and after loading us into filthy stock and open dirt cars without seats, packing us in like so many hogs, we were started for Chattanooga Tenn 161 miles, a few miles below Murfreesboro we passed through the advance guard of Braggs retreating Army. we hallood to them that they were going the wrong way to get to Nashville, and they jokingly replied we are not going there to day. The ride was a long and tedious one, and the cold drizzling rain pouring on us all day and our hungry condition did not add any to our comfort.

We did not arrive a Chattanooga until midnight, after getting off the cars we were marched to one side of the town and put into some tents which served to keep the rain off of us, this was the first shelter of any kind we had had since our capture and was heartily appreciated by us".

While at Chattanooga the prisoners were divided into four sections of about 600 Each, as I reached there with the last train load from Murfreesboro I was allotted to Section four. the morning after our arrival at this place, the citizens brought baskets of Eatables to our camp for Sale, but though we were willing enought to buy anything that looked fit to Eat, we had been robbed of everything of value, and the only

thing we could do was to feast our eyes on the good things they tempted us with, for at that time charity for a yankee in that section was not very extended. I made a memorandum of prices in my Diary at the time and will reproduce them here, Flour (50¢) fifty cents a pound. meal ten to twenty cents a pound, meat fifty cents a pound, Eggs one dollar a dozen, small loaves of bread fifty cents, biscuit about the size of Common Cracker one dollar a dozen Salt fifty dollars a bushell, potatoes five dollars a bushell, chickens twenty five to thirty dollars a dozen, onions one dollar a dozen, and a fearful combination they called pie, fifty cents to one dollar each, the pie more nearly resembled a section of gum belting, than anything else I can compare it with.

On Sunday Jan 4th Sections 1 & 2 were forwarded to Atlanta Georgia, Section 3 was sent on the next morning. and on Monday evening Jan 5th Our Section no 4 also started for the same place 140 miles, we arrived there about 6 oclock the next morning, we remained on the cars until 8 oclock when we were marched to the conscript Camp, where they gave us a small quantity of bread and meat. we had now been prisoners six days and this was the second ration issued to us.

In going from the train to the camp

we passed by a large brick building strongly guarded in which our officers captured at Stone River were confined General Willich was standing at one of the grated windows looking out at us, he was soon recognized by our men who gave a rousing cheer for him which seemed to please him very much.

Early in the afternoon we were taken back to the cars which we boarded and started for Montgomery Ala 192 miles, we arrived at West-Point, a small town on the State line about midnight, intending to go on in the morning, but before getting started the officers in charge of the train received a dispatch to hold us until further orders, we remained at this point until about three oclock when we again started for Montgomery. at Opelitia we met and passed two trains containing Sections 1 & 2 returning to Atlanta. to go from there to Richmond Va. General Sherman had captured Jackson Miss, thus cutting the Mobile Jackson & Vicksburg Railroad by which route we were obliged to reach Vicksburg the Western point of exchange, so we were ordered to be returned to Atlanta and from there to be forwarded to Richmond the Eastern point of exchange, one train load of the men had nearly reached Mobile before orders turning them back reached them., After passing

the two North bound trains, we continued our journey and arrived at Montgomery about 8 oclock the evening of the Eighth. here we found Stetson's division in camp but they started for Atlanta the next morning. The rebels had a small ship yard here and were then building a large "iron clad ram" this vessel was afterward captured in our fleet at the fall of Mobile Ala, We found provision and everything else here higher than at any other point we had yet reached, and every thing was very scarce, we received a small quantity of corn bread and meat here, which was the third ration issued to us in ten days, on the morning of Friday 9th we left Montgomery and started on our return to Atlanta arriving there Saturday morning about four oclock, we remained on the cars until daylight when we were again taken to the conscript camp where they gave us what they called two days rations of of coarse unbolted meal, which we were ordered to cook up before continuing our journey, we soon baked up our meal, and then proceeded to dispose of it at our meal which did not take long to do, We left Atlanta Saturday evening the 10th arriving at Dalton Junction Sunday morning about four oclock where we changed cars and went

on our way toward Richmond, we arrived at Knoxville Tenn about midnight. we found Section 3 on the cars ready to leave, which they did Monday Morning the 12th, This was the home of Parson Brownlow, who afterward became known as the fighting Parson, he was intensely loyal to the Union, and correspondingly bitter against the rebel Government, he was so aggressive and outspoken against the rebels that he was finally arrested and was confined in the Knoxville Jail for several weeks, but at last he was liberated as the only charge they could place against him was loyalty to the Stars and Stripes, he was also Editor of the "Knoxville whig," a Staunch Union paper, and by reason of his bold and fearless utterances, his determined attitude, and his well known spotless character and prominence he exerted a great influence in East Tennessee, and was the cause of thousands adhering to the Union cause through all difficultees and persecutions, he was also instrumental in raising several regiments of East Tenn troops for our Army. his son also took a prominent part in the war and raised a Regiment of Cavalry in the Mountain regions of which he was appointed Colonel, he rendered gallant and efficient service to the cause of the Union.

At Knoxville we soon we soon discovred we were in a region or center of a very Strong Union Sentiment, and while there we were very closely guarded to prevent the citizens from holding conversation with us, or in any way affording us any assistance, persons Suspected of Loyal sentiments were strictly forbidden to approach us, and a Number seen talking to us were arrested and sent to prison as traitors to their Country. Notwithstanding this many men, and especially women watched their opportunity to say a few words assuring us of their loyalty and expressing their sympathy for us in our condition,"

Many of them displayed small union flags which they were secreted about their persons, They told us hundreds of men were hiding in the Mountains to avoid the rebel conscription, and watching an opportunity to escape to our lines and enlist in our army. (after events proved this to be true).

Many of the men who guarded us were union men in sentiment and had been conscripted into the rebel service, they were possessed of a feeling of humanity, and treated us kindly when not under the eyes of their officers, but this was only the case when we fell into the hands of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina men, while the Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Florida South Carolina and Virginia troops seemed to be

possessed of the very essence of Yankeeism, and to vie with each other as to who could use the greater brutality toward us, we received at Knoxville a small quantity of bread and meat making the sixth ration issued to us in fourteen days. Early on Tuesday morning the 14th we were marched to the cars which we boarded and started for Bristol Va. a station on the state line, and the eastern terminus of the East Tenn & Va Railroad, while passing through this portion of Tenn, we seen a great many Unionists, and a number of brave women waved small union flags at us, and were heartily cheered by our men in return.

When we arrived within twenty miles of Bristol we were obliged to halt for the night in consequence of the destruction of the railroad bridges spanning the Clinch and Holston rivers, by Stoneman's Cavalry raid, we Camped on the West bank of the Clinch river, and next morning waded the river which was broad and shallow being about three feet deep at this point, and being a cold frosty January morning our enforced bath was not very pleasant, the men compared this to the crossing of the river Styx previous to going into purgatory. and the comparison proved a very appropriate one, after crossing the stream, and all the officers and guards had been ferried over, we proceeded to march to the next stream nine miles distant, which we crossed on a pontoon bridge and boarding a train in waiting for us proceeded to Bristol, Arriving there about 2 PM Wednesday the 15th

We again received a small quantity of bread and meat at Bristol, we were confined here in a large round house and guarded very closely! About midnight an officer sent down for 150 men to go to Lynchburg on the passenger train, as I chanced to be near the door when this order came I was included in this squad, we were marched to the train and found it to be a passenger train with two boxcars attached for us into which we were ordered, they were without seats and far from being clean, some of the men offered objections to the close packing necessary to get us in, when the officer in charge uttering a fearful volley of oaths ordered the guards to ram the detested Yankees in with the bayonet if they would not get in any other way.

Some of the men who were so reduced in strength as to be unable to climb into the cars, were picked up by the guards and thrown in on top of the others like logs of wood, this was our introduction to the Sacred Soil of Virginia, and was but a foretaste of what was to come, packed in in this condition, we started on a journey of 204 miles arriving at Lynchburg about 4 oclock next Evening the 16th. when the train stopped we were ordered out of the cars and to fall into line, a large fierce looking rebel Major stepped in front of us, and in a rough loud voice informed us he had a proposition to make, and he advised us if we valued our lives to accept it, he then coolly

proceeded to tell us the Confederate States Government had decided to shoot all prisoners falling into their hands, who did not take the oath of allegiance to their Government. but those who took the oath would be set at liberty with perfect freedom to go where they pleased inside the rebel lines. Now when I give the command those of you who will take the oath step three paces to the front. ready, forward, march; Strange as it may appear to the reader of these lines, not a foot stirred," He seemed amazed that his offer of life had not been eagerly accepted, What! do you all want to shot? the reply came spontaneously from the line, Shoot and be damned, we had rather die than live in your d—d Confederacy.

Well he says You have made your choice, but we will take care of you to night, he then gave some orders to an officer near him and walked away.

We were then divided into squads of twenty five and fifty each and put in rooms for the night, our squad of fifty was taken to the third story of an old dilapidated frame building and put in a small room, my diary says fifty of us crowded into a room about 18 feet square, and we cannot all lie down at once without lying on top of eachother. The question was how can we all lie down and get a little rest after our long tiresome journey. after considerable trial and calculation we found that by lying close together in three rows across the room "Spoon fashion," as the boys used to call it and filling

the chinks with the short ones, we could all manage to squeeze in, and in this graceful style we all retired to rest, on one side of the room was an old fashioned fire place in which we had a small fire, After lying down we would lie on one side until we ached all over when some one would sing out right or left "Spoon" when the whole row would turn over and lay till the next man called "Spoon"

About midnight one man lying before the fire in straightening out to ease his cramped position stuck his foot in the fire, he jumped up holding his foot and dancing around hollond fire, fire, as may be imagined there was some excitement in that room for a few seconds, the guard came hurriedly into the room demanding the cause of the disturbance, a little examination showed the fire was confined to the fellows foot, and we had a good laugh at his expense, it was fire for him but fun for us, the excitement over we again lay down to rest until morning

Before leaving for Richmond next morning the guard brought in about 25 pound of crackers made of a mixture of cornmeal and nigger pea flour, this was a ration for fifty Starving men, and was the last ration issued to us until the evening of the day we were put into ~~Libby~~ Libby Prison at Richmond January 20th 1863. and that half pound of crackers had to last us three days this was a

total of but Eight rations issued to us in 2½ days, and was not more than sufficient in quantity Even such as it was for more than Eight or ten meals,"

Of the prisoners in Lynchburg, about 500 of us started for Richmond on the morning of Jan 18th We did not see anything more of our blood thirsty Major, but he did not have any of our Squad Shot, though we doubted not his willingness to do so.

I learned from one of the guards he had worked on the fears of about a half a dozen chicken hearted wretches, who were promptly set at liberty by being sent into the woods under guard to Cut wood for the rebel Army.

Our progress to Richmond was very slow and tiresome, we were two days and one night going a distance of 148 miles, which in our cold hungry cramped condition was extreme torture, We arrived at the James River opposite Richmond about Sundown, Jan 19th and our introduction to that City was enough to appall the stoutest heart, we were marched over the long bridge crossing the river and Canal, and taken about one Square West of the Libby, where we were divided into two Squads, our Squad was put into the Cellar of an old Tobacco warehouse which was used for temporary quarters when the Libby was full,

I can only give a faint description of this terrible hole, it was one foul, loathsome, horrible spot I will never

be able to forget as long as I live,"
we were driven into little Libby, and
when the heavy oaken door was closed
upon us we seemed to have bidden
farewell to the outer world, it was
a basement room about 60 feet long
by 20 feet wide, and the ceiling about
7 feet high, and the only means of
ventilation was a small iron grate
opening from the sidewalk above us
on the Street front, and a small
barred window opening into a very
dirty filthy yard in the rear, in one
corner was a large pile of tobacco
stems, and in another was a large
vat placed to be used as a water closet,
this vat was overflowing on the rough
uneven dirt floor, and the tobacco
stems was a reeking mass of filth,
the dirt floor was rough and filthy
and the odors which permeated
this horrible den were almost stifling
in their intensity, there was not
the slightest vestige of furniture
of any description, this is but a
faint description of the loathsome
dungeon in which 250 men were
obliged to pass the night,"

So overpowering was it that
many men were unable to learn
it the next morning without the
assistance of their Comrades,

This was our introduction to the
City of Richmond Va. the Capital of
the Vaunted Southern Chivalry.

The remains were conveyed to Mount Auburn cemetery.

The Death Rate of Prisoners in the Last War.

Referring to Mr. Ben. Hill's absurd figures on this point, the New York Mail says:

"Surgeon General Barnes can hardly be good authority if he says (as Mr. Hill quotes) that the Confederates had in their prisons 50,000 more Union prisoners than we had of Confederates. And a death rate based upon such a statement is fallacious and misleading. As we understand the matter, the number of Confederates captured and sent to depots at the North was 222,847, and the number of Union soldiers captured by the other side and sent to depots at the South was 126,950. It is upon these figures that the death rate Mr. Hill wants to establish should be computed, and so computed, it is found that (we quote Dr. J. W. Draper) the death rate of prisoners in the prisons of each side was 1 in 8.27 in the Union depots and 1 in 3.44 in the Confederate depots. And the same authority expresses the opinion that the true ratio will probably be no less than three United States soldiers to one Confederate soldier."

An Ohio Mother Speaks Her Mind.

To the Editor of the Cleveland Leader:

Is the editor of the Plain Dealer a fool that he justifies the speech of the rebel General Hill in the National House of Representatives? The editor of that paper, if he

ATTENTIO

NO STRANGER SHOU
LEAVE CHICAGO

WITHOUT VISITING

LIBBY ⊕ PRIS

THE GREAT

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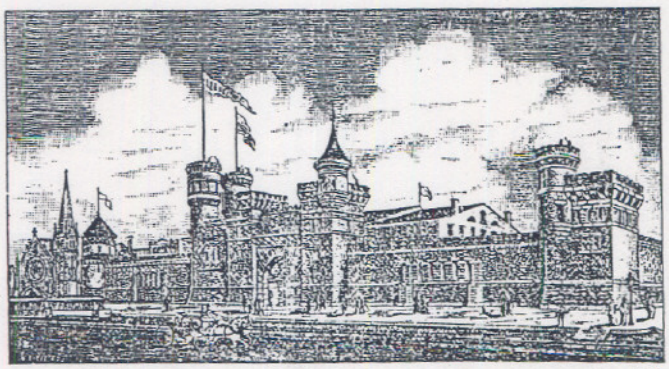
RELICS



189 Wabash Avenue, bet. 14th and 16th Streets. 1892

Open from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. Daily and Sunday.

This is the only Museum of the kind IN AMERICA.

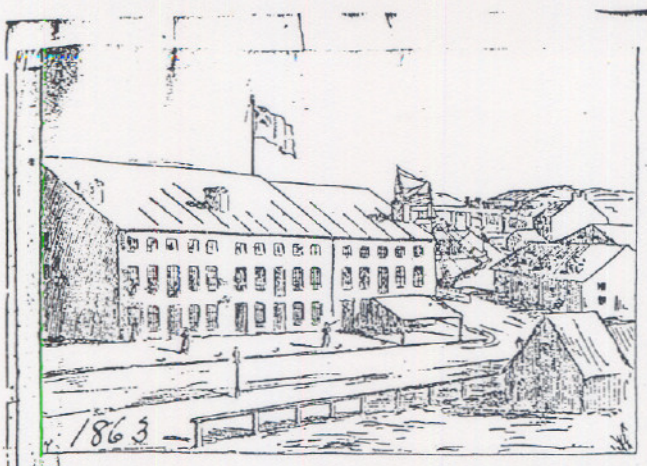
It Contains Thousands of Northern and Southern Relics.

SEE THE GREAT YANKEE TUNNEL.

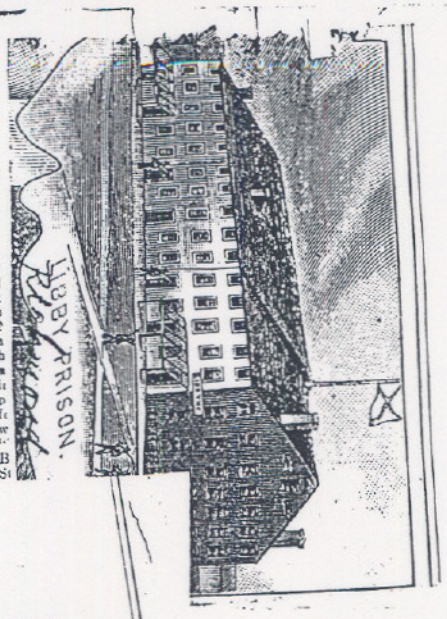
ADMISSION, 50 Cents. CHILDREN, 25 Cents.

Removed to Chicago and rebuilt in the enclosure as shown during the years 1887 & 1890. In the year 1892

When in Chicago accompanied by my son Chester W Hall on August 16th 1892 I visited the old Libby prison as restored there, and was very much interested in viewing the magnificent Museum it now Mr Hall contains



IBBY AS SKETCHED BY W. C. SCHWARTZBURG, TWENTY-FOURTH WISCONSIN—



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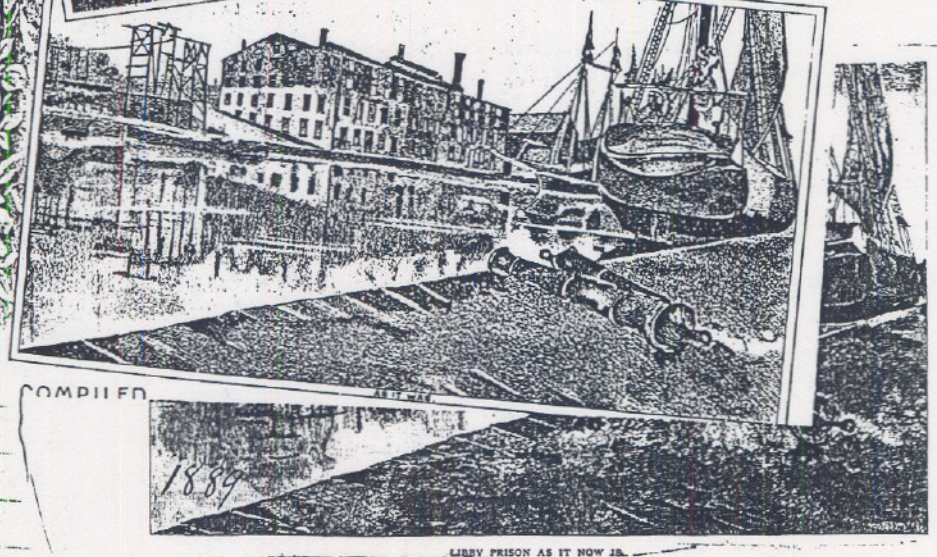
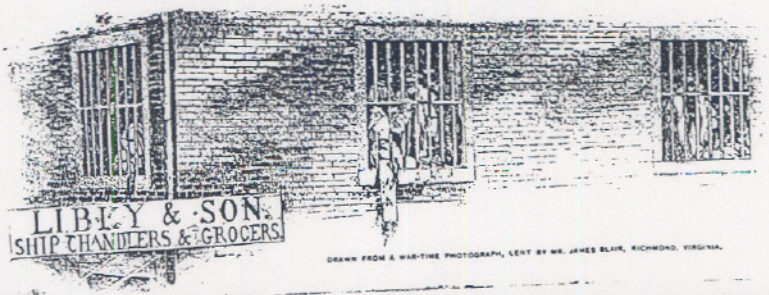


LIBBY PRISON AS IT NOW IS.



DRAWN FROM A WAR-TIME PHOTOGRAPH, LENT BY MR. JAMES BLAIR, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.