

# **The Civil War Diary of William Johnston Dean**

**of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Volunteers**

**covering the Period Sunday, August 20, 1862**

**through Saturday, September 23, 1865**

**with daily entries from November 1864 through July 1865**

**Transcribed by**

**Dean Blackmar Krafft**

**November 2000**

## ***Overview***

This is a transcription and page images from the Civil War diary of William Johnston Dean. W.J. Dean was born July 19, 1843 in Port Hope, Durham Co., Ontario, Canada. He was the son of Matthew Dean and Ann Longmoor Dean, who had both emigrated to Canada, and then to the U.S., from Ireland. At the time of his enlistment in 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Minnesota Infantry Volunteers on Aug 20, 1862, he was 19 years old.

During the Civil War, W.J. Dean was engaged in several battles. The most costly and dangerous was probably the Battle of Guntown, or Brice's Crossroads, June 10-11, 1864, but he was also involved in the Battle of Spanish Fort in Alabama in late March 1865, and fought at Tupelo, Mississippi in mid-July, 1864.

The diary mostly describes the details of the daily life of a soldier: the weather, the mud, the food, and the sicknesses, but it also includes many details of W.J. Dean's social life, including a number of transcriptions of Civil War songs – mostly compiled in the South at the end of the war. As is noted in the diary, over the three years he was a soldier, Pvt. Dean traveled by boat, train, and foot a total of 8,689 miles, of which he marched 1,850.

W.J. Dean went on after the war to become a very successful businessman, selling farm implements in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was also the Prohibition candidate for mayor of Minneapolis in 1900. He died on October 22, 1910 at the age of 67, and he is buried in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The transcription has a number of errors and uncertainties, due to the difficulty of deciphering the scrawled pen and pencil entries. I have used question marks for characters that I could not discern, and in some cases I have attempted to simply

transcribe literally something that is clearly incorrect. The transcription also does not exactly reflect the punctuation, capitalization, and line breaks of the original.

### ***Dated Diary Entries***

#### **1862 [Note: all entered after Nov. 1864]**

Sunday, August 20: Enlisted in U.S. at Shakopee, Scott Co., Minn.

Tuesday, August 29: At Ft. Snelling, Minn.

Sunday, September 24: Started for Ft. Ridgely from Ft. Snelling.

Friday, October 13: Jefferson City, Mo., arrived at it.

#### **1863 [Note: all entered after Nov. 1864]**

Monday, June 12: Started for Camp Pope Minn.

Thursday, December 7: Arrived at Rolla Mo, from Jefferson City

Saturday, June 24: Marched from Camp Pope to Ft. Ridgely Minn.

#### **1864 [Note: contemporaneous entries start Nov. 1864]**

Thursday, May 18: Left Rolla. Mo. for St. Louis.

Wednesday, May 24: Visited Sanitary fair at St Louis about this time.

Monday, May 29: Left St. Louis on Str Runyan for Memphis. Weather fine.

Tuesday, May 30: Passed Cairo Ills.

Wednesday, May 31: Passed Fort Pillow at 12M, arrived at Memphis.

Thursday, June 1: Started for Guntown Miss.

Friday, 2: Laid over at Lafayette. Rained like fury.

Saturday, June 3: Marched to Lamar. Rained nearly all day. Very tired at night. Slept in corn crib & laid over the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Monday, June 5: Marched to Salem. Flanked train, fine spring at place, fresh beef.

Tuesday, June 6: Childers plantation.

Wednesday, June 7: Arrived at Ripley camped south of town on hill.

Thursday, June 8: Marched 5 miles East. Sent sick back from camp.

Friday, June 9: Marched and went into camp after night at cotton. Rained hard.

Saturday, June 10: Hard at battle at Brices Cross Roads, Miss.

Sunday, June 11: Retreating fight at Ripley.

Monday, June 12: Retreating still, passed near Lagrange.

Tuesday, June 13: Rested last night in a apple orchard. Passed Colliersville arrived at Memphis.

Wednesday, June 14: Rested at Memphis all very sore.

Thursday, June 22: Left Memphis on R.R. went out 35 miles & camped near R.R.

Friday, June 23: Marched to Moscow Tenn. & camped north of R.R.

Tuesday, June 27: Marched to LaGrange. Rather a nice place.

Thursday, June 29: Very warm and no wind at Lagrange. On picket – first time.

Tuesday, July 4: A salute fired by 2<sup>nd</sup> Iowa. Very warm.

Wednesday, 5: Marched to Davis Mills on Wolf River & camped.

### **1864 [Start of contemporaneous entries]**

Thursday, November 23: Left Benton Barracks & embarked on Str. Victory – went to C. C. rooms at night. Letter to Mr. Dean

Friday, November 24: On Str. Victory at St. Louis. It is Thanksgiving day.

Saturday, 25: Left St. Louis & at 10 o'clock passed Str. W. L. Ewing sunk at M laid up for wind.

Sunday, 26: Passed Chester at 11 o'clock. Laid up for mist in morning. Passed Cape Girardeau at 3 o'clock. Appointed corporal to date Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday, November 27: From Cairo sent letter M Dean. Roll of honor & papers arrived at 3 o'clock

Tuesday, 28: Left Cairo & passed Paducah at 2 o'clock. River high. Land over at Smithland Ky

Wednesday, 29: Passed up Cumberland river. At 12 M night at Fort Donalson.

Thursday, November 30: Sailed all night – passed Clarksville at noon part of bridge destroyed. Beautiful day river high

Friday, December 1: Arrived at Nashville Early morn. And disembarked at 9 o'clock. In line of battle all night.

Saturday, 2: It rained and on Picket. Boys building trench & works

Sunday, December 3: Relieved of picket & in the trenches. Beautiful day and in the trenches.

Monday, 4: Detailed for guard our cattle. Fine weather considerable cannonading in the afternoon.

Tuesday, 5: Cannonading pretty lively.

Wednesday, December 6: Moved cattle camp. Firing lively.

Thursday, 7: Rained a little & turned cold.

Friday, 8: Pretty cold wind north. Heavy firing off south.

Saturday, December 9: Very cold & sleet & snow. Wind from East. Wind after cattle.

Sunday, 10: Pretty cold & slippery on the ground. Sent of H [Abbeth] knapsack & lettr

Monday, 11: Very cold wind sun shines bright

Tuesday, December 12: Very cold last night also today. Also very slippery & hard.

Wednesday, 13: Pretty cold south wind & slippery. Roads very hard. Box M. Dean

Thursday, 14: Thawed considerable. Letter M. Dean

Friday, December 15: Troops moved out and engaged Hood. Very heavy firing. Beautiful day, roads muddy. First days battle [dozen] rebels from first line and captured considerable.

Saturday, 16: Five A.M. very heavy cannon firing. Rained P.M. heavy cannon firing. Finishing days battle drove them in complete rout. Heavy loss in 9<sup>th</sup> Minn.

Sunday, 17: Rained nearly all day. Left Nashville with cattle.

Monday, December 18: Rained & snow to noon. Franklin road muddy.

Tuesday, 19: Rained nearly all day. Passed Franklin & camped near Spring Hill. Stopped in House took box.

Wednesday, 20: Rained nearly all day. Froze very hard at night & cold.

Thursday, December 21: Cold & snowed a little. Laid over near Spring Hill. Stopped in a Negro quarters.

Friday, 22: same as 21<sup>st</sup> – cold weather.

Saturday, 23: Pretty cool roads very rough. Camped near Duck river.

Sunday, December 24: Crossed Duck River on pontoons. Swam the cattle. Camped east of Columbia at house. Fine weather roads bad.

Monday, 25: Camped five. Mi. S. of Columbia. Made pen of rails for cattle. Weather dark and wind south. Laid on corn stocks fine at [fl?] Rained a little at night. It was poor Christmas Time. Beeves liver, H. Bread & coffee.

Tuesday, 26: Laid over at same place. Went to Duck river for rations hard getting train across.

Wednesday, December 27: Drove about 18 miles country rough & much destroyed. Plenty of little streams. Stopped in a cotton house near a creek. On guard, weather hazy roads very muddy ground soft – command ahead

Thursday, 28: Sent letter M. Dean Camped in the hollow. Command laid over. Fine weather. Ground froze considerable this morning.

Friday, 29: Marched early passed Pulaski & crossed Elk Horn river. Turned west. Stopped in a house by a corn field had mutton & pork.

Saturday, December 30: Started early passed through a rather poor country. At 3 o'clock at Larenn[?ng sean Wunmnert of Map sole]. Crossed a number of creeks. Stopped in barn, on guard. Rained in evening snowed toward midnight & froze hard. Did not sleep much.

Sunday, 31: Very cold morning started drive to noon feed in corn field corn very good. Killed a large hog. Rough country. No hard tack [vov? rower]. Had pork fine night sitting by a fire. Laid on rails. Some light snow on the ground.

## 1865

Sunday, January 1: Fine clear morning sun bright. Had a chicken for breakfast. Passed bad country, camped in Waynesborro. Stopped in a pretty good house some snow on ground & melted some during the day. Not much settled along the road.

Monday, 2: Fine clear day. Drove through a poor country. Some pine timber. Camped 4 miles from Clifton in a barn. Hard driving for timber four stream only one Eagle Creek. No coffee as rations, had sorghum for supper Wayne Co.

Tuesday, 3: Drove to Clifton and Carelled out from landing. Town burned. Killed a lot of cattle. Camped by a little creek. Weather clear and warm frost slightly at night & I slept good under beef hides & rails by a log & rail fence.

Wednesday, January 4: Laid over at Clifton. Weather clear & hard frost last night but thawed out. Some troops went up river today.

Thursday, 5: Fine day. Rained at night. Laid over at Clifton. Nothing to note of import [aner]

Friday, 6: Still at Clifton. A light rain & turned to snow frost very hard.

Saturday, January 7: Went on a foraging trip. Nothing on pork in a flue. Fine warm day. On guard tonight. Poor country to Beech Creek it was very stoney & hilly.

Sunday, 8: Some of troops on boats left with cattle. Fine weather. Clear bright night, road very muddy & ground soft.

Monday, 9: Rained some last night & nearly all day. Train & cattle started for Savannah & drove 12 miles. Roads very bad, crossed Eagle & Hardin's Creeks. Stopped at Tannery. In old house & cattle in garden. On guard. Country rough. Pine ridges.

Tuesday, January 10: Drove 2 miles. Rained hard most day & last night. Stopped in an old stable. Not much rations. Train stuck in mud. Turned to snow toward night.

Wednesday, 11: Froze last night some. Drove to Savannah 11 miles Crooked Indian & Horse Shoe creeks. The water came up in saddle in Indian creek & it was cold. Day clear and rough country. Savannah good site but poor town.

Thursday, 12: Weather clear & warm. Got on Str. Science P.M. Cattle Crowded. Laid up at night 7 steamers here. Banks not very high. River pretty high.

Friday, January 13: Laid over on boats at Savannah. Boys went out to B. Hayes. Expecting boats up. Nothing to note of importance.

Saturday, 14: Left Savannah at 3 o'clock this A.M. passed Pittsburg landing at 8 A.M. river bank pretty high & rough. Flat opposite banks. Battle ground 1 ½ mi. from river. At 4 P.M. at Eastport & disembarked & drove to Carrell 1 ½ mi from river. Country poor, Weather clear.

Sunday, 15: Weather clear – a large number of boats arrived. River rising. Received Robt Dean & JHH's letter. Rob's Date Dec 16 – note of no importance.

Monday, January 16: Weather fine. Nothing to note. Building shanty.

Tuesday, 17: Weather fine. Froze up pretty much. Gen. Thomas Hd Qts teams moved. Drove 25 cattle, regiment had inspection. Working at cabin. Had a bad time for 2 hours last night with diarrhea.

Wednesday, 18: Cold last night. We slept in shanty. Working at it today. Boys made head cheese. No news. Drew 1 pr Boots; drew 1 pr Shoes; drew 1 Shirt – Fl; drew 2 pr Socks; drew 1 pr C Drawers.

Thursday, January 19: Weather fine, nothing to note. Had orders to move Correll. Boys busy building shanties & c. Regiment drilling. Boys in good spirits.

Friday, 20: Weather fair, rained tonight. We moved and stopped at new correll. Put up shanty. Nothing to note.

Saturday, 21: Rained last night & most of A.M. Drove 125 head beeves built chimney and mended shanty. Reconnting party return from [Conrith].

Sunday, January 22: Weather dark & like to rain. F see & I had a good wash & clean clothes. Shanty pretty comfortable. I have had a diarrhea for some time past.

Monday, 23: Rained last night – then turned to snow & froze. Cold all day. [F re'd] washed. Letter to Abbet. 9 Was to regiment had dress parade No news. Fort Fisher reported taken.

Tuesday, 24: Rec'd letter M. Dean. Pretty cold day, looking for cows, ground froze pretty hard. Diarrhea troublesome to me.

Wednesday, January 25: Weather cold & clear. Boys received corn as rations. Nothing to note. No news.

Thursday, 26: Sent letter to M & S. Dean. Pretty cold weather was down at levee getting hay. No rations waiting for fleet.

Friday, 27: Pretty cold weather. Nothing to note.

Saturday, January 28: Still continues cold. Still expecting fleet up river nothing to eat only flour, beef & pork. Ground froze pretty hard.

Sunday, 29: Still pretty cold. No snow. Fleet arrived.

Monday, 30: Weather moderated considerable. Drew rations.

Tuesday, January 31: Weather fine thawing some looks like a storm a coming. Built up chimney & fixed some cattle.

Wednesday, February 1: It has become some warmer and thawed out.

Thursday, 2: Weather moderated considerable. It is pleasant and pretty warm.

Friday, February 3: Was to the river after forage rained most of A.M. dark and wet time.

Saturday, 4: Sent off the hides. Roads very muddy. Looks dark and drear.

Sunday, 5: Cold raw day. Went across the river. It is very muddy.

Monday, February 5: Struck camp & moved down on Str. Diadem. Cold dark day. There is a large number of boats at this place. Snowed quite a heavy shower during the evening.

Tuesday, 7: Left Eastport at day light. Passed Savannah & Clifton & Johnsonville at dark. Fort Henry during the night. It snowed considerable to night also. We run all night & the snow went off.

Wednesday, 8: Changed boats & got on San Am at Paducah the Ohio river the ice plenty. Arrived at Cairo 2 P.M. Weather cool. Boys cut up very bad. No mail. I sent letter M. Dean.

Thursday, February 9: Laid over at Cairo. Changed back to Diadem from S. An. No news. Weather fine. Ice floating past in both Ohio & Mississippi rivers.

Friday, 10: Left Cairo at 6 o'clock. Passed Columbus at 7,0, passed fort Pillow 9 P.M. Weather pleasant. Island No10. is small & high banks with natural works. N. Madrid is pretty little place.

Saturday, 11: Arrived at Memphis at 2,0, A.M. Laid up all day. No news to note. Waiting orders. Str. City of Memphis. Cooled in the evening. A large number of boats here from all places.

Sunday, February 12: Left Memphis at 7 A.M. Some plantations along the river. Add. Gen aboard at 12,0, [Na] Passed Helena at 3 P.M. Looked different from last fall.

Monday, 13: We passed Lake Providence all Millikens bend. Seen Grants old camp also ditch & c. Arrived at Vicksburg in the afternoon. Unloaded horses & Mules. It rained & wind from East.

Tuesday, 14: It rained last night. Laid over. City of Memphis came down today. Nothing to note.

Wednesday, February 15: Brilliant with AJ. Arrived A.M. Got off Diadem and laid over night on river bank. Weather beautiful.

Thursday, 16: Rec'd letter M. Dean Jan 29<sup>th</sup>. Moved up from river to barracks near Hd. Qts. Back of town near creek. Weather very fine slept in [Lewt] building.

Friday, 17: Sent letter M. Dean. Sent letter T.T. Phillips. From C.C. rooms. It was a fine day. Nothing to note. Laid over at Vicksburg.

Saturday, February 18: Beautiful day. Sun at times bright. No news to note. Mobile said to be evacuated. Orders for a move. Seen some of the holes in the city.

Sunday, 19: Beautiful & very warm. Moved to take boat Diadem and went aboard of her. Many boats here at [preccers]

Monday, 20: Left Vicksburg at day light. Passed Grant Gulf & Big Black River at 9, o,c. also Natches at 2 o'clock. pretty good country. Beautiful day. Passed Red River at M Night. It blew very hard from South.

Tuesday, February 21: Passed Port Hudson at 3 oc. Passed Baton Rouge at 9 – it is a very country with large plantations one I counted 35 quarters. Laid up 20 mi. from N.

[Arlx] for the wind blew hard from south. On B. Johnson plantation got some oranges & it rained.

Wednesday, 22: We came down to New Orleans at 9 o'clock. Seen some fine plantations. Staid on boat over night. It rained and is some muddy.

Thursday, 23: Got off the boat and went into quarters. It rained nearly all day. Nothing to note.

Friday, February 24: Sent letter to M. Dean. Rained nearly all day. It is very muddy. Green turnips for dinner also green new potatoes. In market also collier and other greens and other stuff in green houses.

Saturday, 25: Very muddy still drew rations dark dismal day. Nothing to note [same ling] stuff as potatoes, onions & c.

Sunday, 26: Beautiful day. It seems like Sunday since bright and clear.

Monday, February 27: It rained pretty heavy to day. Was [taregt] was in Jackson's monument on the battle ground. Very muddy.

Tuesday, 28: 1<sup>st</sup> Brig. On steam ship. Beautiful clear day. Was mustered at the regiment 4 months pay due.

Wednesday, March 1: This a beautiful day.

Thursday, March 2: [No entry]

Friday, 3: It rained last night pretty heavy. The peach is in bloom today, in scarlet leaf, and little spears with orange tips. Come off bright and clear and dried up considerable during day.

Saturday, 4: Was in city, they had a great parade of fireman and speeching, Flags hung out all over city. Streets paved, but poor building. Rode on cars, received \$3.24 from M. Greenleaf.

Sunday, March 5, 1865: Rec'd M. Dean's letter. Sent M. Dean letter. Beautiful warm day. 2 Brig. embarked. Sent letter to A. Mitchell. Received orders to march Hd. Qts. gone down river.

Monday, 6: We went out to Lake Ponchartrain. Seen Green Leaves f6r [fase] or the swamp. Went and seen the lake, the waves moderate even, pretty place 5 miles from City to Lake. Nice resturants. Day beautiful warm.

Tuesday, 7: Still at the Lake. It rained three showers. four steamers went out. The Lake averages 18 ft. deep 15 x 30 miles. Some boats going up and down. Landing called Haycock's. Guarding McArthrurs horses.

Wednesday, March 8: It rained & blew hard last night. Got wet, tent down. Came out warm & [alean]. A number of steam boats. We got on A.G. Brown out side pier at 7 o'clock. Lake calm and fine going for steam boat.

Thursday, 9: It was a little rough at 5, oc. Passed Light-house on left at 9 o'clock. Seen daulphins and Loons & Gulls, beach white sand. At Fort Parvel 12 no. Sight of Ft. Gaines at 1 o.c. Sailed on north side of Daulphin Island.



Friday, 10: Pretty cold last night. Was after oysters this morning got one half bush. Fine clear day. On the sand, very disagreeable to tent on. Sun shone bright.

Saturday, March 11: Beautiful clear & warm day. Plenty of oysters. Heavy cannonading to the north suppose at Mobile. There is a large camp on Island. Some pine on it also. Beautiful clear night it is calm.

Sunday, 12: Beautiful clear day. Wind from S.E. Gen Aostershouse reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. 16 A.C. Cannon firing heard from north. Nothing to note.

Monday, 13: Went to get oysters this A.M. Div. drew rations not much news. Weather rather dark wind from S.E.

Tuesday, March 14: Rained nearly all day. South East wind. Was to preaching at C.C. tent. Text Ezekiel Ch. 18 & 20. V. Fine sermon. Bury the dead, Adams morld death & poison as Illustrations.

Wednesday, 15: Letter to R. J. Dean from Ft. Gaines. We were relieved from Carrell. I was to meeting tonight. Text [Naaman] the leoper by Coplan Krener. It rained today South wind. One man killed and one burnt by lightning.

Thursday, 16: This a beautiful clear day. Went to Company. Was to C.C. Meeting. Text, Romans 4&5 verse by Chaplin Humphreys. Good meeting.

Friday, March 17: Beautiful clear day, West wind. Was inspected by Major Strant. Div insp. – Was to meeting Text of Peter 1&3. Lord help me to live better.

Saturday, 18: Beautiful day, no news. Was to meeting to night. Drew clothing.

Sunday, 19: Orders to march went and sit on sand all day in old camp at night sent letters M. Dean & H. Allen.

Monday, March 20: Marched & got on Str. Thomas. Day clar. M. Dean sent Blanket – Left Ft. Gaines at 10 o'clock. In dog river in East side of Mobile bay. It rained P.M. Packed very close on the boat.

Tuesday, 21: It rained all night and very hard this morning. Also got on Gunboat No.48 at Mouth of Fish River. It is very [crobked], went some distance and got off on left side and went into a fine camp in tall pines and sandy land.

Wednesday, 22: Had a alarm by some firing on pickets. Fell out and built entrenchments of pine logs. It is a fine clear day. Walked to entrenchment & back three times.

Thursday, March 28: Marched out to lines and camped. Considerable firing on skirmishing line. News from Sheriden & Schofiled. Weather beautiful & clear. Finished entrenchments.

Friday, 24: Learned that Steele was at Forts. Laying still. Fine weather. Was detailed for picket & went on a Vidette post.

Saturday, 25: Regt. marched & we fell in on road. Skirmished all the way. Our regt on the advance and on picket. Beautiful clear & warm day.

Sunday, March 26: 9<sup>th</sup> Minn. all on picket last night. Marched at 10 o'clock by the right hand road. 13 A.C. on the other. Marched 7 miles & camped in nice place. Meeting

by Chaplin Kerr. There were three houses on road today's march. All pine timber country.

Monday, 27: Marched & fell in battle line & advanced on the forts. And lead on as skirmishers. They threw shells at us. Our skirmishers close to their forts. It rained very hard nearly all the P.M. Two men wounded.

Tuesday, 28: Worked on works all last night. We made works for our selves, Battery in front of us fired a number of shoots today. Some men wounded. Our Gunboats firing on. Weather clear and fine.

Wednesday, March 29: Still before Spanish Fort Ala. Fixed some our own works in rear of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ind. Battery. Weather fine & clear. Sent letter to M. Dean. Two men wounded serious. All the men working at entrenchments.

Thursday, 30: Beautiful day, pretty sharp firing last night & the rebels today. We moved down into works nearer the enemy. Some very sharp firing this evening.

Friday, 31: There is very sharp firing. Fire burning all day in brush. One killed & two wounded today. Weather very warm & fine. We went to work on bomb proof & most of night. Our guns firing on transports in bay.

Saturday, April 1: Worked on bomb proof last night and finished this A.M. Part of company on skirmisher line. Very sharp firing. Also very warm day. We stayed in our hole as we call it.

Sunday, 2: Beautiful clear day. Heavy firing early in morn & in evening. Laid in bomb proof most of the day. F. Merrill wounded. Troops went off from us. Still in front of the fort.

Monday, 3: Sent letter to R.J. Dean. Beautiful day. I was detailed on S.B. and went [on off], I've built bomb proof. Pretty sharp firing. Throwing shell by mortars.

Tuesday, April 4: Rec'd letter from M. Dean date March 10/65. Was on skirmish line last night in [pits] And slept nearly all day. At 5 o'clock very heavy cannonading. We laid close in bomb proof. Drew 4 days rations.

Wednesday, 5: Beautiful day. On duty one half day on Picket line, Kept the reb's head's down pretty well. No news of importance. Threw mortar shells in to forts.

Thursday, 6: Laid still nearly all day. Sent letter to M. Dean. Beautiful clear day. Went on duty this evening. Considerable firing nearly all night.

Friday, April 7: It rained today slightly. The usual firing. Slept nearly all day and had to go on Picket all night. The boys worked on Sap.

Saturday, 8: Very heavy firing to [north?] Blakely last night & this morning. There was a shot salute fired at fire. It was very heavy firing. I have a cold. Sap working up very close.

Sunday, 9: The Forts all [evacuated] and a lot of prisoners, Guns. Commissary Stuff taken last night about midnight. We marched and crossed bayous on pontons; Blakely charged and took by sundown, reported 5000 prisoners & 2 G' Boats & Guns not spiked.

Monday, April 10: Sent letters & paper to M. Dean. Received mail but none for me. Beautiful day went to see the prisoners. Reports of Richmond evacuated. Sent detail to build breastworks for Guns to play on Sand fort. Reported 30 Guns captured at Blakely.

Tuesday, 11: Moved camp for the sand fort fixed into camps. Beautiful day. Big peace rumors & about military affairs.

Wednesday, 12: Rec'd letter last night from M. Dean and it today, Marching orders, It is the first day that there is no firing. Mobile reported evacuated last night. Fine clear day.

Thursday, April 13: Marched at 9 o'clock on Steele's old trail. Pine timber on the country. Not many habitations. We camped on nice place near creek. Distance 8 miles from Blakely. Rained some this A.M. Nothing new to note. Seen corn 4 inches high.

Friday, 14: Seen full grown Blackberry, green. Marched over some bad roads. Pine timber country. We marched 10 miles & camped near creek at night. We were in advance of Division near McArthur's Hd. Qts.

Saturday, 15: Marched pretty early. We are in rear of Div. today. Timbered country some bad roads. We marched about 16 miles. It rained very hard at 4 o'clock for about one half hour. Had fresh some Beef first since left Eastport.

Sunday, April 16: Marched early and all day. Pretty hard march. 20 miles. It is Easter Sunday but no eggs, but we had a sheep. My feet sore & I staid behind. Mostly a poor country.

Monday, 17: Marched about noon & crossed a Stream on Pontoons. Country some changed more oak timber. We marched 10 miles, and flanked 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. train. We weighed my load without any extras, 42 lbs. Beautiful warm day, orders against foraging, offence \$5.

Tuesday, 18: Marched early and took off shoes & waded a large creek running East. We came into a cultivated country, crossed a number of little creeks. Seen a number of slaves, today we passed Bellville, Canceah Co. Camped in timber on left hand side of road. 18 Mi.

Wednesday, April 19: Marched pretty early & moderate all day. Beautiful clear day. Pretty good country. Great peace rumors. Some pretty big plantations. Camped in a big brush pile, 15 miles marched.

Thursday, 20: Marched at 9 o'clock and flanked Corps AM train. 2 div in advance 3 foll & 1<sup>st</sup> in rear, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brig in adv of Div. We passed a number of churches we passed. Marched 12.

Friday, 21: Marched early. It has rained since 3 o'clock & all day. It was very muddy & crossed about 12 streams from ankle to knee deep. We passed 3 church of Gilgal Pine barren Association Lorrnds Co. We camped near Greenville. Marched 18 miles. Passed Gov. of Ala. place.

Saturday, April 22: Beautiful clear day. Laid over near Greenville. Salute of 200 guns fired. Railroad running to Montgomery. Fine little place. Received ½ rations. Fine camping ground. Gen. Gierson H cavalry are here.

Sunday, 23: Was on Hd. Qts. guard last night. Marched at 7 o'clock through Greenville, a nice little place. Seem considerable people. Marched 18 miles today. I was a foraging a little, Pretty rich country, A nice country. Fine day and nice marching. Crossing many creeks. Camped near Sand Ridge.

Monday, 24: Marched at 10 o'clock flanking train. We went 18 miles. Plenty of creek. Camped near a creek in a hollow by some willows. Had a pint of corn meal & ¼ lb. Pork issued for todays tonight.

Tuesday, April 25: Marched at 7 o'clock. At noon at 4 miles creek. Pretty warm today but cold last night. Pretty rich country. Marched through Montgomery and camped 3 miles from town. Depot & Cotton sheds all burnt. Very warm clear day. Some fine houses in town.

Wednesday, 26: Laid over in camp near Montgomery. Short rations. The boys out a foraging, not much to get. Weather is fine & clear. We are on a fine little creek on edge of large corn field.

Thursday, 27: Went out as far as 5 mi. Eat Ripe Strawberries as large as plums. Very warm today.

Friday, April 28: Nothing to note, except i am sitting on the bank of the Alabama River. Swift stream, pretty high bank. We had a shower this A.M. Very fine weather P.M. We out as pickets but returned. Bowels not regular. Reason corn meal.

Saturday, 29: Beautiful day, a light rain shower. Laid over. Expecting transports. On short rations only. meal. Was to evening meeting.

Sunday, 30: Was mustered & inspected. Co. I had present over thirty. Beautiful, warm clear day. Boats arrived today with the [sorn] of Steel's com'd. Had meeting twice wrote a letter to M. Dean.

Monday, May 1: Beautiful clear day. Had a meeting in the evening, no news of importance. Boats arrived with plenty of Commissary stores. We had full rations. Confirmed about the president's assasination & the guns was fired.

Tuesday, 2: Had a pass to city was to State house, built of brick rather poor house. Not so much of a town, poor buildings impressing negro to work on railroad & levee. The people receiving meals at city mills. Weather warm and clear. Moved camp to bank o Alabama river.

Wednesday, 3: Fixed camp to day – Beautiful clear day & warm. It is a beautiful camp. We had meeting this evening & pretty good one. Boats arrived in the night.

Thursday, May 4: Drilled this A.M. Very warm clear day. Was in swimming at M. had dress parade. Detailed for guard. Received orders as to operations around Mobile. Over 5000 prisoners, 12 flags, 300 guns, 1000 small arms, ammunion & subsistance & c.

Friday, 5: Very warm, clear day. J.B. Pierce found having put an end to his life. Had regimental drill by Col. Marsh.

Saturday, 6: Buried Pierce today in cemetery at town. Was very warm. Was on Brigade drill P.M.

Sunday, May 7: Beautiful Sabbath. Day appointed by Gen Canby as thanksgiving. Chaplin held service twice. Kesinger, Field, Ryan & Kinghorn returned to Co. Letters from home received socks & c. Send letter to M. Dean. Dress parade.

Monday, 8: Beautiful day, brisk wind. Had Brigade drill this P.M. Had a good heavy shower last night. Rumor to march. Peace said to be almost complete.

Tuesday, 9: Waiting orders to march. Rained last night. Beautiful day. Had Battallion drill this P.M. A man drowned in river of the 47. Ills.

Wednesday, May 10: Revielle at 3 ½, Marched 7 A.M. Crossed Pontoon bridge at city, and marched four miles and camped near bank of Alabama river in field. marched 7 miles today. Weather pretty warm.

Thursday, 11: Marched 16 miles today. Marched at day light, left river, pine timer country. Passed through Plattville, a nice little village, crossed a number of streams & mills. Camped 3 miles from Plattville. There was a clath factory. Very warm A.M. Rained P.M.

Friday, 12: Marched at six o'clock. Some very fine country. Rained considerable yesterday & last night. Close to river & also at Vernon & Antangaville a fine village & camped in a sandy field 4 mi. from town & marched 17 mi. today. Very poor. Negros and poor crops. 22 Mil Selman.

Saturday, May 13: Marched at Sun rise, on guard last night, N.W. direction & passed near Milton & [stand] Ala & Tenns river RR. 14 mi from Selma. Fine bridge burnt on it. Camped 8 miles from town on a fine creek. Marched 22 miles today. land poor. Weather very fine & not very warm.

Sunday, 14: Marched at 6 o'clock rich country. Arrived in Selma at noon. A great amount burnt. some very strong works with sharp sticks around them. seen three large cannon burnt. marched through town and camped on west side of it. good camp. distance 10 miles.

Monday, 15: Letter M. Dean. Was in Selma to see the burnt Manufactories & foundries. Very much of city burnt. It was a fine place. No news. 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade going out on cars for Meriden, Miss. Weather fine & warm.

Tuesday, May 16: Was out gathering dewberries, very plenty on the banks Alabama. Very fine camp here. Weather very warm [is] with breeze.

Wednesday, 17: Laid in camp. boys playing ball. Weather fine & warm with breeze. Davis reported captured.

Thursday, 18: Rained heavy showers all day, warm between showers. Brig. Hd. Qtr left today. Boat came down from Montgomery.

Friday, May 19: Sent letter M. Dean. Rained last night. Marched at 6 o'clock. Crossed S&V. RR. also Cahaba river at [Crnig's] Ferry. 10 mi from Selma & 15 from Marion. Very sultry, rivulets very full of water, roads muddy. Camped on Montgomery road, old rebel camp, near Cahaba river. fine camp. beech timber. Marched 15 miles.

Saturday, 20: Marched at 5 o'clock . got to Hamburg at 7 o'clock nice little place. struck railroad arrived in town at 9.30 o'clock. pretty warm day. Negros flocking to see Yanks. Marion is a nice place. Train arrived at 12 M. Fine clear warm day.

Sunday, 21: Was to M.S. church, good sermon. Text. House on the rock. On guard on S'cott Hospt, cleaning out. Large amount of stuff. A large number of maimed CS Soldiers. Had negros working. Very fine buildings an old seminary. Very fine weather.

Monday, May 22: Nothing to note except weather beautiful. Had a walk in city. Pretty large seminary in East part of town. 5 churches M, E, B, P & C. Very aristocratic place. Received mail none for me.

Tuesday, 23: Got Bedsteads & ticks from Hospt. fixed up tent. Cavalry from Selma. Very warm fine day. All in usual good health.

Wednesday, 24: Received letter M Dean. Beautiful warm weather. letter said 40 acres wheat 30 acres oats & all well.

Thursday, May 25: Sent letter M Dean. Rations came from Selma last night.

Friday, 26: Was out picking Dewberries 2 miles. Was in at Mrs Gardners. Nothing to note. Weather beautiful & good breeze.

Saturday, 27: Beautiful weather warm with breeze. Average crop of cotton 1000 lbs per acre. Letter received from H Allen date April 27/65.

Sunday, May 28: Letter to H. Allen, was to M.E. Church. Text 119 Psalm & 23 verse. People seemly friendly. Dress Parade & a host of negros present. Meeting by Chaplain at dusk. A large amount of rations arrived this A.M. Weather cool and delightful.

Monday, 29: Weather fine & cool had a very fine shower. Was a visiting at Mrs. Gardner. Report Kirby Smith surrendered to US. Great explosion at Mobile.

Tuesday, 30: Detailed as guard & relieve & detailed in M. Dept. counting cotton stuff at Scott Hospt. Very fine clear weather.

Wednesday, May 31: Packing cotton goods at the hospital. Very fine warm day sky clear, a vast amount of used up stuff. Gen. McArthur visited Marion.

Thursday, June 1: Day appointed by President for Humiliation & prayer. Chaplin addressed regt. after they fell in & went to shade. Very warm clear day A. M. Raided very heavily in evening. Was to M.E. Church, text Psalms 37:7.

Friday, 2: Worked hard packing & marking Hosp. stores. Sent 36 boxes to Selma. Weather warm & clear.

Saturday, June 3, 1865: Meda for Hats. Was at Hospt. sent stuff away. Very warm day.

Sunday, 4: Very warm day. Was to Baptist Church & Sabbath School. Had dress parade & negroes as spectators. Also very great number to Meeting in evening to hear Chaplin. Visited M[?] Gardner.

Monday, 5: Very warm day. Was relieved from Hospt. duty. Nothing to note. Drew rations for 6 days.

Tuesday, June 6: Detailed on guard at depot. Very warm day. A large lot of negroes at the careol.

Wednesday, 7: Relieved this A.M. The warmest day for a long time. Was on a Cart to Mr. Gardners. Nothing to note, Nights warm.

Thursday, 8: Warm day, sultry weather. Had a good walk crops dring up for rain is much needed.

Friday, June 9, 1865: Sent letter M. Dean. Very warm. Was on a visit to Mr. Gardner. Had a little shower of rain.

Saturday, 10: Had a shower of rain. Was picking blackberries. Was to supper by colored people of Marion in grove. Weather very warm.

Sunday, June 11: 7 M, & 17 fe. teachers 104 total in S.S. of M.E. South [ 7 male & 17 female teachers, 104 total in Sunday School of Methodist Episcopal South], was to Episcopal Church. Text, 1 Peter 5 & 7 – Heavy rain, very warm before it. Small church.

Monday, June 12: Had a good rain last night today rather warm. Rations 5 days. Very cool towards night. Down to depot. Not many on trains.

Tuesday, June 13: Very warm this A.M. Was gathering blackberries caught in shower. Was on guard at Head Qtrs. Fine night, nothing new.

Wednesday, 14: Rainy most of day. Also very warm. Paymaster arrived.

Thursday, June 15: Very warm day. gronard[?] dainfe[?]. Received four months pay \$72.00 from Maj. Hullins hand. Not much news.

Friday, 16: Was out with J. Brown & A.A. Stubbs picking blackberries. Was visiting Mr. Gardner. Had a shower. Visited Mrs. Adams. New corn & potatoes.

Saturday, 17: Went to Selma with Paymasters as guard. Arrived at 10 o'clock. Day very warm. Not much news. Fine artician [artesian] well on road fr near Cahalla River.

Sunday, June 18, 1865: Very warm day. Was at Presbyterian church & S.School. Text Prov. 15-24. Good sermon. P.M. heaviest rain for two months past. Thunder & lightning pretty lively, Cleaned camp. Out for rum stuff off.

Monday, 19: Warm in A.M. Cool P.M. Was walking around village. Received letters of M. Dean & Tom Van Etten. Was to Mrs. Adams.

Tuesday, 20: On guard at depot. morning cool breeze day some cooler. Sent letters M. Dean & W. Kline. Visited On[?]

Wednesday, June 21: Weather very warm. Nothing to note. Seen straw cutter. Walked around the village. Fraker[?] of boys.

Thursday, 22: Weather warm. Worked at Valise. Hauling cotton to depot with UStearns[?]

Friday, 23: Nothing transpiring of importance. Commenced brading for supper, Drew rations till last mo. Was at Friend(s)

Saturday, June 24: Very warm weather today. Very good dinner by crew cook. New potatoes & c. plenty.

Sunday, 25: Service at Baptist Church text Luke 10.42&43 & service at camp Proverbs. Very warm in A.M. cook in P.M. Wrote letter R.C. Dean.

Monday, 26: Was visited out in country toward Hamburgh, was to 5 places bought new potatoes and \$2.50 for an[?]. Weather very warm. Crops need rain. Peaches & some apples ripe.

Tuesday, June 27: Marching orders for Companies A, D, E, G & H to go to Tuscaloosa Ala. Weather moderate. Gra[?]t visited Mer. Ga. fine time spend evening. Sat up with P. Brown.

Wednesday, 28: Very warm day. I am on guard at camp. Col. Markham & part of regiment gone to Tuscaloosa, signs of rain but none.

Thursday, 29: Weather warm and light shower. Ripe Peaches around & tomatoes. P.M. very refreshing south breeze.

Friday, June 30: Pretty warm weather but evening cool. commenced boarding at Mrs. Suintines at supper. Visited Mrs. Scott. Mustered & inspected by Col. Marsh.

Saturday, July 1: Showers nearly all day, with fine breeze. Visited Mr. --- also Judge Bailey. Had ripe peaches & apples. Received mail but no letters for me.

Sunday, 2: Was to Episcopal church text Gen. 37-27&28. Services at camp by Chaplin, Minister of E.C. McClune. Had fine dinner.

Monday, July 3: On Guard at Hospt. with J Hindman. Cannon came up from Selma to fire salute. Received letter from M. Dean all well. Mr Stubbs & I visited Mr. Gardners. Pretty warm weather.

Tuesday, 4: Fired a salute of 13 guns at sunrise. Sun arose bright. Fired 36 guns at noon had fine dinner. Very warm. Was to the Doad Troupe very good.

Wednesday, 5: Was to Judge Barber. Very warm weather. Visited Mr G---. Thermometer 92 [degrees] in hall in shade.

Thursday, July 6: Very warm sultry – Nothing new of importance. Visited Mr. Lockhart.

Friday, 7: Could hardly sleep last night for heat. No news. Very warm. Continued expecting rain. In company with Geo. Tilberg visited Mr. --- over friends.

Saturday, 8: Sent letter to M. Dean. Very warm day. Order that 16<sup>th</sup> Corps is not to be mustered out.

Sunday, July 9: Was to M.E.?S. in A.M. P? the pha Text John 3 & 19 – very good sermon. Excessive heat, on guard today. Vegetation all drying up as rain needed.



Monday, 10: Very warm to A.M. Very fine shower this evening at 6 o'clock & cool. Was to visit Mrs Gor—Cool night.

Tuesday, 11: Fine shower this A.M. – cool all day. Visit Mr. McClure

Wednesday, July 12: Rather cooler than usual. Not much news. Okara makes nice soup.

Thursday, 13: Had a very fine & heavy rain this morning. Report about mustering out. Weather very cool. Remembrance of one year ago near Tupelo, Miss.

Friday, 14: Fine good breeze all day. There is no news. Sun pretty hot. Had a fair walk around town this evening. Last night cool. Big fight one year ago.

Saturday, July 15: Comfortable to sleep last night expecting news tonight. Good breeze today. I am on guard at camp. Orders to go home next week.

Sunday, 16: Fine breeze today. Attended M.E. Church, at Sabbath School also meeting. Text St. Luke 15 & 18 to 21v, Very fine shower after dinner.

Monday, 17: Had a fine shower. Some cooler than usual. Visited Mrs. G—seem union? my & social time.

Tuesday, July 18: Beautiful day, very fine breeze. Was to Mrs. Pond's. Vegetation refreshed & looks good.

Wednesday, 19: My Natal day. Received box of fruit as present. Very fine breeze today. One year ago the Lord spared my life almost miraculously. I thank God for the retrim. Was to my friends G—

Thursday, 20: 11<sup>th</sup> Mo. arrived last night. This day rather warm but a very good breeze

Friday, July 21: On guard at camp. Pretty warm. 11<sup>th</sup> Mo. Cutting up last night – boys nearly all on guard

Saturday, 22: Very warm day, no breeze. Had a plenty of fruit. On visit to Mrs. Grand's - Played chess. Very social time was to tea. Music by Mrs. A & Miss A.E. –

Sunday, 23: Attended church at Episcopal small attendance. Very warm today: no breeze in A.M., Was to meeting service by Chaplin Kerian 11<sup>th</sup> Mo.

Monday, July 24: Fine clear day. Had fine shower in A. M. Visited Mrs. Gardners. Received fine cake.

Tuesday, 25: Did not get away. Pretty warm day. Dress parade & order from Gen Hubbard. Visited Mr. Gardner. Very social time.

Wednesday, 26: Left Marion at 7 o'clock – Junction 9 o'clock – very warm day. Uniontown 12 o'clock. Plenty of corn, Demopolis & on Str. J. Watson, 4 mi. on river. On course for Meredian. Douglas? Died, Meredian at Midnight.

Thursday, July 27: Left Meridian at 7 o'clock. A? at Jackson 3 o'clock laid over, Very weather – very poor country as to any oppinion.

Friday, 28: Got team and rode to Big Black river slept on a bank of it. Fine breeze. Distance 36 miles, Chaplin Re? robbed.

Saturday, 29: Got on cars at 5 o'clock & rode to Vicksburg. Mostly warm today rough country back of town.

Sunday, July 30: Laid over at Vicksburg all day. I had a bad headache. Very warm day, nothing new. Pretty quiet in city. Drew rations for 7350, 8 line officer, 3 friell? & one Dr.

Monday, 31: Letter to A.M.A. Very warm day, a good amount of business done. Got on Str. Henry Ames at 3 o'clock, 83 Ohio on also – they from New Orleans. Left Vicksburg 5 o'clock Meillinerkers bend 26 miles at 7 o'clock.

Tuesday, August 1: Progressing up river fast. Fine morning and all day clear. Stopped at Greenville at 2 o'clock. No breeze. Napoleon 5 o'clock. White River Mouth dark.

Wednesday, August 2: Passed Helena at 4 o'clock. Vicksburg 2 o'clock business lively. Left at 5 o'clock. Weather very fine.

Thursday, 3: Passed New Madrid at 2 o'clock. Island No. 10 20 mi. above, Hickman & Columbus at 5 o'clock. Arrived at Cairo at 8 o'clock. River high. 83 Ohio got off boat. Had a fine shower this P.M.

Friday, 4: Left Cairo at 11 o'clock last night, Fine day – I do not feel well. Passed St. Germin at 5 o'clock.

Saturday, August 5: Arrived at St. Louis at 12 o'clock M.N. Got off on levee to noon. Got on Str. Burlington- left at dark, heavy load. Little shower today. Weather cool.

Sunday, 6: Fine breeze all day. Fine scenery on river 1-1/2 o'clock at Clarksville 100 mi. fr. St. Lo. Fine, clean little places Louisianer faces S.E. in Mo. Neat place – Hannibal at night – Large business place – Plenty peaches, Weather fine.

Monday, 7: Passed Alexandria & Warsaw – Keokuk 9 o'clock. All nice places, clean & pretty. Weather very fine. Nauvoo 1 o'clock fine site. Mormon place, Fort Madison. 3 o'clock, nice place. Burlington at dark. Quite large place.

Tuesday, August 8: Muscatine at 5 o'clock A.M. Rock Island & Davenport about 11 o'clock. Business places. Weather fine & warm. Passed bridge excursion party. Military prison Meoline 3 mi above, very fine. Part iron bridge at Clinton – very fine country.

Wednesday, 9: Passed Bellview at 6 o'clock & fine showers nearly all day. Dubuque & Dunleith at 10 o'clock. Cassville Wis. 3-1/2 o'clock nice – Guttenbery Ia. 5 \_\_ Dutch town. Paraie de Chein 9 P.M.

Thursday, 10: Lansing 8 A.M. Brownsville 12 M. Fired a gun three times. Lacsape 2-1/2 P.M. Isimpellean 5 P.M. Homer 6-1/2 – Ladies fired salute. Winona dark. Big turn out.

Friday, August 11: Reeds Landing 6 A.M. Lake City 7 – Passing through lake Pepin 8 A.M. Red Wing 9 A.M. Lake Pep 30 mil Long. St. Paul 5 P.M. Had a very good reception on Str. Albany for home

Saturday, 12: At home. Very fine day – Visited Alexander & was to Shakopee.

Sunday, 13: Was to Meeting M.E.C. Text Heb 33 & 14

Monday, August 14: Cutting grain, good weather.

Tuesday, 15: Cutting Wheat cool breeze, was to supper at Court house for soldiers.

Friday, 18: Was very sick A.M. Mrs. Isenhour & Browns & Mr. Brown was here.

Saturday, 19: Had very heavy rain.

Sunday, August 20: Pretty sick Chills & fever

Monday, 21: Started Ft. Snelling. Had rain last night & today. Returned from Fort on Str.  
Mollie Mohlen, P.M. fine

Wednesday, August 23: Went to Ft. Snelling

Tuesday, 24: Mustered out of service at Ft. Snelling, Minn. At evening went to St. Paul.  
Fine weather.

Friday, 25: Fine weather. Waiting for paymaster. Visited Falls of Minnehaha. Paid off at  
Ft. Snelling.

Saturday, August 26: Letter J. Van Elten. Weather very fine. Got home from Fort  
Snelling last night. Shocked grain, up to town in evening.

Sunday, 27: Was to meeting. Text – Luke Xc & 42 ver by Rev. Elliot. Weather dark and  
smoky, wind from east. S.M. Hewlitt to lecture to night.

Saturday, September 2: Finished cutting grain. Beautiful weather.

Saturday, September 23: Posted letter to A.E.G. Received letter from A.E.G. 19.

**[Last dated entry]**