

BENJAMIN F. PEARSON'S WAR DIARY

[This diary, beginning July 22, 1862, and extending to February 9, 1863, was published in the two preceding numbers of the ANNALS. The present installment presents Lieutenant Pearson's experiences from October 17, 1863, to March 20, 1864.—Editor.]

October 17. In the morning I visited the St James hospital next I went through & on top of the St Charles hotel & there had a fine view of the City & it surrounding, I then went to Genl M P Bankses Hd Qrs & reported to him, he is remarkably social & conversational, he ordered me to remain in charge of my men a few days at the Soldiers home at the Planters hotell, I had also an introduction to Genls Strong, & Genl Arnold Chief of Artillery; I then took the cars & went up to Carrollton to the camps & there found the 19th Iowa & a number of my neighbours in it, & learned that many of them had been captured in the fight at Morganzas landing near the mouth of red River I now returned to the City visited the parks & saw the Statute of Genl Jackson on his noble horse, he is dressed in his uniform sword by his side hat in hand I saw also the stature of Henry Clay delivering a speech in Cannal Street at night I went to the City hall & heard a splendid speech by Genl A J Hamilton Lieut Governor of Texas. he flayed all traitors.

Sunday, October 18. Early in the morning Col Kent of the 19th Iowa called for me & we took a ramble over the City & we ware in the Old French or 1st Catholic cemetry & the Sisters had just been decorating the tooms with flowers, head dresses &c, the valts are some of them to deposit 6 one over another, & is the finest cemetary I ever saw We took the cars & went out to lake Pontchartrain the wind was boisterous & the seas ran almost mountain high & the white caps broke furiously, after we returned to the City I saw the fine sea going steamer North America when she landed over at Algiers & witnessed the excitement on her & on shore & I got on the ferryboat & got over to see her sink to the top of harican deck she had just sprang a leak. Evening I attended & took part in an excelent prayer & speaking meeting in a baptist church

October 19. After I recd orders from Maj Genl N P Banks to go forward to head Qrs in the field with my men, I went over to Algiers & secured transportation for my men on the morning train to Brashear City,²⁸ I then came back to New Orleans & made arrangements to draw rations tomorro morning

October 20. At 7 Oc A M I started with my men from the soldiers home corner of Julia & Magazine Sts New Orleans formerly the Planters Hotel after securing Our rations I crossed Over to Algiers & took the cars at 10 Oc & started for Brashear City & arived at 4 Oc P M

²⁸Same as Morgan City, Louisiana,

we crossed Bayou de Zalme, Lafourche, & Boeuf nice looking streams of almost dead water, the country is verry low level & swampy, there are a fiew good sugar plantations on the Byous, we saw snakes turtles & Allegators in the swamps as we passed & the country swarms with musketoes & there are some fine Orange Orchards & Banana stalks, this is a small plase perhaps 100 inhabitants besides the darkeys, it is situated on Berwick Bay a beautifull bay & this is some miles from the gulf of Mexico this bay here is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, I met Genl Ord here on his way to New Orleans

October 21. After ascertaining I could not get on today with my men, I got on the Steamer A G Brown, that was ferrying the 1st Texas Cavelry from Berwick, to Brashear City & I went over to Berwick & prominaded about the village it contained I think before the war some over one hundred inhabitants but not so many now the buildings are small one story frames & all show the marks of war being riddled with grape minney balls & shells there is a nice square mound about 20 ft high & about 25 to 30 yds square on top & has a burrying place on top & one tree perhaps 18 inches through

October 22. At 5 Oc A M I got my men up & took them onto the steamer A G Brown & at 6 Oc we started up Berwick Bay & took out into Bayo Teche. this is a stream varying in width from its mouth to New Iberia, from 25 to 50 yds Distance from Brashear City, 75 miles & Franklin from Brashear City 28 miles, the stream abounds with fish Turtles Snakes & Alegators all of which we saw in almost countless numbers there are a great number of beautifull plantations, the stream is covered with a kind of floating dock & grass, that obscures the intire surface of the water, the land looks like burnt dirt redish color, the left side of the stream has the finest improvements & the highest banks, we saw the remains of some 8 or 10 burned steamers this day, we arived safe at New Iberia at 8 Oc P M. At 6 Oc P M I tryed to preach on the packet, from the first part of the 1st Psalm.

October 23. I rambled over the town of New Iberia, in the raine & find it a pleasant sight for a town, except it is to flat the land is more elevated than any place this side of New Orleans, there is a population of some 12 hundred & some verry good buildings, the 130th 27 Ills 2nd Regts Louisiana & 25 St. Louis Colored & 1st battallian of 2nd Ill Cav, are here now & the 1st regulars Inft came in this evening from the front & are going to New Orleans, Col N. Niles of 130 Ill. from Bells-ville is commanding this post & Capt J. W. Wilkin of the same Regt is Provo Martial both social gentlemenn. New Iberia in 1860 had a population of some 1200 & has some over half of that now

October 24. At 7 Oc I got my men started from New Iberia to go forward towards the front, a fiew of the feblest I got into ambulances & we started & at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Oc noon we in the ambulances reached the camp on virmillion Bayou near Vermilion a pritty little town on the Prairie 22 miles from New Iberia we traveled over some beautifull country level praire much of the land worn out by cotton & turned out, the

21st Iowa Inf'ty & 54 Indiana Regts are at this place I took dinner Seargent Orr 21st Iowa from Ottumwa & I took supper with my Old friend Hugh Brown of Keosauqua now on Genl Ords Staff, Col W B Skates formerly chief Judge of Ill is in command here, this camp is in a beautiful timber some of the magnolia trees are more than three feet over this bayou is a small stream bridged here, here is the Vermilian battlfield, I was over it. I spent the evening with Genl Ords staff & was well entertained & the night I rested in my old friend Hugh Browns tent.

Sunday, October 25. At 8 Oc A M I started with my men from camps near Vermilion on Vermilion bayou, I got the feblest of them in the ambulances & we proceeded on through the town of Vermilion, a village of several hundred inhabitants formerly but the citizens have mostly gone now the houses are almost all one storey & small at that principlaly frame, some frames filled in with mud & not wetherboarded & a great many of the houses along the road are finished in that way & quite a number of french flags are seen hoisted along the way, the country is beautifull, but the trale of armeys are visible on every hand & desolation marks the way, we saw by the wayside the skeliton of a man hanging by the head to a limb the feet just tutching the ground, at 2½ Oc we reached the camps at Opelousas this is a town of I suppose several thousand inhabitants, buildings nearly all one story the Court house is two story brick & now about full of Reb prisoners; soon as I got to camps I was introduced to & reported to Genl McGinnis & requested him to send out an escort to meet the footmen & bring them in, but he said there was no danger & for me to rest casey; Dr Rex of the 33 Ill of the 13th army Corps then accompanied & introduced me to Brig Genl Lawler, I reported some men also to him, I then went to hear Brother Simmons, Chap of the 24 Iowa preach he gave us a good discourse. I then went to see Maj Genl Washburn had a short interview with him then went to see my old friend Capt Noyse & took supper with him he was our brigade comsary on our Tallahatchie Expedition I rested for the night in an ambulence.

October 26. At 9 Oc A M I got my men started for head qrs of the 13th Corps in field & arived & reported to Genl Burbridge in camp at Barras Landing; at the junction of the Bayous Tache & Atchafalaya, or Catabla. I arived at 12 Oc. this is from 10 or 12 miles east of Opelousas it is a rich flat country abounding in palm leaf; Devels tongue Genl Burbridge is a young man verry social & communicative I took my receipt of Genl Burbridge, got my pass & order for transportation to New Iberia. I then went to Capt Fee of the 99 Ill Inf'ty & took dinner with him he is Brother to T M Fee Capt of my Co, at 3 Oc P M, I left the front for Opelousas La arived ½ past 5 Oc called on Genl Washburn & Capt M Sternstable assistant Qr Master, & received of him an Order on Capt T D Woodard for my transportation to New Iberia I took supper with Capt Woodard, I then went & spent the evening with Capt Noys Division Commisary of the 1st divisson of the 13th

Army Corps, I was quite unwell this day. there was a number of Reb prisoners brought in to Genl Burbridges while I was there. I rested the night in an ambulance.

October 27. At 9 Oc A M I left the camp at Opelousas in an ambulance, in rear of Capt Woodards supply train of about 100 wagons & the mane trane of the 1st division of the 13th army corps started out at 6 Oc A M & they marched to Carrion Crow Bayou & camped for the ballance of the day & night we got to their camp at 1 Oc fed our teams & eat a hard cracker, this is 12 miles from Opelousas at 3 Oc P M we started again & arived at camp on Vermilion Bayou, at 8 Oc night this afternoon's drive was some 18 miles. Soon as we arived we got a little supper & I then went to Capt Hugh Browns tent he invited me to spend the night with him so I spread my blanket & enjoyed the evening with him. We passed in sight of St Martinville this P. M. on our left as we came it is on Bayou Teche, & in 1860 had a population of 1350 & perhaps has half that many now.

October 28. Variable with Pleasant breeze At 6 Oc A M I called on Genl Lee Chief of Cavelry, who was in camp on his way to New Iberia & I got permission to acompany him in an ambulance to New Iberia. he had an escort of cavelry & we started on our way at 7 Oc A. M; & the train that I came on to Vermilionville does not start out until 11 Oc A. M, & we arived here at New Iberia at 12 Oc Noon; & I secured my transportation from Capt I W Wilkin Provo Martial, & put my things on the steamer J M Brown, but was to late to get a state room & after night I took my blankets & Lieut Alexander Elledge & I laid down on the Huricane deck At 11 Oc night it commenced to rain & we took up our blankets & laid on the cabbin floore.

October 29. At 1 Oc A M we started from New Iberia on the J. M Brown, at about noon we stoped at Franklin a pleasant village & took on several hundred hogsheads of sugar, & at 4 Oc P M we landed at Brashear City we saw many Aligators on our way down the Teche & some planters are haveing their sugar cane cut & put in their sheds ready for makeing, at 9½ Oc night Genl Lee had a special train start from Brashear Citty for to take him & his staff to Algiers & I got permission of the Genl for Lieut Elledge of the 99 Ill & myself to go in the car with him & his staff & by that favor we got to New Orleans, or I should say to Algiers, at 3 Oc morning of the 30th & we was detained some by a car that had been run of the track & was in our way

October 30. At 6 Oc I started from Algiers, where we had arived at 3 Oc in the morning, & at 7 Oc A M I was in New Orleans, & Lieut Elledge & I went at once at see the Qr Master & we waited untill Capt Juab Mablle A Q. M., Arived & I got transportation, on the Chatoeau, Steamer, for Vicksburg, he said she would be the first to go up the river & was in Government imploy, so we went to her, & found it would not go out this day & then we took the cars & went down to the U. S. Barracks some 5 miles below the City & we went through the hospital & found it in good condition the barracks are on the bank of the Missis-

issippi & the arangement & Shrubery is beautifull, we then took the cars & went up to the city & visited Jackson Square, Lafayette, & the city parks, we then went to the Soldiers home on the corner of Julia & Magazine Sts & put up, & found Chaplain Nute & his lady & Miss Louisa Merits, the Matron well.

October 31. After finding there was no boat going north this day, Lieut Elx Elledge of the 99 Ill & I took a general ramble over the various parts of the city & amongst the tooms in the cemeteries & found great preparations going on in the cemeteries for a big time on tomorrow which is all saints day. We had the pleasure of meeting Genl Fitz Henry Warren,²⁹ of Burlington Iowa who had just arived having been ordered to report to Genl Banks here for duty, he accompanied us & we went to the paymasters department where he introduced us to many officers among which was Major Nicholas N Vidder, chief paymaster, & he paid me four months pay including July, Aug Sept & October. We then went to the Soldiers home & found the Principal Mr. Nute & Lady & the good matron Miss Louisa Merits chcerfull & buisey comforting the weary soldiers, evening I attended & led a prayer & speaking meeting in church on Camp & Peterpisco Streets but fiew out but it was a good time.

Sunday, November 1. This has been a great day for display in this citty New Orleans, this was all Saints day & from midnight last until now 11 Oc this night the streets have been swarming with people, at early morn I visited several cemeteries & witnessed the most extrigant & tastefull display of flowers bokeys & head dresses that I ever witnessed decoratcing the resting places of the dead amongst the tooms & catecomes, with burning candles & lamps & many tooms draped in mourning, & banners floating to the breeze & on the american one there vaults for the dead around you, & in this room ware glass vases with vaults for th dead around you, & in this room ware glass vases with candles burning on the outside from the center floated the American flag & from the corners, the Portugese French German & English flags hung, 10 Oc A M Lieut Elledge & I took the cars & went up to Carrollton visited the convalescent camp & I saw a fiew from Van Buren Co Iowa we then took the cars & went out to Lake Pontchartrain & returned to the citty & at 4 Oc P M I preached to the people in a large brick church on Camp & Terpsica Sts. & at evening we had a prayer & speaking & it was a precious time. Before day as two up trains ware coming from Brashear City, with the 54 Indiana & the 97 Ills regments the front train having stopt & no signals out the rear train run into it & some 25 soldiers killed & 65 badly wounded. Dreadfull Accident by carelessness. I saw many of the dead & wounded.

November 2. I had a short interview with Genl Fitz Henry Warren, made an exchange at the Bank of Commerce James Barker, on James

²⁹Fitz Henry Warren, first assistant postmaster-general, 1849; editorial writer on *New York Tribune*, 1861; colonel First Iowa Cavalry, 1861; brigadier-general Volunteers, 1862-65; member Iowa Senate, 1866; minister to Guatemala, 1866-69.

H Barker Keokuk Iowa payable at the Bank of Wm Thompson & Coin treasury notes I called & spent the afternoon pleasantly with the family of Mrs. Mary Carolina Duboc 142 Prytania St, the two sons Henry Alfred & Albert Michel & the daughters young women Louisa Carolina & Clara Henriette, are inteligent & interesting the family is a social pleasant one & I will long remember the pleasant religeous interview, we enjoyed together & I received a presant from the Mrs & also from Miss Louisa which I will long keep Evening I preached for the people in the baptist church on Camp & Terpsica Sfs & there was a time of deep interest, truly the Lord was in the midst of his people my text was Mathew 20th & 8 first verses inclusive the good Lord gave me great liberty At 5 Oc P M Lieut Ellidge of the 99th Ill We had a pleasant time together for some weeks past.

November 3. Variable & warm, Morning I went with some Iowa boys to the general paymasters office to assist them in getting their pay, I then went & spent a pleasant hour with the Duboc family, I then went & bought me a Dress coat & 2 prs of gater boots, I then took dinner at the Planters Hotel Soldiers home & took leave of the kind Mr & Mrs Nute & the good matron Miss Louisa Merits & the boys at the home I then got my things on board the steamer Chateau & at 2 Oc P M we started from the City of New Orleans & landed for a short time at the upper end of the citty & at 5 Oc we landed at Carrollton & took on cattle & comisary stores, & at 9 Oc night we started from Carrollton

November 4. In the morning there was a heavy fog that caused the Capt to stop the boat at some time in the night & kept us laying by until after 8 Oc A. M. at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ Oc we landed at Bona Casey & put of some comisary stores the 176 New York Regt is here they are mostly drafted men, it is only a landing & not a town. At $\frac{1}{4}$ to 9 Oc night we landed at Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana & unloaded some comissary store but the night being verry dark they refused to receive the cattle we have on board for this post & we have to remain here all night. I stroled over the dark city & not one street light to be seen in it there are some $\frac{1}{2}$ doz Regt of eastern troops here.

November 5. At 7 Oc A M we loosed cable & started from Baton Rouge It is situated on the first land above Orleans that does not overflow & is pleasant in appearance & cituation At 10 Oc A M we ware landed at Port Hudson & Leaveing comisary stores, It is a place of more note than merit except as a good military place of defence, being high with abrupt banks. At 11 Oc we passed Bayou Sara & beheld the standing walls of Burned buildings At 4 Oc P M we passed the mouth of Red river & saw two gun boats there

November 6. At 7 Oc A M we weighed anchor & started, haveing had to lay too through the night & this late in the A M on the act of a heavy fog At 10 Oc A M we passed the steamer Schuyler, on which I had sent letters to my children & ordered them maled at Cairo I thought

they would get home sooner by it than this boat At 3 Oc P M we landed a short time at Natchez it is a beautifull place on the hill

November 7. Clear & pleasant At 8 Oc A M we landed at Vicksburg I went immediately to the transportation agent & Qr Master & got transportation to Helena, but as they ware pressing all the boats to take Genl Tuttle's division I rambled about the city & its defenses until 1 Oc P M I then took the cars & went out 13 miles to Black River, to the burnt bridge the country is verry broken all the way out & verry rough about the river on the side next Vicksburg, I crossed the river on a floating bridge & was out a little way on the bottom, I got back to Vicksburg at 6 Oc P M I went on the flag steamer & spent the evening with Genl Tuttle & staff. I slept on Chateau.

Sunday, November 8. At 6 Oc A M I started out on a ramble over the city of Vicksburg, viewing the fortifications & rifle pits in and around the place, & believe it when the present works are finished the strongest, & most effectually protected by forts & rifle pits of any place I ever saw, at 9 Oc I was at the Sabbath school in the M E church south & at 11 Oc Rev Bennet of an Ohio regt preached, after services I had my things taken of the steamer Chateau, & put on J C Swan the flag ship or Genl J M Tuttle's Head Quarters 3rd Division of the 15th Army Corps he commands the division & they are on transports to go to Chattanooga, The Genl has his wife on board & the remains of his little son that died Oct 15th at 7¼ Oc night the fleete left Vicksburg I had the pleasure of seeing my old friends Capt James Sample Adgt Genl of Tuttle's, & Capt Wm Tool & Lieuts Lane & Hen McArthur, & his Brother William. I saw Genls Tuttle Lauman, Buckland & Genl Joseph Mower.

November 9. It is now 10 Oc night & we are laying at Lake Providence & have been since 3 Oc P. M. waiting on some of our fleete that are behind ½ past 10 Oc we have just started from Lake Providence, This desolate place before the war was a flourishing aristocratic city with welth & plenty but now a heap of ruins with a few Negro shantys remaining & not one white person liveing in or about the place & only a old or decrepid blacks are left to tell of its fall & the tale of their wrongs by their chivelrous masters that have fled & taken with them all that was worth driving of ov the two leged chattles & all else that they could get away & now they come in at times since there are no Federal soldiers here & rob their poor old & decrepid blacks of the garments blankets &c that they have had given to them by the soldiers or gathered up about the camps that our boys have left shurely the shivelry are in the streights when the poor Negroes have to keep their old cloths hid to keep the southern whites from taking them & this is true for we saw where they had old garments & blankets hid.

November 10. Now clear with cool breeze.

November 11. I arived at Helena at 12 Oc noon on the J C Swan, Genl J M Tuttle's head quarters was on it I found several of my regiment here, I at once on ariveing reported to Capt Henry T Noble Chief

Qr Master & transportation agent & asked for transportation & he told me he could not give it to me until a boat arrived as he must name it in my transportation Brig Genl N B Buford is now in command here at Helena he is Brother to Genl John Buford Chief of Cavalry on the Potomac this is a heavy set gray headed spry looking fellow

November 12. I rambled over our battle ground of July 4th in this Helena Ark & I fixed up some graves of acquaintances,

November 13. Evening I attended meeting I qr meeting of the contrabands Rev Wood contraband agent preached & the Coloured P Elder closed text John 3rd 16 & 17 v Capt H T Noble A Q Master & transportation Agent at Helena Ark gave me transportation on the Steamer Homeyer for Devall Bluff

November 14. I have been quite unwell at 11 Oc A M I attended the Qr Meeting of the contrabands Simeon Walker Chaplain of the 15 Ill Cavalry preached & I closed for them text Romans 5 ch 6 v Evening Chaplain Sawyer Preached & called on me to follow & close text, the Axe is laid at the root of the tree &c. Page Tyler is the name of the colored man from Ill who is sent here in charge of what is now called the Mississippi Mission, he is an intelligent mulatto perhaps one fifth part white this is his first quarterly meeting here; his mission extends from Memphis Tenn to Vicksburg Miss. I got acquainted with a Truman W Price from Cass County Landing 18 miles below Devall Bluff Ark, he is a methodist & Oddfellow & I believe union.

Sunday, November 15. The day was most delightful, we shipped on the boats for Devall Bluff at 7½ Oc A M. But they did not get started from Helena until 3 Oc P M. the transport H A Homeyer. T J Patton.

November 16. At day break we loosed cable from the woodyard at the mouth of White River & started up that meandering stream with four transports under the protection of one gun boat No. 37, the transports are Gillum & Pocahontas. we passed this day without any disturbance but had to detain along for the latter boat which is a slow thing this day we saw no persons neither any improvements of any kind & the country along the river all thus far overflows & from the showing on the trees at least ten feet we laid up at dark & had not got over perhaps 60 miles up the river. after we had anchored out for the night some negroes came on the shore & brought 2 bales of cotton I made the acquaintance of Col. M A Trice A Wealthy planter & Methodist who I believe is in truth a union man he lives some 20 miles below Devall Bluff

November 17. Morning so foggy that it was after 10 Oc A M when we hoisted anchor & started about noon we met the down fleete & they had on board the 27th Iowa & 49th Ill Rgts bound for Memphis Tenn. About one hour up sun the Patton ran on a sand bar just at the lower end of St Charles & we ware detained until about sun set St Charles is the first place on this White river from its mouth that does not overflow, & the first place that is to be seen any marks of an inhabited country & it now has a record more barbarous than any savage tribe

here the rebbles shot off the scape pipe of the Benton when Col Fitch made his expedition up this river & when the federals jumped in the river from the boat many of them scalded almost to death the rebbles continued to shoot them in the water while they plead for quarters & were unarmed & helpless our loss in scalded & brutally shot in the river was about 190. I saw their burying place here the Rebs sunk one of their gun boats & 2 of their transports to blockade our fleet but they failed. We anchored for the night a little above the place where the city was now only one respectable house left, the place is on a bluff some 40 ft. high. Our boat the Homeyer had the Pocahontas in tow this day & we got along better by helping her

November 18. We weighed anchor & started soon after day break but soon had to stop & cut & gather wood at 10 Oc A M we was at Crocketts bluff. here they stoped & took on some poles & rales & receipted for them to a Mr Moore who was from home with his gun. I went to the house bought some Peanuts & some milk & corn bread. I gathered here a handkerchief full of excellent parsimmons just after we started from here the Patton sprang a leak & landed against the bluff & the Homeyer lashed fast to her & applied her force steam pump & kept the Patton from sinking we had her in tow a ways at 4 Oc P M we ware at Casca landing here Col M A Trice who lives 1½ miles back got off.

November 19. We started from our landing early & at 7 Oc A M we passed Aberdeen a fiew shanties on a bluff 8½ Oc we passed Clarenden a small place on a bottom that all overflows. At 3 Oc P M we landed at Devall Bluff a place of a fiew Shantyes on roling bluffs above high water mark, but the bottom below town & all the opposite side of the river overflows. I had the pleasure of meeting Genl Rice³⁰ & his staff & the Rev Oliver Williams here on their way north.

November 20. I secured transportation of the Qr Master at Devall Bluff. Early in the morning by Railroad from there to Little Rock a distance of 48 miles, transportation for myself & one hundred men I yet had in my charge, but the train not going until afternoon I put in the time among friends & took Breckfast & dinner with Capt Snyder of the 2nd Arkansas African Decent I had an interview with Genl Rice formerly Col of the 33 Iowa & also with some of his staff also with Brother Oliver Williams At 20 minutes to 4 Oc P M we started on cars for Little Rock at ½ past 6 Oc we ware at Brownsville station, this is half way. at 8 Oc we was at Bayou Meter & at 10½ Oc we was at the depot & it was about half past 11 Oc night when I got to the camp of the 36 Iowa to enjoy the hearty welcome from our good Chaplain the Officers & men of the Regt & especially of my own Company.

November 21. I was up before lite & out to see my men all ware pleased to see me & I am glad to see our men generally looking so well & am much pleased with the situation of our camps & the appearance

³⁰Samuel A. Rice, attorney-general of Iowa, 1856-61; colonel Thirty-third Iowa Infantry, 1862; brigadier-general, 1863; died of wounds, July 6, 1864.

of Little Rock & its surroundings so far as I have seen But I was sad as Capts Varner of Co A & Webb of Co K & 2nd Lieut L L Spooner of my Co & a number of good men of the Regt & Brother Calvin Ketcham & Thomas Carter of my company have died since I was sent home but thus is death visiting us on the march, in camp & thus we are admonished to be ready. I received a letter baring the sad news of the sudden death of my sister Temperance Anns son Swearngen the horses ran away with him & threw of the wagon bed & uncupled the wagon & they found the horses fast in the brush near home. the young mans legs fast in the stay chains he held one line in each hand & was dead his Mother was one of the first that found him. Oh what a dreadfull affliction for a Mother.

Sunday, November 22. Paymaster Maj Witheral paid off our Regiment I attended to checking as the men of our company was paid. Evening I attended our Brigade meeting Chaplain of the 43rd India preached text in Rev the words Worship God; he preached with great zeal & after preaching our Chaplain M H Hare opened or led off in a speaking meeting we had a good time the house is built of round logs & covered with clapboards, the ground is our floor plank & puntion seats & a fireplace in one end of the house

November 23. I am Officer of the day in Regiment, and am having a pleasant time of it generally.

November 24. I took a ramble over the City of Little Rock Arkansas, was all through the state house a good brick building near the bank of the river on a beautifull elivation with a nice grove of pine trees in front of the building I was also through the U. S. Arsenal buildings they stand in a beautifull enclosure some 3 or 4 blocks back from the river they are good brick buildings on stone foundations & I must say that Little Rock is the finest location for a city that I have seen below Memphis I had an Introduction to Maj Genl Steele commanding the forces here, & also Brig Genl Davidson command the cavelry forces in this vacinity. I had quite a pleasant interview with the Rebble Genl Gantt, he is now a zealous & verry Radicle union man, he sais he was fighting for the institution of slavery but he sais the institution has gone up & he has no motive to fight longer for the south he is a brilliant fellow & has made several union speeches recently at little rock he gave me a pressing invitation to call at his office.

November 25. I attended courts marshal as a witness Court marshal is held in the U. S. Arsenal buildings I met my old friend Col H C Caldwell of the 3rd Iowa Cav we had a pleasant time he took me to his room in the Anthony house. his wife & little daughter are there & looking well. evening Chaplain Hare & I went down & spent the evening pleasantly with them. I saw Maj Wm Thompson of the 1st Iowa Cav. & Lieut McCormick he & I was in hospital together at Helena the last time I saw him. after we returned to camp I opened a can of oysters & Capt Fee made us an oyster soop & the Chaplain, Capt & I had a good soop we devoured one 2 lb can of them. I saw Genl Carr.

November 26. At 8 Oc A M I was at guard mount took charge of the picket guards from our Regt & marched out to the bridge over Bayou Fourche, it is a good high Bridge one hundred & sixty yds across; the water in the stream is about 20 yds across & the water is about 2 ft deep; the bridge is about 1½ miles from our camps on the Pine Bluff road & is nicely located where two points make in toward the stream; on the west side the ridge is sum wider than a big road & looks as though it had been designed for a road across the bottom it is all woods; oak, syprus, hackberry, hickery &c. I was taken with chilly spells & flashes of fever about 10 Oc; with akeing of my bones & misery in my brest & suffered severely the after part of the day & all night. This thanksgiving day our Chaplain had meeting at ——— & at night in our log church.

November 27. At 9 Oc A M I was relieved from Picket. I sent the men to their Regts in charge of noncommissioned officers & I got on a wagon & road to camp. I have felt much better this day than I did yesterday & last night. Henry Grages of the 3rd Iowa Cav came to see me this P. M. from Benton where they are now stationed some 25 miles He spent the afternoon & night with me we slept in the Chaplains tent; he is in excellent health & truly we are glad to see each other he had worked for me several years before he went into the army.

November 28. I went to the Doctors but did not report as unable for duty, as I have been so long absent from my Regt & the Capt is now reporting He & I put a board around the bottom of his tent & raised it some & put a good board floor in it & the chaplain spent the evening with us. I got a cot & put it in Capt's tent & got my blankets & took my present lodgings in Capt's tent I visited the sick in post hospital which is in the St John Colledge a splendid large brick building near our camp this was used by the Rebbles for a hospital & we found several hundred sick & wounded in it when our forces took the place & Price had built some good Barracks about it that come in good play for our folks now.

Sunday, November 29. At 11 Oc A. M. I went with the Chaplain of the 43 India, to the Penitentiary, & he preached & I exorted after him to a motly crowd of Citizens & Federal & Rebb Soldiers. they ware attentive, the text What shall I do to be saived The Chaplain John Williams & I are both quite unwell, at 3 Oc P M he preached in our brigade chapel from the word, Love. Our Chaplain M H Hare closed after him & preached there at candlelighting At 7 Oc A M we had company inspection & Regemental inspection at 8 Oc A M by Maj Rogers inspector for this army

November 30. I am suffering severely with paines in my bones & am taking medicine but have not reported as unfit for duty, But I am suffering greatly, but the good Lord is present to cheer me

December 1. I have been quite unwell & reported this morning I am feeling a little better this night,

December 2. I am feeling much better did not report this morning was down in the city on business afternoon called & spent an hour with Col Clay Caldwell & Lady had a pleasant time

December 3. I have felt greatly improved in health the past two days. This day I commenced & built me a fireplace & chimney to my tent & leveled up & put a heavy Iron slab down for my hearth, & I feel some weary this evening, but I have had the blessed privilege of meeting with the brethren in our place of worship & mingling my voice with them in speaking & singing & the Lord was in the midst of his people. Brother M H Hare opened the meeting.

December 4. Morning I flowered and fixed of my tent I was very sick in the afternoon, some better at night I moved into my own tent & enjoy the presence of God with me. I have Christ as my companion to commune with & cheer me even in my affliction. bless the Lord Oh my soul.

December 5. I have been quite poorly & reported sick this A. M. this is the 2nd day since my arrival The Lord is present to cheer & comfort me.

Sunday, December 6. At 11 Oc A M I attended preaching in the city of Little Rock in the M E Church South by their preacher text Rev 2nd ch & 7 first verses, & in his prayer & sermon he did not utter one word for our Government, army or any of our people & I believe him to a perfect rebel. At 3 Oc Rev. A B Morrisson Maj of the 4th Arkansas Colored preached an excellent discourse in our Brigade Chapple text Mathew 19th ch & 27th v Our Chaplain closed night I attended preaching in the colored church M E. & Rev A B Morrison again preached text Phillipians 4th ch & 19th v his Brother K. P. Morrison closed after him. K. P. is 1st Licut in Co C of our Reg. I spoke a few words at the close.

December 7. I had the pleasure of a visit from my old Friend Capt Cephas McCrary of Co G 3rd Iowa Cavalry & also S C Kimball same Co & Geo Steel of the 2nd Iowa Inf & I have had a pleasant day. I laid up a brick place in a tent adjoining my own for our man to do our cooking in & Capt McCrary joked me some for always being among the brick & said he expected always to find me near a pile of bricks.

December 8. Forenoon I attended Court Martial in the U. S. Arsenal building, it was in the case of James G Davison of our Company who left us at Helena about the 23 of Feb last & we supposed he had deserted, but he sais he went a little out of the picket line on a little Island just above Helena to get some greens & he & Thomas Johnson of our Co was taken by the gurrillas & taken some distance together then he sais they ware separated since which time he has had no knowledge of Johnson In the above case of J G Davison he was not found guilty of intentional desertion but found guilty of absence without leave as he had no business beyond the picket lines, & the decision read on dress parade Dec 16th is that he forfeit to the Government eight months pay.

December 9. I went down into the city about 9 Oc A M. & I detected a man by the name of John McGuire buying a lot of lead & heard him speak to another neighbour of his from near the hot springs about powder he had bought I went across the street & got some guards & arested four fellows two country & two town larks. Evening I attended church at the church of the Contrabands & endeavored to preach to them we had a good meeting

December 10. I had charge of the fatigue men of our Regt working on the fort, Col Caldwell & his Lady was out to see the Chaplain & I this P. M. & they remained until I came in this evening, they are in excellent health we had a pleasant little interview. I attended meeting in our log church this evening & we had a soul cheering time it was a prayer & speaking meeting & the power of God was with us & many asked the prayers of his children, & among the number was Capt Brown of Co D 43rd India, truly the Lord was with us.

December 11. Evening I attended our meeting it was prayer & speaking, the time was all occupied & quite an interesting feeling was manifest. I have had great mental exercise this day & almost constant rising hopes & fears that have in a degree unmanned me, but I am trusting in God for future good on earth for me & mine & happiness in heaven

December 12. Forenoon I kept in my tent haveing slept but little last night, & haveing great mental labour this day afternoon I went down into the city a little while & at 2 Oc P M I went out to the 29th Iowa Infty, to witness the companys drill in the manuel of arms, for prizes the 1st prise \$30.00 the 2nd \$20.00 & the 3rd \$10.00 to be given to the 3 companys that the judges desided performed best Evening I attended our meeting & I had to open by an exortation & we had a good time & a number asked our prayers, truly it was a good time.

Sunday, December 13. Morning I had the company out in inspection. Capt Fee was brigade officer of the day at 10. Oc A. M. I attended the colored Sabbath School. at 11 Oc I preached in the M E Church of the colored people, text, James 4th & middle clause of the 14th v, the Rev Chaplain of the 3rd Minesota Infty Vols closed after me we had a refreshing time. I took a collection & got several dollars & had it delivered to a colored Sergeant of the 4th Arkansas to buy tin cups plates & spoons for that regiment. By the Request of Mrs Vance I accompanied Rev McGraw of the M E C South a refugee from the Rebbles, to her house & took dinner with them had a pleasant interview Afternoon I had our Co out on Dress perade At night I tried to preach again to the colored people from Mathew 7th ch 21 & 23 verses inclusive the Lord gave me great liberty & victory was truly on the Lord's side & the shouts of victory ware numerous, before I closed I gave an oppertunity for any who desired the prayers of the church who ware not religious to arise & some 40 soldiers arose near ½ of them white & also some citizens arose, there was several conversions & one colored soldier was laying in an unconscious state when I left.

December 14. 2 Oc P. M. we had Battalion inspection Lieut Swigette of Co B was the Inspector Evening Our good Chaplain & I went to the colored peoples church he preached & I exhorted & the Lord was with us, & numerous shouts of victory was heard in the camp of Israel Text Matthew 6th 33 verse

December 15. Evening I went to the M E Church Colored & Lieut K P Morrison of Co C our Reg preached & I exhorted after him, text Matthew 6th 33rd same as Brother M H Hare preached from last night, we had a good time several ware at the alter for prayers & we came away & left them with zealous labourers praying with them, we ware fortunate to get to our quarters between showers & got but little raine on us.

December 16. Almost incessant & verry heavy rain from midnight & untill 4 Oc this P. M. when the raine seaced, a high wind set in & has been roaring with seeming fury & turning cold. I have had a bad day of it being officer of the day, but such is soldiering.

December 17. After I was relieved as Officer of the day I layed up a fire place & put up the chimney to the roof for our Adjatant in a cabin he has built to his tent. the mud froze to the brick almost as fast as I laid them, evening I attended & took part in a prayer & speaking meeting in our log church we had a good meeting.

December 18. I have suffered severely with rheumatism in my arms & legs.

December 19. At 2 Oc P. M. there was a grand review of the troops here by Genl Salomon the line of Infantry extended intirely across the prairie between the Arcenal building & the St John Colledge & our Regt which was on the right of the line and our position in the line, in the open timber & the 43 Indiana next to us was partly in the open timber, we made a fine appearance & had a formidable looking line & our Cavalry & artilery had no attracting appearance to Rebbles.

Sunday, December 20. At 8 Oc A M we had company inspection & my old friend Henry Grages of the 3rd Iowa Cav came early in the morning to see me & spent an hour with me, at 9½ Oc A M. I accompanied our Chaplain & Chap Williams of the 43 Indiana over the river to the camps of the 3 Ark Cavalry near Big Rock. Brother Hare preached from Romans 12th 1st & Brother Williams exhorted we had a verry pleasant time. I remained & preached to them at 2 Oc P M from the 1st Psalm & a missionary Baptist a refugee from the rebbles closed after me he has one son that Deserted the Rebs in that regt & one they took again we had a pleasant meeting at night Brother Hare preached in our log church text & he overcame by the blood of Christ & the word of their testimony & we closed by a speaking meeting.

December 21. At 6 Oc A M Capt Fee started out in command of a forageing party with five days rations he had 80 men & one Lieut from our Regt & he had a train of 60 wagons to guard I am suffering severely with rheumatism & will have to be in command of the Co until he returns. I have the blues bad.

December 22. I suffered with rheutism & was not well & appeared under a heavy cloud, but by 10 Oc I felt much better & by noon had sunshine to my Soul. Several old friends called to see me & Charles Shepherd & Benton Hartzell of the 3 Iowa Cav. Co G. took dinner with me, they are from Keosauqua & used to work for me After church was out, at town Chaplain M H Hare & Capt Joy of Co B came into my tent & spent a couple of hours & we had something of an argument Capt Joy bitterly opposed the doings at the meeting. Some men were struck down by the power of God & it did not suit his notion & we had a discussion & I got almost shouting happy & when they left I sit out on the woodpile & viewed the moon stars & passing clouds & then went into my tent & wrote some poetry.

December 23. I wrote an article for the Republican on the policy of having Citizen Clerks.

December 24. I was on guard mount & took charge of the picket guards & marched them out on the pine bluff to the Bridge over Bayou Fourche & relieved the old pickets & took charge of the post. I suffered seriously with rheumatism. I was favoured in going out I put the men in charge of a Sergeant to march them out & I got on a wagon & went out in advance every thing passed off smoothly but I suffered considerable with Rheumatism

December 25. I was relieved at 9 Oc A M from my picket post & went into camp & had to remain in charge of the Co. the Capt got in of his foraging expedition at 4 Oc P M My old Friend Henry Grages came in to see me & Stayed all night, we went to our Brigade Chapple to Church at candlelighting we had a good prayer & speaking meeting. H Grages brought me a fine fat chicken nicely dressed About 9 Oc night while we sit in my tent we heard 5 shots fired & soon I was called on to send a man armed & equipped immediately to Brigade head quarters & I also went along it only being about 60 yds from my tent & I there found that two of the 43 India blacklegs names Hall & Brunson had exchanged a few shots at each other. hall was wounded in the leg & Brunson shot in the breast thought to be mortal wound & the fus is the result of a gambling grudge, & Brunson gets but little simpathy as he shot & killed a soldier in Helena this state one year ago this night

December 26. Now at 10 Oc night raining hard I am in the Camps of the 3 Iowa Cavelry 2 miles south of Little Rock & I am in tent with Henry Grages Enoch Hunter John Row Seargent John F. Watkins, Co G we have had a pleasant evening of it though the raine spatters hard on the tents. I have seen many of my old friends & acquaintances, they are just commencing to find their strength for the veteran service I went from my Camp this A M to the city in Company with H Grages, & I called to see Col Clay Caldwell & his Lady he was not in. I also called to see judge Vances family, at 2 Oc we was to have had a grand review but it has been deferred on the account of the raine At 2 Oc P M Henry Grages came in & brought a horse for me to ride out here

Sunday, December 27. I enjoyed my self well in the 3 Iowa Cav with many of my old friends & brethren with whom I have had many happy seasons. I took dinner with Capt McCrary of Co G 3 Iowa Cav At 1 Oc P M I left for my own Regt Henry Grages furnished me a horse to ride Brother David Smith, E Hunter, F Stull, David Miller & H Grages came in & took supper with me. At 2 Oc P M we attended our Brigade Chapple Brother Hare Preached Evening Brother D B Smith of the 3rd Iowa Cav preached text One thing is needful Chaplain Williams of the 43 Ind exhorted after him & we then had a short speaking meeting & we had a time of great interest the Lord was in the midst of his people

December 28. Capt Fee was brigade officer of the day I was in command of the company Evening I attended our brigade Chapple & took part in the cervice we had a precious good time.

December 29. I am Officer of the day & dismissed from the guard house this A M two men of Co H they ware put in for being out with their guns in violation of orders, & I arrested F Hall & John Grass of my Co & Clark & Riley of Co B. & put them in the guard house for absenting themselves from the fatigue party of the fortifications. I had a detail of men & two Sargeants & cleared up the parade ground. I had the pleasure of an introduction by Chaplain Hare to the Revs Bishop E R Ames, Rev Dr W L Harris, the Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, & Rev I K Moshear Lieut of the 18th Ill Infy accompanied them to our camps he is a zealous Minister as well as a zealous Union man

December 30. At 10 Oc A M. we was out on Grand review, Brig Genl Steele & Genl Salomon reviewed us. At candlelighting I attended church in the city of Little Rock at the M E Church tonight, it was this day turned over to us by Genl Steele in accordance with the Orders from the Secretary of war to commandants in the revolted states, Bishop Ames brought the order here yesterday & having accomplished his mission here in that business & apointed our Chaplain M H Hare to take charge of the churches in this & Pine Bluff & to act as presiding Elder, he the Bishop leaves on his mission in the morning for the south as far as New Orleans. Rev I K Moshear Lieut 18 Ill preached to night text Jeremiah 8th 22nd & there was a good meeting & one soldier forward to be prayed for. A Rebble spy Dodd was arrested at the picket lines this day.

December 31. Now 10 Oc night it is clear & the wind is raging furiously, & it is freezing fast even in my tent it has been freezing all day; there is snow drifts about our tents two feet deep but many places there is nothing but sleet left the snow is mostly in drifts. We ware mustered today by company in our barracks The snow blew into our brigade Chapple so much that it prevented our Chaplain from holding his meeting tonight, & he went with me down to the city to the church in his charge there. I preached & he closed after me text Rev 22nd

17th. the house was not comfortable & we closed before 9 Oc. I watched in my tent until most 1 Oc A M Jan 1

Jan. 1, 1864. Clear with cold north west wind it has been freezing all day & is freezing verry hard tonight, yesterday was the most severe day this far of the winter, it sleated hailed & snowed all day & there was a dreadfull furious wind threighteing the distruction of our camps, the snow drifts are about our camps in places over two feet deep Our morning report shows an agrigate of 72 in Our Co. G. & this morning one year ago Our agragate was 98. & that morning we went on shore & pitched our tents in Helena Ark. I look over the past year & I feel sad Our Co. Numbers 26 less. 12 [?] of which are dead includeing 2nd Lieut L. L. Spooner Orderly Sergt R Murdock & Corp R B Rice, the 3 above named are buried in Iowa the others lay in different places in the traitorous south, far from home & those dearest to them on earth, Such are the fortunes of war I preached last night in the City our Chaplain M H Hare closed after me Text Rev 22 17 At 10½ Oc A M I attended & opened a speaking meeting in the city we had a good time & At candle lighting I preached text 1st Peter 1st 24 & 25. & Lieut I E Mosher Preacher in charge now closed after me, we had a good time

Jan. 2. It is fine sleighing here at Little Rock Ark but there are no sleighs Our Soldiers have made some jumpers & a few of the cavelry are enjoying the sleighing. The Arkansas River is now frozen over at this city & the Citizens say it has not been frozen over here since eleven years ago this winter It is now ½ past 11 Oc night & Henry Grages of the 3 Iowa Cav who has been spending the evening with me has just started to his Regt in the storm of snow & hail that is now falling

Sunday, Jan. 3. Cloudy & cold with raine sleet hail & snow, & the sleighing excellent, the ground is covered with ice that makes the traveling on foot, almost dangerous & many a soldier has lost his footing & fell on the ice causing merrymnt & lafture this day I was Regimental Officer of the day & enjoyed the Storm & ice as well as I could expect for an Old man, but I kept my feet & have no faul to record against myself, Capt Fee was Brigade Officer of the day, & he removed several bold women from the woods beyond our Camp to the Provo Marshal & he lodged them in Jail, at night Capt opened a can of Our Oysters that I brought here, & he made us a good Oyster soop, after which we made us a nice mess of lases candy & Capt & Orderly Sergt Boston & I had a good time generally.

Jan. 4. Cloudy & cold with an ocasional shower of rain that froze as fast as it fell & a heavy mist all the ballance of the day, which makes the timber ready to break down with the weight of sleight upon them, & the ground is covered with a perfect glare of ice, & it is verry difficult to walk about, & a roar of lafture, & hollowing has been almost incessant this day yelling & laughing at each other falling. I have not fell & have travelled but little since guard mount when I was relieved as Officer of the day

Jan. 5. This morning was clear & cold it is verry difficult to get wood the face of the earth is covered with Ice & the horses & mules cannot keep their feet, the soldiers are cutting the pine & Oak groves in & close about this City of Littlerock, verry many beautifull trees have been cut down this day that money cannot replace. I went into the city & took dinner with Lieut Col Caldwell & ——— of the 3 Iowa Cav at the Widow ——— They have a room in her house & board with her she is a fine looking woman, afternoon the Col & I walked out to his Regt they have most all joined the veterans & expect to go to Iowa soon to recruit we walked back & H Grages & B Hartzell took tea with me at my tent

Jan. 6. The ground covered with a glare of Ice so that it is difficult for man or beast to keep on their feet. Evening I was solicited to go & conduct a young converts meeting & the good Lord was with us in great power Afternoon Henry Grages came & spent a few hours with me & took tea, & he & I called a short time on Lieut Col Caldwell, I bought a span of mares of Henry to apply on a debt he ows me the mares are in Iowa & are to be delivered to My Brother A L Pearson & I will give them to my Daughter & her husband

Jan. 7. Cloudy & Cold it has not thaughed any this day the roads are in as good order for sleighing as it is possible to be, but horses can scarcely stand that are not rough shod & some get down & cannot get up & are left to perish & die by the hard hearted riders. I went in command of a fatigue party & reported to Capt B. O. Carr. A. Q. M. & we were dismissed Afternoon Geo P Clark of Davis County & a veteran of the 3 Iowa Cav called & spent part of the P.M. with me Evening I attended with the Chaplain & others of Our Reg the meeting at Our Church in the City & truly we had a time of power Wm Fish of my Co was unusually happy & many others of us & Bruce Smith of my Co was forward for prayers

Jan. 8. At 12 Oc noon a detail of 100 men, with several Sargeants Corporals, 2 Lieuts & Capt Fee of my Co in command to report at 1½ Oc P.M. in proper order as a part of a guard to attend the execution of a Rebble Spy David O Dodd at 2½ Oc a hollow square was formed by the detailed guards of each Regt around the gallows in front of the St Johns Colledge, towards the arcinel & at ¼ past 3 Oc an ambulance with Dodd his coffin & chaplain Peck of the 28 Wisconsin escorted by a guard drove in the square & under the gallows Evening the Chaplain & I attended our Church in the city he preached & I exorted after him & Opened a Speaking meeting we had a good time truly the Lord was with us

Jan. 9. The Themomiter at sunrise stood at zero here at Little Rock Ark it has been ten Degrees below Zero part of this week At 8 Oc I took charge of the Picket guards & marched out to the bridge over Fouche Creek on the pine Bluff road & relieved Lieut [Walter S.] Johnson of Co I & his guards, at about noon I arrested Aca Crow a citizen liveing out some 25 miles on the pine Bluff road he had a pass from the

Provost Martial to pass out our lines with several items of merchandize, he had on one of the federal overcoats, had cut the buttons off I had him take it off & I found with him \$550.00 in silver he was trying to smuggle out of our lines, I took it & sent it with the overcoat & Crow under the charge of a Sergeant & two men to the Provost Martial, He Crow has two sons in the Rebble army, he claims to be union but three of his neighbours say he is a rebble

Sunday, Jan. 10. P M the roads continue fine for sleighing but there are no sleighs in this part among the sporting schivelry. At 8 Oc A M. the Brigade officer of the day Capt Wright relieved me from my picket post to go to the Provo Officer to attend to the case of Aca Crow who I took yesterday & sent in under guard, he was released his specia given him to deposit in this place by his pledges not to take it out of our lines. At 11 Oc A M. I attended our Church Rev. I. K. Mosher, 1st Lieut in the 18 Ill Infty, who is also now preacher in charge of the Church preached & I closed after him, text ———. I took dinner with Lieut R P Morrison of Colored Regt who is mustering officer for the State of Ark, he boards at ——— 3 Oc P M. I attended our Church & tried to preach from Mathew 20 ch & 8 first verses Lieut R. P. Morrison exorted after me, we had a pleasant time Evening by request of Our Chaplain who has the Superentendance also of the M E Church Coloured I went to it 2nd Lieut [Josiah H.] McVey of Co B our Reg a United Brothren Minister had agreed to preach for them his text was Romans 6th 23rd I exorted after him.

Jan. 11. Capt Fee is Brigade Officer of the day, there has been nothing to disturb the monotony about camp I was in the city & saw David W. Dodd Uncle to the spy that was hung here on the 8th, & the Preacher of the M E Church south of this place Rev Colborn who was the spy's speritual adviser from the time he was arested until about 2 hours before he was hung and they & many others I saw take the oath of alegeance, but many here think that Dodd & the Rev Rebble Colborn fear that something will yet come out that will implicate them as a party with the spy, Colborn left the spy in the verry hour of his greatest need & gave no notice of his going to forsake him, & som think he is more guilty than the spy that was caught, it is a fact beyond doubt that he prayed with great earnestness just before we took this place, for the Almty to confuse & destroy the Federal army.

Jan. 12. Capt Fee being on duty in the A M as Brigade Officer of the day I was in command & had the Co out On Battalion inspection Evening I attended & took part in a speaking meeting in the City at Our Church we had a good time

Jan. 13. The roads a perfect slush morning we ware on battallion drill. Evening I attended the young converts prayer & speaking meeting in Our brigade Chapple, the house was full & the good Lord was with us in his spirits power & the shouts were numerous among his people, truly the Lord is good Near 12 Oc night I received orders to be ready at 6 Oc A M in the morning of the 14th armed & equipped

with five days rations to take charge of a detail of guards, for the steamer *Leon* for a trip to Pine Bluff

Jan. 14. On Steamer *Leon*, Capt Thos Smith Clerk Saml K Wood At 6 Oc A M. I left camp in charge of 25 men armed & equiped & rations for 5 days, & reported on the *Levy* to the Steamer *Leon*, at Little Rock, & went on board to guard the boat & Government stores to Pine Bluff & back, at 10 Oc A M we left the city & passed on the day with no interruptions except an acasional hitting a sand bar, at dusk we cast anchor opposite the plantation of James Craig, I had his ferry boat brought alongside for safe keeping through the night, the wind arose & our anchor was not sufficient ——— blew to the shore & we had to tye up, I properly stationed guards. Mr Craig & ——— came to the landing I brought them on board & would have kept them until morning but Mr Demby a reffugee from this country was on board & I haveing an acquaintance with him I released them on his asburances of their loyalty, Rev Maj R B Morrison of the 4 Ark Colored & Capt Logan of the 2 Ark Colored are on board with us At night I got Old Saml Levies to Preach on the boat & Wm Greg to exort both Colored & I closed after them the old man is an old Preacher & slave near Pine Bluff he tells a tale of suffering for Christs sake. Greg is from Chicago, Ill.

Jan. 15. At day break we loosed cable & started down the river, we saw no signs of Rebs through the night, And we passed the day without seeing any & nothing of interest we had some bother in rubbing & butting sand bars but not serious We wooded at John R Kings, Jefferson County N.W. side of the river. 20 miles from Pine Bluff by land & 50 by water two of my boys Simon Launtz & John Morrison shot each a wild goose We landed at Pine Bluff about sunset all safe, At dark a detail of contribands arived to unload the boat & Lieut Celso, Post C—— Master releaced my guards & told me that I & my men could rest for the night, & just at this moment a Committy & a Colored Minister of the Baptist Church came & wished me to go & preach in the Baptist church to the contrabands & soldiers I talked from James 4th & 14th & the Chaplain of the 1st Indiana Cavelry Fergisson was to close after me but just as I was through the cry of fire disturbed the audience a hedgeway burnt.

Jan. 16. In appearance the country we saw this day is rich but level the river is not so full of snags as above the Bluff 6 Oc A M it was discovered by Maj A. B Morrisson of the 4 Arkansaw Coloured that a box of clothing had been opened & 1 doz shirts & 4 doz socks taken out, & I at once had guards placed about & searched the boat & found part of them in the hole of the boat & the ballance in a sack in the injine room At 7 Oc a detail of Coloured soldiers came on board & we loosed cable & went down the river some 20 miles below Pine Bluff & loaded the boat with hay & Oats the Rebs had baled on the east bank of the river at the Rebble John Halls plantation he has fled to Texas, there are plenty of fine cattle hogs & corn on the Planatation. at 4 Oc

P M we had our boat loaded & was on our way back. we wooded at Sam Carsons & I had a good lunch of bread & milk & a pleasant chat they are sound union folks 5 miles from the Bluff at dusk we tyed up at the plantation of Israel Embra's about 9 miles below the Bluff I put out my Pickets & one man came in sight of them & when he was halted he said he was a friend & he retired

Sunday, Jan. 17. At day break we loosed cable & started from the plantation of Israel Embra's & landed one mile above at the Plantation of Julia Rome & took on several hundred sacks of corn that the Rebs had shelled & sacked there are a quantity of it yet there at 8 Oc we left, & landed again at Saml Carsons, & took on some wood we had left as we went down, & at noon we landed at Pine Bluffs again, I went in the rain out to the Post Office & had a pleasant interview with Chaplain Ferguson of the 18 Ind Cav & took tea & lodging for the night with him, at dark we went to the Baptist Church Wm F Felps preached, text Matthew 17th 28th & 30 verses inclusive, Chapl Ferguson closed.

Jan. 18. The ground was a little frozen in the morning, but the mud under the crust is in places knee deep & is a sort of quicksand & will shake as one tramps on it for several feet around. Pine Bluff is the Co Seat of Jefferson County is situated on a bluff some 40 or 50 feet high the place is quite flat, with a small Lake in the town, there has been about two thousand inhabitants before the war & there are some six or eight churches & now the M E Church is riddled with bullet holes & the marks of war are visible all about the town, there are numerous pine trees in the town & it is surrounded with pine of small groth some of the trees perhaps 2 ft through there is a good brick court house two storeys high & a few other good two storey houses but most of them are small one story buildings. 1st Licut Simon Grats of the 4th Arkansas Colored came with us, we left Pine Bluff at 3 Oc A M & landed at Jesse Bradshaws at 8 Oc nite

Jan. 19. We have on board 13 Reb prisoners from Pine Bluff, & amongst them a Capt James Whitehead & 1st Lieut Hiram Stevens. About 7 Oc A M we commenced to load our boat with corn at Jesse Bradshaws 15 miles above Pine Bluff & got all on by 3 Oc P M & started while we ware loading the corn I had two yearling calves killed on the Opposite side of the river they belonged to the Reb Capt James Armstrong he is in the Reb army now & there is a fine crop of corn on his plantation & his darkeys say he took some blacks to texas & that he burnt his own cotten, a large crop of last year before our forces took Little Rock We landed at Thos Watkins'es Plantation & took on 13 bales of Cotten, next landed at John R Kings & wooded again, & next & after dark we landed At ——— & took on 16 of his darkeys & all ther household & kitchen doings, the master was presant & seemed cheerfull over it. While I was dressing the above named calves a Mr ——— Litten an agent to buy corn for U S rode up & offered to buy of a citizen the above Reb Capt King's corn for the U S. this is one of the many outrages on the U S

Jan. 20. At about 4 Oc A M we landed the Boat & I put out my picket & we remained until day break when we loosed cable & started & landed at Little Rock all safe, & I found everything going as well with the army, & after attending to some buisness I went to the Senate Chamber of the State house & witnessed the proceedings of the reorganization of the State of Arkansas & the inauguration of Judge Isaac Murphy as Governor of the State, he was a member of the Convention that met in the same house & the only man that voted to the last against secession at the time the state was voted out of the union against the will of the people as shone by their votes before his inauguration he made a short but good speach; A Mr White was sworn in as secretary of state Col Fishback a member of the presant & also was a member of the Reb Convention & after voting against secess several times yealded & voted with the traitors but is now sound he was called on & made a thorough union speach & Judge & Rev T A Butler a member from near Helena was called out & made a good speach but was more carefull of tuching the negro question than was Fishback Genl Steel & many other dignataries ware presant

Jan. 21. We ware on Battalion drill, afternoon I wrote a letter for H Grages to Brother Augustus Pearson & also one for myself to him, Evening I attended our school at the Adgts tent the Col was presant to instruct us in the drill, I am quite unwell havcing had a high fever this afternoon I will here speak of the young Converts meeting last evening at Our log Chapple, Rev John Williams Chaplain of the 43 Indiana Infnt Preach & I gave a short exortation text Isaiah 55th—1st & 3rd inclusive we had a general speaking meeting & the master of the asemllys was with us & the shouts of praise ware from many exultant hearts, & my soul said praise the Lord,

Jan. 22. We ware on battall drill, I had fever all day, & was unwell afternoon I was down in the city on buisness & after I was through with it I attended the Union Convention in the Theater Mr Alice of Pine Bluff was in the Chair & after the commity on resolutions presented their report & they ware acted on & adopted without a dissenting vote they ware on placing sound union men in places of trust, there was then som good speeches by Col Andrews, Butler, Alice, Jackson, Johnson, Warner.

Jan. 23. I was Regemental Officer of the day & was also on a board of survey at Brigade Head Qrs. Our Chaplain Rev M Huston Hare who is P Elder of this district commenced his first Qr Meeting at our newly acquired Church in the City of Little Rock at 1 Oc P M they held Qr conference & renewed the license of some local Brethren

Sunday, Jan. 24. At 8 Oc A M I was relieved as Officer of the day & at 9 Oc I attended our first love feast in the city of Little Rock we had a glorious time at 10½ Elder M H Hare preached text Mathev 11th 2 & 6 incl & administered the sacrament of the Lords Supper, & truly it was a precious time. some 9 ministers took sacrement & perhaps 12 to 15 women & about 150 men mostly soldijers I took dinner at

— Vance's at 3 Oc P M. I attended & closed after John Paton Colored, at their Church it was a funeral ocasion text John 11th 25 & 26 verses God was in the midst of his people evening we ware on Dress parade & at candlelighting I called in the city & took Miss Virginia Elizabeth Vance to our church & the Chap of the 106 Ill preached & Rev Lieut Mosher exorted & called mourners a number came forward & several ware hapily converted & one of my company Abraham Umble of the number

Jan. 25. We had Battallion drill & afternoon Brigade drill by Col Mclain of the 43 Ind I was sent for to go into the city & preach the funeral of a citizen at 2 Oc P M but I could not get leave. I wrote out charges against John Holiday a citizen & assistant wagon Master for tyeing a negro teamster to the wheel of a wagon & unmearefully whipping him with a wagon whip, I gave the charges to the Provost Martial Evening I called & took Miss Vance to meeting the Chaplain of the 106 Ill preached & our Chaplain Closed after & called mourners, text John 3rd 14th Several ware at the alter & 1 converted, after meeting I had the pleasure of an introduction to Cap Vance of the 6 Ills Cav & also an introduction to Capt Vance of the 4th Ark Cav he is the Father of miss V E Vance

Jan. 26. On Battallion & afternoon on Brigade drill evening I attended Church in the City Capt [William] Mahon of Co E 36 Iowa Preached & Chaplain Hare closed we had a good time

Jan. 27. Capt was Brigade Officer of the day & I had the Co out fore & afternoon on battallion drill Evening I attended Church in the City we had a good time & several conversions Brother Mosher preached text 1st Corinthian 15th 36th & 37 verses

Jan. 28. We ware out on battallian drill fore & after noon after drill the Col excused me from Dress perade & I took Mrs Lieut Lambert down into the City to Capt Enock Vances, we had a pleasant time & took tea Mrs Lambert has been in camp two months & two days & has not had the oppertunity of speaking to a white woman since she came until I introduced her to Mrs & Miss Vance this evening at candle lighting Mr Lambert came & Miss Vance & I went to church, our Chaplain preached & Lieut Mosher closed we had a precious time & one clear conversion before I left. text the Just shall live by faith

Jan. 29. It Clouded up & commenced raining about 7 Oc night & we had a good shower, part of which I recd on my way to camp from our meeting in the City Morning we signed up the pay rolls & I witnessed the rolls Evening we went down in the city to our meeting Chaplain Thornton Hedges preached Chaplain Hare sang a spiritual song after & Chap Williams exorted & called mourners there ware near 20 came to the alter & I cannot tell how many ware converted as I left before meeting was out Text John 14th & 1st verse

Jan. 30. I am officer of the day Our meetin is going on but I cannot attend until I am releaced from duty at guard mount in the morning

Our Chaplain commenced Quarterly meeting for the Coloured Methodist at their Church in this City this day

Sunday, Jan. 31. It rained nearly all last night at guard mount this A M. I was relieved as Officer of the day. I then went with our Chaplain to his quarterly meeting at the coloured Methodist church in the City of Little Rock at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 Oc A M. I Preached & Elder Hare exhorted & opened the doers of the church & some 18 joined, text John 3rd 14th & 15th verses, at 2 Oc P.M. Elder Hare preached & John Payton a black man exhorted & opened the doers of the Church quite a number joined text we had a Sacramental acasion & it was truly a refreshing time some two hundred took the sacrament & many shouted the praises of God, after we dismissed I went & spent the evening until night at Capt Enoch Vances', at night I attended & preached for the Coloured people & John Payton a black man exhorted & called mourners between 40 & 50 came forward & many went down where they were as seekers, & a number obtained pardon before I left & they continued after I left truly it was a time of power, my text was John 5th 39 verse Search the Scriptures &c

Feb. 1. I spent most of the day in the City of Little Rock accompanying Capt Fee's Brotherinlaw Capt Fee was Regimental Officer of the day, I had the company on Dress parade, & at night I attended our school of Officers There was an order read on Dress parade announcing us in the 7th army Corps Genl Steele commanding While we ware in the city some Cavelry soldiers made a charge on ten barrels of apples belonging to a Citizen that had just arived with Sixty barrels & they emptied & took ten barrels in double quick time

Feb. 2. I am in command of the Picket guard, at the Bridge over Bayou Fouch on the Pine Bluff road South east of Little Rock $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Feb. 3. At 9 Oc A. M. I was relieved from Picket Post by 2nd Lieut McVay of Co. B. nothing of importance occurred on our post. At $10\frac{1}{2}$ Oc A M. Maj Sullivan Army pay master paid our Co I rec'd pay for 2 months Nov Dec up to 31st. \$214.95. 1 Oc I went down in the city & saw Rev M B Wayman Chap of the 3 Iowa Cav & mad arrangements for him to take \$200.00 to my Daughter at Keosauqua. At 2 Oc P.M. I attended the Coloured Church, & Conducted the Services of the Lovefeast, & we had a time of great power, truly the Lord was with us & the poor coloured people rejoice greatly at their presant priviledges.

Feb. 4. I am Regimental Officer of the day, nothing worthy of note has transpired.

Feb. 5. I was taken with severe gripeing panes, & suffered all day but kept on duty I took the Company out & had Company drill forenoon, the 1st time since last June that I have drilled in Co drill, at 5 Oc P.M. I took Charge of a detail of 70 men marched them to the river & over to the depot & loaded the Steam ferry boat with commissary, & returned to Camp before midnight the Officers on the boat say we ware

the best detail of men that ever loaded their boat. At midnight A Severe Storm of wind threightned to demolish our tent, & I guess every officer almost was up adjusting their tents.

Feb. 6. I was awoke early in the morning by a messenger from the General Hospital after me to go over & talk to, & pray for, Geo. Clark of the 3rd Iowa Cav. I got up, & awoke our Chaplain, I went over & talked & prayed with him & remained until after breakfast, the Chaplain came & he had each of us to pray with him again, he professed to have received remission for sins & gave clear testimony he talked profusedly, & many of his ideas ware brillant & deligtfull we ware often affected to tears, he talked to each one about him & had them promise to meet him in heaven

Sunday, Feb. 7. After our morning inspection I went into the city at 10½ Oc A M. I Preached for the Coloured people there was a crouded house & I trust we had a profitable meeting; text 1st Cor 16th Ch 13 v. 2 Oc P M. Brother Gaty of Ill, & I, went to the Coloured M E Church & John Payton black man preached a funeral discourse & he astonished the white soldiers with his eloquence, there was a Glorious time I opened the dores of the church & took in 16 members, his text was 1st Cor 15th 58th—, I was on dress perade & at Candlelighting I attended the M E Church white in the city, Chap Thornton Hedges of the 106 Ill preached text 1st Cor 15th-16 v., Brother Hedges is a Cumberland Prisbe & is I believe a good man, but he did make a bad out, & endeavoured hard to show that the Christian life was one of suffering, & that the wicked enjoyed this life much better than the Child of God, Rev Mosher exorted after him & showed clearly that the Christian in this life are much the happiest. I called at Capt Vances, & at Brother ——— I saw Abram Garbrant Private in 54 Ill Infty, Drumed out of the service, his head was shaved, he wept, & in takeing leave of his comrades he shook hands, & with weaping eyes he told them to act honourable & not get drumed out for \$24.00 which was the charge against him for steeleing it from their sutler

Feb. 8. Forenoon I attended to getting us a new table made & went to the city & got us some comissary stores. Afternoon by the Solicitation of our good Chaplain I attended the association of Chaplains & was voted a seat amongst them, & invited to take part, in their exercises, & I gave a brief statement of my labour, & success in my duty, as minister in charge of the Church of Coloured Methodist in the City; We had a pleasant interview & I returned to Camp in time to take the Co on Dress Perade. Capt is Division officer of the day

Feb. 9. I am Officer of the day nothing of interest to record except an order for Our Lieut Col, Lieut Birnbaum & 4 other enlisted men to go to Davenport Iowa to take charge of recruits & bring them down here, the Sargt Major of our Regt Wm Caldwell Our Orderly A. I Boston. & Corp Bailey of Co K are going This night a Private was killed in the city of Little Rock on the lot of the Reb Genl Fagan.

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