

Diary of Private Robert I. Battle, CSA  
CONFEDERATE DIARY

Pvt. Robert I. Battle – College Grove, Tenn.

Kirpatrick's Co. 9th Tenn. Cav.

(also partisan scout and Ranger)

[diary is written in a 3 X 5 ½ inch black cloth, with 75 pages in pencil. Apr. 26, 1864 to June 18, 1864 then Sep. 27, 1864 to Jan. 4, 1865 (about 5 months)]

April 1864

First page in pencil is badly blurred – 25th of April 1864 is partly readable Started from [illegible] alone. Traveled all day – distance 20 miles. Entertained by Mr. K [illegible] feel sad contrasting my present condition with that of yesterday.

26th Tuesday (1864) April

27th Wednesday [illegible] weather pleasant. Oh for [illegible] I may realize my pleasant [illegible]

28th – 29th- 30th not legible

May 1864

3rd May Tuesday. Rested and slept during the day. Rode all night [illegible]

6th Friday. A column of Yankees [illegible]

7th Saturday. to College Grove saw my [illegible] told my arrangements for the 29th of June. All [illegible] with my chance from description. Went [illegible] at night.

8th Sunday. Rested quietly at [illegible] during the day. had a pleasant [illegible]

9th Monday Hear various rumors from the Rapidan. Some say Grant has flanked Lee and whipped him. I do not believe it, but even if that is so and Johnston retreats into the heart of Georgia it will only tend to make us more eager to [illegible] for our rights.

10th Tuesday. Made a raid to Columbia Pike between Spring Hill and Franklin finding the enemy in force, retreated killing one and capturing another which we paroled.

11th Wednesday. Met with several rangers. The Yanks in hot pursuit. Attacked three more while feeding their horses but were surprised they made their escape.

12th Thursday. Lying in concealment rode at night. Took tea with Aunt [illegible]

13th Friday. Living in a [illegible] near Concor[illegible] Most of the boys fast asleep. The ladies, God Bless them. What would we do without them. Two of them smuggled dinner for a mile to us today.

14th Saturday. Spent the day at home.

15th Sunday. Three weeks ago [illegible] to the Town of Cassville, very anxious for the time to come to start back.

16th Monday. Visited home. Captured a fine horse.

17th Tuesday. At College Grove. Great excitement in the neighborhood. Fought the Yankees. They threaten my life in case I am [[illegible] captured. I shall serve my country to the best of my ability if I am executed the next [illegible]

18th Wednesday. The Yankees report General Johnston falling back from Reseca. [sic] God grant that this may be untrue. Great rejoicing our successes in the Tans-Mississippi and the sudden cessation of Grant's movements in Virginia.

19th Thursday. At home. nothing new of importance.

20th Friday. At Mrs. B in the morning, home in the evening.

21st Saturday. Strawberry dinner at home. All quiet. Heard the Yankees had taken Cassville. My God. How I do hate it. Although I have been very successful with the Yankees in these hours it seems that fate is against me in [illegible] the object of my affections.

22nd Sunday. Started to Spring Hill via College Grove. Rode all night. Went within 30 yards of a Yankee camp. Aroused them so that we could not accomplish anything.

23rd Monday. Slept in the woods all day near Spring Hill.

24th Tuesday. Went to College Grove. Heard the Yankees had arrested [illegible] searched his house. Slept in the woods.

25th Wednesday – All quiet – nothing new – feel anxious about the result of the Virginia Campaign.

26th Thursday – Passed the day in quiet.

27th Friday – Invitation to a strawberry supper at Mrs. Buford's. Went at night met several lady friends enjoyed it finely. Went home with the ladies.

28th Saturday – Slept most of the day. Went over to Mrs. J.L.B. in the afternoon.

29th Sunday – Spent the day with Aunt A. Pleasant ride after with Cousin B[illegible] Pleasant conversation about Miss Fannie. Conversed freely and confidentially.

30th Monday – Went to College Grove. Met with several of my lady acquaintances – enjoyed myself finely.

31st Tuesday – Started to Spring Hill. Came in contact with a Yankee scout. Pretty sharp skirmish. Lost my hat – chased us about 10 miles in full speed – horses very tired.

June 1865

June 1 Wednesday – Rested in the hills above Nolensville in the forenoon and to Liberty at night.

2nd Thursday – Went in sight of the fortifications at Franklin. Captured a fine horse. Came to Aunt Annas [sic] at night.

3rd Friday – Breakfasted at Mr. B [illegible] uneasy about the Yankees threatening my life. We are now very quietly grazing our horses. Making preparations to start South. May God attend to us on our journey and aid us in the great work we are to prepare for.

4th Saturday – Started to College Grove. Went within two miles of Triune. Heard the Yankees were hiding in ambush at Triune and College Grove waiting for me. I then turned “right about and sent another scout” in my rear but succeeded in flanking them in the hills.

5th Sunday – Dinner at home took supper at Aunt A and spent a portion of the night with Dr. Clark.

6th Monday – Had an appointment to meet the rangers for an expedition but disappointed. Went home at night.

7th Tuesday – Went to Aunt A [illegible] and took dinner. Hear various rumors about the enemy in Georgia nothing reliable.

8th Wednesday – Bid adieu to home today. Start for the South. God grant that we may make a safe exit into our beloved Confederacy to enjoy the blessing of [illegible] air and pleasant anticipations.

9th Thursday – Started from Aunt Adelines [sic] upon our line of march to the Couth. Stopped in the hills and slept during the night.

10th Friday – Marched to College grove with the intention of riding at night, but retained on account of Captain Gray not being ready.

11th Saturday – Slept all the forenoon. Dined with Sister Anne, expect to move out tonight. Marched all night and avoided Spring Hill at day light.

12th Sunday – Slept in the woods during the day. Waiting for Jimmy Grant.

13th Monday – Still in the vicinity of Spring Hill watching the Yankees pass.

14th Tuesday – Stopped with Mrs. Cowell during the day. Rode all night.

15th Wednesday – Rode all day crossed Duck River at Gardens Ferry. Slept in the vicinity of Lawrence County.

16th Thursday – Rode all day. Stopped in a Union neighborhood with a rebel. He seemed very uneasy about our [illegible]

17th Friday – The blessings of God. We have crossed the Tennessee River into the Confederate lines. Begin now to have some hope of meeting once more my loved one in the vicinity of Cassville.

18th Saturday – We now start for our regular march to Georgia. Rode about 40 miles passed [illegible]

No entry from June 18 until Sept. 17, 1864.

["The proceeding diary was taken while upon a scout in Tennessee" Robert J. Battle 1864 958 pp)]

September 1864

September 27, 1864 Tuesday – Started from Mrs. Gibson's to Tennessee via Canton. Crossed the Etowah at Keith's. Went in the suburbs of Canton. Found the Yankees there in force Started in direction of Hickory Flat and found the enemy there. Determined to flank them and move forward by taking the woods. Succeeded in making the move. Went and stopped at Mr. Griffins.

28th Wednesday – After consultation decided to go south instead of crossing the railroad. Above in direction of Chattohochee [sic] – crossed at Strickland's Ferry, passing through Lawrenceville. Stopped at night with Mrs. Rollins.

29th Thursday – Traveled to Mr. Bakins. Visit Mrs. McCollahan. The news of Early's defeat conformed but feel [illegible] to [illegible] exertions by the newest movements in Red River and of Forrest [illegible] chief of Cavalry.

30th Friday – Travelled slowly – feel rite [sic] unwell. Have difficulty in getting entertainment but fine old lady who is kind enough to have some mercy upon the soldier. All anxious to get into Tennessee.

October 1864

October 1st, 1864 Saturday – Feel very unwell but determined to travel as long as possible. The people have lost all sympathy for the soldier. It seems they have all made an argument to refuse every soldier entrance into their houses Travelled about thirty five miles. Crossed the railroad above Lovejoys [sic] Station passed to [illegible] Oh that I were so [illegible]

2nd Sunday – Not legible

3rd Monday – Not legible

4th Tuesday Rode three miles toward Cassville. Old gentleman who was referred to us as being a person of general in[illegible] for soldiers. But dissappointments [sic] will happen to the best of families. Met us at the gate very hospitably invited in, called for supper [illegible] prepared roll of [illegible] Irish [illegible] for biscuits half done, boiled [illegible] without seasoning. This was soon disposed with [illegible] in our [illegible] highly [illegible] called for a bed. The old lady insisted we should sleep up in our

[illegible] We soon got her [illegible] for a [illegible] chamber. But oh that chamber. I don't like to speak. I can say it was a bed without the [illegible] without the bed.

5th Wednesday – Bid adieu to the good man's house and started for Jacksonville, Ala. Travelled within 8 miles of Jacksonville with Mr. Whitside a very fine gentleman. How much I have suffered in riding today. I cannot [illegible] my [illegible] time. God grant the time may soon come when I can be restored to health again.

6th Thursday – The incessant rain and my feeble [illegible]] to be over today with the hope of being able to [illegible] some of our travels tomorrow morning. The boys attended church last night at a Baptist service and have gone to the [illegible] today. My unpleasant situation causes me to be quiet. We partook this evening of a fine watermelon. The boys attended church again quite a revival is going on.

7th Friday – Still detained on account of myself not being able to ride. Saw Major Buford. Gave us a glowing description of Wheelers [sic] Raid into middle Tennessee. Saw the people are true as [illegible] Willing to do everything for the South they expect the best food they had and gave fodder to their horses willingly for everybody.

8th Saturday – Detained another day, felt much better. Capt. Gray just arrived from the army reports everything progressing finely. Captured Asckworth [sic] with garrison and provisions and had torn up the railroad for miles. Hood has arrived the army has marched northward.

9th Sunday – Feel sufficiently able to try it a short distance today. Travelled about 18 miles, passed Jacksonville and stopped with Mr. Pettrie.

10th Monday – Made a fast ride today. Health is greatly improved, severe headache this evening. Stopped with Mr. Campbell crossed the Cowan River at Gilbrasts [sic] Ferry.

11th Tuesday – Moved Forward to Somerville via Summut. Stopped within nine miles of Somerville with Mrs. Ratcliff. The boys have been [illegible] Jimmy all day about his having attained such a perfection in singing. Expect to cross the Tenn. soon

October 12th Wednesday – Rode all day found great difficulty in getting entertainment – passed Summerville stopped with Mr. Brackin.

13th Thursday – Travelled to Courtland found some difficulty in explaining to Roddy's gallant cavaliers the object of our mission. Arrested Everett. I had him released as soon as I heard of it. Had my horse shod and travelled to Mr. Fortine an old Tennesian [sic] and we were entertained.

14th Friday – Stopped with Carter's scouts. Met with a great many old friends among them my old schoolmate Henry Hughes. It reminded me of school days to hear his merry laugh and jokes. We will cross the Tennessee tomorrow evening.

15th Saturday – With some difficulty we effected our crossing over the river. Some fording and others ferrying. Rode until night stopped and got supper and rode on in direction of Lawrenceburg. Encamped at 9 o'clock in the woods.

16th Sunday – We breakfasted this morning upon Tennessee soil for the first time. Rode all day passing Lawrenceburg, proceeded in direction of Mt. Pleasant upon the military rode [sic]. Took [illegible] with Mr. Nolen found him home a [illegible] to the [illegible] of our country. Rode all night crossed the railroad near Lynnville. Expect to reach College Grove tonight.

17th Monday – We stopped this morning just before [illegible] with Mrs. Gallant where we were entertained in old Tennessee style. Commenced travelling at 10 o'clock P.M. made it to College Grove found all the family well except my little sister.

18th Tuesday – Stopped with Sister Adlaide all day. Went to Mr. B. home at night arrived home at 12 o'clock and found Sallie very poor and remained until 4 o'clock and went to the woods. Aroused by the voice of Ma letting me know that Sallie was dying. Oh! What feeling of anguish passing my heart.

19th Wednesday – I went to the house as soon as possible. I saw Sallie sitting up in the bed with pale face, she looked at me asking “am I dying?” I could not suppress my feelings as she soon saw that she was passing from this “vale of tears” called to her bedside “all her relatives and friends telling them to “meet her in heaven”. She breathed her last “this afternoon at about 4 o'clock and fell asleep in Jesus. God grant that may we living [illegible] to meet around the eternal throne.

20th Thursday – With heavy hearts we paid the last tribute of respect due our young sister and [illegible] to our home of impenetrable [sic] gloom. We can only lament her at since for we feel assured that “her soul is in heaven”. Visited Aunt Adeline after tea.

21st Friday – Met with several rangers today. All tired and sleepy. We are taking repose in the woods. Visited Aunt A. at night.

22nd Saturday – Breakfasted at [illegible] Went to College Grove via Triune. Saw several ladies. Miss Rollins, Some of the boys very jolly.

23rd Sunday – Breakfasted at our Home. Visited College Grove from there to Chapel Hill. Met several other Rebels there. Saw my old friend Miss Lizzie. Will plan an expedition for tomorrow.

24th Monday – Visited Chapel Hill. Waiting for other Rebels preparatory to our expedition. Rode all night.

25th Tuesday – Breakfasted at Mr. Ogilvies. Visited College Grove – dined at Sister A. hear of the Yankees moving down the Pike. We proceeded to another point, to evade them.

26th Wednesday – Breakfasted out in the cedars. Visited home and [illegible] appear that W. Swiser is going to Cassville – intend sending a letter to Fannie, feel very anxious to go with him. Visit Aunt A. at night. Saw all the girls. Many inquiries about my experiences in the [illegible] state.

27th Thursday – Visited home and Mr. B. Hear the Yankees are approaching, go to the cedars. They took Smith prisoner treat him very badly. Feel uneasy about his fate. Think perhaps they will kill him. We took [illegible] supper at Aunt Adelines [sic]. Sleep in barn.

29th Saturday – Started to Kinwords to have our deagurtypes [sic] taken but break up the trip in a grand race for candy. Concluded to go to Triune to visit Mrs. W. Sleep near Triune in the woods.

28th Friday – Visit Nolensville, find the Yankees have taken Smith family very much distressed. Hear that I am reported to the Yankees. They threaten my life in case I am captured. Make frequent inquiries about [illegible] and Battle. Visit Mr. B at night, meet Sallie and [illegible] have quite a nice time. The Yankees threaten to search the whole country for us.

30th Sunday – Breakfasted with Mr. Bostick. Si hardin [sic] feels and looks very citizen like. Visit College Grove, take dinner and move down toward Nolensville. See my name reported in the papers as being a scout. First time I have ever had my just title given by the Yankees. They declare we must be driven from the country.

31st Monday – Spent the greater portion of the day at home. Visit Aunt Adeline after [illegible] anxious about the movements of the Army of Tennessee. The Yankees pay a visit Nolensville to remove some Union families that are fleeing from the rebels.

November 1864

November 1st Tuesday – Breakfast at Mr. [illegible] Have our pictures taken at Mr. Kinwords. Yankees half a mile off. Leave the place go by home. Hear the Yankees intend searching the country for us.

2nd Wednesday – Stop in the woods. The boys are training a young horse for the service in Texas style. Visit Aunt A. at night. Very unwell from eating sardines.

3rd Thursday – Meet a large squad of rebels at blacksmith shop. Have horses shod. Proceed to College Grove – stop to see Miss N. Averall, feel very anxious to see Fannie.

4th Friday – Breakfasted at Mr. Haley's. Training our horses to jump. Moved to College Grove. Then to Nolensville. Heard the Yankees had searched Ma's house for me.

5th Saturday – Visited Mr. B's too breakfast and remained until after dinner. Hear the Yankees intend foraging the whole country. They are making frequent inquiries about us but haven't ventured to hunt us yet.

6th Sunday – Hear that Hood has crossed the Tennessee River. Everything perfectly quiet in country. Visited Mr. B. saw Mary [illegible] had a long conversation about [illegible] making preparations for me to carry a few articles south.

7th Monday – Heavy rain all day. Travelled some little around the neighborhood of Nolensville.

8th Tuesday – Still continues to rain. Visited Fannie Butler. Found her alone keeping house. The balance have gone to Nashville and Franklin. Visited Morgan and took dinner. Great excitement in Nashville on account of the election. Hear that Andrew Johnson intends having Sister A's. house burnt on account of robbery having been committed upon the Pike. [scratched out but following is visible] where to be myself by a party of thieves who passed as being an travelling myself.

9th Wednesday – On the trail of the robbers, they having passed themselves as our names, they assume the name of rebel soldiers but some recognized by us. Try them by court martial. Banished from the country if caught will be punished with death.

10th Thursday – Feel greatly relieved about the Yankee threat to burn houses. Send a note to Gen. Rossiau [sic]. Nothing transpired of importance.

11th Friday – Hear Sister Adelaide has come down to Ma's. Going to Nashville to negotiate with the Yankees. Think she will be protected.

12th Saturday – All met over in the cedars preparatory to an expedition postponed and in a horse race between Howard and Alexander. Howard winning the race. Afterwards Everett and Vanhanten made a match in which Vanhanten was winner. Visited Aunt A after tea met Ma and sister from Nashville [illegible] to be today by River [illegible] feel anxious [illegible] but afraid [illegible] in the whole of the [illegible] passed the house last night.

November 14th Monday – College Grove – not legible

15th Tuesday – Slept in the woods last night since [illegible] the rain falling in our faces. [illegible] took breakfast [illegible] and spent about [illegible] enjoyment. All are anxious to see Tennessee. Spent this day with Mr. A. Take tea with Mrs. Haley [illegible] and sleep. Aroused by Vanknoters and the other boys to go after Richman. We pressed after him found them entirely off guard surround Richsman's house, catch him and one man [illegible] to Sampson's, fell from the window. Catch three there to Whites catch four and then to Browns and catch two.

16th Wednesday – To avoid pursuit we conclude to move on with our prisoners. Some of the boys in favor of paroling and others for carrying them South. I think it impossible to get out with them. Proceed to Fishing Ford. But we find the river too high to cross at Morris's Mill. Stop to feed find now the enemy have been pursuing us. Fight them over the river. Their numbers being so large they succeed in crossing. Flag of truce proposed and [illegible] Release prisoners upon parole to be considered exchanged when an



equal number of our men are released. After the truce was over Capt. Rickman knowing the condition of our horses and our numbers basely violated his parole and demanded of us all captured property but we refused it and made good our retreat towards Farmington. At which place we captured two more Yankees and proceeded towards Lincoln County.

17th Thursday – Splendid day – entertained last night, paroled the two Yankees captured at Farmington and proceeded South. Stopped at a blacksmith shop to have horses shod. Yankees came upon us, fight ensued in which we were victorious, killing and wounding several. We had one man wounded but not seriously. Captured two fine horses from the Yankees. My horse very much fatigued. Find a citizen who informed us where a Yankee horse is. Proceeded to get him. The old man gave him up very willingly, he being a good southern man. Jim and myself separated from the rest of the evening.

18th Friday – Slept in the rain last night, feel very [illegible] in a strange country – raining all the time. The people are very loyal to the South. Move in direction of [illegible]isburg. Stopped at Mr. Lavis.

19th Saturday – Aroused bright and early to quickly ride ten miles before daylight in direction of College Grove. Swam Duck River and continued on all the time. Arrived at College Grove some after [illegible] took tea at Mr. H's.

20th Sunday – Breakfasted at Mr. Gentry's. Spent the day at Sister A. Everything perfectly dry. Hear no news except Sherman attempting to go to the Gulf.

21st Monday – Breakfast at Sister A. Start for Nolensville. Stop to see Mrs. Winn find she has gone to Nashville. See Fannie and Miss Harriet have a long conversation about old times in Georgia. Visit home [illegible].

22nd Tuesday – Slept very comfortably last night. The weather is extremely cold but clear for the first time in a week.

23rd Wednesday – Visited Mr. B. and home. Take dinner at home. Appoint a time to start south which is next Monday. Visit Aunt A. after tea sleep in a barn near Triune.

24th Thursday – Breakfast at Mrs. Winn. Attend a dinner at Dr. Jordan's remain until after tea. Hardin and several others accompany us to Mrs. Winn.

25th Friday – So much attached cannot leave this neighborhood. Take breakfast with Miss Winn again. Visit College Grove. Meet Mrs. at Sister A's. Hear heavy artillery firing [sic] in direction of Columbia.

26th Saturday – Breakfast at Mr. H. Spent most of the day at College Grove. Hear glorious news of Hood moving towards Nashville. Drove Thomas from Columbia.

27th Sunday – Breakfast at Mr. Gentry. All in high spirits about the rebels coming half again into our old country. Visit College Grove. Mrs. Nand home. The Yankees just left the house in search of me. Visit Aunt A. after tea.

November 28th Monday – Visit Mrs. B. dined at her home. Took tea at home. Nothing new only Hood's vigorous campaign in Tennessee. Meet a great many rebels at night.

29th Tuesday – Breakfast at Mr. Culbertson's. Meet the boys in the cedars. Hear of some Yankees moving down the Pike. Pursue them and overtake them near Mill Creek. Demand surrender, refused. Pursue them about 3 miles but could not overtake them on account of our horses being too much fatigued. Dined at home and paid a visit after tea.

30th Wednesday – Breakfast at Mr. Russel's. Go down to Nolensville Pike. Meet the Yankees in force. Fall back in the cedars. We are now in hearing of hard small arms expect Yankees to retreat pretty soon.

December 1864

December 1st Thursday – We have been chased by the Yankees again. Run from Mr. B [illegible] to the cedars and lost them. Went to College Grove it being in the Confederate lines since yesterday. Yankees retreating toward Nashville.

2nd December Friday – Start to the army at Franklin. Stop at Mr. Harley's. Great many of the boys are going to their houses to meet their friends and relatives. People are overjoyed with the presence of their coming. Hear that General Cleburne was killed in the fight at Franklin, 5 Brigadier Generals were killed. The fight was terrific beyond description. Started to the army away at Franklin. Went within 4 miles of the place. Heard that Hood had moved his army in direction of Nashville.

3rd Saturday – Visit Mrs. Winn's. Bate's Division just left Triune in direction of Murfreesboro. Visit home. All delighted at the idea of being in the rebel lines, feel very anxious to hear something of Fannie. Hope I will find some way to get her with me in this country. The Tennesseans are flocking to Hood in large numbers. Slept at Mr. B's.

4th Sunday – Visit home and Bob Gouch's. Spend the day at ease. Slept with Bob at his house. Constant artillery fire is kept up at Nashville both night and day.

5th Monday – Visit home. Armstrong's Division of cavalry passing the house. Captured LaVergne with garrison. Move in direction of Murfreesboro.

6th Tuesday – Visit army at Murfreesboro. Forrest has invested the place. Spent the night at Uncle George Smith's.

7th Wednesday – Nothing for a battle around Murfreesboro. Think the Yankees will be forced to surrender. Witnessed an engagement between Forrest and the Yankees. The gallant Forrest led the band I never witnessed such cavalry since the war began which is the chief characteristic of the man. Visit home at night. Surrounded with all its comforts and pleasures in the Confederate lines. But, Oh, there is one whose absence casts a gloom over my pleasures and makes me all around sad. [crossed out: I gloom

over my pleasures and makes all around me sad.] I trust by the intercession of all wise Providence may be permitted to meet Fannie at an early day.

8th Thursday – Remain at home in the forenoon. But just arrived from the south visited Mr. [illegible] today. Spend the time pleasantly talking about pleasures we have had in Georgia. Visit [illegible] Issacs at night. Spent the night at Mr. Copelands.

9th Friday – Visit College Grove. All glad to see me. The citizens of conscript age all anxious to join me. Travel around in the afternoon for recruits. Get a good many. Remain at night with Sister A. [illegible]

10th Saturday – Men all went to be mustered at Triune. Travel home feel unwell hope soon to see Fannie.

11th Sunday – Spent the day at Bud's. Great many visitors to see him. Weather extremely cold Armies all quite in this country except a little sheeling around Nashville.

December 12th – Monday – Visited Mr. Clark's. Mustered a good many men in the service. The Tennesseans are all [illegible] to a sense of their duty. Willing to make all kinds of sacrifices for the good of their country. Visited Bud's this afternoon. Feel more anxious than ever to see Fannie. Expect to apply for a furlough pretty soon. Stopped with Bob Gouch at night.

13th Tuesday – Remained at home during the day. Spent the night with Bob Gouch. Had a fine time talking about our good old times. Hope soon to start South.

14th Wednesday – Visit Mr. Clarke's. Enrolled a good many men. Visit Aunt Adelaines. The girls are all making mad fits about Clarks' promotion. Remained at home at night. God only knows how anxious I am to see my dear Fannie.

15th Thursday – Visit Bud's and Nolensville. Heavy fight at Nashville. Cannonading as heavy as I ever heard.

16th Friday – Visit the battlefield near Mr. Overton's in 6 miles of Nashville. Fighting very heavy, surpassed anything I have heard during the war. Our troops behaved with great gallantry – repulsed eight or ten charges made by the enemy until at last by a desperate effort of the enemy to break our center they succeeded and the whole of our line gave away in some confusion. I never in my life felt so awful about giving up our good old Tennessee. Wait until the actions closes – go home. All anxious to hear the news of the battle feel indisposed to give it by detail hoping to hear something encouraging.

17th Saturday – Travelled to College Grove find the whole army rapidly retreating. Troops in awful condition stopped with Sister A. during the night.

18th Sunday – Started southward. Stopped at Mrs. W. having met with my old friend Miss Lizzie and husband. Told her that she would have [illegible] better by taking my [illegible] through Chapel Hill around Swan Duck River stopped in 2 miles of the river.

19th Monday – Raining in torrents – feel indisposed to travel far in direction of Columbia. Hear the artillery booming.

20th Tuesday – Travel to Columbia – find the army all gone in direction of Corinth except Forrest's Cavalry supported by 2 brigades of infantry. Start to take Col [illegible] but waited [illegible] to go [illegible] Stopped at night with Mr. Wilkins. A splendid gentleman and true patriot.

21st Wednesday – Start in direction of home via Berlin. Stopped to have horses shod. Hear the Yankees are at Lillard's Mill, the place we designed crossing the river. Determined to see [illegible] Found it was [illegible] of Forrest's scouting companies, as we expected. Swam the river – rode about 6 miles after dark and stopped at Mr. Wilsons.

22nd Thursday – Travelled to College Grove found them all very much depressed on account of Hood's retreat out of Tennessee. Visit Bud's in the afternoon. Find him badly scared up on account of the Yankees.

23rd Friday – Spent the day at home. Making all arrangements to start south. Visit Aunt A in afternoon. Had a treat to lemon punch Stayed all night at Mr. Thompsons.

24th Saturday – Visited home. Expect to start south tonight. Visit Aunt A. after tea find [illegible] unprepared to start. Cancelled to wait until the next day.

25th Sunday – Travel to College Grove. Stopped at Mrs. Winns. Took Christmas dinner. We met with a great many acquaintances. All send much love to Fannie.

26th Monday – Detained at College Grove waiting for Joptin [illegible] have horses shod. Expect to be off tomorrow. Stopped at night with Mrs. Scales.

27th Tuesday – Bid adieu to College Grove. Travel southward via Chapel Hill, Swan Duck River at Fishing Ford passed through Lewisburg and stopped at Mr. [illegible]

28th Wednesday – Travelled about 34 miles passed Ca[illegible]ville and Millville. Crossed Elk River at Patterson's Ford. Captured 2 straggling Yankees at [illegible] is in the cavalry. Stopped all night with Mrs. P.

December 29th Thursday - Feel quite uneasy about the prospect of crossing the Tennessee River. Move in direction of Fletcher's Ferry. Crossed the railroad near Beaver Dam. Saw 3 trains of Yankee cars. Travel until 9 o'clock without provisions. Hope by the aid of an all wise Providence will be able to cross the river.

30th Friday – The boys are very hungry, some parching corn, lying in the road with the expectation of crossing the river tonight. Feel sad but hopeful. Go to different houses to get supplies. Hear that an arrangement has been made for our crossing [illegible] to the river at night. Cannot cross on account of the wind being too high, intend to make the effort tomorrow.

31st Saturday – This brings to a close the present year (1864). It departs with its chilling blasts and dreadful carnage. We are still hovering around the banks of the Tennessee “like the children of Israel looking into the promised land”. Will never feel satisfied until we cross the river. Saw a Yankee steamer go up the river this morning. We are now lying in the woods. Very impatiently awaiting until night to cross the river. Swam the river at night. Several boats passed while we were swimming.

January 1865

January 1st, 1865 Sunday – Started in direction of Georgia. Passed Somersville. Crossed Cumberland Mountain and stopped with Mrs. Taylor at Warrenton.

2nd Monday – Started pretty early in the morning for VanBuren. Crossed Sand Mountain. Saw [illegible] cross the road where we were riding. Stopped at Miss Nicholson near Van Buren.

3rd Tuesday – Started this morning in the rain in the direction of Rome. Crossed Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga River. Had no difficulty in ferrying the river, having it to ourselves. Passed C[illegible] Bluff and stopped at Mrs. Somers [illegible] entertaining. Expect to [illegible] night if nothing happens.

4th Wednesday – Rode all day, passed Rome. Arrived at Mrs. Gibbons after dark. After an absence of 3 months I realized the pleasure of meeting with Fannie again. It seemed to me [illegible] of that bliss of [illegible] which meet [illegible] to [illegible] found all well and glad to see us. Robert [illegible]