

From Michigan to Murfreesboro

THE DIARY
of
IRA GILLASPIE
of the
ELEVENTH MICHIGAN
INFANTRY



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EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION
by
DANIEL B. WEBER

Central Michigan University Press Mount Pleasant

Introduction

Ira Myron Bailey Gillaspie enlisted in the 11th Michigan Infantry Regiment in August, 1861, and began immediately to set down his Civil War experiences in a reddish-brown, leather-bound ledger book that he carried with him throughout much of the war. Intended as a daily description of his life in the army for his wife and friends back home, Gillaspie's war narrative is a homely, honest commentary on the rigors of camp life, the places he saw, the people with whom he lived and fought, and the events in which he participated. Motivated by a desire to tell the simple truth about his life away from home, he depicted the everyday occurrences, the problems and decisions, the people and the places that constituted his life in wartime. Also evident in his diary are the profound patriotism and national sense of mission which he and his fellow soldiers felt.

Although Gillaspie had no training as a historian or author, and in fact had little or no formal education of any kind, he made a conscious effort as a diarist to be accurate in relating historical and personal details. In several places in the diary are blank spaces that have been filled in with pencil or a different color ink, indicating that when he was unsure of his information at the time of writing, he returned to the diary later to supply the missing name, regiment number, or date. He twice listed the members of his company in the back of his book and kept an up-to-date account of promotions, billets, deaths, desertions, and other personal information about his comrades. These data have been checked for accuracy against the Official Records, as have his notations of troop movements and locations, unit alignments and leadership, and other verifiable data, and were found to be invariably correct. Gillaspie wrote that he intended to keep a diary as long as life or the war lasted, but unfortunately only his record of the first eighteen months remain. If the other volume or volumes were written, they have not been found.

Born in northern Indiana on July 29, 1837, Gillaspie was the second in a family of thirteen children. In addition to Ira, the family consisted of (by age): Levi, Martin, Enoch, Henrietta, Henry, Charles, Edward, Abigail, Mary Jane, Nancy, Elizabeth and one girl who died in infancy. The five oldest sons fought in the Civil War, and all returned safely. Enoch was in the same company with Ira, and Martin was in the same regiment; Levi (or Levie) served in the 13th Michigan Infantry Regiment, as did Henry, although he did not enlist until 1865.

Ira Gillaspie's adult life before the war was spent as a farmer and small businessman in and around Sturgis, Michigan. After his discharge in 1864, he lived in Barry County. For several years after the war he was a circuit rider for the Michigan Eldership of

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the Church of God in the southwestern counties of Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo and Van Buren. He acted as a veterinarian and lay doctor for his flock on the circuit, served as a justice of the peace in Barry County, and at the time of his death on November 13, 1897, was the regular minister of the Baptist Church of Hastings, Michigan. His only surviving niece, Mrs. Alice Gordon of Holland, Michigan, remembers Ira as tall, thin and energetic, and recalls his gentleness with children and his sparkling sense of humor.

As a member of the 11th Michigan Regiment, of which this diary is a partial history, Gillaspie was mustered into the service on September 24, 1861 in White Pigeon, Michigan, under the command of Colonel William J. May. After some basic training, the regiment was sent to Kentucky in December. The Eleventh remained on guard duty around Louisville and Bardstown to protect the Louisville and Nashville Railroad until May, 1862, when it was shipped to Nashville, Tennessee. For the greater part of the summer, as part of the Army of the Ohio, then under the command of General Don Carlos Buell, it conducted pursuit tactics against John H. Morgan and Joseph Wheeler, the famous Confederate cavalry generals, across much of Kentucky and Tennessee. During the so-called race-for-Louisville between Buell and General Braxton Bragg in the fall of 1862, the Eleventh was stationed at Nashville, under the command of General George H. Thomas, to protect that city and its railroad connections to Louisville. When the Army of the Ohio was re-organized as the Army of the Cumberland and placed under William Rosecrans, the Michigan Eleventh formed part of Thomas's Fourteenth Corps, participated in the drive to Murfreesboro, and played an active role in the center of the army during the battle of Stone River in the closing days of 1862.

This is where the diary ends. However, the Michigan Eleventh went with Rosecrans and Thomas through the Battle of Chickamauga and again was in the center, where it was one of the units that by a magnificent stand against Confederate charges earned for Thomas the generalship of the Army and the famed nickname, "The Rock of Chickamauga." After Chickamauga, the Eleventh Michigan fought in the Battle of Chattanooga, during which it was one of the first regiments to breach the Confederate breastworks in the daring frontal attack on Missionary Ridge — a victory that broke Bragg's army and eventually provided the opportunity for the long march to Atlanta and the sea. After the siege and fall of Atlanta in August, 1864, the Michigan Eleventh marched back to Tennessee, entrained for Michigan, and was mustered out of the service on September 30, 1864.

In preparing the diary for publication every effort has been made to preserve the quality of the original document. Because of his lack of schooling, Gillaspie spelled phonetically, and many words are, at first, difficult to decipher; in no case, however, has the original spelling been changed. Gillaspie did not use punctuation nor paragraphs; only the minimum punctuation needed for clarity

has been added, and the sentences have been grouped in natural date-time arrangements. Finally, Gillaspie's indiscriminate use of capitalization has been standardized. Otherwise, the diary remains as Gillaspie wrote it in the field.

The decision to maintain the original form of the diary was guided by a desire to present Gillaspie's personal, immediate reactions to the things he experienced precisely as he wrote them down. In this diary one can begin to share the emotions of the diarist as he described, in striking passages of understatement, his exhaustion, his hopes, his fears. One can cringe at the rough and often brutal humor of men living under severe stress and removed from the normal restraints of society. And one can sense with despair the frustrating accumulation of minutia that, for the most part, made up the hourly existence of each man — hours filled with aimless marching, waiting, writing letters, talking, or just sitting. Soldiering can be seen as an endless pattern of deadening futility and tedium — but a boredom often relieved by fantastic bursts of effort and energy and emotion. All this and more is here, written simply and without any literary or historical pretensions.

The contributions of many people have made the publication of the diary possible; I am particularly indebted to Mrs. Alice Gordon, of Holland, and Robert Lambert, of Lansing, for their help in obtaining the family and personal records of Ira Gillaspie.

The original manuscript of Ira M. B. Gillaspie's diary is in the Clarke Historical Library of Central Michigan University.

Mount Pleasant, Michigan
January 30, 1965

Daniel B. Weber

Who ever reads this book I want you to excuse my poor writing and mistakes but I feel sure you will when I tell you that I never had more than one years schooling in my life. Farther than that I have had to educate my self and I hav bin in very poor circumstances for educating my self. Thinking that may be my wife and friends would like to read and no how I spent my life as a soldier I have endeverd to keep a corect record so far and I intend if I live to keep a diary as long as the war lasts. Now my friends think when you read this how often I must have thought of home and you my dear friends. I intend as soon as convinyant to send this book to my wife and you can read it one and all but I want you to be very carefull of it untill I get home.

Ira M. B. Gillaspie Corp. Co. C
11th Mich. Reg. Inf.

August 20, 1861 — I come to the conclusion that I would volunteer my civses to my country. I sot down and wrote a letter to Sam Slyter requesting him to come to Sturgis and go with me. I talked with my wife on the subject and she did not want me to enlist but she feared I would be drafted for thare was a goodel of talk about drafting. She said I might do just as I saw fit. I explained to her the state of our country that it is in need of all true patriots to sustain her government but all did not convince her that I aught to enlist. I went to my employer told him my intentions. He said you are write Ira for your country needs you. Saturday evening I went out to my fathers on a viser. He lived in the town of Sherman about seven miles from Sturgis. My father and mother was very much aposed to my enlisting. They admitted that our country needed men but their plea was that thare was anuff without me but I had fully made up my mind to enlist so thare was no stoping me.

August the 22 — I come home and found out that the fier we had seen from fathers was the burning of the Railroad Block. Next day I went to work for John Collance abossing the job of clearing away the reck of the fier. My wife said all she could to me to convince me that it was not my duty to go to war. Next day when Capt. C. Hoods Company was marching about town in the afternoon they was collected in front of the recruiting office. I went over opened the dore went up to the desk and told Henry Plat that I had been to see Mr. Faulkner. He had told me the termes of enlisting as followes said he if you enlist you will draw 26 dolars every two months and your wife will draw 12 dolars every 2 months and said he at the end of the war you will be entitled to 160 acres of unoccupied land and one hundred dolars. Now Henry is this the fact or not. Said he it is. I told him to hand me his pen. He done so. I put my name to the muster role. I was a soldier. I then went back to my work untill the company was formed in line to be mustered into the civses when I went over to the offices agane and fell in and was mustered in with the rest.

When I got home I found that the news had got thare before me. My wife was acrying. I told her to console herself that the war would soon be over and our country at peace but she thought I had aught not to have enlisted. I told her that the drafted men was not used as well as volenteers and in battle they was shuverd write ahead and used for brestworks for volenteers. She could not think of having me drafted. I got a letter that evening from Sam stating that he would come out and see me anyway and maybe he would enlist and go with me. Enoch had enlisted after I did contrary to my wishes or his folkes eather.

August the 26 — We went as a company down to Farm River whare we had a gay cald time. Several of our boys got tite. Sargt Whalen went with some 6 or 8 of us to a Mr. Marples whare we took dinner. We found them to be very fine people. One Miss Boyls was thare and she was a true patriotic woman. In the evening Mr. Flanders of Sturgis come down and give us a national speech after

which we had some music. I played the base drum. We then lisend to some patriotic songs from the young laydes of the vilage. When we had all done formed in ranks for home we played two or 3 good tunes and started for home at 10 oclock and we had some ten miles to go. I got home just as the clock was stryking one. Next morning at 8am we colected together and comenced drilling. Carlas Plumb one of the three months men come down and enlisted. He was one of my neighbors. After he had enlisted he acted as ordly. James Finley our ordly took comand of the Co. in the afternoon. Sam come down on the square whare we was drilling. My wife accompaned by her mother and syster come with him. I got leave of Finley to go and viset with them so I envited him to take a walk with me. He done so. I then proceeded to disclose to him the entcements ofered by our country to volenteers. Now Sam you and me have bin together a grateel and always as friends. Now sir if you have any love for your country come enlist and go with me. What do you say. Said he I will talk with your ordly and Capt and if they will assure me that what you say is all the same to me asthoe I lived in this state I will go with you. You see he lived in Noble Co. Indiana.

Next morning brite and early Sam and me went down to the hottel whare the ordly stoped. I enterduced the subject. He the ordly went on and told him the same as I had told him only he pictured it out with more style than I was capable. Well says Finley come put your name down. Yes says the Capt. Sam picked up the pen and sined his name. The Capt gave him a furlow to go home to Bourie and back the next day but one and promised that when we got in camp at White Pigeon he would let him have 4 or 5 days more. After breckfast Sam started home. I was satesfied for I wanted him to go with me. John and Thomas Rapp enlisted.

Next day Henry come down to my house. I gave him a little sword which he thought everything of. I went home after drill was over in the afternoon. My wife told me she wanted me to stay with her all I could while we stayed thare for we soon would have to leave and I would not have the chance to enjoy her society. Next day A. B. Slyter, Samuels father, come in town and come to my house first and told me Sam was not able to come. He wanted to no for certen whether Sam was actually enlisted and sworn in. Said I come with me and I will convince you that he is. We went over to the Capts. house. He aquainted the Capt with the affair and asked the Capt the same question that he did me and received the same answer. Capt Hood called me one side and asked me if he did not want to git Sam out pretty bad. I told him I thought that was the case. He told me he wanted me to go home with A. B. and bring Sam with me when I came back. We went back to my house ate our breckfast after which we started for Rome Station or Bourie Noble Co. Ind.

We went by the way of P. N. Rosler on or near Bushey Prarie whare we stoped he being a soninlaw of A. B. Slyter. We took dinner with them and during the preparation of the meal we used all our talking factulys in prosuading Fill to enlist and go with Sam and

me. By the time we had done dinner we had our object gained. Fill and Jane his wife went down to Noble Co. Bourie whare we found Sam all write. Seeing that it was after night when we got thare we did not have much time to talk until morning. We arose early in the morning. After breckfast I went up to the express office enquired for my pass that the Capt was to send me waited til afternoon our pass failed to come so we prevailed on A. B. to take his team and carry us to Sturgis. We started just about 5pm. We arrived at my house at three oclock next morning. We took breckfast and A. B. started home accompaned by his wife altho Fills and Sams wife and Sam, Fill and me started for White Pigeon for our Co. had gone thare during my absence that being the place our Reg. was to be formed. We arrived in camp about 10am whare we found the boys feeling well and in comfertable quarters. I presented Fill to the Capt. and in corce of an hour Fill was a soldier. At night we bunked down in the quarters in a pile of straw with our blankets spread down. Sam and me was pardners Fill and Enoch bunked together. After role Sam and me had a long talk about old times and commenting on the time to come. During the night I cant could not being used to sleeping in such an open house.

Next day we comensed Batalion drill in a larg field none by the name of Swans Meddow. It lay a little east of town with the railroad passing by one side of it. Capt. Tilden of the U.S.A. drilled us. In the evening I went home on the 5pm trane. I found my wife rather downhearted on account of my going away. We had a good viset Hatty being at home but I had not long to stay for I had to go back on the 5am trane. When I got back to camp I was much pleased to see how much our Reg. had grown. We herd that the governor was acorning to see us.

On Saturday evening Capt. Hood caled me to him and told me that I might go home on the evening trane if I wanted to. All he cared was that I was back Mondy morning at role call which was at eight oclock in the morning. I got aboard the trane just 10pm and got of the cares at Sturgis 11¹/₂.

When I got home found my wife waiting patientlioly for me to come. She met me at the dore. I had a good viset with her. Next day being Sundry Tild and me went over to A. J. Lambs. We had a good viset with Jack and Harret and little Hatty. When my wife and me got ready to go home litle Harret began to cry. I could not git rid of her. I felt so sorey for her and I tried in vain to slip of but she watched me very clostley. Finley I took her in my arms and carryed her home with me and after she got asleep Hatty my wives syster took her home. Barbery and me had a good time. I played my cordain and her and Hatty sang. Mondy morning at 5 oclock I took the cars and soon found myself in camp again.

On Wedns morning father, mother, Maryjane, my wife and Joan, Sams wife come down to see us. I got leave of absence for Sam and me and we took a strole over town with our women and friends. Sam went home with them in the evening. Next we herd from him

he was at home sick. Finley he come back I saw his sickness was all oing to dissatisfaction. He found out that his wife could not draw any thing from the supervisor. He got leave to go to my house and meat his wife there. From there he went back to Rome Station. Finley the long looked for governor Blair come and when the excersion train come in from the east it brought my wife with many wives systems and sweathearts of the boys belonging to our Reg. besides many other spectators. We marched down into Swans Meddow whare we listened to an able and well conducoed speech from the oald governor after which we marched back to our barrax. I took the rest of the day to strole about and viset with my wife and friends. At 5pm the trane was ready to start. Colnal May told us that all of married men could go and accompany our wives home and stay untill Mondy morning. At 5pm I went aboard with my wife and soon found myself in Sturgis. Hatty and Barbara saw us coming and ran to meat us. We enjoyed ourselves as well as we could untill 4 oclock Mondy morning when I agane took the cars for Camp Tildon White Pigeon for that was the name of our camp. Thru the corse of the day the barrax caut fier but was soon extinguished with water and half melted snow.

On Thursday A.B. Slyter come bringing with him Sam and my wives two systers Hatty and Barbara Ellen. I was much pleased to see them for it seamed so good to have a good socle chat with my friends being for the most part of the time in a crowd of soldiers my mind is kept a grater part of the time in reglar hurley burley. A. B. and the girls stayed untill a most night when they left Sam and me to our thoughts. Siting in the sitng room of the pasenger house I saw by Sam's conversation that he entended giting his discharge if possible. He has plaid his part well for I beleve his sickness to be all a sham. You would to see him at a distance he was a man of 50 somers. Next day he had his examination under the direction of Dr. Wm. Elliot Regiment Surgt. Next day Sam and Mr. George Giberson an oald man got their discharge. Fill and me shook hands with Sam on the perade ground bid him good by and he started for home. Now says Fill do you think Sam has used us right. Said he he promised you and me to stand by us as long as we should live and the war should last. Well says I Fill you and Enoch and me are friends yet and we will stick together. Seeing that Sam has proved false to us let us take that for a warning to keep our vows more firm. We promised each other we would and went to our quarters to think over how false Sam had proved to us and not onley to us but to his officers and to his country and that noble emblem of liberty the stars and stripes that our forefathers fought bled and died for to establish and sustain.

November the 15 — Sam Heberly's wife come down to camp. She told me that my wife would meat me at B. F. Coolleys the next day. I went to the Capt. to ask permission to go next day being Sundy. Next morning when I got ready to go there was not one of my officers on the grounds that ranked hier than 5th Sargt and no

one loer than my ordly could pass me thru the lines. I waited and watched for some one to pass me out untill afternoon when it was to late to go and back so I had to disapoint my wife. What I had very seldom done never when it was any way avoidable.

On the 21st I went home agane. My wife had come to the conclusion that I must have bin sick or I would not have disappointed her the Sundy before. Hatty had a present for me. It was a pocket pen and holder. Went back Mondy.

November the 26th 1861 — When we was at role call we was informed by our Capt. that our arms had come. After breckfast we was marched by companys in front of the warehouse whare each man received a musket. We began now to feel like soldiers. I got a letter from Levie my brother an answer to one I had writen to him some time before informing him of my enlisting. He had hoped that I would come and go with him for he had enlisted in Company A of the 13th Regt. Mich. Inf. His Reg. was then at Kalamazoo Mich. When the 10am trane come in it brought Stebin Phelps a drummer of Sturgis that I used to play with. I play the base drum. We had quite atime when we went in to dinner. We had a loud oald time. The waiters tried to impose on us by feeding us on strong musty butter. We rid the table of it and everything it had on it even to the dishes and potatoes. In fact everything. In the afternoon we was marched up in front of the railroad house whare we listened to a noble speech by several gentlelmen and one by Capt. B. G. Bennet one from a lady from Three Rivers after which we was presented a buryfull National Emblem by the citasens of St. Joseph County.

Next day Capt. Hood detaled me to take charge of making the Co. bels. The report was affote that we would git our pay in a few days. Mr. Walter Plumb come down and made us a visit.

Nov. 28 — Mr. Wallace the man that furnishes our Reg. put stoves in the eating house. Several of the boys went home on furlow J. D. Ladow for one.

Nov. 29 — We was drawn up in Batalion line to salute a Reg. of cavalry from Grand Rapids bound for St. Louis Mozoorie. The order was read on perade that we must all be present the Mondy following to receive our uniform caps which was to be issued that day.

Nov. 30 — In the evening Peter Doyl come to see me and told me that my wife come in on the 5pm train and awated me at the station house. My Capt. not nor Lieutenants being in camp to pass me thru the guard lines I watched my time and when the sentinals back was toward me I run the lines my taking advantage of the crowd standing around they could not find me. I was soon seated by the side of my wife whare I enjoyed a good visit. I found my Capt. got leaf of absense untill morning. I bespoke a room and enjoyed the company of my wife for the night.

Dec. 1st — I went to the city hotell and hierd a room and stayed with my wife untill next morning when I went to camp my wife accompanying me. I took her all thru our barrax after which we took a strole thru town to enable her to make a few perchaces

of clothing for herself and mother. We then returned to camp and went to dinner.

Dec. 2 — In the afternoon we was called into ranks and marched up in front of the sutlers tent where the paymaster awaited us. We each man received his pay and went away rejoicing. I went over to the railroad house where I had left her my wife. I then went back and collected in some of my debts. At 6pm I went back to my wife. I gave my wife all my money save a few dollars which I kept for spending money. Capt. Hood and some of the boys went up town and cleaned out several whisky shops. Colonel May my wife and my self had a long talk. He promised my wife if it was possible he would let me come home once more. My wife was to go back on the 11pm train and it now being about 8pm we conversed on all subjects for we new not but what we wer making our last visit for three years and maby we never would meet agane. Presently the train come and I helped my wife aboard shouk hands exchanged kisses and the train started. I went back to camp with several of the boys. We had lots of fun with Jake Neal. He was tite. We could not git him to go to bed until 2am.

Dec. 5 — Warh Sprage and Franks and Wahrs wife come down to see us. We had a good visit.

Dec. 6 — M. M. Wels sutler shot Charles Lenord by an axident with a pistol the contents passing thru the window and entering Lenords face logging in the jaw bone. In the evening Capt. Hood sent for me to come up to his room. He gave me a furlow and I started home on the 11pm train. We had not gone more than ¼ of a mile when the Colonel found a man on the train which had no furlow. The mans name was Steven Warren. The train was stoped Warren was put of and we was soon running agane at liting speed for Sturgis. Colonel May come to me and told me that I must go back on the next train and see that Warren was locked up. I got home just 12pm. I found my wife up awaiting my arrival for she had herd by the lieutenant that the Capt. was agoing to give me a furlow. My wife her mother and her 2 sisters and myself had a good visit until 4½am when my wife and Barbry her syster went to the deope. When the train got in site it seamed but a thought until I had to bid good morning to my companion so I stole a kiss from boeth of my companions shook hands and I jumped aboard of the cars and was soon on my way to White Pigeon whare I arived just 5am. I went amediately to asertain whether Warren was in camp or not. I found his ordly and he told me he was all safe in the guard house. I was all most mad to think I had to make so short a visit at home.

Dec. the 7th — Thare was a man died in the hospittle. Some said he had the small pox. It rased an autfull excitement amongst the boys. Some was on the point of leaving. Well it come very near causing a general mutiny. Next day we got the news that tomorrow we leave for the south. Excitement grows worse.

Dec. 9th — Early in the morning we packed our napsacks for our long journey to Dixeyland. At about 11 o'clock in the evening

we was all seated in the cars and was soon on our way to Louisville Kentucky. We passed thru Salem Crossing where we changed cars. Next day we passed thru 50 or 60 miles of very low wet marshy land. Today we passed thru Tippy canoe Laffett and several other smart little places Indianapolis for one. In the night we rode over a very rough oald road tosing us about like an oald lumber wagon. We was a sleepy set of fellows but the road being so rough we could not sleep atall. Just daybrake we arived at Jeffersonville.

December the 11th — We was marched out thru a part of the town. We halted and got some warm coffee which reveved us very much. We herd hear that Buckner was but a few miles from Louisville with a larg force of rebils. After we had our coffy drank we marched thru town to the river whare we took the ferry and crossed the grate Ohio over into Louisville and I sot my foot for the first time on southern soil. As we marched thru that grate city we was cheared on evry hand by little and big women and men from evry corner and from evry dore and window by our union friends. You would see the seceshes go around with their heads down with out saying a word. We encamped a little south of town on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. I asked Martin my brother what he thought of soldiering now. He had enlisted the day we left White Pigeon contrary to my wishes. Him and his partner J. Morehouse just shook their heads and grinned like kids.

Dec. the 12th — A cople of our men come down with small pox but our surgons would not oan that it was that. I wrote a letter to my wife and sent a paper. I bought a watch of Enoch. Such a coughing you never herd as was herd in our camp for we had to sleep right on the wet muddy ground and not being used to camp life we cant a tremendous cold which settled in our lungs and in the end sent many a poor fellow to his grave. Next day sent father a Louisville Journal and wrote a letter to Maryjane my syster. I also wrote a letter to D. N. Guage my brotherinlaw. Flying reports that Charleston was burned.

Dec. 16 — We drilled for the first time on napsack drill. We made so much nois coughing that one could not hear the commands. We was startled by a heavy firing of musketry on south of us. It was some Regt. fiering at targots but we was just raw annuff to think evrything was rebils so it caused an excitement in camp.

Dec. the 17 — We started for Bardstown Kentucky. We passed thru a very rough rocky country. Our not being used to marching our feet got very sore. At night we camped on a side hill with a butyfull spring brook running at the base. In the evening some of the boys visieted the neighboring hencoops and sheeyards and some low charictored vagabon comited a rape on the person of a young woman of the neighborhood. Next morning we was up and on the march by 7am. We passed thru about the same looking country as we did the day before. At 5pm we halted and camped on a handsome little flat. In the evening we had the honor of receiving a viset by several Kentucky ladies. Some of the boys made a hall on some beehives and

some fowls which made us a very fine breakfast next morning. O it makes me shudder to hear our poor boys cough and wheeze. My feet was dreadfull sore and even bloody on the heels.

Dec. 19th On the Road — Our colonel procured some teams to draw our napsacks the rest of the way to Bardstown so today we marched much easier. We arrived at Bardstown just 4pm. We was welcomed by many cheers by our Union sipathisers which was about one third of the population. We camped at a larg field thrue which ran a deep gully from the banks of which pored forth a butyfull stream of noble water. Next day we done some fixing around camp. Smallpox excitement was grate. Henry Norton was taken with that horable disease. A quite a number come down with the lung fever.

Dec 22 — It commenced raining. My wife rote that she herd that we was all taken prisoners. Next day Fill got another letter from his wife and I got one from my wife and mother together.

Dec. the 24th — We pased acolection to buy some turkeys for Christmas. Our men keep coming down with the lung comeplaint. We got some strickt orders about coming on dress parade. We must have our boots blacked and clothes brushed to fits.

Dec. 25th Christmas — We prepared our turkeys for our dinner. I tell you a Christmas dinner eaten in a tent with our lapps for a table our napsacks for our chares was quite a novelty to me. Some half dosen darkeys come down to our camp with their fildes ten-boreans and banjoes and they had a publick negro show. They shure are naturalls. I wrote a letter to my wife. Fill and me got one together from his wife. Lieut. Faulkner told us that all of us that wanted to could go and see the big cave. After dinner we went around to all the Co. tents and got all to fall in and we started for the cave going down hills thrue gullys over brooks and fences. At last we arrived at the mouth of the cave. When we got a light lit we all went in. I went in about fourty rods but I could not stand the atmosphear cause I was to used to the fresh out doors air. Some of the boys went in farther than I did but we had to hurry back to camp for to git ready for dress parade. Brigadier Gen. Wood come down and esppected our Reg. We got orders to give up our scales and that order suited us all. Next day it still rained yet and now harder.

Dec. 27th — Enoch was not at role call. I made enquires about him all over camp but could not git any information about him. While I was on guard I wrote a letter to Maryjane telling her of my concern. Fill feels very much troubled about Enoch. We found out that he took his gun. Several of the boys said that they saw him crossing the lines. They said that they heard the report of a gun in the direction he went. Some thought he was killed and some thought not. O if I could hear some thing about what had become of him. Fill felt very bad. My pardner Ben Potr said he could not beleve but what Enoch was killed.

Dec. 28 — We went by squads of from 8 to 20 in search of Enoch. We scoured the countryside complectly but got no informa-

tion of him whatever. We had some fun with some rebel simparters by making them furnish us with grub and apples and the like. When night come back to camp no wiser than when we left it in reference to Enoch. We got orders to be ready to move tomorrow. Colonel May made enquires about a misterious buggy that was teaming about the night before. He thought that it had some thing to do with Enochs suden disappearance.

About 12pm at night whang went one of the guards guns. The releaf was very quickly turned out and the whole camp wakened. When the Corp. of the guard got within a few yards of the guard causing the alarm he fell off a rock and hurt himself bad. Hear is the post screamed Sam Heberly for he was the one that gave the alarm. After a clost examination it was discovered Sam had shot a mule.

Dec. 29 — We was up by times and by 8 we was on the march south. We went about 3 miles whare we halted and stacked arms for about 2 hours. We expected to camp hear but the order come to fall in and we was marched about 2 miles further whare we camped in alarg field. Thare was troops camped all around us hear. Gen. Wood was in comand. Several of the boys come down with the smallpox. In the evening Fill come into my tent and told me that he had seen John Gillaspie one of my cosen. He said he belonged to the 46th Regiment Indiana Vols. and he said John wanted to see me very much. I went to the Capt. and got the promise of a pass for myself and Mart to go over and see John tomorrow. I wrote a letter to Susan Finley my cosen and one to Uncle Slagle. My partner Ben felt very miserable and his cough is very bad. At 8 we went to bed very tired. I still got no word of Enoch yet.

Dec. the 30 Camp May — Today the name of our camp was changed to Camp Stoughton the name of our Lieut. Colonel. Next day Martin and me went to the ordly and got a pass and then we git counter sined by our Capt. and Lieut. Colonel and then we started over to the 46th Ind. Reg. When we got to their Regimental lines the sentinal cald for their major and he pased us in. We found the first Sargt. of Co. H for that was the Co. to which he belonged. I made enquires about John. He happened to be standing by and he answered to his name. We had a good viset together after a seperation of 12 years. We stayed untill our pass was all most out. John made us promise to let him no all about Enoch providing we got any news of him. Well we went back to camp and found several more of the boys was down sick with the measels. I wrote a letter to my wife and got one from mother and father. Our camp was very muddy oing to so much rain.

January the 1st Camp Stoughton — We had a New Years dinner but it was rather a dull one to me for I was not usd to such a New Years. Next day we moved about one mille back in a little meadow on a side hill with a butyfull spring and brook at the bottom of the hill.

Jan. 3rd — It rained very hard all day. Thomas Rapp and

myself made a bargain not to chew any more tobacco under a penalty of half a dollar and still it rains our camp is getting very muddy. Next day I wrote a letter to father. Mart and Leve Willcox had a dispute and Finley come to blows. Next day I went on guard and it rained all day hard. Ben was on guard and he has a very bad cough yet. I am afraid he will be worst be fore he is beter for he spits a goodel of fresh red blood now. I tell you I sorely miss my tobacco being without makes me as cross as a wounded bear. O I got a letter from my wife I wrote one to her and one to Hatty my wifes syster.

January the 6th Camp Morton Bardstown — We moved back two miles on the other side of Bardstown and our camp was named Morton. Our camp was situated on a larg farm the oner of which is in the rebel cirves. We took the house for a hospittle. Several more of our boys come down with the measels. Next day H. Mead and Spirsters our cooks played sick but recovered as soon as thare was new cooks put in. Next day it rained all day harder.

Jan. 9 — Our camp was still muddier than ever if posible. We had a debate in the evening about how long the war would last. One man said four years but we laughed him down to dirt. Fill got a letter from his wife which stated that Enoch had been at her fathers in Rome Station Ind. O O what a heart shock to me for I was compelled to think that I had an oan brother that had disgrased himself and his friends and his country anuff to desert the army. I beleve I know I would rather herd of his deth than this. Capt. Hood said that he could not beleve that Enoch had really deserted. I told him I could not eather but that Fills wife was my cosen and I could not dispute her word. Mart and me had a long sad talk about our untrure brother but to no avale.

January 11th — And still it rains. Our camp is a perfect lake of mud. I got a letter from my wife. Next day we finished our brick oven which we had bin building so we will now have soft bread in place of hard tacks. Next day I was on guard.

Jan 14th — It snowed in the afternoon. Thare was a man died by the name of Willcox of Co. H Mich. 11th Reg. He was buried next day in military stile. It was a spendid buyreal. Next day it rained harder than ever.

Jan. 19 — I got a letter from my wife. I wrote one to her. Next day I got a letter from Sam Slagle my uncle. I got a letter from John Denney of the Mich. 7 Reg. Today we atended another fuineral.

Jan 23 — Several come down with the measels and the small pox. From two to four dies evry day from the many deseases around. I got a letter from Susan Finley my cosen. Next day I answered her letter and wrote one to Henry Slagle her brother my cosen.

Jan 25 — Some of the boys we had left back at Pigeon arived hear.

Jan 26 — I got a letter from D. N. Guage my brotherinlaw and I answered his letter imeadily. And yet it rains. Next day the news come to me that Thomas Rapp was dead. He died with the measels.

Some more of the boys come down with the small pox. Ben he come down with the measels and his lungs is in such a state that I fear he will never recover. Corp. Gilbert Bowers was a goodel beter of his measels.

Jan 28 — I got a letter and a paper from Hatty my wifes syster. I wrote an answer to her letter also wrote one to Mr. Oran Palmer Thomas Rapps brotherinlaw. Next day I wrote one to William Rapp of Clarinton Calhoun Co. Mich. Next day I wrote a letter to my wife. I got one from her and one from Hatty Frasher my wifes syster. My wife wrote that she was at work for Bill Wickle which I did not like very well for thare is no need of her working out. Her place is at home.

January the 31st Camp Morton — I write to my wife just what I thought about her working out. I made the aquatance of a Kentucky lady and had a good viset with her. I wrote a letter to Lily Miller of Louisville Ky. E. L. Birdsley died with the small pox. It seams anfull hard to lose so many good boys as are dyeing off hear. I wrote a letter to Mrs. Birdsley informing her of her husbands deth. I requested her to answer my letter. In the evening I went over to the hospittle. My friend Ben Potts was very low. Next day several of our boys oplied for their discharge and some was worthy of a discharge and some was playing off Sam Heberly for one. We had to build roads of rails thru our camp streets to enable us to get around atall. We was loseing an anfull site of good men from illness. We have in camp the small pox measels black tounge newmonia vericoid all in our Reg. at one time. We lost six men in 12 hours by sickness.

February the 1st 1862 Camp Morton — Today I saw a hard site for me to look upon. One James McKiever couxed one of the 7 Pa. Cavelry to trade clothes with him. He then arested him for a deserter and he brought him to our guard house. Our colonel being unaware of the facks he sent word to his comander which sent a Corp. and 2 guards after him. They tied a rope around his body then tied the other end the the Corps. saddle then started off with him sometimes dragging him thru creeks and mudholes. I tell you it was a hard site to look at for I new him to be innocent. I tried to stop them but they would not lisen. When his Co. found out how it was they hunted McKiever like a hawk would a chicken but McKiever thru fear left the country and went north agane. Well he might for he had no friends with us for the boys of our Reg. was as down on him as much as the comreds of the cavelry man was and they was down on him for all that was out.

February 3rd — I traded watches with Ed. C. McDannals of Co. B our Reg. Some of us boys had some fun with a darkey. Next day I got a letter from my mother and syster Maryjane. I also got one from John Denney.

Feb 5 — Our Reg. was ordered to Bardstown to see one Calhoun hung for the murder of Wm. H. Southerland of Ky. It looked hard but crime must be punished. He was perfectly calm to the last. Next day it rained hard. I got another letter from Maryjane. I just

learned that Carluss Plumb died yesterday the 4th of February. Next day I went on guard. It rained.

Feb 9 — The reporte was affote that we are to be paid of in a few days. I wrote aleter to Mr. Fox. I give him a discription of the state of our Regs. helth and discription of our camp which is muddy anuff to flore a flat boat on. The farmers hear have bin plowing hear for some time. The order come from Colonel Lytle commanding post for Cos. D and E to move to town for provo guards.

February 11th — At 8 o'clock the 2 Cos. was on the march for town. I went with some 5 or 6 others to chop some wood for the hospittle. Next day we had a genral time pulling down and putting up our tents to air them. I began to give up all hopes of Bens recovery. He thought himself that he was beter.

Feb 13 — Bowers come into my tents dore and told me that Ben was dead. O how it struck to my heart for he was as dear to me as an oan brother. My heart was so sad that I cannot tell how I did feel. I went over to see the corps of my friend. So pale. And thin. I then went over to see the Capt. and he gave me a litle meadle that had belonged to Ben. E. M. Twitchell gave me a pocket knife which Ben had when he died. That was all. My mind was and still is so troubled that I cannot content myself when I think I have to give my dear friend Ben up.

Feb 14 — About 2 o'clock pm my much respected friend was placed in his coffin and borne away to the graveyard whare we saw the coffin loard into the bosom of the earth and the cold Kentucky clay heaped upon him. When we had done all we could do for our dear friend we with heavy hearts and weeping eyes we returned to our camp to think of Ben hearafter as one departed for ever. Next day several more come down with the small pox and some more with the mesels. I went on guard. It rained very hard. I wrote a leter to my wife informing her of the deth of my friend. I also wrote one to Hatty. Mart got one from mother which was written to boeth of us. Next day I sent a paper to Hatty and wrote a leter to John Denney of the 7 Mich. I got one from him.

Feb. the 19th — Grate joy and excitement amongst our boys on account of the late victores of Ft. Henry and Donlison. Peter Doil was arested at Bardstown. He had bin in the hospittle. They sent him to his Co. He could not speak above a whisper. He was perfectly well other wise. No. 3 tent was taken for the sick of our Co. We have a good many sick now in camp.

Feb. 20 — I got a leter from Rachel Rapp. Next day it rained very hard. I answered Rachels leter.

The 22 — Washingtons birthday was celebrated by the vilagers but not by us on account of the bad wether. Next day I wrote a leter to Hatty. I went over to the burying ground whare we had buried some 80 of our men in one spot. There will be many a sad and lonely home sites in Mich because of this field and its contents. The report is that we will move tomorrow. I hope that it is so for I have a dislike to our camp since so many of our boys have died hear.

Feb. the 25th — We got orders to strike tents and git redy to move. By 10am the Reg. was on the march. After the Reg. was gone the guards was caled in and I being one of their party we followed on after the Reg. We went about one mile nearer town which brought us within one mile of the vilage whare we was told to strike tents and was soon fixed for living agane. Our camp is situated on a butyful side hill with a noble brook and spring at the botom of the hill. The farm on which we are encamped belongs to one Jackson a rebil leader. We took possession of a part of one of the farm houses for a guard house to the grate displeasure of the women belonging on the plantation. I made the acquaintance of one of the oald ladies girls. I hooked one of her gloves. I got a leter from mother and Henry.

Feb. 26th — Wm. L. Lords come to the Reg. He had stayed back to guard the hospittle. It is a pleasant day today for the first one for a long time. I wrote a leter to Betsy Rosler my cosen A. B. Slyters daughter. Next day I went to town and had a good visit with some young ladies by the name of Nickels. At night went after some chickens for the sick. We could not buy them so we took a whare and told him we would hang him if he did not go and sho us whare we could draft some fowls. He did. Next day I had a quite a time pesting Livey Hare the gal I hooked the glove of. I wanted the mate to the glove and she wanted the one I had. I saw she was a hard peace of a woman. She was about 16 years oald rather young to be so forward as she was but her mother sot the pattorn.

February the 28th — I got a leter from my wife.

March the 1st — Wrote one to her and got one from mother. Next day being Sondy I went out on a pleasure walk and made a short visit with some citacens.

Mar. 3rd — I went on guard in the evening. The money come to pay our Reg. We got a man that was tite in the guard house. He caled his name Blame. He was so fraid of the guards that he durst not step to the dore. We made him the subject of our sport all night. George Kline was on Corp. of the guard for the first time since his promotion. Just daybrake we told Blame he might go home which he done with out any delay for he was glad to get away from us for we had kept him on a netle all night. My glove gal filled my canteen with new milk when she milked her cows. At 9am was released from guard duty.

March the 4th — In the morning after guard mount we was caled into ranks and marched over to the house whare we got our pay. There was quite an excitement amongst the boys on account of the sutler. They thought he ment to shave them. They was on the point of tosing down his establishment but he pleaded innocent. We had some fun with an oald slave that was one of his men.

Mar. 5 — Lieutenant Falkner come to me and told me that he wanted me to take 2 men and go down to the vilage and dig a grave for one Henry Mathews which had died some time ago but was not buried because we wanted to send him home but he smelt so that he

could not be sent. I took Henry Patten and John Geary and started for town and from there to the graveyard where we was detained till most night on account of the delay of the corps. After we had done with the burial I went to a cople groceries and drank a cople of glasses of beer and ate some cake and started for camp. In a few minutes I began to git sick. By the time we got back to camp I was very sick. I began to think that I had taken poison eather in the beer or cake so I drank a pint of strong coffee to kill the poison if it was such. I was perty sick all night.

Mar. 6th — Early in the morning the news come to me that our Capt. was agoing home. He has bin unwell for home time. At 7am he started. Mart has bin grunting for several days. He caled me to him and asked me what aled him. As soon as I examined him I saw that he had that aful deas namely small pox. He was conveyed to the pest house. Oh how I hated to see him start for that place. At about 9am the order come to strike tents and git ready to march and by 11 we was on the march. My lieutenant told me I had beter stay behind in the hospittle untill I got beter but I would not hear to them for I hated to stay behind my Reg. so I started with the rest of the boys in the Reg. but I tell you I wished myself back a good many times before night. Lieutenant Falkner caried my napsack a part of the way for me. I was most aful sick for that to hapen you may depend. Morris Glavin got tife so much that they had to lead him along. Finley they let him lay in the mud beside the road till the teams come along to pick him up. We camped for the night in a larg field on the bank of a creek whare the railroad cross. The doctor come to see me and he thought I was poisoned for shure.

March the 7th Hospittle Camp Morton — Early in the morning Doc. Whelelan come to see me and he told me and the Lieut. that he must send me back to the hospittle so Louis Whelelan and myself was put aboard a handcar and sent back whare we arived just about noon. I was completely done out. I saw our head surjon and he told me I had bin poisoned. Bill Smith and George Kline was right smart. John Ryan was cook for us. The doctor told me that Mart if he would take care of himself he would have the small pox very lite. Next day some of the boys went to the Reg. I began to git beter. I began to think that I will soon be able to go to my Reg. Next day Bill Smith George Kline Willcox and some others went to the Reg. John Ryan and me herd that Mart was beter. We was alone. March the 10th — Amos Mathues come back to the hospittle. He brought me some 5 letters I from Uncle Slagle one from John B. Denney and Mart Bowman a part of which was for Corp. Gilbert and having bin discharged had gone home. I also got one letter from D. N. Guage and one from my wife and one from Rachel Rapp. I wrote a letter to Corp. Gilbert and sent him the few lines Mart Bowman had sent in his letter.

Mar 11th — Livy come to see me. I had a long talk with her and I found out some secretes concerning herself and parents. Next day I wrote a letter to D. N. Guage. I feel very anxious to hear from

Mart agane. I began to feel perty good myself. I wrote a letter to Jack Bixly of the 7th Reg. Mich. Inf. Next day I went over to the other hospittle to see the surjan in charg. He gave John and me leave to go to our Reg. tomorrow.

Early in the morning John and me was ready at the depoe and by 8 we was seated in the cars and on our way to Belmont whare my Co. and three other Cos. of our Reg. was camped. When we got to Bardstown Junction we met some of our boys on guard there. We changed cars hear and went 2 miles south on the Louisville and Nashville RR to Belmont Station whare we met our major and one of our Capts. We got of the cars hear and went about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to whare our Cos. was camped but before I got to camp I met Lieut. Falkner going to Bardstown after what convesants was left behind. The next man that I saw of my company was ordly Bishop holding out one hand to shake hands and holding in the other a letter from my wife. I was glad to git back to my Co and my friends.

All of the boys enquired about Mart and all the rest of the boys left back in the hospittle. I comenced a letter to my wife giving her a discription of our camp which was situated in a litle valley almost surrounded with hills so hy that you have to look twice to see the tops of and peaked anuff to prick boils with. A nice litle brook runs thru our camp. A larg brick house for headquarters. There is about 28 or 30 houses in this place used for hospittles.

March 15 — I finished my letter and got my likeness taken and I sent one I had taken at Bardstown to my syster Abby Ann Gage. The one that I had taken today was with pipe in mouth and my revolver in hand and my coat unbuttoned farmer style you no.

March 16 — I went on guard for the first time in Belmont. I was on No. one post to guard the dore of the guard house. There was but one man in the guard house. He was an Irishman belonging to one of the Minasota Regs. Sometimes he said he belonged to the 24th sometimes he would say he belonged to the 16th. We could not find out any thing about him. About 10am one of the Ohio boys that was in the hospittle was arested for disorderly conduct to the surjon in charge of the hospittles. About 11am one of our pickets brought in one of the 24th Ky. that had bin sick and stragled behind the lines of his Reg. as they was marching. He told a perty fair storey and our major being in comand he gave him permission to go to his brothers and stay untill he gits beter giving him orders to be ready to be caled on at any minuet. I pitied the poor fellow for he looked bad off.

March the 17th — One of our Corps. come in with C. E. Graves and they was tife. That was Graves and Morris Glavin. In the afternoon another Ohio man was put in the guard house so you see I had my hands full.

Mar. 18 — It rained very hard. At 9 o'clock I was releaved from guard and after I had taken a short nap John Geary and me took our portfolios and went up into the old furnace whare we found C. V. Forbs deeply engaged in reading an interesting novel. The

Lost Trappers. I just saw one of the 30th Indiana. He new Henry Slagle my cosen. I went over to the postoffice whare I found a paper from my wife and one from Hatty. George Kline come to me and borrowed my revolver for he was a going to Louisville. Yesterday Orldy Bishop Sargt Whalen went up to the Pine Tavern to stay untill they got tough agane. They have bin quite feable for some time. Next day I went on gurad agane. It rained tremendous hard all day.

March 20 — Coe Holly and I went over to the Lieutenant and got a pass for to go out around the country. We passed Crooked Creek Bridge whare some of our boys was guarding. We then went over to the White Tavern whare we made the acquaintance of a couple of young ladies. We then got some litle extrys and went back to camp again in time for evening perade. Next day I went on guard again. I herd Mart was able to be around out of dores. I got a letter from my wife. One Tomey Crow was put in the guard house to keep untill he gits sober. He is as tite as you pleas. I felt sorey for the cold fellow for shure. His cold wife died back in Mich and he was acrying. It is afulll hard to be away from the loved ones back home and when they dy it is worst than ever.

Mar 22 — As soon as I come into my tent after I was releaved from guard I saw that Jo Morehouse was worse. I went and examined him and it was plain to be seen that he had the small pox. He was taken to the pesthouse at once. I then went to work and vaccinated all of the boys that was not all ready so. I herd Mart would be able to come to camp in a few days which made me very glad. Fill got a letter.

Mar 23 — I was detaled for guard and sent down to Bardstown Junction. In the afternoon some of our misscheavous boys shot the hind parts off a larg Bramey cock. It made lots of fun for us but to the grate mortification of the lady that oned the cock. Next day Corp. John Busheyland went camp after our mal and some grub for we was not to be releaved untill tomorrow. John brought me a letter from my cosen Susan Finley. When we had bin releaved and I got about a mile towards camp I discovered that I had forgoted my portfolio so I had to turn about and go back to the guard quarters. When I got back to camp I found that our Capt. had got back to us agane. I had a long talk with him. He had seen my wife while he was home and he also seen my father. Gray was sent off to a vacant house for he was unwell and we feared he was coming down with the small pox. Next day he come back to the tent again. He was allright and more scared than hurt.

Mar 27 — I got a letter from my wife. Next day I wrote one to her and to Hatty and one to John and Rachel Rapp. J. Morehouse come back to camp. He had the vericoid and very light at that. We was glad to see him so well.

Mar. 29 — Mart met me at Bardstown Junction. I tell you I was glad to see him. I was sick myself. Mart brought me a letter he had written to me while he was in the hospittles pesthouse. It made me so sad and yet so glad when I read it I threw it away.

Mar. 30 — I got a letter from Mrs. Elect Birdsley and one from father and mother. Mart and me got our likeness taken together. I am clear sick and I have fears of the small pox. Mart and me took a walk for I thought it might make me feel beter. I got acquainted with a couple of young ladies. The news is that we will git our pay today or tomorrow. We was calid into ranks about 2pm and marched over to headquarters whare we got our pay. I sent my money home to my wife for I dont think we will stay hear for any length of time. I want to send some more money home in a few days as soon as I collect it all in from the boys who is card playing. Coe Holly come in to the camp from the Junction whare he was on guard and he brought the report that the guard house at the Junction had cant fier and burned up with the guards napsacks overcoats and all the guns that was not on post. Coe being asleep it come very near burning him to. He just got out safe and thats all. I got a letter from my wife and one from my Aunt Elizabeth. I am not able to be around for I still got the camp complaint. The letter my aunt wrote stated that Henry Slagle my cosen was at Louisville in the hospittle. He belongs to the 30th Reg. Ind. Vols. Next day I answered my aunts letter.

April 3rd — The boys was releaved at the Junction. We had lots of fun with them about the fier for they was considerable in want of clothing. Some of them had no caps and some had lost one thing and some another. They looked motly and like some renegades.

Apr. 4th — I began to git a litle beter. Next day I felt a goodde! beter. I got a letter from mother. Mart went on guard for the first time since he got well of the small pox. I sent 20 dollars to my wife. I sent it with the Capt. money by express. In the evening Mart was taken sick again.

Apr. 6th — He was very sick. Jo Morehouse is gitting well very fast. Harrison Autumn was taken to the hospittle and he is very sick I tell you. Mart got a letter from Mary Jane. I had to read it to him.

Apr. 7th — Coloerd Tom Steward went back to Mich. again. C. Bascom went to Louisville for some leather for he is our shoemaker. Mart went to the hospittle again. Corp. Brooks got a furflow to go home and he will go tomorrow. He has bin sick for the most part of the time since we left Michigan. I fear he will never recover. The things belonging to John A. Angle lately deseased was sold at auction. I bought several articles. The biding was perty lively and one fight started. In the evening Sargt. Twitchell and Paten with some 5 or 6 others went over to an cold negro den whare they kept whiskey to sell to the soldiers in their possession. They wanted to pore it out but the darkey would not tell whare it was so the boys had to pull some of them up by the neck to make them tell whare the whiskey was. When the rope began to choke them they was ready to tell all. The boys took the whiskey to shampoo the negroes with. It got into their eyes and made them scratch for certain. Next day I