

## DOCUMENTS

### THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF COLONEL JOHN HENRY SMITH *Edited by David M. Smith*

Colonel John Henry Smith, a prominent citizen of the small Mississippi River town of Camanche, Iowa, held a position of respect and prominence among his neighbors as a gentleman, soldier, and citizen. He was born in Guilderland, Albany County, New York, on March 19, 1827, the descendant of a Hessian army officer who, after the Revolution, had remained in the United States and settled in New York.

Colonel Smith's youth seems to have been quite the same as those of many other young, adventurous men who staked their fortunes on the Middle West of the early 1840's. He left home at the age of 15 because of a stepfather, his father having died when Colonel Smith was but seven years of age. He worked in a machine shop in Bridgeport, Connecticut, for three years, then returned to Albany County for a try at farming. In 1844 he went West, where he found employment on a propeller ship running between Chicago and Detroit. After two trips he left the Great Lakes trade to take a position with Bristol and Porter of Chicago, where he stayed until the summer of 1845. He then moved to Kane County, Illinois, where he farmed until 1849.<sup>1</sup>

In March of 1851, Colonel Smith married Emily Perry Cooley, the daughter of Thomas Cooley, commandant of the United States Arsenal at Hartford, Connecticut. After his marriage, Colonel Smith worked as an engineer on the St. Charles Division of the Chicago and Galena Union Railroad Company. In 1852 he moved to Clinton County, Iowa, and acquired tracts of land in Center and Washington townships.<sup>2</sup> He belonged to the first Board of Supervisors in Clinton County and was a member of the convention that organized the Republican Party in Iowa in 1856.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Portrait and Biographical Album of Clinton County, Iowa . . .* (Chicago, 1886), 347-8.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 348.

<sup>3</sup> B. F. Gue, *Biographies and Portraits of the Progressive Men of Iowa . . .* (2 vols., Des Moines, 1899), 1:278.



It was while he was working on his farm in Iowa that news came of the firing upon Fort Sumter. On October 17, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 16th Iowa Volunteer Infantry, being mustered in as its captain. He took part in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, the second battle of Corinth, and the siege of Vicksburg. For bravery in the Vicksburg campaign, he was awarded a silver medal by act of Congress. In March, 1864, he returned home on a brief furlough. After this, his regiment was assigned to the 17th Corps of the Army of the Tennessee under General Blair at Cairo, Illinois. His diary takes up the account of his experiences at this point, covering his participation in the Atlanta campaign, his capture, imprisonment, and escape.

After his escape and return to duty he was appointed major on the unanimous request of the officers of his regiment and subsequently was commissioned lieutenant colonel and finally colonel. He took part in the Grand Review of Troops at Washington, D. C., on June 22, 1865.

The citizens of Lyons, Iowa (where he had moved his family at the beginning of the war), presented him with a saber, sash, and belt to replace the sword he had destroyed rather than deliver it into the hands of the enemy upon his capture at Atlanta.<sup>4</sup>

Colonel Smith was elected to the Iowa State Senate in 1865 and also held several positions in the United States Revenue Department. "It was largely through his efforts that the great frauds in the Camanche distillery were brought to light and the property confiscated by the government in 1873."<sup>5</sup>

The following diary is in the possession of Homer I. Smith of Clinton, Iowa, and has been edited for publication by David M. Smith, son of Homer I. Smith and great-grandson of Colonel John Henry Smith.

April 30" 1864 left home for Davenport arrived there found the Regt nearly all there and Mustered worked till 11 oclock at night making out pay Rolls

Sunday May the first was rather gloomy worked until night at Muster and pay Rolls

Monday May the 2d I spent mostly running around sent Finale Statements to A. G. U. S. A. of the W. [Adjutant General United States Army

<sup>4</sup> *Portrait and Biographical Album of Clinton County, Iowa*, 351.

<sup>5</sup> Gue, *Biographies and Portraits*, 1:279.



of the West] Thompson Paymaster being Sick we where ordered off without pay and left Davenport at 8 oclock A M the day being very fine for Cairo at which place we arrived at 1 oclock A M May the 4" found Vegetation at least ten days earlier then [sic] in Iowa <sup>6</sup>

May 20" Got to Pulaski [Tennessee] found the Regiment had arrived there the day before the wheather [sic] was fine but hot Pulasky is [a] nice town but like all Seceshdom gone to Seed

May 21 Left Pulaski for Huntsville [Alabama] forded Elk River little Nigger got drowned made about eighteen miles weather fine but hot

May 22 Marched to a splendid Country well watered and was once inhabited made 15 miles weather very hot

May 23 Marched to Huntsville 12 Miles found it the nicest town I have seen yet in the South it was very rich before the War weather very warm

24 Staid in Huntsvill[e] was camped in swamp weather hot and Showery

May 25 Started on March to Rome Georgia had to go back to Decatur [Alabama] to cross the Tennessee River made 15 miles wheather hot and showe[r]ly camped in Cornfield for the night

May 26 Started 6 A M reached Decatur about 2 P M distance 13 Miles Country splendid Camped on the north side of the River Town deserted

May 27 Left Camp 2 O Clock P M Marched about 7 Miles Camped in Wheat Field about 12 at night wheather hot

May 28 Left Camp at 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> A M Crossed a very bad stream of about 10 Roods [rods] wide by wading boys begin to find chickens land mostly planted to Corn Camped at night at Somerville Morgan Co a sleepy diserted town Marched Some 10 Mile today weather hot but windy

May 29" Sunday a beautiful day it makes one feel the truth of the Saying of our Savior [a]bout peace on Earth and good will to men everything in Nature is Calm and peacefull nothing but man is wrong Oh for the end of this unholy Rebellion and the return of peace and Happiness.

<sup>6</sup> For the reports of Major-General Frank P. Blair on the events covered by this diary, see *The War of the Rebellion . . . Official Records* (Washington, 1891), Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 539-50 (hereinafter listed as *Official Records*). For an account of the 16th Infantry see Lurton Dunham Ingersoll, *Iowa and the Rebellion* (Philadelphia, 1866), 269-87; especially 279-87 for an account of the Atlanta campaign.



we resumed our March at 12 oclock We marched 18 miles country mountainous Roads bad did not get to Camp till midnight weather very hot advance found the 1" Rebs who were posted on the side of the mountains and fired in to our Column don no harm

May 30 Resumed March at 8 oclock A. M road lay over a Spoor [spur] of the Cumberland Mountain called Blue Ridge accent & Decent very steep and rocky marched to Warrenton 19 miles at which place we arrived about 9 oclock P. M. and camped for the night men[']s feet sore and worn out weather very hot and dry.

May 31" Resumed our March at 8 oclock A M had the Sand Mountains to acent found very rough roads to the Summit marched 16 Miles to Camp on a Large Mt Stream road passed throug[h] a very thinly settled country have seen no house with a Window in to [two] days March found many houses that had been burned by the Rebs on account of the owners being Loyal timber full [of] huckelberries whent in to Camp at 7 P M weather very hot men and mules giving out

June 1" Resumed our March at 5 oclock A M marched across the ballance of the Mountains. found Settlements scarce and houses of the poorest kind but never saw so many children as there appears to be in each Family the decent from the mountain to Valley was very Steep and the weather was very hot Lieut Hoyt was so overcome whith heat that he was blind we camped 12 miles (alongside of a Creek) from our Old Camp

June 2 Our men and teams being worn out with fatiuge [sic] the[y] where allowed to rest to day in Camp on Wills Creek Marshal County Ala

June 3 Started at 8 oclock A M Marched all day in the rain Roads awfull bad the Road leads over Lookout Mountain we made 17 miles to Camp on the Branch of the Alabama River got to Camp at 8 p m

June 4" Resumed March at 7 A M had to ford the Coosa River and take it all in all has been one of the most disagreeable Marches that I have been in Made 18 miles Camped at 8 P M

June 5 Started at 5 A M marched 16 miles to Rome it Rained nearly all day and the marching was worse then yesterday we reached Rome about 3 P M the men where weary and feet sore

June 6" Left Camp at 7 A M Crossed River into Rome this town has been a nice place of about 4000 inhabitants there is one street that runs



June 15" [sic] To day opens finely fighting going on all around the Rebs made an attack on our Lines in the night got nicely repulsed Weather fine

June 16" To day we done very little in the way of fighting the Rebs have four Batteries that they can shell us with and in the afternoon their Pieces opened on us with Shell Shot we thought that it was done to amuse their woman [sic] as We could see numbers of them on the Top of the Mountain that overlooks our position at night we where [sic] relieved from our position and whent in position on our left about 1½ Miles from our Old position we got to place and layed down at about 10 P M when Rebs mad[e] an attack on our right but they got repulsed as usual weather fine

June 17" at 12 M to day where ordered to relief the 32" Ohio in the front and we are now facing our Rebelious friends who sent us a wellcome occasionley in the shape of a whistling Bullet the weather drisly

June the 18" last night was another of the disagreeable ones that will not soon be forgotten the rain poured down in torrents and we don nothing more then make ourself comfortable we have done nothing in the way of fighting except Picket firing weather whet and bade

June 19" to day opened whett and nasty and a person would suppose that nothing besides a fish or Duck would want to be abroad but for all fighting has been going between the opposing Armies especially on the left and center we have the Rebs first line of Works now at 3 oclock the battle is still contested strongly by the Rebels how I pray that we may have success and defeat Johnston<sup>10</sup> so that they will be glad to quit about four oclock 3 Regiments of our Brigade where ordered to advance in to the Mountains we don so without getting in a fight the 15" had the advance and lost one man we occupy the Rebel works during the night weather very Rainy and cool

June 20" We that is our division don nothing to day except Skirmish with the Enemy but the right wing of our Army Judging from the Musketry Canonading has had a terrible fight with what success it is Hard to tell the distance that we are from it. It rained hard nearly all day

June 21 Still occupy our old Position inside of Rebel works facing the Enemy who are not more then ½ mile from us Still raining Hard last night Corporal Ellis D Co Shot himself in foot by accident

<sup>10</sup> General Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate commander.



June 22" Made no change in our position to day we are Still confronting the Enemy The [weather] has been Rainy and disagreeable have no news how our right wing is getting along weather fair and hot

June 23 Still occupy our old position fronting the Enemy our Rebelious Friends have been busily at work on Kenesha Mt erecting Batteries and to day sent us their compliments in the Shape of Shells and Shot no one hurt weather clear and hot

June 24" last night about 9 P M where ordered out to advance our Lines and dig Rifle Pits we done so and at [sic] occupied the Line during at [sic] night we went back to old Lines weather very hot

June 25 Done nothing to day weather very hot

June 26 Layed in our Old Camp all night when we recieved orders to march to hold a new Line of Works to the left of us weather very hot

June 27 Early this morning I was ordered to report on the Skirmish Line and take Command of 5 Companies from our Regt & 1 one Co from the 11" Reg I was ordered to charge the Rebels works we don so drove them from first line but found them to strong as the[y] have at least 5 men to our one We lost the following men Killed Corp Bair Co C Marcellus Auger Co C McDuff Co C John Knocke Co K Albert Wilson Mullen Wounded 15 Edward Cassilly Co A" Slight Lt Samuel Duffin right thigh Thaddaus S. Purcell nose Slight this charge was one of the follies of the war<sup>11</sup> weather very hot

June 28 To Day we don nothing besides Skirmishing weather very hot

June 29 the Same as above done nothing I got permission to go to Hospital Saw Lt Hoyt he looks very poorly weather very hot

June 30 To day it has been hot showry Col Sanders<sup>12</sup> being Sick I had to muster the Regt we are making no percebtible [sic] progress towards driving the Rebels from their position we are having a miserable mean System of Picket firing carried on both sides which is to near related to Murder to Suit me

July 1" Recieved Letters from home we are still in the old position

<sup>11</sup> This charge was met by Confederate Generals W. J. Hardee and W. W. Loring and was repulsed with a Union loss of about 3,000 men. The Confederate loss did not exceed 500. Matthew Forney Steele, *American Campaigns* (2 vols., Washington, 1909) 1:541. For Howard's account of this, see *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 36.

<sup>12</sup> Colonel A. H. Sanders took over the 16th Iowa at Iuka where Colonel Alexander Chambers, its original commander, was wounded in battle. A. A. Stuart, *Iowa Colonels and Regiments* (Des Moines, 1865), 305-307.



are having plenty of rumors of our successes and reverses but dont know any thing for certain except as far as our Corps is concerned and that has gained nothing we keep loosing about one man to the Regt daily weather very hot.

July 2 Got orders to move out at a minutes notice got ready waited all day but the notice came not weather very hot and showry

July 3" Got orders to leave Camp and March at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock last night we did not get fairley Started however until about 10 PM we marched all night and to day to get to the extreem right we met with the Enemy about 2 miles from our Camping ground our Skirmishers was all that engaged the Rebs have left their Stronghold Kenesaw Mountain to day I had the first spell of Headach which lasted me nearly all afternoon on our March Saw Col Howard O M Flint and others from our County weather awful hot

July 4 To day we had about as Hard a days work as I ever don Skirmishing with the Enemy we drove them the Rebs about 5 miles over the heaviest timbered ground that a man can imagen<sup>13</sup> weather very hot

July 5" We today again advanced as usual I had the command of our Skirmishers we had a desperate days work of it but don first rate loosing few men for the work we don weather very Hot

July 6" Acomplished nothing to day besides holding the ground we gained yesterday and we are now facing the strongest Rebel works that I ever saw Vicksburg not exepted weather very hot

Thursday July 7" To day we have got some Batteries in possition which have fired at intervals at the Rebs nearly all day without our getting any reply till just at night when Johny Reb opened every Gun they had and such a Shelling as we got for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an hour was caution but the greatest surprise to me was that they did not do us more Harm then they did J. W. Dewey Q. M. Sergeant was killed instantly by a shell passing through his bowels he has been with our Regiment since our first organization the weather is very hot and dry

Friday July 8 we layed in Camp doing nothing besides Skirmish with the Rebs have got another Battery in possition but so far it has not

<sup>13</sup> These skirmishers were made up of the 15th and 16th Iowa Volunteers under Lieutenant-Colonel John M. Hedrich. *Ibid.*, 300. See also *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 37.



opened out yet and the Rebel Batteries did not Shell us to any extend to day weather very hot recieved two letters from home to day

Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> I wrot Letter home. We don nothing but Skirmish through the day weather very hot Charles Darling wounded to day

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> During last night the Rebs again left their works the Strongest place it was that I have seen in any Campaign they had gone across Chattahoochie River we occupied their works at once sent out Skirmishers who soon came on the Enemy going across the River on the other side of which we could again discover strong fortifications in the Shape of Long Lines of Rifle Pitts and Forts weather very hot and Sultry

Monday July 11 To day we advanced our Lines to the River (Chattahoochie) on the otherside of which found the Rebs in possition and fortified as usual. I had the pleasure of Visit from Frank Burr of Cheeneys Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Division 15<sup>th</sup> A, C, weather hot and Sultry

Thursday July 12<sup>th</sup> Done nothing today but Observing the Enemy Lt Hoyt came back to Regt but whent back to Hospital had a splendid Shower which cooled off the air

Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> We marched about two miles to the left to Relieve the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regt of Ohio Inf on picket The day was very hot we are doing nothing further then hold our Lines we are getting more sick as the hot weather continues

Thursday July 14. To day we where relieved from Picket duty and returned to camp about sun down the weather has been ext[r]emely hot about night we where relieved from the heat by Thunder Storms which cooled the air

Friday July 15<sup>th</sup> To day our Regiment whent out again as pikets about 5 P M we had one man wounded Hettinger of Co C weather very hot during the day

Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> Early this morning we where ordered to evacuate our Line at day light keeping however two Co in front as pickets for show until 10 A. M. whe withdrew our Picket about 11 AM marched to Marietta at which place we arrived about 12 at night had a good Shower just after night weather during the day very hot

Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> We started from Marietta at 5 A M This [is] quite [a] nice Town of the Southern Style the people seemed to be home here at least female portion They looked on us Yankee Barbarians in disgust it is said that when the prisoners that Col Straight lost marched through



this town these delicate creatures turned out and Stoned them This however I do not believe as it is wholly contrary to the nature of the noble Woman of America the Road we took led us to Roswell a town famous for its manufactories near the Chattahoochie River and distant from Marietta 15 miles we crossed the River here on a Bridge build in the place of one burned by the Rebs we marched 4 miles nearly South on the Road to Decatur and Camped for the night distance marched to day 19 miles weather hot but pleasant

Monday July 18 Resumed March at 7 A. M. Country hilly and but little improved marched about 8 miles weather pleasant for marching wrot Letter home to day

Tuesday July 19" We had orders to resume our March at 5½ A. M. but did not Start til 11 A. M. we Marched to a point within a Mile ½ to Decatur where we Camped for the night distance marched 6 miles the Weather pleasant

Wednesday July 20 Today we resumed our March for Atlanta<sup>14</sup> marching through the town of Decatur on the Augusta Rail Road which town is distant about 6 Miles we Skirmished our way to within near two miles of Atlanta with out much opposition our Regiment had ten Men Wounded but two dangerously three badly and 5 slightly Company "A" had 5 wounded Rudolphus P. Derthick badly in head by shell Adna Beuchler Shoulder and Arm more Painful but not dangerous of a brace then flesh wound<sup>15</sup> Lafayette Blakely & William Blakely by being strock with Guns that wher hit by Shell Skin not broken but Brewsed the weather the hottest I ever Saw

Thursday July 21" Early this Morning we entrenched our line that we gained yesterday and now I think we are in position that we can hold and advance from when we get ready and this Ready came sooner than I expected for about ½ hour after writing the above we made a Charge or rather supported the 15" Iowa who don the charging in which our Brigade lost about Two Hundred Killed and Wounded<sup>16</sup> our Regiment had Six Men Killed and 47 Men wounded many of which are mortally so.

<sup>14</sup> For Blair's account of the fighting around Atlanta during July 20-22, see *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 542-50.

<sup>15</sup> Names and meaning of this passage not clear. Diary very illegible at this point.

<sup>16</sup> For an account of the battles of July 21 and 22, see Stuart, *Iowa Colonels and Regiments*, 291-4, 301-302, 307-312.



Oh God how long will this last how long will Wives mourn the Loss of Husbands. Parents Sons, and Sisters brothers A" Co. had three men wounded Jacob Lepper Seriousley Caleb S Jordan Severe but not dangerousley Sergeant Pierce Severe in thigh but not dangerousley I again have to Thank God for escaping the dangers of War not recieving a scratch while many a poor Fellow has gone to his long home in the afternoon we where relieved by other troops and moved to the extreem left of our lines and commenced to through up breast works to keep the Rebs from flanking us The weather to day was extremely hot

July 22" Friday To day about noon we where attacked by the Enemy in force we held our Lines to the Last and not having no Orders to fall back we Staid until the Enemy got to our rear and flanks<sup>17</sup> against this we could do nothing and after capturing as many Prisoners as we had men we had to surrender as prisoners of War we where marched through Atlanta to a Station about four Miles South the Officers and men that we surrendered to treated us like Gentlemen weather pleasant

Saturday July 23" Staid all day in Corral 4 Miles south of Atlanta weather pleasant

Sunday July 24" Staid all day at the same Corral had three days rations issued consisting of 1 lb of good bacon and three pounds of Cracker weather pleasant

Monday July 25 Started on our March for Macon marched 15 Miles was very hard on me not having had any Sleep for three nights before on account of having no Blanket the weather being Cold at night

Tuesday July 26 to day we marched about 8 miles and Camped near a Creek weather pleasant

Wednesday July 27 Marched to a town called Griffin 8 Miles where we took Cars for Macon distant 68 Miles where we arrived about 12 M and marched to prison<sup>18</sup> had nice rain during to day

Thursday July 28" Led the usual Prison Life to day washed and Cook-

<sup>17</sup> "The loss in the corps on the 22d was very severe, amounting to 1,801 killed, wounded, and missing. Among the missing was the Sixteenth Iowa (245 men), which was on the extreme left of the Fourth Division, and was completely enveloped and cut off by the enemy in their first attack, which was so sudden and unexpected in that quarter as to make it impossible to guard against it." Report of General Blair, *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 547. See also, report of Lieutenant-Colonel Addison H. Sanders of the 16th Iowa, *ibid.*, 608-610.

<sup>18</sup> The Macon prison was for Union officers only. It was of a more permanent nature than many Southern prisons, having shelter for the prisoners.



ed to day Col Sanders, Capt Turner, Lt Hoyt and myself formed mess had rations issued to us to day consisting of one pound of Meal and  $\frac{1}{4}$  pound of Bacon per day bought a tin cup and Spoon for which I paid \$7.50 weather hot and Showry

Friday July 29 to day we where called out and kept in the burning sun in order to have our names Registered preperitory to Sending us to Charleston S. C. we left Camp 11 P M for Depot weather hot

Saturday July 30" This morning we where ordered back to Camp on account of a Raiding party from our own Army who is reported to have destroyed the Rail Road leading to Charleston<sup>19</sup> we ourselfes could hear the roar of Artilliry weather hot

Sunday July 31 Still enjoy our usual prison Life on Corn Meal and Water had Preaching this evening thoughts were at home and the dear ones more than usual to day weather hot

Monday August the 1" Nothing transpired to day to kill the dullness of Prison Life toward night however we had new Invoice of Calvary Officers who where captured near this place I could endure this if I knew how things were at home weather hot

Tuesday August 2" This Morning we where refreshet by a Splendid Shower which made it more comfortable we have a nice camp here and get along well enough as Long as money last we have to [pay] \$2.00 quart for Tomatoes 2.00 quart for Potatoes. 3.00 a pint for Molassas 50c a Spoonfull for Butter 2.50 for a dozend Apples the same for onions 1.25 for a Small Loaf of Bread and evrything is in proportion

Wednesday August 3" Spent to day as usual in looking and Lounging around wrot home to day had another Invoice of Cavalry Officers to day they belong to the 8" Iowa Cavalry and 4" Kentucky they where Captured at Newman by the Rebel General Wheeler they belonged to Gen McCooks Command and where out on a Raid when Captured weather pleasant

Thursday August 4" The Raiders are still comming in Prisoner Fred

<sup>19</sup> Brigadier-General Edward M. McCook and Major General George Stoneman, cavalry commanders, were endeavoring to cut the communications to Atlanta. McCook destroyed Confederate trains and cut the railroad south of Atlanta before escaping back to the Union lines. Stoneman was taken prisoner on July 30. See various reports on this action in *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part II, 914; Part III, 688-9, 963-5, 972-3. Also see *Dictionary of American Biography*, 11:602 for McCook, 18:92 for Stoneman.



Dames who made his escape was reCaptured and Sent to Andersonville<sup>20</sup> where all enlisted men are kept the report of their suffering is awfull Some 35,000 are kept on 25 Acres without a Shed or tree to shelter them from the rage of the burning Sun one of the Rebel Soldiers told that they died at the rate of 12 per day weather pleasant

Friday August 5" Sent a Letter Home to day had an increase of Prisoners to day again Col Scott<sup>21</sup> who escaped from the Guards comming down from Atlanta was among them Spent the day in looking and laying around as usual weather very hot

Saturday August the 6" Last night was the first night since July 22" that I had a blanket to Sleep on having bought one for \$16.00 nothing during the day weather fair

Sunday August 7" Had Preaching today weather fair

Monday August 8" Col Dorr 8 Iowa Cav<sup>22</sup> came to prison to day Cooking, eating Sleeping and Speculating on the issus of the present Campaign weather pleasant part of the Prisoners are to Start for Charleston S. C. among which are Col Sanders and all the Capt of our Regiment I will make a note here that the U. S. has men or things in the service as Officers that are not worthy of being Classed as Men who to day take advantage of their Brother Officers necessity and in their possition as Suttlers through whos hands we could only buy Such eatables as we needed to charge us \$1.75 per Loaf of Bread that cost only 50 cts outside of the prison

Thursday August 9" Had plenty of excitment to day by getting order that three Hundred of the Ranking Officers should get ready to go to Charleston S. C. where the[y] think that we are to be exchanged many believe this but am sorry to say I am not amongst them to day again the saying that amid Life there is death has been manifisted in the Death of Liet Murray of the 2" U. S. Ar[my] he was captured at the same time and place with us on the 22" of July he was a Gradiuade of West Point and a yong man of promis native of N York.<sup>23</sup> We had plenty of Rain to day

<sup>20</sup> See Holland Thompson (ed.), *The Photographic History of the Civil War* (10 vols., New York, 1912), 7:74-84, for descriptions and pictures of Andersonville.

<sup>21</sup> This "Colonel Scott" was probably the man leading the 68th Ohio under Blair's 17th Corps.

<sup>22</sup> Colonel Joseph B. Dorr. See Stuart, *Iowa Colonels and Regiments*, 639-50.

<sup>23</sup> Albert M. Murry of New York graduated from the Academy in 1862 at the age of 24 years. *United States Military Academy, Official Register* (1844-1864).



Wednesday August 10 Nothing new to day excepting rumors that we where about to be Exchanged but this but few belief weather Showry and hot

Thursday August the 11 This morning we bid farewell to our prison in Macon which town is the best that I have seen south thus fair [sic] it has population of about 25,000 we left at 9 A. M. for Savanah the Country through which we passed is mostley covered with Pitch pine timber and the Soil is poor and Sandy our progress has been Slow on account of Gen Stoneman's Raid<sup>24</sup> he burned all the Bridges for fourty miles and at the Ocooney [Oconee] River we had to change Cars on account of the Bridge being burned we arrived at Augusta during the night Augusta is nice looking town of about 15,000 Inhabitants and is situated on the West bank of the Savanna River weather very hot

Friday August 12" We Left Augusta about 1 P M to day for Charleston in old Box Carrs so Crowded that we could scarcely Stand up we passed a day and night in Missery getting to Charlestown weather very hot

Saturday August 13" We left the depot early and where marched to the Charleston Jail<sup>25</sup> those that took heavily in Exchange Stock were sorley disapointed for instead of finding themselves evchanged they found themselves the inmates of the house of Crime Charleston is a large seedy looking town with Grass growing in the Streets we are in for it and how long God only knows all my hopes are that Gen Foster<sup>26</sup> will not cease shelling the town on our account and if our Government will only assert its Dignity and shut up the Rebel Prisoners in their hands at Some place simular to this we will all be Satiesfied I occupie a Cell 5 x 8. Col Sanders another like it Some that were here first has better rooms then we but worst objection is the Brick Walls weather very hot

Sunday August the 14 This is our second day in prison and hard

<sup>24</sup> General Stoneman's cavalry had made some attempts to capture the Confederate prison at Andersonville, Georgia. Militia had repulsed him at Macon and this had resulted in his being surrounded and captured between Clinton and Monticello on July 30. Steele, *American Campaigns*, 1:545; *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 972.

<sup>25</sup> At Charleston the main prison was Castle Pinckney, but because of the large numbers of prisoners, jails were also used.

<sup>26</sup> Major-General John G. Foster, in command of the Department of the South with headquarters at Hilton Head, an island in Port Royal Sound south of Charleston, had been shelling Fort Sumter and Charleston fairly regularly since assuming command in May, 1864. For his reports, see *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXV, Part I, 7-29.



enough is it to bear I think that we shall all Love the Old Flagg better when we get out of here and hate Copperheads more we are having very hot weather.

Monday August the 15<sup>th</sup> To day Lt Hoyt again Joined us he had been left at Macon every thing is excitement about getting exchanged but I dont See it as yet one of our Officers was Shot at by a Rebel sentinel for talking to an Officer in an adjoining Prison Weather very hot

Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> nothing new to day weather hot

Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup> To day 300 prisoners where removed to the Jail Yard amongst whom was Hoyt Alcern and Laird of our Regiment all the Surgeons held as prisoners of War where paroled to a Certain House weather very hot

Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> Wrot a Letter home to day nothing new all things go alike in this prison Life weather very hot Water scarce and poor

Friday August the 19<sup>th</sup> We are Still occupied as usual Eating, Sleeping, Hunting Gray backs<sup>27</sup> and Talking Politics take up the most of our Time Weather very hot

Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> Dito

Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August We where blessed this morning with a Splendid Shower which is worth evry thing to us as our only good Water that we have here is Cistern for the last week we have been obliged to use Water that would have layed us all out our Officers where getting sick by the wholesale out of my Mess of twenty one half are on the sick list. I have one of the most quiet part of our Prison and a Specially to day I cannot help speculating how long our Stay may be there are Officers here that have been in Cofinement for the last 15 months. I should run many risks of getting shot if I thought we had such a Siege before us. how much would I not give for peep home

Monday Augst 22<sup>nd</sup> Nothing of interest transpired to day the same dull routine as usual Weather Very hot and Sultry

Tuesday August the 23<sup>rd</sup> To day for the first time we had the benefit of hearing our Shells come into Charleston<sup>28</sup> They whent over and passed us in our prison without doing any damage wheather hot

Wednesday August the 24<sup>th</sup> Shelling of the City is Still going on to day

<sup>27</sup> Probably he was referring to body lice.

<sup>28</sup> General Samuel Jones, *The Siege of Charleston* (New York, 1911), *passim*.



has been the first unwell day that I have seen for a long time we Where blessed again with a nice Shower

Thursday August 25 Shelling still going on I feel much better to day and hope not to get down my head is the only trouble now of yesterdays Sickness wheather very hot

Friday August 26'' To day we had nothing new Shelling of the City Still continues have been very unwell to day had high fever all night weather pleasant

Saturday August 27'' Felt much better to day wrot a Letter home weath-er pleasant

Sunday August 28'' Wrot and sent a Letter home to day had Preaching in prison this evining but was not able to attend on account of having a severe attack of ague & Fever the Rebels report our army defeated at Petersburg and the whole North in a complete State of Ruin and whining for peace like a Lot of whipped Spaniels <sup>29</sup> oh how it makes us curse This D--d Copperhead if they would only Join the Rebels and Stop there whining weather pleasant

Monday August 29 The Rebel Papers are filled with successes against us if we did not know what Splendid Liars they where we should feel discouraged enough being in such a situation as we are not able to raise a helping hand to our Country weather pleasant

Tuesday August the 30 Evrything is as usual and there is nothing but sameness I escaped the Ague weather hot

Wednesday August the 31'' nothing diffiring from yesterday feel better to day but still not well am not able to sleep have very unpleasant dreams weather still hot and Threatening rain

Thursday Sept 1'' Evrything quiet nothing but bad news from home heard off [of] here now all is exitment about the Peace Convention doings at Chicago <sup>30</sup> weather pleasant

<sup>29</sup> Petersburg brought Grant and Lee together. Grant's objective was to take Petersburg, then turn to Richmond. He crossed the James River on a pontoon-bridge on June 16, 1864. Lee believed Grant to be advancing on Richmond directly. Throughout the summer and fall of 1864 the two corps skirmished. The victory claimed by the Rebels on August 28 probably refers to their successful stopping of the Union movement against Lee's right. It was actually not an important engagement. General Hill of the Confederate Third Corps stopped the Union movement by attacking Warren of the Federal Fifth Corps. Steele, *American Campaigns*, 510-34.

<sup>30</sup> Colonel Smith undoubtedly was referring to the Democratic National Convention held in Chicago starting on Monday, August 3, 1864. It was at this convention



Friday September the 2<sup>nd</sup> We got news by the Rebel Papers that 600 Rebel Officers have arrived to be Exchanged or placed under fire just as the occasion may warrant but every one seems Confident that they will be exchanged for the same number of us<sup>31</sup> Oh how I do wish that I might be one of them there is however 1200 of us here and one half of us will be disappointed if I could only hear from home and be assured that all was right there I could stand this imprisonment but to live from day to day not knowing but what those dearest to me may be layed beneath the sod weather pleasant Sent my name home with Dr Grimes of Ohio who says he will writ to my folks

Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup> Nothing new except that we are to be removed from Charleston to Augusta Ga weather Pleasant

Sunday Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1864 Wrot a Letter home to day

Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> Sept Dito weather hot

Tuesday Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Dito weather hot

Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> Sept It is now Some 5 days since we first received news of the Capture of Atlanta at first we thought it to good to be true but every Issue of the Rebel Press since has let out enought to Satisfy us that they not only left Atlanta but got awfully whipped besides and their own accounts tell of Loosing heavily by Desertion and acknowledge it as a great Loss not alone in loosing Atlanta but in insuring the cause of McClellan whom they Consider as their especial Patron that will acknowledge their Indipendence and put a stop to the War<sup>32</sup> oh how Humilating it is to have a party amongst us whos success depends on the misfortions of their Brother that have left evrything dear to them to save the onley Government that has ever been established that can honestley

hat McClellan was nominated as presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket. Many believed that these men were settling issues of peace by a policy of peace at any cost — even surrender to the Rebel demands. Alexander Long of Ohio called for a suspension of the draft until after elections and saw his resolution sent to the committee. Edward Chase Kirkland, *The Peacemakers of 1864* (New York, 1927), 130.

<sup>31</sup> *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXV, Part I, 21, 24. These prisoners were placed on Morris Island at the entrance to Charleston Harbor, the island being held by the Union forces under General Foster.

<sup>32</sup> McClellan's party, the Democrats, had at various times made statements to the effect that peace above all was the issue of the day. Some advocated letting the South have its independence. McClellan himself believed greatly in the preservation of the Union and the prevention of secession. He was not in agreement with the radical Democratic group as Colonel Smith seems to believe. George B. McClellan, *McClellan's Own Story . . .* (New York, 1887), 149-50.



claim the title of Self Government but I pray and trust the God that has sofare watched over us will not in this hour of our need forsake us weather showry and pleasant

Thursday Sept 8" Nothing new exept that our Goverment has put 600 Rebel Prisoners under fir[e] at Morris Island as an offset for us the Rebs dont like this but this [is] a game of their own beginning weather hot

Friday Sept 9" To day we had quit an exitment during the night some Officers broke in to the Rebel Sutlers Store and Robbed it which has created many [illegible] by the few that have plenty of money the men that don this have not had any Breadstuffs for Six days and nothing to eat but Rice and once and a While Beef I dont Blame them when the Rebs [illegible] it is all right becaus the Chivalry has don it *but* let our Men take a few things from them to keep from Starving and they will howl by the hour and we half Officers enough to Join in with fellows that cant See anything wrong in what Rebels do but evrything our men or Goverment dos is wrong weather hot by day and Cool by night

Saturday Sept the 10" To day we recieved about 1000 Neighbors in the jail adjoining our Prison and glad enough we where to See them they where enlisted men from the Prison at Anderson[ville] they look though [tough?] and hardy that is those that have not got the scurvy weather pleasant

Sunday Sept 11" We had Preaching twice to day weather pleasant

Monday Sept 12" Nothing new to day our Enlisted men where removed to day to the Race Course weather Pleasant

Tuesday Sept 13 To day we had a fresh arrival of Union Officers from Savanna There is now nearly 1800 of Union Officers held in this City as Prisoners of War we Still continue to have pleasant weather

Wednesday Sept 14 Nothing new still the usual routine Cooking eating Sleeping and speculating when we will get exchanged weather pleasant an[d] dry

Wednesday Sept 14 [sic] Dito

Thursday Sept 15 Dito

Friday Sept 16 Nothing new to day weather pleasant

Saturday Sept 17 To day has been an Exiting day for the Charlestonions Gen Foster shelled to [the] town and Set fire to it in Several places and from the little we could See from our prison there [illegible] some 8 or 10



houses been destroyed the people seemed allmost Insane with Exitement and any amount of Rumors are afloat that others besides Gen Fosters Shells helped the fire along wrote a letter home to day weather pleasant

Sunday Sept 18" This morning was roused from Sleep by the ringing of the Fire Bell another fire was raging "The way of the Transgressor is hard Indeed" of [if] any people may look for vengence being let loos amongst them it is this South Carolinians for to them more then any others are we indebted for this Cursed Rebellion and when a man thinks of the woe and Missiry that have followed in its Train and believes in Justice and God he feels that no missery that Human Flesh is Heir to is to much for them Foster is Still Shelling the City to day and with good effect Judging from the Locality where burst weather pleasant

Monday Sept the 19" This Morning all Officers from Gen Shermans Army are in high Spirits at the news in the Rebel Papers which is that Gens Sherman and Hood have agreed on special Exchange of two thousand Prisoners and many are the hopes that have been raised that some of us will get back to the Army again by this Exchange but I have my fears that [this] will turn out [a] hoax we had Some Rain last night and live in hopes of Plenty of Water again as Rain Water is the only good water we get here good for anything

Thursday Sept 20" Don my Washing to day and am in hopes that I will not have to repeat it many times before I am out of here the weather is very unhealthy now it Rains one hour and the next the Sun will Shine hot enough to burn a man up if we escape the Yellow Fever <sup>33</sup> as Crowded as we are we will [have] cause to be thankfull enough we ate the last of our rations to day but expect to draw again by Morning

Wednesday Sept 21" Nothing heard here exepting Exchange many are blaming the Goverment for making 40,000 Men Suffer Starve and Die in Rebel Prisons forsake of a few Hundred Negro Prisoners that the Rebels refuse to treat as Prisoners of War although I have every reason in the world to make me anxious to get out of Prison still I had rather die a thousand deaths then have our Goverment yield to the Rebels in this the Honor and Dignity of our whole Country forbids it when we enlisted the Negro and put Arms in to his hands we bound ourselves to protect him as a Soldier and if the Goverment held to this principle not

<sup>33</sup> Although yellow fever was itself prevalent, this term probably was used in connection with all the diseases of prison camp life.



to Exchange a Man until the Rebels would treat Negroes as prisoners of War but few of us but what would say Amen but insted of this let a man get in here that is conected with Leading Goverment Officials and he is sure to be Specially exchanged now if Goverment can get around this principle in Exchanging one man they can get around it by specially exchanging 40,000 men weather pleasant

Thursday 22 Sept Nothing but exchange and Butlers letter on it Robert Ould is heard of and talked about<sup>34</sup> we also got report that some of us are to go to the G[e]orgia Front to be Exchanged oh how I hope and pray that I may be one of them If I could onley here from home and that those Dear ones there where all right I could stand it with more Philosophy but this anxiety that I have labored under for the last two months is enough to bring any man to the grave weather pleasant

Friday Sept 23" We are having big exitement here to day about exchanging an order came to our Prison for 11 of Shermans Capt to be picket out amongst us is a prisoner called Maj Gen Stoneman<sup>35</sup> that took it on himself to select his favorites and had them sent instead of letting the Capt Draw lots as any Honorable upright man would have done weather fair

<sup>34</sup> Major-General Benjamin F. Butler, commander of the Army of the James, had been placed in charge of the exchange of prisoners by Grant in 1863. Robert Ould was Commissioner of Exchange of the Confederacy. Much correspondence was carried on between the two men as to the exchange proceedings of Federal and Confederate prisoners. The outstanding controversies were on special exchange (an exchange for a definite person, usually of high political importance), the equalities of exchange, the Negro soldier status, and the effect on the length of the war in returning Confederate prisoners. Butler wrote Grant on August 18, 1864, that he had exchanged "nobody but wounded men since the first of May, except surgeons, non-competent, and a few cases of special exchange." Grant wrote Butler on August 18, 1864: "It is hard on our men held in Southern prisons not to exchange them, but it is humanity to those left in the ranks to fight our battles. Every man released on parole or otherwise becomes an active soldier against us at once, either directly or indirectly. If we commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on until the whole south is exterminated. If we hold those caught, they amount to no more than dead men. At this particular time to release all rebel prisoners North would insure Sherman's defeat & would compromise our safety here." The Negro soldier dispute arose from the plans of the Confederacy to turn all captured Negro soldiers over to their former masters instead of treating them as prisoners of war. Jefferson Davis had also issued a proclamation that officers of Negro troops were not to be treated as prisoners of war, but were to be turned over to the state governments for punishment. See correspondence on these controversial issues in *Private and Official Correspondence of Gen. Benjamin F. Butler* . . . (5 vols., Norwood, Mass., 1917), 5:70-71, 97-103, 154-5.

<sup>35</sup> See footnote 19.



Saturday Sept the 24<sup>th</sup> Wrote Letter home to day which I sent with Lt Col Clancy of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Ohio<sup>36</sup> there is to be sent off 236 Officers for Exchange amongst which I thought I might have stood a chance to get away and would have don so had it not been for the partiality and meanness of Maj Gen Stoneman<sup>37</sup> as it is now the prospect is good for a Winters Residence The weather is very hot

Sunday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1864 To day we had another day of exitment about exchange as an additional number of Officers from Gen Shermans Officers would get to go I had hopes that it might be my Lot to get to go but not having the money or means to buy out I had to stay and wait the pleasure of our Goverment to Exchange me there where however 5 Officers of our Regiment Lucky enough to get to go Capts Miller, Lucas, Lefeld, Lts Herbert and Allcorn. Leaving Eight of us still in Durance Vile weather pleasant

Monday Sept 26<sup>th</sup> The Exchanged Officers left here this morning for Atlanta I was bitterly Disapointed in not getting to go but Gods will be don if I could onley know that all at home was right I should not mind it so much had I had the money I Could have bought out . . .<sup>38</sup>

Thursday Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1864 To day Gen Stoneman and his Staff where Exchanged<sup>39</sup> for which I am truly thankfull as we may now exspect to have justice don us if there are any more Exchanges to be made we have the same Hot weather with reports of the Yellow Fever raging with great Force which is not to be believed without large grains of allowance<sup>40</sup>

Wednesday Sept 28<sup>th</sup> To day is another of those dul and Lonesome days with ones mind constantly roaming to home and Inmates fare away oh that I could hear from them they relief it would aford to me in standing this prison Life weather hot and dry

<sup>36</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Charles W. Clancey had been captured July 19, 1864, *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part III, 891. Evidently Clancey was among the 236 to be exchanged.

<sup>37</sup> Colonel Smith seems to be a little too harsh in his judgment of General Stoneman, an important prisoner of war. In August, 1864, Stoneman, Colonel J. B. Door (Eighth Iowa Cavalry) and Colonel T. J. Harrison (Eighth Indiana Cavalry) had sent an eloquent appeal to President Lincoln in behalf of the Union prisoners, especially those at Andersonville. *Official Records*, Series II, Vol. VII, 616-8. Stoneman's position would make his decision on those to be exchanged of importance.

<sup>38</sup> Rest of this entry is illegible.

<sup>39</sup> See *Official Records*, Series II, Vol. VII, 879, for order for Stoneman's exchange. Order is dated September 25, 1864.

<sup>40</sup> This is probably a current expression for our modern "grain of salt."



Thursday Sept 29'' Nothing new to day Yellow Fever said to be getting worse was visited by the Rev Rice Pastor Congregational Church of Charleston

Friday Sept 30'' To day there was again a Special exchange of all the naval Officers oh I hope that our turn will come next but [from] present appearances we will undoubtedly have to stay here this winter or some other place it Seems wrong that our Goverment dos not Exchange us

Saturday Oct 1'' To day we begin a new Month of our Prison Life that I did not expect to have to do and I must own that I am greatly disapointed that we are not exchanged we are now put down on ration that would soon get is [us?] down so Low that we would not have long to stay in this world had we not any means to buy anough to satisfy our Hunger we this fare recieved 2½ pints of flour and 3 Table Spoons of Salt for the 10 days ending Oct 10'' weather pleasant and hot

Sunday Oct 2'' Col Shedd of the 30 Ill Inf<sup>41</sup> who made his escape two days ago was retaken and sent back to prison he did not get out of Charleston but kept himself hidd in town throug some mistake he was captured again and very Lucky to not get put in to close confinement Weather very hot wrote Letter home to day had Preaching

Monday Oct 3'' Day spent as usual nothing new rained at morning towards night clear and very hot

Tuesday Oct 4'' Just after night we were taken by surprise in recieving orders to be ready to start for Columbia the Capital of South Carolina the Rebs claim it was on account of the Yellow Fever but we dont believe that to be the cause but think that their [is] something deeper in the Wind<sup>42</sup> weather fair and Hot

Wednesday Oct 5'' We started for Columbia at 4 oclock A. M. we where crowded in box Cars in ours there was about 50 of us and we had to spent the night without Sleep or rest as we not had room to lay down wheather pleasant

Thursday Oct 6'' We arrived at Columbia sometime before daylight and have been laying out since in the open air with the prospect before us of a good ducking as it threaten rain at this writing which threatining was

<sup>41</sup> Colonel Warren Shedd of the 30th Illinois was captured on July 22, 1864. *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, Part I, 109.

<sup>42</sup> This movement of Federal prisoners was brought about by the retaliation prisoners placed under fire on Morris Island.



made good by dusk when it commenced to pore down in torrents which left us as whett as drowned Rats

Friday Oct 7" This morning we where marched to the Camp that we are to occupy<sup>43</sup> it is pleasant place with scattering pine trees on it and plenty of Wood and Water near if we could onley get it but it seems that the Rebs have not sense anough to make arrangments in such a manner as to give us the benifit of it weather pleasant

Saturday Oct 8" Last night we spend the night without shelter and it turning cold and having but one thin Blanket I Suffered with Cold and got but little sleep and to help the thing along I met with an axident by which I partialy Sprained my rist and bruised up both knees and the palms of my hand weather pleasant but cold

Sunday Oct the 9" Last night we had the first frost and having no Shelter we Suffered still worse then the night before I was not able to get more then one hour's sleep during the whole night it is anough to make a man sick when he thinks off how our Goverment uses the Rebel Officers that are prisoners giving them good quarters and plenty to eat and then look at us without Shelter without food sufficient to live and had we not had money to buy a few eatables we should been near Starving<sup>44</sup> more then once we have not had any meat now for a week weather Cold and pleasant

<sup>43</sup> Columbia had few provisions for prisoners. Therefore, they were kept in open stockades from which escape was comparatively easy. In view of the fact that Colonel Smith later makes his escape, the following letter of November 4, 1864, from the Confederate commander, regarding the prison stockade at Columbia is of interest. "The camp is a large one, in fact much too large for the number of prisoners confined (hence they have made themselves very comfortable), which requires a much larger guard than is necessary. Prisoners are constantly escaping during the dark nights. Five escaped the night before I arrived. . . ." *Official Records*, Series II, Vol. VII, 1090.

<sup>44</sup> Colonel Smith was probably correct in his statement that the Confederate prisoners in the North received better food and quarters than did the Union prisoners in the South. The North had much better facilities in both respects, but the South did as much as they could for their prisoners. Many Rebels themselves found it very hard to survive on the little food they could obtain. Robert Ould, agent of exchange for the South, offered to deliver the sick and wounded Union prisoners at Savannah without equivalent exchanges from Northern prisons, simply because the South could not feed itself, let alone care for large numbers of prisoners. Both Departments of War agreed that prisoners were to be fed precisely as were the regular troops, and humane regulations were announced. The death rates, from the best accounts, show that about one out of seven prisoners in Southern prisons died in captivitiy; while one of out of nineteen Confederates died in Northern prisons. Thompson, *Photographic History of the Civil War*, 7:186. See also, William B. Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons* . . . (Columbus, Ohio, 1930), 254-6.



Monday Oct the 10 nothing new we are Still in the open Field without any thing for Shelter except a Brush House that we build I am still anxiously looking for a Letter from home but so fare have been disapointed Oh what would I not give for the assures that all were well weather pleasant to day we had some motton brought in for Sale at 2.50 per lb Sweet potatoes are \$20.00 per Bushel Shoulders \$7.00 per pound and evrything else in that propotion<sup>45</sup>

Thursday Oct 11" To day was spent as usual Cooking eating and Speculating when we will be Exchanged the conclusion we come to is that we will have to stay until the End of the War which from present appearences is some time hence as the Idea of the Rebs giving up until they are completely subdued is all Moonshine they submit to privations that would not be believed unless seen if I could only hear from home I could submit to staying with a better grace we are still in open field without Tents or Shelter weather pleasant and Cool

Wednesday Oct 12" Nothing new Still without Shelter or meat weather pleasant but Cold at night

Thursday Oct 13" Dito. Sent [letter] home per Capt Turner

Friday Oct 14" Dito

Saturday Oct 15 To day we have some Exitment about Exchange that the Columbia papers say Gen Hardy<sup>46</sup> is arranging but I have little faith in it myself but one thing I am glad to see and that is Gen Hardy has refused to make any more special exchanges and in order now for our Leading men to get their pets out of Prison they will have to agree to a general exchange if they Rebs will onley stick to this it will be a good thing for Prisoners that have no influence in high quarters heretofore when a man that had influence with Goverment was taken prisoner he was exchanged at once weather Pleasant still without Shelter and yet no meat

Sunday Oct the 16" To day makes me three years in the Army and when I look back to the commencement of this term and see the many familiar faces that started with me and that are now layed low in the grave I cannot help but feel thankfull to God for preserving me through the many trials where so many have failed and fallen a sacrifice for their Country hallowed be their memory a honored grave they fill. an example they are

<sup>45</sup> Prices are Confederate money, which was highly inflated.

<sup>46</sup> Lieutenant-General William J. Hardee, in command of Confederate forces in the departments of South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.



for those to follow who stay at home and enjoy all the blessings of a free Government but have not manhood enough to turn out and preserve their rights. Oh may God spare us Spare us from the continuance of three years more of War death and suffering like those past by granting us Victory over the Enimys of Liberty and our Country evry where may [God] give our Leaders Wisdoom to fight and Courage to carry out such measures as will speedily crush this rebellion. Oh how I do hope and pray that God has preserved those dear ones at home and that he will speedily deliver us from this prison and again permit us to enjoy the society of those dear ones.

Monday Oct 17 To day we had an Election amongst us Prisoners for President and Vice President of which Lincoln and Johnson got 1023 Votes and McClelland and Pendleton 143 Votes there are 35 Prisoners from Iowa here and Lincoln got 35 McClellan 0<sup>47</sup> weather pleasant no Shelter yet

Thursday Oct 18 This morning early it threatnet Rain and it being quite cold and are without Shelter would have been hard enough on us but luck was for us and at this writing the Sun is setting bright and clear to day we have drawn rations for the next five days consisting of 5 pints of poor Corn Meal without Salt this poor eating enough

Wednesday Oct 19" Nothing new to day weather pleasant during the day but cold at night recieved a Letter from home to night dated August 31" Oh what a relief

Thursday Oct 20 Nothing new to day weather pleasant but cold at night

Friday Oct 21 To day we have some exitement in Camp about the Guards shooting an Officer by the name of Young and killing him they claim it was axidentilly don<sup>48</sup> we have very Cold nights and not having any Shelter we suffer much with the Cold.

Saturday Oct 22" To day is Ration day again nothing but Meal and Molassas is forth comming it is now over twenty days since we had any

<sup>47</sup> In the election of 1864 some states provided for absentee votes of soldiers and these army votes were strongly in Lincoln's favor (116,887 to 33,748). The Iowa soldiers cast 15,178 for Lincoln and 1,364 for McClellan. Edward Stanwood, *A History of Presidential Elections* (Boston, 1884), 236-52.

<sup>48</sup> Prisoners in stockaded camps such as Columbia, who ventured beyond the dead-line of about 15 feet inside the stockade, were warned and if they remained were shot by the sentries. Many cases of this type of "murder" occurred at Andersonville. Hesseltine, *Civil War Prisons*, 143-4.



meat iss[ued] to us and the prospect is Still Slim for any for some time to com weather is pleasant but very Cold at night

Sunday Oct 23 We are having Exchange Exitment again to day to the effect that our Goverment had agreed to a General Exchange at once we hope it is so but do not believe it we had the Funeral Sermon Preached of Lt. Young Killed by the Rebel Guards

Monday Oct 24" To day was spent as usual with the exeption of a Ludicrous Incident that took place in our Camp about 9 A. M. a large Lean and old Boar came to our Camp and in Less than ten Minutes he was killed dressed and portions of him were over the fire Cooking it is so long since we have got any Meat that the Men that have no money to buy with are perfectly crazy for Meat I have been more fortunate then the rest Col Sanders and myself Mess together and he having money we buy Meat about evry other day Beef we [pay] 2.50 per lb and 7.00 for Bacon the weather is and has been very favrable to us if it was rainy as usual here we would suffer bad anough as we have no Shelter exept such as we put up ourselfs out of Brush which some what protect us from Wind and Cold but would do no good in a rain Storm

Thursday Oct 25 We Spent to day as usual in Cooking washing getting Wood and killing Lice

Wednesday Oct 26 Dito as above

Thursday Oct 27 Comenced to day getting out Logs for a House to keep comfortable having waited in vain for the[m] to furnish us Shelter and this Cold Rains that we have here are anything but comfortable it ra[i]ned hard all the later part of the day

Friday Oct 28 Dito as above exept weather which is clear but cold

Saturday Oct 29 Worked hard all day getting Logs and Shakes for a Shanty Weather Beutifull

Sunday Oct 30" Nothing new to day we are having the nicest of weather some of our Officers have been Singing Church Music the sound of which made me Home sick anough

Monday Oct 31 was made Happy by recieving a Letter from home still building house weather pleasant

Thursday Nov 1 1864 had the first day out to day from Camp got it into my head to effect an exchange on my own account I run or rather crept the Guard Lines about [illegible] A. M. at night along with Capt

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Rathbone and Capt Rasaus of Ohio and Capt Poston of ——— Ill. and Elder of Cedar Rapids we made about ten miles through Brush and Swamp it comenced Raining about daylight and rained hard alday we having to lay still all day long and without fire it was hard anough but got [illegible] through the day

Wednesday Nov 2 It Still rained to day and Last night did not make over about 6 Miles on our route to the Congeree River we spent this day in a Strip of Timber between Some Large Plantations during the day we became Satisfied that we never Could get away without the assistance of some one aquainted with the Country and concluded to find a Colored friend for amongst the whites we would find non we found one during the day that promised after night to feed us take us to a house near the Congeree River wher we could dry our selves as we had now been 48 hours with wheet Clothing on and where we allso could get a boat that would help us down the River on our Journey to Freedom all of which our able Friend full filled weather still very Bad as I stood last night shivering with the whett and cold I could not help but think of the comforts of Home and thanked [God] that the light of that Home has bee spared to me

Thursday Nov 3 Last night we had quit a comfortable night for fugitives at large in South Carolina that is if a man does not care what he Says it was very Stormy and Cold but build fire which helped us some we are Still undiscovered by any whites and pray and hope that God will favor us in Making our Escape from this Land of our Enemy Weather Still Chilly and Rainy

Friday Nov 4 Reconoitred the Congeree River earley this Morning discovered two boats either good anough to make our Tripp down the River on and after laying in what we concluded would last to eat until we could reach our Lines we confuscated a boat and about 12 o clock at night we embarked on board our Craft and floated down the Congeree about 20 Miles stopped at break of Day in Swamp Suffered awfully during the night with cold.

Saturday Nov 5 Stayed all day in swamp Sleep, looking, eating and keeping warm where the Order of the day about four miles from here we have to pass a Guarded Rail Road Bridge which we acomplished without exiting any suspicion after night fall we halted again 20 Miles from our Starting point made severall narrow escaps weather cold at night



Sunday Nov 6 Staid all day in Swamp had the Luck to come across some Colored friends That gave us suffient to eat and some very necessary information Started at night down the Santee River made thirty Miles to a Swamp some 8 Miles below Rices Bluff were we spent daylight in weather pleasant

Monday Nov 7 Got some Meat today by the right of the Confiscating act which we shall cook and prepare for future use at the Earley part of the Evining we passed the obstruction of the Santee River (Some 4 miles below the Junction of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers which streams form the Santee) that the Rebs put there to prevent our Gun Boats from going up the River we started as usual after the Shades of Evining Set in Made about 50 Miles after going down Stream for about one hour we came across some Colored men who as usual Supplied us with eatables we traveled all night in River put a shore after daylight to spent the day in Swamp as usual weather pleasant

Thursday Nov 8 Had some exitment by a Man coming opposite where we where spending the day but Providence favored us and he did not discover us we started again down the River and passed the last Rail Road Bridge<sup>49</sup> without being discovered we made about 40 Miles and Camped in a Swamp for the day weather pleasant we are in [the line] of the fire of our Artilry

Wednesday Nov the 9<sup>th</sup> Staid Close in did try to find a Plantation in Order to see a Colored friend to get eatables but could not get out of the Swamp we started down the River at dark 5 Miles down discovered a Plantation found it was occupied by Negroes who befriended us by furnishing us with eatables and information we passed the Rebel Battery at warren Creek without being percieved and did calculated to pass the outside Rebel Picket at Messeck [Mazyck] Ferry but Wind being to high for us to ventur out on the South River which is very Large and wide and [a] little [wind] will make some sea<sup>50</sup> we halted again after floating Padling down the River 25 Miles to a Swampy Island on Chicken Creek one of the outlets of Santee River weather pleasant

Thursday Nov 10 We Staid close in Camp until night when we Started

<sup>49</sup> Probably the bridge of the North East Railroad, running north from Charleston.

<sup>50</sup> The Santee River divided into two branches some fifteen miles from the coast. Evidently Colonel Smith and his party stayed on the North branch, to avoid the high waves, caused by the winds, on the South branch.



we came across some one at a ferry that we supposed to be a white man and Soldier but happily for us he paid no attention to us we reached the Ocean about Midnight without meeting or seeing any White man since we Started when I look back I cannot help but feel thankful to God for his protecting care extended to us when we first came in Sight of the Sea we thot We had found one of our Blockade Vessel which turned out [to be] a wrecked Iron Clad Steamer we Slept on the beach this night

Friday Nov 11 We where up at Daylight this morning looking for a way to escape from This point we found that one of our Blockaders [illegible] off some 8 Miles from us we at once made up our minds to go on board and having but one Small Boat that would do risk in the See [sic] three of us started and worked hard indeed to get out to her just as we thought we had our object nearly accomp[li]shed she sailed away we where disapointed enough but at this writing she is back at her post and we hope to be able with Gods [illegible] to reach [her] in the morning weather pleasant

Saturday Nov 12 Thank God we are again under the Starrs and Stripes this Morning we again started in our old Boat and paddled out to one of our Blockaders which we reached in about two hours and found to be the Canandagua<sup>51</sup> Com. by Capt Harrison who treated us kindly the feelings that I experienced when I knew that I was free I cannot describe We got transvered on board the Flambeau on which I now am going for Charleston

Sunday Nov 13 We arrived off Charleston during Last night and this morning where sent inside of Barr to report to Fleet Capt Green<sup>52</sup> who received us very kindly and sent us on board of Tug Boat to Port Royal for which point we started to at 6 oclock P M we are recieving the kindest of treatment from the naval Officers in whos hands we have those fare fell in with weather pleasant

Monday Nov 14" We arrived at Hilton [Head]<sup>53</sup> early this morning

<sup>51</sup> The *Canandaigua* is listed as a second-rater of the Galena class of gunboat, Captain G. H. Scott, Commander N. B. Harrison. At this time it was part of the South Atlantic Squadron under Rear-Admiral J. A. Dahlgren. Admiral David D. Porter, *The Naval History of the Civil War* (New York, 1886), 770. Probably Captain Scott was absent at the time of the rescue, which accounts for Colonel Smith calling Commander Harrison "Captain."

<sup>52</sup> "Fleet Captain Green" may refer to the ex-commander of the *Canandaigua*, who was on duty at Hilton Head, an island base of the Union forces off Port Royal Sound south of Charleston Harbor. The Fleet Captain on Admiral Dahlgren's staff during the year 1864 was Lieutenant-Commander J. M. Bradford. *Ibid.*, 770.

<sup>53</sup> Hilton Head was occupied by General Sherman's force of 13,000 men on Nov. 8,



and were presented to Admiral Dahlgreen who by the by is a Splendid appearing old man and who treated us in a very Hospital [hospitable] manner here we recieved a whole suit of Clothing by Order of the Admiral as what we had was so dirty, torn and Lousy that we had to t[h]rough it away from here we where sent to the Head Quarters of Maj Gen Foster<sup>54</sup> who treated us in the most Hospital manner Imaginible I cannot pass over with out noting the kindness of all those who we fell in contact with I shall especially remember the Naval Officers of our Glorious Country who espied [vied?] with one another to Relief our wants may God Bless them all Gen Foster ordered two months pay to be paid us which we ar[e] recieving of Maj Davis to day yet weather pleasant paid by Maj Joseph Moor for July and August

Thursday Nov the 15 Apply at Provost Marshall Hays at N. York

Tuesday Nov 15 [sic] Got transportation for N York on board the Steamer Fulton which left her Dock at 5 P. M. found several old Tennessee Army Officers here also one Naval Officer from Leclair Iowa all of whom vied in kindness to us I shall ever remember all

Wednesday Nov 16 We are afloat on the see and getting along in fine style have got to work again being ranking Officer present on ship and according to Orders had to assume Arms of all troops on board weather pleasant with wind ahead

Thursday No[v] 17 we are Having a Splendid Vo[y]age weather pleasant and shall probably reach N York City by to morrow night we are averaging twelf Miles per hour

1861. Federal headquarters were established there for both naval and military commands and remained there throughout the entire campaign against Charleston. General Samuel Jones, *The Siege of Charleston* (New York, 1911), *passim*.

<sup>54</sup> See note 26.