

January: 1864.

The first handwritten entry is on Jan. 1, 1864 (about 11 pages into the diary –the opening pages are charts, information data, sunrise times etc.).

Jan.1, Friday. Hospital near Stevensburg Va.¹

A cold windy day. This New Year's Day finds me sick in the hospital. One year ago I was aboard the car speeding away for our home but I wish it might be so now. We had a good New Year's dinner considering our circumstances. The Christian Commission² furnishes us with turkey, chicken etc. The reg't is in camp about 5 miles from us. It seems very dull. I have many new resolutions before me and hope I may spend the New Year wiser and better than the last.

Jan. 2, Saturday (same location)

A bitter cold day, the wind blowing, almost a hurricane, had to keep pretty close all the day. We will probably stay for a long time. No news from home. Wrote to Prof. N³ in the afternoon, was very badly disappointed in not receiving my mail, it being sent to the reg't. My sickness does not seem to get much better but I feel contented. Had quite a talk with Dr. Munson⁴, he is a good Christian man, who loves to do what is right "God's very good we ask".

Jan.3, Sunday (same location)

Cold but pleasant day. Felt somewhat better to day. Wrote my friend Mrs.S.S. Gidding of Washington City. She has ever been like a mother to me. Dr. Munson had a good long talk with me today. In the evening received a letter from my mother, a loving and anxiously expected letter, she has been very sick. Furloughs have been stopped and therefore I do not expect to get home, feel quite homesick.⁵ Yet I feel grateful for the goodness of the kind doctor. Rainy and snow in the evening.

Jan. 4, Monday (same)

Cold and quite a fall of snow. Do not feel as well as usual, have taken a great quantity of medicine & it does not seem to have a proper effect upon me, was visited by Kimball, a mounted orderly from Div.HDQrs. Gen. Alex Hays⁶ returned today accompanied by his wife. No news from home. Tomorrow the draft comes off, hope to see the day when it will be unnecessary to draft, when peace will once more be over the south. Took 50 grams of rhubarb today.⁷

"Hope & Disdain never can agree"

Jan. 5, Tuesday 9 (same)

Very pleasant day, snow just disappearing, quite cold in the evening. Did not feel very well today as I did yesterday. Albert Emmell,⁸ a friend of mine, came over to visit me in the forenoon. Wrote a letter to my mother. She is in Canada West at present⁹. No news from home. We have cheering news from Charleston.¹⁰ I hope soon to hear that the rebel nest is level within the ground. A fine fellow was buried today in the 14th Ind.

“Oh many a shaft at random sent, finds
Mark the archer little meant!
And many a word at random spoken may
Soothe or wound the [a] heart that’s broken.”¹¹

Jan.6, Wednesday.

Fine pleasant day but very cold, feel much better than usual. Wrote a letter to my aunt Mercy, Tomkins Co. NY. We have cheering news from all fronts in regard to the rebellion. Many are reenlisting daily. Was very hard put for something to do today to pass time, darned two pair of socks. No news from home. Gen. Hancock is commanding the corps at present.¹² Received from the hospital several luxuries from the Christian Commission. Several of our regt returned this evening, among them Henry Rice of Co. G, a member of the color guard, he was wounded at Bristoe Station.¹³

Jan.7 Thursday.

Another uneventful day. Twas very cold with some snow in the evening. Feel somewhat better than yesterday, no news from home. Visited Div.HdQrs, was introduced to Mrs. Genl. Hays by the General. Dr. Munson was appointed Surgeon in Chief of the 2nd Brigade on account of the absence of Dr. Saterwait.¹⁴ A soldier in the hospital is indeed to be pitied for [*he*] has nothing to do but eat & sleep, a very inglorious way of serving one’s country.

“Desire not to live long but to live well.
How long we live, not years but actions tell.”¹⁵

Jan.8, Friday.

My mother’s birthday, God grant she may live to see many more birthdays and happiness is the prayer of her only son. Cold raw day with considerable snow in the night. Feel much better. No news from home, it is rather strange I do not hear from home. Did not move about today, nothing of importance. Am much pleased with the cheering prospect of a speedy close to the war. This is

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the anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, although I am an Englishman yet I feel so thoroughly Americanized that I can rejoice with Americans in anything which has done good to the common cause of freedom.¹⁶

Jan. 9, Saturday.

Very cold day. Feel weak today, no better. Wrote a letter to my cousin J. U.¹⁷ Tomkins Co. N.Y.- also read Prof. Agassiz' Lectures on the Glaciers,¹⁸ also read an interesting little book called "The Way of Salvation." No news from home. This is the ends of the first week in the New Year, I have not felt right this week, have been grateful for the goodness of God, may I have the grace and be made to realize the goodness of my maker through the coming week.

"Who knows if Heaven with ever bounteous power/ Shall add to-morrow to the present hour?"¹⁹

Jan.10, Sunday.

A cold but very beautiful day, felt very much indisposed in the forenoon but better towards evening. This is what should have been a day of rest but it is sadly broken, for from morning to night the sound of axes could be heard all over camp. Feel much easier in my mind to-day, read a little work called Cromwell's Bible²⁰ and was much pleased with it, had a long talk with Dr. Munson on religious topics. No news from home.

"Now! it is gone, our hours travel post, / Each with its deed or thought, its why or how?/ But, know each parting hour gives up a Ghost,/ To dwell within us – an eternal Now.²¹

Anon.

Jan.11, Monday.

Another beautiful day but very cold. Felt much better than usual. Kept house for Dr. Munson, he being absent at the Div. Hospital. The medical director of the Corps visited the hosp to-day & examined the inmates. Genl Warren²² is again in command of the 2nd Corps, Gen. Hancock being ordered to Washington. Wrote to Prof. N in the afternoon, also wrote to Hudson Taylor²³ Bookseller Washington DC. for *Rebellion Record*. No news from home. One of the men of my company was on a visit to us to-day – he says the rebels are compelled to have 3 lines of pickets to prevent desertion and that they are very insolent.

Jan.12, Tuesday.

Really beautiful day- feel much better but did not rest very well. However received a paper from home. Visited Div.HDQrs, Mrs Hays had the misfortune to fall from her horse while proceeding with the Gen. on a visit to the picket lines. Our government is about to supply the suffering families in our lines with food and clothing. Kept house for the Dr. Again, to-day he is absent at the regt. No news from home except the paper.

“Trust no future, howe’er pleasant
Let the dead Past bury its dead
Act – act in the living Present
Heart within and God o’erhead.”

Anon.²⁴

Jan. 13, Wednesday

Very cold but beautiful day, feel middling well, kept house for Dr. Munson again. Wrote a long time in my last year’s diary, copying into it, also wrote a big letter to my dear friend & former teacher Miss N.M. Green, Rochester NY, also read in Dr. Mark’s *History of the Peninsula Campaign*. No news from home. A very interesting book.

“He should consider often who can choose but once.”²⁵

Jan. 14, Thursday.

Really beautiful day. Felt very unwell in the forenoon but much better in the evening. Copied almost all day in my old diary. Dr. Dougherty and Med. Inspector of the Corps was on tour of inspection today He seemed quite pleased with our hospital. Lieut. Locke was also on a visit here. No news from home. Read a chapter of Dr. Mark’s book. In the evening wrote to my friend Thomas Glidden of Rochester.²⁶ News from the front is that Lee has been reinforced by Longstreet.

“Better a poor but peaceful life/ than wealth and treasure bought with strife.”²⁷

Jan.15, Friday

One of the finest days we have had. Felt very weak and played out all the day. Was out of the tent all day, it seemed so very pleasant. Did considerable work for the steward in cleaning up. Wrote a good bit in my old diary. Received a letter from my friend M.A. Haver of Livingston Co. NY, also wrote a letter in answer to same. Read several chapters in Dr. Marks work. Very cold this evening with an appearance of snow. A poor fellow died in the 12th NJ hospital also a Lieut. in the 3rd brigade, he was buried this afternoon.

“They never fail who die
In a great cause; the block may soak their gore;
Their heads may be sodden in the sun, their limbs
Be strung to city gates and castle walls;
But still their spirit walks abroad. Though years
Elapse and others share as dark a doom,
They but augment the deep and sweeping thoughts
Which overpower all others and conduct
The world at last to freedom.”²⁸

[cut out from a paper and stuck on the bottom of the entry]

Jan. 16, Saturday.

Another very fine day overhead but dreadful under foot. Felt worse today than I have felt for a long time. This is the end of the week, I trust I have lived better this week than before but I am not satisfied, I need much divine guidance and help. Took a walk to the commissary dept. But was so weak that I was scarcely able to get back. Received the book I sent for to Hudson Taylor. Finished Dr. Marks work, I think some parts of it very much exaggerated.

“Life is a casket, not precious in itself but
Valuable in proportion to what fortune or
Industry or Virtue has placed within it and
How few think of this.”²⁹

Jan.17, Sunday.

A regular summers day. Felt much better although I had a severe headache. Read through several chapters of my bible including the life of Joseph and his son, was much interested. Also read considerable of Byron's work *Childe Harold*³⁰ but soon found it was not suitable reading for the Sabbath. Went over to Div.HDQrs late in the afternoon, received a lot of paper from a friend, heard that several men were to go home on recruiting service. Wrote a friend J.S. Howe, Kings County NY. Although no news from home, this regt.has 19 months to serve from today.

Jan. 18, Monday.

A cold rainy and disagreeable day, mud several inches deep, do not feel very well today. Time seems to go very slow, no news from home. Lieut. Kennedy³¹ of Co. B has just returned from furlough, he reports that the trains were collided near Washington with a train from Brandy Station. Had a good long conversation with Dr. Munson, read several cantos in Byron's *Childe Harold*, it is a sublime book.

*[Here follows a paste in from a newspaper – a comical collections of “Noshuns” from Josh Billings – the original can be easily read in the on-line diary entry for this date]*³²

Jan.19, Tuesday.

Very cold windy day, kept house for the doctor most all day, feel much better than usual. Spent my time in reading & finishing Byron's *Childe Harold*, wish I had his other works if they are as good as this one, also read and copied into my old diary, must send it home soon. Two rebels deserted and came over to our lines last night. No news from any place, home, mother or any other relative, all seem to have forgotten me. Wrote letter for one of the sickest men in our hospital, he was too weak himself.

[Attached is a copy of The Patriot Maiden's Prayer taken and pasted from a published work – probably newsprint – the poem can be read in the online diary ,no background of the poem can be found.]

Jan. 20, Wednesday.

Beautiful day all nature seems to smile and man alone is vile, so I thought while viewing the beautiful sunset beyond the grand Blue Ridge. I felt as well today but night brings its pains back again. A gentleman from Fairport is on a visit to our hospital. Last night a squad of rebels numbering 30 with 3 or 4 commissioned officers deserted and came into our lines in a squad. No news from home, it's nearly 4 weeks since I have received a letter. Wrote in my old diary. The men who were ordered to go on recruiting service have been ordered to remain in the regt.

Jan.21, Thursday.

One of the most beautiful days we have had this winter, the snow has all disappeared but left us a good remembrance in the form of much Virginia mud. Wrote and sent my old diary home by a gent of the name of Wells who has been on a visit to the army. In the evening wrote a letter

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home, no letters received, feel rather feeble. Received orders to send away the sickest and move to the regt. on Morton's Ford on the Rapidan River.

[*again attached is a paste in newsprint which purports to use every letter of the alphabet in a "poetic" stanza – see online diary.*]

Jan. 22, Friday 1864 Hospital Near Morton's Ford.³³

Very beautiful and spring like day, feel pretty well but very feeble. Early this morning all was bustle in getting the sickest men removed and packing up things, moved at 11 to the new camp, it is but one mile from the Rapidan. Mud dreadful deep, am pleased with the camp very much, the Dr. homes in his own tent. Received the photograph from home but no letter, am getting impatient for news. Several deserters came into our lines from the Rebs, they say they are suffering very much.

Jan.23, Saturday (same place).

Very cold in the morning, helping the Dr. most of the time, visited the company, found the men very comfortable and much contented, also visited the many friends in Company F, they were also very comfortable and contented. In the evening received two letters, one from Aunt Mercy and another from my old schoolmate B.D. Wilson. Feel quite contented, did not feel very well, had a high fever and sweat.

Mud very deep and widespread.

[*attached cut out*]

'When you go to kiss, first grasp with haste around the waist and hug her tight to thee; then she'll say "Do go away – do, won't you let me be?" Then Oh, what bliss but never miss so good a chance as that, then make a dash, as quick as flash, and – Georgie hold my hat.'³⁴

Jan.24, Sunday (same)

A very beautiful day, all nature seems to be rejoicing, this has been one of the quietest & happiest Sabbaths that I have enjoyed for a long time. Read one of the books belonging to the library of the Chaplain, also read several chapters in my bible, enjoyed evening worship with Dr. Munson. How I can appreciate those times when all my dear friends were assembled in family worship, how I miss those happy times now. Nothing of interest today, all quiet along the Rapidan except now and then a rifle report that some poor rebel is trying to come in.

Jan.25, Monday.

Pleasant and very spring like, do not feel much better today. No news from home. Visited my company and some friends in Co.F. Lieut. Chas Ayers returned today. He has been absent a very long time, partly without leave. Helped to clear the medical cases, was at work on them most of the day. Several officers in the regt. are drunk and their profane and smutty language can be heard to the shame of our regt. through the brigade. Mr. Grassie commenced to build a chapel, when it is completed will hold over a hundred people.³⁵

[attached poem called Meeting and Parting, by Helen Bruce- can be read in the online copy]

Jan.26, Tuesday.

Another beautiful day, feel a little better today than usual. Received two letters, one from my dear mother and another from Mrs. Northrup, both being looked for letters and very welcome. Nothing of interest has occurred today.

[another stuck-on poem; Out at the Window by A.B. Nettleton]

Jan.27, Wednesday.

Another beautiful day, all the works of nature seem to be joyful and why should not we join in the chorus. Felt like nature and enjoyed the glorious views from the mountains, the Blue Ridge in the distance covered with snow and the silvery Rapidan flowing at our feet. All seemed like a dream until looking along the banks of the river, the foe to one's country can be seen and all is over. Wrote to Aunt Mercy and to Prof. N. Received paper from home, Dr. Munson sent up an application for leave of absence.

[Stuck on A Review of Life by C.F. Flanders- see online for details]³⁶

Jan. 28, Thursday.

Fine but quite cold in the morning, feel very much better. At work helping to obtain hospital med. Leaves, wrote to mother – nothing of importance occurred today.

Jan. 29, Friday.

Pleasant and spring like. Received a paper from home. Am almost as well as I hope. Nothing of importance today. A rebel picket was captured and 4 other deserters that night. Took a good ride [on?] horseback but was compelled to go to bed as soon as I returned on account of a fever occasioned by over exertion.

Jan. 30, Saturday.

Another fine day but snowing in the evening. Dr. Munson started for Washington having received a leave of absence for 5 days. Received a letter from home, wrote two letters, one to an asylum friend and another to my little friend Miss Alice Northrup. Nothing of much interest occurred today. Mr. Grassie's lady has come to share this camp life with her husband, the chapel is finished and we will probably have services tomorrow.

Jan.31, Sunday.

A very pleasant day, bit rainy in the evening. Services in the chapel by Mr. Grassie, a very fine discourse. Mrs. Grassie was present. It seems quite pleasant to have worship once more in the afternoon, was introduced to Mrs. Grassie and find her a very pleasant lady. Received a letter from Aunt Mercy and also letter from cousin Judith, spent a very pleasant evening with some members of the regt.

Notes:

¹After the fruitless Mine Run Campaign of Nov 27 –Dec.2,1863, the Army of the Potomac moved back across the Rapidan River and went into winter quarters on a line north of the river. Stevensburg Va. Is about 7 miles east of Culpepper, Va.

² The Christian Commission was an organization to supply Union troops with medical aid, supplies and religious literature (protestant) and was created to answer the needs of the troops right after the debacle of 1st Bull Run in 1861 and should not be confused with the U.S. Sanitary Commission created on June 21,1861, a month before Bull Run.

³ George Washington Northrup (1826 – 1900), educator, preacher and theologian was born in Antwerp, Jefferson Co. N.Y. and graduated with a Doctor of Divinity from Rochester Theological Seminary in 1864. He became a professor of history at Rochester in 1867.

⁴Owen Munson, age 53, enrolled in Washington DC, mustered in as Surgeon, 108th NY on Feb.17 1863 but was discharged for disability on April 5, 1864, died in Washington on May 19,1868.

⁵ In 1864, the three year enlistments would run out and potentially the Union Army could experience a significant loss of manpower, so in order to stimulate re-enlistments any regiment, the majority of which re-enlisted would be given a one month furlough to go home. As a result, regular furloughs were suspended.

⁶Brigadier General Alexander Hays (July, 1819 – May, 1864) commanded the 3rd Division of the 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac. In Feb, 1846, he married Annie Adams McFadden (1826-1890). Hays died from a battle wound on May 5,1864 at the Battle of the Wilderness.

⁷Rhubarb as a herbal medicine has a positive and balancing effect on the digestive system. Depending on the dosage, it can be used as a laxative or treatment of diarrhea, liver and gall bladder complaints, chronic constipation, even hemorrhoids or menstrual problems.

⁸ Albert S. Emmell, 12th NJ Infantry, Co. H.

⁹ Today “Canada West” is the province Ontario.

¹⁰ The reference here must be to the continuing but frustrating effort to re-take Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor.

¹¹“Lord of the Isles”, canto V, stanza 18, by Sit Walter Scott

¹²Major General Winfield Scott Hancock (Feb. 1824 - Feb.1886) with the transfer of Maj. Gen. Darius Couch after the Chancellorsville Campaign in May 1863, assumed Couch’s vacated position in command of the 2nd Corps.

¹³Henry S. Rice, 20 yrs old, enlisted as pvt. Co G, was promoted to Corporal, March,1863 , was wounded at Bristoe Station on Oct. 14, 1863, then was promoted to sergeant in April 1864 but was wounded again in action at Spotsylvania on May 9, 1864 and finally promoted to 1st Sgt. In Dec. 1864.

¹⁴Dr. Alvin A. Satterthwaite (1838-1872 in July 1862 was appointed as Chief Surgeon of the 12th NJ Infantry with the rank of Major.

¹⁵ Rowland Watkyns (1614-1664), Church of England clergyman and poet.

¹⁶ The battle of New Orleans was fought on Jan. 8, 1815 and was the final major battle of the war of 1812. The American forces commanded by Andrew Jackson defeated the attempted seizure by the British forces. Nightingale's optimism is commendable but really unfounded.

¹⁷ Johnathon Underdown.

¹⁸ Louis Agassiz (1807- 1873) was a Swiss born and European trained biologist and geologist. Nightingale is probably referring to his lectures "Glaciers and the Ice Period" (1864-65). "The Way of Salvation" was written by John Charles Ryle (1816- 1900) and was the first Anglican Bishop of Liverpool.

¹⁹ A translation of Horace's Ode VII, To Torquatus.

²⁰ Cromwell's Soldier's Pocket Bible was a pamphlet carried by the soldiers of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth army in the first English Civil War.

²¹ A Quotation by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) , entitled "Inscription on a Timepiece" (1830).

²² Maj. Gen. Gouvenour Kemble Warren (1830-1882) temporarily replaced Hancock on and off between August, 1863 to March 1864 .Hancock returned for a while but was ordered to Washington more so to comfort his wound received at Gettysburg which refused to heal.

²³ Hudson Taylor Book Seller, 354 Pa.Ave near 9th St. Washington.
The Rebellion Record, A diary of American Events 12 vols. by Frank Moore (1828-1904), American journalist and compiler.

²⁴ Taken from "Psalm of Life" stanza 6 (22-25) by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882).

²⁵ *The Peninsula Campaign in Virginia*, Rev.Dr. James Junius Marks (1809-1899), (Philadelphia: J.B.Lippincott,1863).

The quotation was used as an example of a type of epigram in *English Composition and Rhetoric, A Manual* by Alexander Bain (NY,1867). The quotation is attributed to Hugh Blair (1718-1800), a minister of the Church of Scotland and teacher at the University of Edinburgh.

²⁶ Dr.Alexander N. Dougherty (1822-1882) was the Medical Director of the 2nd Corps and Dr. Charles Smart (1841-1905), Ass't Surgeon was the Medical Inspector.

Lieut. Andrew J. Locke, 21, mustered in as Corporal Co. F, promoted to Sgt, at the time of this entry he was a 2nd Lt. but would be promoted to Lt. In June 1864.

Thomas Gliddon or Glidden could be Thomas Bolívar Gliddon (1833?-1890?). He was born in Guernsey, England and was a printer by trade and (if the correct man) became a major participant in the Masonic Lodge in Rochester. He was the editor of "The Casket, Rochester's Journal for Undertakers" (1876). His connection to the print trade and his English birth would suggest a natural bond with Nightingale.

²⁷ The source of this homily could not be found. It appeared in various newspapers in the 1850's also in "The Dayspring" Vol. III, p.103, 1874.

²⁸ Lines from "Marino Faliero, Doge of Venice, a five act tragedy in blank verse by Lord Byron (George Gordon Byron , 1788-1824), published in 1821. The lines are spoken by Israel Bertuccio, II,ii.

²⁹ Lines from Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864), English poet and writer.

³⁰ “Child Harold’s Pilgrimage” by Lord Byron, published between 1812-18, describes the travels of a world weary young man.

³¹ John B. Kennedy, age 21, mustered in as Sgt. Co. B, 108th NY, promoted 2nd Lt. on Sept. 17, 1862, 1st Lt, July, 1863 then Captain on June 9, 1864.

³² ‘Josh Billings’ was the pen name of 19th century American humorist Henry Wheeler Shaw (April 1818-Oct. 1885). In terms of popularity at the times, he rivalled fellow humorist Mark Twain.

³³ Morton’s Ford Va. Is 4-5 miles directly south of Stevensburg on the Rapidan River.

³⁴ This piece of literature (?) appeared in “The Australian Journal, A Weekly Record of Literature” Vol. 13, Feb. 1878, so obviously judging from the date Nightingale must have had another and earlier copy of the “work”.

³⁵ Charles B. Ayers, 20, enlisted as Sgt. Major, promoted to 2nd Lt. Co. G on June 1st 1863 then was discharged for disability in April 1864.

Thomas G. Grassie, 30, was mustered in as Chaplain on April 23, 1863 with the rank of Captain and was discharged for disability on Dec. 17, 1864.

³⁶ The poems ‘stuck on’ in the previous three entries are all from one specific source :”The Ladies Repository, A Monthly Periodical Devoted to Literature and Religion”, ed. Rev. D. W. Clark, DD., November Issue 1859 . Clearly someone must have left a copy of the issue at the hospital or it may have been provided by the Christian Commission for the spiritual edification of the patients.

February: 1864.

Feb. 1 Monday. Morton's Ford Hospital.

[First two lines of the entry are covered by a pasted-on piece of newsprint that can be read in the online diary]

....read a book from Mr. Grassie's library, also wrote home, received letter from B.N. Wilson of Rochester. Visited the company, two more members were admitted to the hospital today.

Feb.2, Tuesday.

Another rainy day, felt unwell, no news from home or from mother. Time seems to fly very swiftly wrote to my little friend Alice Northrup of Rochester.¹

Feb.3, Wednesday.

Pleasant day, felt very well. In the evening captured a very pretty flying squirrel, a little innocent which I shall adopt as a pet. No news from home. In the evening received my box with a splendid pair of boots and many little articles of comfort from home which show that the line soldier is not forgotten by his dear ones at home.

Feb. 4, Thursday.

Rainy with a few flakes of snow. Wrote to my aunt Mercy. Found the letter in my box from Miss M.M. Thorne and one from little Charlie Benton of Rochester.

Feb.5, Friday

Another pleasant day. Felt very well, Dr. Munson returned from Washington to day. In the evening we received orders to be ready to move at 7a.m. tomorrow. Destination not known but we expect a demonstration is to be made on the enemy. Tomorrow will decide.

Feb.6, Saturday.

Early this morning the brigade started and joined the division marching in the direction of Morton's Ford, which they crossed at 9 in the morning. Severe skirmishing all the day. Was left in the camp to take care of the ladies, towards evening, the wounded were led in, among them Lt. Col. Pierce, Col. Lockwood, Col. Sawyer and Lt. Shields of the Div. Staff, all severely wounded and several of the men of the regt. This has been a disastrous day to us. Loss in all about 250

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killed, wounded and missing. The regt. returned about 8 in the evening but had to go back to the river again by 12, raining very hard.

Feb. 7, Sunday.

Early this morning started with Lt. Shields for Div. HdQrs, arrived there and saw him safely in Mrs. Gen. Hays care. Rainy almost all day, in the evening quiet. Gen. Hays narrow escape from being killed by a piece of shell in the forenoon as the Div. recrossed the river, the enemy seemed glad to hear us retreat, our loss is almost 300 killed and wounded. The gen. had two horses shot.

²

[Here he begins a series of lists with which he will fill later pages of his diary, it would appear that despite his illness, he was running some sort of business enterprise.]

Chas. Barry, Dr. Drury(?) -50 cts.

Isaac Thorn –books- \$3.00 ³

Feb. 8, Monday. HdQrs 3rd Div. 2nd Corps.

Started to day for my new duty as mail agent, 2nd Div. Bid the doctor good-bye, he has been a true friend. All is quiet today along the Rapidan, most of the troops are marching back to their former camps. One brigade will have to remain in case the enemy attempt to cross. Friendly letter from cousin Judie.

Feb. 8, Tuesday. [same locale]

Lieut. Shields is feeling very bad today. All quiet on the Rapidan, except an occasional picket shot. They probably dislike the pills we gave them as they gave them a very spiteful disposition. This afternoon visited the Corps hospital, arrived and got the mail, no letter for me. Col. Pierce cannot be moved, the 7th Va. Unioners went home today on a 30 day leave of absence, they have re-enlisted.⁴

Feb. 10, Wednesday. (same locale)

Leave day, all quiet on the Rapidan. In the evening received letters from home, also wrote home.

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Feb. 11, Thursday, HdQrs 3rd Div. 2nd Corps Stevensburg Va.

Very pleasant but cold day. Started at 7 o'clock for the mail, wrote home in the afternoon. At 3 o'clock started for the mail, Fowler, the Corps mail agent returned from Washington. No news from home. Lieut. Shields is much better this evening.

Feb.12, Friday.

Another pleasant day, up and after the mail early, no letters from home. Lieut. Shields parents arrived to take care of their wounded son. In the afternoon, the 1st Regt. Del. Vols. returned, they having been home on furlough, they are enlisted as veterans. Gen. Hays welcomed them quite cordially. Feel quite well.

Received of

H.L. Davidson corps mail agent, 40 photographs, 11 cts each \$4.40

R.S. Emmell Dn [?] 3 pho. .48

James P. Harris " 6 " .90

Sergt. Barnes " 7 " 1.05

W.M. Carroll " 2 " 2 paid .30

Henry Nightingale Dn 2 "

["Paid" is written over these entries.]⁵

Feb. 13, Saturday.

Another pleasant day, after mail as usual. In the afternoon visited the Div. hospital, saw several of the men of our regt. there, no news from home. Had a very nice time today, Dr. Marks, Chaplain came to day.

Feb.14, Sunday.

A very pleasant day, visited the 2nd Brigade and the 108 NYV, found the men well. No news from home, feel very well. Dr. Marks had divine services today, there were present at worship Gen. Warren, Gen. Hays, Webb, Caldwell and Owens with their ladies.

Chas. S. Bailey, dn 2 pho – 30cts

Chas. W. Dixon " 3 " 45cts

Armour Douglass " 1 " 15cts

Brewen 2d Brig. Vol. dn 7 paid \$1.00⁶

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Feb.15. Monday.

Fine day but very muddy underfoot. No news from home.

Feb. 16, Tuesday.

Bitter cold day. Visited the Div. hospital, found John H. Goodyer of the 108th & four other of our men, they are very comfortable, received a paper from home. Expressed \$150 dolls for Mrs. Collins to Mrs. John Ryan, New Lebanon, Columbia Co. NY.

William H. Collins dn 25cts paid.

Feb. 17, Wednesday.

Another very cold day, the most severe day we have had this winter. Large details from the several brigades out throwing up breastworks, we expect an attack from the enemy.

Received from H. Davidson Corps Mail Agent, 63 photos @ 8cts & 30 lithographs @ 8cts. Value \$8.73.

Feb. 18, Thursday.

Very cold day.

Peter Anger p 9 dn 50 cts.

Feb. 19, Friday.

Another cold day.

Capt. Lewis Insp. Gen. Dn. Postage Stamps \$1.00

Feb. 20, Saturday.

Cold but beautiful day, feeling well. Visited the Corps Hospital, in the afternoon wrote to Aunt Mercy, no news from home. Our corps is hard at work on fortifications.

Jas. P. Harris Dn

To 30 [pho.@ 12cts](#) 3.60

“ 12 lith. @ 10cts 1.20

Peter Anger Dn

To 18 [pho.@12cts](#) 2.11

“ 6 [lith.@10cts](#) 1.20⁷

Feb. 21, Sunday.

A very beautiful day. No services at HdQrs to day. Wrote to mother, no news from home, feel very well. The small pox has broken out in camp, three negroes have been taken with it and immediately sent to the rest house in Washington.

Feb.22, Monday.

Very fine day, no news from home. Grand Ball at Corps HdQrs given in honor of Washington's birthday. The rebels fired a salute to day in his honor.
Nathan Brinckley Dn 1.75.

Feb. 23, Tuesday.

Very fine day, Grand Review of the 6th and 12th Corps by Gen. Meade and President Hamlin. No news from home.
Peter Anger Dn To 14 Pho
Returned 11 Pho.

Feb.24, Wednesday.

Very cold but pleasant day, rumors of a move, bright fires can be seen, reflects from Rebellion on the sky. No news from home, visited the hospital, the boys are well provided for by Dr. Dudley & assistants.

Feb.25, Thursday.

Another very pleasant day, received a letter from home. Grand Ball at 2nd Div. HdQrs.

Feb.26, Friday.

Warm and very pleasant, no news from home or from mother.
Expressed 30 dolls for Jas. Harris directed to Ovid NY. My health is very quiet at present.

Feb. 27, Saturday.

Cold but pleasant, feel first rate, no news from home. The army is ordered to be ready to move, the 2nd Corps is ordered to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice.
Expressed 60 dolls for A.H. William to T.William, Ovid, Seneca Co. NY.⁸

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

Peter Anger to cash .91 returned 8 pho.

Feb.28, Sunday.

Another beautiful day. Rumor has it that the rebels have retreated, the 6th Corps and Cavalry crossed the Rapidan with but slight opposition, no doubt they are at some deviltry. No news from home, wrote to Aunt Mercy, feel pretty well.

*[Glued over some of his financial reckonings is a printed poem On Dreaming of My Mother –the poem must have been added later – he had a habit of revising his old diaries. The poem can be read in the online diary.]*⁹

Feb.29, Monday.

Started for Brandy Station to express several packages of money.
Expressed for R. Gibson 126 NY 80 dolls to R. Willson of Middletown
(?) Henry Wryght \$50 & \$55.00.

Notes:

¹ Perhaps the daughter of G.W. Northrup (see Jan/64 notes).

² The fight at Morton's Ford Va. on Feb.6-7,1864 was initiated by a harebrained scheme of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler (1818-1893) to take Richmond and /or free Union prisoners held there in Libby Prison. The army of the Potomac, mainly the 2nd Corps, was to provide a diversion at the ford while Butler took Richmond. The result was a disaster for the Union troops of the 2nd Corps. For a more detailed account see Crooks' *Rochester's Forgotten Regiment*, pp.176-186 on line at NYSMM.

Lt. Col. Francis E. Pierce of the 108th NY was hit in the left eye, the ball lodged behind the eye causing it to bulge out "like a hen's egg". Pierce lost sight in the eye but did return to duty for the Overland Campaign.

Lt. David Shields (63rd PA), aide to Hays was shot in the chest with the bullet exiting through the back. He was also shot in the right foot, losing the top of his middle toe. Mrs. Hays in a letter to her mother mentions meeting Shields on his way to division HdQrs. She identifies Nightingale as an "orderly".

Col. Jonathon H. Lockwood of the 7th West Va. Was shot in the shoulder.

Col. Franklin Sawyer of the 8th Ohio was stuck on the right wrist with a bullet that first passed through and tore open his haversack.

Gen. Hays's narrow escape occurred when a rebel bullet pierced his trousers and buried itself in his saddle.

³Charles W. Barry, 29 yrs, pvt. Co. B. 108th NY

Isaac Thorn, 32 yrs, pvt. Co. H, 108th NY.

⁴ The 7th West Virginia took advantage of the re-enlistment incentive.

⁵ Obviously the list involves some sort of dealings with photos, not all the names could be found.

Emmell see Jan. Notes.

Morgan J. Barnes Co. I, 1st Sergeant 12th NJ (?).

James P. Harris could be James F. Harris, pvt. Co. C. 126th NY since he was from Ovid NY and he later sends money there.

⁶ Charles s. Bailey, 19, pvt. Promoted to Corporal, Co.F, 108th NY

Charles B. Dickson, pvt, Co. A, 108th NY

Armour Douglas, pvt. Co. D. 1st Delaware

Charles Brewen, drummer, 1st Delaware.

Gens. Hays and Warren have already been noted earlier.

Brigadier General Alexander Stewart Webb (1835-1911) commanded the 2nd Division of the 2nd Corps during Gibbon's rehabilitation from his wound at Gettysburg.

Brigadier General John Curtis Caldwell (1833-1912) commanded 1st Division of the 2nd Corps at Gettysburg but lost his job when the army was reorganized in March, 1864. He left the army shortly thereafter.

Brigadier General (?) Joshua Thomas Owen, (1821-1887) commanded the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Division in the 2nd Corps during the Overland Campaign but was arrested after Cold Harbor and left the army.

⁷ John Ryan, Co. E, 108th NY.

John Goodyer (AKA Goodger) ,pvt. Co.F, 108th NY, was wounded at Morton's Ford.

Peter Anger, pvt, Co. F, then promoted corporal and then Sergeant in Feb. '63.

Captain David Lewis of the 84th PA was on the staff of Gen. Hays.

But there is no definite indication if either of these are the *Lewis* on Nightingale's list.

⁸ Frank A. Dudley was the surgeon of the 14th Connecticut.

Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade (1815-1872) was the commander of the Army of the Potomac.

Hannibal Hamlin (1809-1891) was Lincoln's Vice President.

The Grand Ball of the 2nd Corps was as noted on Feb. 22, 1864. Nightingale's mention of a ball 3 days later at the 2nd Division HQ. is odd. There is no record of such an event- also 2 balls in one week would have been a bit much.

There is no record anywhere in the Soldiers and Sailors database for a Nathan Brinckley.

⁹ The poem was written by Henry Francis Lyte (1792-1847), an English divine who found himself motherless at the age of nine.

His reference to an advance across the Rapidan is probably referring the commencement of the ill-fated Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid to Richmond - another disastrous effort.

March: 1864.

March, 1. Tuesday.

Nothing of importance today. Had to go to Brandy Station¹ to express money.

Time to Count to a Million

Suppose one could count 200 in a minute. An hour would produce 12,000. A day 288,000 and 365 days 105,200,000. To count a billion would require 9.55 years, 34 days, 5 hours & 20 minutes according to the above rule.

March 2, Wednesday.

Nothing unusual.

[*Written out in longhand is a poem on the recollection of Mother – with the usual 19th century Victorian hyperbole and sentimentality- can be read online.*]²

March 3, Thursday.

Nothing unusual.

[*Once more a copied expression on Mother and her training, taken from the Genesee Farmer for March 1849 – needless to say Nightingale had time on his hands.*]

March 4, Friday.

Nothing unusual except rumors of another Morton's Ford affair to be had, I hope not.

March 5, Saturday.

Nothing. Went to Brandy and expressed \$1000 dols for Gen. Hays.

March 6, Sunday.

Divine services but did not attend, feel unwell.

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

March 7, Monday.

Nil.

Kiss me ~~gently~~

March 8, Tuesday.

Nil.

[*A hand written copy of Modesty by Joseph-Marie Baron de Gerando (1772-1842) taken from his Self-Education or the Means and Art of Moral Progress, pub.1830 – again it can be read online if desired.*]

March 9, Wednesday.

Nil but to Brandy to express home five packages – money value (1050) dols.

March 10, Thursday.

A very disagreeable wet day, after mail as usual. Gen. Grant visited the army today.³ No news from home, feel very well.

March 11, Friday.

Another cold wet day, a heavy thunderstorm in the afternoon. Nothing of much importance today. Received a special order from army hdqrs. in regulating the disposal and reception of mail, feel very well.

Hours of Sleep

Nature requires five
Custom gives seven
Laziness takes nine
And wickedness eleven.

March 12, Saturday.

Pleasant and springlike. The cavalry which accompanied Gen. Kilpatrick are returning to their former camps.⁴ All quiet on the Rapidan. All ladies are from the army, a sure sign of a move, the men are ordered to be ready with shoes in light marching order at a moment's notice.

Chas.W. Dey dn to 6 photographs .48
Paid.

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March 13, Sunday.

Today we have orders to be on the alert as the enemy are unusually active, something is in the wind, no services at HdQrs today.

March 14, Monday. *[Blank]*

March 15, Tuesday.

Brigadier General Alexander Hays, commanding 3rd Div. 2nd Army Corps.

Personal Staff-

Geo.P.Corts – Capt. & A.A.Gen.
Geo.W. Johns- Capt. &
C.J. Queen – Capt. & Commissary of Subsistence
Thos.B. Hizes – Capt
H.S. Mattison – Capt. & P. Marshall
David Lewis – Capt. & I Genl.
Wm. M. Potter – Capt. & Judge Advocate
Lieut. J.P. Fogg – Lt. & Ord. Officer
David Shields – Lt. & ADC
J.S. Sullivan – Lt. & ADC
H.O. Nightingale – Corp & Mail Agent
Chas. Howard – Chief Clerk
J.S. Chambers – Sergt. Cmdg. Orderlies.

March 16, Wednesday.

Geo. Wilson mail agent of 3rd Brigade⁵

18 photographs @ 8 cts – 1.44
10 lithographs @ 6cts - .60.

March 17, Thursday

Blank

March 18, Friday.

Ashe gives the following tradition respecting the use of wine...*[see online diary, if interested]*.⁶

March 19, Saturday.

Blank

March 20, Sunday.

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Started to Brandy Station to express 4 packages- money value \$350 credited to H. Wright.

“Man

At ten a child, at twenty wild,

At thirty tame, if ever;

At forty wise; at fifty rich

At sixty good or never.”

Received from H. Wright \$2.00 for stamps

Prugor Div. Amb. Corps \$1.00 stamps,

March 21, Monday.

At Brandy, expressed five packages, money value \$222 credited to H. Wright.

March 22, Tuesday.

Received Henry Wright, dn. 2.00.

March 23, Wednesday.

At Brandy expressed four packages money from Staff Officer, value \$1400.

Carrie E. Silkiman

Elmira College, Elmira NY.

Residence Providence Pa.

[glued over this entry is a newspaper(?) cut out called Presentation of the Wedding Ring which can be read in the online diary]

March 24-26 Thursday to Saturday *[deals with his various express shipments]*

March 27, Sunday.

Divine services at camp of 10th NY.

March 28, Monday.

The division is to be disbanded and Gen. Hays will be removed to another command.

March 29, Tuesday.

Gen. Hays bid us goodbye. He takes command of the 3rd Brigade of 1st Division 3rd Corps.⁷

March 30, Wednesday.

Our Div. is disbanded, the 3rd Brigade transferred to the 1st Div. and the 1st and 2nd Brigade consolidated under Gen. S.S. Carroll.⁸

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March 31, Thursday.

Expressed (400) dols for Chief QM, turned over my 'pass' to the Quartermaster. Shall probably return to my regt. today. Goodbye to HdQrs.

Notes:

¹ Brandy Station is on the *Orange & Alexandria RR*. About 8 miles east of Culpepper Court House Va.

² Taken from John F. McCoy's *A Tribute of Flowers to the Memory of Mother*, p.42

³ Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was actually named Hiram Ulysses Grant and was officially appointed Commander of the U.S. Army on March 10, 1864. He decided to stay with the Army of the Potomac in the Overland Campaign of 1864.

⁴ Hugh Judson Kilpatrick (1836-1881), Brigadier General of the 3rd Division of the Cavalry Corps, was involved in the fiasco of the raid on Richmond – Feb-March 1864.

Charles W. Dey was in Co. C of the 126th NY infantry.

⁵ Only a few of these names were traceable since the names are so common or incorrectly remembered.

George P. Corts was in the 63rd Pa., Hays' original command.

Columbus J. Queen was a member of the 5th Regiment in the regular army.

Hamilton A. Mattison was in Co.H of the 12th New Jersey Infantry.

William E. Potter was in Co. G & K of the 12th NJ.

John M. Fogg was an Lt. In Co. H. 12th NJ.

John S. Sullivan was Lt. In Co. H of the 14th Indiana. He married Hays' daughter Rachel McFadden Hays.

[*Missing on the list is James C. Lynch who was the Division Inspector and was a member of Co's A & B in the 106th Pa. and eventually commanded the 183rd Pa. At Morton's Ford, Lynch had his hat blown off by artillery fire so may have been absent for medical reasons.*]

⁶ Thomas Ashe (1836-1889), English poet. The "Wine" work appears in "The World's Progress", p.582, edited by G.P.Putnam, 1853.

⁷ The Third Corps was absorbed into the 2nd Corps and 6th Corps and as a result Hays was demoted back to Brigade command in the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Division, 2nd Corps.

⁸ Samuel Sprig Carroll (1832-1893) led the consolidated 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps in the Overland Campaign and was promoted Brig. Gen. on May 14, 1864, after his wounding in the Wilderness. Nicknamed "Bricktop" for his red hair.

April: 1864.

[Unless otherwise indicated the location for most of April was the regimental camp of the 108th NY near Morton's Ford.]

April 1, Friday.

[Half of the entry is covered by a glued in sheet with a poem on the month of April] ...started in conferring with Daniel Pia, am ready for the Regt, reported to Lieut. Wells. All quiet along the lines, rainy in the evening. Visited the Dr. and the Chaplain, very interesting meetings are being held and many converted.¹

April 2, Saturday.

Rainy and very unpleasant, spent the day in trying to get domiciled in my new quarters, in the evening received a letter from OMF of Rochester, also one from cousin Underdown, in the evening attended divine worship in our beautiful chapel, twas largely attended by officers and men. All quiet on the Rapidan.

April 3, Sunday.

Very rainy and disagreeable. Received a letter from OMF of Rochester. In the afternoon attended worship in regt. chapel also in the evening. No news from home. Read most of a book from the regimental library.

Mottoes:

A vain man's motto is win gold and wear it.

A generous man's motto is win gold and share it.

A miser's win gold and spare it.

A profligate's win gold and spend it.

A broker's win gold and lend it.

A fool's win gold and lose it.

A wise man's win gold and use it.

April 4, Monday.

Rather rainy, procured a pass and went to Corps Head Qrs, also to later Div, HdQrs. On my return received a gun & accoutrements. Wrote to OMF, in the evening visited the Dr. and also worship in chapel.

The Golden Maxim.

*A Sabbath well spent
Brings a week of content
And health for the toil of tomorrow
But a Sabbath profaned
Whatsoever be gained
Is a certain forerunner of sorrow.*

Anon.

April 5, Tuesday.

Pleasant morning but very rainy in the evening.

April 6, Wednesday.

Nine for duty.

April 7, Thursday.

[*On picket near Morton's Ford at Stony Mountain*]

Nothing.

April 8, Friday. [*Back at the Camp of the 108th*]

Very pleasant day, was relieved from picket at ten a.m. Read Tennyson's poems through the day, in the evening attended a debating society in the 1st Del. Vols. The question before the society was : Is ambition productive of good or evil. Debated by officers and men of 1st Del. Decision in favor of the affirmative, quite interesting and spirited debate.

April 9, Saturday.

[*Blank*]

April 10, Sunday.

Divines services in chapel, no news from home.

April 11 -14 Monday- Friday.

[For the four days indicated above, he copied two long poems: the first was entitled The Future by an EJB of the 16th Maine and the second is a poem written by Nightingale. The first poem can read in the online diary and since the second poem is the personal expression of Nightingale, it is included in its entirety]²

Think of Me

Tho I may in after years
Meet with troubles, sorrows cares
Tho my brow be furrowed o'er
With lines imprinted deep and sure –
Think O' Think of me.

If misfortune round me throws
Her fullness of earth's bitter woes
If from sorrows cup I drink
O sever not one friendly link
Ever think of me.

Think of many happy hours
Spent beneath the orchard bowers
Where our hearts in childish glee
Beat in love and unity
Happy then were we.

Beneath those trees we used to swing
Or books in hand would read or sing
This I remember well and fain
Would call back those hours again
But no tis passed away.

The rites of fortune none can know
May be tis happiness, may be woe,
But wait, it all I ask of thee
In friendship to remember me
Sometimes remember me.

H.O.N April 18,1864.

April 15-18 – *Blank.*

April 19-20 – *[the two dates are covered with what looks to be a draft of a poem revolving around the idea of “kissing gently” and speaking “low”. His entry for March 7 has the same beginning as this draft which suggests he either was mulling over the poem for over a month or*

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he selected sparse diary entries and later wrote in new ideas in the spaces. He does mention that he writes in his last year diaries. Any way the "kiss me" effort is not included and can be read online if interested.]

April 21-27 *Blank.*

April 28, Thursday.

We were expecting orders to move today as we could see from the top of Stony Mountain a long column of troops moving in the direction of the Rapidan. Tommorrow will probably be our day to start.³

April 29-30 Friday and Saturday [*These entries contain copied poems*]

Notes:

¹ Travis A. Wells, 1st Lt. Co.A, 108th NY, was wounded in the Wilderness and discharged to date from May 6, 1864. Daniel Pia, probably from Co. H., 14th Connecticut – a regiment in the same brigade as the 108th NY.

² EJB was Edmund J. Brookings (1832-1909) , 16th Maine, Co. B. He was also a member of the Sons Of Temperance Division mentioned later (Aug /64) in the diary.

³These movements were Grant's various Corps of the Army of the Potomac as they prepared to cross the Rapidan River and begin the Overland Campaign of May-June 1864. These can be viewed on Plate 87 in the Atlas of the Official Records.

May: 1864

[The pages from April 29 to May 2 are filled with his work on a poem entitled A Dream of Home, a topic not surprising since they knew that once again they were going up against the Army of Northern Virginia, and at this point no one had any idea of how bad it would become. Just what he intended the finished poem to look like is not clear and since it is typical Victorian sentiment, the poem is not reproduced here. Needless to say it is not in the league of any of the Victorian works of Browning, Arnold or Tennyson.]

May 3, Tuesday.

Very pleasant but cool in the morning, was on court martial duty, when I returned to camp was surprised to find the tent down and the boys building another in the St. Got to work and soon had the pleasure of having another house – in the evening, received orders to have our knapsacks packed and be in readiness to march at 8 in the evening, started and rejoined the corps at our old camp. Marched from there to Ely's Ford – a distance from our camp of 18 miles –am tired out.¹ We expect warm work tomorrow if we are able to cross but the men are to have no rest and would be refused fires. Dr. Munson left for home from here.

May 4, Wednesday. On the March

After marching all last night, we crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford about 3 o'clock in the morning, were surprised to get across so easily, no rebels to be found – continued our march and finally halted in the old battle field of Chancellorsville – a sad sight the ground covered with bones. Had to go on picket in the woods, got lost but found again – at 8 pm was relieved and transferred to the General Reserve Picket² lying down completely exhausted, no man can tell what will happen tomorrow but we cannot remain here long without coming into contact with the enemy. It is rumored Gen. Grant is here.³

May 5, Thursday.

Early this morning received orders to re-join our respective regts. When we found the camp it was empty, the Corps had moved on. Followed after it and retook it at ten a.m., continued our march until near Spotsylvania where we were greeted by a shell, received other ones, gamely made preparations for a fight. At 2 p.m. turned and retreated as the enemy was in our rear. When we rejoined the main army the battle was raging fiercely, doubled quicked over four miles and soon became engaged at 4 p.m. Were in the second line of battle, we were ordered to advance which was done with a hearty zeal.⁴

May 6, Friday. *[Brock Road area near the Orange Plank Road and Turnpike – somewhat east of Wilderness Tavern]*

At five this morning we were aroused from our rest by the signal gun ordering us to again advance. We start and the rebels fly but oh! What a storm of bullets, surely my life is charmed, poor Chas. Dixon falls shot through the heart, 5 minutes after I am wounded in the shoulder and start off the field, after going a short distance was knocked down by the concussion caused by a shell, lay insensible for some time, the rebels drove our men once more and I am left. 8 a.m. our men retake the ground back and I am once more in the Union lines, a drummer kindly helps to take me off the field. We start but I am so faint and have to [*the line is unfinished – perhaps he had to be carried?*]⁵

May 7, Saturday.

Lay in the hospital all day and in great pain as the ball is still in me somewhere – at 10 the surgeon examined me and said my arm should come off but I will not wish it off and refused to allow him to take me to the amputating table. A friend came to me, Capt. Reynolds of Battery L, 1st NY and would not allow him to operate on me. Four of the inmates of this tent died today. We have orders to have everything in readiness to move this evening, am put on my back in a wagon, the sound of the battle gets nearer and the woods are afire. How much I ought to be thankful for that I am not lying in the burning woods, overnight how painful is each cry.⁶

May 8, Sunday.

After jogging along painfully all last night, we start again at 10 in the morning, on the way pass a brigade of colored troops. They treated us very well and emptied (*sic*) their canteens for us. The sound of the battle gets further away, many are dying in the wagons. I couldn't stand much more, I have to lie on my back and if I undertake to raise my mouth will fill with blood, how I wish the ball was cut out, I can feel it in my back. Some say we are going to Fredericksburg but I do not know, had some beef soup and much whiskey given me, how I long for home.

May 9, Monday.

We continued our journey all night and until 1 pm this day when we came in sight of Fredericksburg, as soon as we arrived in the city I was carried to the 2nd Corps hospital and there I had my wound dressed for the first time and the ball taken from my back. The Dr. says I was right in not allowing my arm to be taken off and says he thinks it will be allright in a few months. This is cheerful news for me. There are several thousand wounded here and many of the 2nd Corps were put in the Episcopal Church.⁷ My wound is less painful but the maggots are in it. There are several of the 108th here – can still hear the battle.

May 10, Tuesday.

Lay in the Episcopal Church all day, it looked hard as there were very many holes where shells had passed through, had my wound dressed & was glad to find my Colonel & also many of the line officers. We have lost very heavily, 9 of the line officers and both Col. & Lt.Col. and

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ADJT.⁸ At twelve had some beef tea and a few crackers and at four o'clock started again the wagons for Belle Plain. Oh! How painful it is to ride upon ones back, but I strive to be patient as possible, it is only 9 miles. The guerillas are very plentiful on the way but I hope they will not molest us. We have stopped for the night 6 miles from the Plain on account of guerillas.⁹

May 11, Wednesday.

We were troubled last evening by the guerillas but our guard finally drove them off but with a loss of 16 men on our side. Arrived in Belle Plain at 7 in the morning, was kindly treated by members of the Christian Commission, at 11 was transferred on board steamer and at 12 we started for Washington City, when about one mile of the city, we were run into by another boat which caused us to sink but the pilot run us ashore and about 12 M we were taken off by another boat. Arrived in Washington about 1 pm, taken in stretcher to the hospital, had my wound dressed.

May 12, Thursday. Stanton General Hospital

Awoke this morning from a sweet dream of home and its loved associations and found myself instead in a hospital a wounded soldier. Early after a good breakfast my wound was probed and dressed by a young surgeon but one quite skillful. I am very weak today and the Dr. says I must not even sit up, it is very painful and tiresome to lie still, a friend wrote to Mr. Grassie for me. The hospital is very much crowded with wounded. Sisters of Mercy visit us & give us good words of cheer.¹⁰

May 13, Friday.

Did not get but very little rest as my wound is very painful. I fear I shall lose the use of my arm. This morning was quite surprised by seeing a friend in the ward, Henry Cody and his two sisters Mary and Amanda, they had seen my name in the paper and came immediately to see me.

May 14, Saturday.

Was visited this morning by Dr. Munson and Henry Bates and also by the Cody sisters.

May 15-20 [Blank]

May 21, Saturday.

Mr. S.D. Porter called to see me. He was my S.S. teacher. He loaned me two dols – very kind, was much pleased to see him as he is from Rochester.¹¹

May 22 – 25 [Blank].

May 26, Thursday.

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To-day was surprised and delighted to see my friend Prof. Northrup from Rochester, he has come expressly for me, it makes me feel ten times better.

May 27, Friday.

Today I was out doors for the first time in a long time. Prof. N. Did not call today, he is probably absent from the city. Dr. Munson called and brought me a letter from my mother. How much I wish to see her and I hope to soon. Shoulder is quite sore.

May 28, Saturday.

Today Dr. Mursick came around, taking names for a transfer to N.Y. City. I told him of Prof. N. being here and asked him to get me a furlough instead which he kindly consented to do. Prof. N. called also Mr. H.H. Sperry¹² and Mr. Bidem.

May 29, Sunday.

This is a bright and very fine day, feel much better. Prof. N. visited me a few moments, he has to return tomorrow. How much I should liked to have gone with him but I cannot as my furlough has not yet returned. Was also visited by an old friend Uncle Ben Wait¹³ formerly of the 108th, shoulder painful.

May 30, Monday.

Rather chilly and damp. Prof. Northrup came and bid me goodbye, I hope to see him soon in Rochester, feel rather low spirited but look forward with hope to the time when I shall see home, it is very tiresome to have to lie a bed all day.

May 31, Tuesday.

Was in hope that I should receive my furlough in time to start today but did not get it until 9 in the evening. All of the slightly wounded were transferred today to New York City. Received letter from home where I hope to carry my own self as an answer tomorrow, how good home will seem.

Notes:

¹ The Second Corps began its march on the night of May 3. The Corps left Stevensburg area and moved to Ely's Ford on the Rapidan. Nightingale's party were located on Stony Mountain, perhaps 2-3 miles south of Stevensburg so he had to move north to Stevensburg then farther north towards Brandy Station then join the brigade en route to Ely's Ford. The reason his tent was down was that earlier a fierce storm of tornado-like power swept over the camp at Stevensburg.

² The General Picker Reserve was the picket line in reserve behind the original line. The General Reserve was likely made up of from members in the division or brigade.

³ Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was not in the immediate area but was camped at Germanna Ford in the area just south of the Rapidan.

⁴ The Second Corps had farther to travel to get into position, and, since they were the left of Grant's line, had to swing in a SW arc to link up with the force crossing at Germanna Ford. However the battle started to the NW of the Second Corps and the Rebel forces threatened to cut off and isolate Hancock's Corps so they had to re-trace their steps northward on the Brock Road and hold the junction with Orange Plank Road.

⁵ The Second Corps held on for May 5 and on the next morning launched an assault west along the Turnpike. They were driving the men of A.P. Hill's Third Corps initially but were completely surprised and flanked by a powerful attack by Longstreet's 1st Corps which caused a precipitous retreat. Either in the initial movement or after the flank attack the wounding of Nightingale occurred.

⁶ Battery L 1st NY Light Artillery (Rochester Union Grays) under Capt. John A. Reynolds who was 30 yrs old when enlisted and was actually a Major (as of May 9, 1863) at the time of his aiding Nightingale, was part of the Artillery Brigade of the 5th Corps during the Overland Campaign.

The Wilderness was an area of scrub brush and secondary growth. It had been left a tangled wasteland by the destruction of forestry for iron smelting. When the battle began the use of firearms generated fires in the thick undergrowth and many wounded were trapped alive and burned to death.

⁷ The Episcopal church is St. George's Church built in 1849 and located at the intersection of Princess Anne and George St. on the NW corner.

The comment about the maggots is typical since they did not realize that maggots got rid of the necrotic tissue and aided the healing process.

⁸ Colonel Charles J. Powers ; Lt. Col. Francis Edwin Pierce; Adjutant Lt. Theron Parsons; Captain Sam Porter, Co. F; 2nd Lt. Conrad Englehardt, Co. I ; 2nd Lt. Simeon Howard, Co. B ; Lt. Travis Wells, Co. A ; 1st Sgt. William H. Raymond, Co. A ; 1st Sgt. Andrew Boyd, Co. H.

⁹ Since the movement to Belle Plain took them through the area of partisan activity known as 'Mosby's Confederacy', the guerillas were probably members of the 43rd Bn. Virginia Cavalry *aka* Mosby's Raiders or Rangers.

¹⁰ The Sisters of Mercy were formed in Dublin, Ireland in 1827. The order came to the U.S. in 1843. They began work in the Baltimore-Washington DC area in 1852 when the order was given responsibility for the Washington Infirmary Hospital. The sisters were assigned to the Douglas Hospital in Washington which was quite close to Stanton General Hospital where Nightingale was taken.

¹¹ Samuel Drummond Porter (1808-1881) was the father of Sam Porter, Captain, Co. F 108th NY who was wounded in the Wilderness. Porter Sr. Got a pass to find his son in Fredericksburg on May 13 and must have accompanied him to Washington.

¹² Henry H. Sperry (1819-1897) was an executive member of the Monroe County Soldiers Relief Association.

George Andrew Mursick (1834-1895) was Assistant Surgeon U.S.V and a graduate of the NY College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1857.

For *Mr. Bidem or Loder* no record could be found –the name is a best guess since in spots the diary is quite difficult to decipher.

¹³ Benjamin Wait, age 42, enlisted Rochester Aug. 6, 1862 was mustered in as pvt. Co. G. and was discharged for disability on March 17, 1863.

June: 1864

June 1, Wednesday. Harrisburgh (sic) Pa.

[the opening section, probably giving his time of departure from Washington is covered with a glued on piece of paper containing some poetry on June,].

...A.M. Arrived in Baltimore at 12M had to remain there until 3 pm arrived in Harrisburgh at 6pm, had to remain there until nearly 2 o'clock in the morning ~~arrived in Elmira at 11 am and remained~~ feel unusually worn, my shoulder very painful, no rest whatever, put up in the city hotel, expensive - \$1.50. Hope soon to be once more at home from which I have been absent over 15 months. In the cars was treated with great indulgence by reverend gents from Delaware also kindly treated by Hon. E.D. Smith of R. in Avon.¹

June 2, Thursday.

Started this morning at 2 am from Harrisburgh arrived in Elmira at 11 am. Lay over to rest until 5 in the afternoon and had my wound dressed, arrived in Rochester at 10 pm and at home twenty minutes after. Was greeted with much joy by my friends, all are well. Mrs. Northrup just returned from her journey. Feel very tired and unwell but was so happy to be home. My shoulder is very painful. Liked the scenery on the road very much, a happy day tomorrow if I am spared.

June 3, Friday.

Could not sleep but little as my wound pained me much, in the morning was awakened by little Georgie and Alice coming into my room to kiss poor sick Henry. At nine started down to the hospital to get some bandage, on the way was stopt many times by friends. Visited the office and was cordially welcomed by all. In the afternoon returned home to rest. My wound was dressed by Mrs. N. In the evening received calls of several friends among them O.M.L. – quite tired but cannot sleep.

[At this point the diary stops for most of June and resumes on June 24.]

June 24, Friday.

Early this morning started to bid numerous friends good bye. At four o'clock was once more aboard the cars to Elmira. Arrived in Elmira at 11 pm and took lodging at the Soldiers Home, will start in the morning to visit my aunt and cousins in Tomkins County.

[This entry is followed by a poem entitled Farewell² glued onto the page, poem can be read online]

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

June 25, Saturday.

This morning at 5 o'clock I started, took the stage to Horseheads³ and from there walked 18 miles to Newfield, surprised my aunt and cousins, am made the hero of the neighbourhood. A long and tedious journey, but I feel sure that I shall not be sorry. Judith⁴ received the first kiss, am very tired indeed but eat quite a supper of good country bread and milk.

[*This is the last entry for June 1864*]

Notes:

¹ E.D. Smith was a judge and justice of the peace.

The line of verse on June is taken from *The Life of Man and of the Year*, by Henrietta A. Hardy, reproduced in *Sartains Magazine*, Vol. viii, June 1851.

² Taken from the work "Twixt the Gloamin and the Murk" Poems and Songs by Cecile Macneil Thomson.

³ Horseheads is a town in Chemung County NY and is located north of Elmira on which it borders.

Newfield now known as Newfield Hamlet lies in the center of the town of Newfield, located on the Elmira Road SW of Ithaca NY.

⁴ Judith Underdown, his future wife and cousin.

July: 1864.

July 1, Friday. [*Probably at or near Newfield*]

“Now comes July and with his fervid noon unsinews labor”¹

Today was examined by Dr. White and another surgeon & they certified that I was not fit to travel to Washington and extended my furlough twenty (20) days gained. Uncle had the misfortune to break his leg this afternoon but I am glad that I can stay and move him and still have the company of my loved Judith.

[*Attached is a glued-in newspaper copy of a sentiment which Henry has labelled “To Judith”*]

July 2-7 *Blank*

July 8, Friday.

Two years today since I was mustered into the service of Uncle Sam.

July 9- 11 *Blank*

July 12, Tuesday.

From My Judith.

Faithful to duty to your love be true
In search of fame. Oh! Let not death be met
In the stern fight where glory you pursue
In that dread hour, Oh! Do not forget me.

For glories giddy chase my arms you have
Wherever you go my heart will surely be
When memory's temple shall your name receive
When home claims you, sometime think of me.²

July 13 –19 *Blank*

July 20, Wednesday.

Started this morning on my journey to Washington, bid my dear friends good-bye, a long good-bye. My cousin David accompanied me 10 miles to Pony Hollow from which I walked to Elmira,

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a distance of 16 miles. Arrived in Elmira at 11 am, had to wait 5 hours for the train, in the meantime wrote a letter and mailed a transfer to my Judith. Took the cars at 5 pm, travelled all night arrived in Harrisburgh by 1 am.³

July 21, Thursday.

After travelling all night and seeing many signs of the recent presence of our enemy on the route, arrived in Washington at 11 am, reported at the office, took a short nap and sat down and wrote to my Judith. Found several letters waiting for me, am completely tired out.

July 22, Friday.

Col. S.S.Carroll Residence, 18th and L Sts., Washington⁴.

Today received a pass and visited the city, among my friends found Col. Carroll and Dr. Munson.

July 22-23 *Blank.*

July 24, Sunday.

Wrote to Judith.

July 25, *Blank*

July 26, Tuesday.

Had my photograph taken and sent one to Judith- one

And to Henry Doyle – one

Dr. O. Munson – one

Miss H. Flint – one

Aunt Judith – one

Miss H.M. Sweet – one

“ Mary Lider – one

My dear mother – one

Aunt Sarah – one

Wrote to Judith.

July 27- 28 *Blank*

July 29, Friday.

Wrote to Judith.

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July 30, Saturday.

Received two letters from Judith and dated July 21st and another July 24.

July 31. Blank.

Notes:

¹The quotation is from *The Village Curate* by Rev. James Hurdis (1763-1801), an English clergyman and poet, published posthumously in 1810 by his sisters.

² Judith's poetic endeavours, like Henry's, leave something to be desired but such is love.

³ He walked 18 miles to Newfield on June 25 and walked at least 16 miles on July 20, yet he was declared unfit to travel!!?

One must surely wonder about these local doctors and the patients who cashed in on their laxness.

⁴Samuel Sprig Carroll (1831-1893) was (although a Colonel at the time) leader of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Div. 2nd Corps to which the 108th NY belonged. He was wounded three times in the Wilderness, May 10 and 13. The third wound shattered his left elbow. Like Nightingale he refused amputation but did not return to active duty in the war but remained in service in Washington DC where his mother resided.

August: 1864.

August 1, Monday.

[As is becoming more habitual, he has glued a poem entitled August on the entry area for Aug. 1, whether this was done during or after the date is not clear, otherwise there is no writing. Also it would appear that he continues to be at Stanton Hospital in Washington D.C.]

August 2, Blank

August 3, Wednesday.

Received letter from Judith dated July 26th 1864.

August 4, Thursday.

Wrote to Judith.

August 5, Blank.

August 6, Saturday.

A very pleasant cool morning with an occasional shower in the evening, started downtown and visited some lady friends, also sent by mail an album as a present for Judith. Exciting rumor that the Rebel invading force in the state of Pennsylvania have raised the Black Flag, Gen. Grant and Sheridan are in town.¹ No news from home.

August 7, Sunday.

Wrote to Judith. This was a beautiful day, watched by the side of a dying man in Ward 9, he seemed to be happy, he died at 6 pm. How bright his prospects of home, he told us all he was going home this evening and I trust he is at last in a brighter happier home than this wicked world can give.

August 8, Monday.

Wrote to Rev. G.W. Northrup. Very pleasant day, do not feel very well, arm quite sore. Some news from the army discouraging, how my heart does beat for my poor suffering country. How I long for the time when I shall be well enough to fight again and if necessary bleed for her again.

August 9, Tuesday.

Wrote to my mother, received a letter from Judith, feel much better than yesterday. Received a pass and visited New York State Agent to get a transfer to New York State. He informed me there would be a general transfer next week to the northern cities.

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Linus D. Giddins, Cadiz, Cattaraugus Co. NY – write to him for a friend.

August 10, Wednesday.

Miss Helen M. Sweet.

August 11, Thursday.

Wrote to Judith.

August 12-13 Blank

August 14, Sunday.

Beautiful Sabbath morning, wrote three letters, one to Mother, one to Judith and one to Prof.N.also sent a songbook to Cousin Johnathan.

August 15, Monday.

Beautiful day.

WP	E.J. Brookings	Stanton
WA	W.M. Burchard	Douglas
RS	E.D. Godfrey	Stanton
ARS	W.H. Pitcher	“
FS	M. Duncan	“
Tres.	E.O.Steves	Douglas
Chap.	J.M. Raymond	“
Con.	H.O. Nightingale	Stanton
AC	M. Morgan	Douglas
JS	R.T. Kirkland	Stanton
OS	F.Durand	Douglas.

The above named officers² were elected at the organization of Union Div.16 of the Order of the Sons of Temperance, said Div. being composed of the patients from the Stanton and Douglas Hospitals Washington D.C.

August 16, Blank.

August 17, Wednesday.

Wrote to my Judie.

August 18, Thursday.

Received letter from Judie, brimful of joy and love, she is – I am happy to know- quite well.

August 19, Friday.

Received letter from Judith acknowledging receipt of albums. Visited the Lincoln Hospital and found there a friend Elias Williams of the 109th NY Vols, Co. E. He has been very sick with typhus fever but is recovering.³

August 20, Blank.

August 21, Sunday.

Wrote to Rev. Geo. W. Northrup also to Judie, no letter received.

August 22, Monday.

Attended our meeting of the Union Division, I was elected conductor and installed with the other officers, very interesting business.

August 23, Blank.

August 24, Wednesday.

This is truly a beautiful day, received a letter from Judie dated August 21st 1864 and commenced a letter in answer. In the evening attended a meeting of the Central Div. Sons of Temperance, many lady visitors, had a very sociable time and invitations.

August 25, Thursday.

Finished letter to Judith, expect answer the 30th, also wrote to my friend J.M. Moore, Rochester, expect answer the 30th.

[At the close of the above entry, he has written a "secret alphabet" employing a number of symbols and geometric shapes which cannot be reproduced here. If interested please consult the online diary.]

August 26-27 Blank.

August 28, Sunday.

Wrote to my Judith, but have no letter from her, nor from home.

[He includes a hand written copy of a poem entitled Once All the Time, after this part of the entry]

Anagrams DEBT – Dun⁴ every body twice

CREDIT – Call every day regularly I'll trust

August 29, Monday.

This evening received letter from friend F. E. Williams, also attended meeting of our Div. commercial business but no invitations.

August 30, Blank.

August 31, Wednesday.

Answered Miss William letter, I enclosed note for Judie, no news from home Today we were mustered for two months pay, late this evening received a letter from Judie in answer to mine of the 26th & 21st of August,

Notes:

¹When Grant took command of all the U.S. Armies in Feb. 1864, his plan was to coordinate an total offensive which would keep a constant pressure on the Confederacy, to in essence squeeze the life out of the rebellion. One of the gravest threats was in the Shenandoah Valley against the railroads that supplied the southern nation. In order to alleviate this pressure, Lee sent Jubal Early's (1816-1894) 2nd Corps north towards the valley in June 1864 which at the same time presented a threat to Washington DC. Lee was quite aware of how sensitive Lincoln and Stanton were to any perceived attack on the capital city. Early's raid went from June to August. The reference to the 'Black flag' (no quarter) in Pennsylvania was probably the burning of Chambersburg by Brig.Gen. John McCausland's cavalry by order of Jubal Early on July 30, 1864.

² Some of the men listed here are:

Edmund J. Brookings, 16th Maine

William M. Burchard 16th Connecticut.

Sgt. William H. Pitcher 1st Reg. Maine Veteran Infantry

Sgt. Elbert O. Steves 165th NY

Ralph T. Kirkland 146th NY

Ferdinand Durand 2nd Battalion Veteran Reserve Corps - the others could not be found

³ Elias S. Williams, 109th NY, age 22, mustered in as pvt in 1863, Co. G, transferred to 51st NY. Lincoln General Hospital opened in Dec. 1862 and closed in July 1865 and was at the intersection of East Capitol St and East 12th St.

⁴Dun –to importune a debtor for payment.

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September 1864.

September 1, Thursday.

The sultry summer past, September comes / Soft Twilight of the slow, declining year. [*Pasted over the date and day*]¹

Fine great day, in the forenoon wrote to Judith a long letter.

September 2, Friday.

Fine beautiful day, in forenoon received letter from my dear mother, dated Aug 29th also wrote to Miss OMF of Rochester. In the evening received letter from J.M.Moon also one from Miss Helen M. Sweet, both from Rochester..

September 3, Saturday.

Wrote to Miss Helen M. Sweet.

September 4, Sunday.

Very fine day, wrote to Mother , to Judith and to my friend Mr. J. Moon of R. Good news from Sherman's noble band of patriots.

September 5, Monday.

Fine morning, wrote Prof. Northrup, no letter received today. Feel middling well. In the evening attended meeting of Union Div. S of T, my position as Conductor quite embarrassing, initiated 9 candidates and proceeded to the business.

September 6, Tuesday.

A very disagreeable day. In the forenoon wrote a letter to Judie. The president has ordered that 100 guns be fired in honor of our late victories by General Sherman and his noble army, at this time the hearty shouts from the Common, every countenance beaming with hope, the prospect burns brightly, may heaven soon bring the long wished for day of peace.²

September 7, Wednesday.

No news from home but good news from the great armies in the field, every thing looks so encouraging, the end is not yet but soon will be. Late this evening received a letter from Judie announcing the enlistment of my cousin Johnathon for one year, answered the same immediately but could not send till the coming morning.

September 8, Thursday.

Rainy disagreeable day, sent Judie's letter, hope she will feel more encouraged, applied this morning for examination to be discharged. Received letter from OMF of Rochester.

September 9, Friday.

Answered letters from Hortence, also sent Judie two papers Moore's Rural New Yorker³, was examined for discharge but did not succeed in getting it but still have hope to receive my papers to go home. In the evening received letter from Miss Mary Carr of Rochester also letter from my friend J. M. Moon.

September 10, Saturday.

This morning opened with some rain but it soon cleared off and now it is bright and quite pleasant. This morning we were examined by a board of examiners officiated by the medical director. What is to be my destiny still remains a mystery. This evening answered letter of my friend J.M. Moon of Rochester NY.

September 11, Sunday.

Very fine day with an occasional shower. In the morning after weekly inspection wrote a letter to Judith also to my friend Henry M. Daniel, Daily Express Office, Rochester.

September 12, Monday.

This is a very fine day, received a letter from Judie, she seems quite down about her brothers enlisting, must write her a long cheering letter tomorrow. Do not feel very well and I see by Judie's letter she too is unwell. This evening attended meeting of Union Division S of T, number initiated none still the good work goes on, we adjourned for one week. In the evening received letter from Miss Helen M. Sweet of Rochester.

September 13, Tuesday.

Very cool but beautiful day. No letters received. Do not feel very well. Wrote letters to my Judie but could not send it till tomorrow, would like very much to hear from home. Time is swiftly bearing me on to the expiration of my time of service.

September 14, Wednesday.

Sent Judie's letter, a very fine day, feel very well, no news from home.

September 15, Thursday.

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Wrote to Miss Helen M. Sweet, also in the evening received a letter from Judie, a good comforter. How I like to receive such good long letters and so full of fun and love.

September 16, Friday.

A very fine day, wrote to Judie a letter as full of fun as I could pack it. No news from home, received two papers from my friend Mr. Moon, after reading sent 'them' to Judie.

September 17, Saturday.

Eleven months from today to serve in the army then I shall get my hopes if providence permits. In the evening, wrote to Miss Hortense M. Flint also to Miss Mary Cass, both of Rochester.

September 18, Sunday.

A beautiful fine day with a touch of rain towards evening. Wrote to Judie, nothing from home. Attended meeting in Ward 2, good discourse from Dr. Channing, Chaplain of the House of Representatives⁴.

September 19, Monday.

Very beautiful day. Out on a pass, called upon the state agent and also my friend P.B. Locke at his dept. In the evening was visited by Lieut. McDonald of Comy C, 108⁵. Nary a letter from anyone, am a forsaken 'chile'.

September 20, Tuesday.

Serenely beautiful day, this morning signed pay rolls, wrote to Lt. Col. Pierce 108th also to Col. O.H. Palmer of Rochester, also to E.R. Andrews same place⁶, will need to draw \$20, received two months pay. Wrote to Judie, my betrothed a long letter, no news from anybody. This evening, we have news of a grand victory by Gen. Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley.

September 21, Wednesday.

A very beautiful day. In the morning procured a pass to Alexandria, was aboard the steamship Thos. Colyer by 10 a.m. Beautiful scenery to Alexandria. At 11 a.m. arrived in this city, hired a hack and had a pleasant drive to Augur Hospital to find a friend. He was not there. Then visited Rendezvous of Distribution and from there Camp of Convalescents then Arlington. Returned to Alexandria. At 5 p.m. visited the Marshall House where Ellsworth fell then the several hospitals in the city. At 7 p.m. was once more aboard the steamer for home. Expense of trip \$7.50.⁷

September 22, Thursday.

A very beautiful day. In the afternoon received a letter from Judie, answered the same in the evening also wrote to my friend H. M. Daniel of Rochester.

September 23, Friday.

Another cool morning. Wrote a letter to my mother, no news from home this morning. In the afternoon received a letter from Sergt. Pitcher⁸ of Bangor, Maine, also wrote in answer to same person.

September 24, Saturday.

A very fine day. In the morning received and answered a letter from Mrs. Anna M. Carr of Rochester, also wrote to Henry M. Daniels in the evening. No news from Judie.

September 25, Sunday.

Cold but beautiful day, the wind blowing a perfect hurricane. In the morning wrote to Rev. Geo. W. Northrup. Attended services in Ward 3, sermon by Dr. Channing, text from Romans 8 chap. 22nd verse, a very good discussion on the future of our country. In the evening wrote a long letter to my Judie, no letter from home once again.

September 26, Monday.

Fine warm day. In the forenoon was visited by a member of my company, attended him home to the Finley Hospital. There I had the pleasure of seeing several of the 108th. In the afternoon was also visited by John Goodyer⁹ of Corning and he has just received his discharge. In the evening was visited by my friend P.B. Loder from the A.G.M Dept. In the evening received a letter full of fun from Judith, two photographs enclosed, I love to be the recipient of a jolly letter and especially from a dear friend.

September 27, Tuesday.

Fine day, wrote to my Judie in the evening, no news from home.

{As became his custom, especially now that he had his beloved Judith, Nightingale has pasted a printed copy of a translation by C.T. Brooks entitled Blue Eyes, which can be read online}

September 28, Wednesday.

Fine day. Out on a pass visited Dr. Munson, was visited by Geo. Vaughn of the 108th, no news from home.¹⁰

September 29, Thursday.

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Pleasant day but rather cool. Received and answered letters from E.R. Andrews of Rochester, in the evening wrote to my Judith. Good news from Genl. Grant.

September 30, Friday.

Nothing important today, received letters from Miss Carr of Rochester, also received paper from Mr. Moon.

Notes:

¹ The poetic fragment is from Carlos Wilcox (1794-1827), minor American Poet, and is the opening line from his poem 'September'.

² The reference is probably to Sherman's capture and destruction of Atlanta in September of 1864. Upon receipt of Sherman's news on September 4, Grant ordered "a salute to be fired with shotted guns from every battery bearing upon the enemy". Lincoln also ordered a 100 gun salute in Washington although not shotted.

³ Moore's Rural New Yorker was published by Daniel D.T. Moore from 1850 to 1878 in Rochester New York. Moore was also the 31st Mayor of Rochester (1865-66). The paper was geared to Agriculture and farm interests but also did include some generalized war news -although not much specifically about the Rochester Regiments.

⁴ William Henry Channing (1810-1884), American clergyman, writer and philosopher, for a short while was minister of the Unitarian Church in Rochester NY in 1853 but left for England in 1855. He returned to U.S. during the civil war and preached in Washington DC. At one point he was The Chaplain of Congress and spent time in the hospitals while working with the Sanitary Commission and the Freedman's Bureau.

⁵ John A.D. McDonald enlisted in 1862 as 1st Lt. Co.C but was discharged for disability after being wounded and losing his left arm at Gettysburg.

⁶ Oliver Hazard Palmer (1812-1884) was the first Colonel of the 108th NY. He resigned after Fredericksburg and was replaced by Charles J. Powers who took over as Colonel and Major F.E. Pierce became Lt. Col.

Ezra Randall Andrews (1828-1900) worked in the newspaper and publishing until 1870 when he opened his own shop. He was very active in the Rochester community.

The reference to Sheridan was his victory over Jubal Early who was still raiding the North, on Sept. 19, 1864. Major General Phillip Sheridan's (1831-1894) victory was called 3rd Winchester or battle of Opequon.

⁷ The Thomas Collyer was a wood steamer built in 1862 by Thomas Collyer and owned by Alliance Machine Co.

Augur General Hospital was known as Post Hospital Convalescence Camp then after Jan. 1864 as. Rendezvous of Distribution Post Hospital then Augur Hospital after Feb, 1864. Camp of Convalescents was al related hospital.

The Marshall House stood on the corner of King St. and south Pitt St. in Alexandria, Va. The owner of the Marshall House (Hotel) shot Col. Elmer Ellsworth when the colonel removed the confederate flag displayed by the owner. Elmer E. Ellsworth, a close friend of Lincoln, was the first prominent officer killed in the union cause a soon became a figure of martyrdom. James W. Jackson was killed immediately after shooting Ellsworth and also gained fame in the south for his death whike defending the Confederate flag.

⁸ See the list of Sons of Temperance Officers.

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⁹John H. Goodyer, age 21, enlisted pvt. Co.F, WIA at Morton's Ford and discharged for disability on Sept.20,1864.

¹⁰Charles Timothy Brooks (1813-1883) was Unitarian Pastor who translated works of German poetry.
George W. Vaughn mustered in as a pvt. in 18th Battery but transferred to the 108th Co.F.

October: 1864.

October 1, Saturday.

[*Pasted over the entry's opening lines is a print copy of the opening lines of October by William Cullen Bryant(1794-1878)*]arrived and answered a letter from Miss Hortense Flint of Rochester also sent letters to Judie written the two days before also two papers to Judie.

October 2, Sunday.

No news from home, no letter from anybody, feel quite bad, sent two papers to Judie, attended services in Ward 4.

October 3, Monday.

Nary letter for this chile¹ today. Cool and pleasant, wrote to Lieut.Howell at HdQrs 2nd Div.2nd Corps, also sent paper and envelopes to my Judie.

October 4, Tuesday.

Received pass, took a drive through the city, returned to hospital at 10 p.m. Received a good cheerful long letter from my Judie, in the evening answered same and sent two papers Newsday and Budget of Fun. Beautiful day.

October 5, Wednesday.

A very fine day, received a letter from my mother, answered the same also wrote cousin Johnathon in the 179th NY, Co.I. ²

October 6-7 *Pages missing.* **Oct.8** *Blank.*

October 9, Sunday.

A very cold day. Received lerttyer of recommendation from our late Col. O.H. Palmer to the Secretary of War, a very good recommendation for which I am very thankful. In the evening wrote to my Judie, no news from home.

October 10, Monday.

Another cold but pleasant day, applied for furlough, which, however, I did not succeed in getting. Helped clean windows of our ward, received good cheerful letter from my Judie, am very thankful that she is well. No news from home, feel unwell but am satisfied in regard to my furlough.

October 11, Tuesday.

Very pleasant day, out on a pass. Visited a friend H. Sperry at the Capitol, also visited Dr. Munson. The election for Pennsylvania & Ohio comes off today.³ In the evening, wrote letter to Judie, no news from home.

October 12, Wednesday.

Pleasant but a wet day. Received a pass, spent 4 hours in the library of the Capitol reading and examining an engrossing work on Pompeii, 3 vols. also examined Sketches in Naples, a large splendid work of lithographical illustrations.⁴ No news from home, wrote to my Judie also Col. Palmer.

October 13, Thursday.

A huck nears [*or a hock morn or nears no context provided at all*]????

October 14, Blank.

October 15 Saturday.

Cold beautiful day, spent 3 hours in congressional library, then visited my friend Mr. Sperry also called on H.M.Biden and Dr. Munson. At library examined a collection of engravings, received and answered letter from H,M. Flint of Rochester.

October 16, Blank

October 17, Monday.

Ten months longer to serve from this day.

[*At the bottom of the page there is printed copy of a poem by James Bailey, English poet 1816-1902 taken from his work entitled Festus (1839) which can be read online.*]

October 18 -19 pages missing.

October 20 – 22 Blank.

October 23, Sunday.

Beautiful but very cool day. Wrote to Prof. Northrup, to my Judie, to cousin Johnny, Co. I, 179th NY Vols. Received one paper from home, sent two to Judie.

October 24, Monday.

To Judith.

Child of the country, free as air
Art thou and as the ~~lily~~ sunshine from
Born like the lily where the dew
Cries adieu when the day is new
Fed amid the mayflowers like the bee
Nursed to sweet music on the knee
Lulled in the breast to that ~~glad~~-tune
Which winds make 'mongst the woods of June.⁵

October 25, Tuesday.

A Comprehensive Toast.

Here's a health to all those we love
Here's a health to all those who love us
Here's a health to all those that love them
That love those that love them that love us.

October,26, Wednesday.

At work in office of this hospital on descriptive lists and making out furloughs.

October 27- 31 *Blank.*

Notes:

¹The use of the word 'chile' (child) as a self-reference appears to be typical in this era. Of course he is imitating the slave dialect of the black people yet it is quite likely, given his English background, that his attitude to the race was no different than most of the North. Perhaps the black race was a source of amusement but it is certainly a given that Henry Nightingale would have no desire to really be a 'chile' He is not alone since other writers from the regiment use the same self-reference.

² Lt. Howell could not be clearly identified. There was a Captain Howell at Hancock's Second Corps Headquarters associated with the Quartermaster Dept. but as usual Nightingale provides little to go on.

'Budget of Fun' was an illustrated publication from Frank Leslie (1821-1880), an English born American engraver, illustrator and publisher of family oriented material.

Jonathan B. Underdown, born in Kent, England in 1844, enlisted at Newfield NY in Sept. 1864 into the 179th NY for a \$600 bounty, returned to Newfield as a farmer, died in 1927.

³The reference here is to the U.S. House of Reps. Elections in 1864 which coincided with the presidential election. The Ohio election was on Oct. 10 with the Republicans gaining 12 seats for a total of 17/19 and on the same day gained 3 seats in PA for a total of 15/24.

⁴ *The Last Days of Pompeii*, 3 volumes, London 1834, was written by Edward Bulwer Lytton (1803-1873) an English novelist, poet, playwright and politician. *Sketches and Scenes of Naples* published in the 1850's was the work of Karl Lindemann-Fromell (1819-1891), a landscape painter and lithographer.

⁵Unfortunately being in love does not necessarily create a poet. The less said the better.

November: 1864

November 1, Tuesday.

[No entry except a glued on printed copy of the first stanza of The Death of Flowers by W.C. Bryant, and very faintly at the bottom of the page is copied the following.]

Who that bears a human bosom, has not often felt,
How dear are all the ties which bind our race
In gentleness together and how sweet
Their force, let fortunes way ward hand the while tho
Be kind or cruel.¹

November 2, Wednesday.

Cold day with rain in the evening. Received my furlough, to vote my first vote, was very fortunate in getting my transportation this evening, will start for home in the morning if nothing happens, was hard at work making out furloughs for New York and Ohio men, received a letter from Judie, shall take them all entirely by surprise, hurrah for home tomorrow.

November 3, Thursday.

Up early this morning, left Washington on the 6:30 train, arrived in Baltimore at 9. Near Baltimore our train met with an accident which was a nigh fatal one as the cars were well loaded, ran into a car left standing upon the track, smashing up engine and tender but hurting no one. Left Baltimore at 9½ had to ride upon the top of the car, arrived in Harrisburg at 2 pm, in Williamsport at 7 pm and in Elmira at 12 am. Stopped at Soldiers Home and wrote a short letter to Judie, hope soon to see her, long for the time.

November 4, Friday.

Left Elmira at 6½ am. Arrived in Corning at 7, had for a companion a strong minded lady, sll the way to Rochester where we arrived by 1 pm. Went direct to the office, was greeted by all hands, found my vote had been changed, feel like saying something strong, afterwards went home, visited a little and stayed all night at Mrs. Clark's, happy to find all so well.

November 5, Saturday.

Took breakfast with Mrs. Clark, then went to the office, was there almost all day, at four o' clock went home, found several friends who had heard of my coming, had a good time.

November 6, Sunday.

Attended church, heard a good sermon by Rev. E.G.Robinson.² In the afternoon visited some friends.

The Henry O. Nightingale diaries, MSS 002, Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Merced Library. Transcription and notes by Terence G. Crooks.

November 7, Monday.

Stayed all day at the Miss Burtons [??] also all night, had a very good time.

November 8-11, Blank

November 12, Saturday.

Arrived at Newfield at 10 am. This morning after walking from Havana,³ a distance of 14 miles. Was greeted by Uncle and Aunt and my own Judie. How happy I have been today in her society.

November 13, Sunday.

Rainy disagreeable day.

November 14, Monday.

At Newfield to get my furlough extended, extended by Dr. C. C. Cook,⁴ 20 days to the 4th of next month.

November 15 -16 Blank.

November 17, Thursday.

Nine months longer to serve from today.

November 18- 24 Blank.

November 25, Friday.

Gunshot wound of left shoulder, entrance below acromion process, exit at lower edge of scapula causing paralysis of left arm and hemoptysis of left lung, received in battle of the wilderness May. 7th 1864.

November 26-30 Blank.

Notes:

¹ This excerpt was written by Mark Akenside(1721-1770), an English poet and physician. It is taken from a larger work entitled *The Pleasures of the Imagination*, a poem in three parts.

² Ezekial Gilman Robinson (1815-1894) was an American Baptist clergyman. In 1852 was appointed Professor of Theology at Rochester Theological Seminary.

³Havana NY is now called Montour Falls and is located north of Elmira NY. Havana was the town name from 1788 until 1890.

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⁴Dr. Christopher Columbus Cook (1820-1902) was a well known physician in Newfield.

December : 1864.

December 1, Thursday.

[Typically, he has pasted a poem in this entry, which talks about December]¹

December 2-3, *Blank.*

December 4, Sunday.

Cold but pleasant day. My last with my Judie for a long time, heaven grant we meet soon to part no more, that she may be mine through this cold world to comfort, love and to be my confidential guardian spirit.

December 5, Monday.

Start for Washington early this morning. Cousin David hitched up his horses and carried me to Havana. My Judie accompanied me, had to stay 4 hours in Havana, took a stroll around the village and hills with Judie. At 2 pm. Bid Judie a long goodbye, God bless her, may I never prove unworthy of her love and started for Elmira. Arrived there at 4 pm., missed one train, must lay over till the morning, wrote two letters to my loved Judie, expect an answer by Saturday.

December 6, Tuesday.

At five this morning took train for Williamsport, feel quite lonely, miss the kind warm smiles of my loved friends and Judie very much, arrived in Williamsport at 8:35 am.

December 7-8 *Missing pages.*

December 9, Friday. [*Unless otherwise indicated his location from now on is Stanton General Hospital.*]

Cold first day, applied to Dr. Williams for special pass, in the afternoon in company with my friend L.G. Huntley ²visited the Mt. Pleasant Hospital. Endeavoured to get my cousin Johnathan Underdown transferred to Stanton Hospital but did not succeed, had made some purchases and had an oyster supper with my friend. Wrote to Rev. Geo.W Northrup, R.NY.

“Bonne renominee vaut mieux que ceinture doree” (A good name is better than a golden girdle)

December 10, Saturday.

A dull day, some snow, was in hospital all day, received a letter from Judie all are well. Wrote in answer and sent papers.

December 11-16. *Pages Missing.*

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December 17, Saturday.

Eight months from today longer to serve.

December 18-19, *Blank*.

December 20, Tuesday.

Cold damp day, received a letter from Judie, the first for 12 days, she is well and still continues to think of me the same, was most welcome to me, am also happy to know that Uncle and Aunt were well. To work, making out inventory of hospital furniture.

“Honor virtutis preamium.” (*Honor is the reward of Virtue*)

“Varium et mutabile semper femina” (*Woman ever a changeful and capricious thing*)³

December 21, Wednesday.

Cold dismal day with rain and snow all the time. Took flying visit to see my friend Mr. Moon from Rochester, was hard at work all day making out clothing rolls, received another letter from Judie. Hope soon to receive my mail regularly, musty answer my mail tomorrow, wrote a short letter to Judie late this evening.

“Vincit qui se vincit” (*He conquers who conquers himself*)

“Vultus est index animi” (*The countenance is the index of the mind*)

“In solo deo salus” (*In God alone is safety*)⁴

December 22, Thursday.

Cold day, froze, took a hasty visit to see my friend Mr. Moon at the Government Hospital. At work through the day on reports of sick and wounded, did not have an opportunity to write this day.

December 23, Friday.

On duty all day at work on muster rolls also on desertion lists. In the evening wrote to Mrs. Edgar Gray of Rochester, also wrote long letter to Judie.

December 24, Saturday.

Christmas Eve had to work on muster and pay rolls. The [*illegible*] hospital was burned to the ground last night⁵, wrote letter to Prf. Northrup, one to Mrs. Ephraim Myers of Maryland and one to my friend Miss Clare Cable, also sent paper to Aunt.

December 25 – 31. [*There are no written entries except various lists of moneys paid or owing as well as records of the number of letters received and written over the course of the year. Opposite the page for December 31 there is a glued-in printed paragraph called The End, a typical prose homily about getting ready for the end – but in this case the end of the diary for 1864.*]

Notes:

¹ Nightingale's inclusion is the 2nd stanza of a three stanza poem entitled "Winter" from a book titled *The Poet: A Metrical Romance of the Seventeenth Century*, A Keepsake for 1840, written by William Joseph Walter (1729-1846) and published in Philadelphia in 1840. The 'story' of the work revolves around the fictional "Poet" and his love for a woman called "Julia" (was Henry thinking Judie?).

² L.G. Huntley could be Lay G. Huntley, 6th Ohio Cav. Co. E, then to 2nd Battalion Veteran's Reserve Corps.

³The first epigram is by Marcus Tullus Cicero (106 BC – 43 BC). The second one seems to be a traditional sentiment or saying about women and could not be traced to an individual source.

⁴These sayings are from Johann Kaspar Lavater (1741-1801), a Swiss poet and physiognomist.

⁵He mentions the destruction of a hospital – which his handwriting has rendered indecipherable- yet any reference or details to such an occurrence could not be found. From the records of the Hospitals in Civil War Washington DC site there is nothing about a hospital burning on the night before Christmas Eve 1864. Nightingale has the annoying habit of throwing in these events with no details and then goes on with his own mundane cares about writing to the beloved.