

## BENJAMIN F. PEARSON'S WAR DIARY

[This diary, beginning July 22, 1862, and extending to May 9, 1863, was published in the October, 1925, number of the ANNALS. The present installment presents Mr. Pearson's experiences from May 10, 1863, to October 16, 1863.—Editor.]

*Sunday, May 10.* I recd the Republican of may 1st with my letter of April 15th inst At 8½ Oc I was relieved Lieut Spooner is now on picket guard & I go on in the morning as Officer of the picket guards We had a good social speaking meeting this evening, in Our Grounds. Our Chaplain Opened it & Genl Fisk took part with us. I visited our sick in hospital & had a pleasant time talking with Brother John Smith of Co F. he is a local preacher & an excelent devoted Christian & had his work well done & in the night departed in peace

*May 11.* At 8½ Oc I went out in Command of a post of the pickets lines had a good time & every thing went smoothly on through the day

*May 12.* At ½ past 9 Oc A M Our relief came & I marched my men to camp and dismissed them. I went down to the river & saw a steamboat from Vicksburg loaded with traitors some 700 was said to be on board they ware the shabyest looking drove of wolves that ever my eyes beheld they, are sent up the river, there was also a quantity of Contrabands came up on another boat they will stop here & be organized into the Coloured reg

*May 13.* At 9 Oc A M we heard the booming of Cannon & Our Col ordered me to have every man that was able to bare arms ready to fall in line at the beating of the drum & he sent for our men who ware on fatigue duty & had them brought into camp Lieut Spooner was in command of a party of fatigue men & they got to Camp about 10 Oc the Canon we heard was some 10 miles out, the 5th Kansis Cavelry had come in contact with Marmadukes rebble forces, I have not yet heard the result, the forces came in this evening they had several little skirmages but nothing decisive Andrew J Ellis of Co G 36 Reg Iowa Vol Inft died in Our regimental hospital cause fever he was one of the best men in Our Co there is hope in his death he was a good brick layer & had worked for me several years, he died without a struggle

*May 14.* At 8 Oc A M I was on guard mount & took 40 men 4 Corporels & 2 Seargents & went out on the picket line, things all passed of smoothly on my part of the line, there was some rebbles seen on Capt Mahons end of the line they fired on them but do not know whether they hit them or not A number of steamers passed down early in the morning loaded with soldiers

*May 15.* At 9½ Oc Lieut L L Spooner came out with the relief picket guards & relieved me & my line, we ware not molested on my part of the line & the Lieut Col Patterson of the 29th Iowa who was

Officer of the day did not visit any part of my line on the Grand rounds. Capt Mahon of Co E of the 36 Reg Iowa Inf'ty who was on the line on my left saw several rebels & fired on them & he come to me to have me reinforce him in case he was attacked & he feared he would be, I & my men told him we hoped they would attack us, but they did not disturb the line At 5 Oc P M I had the Co on Dress parade

*May 16.* I was on fatigue with a part of Our Co Cleaning & fixing our grounds where we expect to move the first of next week At 5 Oc P M I took the Co on Dress parade I visited all our sick & convalescent in the hospitals found most of them on the mend but John Sticklar & William Buck, Privates & Our Orderly A R Murdock are verry sick sick & fear some will soon die

*Sunday, May 17.* Early I visited all our sick in hospital fond most out & went through a general inspection of Arms munitions Knapsacks Clothing & C Lieut Spooner went to Catholic meeting & was not with us he was also away in the afternoon to their meeting but was back in time to go with us on dress parade at 5 Oc P M Evening we had meeting in the Regiment, I opened the exercises & Capt Mahon of Co E gave us a discourse without any text, & Our Chaplain followed him

*May 18.* Forenoon we drilled in the brigade Drill I was in command of Our Co Genl Fisk Commanded the Brigade Genls, Ross, & Salomon, were out to see us drill & we had a verry pleasant drill afternoon we moved down in the woods between the levee & the river at the upper end of the town, & the 3rd Iowa Cav'ry are just opposite to us on the other side of the Levee

*May 19.* I recd a letter from Emma & Amandus by our Sutler James Wolfe & a quantity of ginger snapps from Emma & also a box with some nice presents for me & our chaplain from our friends in Iowa Mrs Judge George Wright sent me a nice can of tomatoes Mrs Charles Yeager a jug of cherries nicely put up. Mrs. Jennie Workman a little sack of nice dried corn & a piece of dried beef Mrs Augustus Pearson a paper of dried currants Miss Maria Pearson a few pounds of nice butter Emma 15 lbs maple sugar. 9 doz eggs & 1 can musterd 3 gallon can honey & 2 gal can butter 8 lbs salt. 2 bottles gooseberries 1 can fruit 2 new shirts Amandus some green apples & Augustus & Clay about 1 gal pop corn, a few pounds honey from Brother Augustus. Forenoon we had a brigade drill Commanded 1st by Genl Fisk & 2nd by Genl Salomon, & a review by Genls Ross Salomon & Fisk afternoon we had battallion drill & dress parade, after which I visited our sick in hospitals, most of them seem better, but one of Our Co John Sticklar is near Eternity, I hope all is well, a young man of Co B sent for me his Father is now here with him, he seems verry penitent & earnestly engaged seeking the Savior

*May 20.* Forenoon I had the company out in Brigade drill & afternoon in Battallion drill & Dress parade & we had a good drill but it be so warm we were quite weary. John Sticklar of Our Co departed this life about 11 Oc last night

*May 21.* Forenoon I had our Co Out on brigade drill & we had a review by Genl Fisk, Our drill & review was fine. Afternoon our men ware nearly all on fatigue duty & there was no drilling & I attended to getting some of my Companys savings of rations from Our Qr Master I got seventeen dollars & sixty five cts \$17.65 & paid it to Sergeant A I Bostin to be distributed amongst the men, I was also to see the Judge Advocate for Our Capt, I was also at the hospital.

*May 22.* At 8 Oc I went on guard mount & took the picket guard of our Reg & commencing on the river on the upper end of the picket line & established one new post placed seven posts with each three reliefs, I then reconitered the line & discovered a weak point on the line between the river & a slew & so reported to the division Officer of the day Afternoon there was a sham battle between the 5th Kansis Cavelry & the 3rd Iowa or Debuks battery, the post on the road where I had my head quarters was in plain view of the battle & elevated above them so that we had a beautifull view of the fight & it was a grand a sublime scene

*May 23.* At 10 Oc A M Lieut L L Spooner came out in Command of the picket guard & relieved us & we marched to Camp. At 2 Oc P M. I took the Co out & there was a grand review of all the forces here. Infantry Cavelry & Artillery ware all out & reviewed by Major Genl Prentiss & Brigad Genls. Ross, Salomon, & Fisk. the inspection was quite a grand sight & it all went of beautifully & with no ingery to any person. A little before night Genl———Marine Brigade arived here on their way down the river the hindmost boats ware fired into at Austin the County Seat of Tunica Co Miss & about 20 miles above this place we herd the firing distinctly

*Sunday, May 24.* I visit our Sick in the several hospitals, & done all I could to comfort & encourage them, at 9 Oc A M I had company inspection & a 5 Oc P M I had them out on Dress perade At 2 Oc I was at preaching in the grove by the 3rd Iowa Cavelry & James A Butler a native of South Carolina but a resident planter now liveing about 8 miles from this Helena Ark. preached a good discourse text John 20th Ch & 3 last verses, evening Oliver Williams of the 29th Iowa preached for us at our camp text 1st Peter, 4th, 17th, Early this morning some of the boats of the Marine Brigade started up [to] chastise the town of Austin where they ware fired on last evening they landed some forces & opened fire on the place, they got some 4 men killed 12 or 15 wounded, & slew many of the Rebbles & laid the place in ashes save the chimneys alone are left standing

*May 25.* At 9 Oc A M we formed in line for battallion drill & just as Lieut Col Drake was about to march us out, Capt's Varner, Vermilion & I ware summoned to appear before the Juggle Advocate in behalf of the Government on a Court martial Case & we went down & about 10½ Oc the word Came that a scout from the 3rd Iowa & 5th Kansas Cavelry had come on the rebbles in force a short distance beyond our picket

lines & were fighting, I hastened up to camp & asked permission of Lieut Col Drake to leave the Court martial & command my Company he granted me the privilege & we marched out with the Reg, Col Drake Commanding & were posted at the outer rifle pits to await their approach, but they had fled after the fight with the scout of Cavalry some 7 of the 3 Iowa was wounded 2 or 3 taken prisoners & the 5th Kansas had five killed that I saw they had some 12 to 15 wounded & 1 capt 1 lieut 1 searg & some 25 men prisners, they report the rebble loss in killed & wounded much greater than ours. they sent a flag of truce to prevent us following them

*May 26.* I spent most of the day at the hospital & in town near the court martial rooms, but was not called at 5 Oc P M I took the Company out on battallian drill, evening we were called together by the Lieut Col & changed the hours of Guard mount & drill, guard mount is now to be at 6½ Oc A M & battallian drill from 7 to 9 A M. & from 5 to 7 Oc P M. The Steamer Laidy Pike that went down the river on a scout some 3 days ago returned with Over 100 Mules & horses & a little Cotton & some over 300 Negroes in all near 100 of them will make good soldiers, they were attacked early this morning at the head of Island No 65 the toreyes had 2 peaces of artillery, & there was one howitzer on the boat & about 30 muskets & about ½ of those with them black soldiers & they sey the negroes fought as brave as the white soldiers Capt Watters, white man was slightly wounded in leg, & several negroes were wounded 2 perhaps mortally & 4 or 5 mules slightly Capt S R Snyder who was appointed from the 3 Iowa cavelry sais his black men fight like old soldiers

*May 27.* I received a letter from Knapp & Wright about an offer from Funk for my claim on a Church building at Pittsburg Iowa, We went out on battallian drill at 7 Oc A M. & drilled to 9 Oc & on Brigade drill from 5 to 7 Oc P M. 2nd Lieut was not in drill this day nor yesterday, ½ past 9 Oc A M. & at 1½ Oc P M I went to the Judge Advocates Office but was not needed, I visited the Hospitals & encouraged the suffering as best I could A hospital boat arived here last night from Vicksburg with some 400 wounded soldiers most of them badly wounded & this morning they put off ten that had died Evening Lieut Spooner went out in charge of picket guards to relieve the 29th Iowa but they had not recd the countersigh of the night, having been on since yesterday morning, & they would not be relieved by him & he came back & reported & was relieved. the

*May 28.* Early in the morning some near five thousand rebbles passed up the river under guard & a gunboat following to keep things quiet Mrs Chafee from near Troy Davis Co Iowa arived here this morning, her son & only child a fine young man of 18 years of age was a soldier in the 3rd Iowa Cavelry & she got word that he was sick & the next morning which was yesterday week she started here, & arived to late he was dead before she had left home, she only could look upon

his grave,<sup>10a</sup> I had my 2nd Lieut drill the Co & I went with her over the town to the flower gardens, forts, hospitals & C we ate at the Lighter house hospital & she took tea with us at camp I took her out to see battallion drill & c. I also made an effort to get a discharge for our orderly Sergeant A R Murdock who is verry poorly & has been sick since the midle of December last.

*May 29.* I had Lieut Spooner drill the Company in the morning, I was buisey with the Genls & Sergeants part of the day trying to get Our Orderlys discharge, I also wrote a letter for him I visited the hospitals & endeavoured to speak words of Comfort & encouragement to the suffering, sick, & wounded, soldiers, afternoon I took the comp out & we had brigade drill Genl Fisk commanded, Mrs. Chafee from davis Co was out to view us, About sunset a soldier belonging to the 33 Mo Reg Infy was drowned in the Mississippi just below our camps several of them went in to wash & he could not swim & got into deep water

*May 30.* At 7 Oc I went out in charge of the picket guard the day & night passed without any disturbance on my part of the lines, The 5th Ill Reg of Cavelry left here for Vicksburg, & the 33 Mo Infy. are ordered off tomorrow

*Sunday, May 31.* At 9 Oc A M I took the Co Out & we had battallion inspection by Lieut Col Drake & in the evening I took them out & there was an inspection of us by the Adjt of the 33 Iowa Reg Infy at 10½ Oc A M I went & heard the Chaplain of the 5th Kansis Cavelry preach the funeral of the killed of that Reg in the late battle at 2 Oc. P M I attended preaching by our Chaplain in the grove for the 3rd Iowa Cavelry text be ye also ready, at 5 Oc P M I had the Co out on Dress parade, I visited the hospitals & evening I attended prayer & speaking meeting in the Old Steam mill by our Reg Hospital & while there a roach flew into my ear & ran into it out of sight it hurt me severely & the seargents with their instruments finaly got it out & then with a syringe washed out my ear & one of the bug's legs came out with the watter.

*June 1.* I suffered with some pane & a constant roaring in my head caused by the bug that got in my ear last night. at 7 Oc I took the Co out on battalian drill & at 4 Oc on Brigade Drill, I attended a school of the Officers at 2 Oc the first we have had I attended the hospitals & seen after Our sick ones

*June 2.* I had our men out forenoon in battallian drill, & afternoon we were called out & all in line ready to march for brigade drill in the afternoon but ware dismissed without drilling, Mrs Chaffee of Davis Co near Troy started home after noon I assisted her on the Packet & seen my old neighbour boy Geo Steel of Keosauqua Frank

<sup>10a</sup>This was a son of Mrs. Chafee by a former marriage, Charles B. McCormack, whose military record as disclosed in the Roster as follows: Age, 18; residence, Troy; nativity, Iowa; enlisted December 1, 1862, in Company D, Third Iowa Cavalry; died May 15, 1863, at Helena, Arkansas.

Calvert of Co I died in hospital he was verry hoppy & reconciled to his suffering he died in the night

*June 3.* I visited the hospitals & comforted the suffering all I could by fords of, comfort; & the promises of the Gospell, I made out discriptive rolls for several of Our sick boys to be sent to hospitals at Keokuk Iowa they are 1st Sergeant A R Murdock Privates Geo T Cavanah, James Skipton, Michael Criddlebaugh, Andrew Gay, & Abraham Humble Evening I attended prayer meeting at the steam saw mill by the 3rd Iowa Cavalry we had a pleasant time

*June 4.* I went out at 6½ A M in charge of 50 men on fatigue falling trees to blockade & to give length of range to our Outer batterys, we progressed fine untill the heavy raine indused us to repace to our camps At 4 Oc 3 of Our men that I had furloed started for home on the Steamer Pike they ware Jesse O Paine Isaac Cross & Joshua Bengel, they are all unwell & are furloved for 30 days, they also took with them the effects of Andrew J Ellis & John Stickler deceased. From 9 Oc to 11 or 12 Oc night, Our Capt T M Fee,<sup>17</sup> Lieut L L Spooner & a Private Henry Berner, got on a big high in Cpts tent & all puked & had a good drunk I suppose it might be called

*June 5.* At 3½ Oc Morning the drums beat & we ware called into line & ordered to hold ourselves on arms in line for a time then permission was given the cooks to faul out & get breckfast, then the betallion ordered to stack arms & hold ourselves in readiness to form in line, as from indications & information an attack was expected this morning, at about 5 Oc A M the raine commenced & the drums beat & we ware at once in place, & ordered to take arms repair to tents & rest on arms, & so the forenoon passed, at 4 Oc P M we ware called out for battallion drill I took out the Co. Our sick to report at hospitals north started on the Gladiator about sunset & our Chaplain was detailed by the Genl, about one hour before to accompany them but I new it not until to late to see him & he had no thought of it I think before 3 Oc when I last saw him, I visited & took leave of the boys & cheered them all I could, there was a show at 2 Oc the procedes of which this once was to go for the benefit of the sick & wounded soldiers they have been opperateing here for about a week I think I have never inquired what kind of thing it was or is.

*June 6.* Forenoon we had no drill afternoon I took the co out on brigade drill & we had a fine drill but a little to much mud.

*Sunday, June 7.* At 8 Oc A M I had Co review & inspection at 2 Oc P M I attended preaching by Chaplain Joseph Brooks of the 33 Mo Infy, text seeing we have a great high priest &c it was a good discourse, preached at the grove of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry 5 Oc I had the Co on Dress parade Genl Fisk & Lady was out to see us & the centance of a court martial on ——— Custer of Co B was read he was brought under Guard between the Col & our line & the Adjut read it he forfeits

<sup>17</sup>This is an instance where youthful levity and valor developed into mature manhood and produced a model soldier and judge.—Editor.

1 months pay & is to be kept in jail 1 month; I had secured the services of ——— Fisher Chaplain of the 5th Kansas Cavalry & at 6 Oc he preached us an excellent discourse from the 119th Psalm & 11th v, I closed after him at candle lighting I attended prayer & speaking meeting in the Old mill by the 3rd Iowa Cavalry I exhorted & we had indeed a feast many bore the cross, & spoke with feeling & power.

*June 8.* Lieut was out with the Co forenoon I was attending to the pay Rolls afternoon I had the Co out on Brigade Drill The Resignations of our Major, Capt George W Noble of Co K, Lieut ——— came back having been axcepted & they will start home perhaps on the 1st boat.

*June 9.* At 6 Oc A M we were called into line & started on a skout with one day's rations blankets, arms & 40 rounds of cateredges, the 5th Kansas Cavalry & 2 small howitzers went in front of us, we marched out some 6 or 7 miles & we halted in ambuish the cavalry

*June 10.* I had the co on dress parade, the ground was so muddy there was no drilling I was mustered out of the service as 2nd Lieut of Co G 36th Reg of Iowa Vol Infy And mustered in to the same Co & Reg of U. S. volunteers as 1st Lieut I received my commission some time since bearing date March 4th 1863 I have made every reasonable effort to be mustered sooner but no mustering officer could be found until the present one Saml Hildebaum 2nd Lieut of 3rd U States Cavalry & when he came he brought no mustering Out & in Rolls & he has been promising to get them but thus far has failed so I wrote mine out five mustering Out & 4 mustering in rolls 9 in all

*June 11.* At 6½ Oc I took the Picket guard & marched them out, & posted them on the line, we had no trouble on the line on my part of it this day, but on the south end of the line they ware threatened & annoyed some by Marmadukes forces, Our Col Returned to us from a visit or leave of absence he brought his wife with him

*June 12.* At 8 Oc A M I got in with my picket guards just as the Reg was in line for Battallian drill & I had to command my company, as 2nd Lieut Spooner of our Co. had relieved me on the picket line & Capt Fee of our Co has not been acquitted, I had also to take the Co out on Brigade drill in the afternoon, & I felt feeble & unwell not having slept any since night before last About noon 11 boat loads of live Yankeys, from Genl Burnside's department passed down under command of Maj Genl Parke & Brigd Genl Farow both fine looking fellows but Farow looks young for a Genl. they stopped about 2 hours as they ware on the way at this place Helena Ark they are the first division of Yankeys in truth that we have seen to talk with & them & our western boys got to niging each other by throwing up defeats & reverses untill they got mad & Maj Genl Prentiss commander here ordered it at once stopped or the boats to cross & land on the other side of the river but they quieted down & he permitted them to remain at the Helena landing

*June 13.* There was onley one hour's Drill & that from 5 to 6 Oc

P. M. Capt Fee went out with the Company The Government paid our Reg by the hand of George W Burns, two months pay that is up until April 30th 1863. At 10½ Oc last night the Commissioned Officers of Our Reg were Ordered to meet forthwith at the Cols tent & after meeting Col Kittredge stated the object which was the Order of a Court-martial against Capt T M Fee of Our Co after reprimanding him as a part of the decission was he haveing been found guilty of gross negligence, the Col returned his sword to him & put him in command of the Co he having been under arrest since the 6th of May,

*Sunday, June 14.* At 2 Oc P. M. I attended Brigade service in the grove by the 3rd Iowa Cavelrys camps, & they left this day for Vicksburg, Oliver Williams of the 29th Preached & I exorted after him, text Acts 17th Ch & 3 first verses I had the Co on dress perade, at 6 Oc P M Chaplain Elijah I Cook preached in our Reg he is of the 43rd Indiana text 2nd Corinthians 4 Ch & 3 v Chaplain H D Fisher of the 5th Kansas Cavelry exorted after him & Rev Joseph Brooks Chaplain of the 35 Mo Inft closed by prayer. Night I attended meeting at the steam mill below where the 3rd Iowa cavelry ware camped I spoke from the 1st Psalm, several others spoke after me we had a good time

*June 15.* The 29th & 33 Iowa Infty Regst moved their camps down on the river bank a little below us Lieut Swiggette of Co B started to Iowa on absance leave for 20 days Afternoon I was in command of 200 men fatigue onloading hay from flat boat Some 6 or 8 Boats loaded with soldiers a part of Genl Burnsidess Army passed down for the vacinity of Vicksburg,

*June 16.* J W Calvert, who was detailed from Our Co into the 1st Arkansas Infty of African decent they are now near Millicans bend & he is on his way home to Iowa on leave of absence he Came into my tent about 1 Oc morning & we conversed from that until three when the drums beat & I took the Company into line & we stacked Arms & remained until some half hour after sun rise, when we repaired to our tents. Capt Fee was in command of a fatigue party to move flour we had no drill or parade this day. the Day was variable Cloudy & Cool with showers afternoon Henry Phillips of Our Co started north on hospital boat this evening

*June 17.* Our Lieut Col F M Drake went out in Command of a scouting party of Cavelry artillary & infty 4 Companys was from the right wing of Our Reg

*June 18.* At 7 Oc A. M. I started out in command of the picket guards & all moved along without any trouble until just after sunset when a gurrilla aproached & just as he was stelhily fixing to fire at one of my videts one of my men who had seen him slipping along fired on him, he ran without firing & as he ran 2 other of my men fired at him, & just after dark 7 of them aproached we fired on them & they fled & in a few minutes 3 more come in view & we sent a volley at them & at about the same time 4 others came up close to my next post on my right & they fired on them & they fled. & at different times



through the night we could distinctly hear them, & at 2 Oc I sent in one of the 5th Kansas Calvary pickets who had fell back of us with their men 9 in number & I had 9 & one corporal at this post I sent him in for reinforcements of 20 inftry to strenthen my post as we expected fully to be attacked about day light, the 33 Iowa sent me out 20 men & just after they arived 3 garillars came slipping down under a point when the cavelry videt & some of the 33 saw them & fired upon them they broke & ran & thus ended the fun, no one hurt on our side.

*June 19.* At 7½ Oc Lieut L L Spooner came out in command of the picket guard & relieved me, & I marched the Old guards in reported & dismissed them, Going In I caught a fine large turtle & we had a good soup for our dinners from it At 6 Oc P M we had battallion inspection the Ajt, of the 33 Iowa Infy was the inspecting Officer.

*June 20.* Capt T M Fee was Reg'tal officer of the day I was in command of the co had a short Co drill & had the Co on dress parade at 5½ Oc P M. Jonathan O'Conner of our co came to us, he has been in hospital at St Louis for some months & he came away without leave someway. There is a goodeal of uneasiness felt & expressed by officers & soldiers here about the rade of Lee into pennsylvania, &c, but I have no fears about the result of this war & a raid in the north by rebbles may bring northern torys to their sences. I believe the hand of God may be plainly seen in this war & I have confidence that he will direct for good.

*Sunday, June 21.* At 7½ Oc A M we had Co inspection & Dress parade at 6 Oc P. M 8 Oc A M Capt Mahon & I went over to the 43 Reg Indinas Infy & he preached & I exorted text the Lords prayer, 2 Oc we went to the grove for Brigade meeting & Capt Mahon preached & several of us spoke after him text 1st Corinthians 15th Ch & 58th & last verse, at 6½ Oc P. M. the post Chaplain ——— a Swedenberger, preached in our camps & Lieut K P. Morrison closed after him, text let your communication be yea, yea & nay, nay, & C. At Candlelight I attended meeting at the steam saw mill & I spoke from 2nd Corinthians 5th Ch & 1st verse, the day has passed & to me it has been a time of re-joiceing, I have found it good to wait on the Lord & I think I have made a Sabbath journey heavenward

*June 22.* At 8 Oc A M we went out on batallian drill again I have a little uneasiness in my stomac this evening caused I think by a peace of oncon I ate at supper as we had lettice & onions & I only ate ½ of a small onion & a little lettece but I feel sure the union causes the distress,

*June 23.* Forenoon we ware on battallian drill & afternoon we ware on Brigade drill, It was the first time Capt T M Fee was ever on Brigade drill Col Rice of the 33 Reg Iowa Infy was in command he is acting Brigadeer Genl of our brigade now & his & our regts was all that was out I saw the corps of James R Robinson of St Louis he has been Clerk of ——— at this post & was on his way to vicksburg with some hay & teams & yesterday morning when they ware opposite

Ciprus bend the boats were fired into & a 6 lb ball entered his left breast & passed through killing him instantly he is in an air tight coffin & will be sent to his friends by the first boat. On Saturday G W Marts an associate clerk of his under Capt Rusch told me he was to have started next day to vicksburg to deliver the above & get a receipt for the things but that he was not able to go & he had spoken to J R Robinson but he thought he would consent to let me go, I immediately went to our Col got his consent, & went down & Mr Marts went with me to see Mr. Robinson but he would not consent for me to go so I had to give it up & the fine young man has been killed by the murderous garillars he was the only person hurt there was one mule killed, it is possible if I had gone I would not have been hurt & he would now be living but thus it is in this uncertain world

*June 24.* I visited the hospitals twice this day & endeavoured all I could to cheer up the boys, most of whom are getting better, Capt T M Fee is Brigade Officer of the day.

*June 25.* I visited the sick in hospitals twice & encouraged them all I could they are mostly doing well I went on board of the steamer Atlantic of St Louis, as she was stopped here on her up voyage with a number of rebble deserters & prisoners, about half of each there are some  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz wounded soldiers on board. L L Spooner 2nd Lieut of Our Co is quite unwell & taking medicine very heavy rains last night We ware out on Dressperade

*June 26.* We ware out on Dresspreade Heavy raines through the nite.

*June 27.* I visited Our sick in hospital found all improveing. I am suffering some with rheumatism in my nees and feet, not severe.

*Sunday, June 28.* 9 Oc I attended service in the 43 Inda Reg their Chap & I exorted & closed text John 3rd Ch & 3 v 11 I was at Catholic meeting text 1st Peter 3rd & 8 & 15th verses inclusive but most of the giberidge was in an unknown tongue to me & all the congregation. 2 Oc I was at service in the Grove Brigade Chap Sawyers preach & the Ch of the 43 Indiana closed 5 Oc P M the Chap of the 43 Inda preached to the 5-Kansas Cavelry I exorted & closed text Hebrews 2nd Ch & 2nd & 3rd verse, we took supper with Capt Thompson & Lieut Brant, evening I was to see our sick in hospital they are better one of Co E died with congestive chill he was taken yesterday We had verry heavy rane this nite late & again past midnight.

*June 29.* Wee had Dress perade Made out our muster rolls.

*June 30.* Our Chaplain M H Hare returned to us this morning he went to Keokuk on a hospital boat with Our sick he has been to Keosauqua to see his Family & my children he left all well. At 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  Oc A M I started in charge of the picket guards for the line the day passed of & no rebs seen We lost one of our bigest and best men died in hospital of Typhoid fever Barrah Criddlebaugh Our Reg was mustered for pay

*July 1.* Variable with lite showers at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  Oc A M Lieut L L Spooner

came out & relieved me & my men from the picket lines, We buried Barrah Criddlebaugh I went to the Commasarys & got 100 lbs of dried appls for our Co & 15 lbs for my own mess At 11 Oc I took out the men I had on picket & had them shoot at a target 130 yds, individually & Benjm F Clark of Our Co made the best shot which was within  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches of the center, & it intitles him to a credit of one time from standing pickit

*July 2.* Capt Fee was in command of a fatigue party, I was in command of the Co forenoon I had Co drill after noon we called in line some orders read; arms, & munitions inspected, & each soldier supplied with cartridges to make 40 rounds each, evening we had battallion drill; Just about sunset one of the 5th Kansas Cavelry brought a negro man to shore close to Our Col's tent he had marks of violence, one gash over his right temple he has probably been knocked of of a boat or killed on shore & been thrown in the river, at night I went to see our sick in hospital

*July 3.* I was Officer of the day & had special instructions about extra vigilance for the night. At night there ware signs of the enemy & the Col ordered me to have the drummers up at 3 Oc A. M. & to beat at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to fall into line—but not to wake him till the drum beat.

*July 4.* At 3 Oc Morning the Rebbles attacked our picket lines & the fun commenced I had the drummers up & the long role beat soon after the signal gun fired, & I got the Col to relieve me as officer of the day & go with the reg into the fight & by the time it was light we ware sending Iron & led for traitors fast they ware driveing our pickets & yelling soon as we got out over the leeves the 6 Cos on our right ware ordered to support Battery A on the hill the upper stationary battery the 4 left cos of us ware ordered to support the 3rd Iowa or Debuque battery, it opened from their camp on the rebbles on the hill & soon they opened on us with a battery of 4 guns from the bluffs above, & out of sight of our hill batterys they soon ordered our battery up the Levee, & inside of it, & we opened on them, & they returned the fire fast & well, but did not hurt any of us, mostly overshooting us we soon broke one of their guns, & disabled the carage, the 29th Iowa occupied the line between the batterys; the rebs fought well, but they hollowed to no purpose; as we would not scare worth a cent. at between 5 &  $5\frac{1}{2}$  Oc A M I was ordered to take 10 men & go to the line on our extreme right, & hold the line as the Rebs ware moving a force in there to flank us on the river, I took the men & hastened through camp & ordered every man that was able to beare a gun to get it & follow us; I found beside our pickits a convasant Lieut of the 5th Kansas Cavelry with some convasant men from their Regt. & just after I got to the line & had my men properly aranged the Rebs made a charge on us, they came with a perfect yell but we stood our ground & opened a deadly fire on them; they broke & run & we took several prisoners, one man was shot down by me & the report was that I was killed, & soon as the battle ceased the Col sent the Quarter Master after

my body, but I told him I would take it & report in person to the Col, the Chaplain also started to hunt me but soon heard I was safe. Soon after the 1st charge made on Me Capt Thompson of the 5th Kansas Cavalry brought his Co & supported us the rebs made 2 more charge on us & drove them each time, & when they ware about to make the 4th charge we raised the yell & they broke for dear life, & left the field. The Rebble forces were commanded by Lieutenant Genl Holmes Maj Genl Price, Genl Parson Fagan Marmaduke McCray, &c. & Our forces commanded by Maj Genl Prentiss Genl, Salomon, & acting Brig Genls, Col Benton of the 33 Iowa & Col. McClain of the 43 India. Our intire forces was between 30 and 35 hundred men, their forces are represented by their own Officers Prisoners from 16 to 20 thousand we killed wounded & Captured more than our intire force Our loss Killed 55 wounded 132, Missing 32, Total 219 We killed Genl Mccray & some Cols Lt Cols Majors Adjts & many inferior commissioned Officers, 84 of their Commissioned Officers fell into our hands, the Rebs fled about 10½ Oc A M leaveing their dead & wounded on the field. Our intire force sick & well here on the 4th was 3,760 All told. The Rebs fought with desperation at about ½ past 9 Oc A M they charged on & took battery C. Our men spiked the gunes save one & the Rebble artillerst was drunk & loaded it. ball down, the worst job for them of that day was takeing that battery they crowded in & battery A. Ft Curtis & the Gun boat Tyler literally mowed them down, they held the batery about one hour in which time we had captured some 800 Rebbls who had made a charge down the hill toward fort Curtis, & we marched them immediately on the steamer that had just landed & they ware miles up the river as prisoners of war before the rebbles fled from before us which was from ½ past 10 to ¼ past 11 Oc A. M. This battle takeing the overwhelming odds against us will stand among the most complete victories of the war, & will add to the thrilling interest, of that great National Aniversary, & it will be a warning to traitors that they must not raise their impious hands on that day consecrated to freedom; to insult the emblem of libery, or attempt to tare a star from the flag of the Noble the Brave & the Free.

*Sunday, July 5.* I have had one of the most disagreeable & sickening jobs of my life, & I am as near intirely give out as I ever was. I had command of the fatigue party from our Reg to assist in burrying Rebbls & the stench was almost unindurable, Lt Spooner was sent out in command of our picket, we laid out on the battlefield all last night I think all the troops that are here done the same. In our burrying partys we put from one I guess to 40 in one large grave according to how thick they ware piled together as we could not move them far, from the dreadful condition they ware in to handle, where you could see the skin they ware black as negroes but so covered with fly blows, & magots that not many could be seen. even on the face or foreds there was 6 in one place fell on, & across each other where I was burrying, & a 1st and 2nd Lieut within 10 feet of them & Col McGhee I believe of

the 7 mo Reb, Reg lay within 20 ft of them & others scattered thick all about them at about 5 Oc P. M. the rebs advanced to our line on the little rock road, the alarm gun fired & we all broke for our regments, but they did not venture in.

*July 6.* At about 8¼ Oc A M we ware ordered in line took arms & ware marched of the field to our tents. Our Col made a few remarks & we gave three hearty cheers & broke ranks to our tents to rest in about 10 minutes I was detailed to take charge of the picket guards & instead of getting a rest, here I am on the line on duty & nearly used up but thank God it is in a good cause there are fatigue parties all around the lines to day burrying Rebbles quite a large number have been found & buried.

*July 7.* I was badly hurt by a fall I got on the picket line last night I feel quite feble from the constant labour I have been doing, & the verry hot wether we have now, this day has been verry hot but now evening there is a little air astur & some appearance of raine.

*July 9.* I have felt quite exhausted & after we ware on drëss parade I went to the hospital & got some medicine.

*July 10.* Just after daylight there was some excitement on the picket lines & in camp, it had been believed last evening that the rebs would attack us this morn & at 11 Oc last night all had orders to be in line by 3 Oc this A M which we ware & just after day break some Negroes aproached the pickets & without noticeing what they ware the pickets opened the fire on them & wounded one, in a few moments the 29th 33rd & 36th Iowa Regts ware in march & we fully expected to fight, but it proved a hoax, after we got out on the field & found no fight was on hand, I began to feel the affects of the medicine I had taken last night which purged & vomited me half the night, & I felt almost to week to walk into Camp, & did have to rest twice on the way at Scargents Call after they had attended to the men they came to my tent & said I must go to the hospital & this evening I came down.

*July 11.* I have felt quite feble today but not much sick. There was a number of dead Rebbles found in the woods a little way beyond our line this day every day proves the havock among them greater than we at the close of the battle thought. Last evening the Doctors had me come to the Regimental hospital, I have the Malarious fever, the Dr sais & the terrible fall I got on picket has badly ruptured me it is not very painfull but I fear its results.

*Sunday, July 12.* The day has been cool & cloudy with fog & a fine breeze all day & some thunder, I feel some stronger this evening. At 2½ Oc I was at Brigade meeting, Brother M H Hare Preached from these encouraging words; There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God, we had a verry pleasant time.

*July 13.* Cpts Gedney of Co I & Capt Mahon of Co E started home on sick furlow of 20 days.

*July 14.* Fairbrother of Co I died in Regt'l Hospital of diseased lungs. I get strength very slowly.

*July 15.* Philip Whitsell of Our Co & Others of the Regt went home on sick furlow of 30 days Wm Holmes of Co. A died in Regt'l Hospital, of infirmation of the Kidneys Evening I attended & led a little prayer & speaking meeting in the saw mill near the hospital Scargt James W Calvert of Our Co who is detailed in the 1st Arkansas African Decent, Returned from furlow & brought me a letter from my children.

*July 16.* I improve verry slow if at all Our Genls are expecting an attack, & an Order was read on dress parade to the several regts here this evening, Ordering 2 companies from each regt to lay in the rifle pits at nights & the other companies are to keep their arms stacked & quarters & lay with their cloths on at nights until further Orders, On hearing the order read I went up to Our Camp & got my sword & revolver, so that if we ware attacked I could join the regt without going up to camp. I wrote a communication for the Keosauqua Republican.

*July 17.* I am quite feeble, but think I am improving sloley

*July 18.* I have felt quite feeble all day.

*Sunday, July 19.* At 2½ Oc P M I attended Brigade meeting conducted by M H Hare & Chaplain Joseph Brooks of the 33 Mo Regt he preached a good discourse from these cheering word They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength

*July 20.* A steamer crouded with rebble prisoners from Johnsons Army passed up about noon, they refused to be paroled & asked to be sent north they want to take the Oath & leave reabledom until the war is over at least

*July 21.* At 7 Oc A M a scout of 200 men from each Regt of our brigade started out to look after the rebs, about 100 Cavelry from the 1st India went along; they took rashions for two days, I feel to be gaining strength slowly;

*July 22.* At about 4½ Oc P. M. our scouts got back they ware out 12 to 15 miles & saw no enemy brought in some chickens, turkeys, peaches, Apples & roastenears & some of the men came back sick & Lieut Spooner of our Co came in in the ambulance quite sick

*July 23.* [Alfred H] Cummings of Co C died of congestion in Regt Hospital to day I was up to camp but discovered that I am verry weak

*July 24.* I have been verry unwell most of this day perhaps from the medecine I am takeing I am suffering severely in the reagon of my liver. I enjoy the presance & smiles of the Saviour, There is felt here some expectations of an attack & some from each Regt are ordered to lay in the rifle pits & at the brest works this nite & our Co is among the number

*July 25.* Buisey preparations are making to repel the rebles, as there is an attack expected almost hourly now Men from the different Regts laid in the rifle pits & at the brestworks last night & our Co was among the Number I have been verry poorly this day think it is the medecine that makes me feel so poorly, But I adore the name of God that I find him ever preasnt,

*Sunday, July 26.* Variable verry warm untill about 2 Oc P M when it commenced to raine hard with fine cool breeze We sent a number of the sick soldiers from here up to Memphis or St Louis on hospital boat Some 3 regments of troops from Vicksburg arived here to reinforce us the 40th Iowa & two Illinois

*July 27.*

*July 28.* Most of our Brigade started out on a scout with two days rations, Col Clayton of the 5th Kansas Cavelry is in command A part of the 1st Iowa Cavelry arived in the night from Genl Davidsons army, & our folks sent a steamer out & up the St. Francis river with rations for Genl Davidsons army we sent 100 men on the boat as guard they report that they left Davidson 150 miles from here, & had to skirmish most of the way in they took a number of prisoners paroled most of them, & had no men killed wounded or taken. I am verry poorly but happy & intirely resigned to the will of the Good Lord.

*July 29.* Wrote a letter to My Sister Mrs Temperance A Fink Pulaski Davis Co Iowa Variable & pleasant with lite shower commencing At 8 Oc A. M. Our scout got in, saw but few rebbles brought in 4 prisoners the Infantry ware out to Lagrange some 15 miles the Cavelry ware far beyond, they saw some of Genl Davidsons army they are building a pontoon across the Langee My Capt T M Fee came in the ambulance sick was taken sick yesterday I am quite feeble & sick at stomach

*July 30.* Our Regt was paid 2 months pay this P. M. being untill the 30th of June I am verry near used up this evening I had to attend to the paying of our Co & check &c. An order read on Dressperade informed us that we are removed from the 13th army Corps Genl Ord. to the 16th Army Corps Genl Hurlbert. William J Dooley of Co F died of jaundice

*July 31.* Soldiers are ariveing from below some stoping, & some going on up the river I feel a little better I think this evening but I am quite feeble but happy in God my Saviour.

*August 1.* I rejoice in God for his abundant mercy, & goodness he is ever precious to my poor prodigal heart, Oh praise the Lord my Soule. I believe I am gaining strength of body Richard Tilton Warren of Co D died of conjection

*Sunday, August 2.* I have felt verry feeble with trembling sensations all over most of the day, but my peace is as a river my joy seems full

*August 3.* I have had a verry strange trembling sensation, in my flesh & nerves all day, I have peace abideing strong and sure. The boat that took provisions up the St Francis river to Genl Davidsons forces got back all safe was out two days over time J Webber & J Morrison of our Co who went up as guards got to see each a brother in Davidsons army & they saw Lt Calwell & H Grages & others of my old friends I am feeling a little better than yesterday, the Lord is good & I find him precious to me.

*August 4.* Some 700 Rebble prisoners passed up north to take the Oath refusing to be paroled.

*August 5.* The 77th & 22nd Ohio Inftry came in here last night from Alton a provission trane from Genl Davidsons army came in this P. M escorted by 2 Cos of Illinoise Cav they bring in the pontoon bridges for repairs. Alpheus Anderson of Co K died of Congestion I was quite sick most of last night & this morning but am feeling better this evening thank the dear Redeemer.

*August 6.* Soldiers are yet coming here We are now changed the 43rd Indiana 77th Ohio & us 36 Iowa are the 1st brigade of the 1st division of the 16th army Corps. Brigade commanded by Our Col Kittredge, division commanded by Col. Rice of the 33rd Iowa vols & the Corps by Genl Steele

*August 7.* Dr. Smith gave me some nice ripe figs Our Chaplain went out of our lines some 5 or 6 miles to the Reb hospital with provissions & supplies for them he also took quite a lott of reading matter newspapers religeous tracts & testaments all of which they ware destitute not haveing as much as one testament they ware all greatly received. they have had much attention by our Seargents since the battle, & our folks have taken them provisions liquors medecines &c. by the ambulance load, that is healing the wounds our hands have made, I am feeling a little better I believe & I have a calm sperit, & great peace

*August 8.* I bless the Lord for his infinite mercy to unworthy me, in my feebleness of body, I feel strong in the Lord.

*Sunday, August 9.* The camps seem in a bustle prepareing to start on the expedition Bless the Lord Oh my Soule for his goodness mearcy & free abounding love to his children I have had a peace as a river & thank the Lord I am gaining strength & trust that my disease is broken up & that I will soon be restored to health

*August 10.* There was a grand review of the forces here this forenoon & a great sturring among the camps & hospitals prepareing to leave on an expedition tomorrow This evening papers came to me with permission to go north for my health untill I recover I have to report every week to Our medical Seargent S H Sawyer I am slowly improveing I believe, The Lord is precious to me, & the people are kind

*August 11.* At 12 Oc noon I went on board the steamer Crescent City for Memphis Tenn, Capt J F Webb, a gentleman of the first class tendered me every possible kindness, about 3 Oc P M we encountered a most tremendous storm of wind, but we wethered it unharmed I left my Reg, & company with much regret but must submit to the providence of God cheerfully the good Chaplin M H Hare & many of the officers & men ware on the boat to bid me good by, the 16th Army Corps ware to march from Helena at 3½ Oc P. M on our expedition & I wept to think I could not go, they go against Little Rock

*August 12.* At Day light we landed at Memphis Tenn, I got conveyance for my trunk to the steamer Mary E Forsythe that was advertised to leave at 5 Oc P. M. for St Louis, after my Trunk was on board



I got conveyance to Maj Genl B M Prentiss' head Qrs but he had gone up the river & I did not get to see him & when I came out of his Office the man had left me & I walked down to the packet by spells & was not able to go off the boat again while she laid there I was verry sick part of the time evening they found a negro close to shore drowned, they say he walked of the boat in his sleep last night

*August 13.* At 11 Oc A. M. left Memphis Tenn on the Steamer packet Mary E Forsythe for St. Louis Mo, at 3 Oc P M we passed fort Randal, it is destroyed & not Occupied, at 5 we landed at Island 32. And took on some cotton at 6 Oc we landed at fort Pillow Geo Steel changed the male while they ware putting off freight & takeing on captured horses & mules & the Indiana boys here brought on a rebble Spy, Geo Given, to take to Columbus Ky, the fine packet is very much crouded with passengers mostly furload soldiers & women the deck filled with refugees & some reb Deserters & some Reb paroled prisoners, I was quite sick this P M but feel casey, now thank the Lord. 11 Oc night.

*August 14.* At day break we ware at tiptonville at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 5 Oc A. M. at Point Pleasant, At 6 Oc at the fine plantation where the family was resently murdered by negroes, some of their own slaves doing the deed. At 7 Oc at New Madrid We left Our Mules & horses & Spy George Given at Columbus Kentucky & at 3 Oc we ware at Cairo & most of the passengers got off to take the cars, but I did not feel able to ride on them being verry sick a good portion of the day & am now 10 Oc night quite sick & verry feeble but we have less confusion since we left Cairo being so fiew to what we had before,

*August 15.* Variable with showers pleasant At 11 Oc A M we landed at Chester Ill, & here I had the pleasure of an interview with my old friend & schoolmate Abner Kirk, he was in town I had written a letter & handed it to his neighbor, who went out & soon found him & sent him to me he & family are well his children all 7 boys, we had a pleasant  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour & he is sound for the Union, At 9 Oc A M we got to Libertyville 11 Oc at Chester, 1 Oc at St. Marys 3 Oc at St. Genevieve landing,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 10 Oc night we landed at St Louis & learnt that the Steam Packet Schuyler was soon to start for Keokuk & I had our things. at once moved on board, & Christian Eckroats carried on to her he is severely wounded & no one to see to him along, & Mrs Miller of Ottumwa Iowa whos husband is in our Reg is in my care but takeing care of me: & Mrs Charity Drake, whos husband Oliver is in the 10 Iowa & has been in hospital Memphis Tenn & she went down to see him & got there the day after he started home is in my care by her request they live not far from Eddyville, We left St Louis  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 Oc nite, & I much exasted & trembling weak

*Sunday, August 16.* Clear & extremely warm I suffered verry much with the heat & Capt Wm Harle of Memphis Mo came near haveing a sun stroke about 4 Oc P. M he sank under the heat, & Christian Eckroats from 14 miles west of Eddyville Iowa who belongs to the 17th

Iowa Infy & was wounded at Champion hills Miss is on boat on his way home on sick furlow & verry much reduced from his wound being shot in the right brest & the ball is lodged under the shoulder blade, the wound is mattering freely, he came on board at Memphis, Tenn not able to walk or help himself & no a being along to take care of him, & I have been trying to do for him all I have been able to washing & feeding him & dressing his wound Mrs Miller & Mrs Drake keep the flies off ove[r] him & fan him, I am verry feeble this evening I think from the heat I am enjoying myself & have had some sweet moments in meditation & inward communion. Oh how good the Lord is in my conversation hardened skeptical sinners have wept, among them the capt above named, before he was smitten down & I pray it may be conviction that will end in conversion.

*August 17.* At 12 Oc noon we arived at Keokuk at 3 Oc took the cars & at 6½ Oc I arived at Summit took the hack & at dark arived at home at Keosauqua, my Daughter & two youngest sons ware in Davis Co at my Brothers near Troy attending Camp Meeting I took supper at Andrew Merediths found my friends all well, & had the pleasure of resting on my own floor the night At Keokuk I started to go to hospital to see some of our men but my strength failed & I could not go, I saw Phillip Whitzell of our Co & some others of Our Reg at Depot

*August 18.* Amandus Started early in buggy for Emma & my little sons. at 5 Oc P. M. they arived at home well at 5½ Oc My Brother A S Pearson his Wife & Child & Sister Temperance A Funk & her son Dodge arived, I was glad to see them, so soon to come to see me many of my Neighbours have been to see me, & I was quite exasted by night The Republicans had a Convention & Senitor Wilson<sup>18</sup> made a telling speech they say & harmony prevailed in the convention I ate breakfast at My brotherinlaw's LeeRoy Meredith; took Dinner with my Old friend & brother, Chandler E Yeager I sent for Dr Wm Craig & he came to see me, & is to prepare & bring me some tonecs tomorrow, quite a number of neighbours have called this day, & it is cheering to listen to their loved familliar voices.

*August 19.* I have been quite poorly this afternoon Dr Craig was to see me this morning & brought me some toneck medicines

*August 20.* I had forgotten to send a report to our Regtl Seargt, from Dr Wm Craig, in my letter I wrote & started yesterday to My Capt. & I sent it to Mrs. Hare this A M & she sent it in her letter to her husband Our Chaplain, & requesting him to deliver it to our sergt Dr S H Sawyer, Helena Ark. I have felt on the mend this day thank the Lord, but had a verry sick spell before day this morning, At Noon they took me in wagon to my neighbour LeeRoy Merediths & I took dinner with many good friends & connection, In the morning & evening

<sup>18</sup>James F. Wilson of Fairfield, member Third Constitutional Convention, 1857; member Iowa House of Representatives, 1858; member Iowa Senate, 1860-61; member United States House of Representatives, 1861-69; member United States Senate, 1888-95.

many of my friends & Neighbours called to see me among them the Hon Geo G Wright & Lady & the stationed preacher Rev Bradrick

*August 21.* I was quite unwell in the morning but have felt better through the day at noon they took me to Andrew Merediths for dinner among a number of my friends & Neighbours, had a pleasant time Morning & evening a number of friends & neighbours called to see me Revt R T Rowley the Presiding Elder had quite an interview with me & we had a verry pleasant time.

*August 22.* Morning My Brother Augustus Son Kirk & Daughter Maria Came down to see me, Afternoon they all went into Thayer & Noyes United States Circus & Hippozoonoma They took me in buggy in town & I took dinner with Brother Burns I had the pleasure of seeing many old friends & acquaintances & was treated with great kindness & respects Evening My Brother his wife & Child & my sister & her son that came on tuesday started home & would stay the night with my sisters daughter Nancy Tootwiler, I have spent the day pleasantly but have felt verry feeble some of the time,

*Sunday, August 23.* 11 Oc I was at church & made a few remarks in closing after the Rev Thos Bradrick, I met a hearty welcome from the Brothers & Sisters I & Daughter took dinner at Father Thomas Millers, I was quite sick afternoon; Evening was at Church but declined to speak being to feeble My Nephew Kirk & Niece Maria Pearson that came yesterday morning went home today, I have had a happy day although quite sick part of the time. I wrote a little article for the Republican.

*August 24.* The Mahoneyites or Copperhead wing of the democracy had a rally at Keosauqua & tried to make a demonstration; in my honest opinion they had not one hundred & fifty of their voters present, & Genl James Tuttle who they have now as candidate for Governor left in the morning so as not to be present at the meeting, least he mite make himself offensive to the Cops, or the war democracy, he stands in a strange position as a candidate repudiating the platform & running on the ticket The speakers ware Horrace & Clagett of Keokuk, Trimble of Bloomfield I was at the meeting a short time & heard slang enough to disgust any loyal man before I left

*August 25.* Clear & Cold with quite a heavy frost in the morning killing Cucumber vines &c They thrashed my wheat on my river farm above Pittsburg I was not able to go up. I called at Judge G. G. Wrights a spell in morning, & had Dr Craig to examine me & make out a statement of my condition to send to Our Regt Sargent

*August 26.* Clear & verry cool for Aug more like Oct or the forepart of Nov vines in many places are killed by the frost on monday night, & the corn blades in many places are killed & white as they will be in winter. Wm Dean, Brother of H Clay Dean came to town yesterday, it is rumored to council with the K.G.C. afternoon he drank freely of bad whiskey, & at night was put to bed on a pallet on the bar room floor of the Keosauqua house, & was found dead there this morning he

seemed to have died without a struggle Afternoon Emma & I spent with the family of our good Chaplain M. H. Hare, I am feeling some better but my strength appears as if it will not return

*August 27.* I spent the afternoon with Hon G G Wright Chief justice of Iowa & my esteemed neighbour I took tea with them, Capt Jas B Sample of Genl Tuttle's staff was there. he is not for Tuttle or the traitor ticket, & feels disgusted at the condition Tuttle has placed himself in at this critical time. Evening Emma & I attended the Union prayer meeting at the M. E. Church not many out but we had a pleasant time, prsbeterias Congregationalists & Methodist's taking part in speaking, singing & prayer's

*August 28.* My son's & I went in buggy to two of my places, found the corn looking much better than I expected on each of them, & the cotton on my river place is looking beautifull being nicely in bloom, at noon I sipped coffy with Brother John myres, & finished a short visit & went on to H Tootwilers on my place there sat at the table again & sipped some more Coffee had a little vissit got a few roast-enears & a mess of potatoes & returned home;

*August 29.* Daniel Kent Lieut Col of the 19th Iowa Inftry arived at home in Keosauqua, he is looking in good health, but brings the sad news to our City of the death of Holden L. Prosser of the 19th Iowa, he died in hospital at [Vicksburg] of billious diareah he was a sound union man & a good soldier was a verry industrious citizen & leaves a Wife & 2 children to mourn his loss, Emma & I spent the afternoon & took tea with Brother Silas Toolman, we called in the evening a short time at Brother Rowley's our Presiding Elder he was from home at his Qr meeting

*Sunday, August 30.* 11 Oc A M attended preaching in our Church by Thos Bradrick text Behold how good & how pleasant it is for brethern to dwell together in harmony, we had a pleasant time we took dinner at Brother E D Shepherds, I rode in buggy with the preacher to his appointment at Philadelphia he preached from the last Ch of Rev & 17 v & I closed after him, many old friends ware glad to see me evening we had prayer & speaking meeting in our Church we had a good time & I praise the Lord for his mearcy & blessing which surround us, I am verry weary but happy bless the Lord Oh my Soul

*August 31.* I put in the day resting at home & conversing with the numerous friends who called on me.

*September 1.* 8 Oc I took the hack in company with Chief Justice G G Wright & family we went to Summit Station & there took the Cars for Douds Station & from there to buisness Corners in Mr Gardners wagon we took dinner with Mr Gardner & thence went to Mt Maria Church to a Union meeting at 1 Oc P. M. we had a large assemblage of men & women the Judge spoke Over 2½ hours, I was then called out & I made a short speach & was often stoped by the loud

cheers of the audience evening I returned home in L Merediths wagon I was verry weary

*September 2.* Variable & quite cool, 8 Oc my son took Emma & I to the Summit & we there took the cars for Keokuk, we arived afternoon put up at the Dudley house went & heard the Rev Senator Harlan<sup>19</sup> speak to a verry large assemblage of people & he made one of the ablest speeches I ever heard, & I think was convincing to the Copperhead tribe & cheering & instructive to the Union people, after the speaking went & seen my men in hospital & was happy to find our men all improveing

*September 3.* We visited the hospitals again this morning & found our men in good sperits, we done a little shopping & at 3 Oc took the Cars & arived safely but much wearied at home just at dark, I feel almost give out feeble & faint,

*September 4.* There was a grand ralley of the Union people of old Van buren Co & some from the adjoining Countys, One of the processions passed my house had 139 wagons loaded with people drums beating & colors flying, the front wagon nicely fixed of for the fine brass band of Fairfield, there was 37 horses drawing the wagon halling the band & highest flag staff, & next to it was a fine brass cannon, it was the largest assemblage of people ever I saw in the County Senator Harlan first spoke & Mr Geo. W. McCrary<sup>20</sup> formerly of this Co but now a lawyer of Keokuk followed their speeches was well received by the friends the Union at night Our old townsman C C Nourse<sup>21</sup> spoke in the Court house & his speech I am told was pointed & convinceing, I was not able to attend, there was one verry sad affair a young Mr Krucher while loading the cannon had his right hand blown off & he had been wounded in the left arm at prairie grove & has but little use of it the gathering was splendid & there was but little disturbance a fiew Copperheads disturbed the meeting but ware hurried out of the court yard & our old neighbour Carlile St John got slapped in the mouth for his treasonous slang, & was lead from the speaking, I took tea with my Old Neighbour Mrs Daugherty

*September 5.* At noon I started with my Children in my buggy up to my Brothers at String town found him his wife & Oldest son & daughter gone to the grand Republican ralley at Bloomfield, they report a big crowd out & a good time Senator Harlan C C Nourse & Capt Moore spoke & the meeting was harmonious. I went down in the grove below Stringtown & listened to Judge Trimble address the Cops & some sound Democrats & Republicans was there, he mixed his

<sup>19</sup>James Harlan of Mount Pleasant, state superintendent of public instruction, 1847; president Wesleyan University, Mount Pleasant, 1853-1855; United States senator, 1855-63; United States secretary of the interior, 1865; again United States senator, 1867-73; member Alabama Claims Commission, 1882-85.

<sup>20</sup>George W. McCrary, member Iowa House of Representatives, 1858-59; member Iowa Senate, 1862-65; member United States House of Representatives, 1869-77; United States secretary of war, 1877-79; United States judge of the Eighth Circuit, 1880-84.

<sup>21</sup>C. C. Nourse, attorney-general of Iowa, 1861-65; judge of Fifth Judicial District, 1865-66.

speech up so it was hard at times to know which side he was on but he abused the Abolitionists & their party & extolled the Copperheads & Genl Tuttle

*Sunday, September 6.* At 7 Oc A M Brother Augustus took his waggon & he his wife & 2 Children & I & my children & we went to Our Sister Temperance Ann Finks near Pulaski we took dinner & in the evening she got in the wagon & came to Brothers with us I was verry tired & feeble, & sick after night, my friends ware all well here, thank the Lord.

*September 7.* Variable & pleasant 8 Oc Brother, & his daughter Maria & Sister, my daughter & I got in Brothers wagon & we went some 3 or 4 miles out toward Chequest, to get a girl but failed, we was over some rough country we came back through Troy & I was verry much wearied, afternoon My sister & son Amandus got in my buggy & went to Pulasky & got us a girl Miss Margaret Stofer & in coming back he broke the buggy was detained at sisters all night

*September 8.* Morning I went with Brother to Troy the folks got at me to stay & make a speech at night, about the state of the country, the duty of the people, prospect of the war &c but I at first declined intending to go home but when we got back to Brothers my son had got there with a broken buggy axle & had to take it to Troy to get a new one, & the citizens again got at me to give them a speech & as I had been detained & could not get home I concented, I took tea at Judge Areharts & had a verry pleasant time with them at candle-lighting we met in the M E Church the house was crowded & after Judge Arehart was called to the chair & stated the object of the meeting the choir sang & I then spoke to the croud, after I closed others was called but declined we adjurned & I went to Brothers for the night,

*September 9.* At 9 Oc A M, Brother hitched up his waggon & started home with us we had hay in the Waggon & a cover on it & it was so cool that we covered up our laps with a quilt & then was to cool at 2 Oc P M we got home & found our plumbs, damsons, pears, peaches & apples had vanished rapidly from the trees by some means, I feel weary & weak,

*September 10.* I have been quite feeble. I went in to the court house a few minutes in the afternoon, Court is in session here in Keosauqua this week, & there is a suit against a rebble school Miss for whipping several children for singing the good national song Rallye around the flag boys, they sang it at noon on thanksgiving day it was sang some rods from the school house, Sylvester Henrys children was among the ones whiped & he is one of prosecutors

*September 11.* Sent Curtificates from Drs Craig, Stidger, & Elbert, of my feeble condition to the commander of the 36th Iowa Reg Inftry

*September 12.* At 10 Oc A. M. I went at the strong solicitations of friends with them to a grand union meeting at Birmingham, & at 1 Oc P M we got their, Cenator Wilson first spoke & next the Rev

Fisk who in former years drove from Kentucky at the time a neighbourhood had to leave on account of their religious views they made excellent & telling speeches, after them I was called out & spoke a short time, we had singing by the Keosauqua glee Club and the Birmingham glee Club before & between the speeches, & it was a good time for the loyal citizens but the northern traitors got it hard the meeting closed in order & at dark I was again at home, very weary but glad for the fine repast

*Sunday, September 13.* 7 Oc A M, my children & I attended class meeting 11 Oc Mr Sands the Congregational minister preached for us in the M E Church text Isaiah 1st Ch 2nd 3rd & 4 verses immediately after preaching my children & I visited the graveyard & Offered up our prayers as we knelt around the silent remains of our departed friends & baptised their graves with our tears, at 1 Oc P M we called to see Mrs Prosser whose husband lately died in hospital at Vicksburg, & her mother is very sick & with Mrs. Prosser; 2 Oc we attended Sabbath School & evening we attended a prayer & speaking meeting in the M E Church & had a good time, but I am about exasted

*September 14.* We have been through this day as my son Amandus, is to leave at 3 Oc tomorrow morning for school at Iowa City, a number of friends have been to see him Evening Amandus & I went to the M E Church & listened to a most elegant anty slavery lecture by the Rev Fisk who was driven from Kentucky years ago, & since the rebellion driven from Mo, the house was crowded & many could not get in, & his discourse was bible proofs against American slavery & it left no spot for the proslavery clan to stand upon with their pet sin which is so terribly afflicting this nation now but which thank God will soon be swept from America, 10 Oc night the last 30 hours I have not been to bed & am faged out as the saying goes

*September 15.* I went with my son in buggy to Brother Kauffmans on poor farm & we got there at 10 minutes after three Oc A M, Mrs Judge George Wright had got there with her two eldest sons just before us & Brother Kauffman takes them to Iowa City for us, they started at 5 Oc A M & at daylight Mrs Wright & I started home I stopped a short time at Isaac Parlees but got home before breckfast & after it Brother C E yeager & I & my two little boys went in my buggy to my river farm to see our cotton crop, we got home before noon, Mrs Hare was at my house & spent the day with us & we had a very Pleasant social time She is the Wife of my Chaplain, Evening Brother E D Sheppard C. E. Yeager & I went out to Brother M M Myrs'es & had a social good hour & each of us four under a tree in his yard on our knees made known our wants to God & we ware blessed my old friend Sylvester Henry staid the night with me,

*September 16.* My Friend Sylvester Henry is with us again tonight & also H Tootwiler, I was in Court a few minutes this forenoon listening to the pleadings of a suit against a Shee rebble School teacher for severely whipping some little girls on thanksgiving day, for singing

at noon not in school hours, nor on the school ground, the good & loyal national song, & we will rally around the flag boys, rally once again &c.

*September 17.* Capt Leroy Elbert<sup>22</sup> arrived home a Corps this P M he belonged to the regulars & was taken sick Memphis Tenn & started home & died on the way he is a son of Dr J D Elbert<sup>23</sup> of this county Indian Prairie

*September 18.* Morning I went with L Meredith to Pittsburg mill Robt Maples little girl died Emma & I spent the evening with L Meredith's

*September 19.* Court Closed having put in the full time two weeks allowed to them Mrs Eager died of fever she was quite an old lady Evening I attended the lodge of I O O F. & got a traveling card for one year from the 15th of Nov next.

*Sunday, September 20.* 9 Oc we attended Brother Yeagers Class, 10 Oc Yeager, & my Daughter & I went in my buggy to Dr Elberts to the funeral of his son Capt Leroy Elbert Rev Latham preached the funeral & Rev Rowley officiated some it was a good sermon & a solemn time, a very large gathering of people & the family were greatly overcome by this sad affliction, he died of Typhoid fever on his way home from Memphis Tenn, at 5 Oc Emma & I attended class Brother E D Shepherd class. Evening we had Union prayer & conference meeting At the M E Church the Rev King, Presbyterian led the meeting

*September 21.* I was busy fixing to start to the army At candle-lighting according to an appointment by request of the citizens I made a speech in the Court house on the state of the Country there was a fine audience after I spoke Rev Latham<sup>24</sup> Preacher in charge at Keosauqua & candidate for the legislator was called for he arose & excused himself, then Joseph Smith a lawyer of the place & a life long Democrat was called out he made a short excellent speech denouncing Copperheads & not missing Genl Tuttle & heartily indorsing the Administration & urging all to vote for Stone<sup>25</sup> & the Republican ticket generally. Judge Strickland presided at the meeting, & the glee Club favoured us with some excellent singing patriotic songs

*September 22.* 8 Oc A M I left home, Brother Yeager brought Emma & I to Summit Station in my buggy we then took the Cars & Emma & I arrived at Keokuk at 3 P M we visited the hospitals, done

<sup>22</sup>Leroy Elbert, appointed from Van Buren County, Iowa, to West Point Military Academy and was graduated in 1857, promoted to first lieutenant in 1861, to captain in 1863, and died September 13, 1863.

<sup>23</sup>Dr. John D. Elbert, member Iowa Territorial Council, 1842-43.

<sup>24</sup>James W. Latham, member House of Representatives, Tenth General Assembly, 1864.

<sup>25</sup>William M. Stone, judge of the Eleventh, afterward the Sixth, Judicial District, 1857-61; captain Company B, Third Iowa Infantry, and promoted to major of the regiment, 1861; colonel Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, 1862-63; governor of Iowa, 1864-68; member Iowa House of Representatives, 1878; assistant commissioner, and later commissioner, of United States Land Office, 1889-93.



some shopping & evening we put up at Cozen M. J. Kelleys he is at Chicago his Wife & Children are well I am verry tyred, the Seargent here say I ought not now to go to the army, from my feble state of health, but I have started & shall try to get to my Company, I heard this day the sad news that Lieut L L Spooner of my Co, Capt Varner of Co A & Capt Webb of Co K are dead, the coffin containing the body of Capt Webb I saw at the depot it arived here on its way to Albia this day

*September 23.* Variable & warm I have spent the day in trying to get some of our men discharged from hospitals to take them with me to the Regt evening I listned to an excilent speech from Senator Doolittle of Wisconsin I think it done good if any anty war or peace men ware presant I am verry tyred tonight

*September 24.* Emma took the cars at 2½ Oc for home, I was buisey all day in trying to get our men out of the hospital. Such as are reported for duty, they are verry anxious to go with me & I have had promisses of the Seargents to have them releaced & have thus long been disappointed, but have promisses that I shall have them tomorrow I am almost tired out in my efforts, I listened to a discourse this evening in the Lighting house hospital by Chaplain Williams & I am now put up at the Dudley house

*September 25.* Clear & pleasant I have laboured hard this day to get the men from hospital but have yet failed. I took dinner with Mrs H Barrow, he Henry is in my Company, this evening I was at the lecture room in the medical Colledge & listned to a lecture by the Rev Denneth to the soldiers Christian Association, Subject Loyalty to God, Denneth is pastor of the M E Chatham Square Church, I am put up at the Dudley house, tyred & weary I will now at nine retire,

*September 26.* I laboured until afternoon to get my men discharged from hospital but failed & cannot get them before monday or tuesday & have to be reconciled to that as I have been detailed by Capt Dwight commanding at Keokuk, to take the forces that are ready to leave Keokuk & distribute them as directed by him at 3 Oc P M I took the cars & at a little after dark I arived at home by permission of Capt Dwight & Dr Tailor principal Seargent at Keokuk hospital I found my Children & neighbours generaly well & much surprised at seeing me home, Mr Saml Merrit came upon the cars & came with me home & spends the night with me he used to be a citizen of this Co but is now deputy marshall in Jefferson Co

*Sunday, September 27.* At 11 Oc P M we attended preaching by James Latham text I beseech you that ye receive not the grace of God in vane, we took dinner with Leeroy Meredith my brother in law & tea in evening with Father Thomas miller Emma is feeling quite unwell

*September 28.* At 8 Oc A M I left home in the hack & at 10 Oc took the cars at Summit & arived at Keokuk at 2 Oc P M I had the pleasure of seeing several old acquaintances from Appanoose Co

among them Mrs Richardson on her way to Memphis Tenn to see her husband he was wounded near Helena Ark & is in hospital at Memphis, I have been quite unwell this day & left my Daughter quite poorly this P M but got a line from her this evening & she is much better I have been visiting the hospitals since 2 Oc P M until evening

*September 29.* At 6 Oc A M I reported on the levee at Keokuk to take in charge some two hundred & thirty soldiers from the hospitals gard house &c they are from almost all the western states & some of the hardest nuts I have seen at 7 Oc I went on board the steam Packet J Harry Johnson Capt F S Lee, Genl Ross got on with us at Quincy Ill

*September 30.* At 4 Oc P. M we arived at St Louis & I marched our men to Scofield barracks & reported, & delivered them, I am suffering with severe headache

*October 1.* Second Lieut Elliott of the 29th Iowa Inft & I used every effort we could to get on with the men we have in charge for Helena to join their Regts but we failed & are detained with the promise that we shall get off on Saturday; so at 6 Oc evening I took the cars for Belleville Ill & at 7 Oc arived at my Brotherinlaws J. K. Mullen found them well & I called an hour with H A Mullen then returned & staid the night with J K. I am feeling verry weary

*October 2.* At 8½ Oc I took leave of my Friends in Belleville Ill & went in the country to see my friends & Cousins Joseph & David Ogle's, also John Ruddocks found them all well took dinner at Ruddocks at 4 Oc P. M. I again took the cars & at 5½ Oc arived in St Louis, & stoped again at Scofield Barracks with Capt Saml J Stewart comding Scofield Barracks St Louis.

*October 3.* I was quite unwell but buisey in trying to get off with the men from Scofield Barracks Evening I attended a lecture by ——— Blow in reply to a speach one week ago by Genl Frank Blair who had made a kind of Copperhead speach they spoke in the Mercantile Library Hall

*Sunday, October 4.* At 4 Oc P M we marched between 4 & 5 hundred troops from Scofield Barracks to the Packet landing as we ware Ordered to take a boat for Memphis but the boat could not take our men & we ware back to the Barracks, with much dissatisfaction to us all, evening Brother Elliott of the 29 Iowa & I went to the M E Church on 12th St & herd a good sermon from Brother Fisher of Lawrence, in Kansas he is Chaplain of the 5th Kansas Cavelry

*October 5.* In morning I was quite sick but now 10 Oc night I am much better I have suckseeded this day in getting started from Scofield Barracks we left at 4 Oc & at 5 Oc P. M. I came on board the Hawk Eye State in command of between two & three hundred troops, most of them for Vicksburg, some for Memphis, Tenn, we left St Louis about sunset & are now laying up for the night a little below it.

*October 6.* We are laid up at Lecleys landing Mo for the night we have got along verry pleasantly thus far but I have been quite sick a spell this afternoon but I feel much better now I had the pleasure this day of discovering among the men I have in charge an old friend Aaron W Harlan he is Qr Master Seargent in Col Mores 21st Mo Regt he kept store in an early day at Desmoin City<sup>20</sup> Van Buren Co Iowa, I have not seen him for the last 15 or 20 years but I recognised him today & made myself known to him

*October 7.* At noon we stoped a fiew moments at Cairo to report & at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  P M we reported at columbus & at evening we landed for the night close above the Reynolds bar on the Kentucky shore about 10 miles above Island No 10 there was one boat fast on the bar & two others laid up until morning to cross it I have in my Charge Wm Daubins of the 17th Iowa he is a fine looking intelligent young man & Brother to Isaac F Daubins a Col in the Rebble Army & has annoyed us a great deal about Helena in the past year & was in the fight against us on the 4th of July.

*October 8.* Heavy fog in morning & we dare not start out untill it cleared away about 7 Oc at 9 Oc we passed the memorable Island No 10 & at noon we landed a little above Point Pleasant bar on which the steamer Warsaw was aground, here I got on shore with my troops & we walked past the bar & our boat stuk a short time only & then she landed below & took us on, the Warsaw got off while we ware on shore she left St Louis 26 hours before us & I marched those troops down to go on her at St Louis but she could not take us & a fiew soldiers slipped from our ranks & paid their passage on her to get on fast to their Reg. 9 Oc night we are landed on the Arkansas shore for the night about 15 miles above Ft Pillow

*October 9.* At day break we loosed from our moorings & went gliding rappidly on our way down the great father of waters after we passed Ft Pillow I assembled my troops on the harican deck & Seargent Harlan of the 21st Mo stated the object of the meeting & resolutions ware passed expressing our gratitude to Capt Isaac Mason of the Hawk Eye state & the officers & Cooks under him for their generosity & kindness to us, & we sent coppies of the resolutions to the Memphis Bulletin Memphis Tenn, to the Mo Democrat St Louis, to the Gate City, Keokuk & to the Burlington Hawkey for publication. we landed at Memphis at 4 Oc P M & I reported my men & delivered them over to Major Kuhn in Ft Pickering & I took the guards & went to the Soldiers home in Memphis & put up for the night, I am verry poorly & almost intirely give out, but I found the superentendant O E Watters verry accomadating he gave me some medecine & made me as comfortable as he could

*October 10.* In the morning I was verry unwell I left the soldiers home at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  Oc A M & reported to Genl Veach & he Ordered me to

<sup>20</sup>What is now the northeast portion of Keosauqua was called Des Moines up to 1836 when Keosauqua was incorporated.

Maj Kuhn in Ft Pickering to take my men on to Vicksburg & at 4 Oc P M we left Ft Pickering & I marched them on board the Steamer John H Groesbeck, Capt John A Dubel I requested Serg A Harlan of the 21st Mo Reg to go out & request Mr Henry Wheeting [Whelen?], a commissioner from Keosauqua Iowa here to take the soldier votes, to bring me some pole books, tickets & the law on the soldier vote, which he did, I had the pleasure of his company a few minutes & saw some other acquaintances, & at 7½ Oc evening the boat pushed out went a mile up the river to a wood yard & tied up for the night, with over one thousand troops on & near a hundred commiss Officers

*Sunday, October 11.* At day light the John H Groesbeck left the Woodyard above Memphis Tenn & we arrived at Helena Ark at 4 Oc & I delivered over some troops & at 5 Oc P M we again was on our way to Vicksburg at 11 Oc A M. Chaplain Baldwin of the Ill Reg preached a good discourse from Proverbs 29th & 1st John A Dubel Capt of the Groesbeck & Officers were gentlemanly fellows Thomas Hannah Commissioner to take the vote of the 11th Iowa at vicksburg was on board & did not get to the regt in time & James M Ballard from council bluffs to take the vote of the 3rd Iowa Cavelry left us at Helena in time to take their votes if they are there

*October 12.* Early in the morning we landed by the coal barges & coaled at the mouth of White River, we passed along well until about 5 Oc P M we ran on a sand bar & now 10½ Oc night we are yet hard aground hard as they have laboured to get off. afternoon we met the Metropolitan with Genl Grant & Lady on board he is a very social pleasant man & has a very Sociable lady, he is now going to Memphis to establish his head Qrs there, at 11 Oc A M G. C Edwards, formerly Ord Sear in [Co. F] the 28 Iowa, now Chaplain of the 11 Luiscanna African De preached for us & I closed after him, at 3 Oc P M he gave us a national lecture on hurican deck it was a good thing

*October 13.* We are now 10 Oc night safe at the vicksburg landing on the Groesbeck we arrived soon after dark having had a pleasant run & no grounding on the sand At 9 Oc A M we opened the election for Iowa Soldiers on board the Groesbeck to vote by Electing Major Spearman of 4th Iowa Cav. G W Pearson Lieut in 26th Iowa Inf & Lieut B F Jordan, 20th Iowa Inf judges of the Election & Assistant Surgeon J C Morrison of the 13 Iowa Inf & Lieut James Stewart of the 12 Iowa as clerks of the election & there was 141 votes polled Union Ticket for

Governor Wm M Stone	131
Lieut Gover. E W Eastman	135
Judge of Supreme Court John F Dillon	134
Democrat or Copperhead candidates	
Genl J M Tuttle for Governor	8
John F Duncombe " Lieut Governor	6
For Judge of Supreme Ct Ch Mason	6

*October 14.* I delivered the Poll Books to Thos Hanna a commis-

sioner sent from Iowa to take votes at 8 Oc A M I reported my troops to the Provo Martial at Court house in vicksburg & was ordered to hold myself in readiness to take my troops on the Steamer Spread Eagle at 1 Oc P M & report them to the Commanders as follows 23 of the men I report at Natchez & 125 at New Orleans & several at Grand Gulf & 6 at Port Hudson after securing transportation ration &c I viewed for a time the strong hold of vicksburg & went into some of their underground shelters from our Iron hale & onto the top of the Court house which gives a commanding view of the City I visited some of the fortifications & saw some of the effects of the siege; at 1 Oc P M went aboard & at 2 Oc we started for N Orleans

*October 15.* At day light we left Natchez & glided nicely along passing the mouth of Red river & 9 miles below is Morganza & farther on is Bayou Sara part of which is in ruins on the flat next the river on the bluffs back I could not see any distruction at 4 Oc we landed at Port Hudson it has high abrupt banks in front with a broken surface above, about sunset we landed at Baton Rouge, the Capital of Louisiana, we laid their about two hours, & Col Dungan<sup>27</sup> & I walked up to the hospital & to the varanda hotell & to the central & back it is a pleasant seeming place the male population mostly gone in the rebble army

*October 16.* Clear & pleasant except a heavy fog early in the morning, We stoped at Donldsonville about day break & was there a short time, & at 1 Oc P M we landed at Carrollton about 5 miles above N Orleans, there is a large camp of soldiers there & I left a fiew of my men there with Lieut Col Dungan 34 Iowa At 3 Oc P M we landed at the Citty & I marched my men to the Provo Office it was closed, then to Genl Banks head Qrs they ware closed & I at last got my men to the Soldiers home just fitting up by Ephriam Nute Jr Gov. Agent western Sty Commission & formerly Chaplain of the 1st Kansas I saw my old friend Lieut Col Kent of the 19 Iowa in the citty this P M Miss Louisa Merits of Quincy Ill arived this A M as Matron of the Soldiers home here New Orleans

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<sup>27</sup>Warren S. Dungan, member Iowa Senate, 1862; lieutenant-colonel Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry, 1862-65; member of Iowa House of Representatives, 1880-83; member Iowa Senate again, 1888-91; lieutenant-governor of Iowa, 1894-96.

*The Oskaloosa Herald* comes to us with the name of a new editor, Dr. Charles Beardsly, whose first labors give promise of future distinction in editorial life. Our friend Needham still retains his connection with the paper as one of its publishers; but impaired health compels him to resign one department of labor.—*The Iowa Citizen*, Des Moines, January 12, 1858. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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