble with a dispatch bearer from Memphis, and they was to blame. If they had been at their office instead of here half drunk the trouble would not occurred. Started up at 2 p.m. Passed Sherman's canal and our old camp at Youngs Point and Millikens Bend and the battleground of June 7th last.

April 9th: Stopped several time for wood on our way up. From the way the mate of the boat talked to the deck hands a person would come to the conclusion that all semblance of manhood had disappeared from them. If two mates of a boat are not the most abusive and profane persons that breaths I do not know where they can be found.

April 10th: Last night a soldier got up in his sleep and fell over board. He was on his way home after serving 3 years. He and another comrade were sleeping on the cabin deck and near my outside state room door. He comrade tried to catch him, but failed to so. His body was not found. A sad affair if nothing had happened him at the farthest, it would be but a few days he would be with families and friends at home. Passed Helena, stopped but a few minutes.

April 11th: Arrived a Memphis last night and started up this morning. Passed Fort Pillow saw some of Forest Rabbit Cavalry on the bluffs not far from the fort we heard that Forrest was concentrating his cavalry some place in the vicinity. And the captain of the boat is on the look out for trouble. I notice he is running close to the west shore. Possibly Forest intends making a raid on Fort Pillow, we passed however and are not molested.

April 12th: Passed New Madrid at 7 a.m., Hickman at 109 a.m. and stopped a short time at Columbus, Kentucky and arrived at Cairo at 3 p.m. Most of the soldiers and passengers landed here, there has been all the way up more or less soldiers and officers aboard. Some of the officers is at the bar singing, "Will drink stone blind." If they don't quit soon they will get too blind to get off. We started up the river for St. Louis at sun down.

April 13th: Last night at 10:30 p.m. the boat struck a sand bar and in trying to get off the rudder was broken. After some hours they succeeded in getting off and landed and tied up on the west side. Got the Damage repaired and started at 12 n today. Arrived at Cape Girardeau at 3 p.m. and took on some passengers. Some young men came aboard. I suppose some was never on a boat before, when supper came they could not order what they wanted to eat from the bill of fair. They would wait until they saw other passengers ordered then they would say I will take the same he does.

April 14th: This morning at a good a.m. at Benton Barracks, and at St. Louis at 10 a.m. I bid Sergeant Blackburn goodbye, he is a fine fellow and a good man to travel with. He had several hundred dollars, taking home to the families of his company as well as myself. We have between us about \$3300.00 and all in green backs except \$500 which I have in a draft. We roomed together on the way up and did not spend much time out side of the cabin. After night he goes to Kansas City and Omaha. I took a cab for the Everett Hotel got dinner. Sent an order for my baggage to be transferred from the Pauline Carroll to the Warsaw. Got aboard the later at 3 p.m. for Keokuk. The boat is very much crowded but I succeeded in getting a room.

April 15th: (Aboard Warsaw) At Quincy, Illinois 12 noon and at Keokuk 9 p.m. Came to the Duning Hotel for the night.

April 16th: I did this morning A of our regiment, sent some money by me requesting me to express it to Ottumwa. Got on stage for Drakesville and arrived here at sun down, making eighteen days from Passcanall, Texas. The distance from Passcanall to New Orleans 550 miles, from New Orleans by river to St. Louis 2100 miles, from St. Louis to Keokuk 200 miles, from Keokuk to Drakesville 75 miles, total 2925 miles. I found Father and folks well, but Anna and Ida had gone to Wayne County.

April 17th: Father and I went to Drakesville. Saw Hamilton Drake and he cashed my draft of \$500 for me. William Hail told me that himself and wife is going to Centerville tomorrow and that I could ride that far with them on my way to Wayne County.

April 18th: Came as far as Centerville with Hail today, and stopping at hotel for the night.

April 19th: When I got on stage today for Corydon. I found two of my company on their way home on furlough, I. E. Orven and George Munden. We arrived at Corydon in the evening. I met W. M. Rankin and I rode out with him to where Anna was stopping at G. W. Morgan and wife, her sister. On her folks Robert Gray place in Warren Township arrived here at 9 p.m. and found all well.

April 20, 1864. To day will end this diary. It will take a few days to distribute the letters and money sent by me from members of the company to their families. And after that a horse harness and wagon to buy, house and fencing to repair. In fact commence where I left off July 26, 1862.

In this sketch I have tried to get the exact facts as it occurred. Possibly at sometime it will be read by some one long after the writer has answered to the last roll call.

Aquila Standifird

2nd Lieutenant, Company D, 23rd Iowa Infantry"

Thank you, Aquilla!

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