

Campaigning with the First Minnesota

A Civil War Diary

Edited by Hazel C. Wolf

[PRESENTED HEREWITH is the second installment of the diary kept by Isaac Lyman Taylor while serving with the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War. The first section of Taylor's record, covering the period from January 1, 1862, to March 28 of the same year, appears with an introduction by Miss Wolf in the March number of this magazine. Two installments planned for future issues will carry the narrative to July 2, 1863, the day of the First Minnesota's spectacular charge at Gettysburg, in which the diarist fell. Ed.]

Sat. Mar. 29. Min. Regt. ordered to be ready to march to the wharf at 7 A.M. Tents struck, knapsacks packed, rations distributed & every thing according to order. P.H. passes a restless night. Went with him to hospital on Washington street. The Methodist church is used as a hospital — it is large, neat & has but few patients — a very good place for a sick man.⁶⁴ Proceeded from hospital to pier No. 2 & went aboard the "Golden Gate" Our Regt. did not embark till P.M. Co's B, C, E & I, pioneers,⁶⁵ band & Col. on board Golden Gate. Part of Regt. on steamboat "Jenny Lind" & part on some other craft. Golden Gate is a little steamer from New London, Conn., & is chartered by U.S. for transportation of troops. This evening boats containing all of Gorman's brigade anchor out in the river & await morn. Snowed quite briskly for several hours in middle of day. Quite cool.

Sun. Mar. 30. At 6-30 A.M. Gorman's brigade move down the Potomac. 7-30 pass Ft. Washington on Md. shore & a little lower down

⁶⁴ The hospital was located in the Southern Methodist Church of Alexandria, according to Powell, *History of Old Alexandria*, 115. Henry's illness, which was caused by exposure, kept him away from the regiment during the first weeks of the Peninsula campaign. He reported this experience in letters to his mother, April 13; to Samuel Taylor, April 22; and to Myron Taylor, April 25, 1862.

⁶⁵ A pioneer unit went ahead of the regular army to clear or construct roads and build bridges. It was made up of one man from each company, selected for coolness, bravery, and ability to use a pick and ax. Samuel Bloomer Diary, December 19, 1861, Bloomer Papers, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

on Va. shore we get a view of the old residence of Washington at Mt. Vernon. Just before dark we anchor a few miles from mouth of Potomac. A schooner with a portion of Rhode Island Battery A on board has been towed from Alexandria by Golden Gate. A cool day. Rainy in A.M. Boat crowded Hot coffee scarce—places to sleep, "ditto." Potomac is a broad & noble river. Potomac thickly dotted with crafts of various kinds—an occasional U.S. gunboat. Passed several evacuated rebel earth works. River banks of moderate elevation.

Mon. Mar. 31. Weighed anchor at daybreak & entered Chesapeake Bay at 9-30 A.M. Slept comfortably last night on open deck under canvas awning. In P.M. passed war steamer blockading mouth of York River. A little before sunset, hove in sight of quite a large fleet of various craft lying in & at mouth of James River Lay down to sleep on a water barrell. Awoke at 4 A.M. &

Tues. Apr. 1st. found the Golden Gate lying close to Fortress Monroe surrounded by a forest of masts & near by the "Yankee cheese-box on a raft," known as the Monitor. From the deck I get a view of Fortress Monroe, Rip Raps & Sewal[1]'s Point. Saw for the first time a "Sunrise on the Ocean." Moved up to Hampton & debarked at 9 A.M. & soon had a cup of hot coffee which was a rich treat after a coffee "fast" on board the boat. Marched about a mile from town & encamped Our tents being left behind we make a substitute of our rubber blankets. Hampton must have been quite a village in its day but nothing remains but standing chimneys & blackened walls. Nearly clear in A.M. Cloudy in P.M.

Wed. Apr. 2. Monthly inspection at 9 A.M. after which I went down to Fortress Monroe & took a view of the inside of that great fortress said to cover an area of 75 acres. On the beach outside of Fortress saw the Union and the Linco[1]n gun The Union is 12 inch rifle & the Lincoln gun a 15 inch smooth bore. The ten lb. parrot guns look like pistols by the side of these mammoth engines of war.⁶⁶ Visited the cemetery surrounding the ruins of a church in Hampton. Broken & displaced tomb-stones and crumbling brickwork mark the restingplace of the dead of a century & a half. Upon one tomb-stone is engraved "Capt. Willis Wilson died 1701, aged 128 years."

Thur. Apr. 3. Skirmish drill in A.M. Fine warm day.

⁶⁶ The Parrott gun was named for Robert P. Parrott, who perfected a cannon of remarkable durability. *Encyclopedia Americana*, 13:561, 21:346, 23:622.

Fri. [April] 4. 1st. Min. left camp at 8 A.M. A warm morning. The boys throw away blankets, dress coats, overcoats &c, to lighten their knapsacks. Cooler & cloudy in P.M. After numerous halts, at 6 P.M. we encamp by the side of abandoned rebel earth-works at Great Bethel & "make down" my bed under a peach tree in full blossom. Gens. McClellan & Heintzleman, with their staffs, passed us to day.⁶⁷

Sat. [April] 5th. Revellie at 5 A.M. Left camp at 6 A.M. Marched 3 or 4 miles to abandoned Secesh earth-works on either side of a small stream where we halted for 3 or 4 hours. Forty or fifty log houses here built by Secesh for Winter quarters. Pine trees felled to obstruct approach to works except by roads. 2d. line of works commands first. McClellan & staff pass us just before ten A.M. Smart thunder shower at ten AM. Canonading ahead grows brisk about one or two P.M. Fall in about 2 P.M. & march 2 or 3 miles, passing barracks for about one Regt., & encamp in an open field.⁶⁸ Balloon reconnaissance at sundown. On guard to day. Quite clear in P.M.

Country between here & Hampton very level—timber mostly pine—some birch

Sun. Apr. 6. A warm, clear day. [MS. illegible] Put under arrest from guard mount till one P.M. by officer of guard (Lt. [Josias R.] King, Co. A) for not being in ranks at taking of arms. "Putting on style," I think, Mr. King. Six or eight companies of 1st. Min. out to day to protect workmen clearing roads. Several men shot by pig hunters of N.Y. 2d. & 34th, several of whom are hand-cuffed in pairs. A little canonading & some musketry in advance. Union balloon reconnaissance early this morning. Funeral in 69th P[ennsylvania] V[olunteers] this evening.

Mon. Apr. 7. Six companies of Min. 1st. form fatigue party to day Co. E remains in camp. Clear morning—clouded up towards noon—some rain in P.M. Another row in N.Y. 34th.—participants hand-cuffed.

Tues. [April] 8th Rained all last night Awoke this mornnig & found my sleeping place inundated—blankets wet—built a fire to

⁶⁷ The generals were on their way from Fortress Monroe to the front. McClellan, *Own Story*, 254; *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:18; *History of the First Minnesota*, 103.

⁶⁸ The movement took the regiment within a few miles of the Confederate works at Yorktown. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:18; *History of the First Minnesota*, 103. The places mentioned in this and the entries that follow may be located on a map of "The Peninsula," in Adams, ed., *Atlas of American History*, 129.

warm my bones. Rained all day except interval of few hours in middle of day. Raining at night Camp "reconstructed" so as to prevent inundation. Two companies of Min. 1st. on picket. Report says our sharpshooters are making hot work for the rebel gunners. The storm is gathering, Mr. McGruder [Gen. John B. Magruder],—look out!⁶⁹ Inspection of cartridges to night. Our teamsters report plenty of troops at Ship Point on York river 7 miles distant.

Wed. [April] 9 Went out to help build corduroy [road] near rebel works. 15th Mass. act as skirmishers to protect us (Min 1st). A wet day. Left camp at 3 P.M. & returned after dark wet, muddy & hungry. Hard way of serving ones country. Wrap myself in wet blankets & lie down to sleep.

Thur. Apr. 10. 1st Min. go out again to build corduroy roads Go within $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ miles of Secesh batteries which occasionally compliment the "passer by" with a shell Mass. 15th. out again to protect us while working Out all day. Return at sundown & receive the cheering news that island No. 10 is our[s] & *no mistake*. Report also that [P.G.T.] Beauregard is defeated at Pittsburg Landing on Tenn. River by Gens. Grant & [Don C.] Buel[1], after two days hard fighting.⁷⁰ Heavy frost last night must be rather destructive to peach blossoms. Cool & cloudy in morning but afterwards clears off & becomes pleasant. Timber where we have been making roads is pine, chestnut, oak, holly, sasafra &c.

Fri. [April] 11th. Balloon used for reconnoitring parted the line that held it to the earth & after a rapid & lofty trip of twenty minutes or thereabouts, lands in encampment of our Div. at 6-30 A.M. Great excitement & big rush around the aerial voyager who was, no doubt, delighted to find himself among friends. A clear fine morning—little smoky about horizon. Gorman's brigade move at about 8 o'clock A.M. & encamp nearer enemies works.⁷¹ Two cos. from each Regt. of bri-

⁶⁹ Because it rained incessantly while they were encamped outside Yorktown, the Minnesotans named their quarters Camp Misery. General Magruder built the Confederate defenses at Yorktown and was in command there. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:118; *History of the First Minnesota*, 101.

⁷⁰ The battle of Pittsburg Landing or Shiloh Church took place on April 6 and 7. *Dictionary of American History*, 5:71; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 1:465-610.

⁷¹ The balloon sailed over the Confederate forces until the wind returned it to the Union lines, where it made a safe landing. The movement mentioned took the First Minnesota to a point about a mile from the rebel works at Yorktown, where the regiment encamped at Camp Winfield Scott. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:118; *History of the First Minnesota*, 104.

gade go on picket in P.M. (Cos. E & F of Min). We deploy in woods a little distance in front of Secesh works. Quite smart cannonading towards night from Secesh battery just to the right of us, also pretty heavy musketry firing. A fine warm day.

Sat. Apr. 12. Clear & cold last night—moon gibbous. Secesh were busy about something all through the night. Secesh reveille about 4-30 A.M. We were allowed no fire last night except very small one back behind a bank. Jonas [R.] Hill, John Harrington & [John M.] Borgan bring two pails of baked beans & a box of hard-bread from camp this morning to restore the tone of our stomachs. Relieved at 12 M. Slept most of P.M. This afternoon Secesh send us their compliments in the shape of a cannon ball. A clear warm day. Inspection of arms to night. Beauregard's defeat on Tenn. River *confirmed*

Sun. Apr. 13. Another clear, warm day. A few of Co. E detailed to build corduroy. Heavy cannonading in direction of Fortress Monroe in P.M. Religious services by Chaplain in P.M. Inspection of arms.

Mon. [April] 14. Clear, warm day. Roads drying up fast. Some artillery practice between Secesh & a battery of our artillery protecting pioneers. Company inspection in P.M. Order from War Department read before Co. E, assigning Maj. Gen. Irvine McDowell to the command of the "Department of the Rappahannock."⁷² Clouding up this evening.

Tues. [April] 15. Slight sprinkle of rain this morning. Soon cleared up, however, & remained so throughout the day. On picket to day.

Wed. [April] 16. Clear & pleasant last night. Moon nearly full. Got no sleep. The artillery of Smith's Div. & a few guns of Gorman's brigade open on rebel works about 9 A.M. Cannonading more or less all day. Towards night the booming of cannon in quick succession, the rushing sound of grape & canister & continuous rattle of musketry mingled with the pop, pop of the guns of the sharpshooters tells that Smith's Div. is sharply engaged. The rebel artillery reply but faintly & darkness puts an end to the contest & all is quiet save the periodical discharge of our artillery. Got no sleep to day. Gorman's brigade under arms all day supporting artillery. Gen. McClellan passed our picket-post twice to day. Sun shines out hot & clear to day. Our picket post but a short distance from rebel battery where Smith's Div. is engaged.

⁷² For McDowell's assignment, see *Official Records*, series I, vol. 11, pt. 3, p. 67.

Today for the first time I am in the immediate vicinity where Uncle Samuel's boys are serenading the Secesh & discoursing to them the "Music of the Union." Cos. E & H. relieved at 10 P.M. by G & F. & bivouac with Regt.

Thur. Apr. 17. 1st. Min. "slept on their arms" last night. Gorman's brigade relieved this morning by Burn's & 1st. Min. return to their camp. Another clear, warm day. A little artillery firing occasionally throughout the day. News to night of capture of Ft Pulaski by our forces.⁷⁸

Fri. Apr. 18. At 1 A.M. sharp musketry & Gorman's brigade "turns out" in double quick time. 1st. Min. remains in line 1½ hours, stacks arms & lie down. Gen. E. V. Sumner makes his appearance while the Regt. is in line. At 3-45 AM. another alarm & Regt. turned out again. Remain in column by division a short time—firing ceases—lie down again. At 1st. alarm six scouts from Co. B sent out to see what is "up." They report that the row is between Smith's Div. & Secesh. A warm, clear day. On camp guard. A little artillery practice at intervals through the day. Burn's brigade relieved by Dana's. Our sutler has arrived with butter, cheese, cakes & tobacco which can be obtained at enormous prices. The boys regard his arrival as a *sure* forerunner of the *Paymaster*.

New tents arrive for Sedgewick's Division.

Sat. Apr. 19th. Some picket & artillery firing last night. Moonlight in latter half of night. Light high-flying clouds this morning. Guard mount at 7 A.M. Gorman's brigade relieves Dana's. Old guard remain in camp till noon. Cloudy day. Some artillery practice, as usual.

Sun. [April] 20th. Rained a large portion of last night. Secesh drive in our pickets about midnight. Sedgewick's whole Div. under arms. Min. 1st. form line of battle in edge of woods & stand out in storm till sunrise. Rather tough on the "American People." Gorman's brig. relieved this morning by Burnes'. 1st. Min. in camp to day. Same old story of artillery firing. A drizzly day.

Mon. [April] 21. I move a vote of thanks to the Secesh for not disturbing our slumber last night. A cloudy day. Smart shower to-wards night. Raining this evening. In camp all day.

Tues. Apr. 22d. Gorman's brigade relieve Dana's. Cos. B, E, D & K of 1st. Min. on picket. Co. E on reserve. Andrews' sharpshooters with

⁷⁸ The fort fell on April 11. *Dictionary of American History*, 4:380.

our pickets.⁷⁴ Towards night Pioneers of 1st. Min. & Co. E build semi-circular breastwork of pine trees to defend ourselves against anticipated attack. Both ends of the day clear; sun-shine showers in middle. One sharp-shooter received flesh wound in thigh. Rebels have some "crack-shots." Continual popping by sharpshooters on either side. Our pickets have order not to fire on Secesh pickets. A detail from Min. 1st. to build log observatory.

Wed. [April] 23. Clear starlight night—moon rise at 3 or 4 A.M. No sleep last night—unusually quiet. Relieved at 9 A.M. by a company of 67th P.V. Slept till 3 P.M. A nearly clear day.

Thur. [April] 24. Detailed on fatigue duty. About 100 of Min. 1st. work on battery No. 8 with embrasures for six guns. About sundown we march back to receive our regular gill of whiskey at the commissary. Being slightly indisposed I make my supper to consist of a portion of my whiskey ration mixed with "quantum sufficit" of sugar. During the day the Secesh exchange several shells with our boys on either side of No. 8. Our position in edge of woods commands fine view of Secesh works on the opposite side of the open field. Plenty of rebels moving about in their works.

Fri. Apr. 25. Sometime last night 1st. Min. were awakened & ordered to put on their accoutrements & be ready to "fall in" at moments notice. The Col. & Maj. of 93d. N.Y. is said to have deserted to the enemy yesterday which circumstance is supposed to have something to do with the shells that flew rather carelessly about our camp last night.⁷⁵ Gorman's brigade relieves Dana's this morning. 4 companies of Min. on picket. A cloudy day. Detail from Min. to work on battery No. 7. A little ailing to day—symptoms of ague. At night take a couple of swallows of whiskey & crawl into my bough shantie.

Sat. [April] 26th. Not disturbed till daylight this morning when an infantry skirmish & sharp artillery practice (to our right) caused Min. to fall into line. Relieved this morning by Burns' brigade.⁷⁶ A rainy day. In camp.

⁷⁴ The reference is to the First Company of Massachusetts Sharpshooters, also known as Andrew's Sharpshooters, which was attached to the Fifteenth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. *Official Records*, series 1, vol. 5, p. 330.

⁷⁵ Taylor doubtless is referring to Colonel John S. Crocker and Major Ambrose B. Cassidy, who were not deserters, but were captured in action near Lee's Mills on April 23. Frederick Phisterer, *New York in the War of the Rebellion*, 4:3049, 3050 (Albany, 1912).

⁷⁶ The First Minnesota was engaged in picket duty along the Warwick River every other day. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:18.

Sun. Apr. 27. A cloudy day but no rain. Co. D detailed to make gabions. 4 Cos. of Min. 1st. paid off this P.M. New Orleans reported captured⁷⁷

Mon. [April] 28. Co. E. paid off this morning by Henry L. King, Paymaster U.S.A. Gorman's Brig. relieves Dana's. Cos. E & F of 1st. Min. form picket reserve in rear of pickets of N.Y. 2d. Poker playing commences again in earnest. The "Siege of York Town" is getting to be rather monotonous. We begin to long for the time when the racket of war shall commence *in earnest*. We look towards Corinth, Miss., for hopeful signs of waning rebellion.⁷⁸ Cloudy in A.M. Clear in P.M.

Tues. [April] 29. In camp. Co. D still engaged in the manufacture of gabions—made 110 to day. There has been quite heavy cannonading on our right this P.M.—can't learn what is "up." This day has been varegated with clouds & sunshine. A fatigue party of about 100 men, with arms & accoutrements, leave camp just before dark to engage in some night work.

322 dollars worth of Postage Stamps sold in camp of Min. 1st. to day.

Wed. Apr. 30. Last night's fatigue party return early this morning & report that about 2000 men were engaged all night in throwing up earth-works between batteries 7 & 8 about 400 yards from rebel works. General muster in P.M. About 2 P.M. Min. 1st. proceeds to vicinity of the "tower of Babel." Cos. E, H & K thrown out on picket & rest of Regt. remain in reserve. Cloudy all day & sprinkling in P.M.

Thur. May 1st. Last night was cool, wet & dark as Egypt. During the night our pickets were advanced a short distance into the clearing. Cannonading at intervals throughout last night to the right and left of us. Last evening we heard the boys in advance on our right giving rousing cheers & a "tiger"—cause unknown. About 3 A.M. sharp cannonading & some musketry on our right. Relieved about 9 A.M. by N.Y. 2d. & Cos. E & H take position on right of the two howitzers commanding open field. Rest of Min. 1st. on left of howitzers.

Cloudy in A.M. In P.M. about an even contest between clouds & sunshine for supremacy. Cos. E & H divide into three reliefs each to be up one third of the night. On 2d. relief from eleven till two. A.M. of

⁷⁷ New Orleans was captured on April 20. Gabions were large cylindrical baskets without bottoms; they were filled with earth and used for military defense. *Dictionary of American History*, 4:110.

⁷⁸ Union forces approaching Corinth were surprised and seriously threatened on April 6, but after they were reinforced, they were able to push the Confederates back toward Corinth. *Dictionary of American History*, 5:71.

Fri. May 2d. at which time the campfires in our rear are in full blast. Much speculation among the boys as to what this unusually early start means. General opinion is that the "ball is going to open this morning" At 3 A.M. Col. Sulley appears and orders all hands under arms. The camp guard (except sentinels on post), *sick* & everybody able to carry a gun join the Regt. There are two opinions as to what is going to "turn up"; one is that an attack is apprehended from the rebels; the other that Mack [*McClellan*] will "pounce on *them*" this morning. At 5 A.M. we stack arms, break ranks & I sit down to write an a[c]count of last night's doings. About 7 A.M. we are relieved by 106th P.V. Heavy cannonading last night & to day in the direction of York river. All quiet on our part of the line except a little cannonading. Fall of New Orleans *confirmed* by southern papers. Secesh feel bad about it. They cast an apprehensive eye in the direction of McDowell & Banks.⁷⁹

Sat. May 3. About 100 men of Min. 1st. detailed on fatigue duty & armed with guns, picks, spades, axes & shovels they proce[e]d to Battery 8 and commence opperations under the direction of Lieut. [Edmund] Kirby of "Rickets Battery" who superintends the construc[ti]on of this work. Secesh compliment us with 5 or six shells from their battery They make good shots but hurt nobody. Some field pieces in No. 8 reply whenever Secesh opens. One of our shells enters the embrasure from which the enemy fired. Having put the finishing touch on No. 8, at 4 P.M. we return to camp A very warm day. Cloudy a portion of the day. Gen. Sumner visits No. 8 while we are at work there. In P.M. about 100 men of Min. 1st. detailed to work on a mortar battery. To night we hear of the surrender of Fort Macon, N.C.⁸⁰ Considerable cannonading this evening.

Sun. May 4. This morning Min. 1st. move out of camp to take their regular turn of picket duty; also detail go out to work on mortar battery in west end of opening. "All hands" immediately ordered back to camp to prepare for immediate march, Secesh having evacuated their works & Dana's brigade already in possession of the enemy's works in front of Sedgwicks Division. Gorman's Brig. soon under way, 1st. Min. in advance. As we move into the open field we see the Flag of the Union waving over the abandoned earth works. We march through them &

⁷⁹ McDowell and Banks were in the Shenandoah Valley, where they were opposing Jackson. *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:282-298.

⁸⁰ Fort Macon surrendered on April 26. *Dictionary of American History*, 3:321.

halt about a mile beyond their works in front of a large deserted encampment. The enemy's camp fires still burning & meal, flour, bacon, cooking utensils, tents &c. scattered in profusion throughout the late Secesh camp. The rebel fortifications we passed through are quite formidable earth works, embrasured & surmounted with sand-bags. A small stream in front of the works. Corduroy approach just above which is small dam & old mill. Secesh barracks in works considerably battered by our shell. Secesh ham and pan cakes made of Secesh flour & meal are very thankfully recd. by the stomachs of the "veteran 1st." To night we are protected from the rain & cool night air by the tents so magnanimously left behind by our retiring friends. We hear that our forces are in possession of York Town & that our right-wing under Heintzleman is moving rapidly up York River⁸¹ To night we hear cannonading up the Peninsula indicating that Heintzleman is at their rear guard.

Mon. May 5. At 7 A.M. we start for York Town. After a march of about three miles through the rain we "bring up" about one mile S.W. of the village of Yorktown Rebel works about here are quite extensive & I observe a number of big black guns still looking out from the abandoned works. Our *chivalrous & christian* friends in their haste to give us possession of these forts forgot to take with them their torpedos & a number of Union soldiers have been killed & wounded by these concealed relics of a "*Higher Civilization*."⁸² Sedgwick's whole Div is encamped between Yorktown & our first parallel. Just before dark we fall in & three Div. soon on the move to reinforce H[e]intzleman who is engaged with the enemy near Williamsburg Road so blocked up with troops that, after being out in the rain nearly all night the Min. 1st. succeeds in advancing about *one mile* & are then "about faced" & marched back to camp where we arrive at 3 A.M. of Tues. May 6th. & are

⁸¹ Although the First Minnesota belonged to the Second Corps, it was at this time serving under Heintzleman of the Third Corps. He received word on May 3 that the enemy was abandoning Yorktown, and after the report was confirmed by balloon observations, Union troops moved into the town. The First Minnesota moved to Wynn's Mills on the Warwick River. See *History of the First Minnesota*, 107; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:172, 194. In a letter written from the hospital at Alexandria to his brother Samuel on April 22, 1862, Henry reported that "Ike was on picket close by the battle of Lee's Mill at Yorktown in which Gen. Smith's Brigade was most actively engaged. He says, the thundering of the artillery mingling with the continual roll of musketry was *grand* as well as terrific. He was so near that he could distinctly hear the rushing of grape & canister as the enemy strove to mow down our ranks."

⁸² The torpedoes had been buried with the caps up; hence they exploded when a man or a horse stepped on them. *Marvin Diary*, May 5, 1862.

soon stowed away in the Secesh tents which we pitched the preceding P.M.⁸³ I am willing to do *anything* calculated to put a quietus on this infernal rebellion, but such bungling & worse than useless movements as last night's ought to consign some of our generals to a country in which there is but one zone, & that *torrid*. P.H.T. arrived in camp in P.M. To day I saw the spot where the sword of Cornwallis was delivered up Oct. 19th, 1781. Cannons up the Peninsula have been roaring all day

Recruits for Min. 1st. arrive to day

Tues. May 6. This P.M. the Min. 1st embarks at Yorktown for West Point up the York river. While waiting on the shore for a chance to embark we learn from the N.Y. Herald of yesterday that "Yorktown is evacuated" & that McClellan is in possession of "their immense works." Heintzleman is reported killed at the engagement near Williamsburg. A portion of Min. (Co. E among them) go aboard the steamboat "Long Branch" & anchor out in the stream towards Gloucester Point⁸⁴ Quite formidable looking earth work at Gloucester Point. York Town is an ancient looking place of a few houses. Some good rebel barracks just outside the town. A fine day — white fleecy clouds flying.

Wed. May 7th. About sunrise we weigh anchor & after a pleasant trip of about three hours & a half we anchor off West Point at the head of York river. A number of transports & gunboats are lying at this point. Passed several gunboats on our way up. York river is a wide & noble stream. Transports loaded with troops, & Uncle Sam's black sided gunboats, with the "dogs of war" protruding from their sides moving up this noble stream bordered with the green foliage of the forest interspersed with green plantation fields, form a scene worth looking at. The field where our troops land is covered with tents & soldiers. At 11 A.M. it is announced that the fight has commenced on shore & we are debarked as rapidly as possible & formed in rear of the ad-

⁸³ When the Confederate forces evacuated Yorktown and the Warwick defense line, they moved up the Peninsula through Williamsburg and toward the James River Valley and Richmond. Union troops followed, and on May 5 at a point some nine miles from Yorktown they engaged the enemy in what was known as the battle of Williamsburg. The First Minnesota turned back in obedience to an order to proceed by water from Yorktown to West Point. *Dictionary of American History*, 4:241, 5:468; *History of the First Minnesota*, 110-112; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:195-201.

⁸⁴ Gloucester Point was on the York River opposite Yorktown. Union forces were concentrated at a base about fifteen miles above West Point on the same stream. The report of Heintzleman's death was untrue. *History of the First Minnesota*, 112.

vance.⁸⁵ The artillery & infantry open pretty briskly & our gun boats take position on our left & open on the enemy. Wounded men are being brought in quite fast. At 1-10 P.M. a portion of our line drive the Secesh back at the point of the bayonet, after which every thing remains quiet till about five P.M. when our artillery on the left send a few shells over towards Secessia but get no response. At dark 150 men of 1st. Min. are detailed to put some artillery ashore so that it may be got in position for the special benefit of Secesh should they venture an attack in the morning. No firing this evening except a few shots from one of our gunboats, a short distance up the Mattapony river. A fine day—clouded up at night.

West's Point (West Point) is where John Smith was captured by the Indians

Thur. May 8. Under arms from 3 A.M. till about sunrise. Saw [Charles G.] Gardner, David Jones & Theodore Hiltz of Co. D, 16th N.Y. Vols.⁸⁶ Among the troops that landed to day was [John] Martindale's brigade of Porter's Div. consisting of 25th & 13th N.Y., 22d. & 18th. Mass., & 2d. Maine Balloon reconnaissance about sundown. We hear this P.M. that McClellan has driven the enemy from Williamsburg & that his (Mc's) advance is only two miles below us.⁸⁷ A fine warm day. Min. Regt. start out at dark to go on picket—are marched about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile & halted. After considerable riding around by staff officers they are enabled by ten oclock to decide that they dont want us on picket & we are marched back to camp. This is the anniversary of the battle of Palo Alto.

Fri. May 9. This A.M. we go out on picket & remain till one P.M. when we return to camp & prepare to march. At 4 P.M. we leave camp, move a few miles up the Pamunkey river & encamp upon a plantation upon its bank⁸⁸ Several gunboats are in the river here. While on

⁸⁵ By attacking West Point the Confederate forces hoped to ward off an assault on their supply trains at Barhamsville to the Southwest and to drive the Union troops back under the protection of their gunboats. *Official Records*, series 1, vol. 11, pt. 1, p. 626-628; McClellan, *Own Story*, 337; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:172.

⁸⁶ The Taylors seem to have known these men when they lived in New York. P. H. to Sarah Taylor, July 5, 1861; Allie T. Johnson to Alvira J. Taylor, July 30, 1862; Phisterer, *New York in the War*, 3:1912.

⁸⁷ Williamsburg was evacuated by the Confederate forces on May 5. The First Minnesota remained in camp near West Point until May 9. *Dictionary of American History*, 5:468; *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:19; *History of the First Minnesota*, 113.

⁸⁸ The First Minnesota went upstream about two miles to Eltham Landing. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:19.

picket I saw a whole family coming back into the Union in an ox cart, they having recd. assurances of protection. A warm clear day.

Sat. May 10. Uncomfortably warm In A.M. went down to our old camp opposite West Point to bring up provisions. Our boats bring cavalry (Lincoln, N.Y. 1st) and army stores up to this point. Some of our gunboats steam up the river on some unknown errand. Guard-mount just after dress parade (7 P.M.). A starlight evening. On first relief. Boys are catching eels in the river.

Secesh evacuated Williamsburg on last Monday night or Tues. morning

Sun. May 11. All quiet last night save a few shots up river. Sentinels are nearly roasting beneath the broiling sun with uniform coats on to gratify the fancy of the gentlemen with shoulder-straps. They (officers) are either great fools or great villians. There's a time coming when eagles & bars can't rob men of health & comfort. *God speed the day!* Quite a fleet in the river at this point. Sermon in A.M. (by chaplain) in open air on bank of the river. The boys are again fishing for eels. Gen. McClellan arrives here in P.M. & it is said, reports the Merrimac "blown up".⁸⁹ Gens. Franklin & Gorman attend dress parade of Min. 1st. Relieved from guard at 7 P.M. To day we get papers of the 9th. inst. stating that at 6 A.M. of 8th. inst. three of our iron-clad gunboats (Galena, Aristook & Port Royal) started up James River, while the Monitor & Nangatuck are off Sewals Point blockading the Merrimac. Good news! Our Sutler arrives in camp in P.M. & there is a grand rush for his "eatables" notwithstanding enormous prices. Our Col., in order to disperse the crowd about the sutlers tent before which the sutler's supply of good things is fast vanishing orders the bugler to sound "attention" & then "wades in" for his "regular butter & cheese."

Mon. May 12. Quite cool last night. Another warm day. Six Secesh prisoners brought into camp—two of them mere boys. Poor fellows! they look rather disconsolate. Troops coming up the river on transports. Grand row in N.Y. 34th. to night. Some of the Cos. refuse to obey the order of their Col. to change position in line according to seniority of Captains. Whole of Co. A & portions of other Cos. under arrest: also several officers. Co. I, 1st. Min., assists in guarding the mutineers. To day we get the National Republican [*of Washing-*

⁸⁹ The "Merrimac" was burned by the Confederates to prevent its capture. *Dictionary of American History*, 4:10.

ton] of 10th. inst. containing the official account of the capture of forts Jackson, Livingston, Pike & St. Phillip & New Orleans. Co. drill in A.M. Poker playing on the increase.

Tues. [May] 13. Warm day but somewhat hazy. Co drill & inspection in A.M. Troops come up river. N.Y. Herald of 12th. inst. brings us a glorious batch of news. Norfolk taken, Merrimac blown up & "Ram Hollins'" Mississippi fleet of iron-clads knocked into "pi" by Capt. C[harles] H. Davis' Union flotilla near Ft. Wright. Norfolk occupied by our troops on the 10th. inst. & Merrimac blown up at 4-58 A.M. of the 11th. Capt. & 1st Lieut. of Co. A. N.Y. 34th. sent down the river under arrest.

Wed. May 14. Clouding up. Co. drill in A.M. The following inscription I find upon a tomb on the plantation where we are encamped.

Here lyes Interd y^e Body of Hon^{ble} Will^m Bassett of y^e County of new kent Esq^r son of Will^m Bassett Esq^r and Bridget His wife of County of Southampton in y^e kingdom of England. He Married Joanna, Eldest Daughter of Lewis Burwell Esq^r with whom He Happily Lived 29 years 10 months And was Blessed with 5 Sons & 7 Daughters. He Departed this Life y^e 11th of Oct^{br} 1723 in y^e 53^d year of His Age. He was A Good Christian, an Affectionate Obliging Husband, A kind Indulgent Father, A Good Master: His Loss was Greatly Lamented by His Country, County, & Family; & Inexpressively to His Mournful Disconsolate Widow. Who also departed this Life y^e 7th day of October, 1727 in the 53^d year of her Age.

This relic of ante-Revolutionary times is much dilapidated. Sprinkling this evening. The tide at this point is about 2 or 3 feet. We get no paper to day. It is aggravating to be deprived of 3 days news in these stirring times & be compelled to content ourselves with the little incidents of our own camp & the lying rumors from other parts of the Peninsula.

The place where we are encamped is the "Eltham" from which John Rolf took Pocahontas to James Town when they were married.

Thur. May 15. Sedgwick's Division moves up the Pamunkey river this morning. Gorman's brigade being in the rear, does not get started till 9 A.M. After a slow & toilsome march through mud & rain, we encamp in thick pine forest at 5 P.M.⁹⁰ Mr. Secesh, very much obliged to

⁹⁰ The regiment marched eight miles to a point near New Kent Court House, where the command went into camp for three days. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:19; *History of the First Minnesota*, 113.

you for dry cord-wood for coffee-making purposes. Our tents are pitched, the rain has ceased & we anticipate a good sleep.

Fri. May 16. Rain beat into our tent some last night. A cloudy day but no rain. Spend a portion of the day in reading "Lectures on Rhetoric & Belles Lettres by Hugh Blair, D.D.F.R.S. Prof. of Rhet. in Uni'y of Edinburgh." News from Miss. flotilla says the Cincinatta sunk & Benton gone to Cairo for repairs.⁹¹

Sat. [May] 17. Clear warm sunshine in A.M. High clouds in P.M. We hear that our advance was at R.R. bridge across Panmunky [*sic*] river 15 miles from Richmond on 15th. inst. & that our iron-clads are making fine progress up James River. Reading Blair's Rhet.

Sun. [May] 18. We fall in about 8-30, march about one or two miles & halt at New Kent C.H. After lengthy halt we move about a mile beyond and encamp in wheat field. The wheat is headed. "New Kent Court House" is in an open sandy field encircled by forest. Besides the Court House there are, perhaps, a dozen other buildings all dingy & ancient looking. By the road-side at West end of town are a pair of twin (white) oaks of gigantic size & wide-spreading branches clothed in the fresh foliage of spring. I never saw anything of the tree kind that equals it.—Nature seems to have excelled Herself. A very warm day.

Mon. May 19. We were ordered to pack up for a march this morning but for some reason did not move. Richardson's & Hooker's Divs. move forward this morning Cumberland Landing on Pamunky river visible from North side of camp of Sedgwick's Div. Heard cannonading in direction of Richmond. Raining slightly a portion of to day—clear this evening. Reading Blair & playing chess with Ed. Taylor.⁹² N.Y. Herald of 16th. and Balt. Clipper of 17th. contain a proclamation purporting to come from Gen. Hunter, declaring slaves of S.C., Ga. & Fa. *free*.⁹³ What are you up to Mr. Hunter? Who told you to do that?

⁹¹ The "Cincinnati" sank on a sandbar on May 10 while participating in the campaign to open the Mississippi between Cairo and Vicksburg. The second ironclad damaged was the "Mound City," not the "Benton." A. T. Mahan, *The Gulf and Inland Waters*, 44 (New York, 1883).

⁹² When Henry went to Belle Prairie in 1859, he lived with Edward Taylor. See *ante*, p. 13. Edward was serving with Company C, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was fatally wounded in the battle of Savage's Station on June 29. See *post*, p. 141. See also P. H. to Isaac Taylor, May 4, 1861; Mrs. Elizabeth T. Ayer to Jonathan Taylor, Sr., October 28, 1861.

⁹³ An account of Hunter's edict, which was issued on May 9 and repudiated by Lincoln ten days later, appears in the *Dictionary of American History*, 2:205.

Tues. [May] 20. [Philip] Kearney's [*Kearny's*] Div. passed this morning. Warm day—clouded up in P.M. Blair's lectures are a source of much enjoyment while lying in camp. Order from Gen. McClellan cautioning soldiers against mentioning in their private correspondence facts concerning the movements of the army which might be of advantage to the enemy; also prohibiting the circulation of official reports until authorized by the proper authorities.

Order of Gen. McClellan assigning Porter & Franklin to the command of the "5th & 6th Army Corps" read to us to day.

Wed. May 21. We strike tents & at 6-15 move in the direction of Richmond Pass Kearney's & Hookers Divs. & at 3 P.M. encamp in a field of grain near Bottoms Bridge. In the morning the clouds shielded us from the Sun but its burning rays wilted us pretty effectually during the greater part of the march. The boys throw away over-coats, blankets &c. I manage to keep my baggage all aboard. Passed several fine plantations. Soil between here & West Point is generally sandy & a little more uneven than the lower part of the Peninsula. Principal timber is pine. Late last night we recd. Herald of 19th. giving account of the repulse of our gun-boats on James River by Ft. "Darling" 7 miles below Richmond. Secesh had obstructed the channel so that our boats could not pass. We find here good water & plenty of blackberry blossoms. On camp guard to night.

Thur. [May] 22. Clear starlight last night. Heat is oppressive till 1 P.M. when we get a magnificent thunder-shower. "Jove's" artillery eclipsed that of the "Army of the Potomac." To day we get the Proclamation of Pres. Lincoln declaring Gen. Hunter's emancipation order "unauthorized" & that it was issued (if genuine) without the knowledge of the Government. 5 Cos. of Min. 1st. go on picket at 11 A.M. Each brigade of Sedgw'k's Divs. is encamped in "column by division" facing Westward.

Fri. May 23. Sedgwick's Div. strike tents at 7-30 A.M. cross the R.R. running from Richmond to West Point, move W.N.W. & encamp in open field at 11 A.M. Passed several fine plantations with apple & peach orchards headed with young fruit. Both negroes & whites along the road are engaged in tilling the soil. The people of this locality show their good sense by remaining at home tending to their business instead of abandoning their property like many in the lower part of the Peninsula. $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of whiskey issued to each man of our Regt. to day.

Cloudy in fore part of day but very warm in latter. Twenty men of 1st. Min. detailed to guard train sent back this P.M. to "White House" for provisions.⁹⁴

I leave my great coat in camp—guess I sha'n't need it any more

Sat. May 24th. Rained considerable last night & to day—quite cool. There is a report in camp to night that [Henry W.] Halleck has defeated Beauregard at Corinth, Mississippi.⁹⁵ Gen. Sumner's H'd Quarters are in a house (Tyler's) close to our camp.

Sun. [May] 25. Cloudy this morning but soon cleared off & was warm throughout the day. Most of the Cos. of our Regt. have regular "Sunday morning inspection"—Co. E does not. Dress parade. Order issued to night by Gen. Gorman requiring whiskey rations to be dealt out to each man at brigade commissary & *drank there*, instead of being issued to each Regt. as formerly. Minn. unanimously resolved that Gorman can keep his whiskey. We have various reports from our advance but the news is rather meager. We get most of our news of operations in this vicinity via of New York. The Herald is a welcome visitor. Q[uar]ter M[aste]r Sergt. of Mass. 19th. is buried to night. He died suddenly—was an intemperate man.

Mon. [May] 26. Cloudy to day. Commenced raining towards night. This A.M. I strolled about in the vicinity of our camp; visited the camp of the "Irish Brigade" (of Kearney's Div.) commanded by Gen. [Thomas F.] Meagher, the Irish exile, conversed with several citizens &c.

Gen. Gorman permits the 1st. Min. to draw their whiskey as formerly.

Tues. May 27. This noon Min. 1st. is ordered to the Chickahominy to bridge that stream about a mile from our camp. Bridge completed about sundown & we move a short distance towards our old camp & bivouac. The Chickahominy is a very small stream at this point. While at work upon the bridge we hear very distinctly cannon & musketry in the direction of New Bridge.⁹⁶ We have vociferous cheering in camp this evening & it is reported that Porter "cleaned out" 13000

⁹⁴ The "White House" had been Martha Washington's home; in 1862 it was owned by Robert E. Lee's second son. Virginia Writers' Program, *Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion*, 466 (New York, 1940).

⁹⁵ On the fighting at Corinth, see *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:737.

⁹⁶ The sounds actually came from the vicinity of Hanover Court House, where General Porter was dislodging a Confederate force that had been threatening the rear of the Union forces heading toward Richmond. *History of the First Minnesota*, 120; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:319-323.

Secesh near N. Bridge, captured 3000 prisoners & one gun. Clear sky in P.M. & evening.

Capt. W^m L. Oswald [*Oswald*] Co. A. 34th. N.Y. has his sword broken & buttons cut from his coat in presence of the Division, pursuant to sentence of court martial.⁹⁷ He is also to be imprisoned one year at Washington D.C. His offence is "mutinous conduct" on the 12th. inst.

Wed. [May] 28. At 2 A.M. we are aroused & ordered back to camp. At sunrise we move in light marching order towards New Bridge with 3 day's rations & 60 rounds of ammunition. We march 3 or 4 miles & halt. At present (9 P.M.) preparing for a good sleep to night. Monday's Herald says Banks is driven back across the Potomac near Martinsburg.⁹⁸ There are features of the affair that look mysterious. We wait anxiously for further developments. A very warm & principally clear day.

Thur. May 29. Warm clear day. The plantation on which Sedgwick's Div. bivouac is said to be "Chestnut Valley" plantation. It is 3½ miles from New Bridge. This P.M. I visited "Gaine's Mills" (grist & saw) 2 miles from New Bridge. These mills are on a tributary of the Chickahominy & are now operated by details from Franklin's command.

While at the mills saw 123 Secesh prisoners pass. Towards night Sedgwick's Div. moves back to our old camp.⁹⁹

Fri. [May] 30. Another clear warm day until towards night we get a heavy thunder shower. It is raining this evening. We hear considerable cannonading (heavy guns) in a S. Westerly direction, to day. Our camp is in Hanover Co., a short distance from the line between Hanover & new Kent.¹

Sat. May 31. Left camp about 3-30 P.M. in "light marching order" with one day's rations. Crossed the Chickahominy on the bridge built

⁹⁷ For information about Oswald and his case, see New York State Adjutant General's Office, *A Record of the Commissioned Officers and Privates of the Regiments Which Were Organized in the State of New York*, 1:764 (New York, 1864).

⁹⁸ After Front Royal, Virginia, was captured by the Confederates on May 23, Banks found his forces greatly outnumbered, and he hurriedly crossed the Potomac, to save his army. *Dictionary of American Biography*, 1:578.

⁹⁹ The division returned because Porter had defeated the rebels without the aid of reinforcements. *History of the First Minnesota*, 120.

¹ On the day that this entry was written, Henry wrote as follows to his mother: "Ike is now lying here in our little tent with a slice of beefsteak in one hand and 'Mitchell's Atlas' in the other. He has, he thinks quite a 'military moustache' with which he intends frightening Jeff. Davis' army."

by Min. 1st. (bridge built 27th. inst). & about 6 P.M. reached the field where our forces were engaging the enemy. As the enemy are threatening our right flank, Gen. Sumner orders the Min. 1st. to the extreme right where we remain till night puts an end to the contest. 34th. & 2d. New York behave nobly, surpassing all our expectations. Just at dusk 2 10 lb. Parrott guns take position in front of the right wing of our Regt. & open on the enemy's left. Min. 1st has one killed & one wounded.² Our Regt. takes several prisoners including a Col. & Lieut. Col. of a N.C. Regt. Some voluntarily deliver themselves up. Brig. Gen. Abercrombie wounded in head slightly. Cloudy day—misty this evening.

This morning the letter of Gen. [Henry S.] Sanford, U. S. Minister to Brussels, presenting 3 steel canon to the Min 1st. was read to us.³

Sun. June 1st. Cloudy this morning. At 7-45 A.M. the Secesh renew the attack a little further to our left than where the main fight occurred after our arrival yesterday. (Early this morning our left is thrown forward considerably.) At 9-15 A.M. a brigade in rear of right is ordered (double quick) to the left where our line is being hotly pressed. Shortly after a tremendous roar of musketry tells that they have opened on the enemy. At 9-45 the firing ceases the enemy having retired. At 10 A.M. Gen. McClellan appears on the field & is recd. with enthusiastic cheers. A few minutes before 11 A.M. he visits our position, accompanied by his staff. Min. 1st. gives him six cheers & two "tigers." He acknowledges the compliment by raising his hat; after which he rides through our line between Cos. E & B & says "Well, lads, are you prepared for everything that comes? I trust this point to you." Some of our boys answer "We will try to hold it," to which McClellan replies "You *will do it*, then," & adds, "All goes well everywhere." To days fight was principally one of musketry Very little firing except from artillery in P.M. Cleared off in P.M. Starlight this evening.

Slept on our arms last night.

² The battle described in this entry and that of the following day was called Fair Oaks by McClellan and Seven Pines by the Confederates. *Dictionary of American History*, 2:239; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 2:220-263.

³ Part of Sanford's letter of presentation is quoted in the *History of the First Minnesota*, 452. The cannons stood on the grounds of the Old Capitol in St. Paul for many years; later they were placed in front of the State Office Building, and about 1931 they were sent to Fort Ripley, near Little Falls. There they "were delivered to the Salvage Officer of the Regular Army . . . in the first scrap drive conducted by the Regular Army after their occupancy of Camp Ripley" in the Second World War, according to a letter from Major John J. McRae of the Minnesota Defense Force to the Minnesota Historical Society, October 5, 1943.

Mon. June 2. Rained a little last night—some thunder & lightning—& is cloudy this morning, but soon clears off & is very warm throughout the day. I went over the battle field to day & saw the dead & wounded. Details of soldiers are busy burying Union & Confederate dead. The Confederates are all dressed in grey. Clouding up this evening. Min. 1st. build a slight breastwork along their line. N.Y. Herald of 31st. ult. contains official dispatches from Gen. Halleck announcing the evacuation of Corinth on last Thursday night & its occupation by our forces on the following day.

Secesh fire 3 or 4 shells into our lines—our guns respond.

Tues. June 3. We had a heavy thunder shower last night. Cleared off this morning & the heat is quite oppressive in A.M. At 10 A.M. the enemy feel of our pickets lightly & get a few shells from our artillery. The Secesh are said to be advancing in heavy force & every thing is made ready to receive them—Secesh didn't come. Cloudy in P.M.

Wed. June 4. Heavy rain last night. A rainy day—very. Short of “grub.” Sick & wounded removed beyond the Chickahominy. Cos. E & G go on picket this evening. Saw Gen. Kearney; his left arm is gone

Opening cut in woods to give our artillery command of adjoining field.

Thur. [June] 5. Couple of showers last night. About 9 A.M. one of Porter's batteries on our right open on Secesh At 9-15 Secesh respond & artillery fire is very brisk till 10 A.M. when light musketry fire is opened & Secesh artillery ceases. Occasional artillery firing on both sides throughout the day. Our line of breast-works extended. Additional guns planted. Secesh shower the canister about our picket post. Relieved from picket at 7 P.M. At dusk a reconnaissance in small force from our side occasions a little musketry. McClellan names the battle of Sat. & Sun. “Fair Oaks” Dr. [Daniel W.] Hand, brigade surgeon, says the loss in Gorman's brigade is 201.⁴ Our knapsacks arrive to night. We get accounts of Col. [Washington L.] Elliot's (2d. Iowa cavalry) brilliant exploit in destroying a portion of the Mobile & Ohio R.R. in rear of Corinth & disconcerting Beauregard's arrangements generally.

⁴ For the remainder of the month, the First Minnesota camped near the Fair Oaks battlefield, where it was engaged in picket and fatigue duty. Dr. Hand, a prominent St. Paul physician, became assistant surgeon of the regiment in the summer of 1861, and he later was made brigade surgeon. *History of the First Minnesota*, 72, 134.

Fri. June 6 All quiet to day. Reading Blair, writing & playing chess. A cloudy day. Our tents arrive this morning.

Sat. [June] 7. Burns' brigade make a reconnaissance. Cos. E & F go out & fell trees in P.M. Warm & clear in A.M. A shower in P.M. Whiskey is issued to Co E to night for the first time since we crossed the Chickahominy. Herald of 5th. inst. contains official dispatch of Gen. Halleck, announcing the capture by Gen. [John] Pope of 10000 prisoners & 15000 stand of arms.⁵ I saw Gen. Keyes to day.

Sun. [June] 8. Secesh shell Baxter's Fire Zouaves in A.M. killing & wounding about 30.⁶ Between 2 & 3 P.M. Min. 1st. is drawn up in line to receive Gen. [Juan] Prim late commander of the Spanish forces in Mexico. As he rides in front of us we present arms and give him three cheers and a "tiger." He acknowledges the compliment by taking off his cap; also faces to the colors & salutes them. He has dark hair, high forehead and is a noble looking man. He was attended by several officers & an escort of our cavalry. Regts. to our right cheer as he passes along their lines. A warm day & quite clear. At 7 P.M. Co. E goes on picket

Mon. June 9. Co E's picket posts are at a chimney and large oak in the edge of a very extensive wheat field in which Secesh have field pieces planted. We are not molested except by their sharp-shooters, till six P.M. when they send the shell & grape about our ears pretty roughly — nobody hurt. Our guns send but few shots in reply. Warm day & mostly clear. Relieved from picket at 7 P.M. by Mass. 15. Ft. Wright is ours.

Tues. [June] 10. Secesh throw a few shells last night; one man of each Co. had to keep awake. A drizzly day Cannon shots exchanged & considerable picket firing. The Rebels are getting rather impudent; evidently anxious about what is going on in the Union camp. On guard to night.

Wed. June 11. Clear & pleasant. Continual picket firing though but little artillery. Detail from Min. 1st. felling trees in P.M. Herald gives us an official account of the victory of our Rams & Gunboats over those of the enemy at Memphis⁷ Eight rebel craft engaged; seven

⁵ Pope was Halleck's subordinate in the advance upon Corinth. *Dictionary of American Biography*, 15:76.

⁶ The Seventy-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was known also as Baxter's Philadelphia Fire Zouaves. Samuel P. Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers*, 2:829-834 (Harrisburg, 1869-71).

⁷ Memphis surrendered on June 6. *Dictionary of American History*, 3:372.

taken or sunk, and the eighth skadaddles. The fight occurred in A.M. of 6th. inst.

Thur. [June] 12. Clear & warm. Between 1 & 2 A.M. we are "turned out" by false alarm; our own pickets firing upon each other. Falling timber in A.M. Shells from Secesh. Saw total eclipse of moon between 1 & 2 last night. Moon had blood red appearance.

Fri. [June] 13. This morning rebels shell us quite extensively. Augustus Ellison, bugler of Co. I, killed, one of N.Y. 34th wounded. Our guns do not reply. Andrews' sharpshooters sent out & Secesh guns soon "dry up." McClellan & staff were here & dined with Gen. Sumner. Got a view of that young "sprig of royalty," Duke De Chartres.⁸ Min. 1st. build "traverses" to their breast work, as protection against shells. Clear & very warm. We hear that Fremont has defeated "Stonewall" Jackson in the Valley of Va.⁹

Sat. June 14. No shelling & very little picket firing. Min. at work on breast-works. Clear & very warm.

Sun. [June] 15. Heat oppressive in A.M. Refreshing thunder shower in P.M. Nearly quiet. Min. builds breastworks.

Mon. [June] 16. Clear & warm though much cooler than yesterday. Guerillas have been (a day or two ago) molesting the R.R. and commissary stores in our rear. Our cavalry has captured some of them. Working on first parallell. Stonewall Jackson seems to be a "perfect brick." Can'd'g in dir'tion of James River in P.M.

Tues. [June] 17. Clear & warm though something of breeze Heavy guns in direction of James Riv. Quiet on our portion of the line. The following tables I find on the limber boxes of a R.I. Battery.

12 Pdr. Howitzer.

	<i>Range</i>	<i>Elevation</i>	<i>Time</i>
Shell	540 yds.	1°	1½ sec.
	640 "	2	2 "
	850 "	3	3 "
	975 "	4	4 "
	1070 "	5	5 "
Sph'l Case	485 "	2¼	2 "
	615 "	2¾	2½ "
	715 "	3¼	3 "
	1050 "	3¾	4 "

⁸The Duc de Chartres was a grandson of Louis Philippe of France; he joined the Union Army early in 1862. *Encyclopædia Americana*, 6:341.

⁹On the Shenandoah Valley campaign, see the *Dictionary of American History*, 2:91, 4:315.

Ten Pdr. Rifled Guns.

450	“	1 ^o	1	“
900	“	2	2	“
1300	“	3	3	“
1600	“	4	4½	“
1950	“	5	6	“
2300	“	6	7	“
2600	“	7	8½	“
3000	“	10	10½	“
3600	“	12	12½	“
4100	“	15	16	“
5000	“	20	19¾	“
5600	“	25	23½	“
5900	“	30	27½	“
6200	“	35	31½	“

Wed. June 18. Warm day. Rains a little this evening. 2 picket skirmishes & some artillery firing in P.M. McClellan passes along the lines & is recd. with much enthusiasm by the soldiers.

Thur. [June] 19. Pleasant day. Fatigue parties out. Of late, our pickets exchange papers with Secesh, regularly.

Fri. [June] 20. Fine clear day. Quite brisk cannonading on our right in A.M. [A. J.] Underwood of the Min. S[harp] Shooters,¹⁰ is in the hospital sick with the “swamp fever”

Sat. [June] 21. Warm & clear. Skirmish near the R.R. between 5 & 6 P.M. Nelson Card of Co. G buried to day. He died of fever.¹¹

Sun. June 22. Little gusts of picket-firing at short intervals last night were very successful in disturbing our slumbers. Everything remarkably quiet throughout the day. Sent a Sabre bayonet, taken at the battle of the “Seven Pines” or “Fair Oaks,” to R[ussell] J. Taylor, Prairie City, McDonough Co. Ill. On extra duty at Reg’tl commissary. Very warm day.

Mon. [June] 23. Very warm in A.M. Thunder shower in P.M. All quiet till towards [night] when there was a little skirmishing on our left, near the R[ichmond] & Y[ork] R[iver] R.R. There are indications that our generals are apprehensive of a row to night.

¹⁰ The Second Company of Minnesota Sharpshooters joined the First Minnesota at Fair Oaks on June 2, and it remained with the regiment until November 23, 1863. While with the First, it was known also as Company L. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:514.

¹¹ The roster of the regiment indicates that a William Card died on June 2 at Fair Oaks. *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, 1:60.

Tues. [June] 24. On guard from 1 till 3 A.M. Warm though somewhat cloudy Heavy thunder shower towards night. The wives of Senators [Morton S.] Wilkinson & [James] Harlan in camp this A.M. "Iowa N.Y." Tribune correspondent arrives.

Wed. June 25. Cloudy the greater part of the day. Our left advances $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile & meets with considerable opposition. Considerable cannonading on our right. A detail of Uncle Sam's boys are, this evening, plying the axe in the woods in front of our lines.

Thur. [June] 26. Heavy fight this P.M. on left bank of Chickahominy up towards Mechanicsville.¹² Both cannon & musket firing very heavy. We listen with intense interest. Just before dark, man in the tree reports "Enemy's line falling back." Secesh opposite us cheer. In a few minutes Smiths Div. give similar vent to their feelings & the cheering spreads with the news that the enemy are being driven. Firing ceases about 9 P.M. Dispatch says that McCall was driven at first but being reinforced, in turn, drove the enemy. Rumor has it that Stonewall Jackson is engaged in this affair. Our bands play "St. Patricks day in the Morning," Dixie, Yankee Doodle &c. Clear & pleasant.

Fri. June 27. Early this morning the ball opens again on the left bank of the Chickahominy Accounts of the result are conflicting.¹³ Secesh make demonstrations with artillery & infantry all along the line, probably with the design to prevent reinforcements being sent across the Chickahominy Rebel balloon up to day. Heat of the Sun is oppressive.

Sat. [June] 28. Lay on our arms all last night. On fatigue with axes. Our squad directed by an orderly to the wrong place in front of Smith's line where we are subjected to a perfect shower of shell — none of our squad hurt. Towards night ordered to pack up every thing except tents. All sorts of speculations as to what is "up." As soon as it is dark we strike tents & lie down in open air.

Sun. [June] 29. Our artillery commences to move, I should think,

¹² The battle of Mechanicsville occurred when Jackson's attempt to move secretly from the Shenandoah Valley and uncover the passage of the Chickahominy at Meadow and Mechanicsville bridges ran a day behind schedule. As a result three Confederate divisions missed connections with Jackson and found themselves facing strongly entrenched Union forces under Porter near Beaver Creek Dam and the Mechanicsville road. After the battle, McClellan retreated down the peninsula to establish a new base on the James River. *History of the First Minnesota*, 139; Swinton, *Campaigns of the Army of the Potomac*, 142-146.

¹³ The battle was at Gaines' Mill, where Porter was defeated. *History of the First Minnesota*, 139; Swinton, *Campaigns of the Army of the Potomac*, 148-153.

about 1 or 2 o'clock Min. 1st. leaves breastworks after day light. Heavy mist this morning. 1st. Min. forms part of the rear guard. Artillery & infantry skirmish about 11 A.M. Our forces check the enemy & remain on the field several hours, then move on towards James River. Halt at Savages Station on Richmond & York River R.R. A little before sundown the enemy attack. Min. forms on the right of the Williamsburg road in an open field & move across it towards the enemy under the fire of his artillery.¹⁴ Our skirmishers thrown out. Infantry soon opens & fight continues until dark. C[alvin] G. Sherbrooke [*Sherbrook*], H[enry] C. Bradl[e]y, H[arvey] E. Scott, & Murdock Pattison & P. H. Taylor of Co. E wounded. Quite a number of others of our Re'gt. left wounded, Edward Taylor of Co. C mortally. Our troops move on in the night leaving but a light rear guard. P. H. & I stay with the wounded Ed. Taylor dies about midnight experiencing but little pain

Mon. June 30. Rained a little last night We get a portion of the Min. boys into the house. We have with us a surgeon of the 7th. Ga. Regt. Gen. Jackson's advance passes us in A.M. I suppose we are considered prisoners of war. Got a good view of old Stonewall Jackson.¹⁵ We are treated very kindly by the Confederates. Paid one dime for "Richmond Dispatch" printed on half sheet

George L. Smith, Co. C., 1st. Min. died this A.M. W^m [E.] Cundy, Co. E, comes in in A.M.; he is sick. Heavy firing ahead in P.M.

J[ohn] D. Brumley, Surg. in charge.

We have a few wounded Confederates

Tues. July 1st. E. Taylor & Corp. Smith of Co. C buried. Part of wounded sent off. The Confederates talk as though they have routed McClellan's army & that the war is soon to close in their favor. You're very much mistaken, gentlemen. We hear that there has been a des-

¹⁴ For detailed accounts of the battle of Savage's Station, see *History of the First Minnesota*, 147-160; Swinton, *Campaigns of the Army of the Potomac*, 155-159; and Francis A. Walker, *History of the Second Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac*, 63-78 (New York, 1891).

¹⁵ The wounded with whom Isaac and Henry Taylor remained as attendants numbered between twenty-five hundred and three thousand. See *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 4, p. 798. Jackson was moving toward White Oak Swamp. According to an article in the *National Tribune* of Washington, Henry met Jackson near the Swamp road and the latter asked about the direction taken by the Union forces. Henry answered, "I don't know, General, but no doubt you will find them soon enough." Jackson smiled and gave Henry a pass to go through the Confederate lines in order to obtain water for the wounded. The article, which is signed by Orville D. Thatcher, ordnance sergeant of the regiment, is in an undated clipping in the Taylor Papers.

perate fight between Mac's forces & Secesh near James River.¹⁶ Secesh claim the victory. Ambulances passing with wounded all day We are having a tough time of it with the wounded.

A rainy day Confds, bring in several small guards of Union prisoners.

Wed. [July] 2d. Secesh ambulances running again to day. All of Co E boys removed to Savages Station¹⁷

Thur. [July] 3d. More wounded sent to hospital at S. Station.

Fri. [July] 4. Very pleasant day. The remainder of us move to S. Station & establish our head quarters in an old barn with 60 sick & wounded soldiers. We celebrate this Anniversary of our National Independence by dressing the wounds of soldiers who fell while maintaining that Independence. We hear that Gen. Dana was killed in the fight of the 29th. ult.¹⁸

P.H.T. put in charge of this branch of h's't'l.

Sat. July 5th. A fine day. Our commissaireit is quite poor & scanty Somewhat wearied with constant care of wounded. The boys are highly elated by a rumor that the wounded are to be paloled [*sic*] in a few days & sent North Find Sergt. [Hugh] Cassidy, Co. E, 1st Min. in one of hospital tents severly wounded in left leg below the knee.

Sun. [July] 6th. Patrick Dingan, Co E, 88 N.Y. died¹⁹ Warm day

Mon. [July] 7th. Robt. Grieve Co. H, 20th. Mass. died of wound by shell.²⁰ Warm day. The boys are, generally, getting along well

Tues. [July] 8th. A little unwell—threatened with fever—& take a dose of quinine. We get Richmond papers occasionally Bread is brought from Richmond & sold at prices ranging from 10 to 25 cents per loaf. Very warm. Confeds. take away good portion of our ice & leave us "minus."

Wed. July 9th. Went a mile & a half into the country to get milk & eggs for the wounded. Refreshing to get out into the country A number—said to be 200—of Union prisoners came down on the cars

¹⁶ There was desperate fighting at Glendale on June 30 and at Malvern Hill on July 1. *History of the First Minnesota*, 156-166; Swinton, *Campaigns of the Army of the Potomac*, 157-163; *Dictionary of American History*, 2:330, 3:229.

¹⁷ With Lee's permission, all Union soldiers who were sick or wounded and who were housed in improvised hospitals in the vicinity of Savage's Station, were removed to that place. *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 4, p. 798-800.

¹⁸ This report was not authentic.

¹⁹ Dingan's death is recorded in Phisterer, *New York in the War*, 4:2977.

²⁰ On Grieve's death, see Thomas W. Higginson, *Massachusetts in the Army and Navy During the War of 1861-1865*, 1:458 (Boston, 1896).

from Richmond to assist in caring for the wounded. Secesh artillery, baggage trains & infantry moving back towards Richmond. They are said to be Jackson & [Richard S.] Ewel[1]'s forces. Levi W. Merrill Co. B, 5th Vt. died — had leg amputated. Curtis B. Moore Co. G, 2d. Vt. died of leg wound.²¹

Very warm

Thur. [July] 10th. Confederates moving toward Richmond all last night & the Williamsburg road is lined with them this morning.²² In P.M. more troops pass. Light thunder shower towards night. Our wounded boys sing the national airs with a great deal of spirit.

Fri. [July] 11th. Considerable rain in A.M. W^m H. Comfort, Co. C, 106 Pa. Vols. died of wound & typhoid fever.²³ Surg. [John] Swinburn[e] is in charge of "all hands" at this Station. [O.] Munson, 2d. Surg.

Sat. July 12. Fair day. Attendants receive certificates from Surg. Swinburn.²⁴

Sun. [July] 13. Fair day. Nine carloads of wounded taken from this station in P.M. Collecting provisions for our prospective journey tomorrow. We bring Hugh Cassidy to "our" hospital so as to take him along with us. We get bread baked at the house of Mr. Dudley, a mile or so distant.

Mon. [July] 14. A warm day. Two trains loaded with wounded leave S. Station. We go on the P.M. train & reach Richmond about 6 P.M. A portion of wounded remain on cars during the night.

Tues. [July] 15. Up nearly all night unloading wounded & taking care of Sergt. Hugh Cassidy Cassidy died at 8-30 A.M. This A.M. got the remaining wounded into ware houses on "James Canal".²⁵ Sick & tired Very warm day. Thunder shower

Wed. [July] 16. Very warm day. Still in ware house with sick & wounded We hear that Gen. [John A.] Dix is in Richmond arranging

²¹ Records of the Vermont men appear in G. G. Benedict, *Vermont in the Civil War*, 1:103, 189 (Burlington, 1886).

²² The Confederate movement to Richmond is described in the *History of the First Minnesota, 167*, and in Swinton, *Campaigns of the Army of the Potomac*, 164.

²³ On Comfort's death, see Bates, *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers*, 3:839.

²⁴ The Taylors' certificate is preserved with Isaac's diary; it testifies that the recipients remained voluntarily to care for the sick and wounded.

²⁵ The James River and Kanawha Canal was part of a scheme, launched before the war, to insure continuous water communication between Richmond, at the head of navigation on the James, and the Ohio River. The canal extends along the north bank of the James. 41 Congress, 3 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 110 (serial 1458).

for an exchange of prisoners²⁶ Lint all gone, bandages flew & no medicine We have seen nothing of our Dr. since yesterday morning. Towards night we are removed to tobacco factory a little distance up street.²⁷ Every time they move us they put us into a worse place. This hospital is very filthy.

Thur. July 17. Passed a miserable night in the heat & stench of this infernal prison. Got our squad of wounded together on 2d. floor & things a little systematized. Secesh give us nothing to eat till about 1 P.M. when we get $\frac{1}{4}$ loaf of bread & about 1 pint of rice soup each. Thunder shower in P.M.

Three or 4 Union Drs. called late last night & promised to come again tomorrow. Very warm

Fri. [July] 18. Heat not quite so oppressive to day. Cloudy & a little rain in P.M. About noon we get our (beef) soup & bread again. The boys would be "hard up" for food had they not a little money with which to buy bread. Sold my watch to day to get money to buy bread The Richmond Examiner of this morning says "It has been determined to parole 2500 of the worst wounded Yankees, immediately." Each of the boys are anxious to know if *they* will be included in the list. The Richmond papers give glowing accounts of the doings of the Confederate Ram "Arkansas" on Mississippi River.²⁸ Get bread & soup again to night.

Sat. July 19. Cloudy day. Get our breakfast in good season. Two meals to day. Most of the boys are getting along well. The Confederates call around every day to exchange Confederate notes for U.S. Treas. notes.

Sun. [July] 20. Richmond appears very quiet & orderly to day.

Mon. [July] 21. Secesh papers state that to day is to be "celebrated" as the anniversary of the battle of Bull Run.

Tues. [July] 22. A number of the worst wounded in this hospital sent North via of Petersburg & City Point. The train took five hun-

²⁶ During the first year of the war there was no uniform system for exchanging prisoners. Dix was ordered to undertake negotiations; he met with the Confederate General A. H. Hill on July 18, and four days later they signed a cartel based on the general principles used by the United States and Great Britain during the War of 1812. *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 4, p. 177; Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, 7-33.

²⁷ This probably was the place usually referred to as Libby Prison. *Cass County Democrat*, December 26, 1907.

²⁸ The "Arkansas" ran through the Union fleet before Vicksburg on its way to cooperate in an attempted recapture of Baton Rouge. When within five miles of its destination, on August 5, trouble developed with its machinery, and the commander ran the vessel ashore and blew it up. *Dictionary of American History*, 1:105.

dred in all. The boys selected to go were wonderfully elated; some disappointed ones, very much depressed in spirit.

Wed. July 23. Cloudy day. A woman sends chicken soup to the wounded & sick at this hospital. This is Hospital No. 1 of Prison No. 2. Fine shade trees & ornamented door yards in that part of the city through which we pass for water.

Thur. [July] 24. The boys are wild with joy when the Dr. tells them to be ready to start for *home* at 5 A.M tomorrow.

Fri. [July] 25. Sick & wounded leave hospital No. 1 this A.M. We help remove those remaining at Hosp. No. 2, to Prison No. 1. Prison No. 1 is much cleaner than No. 2. 97 of us are placed in the upper story & relieved from the arduous duties of attendance on the sick & wounded.

Sat. [July] 26. This A.M. we are removed a mile or two, to "Belle-Isle" in James River.²⁹ Thunder shower just at night. Quite a number of us have no shelter except our blanket & some have not even that.

Sun. July 27. A warm, clear day. Henry & I construct a tent of our blankets. Our rations consist of mouldy bread & boiled beef. We are confined in rather close quarters & there are many inconveniences that in my opinion should be remedied.

Mon. [July] 28. We have a very good chance to bathe in James River. Some of our boys buy a barrell of flour at the Confederate Commissary for twenty dollars. Our boys make pancakes & sell them to their comrads for twenty five cents apiece. Our rations are ½ loaf of bread & a small piece of meat (sometimes soup) per day, and one spoonful salt per week.

Gen. [John] Winder visits this Island³⁰ He is an old man & quite gray.

Tues. [July] 29. Quite warm to day. Get two "unleavened" pancakes for a quarter of a dollar.

²⁹ Belle Isle, a small, sandy island in the James River opposite Richmond, was used as a prison pen even before the Dix-Hill cartel was signed. Three-foot earthworks with ditches on either side confined prisoners within a few acres, and guards stationed at forty-foot intervals discouraged attempts to escape. Lack of food and of shelter from the scorching sun and drenching rains of a Virginia summer caused much suffering among the prisoners. *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 6, p. 482; Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, 114, 120, 122; United States Sanitary Commission, *Narrative of Privations and Sufferings of United States Officers While Prisoners of War*, 45, 157 (Philadelphia, 1864); Warren L. Goss, *The Soldier's Story of His Captivity at Andersonville, Belle Isle, and Other Rebel Prisons*, 32-50 (Boston, 1868).

³⁰ Winder was in charge of Confederate prisons at Richmond. Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, 9.

Wed. [July] 30. Light thunder shower this morning. Warm day
We pay one dollar for a lb. of sugar at Secesh Commissary

Thur. [July] 31. Stop thief! who stole both our canteens last night? A rainy day. A number of sick & wounded removed from the Island. Only *six dollars* per gallon for molasses at C[onfederate] S[tates] Commissary! Walk up, all you that have money, & purchase before it takes another rise.

Fri. Aug. 1st. Another warm day All, except sick, marched out of camp & counted. No. of prisoners on island, 3471 We heard cannonading down James River last night.

Sat. [August] 2d. A squad of "citizens and sutlers" taken from this island to the city. A Confederate gives me one dollar and fifty cents, in Va. Treas. note & Richmond scrip, for a gold dollar. Warm, clear day.

Sun. [August] 3d. Another train loaded with prisoners goes to the Federal lines. It seems that arrangements for a general exchange of prisoners have been made. We have rather dull times cooped up on one corner of "Belle-Isle" We have nothing to read and are not allowed to purchase the Richmond papers. The "visual line that girts us round" is, to us, "the World's extreme".

Mon. Aug. 4 Cloudy day. Another squad of "citizens" taken from the Island. Names of all persons on the island regestered this evening. They say we shall be released from this bondage tomorrow. Just as soon as you can make it convenient, Mr. Secesh.

We take a game or two of chess to day.

Tues. [August] 5. 2500 prisoners march from Belle-Isle to James River. P.H. & I are unfortunately left behind in this miserable hole of secession. I sell my over coat & rubber blanket to sentry for a Confederate one dollar note. Henry & I move into one of the vacated tents. We "build" a "minute" pudding for supper. A hot day.

Wed. [August] 6. Henry & I busy ourselves with chess. We make pancakes for supper. Saw some returned Secesh prisoners; they don't know whether they are paroled or exchanged. Clear, warm day.

Thur. Aug. 7. Hot day. Reading the Bible & playing chess. Crust coffee for breakfast & supper.

Fri. Aug. 8. A scorching day—nearly wilted. One hundred & thirty Union prisoners brought to this island; some from Pope's & some from McClellon's army. They were (some of them) captured last

Wednesday. I judge that the Confederates will soon hear from Pope. 515 Federal prisoners from Lynchburg arrived on the island late this evening.³¹ They were captured in the Valley of the Shenandoah last May. We get to-day's Richmond Examiner.

Sat. [August] 9 "Dreadful hot day" A large number of Lynchburg prisoners arrive. The Richmond Examiner of to day says that the famous Secesh Ram "Arkansas" has "gone up." Zinah Dowd, Co. F., 3d. Wis. In'try comes into the tent with us.³² We get soup twice to day.

Sun. Aug. 10. Very warm. Refreshing thunder shower just before sundown. Soup & meat for breakfast. Nothing but hard-bread & water for supper. We sigh for the "flesh pots" of the Army of the Potomac.

Mon. [August] 11. Between 4 & 5 hundred of the 1st. Md. Regt. and a squad of citizens arrive this morning from Lynchburg. About three hundred prisoners from Banks' command arrive in A.M. They were taken in a fight on Sat. & report that the contest was renewed yesterday.³³ Don't we hope that the Army of the Union will prevail? A hot day. Clouded up a little towards night.

Tues. [August] 12. Hot day. Thunder shower towards night.

Wed. [August] 13. Pleasant breeze—not so hot as usual. Three or four hundred prisoners from Saulsbury [*Salisbury*], N.C., arrive just before dark. Among them are a large number of officers, including Col. [Michael] Corcoran.³⁴ Loud cheers & much excitement when Col. Corcoran is recognized in the crowd [*sic*]

Thur. Aug. 14. The Saulsbury prisoners remained outside our enclosure last night. This morning the privates are admitted to the fold and the officers taken over to the City. Clear warm day though refresh-

³¹ The Confederate prison at Lynchburg, Virginia, was established early in the war. Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, 68, 114.

³² Dowd was taken prisoner at Winchester in the spring of 1862. Edwin E. Bryant, *History of the Third Regiment of Wisconsin Veteran Volunteer Infantry*, 426 (Madison, 1891).

³³ The reference is to the battle of Cedar Mountain on August 9. Although Banks' forces were repulsed, Jackson pursued them only briefly before withdrawing to join Lee. *Dictionary of American History*, 1:330.

³⁴ The Confederate prison at Salisbury was established in August, 1861, after the facilities for housing prisoners at Richmond had been exhausted. Corcoran was a native of Ireland whose unusual experience as a prisoner of war attracted wide attention. He was released for exchange on August 15, 1862. *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 3, p. 130-132, 702, vol. 4, p. 349, 400, 437; Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, 13, 18, 27, 30, 70; William H. Jeffrey, *Richmond Prisons*, 7, 10, 17, 63 (St. Johnsbury, Vermont, 1893).

ing breeze. Apples & potatoes sell for twenty-five cents per quart, onions, "two for a quarter"

Fri. [August] 15. Rainy in A.M. A prisoner receives 25 lashes for lying. We send a *letter* home.

Sat. [August] 16. Cool, pleasant day. Letters are recd. by some of the prisoners on this island, from their friends North. We have had no salt in our soup for several days. The Southern Confederacy is getting rather *fresh*.

Sun. [August] 17. Another pleasant day. 340 prisoners from Salsbury, N.C. arrived sometime last night. Finished reading the book of Exodus. I'd like to know when we are to make *our* exodus from this Godless, saltless Confederacy. We get no supper

Mon. Aug. 18. We get a little "bean water" this morning, but no bread About 2 P.M. we get $\frac{1}{4}$ loaf of bread. The boys call this "Camp Starvation" Get another quarter loaf to night. Confederate flag on Richmond Court House is displayed at "half-mast" Confederate Congress meets to day.

Tues. [August] 19. A woman is *dragged* to the guard house for selling pies to starving prisoners. Clear & warm. Get no supper.

Wed. [August] 20. Nothing of interest occurs except "minute pudding."

Thur. [August] 21. A little rain this morning. Richmond papers say that McClellan has evacuated his position on James River⁸⁵ The dice box rattles in all parts of camp.

Fri. [August] 22. Rained last night & this A.M. Time drags heavily. I learn to play eucree.

Sat. [August] 23. A mob of rowdies, thieves and cut-throats go about camp & steal all the flour, cakes, apples, pies &c. that they can lay their hands on, under the *pretence* of stopping exorbitant prices. Probably the man that stole my cap is a worthy member of that *honorable* organization⁸⁶ Comfortably cool — somewhat cloudy

Sun. Aug. 24 First fruits of yesterday's mob — *four* loaves of bread for a dollar instead of *five*, as formerly. A company of ladies & gents

⁸⁵ McClellan's retreat from the Peninsula is briefly described in the *Dictionary of American History*, 4:241.

⁸⁶ The marauders probably were members of William "Captain Mosby" Collins' group of bounty jumpers, who as prisoners of war terrorized both Belle Isle and Andersonville. Hesselstine, *Civil War Prisons*, 138, 144; John McElroy, *Andersonville: A Story of Rebel Military Prisons*, 220-257 (Toledo, 1879).

from the city come over to see the "Yankee prisoners." Among them are traitors that deserve the gallows. Yesterday's Examiner contains Gov. [John] Letcher's proclamation calling an extra session of the Va. Legislature to make arrangements to sup[p]ly the "Old Dominion" with *salt*. Cloudy & quite cool. Rained last night.

Mon. [August] 25. Warm day. A few hundred prisoners, some of them from Pope's army, arrive on the island. We bake pancakes for supper. Secesh papers state that Pope is retiring before Jackson.

Tues. [August] 26. Quite warm. We go outside the guards to get wood. From our island prison we can see the Confederate Capitol, an equestrian statue of Washington & Hollywood Cemetery where repose the remains of Ex Pres. Monroe.³⁷

Wed. [August] 27. Parole question revived in camp.

Thur. [August] 28. Have a good time playing chess with Corporal John Calvin Brandon, Co. K, 1st. Pa. R.C.

Fri. [August] 29. Another squad of prisoners arrive. They report that McClellan has joined Pope & that they are retiring towards Manassas.³⁸ I hope that our combined forces are sufficient to meet the Confederates when the proper moment arrives. *God send that moment as soon as possible.*

Sat. Aug. 30. Warm day.

Sun. Aug. 31. Considerable rain last night & to day

Mon. Sept. 1. Cloudy day. Feel quite unwell. Get "Napoleon's Maxims of War" to read. Small squad of prisoners arrive

Tues. [September] 2d Clear & moderately warm. Still ailing. Rations minus again.

Wed. [September] 3. "Charging" active to day. An anti "charge" meeting held & "Huntley" appointed "Chief of Police" to tend to those illustrious "chargers." About 20 squads taken outside the lines & rools [*sic*] called preparatory—it is said—to their exchange or parole.³⁹

³⁷ When Monroe died in 1831 he was buried in New York City; his remains were removed to Richmond in 1858. William A. Christian, *Richmond, Her Past and Present*, 193 (Richmond, 1912).

³⁸ The second Manassas campaign, in which McClellan joined after withdrawing from Virginia, opened on August 25, when Jackson began operations against the communications of the Union forces along the upper Rappahannock. *Dictionary of American History*, 1:251.

³⁹ Prisoners on Belle Isle were divided into squads of a hundred men, each of which was commanded by a prisoner sergeant who was responsible to the Confederate commander for the behavior of his men. Parolees signed duplicates of a document showing their names and ranks, and those released bound themselves not to bear arms against

To day's Richmond Dispatch contains Jeff Davis' Message to Confed. Congress, in which he says that the Confederate army has defeated, upon the plains of Manassas, the combined forces of Pope, McClellan, Burnside and

Thur. Sept. 4 Hunter.⁴⁰ The crowd arrest a thief & shave the left side of his head. Two fellows get their heads bruised O tempora! O mores! We borrow Grimshaw's Hist. of U. States I have so far recovered from my illness that I can dispose of my rations. Fine clear day.

Fri. Sept. 5. Clear bright day. We get but meager accounts of the great battle of Sat. last & the position of the contending armies.⁴¹ Secesh claim a great victory but we cling to the hope that it is not so brilliant after all. The climax of misery: to be wasting away on Belle Isle in times like these.

Sat. [September] 6. Clear & warm. Being very hungry we succeed in "appropriating" both hard & soft bread from Secesh commissary.

Sun. [September] 7. About five hundred prisoners taken from this island to James River to be exchanged. Happy men!

You leave this God-forsaken isle
Ruled o'er by rob[b]ers, traitors vile,
To go where *Loyalty* hold[s] sway
And bask in *Union's* peerless ray.

Clear and *warm*.

Mon. [September] 8. Clear & warm. 66 "Yanks" arrive.

Tues. [September] 9. Light showers "semioccasionally" Short of rations again. Confeds, if you cant feed your prisoners send them to a people that can. 46 more Yankees

Henry sells his watch for ten dollars

Wed. [September] 10. Frequent showers. Our squad gets no bread till sundown Hungry set of Yankees. A green apple pie sold for two dollars.

Thur. Sept. 11. Rainy day. Secesh are engaged in paroling Yankees. They take the heighth, complexion, color of hair & eyes, name,

the Confederacy for a limited period or until they were actually exchanged. United States Sanitary Commission, *Bulletins*, 3:1043; *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 5, p. 306.

⁴⁰ For the text of Davis' message, see James D. Richardson, ed., *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Confederacy*, 1:268 (Nashville, 1905).

⁴¹ The reference is to Kirby Smith's rout of Union troops in Madison County, Kentucky, on August 30. *Dictionary of American History*, 4:481.

Regt., Co. & occupation of each. Secesh papers say Confed. forces have crossed the Potomac into Md.⁴²

Prisoners much elated at the thought of being released.

Fri. [September] 12 Fair day. Rains a little in evening Prisoners being paroled all day. Our squad (1) signs duplicate parole about 10 P.M. We are sworn not to take up arms against the Southern Confederacy nor to aid or abet her enemies, by information or otherwise, until legally exchanged or released. "Northern money" in great demand since paroling commenced; Secesh scrip at a discount. Trade brisk on "Broad-way."

Sat. [September] 13. Somewhat cloudy — clears up in P.M. Paroling finished in A.M. and prisoners ordered out of camp by squads. While buying some "grub" for the journey our squad marches out of camp & leaves me a disconsolate prisoner on Belle-Isle. Capt. [Norris] Montgomery & others "whack" the crowd smartly with their swords to repress their eagerness to leave for that "better land."⁴³ About 1050 men left on the island All the boys in our tent except Wheeler & myself get off. I rejoice in their deliverance but have a poor opinion of "Ike" for not attending to "so great salvation" instead of peaches.

Sun. Sept. 14. Sky nearly clear. All prisoners of war leave Belle-Isle this morning & are marched through Manchester & Richmond & down the Charles City road (about 12 mi) to Varina on James River where four U.S. transports receive us on board.⁴⁴ After leaving Richmond our "escort" consists entirely of cavalry. I get weary & lame, but, cheered by the prospect of *Liberty*, trudge along. Finally get aboard one of Jeff's wagons & ride two or three miles. Once more the Stars & Stripes cheer our vision. I get aboard the Coharbor (U.S. Mail) We steam down the river about 1½ hour & at sunset anchor in stream. Uncle Samuel gives us a good supper of bread bacon & coffee I am happy to night.

Mon. [September] 15. Weigh anchor at sunrise, proceed down the river, pass the ancient site of Jamestown on left on North side of river and, about noon, reach Fortress Monroe where I see the iron clad gun

⁴² For an account of the Confederate invasion of Maryland in September, 1862, see the *Dictionary of American History*, 3:349.

⁴³ Montgomery was the Confederate officer in charge at Belle Isle. *Official Records*, series 2, vol 4, p. 865.

⁴⁴ Varina was at Aiken's Landing, which was mentioned with City Point in the Dix-Hill cartel as a place for the delivery of prisoners for exchange. *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 4, p. 267.

boat Galena. We are transferred to the steamer John Brooks & start up the Chesapeake Bay for Annapolis

We hear that McClellan has gained a great victory in Md.

Tues. [September] 16 Arrive at Annapolis early in A.M. & proceed to "Camp Parole"⁴⁵

[*To be continued*]

⁴⁵ Camp Parole was established on June 28, 1862, as a center of instruction for released prisoners who had not yet been returned to their regiments. See *Official Records*, series 2, vol. 4, p. 94. The entry for September 16 is the last in volume 1 of the diary. It is followed by lists of supplies issued to Taylor, of articles purchased, of sums received from the paymaster, and of the diarist's correspondents. This material, which fills sixteen manuscript pages, has been omitted from the printed version of the diary.



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