

55

- Fri. Jan. 1 - We waited at Jeffersonville (Ind) for the cars to go out which they finally did about dark and reached Indianapolis by four o'clock in the morning.
- Sat. Jan. 2 - Remained at Indianapolis until afternoon when we took the cars to Lafayette (Ind); got there at 8 o'clock P.M. Put up at the M_____ House. Very good fare at \$2 per day.
- Sun. Jan. 3 - Remained at the L_____ House to day. The cars didn't run, the roads are blocked up with snow.
- Mon. Jan. 4 - We got started for Michigan City about eleven this forenoon, arriving nicely after noon.
- Tues. Jan. 5 - Took the cars at 12:30 for Detroit. Got there Had a pleasant ride. Put up at the Michigan ~~Kitchen~~ (?) *Exchange* a well conducted house.
- Wed. Jan. 6 - Took the cars at Detroit for St. Johns last night, arrived there at 5 this morning. Got a chance to ride up to the Center. ~~xxxxxx~~ There I met Mr. White and rode home with him. The folks were glad to see me.
- Thur Jan 7 - Wrote a letter to Theodore in the morning. Mrs. Ely called at our house and we had a long talk about the army.
- Fri Jan 8 - Visited around. Called on Mr. Church's folks in the ~~xxxxxx~~ afternoon. The weather is ~~xxxx~~ quite cold.
- Sat Jan 9 - Cold and windy. I remained indoors reading and writing.
- Sun Jan 10 - Went to the Hall school house to meeting in the afternoon. Heard Elder Webb preach a discourse from the text "Who art thou". Weather very cold.
- Mon Jan 11 - Lie around doing nothing.
- Tues Jan 12 - Went down to the Center with father. Circuit court ~~is~~ in session Judge _____ presiding. There was not much business done and court closed, finishing up in one day.
- Wed Jan 13 - Went over to Mr. Church's in the afternoon with Sybil and Mary.
- Thur Jan 14 - William and I went to St. Johns in the evening. We went to the new Methodist Church and heard Allen B_____ in a very able sermon. Saw Dr.-Eddy Edward of the Northwestern.
- Fri Jan 15 - We started home about 11 ~~am~~ in the forenoon, got there about dark. It was rather a cold ride. This is my 25th birthday.
- Sat Jan 16 - At home today doing nothing. The weather is getting warmer and it thaws a very little. Visited Mr. Rush's folks in the afternoon.
- Sun Jan 17 - It thaws some today. Called into Mr. Pride's (?) (Bright's) in the afternoon with the W_____s
- Mon Jan 18 - ~~Went~~ to the Center after the mail in the afternoon. We got two letters from Theodore and I got one from (Brind or Prine) and Stone in regard to _____ college. I concluded not to attend it. Mr. Hall's folks were at our house when we got home.
- Tues Jan 19 - At home today. Wrote a letter to Theodore. Rather cold.
- Wed Jan 20 - We went over to Mr. Wall's in the afternoon. The day was warm and pleasant.
- Thur Jan 21 - Mr Rush's and Nevins' folks we re to see us in the afternoon. It was some cold. Pleasant winter weather.

- Fri Jan 22 - Susan Church and Cornelia were at our house in the afternoon. It was quite warm, nice ~~and~~ as well as pleasant.
- Sat Jan 23 - Went to Mr. (Cl_____ or Gl_____) to a surprise party. It's thawing some today.
- Sun Jan 24 - Went to the Hall School house to meeting. Elder Webb preached. It's thawing very fast and the sleighing is most spoiled. William's folks had a little girl.
- Mon Jan 25 - Went to Mr _____ to meeting. Elder Webb preached to a full house.
- Tues Jan 26 - Went to Ithaca to get a mail. Got a letter from Theodore. Warm and pleasant.
- Wed Jan 27 - ~~Did~~ Did nothing today. I'm tired and ~~discontented~~ discontented with idling around.
- Thur Jan 28 - Wrote a letter to Theodore. Garwood Kress called to see me in the forenoon I went to Mr Church's It was very warm today.
- Fri Jan 29 - Visited the school in the forenoon and in the afternoon went to Mr _____s. It snowed some in the afternoon.
- Sat Jan 30 - I went ~~with~~ to Saint Louis with father to quarterly meeting Elder Hall the presiding elder preached a very good sermon. It's warm and rainy.
- Sun Jan 31 - I did not go to meeting today. It's quite warm.
- Mon Feb 1 - Father and I went to Ithaca to get the mail. It is warm.
- Tues Feb 2 - I came home from the center and went to Alma to see Colonel Ely.
- Wed Feb 3 - Went to Alma to see Colonel Ely in the afternoon we had a spelling school.
- Thur Feb 4 - Rode to St. Johns horseback. Took the cars in the afternoon to (C R N). Got there at one in the morning.
- Fri Feb 5 - Called on Captain _____ who gave me a good recommendation. In the afternoon took the cars to Detroit arriving there at 5 o'clock. I put up at the Michigan Exchange.
- Sat Feb 6 - Called on _____ and got him to make arrangements for a board meeting and get together a board of examiners for negro troops. Took the cars for St. Johns and got there at 4 in the afternoon. Rode home, got there at 10.
- Sun Feb 7 - Went to the Hall School house and our elder Merrill preached in the forenoon. He is not much of a preacher. It snowed in the afternoon.
- Mon Feb 8 - In the afternoon to visit William's folks. I had rather a dull time. I hitched my Tennessee horse into a cutter gear (?) I went very slow. It is quite cold today.
- Tues Feb 9 - Saddled and took a ride to Mr. Hall's in the evening but found the young folks gone to spelling school. It was rather cold today.
- Wed Feb 10 - The folks from the Center came to our house for a surprise party. There were about 50 persons.
- Thurs Feb 11 - I went to Mr. White's to a party. There was some dancing. I got with Flora two or three times. I suppose I did not make a very careful partner as it is the first time I ever took a chance.
- Fri Feb 12 - Got a letter from Theodore. It was warm today.
- Sat Feb 13 - Did nothing today but laid around the house. It was very warm.

Sun Feb 14 - Attended _____ Waldron's (?) wedding to Mrs. Bright. Cornelia and I stood up with the happy pair. In the evening they were serenaded at our house. Weather warm and pleasant.

Mon Feb 15 - Father went out to St. Johns. I fed and did the chores. Day was warm and mild.

Tues Feb 16 - Went down to Mr. _____ with William. We drove my white team down. In the evening I went to spelling school. It was very cold.

Wed Feb 17 - Lt. Doane called on me today. It was very cold.

Thur Feb 18 - Theodore came home today on recruiting service. Father got back from St. Johns. Mr. Church got home last night. I went over to see him in the afternoon; it was a very cold meeting.

Fri Feb 19 - Theodore and I visited around in. In the evening Mr. Church's folks came to our house. It was very cold.

Sat Feb 20 - Theodore and William went to the Center. They bought a span of horses. The weather is quite warm.

Sun Feb 21 - I took a ride to meeting to the Hall School House. It was warm and pleasant.

Mon Feb 22 - Theodore and I went to the Center for the mail. I got a permit to appear before the Board at Cincinnati for examination for negro troops.

Tues Feb 23 - Went to St. Johns with Mr. Church and took a train for Detroit in the afternoon.

Wed Feb 24 - Arrived at Detroit at nine. Took a 10 o'clock train for Cincinnati. Got to Toledo about 2 o'clock in the afternoon and put up at the Island House. It was quite warm.

Thur Feb 25 - Took the cars at 12 noon for Cincinnati. Got there at 11 P.M. and put up at the Burnett House.

Fri Feb 26 - Today I went to see the Board of Examination and presented my permit. I am to be examined tomorrow.

Sat Feb 27 - This morning I went before the Board. They did not tell their decision but I have reason to believe I passed, for some office. I did not think it was very thorough. Took the cars in the afternoon for Dayton. It was very warm weather.

Sun Feb 28 - Arrived at Toledo at 5 in the morning and put up at the Island House. Have to wait till Monday morning for the cars to Detroit. I went to the Methodist Church and heard a very good sermon.

Mon Feb 29 - Took the cars for Detroit at 3 o'clock. Got to Detroit at 6 and took the 10 o'clock train for St. Johns; got there at 9 o'clock at night, a caboose ran off the track and delayed us about four hours. Found Col. Ely and several of Company C at N _____ (Newton?).

Tues Mar 1 - I walked home today getting there about 8 o'clock at night. I was some tired when I got home. It was warm.

Wed Mar 2 - Today Theodore and I went over to Mr. Church's a little while in the afternoon. It was very warm.

Thur Mar 3 - Theodore and I took a horseback ride to Alma. It was very warm and thawing.

Fri Mar 4 - Did nothing today but loaf arounds home with Theodore. It was warm and folks are tapping their bushes.

Sat Mar 5 - Theodore and I were about home doing nothing much. It snowed some last night but it is thawing a little today.

Sun Mar 6 - It was a dull Sunday; we did not go to meeting. It was very mild.

Mon Mar 7 - I went to the Center to help father do some writing.

Tues Mar 8 - We had a surprise party at Mr. Church's this evening. There were a good many there and we had a very good time.

Wed Mar 9 - Cornelia and Frank Church came to our house visiting in the afternoon. Theodore and I walked home with them in the evening. It snowed some in the afternoon.

Thur Mar 10 - It rained today. Theodore and I stayed in the house reading and writing etc.

Fri Mar 11 - Dull and stormy day and I have nothing to do. I am getting tired of this kind of life. Nothing makes a person so unhappy as ~~idleness~~ idleness.

Sat Mar 12 - Today passed off as common. It was quite warm.

Sun Mar 13 - There is no meeting around here today. We went over to William's in the afternoon and took a walk over the S_____ (Soule?) land.

Mon Mar 14 - Another day has gone without much profit. I did nothing but loaf around the house. There was a little snow storm in the morning and the day was quite cold.

Tues Mar 15 - I went to the Center to get the mail but it did not come in and I put up for the night at Howd's (?) tavern. It is rather cold.

Wed Mar 16 - The mail did not come in last night and I went home in the morning. My horse fell down and threw me off but did not hurt me any.

Thur Mar 17 - This morning Theodore went to the Center and got the mail. I received notice that I am appointed a Captain in the 1st Michigan Colored Regiment. In the afternoon I went to Mr. Hall's visiting. The wind got hot tonight.

Fri Mar 18 - There was very good sleighing this morning. Theodore and I went to St. Louis with a grist (?) in the afternoon. It is rather cold.

Sat Mar 19 - William, Theodore and I went to Ithaca with a sleigh. The sleighing was quite good. It is very cold.

Sun Mar 20 - We went to meeting to Mr. Hall's School house with a sleigh. Elder Webb preached. It was cold at meeting.

Mon Mar 21 - Today father and I rode to St. Johns. There I took the cars at 10 P.M. for Detroit.

Tues Mar 22 - I got to Detroit this morning at 6 o'clock, reported to Col. Bennett in the morning. There was mustered by Lt. Pierce (?).

Wed Mar 23 - This morning I went up to camp. I was assigned Company I and went on duty with it. Battalion drill in the afternoon.

Thurs Mar 24 - Busy in camp, had inspection of my company in the morning. It is quite warm.

Fri Mar 25 - I had inspection in the morning, in the afternoon we had battalion drill. The Major's horse threw him at drill, he was not hurt fortunately. His horse ran away with him and stopped before any damage was done.

Sat Mar 26 - I went on as officer of the day in the evening. The boys made a rally (?) on the sutler's shanty and tore it up pretty bad before I got out and stopped them. Warm and pleasant.

Sun Mar 27 - I was on officer of the day until 5 o'clock in the evening. A man of company K got mad and stabbed his orderly so bad that they fear ~~xx~~ he will not get well.

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864.

- Mon Mar 28 - We marched this morning, at 10 o'clock we took the cars for Toledo. We got there about noon. We remained in Toledo today. Marched up through town. Some of the men were rather unruly (?).
- Tues Mar 29 - We started at two o'clock and ran to Dunkirk by midnight where we changed cars.
- Wed Mar 30 - We reached Elmira (NY) about noon. There ~~add~~ we drew rations and changed cars for Baltimore. We got started about dark.
- Thurs Mar 31 - We passed Harrisburg (Pa) after dark and went on to Baltimore.
- Fri Apr 1 - We reached Baltimore at sunrise. Took breakfast at the Soldiers' Relief and went aboard the steam boat George (?) for Annapolis. Got to Annapolis about five o'clock and marched out to our camp three miles from town. It was one o'clock before we got to camp.
- Sat Apr 2 - Last night was a stormy, rough night and the boys had a rather rough time without their tents and oil blankets. It snowed quite fast this morning and snowed and rained today. We drew our tents and put them up. I got small tents for the men and wall tents for the officers.
- Sun Apr 3 - Simon and Alec Wurtz came to see men and I went over to the camp of the 8th Mich in the evening and had a good visit.
- Mon Apr 4 - Took breakfast with Capt Smith and Lt. Doane (Co C 8th Mich) then returned to camp. Drilled the company in the forenoon. It rained after noon, there was no drill.
- Tues Apr 5 - It rained today. In the afternoon I went to Annapolis with Sime McLaughlin (an old friend of the 8th Mich) and made some purchases.
- Wed Apr 6 - Lt D_____ (T____) went down town on a detail today. I remained in camp. We did not drill today but had dress parade. It did not storm today as usual but was quite cold.
- Thurs Apr 7 - We had battalion drill in the afternoon. Major _____ drilled the regiment. It was quite warm.
- Fri Apr 8 - I was officer of the day; things run rather loose. The guard do not know their duty very well and some of the officers are very slack.
- Sat Apr 9 - It rained in the afternoon. I did not drill today. I wrote all day on company business; I got up some orders to govern Company "I".
- Sun Apr 10 - I went down and visited Lt. Doane of the 8th Mich in the afternoon. In the evening Capt. Smith and Lt. Hovey (?) came up to see me. It was warm and pleasant today.
- Mon Apr 11 - We had battalion drill in the afternoon. Major Clark drilled the regiment. It was very warm and pleasant.
- Tues Apr 12 - Drew clothing and shoes for the men. I wrote a letter to William in the morning then drilled the company one hour before noon. After noon we had battalion drill by Col. Bennet. It was quite warm in the forenoon but got cold after noon and rained tonight.

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864.

Wed Apr 13 - Gen. Grant reviewed us about one today. He was accompanied by Gen. Burnside. I hear he spoke well of the regiment. Gen. Grant is not so ~~impressive~~ impressive in appearance but he looks as though he knows something.

Thurs Apr 14 - We got orders to be ready to embark for Hilton Head (S.C.) tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock. I received a letter from Nathan Church and answered it.

Fri Apr 15 - We embarked today on board the steamer North (?) Point for the South. Our boat got under way about night. Three companies got on the North (?) Point, Companies "I", "C" and "D".

Sat Apr 16 - We passed Fortress Monroe this morning about nine o'clock. The bay is very smooth; when we get in the Atlantic ocean it will be rougher. We reach Cape Hatteras about Sunday.

Sun Apr 17 - This morning was clear but the wind blew quite hard and it was very rough. The Captain says we are 25 or 30 miles from Cape Hatteras. The sea is so rough and the wind is so hard we make about 6 miles an hour. I slept most of the forenoon. After noon I went on deck and amused myself with pop (?) and a cigar (?). Four weeks ago today I was sleigh riding in Gratiot; times have changed.

Mon Apr 18 - The sea was smooth this morning when I first got up but the wind soon _____ up from the south. ~~today~~ Today we passed the blockading fleet off Charleston about four in the afternoon. At nine o'clock we are not in sight of Hilton Head.

Tues Apr 19 - We arrived in sight of Hilton Head about noon and took a pilot aboard. We got in about 2 o'clock and marched out a mile and camped. Hilton Head has improved since I was here two years ago; it is quite a town now.

Wed Apr 20 - I'm detailed officer of the day. Col. Chipman is coming as commander of the regiment. He reported for duty just before we left Annapolis. He is a regular officer and seems to be a good man. We laid out our camp and pitched tents. I was very busy today.

Thurs Apr 21 - Wrote a letter to Theodore which was about all I did today.

Fri Apr 22 - I made my ordnance report today and wrote a letter to Sybil and the rest of the day I was busy putting up my tent.

Sat Apr 23 - We had dress parade today. Col. Chipman came out for the first time. He seems to be a first rate drill master. A field officer of the day reported our regiment in very bad condition with the officers and men seem totally ignorant of guard duty and that they were in a filthy condition etc etc. I think there is some truth in his report but a great deal too malicious.

Sun Apr 24 - I am field officer of the day. It rained in the forenoon and I got wet going around.

Mon Apr 25 - I had a very pleasant time last night going the grand round. Lt. Southward (?) went around with me. I was relieved at nine o'clock this morning. It was warm and pleasant today.

Tues Apr 26 - I wrote a letter to Theodore in the evening. It was warm and dusty today.

Wed Apr 27 - The payrolls were sent to the regiment for signing. Most of the men in Company "I" refused to sign their names for Ten dollars a month. I advised them to take what they could get but they appeared set in their determination.

Thurs Apr 28 - I am regimental officer of the day, I had not much to do. In the afternoon the wind blew very hard and the dust flew around like _____ (f-s-t).

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864.

Fri Apr 29 - The paymaster paid off my company today. Many of the men wouldn't draw their pay because it is only seven dollars a month.

Sat Apr 30 - The regiment was mustered for pay by Col. Chipman. He made a very minute inspection of things. It rained hard while we were passing in review. We heard some cannonading today to the west of us.

Sun May 1 - We had a long inspection in the morning by the Colonel. Lt. (D-P-N*D-R-N) and I went down to the beach and took a bath.

Mon May 2 - Worked on the muster rolls. Major Clark who has been absent on furlough returned to the regiment today.

Tues May 3 - I finished my payrolls today. Three companies went off on picket. Only four are in the camp here at present. This leaves the regiment very small. We have had no mail since we came here two weeks ago.

Wed May 4 - Col. Chipman approved my muster rolls. Said they were the most correct of any in the regiment. I made out my monthly report of clothing and equipage (?) in the afternoon. I made out the ordnance report for Lt. Barrell in the evening. We had dress parade as we have only four companies present, the battalion looks very small.

Thur May 5 - Nothing more than the dull round of camp life transpired today. I drilled the company in the afternoon. Major Clark came out and superintended the drill.

Fri May 6 - I am regimental officer of the day. I kept quite busy directing the guard and policing the camp. It is very warm. My own company and Company "K" are ordered to Fort Wells (?) tomorrow morning to form part of the garrison.

Sat May 7 - Today we moved down to Fort Wells (?). One company of the 9th U.S. camped in the fort. Companies "K" and "I" from our regiment camped just outside. The three companies garrison the fort.

Sun May 8 - Went to the Port Royal House and got a very good dinner. Passed the day in walking about town and along the beach. It was quite warm.

Mon May 9 - I went down to the sea and had a swim with Lt. (D-E-N-R-N) in the morning. In the afternoon I went up to our old camp. It was very warm.

Tues May 10 - The Steamer Fulton (?) came in today, bringing a large mail. Lt Holmes of my company came in with several officers and men for the regiment.

Wed May 11 - We moved inside the fort today. Major Towne (?) of the 9th U.S. took command of us.

Thur May 12 - The mail was distributed so that we got it this morning. I only got two letters, one from Theodore and one from Cornelia. I wrote three letters in the afternoon.

Fri May 13 - Worked on my clothing book today. Tonight the band came down and serenaded us. It was quite warm today. The steamer Hudson sailed for New York this afternoon.

Sat May 14 - Nothing of particular interest today. I worked at my company books most of the time.

Sun May 15 - We (the garrison of Fort Wells) had our first dress parade this afternoon. Lt. Holmes acting as adjutant, he made some blunders.

Mon May 16 - The Major of the 9th U.S. and his company were relieved today. It is thought we will remain in the fort. I hope so as it is a very pleasant place. The soldiers of the 9th U.S.

Wilbur Nelson diary for 1864.

are having a prayer meeting tonight; they appear very devotional.

Tues May 17 - I am officer of the day in the fort. Capt. Rowell's (?) company of the 9th U.S. moved out of the fort today. Our Col. has command of the coast inside the entrenchments and our regiment is to man them.

Wed May 18 - The Iroquois (?) came in from New York with the mail this morning. There is very good news from Meade's army. It is quite cool and pleasant today.

Thur May 19 - This morning I got a letter from Theodore. He is at ~~Alex~~ Alexandria but is leaving for the front. We fired a national salute in honor of Grant's victory.

Fri May 20 - I had to send all my men out to work on the fortifications today. Don't have much to do.

Sat May 21 - I and Capt. Montague went up to the regiment to drill on heavy artillery. I borrowed 25 dollars from Mr. (D*P-T-S). Our men are working on the intrenchments here. It is very warm. Lt. Holmes and myself went over to Marchfield (?) and (D-R-O-N) to see what we could see. These places are inhabited by negroes. Their houses and gardens look very well.

Sun May 22 - There was review but I was officer of the day and did not go to the review. The Iroquois (?) sailed for New York today, on it went Capt. Tuttle who has resigned.

Mon May 23 - I got a complaint from Col. Chipman. He wanted to know why I did not send my men on a detail of fatigue. I informed him that I did. It's _____ very warm today.

Tues May 24 - I was on a board of service to inquire into the _____ of an invoice for lumber. It was warm, windy and dusty today.

Wed May 25 - Several gun boats and some two thousand troops all are here today noon. Their destination is unknown at present. I had sent all my men on a detail and had one left to drill.

Thurs May 26 - The steamer Fulton came in this morning bringing mail. I didn't get any letter. It was windy and dusty till evening when it rained.

Fri May 27 - Gen. Foster has taken command of this department and arrived on the Iroquois (?) We fired a salute for Admiral Dahlgren this afternoon as he landed to visit Gen. Foster.

Sat May 28 - It was ~~very~~ a very warm day. I did not do much more than keep in the shade.

Sun May 29 - There was general inspection today by the Inspector General of this department. I and my Lt. took supper at the Port Royal House. I am getting tired of camp fare and think I will board out before long.

Mon May 30 - The steamer Fulton sailed for New York this morning well loaded with passengers and mail. Boats run once in eight days from New York to this place. Dr. (M-C-N-L) and Lt. Jewett (?) were down from the regiment and visited me in the evening.

Tues May 31 - This is the last day of spring. How fast ~~time~~ time flies. I was on the board of service but Maj. Chance (?) Wickorder (?) of the 52nd Pennsylvania, a member, was not present and we adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

Wed June 1 - I was on the board of service in the morning. We adjourned till tomorrow at 10 o'clock A.M.

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864

- Thur June 2 - The board of service met this morning and transacted the business before it. In the evening Lt (D-P-N-D-R) and myself went down to the beach and took a bath. It was warm today with some rain.
- Fri June 3- The steamer Iroquois (?) came in today with the mail, but there was nothing for me. I feel very much disappointed; I have not had a letter from ~~home~~ any of the folks at home since I left home the 21st of March. I commenced boarding at Mrs. Frye's today; I have to pay 6 dollars a week.
- Sat June 4 - Did not do much of anything today. It was very warm with some rain.
- Sun June 5 - I wrote a letter to William in the morning then Lt. Holmes and I went down to the beach and took a bath.
- Mon June 6 - The soldier's life at Hilton Head is very monotonous. Each day is about like the one that preceded it and today has been no exception to the rule. The 41st New York was here on their way home. Their time is out.
- Tues June 7 - Maj. Clark took command of Fort Wells today. It seems Capt. Montague has not managed the fort to the satisfaction of Gen. Hatch (?).
- Wed June 8 - We drilled two hours on heavy artillery in the _____. Two new ironclads were in the harbor here.
- Thur June 9 - We had a refreshing rain today noon. It was much cooler afterwards.
- Fri June 10 - We got orders to move to Beaufort as soon as we can get transportation. This is the wrong season here, it rains nearly every day.
- Sat June 11 - We signed the payrolls today. The paymaster is to pay off the company Monday morning. A mail came in, I got two letters from Theodore. He was well the 22nd of May.
- Sun June 12 - We are relieved from duty at Fort Wells and ordered to report to the regiment for duty soon. A company of the 3rd Rhode Island takes our place which will be tomorrow I suppose.
- Mon June 13 - It's a dull, rainy day, we did nothing.
- Tues June 14 - Today we were relieved by a company of the 3rd Rhode Island and reported to the regiment. We were paid to the first of May this morning.
- Wed June 15 - Today I am officer of the day. Tonight we received orders to go to Beaufort. We commenced striking tents about ten o'clock at night.
- Thur June 16 - We marched to the beach this morning. We went aboard the steamboat Cosmopolitan (?) for Beaufort. We landed at Beaufort and camped about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile out of town.
- Fri June 17 - We were busy today pitching our tents. Beaufort looks just as it did when I saw it over two years ago.
- Sat June 18 - I turned off my servant today as he is good for nothing. We are getting our camp so it looks very well.
- Sun June 19 - Today I was officer of the day in the regiment. A mail came in. I got seven letters, some from home the first I have had since I came away.
- Mon June 20 - I went down town and made some purchases today. A detail from our regiment was on provost guard. The provost marshal made a very unfavorable report on their appearance and I think an unjust one. Thermometer 100 degrees above zero.
- Tues June 21 - I punished two of my men for not being in good order for guard and punished one for disobeying orders. We had battalion

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864.

drill in the evening on the old field that we used to drill on when I was here before. Thermometer 90 degrees at noon.

Wed June 22 - I had my tent fixed up. Mail went north; I sent a letter to Theodore and one to William. Thermometer 90 in the shade.

Thur June 23 - The regiment was reviewed and inspected by Gen. Porter who commands the brigade. The men made a very poor appearance, they and their guns were dirty. It seems very hard to make anything of these men, I am about discouraged. Thermometer 94 degrees at noon in the shade.

Fri June 24 - We had intense (n-m) general inspection today by the Inspector General. Thermometer stood at 100 in the shade at noon.

Sat June 25 - We commenced squad drill this morning. Thermometer 94 in the shade at noon.

Sun June 26 - We had regimental inspection this morning. Company "I" was slow to fall in and very dirty. I am not going to allow it any longer. I'm officer of the day. Colonel pulled (?) up Capt. Binkman (?) who I relieved for neglect of duty and told him he had a _____ to arrest him. Thermometer 94.

Mon June 27 - A mail came in today. I got three letters. I worked some on my muster rolls. Thermometer 104 at noon in the shade.

Tues June 28 - I worked on the muster and payrolls. It is so dusty that it is very disagreeable about writing. Thermometer 102 above zero at noon.

Wed June 29 - I was busy writing today making out payrolls and monthly reports etc etc. Thermometer stood at 94 at noon.

Thur June 30 - We were mustered today by Major Clark. I finished my muster rolls about five o'clock. Thermometer 96.

Fri July 1 - Today the right wing of the regiment moved out to the camp of the 26th U.S. who are ordered away on an expedition. I went out ~~xxx~~ to the Shell (?) bridge to picket at night. The mosquitoes were very ~~xxx~~ thick.

Sat July 2 - In camp doing nothing. Lt. Benham (?) of Company "B" died last night. I attended his funeral as pall bearer this afternoon.

Sun July 3 - I went back to the old camp and wrote today. It was very warm; thermometer 104 in the shade.

Mon July 4 - The officers of the right wing gave a dinner to the officers of the left wing. We had a good dinner and a very good time. At noon I fired 32 guns from the battery Burnside.

Tues July 5 - I was regimental officer of the day today.

Wed July 6 - It was rather dull today. We hear that the expedition has not been very successful but learn no particulars.

Thur July 7 - I'm regimental field officer of the day. Lt. Holmes and I took a long ride over the island in the afternoon. We saw some black children running about entirely naked, and came near riding over two little babies rolled up in an old blanket and laid under a tree outdoors.

Fri July 8 - We have a very pleasant place here and good quarters.

Sat July 9 - There was no drill this afternoon and we lounged about.

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864

Sun July 10 - I am general officer of the day again today. It was very warm going the rounds. At night Lt. (D-P-N-D-R-N) went around with me.

Mon July 11 - I do not feel very well today.

Tues July 12 - I got a letter from Theodore today with his photograph. I made my ordnance report.

Wed July 13 - All quiet at Port Royal island. It rained here this evening.

Thurs July 14 - Today we were relieved by the 26th New York and returned to our own camp.

Fri July 15 - I don't feel very well today and did not do much of anything.

Sat July 16 - We had drill in the morning, the rest of the day there was nothing to do. I got a letter from William and wrote one to him.

Sun July 17 - We had inspection at 8 A.M. Col. Chipman praised my company. It was very pleasant today.

Mon July 18 - I am officer of the day in the regiment today. I was busy digging a well at the hospital and grubbing off (c-l-r) lines. It was cool and pleasant. I got the books by express from Philadelphia.

Tues July 19 - Had drill morning and evening. Nothing of interest happened. Warm and dry.

Wed July 20 - Nothing important today. We are quite interested in chess playing in the regiment. I have just learned to play the game.

Thurs July 21 - Nothing of interest today. We are in camp drilling and doing guard duty as usual.

Fri July 22 - Today the mail came in and I got a letter from Mary. The folks at home are all well.

Sat July 23 - Played chess most of the time today. It is quite cool.

Sun July 24 - Today seems dull and calm (?). I wrote a letter in the morning and read most of the afternoon.

Mon July 25 - My company practiced at target firing in the afternoon. Our guns are good for nothing. The men made rather wild shots. Quite cool and pleasant.

Tues July 26 - I'm regimental officer of the day. It rained quite hard in the morning.

Wed July 27 - I wrote today fixing up the company order book. It was warm and showery.

Thurs July 28 - Didn't do much today. It was very warm.

Fri July 29 - I and Lt. Holmes went on Provost Guard. We had a very pleasant time. The mail came in, I got a letter from Theodore.

Sat July 30 - There was general inspection this morning. I was not relieved in time to go. We are ordered to be ready to march tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.

Sun July 31 - We are packed up getting ready for a march. We expected to go at nine this morning but the transport was not ready and we are to wait till tomorrow.

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864.

Mon Aug 1 - Our men celebrated the anniversary of the liberation of the slaves in the West Indies in the morning. Some of the men made very good speeches. At four o'clock P.M. we embarked on board the (C-N-N-KS) and ran down to Hilton Head where we drew new guns.

Tues Aug 2- We sailed at four o'clock, passed Tybee Lighthouse about sundown.

Wed Aug 3 - Reached Jacksonville, Florida, landed and remained over night.

Thurs Aug 4 - Marched to Baldwin 20 miles out on the Florida Railroad. It was a very hot day and the march was a hard one. It is a low, swampy, desolate country. Baldwin is a railroad station with three or four old houses.

Fri Aug 5 - We did not move today. Alligators are thick and frogs serenade us nightly.

Sat Aug 6 - General Hatch came up from Jacksonville in the evening and took command. I had a fever in the afternoon.

Sun Aug 7 - I was not very well today. The regiment went out on the railroad to tear up tracks. They tore up about three miles, burned the ties and bent the rails.

Mon Aug 8 - Holmes and 18 men of Company "I" went on picket. The cars came up from Jacksonville for the first time this afternoon.

Tues Aug 9 - All quiet today.

Wed Aug 10 - Our regiment went out about six miles on the railroad to tear up tracks. We had just got to work when a party of rebels fired into the left of the regiment from the woods. We deployed skirmishers and went after them but they had gone on when they heard us.

Thurs Aug 11 - The 34th U.S. ~~were fired at today with artillery while tearing up the railroad. They drove the rebels off and had three men wounded~~ went out to tear up tracks today. They had no trouble.

Fri Aug 12 - The 35th U.S. were fired at today with artillery while tearing up the railroad. They drove the rebels off and had three men wounded.

Sat Aug 13 - We are evidently preparing to leave this place. The stores are being sent back on the cars.

Sun Aug 14 - We are ordered to be ready to march tomorrow morning at 3 o'clock with five days rations and 60 rounds of ammunition.

Mon Aug 15 - This morning we marched at 3 o'clock going south, went about 20 miles through a low, swampy country and camped at Milton (?) Station on the Florida Key West Railroad. I went on picket at night.

Tues Aug 16 - Marched at sunrise going southeast, camped about sundown by a small creek, marched about 15 miles.

Wed Aug 17 - Marched at sunrise, taking an easterly direction. Marched about 18 miles and camped after dark. At noon we had dinner near a beautiful little lake.

Thurs Aug 18 - Marched about 18 miles and camped on the banks of a pond. Some cattle ran near the camp at night and got up quite a scare in the regiment; first they ~~were~~ thought it was rebel cavalry.

Fri Aug 19 - We reached Magnolia at sundown, after marching 18 miles. The fruits of the raid are some 60 negroes, 2 old guns and 10 mules.

Sat Aug 20 - The paymaster commenced paying off the regiment.

Wilbur Nelson diary 1864

Sun Aug 21 - Company "I" was paid today by Major Dye (?).

Mon Aug 22 - Our men commenced working on a fort this morning, Col. Shipman oversaw the work.

Tues Aug 23 - We got a small mail, I only received one letter. At five o'clock I went on picket.

Wed Aug 24 - On picket today. It was very warm.

Thurs Aug 25 - In camp doing nothing.

Fri Aug 26 - The same as usual.

Sat Aug 27 - Took charge of the working party.

Sun Aug 28 - Nothing much.

Mon Aug 29 - Embarked at 11 P.M. on board the steamer Simo (?) for Beaufort. We now bid adieu to the shady groves of Magnolia.

Tues Aug 30 - We passed the St. Johns Lighthouse at daylight. Had a pleasant trip to Beaufort where we landed at 12 P.M.

Wed Aug 31 - We are now in our old camp; were mustered by Col. Chipman.

Thurs Sep 1 - Marched out to Cross (S*R*L) and relieved the 56th New York on picket duty.

Fri Sep 2 - We have a very pleasant camp here three miles from Port Royal ferry. Companies "I" and "B" are here. The Major has command of the outpost and makes this his headquarters. I worked very busily on the payrolls.

Sat Sep 3 - I worked on my payrolls today. Lt. Holmes was on picket and was relieved at night.

Sun Sep 4 - Finished my payrolls in the morning. Had inspection in the afternoon. After note: My sister Mary died this day. She was a dear, good sister.

Mon Sep 5 - I went to the ferry to picket at night to relieve Lt. Mate (?) of Company "B". It was quite a walk to the picket line.

Sep 6 - Lt. Holmes came out
and relieved me at noon
so that I could go into camp
and approve the payrolls.
I had a pleasant time in
picket.

Sep 7 - I made my monthly
reports of clothing, camp
and garrison equipment
and mailed them today

Sep 8 - Picked up my
clothing box. It was
late and pleasant today.
We heard that Sherman
has taken Atlanta and that
General Morgan is
killed.

Sep 9 - The mail came up.
I got one letter from Theodore
Weaver well but was slightly
wounded on the 25th of August.
It is very pleasant evening.

Sep 10 - Nothing new of
interest.

Sep 11 - I went out picket
in the ~~forenoon~~^{after}noon to relieve
Lt. May. It was pleasant.

Sep 12 - On picket today. The
rebels came down with a
flag of truce, said they had
despatches for Gen. Foster.

Sep 13 - The Major came down this morning and he and I crossed over with a flag of truce and received a despatch for Foster. We met Lt. Perry (?) of the rebel army. He seems to be a gentleman. We had quite a talk with him. He seems to be too confident in the success of their cause. We exchanged papers with him. Lt Holmes came out and relieved me in the afternoon.

Sep 14 - I did not feel very well today but was not sick.

Sep 15 - Nothing much today

Sep 16 - I went to Beaufort today horseback and got the mail. There was no news, for myself I got one letter from home and got one from Uncle Samuel.

Sep 17 - I went on picket this afternoon. I went across with the Major with a flag of truce to get despatches for Gen. Foster, met Capt. Rasor (?) of the rebel army.

Sun Sep 18 - All was quiet today and rather dull.

Sep 19 - They got up a scare in camp last night, thought that they heard firing on the picket line and sent out to see if there had been, but there was nothing of the kind. I was relieved by Lt May as Lt Holmes was sick.

Sep 20 - It rained today. The rainy season has started in it seems, it has rained nights for several days.

Sep 21 - Lt Barrell reported to me for duty in my company and went on picket. We were inspected by the inspector general in the morning.

Sep 22 - It is warm and pleasant today. Nothing new.

Sep 23 - I went on picket this afternoon. We got 11 recruits for our company.

Sep 24 - I got 2 letters from Theodore today. They contained the sad news that dear sister Mary is dead. She died the 4th of this month.

Sun Sep 25 - I had a long talk with the rebel pickets last night across the river; this morning a staff officer went across the river with a flag of truce. I was relieved in the afternoon as usual. I got 6 more recruits for my company.

Sep 26 - I took a ride with the Major today. We went over to Ladies Island.

Sep 27 - We have commenced drilling our recruits.

Sep 28 - Engaged in writing, drilling etc etc

Sep 29 - The mail came in this afternoon. I got a letter from home and one from Theodore.

Sep 30 - The last day of September. It is still and calm tonight.

Oct 1 - I went on picket this afternoon. It rained quite hard.

Sun Oct 2 - Holmes and Eekwith (?) were out and striped with one picket. The Major was out with a flag of truce this morning.

Oct 3 - I was relieved this afternoon and went into camp. I did not feel very well today.

Oct 4 - I drilled the company today and had inspection in the afternoon.

Oct 5 - We hear that Grant has gained a victory at Petersburg but it may be only a rumor. It was quite cool and pleasant.

Oct 6 - I made out my ordnance report today.

Oct 7 - I wrote, played chess etc etc

Oct 8 - I did nothing much but played chess most of the day. It was rather cool.

Sun Oct 9 - We had the usual inspection ~~today~~ this morning. I went on picket in the afternoon.

Oct 10 - On picket today. It's rather dull business. It's quite sickly here now. There is a great deal of fever.

Oct 11 - Lt Holmes came out and relieved me this afternoon and I rode into camp. I got two letters from Theodore and one from Sybil.

Oct 12 - Col. Chipman who has been absent on leave has got back. He ate dinner with us today.

Oct 13 - I am looking for the paymaster with some interest as I am out of funds.

Oct 14 - Our men are busy fixing up their tents in good shape. It is pleasant weather now.

Oct 15 - I went on picket this afternoon. The Major and myself crossed river with a flag of truce to receive a rebel major and paroled prisoners of ours whose paroles have expired.

Sun Oct 16 - This afternoon four rebels came ^{over} ~~in~~ ashore in a boat. Our pickets fired at them and made them come ashore and

took three of them prisoners.
One tried to run and
was shot through the head
and killed.

Oct 17 - I was relieved by
Lt Holmes this afternoon
and went into camp. ~~The~~
~~mail came in~~

Oct 18 - I was relieved by
Lt Holmes this afternoon.
I went into camp. The
mail came in; I only got
one letter, that was from
Mr Doane.

Oct 18 - It is a rainy, dull
day. I did not do much
of importance but play a
few games of chess.

Oct 19 - I had company
drill this morning for the
first time for several days.
It is quite cool and pleasant
weather now.

Oct 20 - We had a great
time playing chess today.
Capt Bradley was over
in the evening.

Oct 21 - We had quite a good
time at the ^{gym} this afternoon.
Capt Maybrook and Lt.
Cobill were there. The
weather was cool and
agreeable.

~~Geography~~ - by
A. K. Loback - 1929

Oct 22 - My company was
inspected by Capt Thornelyke
of Gen. Scott's (?) staff.

Nov. Oct 23 - I went on picket
this afternoon. It seems to
be my misfortune to go on
duty every Sunday.

Oct 24 - All quiet on
picket today.

Oct 25 - Lt. Barrell came
out to relieve me in the
forenoon and I went over
to company A in the after-
noon with Capt Montague
on the board of service.

Oct 26 - I was busy writing
most of the day in the office.
I wrote a letter to Theodore
and kept at one for the
forenoon.

Oct 27 - I drilled my recruits
in the forenoon about two
hours. It was cool and
pleasant.

Oct 28 - We signed the payroll
today for July and August.
It is quite cool weather.

77.50		3.75	15.00
2 1/2	22.50	3.75	26.25
45.00	7.50	18.75	2.75
11.75	30.00	22.50	5.50
10	3.75	7.50	13.12
	76.75	30.00	5.50
	2 1/2		

Oct 29 - We were paid
off today by Major Root
for the months of July
and August.

Rem. Oct 30 - I worked upon my
muster roll some today.
Lt Holmes inspected the
company.

Oct 31 - This afternoon I went
on picket. Lt. Ketchum
crossed at the ferry with
a flag of truce. There was
~~not~~ anyone on the
dock. We were
mustered for pay by Major
Blair in the forenoon.

Nov 1 - There is nothing
new today. All is quiet.

Nov 2 - A slave tried to swim
the river at the ferry today
this morning but got
drowned in the attempt
just before he got to our
side.

Nov 3 - I worked on the pay
rolls today all day.

Nov 4 - Finished my pay
rolls this morning and had
them approved in the after-
noon. It was quite early.

Nov 5 - I have a boil on my neck and am not able to work much.

Nov 6 Sund - Today I was sick unable to go on inspection in the morning or picket in the afternoon. It was the first time I have missed my tour of picket duty since I have been out here.

Nov 7. Three years ago today I first landed on the soil of South Carolina at Hilton Head.

Nov 8 - There was an election today. There were 21 votes for the nominee. I was one of the clerks of the election.

Nov 9. I had company drill for the first time in a year while this afternoon. I had about 45 men in the ranks.

Nov 10 - I went on picket this afternoon and relieved Lt. Barrett. In the evening Lt. Cahill came out and stayed all night with me. We went down to the ferry and had a long talk with the rebel pickets.

Nov 11 - It was quiet and dull today.

Nov 12 - I was relieved by Lt. Holmes and went into camp this afternoon. I got a letter from Sybil and one from William. They are all well at home.

Nov 13 - The Major inspected my company this morning. He said they looked first rate. Some promotions came on for the second Lts. of the regiment. Lt. May, Oswald(?) and Barrett were promoted to first Lts.

Nov 14 - It was cold and dull today. I did not do much of anything.

Nov 15 - I rode to Beaufort today, made some purchases and came home at night.

Nov 16 - We were inspected by Capt. Iron(?) this morning. He said my company looked first rate.

Nov 17 - I had company drill in the afternoon. As none of my men were on picket I had quite a large company out. It was very warm and pleasant today.

Nov 18 - Today was passed pleasantly and there was nothing of interest transpired. I took command of the company at drill this afternoon, had a very good drill. A mail came at noon but I did not get a letter. It was very warm today.

Nov 19 - I had company inspection this afternoon. The guns were quite clean. I wrote a letter to Thaddeus and one to William in the evening. It was very warm.

Sun Nov 20 - Today was rainy. I went on picket in the afternoon. In the evening I visited a negro meeting. They appeared very earnest in their devotion.

Nov 21 - ~~Today~~ It rained very hard today all day. I did not visit my picket's ranch but kept in the house most of the time.

Nov 22 - I was relieved by Lt May this afternoon and rode back to camp.

Nov 23. It was quite cold last night and winter freeze nearly a garnish of an inch thick. Today I got a letter from ~~Thaddeus~~ Williams dated the 8-9 inst.

Nov 24. This Thanksgiving day the Chaplain delivered a very good sermon at eleven o'clock forenoon and we had a first rate dinner at headquarters. The Major, Capt Lance, Doctor Spear, the Chaplain, Lt. Cordill, Barrell and myself were present. The bill of fare, roast pig, chicken, pie, oysters, mashed potatoes, butter, bread, puddings etc etc.

Nov 25. Nothing of interest today. I drilled the company in the forenoon and afternoon, had a very good drill. Got some photographs from Beaupre.

Nov 26. There is an expedition getting up at Kilton Head. I don't know whether our regiment will take part in it or not. I looked around today and did not make much use of the time. It was quite warm and pleasant.

Nov 27. We have orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice with five

days' rations in light
marching order. 31 picked
men are to be taken from
each company and one
officer is to go. I rode
to Beaupre with Lt.
Cahill and spread to
attend me in the afternoon.
We had just got there when
we received a telegram to
return to camp at once
on account of marching
orders. Got a letter from
Theodore. He is at
home.

Nov 28 - We did not march
today. In the afternoon
Major got the order to
change the detail and
leave me here with him
much against my wishes.
Lt Holmes goes in my
place.

Nov 29 - The regiment marched
at 10 o'clock this evening.

Nov 30 - Our troops are
landing near the M-R
town. We hear heavy
firing there this afternoon
about five miles from
here.

Dec 1 - We heard today that
Capt Lance of our regiment
was killed yesterday and
Lt Lovers badly wounded
through the right side
yesterday.