

Diary of Oscar Pecoy

[memo-This diary covers Rosecrans' occupation of Murfreesboro and his Tullahoma campaign to Chattanooga (Jan. 1, 1863-Sept, 1863). The accounts of foraging, company drill, guard/pickett [sic] duty and camp life give a good overall picture of soldiers' life between battles.]

THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF OSCAR JULIUS PECOY 36TH ILLINOIS INFANTRY COMPANY "B"
1863

[Editor's note: Words in brackets were questionable or illegible in the original document.]

JANUARY

Thursday, January 1

Our Brigade [sic] all got together this morning, got rations, built breastwork and lay all day in readiness, but no attack. Our Regt fought yesterday.

Friday 2

We lay in the same place all day, just night there was a heavy fight on our left. The Rebs [sic] came up 8 men deep, was driven back.

Saturday 3

It rained all last night. The pickets were attacked in our front by a squad of Cavy. Moved our breastwork back near the pike. The Rebs [sic] all left but the pickets.

Sunday 4

We went back two miles after forage this afternoon. My name is spelled on all the rolls, Oscar Peacoy. [sic] Albert M. Hobbs, Capt.

Monday 5

We lay in the same place today; it is rainy. The stream is Stone [sic] River.

Tuesday 6

Our train came up from Nashville last night. Left, went through Murfreesboro, and three miles beyond on the Shelbyville Pike.

Wednesday 7

We are stoping [sic] here, put up tents, and so on.

Thursday 8

I went to town, saw our wounded boys.

Friday 9

Wrote a letter to Ada, and one to Aunt C. Miller.

Saturday 10

Nothing going on about camp. It is dull and lonesome.

Sunday 11

Our Brigade [sic] is on picket 3 miles from camp.

Monday 12

Were relieved at 9 AM. Got a letter from Mother, and Laura also. Wrote one to Lucia.

Tuesday 13

Wrote a letter to Mother. Was over to the 75 Ill Regt.

Wednesday 14

It is rainy afternoon.

Thursday 15

It rained all day. Toward night it turned into a sleet. Got a letter from Mother. Wrote a letter to Laura.

Friday 16

It snowed a little last night, and today, which makes it cold and dreary.

Saturday 17

Wrote a letter to Mother. Went to town and saw the wounded boys again.

Sunday 18

Wrote to Eugene Smith.

Monday 19

Went outside of the pickets three miles after forage. Got a letter from Lucia, and Ada.

Tuesday 20

Got a letter from Uncle John Orr. Are on picket again. Part of our Co are on reserve.

Wednesday 21

Was relieved at the usual time. Wrote a letter to Ada.

Thursday 22

Cleaned up around camp. Got a letter from Laura. Wrote one to Lucia.

Friday 23

Went in search of the 98th Regt, could not find it, in search of W. Green, Co. "C". Went and saw the wounded boys.

Saturday 24

Went after forage and it rained most all day. Went eight miles and back.

Sunday 25

It is very pleasant. Sunday passes off as usual with preaching etc. Wrote to John [Bunce].

Monday 26

Nothing going on about camp. Commenced raining toward night.

Tuesday 27

It rained all night and wound up with a few [flakes] of snow. It is quite cold.

Wednesday 28

The snow is an inch deep. The Brigade [sic] is on picket.

Thursday 29

Got a letter in answer from the first one I wrote after the fight. Charles Schofield [sic] died yesterday, and Oscar Howe today.

Friday 30

A forage team that went out was shelled. Lieut [sic] Col Jenks commands the Regt.

Saturday 31

Nothing going about camp today.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 1

The Regt went to town to work on the entrenchments. M. Cornell and Rosell Howard arrived today.

Monday 2

I have had a comforter on my neck since we came off pickett [sic], and have done no duty.

Tuesday 3

The Regt went after forage. I did not go.

Wednesday 4

We heard some pretty sharp artillery firing outside the pickets this morn.

Thursday 5

Our Brigade [sic] went out to Salem, five miles from camp to do guard duty. I was detailed the first thing.

Friday 6

Was relieved at 9 AM. It was pretty cold last night, is warmer today.

Saturday 7

I went out with the forage team eight miles, and back, I rode all the way.

Sunday 8

I and some other boys after meeting went out in the country, got a goose, two chickens, and some tobacco. Got a letter from Frank Smith.

Monday 9

The Regt went out to the house we were yesterday after horses, but found none. Col Greasel [sic] got his resignation papers today.

Tuesday 10

We expected to get relieved today, but did not.

Wednesday 11

I am a little under the weather today, with two boils on my chin.

Thursday 12

I feel better today. It is a little stormy.

Friday 13

We were relieved just night.

Saturday 14

The Regt is on picket. Got a letter from Aunt Clyminda, and one from J. Orr. The weather is rainy.

Sunday 15

We were not relieved untill [sic] noon.

Monday 16

It is rainy today. I wrote a letter to A. Smith and Aunt Clyminda.

Tuesday 17

Got a letter from Al Smith one from Chance Miller and one from home. Chance has got home.

Wednesday 18

It is rainy today as usual. Wrote a letter home.

Thursday 19

It has stopped raining and the wind is drying up the mud fast.

Friday 20

Are on picket again today.

Saturday 21

Were relieved at the usual time. It rained hard all the afternoon. Got a letter from Ada, Laura, & Chance. Wrote one to Chance.

Sunday 22

I am on camp guard. There was an order read, got up by Gen Rosecrans, in honor of Gen Washingtons [sic] birthday, and a battery fired from each Division of this Army.

Monday 23

We moved camp across the river this forenoon. Signed the payroll for five months pay this afternoon.

Tuesday 24

The Briggade [sic] went a foraging. Traveled 22 miles. Got a letter from Uncle Morse that was near two months on the road, and one from Lucia.

Wednesday 25

It is rainy. Got two months pay. Col Jenks and Dr. Young have resigned. Capt [sic] Olson commands the Regt. Got a letter from Hellen, Ada, and Laura.

Thursday 26

It is rainy. We enlisted five boys that are to [be] paroll [sic] of honor. Three of five are to be mounted.

Friday 27

It stopped raining last night. I am afraid this day is too pretty to last. Our Briggade [sic] is on picket, I am too.

Saturday 28

We were relieved at the usual hour. Was mustered for pay again.

MARCH

Sunday, March 1

Wrote a letter home and to John Orrs [sic] folks. This is a pretty day. Had preaching, etc.

Monday 2

Had a short Briggade [sic] drill this afternoon. I am ordered to be ready to march with five day's rations.

Tuesday 3

Have not left yet. Had Battalion [sic] this afternoon. I was up until [sic] midnight, where there was dancing, singing, etc to Co "C".

Wednesday 4

We were ordered to march with five days rations, started at 8 AM and brought up near Eaglesville [sic]. Travelled 20 miles. Took 50 prisoners, or so the report is.

Thursday 5

We marched just west of town this morning and laid over. We could hear a heavy fight going on, west of us this afternoon, toward Franklin. Took 60 prisoners, [sotter]. Paymaster, train etc here.

Friday 6

This morning went three miles, and camped within three miles of Tryune [sic] Our Co went out in the country, got some beef cattle, hams, etc. It is rainy.

Saturday 7

We left camp, marched through Tryune, [sic] and 4 miles beyond, and camped. It stopped raining this morning. That firing we heard, the Rebs [sic] took near 2000 prisoners.

Sunday 8

Had a heavy shower last night, marched eight miles to Franklin through the mud, and camped. The right wing of our Regt is on picket. The grass, wheat, etc looks green and much like spring.

Monday 9

We marched through Franklin, and south 12 miles, and are now camped inside of where the Rebels were last night. Came by where the Rebels took 2,000 of our men prisoners the other day.

Tuesday 10

We left camp at noon, went within 3 miles of Columbia and camped. The Rebels are close by. Marched 7 miles through the rain. The left wing of the Regt is on picket tonight. I am not, was last night.

Wednesday 11

It stopped raining last night. About 8 AM our Regt went back on the right and laid all day. I with a number of others went in advance as skirmishers. The Cav'y [sic] drove them across the river to Columbia.

Thursday 12

Today we call came back to Franklin again. I am more tired tonight than I have been on the march. The weather is clear and cool.

Friday 13

We left camp at an early hour this morning toward Murfreesboro, went two miles beyond Tryune [sic] and camped. I saw three teams on one farm ploughing.

Saturday 14

The Regt made camp about night as my feet went back on me. I did not get in untill [sic] an hour after dark. Got two letters from home, one from Al and one from J Alger.

Sunday 15

Have written a letter home and one to Uncle Morse. This is a splendid day. The 88th Ill. are getting pay today.

Monday 16

The 24th Wis. got their pay today. I am on camp guard.

Tuesday 17

Our Regt got two months more pay today. The weather is very warm. I weighed myself today, weigh 188 lbs.

Wednesday 18

Our Division moved camp today about one mile distant. I saw some peach trees in full bloom.

Thursday 19

Our Briggade [sic] is on picket, near where the old camp was. Our Videts [sic] fired four shots at the Rebs [sic] and they returned it this afternoon.

Friday 20

We were relieved this morning at the usual hour. Got a letter from home.

Saturday 21

The Rebs [sic] fired a few shots at our pickets this morning, our Briggade [sic] was out in readiness for two hours. We was reviewed by Gen Sheridan this PM.

Sunday 22

Sunday passes off as usual. Had dress parade tonight. I sent \$30.00 home by Wilder Gates of Aurora.

Monday 23

I am on picket today, stood one [hour] and was relieved. This Division was reviewed by Rosecrans. Wrote a letter to Al Smith. Saw the forts, etc.

Tuesday 24

The Briggade [sic] is on picket again today, I am too. It is raining and very disagreeable. Sent a letter to J. Alger.

Wednesday 25

Was relieved from picket at 8 AM. I notice the trees are getting quite green. Got a letter from Chance Miller.

Thursday 26

After dinner we was ordered and out near Salem on picket. Two Brigades [sic] of us.

Friday 27

I am on picket by detail again today. The weather is rainy.

Saturday 28

We had a very heavy shower in the centre [sic] of the night. I was on guard at the time. We were relieved at 9 AM.

Sunday 29

This day passed off quiet with preaching etc. It is quite cool.

Monday 30

There was Batallion [sic] and Brigade drills, both, today. I have a sore heel, and cannot go out. Got a letter from home.

Tuesday 31

We were relieved this afternoon. I hobbled to camp the best I could.

APRIL

Wednesday, April 1

I wrote a letter home. Our paroll [sic] of honor boys were inspected today.

Thursday 2

Had Co drill this forenoon, and Brigade [sic] this afternoon. Got a letter from Chance Miller. The weather is splendid today. It seems like summer.

Friday 3

Had a Brigade drill this afternoon. I wrote to Lucia. The Regt all voted in favor of enforcing the laws of the constitution, as they now are.

Saturday 4

The Brigade is on drill again this afternoon. The wind blows pretty hard. Got a letter from home with four photographs. Cleaned up camp, etc.

Sunday 5

The Regt is on picket again, I am too. The Chaplain came around to each post and gave a short sermon. Got a letter from Aunt [Delia], photograph.

Monday 6

Was relieved at 8 AM.

Tuesday 7

Went to town this forenoon. Went on Brigade [sic] drill this afternoon.

Wednesday 8

Wrote a letter and sent my likeness home. Had two drills. There was a sword presented to Doc Pierce, and one to Chaplain [Hageve] at dress parade.

Thursday 9

We expected to march this morning, as there has been fighting out west of us. Got a letter from Uncle Morse, also Laura. Wrote to Chance Miller.

Friday 10

Had Brigade this afternoon. Had a general muster to see how many new recruits was wanted.

Saturday 11

Our Brigade is on picket. Our Regt is by the Shelbyville Pike. The report is the train going to Nashville yesterday was taken.

Sunday 12

I attended meeting at 2 PM. Got a letter from Mother. Had a Brigade dress parade.

Monday 13

Had a drill, then I was on duty; next signed the pay rolls, and last had a Regimental inspection. I wrote home to Mother and Laura this morning.

Tuesday 14

Got pay for two months this morning. This morn it rained some. Lieut [sic] Clark went home.

Wednesday 15

The Regt marched on the fortifications untill [sic] 3 PM, when the rain stoped [sic] us. Had dress parade, and was read that Sylvester [Camel] is sentenced to 6 months hard labor with ball and chain.

Thursday 16

Gen Sheridan had a splendid sword presented to him, and most of the Officers [sic] of the Division was there. Got a letter from J. Alger.

Friday 17

Had a Brigade drill and while there saw Sheridans [sic] sword, [wine sett], pistols, saddle etc.

Saturday 18

Pulled up tents, and give things a general airing. Are about getting up a Library of useful and entertaining books.

Sunday 19

Are on picket. It rained about noon, then cleared off. Had an easy time.

Monday 20

Was relieved this morning at 8 AM. Got a letter from home.

Tuesday 21

Our new General Lidel [sic] of Ohio, took command of the Brigade at 10 AM.

Wednesday 22

Had Co and Batallion [sic] drill this forenoon, also wrote to Al Smith. Went to the 75 in the afternoon. The Generals [sic] name is Lytle, Wm H. I saw him.

Thursday 23

Our Brigade is out in advance. Between the Salem and Shelbyville Pike. The weather is beautifull [sic]. A boy of the 24th Wis. shot his hand so bad he had it taken off.

Friday 24

We are out about three miles from camp. Are having a pleasant time, so far.

Saturday 25

Was inspected by Gen Lytle this afternoon. Wrote to Helen Morse.

Sunday 26

Went to meeting at 10 AM. Wrote a letter home and got one from there just after I had put mine in the Office.

Monday 27

Are on picket at the camp we were at before we came at this. The report is that 600 men and one Battery of the Rebs [sic] came in and gave themselves up yesterday.

Tuesday 28

Were relieved at an early hour this morn. The Videttes done some firing in the fore part of the eve. Got a box of [illegible] from home. Wrote home.

Wednesday 29

Wrote to J. Alger. We had to turn over our Wall Tents this afternoon, and put up shelters in their place. It is rainy this afternoon.

Thursday 30

Were mustered this afternoon for pay. The weather is nice again. Had orders at dress parade to have two drills per day of two hours each.

MAY

Friday, May 1

Had Brigade drill this forenoon, and Batallion [sic] drill this afternoon.

Saturday 2

I was on duty this forenoon. It has the appearance of rain this evening.

Sunday 3

Went to meeting this afternoon.

Monday 4

Our Brigade is on picket today.

Tuesday 5

Were relieved at 8 AM. It was read to us on dress parade that Lieut [sic] Walker of Co "B" is disonorably [sic] dismissed from service.

Wednesday 6

Our Brigade came out to Salem this morning with five days rations for advance guard duty. The weather is cold and stormy.

Thursday 7

Got a letter from Cousin Fannie with photograph. The weather is the same as yesterday.

Friday 8

We are out in advance today. Were reserve the last two days. There is quite an anxiety on the part of Hooker, as to his success towards Richmond, etc.

Saturday 9

It cleared off yesterday and is pleasant again. We are doing guard duty the same as yesterday.

Sunday 10

The report is that our Flag floats over Richmond. Got a letter from home. Came back to camp just night.

Monday 11

Wrote a letter home. Saw Olson with Lieut [sic] Colonels Epulets [sic] on this evening. This day has been very warm. No more news from Richmond.

Tuesday 12

Had Brigade drill by Gen Lytle this morning. Wrote to Uncle Morse. The news from Richmond are quite encouraging. Lieut [sic] Clark is appointed Ajutant [sic] of this Regt.

Wednesday 13

Had another Brigade drill this morning by Col Sherman. Clark made his first trial as Adjutant [sic] on dress parade this evening. Went to an amphitheatre [sic] of the soldiers getting up.

Thursday 14

Wrote to Frank Smith. Had another Brigade drill this afternoon.

Friday 15

The Brigade is on picket again today.

Saturday 16

Wrote home. A dispatch came to Rosecrans, and is generally believe that our Flag floats over Richmond. Got a letter from home. Came back to camp tonight.

Sunday 17

I am on guard at the commissary [sic] today and night. Got a letter from J. Alger. Had Regimental inspection of knapsacks, etc.

Monday 18

Had Battalion [sic] and Brigade drills today. I was not relieved until [sic] noon, so I did not have to go out.

Tuesday 19

The Brigade is on picket again today. All quiet on the lines.

Wednesday 20

Was relieved at usual time. Charles Doty came back, after being taken prisoner at the Battle here. Had orders this evening to march at a moments [sic] warning.

Thursday 21

The trial for the ten best marksman of the Brigade, to have Colts five shooters, and to act as sharp shooters came off. Got a letter from Al Smith.

Friday 22

Had a Battalion [sic] and Brigade drill today. A reconnoitering party went out a few days ago took over 100 prisoners, camp equipage, etc last night some ten miles from here.

Saturday 23

Col Miller, and Capt [sic] Hobbs arrived today, and were greeted with three others, etc. Bought a ring made of a shell out of Stone [sic] River.

Sunday 24

The Brigade is on picket again. The report is Vicksburgh [sic] is taken by Grant.

Monday 25

Were relieved at the usual time. Wrote to Laura. Had a mess of greenes [sic] tonight, the first time this Spring.

Tuesday 26

Had dress parade, and music by the Brass Band, the 1st in a long time we have had a band to play for us. Went to a show again tonight. This is the third one I have been to.

Wednesday 27

Got brush and covered over our tents. Got a letter from Laura, and one from Chance Miller. Col Miller treated the Regt to the Beer.

Thursday 28

Had orders to be ready to march at a moments [sic] warning, in the night. Wrote a letter home.

Friday 29

Had a nice little shower last night, and it rained some today. Had Batallion [sic] drill this forenoon. Wrote to Chance Miller.

Saturday 30

It rained quite hard today. Wrote to Al Smith, and J. Alger. Are drilling now in the Bayonet exercise.

Sunday 31

Had an inspection this morning. Got a letter from home and one from Lucia. Went to meeting twice.

JUNE

Monday, June 1

Answered those letters I got yesterday. Are ordered to be ready to go to Salem in the morning to do five days picket duty.

Tuesday 8

We came to Salem this morning through a light shower. The right wing is on picket, the left on reserve, that part that I am in. They have breastworks built here now.

Wednesday 3

Our left wing is out in front. It has cleared off nice and warm. Was given 10 ronds [sic] of cartridges [sic] this evening, making fifty in all.

Thursday 4

Are on the line today too. Each man has had to take eight days rations and pack away in the knap, and haversacks. The Videts [sic] were fired on early this morn, and could hear more or less firing all along the lines all day, and some cannonading.

Friday 5

We are on reserve today. All is quiet again. Wrote to Ada, and sent her, and Laura a ring, each, made of shell out of Stone [sic] River.

Saturday 6

Are in the position we were yesterday, all quiet again.

Sunday 7

We are on the outpost again today. It has every appearance of being a rainy night.

Monday 8

It did not rain any of any account last night. We returned back to our old camp this morning. Wrote to Dwite [sic] Hawk

Tuesday 9

Had Co drill this morning, and dress parade this evening. Henry Miller, who was wounded and been to Nashville, came to see us; has lost his left arm.

Wednesday 10

Got a letter from Mother and answered it, and sent Hortense a ring. Had a long Brigade drill this afternoon and dress parade this evening.

Thursday 11

Had Co and Batallion [sic] drill today, and dress parade this evening.

Friday 12

A story was got up, that a man or two (slaves) were to be hung. I went about three miles to the scaffold, stayed three hours and came back as I went, without seeing what I expected. Got a letter from Helen.

Saturday 13

No drills today. This forenoon I went and saw the boys I know in the 75th Ill, and this afternoon went and saw the Forts. Took a long stroll through other camps, etc.

Sunday 14

Jas [sic] Hofkins came over and we had a good chat together. Had a heavy shower from the North East, just night.

Monday 15

Got a letter from Laura and answered it. Had a long Brigade drill this afternoon. It was very warm.

Tuesday 16

Got a letter from Albert Smith, and answered it. John Ryan came over this afternoon. Had a skirmish drill this afternoon, and is warmer than yesterday. Reported Lee is in Pennsylvania.

Wednesday 17

I was detailed to get water this morning. We went two miles, near the Salem picket for it. Major [sic] Sherman drilled us awhile in this afternoon in the bayonet exercise.

Thursday 18

We practised [sic] this afternoon in learning the calls for skirmishing. Had orders on dress parade that we are up every morning at 7 1/2 AM, and stand under arms.

Friday 19

Had our Co drills as yesterday; the later the calls are made with a whistle.

Saturday 20

We came out on picket again today near Salem. The left wing is on reserve.

Sunday 21

Had preaching this forenoon. Are in the same place we were yesterday. No news. There is a patch of corn silked out here.

Monday 22

Are in the same place today, yet. All is quiet on the lines.

Tuesday 23

Our wing is on picket today. Had to send all our stuff back to camp we could not carry, and think there is to be a move. Got a letter from Laura.

Wednesday 24

We moved on toward Shelbyville this morning. Had skirmishes about seven miles out. It has rained most of the day.

Thursday 25

We lay over all day. We could hear a heavy fight going on in just night, driving the Rebels out of the Gap ahead.

Friday 26

Today we moved on, and are rear guard for the train. It has rained very hard all day.

Saturday 27

We travelled between fifteen and twenty miles, and it was very warm. The second Brigade had a skirmish. Got to camp at nine PM, most of the boys is nearly tired out.

Sunday 28

We went about eight miles this forenoon, through the rain, and camped near Manchester. The rain ceased at noon. There is the prettiest [sic] scenery, falls, etc here I ever saw.

Monday 29

Today we marched through the rain within five miles of Tulahoma [sic] stopped long enough to get supper, then went on picket. The Rebs [sic] are close by. Got wet through as usual.

Tuesday 30

We was relieved at eight AM, and the weather looks as though it would be more pleasant for a short time. Hear that we took 1000 prisoners and two pieces of artillery [sic] at Shelbyville. Got a letter from Lucia, Chance, and home.

JULY

Wednesday, July 1

At one PM we started and went in Tulahoma [sic]. It was evacuated. This morning our troops went in first, got their siege pieces, a lot of tents, etc. It is very warm.

Thursday 2

Today we marched on for Chataneoga [sic]. Traveled some fifteen miles. Waded through Rook or Elk River. Picked up some prisoners. Are on picket tonight.

Friday 3

Started early this morning. Came through Winchester, took over 50 prisoners. Crossed two more rivers four feet deep, skirmished all the way. Rained most of the way etc.

Saturday 4

We lay over today. Have ransacked this country all over and have had the most good bits we have had in a long time. Saw a man of the 88th that cut his throat tolerable bad.

Sunday 5

We are stoping [sic] at this place yet. Have plenty of Blackberries to eat. Got a letter from D. Hawks. Had preaching this evening. Had dress parade this evening.

Monday 6

Are stoping [sic] here yet. The East Tennessee Conscripts are deserting and coming in our lines by dozens. Had a hard shower last night.

Tuesday 7

One third of our Regt is on picket; our Co is a part. Got a letter from home. The reports are that Vicksburgh [sic] has surrendered, and Lees [sic] Army is scattered in every direction.

Wednesday 8

The above reports are said to be confirmed. One of our Batteries fired the rounds, in honor of the news, and I could hear them firing last evening in other parts of the army. Moved camp just night.

Thursday 9

Fixed up our camp etc. The name of this station is Cowen [sic]; there is a long tunnel not far from here running through the Cumberland [sic] Mountains.

Friday 10

A part of the Regt is on picket, our Co is. The provision train came up this afternoon.

Saturday 11

Sent a letter home.

Sunday 12

Are on picket at the same place today.

Monday 13

Was relieved at 7 AM. Near noon had to march. Went 7 miles on the Rail Road, through the mountains. Went through the tunnel that is 2228 feet long with three holes through the top, to let in light.

Tuesday 14

Started early this morning and went 8 miles to Anderson Station close by the Alabama line. I was out in the state one mile after potatoes. Traded coffee for tobacco.

Wednesday 15

I am on picket. The report is that Port Hudson is ours. There is lots of corn silked and tasseled out.

Thursday 16

Was relieved early this morning and started back for Cowen [sic] Station; got here at 4 PM. Rec'd a letter from home.

Friday 17

Laid around camp all day at our ease. Orderly Hunt of Co "G" died today; was a fine fellow. Went to prayer meeting tonight.

Saturday 18

Wrote a letter home. An Engine and two cars came through today. The orderly of Co "G" was buried today.

Sunday 19

I am on picket again. Had all the Blackberries I could eat, as I have had many a time since we came here.

Monday 20

We have fixed up our camp as though we would stay here a while. Covered the tents with brush, etc.

Tuesday 21

I wrote to Dwight, Chance, and Lucia. Got a letter from Fannie Smith. L.F. Hemenway came up, so did John our cook.

Wednesday 22

I went to Stevenson on the cars, as a guard for Maj Gen Sheridan, 25 miles from here and back again. Signed the pay roll.

Thursday 23

Wrote to Fannie Smith. We are building a nice Chapel for public worship. I went out with some of the boys and got a porker.

Friday 24

Our Chapel was finished today, and is the prettiest one I have seen in the army. Got a letter from home.

Saturday 25

Wrote a letter home.

Sunday 26

Am on picket. Went out a short way, picked and ate all the berries I wanted. Our chapel was dedicated and Gen Lytle was there.

Monday 27

We got four months pay, this forenoon, \$52.00. Sent home \$36.00 by Elder Haigo, who starts for home in the morning.

Tuesday 28

I was detailed to work at the Depot, but as the intended train did not come, we got off easy. Had all the meat, milk I wanted this evening. Reported Morgen [sic] is taken.

Wednesday 29

Have orders to move early in the morning.

Thursday 30

We marched to [Tantlon] by the waggon [sic] road, got our dinner, then went five miles farther and camped. It rained some this afternoon.

Friday 31

We marched on to Stevenson; it was warm too. I fell out and got a meal. Had a small shower just night.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 1

We marched on to the river near Bridgeport. They done destroyed part of one bridge, and their pickets are on the islands, in speaking distance.

Sunday 2

Our Regt is on picket. We had greene [sic] corn, ripe peaches, apples, etc. The cars have come through to this place this afternoon with our knapsacks.

Monday 3

The Rebels pickets are on the island as usual, and converse with our boys considerable. Gambling is raiging [sic] heavy.

Tuesday 4

I was rambling over the country most of the day. Got all the ripe peaches I could carry in.

Wednesday 5

The boys went out, foraging, got greene [sic] corn, apples, potatoes, etc. I have caught a slight cold this afternoon. Gen Lytle came on the train this evening.

Thursday 6

Wrote a letter home.

Friday 7

Gen Rosecrans, and staff, and Sheridan, came here on a single car; with a small engine, in one end; a contrivance I never saw before. Went back in a short time.

Saturday 8

Our Regt is on picket. Co "E" is stationed on the Rail Road.

Sunday 9

Got a letter from home. Some of our men went over to the Rebs, [sic] with a flag of truce, took over the mother of the Rebel Gen Anderson, exchanged papers, etc.

Monday 10

Our Regimental Library came not long since, gave out book to the boys. Had a dress parade just night.

Tuesday 11

Got a letter from home stating the money I sent got through safe, also one from Lucia. By the order, we got tonight in dress parade, we will go on a long march soon. Wrote a letter home.

Wednesday 12

I am on camp guard. Wrote a letter to Lucia this morn. We can see where the Rebs [sic] are building stockades, etc.

Thursday 13

Had a nice rain this afternoon.

Friday 14

Got a letter from Al Smith.

Saturday 15

At midnight last night the Rebs [sic] burned the bridge on the other side of the river. I saw it burn. Elder Haigue came back this morning. Got a letter from Helen and answered it and Albert.

Sunday 16

Our Regt is on picket. The Rebs [sic] fired a few shots at our boys today. Had a good mess of string beans for dinner.

Monday 17

The Rebels have left the island here. Through the influence of the Chaplain, measures were taken to start a Literary Society this evening.

Tuesday 18

I was on detail sweeping the parade ground AM. Everything is quiet.

Wednesday 19

An order came this morning to have our knapsacks packed and sent to the rear, but for some reason did not go.

Thursday 20

Got a letter from Mother and answered it. A lot of us boys got our pictures taken on our [illegible].

Friday 21

Rosecrans, and several other Generals, came again today.

Saturday 22

Our Regt is on picket again. The report is the Rebels have left. Had a light shower.

Sunday 23

Rosecrans came here again today. I went to meeting this evening.

Monday 24

About Noon Co "A" and "B" went over on the island to reconnoitre, [sic] and our Co and "D" was the reserve on this side of the river.

Tuesday 25

Wrote a letter to John Orr. The weather is very cool today, and cloudy. I have heard a number of signal guns, in the advance of us.

Wednesday 26

I was on a detail that went to Island Crock Ferry, at the lower end of the island, five miles from here to get a canoe. We also got a lot of greene [sic] corn.

Thursday 27

Got a letter from Mother and Laura, and answered it. The weather is very cool, especially nights. It is reported that Critendans [sic] Corps have been fighting at Chataneoga [sic], also that Fort Sumpter, [sic] and Wagner, are ours.

Friday 28

The 2nd Ind, and 4 Tenn Inf, and some caverley [sic] came here today. It is reported that Charleston and Chataneoga [sic] is ours, and that Meade has whiped [sic] Lee. Got our blankets from Stephenson [sic].

Saturday 29

We are on picket at the same old place. Got a letter from Lucia. Some pontoons came up last night.

Sunday 30

Answered the letter I got yesterday. The 1st Michigan E and M are busy framing a waggon [sic] bridge to put across the river.

Monday 31

The Regt was mustered for pay. I was on fatigue all day on the island, and the oposite [sic] side of the river helping fix the banks, so the Caverley [sic] could come out after fording the river.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 1

Toward night two boys of the 21st Ohio, Co "G", were drowned, were bathing, and one that could not swim was carried where it was over his head, by the current, the other drowned trying to rescue the former. I saw them taken out.

Wednesday 2

The bridge across the river was finished this morning and at noon we crossed, went about three miles and camped. It is reported when the train cannened [sic] crossing, it broke down.

Thursday 3

We did not move today. The train came up. A tree fell in camp, and put one boys [sic] shoulder out of joint, and broke a Negroes [sic] leg, badly.

Friday 4

The Regt started up the mountain at noon. I was with a large detail of boys to assist the train. Got to the camp, 7 miles from where we started, after one o'clock at night.

Saturday 5

We marched on to Trenton, Georgia, some ten miles. Went down the mountain about three miles back. It is very warm and dusty traveling. I saw a lot of Hemlock trees.

Sunday 6

I got a letter from home, and one from C. Miller. We started at noon, went five miles and camped.

Monday 7

We started at daylight, went 7 miles and camped. It is reported the road is bloceaded [sic] ahead. Sent a letter home. Are having gay living on this march, a little of ever [sic] thing in the vegetable line.

Tuesday 8

We lay in camp today. I wrote to C. Miller. I spent the rest of the day in washing, reading, etc. Received Lucias [sic] likeness this evening.

Wednesday 9

Have not moved yet. Got a letter from home of old date and one from Al Smith. Its [sic] reported that Bragg has retreated to Rhome [sic], and that Reynolds [sic] Division is in Chataneoga [sic].

Thursday 10

We marched at 8 AM. Went up another mountain and camped. Traveled about 18 miles. It was a very warm day and I came near playing out.

Friday 11

Started at five again, went about 15 miles and camped. Went two miles after coming down the mountain.

Saturday 12

We lay over today. Our Co, and "A", are on picket. We are in Alabama, the camp in Georgia. The name of the place is Alpine. Our forces got posession [sic] of Chataneoga [sic] on the 8th, Sept.

Sunday 13

I was out with several boys on a honey expedition. Got two hives, carried them to camp; opened them, but no honey in them to speak of. We are in Georgia. Have to march tonight, as rear guard for the train.

Monday 14

We went to the foot of the mountain last night and camped, on the back track, and this morning early (after the troops had all got up) we went up the mountain and camped where we did the 10th. The dust in the road is about ankle deep.

Tuesday 15

There is another pretty scenery near, a sort of waterfall. Wrote to Al Smith. I am on picket tonight.

Wednesday 16

Was relieved at ten this morning. We left camp at daylight and went in the direction of Chataneoga [sic], about 15 miles.

Thursday 17

We marched 22 miles toward Chataneoga [sic], in the mountains. Went down just night and camped. Is reported the Rebs [sic] are about to give us Battle.

Friday 18

We advanced two miles, and went in camp at noon. Just dark struck tents. Traveled most of the night, got with the rest of the Division. It is very cold, and chilly.

Saturday 19

There was some fighting down in the advance of us yesterday, and today has been very heavy. At once we rushed out to the site of action. Longstreet and Hill, Rebel Generals are both here. Critendens [sic] Corps [illegible] severely. The Third Brigade of our Division was in just [illegible]

Sunday 20

About nine this morn the enemy commenced an attack, and our boys were doublequicked [sic] forward into battle. I was wounded in my arm and taken to Chattanooga [sic] in an ambulance.

Monday 21

Lay in the hospital today. The shot was taken from my arm just night. The killed of Co "E" are Capt [sic] Hobbs, Lieut [sic] Wm Willette, Jacob Wolf, R. Perrin, Comfort Brace. - 10- killed that day.

Friday, December 11

I arrived at Nashville about 3 this morning from Bridgeport – Alabama.

Wednesday, December 23

I arrived at [illegible] Hospital, Louisville, Ky, this evening, from Nashville.

[Editor's note: Last page—shakily written signature amidst apparent bloodstains]:

Oscar
Julius

Pecoy

MOTHER

FA

After recuperating from his wound, Oscar married Susan Catherine Ovitt, from the neighboring Illinois community of Little Rock, in Kendall County, on December 10, 1867. Oscar and Susan moved from his home in Plano to White County, Indiana, where he farmed. Altogether, Oscar and Susan had seven children:

Zeva Viola Pecoy (Olson) B. Feb 13 1869 D. Sep 21 1941

Alva Levere Pecoy B. Sep 14 1871 D. Mar 12 1947

Ray Arvid Pecoy B. Aug 12 1877 D. Dec 19 1956

Elgie Sidney Elvia Pecoy B. Sep 29 1879 D. Apr 15 1954

Mearle Louisa Pecoy (Goranson) B. Aug 23 1881 D. Sep 1955

Aurel Pearl Pecoy (Stubbs) B. Jan 7 1884 D. Apr 10 1942

Erma Celestia Pecoy (Cooper-Stubbs) B. Aug 29 1887 D. Jul 31 1952

Later, Oscar and Susan moved to Pomeroy, Iowa. While there, Oscar told a neighbor that, after he was wounded, the doctors had wanted to remove his right arm. He had refused to allow them to do that, so they laid him on a door across two sawhorses and removed the 69 caliber musketball [sic] from his arm. He said, "Then I wished they had taken the arm."

When they retired, they moved to Glendale, California, where they both died in 1929.

