

Confederate Diary of Robert W. Hicks,

Property of Historic Sandusky
1862-1864

Transcribed and annotated by: Timothy Elliott

March, 1862

March 14: I enlisted [enlisted] and mustered in March 14th 1862.¹ I Recruited under Captain Sale for Captain A. Jurdin [Alexander Jordan]². H.A.L. the recruits organized a (March 20)³ Company under Captain Sale H.A.L.

April, 1862

April 14: Left home arrived in Lynchburg the same.

April 15: W.E. Hicks Rec'd half Bounty in Lynchburg \$25.00 Rec'd balance on uniform other half Bounty and 2 months wages to May the 1 44.22⁴ Rec'd of Captain L.A. Sale \$25.00 Half Bounty in Lynchburg.⁵

April 16: left Lynchburg and arrived in Richmond same and camped in the Fairgrounds called [called] Camp Lee about 3 thousand troops and pieces [pieces] of cannons all looking daily to be called to the Battlefield Squad drilling a little whilst hear [here] and Detailed for city guard [guard] frequently Moved to Marian Hill plank shanties and good cooking stoves fine water Battery (Battery) No. 2-6-32 (Battery Number 2 with six 32 pounder cannons) pounders mounted drilled at the pieces [pieces] several days 1 death in our Company -- Eubank a beautiful elevation [elevation] 4 miles below Richmond.

April 19: I was appointed 4 Sergeant [4th Sergeant] By Capt. L.A. Sale.⁶

May, 1862

May 4: I taken the mumps on both sides Return to Camp Lee Pitch our tents.

Mon. May 12: Orders to march knapsacks on countermanded new orders to Drury's Bluff I being not quite well of the mumps was left in charge of the sick numbering 30 there [there] was heavy firing for several hours our men all exposed to the shells our 7 killed [killed] 5 wounded Enemy [Enemy] lost 60 killed Killed Hugh [Hugh] Laughlin of our Company.

¹ Robert Hicks had two entries in separate locations for March 14th, 1862. The first entry seems to be a record of service and payment kept with the diary while the second is in the personal diary.

² Records show that the closest match to the name in the diary is Captain Alexander Jordan of Company E in the 34th Virginia Infantry.

³ The entry here suddenly changes to March 20th, but it is a continuation of March 14th. It is possible Robert Hicks was interrupted at the beginning of the entry and continued it on March 20th.

⁴ Page 3 of Book 1 and part of separate service record.

⁵ Page 4 of Book 1 and part of the separate service record document kept with diary.

⁶ Page 3 of Book 1 and part of the separate service record document kept with diary.

May 21: They Returned to Camp Lee our Company joined Col. Goods [Goode's] Regt. [Regiment] 4[th] VA. heavy artillery [artillery].

Sun. May 25: Orders to march to Fulton Hill 5 miles Distance 1 ½ miles below Richmond.

Mon. May 26: Struck tents and marched arrived S.D. [same day] Rain in the Evening and Co. sent to Marian Hill after straw to sleep on.

Tues. May 27: Thing quiet with some cannonading 6 or 8 miles and 2 Balloons visible one on each side good water.

Wed. May 28: Sunshine and Rain and anxieties of another day.

Thurs. May 29: Co. ordered to form line to Receive armes [arms] Delivered to us By Col. Goode mostly Mississippi [Mississippi] Rifles some with Sword Bayonets some without 58 out of 117 Ready or Reported for Duty Cartrage [cartridge] Boxes and 30 rounds of cartages and caps 3 days provissons [provisions] then to the line of Battle Hugar's⁷ [Huger] army passed [passed] here at sun set great cheering and enthusiasm.

Fri. May 30: marched at 10 o'clock down the river 2 or 3 miles below Drury's Bluff to meet the gun Boats which was coming up and after marching 8 or 9 miles below Fulton Hill we met Jeneral [General] Wise and his men and found the Boats had turned back and one of the most terrific thunderstorms I ever witnessed Lightning and Thunder and Rain no shelter all wett then turned back a mile laid out in the Rain all night our camp in a little spring field.

Sat. May 31: Dried out our clothes Rubed [rubbed] up our guns drilled gard [guard] the camp and things quiet today.

June, 1862

Sun. June 1: Misting rain Driled [drilled] in manual of armes heavy cannonading on the line above us commenced at 5 A.M. raged until 11 1/2 accompanied by the constant vollies [volleys] of musketry and Rifles it is now 3 oclock and the decision of the Battle is unnone [unknown] to our camp orders to be ready to martch [march] at a minutes warning three days rations to cook Bake Bread and fry meat in double quick. Heavy firing at or near Drury Bluff continued for an hour with intervuls [intervals] the cos [cause] unnone surposed [supposed] to effect a landing reported at night that the enemy was landing below the bluff but not confirmed.

Mon. June 2: Rain clouds this morning early now clear intensely hot all quiet up to 9 oclock reported 6 or 7000 kiled and wounded on our side yestady⁸ and day before engagement enemy Repulsed and loss very heavy 2 o'clock orders to march went a bout 2 miles formed line of Battle orderd [ordered] to load at will the enemy vessels in sight Remained 1 hour and Returned to camp 2 or 3 hundred yards above whare [where] we was before in a ½ hour ordered to pitch

⁷ This refers to Major General Benjamin Huger of the Confederate Army, who served under Major General Winfield Scott in the Mexican-American War. He resigned his position as Major from the U.S. Military after the fall of Fort Sumter and shortly after enlisted with the Provisional Army of Virginia.

⁸ "Yestady" is a shortened form of "yesterday" used often by Hicks.

tents at dark and 1 or 2 hours elapsed and pack up struck tents load baggage wagons the enemy was advancing by this time it was a rainin [raining] wee [we] begin to fall a bout on the ground with guns in hand for sleep thare was intense excitement Broak [broke] out in camp at first supposed to be the enemy cavelry [cavalry] when wee roused up found 2 or 3 mules Broak loose from the wagons running through camp with the harness on Thundering and Lightning and raining.

Tues. June 3: Morning came looking every minute to be ordered out in line of Battle but the Yankee vessels went back the Coln. [Colonel] ordered us to pitch tents which was done.

Wed. June 4: had but few tents with us so we Built shanties arbers [arbors] to shelter from Rain hard Crackers and fat meat but good water.

Thurs. June 5: heavy firing commenced 9 oclock soon followed by rappid [rapid] vollies of infantry which is now raging without intermission above us near the sububs [suburbs] of Richmond.

Fri. June 6: Nothing of striking note Scatering [scattering] shots through the day which is hearn [heard] every day.

Sat. June 7: rain in the morning sunshine in the evening ordered to be ready at a minute and keep a days rashions [rations] cooked ready drilling and camp gard kept up every day.

Sun. June 8: A Jeneral examination persons of the camp and inspection of arms commenced 7 oclock A.M. no drill nor dress parade things quiet.

Mon. June 9: Orders to be ready to march at a minutes minutes⁹ warning a great stir and activity among the courriers [couriers] riding to and fro rumors [rumors] from Richmond of another victory By Jackson over Fremont order countermanded.

Tues. June 10: The morning opens with heavy rain which continues up to this time 3 oclock scattering firing towards Richmond rumors of our Regt. joining Jackson not confirmed.

Wed. June 11: Nothing interesting to day all quiet.

Thurs. June 12: Clear day 25 men Lieut. Fellers¹⁰ and mee [me] sent out on picket 9 gun Boats 3 miles below us some good Butter milk.

Fri. June 13: Returned to camp from picket the enemy is Reported going down the Chickehomeny¹¹ [Chickahominy] Swamp rumored that Jenl. [Gen.] Wise Brigade reinforcing Stonewall Jackson on Monday not affirmed.

⁹ Hicks used the word "minutes" twice in a row in this entry.

¹⁰ Lt. William Fellers, Co. I.

¹¹ The swamp is located by the Chickahominy River in eastern Virginia. It is named after the Chickahominy Native Americans.

Sat. June 14: Nothing of special note returns from Jacksons Battle with Fremont and Shields.¹² Enemies loss 6,000 our loss 600 quiet.

Sun. June 15: Notice to be ready to march orders to march [march] at 3 o'clock a desperate thunder cloud hard Rain started up toward Richmond waded swamps and branches knee deep and swamps rain and mud 3 or 4 miles turned square to the right [right] 2 or 3 miles towards the Chickahominy Swamp the Yankees had driven in our Pickets taken a[n] overseer negroes and mules and gear [gone] Back before we got there we Returned to camp landed at dark gave the Regt. a drink of whiskey all wet and raining all the time.

Mon. June 16: Cannonading over towards James River at work a good many complaining from exposure yesterday.¹³ Rec'd of Capt. Sale 52.46 half Bounty Balance on clothing and 2 months wages up to the 1 day May.

Tues. June 17: Stewarts¹⁴ [Stuart's] daring trip between the lines confirmed captured 175 prisoners 3 or 400 mules 1,000,000 of Dollars worth of stores his loss was one man who was leading a heavy charge ordered to march to another encampment where we are now one mile from the river below Drury's Bluff got dark at dark laid out without tents.

Wed. June 18: Me Leut. Beard and 25 men from our company left this morning 3 o'clock 3 or 4 miles below here on picket ¾ of a mile below us lies several gunboats good luck we struck some Butter milk and corn bread quite a treat the evening rain set up all night.

Thurs. June 19: The morning clear we returned to camp orderly Clark sent to Bedford to Bring in the absent Private Mills D. Franklin for the same they left with joy glad to see home again.

Fri. June 20: The morning opens fine no Excitement rumors in camp to day that France and England recognising [recognizing] the south good water

Sat. June 21: A Beautiful day 30 or 40 on the sick list here some 4 or 5 at Fulton Hill 10 or 12 at home 2 or 3 in Richmond hospital leaves a bout half the Co. for duty.

Sun. June 22: Preaching by a Baptist minister in center of camp fine weather bacon 75 cts. [cents] per lb. Flower [flour] \$11 per Barrell [barrel] sugar 75 c. per lb. coffee 2.25 per lb. green Tea \$10 per lb. molasses 2.25 per gallon [gallon] other articles [articles] in proportion eggs 1.00 per doz. Richmond prices various rumors [rumors] in the papers about peace.

¹² This is likely in reference to the Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic, which took place June 8-9, 1862. The battles were part of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign and they earned Jackson fame among those in the Confederacy as he defeated two Union armies in two days.

¹³ The following part of the June 16th, 1862 entry is part of the separate record Hicks kept with his diary for payments and service.

¹⁴ General J.E.B Stuart famously led his cavalry around Union General George B. McClellan's forces on June 12th, 1862. Stuart scouted the Union army and provided the information to General Robert E. Lee, which allowed the Confederates to defend Richmond and push back Union forces.

Mon. June 23: Clear morning commenced throwing up Breast works clost¹⁵ [close] to the River on widow Chafins¹⁶ [Chaffin] farm for field peicies [pieces] and infantry this evening Rainy day quiet.

Tues. June 24: I am Sergent [Sergeant] of camp guard to day fine day things quiet nothing of note.

Wed. June 25: I was one of the detail for fatigue duty morning clear the evening rain return to camp heavy cannonading at dusk orders to be ready to march at a minutes warning sleep guns in hand.

Thurs. June 26: a beautiful morning drilling 2 a day dress perrade [parade] once Roal [roll] call 5 times a day at 4 and 7 A.M. at 5 and 8 P.M. cannonading in the morning scattering in the evening the most desperate roaring of cannons followed By heavy vollies [volleys] of infantry continued without intervils until 10 or 12 oclock at night great excitement in our camp orders to be ready to march at a minutes warning repulsed the enemy great slaughter on boath [both] sides but victory gloriously ours.

Fri. June 27: Clear and warm a few scattering shots as usual thing[s] quiet I went bathing.

Sat. June 29 [28]: Leut. Saunders and myself and 24 men Started this morning 3 or 4 miles below camp rite [right] on the river 5 gun Boats in sight just below us they fired 3 rounds and Ro. off out of sight but we are looking for them Back 12 o'clock our Pickets reinforced the Regt. strike tents and moved 2 miles higher up the river great confusion in camp Wise Brigade with the Exception of our Regt. ordered below to Reinforce others Continued firing fried churries [cherries] and corn Bread for dinner Jeneral ____¹⁷ passed our camp with 15,000 men.

Sun. June 28 [29]: The 2 days Saturday and Sunday are reversed little Rain some fiting [fighting] the Yankees falling back sound of armies not so Distinct corn Batter cakes for breakfast my cooking.

Mon. June 30: Returned from picket to our new camp bad water without sleeping a wink Deliteful [delightful] morning the most Desperate roaring cannon and small armes constantly without interval the Enemy still retreating close pursued By our men last night they hardly slept at all we exspect [expect] marching orders every minute wee are held in readiness a general inspection in our camp this evening of our camp of guns, amunition [ammunition] Knapsacks and our Balloon up.

July, 1862

Tues. July 1: A Beautiful clear morning Still a fighting I am on camp gard today varous [various] Roomers [rumors] in camp from the battle field the fight is more desperate than yestady if

¹⁵ For clarification, Robert Hicks used the word "clost" many times to mean close.

¹⁶ Chaffin's Bluff sits approximately 7 miles south of Richmond. It was later the site of the Battle of Chaffin's Farm aka The Battle of New Market Heights in September 1864.

¹⁷ The name written here is faded and illegible.

possible, but more distant it was kept up until 10 o'clock P.M. Died tonight about 10 o'clock John Leftwich and J.D. Mays¹⁸.

Wed. July 2: hard rain commenced at day light rained very hard until the middle of the evening very cool and close cloudy orderly Clark and Private Mills returned Sergeant Stone left camp on a discharge [discharge] the 6 or 7 days long fighting have closed at last we have run the Yankees Entirely out of the neighbourhood [neighborhood] of Richmond. Wise's Brig. has Returned.

Thurs. July 3: The morning opens very cloudy and cold dug the graves and buried [buried] in plane [plain] Boxes in the honors of war 16 men with their guns placing me at the head of the line as one of the 16 and we marched close behind the corps at reverse arms when reaching the graves we formed a line long side the 2 graves as they wore [were] lowered [lowered] down we come to a present arms and after they wore [were] let down and covered with some punchin¹⁹ [puncheon] and some brush and ready for the dirt [dirt] then rest on arms put the muzzle on the left toe left hand on the butt [butt] of the gun right hand hold [held] the small of the stock the preacher read sung and prayed a little then we fired 3 rounds and returned Buried near Chafin's gate still carrying our wounded [wounded] and Yanky [Yankee] prisoners from Generals down to privates a great quantity commissary [commissary] clothes cannon and small arms and ammunition horses mules and wagons with losses unknown [unknown] yet one of Capt. Bagby's men fell [fell] from a tree and broke his left Thigh and arm whilst on picket.

Fri. July 4: A clear still and beautiful morning have a bad cough and the doctors prescribed [prescribed] medicine [medicine] for me for the first time report says [says] that Jackson is still in pursuit [pursuit] of the Yankees yet and still sending prisoners but they are out of hearing things very [very] still hardly the sound of a gun to be heard [heard] our little steamer [steamer] Teaser went down the river with a balloon making observations and found but one Yankey [Yankee] boat this side of Old Point there is 138 Yankey officers [officers] in Richmond all prisoners 5 of them Generals 4,300 privates in the last 10 days today's paper responsible.

Sat. July 5: Weather clear and warm things quiet regular [regular] drilling and camp duties as usual William Witt²⁰ in Capt. A. Jordins [Jordan's] Company died and was sent home nothing today worth note.

Sun. July 6: Clear and intensely hot very still morning things quiet nothing worth note.

Mon. July 7: Fine weather the most of our Company went on picket this morning the hottest [hottest] day I have felt this year nothing of note all quiet.

Tues. July 8: A clear hot morning Jas [James] Laughlin came down me and his son [son] met him at Drury Bluff looked around at the beautiful iron battery crossed [crossed] the river at the blockade which they was at work on I toated [toted] a box over to camp for Jack Sled Battalion drill this evening things still nothing exciting.

¹⁸ John Quarles Leftwich, Co I., and James D.K Mays, Co. I., both died of disease 7/2/62 (likely Typhoid)

¹⁹ "Puncheon" is a type wood that has one side cut to be flat. In this case, Hicks likely means that the caskets were closed and covered by a row of puncheon wood.

²⁰ William R. Witt, Co. E., died of disease 7/5/62.

Wed. July 9: Clear and hot 2 men died in our Regt. and Burried here things quiet a Round to day preaching at dusk.

Thurs. July 10: Hot and dry order to move but did not move Drawd [Drew] 4 gal. of whiskey for our company B. Watson and S. Preston went home this morning on a sick furlow [furlough] carried by Jas. Hutson things still and quiet.

Fri. July 11: Clost cloudy and a raining something new plowing corn the first I H.[have] seen since I have bin in camp Mr. Laughlin started home 4 oclock P.M. and still a raining and prospect good.

Sat. July 12: Clear and warm they sent for J.D. Mays' remains but could not move him

Sun. July 13: fine weather yeller Janders in camp moved 1½ miles below within ¾ of a mile of the river good water a plenty wee camped in a field rite in the sun I heard from Jack Sled²¹ at the Chimborazo²² hospitale [hospital] last orders no furlows granted.

Mon. July 14: Clear building arbers [arbors] a varrity [variety] Milk rice unions [onions] and molasses for dinner buildings arbers things still in camp.

Tues. July 15: A beautiful morning diging [digging] rifle pits a detail of 50 men from a Regt. for the fatigue Duty and I for one hat [hate] work a desperate thunder storm very high winds and rain rumerd in camp that all of old Burnsidess' Fleet is advancing up Jamesses [James] River slowly with land fourses [forces] on each side sent all the [sick]²³ off to the hospital.

Wed. July 16: A clear and pleasant morning still carring [carrying] the fatigue work driling and a heavy thunder storm late in the evening things quiet not much excitement in camp rained most all night.

Thurs. July 17: Little cloudy and pleasant and the little birds chirping and singing as tho tha [they] wished for a clear day verry hot the 46th Va. Regt. moved clost to us another verry heavy thunder cloud late in the evening a tremendous rain but no so much wind as before rained most all night.

Fri. July 18: A little cloudy and pleasant raining more or less all day got a man in the gard house thare was a Tennessee Regt. sent down here to help to fority detailed for 3 days 7 cannons reports heard down the river no perticulars [particulars].²⁴ Rec'd of Capt. L.A. Sale 34.00 2 months wages up to the 1 day of July.

²¹ John W. Sledd, Co I. Sledd survived the war.

²²Chimborazo Hospital was a large Confederate military hospital in Richmond, Virginia. Its location surrounding several railroads made it a prime choice to send sick and wounded soldiers for care and treatment throughout the Civil War.

²³ The diary reads "sent all the off to the hospital". The word "sick" seems to fit best into the sentence to fill in the gap.

²⁴ The following part of the July 18th, 1862 entry is part of the separate records Hicks kept with the diary for payments and services.

Sat. July 19: Cloudy and cool I made and Baked some fried pies for dinner Mister George Goode come down to day no rain to day not much excitement [excitement] in camp all quiet.

Sun. July 20: Clear and hot Mr. Goode leaves camp this morning me and Adolphus Goode²⁵ went over to the 2nd Va. heavy artillery [artillery] and spent the day with Kit Clowdis²⁶ and Tom & Sidney Goode²⁷ and seen great many camps close to us there is supposed to be between 75-10000 [7,500-10,000] soldiers [soldiers] within 8 or 10 miles of Richmond we are fortifying all the time with 4 or 5 hundred hands 18 hundred Cavalry [cavalry] past [passed] down on Chickahomany [Chickahominy] on a skirmish [skirmish] and picket.

Mon. July 21: Clear and pleasant Jas. Eubank of this Co. died at the hospital [hospital] last night a rainy evening not much excitement.

Tues. July 22: Cloudy and pleasant Buried Mr. Jas. Eubank²⁸ this morning in the honors of war an escort of 8 armed men under my charge attended the burial with firing near Chafin's gate 4 men sent to the Liberty hospital²⁹ W.H. Fizer carried them poleacing [policing] streets and tents Brigade drill.

Tues. July 23: a little cloudy and pleasant I was sent in charge of 12 men to guard Mr. Baler's premises [premises] on the river one mile below camp I taken dinner with him.

Wed. July 24: Cloudy and warm Rec'd a nice bucket of Buttermilk for our breakfast before we were Relieved at 8 o'clock we Returned to camp Gen. Wise's Brigade is signed to long street division [assigned to Longstreet's division] nothing fresh.

Fri. July 25: a beautiful morning a little picket skirmish hot all quiet to day.

Sat. July 26: Clear and warm a plenty of Beef for the last few days a thunder cloud in the evening hard Rain not much Excitement in camp to day.

Sun. July 27: Clear and hot on guard to day inspection of arms this morning Kit Clowdis come to camp today to see us 2 South Carolina Regts moved in close to us Bought some corn meal.

Mon. July 28: Clear and warm A.P. Hills division has gone to the valley [valley]³⁰ of Virginia to reinforce [reinforce] Jackson drawing Beef. I.N. Clark went home on a sick furlough [furlough] some excitement in camp about movements of our forces.

²⁵ Adolphus M. Goode, Co I. Goode was captured at Farmville 4/6/65 and released 7/1/65.

²⁶ Christopher Clowdis enlisted 3/12/62 as a private. Reenlisted 5/23/62. Died in hospital date circa 1863, date unknown. The 2nd Virginia Heavy Artillery was reorganized in May 1862 as the 22nd Virginia Battalion of Infantry.

²⁷ Thomas P. Goode and Sidney V. Goode (2nd Virginia Artillery) were likely brothers. Both enlisted 1/14/62 at Chesterfield Co. Sidney was arrested, confined, and court marshalled for desertion summer of 1863. Thomas spent time sick in Lynchburg General Hospital and later Chimbarazo General Hospital. He was captured near Farmville 4/6/65 and sent to City Point.

²⁸ James H. Eubank. Co. I, died of disease 7/20/62.

²⁹ Liberty, Virginia was renamed Bedford in 1890 and was the hometown for many in the 34th Virginia.

³⁰ This is likely in reference to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia.

Tues. July 29: a pleasant [pleasant] morning I went to Chafins [Chaffin's] bluff nice situation 3 iron clad Batterys [batteries] there a bout 13 guns in all they was a pratising [practicing] shooting 2 Regt. of light artillery come down to our drill ground to practis [practice] fired several rounds a piece I seen Jim Organ.

Wed. July 30: Cloudy and pleasant Jim taken breakfast with us a heap sick in our company at 7 A.M. rain at 10 A.M. clear wee only muster 40 men Wm. [William] Fizer Returned to camp all quiet.

Thurs. July 31: Cloudy at 8 A.M. Rain all day a bout 1 oclock in the night heavy cannonading was distinctly hearn [heard] in our camp from down the river serposed [supposed] to be the Yanky [Yankee] gun boats no perticulars.

August, 1862

Fri. Aug. 1, 1862: Clot cloudy detailed for gard again the 50th and 51st Georgia regt. moved clot to us the firing last night was our men surprising the Yanky camp they returned a few shots put out their lights and ran off we don't no [know] what damage they Rec'd our los [loss] was 1 kild [killed] 6 wounded by an axcident [accident] of one of their one [own] guns the farmers clot here have bin ordered to get their wheat up and move their property & families looking for a Big fight here.

Sat. Aug. 2: Clear and pleasant things all quiet today Brigade drill this evening.

Sun. Aug. 3: Cloudy and pleasant and general inspection sent 2 more men to the hospittle I went with them and seen the sick went to Chafins [Chaffin's] Bluff Boath Baterys 3 or 4 hundred yas. [yards] apart 5 guns at each place some heavy firing down the river 12 or 15 miles.

Mon. Aug. 4: Cloudy and pleasant on gard a gain to day 2 men in the gard house for inslence [insolence] to their offesers all quiet in camp.

Tues. Aug. 5: Clear and pleasant all of our sergents sick But my self I have to act orderly after coming off gard Brigade drill at 5 P.M. uncommon hot.

Wed. Aug. 6: Clear I struck a drink of whiskey this morning nothing of mutch intrust [much interest] tis reported that the gunboats is coming up the Rivern wee Exchanged 4 thousand Prisoners the exchange was made on Akins farm 5 or 6 miles below here.

Thurs. Aug. 7: Clear all of Capt. Prestons Company is in the guard house for refusing to serve under him any longer the [they] all with drawn their names but 2 and they are still in the gard house the others let out.

Fri. Aug. 8: Clear and hot. Lutenant [Lieutenant] Fellers Returned and has left the Company and is quartermaster for the Regt. his place is to be filled 2 men returned from the Hospittle nothing new in camp all quiet.

Sat. Aug. 9: Clear and hot Sergt. Barber Returned to duty this morning drew some whiskey drawing beef and not salt a nofe [enough] to keep it from spoiling all quiet.

Sun. Aug. 10: Clear and verry hot Some of Longstreet Divission marched to day to Reinforce Jackson at the vally of Va. there [was] preaching in our camp this evening and also hard wind with rain several rumer.

Mon. Aug. 11: Clear and plesant Jackson and Pope is fighting in the valley of Virginia.

Tues. Aug. 12: Clear and hot it is Reported that Jackson has got the enemy a falling Back but no pertickulars given high wind with rain this evening 150 Yanky offersers past our camp this evening an exchange among them 3 generals a cool plesant night.

Wed. Aug. 13: Clear and cool morning some rumer about our having to go down to the river but nothing sertin [certain] Capt. A. Jordan Returned to camp 12 or 15 conscripts the most of them joined his Co.

Thurs. Aug. 14: Cleare a good deal of moving a bout from a round here some talk of our moveing [moving].

Fri. Aug. 15: Clowdy and cool taken all our Rifles away from us and give us muskets elected 3 Leut. to day Corpl. Woolfolk³¹ elected by a large majority.

Sat. Aug. 16: Clowdy and cool nothing new in camp a good deal of traiding [trading] around camp with the the Negroes on Saturday evenings.

Sun. Aug. 17: Clear and cool verry cool nights for this time of year sudenly [suddenly] too H.C. Richardson died Saturday night and Burried to day at Chafins gate wee have 4 men burried at that place Clay was one of our mess mates and had bin all of the time and a good Boy and 2 men that was sent home some time a go died within the last few days John Brown and Albert Nance³².

Mon. Aug. 18: Clear and cool ordered to cook 2 days rashions [rations] and be ready at short notice the day pased of [off] quiet all here yet.

Tues. Aug. 19: Cool and dry yet no orders this morning all the men has left a round here except our Brigade and the men that work the Batterys market wagons every day.

Wed. Aug. 20: Clear and dry nothing of importance to day they are planting more peicies [pieces] on the river.

Thurs. Aug. 21: Clowdy with a little rain cleared off and a thunder cloud in the evening rain in the night the day pased off quiet They put several in the gard house for pulling green corn.

Fri. Aug. 22: Clowdy and raining a fine rain stopt [stopped] at 10 oclock A.M. still fortfyng [fortifying] on the river here all quiet to day.

³¹ William H. Woolfolk, Co I.

³² John W. Brown, Co. I, died of disease 8/12/17, Albert T. Nance, Co. I, died disease 8/62

Sat. Aug. 23: A little cloudy and warm rain in the evening and the best part of the night me and Billie paid 1 dollar a piece for a small chickens 12 ½ cts. [cents] a doz. for irish potatoes 15 cts. a qurt. for Butter milk and 25 cts. for sweet milk and 10 cts. each for tomatoes.

Sun. Aug. 24: Cloudy and cool with rain in the morning clost cloudy and no rain at 10 A.M. nothing of importance to day.

Mon. Aug. 25: a little cloudy and cool sent 2 armed men to Richmond after W. Atkerson³³ [Adkinson] that left camp without a pass and is in prison in Richmond Brout [brought] him in at sundown and put him in the gard house for Trial.

Tue. Aug. 26: Clear and cool fogy [foggy] mornings and nights and hot days. Put Drury in the gard house for treading on a mans heels on drill all quiet to day still planting heavy piecies and morters [mortars].

Wed. Aug. 27: Cloudy and warm reported that Jackson cut old Pope all to piecies got his servant sword and over coat and papers als__³⁴ Reported that the gun Boats was coming up the river But not sertain.

Thurs. Aug. 28: Clost cloudy Col. Daughtery appointed 4 Corpl. [Corporals] the day pased off calm sed [said] to be falce [false] about the gun Boats being in the river.

Fri. Aug. 29: Clear and plesant still working on fortiforcation [fortifications] the papers states all men under 18 years old will be sent home and no more to come and service and various other rumers all quiet in camp.

Sat. Aug. 30: Cloudy and cool Billie reported for duty this morning 2 Yankys passed here last night and was taken up at Marian Hill and sent to Richmond Report ses [says] Jackson was at Manasses [Manassas] Junct. [Junction] and nothing before him to fight day passed quiet.

Sun. Aug. 31: a very hard rain last night and this morning Raining up to 12 oclock cleared off verry warm all quiet.

September, 1862

Mon. Sept. 1: Cloudy and warm Stuart makes another Break out among the enemy with success nothing of importance through the day a very heavy storm wind and rain at dark and night.

Tues. Sept. 2: Clear and cool orders for our Regt. to move this Evening at 2 oclock the Regiment left marched acrows [across] the country a bout 5 miles to throw up fortification left all the sick here which noombers [numbers] 25 3 well men left to cook for them I being out of a spell of sickness and is nocking a bout a right smart the sick was left in my charge Billie went.

³³ Charles W. Adkinson, Co. I, was under arrest 7/62, he deserted on 6/8/63 and again on 8/8/64.

³⁴ Hicks began to write something here, but marked it out.

Wed. Sept. 3: Clear and verry cool I have a verry bad headache last night and this morning Uncle Jim and H. Frizer got here this evening at 1 oclock the [they] stayed all night with me and Brought us a Box of vegetables.

Thurs. Sept. 4: Clear and cool Uncle Jim went down to see Billie this morning and Returned this evening and stayed all night with me again no gard around our camp except at the gard house over the prisoners.

Fri. Sept. 5: Clear plesant I stil [still] feel verry Bad with high fevers on me Uncle Jim went down to see Billie a gain this morning I look for him Back this evening and Billie sent our box to me at the old camp Uncle Jim and Billie come up late in the evening and I opend [opened] the Box all the Bread stuffs pies cakes was spoilt Eggs most all Broak they injoyed [enjoyed] them seles [themselves] with a good many of the Company over thre [there] and it was verry late before went sleep³⁵ I was right sick It cheared [cheered] me to see them enjoy them seles.

Sat. Sept. 6: Clear and plesant mor. [morning] Billie packing things in his knapsack whilst Uncle Jim was waiting on me with my Tea and cracker and then got their Breakfast and Billie had to leave for the Regt. and Uncle Jim mucked a Round and enjoyed him self the bes [best] he could and dunall [done all] he could for me also he started home in the evening reports of victerry [victory] for us.

Sun. Sept. 7: Clear and Butiful [beautiful] day I felt a little better things was all quiet no Excitement.

Mon. Sept. 8: Clear weather I still feel better some ses that our Regt. would move tomorrow But it was all false.

Tues. Sept. 9: It Rained most all day and night the Regt. came in under a heavy³⁶ until they put up they [their] tents.

Wed. Sept. 10: Cloudy and raining of [off] & on all³⁷ and my health still improving thare was another prospect clost of Rain.

Thurs. Sept. 11: Rained all day and all night the men could hardly cook meals the [they] started in the rain and when they got to camp they had no dry clothes the [they] then let the [them] dry on me.

Fri. Sept. 12: Little this But a nice sunshine and the ground dried of [off] verry fast to I hope the weather will continoo [continue].

Sat. Sept. 13: I still feel verry Bad wee moved our camp to day about 100 yds. from the same place.

³⁵ A few words seem to be missing here. It is likely Hicks meant to write "it was very late before I/we went to sleep".

³⁶ A word is missing here. It is likely Hicks meant to write "the Regt. came in under a heavy rain..."

³⁷ A word is missing here. It is likely Hicks meant to write "raining off and on all day..."

Sun. Sept. 14: Pretty fine weather I was no better they sent me to the Hospittle and sent Billie to wait on me my Room is verry comfortable and good Doct.

Mon. Sept. 15: Things passed of [off] easy all the sick is improving in our house the houses Amen

Tues. Sept. 16: I believe that wee are all improving wee get Tea & Bread & Butter for breakfast chicken soop [soup] & Bread for dinner super [supper] the same as Breakfast I get a few peaches.

Wed. Sept. 17: a little milk and mush some times when tho Billie has to make it for me I am still improving.

Thurs. Sept. 18: a Beautiful day and I believe all the sick in this house is improving a little al so [also] in the other Rooms also.

Fri. Sept. 19: Beautiful day and we are still improving most all able to walk work a bout no chicken to day.

Sat. Sept. 20: I am still improving Billie is waiting on me and he is a good nurs [nurse] our Regt. left yestady and al so all General Wises command all garn [gone] to Williamsburg whare they exspect some fighting.

Sun. Sept. 21: I am improveing [improving] a little I have to By [buy] most every that that I Eat since I have bin here.

Mon. Sept. 22: a Butiful [beautiful] morning and I am improveing Billie went down camp this morning. Brought me some irish potatoes and one letter from home and he one from Uncle Jim.

Tues. Sept. 23: nice weather all we sick are improveing some Dr. Murry [Murray] is the finest man I ever saw he comes to see us 2 a day.

Wed. Sept. 24: nice morning all improveing evening cloudy look like rain but no rain tolerable cool.

Thurs. Sept. 25: a nice cool day I think I am still improving but verry slow old tuff [tough] Beef for dinner to day.

Fri. Sept. 26: nice plesant weather 1 man died here last night makes 3 that has died since I bin here I think I am sill [still] improveing Report ses our Regt. is coming to camp.

Sat. Sept. 27: a beautiful morning I seen Charly [Charlie] Andrews this morning and cosen [cousin] Susan Lee is in Richmond I think I am improving sloly [slowly].

Sun. Sept. 28: a nice warm day every thing is mity [mighty] still about here for Sunday I think all of the sick around the hospittle is improveing slowly.

Mon. Sept. 29: a beautiful day I think I am improveing slowly I can walk a bout the house and a little out dowers [outdoors] but verry little.

Tues. Sept 30: a beautiful warm morning hard living here I think all of the sick is improving but verry slow thare was 2 men died at this hospittle one was a Yankey.

October, 1862

Wed. Oct. 1, 1862: Beautiful weather nothing fresh around here the most of the sick is improveing.

Thurs. Oct. 2: A nice warm day no news Billie is with me yet he mos [most] of us are mending but verry slow Dr. Merry [Murray] has bin sick for a weak [week] a fine man.

Fri. Oct. 3: a beautifull warm morning 1 man died here last night this hospittle [hospital] is on Taylor's farm and the overseer commenced sowing wheat he started 2 harrows and a drill after them it looks like home.

Sat. Oct. 4: nice warm weather times dull our diet is verry ruff [rough] coffee and Bread for Breakfast no chicken now meat and corn Bread for dinner tea and tuff Biscuit for supper.

Sun. Oct. 5: a cool morning but a warm day Mr. Goode and Mr. Adams³⁸ called to see me they were going down to the Regt. 1 man died here today Bob Roberts³⁹.

Mon. Oct. 6: nice weather warm days and cool nights I am not improveing any at this time on the Account of my Bowells [bowels] running.

Tues. Oct. 7: a nice plesant morning my Bowells out of **order wee ar [are] sororter [sort of] looking for a board to meet here to morrow for the purpous [purpose] giving fourlowes [furloughs] and transfers and discharges.**

Wed. Oct. 8: nice weather no news thimes [time] is verry dull I feell [feel] about the same no board yet the prospect is dull for fourlowes and transfurs [transfers] and Discharges.

Thurs. Oct. 9: hot and dry weather and Bin so for a long tim [time] the Board met to day down at the 46th Regt. they are exspected here evry [every] day I fee [feel] a little esier [easier] to day nothing interesting around here.

Fri. Oct. 10: Cloudy and a Raining this morning Mr. Cook started home on a Furlough this morning before breakfast cleared and was verry hot in the evening.

Sat. Oct. 11: cold winds verry hard Rain all day untill late in the evening leaves a very cold wind and cloudy I believe I am a little better.

Mon. Oct. 12[13]⁴⁰: cold and a raining hard all day cold under 3 blankets I slept under 3 blankets Bowells still running.

³⁸ Goode and Adams are likely fathers of soldiers of the 34th

³⁹ Robert H. Roberts, Co. G, died 10/8/62 of Typhoid fever

⁴⁰ Here the diary begins a series of dating errors. It seems as though Robert Hicks skipped writing on Sunday, October 12th, 1862. However, he continued on Monday, October 13th, 1862 but wrote it as Monday, October 12th. Hicks continued writing the dates incorrectly through October 16th, 1862.

Tues. Oct. 13[14]: cold and clost cloudy all day and night and Raining most of the timee [time] men all clostly [closely] housed up rained most all night with wind.

Wed. [hursday] Oct. 14[15]: the weather has turned a little warmer clost cloudy this morning with no rain partly clear at 12 oclock the Board met here to day and gave me a 40 days fourlough and a good many others.

Thurs. Oct. 15[16]: Mostly clear with wind no Rain Nothing of importance a round here. I Rec'd my 2 months wages up to the Sept. 1 I am improving verry slow.

Thurs. Oct. 16⁴¹: a beautifull day 1 man died here to day our fourlough come to hand this evening it looks like Rain.

Fri. Oct. 17: a nice warm day and cold nights I started home this morning on a 40 day Fourlough and 14 others left the same hospittle to day started from Richmond at 6 P.M. I was on the road all night landed in Lynchburg at 10 next morning the train run off the tracks.

Sat. Oct. 18: a nice warm day came to New London this evening on a wagon Staid at cosen Beteies [Betty's].

Sun. Oct. 19: a pretty day I got hom [home] this evening horseback.

December, 1862

Dec. 23: Left home horse Back to the watering Branch walked in town taken the train at 5 P.M. landed in Richmond at 3 A.M. taken steem Boat [steamboat] at 10 A.M. Reached Drury Bluff and walked over to Camp Randolph to my Co. in winter quarters spent night.

Dec. 24: Went to the horse pittle [hospital] [aand Reported Returned to camp for duty.

Dec. 25: Christmas morning got several drinks a good Breakfast of Pork Beef sausage Bread and Butter no work But camp gard some of Regt. got drunk several fights no harm Done.

Dec. 26: A prety [pretty] day verry dull day a good many went to Malvin hill 10 miles below here after lead to Exchange for Powder to send home.

Dec. 27: rainy day nothing new in camp to day Billie Laughlin⁴² come to camp and Brought me some sausage.

Dec. 28: Detailed to Report to head Quarters sent with 3 me [men] to a grainory [granary] on Chafins farm slep [slept] on some Raw cow skins and parch corn for super [supper].

Dec. 29: Clear Released at 9 A.M. this morning they commenced afresh on the Breast works this morning on the river.

⁴¹ This is a second entry for Thursday, October 16th, 1862. Hicks likely wrote a second one after realizing the previous entries were improperly dated. The dated entries following this entry are correct.

⁴² There is a James W. Laughlin of Co. E. Billie Laughlin is likely a father or brother of James.

Dec. 30: Cloudy and tolerble [tolerably] warm for the season roal [roll] call last night at 11 oclock to see who they could catch absent.

Dec. 31: Cold and cloudy all day Jeneral inspection of Arms and munitions none of the sentinals [sentinels] are a loud [allowed] to leave the gard house during 24 hours Detail.

1863

Jan. 1: Times dull in camp for a new year clear cold morning some rumeres [rumors] a bout peace.

Jan. 2: Clear and cold Detales [details] heavy for gard and work nothing new to day.

Jan. 3: a little cloudy no rain clear in the evening a great Victory in Town.

Jan. 4: Sunday morning clear clods [clouds] up after sun rise inspection as usual Roal call at 11 oclock last night.

Jan. 5: a Beautiful clear warm morning I am on camp gard I have a verry sore arme from Vaxination⁴³ [vaccination].

Jan. 6: Clear and cold come off gard this morning various rumeres in camp about peace but not confirmed.

Jan. 7: Verry cold and windy on police to day reported that the 46th Regt. are ordered to Richmond for city gard wee signed pay Roal.

Jan. 8: Cold and cloudy Beef verry poor Drill 2 a day Rec'd off to day.

Jan. 9: Clost cloudy and a snowing stop snowing 1 or 2 inches deep Mr. George Goode come to camp.

Jan. 10: Clost cloudy Goode leaves this morning rain all the evening and most all night and roal call.

Jan. 11: Clear and plesant inspection Sunday evening Dress parade all Quiet.

Jan. 12: Clear and plesant nothing new chickens \$1.00 a piece eggs \$1.00 a doz.

Jan. 13: Cloudy and cool Chees [Cheese] \$2.00 per pound Butter \$1.75 and \$2.00 other things in proportion nothing new to day.

Jan. 14: Cloudy at day light clear at noon on gard at Head quarters slept 2 hours cloudy before day and mutch [much] like rain wind verry high.

Jan. 15: Cloudy verty high winds off at 9 A.M met 4 prisoners going to head quarters 2 white men and 2 Negroes put a ball and chain on 1 of the Negroes the Balance in the gard house.

⁴³ Likely a vaccination against smallpox.

Jan. 16: Cloudy windy and a raining verry cold no fresh news afloat.

Jan. 17: Clear and cold 2 men returned to camp went out after meal this evening all quiet in camp.

Jan. 18: Sunday clear and cold inspection preaching in camp dress parade. [All quiet.]⁴⁴

Jan. 19: a little cloudy and verry cold nights various rumers in camp none affirmed.

Jan. 20: Cloudy with a cool brease [breeze] look like snow about night it commenced raining and rained all night.

Jan. 21: Clorst cloudy and raining slightly all day wee had a small mess of Bacon and peas for dinner to day.

Jan. 22: Clorst cloudy with a heavy mist Verry windy the leanest Beef I ever serve[d].

Jan. 23: Cloudy and damp thretning [threatening] rain on camp gard to day 6 prisoners in the gard house no rain slept on a stool an hour all quiet in camp.

Jan. 24: Still cloudy but warm off gard at 9 A.M. no work party⁴⁵ today.

Jan. 25: Clear and warm the usual old transactions as usual.

Jan. 26: Cloudy and warm no rain.

Jan. 27: Cloudy with a little rain roal call at 12 oclock in the day drill 2 a day rained most all night.

Jan. 28: at 7 oclock Roal call clorst [close] cloudy and snowing verry hard it continued all day as clorst as I ever saw it had to cut and toot [tote] woo Ples. Scott⁴⁶ Returned to day to the Co.

Jan. 29: Some wind clouds at sun rise but clear in a few hours wind wee have stoped drawing Beef on the account of it being so poor⁴⁷ nothing but flower [flour] the sorriest kind.

Jan. 30: Clear with slight winds on detail at Head quarters for fatigue in charge of 12 men and 2 wagons.

Jan. 31: Clear and plesant detailed a gain for head quarters but got off all quiet.

Feb. 1.5⁴⁸: Clear and plesant inspection as usual a long walk on the river orders on dress paraid [parade] to give 14 days Furlough to 25 present for Duty.

⁴⁴ The photocopy of the original document cuts off at the beginning of the last sentence. Using the appearance of what is visible and an established pattern, it is likely that the cut-off sentence is the phrase, "All quiet".

⁴⁵ As in a work detail or a group of men given a task of work.

⁴⁶ Likely Samuel P. Scott, Co I., who later died 3/11/64

⁴⁷ "Drawing" beef, bacon, flour, or any other type of food had to do with rations in the Confederate Army.

⁴⁸ It is unknown why Hicks wrote "Feb. 1.5". The correct date is "Feb. 1".

Feb. 2: Clear and pleasant on detail for Head quarters with 10 men repairing yard fences and garden pabins [?] faverable [favorable] news in the papers things quiet in camp.

Feb. 3: Clost cloudy and a snowing verry hard detailed for head quarters in the snow with the same party to get 3 loads of oak wood for the party stoped snowing at 12 oclock windy.

Feb. 4: Clear and cold on detail at Head quarters Seargt. [Sergeant] Clark on a 30 days fourlough as a recruting [recruiting] offerser [officer].

Feb. 5: Snowing very hard until 10 oclock then rain cold with winds all the evening and night the papers speaks of peace.

Feb. 6: Cloudy and a raining rained all day General Wise returned to his head quarters a report of guns and ammunitions ordenance [ordnance].

Feb. 7: Clear cold Big frost various rumers in the papers several victories on our side all quiet in camp.

Feb. 8-9⁴⁹: Clear and plesant 3 men fourloughed home for 15 days on gard at Head Quarters taken Sergt. Wallace's place for him to start home Capt. Price ordered me to take one of the curiers [couriers] to the gard house and gave his horse in my charge.

Feb. 10: Relief of gard prisoner and horse in in charg[e] of them 36 Yankies [Yankees] taken below hear [here] 1 Capt. 2 Liut. [Lieutenant] among them they belong to the 5th Penesilvania [Pennsylvania] Cavl [Cavalry] taken to wise [General Wise's] Head Quarters then sent to Richmond By the 59th VA Regt.

Feb. 11: Cloudy with rain off and on all day drawed a little Bacon ¼ of a pound to a man per day all quiet in camp.

Feb. 12: Clear and windy cool nothing new I got a pass to the Battlefield.

Feb. 13: Clear and cold started Me H. Fizer⁵⁰ and M. Foster⁵¹ 2 hours before day to the 7 Pines Battlefield⁵² neither knew the way wee folered [followed] the breastworks all the way it is a verry low swampy Country some places they could not run the works a cross [across] and wee got in one of them swamps before day whare the timber was cut cross and pile [piled] every way and wee was in the mud and water a[n] hour before we could get a cross got to 7 Pines looked a round seen a great distruction [destruction] of men and horses and army Equipments and 6 miles farther a cross the Chickahominy swamp on the Bridge that McClealan [McClellan] made to bring his fources across on and wee went to the Battle field at Ganes [Gaines] Mill and all over the fighting ground and got dinner at Mr. McGhees and little began thare at Stuarts wee got

⁴⁹ The dates are written next to each other in what seems to be the same diary entry. Hicks likely forgot to write on the 8th and included it in his entry for the 9th.

⁵⁰ Henry A. Fizer of the 34th Virginia Infantry

⁵¹ Unclear which Foster this is, there are 12 listed in the 34th Va Infantry. The only Foster with an "M" in his name is Anson Marion Foster.

⁵² This is a good indication of where Hicks was located at the time. The Battle of Seven Pines was fought at the end of spring in 1862 in Henrico Country, Virginia.

some whiskey see a great destruction there mens skull and jaw bones hanging on the bushes and graves toarn [torn] up the boans [bones] scattered a bout **me plowing up the ___ Back on this side of the river staid all night.**

Feb. 14: Clear Big frost come by the 7 Pines several houses burnt there got back to camp By 12 oclock roal call hungry and tired roat [wrote] a letter in the evening all quiet a bout camp.

Feb. 15: Clowdy and showery all day usual Sunday duty a special despatch [dispatch] came in camp stating 4 of the NorthWestern states has seceded [seceded] from the U.S. and wantes [wants] peace at all hasards [hazards].⁵³

Feb. 16: Clear and pleasant the todays paper affirms [affirms] the yestady's [yesterday's] report men in high spirits about peace Fowloughs.

Feb. 17: Rain clost all day on gard at Head Quarters 6 prisoners in the gard house there H. Wagner and 5 others 4 of which is Bricked⁵⁴ one hour in each day and fed on Bread and water rain all night.

Feb. 18: Clost clowdy Released [Relieved] at 9 A.M. rain clost from noon til night wild sallet⁵⁵ for dinner nothing fresh in the camp today.

Feb. 19: Clost clowdy and raining all day drawing $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pound of Bacon per day and some shugar [sugar] and rice report ses [says] the enemy is landing fources below here at Sufacks [Suffolk] but nothing sertin [certain].

Feb. 20: Clear with light wind all day nothing new in camp to day.

Sat. 21: Clear and pleasant me and 2 others went on the river at drurys Bluff after sallet and seen the iron clad laying at anchor a bove the Blockade Returned to camp found Jas. Laughlin L. Lee and John Jones there all quiet left the same day.

Sun. 22: Commenced snowing in the night snowed all day snow 8 inches deep 3 divisions from Fredericksburg camped on the Petersburg road oposite [opposite] the Bluff Laughlin and Jones left this morning Bad toating [toting] wood.

Mon. 23: Clear and cold on camp gard 13 prisoners 2 turned out this evening slep [slept] all night.

Tues. 24: Clear and pleasant Bought [Bought] a double case silver watch for \$50.00 cash Relieved from gard at 8 A.M. me and J. Sled[d] went Rabbit hunting this evening caught [caught] nothing.

Wed. 25: Clear plesant one of our fowlough men got Back to day snow balling.

⁵³ The news seems to be false. No states seceded from the Union after 1861.

⁵⁴ The meaning of the "bricked" prisoners is unknown.

⁵⁵ A Southern style of cooked green foods.

Thurs. 26: Cloudy little rain the other 2 fourloughed men got Back Bacon rice and light Bread.

Fri. 27: a little cloudy Little rain last night very warm to day and muddy [muddy] Do [due] for dinner 2 Conscrips [conscripts] come to our Co. from Franklin.

Sat. 28: Cloudy with some rain Jeneral [General] inspection very muddy.

March, 1863

Sun. 1: Cloudy no inspection this morning clear at noon Leut. Woolfolk started home on a 7 day's fourlough no Dress parade this evening nothing new.

Mon. 2: Clear plesant looking for fourloughs all through the Regt. all quiet.

Tues. 3: Clear little cool Cor. Gibbs Lt. Foster and J. Hardy started home on 7 days I was working on the pay roal to day.

Wed. 4: Cloudy cool a nice pot of Bacon and sallet for dinner A.C. Daugherty M. Foster and J. Fisher started home on 7 days fourlough all quiet in camp.

Thurs. 5: Clear and cool on gard at Head Quarters 9 prisoners in the gard house and they had to work in the garden Slep [Slept] half the night.

Fri. 6: Cloudy and cold went in the garden ½ past 7 A.M. Relieved ½ past 8 then my cook day one non-corn offercer⁵⁶ from each company to drill the conscripts in each co.

Sat. 7: Cloudy and cold drawing close [clothes] in the regt. ___ evening Jen-poleasing [general policing] drawing ¼ of a pound of Bacon per day shugar the same flower one pound.

Sun. 8: Cloudy and raining no inspections wind H. A. Wise Jr.⁵⁷ preaches in our chapel to day at 11 A.M. the rain stoped at 8 A.M dressprade [dress parade] Eubank taken sick suddenly.

Mon. 9: Clear and plesant Seargt. Boswell drilling the conscripts dressprade this evening orders sed [said] that wee should drill 2 a day and dressprade each evening.

Tues. 10: Clost cloudy and hailing and raining [raining] Leut. Sergt. Clark Privat [Private] Kenedy and Lowery come in this morning Billie Laughlin and Ballow left this morning on a sick fourlough for 30 days.

Wed. 11: Cloudy and rain clear at noon on H. Quar. gard 10 prisoners in the gard house Wagerner and too [two] others was relieved this evening one man detailed out of each Co. tend the general garden H. Fizer from our Co. Corp. Gibbs and H. Foster come in.

⁵⁶ Non-commissioned officer

⁵⁷ A son of General Henry Alexander Wise of the Confederacy.

Thurs. 12: Clear and cold slept one hour last night 2 more prisoners sent off Relieved at 9 A.M. Co. drill 2 a day dressprade each evening M. Foster come in J. Hardy and Corp. Daugherty come in.

Fri. 13: Clear and cold 8 furloughs come in for our Co. nice Bacon flower and shugar.

Sat. 14: Clear and cold Leut. Bird[,] J. Haskins J. Hudson A. Kenerday [Kenedy] G. Jones G. Hogers [Hodges] J. Huddleston E. Harris started home on a 7 days furlough.

Sun. 15: Cold cloudy inspection this morning dressprade at ½ P. 5 P.M. [5:30] all quiet.

Mon. 16: Cold and cloudy on head Quart. gard 5 prisoners the old Negro left his master came after him slept ½ the night all Quiet in camp.

Tues. 17: Clear Big frost Relieved 8 ½ A.M. drill in the evening dressprade also.

Wed. 18: Clear and plesant fighting on the raprahanock [Rappahannock] nothing fresh a round camp.

Thurs. 19: Clost cloudy snowing slightly off and on snow near all night severa [Several] in. [inches] deep.

Fri. 20: Snowing at full spead [speed] at light snowed all day the snow is 15 inch deep whare it did not melt as it fell.

Sat. 21: Clear and plesant general though on gard at H Quarter 5 prisoners in gard house slep [Slept] several hours need.

Sun. 22: Clear snow melting most all off Relieved 8 ½ A.M. cloudy and cool at eve.

Mon. 23: Clear all quiet in camp verry muddy.

Tues. 24: Cloudy with some Rain one man come in J. Hudson Rec'd a Box from home.

Wed. 25: Clear and warm Leut. Bird and 6 more come in this morning all quiet in camp.

Thurs. 26: Clear and plesant 6 men started home on 7 days furlough R. Lile [Lyle] A. Mitchell P. Overstreet S. Overstreet, H. Overstreet B. Kesler, and D. Mcghee [McGhee] on detail home the 17[th].⁵⁸

Fri. 27: Clear and plesant H. Fizer come in corn Bread and potatoes for dinner.

Sat. 28: Cloudy with rain/wind⁵⁹ all quiet in camp on camp gard 5 prisoners in gard house rained all day slep 2 hours at night.

⁵⁸ It is possible Hicks believed he would be home on the 17th the following month. However, he did not receive a furlough and remained with his company.

⁵⁹ In this entry, Hicks placed a line after "with" and before "wind", and wrote "rain" in between the two words. Either he meant to write "cloudy with rain and wind", or he meant to write "cloudy with rain" and not "cloudy with wind".

Sun. 29: Clear and cold windy inspection gard relieved at 9 A.M.

Mon. 30: Clear and plesant n poliece [police] general camp inspection to day all quiet.

Tues. 31: Cloudy and rain all last night and to day until 12 oclock to day verry damp and wett.

April, 1863

Wed. 1: Clear and cold a nice pot of Beanes [beans] for dinner on a regler [regular] detail for wood Chopping for the Regt.

Thurs. 2: Clear and plesant thare was a bread riot in Richmond By the femails [females] of the place.⁶⁰

Fri. 3: Cloudy and windy and cold B. Kesler come in from home General Brig. revue [general brigade review] By Gen. Elsy⁶¹ [Elzey]

Sat. 4: Cloudy and cold winds chopping wood snow and Rain all night verry cold J. Hardy went home on a 7 days furlough.

Sun. 5: rain and snow Toms and H. Overstreet Bob Lile [Lyle] A. Mitchell came in S. [sick] Overstreet sick home.⁶²

Mon. 6: Holyday⁶³ cold windy all quiet.

Tues. 7: Clear and plesant I went to Richmond an[d] asses [assess] whiskey 50 and 75 cts. [cents] per drink.

Wed. 8: Clear and plesant our Regt. under marching orders and starts at 8 A.M one days rasions [rations] cooked and 4 days in the wagons started down the river marched hard all day struck camp at 5 P.M. marched 20 miles laid on the ground feet all Blistered on our way to Wm. Burg [Williamsburg].

Thurs. 9: Clear and frost marched at 7 A.M. Marched hard all day crosed the Chickahomany [Chickahominy] river at noon in wagons all Wises [Wise's] Brigade 26 miles this side of Wm. Burg struck camp at 7 to night now for cooking went to sleep at 12 on the ground.

Fri. 10: Clear and pleasant started this morning at 8 I am on gard near wagon gard marched within 7 miles of Wm. Burg. struck camp give out 2 days rassions [rations] to be cooked

⁶⁰ The Richmond Bread Riots were led by Mary Jackson on April 2, 1863. The riots involved mostly armed women that allegedly stole thousands of dollars worth of food and merchandise. No one was killed during this incident and the militia was called in to restore order.

⁶¹ The closest match to the records of Confederate generals is Major General Arnold Elzey.

⁶² Appears to be George W, Toms, Henry Overstreet, Robert G. Lyle, and possibly B.A. Mitchell, all solders in the 34th Virginia Infantry.

⁶³ Some research shows that the previous day, April 5th, 1863, was Easter Sunday. However, it is curious that Hicks made no mention of it on the actual holiday and proceeded to mention it on the following day. It is possible he was required to work on Easter Sunday and was given the following day on the 6th off from duties. As far as whether Hicks meant that it was a "holy day" or a "holiday, it is unknown, but either one seems to suffice in this particular case.

mediately [immediately] roads Bad wagons stalling mens feet Blistered I set on gard until 10 oclock sleped 2 hours marched at 2 oclock gard Broak [broke] up wee got in sight Wm. Burg at day light⁶⁴

Sat. 11: then our Regt. formed a line of Battle and went in to the town at duple [double] quick the picket pased [paseed] a few shots the Yankies fell back a mile or 2 to thair [their] Batterys [Batteries] wee stoped and they Began to shel [shell] us the shot and shell fell all around us then our artillery opened on thair Battery and had clost fire for an hour or too [two] they killed 5 of the horses and woounded 3 men dont no [know] what harm wee did them wee then fell Back this side of town a mile to draw them out of the fourts [forts] the 59th Regt. got in their rear then wee started Back to help them out they cut thair way through take and Brought a long [along] 20 prisoners 10 or 15 horses they taken a camp distroid [destroyed] every thing they could killed a good many horses Paroled a good many of prisoner that was sick wee met them in the town then wee all fell back 3 miles and camped layed out with out any Bedding Bagage wagons caught up late in the night the Yankies have Reinfosed [reinforced] largely.

Sun. 12: Clear and plesant still in camp I dont no [know] what wee will do Preaching in camp at 10 A.M. strong Picket duty orders to be ready to march at a minutes warning staid here all night a little rain.

Mon. 13: Cloudy and warm halling [Hauling] in forage moving sitersens [citizens] and plunder out of the sity [city] a good many negroes found hid [hiding] a bout town Brought them out hawling [hollering] from the sity all day sent the prisoners 12 or 18 to the rear expected [expected] to be attackted [attacked] this evening the out side pickets shooting at each other some sending every thing Back to the rear the sitersins [citizens] moving out as fas [fast] as they can the Yankies would not let them be all quiet in camp through the night.

Tues. 14: Clear a little cool our Co. started on picket at day break on the out line near York River⁶⁵ heavy cannonading towards Sufac [Suffolk] Sitersins still moving out to day a negro man past in sight of us wee halted him and he ran wee shot at him 5 times But missed him he got a way went towards the Yankees pickets and wee could not follow him set up all night no sleep verry cold.

Wed. 15: Cloudy rain all day relieved at 10 oclock Returned to camp in mud and Rain a strond [strong] gard in Williams Burg all the time rained until dark all wet slep in our wet close [clothes] on the ground stoped rain at dark sleped all night Bought a hog and had some shote⁶⁶ [shoat]

Thurs. 16: A little cloudy and plesant our Co. and 4 others went down in town whilst the wagons was halling food from below thare towards James Town and some moving out stayed thare until 2 oclock marched Back to camp and started all except the cavary [cavalry] and pickets and they was moved a little Back Camped at the same place wee left on Friday last before day at the 6

⁶⁴ The entry continues, but the date changes to April 11th, 1863.

⁶⁵ The York River is to the northeast of Williamsburg, Virginia.

⁶⁶ "Shoat" is a young pig.

miles ordinary⁶⁷ [ordinary] 6 miles from Williams Burg Rested the night all passed off quiet to day and night.

Fri. 17: Clear and pleasant still to day no marching to day without further orders all quiet through the day and night drew Beef.

Sat. 18: Clear and Beautiful morning Sergeant Clark sick and sent to a private house all Quiet in camp heavy cannonading down blow [below].

Sun. 19: Clear and pleasant our company goes [goes] out on picket 2 miles below camp got a nice mess of fish and corn Bread for dinner set up all night little rain before day.

Mon. 20: Started to camp at sun rise we moved at 8 A.M. marched 13 miles camped at Diaston Bridge⁶⁸ rainy evening and night Col. Goode come to us this morning.

Tues. 21: Cloudy wind misting rain on guard staid hear [here] all day no picket plenty of shod⁶⁹ and herren [heron] all quiet in camp.

Wed. 22: Clear and pleasant guard Relieved at 8 A.M marched this evening at 2 come to Chickhomany [Chickahominy] 10 miles camped at widdow [widow] Christians mill staid all night.

Thurs. 23: Commenced raining before day started from camp at 8 rained very hard til [until] after 12 o'clock we all got soken [soaking] wet marched 12 or 15 miles and camped slept in our wet clothes waded ponds [ponds] and creek some waist [waist] deep.

Fri. 24: Cloudy with frequent showers started from camp at 7 A.M. very muddy waded mud holes and creek all very tired and stiff marched to camp 12 or 15 miles By 12 o'clock all glad to see old camp once more a good many men complaining they had Beans [beans] corn Bacon for dinner light Bread and Butter for supper.

Sat. 25: Clear and pleasant on detail for wood chopping all quiet in camp.

Sun. 26: Clear and pleasant Roal call 5 times each day inspection and dress parade W. Horris [Harris] returned to ranks. J. Elliott [Elliott] takes his team [team] I am very unwell.

Mon. 27: Clear Company drill at 10 A.M. J. Hogan started home on a 7 days furlough.

Tues. 28: a little cloudy no rain S. Overstreet come in this morning W. Fizer come Back a few days before we got Back they had Brigade drill this evening.

Wed. 29: Clear pleasant commenced digging wells in camp for the summer.

⁶⁷ An ordinary was an inn or a tavern. In this instance, Hicks is referring to the Six-Mile Ordinary, which was a tavern located just six miles away from Williamsburg. The tavern was used as a gathering place in the 1770s to establish the James City Resolves, which refused importing British goods. It was later used for a gathering to declare support for American Independence. The building stopped operating as a tavern shortly after the Civil War and was converted into a general merchandise store.

⁶⁸ Refers to Diastond Bridge which is in present day Toano, Virginia.

⁶⁹ "Shod" seems to be in reference to the availability of shoes, both for men and horses.

Thurs. 30: Clear general inspection answer to pay roals under martching [marching] orders.

May, 1863

Fri. 1: Bell Davis' Brother come to this company yestady clear plesant 50 men sent down the river from each Regt. to tair [tear] up the warfs [wharfs] Shod woarth [worth] 1.00 [\$1.00] each heren [heron] 1.00⁷⁰ per Doz all quiet.

Sat. 2: Clear and warm Capt. Fellers got Bit By a horse not dangerous all quiet.

Sun. 3: Clear plesant Capt. Hurts [Hurt's] Co. come Back and started after the Regt. to night.

Mon. 4: Clear warm excitement 6 or 8 thou. [thousand] Yankee cavelry cut off By Gen. Lee. they are trying to get out they have bin [been] in sight of Camp Lee business all closed in Richmond the siterzens [citizens] under arms.

Tues. 5: Hevy [heavy] rain in the evening and night the Yankee cavalry made their way down towards Williams Burg no mail hear [here].

Wed. 6: Clowdy and cool wind with showers.

Thurs. 7: Clowdy and cool no mail nor papers in our camp J. Hogan and his Brother and young Harris came in the latters was recruits.

Fri. 8: Clowdy and cool Capt. Fellers started home this evening Wm. [William] Whitlow went to the Brig. [Brigade] Hospital.

Sat. 9: Clear and cool with winds no news.

Sun. 10: Clear and warm the Regt. came in this evening Leut. Woolfolk come in and Jim Hardy.

Mon. 11: Clear and hot the papers Reports General Jackson is dead⁷¹ great loss.

Tues. 12: Clear and warm all quiet.

Wed. 13: Clear and warm sent out in charge of a squad of 5 men on picket 3 miles below all pas [pass] of [off] quiet.

Thurs. 14: Clear got a plenty of letters milk \$1.00 per gall. [gallon] Relieved at 9 oclock election for 3 [3rd] Leut. in our Co. Seargt. Clark and Seargt Barber the canerdates [candidates] Clark beat Barber only 1 majority Barber now first seargent, mee the second.

Fri. 15: Clear and plesant on Head Quarters gard no prisoners thare move.

Sat. 16: Clear come off gard at 9 A.M. all quiet in camp.

⁷⁰ The only part of the numbers visible is "1.0". The rest of the number has fallen off the page and is therefore incomplete. Based off an earlier entry, the number is likely "1.00"

⁷¹ General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson died on May 10th, 1863 due to complications after being wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Sun. 17: a beautiful day dressprade [Dress parade] in the eve at 6 oclock.

Mon. 18: Clear plesant drill at 10 A.M. Co. drill at 4 P.M. Battalion drill Roal call 5 times a day little or no news a bout the movements of the different Armies Capt. Davis died late this evening with the Remittent Fever he was Commissary Capt. For this Regt. a nice man.

Tues. 19: Clear plesant no drill this morning on Account of Capt. Davis death Leut. Beard is sick but is mending slowly.

Wed. 20: Clear and dry Co. drill at 10 A.M. Battalion drill at 4 P.M. Roal call at 9 at night The same a [at] 4 ½ in the morning each day.

Thurs. 21: Clear and warm nothing fresh except news papers Reports.

Fri. 22: all quiet in camp as usual.

Sat. 23: Marching orders last night at dark cooked most all night started at 4 A.M. Martched [Marched] to Richmond By distance of 7 miles only left 8 sick in camp from our Co. the Balance all went wee took the York River railroad to the Permonkey⁷² [Pamunkey] River 10 miles landed at 11 ½ A.M. and now laying on the River Bank old Sesesh⁷³ an old dog belonging to our Regt. followed us to Rich. [Richmond] failed to get on the train showed his friendship towards us By running him self most to death to keep up with us which he did he was in our midst by the time wee was in line wee layed out on the ___⁷⁴[ground] at the white house clost to the depot stayed all night the wagons.

Sun. 24: Got here to day at 12 oclock clear and verry hot wee are within 8 or 10 miles of West Point and the Yankees pickets half way between plenty of fish of all kinds turned cold in the _____⁷⁵ and cloudy [cloudy]

Mon. 25: holyday⁷⁶ windy cloudy and cold on gard to day at Camp misting rain firing a bout West Point letter this evening 9 Slept a good nap during the night.

Tues. 26: Cloudy still cool The Regt. sent out pickets to different places our co. left has the Yankees shelled around a little but would not come out our men came.

Wed. 27: Cloudy and cool yet nice day the Yankees shelling a bout a little trying to find us our men came in at sundown all but the pickets a plenty Fish.

Thurs. 28: Mostly clear Warm sent out Fishing parties for the Brig. and salting them all Quiet to day.

⁷² The Pamunkey River is a tributary of the York River in Virginia.

⁷³ Sesesh was a common nickname for Confederates during the war. It is short for secessionist.

⁷⁴ The word after "layed out on the..." is missing. "Ground" is the most likely word to fit in the sentence.

⁷⁵ Word is missing. Likely he meant to write "afternoon" or "evening"

⁷⁶ It is unclear whether he means "holiday" or holy day" and what that day might have been.

Fri. 29: a little cloudy warm our Co. and Capt. Fellers Co. started at 12 o'clock for Glens Buff 7 or 8 miles below on the river 3 or 4 miles of the way was the roufest [roughest] country wee had to march single file over bluffs and swamps reached Glens Bluff at 5 P.M. and struck camp.

Sat. 30: Cloudy some showers 4 piecies of light artilery here no heavy I am on picket down the river ther is the hardest looking place wee have stoped at yet 4 Companies come down to New Kent C.H. and 2 at the White house and 2 hear [here] all quiet hear.

Sun. 31: Clear and plesant I am Relieved at 8 A.M. Rec'd a letter from my brother yestady [yesterday] and he is at home after a nother horse all Quiet here.

June, 1863

Mon. 1: Clear and warm Got a lief [leave] of absence to day and went By New Kent C.H. and up the White House payed 10 cts. each for fish hooks.

Tues. 2: Clear on picket nothing to eat hear [here] but meat and Bread Misquiter [Mosquitos] and gnats are Bad hear cloudy at and showery all night the Yankees leave West Point.

Wed. 3: Cloudy little rain relieved at 7 A.M. I seen 3 young Ladies wee taken a good ride in a Canoe up and down the river.

Thurs. 4: Clear and plesant no change of clothes With mee I had to pull off my shirt and was it in the river in cold water and go without until it dried marching orders this evening 4 days cooked rashins one Blanket no more.

Fri. 5: Clear and warm formed a line at 7 A.M. to go down York River to serpate [separate] artillery orders countermanded then sent out the pickets a gain [again] at 1 P.M. started at 2 ordered to meet the Regt. at the White House wee got thare 10 mils [miles] the Regt garn [gone] on orders to come on as soon as possible wee crossed the river in to King William Co. [County] pushed on to Lainsville [Lanesville]⁷⁷ 5 miles stoped to get some water and it was sundown then on 7 miles farther to the Regt. within one mile of the Matterperoni [Mattaponi]⁷⁸ River the Yankees passed on down in their Boats a shelling as they went wee was ordered to get over the fence in a pine thicket and take a nap without taking any thing wee had Blankets but could not use them it was 10 or 11 when wee stoped at 12 wee had to get up and started back wee got back to Laynesville and stoped until day.

Sat. 6: Clear and plesant started at 10 and reached the White House a bout 12 rested all the evening and drawed money this evening wee met the old 46th at Laynesvill all come back together they went on down whare wee came from all quiet here.

⁷⁷ The "Lainsville" that Hicks refers to here is the small area of Lanesville in King William County, Virginia, which is near Williamsburg and the York River.

⁷⁸ "Matterperoni" seems to be the spelling used by Hicks. The closest match near the York River is the Mattaponi River, which connects to the York River. The Mattaponi River has also been known by several names over the years, which could explain the differences in spelling.

Sun. 7: Clear and pleasant Am still at the white house yet me and Jack got a pass and crossed the river and got some milk and Corn Bread.

Mon. 8. Clear and pleasant we got marching orders a little before day and after we formed a line to start the order was countermanded.

Tues. 9: Clear they sent 2 pieces of heavy guns 12 horses to a piece sent them on the river below here we are here yet.

Wed. 10: Clear Marching orders this morning at 3 o'clock all packed ready to start but it is 10 and we are here yet waiting for a dispatch from Richmond started at 12 Reached Laynesville at 2 5 miles our Co. and 5 others camped here 2 Co. went a little farther and 2 stayed at the White House we camped in the woods I am on acting orderly Sergt. rested fine at night.

Thurs. 11: Cloudy and warm Cleaning out Camp drew 5 days rations corn meal ½ pound Bacon per day sugar and rice I went to the mill for washing orders at sundown to cook [cook] 1 days rations and in 2 hours ordered to cook 2 more and be ready [be read] to march at a moments warning started at day Break reached the white house [house] at 5 ½ A.M Stopped there got on the train [train] at 10 got to Richmond at 1 Reached camp Randolph at sundown Slept in our old Bunks once more.

Fri. 12: Clear and warm our Baggage [baggage] has [hasn't] come in yet.

Sat. 13: Clear the Yankees on the Chickahominy the 59th Regt. had a little skirmish with them and fell Back to Chafins farm our Baggage come in this evening Sergt. Barber with it all quiet.

Sun. 14: Cloudy and cool on guard at Head quarters 2 North Carolina Regt. passed down below our camp General Wise is sick.

Mon. 15: Clear Relieved at 8 A.M. 3 prisoners 2 from Co. D 4 Regt. Yankee Co. drill A.M. Battalion [Battalion] at 5 P.M.

Tues. 16: Clear drew 5 days rations Meal and Bacon 5 went Battery in our __.⁷⁹

Wed. 17: Clear and Dry G. Hagers Started home on a 10 days furlough.

Thurs. 18: Clear and warm Reports say [says] ources captured the 59th starts Back on the Chickahominy all quiet in camp.

Fri. 19: A fine rain last night and this morning clear and pleasant and 12 to day a digging [digging] wells in our camp.

Sat. 20: Clear and pleasant I saw a man tied [tied] to a stake and shot at Chafins Bluff a squad of 12 men shot 8 Balls and 4 without Killed for substituting [substituting] and Deserting [deserting] 2 he was a fine healthy looking man they said he had fought through 7 Hard Battles bad sight.

⁷⁹ The last word of the entry seems to be cut off.

Sun. 21: A little cloudy and pleasant Mr. Gerge [George] Goode came down this evening a little rain.

Mon. 22: Clear and pleasant all quiet in camp Mr. Goode went home this morning.

Tues. 23: Clear and pleasant on camp guard to day General inspection.

Wed. 24: Clear and pleasant Released [Relieved] at 8 ½ A.M. Rain evening and night all quiet in camp.

Thurs. 25: Cloudy and showery drawing clothing.

Fri. 26: Showery drawing corn meal and Bacon a plenty and rice and sugar.

Sat. 27: drizzly [drizzly] but pleasant Leut. Beard and Thos. [Thomas] Dooly Returned to the Company.

Sun. 28: Still cloudy 2 wells of good water in camp I went a foraging [foraging] to day.

Mon. 29: Rainy I plaited⁸⁰ and made me and nice wheat straw hat in 2 ½ days.

Tues. 30: Raining [Raining] General inspection all quiet.

July, 1863

Wed. 1: Rain Brought 1 artillery and placed [placed] them in the Redoubts around Chafins farm.

Thurs. 2: Cloudy no rain Col. Hagers come in day before yesterday.

Fri. 3: Pleasant on guard gardening and partake potato

Sat. 4: Clear Relieved at 9 A.M. went Bathing 5 Sargt. [5th Sergeant] Wallis Appointed [Appointed] first Sargt. A. L. Daugherty 5 Sargt. J.A. Hardy 4 Corporal [Corporal].

Sun. 5: Clear pleasant Co. inspection.

Mon. 6: Cloudy rain all⁸¹ the evening Genl. Lee's forces [forces] in Maryland [Maryland] and Penn [Pennsylvania].

Mon. 6:⁸² Cloudy a big meeting at the 26th Regt.

Tues. 7: Rain we can't go out of sight of camp without a pass now.

Wed. 8: Cloudy with rain I made Billie a nice straw hat great excitement in Richmond.

Thurs. 9: Clear on guard to day at Pearmans.

⁸⁰ To plait or to braid.

⁸¹ Hicks wrote the word "all" twice in a row.

⁸² Hicks made two entries for July 6th, 1863.

Fri. 10: Clear and warm old gard Releaved at 8 ½ [A.M] the papers sed that Vicksburg⁸³ fell in the hands of the Yankees on the 4 of this month and wee recaptured New Orleans.

Sat. 11: Clear and hot I went a Bathing in J. River [James River] wee cant go out of sight of camp without a pass.

Sun. 12: A little cloudy wee got martching orders this morning.

Mon. 13: hear yet rain wee ar [are] ready at a moments warning Clear in the evening.

Tues. 14: Cloudy with showers drawed flower [flour] quite a treat sumplins [Dumplings] for Dinner Strict orders in Camp.

Wed. 15: Cloudy and hot. S. Jeter sent to Brig. Hospital.

Thurs. 16: Cloudy I am on gard at Jones' Garding cannon.

Fri. 17: Come off of gard Cloudy but no rain a nice mess of sallet parsley and other grass for dinner.

Sat. 18: Cloudy cool some rain more sallet [salad?] for dinner a Big meeting at 26 Regt. for 3 or 4 weeks

Sun. 19: Clear and warm inspection I went to a Baptising [Baptizing/Baptism] at the river at 5 P.M. and there was 24 Baptized. H. Heavener come Back yestady to the Camp.

Mon. 20: Clear and warm heavy fogs in morning.

Tues. 21: Clear and warm still under martching orders though all quiet in camp.

Wed. 22: Cloudy and cool W.E. Lowery transferred to Capt. A. Jordan's Co.

Thurs. 23: Clear and plesant rain at night fall at Fort Hudson all quiet in camp no Yankees in the Peninsula.

Fri. 24: Clear and warm I am on gard down at the Joneses garding Command.

Sat. 25: Clear and warm relieved at 9 A.M. all quiet in camp.

Sun. 26: Clear and warm inspection morning 2 to Baptising [Baptizing] 14 soalgers [soldiers] Baptised.

Mon. 27: Plesant a protracted meeting in our Regt.

Tues. 28: Clear and warm Brigade drill 2 a week at 4 ½ P.M.

⁸³ The capture of Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4th, 1863 was a decisive victory for the Union. It effectively ended Confederate control of the Mississippi River and cut off the western states from the eastern theater of the war.

Wed. 29: Cloudy with some rain Leut. Beard start home on a 30 days furlough sick.

Thurs. 30: Clear warm all all quiet in camp.

Fri. 31: hot and dry Joe Robertson went home on a 7 days furlough.

August, 1863

Sat. 1: Clear and hot on gard at out post Couldn't sleep for mosquitoes

Sun. 2: hot Relieved at 9 ½ [A.M.] Mr. Goode and Clinkinpeel⁸⁴ came down.

Mon. 3: hot and dry all quiet Mr. Goode started home.

Tues. 4: Clear and hot Brig. drill nothing new.

Wed. 5: Leut. Clark went home as recruiting officerser [officer] for 15 days.

Thurs. 6: Clear and warm gun Boats come up the river wee drove them Back.

Fri. 7: Clear and hot drill.

Sat. 8: Clear and hot I Went after vegetables and Bathing.

Sun. 9: Hot and dry I am on gard at Pearmans.

Mon. 10: Returned from gard at 9 A.M. hot and dry.

Tues. 11: hot and dry I went a Bathing wee are throwing up Breast works clost our camp 20 men from our Co. each day.

Wed. 12: all quiet [last night⁸⁵] thunder storm and Rain. .86

Thurs. 13: A fine rain in the evening Co. drill.

Fri. 14: Clear and plesant Joe Robertson came in to day on a 7 day furlough.

Sat. 15: Clear and plesant I went a Bathing.

Sun. 16: Clear and hot on gard at the canon the thes [these] misquiter [mosquitos] so bad wee could not sleep. L. Stclair [St. Clair] on fourl. [furlough].

Mon. 17: Clear and plesant and Relieved at 10 A.M. Cannon brought in to camp.

⁸⁴ There are six Goodes listed in the 34th. Mr. Goode may refer to one of their fathers. There is listed a G. W. and William T. Clingenpeel in the 34th.

⁸⁵ The August 12th, 1863 entry is faded. The words after "all quiet" are almost entirely illegible, but the words "last night" seem to fit best.

⁸⁶ The last portion of the entry is illegible.

Tues. 18: Clear and warm Brigade drill still working on the fortifications [fortifications] and sowing turnips for the Regt.

Wed. 19: Clear and pleasant Rec'd orders on dress parade for 1 to every 25 granted 7 days furloughs.

(X⁸⁷) Thurs. 20: Clear cool nights N.M. Brown started home on a 7 days furlough.

(X) Fri. 21: Clear and warm A. Whitlow started home on a 7 days.

Sat. 22: Clear and hot Still (X) times in camp drill regular and work. Leut. Clark come in with one Recruit Mr. Harris.

Sun. 23: Very warm and dry.

Mon. 24: Clear and cool and dry.

Tues. 25: Cloudy cool and dry on guard at the guns.

Wed. 26: Cloudy and cool no rain (X) Billie Hicks started home on a discharge I was Relieved and went with him to Richmond L. St. Clair came in on furlough.

Thurs. 27: Cloudy and cool Whit and (X) Jack Atkerson come and went in the guard house looking for marching orders.

Fri. 28: Clear at 2 o'clock A.M. we got marching orders had no time to cook we packed [packed] up and started at 3 before day to Richmond. We got to Rockets at day then turned to the right and went down to 7 pines about 4 or 5 miles and stopped our wagon. Come up in the evening stopped on the Breast works in the field no shade staid all night yankees falling back towards Wm. Burg [Williamsburg].

Sat. 29: Cloudy marching orders started at 12 o'clock and marched to Bottoms Bridge on the Chickhomany [Chickahominy] a light shower of Rain late in the evening and camped close to the Bridge on this side our Pickets 5 miles the other side the Bridge staid all night in the pines no tents cool wind.

Sun. 30: Clear and cool all quiet a round camp I walked down to the Bridge sorry little Trussel was a little creek very swampy above and Below Here (X) Huddleston started home on a furlough.

⁸⁷ At this point, Hicks starts to place symbols that look like an "X" or a cross either at the beginning of an entry that contains the name of a fellow soldier, or right next to the names within an entry. The symbol seems to represent soldiers that Hicks wanted to remember, including those that died during the war and those that seemed to survive the war. In some cases, the symbol is placed, but no names are present in the entry. If no names are present, it is likely that Hicks wanted to remember those particular dates for personal reasons.

Mon. 31: Cloudy no rain still at the same place all quiet in camp stayed hear all day and all night Yankees has garn [gone] Back to Wm. Burg and wee had general inspection and T. Holdrin [Holdren] (X) was at old camp sick and got a furlough 7 days.

September, 1863

Tues. 1: Cloudy and look like rain at day Break our Regt. started to old camp got thare at noon 15 miles.

Wed. 2: No rain But cloudy.

Thurs. 3: Clear and cool Leut. Woolfolk and H. Kenedy [Kennedy] started home on 7 days furlough. A. Whitlow came in and he sayed [stayed] 4 days over time.

Fri. 4: Clear and plesant Brigade drill as usual all Quiet.

Sat. 5: Clear and plesant started to work on the Breast works a gain as usual.

Sun. 6: Clear and plesant Thar was 45 Baptised this Eve. I went to see them.

Mon. 7: Clear and plesant Batalion drill in eve. R. McClary start home 7 days.

Tues. 8: Clear and plesant Brig. drill and fatigue duty.

Wed. 9: Clear and plesant. (X) H. Huddleston came in.

Thurs. 10: Cloudy and cool (X) N.M. Brown came in to day review [review] drill this evening.

Fri. 11: Cloudy and cool Sargt. (X) W. C. Barbour got a furlough last night and I Releaved him from gard at H. Qts. at dark stayed all night Relieved in due time General revue [review] first as wee got out on the field wee got marching orders be ready at the shortest notice 4 days cooked rashions [rations] Cooking nearly all night.

Sat. 12: Cloudy and plesant Boxed up all the surplous [surplus] Bagage [baggage] and sent it to Richmond Making preparation [preparation] to leave old camp for good a good nights rest.

Sun. 13: Cloudy with little rain looking for a start ever [every] moment Pickets division has come to Relieve us General Wise give [gave] up his large garden to us all and wee are living high and orders on dress Prad. [parade] this evening sed wee was going to South Carolina good nights sleep here (X) Leut. Woolfolk and H. Kenedy come in and goode [Goode] and all our sick went to Richmond Last night.

Mon. 14: (Left Virginia⁸⁸) Clear and plesant looking for a start every moment all ready started at 1 oclock P.M. martched 3 miles to the Richmond and Petersburg Rail Road 8 miles below Richmond and taken the rain at dusk for Petersburg Landed at Petersburg and martched through town to the Weldon depot and slept out in a grass lot slept fine.

⁸⁸ Hicks wrote "Left Virginia" on the side of the page next to this entry.

Tues. 15: Cloudy and pleasant we took the train for Weldon N. Carolina 80 miles Crossed Roanoke [Roanoke] River [arrived] at town at 3 o'clock P.M. a small place of several hundred strong and taken the Wilmington [Wilmington] train at 4 P.M. traveled all night come by Golsbrow [Goldsboro, N.C] a nice little city 81 miles and straight [straight] through to Wilmington 162 miles Crossed Black Water River and Tarr [Tar] River Both [Both] small The poorest forest and swampiest [swampiest] and liveliest [liveliest] I ever saw. A good shower of rain.

Wed. 16: Cloudy reached at 9 this morning Stopped here I went over the town and to the river Cape Fear River navigable for large vessels a nice place and sorry water clear and hot this evening drew 2 days rations Bacon and Crackers Stay all night in some old cabins slept Splendid.

Thurs. 17: Cloudy and raining stopped rain at noon at 4 P.M. we marched to the river one mile and crossed the river on a steam Boat Quantities [quantities] of cotton at the warfs [wharfs] got on the Wilmington Manchester at 7 P.M. our Company out on flats a hard rain got wet [wet] and dark and we 44 miles and 5 Boxes run off the track at 12 o'clock and delayed [delayed] until 8 ½ this morning.

Fri. 18: Crossed the line in South Carolina 64 miles Crossed Pedee [Pee Dee] River Got to Florence at 5 P.M. 105 [miles] from Wilmington then started from Florence at 6 P.M. for Charleston traveled all night on a freight [freight train].

Sat. 19: Landed in the city at 5 this morning a nice large city we can see Yankee gun Boats from the Warf and hear the Reports from the continual firing between theirs [theirs] and ours and see the smoke From Florence to Charleston 104 miles we marched a mile below the depot and staid all night Bacon and Crackers.

Sun. 20: Clear hot days and cold nights I am on guard a round camp we stayed all day and night.

Mon. 21: Clear we were Relieved at 8 this morning and took up line of march passed [passed] through the city a south west course [course] and Crossed Ashland River on a double Wagon Bridge ¾ of a mile long and marched 6 or 8 miles out on Stone [Stone] River and camped in a [an] old field no wood nor water Convenient [convenient] move but Branch water only⁸⁹ 4 tents to a company.

Tues. 22: Cloudy and a little [a little] rain we catch Crabs and Clams and oysters [oysters] out of the marshes heavy cannonading.

Wed. 23: Cloudy and cool drew money and rations to day.

Thurs. 24: Cloudy and pleasant the Boys fishing for Crabs all quiet in our camp But heavy shelling close by.

⁸⁹ Branch water is water coming from either a brook or a stream. What Hicks means is that the company had no extra water to bring with them and had to rely on nearby natural sources.

Fri. 25: Cloudy and looks like rain Co. inspection wee cant Buy nothing to eat hear but seet [sweet] potatoes.

Sat. 26: Clear and warm days and cool nights all quiet.

Sun. 27: Clear and Warm General inspection this morning.

Mon. 28: Clear and warm drill 2 a day Col. Daugherty came from the hospital W.C. Barbour got in camp.

Tues. 29: Clear and very warm Brigade drill on gard at H. Qts. a good house to sleep in to night.

Wed. 30: Clear Released at 9 A.M. inspection and drill clouded [clouded] up in the night and rain all that had no tents got wett [wet] our mess is without any tent or shelter.

October, 1863

Thurs. 1: Cloudy and showery Sargt. W.C. Barbour and Myself run for Leut. and Barbour was Elected By 5 Majority.

Fri. 2: Clear Leut. Beard is come [coming] to the company and is now Capt. Commanding.

Sat. 3: Clear and warm all quiet.

Sun. 4: Clear and warm a slight shelling to to⁹⁰ day nothing fresh.

Mon. 5: Clear and warm I went to Charleston on a pass and parused [perused] the city and enjoyed myself the best I could without cingle [single] Acquaintance every thing very busy.

Tues. 6: Clear and warm days and cool nights.

Wed. 7: Clear and warm cool nights wee are keeping up seven pickets posts a round camp.

Thurs. 8: No change in the weather and no change in camp.

Fri. 9: The weather the same still cannonading hear.

Sat. 10: Clear Tom Haynes come to the Company on guard.

Sun. 11: Clear and warm Relieved at 10 A.M. nothing new.

Mon. 12: Clear and warm H. Overstreet come in and they put him in the guard house and quiet in camp.

Tues. 13: Clear and plesant Brigade drill drawing a small drink of whiskey and to a man each morning Rain at night.

⁹⁰ Hicks seems to have written "to" twice in a row.

Wed. 14: Raining and warm Wee are Building durt [dirt] houses.

Thurs. 15: Still raining and wee are still Building durt houses to stay in.

Fri. 16: Clear and plesant inspection ishuring [issuing] caps and draws [drawers = underwear].

Sat. 17: Clear Me and 4 men got a pass and went up the Railroad 6 or 8 miles and saw a[an] Alegater [alligator] 6 or 8 feet long laying out swimming had no gun.

Sun. 18: Clear inspection I am on camp guard.

Mon. 19: Rain before day all the guard got wet Releaved at 10 A.M.

Tues. 20: Clear and very hot I am on poleace [police].

Wed. 21: all quiet in camp Making preparations for a general Revue.

Thurs. 22: I went to Charleston on a pass and saw them firing the Big gun Clear and warm Returned to camp at sun set got martching orders and cook 3 days Rations as quick as possible.

Fri. 23: A thunder cloud and heavy Rain and still in camp wee went out for Review But it was put off.

Sat. 24: Cloudy and Rainy a very hard thunder storm and heavy Rain.

Sun. 25: Cloudy no Rain cool all quiet in camp.

Mon. 26: Clost cloudy and cold Winds heavy firing.

Tues. 27: Clear and cold General inspection this morning.

Wed. 28: Clear and pleasant F. Holdren come in.

Thurs. 29: Clear and warm General review By Beauregard and staff heavy cannonading.

Fri. 30: Clear all quiet in camp orders to move.

Sat. 31: Clear and warm. Pay Roal inspection By Col. J. Thos. Goode [Thomas Goode].

November, 1863

Sun. 1: Cloudy Company inspection on H. Qts. guard Relieved at sunset on account of moving.

Mon. 2: Clear and warm wee started from camp Wappoo⁹¹ 8 A.M. and landed at Camp Magruder 6 miles west of Camp Wappoo and our Regt. are occupying [occupying] the Negro cabins and out houses on this farm.

⁹¹ Wappoo Creek sit on James Island and connects the Ashley and Stono Rivers.

Tues. 3: Clear and warm A heavy camp guard a plenty Big Rattlesnakes.

Wed. 4: Clear and warm got a pass and went out after sweet Potatoes marching orders last night.

Thurs. 5: Clear still under marching orders but hear yet and ready for a tramp wee stayed all night.

Fri. 6: Clear and warm our Regt. left Camp Magruder for James Island Camped on the Wasser Cut within 1 ½ miles of Charleston Got hear at 2 P.M. o clock.

Sat. 7: Clear and warm the Yankees shelling Fort Sumpter [Sumter] strong wee have a nice camp and tents at las [last] wee are held in Readyness for short notice.

Sun. 8: Clear and very warm Me and 8 or 10 more went in Bathing.

Mon. 9: Clear and pleasant Cool at night frost.

Tues. 10: Cool this morning and frost drill 2 a day.

Wed. 11: Cool and a heavy frost I went in the Island.

Thurs. 12. Clear and warm wee ar [are] under marching orders to go on James Island to Relieve the 46th Regt. of our Brigade. F. Holdren was appointed Corpral [Corporal] in Co. I and the Balance of the No. Com. Offecers [Non-commissioned officers] went up By promotion.

Fri. 13: Clowdy and pleasant tents all struck and a loading for the wagons for the trip all But the sick started at 10 A.M. Martched 5 miles got hear at 1 P.M. and 5 Co. on the Right of the Regt. went down to Fort Johnson and Relieved half of the 40th Regt. and the left camped hear 1 ½ miles from Fort Johnson.

Sat. 14: Clowdy and plesant the 5 left Co.⁹² Relieved the Right 6 ½ AM Me and 7 men detailed for camp ground very Bad water Rain at sun set and turned cool heavy firing.

Sun. 15: Clear and cool I am Relieved at 9 this morning the 5 left Co. will stay out until Tuesday morning.

Mon. 16: Clear and warm I went down to cary [carry] our men thair [their] Breakfast and went down to fourt [Fort] Johnson.

Tues. 17: The Right Releaved us and wee went to work a Round the same day a Regular firing is kept up on fourt sumpter from Battery Grage [Gregg] on the point of Morriss [Morris] Island Battery Simpkins on Grage [Gregg]⁹³

⁹² Hicks means the five companies of soldiers on the left flank of their regiment/brigade.

⁹³ Named after South Carolina Confederate General Maxey Gregg.

Wed. 18: The yankees tried to take sumpter in the night But failed fourt moltry⁹⁴ [Fort Moultrie] shells Morriss Island and the gun Boats when they come in Rainge [range] the [they] keep a continual shelling Backwards and forwards on each other day and night Bad water.

Thurs. 19: Clear and plesant the yankees shelling Charleston from Morris Island without mutch [much] damage.

Fri. 20: Clear and plesant Jack Sled come to camp and him and me went down and saw them shell a while and Simpkins was shelling Moriss Island and wee could see the yankees Run a [at] the crack of our gun and as soon as the shell woud Burst they come to thair work a gain and they Replied to our guns and also a steady fir [fire] on sumpter and they now and then start one to Charleston which was long shooting.

Sat. 21: Wee are under martching orders to leave the Island very windy at noon all packed up and Ready to start orders for furloughs 2 to a company wee started and martched 7 miles and took up camp near our old Wappoo camp got hear at dark the Regt. is all together a gain

Sun. 22: Cloudy and plesant camp Between the Turnpike and the Rail Road tents and flies⁹⁵ up.

Mon. 23: Cloudy and cool and must of [must have] Rain all day and night the 26th Regt. moved clost to us and wee are under martching orders to move Back to camp Magruger [Magruder].

Tues. 24: Cloudy and misting Rain tents all struck and at the Rail Road wee started at 8 A.M. and Reached old camp Magruder at noon and went in our old winter Quarters a heavy guard a Round camp S.H. Jeter come from home to camp the day before wee started here.

Wed. 25: Cloudy and damp and warm Regt. inspection.

Thurs. 26: Cloudy little Rain and warm wee are in our houses as before Capt. A. Jordans [Jordan's] and Capt. Lucks [Luck's] Co. are in charge of Batterys [Batteries] clost to our camp.

Fri. 27: Cloudy and warm and some Rain T. Gassedged[Gossage] and D. Hoges [Hodges] started home on a 15 days furlough started yestady.

Sat. 28: Cloudy and Raining most all day and night Col. Harrison has come to the Regt.

Sun. 29: A steady Rainy day and night and cold wee get sweet Potatoes at 4 dollars per Bushels.

Mon. 30: Cool and cloudy and Rain I have Bin on the sick list 4 o [or] 5 days with cold settled in my Breast and head.

⁹⁴ Fort Moultrie is a fort that was built on Sullivan's Island in South Carolina. It was designed to protect Charleston. It was built in 1776 and remained in use until 1947. The Fort received its name from William Moultrie, who defended the area from the British fleet in 1776 during the American Revolution.

⁹⁵ Flies were canvas awnings put up by soldiers to provide shade and shelter

December, 1863

Tues. 1: Clear and cool Big frost I Report for Duty this morning pleasant after the sun gets up a little.

Wed. 2: Big frost clear and cool me and 2 men was detailed to carry H. Overstreet of our Co. to H. Qts. To be tried By Court Martial got Back to camp at 3 o'clock P.M. a Jack fell in our well before day.

Thurs. 3: Clear and pleasant day Big frost this morn.

Fri. 4: Clear and pleasant I went to Charleston on a pass all quiet in town.

Sat. 5: Clear and warm days and cool nights.

Sun. 6: Clear and pleasant Co. inspection.

Mon. 7: Clear and pleasant I went to Charleston walked there and Back all quiet in Charleston.

Tues. 8: Clear and pleasant on camp guard 81 men on guard each day officers [officers] included and orderly men.

Wed. 9: Cloudy and warm Released at 9 ½ A.M. Now Rain under marching orders.

Thurs. 10: Clear and pleasant cooked one days Rations and sent all our Baggage on the train started at 12 ½ P.M. and marched up the Rail Road 10 miles and camped No Blankets nor tents with us they was all on the Cars and they was a head.

Fri. 11: Cloudy and warm slow mist of Rain no Breakfast and we marched 10m [10 miles] and stopped at 1 o'clock and we were very hungry and the men that went with the Baggage had our dinner cooked corn Bread and Beef and we made it move like chaff [chaff] before the wind we camped at the depot called Adams Run Station no. 2. 28 miles S.W. of Charleston we use water out of the tank for the Regt. A.M. Goode met us here.

Sat. 12: Cloudy and Raining 4 Co. of the Right went up the Road Rained all night a low measly [measly] country.

Sun. 13: Cloudy and Rain all night hard and slightly all day 2 more Co. of the Right left this morning went above T. Ayers came to the camp.

Mon. 14: Clear our Co. and Capt. Pettes [Pettus] Co. started for Youngs Island 14 miles on Pickets Rite [right] on the marsh on the out Picket post we got on the Island in the eve. 2 hours By sun I was sent out on Picket with 7 men.

Tues. 15: Clear we were Released at 9 A.M. a low swampy Pines and sedge But Rich land and we are camped in the pines Lieut. Mason in Comd. [command] Capt. Beard is Discharged and gone [gone] home Lieut. Woolfolk in Comd. of the Co.

Wed. 16: Cloudy and Rain wee weather Boarded our fly with Brown sedge and a pine pole flow [flue] and a moss carpet and a big fier [fire] in front which makes a comfortable dwelling for a Soldier Some of the men went out and caught several Raccons [Raccoons] without a dog in the day time.

Thurs. 17. Cloudy and warm and several coons and some Rain.

Fri. 18: Clear and cool I went on Picket and stayed all night.

Sat. 19: Clear and cool Released at 9 oclock A.M. Marten [Martin] Boswell and J. Hardy went home on a 15 days Detail.

Sun. 20: Clear and plesant all quiet on this Island.

Mon. 21: Clear and plesant wee catch oisters [oysters] and Buy sweet Potatoes for a change of diet.

Tues. 22: Clear and cool and wind I am on Picket and seen the Yankees lights up at night.

Wed. 23: Clear and cool wind Released at 9 A.M. Co. inspection at 11 A.M.

Thurs. 24: Cool wind Wee are making a Bridge through the marsh to an oister Bed to have a Big mess for Christmas.

Fri. 25: Clear and cool Christmas day and A very heavy cannonading on Johns Island. Col. T. R. Page attacked a gun Boat on the Stoane River the firing Commenced several hours Before day and lasted until towards the middle of the day.

Sat. 26: Clear and cool all quiet in camp wee drew $\frac{1}{2}$ gill⁹⁶ of whiskey to a man and corn Bread and Beef wee went out and got oisters & caught a possum some times & now & then wee could Buy a **mess of** sweet Potatoes But **seldom** hear.

Sun. 27: Cloudy and showery and more plesant Mr. Harris one of our mess mates got some sausage and spair [spare] Ribs from home and wee had a nice supper and Breakfast next morning which was a nice christmas treat with one nice mess of Bedford Buscuits.

Mon. 28: Cloudy and raining and high winds and I am on Pickets stoped Rain and highwinds and cool now house.

Tues. 29: Clear and cool Released at 9 A.M. orders for general inspection.

Wed. 30: Cloudy and Rain last night all night No inspection yet.

Thurs. 31: Cloudy and warm Looking inspection the last day of the year all Quiet with our camp.

January, 1864

⁹⁶ A "gill", or sometimes "jill", is an old British measurement to determine an individual serving of whiskey or wine. It is equal to about four U.S. fluid ounces.

Fri. 1: Clear and cold inspec. [inspection] By Major Wise⁹⁷ of the 46 Regt. New years day.

Sat. 2: Clear and cool Wee made us a little Boat and wee catch a plenty of oisters every day.

Sun. 3: A little cloudy But no Rain.

Mon. 4: Cloudy and Rain Rain All day and our Fly leaked and ___ wind ___.

Tues. 5: Clost cloudy with showers I am on picket and it Rained all night.

Wed. 6: Cloudy and warm all quiet in the Co.

Thurs. 7: Cloudy and Rain slowly on picket cool.

Fri. 8: Cloudy Rain windy and cold Released and Sargt. Boswell and James Hardy came Back Marten Brough[t] a Recrute [recruit] with him and Bob Houston came in as a Recruit.

Sat. 9: Clear and cool order for inspection J. Haskin went home furlough.

Sun. 10: Clear Big Frost and warm after the morning inspection.

Mon. 11: Clear and warm wee worked on our tent all day and Built a chimney.

Tues. 12: Cloudy with Rain and warm all quiet.

Wed. 13: Cloudy and Rain all day and night on picket.

Thurs. 14: Cloudy and damp no Rain Released at 8 A.M.

Fri. 15: Rain in the evening wee had a drill.

Sat. 16: Clear and plesant Jas. Hudson start home for 20 days on getting his Brother in the Co. as Recrute and Smith Webb Join the Co.

Sun. 17: Clear and warm on guard at camp Rain before day.

Mon. 18: Cloudy and showery More drill all quiet.

Tues. 19: Clear and windy drill in the eve.

Wed. 20: Clear and plesant Lieut. Woodfolk and Lieut. Clark garn to Adams Run for examination.

Thurs. 21: Clear and plesant I am on Picket and all confirsasion⁹⁸ [conversation] in the Co. about Capt. all want 1st Lieut. Woodfolk Captain and he wont stand the examination and Lieut. Clarke will & it is [redacted] or some one else out of the company and wee don't want Clark.

⁹⁷ The title "Major" is written over another word. Hicks likely used the wrong title first and wrote Major over it in correction.

⁹⁸ A part of the word is cut off, but it is likely meant as "conversation".

Fri. 22: Clear and warm Released this morning at 8 1/4 A.M. wee held Election for Capt. And Lieut. Clark and Sergt. Channing Sale was Run and Sale Beat him 14 votes.

Sat. 23: Clear and warm nothing else new in comp. J. Taylor S. Houston P. Murrell started home yestady.

Sun. 24: Clear and warm.

Mon. 25: Clear and warm on guard at camp.

Tues. 26: Clear and warm Jack Sled and I went a hunting Killed nothing[?] all quiet in camp.

Wed. 27: Clear and very warm for this time of year.

Thurs. 28: Clear and warm Still Drilling and a Regular cannonading dayly [daily] as usual.

Fri. 29: Clear and warm I am on picket general inspection and no drill.

Sat. 30: Clear and warm wee drewed money.

Sun. 31: Clear and warm wee went in the River Bathing.

February, 1864

Mon. 1: Clear and warm All quiet in camp.

Tues. 2: Clear and warm heavy cannonading going on a Round Charleston orders for us to through [throw] up Breast works.

Wed. 3: Clowdy and cool Wind I am on guard nothing new.

Thurs. 4: Cool a sprinkle of Rain at night Capt. Sale start home.

Fri. 5: Clear and cool Wee have not commenced work yet.

Sat. 6: Clear with wind I am on picket.

Sun. 7: Clear and plesant Released at 8 A.M.

Mon. 8: Clear and plesant wee have killed 6 or 8 wild coons come in good time meat is scarce [scarce] all quiet.

Tues. 9: Clear and cool fighting on Johns Island all day marching orders and started from camp to J. Island tonight at 8 ½ and marched 10 miles.

Wed. 10: Clear and cool stayed hear until noon then wee was ordered down on the Island wee marched 1 mile then crossed the River and after a hasty martch of 9 miles wee stoped and lay

in Readiness to march at a minutes warning to go Reinforce [reinforce] we stay all night started at⁹⁹

Thurs. 11: 8 A.M. and marched 4 miles to Major Jenkins Hed. Qts. and waited for Reinforcements [reinforcements] we drew 1 pound of flour per man and 46 Regt. and 6 comp. of the 4 Regt. our 6 Co. under the command of Lieut. [Lieutenant] Col. Harrison and at 3 ½ P.M. the Ball opened[?] with the artillery and our Regt. was on the left wing to keep them from flanking us in the woods and Briers and wading [wading] water general [General] ___s Brigade at Georgia [Georgia] farmed[?] on our left a bout one hour before sunset and the Yankees saw us and they ceased [ceased] firing in the center [center] and fell Back then we fell Back 3 or 4 hundred yad. [yards] and lay in lines all night and put out a line of pickets in front I was on picket and we were wet up to our knees then layed out on the swamp and no fire

Fri. 12: they opened fire a while before day and we started at 8 A.M. and moved a Round on the Right and deployed [deployed] our Regt. out as skirmishers [skirmishers] but the Yankees left and we all marched back a little ways and waited for orders I saw 2 dead Yankees and some prisoners and we lost a few men and we got orders to Return to our old camp and we marched Back some 4 miles where some men had been detailed to cook for us and we got a little snack a bout 2 o'clock in the¹⁰⁰ and nothing to carry with us and we marched until dark and camped within 3 miles of the Bridge and nothing to eat that night started

Sat. 13: clear and cool we started this morning at light for camp more Breakfast and 13 miles before us we marched hard through the dry sand near shoe top deep & Reached camp at 11 ½ A.M. tired and hungry and nothing but dry Bread when we got there but ___ eat set[?] anofe [enough] and we eat our Bread and washed off and put on some clean clothes and we slept all night without any trouble in tents on pine poles and Broom[?] straw.

Sun. 14: Clear and pleasant got a big mess of oysters for Breakfast J. Taylor S Huston and Jas. Turner came in yesterday and J. Hudson J. Haskin came the day before and B.D.P.[?] Murrell came in today.

Mon. 15: Clear and pleasant we drew our usual Rations and gain a detail for fatigue and picket as Before we left camp.

Tues. 16: Clear and high winds and cold all quiet in camp.

Wed. 17: Clear and cool nothing new in camp.

Thurs. 18: Cloudy and very cold and high winds I am on picket a little snow at sundown the coldest night I have seen since I have been in this state.

Fri. 19: Very cold and windy Released at 8 A.M. very cold all day

⁹⁹ The same entry seems to continue through the next few entries until February 13, 1864.

¹⁰⁰ Hicks seemingly forgot to write a word in this entry. It is likely he meant to write "little snack a bout 2 o'clock in the evening".

Sat. 20: Cold and clear and heavy frost still and beautiful.

Sun. 21: Clear and pleasant inspection all quiet in camp.

Mon. 22: Clear and pleasant furloughs went out and came in 3 time before they was approved Keys[?] starts home.

Tues. 23: Clear and warm furloughs came in all night 4 of some of our com. Reinlisten [Re-enlisting] for the war.

Wed. 24: Clear and a little wind Collins Drewry Vaughn A. Young started home.¹⁰¹

Thurs. 25: Clear and warm Drawed shoes and socks in the co. all quiet.

Fri. 26: Clear and warm all quiet in camp

Sat. 27: Clear and pleasant I went to Adams Run on guard at the quar¹⁰² department 10 miles.

Sun. 28: Clear and warm Return to camp they had Co. inspection A. Campbell and our new Capt. R. ___ came in to day.

Mon. 29: Clear and windy and a little cool our men Reinlisten [Re-enlisting] for the war.

March, 1864

Tues. 1: Cool high winds and cloudy and sprinkle of rain.

Wed. 2: Clear and pleasant regular muster and general inspection.

Thurs. 3: Clear and cool me and J. Hogan went to Charleston on a 36 hour pass got on the cars at New road Station 18 miles from the city stayed at the way side home while in ton and they was shells falling in the town day and night whilst we was thare.

Fri. 4: Clear and pleasant I deposited \$200.00 at the treasury office in a 4 per cent [4 percent] Bond things are very high in Charleston Raw cotton \$1.35 cts. per pound.

Sat. 5: Clear and pleasant we left the way side home at 6 A.M. and taken the train at 7 ½ and got to camp at 11 A.M.

Sun. 6: Clear heavy frost I am on picket all quiet in camp.

Mon. 7: Clear and pleasant I was Released at 8 A.M. we are drawing salt Beef ¾ of a pound and some times Bacon 1/3 of pound per day and meal and seldom flour.

Tues. 8: Clear and warm I had to drill some Recruits.

¹⁰¹ There are two Collins, two Drewrys, and several Vaughans listed in the 34th roster. A. Young refers to Alexander Young of Company I, enlisted 3/20/62 and paroled at Appomattox 4/9/65.

¹⁰² Likely an abbreviation for quartermaster.

Wed. 9: Clear and pleasant I am detailed with the wash party on at 9 A.M. and off at 5 P.M.

Thurs. 10: Cool and high winds and Rain all night.

Fri. 11: Cloudy winds and Rain a very heavy thunder cloud and tremendous heavy rain and storm we drew 3 gills of molasses for 2 days in the place of meat.

Sat. 12: Clear and warm this morning.

Sun. 13: Clear and warm W. Fizer started home on a 30 days furlough on getting a Recruit we had dressade [dress parade] yestady.

Mon. 14: Clear and pleasant all quiet in camp.

Tues. 15: Clear and cool with little wind on our work.

Wed. 16: Clear and cool wind we drew 2 ½ hearens [herons] per day for one day.

Thurs. 17: Clear and cool we are still getting plenty of oysters.

Fri. 18: Clear and cool high winds I am on Picket 5 furloughs came in approved.

Sat. 19: Clear and pleasant Relieved at 8 ½ A.M.[.] A.M. Goode A. Kanes [Abram Karnes] B. Coffee S. Johnson A. Powell started home on 15 days furloughs on Reinlistment [re-enlistment] and A. Young E. Collins[?] J. Vaughn Y.P. Keys came in on Regular furlough co. inspection all quiet in camp.

Sun. 20: Clear and warm the culvery [cavalry] has orders for Va.

Mon. 21: Clear and pleasant we drew no meat to day eat oysters.

Tues. 22: Cloudy and Rain cold winds all day and night no meat.

Wed. 23: Cloudy and cold clear in the evening I am on picket a very cold night and high tides[?].

Thurs. 24: Clear and heavy frost after the sun got up the wind rose again Released 8 ½ A.M.

Fri. 25: Cloudy and Rain all day and night.

Sat. 26: Clear and warm and high winds company inspection.

Sun. 27: Clear and pleasant but windy we and 7 mor [more] of our Co. went over on a Boat to the ___ Island a bout 4 miles on the water down the ___ 2 miles and crall[?] the ___ ___. A. Beleader[?] furlough.

Mon. 28: Clear cool wind[?] on picket cloudy and Rain at night.

Tues. 29: Cloudy high wind and Rain Relieved at 8 ½ hard showers through the day and night.

Wed. 30: Clear and cool and wind 7 furloughs came in approved for myself J. Sled W. Davis J. Boules J. Powell B. Watson and Joseph Watson for 15 days on Reinlistment. all quiet in camp.

Thurs. 31: Clear and pleasant and windy we all started out to the Railroad at 9 A.M. and taken the train at 2 ½ P.M. 20 mi. to Charleston. Stayed all night at the wayside home comfortable.

April, 1864

Fri. 1: Cloudy & warm & Raining got Pasport [passport] and Transportation on the North Eastern train for Florence at Noon crossed Santee River at 5 P.M. 4 [or] 5 mi. from Charleston & a swamp each side the river __ works for 3 miles got to Florence 9 ½ P.M. started for Wilmington 103 miles at 11 o'clock the same night but steady Rain all night crowded no sleep.

Sat. 2: Cloudy cool and showers Reached Wilmington 9 ½ A.M. 105 miles and started for Weldon at 10 ½ A.M. and was crowded all the way reached Weldon at 3 o'clock A.M. and staid there until day light and started 163 miles by Golesburrow [Goldsboro]

Sun. 3: Cloudy and cool started from Weldon at 6 A.M. and Reached Petersburg at 3 ½ P.M. and started 81 miles for Lynchburg at 5 ½ P.M. and Landed at Lynchburg a[at] 5 ½ A.M. 108 miles.

Mon. 4: Started from Lynchburg at 6 A.M. and it raining and went 11 miles to the Forest depot and walked home in the rain.

April 15, 1864: Me and Jack Sled and John Mason left home for camps on Youngs [Yonges] Island SC [South Carolina] started from home Tuesday morning at 7 A.M. and walked to Lynchburg 15 miles and taken the cars at 8 p.m. and traveled all night.

Wednesday, April 20: Arrived in Petersburg at 8 A.M: 135 miles. Left Petersburg at 10 ½ A.M. and Arrived at Weldon NC [North Carolina] at 4 ½ P.M. 63 miles Left Weldon at 7 P.M. change traines [trains], the Engine disabled and lost several hours time.

Thursday, April 21: Arrived at Wilmington, at 3 P.M. 162 miles Crossed the river on the boat at 11 P.M.

Friday, April 22: Started on a Frait [freight] train at 12 ½ A.M. Arrived at Florence at 9 ½ A.M. 104 m [miles] Left Florence at 12 M [P.M]. Arrived in Charleston at 9 ½ p.m. 105 miles Stayed at the way side home all night.

Saturday, April 23: Taken the Charleston and Savanah [Savannah] train at 7 A.M. 28 miles to Adams Run and then a foot to camp on Youngs [Yonges] Island 9 miles.¹⁰³ I reached camp me

¹⁰³ At this point, the diary ends the entry for April 23, 1864 and continues with May 4, 1864. However, the entry for April 23, 1864 continues three pages after the original entry. The pages in between them seem

and J.L. Mason My recruit¹⁰⁴ cool and cloudy all quiet in camp T. H. Keys died at H.Qrs. [headquarters] Hospital whilst I was at home about Apr 3th [April 3rd] a good solder [soldier]¹⁰⁵

Sun. 24: Cloudy and rain most all day.

Mon. 25: Clear and pleasant I am on picket.

Tues. 26: Clear and warm Released [Relieved] 8 ½ [A.M?] we moved our camp down at the picket post and all went in houses am gauarding [guarding] and.A.M. Goode and E.W. Harris went. Capt. Fellers H. goes on reg. detail as guard my cook day.

Wed. 27: Clear and warm, all poleasing [policing] our camp

Thurs. 28: **Clear** Drill 2 st.¹⁰⁶ a day done work I cut hair for the Co. and battery. Cloudy all night.

Fri. 29: Clear and pleasant am on picket.

Sat. 30: Clost cloudy Co. inspection at 9 A.M. and payroal [payroll] inspection By Lieut. Col. Wise.

MAY, 1864

May Sun. 1: Cloudy and windy drill 2st a day rain in the evening.

Mon. 2: Clear and warm I picket and we are guarding.

Tues. 3: Clear and warm all quiet on Youngs Island.

(X)¹⁰⁷ Wed. 4: Left Youngs Island for Va at 4 P.M.¹⁰⁸ Clear and warm marching orders at 7 A.M. and 3 we[?] went in Bathing[?] and 4 P.M. we started for Adams Run Station 12m [12 miles] sent the sick to Hospital got hear at 9 P.M and stayed all night.

Thurs. 5: Clear and warm drewed [drew] 3 days rations Bacon and crackers our Regt. once more together the Regt. got on 2 trains and left Adams Run at 11 ½ A.M. for Charleston 28 mi. all flats[?] traveled all night.

Fri. 6: Clear hot days and cool nights Reached Florence 11 ½ A.M. 105 m. no changing at Florence nor stop run 4 miles and 2 flats run off the track and broke them to pieces killed no one

to reference the deaths of fellow soldiers and other events, such as the date of the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia.

¹⁰⁴ John L. Mason enlisted in Co. I on 4/24/64, apparently recruited into the army by Hicks.

¹⁰⁵ Thomas Henry Keys enlisted in Co I on 3/20/62, he died in Adams Run, SC on 4/2/64

¹⁰⁶ A shortened version of inst. which means the date of the current month

¹⁰⁷ This is the first time that Hicks marks an entry with an "X", but the entry includes no mention of a soldier's name.

¹⁰⁸ The first sentence of this entry belonged on the first page of the Vol. 8 of Hicks' diary. It followed the first part of the April 23, 1864 entry, but ended on the bottom of the page and continues several pages later with the rest of the May, 1864 entries.

but slightly wounded 4 or 5 Stopped 1 ½ hours then run too [two] miles more and layed [laid?] over until 9 P.M. run all night without any axident [accident].

Sat. 7: Clear and very hot reached Wilmington at 12 ½ P.M. 104 mi. stayed thear [there] until 9 ½ P.M. Off for Weldon traveled all night.

Sun. 8: Clear and beautiful reached Weldon at 8 P.M. drew two days rations of crackers 50 rounds of catrages [cartridges] to Each man and left all the Baggage and knapsacks and sick thare 162 mi. Loaded our guns and got on the Petersburg train at 10 ½ P.M.

Mon. 9: Clear and warm traveled 34 miles on to Stoney Creek whar [where] the Yankees burnt a bridge and tore up the track at 6 A.M. we got off the train hear [here] and started at 9 A.M and marched up the R.R. [railroad] they burnt 3 bridges. We marched 12 mi. by sundown then waited for the train for Petersburg 17 mi. very hot marching and no sleep hardly.

Tues. 10: Clear and warm landed hear at 7 A.M. and are now laying on the street started out on the Lines at 10 A.M. and marched 4 miles out on the R.R. between Petersburg and Lynchburg then we was sent on the Enemys [enemy's] left flank and put out 1/3 of our men on picket at 1 hour By sun and the balance of us is laying in readiness in the woods picket skurmishing [skirmishing] with the pickets all day once more in old Virginia we went out on the picket line and lay all night this is the 8 [eighth] night since we left Young's Island SC all quiet with us last night most entirely without sleep or rest.

Wed. 11: Clear and pleasant still laying in line some little picket firing early but all still now at 8 ½ A.M. our Brigade was ordered back on the Petersburg and City Point R.R. a bout 5 miles east of the city came through town and reached hear 4 ½ p.m. 12 miles and camped all night heavy wind and some rain at sundown.

Thurs. 12: Clowdy and raining no shelter at 10 A.M. we was ordered to double quick to town 5 miles in the rain We split the mud for 1 ½ miles then ordered Back and at 3 P.M. we went 5 miles out on the Norfolk R.R. laid thar in the rain and at 10 P.M. we went back which taken [took] near all night.

Fri. 13: Cloudy and raining all wet this is the ninth day and night without rest at 3 P.M. our Regt. was ordered down on the Weldon R.R. marched 10 miles in the rain we stayed in and got a shelter for the night and no fire slept in our wet clothes 1 ½ miles from town.

Sat. 14: Cloudy, cool. We have not bin [been] dry for 3 days and 10 days tramp [damp?] after the morning showery at 1 P.M. we left the shelter and moved 1 mi. out in the woods then in ½ hour we was ordered to reinfose [reinforce] Jen. [Gen.] Picket [Pickett] on the P&R¹⁰⁹ R.R. We marched through the town then ordered back 6 miles march for nothing layed [laid] on the ground all night.

¹⁰⁹ Hicks' writings appear to say "P&R R.R.", leaving out the full name of the railroad. After some research into possible railroad names, the closest match was the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad (or the R&P R.R.), which was likely what Hicks was writing about.

Sun. 15: Cloudy and cool looking for marching orders. Showery drew 2 days rations at 3 ½ P.M. We got marching orders and started come through town to the Richmond depot and stoped 3 mi. Stoped there staid 2 hours and all marched up on the R&P R.R.

Mon. 16: Clear and warm stayed the balance of the night at day light we marched 2 mi. and then our Co. and Captain Shacks and Capt. Hurts were sent out as skirmishers and we advanced on the Yankees left wing and we advanced 2 mi. and met their pickets and we pressed them and had a hot time for about an hour then our fourses [forces] with artilery and Infantry advanced and heavy firing kept up for an hour and repulst [repulsed] the enemy all still now and we are advancing Liut. [Lieutenant] Woolfolk wounded in the left shoulder and heavy fighting on our left our 2 Co. advanced 2 mi. as skurmishers a head on the right we caught one of their Scouts then we fel [fell] back By the left flank then we doubled our line and advanced through their camps and fell back to draw them out as we could not cross the creek and R.R. with our artilery so they advanced and fell back and we shell the woods and fell back for the night our Regt. once more together we was moving all day yestady and last night until 1 oclock A.M. This is thirteen days and nights since we left our camp SC. I dont know the losses on neather [neither] side. General Whiten¹¹⁰[?] in command today.

Tues. 17: Clear and hot. The drum beet [beat] for a start at 7 ½ A.M. We marched the turnpike and crossed the rail road whare [where] we fought yestady we moved to the left at 1 P.M. We formed our left on Gen. Beauregard's right and lay in line of Battle with a line of skirmishers in advance the R.R. and turnpike one [once?] more clear of Yankees from Petersburg to Richmond and the Yankees fell back in their entrenchments between Appomatox [Appomattox] and James River no fighting on the right today we lay in line all night.

Wed. 18: Cloudy and pleasant a bout 2 hours before day heavy skirmishers on our left with some shelling then we was fortifying on our lines we repulsed their pickets and firing seased [ceased] at day break we are still fortifying with such means as we have with us firing increased to be very heavy and company after Co. Co. D Co. E Co. G [Companies D, E, and G] was sent out 11 ½ A.M and we went up behind a fence and we was under the heaviest kind of skirmishing until dusk we was ordered to sease firing we was under fire 7 hours and Released after dark J. Taylor wounded in arm bad L. Johnson in chin and hand slight W. Davis in hand W. Adkissin [Atkinson/Adkinson?] hand very slight of company I none killed in Co. [D?] cannonading on boath [both] sides thare was 2 killed and 27 wounded in our Regt. I don't know the loss on the Yankee side nar [nor] I ours more than our Regt. All was still last night and our 3 Co. was released after the firing had seased we come out and taken a nap but as we was going in the fight it rained very hard we got soken [soaking] wet and remained so until we come out and slept in them and by morning they was dry.

Thurs. 19: Cloudy with showers we cut a line of rifle pitts [pits] last night whare our line of battle was yestady skirmishing began at day light and at sun rise there was a sharp artillery duell

¹¹⁰ Research shows that there was no "General Whiten" that served in the Confederate military. The closest match found was Brigadier General William Whiting, who was at the Battle of Petersburg only a few weeks after this entry. It is possible that Brig. General Whiting was in the area at the time and that Hicks simply misspelled the name.

[duel] open for a ½ hour and then ceased up to 3 P.M. light skirmishing with Inftry. [Infantry] and artillery and our 3 Co. resting at dark our 3 Co. went out a gain to releave [relieve] the others we taken our old position and staid all night and fortified and the Yankees kept up a slow firing all night.

Fri. 20: Clear and foggy we are still on the line no firing yet we are ordered to advance this morning at 9 ½ A.M. Our line of skirmishers made a charge on the enemies works which was near a ½ a mile we sucseeded [succeeded] in reaching their works and foursing [forcing] them back we mounted their works and persued [pursued] across the field we taken a good many prisoners and killed and wounded a large number of them then they opened on us with grape and canister and we fell back to the works that we charged them out. I brought a prisoner back with me our lines suffered smartly in the charge my Capt. Wounded in the leg slightly G.A. Jones in head and thigh badly W. Fizer in the hand slightly and several missin [missing] in company I. It was very hot we held the works and went to work with our hands and Bayonets and soon strengthened them the Yankees formed and charged us 3 times in the center but was repulsed with heavy loss then they tried our right and left flanks but they was bound to give it up they left the field strewed with dead and wounded they [their] shelling was kept up until night we was fortifying all night with out sleep or rest I had a hand in all this my self their [there] is only one Cm. Officer [commanding officer] with us now Liuet. Clark in the 3 days we had 107 men killed and wounded in our Regt.

Sat. 21: Clear and pleasant morning some picket fring [firing] this morning we worked more or less all day some shelling and sharp shooting was all until night there was a heavy shelling for a ½ hour and some firing with Inftry. [infantry] on our left 8 of our Regt. wounded but none of our Co. as the firing did not bear on our Co. they was wounded by shells we laid behind our works on the damp ground with but little sleep for we rather exspected [expected] a charge.

Sun. 22: Clear and warm a slight shelling and picket skirmishing all day 3 of our men and 3 of the Yankee's each side a white handkerchief on a pole and met each other half way between our works and thears [theirs] 3 times and talked with each other for what perpous [purpose] I dont know more than the Yankees wanted to come after their dead that we killed when they fell back after we charged them and in their several efforts to retake the works which they had failed after dark our Brigade was releaved and we marched a round on the left 4 miles from Drewrys Bluff and rested the balance of the night which was badly needed we are on the line of works.

Mon. 23: Clear and warm we are still resting and the Yankee's are shelling the woods hear from their gun boats last night and this morning from James River their [There] is a detail from each Co. for work.

Tues. 24: Clear and warm all of our Regt. is still except a small detail from each Co. for work Lieut. W.G. Barbour and Priv. T. Bell come to the Co. from Weldon N.C. R. Lile was slightly wounded in hand returned to Co. orders to clean guns for revue [review] by General Bragg but he has not come around.

Wed. 25: Clear and cool their was a thunder cloud last night cool wind no rain at 1 ½ P.M. we marched over on the left of the line on Mr. Hawletts farm our left rested on his dwelling house

which is badly shelled we are fortifying all night cloudy and rain we are on the bank of the James River on the Petersburg side.

Thurs. 26: Clear and cool and misting rain at 10 A.M. it looks like Breaking off and getting hot A stray shell now and then from the Yankee gun boats in sight of our works we are on the East bank of James River 2 or 4 miles below Drewry's Bluff we laicd in our works and worked all night.

Fri. 27: Clear and hot still at the same place.

Sat. 28: Me and 8 of our company went out on picket close to the Yankee pickets we are on the advance line in our rifle pitts [pits] 3 or 4 yds. [yards] from our line of breastworks a few shells today evening cloudy and raining slowly all night it was very dark our regt. was releaved in the eve and went back to the rear for a few days and we picketts had to stay all night.

Sun. 29: Clear and cool, releaved at 10 A.M. and fell back and joined the Regt. again we stayed thare until 1 P.M. then all of the fourses was ordered up to the front and we went back to our same position in the breastworks our Regt. is on the left of the Brigade and our left is within 200 yards of the River looking for an attack.

Mon. 30: Clear and warm all quiet except a few shells from the gunboats Company H next on our left had two men badly wounded they was lying on the bank a shell bursted [burst] clost [close] By a peace [piece] cut thease [these] 2 mens leg off each at the knee within 8 steps of whare I was sitting and 3 ½ P.M. there was sharp artillery duell began and lasted 1 hour they shelled our end of the line very heavy from the river a peace of shell struck another of Capt. Luck's men mortally wounded him through the rump¹¹¹ and hip was all the damage in our Regt. that I have heard of all quiet through the night.

Tues. 31: Clear and hot we moved 200 yds. to the right. A little before day still in the trenches all 3 of Capt. Luck's men died last night By 12 oclock still at work our lines of artillery shelled the Yanks at 2 1/2 for one hour but no reply from the Yankees.

JUNE, 1864

Wed. 1: Clear and very hot we shelled the Yankees line this morning just before day I am on guard we completed our works at this place at sun down at 11 P.M. we shelled the Yankees a gain I was on guard little sleep.

Thurs. 2: Clear and hot at 6 A.M. our line of pickets opened fire and charged the Yankee pickets and routed them and drove them back ½ of a mile and cutting a line [a line] of rifle pits beyond the ones they was in the pickets was a detail from each Co. on the line and a detail of the sam [same] went to reinforce and as the firing seased [ceased] our Co. was sent out on the line of picket in advance and we was cutting rifle pitts at 8 A.M. we had 1 man J. Huddleston, slightly [wounded] of our Co. our Regt. had killed and wounded and killed wounded and captures of the

¹¹¹ "Rump" is an old word that means buttocks.

Yankees we lay in our rifle pits all night and heavy firing and rain all night not a wink of sleep all wet we kept down in our pits and none hurt in our Regt.

Fri. 3: Cloudy stopped rain at day and the Yankees ceased firing at day and kept back out of sight we put our videts¹¹² [vedettes] out in front and we was relieved at 6 A.M. all quiet on the line to day.

Sat. 4: Cloudy some fiering [firing] on the line last night our knapsacks come in we got some clothes out and sent them back to the rear all the afternoon clost rain and some shelling from the Yankee boats we are still behind our works rain all night.

Sun. 5: Cloudy and showery me and 10 men from our Co. on the advance Picket line in sight of the Yankee videts in thick woods. 5 oclock [P.M.?] A heavy cannonading on each side night clear but little firing between the pickets during the night.

Mon. 6: Clear and pleasant after the morn. very hot. Taked [took] of of [off] my shirt and had it washed and went without until it got dry. Brigade inspection all quiet on our line to day.

Tues. 7: Cloudy and cool with little wind all tolerable still on the line still fortifying and putting up obstructions.

Wed. 8: Clear and warm I am on guard up most all night all quiet on the line.

Thurs. 9: Clear and warm I was releaved at 8 A.M. heavy cannonading from both sides and picket skirmishing but know [no] regular engagement.

Fri. 10: Clear and warm all quiet on the line still strengthening our works and putting up obstructions in front of our works.

Sat. 11: Clear and warm marching orders we was releaved By a Alabama Brigade under Big Gen. Grace¹¹³ and our Brig. started at 1 P.M. for Petersburg 2 miles on the S.E. [southeastern] side at battery No. 28 whare Col. Spears made his rade [raid] a few days before and was chaced [chased] Back the Balance of the Brigade is scattered on our right and left on different roads. We reached hear at 6 ½ P.M. 12 miles.

Sun. 12: Clear and cool I was on guard last night and relieved at 8 this morning our cavalry scouts captured 2 Yankee scouts and Brought them in we moved a little to the left to battery No. 22. I was on guard again.

¹¹² This is likely a misspelling of the word "vedette", which was a mounted sentry posted ahead of picket lines during the Civil War. Robert Hicks continued to use this word on occasion in his journal, but most often spelled it as "videt"

¹¹³ Robert Hicks' diary mentions a "Big Gen. Grace", but after researching the list of Confederate Generals, the closest and most likely match was a Brigadier General Archibald Gracie Jr, who did lead the 43rd Alabama Infantry and was later killed at Petersburg in December, 1864. What was written in Hicks' diary was likely a misspelling, or perhaps he misheard the Brigadier General's name.

Mon. 13: Clear and pleasant all Quiet hear at present we was still all day we had to kee[p] out pickets.

Tues. 14: Clear and cool on guard this morn. we moved a mile up to the left on the same line of works all quiet.

Wed. 15: Clear and hot days and cool nights the Yankees advanced on the left on the city point road with cavalry Artillery and Infantry and engaged our cavalry and fought for 3 hours and had to fall back then at 10 A.M. they began to press our sharpshooters all a long our line and They drove our Pickets in we was in our outer line of works no troops on the line but our Brigade and they was scattered a Co. in a place to serpate [separate] our artillery and Gen. Dearing's Cavalry they shelled us and amed [aimed] to charge our works but was repulsed as weak as our lines was but about 5 P.M. they reinfoused on our left and taken our works on the City Point road our Regt. was on the right of the line so at dusk we was sent on the left to reinfose so we was moving on the line all night 4 or 5 Brigades come in as reinfosements at day light we stoped on the line and was ordered to fortify with bayonets and hands which we did in front of the works that the Yankees taken and holds with strong fourse [force] our men suffered smartly whare they lost the works some firing on the line all night no sleep and I am entirely bear [bare] footed with the Co.

Thurs. 16: Clear and warm cool nights and heavy dewes heavy skirmishing all day and we are still fortifying looking for the enemy to charge us all night Know [No] sleep All up and guns in hand all the time.

(X) Fri. 17: Clear and warm dry weather getting our works strong more reinfosments coming in Col. Goode in Comd. of the brigade. Col. P.R. Pale Ser [Sergeant?] Cal woonded [wounded] and dide [died] at 8 A.M. our Brigade was ordered and moved half of their length and stoped [stopped] went to work a gain to strengthen the the works whare we stoped the videts firering [firing] all a long the line and at 3 P.M. our Brigade was still ordered to the right and started instantly and before we got to our position they charged our works in 8 lines for a short space and broke our line whare the right of our Regt. was we was scattered a long a mong men who had their position the right of our Brig. a mong SC. [South Carolina] Regt. whare the line was broke and the left rested in a N.C. [North Carolina] Brig but the men rallied and soo[n] retaken the works thia was on our new line then that connected with the old a little to the right this new line had no elevation for artillery thare was a nother laid off in the rear a ½ mi. on a high place and just before day our men fell back and fortified it left our skirmishers a picking at them whilst our main line was fortifying on the new line that connected with the old original line on the right we had four men wounded slight.

Sat. 18: Clear and warm at day light our new lines established and all at work General Lee and Hill come in with strong reinfosements at 7 A.M. our skirmishers graguly [gradually] fell back in front of our main line at 8 A.M. we was relieved (our brigade) and fell back and sent around on the extreem [extreme] right of our line and taken our position in the works and we was relieved a gain and sent back on the left in rear of as reinforcements in case the line is Broke clost to the line whare the shells and some minnie Balls visit us regular we are in Gen. Johnston's Division and we got a nights sleep the first sleep we have had for 3 nights.

Sun. 19: Clear and pleasant heavy skirmishing and regular shelling from Bothe [both] sides day and night we had preaching twis [twice] I watched the mortar shells falling on our lines Some shells throwed[?] in town.

Mon. 20: Clear and warm I am on proud guard regular firing as usual shell bursting every where a mong our reinfosements.

Tues. 21: Clear and warm the usual roar of artillery and musketry are kept up I was releaved at 8 ½ A.M. we drew coffee and shugar [sugar] and Teas.

Wed. 22: Clear and very hot dry weather at 9 ½ A.M. our Division by orders moved to the right we marched 2 mi. and stoped a while a regular engagement on our right an open field fight we captured 1,600 Prisoners 8 stands of collers¹¹⁴ [colors] and 6 pieces of artillery and hansomely [handsomely] repulsed them then we fell Back though our Brigade moved 2 miles out side of our works and formed a line of battle and our Co. was put out on picket and remained until 12 ½ A.M. then we was ordered back in side of our works and stoped for the night at 2 A.M. and layed over until morning.

Thurs. 23: Clear and warm drew rations corn bread, picle [pickle] pork, 1/3 per pound shugar and coffee at 9 A.M. we moved to the right a gain at the same place we was last night we formed a line 2 ½ or 3 miles in rear of our works and our Co. a mong others formed an entire skirmish line in front, and the Yanks advancing on us at one hour by sun in the evening at 10 P.M. our line was unmolested and all fell back inside of our works with 500 Prisoners captured ___ ___ about sun down and we Barefooted men for the first time was aloud [allowed] to march out of ranks only after dark we went back on the left and went in the ditches just before day light.

Fri. 24: Clear and very hot heavy skirmishing on the line as usual a very heavy artillery duell opened on the line and lasted a bout 1 hour our men charged the works at battery No. 5 but had to fall back with a loss of 300 prisoners lost and captured 30 of the Yanks clost (X) sharp shooting Henry Kenedy [Kennedy] our of Co. was shot through the head and Killed instantly at 4 ½ P.M. clos [close] to the city behind our works whilst shooting he was a good soldier we worked all night and no sleep.

Sat. 25: Clear and very hot heavy sharp shooting all day no regular engagement I drewed [drew] a pair of shoes after being bear [bare] footed for 9 days and doing duty all the time a sharp cracking for a few minutes with the videts then the usual old pop pop¹¹⁵ was kept up all night we carried on our works all night and no sleep only one man aloud to leave the ditch at a time this is clost confinement.

Sun. 26: Clear and dry and very hot all quiet on the line except for the usual sharp shooting.

¹¹⁴ A stand of colors was a battle flag belonging to a group of soldiers, usually a battalion. Battle flags at the time were often simply called colors. So, in this case, the Confederate forces captured eight separate Yankee battle flags.

¹¹⁵ Hicks is referring to the noise of occasional gunfire.

Mon. 27: Clear and hot some shelling on the line and heavy sharp shooting several men Badly wounded in our Regt. every day whilst sharp shooting from behind our works and some going and coming after water evening a light shower of rain and wind and turn cool and cloudy all night and work all night.

Tues. 28: Clear and cool the usual crack of the rifle is all to Brake [break] the silence this morning this is the 8th day in the ditch in 2 ranks and Know [no] sleep at night at 8 P.M. we had orders to be releaved we stood in readiness all night and started just before day light and marched back to the same place in the rear clost to the lines.

Wed. 29: Clear and cool we are in rear for ___ and reinforcements at the same time the usual excitement is going on 18 men out of our Co. was detailed for work and worked all night one R.L. Dent was wounded in back badly and A. Kennedy dide at Petersburg Hospital day before yestady the Yanks are shelling the city day and night regular. Sergt. Wallce sick and I fill his place.

Thurs. 30: Clear dry and hot we are at the same place 5 men detailed for work to day at 5 ½ P.M. the Yanks charged our lines on our left and in front of ware [where] we are and we formed line to reinfose if kneeded [needed] but did not move our lines repulsed them with heavy loss and our Brigade lost 1 killed and 7 wounded from strong musketry at 6 P.M. all quiet a gain except Picket and some shelling and 2 more men from our Co. on detail for work all night and no rest.

JULY, 1864

Fri. 1: Clear dry and very hot the usual old crack of war guns day and night our Regt. drewed some shirts and trousers the Yanks still shelling the city.

Sat. 2: Clear and Extreamly [extremely] hot this morning at the crack of day our Co. was sent out on works and come in at 3 P.M. the regular shelling also with mortars and sharpshooting heavy details for work day and night.

Sun. 3: Clear hot and dry nothing new as yet all of our Co. got all night to sleep.

Mon. 4: Clowdy and a cool wind pleasant all quiet but the usual old sharp shooting and shelling.

Tues. 5: Clear and hot a good deal of mortar shelling we have orders to go to the front lines we went in the ditches after dark down on the left whare they shell us from everyway but from the rear they have a direct cross fire from both ways our works are like a fence warm to stop the crossfire all up all night.

Wed. 6: Clear hot and dry They have shelled us with canister and mortar all day and Clost sharp shooting we have had no sleep on the line dayly [daily] exspecten [expecting] an attack a man is truly darren [daring] to poke his head above the picket on either side.

Thurs. 7: Clear and hot Clost sharpshooting today and shelling This is the 3rd day we have bin [been] in hear [here] and we have had 8 or 10 killed dead both shot through the head within 5 steps of me.

Fri. 8: Clear and hot still heavy sharpshooting and we are getting some killed wounded every day our Co. has bin very lucky up to the Present none hurt up to 3 P.M. a bout 5 P.M. we had orders to be in readiness for a charge we all got ready and a tremendous roar of sharpshooting was kept up for about one hour then things got to its usual Quietness this was done to find their strength and we kept a clost lookout during the night.

Sat. 9: Cloudy for a few hours then cleared off and turned very hot and sultry weather we are looking for an attack every day and night the Yanks Plays their Bands.

Sun. 10: Clear and very hot the Yanks shell us strong with mortars and clost sharpshooting is the topic of the day and night.

Mon. 11: Clear and hot and dry. J.P. Watson and H.R. Foster¹¹⁶ was wounded in the ditch with mortar shell Watson in shoulder and Foster in head desperate shelling several bursted [burst] down in the ditch and very clost sharp shooting.

Tues. 12: Clear hot and dry still in the ditches the 8th day and our Brigade has lost killed and wounded 54 men. 1/5 of each Co set up and watch at once until 2 A.M. then all the Co. sits up until sun rise that gives but little sleep.

Wed. 13: Clear hot and dry still same old music.

Thurs. 14: Clear and hot and dry very heavy mortar shelling sharpshooting more calm today we was releaved at 10 P.M. and went to the rear after 10 days in the trenches.

Fri. 15: Cloudy and cool and look like rain I got a permit to go to the Qu.Ma's [Quartermaster's] whare our baggage was to get some clean clothes I taken a good bath and changed clothes which was badly kneeded I returned to camp at sun set and we had orders to go to the front and at 8 P.M. we went to the right of whare we come from and releaved General Elliott Brigade only 1 days rest.

Sat. 16: Clear and hot the sharpshooting was not as constant on our front as when we left the trenches and shelling on our right and left, but none fell in our brigade to day we keep out videts in front day and night John L. Mason sick and sent to the rear last night the same rule about sleep ¼ of the night and that divided.

Sun. 17: Clear and hot and dry one man killed and wounded in our Regiment on videt front we drew wheat Bread yestady [yesterday] and to day and Sergt. Wallace come in for duty.

Mon. 18: Cloudy and cool I am on videt duty to day 150 yds. in front of our entrenchments we stayed all day and was releaved after dark and tt clouded up and sprinkled rain during the night.

Tues. 19: Cloudy and a clost days rain and gentle it stoped about 5 P.M. but clost cloudy and the mud and water shoe-top deep in the trenches and we are all wet and muddy at sun down

¹¹⁶ Joseph P. Watson and Haban R. Foster both of Co. I. Foster returned to duty a month later.

they shelled us some and after dark we moved 200 yds. to the left and 2 Regt. of our brigade went out to rest.

Wed. 20: Clear and very hot heavy shelling on the left Corp. Jas. A. Hardy [Corporal James A. Hardy] was shot through the breast with a minnie Ball [Minie ball] whilst going to the spring after water and Dr. ses [says] morally he was prompt to his duty and a good soldier.

Thurs. 21: Clear and very hot the ditches has dried up still heavy sharpshooting and shelling we are building Bum proofes [Bombproofs]¹¹⁷ for protection.

Fri. 22: Clear and very hot thick fog about day light we work and watch day and night and they shell us morning and evening only one day out of the trenches and during the 17 we have bin in Corp. Jas. A. Hardy dide of wound Thomas Coppedge slightly wounded in head with Minnie Ball.

Sat. 23: Clear and hot I am out in front of the works on videt duty I taken several fair shots not knowing the results we was relieved after dark and a part of our Regt. the left - was releaved and we went back to the rear to rest a few days.

Sun. 24: Cloudy all of us was sent to the front to work to day come in at 6 P.M. and it commenced rain and rained steady all night and all of us wet.

Mon. 25: Cloudy and cool and windy we are alloud [allowed] 3 hour leave of absence to get to the city Whare our baggage is to change clothes I went to town to get some clean clothes and I paid 3.00 [\$3] per quart for mash potatoes to make me a mess and 2.00 for trimming my hair.

Tues. 26: Clear and pleasant me and 8 men of our Co. was detailed to work on a battery on the front but we did not work we come back at dusk we all went back in the Trenches and releaved the 4 right Co.'s of our Regt.

Wed. 27: Clear and warm our duty is hard in the trenches one fifth of the men each day for sharpshooting in front of the works and one third on watch in the ditches.

Thurs. 28: Clear and hot all still this morn. except sharpshooting and shelling and at 4 ½ P.M. our Brigade was ordered to the right and we come out the trenches the Yankees shelled us very heavy whilst moving we all went in again at dark on the right of the Brigade that was on our right whare shelling but no picket firing in our front. The same rules as before.

Fri. 29: Clear and very hot the main lines in our front is a bout 600 yds. and videts are within 100 to 150 yds and we go in front of our works after water 2 or 3 men wounded in the Regt. by a cross fire on our left whare they keep a continual [continual] sharp shooting in the Brigade on our left and our lines are Enfilated [Enfilade¹¹⁸] all a long hear they could sweep our lines but for the traveses [traverse¹¹⁹] we have across them on our left the 2 lines are within 150 yds.

¹¹⁷ Hicks is describing an earthen-reinforced shelter designed for protection against explosives.

¹¹⁸ Enfilade is a volley of gunfire directed along a line from end to end.

¹¹⁹ Traverse is U-shaped detour in a trench to help protect from enfilade fire.

Sat. 30¹²⁰: Clear and very hot every thing calm at day at 5 A.M. the Yankees blew up a Battery of 4 guns on our line By undermining Pegram's battery such a sight I never saw. The Earth trembled for miles a round they charged that place and got perseeision [possession] of the line whare our men was blown up it was on a high place and they charged in heavy masses at that place and amed [aimed] to flank our rear right and left and charge our front and they crossed our works and amed to form about 100 yds. on our rear they was foured to fall back to our works in double kwick [quick] and they held a space of 150 yds. and we Poured in to them with shells and small armes [arms] from right and left and was so thick in that little space and they had but little Protection that they was killed until the ground was covered and we closed right and left and on them as soon as the Explosion was over which was done in 5 minutes the Yankees opened all their artillery and mortars on us and enstead [instead] of charging our line they opened fire from their works and such roar and crackling of shells I never saw nor heard they saw their flank movement was a failure they stoped shooting from their works only at intervils [intervals] after several hours then now and then and to keep us from bringing up reinfoursements [reinforcements] but at 1 ½ [P.M.] Mahones Brigade and 2 left Regts. of our Brigade on the right and a part of Elliott's [Brig.¹²¹] on the left Mahones in the center gave a yell and charged them out in a few minutes with a desperate slaughter of Yankees and Negroes all together about 3 P.M. heavy firing begin to sease and we closed in to the left slowly on our feet and guns in hand all day and very hot and under desperate shelling musketry from their works the Prisoners ses [says] they was ordered to charge us all a long our lines we kept up a close watch all night things was quiet during the night the mine was sprung in. Gen. Johnston's present our losses Elliott's Va. Brigade 300 killed and wounded and 300 Prisoners. Gen. Mahone's 450 killed and wounded General Wise's 150 killed and wounded our loss total 1200. The Yankees loss is 700 killed and 300 wounded and 2,000 Prisoners Negroes and Yankees this is what the Papers stated first day after the fight I think very correct from what I saw myself.

Sunday 31st: Clear and hot all quiet in our front to day some little sharp shooting in front of whare the works was Blown up the works are so clost to gether thar [there] is no videts in front the papers ses [says] we taken 20 stands of cullers[colors] I went up whilst the flag of truce was up and I never saw so many dead Yankees and Negroes all in our works and down in the hole and from works to thars [theirs] and some wounded and they could not get to them some messages past But the dead and wounded was not moved until the next day our wounded was taken up and cared for and our dead Buried was taken up all of them to day none of our dead and wounded fell in the enemy's hands thare was a good many I suppose 100 or 150 was covered up from the Blast and our men are working on the works thare digging them out we made the Negroe Prisoners pile up the dead Yankees that was in side of our works and Bury all the dead Negroes that was in our hands in that hole their [there] was several hundred lade [laid] in the deep grave they dug with the help of gun powder all was quiet at our front usual rules of setting up at night some of our men plundered the dead pulled of [off] their clothes and some of the Yankees was striped [stripped] most naked and one I saw was naked.

¹²⁰ This describes the Battle of the Crater, which was fought at Petersburg, Virginia on July 30th, 1864. The explosion occurred around 5 a.m, which gave the Union the initial advantage, but the Confederate forces turned the tide and retained control of Petersburg.

¹²¹ The word following "Elliott's" is faded, but it is most likely "Brig" for brigade.

AUGUST, 1864

August 1864 Mon. 1: Clear and warm all still this morning except some sharpshooting we closed a little Back towards the right and about 5 A.M. they sent in a flag of truce to Bury their dead which was granted and they was buissy [busy] engaged until 9 A.M. 4 hours and the men was up on top of the Parripet [parapet]¹²² on both lines as fare [far] as I could see right and left so we got a good look at each other no shooting during that time I also saw 2 Yankee Generals standing on their works a looking no shelling this evening but sharpshooting began as soon as the flag was taken down after dark we moved to the left our right rested at the blow up near our old place on the left.

Tues. 2: Clear and very hot and dry all tolerable still to day no shelling in our front since the fight we have bin drawing Beef for several days one 5th up at night.

Wed. 3: Clear and very hot all still on our lines except sharp shooting some few cannon was fired before day from both sides the first since the fight from boath [both] sides.

Thurs. 4: Clear and hot and dry there has bin [been] but very little shelling since Saturday and usual sharpshooting and sitting up at night.

Fri. 5: Clear and dry and the hottest weather I ever saw we found a mine in Grace's front and taken out the Powder and placed it under thar [their] rifle Pits and blowed [blew] it up it was not so large as Grant's for it was only intended to save our selves from a blast.

Sat. 6: Clear and hot nothing new to day. Sergt. Boswell Corpl. Gibbs and Priv. Hogan sent to the Brigade Hospital from the trenches Lt. J.H. Clark the only Com. [commissioned] officer and me the only N. Com [non-commissioned] officer with the Co. and 22 Men present for duty.

Sun. 7: Clear and warm all quiet on the line except a Brisk sharpshooting and some shelling very hot and dry weather.

Mon. 8: Clear and hot the usual quietness prevails to day at dusk Thomas Harris of our Co. was wounded in the left leg whilst going to the spring was Amputated clost below the knee he was prompt to his duty.

Tues. 9: Some clouds passing and no rain usual Quiet prevails a long our lines at night whilst out on Picket was severely woonded [wounded] in the right shoulder and sent to Brig. Hospital and C.W. Adkison [Adkinson] went back to the wagon yard on a 4 hour Pass to get clean clothes his Brother Jack and cousin [cousin] Wm. [William] Hogan was at hospital all 3 run away from Co. I 34th Regt. Va. This being Jack's 2d [second] attempt and William's 3d [third].

Wed. 10: Cloudy with a nice shower regular Picket firing and some shelling.

Thurs. 11: Clear and hot Sergt. Wallace come in yestady and several of the men from the Hospitals and I am on picket to day and Releaved at dusk.

¹²² A "parapet" is a protective wall or earth defense along the top of a trench or other place of concealment for troops.

Fri. 12: Clear and warm our sappers¹²³ and miners are mining on different parts of the line and Grant is reported to be a doing the same.

Sat. 13: Clear and hot and dry nothing new on the lines reasonably [reasonably] quiet.

Sun. 14: Clear and dry and hot still sharpshooting T. Harris died at the hospital in Petersburg this morning from wound [wound] Sergt. A.C. Daugherty died at hospital in Richmond from disease the 5th of this month a light thunder shower this evening.

Mon. 15: Clear and warm evening thunder shower and heavy rain very muddy [muddy] in the trenches all Quiet as usual.

Tues. 16: Cloudy and hot I was on detail to day as Proud guard a little rain in evening and night.

Wed. 17: Cloudy and look like rain. Rain in the evening and early part of the night and ¼: 2 A.M. [1:45 A.M.] our artillery opened all a long the line for about ½ hour but little reply from the Yankee lines.

Thurs. 18: Clear and pleasant and every thing still this morning but sharp shooting. Lt. Woolfolk Returned to the Co. yestady evening some little excitement on the right the Yankees made a raid on the Weldon R.R. 6 mi. below Petersburg and got possession of a small portion of our forces [forces] was unable to drive them back.

Fri. 19: Cloudy and rain most all day and same last night and this morning at 3 A.M. heavy cannonading on both sides until light all a long our lines we expected an attack and was in readiness it did not come off [of] mud over shoe top deep all a long the trenches and we have to take of [off] our shoes no shelter but a blanket and at night none we have to take them down still sharp shooting.

Sat. 20: Clear and hot at 12 [P.]M. and in the evening a hasty thunder storm tremendous hard rain every body wett and everything we had rain all Eve. and cloudy and misting all night all of our clothes had to dry on us heavy fighting on our right on the W.R.R. [Weldon Railroad] No Particulars.

Sun. 21: Cloudy and rainy all the morning heavy cannonading began at 4 A.M. and lasted until 6 A.M. very rapid on both sides and it still continues on the right and left. Fight renewed on the W.R.R. this morning some little cannonading until noon all tolerable still in the eve.

Mon. 22: Cloudy and misting rain very muddy and no releaf [relief] from the ditches some cannonading and clost sharp shooting. I had a very hard chill at 3 A.M. and deep cold Dr. ordered me to the Brigade hospital and I would not go.

Tues. 23: Cloudy another chill gest [just] before day and the Dr. sent [me] back to the rear cleared [cleared] off about noon very warm.

¹²³ A "sapper" is a combat engineer that serves multiple purposes. They are often placed in charge of construction or demolitions.

Wed. 24: Clear and very hot I missed my chill last night I taken [took] a wash and put on some clean clothes once more. All seems tolerable Quiet as far as I can hear.

Thurs. 25: Clear and warm everything is hard out hear the sick eats only 2 a day and very light at that heavy fighting on the right late this evening on the W.R.R. No particulars up to dark rain at night.

Fri. 26: Clear and warm shelling on the left and senter [center] our Brigade moved to the right yestady morning yestady they Brought in 3,091 prisoners 18 peaces [pieces] of artillery and a long train of the wagons and Ambulances that was captured at Reames Station on the Weldon R.R. our loss very small owing to the flank move we made on them we drew 4 months wages for the first this year John L. Mason returned from the Chimbarazo Hospital Richmond heavy wind and rain last night.

Sat. 27: Cloudy and cool all seems quiet on the lines I can't hear any firing a beautiful day some shelling in the Eve.

Sun. 28: Clear and cool and a beautiful morning I am still at the Hospital well But week [weak].

Mon. 29: Clear and pleasant nothing new more than very heavy shelling on the line and also the Yankees are shelling the city. Rain in the evening.

(X)Tues. 30: Clear and warm I was returned for duty this morning and went to my Co. in the trenches our Regt. is at the old Blow up the senter of the Regt. is over the old blow up and our Co. jest [just] to the left. Some Shelling in our front off and onn [on] all day We was alowed [allowed] to swap papers and Tobbaco [tobacco] and so on for a little while this evening.

Wed. 31: Clear and warm drawing some few clothes for the Regt. to day No pickets in our front we sharpshoot from the main lines between 12 [P.]M. and 1 P.M. Corp. W. A. Gibbs¹²⁴ of our Co. was shot through the head with a Minnie Ball whilst making some preparation for a shade in the trenches By a Yankee sharp shooter struck clost above the left Eye and killed instantly I was sent to bury him and I got a Plain government Coffin and deposited his remains near the Petersburg Semetary [Cemetery] and gave his nap sack [knapsack] to his nephew Miner Gibbs of Company E.

SEPTEMBER, 1864

Thurs. Sept 1: Clear and warm some shelling I went to the ordinance train after acutremments [accouterments]. Nothing unusual.

Fri. 2: Clear and hot some shelling and but little sharpshooting and Exchanging Papers and swapping tobbaoco for knives and so on with the Yankees. T.L. Sledd come down to see Jack at the Hospital and I got a pass and went over to see him and he did not come in the trenches heavy shelling late in the evening as I went in.

¹²⁴ Corporal William A. Gibbs, Co. I.

Sat. 3: Cloudy and look like rain all day and night but no rain exchanging papers a gain to day. T.L. Sledd leaves for home this evening By Richmond. Jim is at home sick. Joseph Huddleston slightly wounded with a shell I put in my Applcation [application] for fourlough [furlough] on my return.

Sun. 4: Cloudy and cool all quiet this morning. Exchanging papers again this morning. Nothing unusual.

Mon. 5: Cloudy and cool. Exchanging papers a gain. Constant shelling for a few hours late in the evening & at 10 P.M. Every [Very] costant [constant] lightning and heavy rain and cloudy and misting rain all night drew coffee and sugar we are still in the trenches yet.

Tues. 6: Cloudy and misting rain and cool all day but little shooting in our Front to day and no shelling yet.

Wed. 7: Cloudy and cool misting rain all quiet as usual except some sharp shooting and shelling.

Thurs. 8: Cloudy and still misting rain at daylight our Brigade was releaved from the trenches and went back in reserve Drill 2 and Roal [Roll] call 3 times a day our Regt. went in the rear trenches at night.

Fri. 9: Cloudy and misting rain at daylight we left the rear trenches and went back to the rear a gain and another Regt. of our Brigade will go tonight. I got a pass to go to the wagon yard in the evening and about 2 oclock P.M. J.D. Hodges¹²⁵ was mortally woonded in the head with a stray Minnie Ball whilst he was prearing [preparing] his dinner struck in the left temple good Bacon worth \$6.50 per pound.

Sat. 10: Clear and warm drilling 2st [twice] a day and roal call 3 times. Hodges is a living yet. Some shelling on the line and the fragments fell in our camps also Minnie balls.

Sun. 11: Clear and cool we went to the front relieved Elliott's Brigade at the old Crator [crater] the same position we had before Co. K is in the Blowup and they had one man killed whilst sharp shooting in head Minnie Ball 26 and 59 [26th and 59th] Regts. of our Brigade was in the rear trenches a bout 200 yds. in rear of the front line and they wished to come to the front ditch so a bout 2 P.M. our Regiment exchanged with them the rear works are weak yet J.D. Hodges dide this evening rain in the evening.

Mon. 12: Cloudy and cool and showery still in the rear ditch and heavy details for work in front of the main line and the old blow up we are cutting a picket line and the Yanks shelling us.

Tues. 13: Cloudy and cool I got a pass to town doors closed no Buisness [business] going on Thanksgiving day.¹²⁶

¹²⁵ Jesse D. Hodges, Co. I, died two days later on 9/11/64.

¹²⁶ The Confederacy first started celebrating Thanksgiving, or a day to give thanks, in 1861, two years prior to Abraham Lincoln's first proclamation of a Thanksgiving Day in the United States. However, unlike

Wed. 14: Cloudy and misting rain and cool at day light we taken our old position on the front line to the left of the crator very heavy shelling in the morning until near noon and Planting stockade in front of our works at night no sharpshooting in our front that night.

Thurs. 15: Cloudy soon in the morning no rain clear before noon I was sent in charge of 6 men on detail to the rear for 3 days to cut 700 logs from 8 to 10 in. through 14 feet long. For Bumbproofs [bombproofs¹²⁷]. T.A. Mitchell landed with his boxes for the company. Sergt. Wallace [Wallace] come out to the hospital sick Boswell act. [acting] Sergt. until me or him gets back. Lt. Barbour and J. Hogan come down on a train last night the Brigade moved to the left.

Fri. 16: Clear and cool a little fight on the Weldon R.R. a victory on our side still cutting timber for the Bomb Proofs.

Sat. 17: Clear and warm finished cutting the 700 logs and one load in we all reported in the trenches to our companies at or near Battery No. 5. No sharp shooting in our front.

Sun. 18: Cloudy and cool In the trenches 6 men of the 46[th] regiment deserted last night and one from Co. D. our Regt. and some before from the 26[th] and 46[th] since we have bin at this place on the line very little sharp shooting in our front or cannonading.

Mon. 19: Cloudy and alittle [a little] shower. Robt. [Robert] Hudson come in from home on sick furlough. J.W. Sledd come in from division hospital and W. Cassell come in from the cook yard and Me and the same detail of 6 men that was out chopping last week are ordered out a gain and we will go to the cook yard this evening.

Tues. 20: Clear and warm we grind our axes this morning and go to the woods about 2 miles in the rear of the cook yard Mr. Goode was down with his son as the Qr. Ma. Depot. [Quartermaster's Depot] and he gave me a nice drink of Brandy and a good Breakfast of home vitels [vittles].¹²⁸

Wed. 21: Clear and warm in the woods very heavy shelling on the lines this morning a bout sun rise 2 men killed and one wooned in our Regt. one Co. C, Co. E. and wooned Co. D all was quiet in our front after 9 A.M. some sharpshooting in our front now a fine rain at night.

Thurs. 22: Cloudy but no rain I reported to Col. R. Harrison and he ordered me to build stables for 6 horses and report to him in person every three days so I returned to the waggon [wagon] yard at night.

Fri. 23: Cloudy and misting rain we are at work on the stable this morning & getting slabs all seems quiet as usual.

the Union Thanksgiving, which has traditionally been in November, the Confederacy practiced it mostly in September.

¹²⁷ Bombproofs were shelters dug into the ground for soldiers to seek protection from cannonading

¹²⁸ Vittles is a nickname for prepared foods.

Sat. 24: Cloudy and rain off and on through the day we worked all day and did not have to go in we got a bout half the stable up.

Sun. 25: Clear and beautifull all quiet around hear We ar[e] resting to day at the Waggon yard.

Mon. 26: Clear and pleasant days and cool nights in the woods a gain.

Tues. 27: Clear and pleasant nothing new some talk of our Brigade going to the Vallie [valley] to reinfose Gen. Eearly [Early].

Wed. 28: Clear and cool halling [hauling] logs and finishing the stable reported to Col. Harrison I still go on with the logs and send 2 of my detail into their Co.s [Companies] so Taylor Co. I and Key Co. E went in the next day. Our Brigade come out of the trenches to rest for 10 days for the first for a long time.

Thurs. 29: Clear and warm thare was a move on the North side of James River and we sent troops from hear so our Brigade had to go back in the trenches this morning and some skirmishing on our right at night & the 2nd wee had orders to be ready to move at a moments warning some little frustration among them.

Fri. 30: Clear and hot orders to go on halling logs everything still and quiet in our front.

OCTOBER, 1864

Sat. Oct. 1, 1864: Cloudy and rain all day and most all night last night heavy firing of artillery and infantry all a long the lines last night very hard fighting on the Weldon R.R. was all day and until late in the night I saw 70 or 80 Prisoners from thare going to Petersburg raining night rather excitable times hear.

Sun. 2: Cloudy a part of the day but no rain some fighting on the right to day our Brigade was ordered around thare they went and was ordered Back in the trenches to the right of the old blow up.

Mon. 3: Cloudy and misting rain all seem still within my hearing this morning we are halling logs and cutting fire wood for the Trenches rain in the evening wett.

Tues. 4: Cloudy and warm I bought some sagham malasses¹²⁹ [sorghum molasses] at \$7.50 per Quart.

Wed. 5: Cloudy but little rain all seems tolerable Quiet on our lines wee are still getting logs and wood.

Thurs. 6: Clear and pleasant all seems quiet nothing new of note.

¹²⁹ Sweet sorghum syrup is derived from sorghum plants with high sugar content and is sometimes referred to simply as molasses.

Fri. 7: Clear and pleasant heavy shelling on the James River early this morning all quiet in the evening a sudden [sudden] change in the weather at night high winds and cold all night and next morning.

Sat. 8: Cold [Cold] and windy all seems tolerable still on the lines.

Sun. 9: Clear and cold I went to the ditches to see all the men no work to day very disagreeably cold Beef flour and Rice. B. Snow was shot of Company D. for desertion¹³⁰ [desertion].

Mon. 10: Cool and clear some shelling on the left this morning.

Tues. 11: More pleasant and clear still in the woods our Regt. came out of the trenches in reserve near the Iron Bridge.

Wed. 12: Clear and warm Lt. and myself 16 men ordered to go up the Canal [canal]¹³¹ 7 miles to chop wood we started up the Canal on a wood Boat from the yard in town with tents and 5 days rations at sundown began to rain and rained very hard all wet landed at 9 P.M. and dark stop rain when we was landing Camped on the Bank for the night.

Thurs. 13: Clear and windy a little cool we moved up in the woods and Pitched tents and grinding axes and making mauls [mauls] and making ready for work to Morrow our Brigade drawn 2 months wages our Regt. in reserve.

Fri. 14: Clear and pleasant went to chopping and Broke [broke] 5 axes and I had to go to town after more I went to the Co. and got my money an order for all detail men to go in.

Sat. 15: Clear more broken axes some had to go after more My furlough has gone in for 30 days on a recruit.

Sun. 16: Clear No work to day Most all the Men is gone [gone] to the waggon yards on pass Lt. Yowell is gone to Richmond on 48 hours pass all seems quiet on the lines.

Mon. 17: Clear I had to go after Rations drew 7 days for 18 men 1/3 lb. Bacon Each 1 lb. flour per day and Brought it up on a horse cart the first I ever drove Jack Sled[d] Division Hospital with Jaunders¹³² I got here after dark all quiet in town.

Tues. 18: Cloudy and pleasant no rain nothing new in the woods.

Wed. 19: Clear and Pleasant we are still Chopping wood.

Thurs. 20: Clear and warm day cool night I went down to camp to see whether my furlough had come in and carried 2 new axes and a couple of lbs. of soap with me back to woods and no furlough.

¹³⁰ Records show that Byrd Snow of Company D. was shot for desertion on October 8th, 1864.

¹³¹ Based on the locations provided in the diary, Hicks may be referring to the Roanoke Canal, which was established in 1824. The canal extends over 300 miles from North Carolina to the mountains of Virginia.

¹³² It is most likely that Hicks meant "jaundice", which is a yellowing of the skin.

Fri. 21: Clear and cool nights and Big frosts. My furlough come in this evening I went down but was too late to get off Saturday so I came out to the Wagon yard and staid all night.

Sat. 22: Clowdy and high winds and cold I [am] making Preparations to go home my furlough in hand.

Sun. 23: Started home at 5 A.M. and landed in Lynchburg at 5 P.M. and walked home 15 miles By 10 oclock at night of the same day.

NOVEMBER, 1864

Nov. 20, 1864: I leave home for Lynchburg and stay all night in Town and Start for Petersburg Tuesday morning at 8 oclock.