

Edward Henry Dickerman

DOB: February 2, 1840

Place of Birth: Nashua, New Hampshire

*Statistics: 5'9", Black hair, Black eyes,
dark complexion*

*Father: Samuel Dickerman * (1802-1850)*

Mother: Mary Russell Dickerman (1806-1865)

*Siblings: Samuel R. ** ; William R.;
Charles A.; Albert C.; James H.;
Nelson N. and Mary Diantha*

Enlisted in Army at Grand Rapids, Michigan

5 / 13 / 1861, age 21

Third Infantry Division

Company D

*Hospitalized: Satterlee Hospital ***
July 1862-November 1862
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Discharged: 10 / 14 / 1862

Post Civil War Life

Occupation: Farmer

Married: Elvira E. Colwell (1836-1909)

November 11, 1863

Children: 1) Mary Russell (1864-1936)

2) John G. (1867-1868)

3) Ada A. (B. 1869)

4) Christopher Columbus (1870-1881)

5) Samuel James (1877-1959)

Affiliated with: Grand Army of the Republic

(G.A.R) Fenton Post No. 24

Died: August 21, 1913 in Fenton, Michigan

* Father, Samuel Sr. left the family just prior to sailing from Boston, Ma. on the Brig. Toronto on March 30, 1849 bound for San Francisco arriving on September 15, 1849. It is assumed that he died in California in 1850. Mother left Nashua, New Hampshire and moved to Michigan where Edward enlisted in the Army.

** See APPENDIX #1 for more information regarding Samuel Dickerman, the brother.

*** Believed to be Satterlee Hospital.

COMPANY D****
(AKA: The Old Boston (Ionia County) Light Guard)
(CAPT. MOSES B. HOUGHTON)

MICHIGAN THIRD INFANTRY
(COLONEL DANIEL McCONNELL -10/22/61)
(MAJOR STEPHEN GARDNER CHAMPLIN 10/28/61 +)

In Virginia attached to:

Richardson's Brigade (I.B. Richardson)
Tyler's Division (Brig. General Daniel Tyler)
McDowell's Army of Northeastern Virginia
until August, 1861

&

Richardson's Brigade
Division of Army of the Potomac
(Major General, George B. McClellan)
until October 1861

&

Richardson's Brigade
Heintzelman's Division
Army of the Potomac
until March 1862

&

3rd Brigade
3rd Division
III Army Corps
Army of the Potomac
until August 1862

**** See APPENDIX #2 for Roster

SERVICE:

(Source: www.civilwararchive.com)

Duty in the defenses of Washington D.C. until July 16, 1861.
Advance on Manassas, Va., July 16-2. Action at Blackburn's
Ford July 18. Battle of Bull Run July 21. Reconnaissance to
Occoquan, October 21-24, 1861. Duty in the Defenses
of Washington D.C. until March 1862. Moved to the Virginia
Peninsula March 17. Siege of Yorktown April 5-May 4. Battle
of Fair Oaks or Seven Pines May 31 - June 1, Reconnaissance
beyond Seven Pines June 1-2. Seven days before Richmond
June 25-July 1. Oak Grove June 25. Savage Station and Peach
Orchard June 29. Charles City Cross Roads and Glendale June
30. Malvern Hill July 1. Duty at Harrison's Landing until August 15.

Notes from "Transcriber" :

Battles and locations mentioned in footnotes are speculations but it appears that H.E.D. followed very close to the timelines referred to above.

Generally misspellings were left as written though punctuation was added.

Parentheses surround words that are uncertain or unknown.

Months were added for ease of reference.

INTRODUCTORY QUOTES:

At 8:30 on the morning of Thursday, June 13, 1861, ten companies of the Third Michigan infantry, led by its regimental band and the field and staff officers, left their quarters at Cantonment Anderson on the site of the Kent County agricultural fairgrounds about two and a half miles south of the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Third Michigan marched north up the Kalamazoo Plank road (present day Division St.) into the city.

The companies then turned down Monroe St. to Canal Street and headed north to the Detroit & Milwaukee railroad depot, near what is today the corner of Plainfield and Leonard streets.

Upon reaching the train station. the men boarded two special trains heading east, passing through Ada, St. Johns, Owosso, Pontiac and terminated in Detroit, where the Third Michigan was feted by the citizens. The Regiment then boarded two boats for a night cruise to Cleveland, Ohio. From Cleveland they went by rail to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and then on the Harrisburg, Baltimore, Maryland and finally arrived in Washington, DC on Sunday June 16.

The Third Michigan infantry covered the retreat of the federal troops from Bull Run on July 21, and subsequently went into a succession of camps around Washington throughout the fall and winter of 1861-62.

3rd Voluntary Michigan Infantry Regiment - Wikipedia
www.civilwararchives.com
www.oldthirdmichigan.org

Sergeant, Zara L. Cotton wrote to the Grand Rapids Enquirer (May 1861),

"The Boston Light Guard are all right, we mustered into the service of the United States on May 23rd. We had a full company, as a great many of the Portland, [Ionia County] Company joined us, which now is called D. They brought their flag with them, being disbanded they [thought] that the flag should never be returned to the ladies of Portland dishonored by deserters. We had only one man who refused to take the oath, and let it be recorded upon the annals of his country that his courage comes out of the ends of his fingers; let the fair sex avoid him like they would an adder. Our Regiment is almost full; we have also a fine Brass Band. Those who saw the First Regiment say that we come up to their standard, and some say we are decidedly ahead. Capt. [Moses] Houghton is just the man to lead us. Our motto is "Go ahead".

Men of the Third Michigan Infantry
www.thirdmichigan.blogspot.com

Less than [] months after the Third Michigan arrived in Virginia on September 8, 1861, **Frank Siverd of Company G** wrote that Fort Richardson, near Alexandria, Virginia was now the responsibility of Company D of the Third Michigan Infantry. *"We have already in position" he wrote, "two 20-pounder rifled cannon...and will soon have ten or twelve more mounted, and the we will be ready and anxious for a visit from our friends (!) on the other hill. Co. D, has been detailed to take charge of the guns -- their position is no little envied by the remainder of the detachment -- Captain [Moses] Houghton ... is second in command of the post, Lieutenant [Byron] Hess...acting Adjutant, Sergeant [Zara] Cotton...acting Sergeant Major. Co. D is from Boston, Ionia County, and from the above record, might be considered a model company."*

Men of the Third Michigan Infantry
www.thirdmichigan.blogspot.com

DIARY #1

July 6, 1861 - November 29, 1861

Edward H.

Dickerman

Town of Lebanon

Clinton Co

Mich

July 6, 1861

Edward Dickerman from this day I resolved to take down what transpired from one day to the other. Today there was nothing of much account but in the evening I listened to one of the smartest speeches that I ever heard from Governor Johnson¹ of Tennessee. He stood on the magazine....

and the men were drawn up in battle order around him. The Washington 'Zouaves'² stood on one side and we on the other.

July the 7th

Nothing occurred during the day but in the evening several of the senators came up and made us a visit.

July the 8th

They had a skirmish 12 miles up the (line) from us. Yesterday 20 men were killed and several wounded. Today I stand guard.

July the 9

Stood guard. Last night there was some firing in the night. They were skirmishing all around.

July 10

Received marching orders.

¹ Andrew Johnson, Former Governor of Tennessee, however at this time he was Senator Johnson later to become Vice President Johnson and then President Johnson after the assassination of President Lincoln.

² Washington Light Infantry Co. A(also Co. E) Washington Zouaves

July 11

Stood guard. The inspector general was here and inspected our things. We had a heavy rain last night. The New York Twelfth³ passed by last night in the rain and pitched there tents on our right. The New York light artillery took charge of the battery at the Chain Bridge⁴.

July 12 Stood guard last night. A man died in the night.

July 13 Nothing of much account.

July 14 Stood picket guard. Took two prisoners and slept on a rock and went to church. Had a goodly time.

July 15 Got payed off.

July 16⁵ We prepared to march.

July 17 Yesterday we took up the line of march about 3 o'clock and marched until about

10. The (crops) looked pretty hard. We marched as far as Vienna⁶ (Vienna, Virginia) and then saw the first effects of the war. Saw the burned cars and where the masked battery⁷ was and the car the Ohio men⁸ were killed in. The track was all torn up and the (trestles) were all shot to

³ Onondaga Regiment, Independence Guard. Attached to Richardson's Brigade through Oct., 1861

⁴ **Chain Bridge:** Popular place for the Union Army to access the countryside encampments from Fairfax County. Site of the first Union Balloon Corps balloon crossing. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

⁵ **Battle at Blackburn's Ford,** July 16 through July 20. In ad around this battle. SEE APPENDIX #4

⁶ Vienna, Virginia See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

⁷ Concealed artillery.

⁸ Battle of Vienna, June 17, 1861. See APPENDIX #5

pieces. The track was bent in several places where the canon balls struck it. We camped on the ground where they fought. Took a rail from the fence for a pillow and lied down and slept all night.

July 18th

We continued our march to Faresfax⁹ (Fairfax, Virginia). We got within two miles of it and then

halted about an hour then we marched for german town¹⁰ (Germantown, Virginia). There we drove them rebels from their works and fired the town and stoped on their campground and a man was shot accidentally. We encamped near Centervill.¹¹ (Centreville, Virginia)

July 18

Stood picket guard last night. Commenced marching in the morning. Passed a bateray that the rebels had deserted at Centervill. There the cavelry overtook us. We then went about a half mile and stoped on the enemys camp ground.

July 19

Yesterday about noon we met the enemy and fought untill about 5 o'clock then we retreated back to Centervill and there we encamped. This morning the troops marched up again but did not atack them. We encamped half mile of them last night.

⁹ Fairfax, Virginia See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

¹⁰ Germantown, Virginia (See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS))

¹¹ Centreville, Virginia (See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS))

July 20

The troops keep coming. Still nothing of much importance happened through the day except watching the enemy.

July 21

Making preparations to attack the enemy...

The cannonading commenced this morning about 9 o'clock and was kept up untill 3.¹²

July 22

We retreated back to Washington whiped but not badly.

July 23

We gathered our scattered (forces) and encamped at long bridge (Long Bridge¹³ (Fort Jackson)). Senator Chandler¹⁴ made us a little speech and shoed us that we had not disgraced our flag.

July 24

We layed around the camp in the founnoon and in the afternoon we choped 10 or 15 acres.

July 25

We done nothing but lay around the camp. In the evening we had orders to pack our things and reddy to march.

¹² Date of First Battle of Bull Run

¹³ Long Bridge spans the Potomac between Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia. Fort Jackson defended it's Southern end. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

¹⁴ Senator Zacharia Chandler, (R-Michigan) Many claimed that his "Blood Letter" was the real start of the Civil War.

July 26 We chopped in the forenoon and in the afternoon we wrote letters.

July 27 We layed around the camp.

July 28 It rained

July 29 We moved two miles down the river

July 30 We moved our tents and in the afternoon I wrote four letters.

July 31 I stood guard

August 1, 1861 Stood guard

August 2 Wrote two letters

August 3 Washed shirts

August 4 Chopped in the forenoon and in the afternoon....
I went to church.

August 5 Stood guard

August 6 Nothing

August 7 Police guard

- August 8 I was sick.
- August 9 Wrote two letters and was sick besides.
- August 10 Wrote a letter and was sick.
- August 11 Went to church.
- August 12 Wrote to letters and got some letters from home.
- August 13 Sent a paper home.
- August 14 Got a letter my brother and wrote a letter home.
- August 15 Wrote a letter and cleaned by gun.
- August 16 Stood guard over a corn field to keep the soldiers out.
- August 17 Got two letters from home and wrote two.
- August 18 Wrote three letters home and in the afternoon I went to church.
- August 19 It rained
- August 20 Choped in the founnoon and in the afternoon we (moved)

August 21

We moved two miles to Fort Albany¹⁵ and in the afternoon we chopped.

August 22

I wrote two letters and then went to work for the officer of the day.

August 23

In the forenoon we worked around the quarters and in the afternoon we went on brigade drill.

August 24

Had a brigade review before General McClellan and Mr. Lincoln.

August 25

In the forenoon we went chopping and in the afternoon we went to church.

August 26

Fixed a rack to put the guns in...

August 27

Went chopping in the forenoon and in the afternoon ground the (axes) and in the evening the men went out to drive the rebels back.

August 28

Ground (spades) in the forenoon and in the afternoon worked on the fort.

¹⁵ Commands the approach to Long Bridge. Served to support Fort Richardson and Fort Craig with it's 12 heavy guns. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

August 29

I went up to the pickets on the road 5 miles from the fort.

August 30

Chopped all day and in the evening we moved upon a (hill) to the (site) of Fort Albany.

August 31

I stood guard.- Provost guard to keep the boys from going out to (cramp) things. Today we expect to be payed off. The rebels are in sight of about two miles. (Many quantity) of them. Our boys are chopping today.

September the 1 1861

We cleared a place to put our (fours/tents).

September 2

We cleared some and moved our tents in the forenoon and in the afternoon we worked on the Fort Richardson¹⁶

September 3

I done nothing but rite some letters home.

September 4

I worked on the fort

¹⁶ Fort Richardson: Constructed in September 1861 as part of the defense of Washington. Named for General Israel B. Richardson, whose division was then deployed to defend against attack by way of Columbia Turnpike. Had a perimeter of 316 yards and emplacements for 15 guns. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

September 5

I was detailed for som thing. Maby I shall find out before night then I will let you know. This morning we made a place to put our guns on and fixed our writing desk and it rained and we got our (station) pay today.

September 6

I worked on the fourt and got a new coat.

September 7

I drilled on the gun and wrote four letters.

September 8

Grubed¹⁷ stumps in the fournoon and in the afternoon I went a visiting.

September 9

Worked on the fourt after noon and drilled on the guns in the fournoon.

September 10

Worked on the fort in the fournoon and in the afternoon we rested.

September 11

In the fournoon I worked in the fort and in the afternoon there was some pretty heavy cannonading on our right.

September 12

I choped all day in the afternoon General McClellan made us a visit.

¹⁷ Definition: pull, clear

September 13

I worked on the fort in the forenoon and in the afternoon nothing but in the evening there was some shooting on our right and a town was burned. We could see the timbers in the houses after dark by looking through our glass and we could see the shells burst.

September 14

I chopped in the forenoon and in the afternoon we got payed off.

September 15

Monday. I done nothing.

September 16

Sunday. I done nothing

September 17

Chopped

September 18

Chopped all day and in the evening I got a letter from my Aunt (Green).

September 19

We chopped some and I found some of my olde acquaintances.

September 20

Chopped in the forenoon and while we were out W. A. Gilet¹⁸ died.

¹⁸ May actually be Amos W. Gillot. See APPENDIX #2 (Company Roster)

September 21

We chopped

September 22

Sunday. We rested.

September 23

In the forenoon we went on brigade drill and in the afternoon we on review before General McClellan.

September 24

We went on brigade drill in the forenoon and in the afternoon we went on picket.

September 25

Stood picket guard all day.

September 26

Went to church.

September 27

It rained some and in the afternoon we chopped some.

September 28

Went on brigade drill and stood guard over night.

September 29

We had orders to pack our duds for a march.

September 30

We drilled some on the canon and the long roll¹⁹ beat for battle and in the evening we had a dance.

October the first 1861

We mounted two guns on the fort.

October 2

Helped mount a gun (Sam) came over to see me.

October 3

Done nothing but wrote letters.

October 4

Stood guard and in the afternoon a balloon²⁰ went over and went out of sight towards the east.

October 5

I went up to Munson's Hill²¹ to look at the rebels works. They had only small rifle pits²² but there were lots of them.

October 6

Sunday. I stood guard and (blank)

¹⁹ Drum roll for battle

²⁰ Union Army Balloon Corps. See APPENDIX #6

²¹ See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

²² A semi-shallow pit, built from earth which sheltered the common soldier from attack.

October 7

I come off guard this morning and I done nothing all the rest of the day.

October 8

I worked on the fourt.

October 9

Carried water for the cooks.

October 10

We moved down to headquarters²³ and there was lots of troops went by and artillery and cavalry.

October 11

We drilled on the skirmish drill in the founnoon and in the afternoon we went on battalion drill.

October 12

Got up and packed our things to start for some place. We left Fort Albany about 8 o'clock p.m. and arrived at Eagle Hill²⁴ about 2 o'clock a.m. and pitched our tents. I was detailed for guard but I did not have to stand. For super we.....

had some bread and some raw pork.

²³ Possibly Fort Lyon, General Heintzelman's command headquarters. See APPENDIX #7 for Diary entry of Philetus Baker (see Roster) also of Michigan 3rd who was in and around the same area.

²⁴ See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

Sunday. October 13

In the morning it was clear and cold and in the forenoon at ten o'clock we went to church. At eleven we went on regimental inspection and after to pass time we played dominoes until 8 o'clock. We went on dress parade and then we ate our super and after super we played Sesesh²⁵ (frum) as long as I could stand and then I went in the tent and layed down until roll call the I fixed bunk and

and went to sleep.

October 14

Monday morning it was clear and colde. I was taken with the fever and was sick all day and in the evening I went to the hospital.

October 15

Tuesday. Pleasant and warm this morning. I feel some better this morning.

October 16

It was cold and cloudy. I was not able to be around any. I lazed in the hospital all day and in the evening there was some pretty heavy cannonading....

down the river about 8 o'clock.

²⁵ Sesesh is a derogatory name for a Southern secessionist. Assume this is a game (card game or sporting activity) or perhaps a song. Could find no reference to the term as it is used here.

October 17

It was colde and foggy this morning. I got discharged from the hospital this morning. I feel some better but am not able to go around much. There has been some heavy canonading down the river. Today the canon are (roaring). Now our men are at work on the fort today. Our pickets took a prisnor today. He came over and delivered himself up. He was on horseback. The boys had a dance in front of our tent tonight until it began to rain then we went in the tent and played dominoes.

October 18

Last night it rained most all night. This morning it was cloudy but not rainy. About noon the sun came out and it was hot enough to roast eggs. There are (four) companys detailed out of our regament to go askermishing. I do not know where. They are ordered to take a days rations with them. Our boys are at work on the fort today. This afternoon our regiment went out askermishing with one (days) rations.

October 19

Our men came in last night about 12 o'clock and they were tired enough. There was some firing down the river in the night and this morning the firing comenced in earnest and was kept up for nearly four hours. I have not heard how turned out yet. It has rained some today. I have felt some better today. So much so that I want and eat all the oisters I could. One of Company (H's) men died yesterday and was buried today and they fired three volleys over his grave. That is all that markes the resting place of the soldier. Our men are on dress parade now.

October 20

Sunday.

It was clear and colde this morning. It rained some this morning. We have just come off of inspection of arms. I had for breakfast this morning some eggs and bread and butter and for diner I had some that was left of my breakfast. This afternoon there was not much going on. I sat in the tent, played dominoes. I did not have to go on for inspection. No church.

We had dress parade. I had for super some potatoes and bread, coffee and then went in the tent, wrote a letter and the boys had dance out in front of our tent.

October 21

We done nothing of much importance hapened. Our men worked on the fort today. I cleaned my revolver this founoon and this afternoon I set by the fire. Our boys are dancing out in the front of the tent. I have not been so well today.

October 22

*It was colde and rainy this morning and our boys had to take their blankets and go out on picket. I was not well enough to go. It rains again now. The bands are playing for *guard mounting*²⁶. It has rained all day today and I have not been out of...*

the tent but one or twice today. I have cleaned my gun and read a novel some and fixed my belt for my revolver. It rains tonight as hard as ever. I have fetched a pail of water and eat my super and now I will go to bed or play dominoes or such til taps.

²⁶ Changing of the guard.

October 23

This morning it was cold and rainy. I did not sleep much last night it was so cold and I got up, went and washed and then had to wait for breakfast. About noon it cleared off and was colde as Greenland. I bought a dollars worth of tickets off the olde sutler²⁷. Tonight it (blows).

October 24

This morning it was clear and colde. I tried to get a pass to go to Mt. Vernon²⁸ but could not so I went without one. We started about 9 o'clock and got there about 11 and looked around an hour or two. We went to the tomb of Washington and then went to the olde tomb. At the new tomb there are four tomb stones and the one that Washington is in there are two marble coffins and an iron gate so that we could not get in and I got some of the grape vines that run over the top of the tomb. The olde valt is just a comon valt.

From the valt we went into the mansion and as we entered in the hall we saw the key to the Bastile that General Lafayette presented to General Washington and then we went into the dining room and saw the portraits of some of the family and his table and a plate and some saddle bags that he had in the revolution. It was splendid room. The fireplace was all skulptured marble and the hearth was marble. From the house we went into the garden and went into the hot house. We saw some nice trees one orange and a lemon and a palm tree and the century...

²⁷ Camp vendors officially appointed to supply soldiers with approved items i.e. food, newspapers, books, tobacco, razors, tin plates, cups, cutlery and illegal alcohol.

²⁸ See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

plant and lots that I do not remember the names of and then we went through the gardens. It was full of flowers of the (nicest) kind but we could not get any of them. Then we went and saw the magnolia tree that Washington planted himself and I got a leaf from that and then we got some horse chestnuts and some fig leaves and then we started for home and got home about 6 o'clock. Pretty tired. On our way home we met General Montgomery²⁹ and his staff. We saluted him and then went on. Our boys have not come in from picket yet.

October 25

We went on divisional review three miles towards Mount Vernon and did not get back until noon. We were reviewed by Major General Henclman³⁰.

October 26

I have not done anything today for I have been (so lame) I could not. Our men went on napsack drill this forenoon. This afternoon we shall have to go to work on the fort and I shall have to write a letter. This afternoon our boys went to work and in the afternoon Gov. Blair³¹ made us a visit.

October 27

This morning was clear and cold. This forenoon we went to church and this afternoon the boys went down to Alexandria to church and I stayed at home and read a novel and after they came back we played dominoes and come pretty near having a fight only one were afraid and the other ().

²⁹ May have been General Montgomery Meigs

³⁰ Major General Israel B. Heintzelman, in command of Richardson's Brigade

³¹ Governor Austin Blair, AKA Civil War Governor. Governor of Michigan from 1861 to 1865. Big supporter of the war effort by raising over \$100,000 to organize and equip the initial muster of troops and help to enlist over 90,000 Michigan volunteers.

October 28

This morning it was clear and colde enough to freeze a nigger. I stood guard about half an hour while they searched the camp for some money that was stolen from the sutler but it was not found. After I come off I went in the

the fort and look around awhile. We saw the seventeen guns. Some of them was mounted and some wasn't. This afternoon the Lincon Cavalry³² came along and camped just above our encampment. This afternoon on dress parade of the election of our new colonel.³³

October 28

Today I have done nothing. I have not been very well. Our boys worked on the fort. Today we built a stove in our tent. Our boys are dancing in front of our tent. I have been playing olde sledge³⁴. Now I sit down to rite in my book.

October 30

This morning it was clear and colde. I went to sick call and was excused by the doctor. I helped fetch the bread for the days rations and looked at them on batallion drill and I went on dress parade this evening.

October 31

This morning it was clear and colde. I did not do anything this founoon but this afternoon we were mustered for pay. We did not have any dress

³² 1st New York Cavalry

³³ Colonel McConnell was replaced by Major Champlain on 10/28/61

³⁴ Card game.

parade tonight but we had a fight though that done as well.

November first 1861

This morning it was cloudy and it looked some like rain. This morning I started off to get some straw to fill our bed tick and was gone all day. Got back just in time for dress parade. Our boys went and put up Gillet's tombstone today and some worked on the fort and some went on picket and some went on guard and some was sick and this evening wile we were on dress parade our pickets brought in and olde darkee. Tonight it rains but we have got a new bunk.

November 2

This morning and last night it rained like thunder. In the night we had to hold our tent up. We had pie for breakfast and for diner we had pie and for super we had whiskey. We were so tite that we could not tell whether we were afoot or horseback.

November 3

This morning it was clear but about 9 o'clock it clouded up and looked like rain. This morning I was detailed for picket. We started about 7 o'clock and got here about 11. We had to wade the creeks for the rain had made them so high that they were all over the road. When we got here we went....

out to see what () we could see. We went out two miles the other side of our pickets and got some turnips. I stood two (tricks) in the night. Nothing of much account hapened only we saw a pig in the night.

November 4

This morning before sunrise we went out to see what we could see but all was still and we came back and cooked our breakfast. I have stood guard all day and the other boys have been out looking. There has been some heavy firing towards Fairfax all day. We have eaten our super.

November 5

Last night we went and got some poultry about twelve o'clock and after we come back we fried them for our breakfast. This morning it clear and colde. We were relieved about 11 o'clock and we started for camp. Nothing happened on the way. We got here about 3 o'clock.

November 6

This morning it was clear and colde and last night it rained some but it cleared off in the night. About noon the noon wind rose and blowed () guns and we had to go on batallion drill and then we had to go on dress parade and then we went into the tent.

November 7

This morning it was rather windy but it cooled off about noon and was pretty good weather. We had to go on batallion drill this fournoon and this afternoon we worked on the fort. Have saved me () (buzzy) work to do today. I have just finished a letter to (bub).

November 8

This morning it was clear and cold. I was detailed for guard. Then (11th) Company went out on some secret (surprise). I have stood two (tricks) and have two more to stand tonight.

November 9

This morning it was cold and cloudy and looked like rain. I came off guard this morning. Our regiment have ordered in for batallion drill. After I came off guard I went and washed my clothes and this afternoon I helped to build up the fire place and then we played dominoes.

November 10

This morning it was clear and colde. This morning we went on inspection and then we went to church. This afternoon and got two papers from Sam³⁵. and tonight we have had some fun over the victory reported to be gained by our (fleet). The whole regiment were out askirmishing.

November 11

This morning it looked some like rain but it finally cleared off and was nice the rest of the day. I was detailed this morning to work on the fort and this afternoon we worked on the fort. There was 3 (6) guns on the fort mounted and several more that are not mounted.

November 12

This morning we were called up about one o'clock to march with one days provisions. I don't know where. After daylight it was a good time for marching. We come to our outside pickets about daylight and then we started for Acotink³⁶ and we then went on a wild goose chase but we have got all right gain now.....

³⁵ Brother, Samuel Dickerman?

³⁶ Accotink, Virginia. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS)

and are resting now at *Pohick Church*³⁷ about 1 1/2 miles from Acotink. After we had rested about an hour we were ordered to return to camp. I came back as far as our pickets that night and stayed with them. Our boys took one prisoner and in the night we took 7 *contrabands*³⁸.

November 13

This morning it was warm and pleasant. There was not much of anything happened through the day. In the night we were out on a foraging party but the dogs made such a fuss that we had to leave it for that time.

November 14

This morning it was clear and pleasant. I am still on picket. Today we were relieved from picket. We got in about 3 o'clock and it rained like (fun). We have got new tents and they are first rate.

November 15

This morning and last night it rained all night. This morning we went and got some boards to build us some bunks. The boys have been trying to smoke us out. We have just put a fire in our tent for the first time. It rains some now.

November 16

I stood guard that morning it was cold and windy and was the coldest day I have seen since I joined the army. I stood 8 hours day and night and got a letter from home.

³⁷ Pohick Church, near Lorton, Fairfax County, Virginia. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS). Originally founded in 1695 as Occoquan Church. On November 12, 1861 (this date) Union soldiers under the command of Major General Heintzelman raided, ransacked and devastated the church. Their graffiti is still visible today on the church walls.

³⁸ Escaped slaves.

November 17

This morning the weather is more milde than it was yesterday but it was pretty colde today. This morning we had inspection and now expect to go to church soon.

November 18

This morning it was colde and cloudy. This morning we all called out to work but did not have to go. This afternoon we signed the payrolls and went on dress parade and then we went in the tent and stayed there till roll call.

November 19

This morning it was clear and colde. This fournoon we went on brigade drill and this afternoon we chopped wood and then we done nothing. Went on dress parade and then we did that is all.

November 20

This morning we got up and went off on general review before General McClellan³⁹ and lines on there were 75 thousand men and artillery. We got home about dark. Tired enough.

November 21

This morning I went to work on the fort and worked there all day and in the evening we got our pay.

³⁹ The Grand Review, Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia. See APPENDIX #3 (MAPS). See APPENDIX #8 for description of this day.

November 22

This morning it was clear and colde. This fournoon we done nothing but (cramp) some things. This afternoon we went on drill all the afternoon.

November 23

This morning it was cloudy rather rainy but however we got a pass and went to Alexandria and done some (tall)(cramping) and went in the house that Ellsworth⁴⁰ was shot in and got home about sundown.

November 24

This morning it was cloudy and colde. I went to inspection and then wrote letters the rest of the day.

November 25

Last night it snowed some for the first time since we have been in Virginia. This morning it was clear as a whistle when the sun arose but about noon it was cloudy and colde. I was detailed for guard this morning and (served) two (tricks) through the day.

November 26

This morning it was clear and colde. Done nothing today but write letters. All is quiet. A man was shot last night through the hand.

⁴⁰ Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth killed in Marshall House Inn, Alexandria VA. on May 24, 1861. Shortly after the Union troops secured Alexandria Ellsworth noticed a confederate flag flying above the inn. He and four others went up the stairs, cut the flag down and on the way down Ellsworth was shot in the chest and killed by the innkeeper. making him one of the first casualties on the war. Cpl. Francis Brownell was given the Medal of Honor for in turn killing the innkeeper. Ellsworth was thereafter revered by Union soldiers ("Remember Ellsworth").

November 27

This morning it was rather cloudy and about noon it began to rain and rained until night. I was on police duty today. In the forenoon we got wood for the cooks. In the afternoon we done nothing.

November 28

This morning it was rather rainy. We done nothing in the afternoon. The olde sutler opened his heart and treated us with (rides) and our second lieutenant treated us to the (apples).

November 29

Lee

() pay us. () dancing like a fury ().

To () she was forebore today. Twill best be known on that grate day where you all, every one, must give an account of what they've done, to say no more - she lived approved, died lamented and beloved 1776 aged (38) Mrs. Susan Mills⁴¹

⁴¹ Last page. Quote from book, poem, letter? Unknown

DIARY #2

November 29, 1861 - July 29, 1862

E. H. Dickerman

July 6th 1861

From this day I resolve to take down what transpired from one day to another. I have wrote down what hapened in my little book until today Nov 28 now I take the other and send the little one home. Nov 29, 1861. This morning it rained some this morning this morning but about noon it cleared off and the wind blew pretty hard.

November 30

This morning it cleared of and was rather cold. Last night it rained most all night. We had our things inspected today. To night they are fiddling in our tent.

December 1st, 1861

This morning it was clear and colde. I was detailed for supernumery⁴² today. The boys went to church today we have done nothing else.

December 2

This morning it was rather colde. I was detailed for auard this morning. We went down to below the fort to a house for provost guard.

December 3

This morning it was clear and colde. Last night it snowed some but it cleared off after while and was colde. I do not have any thing to do today. The boys are going on drill this afternoon.

⁴² SUPERNUMERARY def. Substitute, extra or temporary position

December 4

I was detailed for picket this morning but one of the boys went in my place so I helped cook. This afternoon I went on batallion drill with blank cartridges.

December 5

This morning it was clear and colde. We went on napsack drill this fornoon. This afternoon we are to go on brigade drill. It is pleasant to today. Last night it froze hard.

December 6th

This morning it was warm and pleasant. This fournoon we went on batallion drill. This after noon it was so muddy that we could not drill so we stayed at home.

December 7

This morning it was fogey and wet so we did not have to go out out on drill but this afternoon we went on brigade review before general Richardson. Senator Chandler made us a few remarks.

December 8

This morning it was rather cloudy but about noon it cleared of and was warm and plesant. We did not have any thing to day. We went on dress parade to night.

December 9

This morning it was clear and plesant this fournoon we went on knapsack drill and this afternoon we went on batallion drill. I got a letter from home this afternoon and this afternoon I wrote home.

December 10

This morning we wer called up about four o'clock to move. We struck our tents about 7 o'clock and started about 9. We went about 2 miles from our old camp ground and ther we halted and pitched our tents and eat our supers and went to bed.

December 11

This morning it was cloudy and looked some like rain but it cleared of about 9 o'clock. We wer called up about day light this morning for the report was that rebels wer advancing on us and we stood with our guns in our hands for nearly an hour then we got our breakfast and then we went to work around the quarters. In the afternoon we had orders to pack up our things and go back a mile and half. Ther we encamped about about dark.

December 12

This morning it was clear and plesant. I was detailed for guard. This morning I went and got some boards to make me a bunk with and then went on guard and stood all the fournoon.

December 13

This morning it was clear and plesant today. I have done nothing but rite letters this evening. I went on dress parade.

December 14

This morning it was clear and pleasant. I help dig a sink today.

December 15

This morning it was clear and colde. They said it was Sunday but I don't hardly believe it for I have been at work all day helping build a

(hospital) mixing mud and caring brick and one thing and another.

December 16

This morning it was clear and cold. I was detailed for guard this morning. I stood two tricks this four noon and have two more to stand to night.

December 17

This morning it clear and warm. This four noon I went all over the country to find a team to draw our house logs but did not find any. This afternoon we got a team and drawed our logs and piled them up in front of our tents.

December 18

This morning it was rather cloudy. This fournoon I was detailed for police. This afternoon I helped to split (slats) for our shanty. This evening we had orders to have every thing ready for battle at a moments warning.

December 19

This morning it was rather fogey and looked like rain. This fournoon I helped on the shanty. This afternoon we went on divisional review and this evening I wrote two letters home.

December 20

This morning it was clear and cold. I detailed for guard this morning. There is no news much here now. There was some heavy firing down the river this morning.

December 21

This morning it cold and clear. I went on guard at three o'clock and came off at five. I have not done anything today but help some in the shanty.

This evening I have read some d then went to bed.

December 22

This morning we had inspection of arms and then went to church and then worked on the shanty in the afternoon we got our dress coats and went on dress parade.

December 23

This morning it rained like (split) but we worded on the shanty. This founnoon we wheeled brick and this afternoon we muded it up.

December 24

This morning it was rather cold. I was detailed this morning for picket but got another man to go in my place so I have worked on the shanty. We moved to day and to night we are cristering the shanty. We have got a fiddle and and a tamborine and are having a real old time.

December 25

This morning we wer got up about three o'clock and went on a reconocance. It was rather cold this morning but about noon it cleared off and was pleasant. We got home about dark.

December 26

This morning it was cloudy and looked like rain but it cleared off and was pleasant. I have not done anything to day. Our Captain got home this afternoon and brought some new recruits.

December 27

This morning it was cold and cloudy. I was detailed for guard and it has been cold and () the wind () like all get () might the () some ().

December 28

This morning I came off guard and have done nothing to day. It has been rather cold and cloudy. I wrote four letters. To night I went to the sutlers and got into a (mud puddle).

December 29

This morning it was clear and was very cold after guard mounting we went on inspection and then we went to church and then we went on dress parade and then we set by the fire the rest of the time.

December 30

This morning it was warm and pleasant. This forenoon we went on knapsack drill. This afternoon I cleaned my gun and got a letter from my brother at Fort Royal.

December 31

This morning we had orders to prepare for muster and we were mustered for pay. This afternoon the weather still holds fine. We went on dress parade to night. This evening we had a kind of new years frolic.

January the
1, first, 1862

This morning it was warm as summer. I went to Washington and saw my brother and stayed with him all night.

January 2

This morning it was rather cold. I left the N. H. regiment about noon this morning and went and [had] four likenesses taken and then returned to camp where I arrived about dark.

January 3

This morning it was rather cloudy. We went on knapsack drill this forenoon and this afternoon we went on battalion drill. Last night it snowed some.

January 4

This morning it was cold and cloudy and snowed some. This forenoon we have done nothing to day on account of the weather. Tonight we roasted some corn and had a very good time.

January 5th

This morning it very cold. I was detailed for guard this morning. I have stood two tricks this forenoon. Tonight I went and got some rails to keep a fire to night.

January 6

This morning it snowed some. I came off guard and have done nothing. Tonight went on dress parade. All is quiet yet along the lines. There were some prisoners taken the other day.

January 7

This morning it was cold and cloudy. We have done nothing today. All is still on the line yet we expect to move soon somewhere.

January 8

this morning it was rather cold and cloudy. We went on knapsack drill this four noon and this afternoon we went on brigade drill. This evening we had a debateing school and we got a box from home with some goodies in it.

January 9

This morning it rained some and was so muddy that we could do nothing. About noon it cleared off a little and we went up and had our pictures taken and the it clouded up again.

January 10

The weather was very foggy. It rained part of the day. It is very muddy. I was detailed for guard this morning. I stood one tour and then went & got excused by the doctor.

January 11

This morning it was pleasant for a spell but it clouded up about noon. I have done nothing to day.

January 12

This morning it was clear and warm as sumer. We had regamental inspection today and went to church and several other things. to night the boys are having a sing.

January 13

This morning the weather was mild and pleasant but towards night it clouded up and in the night it snowed some. We got our pay this afternoon.

January 14

This morning when we got up we found some snow on the ground if not more and it has snowed all day. We have not done any thing today only go on dress parade. One of our boys come back today that was taken prisnor by the rebels and our men took twelve prisnors today and marched them into camp.

January 15

This morning I was detailed for guard and it has rained all day and has been so cold that the ice has froz on my gun all day. Tonight it rains some but not so much as it through the day.

January 16

This morning the was warm and pleasant. I came of guard and we have done nothing today. I got some letters from home this afternoon.

January 17

This morning we got started for town but the order was countermanded and we are going tomorrow. It has been pleasant all day but tonight it rains some.

January 18

This morning it rained some. We got our new rifles today.

January 19

It has rained all day today and we have done nothing but stay in the shanty

and keep dry.

January 20

This morning it rained some but we went to town and had a very good time. The mud was knee deep. I was clear bushed out when we got home.

January 21

It has rained all day pretty much. I went to the sick call today and was excused by the doctor. It still rains tonight.

January 22

It rained some this morning. I wrote a letter home and cleaned my revolver and in the evening I had a game of chekers.

January 23

This morning it was warm and cloudy. We went out target shooting. This four noon and this after noon we cleaned our guns and got ready for dress parade.

January 24

This morning it was cloudy then about noon it commenced to snow and rain and continued to through the night. I was on guard and the full benifit of the storm.

January 25

I came of guard this morning. It rained some this morning but about 10 o'clock it cleared of and was warm pleasant. The boys are fixing their knapsacks for a march. Well (who cares)

January 26

This morning it was clear and pleasant and remained so through the day. We went on inspection this forenoon and this afternoon we went on dress parade and then read some and eat super and then read some more.

January 27

This morning it was cloudy but warm. This fore noon we had company drill and this afternoon we had battallion drill.

January 28

This morning it was cloudy and about ten oclock it commenced to rain and rained untill about two oclock then it stoped and remained cloudy. This evening there was considerable firing down the river. We could see the flashing of their guns.

January 29

This morning it was warm and cloudy. About noon it cleared of and the sun came out and it was pleasant and nice. Last night our men had a skirmish with the rebels and killed some of them.

January 30

This morning it rained as usual. I was detailed of guard this morning. I have stood two tricks today through the rain and have (two) more to stand tonight.

January 31

This morning it rained some but stoped before noon and was quite pleasant. I was off guard today tomorrow we go on picket.

February 1st 1862

This morning we started for the outside lines to do picket duty. It rained all day and was as muddy as could be. We got there about noon and relieved the others.

February 2

This morning it was clear and pleasant untill noon then it began to snow and snowed all day. The snow was nearly three inches deep and it rained through the night.

February 3

It snowed some today and rained some and was clear some. Two companys of our regament had a skirmish today but did not have any one killed.

February 4

This morning it was warm and pleasant and thawed all day. We were relieved today about ten oclock and got to camp about two and then raised cane until night.

February 5

This morning it was clear and pleasant. I cleaned my revolver and gun and went on dress parade and then (poped) some corn and then went to bed and went and done it well you (should) know.

February 6

This morning it rained as usuall and we stayed in the shanty all day until called out to dress parade and after dress parade we had a sociable game of eucere thats so (loss).

February 7

After morning it was not very cold. We drilled some on the bayonet.

February 8

This morning I had to stay on guard for last night we played eucher and the Captain caught us at it and put us in the guard house for the night and this morning he put us on guard. It has been rather cold today.

February 9

This morning it was pleasant and cold. I came of guard this morning. We had general inspection this founnoon and this afternoon we had (court).

February 10

This morning it was warm and pleasant. I got a letter from my brother Sam. He was at Hateras Inlet. I was on police duty today and the rest went on bataillion drill.

February 11

This morning I was detailed for guard. It was cold and windy and towards night it comenced snowing.

February 12

I was off guard this morning. It has been pleasant today. I went out side of the camp to look around some and get some straw for a bed and I had a (clean) diner once more and had a verry pleasant talk with a nice young lady and then we got our straw and started for camp and we got there about five oclock time for dress parade.

February 13

This morning it was warm and pleasant. This fournoon we went on batallion drill and this afternoon we had company drills on the bayonet exercize.

February 14

This morning it was cold and windy. We had brigade dril this fournoon and the afternoon we did not do anything.

February 15

It comenced snowing this morning and has snowed all day and snowed tonight some. We have done nothing today. The news come of the taking of Fort Donaldson⁴³ this afternoon and we had quite a little time over it.

February 16

This morning we went on inspection and then we went to church and then we played mugins⁴⁴ and the we went on dress parade. It has been warm and pleasant today.

February 17

This morning it comenced raining and has rained eversince. We played mugins all day and got the news of Fort Donalson being taken.

February 18

This morning I was detailed for guard. It has been cloudy and fogey all day and tonight it rains some. When I wrote this it was eleven oclock at night. I got three letter today.

⁴³ Fort Donelson, Tennessee. U.S. Grant victory.

⁴⁴ Muggins Cribbage card game.

February 19

This morning I came off guard it has rained all day and now it rains some. I wrote two letter and played mugins.

February 20

This morning it cleared off and was cold and windy. Our men fetched in two prisners. We have done nothing today.

February 21

In the morning it was pleasant. In the fournoon we had batallion drill and in the afternoon we had brigade drill I taken sick and did not go out on brigade drill.

February 22

This morning it began to rain and rained all day. There was a great deal of firing saluts today.

February 23

This morning it was warm and (showery) and has rained some. We had company inspection and then a man came to talk to us but we made up our mind that he did not know much and we went back to our tents and left him and we went back to playing mugins and he went some where else.

February 24

This morning it was it rained some but about noon we had orders to get ready to march in a hurry which we did for the report came that the rebels wer advancing on us but we did not find any of them.

February 25

This morning it was clear and cold. Our regiment went out on picket. Today it has been warm. This afternoon I have wrote letters all day pretty much.

February 26th

This morning it was warm and pleasant but it began to rain about noon and has rained all the afternoon. All is quiet on the lines yet.

February 27

It cleared of last night in the nigh and this morning it was clear and pleasant but cold and windy. Our boys took one prisnor yesterday. I have done nothing today but play mugins or dominoes. We got orders to march today.

February 28

This morning it was clear and cold and the wind has blowed all day. Tonight our boys came in from picket and we wer mustered for pay.

March the 1th, 1862

This morning it was clear and cold. We have not done nothing today but lay around the camp.

March 2

This morning it was clear but it began to snow about noon. We had general inspection this four noon and this after noon we drawed our new pants and played dominoes.

March 3

This morning it rained some. We have done nothing today. Tonight it rains very fast and runs through the shanty like an old ().

March 4

This morning it had cleared of and was pleasant and warm. We had bayonet drill this four noon and this afternoon we have not done anything that is so I expect.

March 5

This morning it was rather cloudy and it rained some. I was detailed to work on the road today. We have been putting brush in and then covering them with dirt.

March 6

This morning it was warm and pleasant. I was detailed for work on the road but did not have to go and this afternoon I had my picture taken.

March 7

This morning it was clear and cold. There is nothing going on. We got our little tents for two today. I have been on guard today.

March 8

This morning it was clear and pleasant. I came off guard this morning and went and had my photograph taken and tomorrow we go on picket.

March 9

This morning it was warm and pleasant and has been so all.. We started for the picket lines and got to our post about noon and then we had to build a

house and then it was night. Ther was conciderable firing towards the blockade but I have not heard what it was about yet. It is warm and pleasant tonight and the moon shines brightly.

March 10

This morning it was cloudy and began to rain about noon and rained for a couple of hours then it cleared of and to night when I rit this it is pleasant and the moon is shining brightly and I am siting by the fire in our bough house riting. There has been some troops sent out today.

March 11

On picket still and it has been very pleasant to day. Warm nice spring weather. All is quiet along the lines yet our troops have been advancing. Some for the last two or three days.

March 12

This morning it was clear and pleasant and warm as sumer. We came into camp this afternoon and I got a letter from home.

March 13

This morning it was cloudy and about nine oclock it began to rain and it rained most all day. We have done nothing today.

March 14

This morning we had orders to march and we went as far a Fort Lyon and there we stayed all the afternoon. We expect to go tonight or early in the morning. Martin Plice⁴⁵ was wounded in the side but he is still alive.

⁴⁵ Martin Clyce. See APPENDIX #2 (Roster)

The weather is cloudy and looks like rain.

March 15

This morning it was rainy and cold. We encamped on our old ground at Fort Lyon last night. We expected to embark this morning on the boat but something was the matter. It has rained all day and to night we Bill and I are in an old colored mans house. There are some pretty young ladies here.

March 16

This morning it was not raining but looked some like it. Today we moved our camp. We expect to start tomorrow. We are in Alexandria to night.

March 17

This morning we wer ordered on board the boat. We got aboard about noon. Last night we (slept) in Alexandria.

March 18

We stayed on the boat last night and we slept on the outside of the cabin. We started down the river about eleven oclock. We passed the rebel bateries and they were all deserted. The gun boats fired some at some cavetry and made them run. We anchored for the night down below the () a little ways.

March 19

This morning we got into Fortress Monroe about three oclock in the afternoon. Early in the morning (want it) we saw the little monitor⁴⁶.

⁴⁶ Fortress Monroe/Monitor/Battle of Hampton Roads.

March 20

This morning it rained and we landed about 8 oclock and and went about a mile into the country and camped and we went and caught some oysters.

March 21

This morning it was cloudy and looked some like rain but it did not rain until towards night. This morning we went out and looked around. Some the rebels fired some at our boats as there we passing by Sewell's Point with dispatches to Newport News. I saw General Wood this morning. It rains some to night. We had dress parade at Fortress Monroe for the first time.

March 22

This morning it has cleared of. We wer to have company drill this four noon but did not. I was detailed to go and help put together some wagons that had gone ashore on the beach five miles above the Fort. Tonight I am going to sleep in a wagon where the waves the wheels of the wagon.

March 23

Today we have put together some wagons and soldiered some. Our men took two prisnors today. Some more troops come down today. It has been plesant today.

March 24

Festerday we finished puting the wagons together and got done about noon and then started for camp. We stayed in the camp of the Delaware regament last night.

March 25

This morning we started for camp and found them moored some two or three miles. We got in camp about ten o'clock. We went around some in the ruins of Hampton.

March 26

This morning it looked some like rain. There was some firing on the lines. I went and saw some of the boys out of (). Tomorrow we move.

March 27

Today we have had two drills. This forenoon we had company drill and this afternoon we had batallion drill and I wrote three letters.

March 28

This forenoon we had batallion drill and this afternoon we played ball. The weather is fine. Still all is quiet on the lines.

March 29

This morning it was pleasant. We had company drill and this afternoon it rained like the (devil) and we had to (move) close together.

March 30

Today it has rained all day. I went down to the warf to see what was going on there. We saw many quantity artillery and () unloading. It rains some through the night.

March 31

This morning it cleared of early. It has been warm and pleasant. I have not been very well to day. There has been some firing on the river to day but

we dont know what for.

April first 1862

Today it has been warm and pleasant so them say that have been well. I have not felt warm today but once. That was when I was asleep on the south side of a bail of hay.

April 2

This morning it was cloudy and the wind has blowed all day and it has been cold and raw. I got two letters today. I have been sick all day.

April 3

Today we have had two drills company drill this fournoon and batallion drill in the afternoon. I have not been any better much today. I bought some aples and had some sauce.

April 4

This morning we had orders to pack up and start. We marched about ten miles. I was with the bagage train not being able to keep up with regt but I came up with them. At Big Bethal.⁴⁷ there wer pretty plenty of sesesh fortifications there. I have marched in the awfulest misery imaginable. We expect to take the lead tomorrow.

April 5

Today we have stayed rite where we encamped last night. There have been fighting to Yorktown today.

⁴⁷ Battle of Yorktown

April 6

This morning we started on the march again and came up with the regt. This was Sunday and it was pretty still with the exceptions of a cannon now and then from the rebels. We can see the fortifications pretty plain at Yorktown. We our men took a battery this afternoon.

April 7

I came up with the regt. about dark and found them rite within range of of the enemys guns. They threw some shells onto our camp but did not hurt any one. It began to rain about dark and rained all night.

April 8

This morning it rained and has rained most all day. I have not been very well today and hardly able to walk. It rains some tonight.

April 9

Today it has rained most all day. We have done nothing but lay around and watch the shells that the enemy threw at us.

April 10

This morning it was cold enough to frieze a white man. Sesesh have been firing some at us. We fell back about one hundred yards into the woods where it was warmer some.

April 11

This morning it cleared off and has been warm and pleasant. This fournoon there was some canonading but this afternoon our boys had to fall in and go out for a fight but the rebels went back and we did not have any fight but we wer ordered to sleep on our arms all night.

April 12

Today it has been warm as summer. We have not done nothing today. The.....

rebels have fired a few shots at us to day but things have been pretty quiet. Generally they (sloly) getting ready to give them fits.

April 13

This morning it was warm and pleasant. Everything is quiet yet there has been little or no firing today. I got a letter from New Hampshire today.

April 14

Today we have not done anything. I went out and looked around some today. I went to see the balloon. I was close to it. Our batteries have been firing at them all day. The weather has been fine today.

April 15

This morning it was warm and rained some. Every thing has been still today. Tonight we are going on picket. We have got every thing ready.

April 16

We went out on picket. We were stationed within a few yards of our baterys and the rebels got the range of us and they began to throw shell at us and they made us (hunt) our holes for a few moments but we got our places again soon and they didnt get us away again. One of our men had both of his feet shot off and one the second was shot (into pieces) () by a rifle canon shot.

April 17

To day we have rested. It has been very warm. So warm that it has been uncomfortable. Our men have been banging away all day and the rebels have killed two or three of our men.

April 18

Every thing has been still except an ocasional gun that has been fired at the rebels on their works. Our regt. has been out on fatigue duty⁴⁸. I have suffered almost every thing today.

April 19

Well today we wer all pretty badly scared by a 100 pound rifle canon shell coming in amongst us but fortunathy it did not come close enough to hurt any one. It rains some to night.

April 20

It has rained all day today. Every thing has been quiet along the lines.

April 21

It has rained all day to day. This morning our regt. went out on picket. They started at 4 oclock. I was not well enough to go.

April 22

We it has rained some today. Our regt. came in from picket this morning and they wer rather a wet looking set for it rained all night. The rebels have been firing some and killed one man in the 5 regt.

⁴⁸ Duty of a non-military kind.

April 23

Today it has been warm and pleasant. We have not had any thing to do to day. There has been some firing but not much. I have not been able to do anything yet.

April 24

To day it has been cold and disagreeable. Our regt have been out on fatigue today. The rebels have fired some today.

April 25

Today it has rained some. We got our pay today and some of our regt went out to work. This afternoon everything has been still along the lines.

April 26

Today I went to the hospital to see Bill and found him pretty sick. It rained all day and all night and I got pretty wet.

April 27

This morning our regiment went out on picket. There has been some firing on the lines today. The weather is still rainy. I did not go out today because I did not feel like it.

April 28

Our boys came in from picket and brought in one prisoner. We have not had any fighting yet. Every thing is quiet along the lines.

April 29

Today we have cleaned our guns and played ball some and done nothing since every thing is quiet along the lines. There has been some firing but but it

did not amount to much. We have had orders to go on guard to night somewhere.

April 30

Last night we went out and layed in one of the (regouts) as () for the batery. We came in about sunrise. It has rained some to day and rains some to night. We wer wer mustered for pay today.

May the first 1862

May 1

This morning I got a pass and went up to see Bill and found him not much better. There has been some firing on the lines but no one has been hurt yet. Tomorrow morning we go out on picket at four oclock.

May 2

This morning we come out to guard the batereys and the rebels have been shelling us all day. One shell just came over and it made me make my maners pretty quick.

May 3

We came in from picket this morning today. I have write four letter today. The rebels have been firing all daybut have not done much damage yet but the still keep pepering now.

May 4

This morning we got up and found that the rebels had gone and left there works. I am siting on a box riting this. I have just been looking at some of there works to blow us sky high.

May 5

This morning when I woke up it was raining and has rained every since. Our men have been fighting on head. I have been behind with the team.

May 6

This morning it had stoped raining and was pleasant. I lost the wagons and did not find them again but found the regement at dark. To night I came across the battlefield and saw some dead rebels.

May 7

This morning it was pleasant and warm. I was detailed to cook. Today our boys went out to guard some wagons but we could not get to the warf for the rebels had burned the pier.

May 8

Today we have not done nothing but have inspection. Tomorrow we expect to march. This afternoon I went up to Fort Magruder⁴⁹ to help ferry off the (wounded).

May 9

We started on the march about ten oclock and marched about six miles. Nothing has been seen of the rebels yet but we () enough of there duds along the road.

May 10

This morning we started again about sunrise and have not marched very far

⁴⁹ Fort Magruder. Earthen fortification straddling road between Yorktown and Williamsburg. Battle of Williamsburg (May 5).

on account of the teams being so far behind. It has been very warm to day. There is a report that there has been another battle ahead but we don,t know how true it is.

May 11

To day we have rested and they say it is Sunday but that is all i know about it. There has been some heavy firing on head of us but we have not learned what it was for. Our teams have gone for bread.

May 12

This morning it was clear and pleasant. Everything is still yet tomorrow we expect to march tomorrow some where.

May 13

This morning we started and marched about 8 miles and camped. It is awful dry and dusty and the men look more like men of (mud) than any thing else.

May 14

It has rained all day to day. We marched about 6 miles throught the rain and then camped for the night and it still rains but we have got our tents up.

May 15

It has rained all day to day and we have marched about six miles through the rain and mud and then pitched our tents in the mud and layed down in the mud.

May 16

We have rested today or rather ran around the country. We bought some

cakes and pies and saved our three days rations.

May 17

To day we have not done much. This four noon I cleaned by gun and and this afternoon we went down to the warf and bought some things and speculated some on them.⁵⁰

May 18

To day sumery. I went to meeting and in the afternoon I had a tooth drawn and it broke of and made it wors than before.

May 19

This morning we had orders to march. At 7 oclock we marched about a mile and camped for the night. It has rained most of the day.

May 20

This morning we wer called up about 3 oclock and hustled of about five or six miles double quick and then the order came to pitch tents and and we hear there has been some heavy firing toward Richmond this afternoon.

May 21

To day we have rested but the troops have been marching past us all day. My face has aaked so all day that I have not taken much comfort this evening. I went out of camp to take a stroll and saw some of the nicest country that I ever saw. Everything looks still and nice and if it wasnt for the ocasional boom of the heavy guns in the distance one would not think that country was the seat of war.

⁵⁰ Likely near Cumberland Landing, Pamunkey River.

May 22

To day we have layed still. It rained some and we had to lay close to keep dry. It hailed some but was warm.

May 23

This morning it rained some. This afternoon we had orders to pack our duds and march in ten moments and we went about six miles and encamped for the night.

May 24

To day we have rested. It has rained. Some to march within about ten miles of Richmond. Every thing is quiet yet except an occasional gun now and then.

May 25

This morning we had to pack our duds and and (). We came about five or six miles and encamped within about two miles of the rebel pickets and encamped in the woods.

May 26

To day we have layed still. It has rained some. We had orders to pack our knapsacks and have them taken the other side of the Chickahomana river⁵¹ for we had a general order (read) to that efect to night.

May 27

To day we have held our selves in readynes to march at a moments notice. There has been some pretty heavy firing to day on our right.

⁵¹ Chickahominy River

May 28

This morning it rained some and we have not done anything. I got some letters and one from Bill. Direct to () S. Co D 3 regt. General Hospital, Annapolis M.D.

May 29

To day it has been warm and pleasant. This afternoon we packed our duds and and marched about a mile and there we encamped for a short time.

May 30

Well we went and got some brush and fixed our shanty so that the .. would not shine through. It rained some this afternoon and then water got under us and made us hunt our sole.

May 31

This morning we had orders to get ready to march and we packed our duds and started and we marched about three miles and pitched our tents and got them fairly pitched and we had to go rite into action and we had a tough old time of it.⁵²

June the first 1862

This morning the battle began again and lasted nearly all the fournoon but our boys finaly drove them back and this afternoon ther had not been much firing. It rained some this morning.

June 2

To day tow hundred of our regt. went out as scouts and the rest of us went

⁵² Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks)

about a mile and encamped for the night. I have not been very well for a few days back.

June 3

This morning it was rather rainy. We wer ordered out to fight but did not have to go for the rebels did not come out so we were all right.

June 4

This morning it rained like all get out and came near floating us off. I never saw it rain harder in any like than it did all night. Our things wer all wet and are to night but we have got used to that. It has rained most all day today and rains tonight.

June 5

This morning the canonading comenced on our right and is continued yet but we dont; know what it is for. Our regt. has gone out on picket. The firing has been kept up all day and they are at it this evening.

June 6

This morning it rained some. Our regt. came in tonight and we got our pay this afternoon. I drew 2.6 dollars.

June 7

Today we have layed still for it has rained like all get out. Every thing is still yet along the lines except an ocasional gun now and then.

June 8

This morning we wer hurried into the ranks by a heavy firing on our right but it did not amount to anything. We had to move today a little ways. There

had been firing out on the line all day.

June 9

This morning it was pleasant. There has been some heavy firing on our right. To night I went down to the depot and when we came back we went to meeting.

June 10

This morning it rained like all git out and has rained all day. There has been no excitement here to day. To night it rains and the rebels are banking away at our pickets as usual. They have killed some of our men today.

An added note:

State of Matrimony

The state of matrimony has at last been bounded and discribed by some western student who says; as bounded by huging and kissing on one side and cradle and babies on the other side, its chief productions are papulation; broomsticks; and staying out late of nights. It was discovered by Adam and Eve while trying to find the northwest passage out of paridise, the climate is sultry till you pass the trofies of house keeping when equally...

weather sets in with such power as to keep all hands cool as ever

() for the principal roads leading to this interesting state consult the first pair of blew eyes you greet.

June 11

To day we had orders to get ready and march and we did. We went about two miles and encampped for the night. Two of our men were shot by the rebels this afternoon.

June 12

To day we have been under arms all day. There has been skermishing all along the line all day. This four noon we expected to have a fight every moment but to night it is quiet. () I got a letter from Aunt Green this morning and answered it this afternoon.

June 13

This morning I was awakened by the booming of canon and it was kept up at intervals all day. Our boys have been building rifle pits all day.

June 14

To day we have been under arms all day for they wer reported to be lots of rebels on our front but they will not attack us.

June 15

Yesterday I went to look for a horse that was lost but could not find him. In the afternoon it rained some and then was some skirmishing on the lines and we wer (drawn) up up in the rain and had to stand there for an hour or to bit it finally died down and we went back to our tents.

June 16

To day I have been Chief cook and bottle washer for the agutant. The weather has been fine today. There has been some firing but not much. We expected an attack this morning but it fell through.

June 17

To day every thing has been still today. To night there was one volexy fired and that was all. It has been very comfortable today and not to warm. I have cooked for the Agutant today.

June 18

This morning we wer drawn up in the line of battle and wer kept so all day. There has been heavy firing on our right to day but we havent learned what it was yet. The rebels have thrown some shots at us to day but have not done any damage. To night it rains some.

June 19

To day it has been quiet and every thing as been still today and the weather has been very warm but tonight it is cool and comfortable.

June 20

Today I have not been very well. Not so well as usual but have helped some on our well and cook some beans. The rebels have throwed some shot and shell at us but did not hurt any one. The weather has been fine today.

June 21

This morning there was some firing but it did not amount to much there was some shooting to night.

June 22

To day Sunday

It has been the first quiet Sunday that I have seen in a long time. The rebels have not fired a gun nor our men except some in camp. I was out beyond the lines today after some oats for the horses but did not see any rebels.

June 23

This morning we some startled by a firing in our rear but it turned out to be Ponches Division firing of their guns. Every thing has been quiet today on the lines.

June 24

To day it has rained some by showers. The rebels have been unusually quiet today considering it has been a rainy day but there has been some firing.

June 25

This morning our regt wer ordered to get in line and then they wer marched out into the woods and there awaited for the rebels to come out but they did not go to our regt but there has been some terrible fighting done today on both sides but the rebels have not driven us back any yet tomorrow look out.⁵³

June 26

This fournoon all was quiet but this afternoon there has been heavy firing on our right and to night the news came in that mechanics vill⁵⁴ was taken by our sources.

June 27

Today there has been fighting all along the lines and there has been heavy firing in the neighborhood of Richmond but what it was we have not found out yet. Our pickets have been firing all the time.

June 28

Every thing has been still today excepting some skermishing on the line but to night it looks as though we wer going to get up and dust out of this soon.

June 29

To day we have been skidadaling all day and have now bunked down for

⁵³ Oak Grove. Beginning of Seven Days Battles

⁵⁴ Mechanicsville PA

the night . They have been fighting all day in our rear.

June 30

To day we have been traveling all day towards (night). They were fighting like Sam hill and wer wer all with the trains in a field under cover of the gun boats.

July the first 1

Today we have been on the tramp and came down to the division hospital⁵⁵ and there stayed for the night. There was heavy canonading in our rear.⁵⁶

July 2

This morning we wer ordered to get up and skiddadle as fast as we could for City Point and when we got here we met some reinforcements to help us. It has rained all day like thunder.

July 3

This morning the rebels comenced shelling our camp and made us hunt our holes. It has rained some to day and the mud has been knee deep so that it was hard getting around.

July 4

Today has been rather a dry fourth for us. The rebels have been shelling us some but did not do any hurt.

⁵⁵ Hospital at Savage Station (?) See picture

⁵⁶ Battle of Malvern Hill (?)

July 5

To day every thing has been quiet and we have had a good days rest. There has been some movements made amongst the troops but nothing particular. They have been landing all day.

July 6

To day all has been quiet and we have had one more still Sunday. I went and had a bath and then came home and got supper and then went to church.

July 7

Today every thing has been still except canonading on the river this morning. That was some of the rebel baterys firing into our transports but there was no damage done.

July 8

To day every thing has been still and hot enough to roast a niger. This evening the President and General Maclelan came and made us a visit and our baterys fired the National salute and the men cheered as though they charging of sesesh.

July 9

Today I have been drawing rations all day and waiting on (my) boys who has been very sick. Sesesh have been very quiet today.

July 10

This morning it pleasant and cool but about noon it began to rain and rained all the after noon and evening.

July 11

This after noon it has rained some and this four noon it was getting ready. Every thing is quiet here. The sesesh think that they wont try us here. There has been some firing down the river to day.

July 12

Today it has been very pleasant and cool. There has been some heavy firing down the river today and some musketry out on iyr lines but we have not heard what it was yet.

July 13

To day all is quiet and our division was reviewed by General Hintzman. It has been very warm today.

July 14

To day it has been hot enough to roast niger and I have been sick all day and sweating in the shade like a (). The rebels still keep pepering away down the river.

July 15

Today it has been warmer than yesterday for there has been no air stiring at all. today except what the rebels have kicked up down the river and that is not much.

July 16

Today it has been very warm. There is nothing going on here yet. Towards night it began to rain and it rained all night.

July 17

To day it has been very hot but not so warm as yesterday. Every thing is quiet here yet. We drew some (legins) to day. To night it looks like rain.

July 18

Last night it rained all night and we wer as wet as could be. This morning it is cool and cloudy and looks like rain. There is nothing going on here yet.

There was take of our () this after noon but whether it is so we dont know.

July 19

Last night (we moved cargo to) the road and have been busy fixing the camp ground.. There is nothing going on here. The boys are all (ready) for something to do.

July 20

I was sick all day. It was very warm.

July 21

I have not been much better to day. It has not been so warm to day.

July 22

To day it has been cool and pleasant. We drew our new tents to day and fixed them up. I have been some better to day.

July 23

To day it has been rather warm. I have been a goodeal better to day. To night our brigade went out on a drill. I got a letter from Sam and ().

July 24

To day it has not been quite so warm. There has not been any thing going on to day. Some of our men went out and stayed in the fife pits this after noon.

July 25

To day I was put on hasduty by the doctor but have not done any thing. It has been very warm to day.

July 26

To day it has been very warm but this evening it began to rain and rained quite hard.

July 27

To day it has been very warm. This morning we had dirshion inspection by Gen (Perry) and this afternoon we went to church.

July 28

This morning we had drill and then sick call and then we laid still until four oclock and then went on batallion drill.

July 29

{no entry}

Last page:

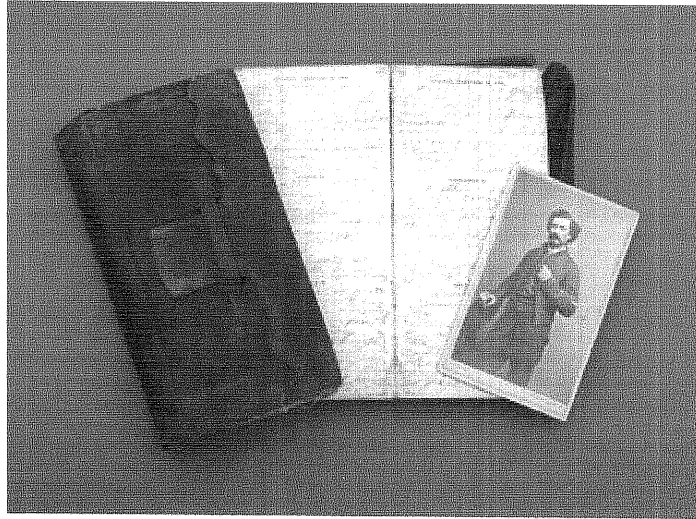
*As I walked by myself
I talked to my self.
Myself it said to me,
Beware of thy self
Take care of thy self
For no body cares for thee.*

*Remember me and dont forget
Those happy hours when first we (met)
And if the grave be first my bed
Remember me when I am dead.
(??)*

APPENDIX

**Diaries and Carte de Visite Belonging to Commissary Sgt. Samuel R. Dickerman,
6th N.H. Infantry (Died a P.O.W. at Andersonville Prison)**

Click on images for enlarged versions.



This lot consists of three items in all. The first item is a small, faux leather bound pocket diary for 1862 in which then Private Dickerman gives a brief outline of the day's events for every day of the year up to the 17th of November, about the time that the regiment reached Falmouth, near Fredericksburg (unfortunately, Dickerman gives no account of their assault on Marye's Heights about a month later). The diary is intact but shows all the evidence of having been carried during a hard campaign; the cover is well-worn and the coverflap is missing the closure tab and loop. Additionally, the rear cover is partially detached from its paper backing. The second item is a slightly larger pocket diary for 1863 started while the 6th was in winter quarters back in Falmouth. This diary is meticulously filled out from January 1, all the way to December 31, and makes mention of the regiment's involvement at Antietam. Additionally, Dickerman was very thorough in keeping track of how many letters he received from his wife back home in Nashua, N.H. as well as his financial accounts. This diary is in very good shape, lightly worn but with an intact cover and closure tab. The last item is a Brady studio marked C.D.V. which shows a knees up view of a hatless Dickerman wearing a short jacket with the chevrons of a Commissary Sergeant on the sleeves, dark vest with watch chain, and dark trousers. The card is in fine shape with some minor damage around the corners and a small amount of age toning. Samuel R. Dickerman was a 33-year-old resident of Nashua, N.H. when he enlisted as a Private on November 6, 1861, mustering into Co. G, 6th N.H. Infantry a month later. He was listed as missing following the 2nd Battle of Bull Run on August 29, 1862, but returned to the regiment late in November. Upon the expiration of his term of service, Dickerman reenlisted on January 1, 1864, with a concurrent promotion to Commissary Sergeant and transfer to Co. I. Six months later he was busted back to Private and was subsequently taken prisoner and sent to the infamous Confederate prison camp at Andersonville, GA. This was where he was last seen later in the year and is listed as having died on September 15, 1864 (his body was never identified). This is a poignant memento of a New Hampshire soldier who never made it home again, and would make a fabulous grouping for a Civil War or American history enthusiast. (2364-49) (1500/2500) **SOLD FOR \$2070.00**

Sold at auction September 20, 2008
Amos Keag Auction Co., Inc.
Auction #67
Item #195



_____/ DICKERMAN, SAMUEL R./

- New Search
- Search Fort McHenry Prison

Side	Union
Unit Name	6 New Hampshire Infantry
Regiment	6
State	New Hampshire
Function	Infantry
Company	I
Rank	Private
Type	Held at Andersonville and survived
Capture Date	Unknown
Capture Site	Unknown
Alternate Name	None
Remarks	COMPANY G [37]

Company D - the old Boston (Ionia county) Light Guard

NOR refers to the soldier who was not part of the original group which left Grand Rapids on June 13, 1861.

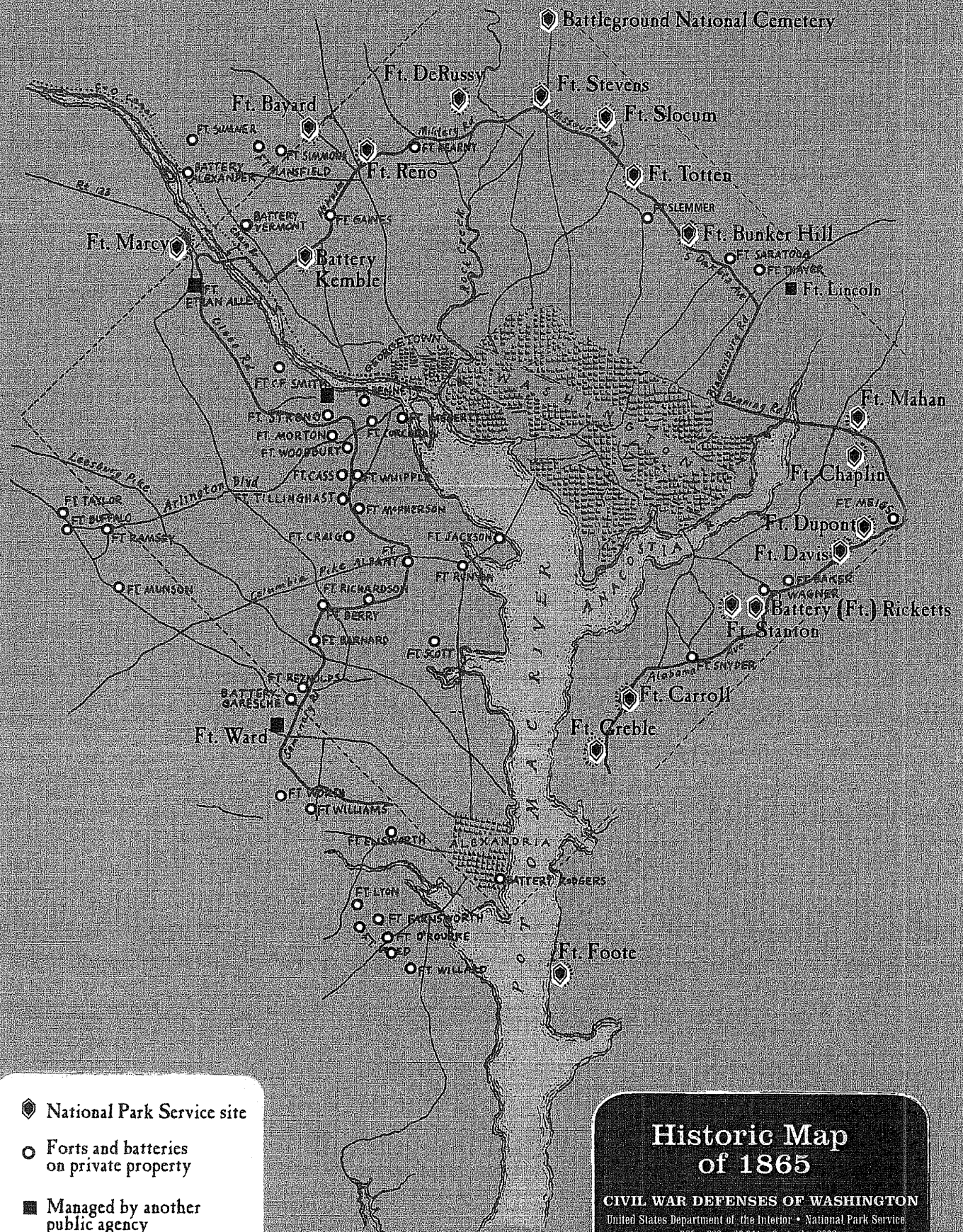
CAPT Moses B. Houghton
1st LT Peter Granger
2nd LT George W. Phillips

ALDESON, John Edwin (NOR)
ALLEN, Edwin
ALLSPAUGH, Benjamin
ARTHUR, Edmund B. (NOR)
ARTHUR, Richard E.
BAILY, William
BAKER, Philetus
BARBER, Andrew
BARBER, Martin
BARBER, Samuel B.
BARRENGER, Christopher
BAXTER, Charles w.
BAYNE, Philip
BEATTY, Joseph (NOR)
BENSON, John
BENTON, Daniel
BIGALOW, Moses P.
BIGGS, Solomon D. (NOR)
BOOTH, Henry W.
BRIGGS, Jerome
BUXTON, Rufus (NOR)
CAHOON, Joseph B.
CLARK, George B.
CLARK, Hiel P.
CLYSE, Martin
COLE, Benjamin F.
CONVERSE, Daniel G.
CORBY, Squire G. (NOR)
COREY, Charles
COTTON, Zara L or Lara L.
CUTLER, Henry C.
DAILEY, James
DERBRAW, Newton
DICKERMAN, Edward H.
DILLENBECK, Charles H.
ELLISON, Hiram G.
FARGO, George F. (NOR)
FARGO, Henry S. (NOR)
FISH, William H.
FOULKS, John (NOR)
FRANCIS, Isaac
FRISBY, Henry M.
GARDNER, John
GEER, Israel S.
GILLOT, Amos W.
GRANGER, Munson (NOR)
GRANGER, Peter V.
GREEN, Edgar
GRIFFITH, William H.
GROMMOND, Nelson G. (NOR)
GROOMS, Price

HAMMOND, George E.
HARRIS, Charles D.
HERRINGTON, Oscar L.
HESS, Byron
HEUSTIS, Henry M.
HICKS, William H.
HILL, George Dana
HINES, Willis G.
HOAG, Charles H.
HOLLISTER, Moses M.
HOUGHTON, Moses Barrett
HUNT, William J.
IPE, Andrew J.
KEARNEY, Patrick
KEELER, George H.
LAKE, Martin (NOR)
LENNINGTON, Hiram (NOR)
LENNINGTON, John (NOR)
LEWIS, Royal P.
LOCKE, Dennis (NOR)
LORAIN, James (NOR)
MANGE, Henry
MARLETT, William H.
MATHER, Henry S.
McKAY, Willard (NOR)
McLAIN, Robert (NOR)
MOORE, Alonzo E.
MORRIS, Webster J.
MORTON, Alexander
MUNDELL, Walter Lewis
MUNSON, David A. (NOR)
MYERS, Philander J.
NEITZ, Phillip
NEWLAND, James F.
NICHOLAS, John
OLMSTEAD, King R. (NOR)
OWEN, William M./Marvin (NOR)
PALMITER, Charles/Chandler
PARISH, Mortimer E.
PECK, Robert H.
PETIT, Lewis or Louis
PHILLIPS, George W. Jr.
PHILLIPS, George W. Sr.
POST, George C.
REED, Samuel W.
RENWICK, James (NOR)
RENWICK, William (NOR)
REYNOLDS, James
ROBBINS, Moses
ROBINSON, Oscar A.
ROSS, Nathan Jr.
SLOCUM, George (NOR)
SMITH, Harding
SMITH, Henry (NOR)
SMITH, Jonathan T.
SMITH, Nathan Jeduth
STARING, Sylvanus
STEWART, Ezra
STORY, Urius
THOMPSON, Sylvester or Sylvanus (NOR)

THOMPSON, Thomas
TODD, Ira
TOMPKINS, John
TRAVERSE, Leonard
TUTTLE, A. Clark
TUTTLE, Andrew P.
VAN DEUSEN, Philip
VOSBURGH, Charles H.
WADE, Orren D.
WEAVER, Jacob
WELLINGTON, Elbridge Jr.
WEST, Charles N. or H. (NOR)
WEST, John (NOR)
WHITE, Nathan or Norman G.
WICKHAM, Josiah D. (NOR)
WILLIAMS, Charles D.
WILSEY, Calvin A. (NOR)
WILSON, Merritt
WINEBRENNER, John (NOR)
WOODMANCY, Oscar
WOODRUFF, Charles M. (NOR)
WOODRUFF, William E. (NOR)
WRIGHT, William

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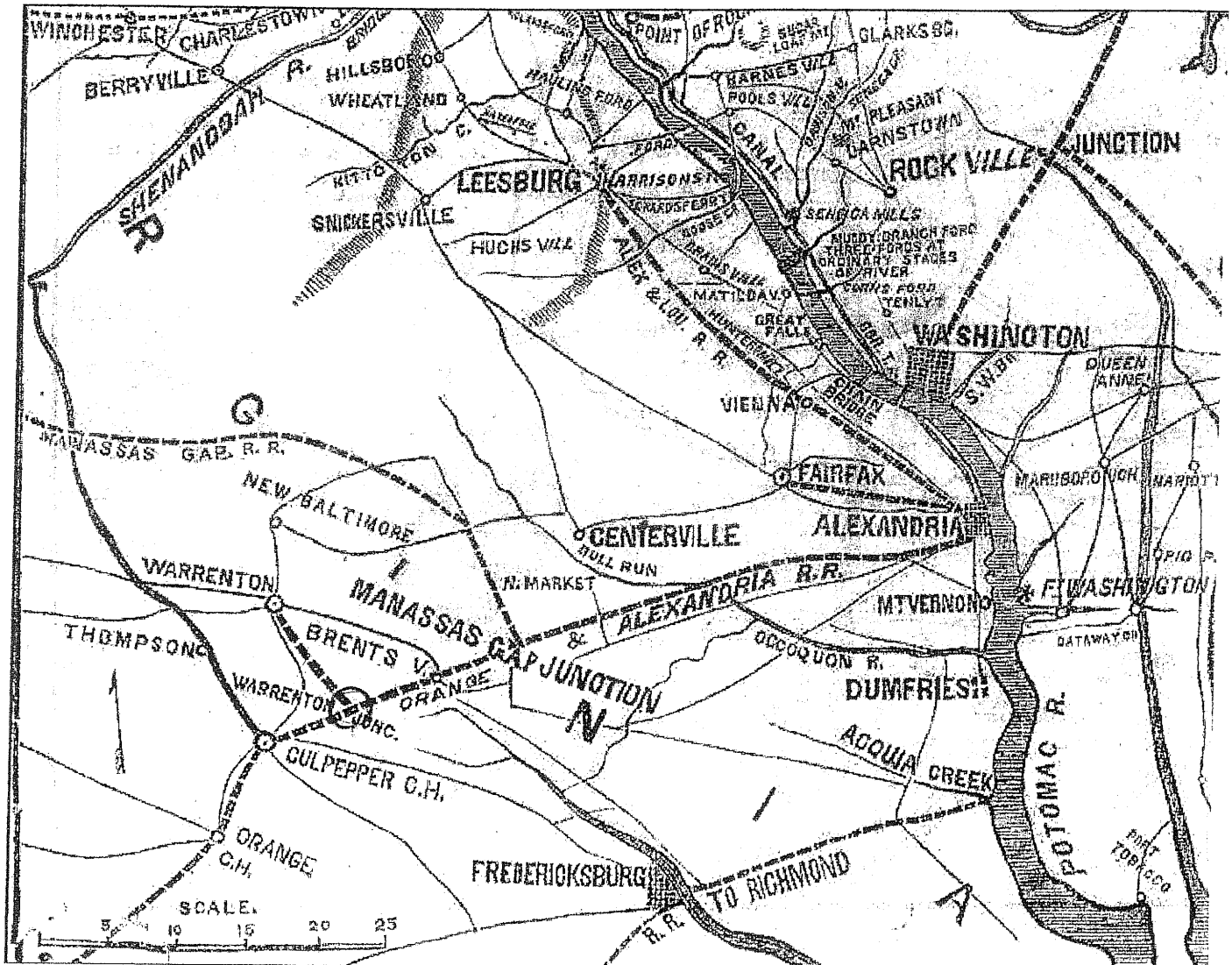
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Text the word "GMAP5" to 466453



Text the word "GMAP5" to 466453



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Battle of Blackburn's Ford

Coordinates: 38°48'15"N 77°26'57"W

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Battle of Blackburn's Ford** took place on July 18, 1861, in Prince William County and Fairfax County, Virginia, as part of the Manassas Campaign of the American Civil War.

On July 16, 1861, the untried Union army under Brig. Gen. Irvin McDowell, 35,000 strong, marched out of the Washington, D.C., defenses to give battle to the Confederate army, which was concentrated around the vital railroad junction at Manassas. Moving slowly, they reached Fairfax Court House on July 17 and began to look for a fording point across Bull Run Creek so that they could flank the Confederate Army. The Confederates, about 22,000 men under the command of Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, anticipated McDowell's move and guarded seven fords across Bull Run.

On July 18, McDowell ordered Brig. Gen. Daniel Tyler to locate the Confederate left flank. He was to advance to Centreville, reconnoiter just beyond it, and report back. When Tyler found that Centreville was unoccupied by Confederate troops, he marched southeast to Mitchell's Ford and Blackburn's Ford, arriving at the latter about 11 a.m. Looking south across the stream, Tyler believed that the road to Manassas Junction was clear, but he failed to see the Confederate brigade of Brig. Gen. James Longstreet concealed in the woods behind the ford. He ordered two howitzers under Capt.

Romeyn B. Ayres to bombard the Confederates he could see, guns of the Alexandria Artillery and the Washington Artillery, but the fire had no visible effect. He ordered Col. Israel B. Richardson and part of his brigade forward.

Battle of Blackburn's Ford

Part of the American Civil War

Date July 18, 1861
Location Prince William County and Fairfax County, Virginia
Result Confederate victory

Belligerents

 United States (Union)  CSA (Confederacy)

Commanders

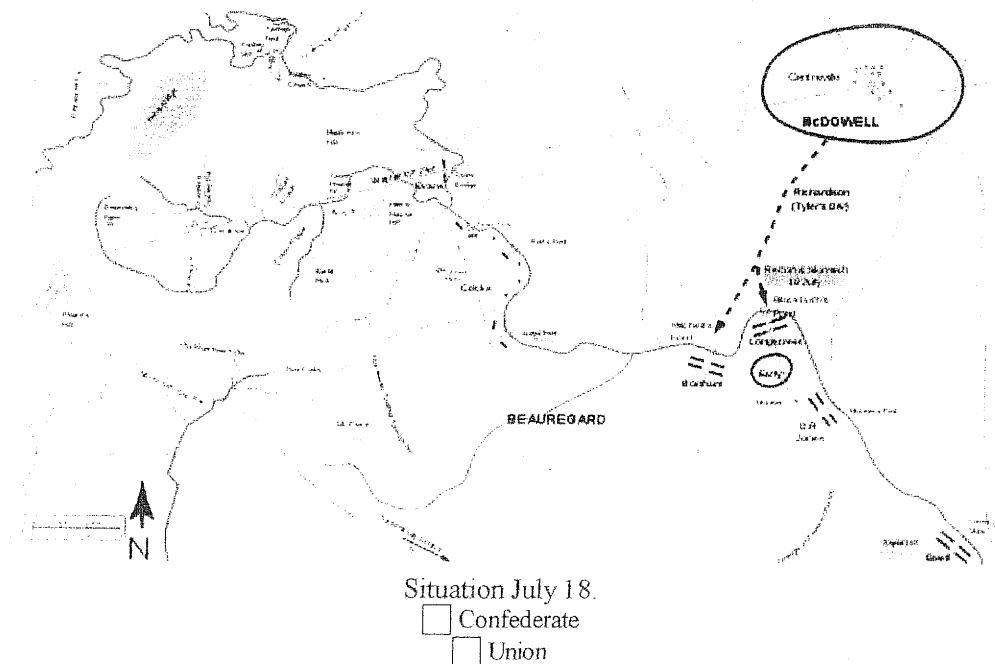
Irvin McDowell P.G.T. Beauregard
 Daniel Tyler James Longstreet
 Israel B. Richardson Jubal A. Early

Strength

3,000 7,000^[1]

Casualties and losses

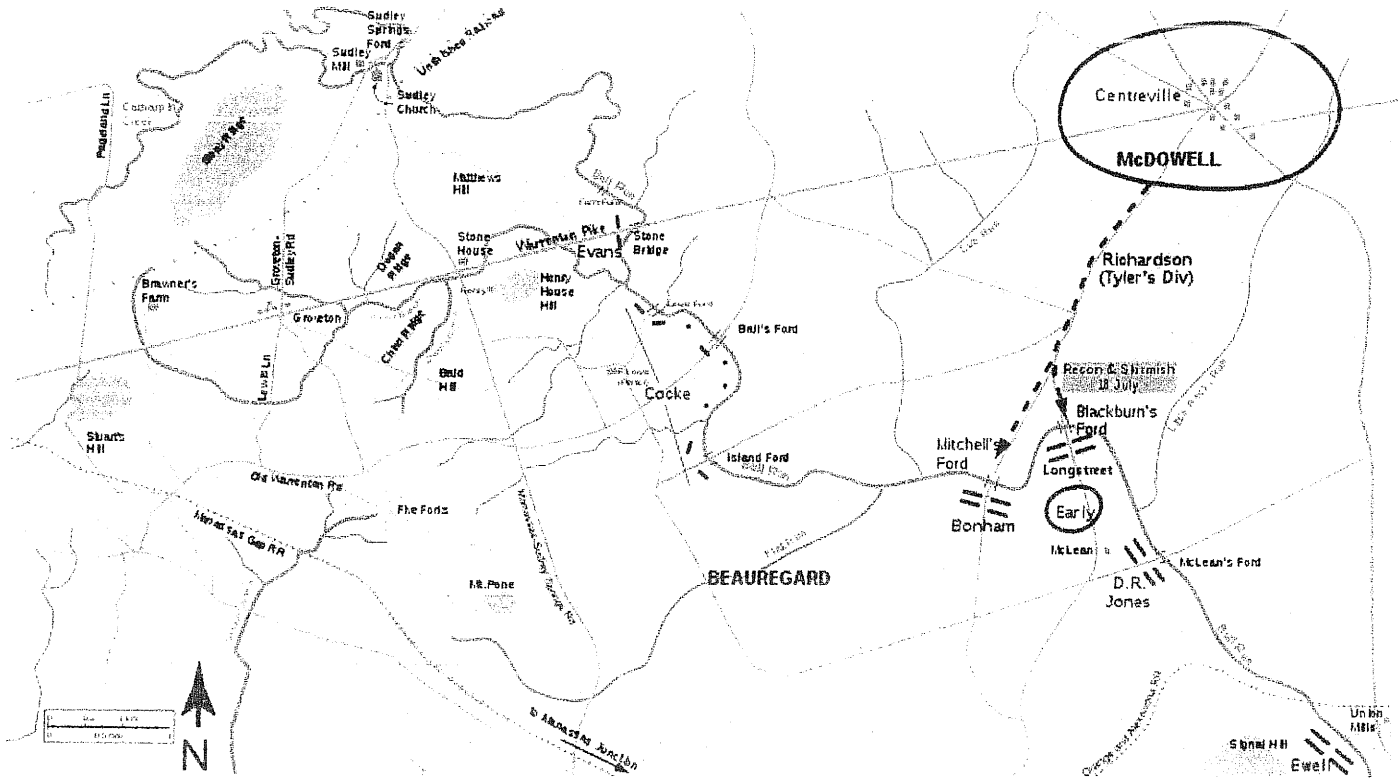
85 68^[2]



File:First Bull Run July18.svg

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- File
- File history
- File links

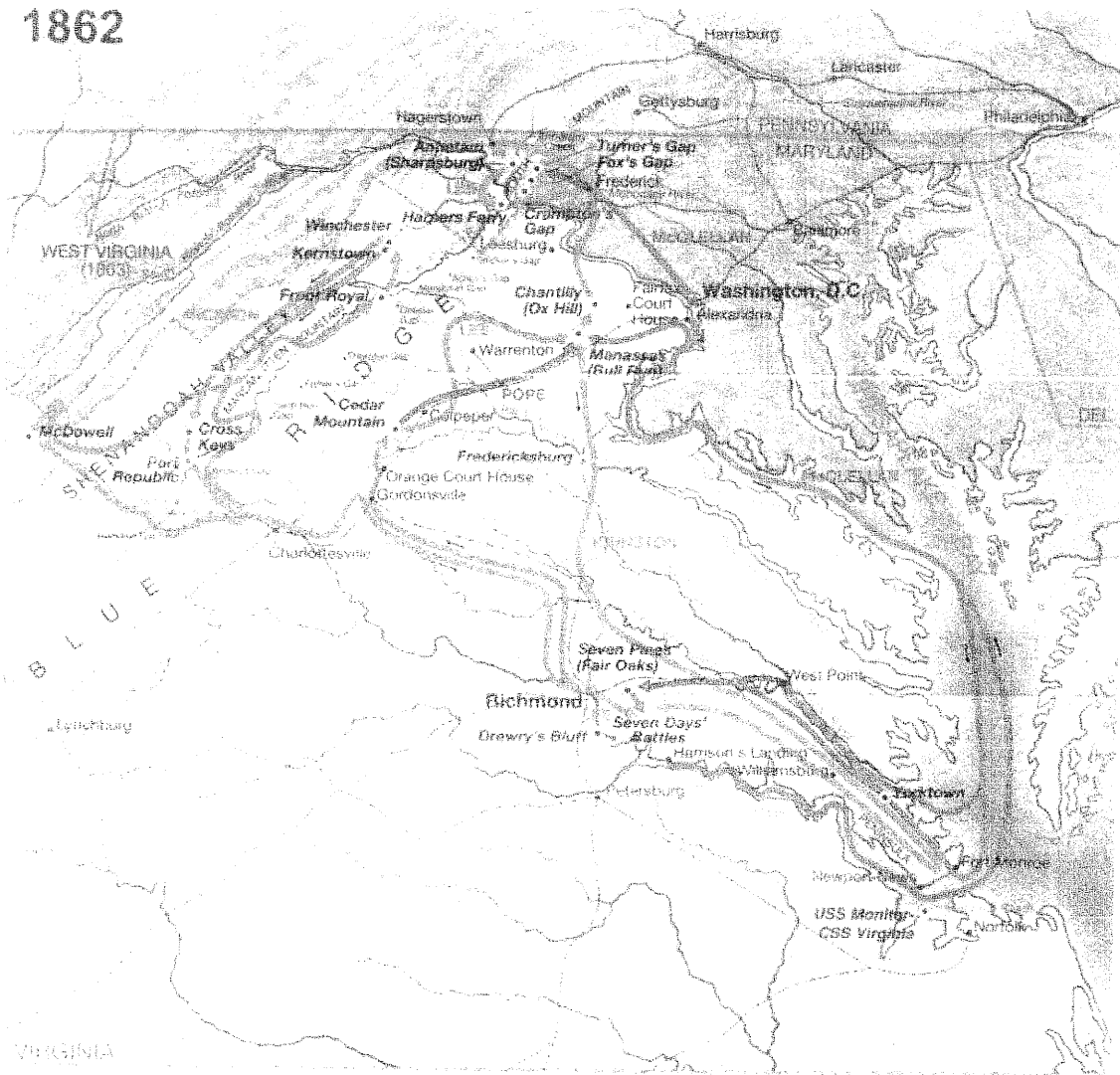


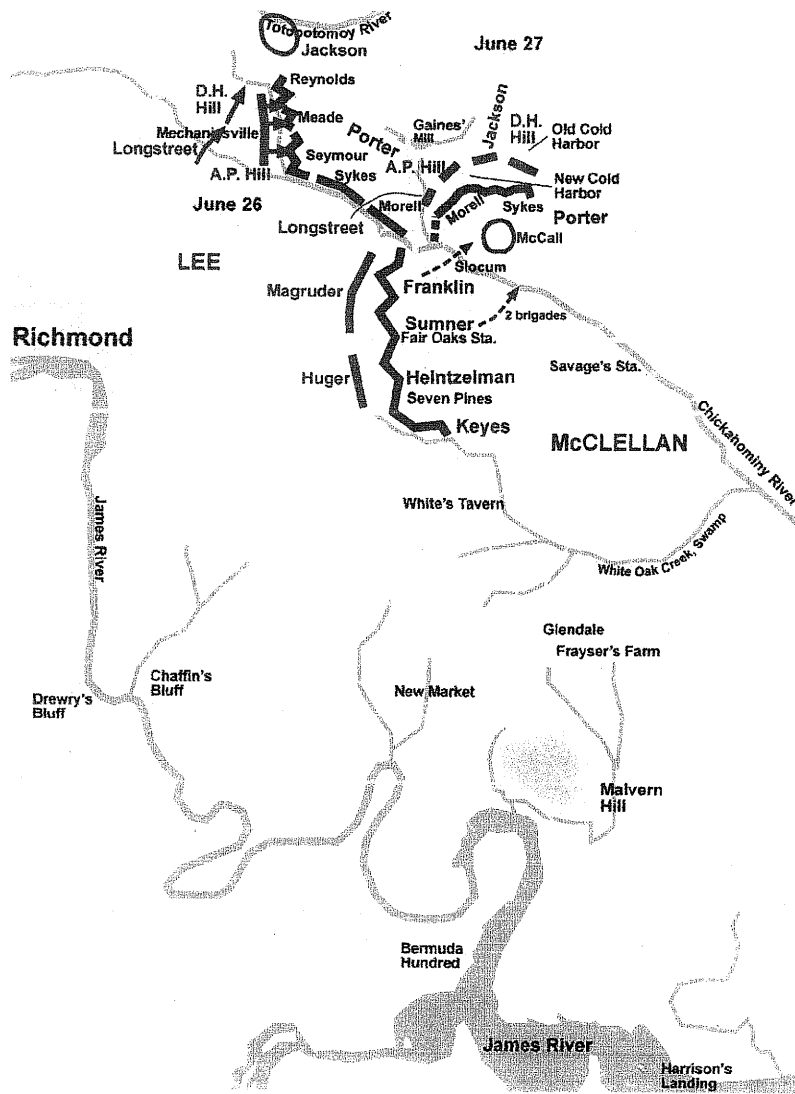
Richardson's advance met initial resistance from the 1st, 11th, and 17th Virginia Infantry regiments of Longstreet's brigade. Tyler ordered Ayres to move his guns closer to the action, accompanied by cavalry, and he sent the rest of Richardson's brigade toward the ford. Richardson's assault fell apart as the 12th New York Infantry began to retreat under heavy fire, causing a wave of panic to spread through the Union line.

Col. Jubal A. Early arrived with his Confederate brigade after marching 2 miles north from Beauregard's headquarters at Wilmer McLean's house. The availability of this additional firepower completed the Confederate victory, and a reinforced Washington Artillery kept the Union troops under fire as they retreated.

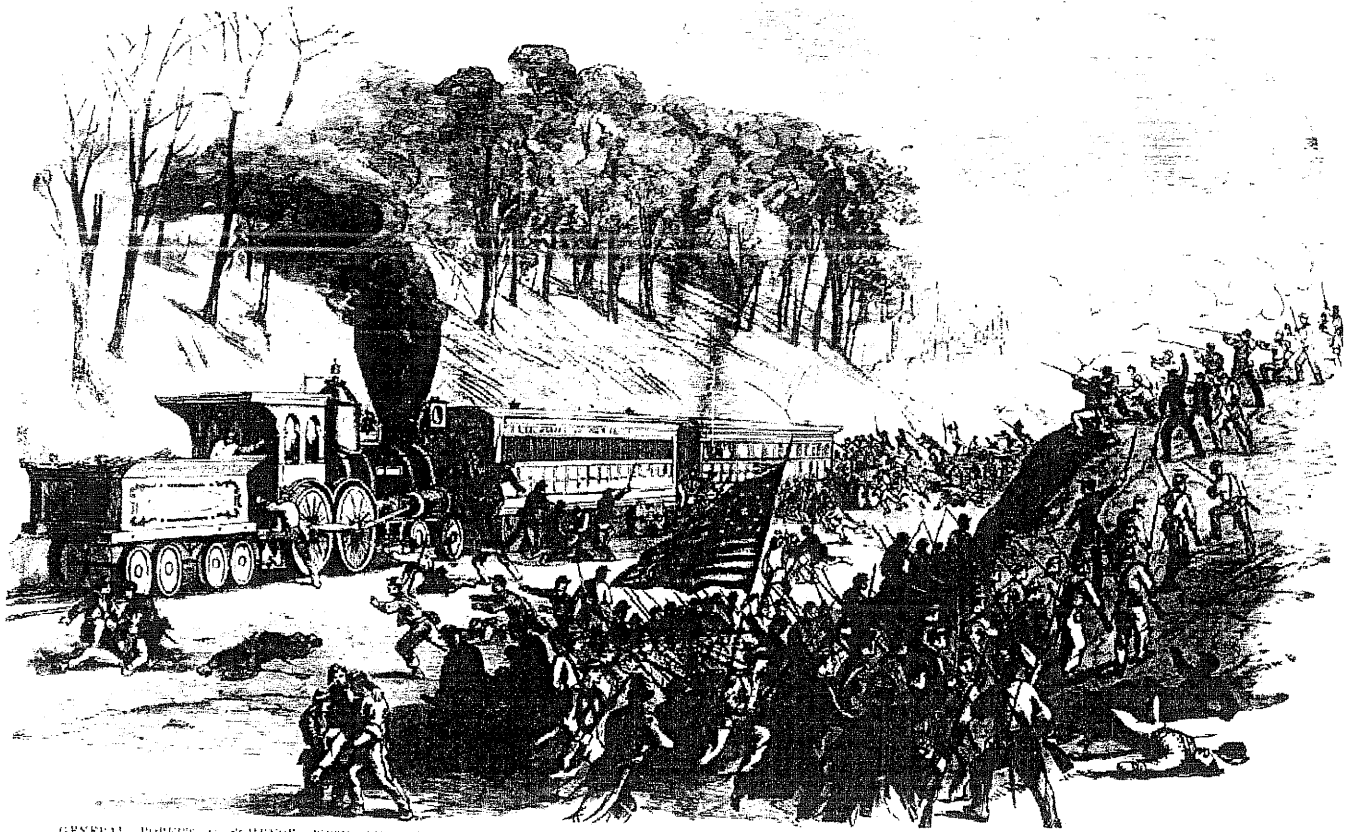
The failed reconnaissance-in-force at Blackburn's Ford led McDowell to decide against a frontal assault along Bull Run. He decided to attempt to cross the stream beyond the Confederate left flank, the maneuver he employed at the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21.

1862





SEVEN DAYS JUNE 26-27



GENERAL ROBERT C. SCHENCK, WITH THE FIRST REGIMENT, OHIO VOLUNTEERS, FIRED INTO BY A MASKED BATTERY, NEAR VIENNA, VA., JUNE 17th, 1861.

The Battle of Vienna June 17, 1861 in Vienna, Virginia

Conclusion: Confederate Victory

Union troops were to advance to Vienna by train. When they were rounding a curve, about a quarter mile away from town, they were fired upon by concealed, raking masked batteries of 3 guns, killing and wounding some men on the train platform and in the train cars. When they exited the train and went into the woods to regroup, they discovered that the Confederates also had a regiment of infantry and at least a regiment of calvary. Upon seeing this, the Union troops fell back to the train tracks, and threw out skirmishes on both the right and left flanks. This was followed by a organized retreat which went 5 miles back. The Confederates did not pursue

Union Army Balloon Corps

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Union Army Balloon Corps** was a branch of the Federal Army during the American Civil War, established by presidential appointee Thaddeus S. C. Lowe. It was organized as a civilian operation, which employed a group of aeronauts and seven specially built, gas-filled aerostats for the purposes of performing aerial reconnaissance of the Confederate States Army.

Lowe was a veteran balloonist who, among other balloonists in the country, was working on an attempt to make a transatlantic crossing by balloon. His efforts were interrupted by the onset of the Civil War, which broke out one week before one of his most important test flights. Subsequently he offered his aviation expertise to the development of an air-war mechanism through the use of aerostats for reconnaissance purposes. Lowe met with U.S. President Abraham Lincoln on 11 July 1861, and proposed a demonstration with his own balloon, the *Enterprise*, on the White House front lawn. From a height of 500 feet (150 m) he telegraphed a message to the ground describing his view of the Washington, D.C., countryside. Eventually he was chosen over other candidates to be chief aeronaut of the newly formed Union Army Balloon Corps.

The Balloon Corps with its hand-selected team of expert aeronauts served at Yorktown, Seven Pines, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and other major battles of the Potomac River and Peninsula. The Balloon Corps served the Union Army from October 1861 until the summer of 1863, when it was disbanded following the resignation of Lowe.

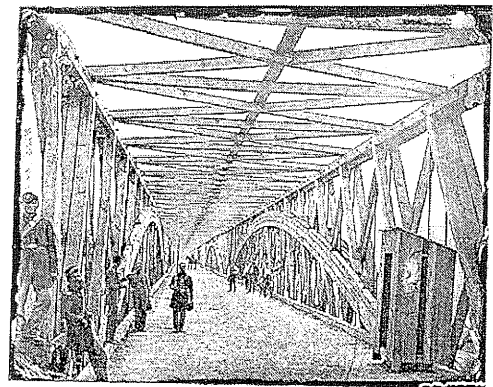
Lowe built seven balloons, six of which were put into service. Each balloon was accompanied by two gas generating sets. The smaller balloons were used in windier weather, or for quick, one-man, low altitude ascents. They inflated quickly since they required less gas. They were:

- *Eagle*
- *Constitution*
- *Washington*

The larger balloons were used for carrying more weight, such as a telegraph key set and an additional man as an operator. They could also ascend higher. They were:

- *Union*
- *Intrepid* (Lowe's favorite balloon)
- *Excelsior*
- *United States*

The latter two balloons were held in storage in a Washington warehouse. Eventually the *Excelsior* was sent to Camp Lowe,^[21] a high altitude observation point, as a back-up balloon to the *Intrepid* during harsh winter weather, but the *United States* was not put into service. LaMountain made reference to these two balloons in his diatribes against Lowe as "being hoarded" by Lowe so he could buy them unused at the end of the war.^[22]

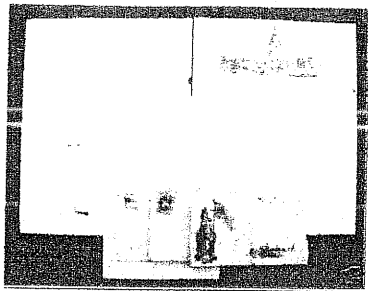


Chain Bridge as it appeared during the Civil War.

By 1 October 1861, the first balloon, the *Union*, was ready for action. Though it lacked a portable gas generator, it was called into immediate service.^[19] It was gassed up in Washington and towed overnight to Lewinsville via Chain Bridge.

The fully covered and trellised bridge required that the towing handlers crawl over the bridge beams and stringers to cross the upper Potomac River into Fairfax County. The balloon and crew arrived by daylight, exhausted from the nine-hour overnight ordeal, when a gale-force wind took the balloon away. It was later recovered, but not before Lowe, who was humiliated by the incident, went on a tirade about the delays in providing proper equipment.^[20]

http://www.icollectbooks.com/price-guide/1873099/1861_VIRGIN



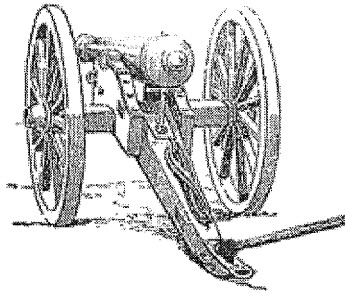
1861 VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR SOLDIER LETTERS - 3RD MICHIGAN INFANTRY, CO. D Handwritten lot of three letters home, Sept.-Nov. 1861, from Union soldier, Philetus Baker. His record shows he was born in 1829/30 in Onondaga, New York and enlisted at Grand Rapids, MI on 5/13/1861 as a Private. He was discharged on disability on 12/24/1861 [one month after the letters were written] and died in Jan. 1862 of consumption. Additionally, on online site on the Third Michigan has additional information on Baker -- he was 5' 8", blue eyes, light hair, possibly a blacksmith. The letters, all signed, "P. Baker" were written to C. E. and A. E. Rathbun. I believe this was his sister [A. E.] and brother-in-law. Baker writes from various Virginia locales. In part, spelling uncorrected: Fort Richardson, Sept. 28, [18]61 - 4pp., 5" x 8" "I am now in camp with my company but am not able to do much...so the Lieutenant gave me a berth. We are building a Fort & all I have to do is to stand in a building a hand out tools & take them in when the men get through." "We are in sight of the rebels they are building a fort on an elevation some three or four miles from us. I have looked through a glass & seen them & that was yesterday. They appeared to be very uneasy. The sentinels on the breastworks were walking as fast as they could. Our troops have a little skirmish with them every day about & the rebels generally come out second best. There has been a terrible canonading to day. I should think it was at the chain bridge...We have two pretty little guns here. They are rifled canon. They are about 12 feet long with cut barrels & weigh 4000 lbs...they shoot 4 1/2 miles. The General turned one of the[m] over to our company. We calculate

to man it...till we die..."; "I like it very much here & should like to live here if it was not for slavery although it is not so bad here. The slaves are well dressed or most of them are & do about as they are a mind to." "I was reading in the New York Times to day that in North Carolina the loyal troops had evacuated the coast forts and run up a white flag..." Eagle Hill, Virginia - Oct. 10, [18]61 4pp., 6" x 10" [some tearing, 1" corner loss] "We have moved from Fort Richardson to Fort Lyon two miles south of Alexandria...Well, I will tell you of our exploits. Night before last General Richardson recd orders from General McClellan to take two regiments & three pieces of artillery & one company of cavalry & advance as far as we could & not get in an engagement with the enemy but find where their lines were. We went out about twelve miles in a south west direction & drove in their [?] & the[y] beat the drum for their men to prepare for an attack & we turned about & put back to camp walking about twenty four miles...I could not get through it..." "Lieutenant Gra[nger? paper loss] told me if he caught me in the ranks again...he would take me across his knee & spank me. ..."; "If we had staid there till morning we would have been killed & taken prisoners without doubt. We took one man prisoner. He said we were within a miles of a large rebel battery. They had fifteen large guns & they were on a hill in front of us..."; "Some of the boys were dreadful mad because the commander did not let us camp under that battery. They think that the whole rebel army can't take or whip the 3rd Reg...I guess the Mich troops are called as good as there is in this division of the army ." "There is some good country here...We are doing an immense sight of damage to the farmers in Virginia cutting their timber burning their fences & taking boards off their buildings." Headquarters 3rd Regt. M. I Camp Fort Lyon Co. D - Nov. 19, 1861 - 1 1/2pp., 7.5" x 9.5", on part-printed lettersheet headed with United States Capitol engraving. Ink light but readable; some fold splitting; small tape repair verso. Writes of diet -- corned beef, beans, etc. Sleeps on straw tick w/ two woolen blankets. Papers for discharge partly made out and plans to go home. "You must have a good Johnny cake made for me as I plan to eat you out of house and home." And sadly, within two months Baker died of his illness.

The Grand Review of November 20, 1861

A New Union Army Parades at Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia

By Evelyn L. Haught



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The Grand Review of November 20, 1861
A New Union Army Parades at Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia

In the first decade of the 21st century, Bailey's Crossroads is a bustling cosmopolitan area of Northern Virginia, just eight miles from Washington, D.C. Towering skyscrapers, shopping centers, a college, and many small ethnic businesses characterize this busy urban neighborhood located just five miles from the Pentagon, headquarters of the world's most powerful military force.

But in the autumn of 1861, Bailey's Crossroads was a rural outpost that had recently been abandoned by Confederate Rebels whose proximity to the nation's capital unsettled the government of President Abraham Lincoln, especially following the surprising rout of Union forces at Bull Run on July 21. The ineptness of the Union Army became even more apparent in

late September when Federal forces gingerly moved to take over Munson's Hill at Bailey's Crossroads following the Rebels' departure. Instead of powerful artillery they assumed the Confederates had left behind, they found a "Quaker canon," a log painted black that the Rebels had successfully employed to intimidate General George B. McClellan's forces.¹ Following this discovery was the October 21 embarrassing defeat of the Union Army at Ball's Bluff near Leesburg, Virginia, just 40 miles up the Potomac River from the banks of Washington.

A frustrated President Lincoln wanted change quickly. He accepted the reluctantly proffered resignation of the recognized hero of the Mexican War, the aged General Winfield Scott, as general-in-chief of all Union armies and, on November 1, 1861, appointed 34-year-old George B. McClellan to succeed the venerable Scott in that position and to serve simultaneously as commander of the Army of the Potomac, a position he had held since late July.²

At the start of the Civil War, the federal government staffed its army primarily by relying on a 1795 law that allowed the President to call upon 90-day state militiamen who served under the command of their states' governors. On May 3, 1861, Lincoln sought 42,000 three-year army volunteers and 18,000 sailors to build an enlarged regular army.³ A brilliant organizer, McClellan had been immersed since the defeat at Bull Run in forming these new recruits into a viable, well-trained army. By the autumn of 1861, the army had grown to approximately 160,000 troops, at least three times as many troops as the enemy had had at Manassas.⁴ From late summer through the fall, McClellan furiously planned and had his men undergo long days of drills in the hope of never repeating the chaotic retreat from Manassas and also to prepare for a Union Army offensive in the spring of 1862.

At Bull Run, when General Irwin McDowell recognized that his inexperienced Union soldiers would be defeated, he ordered a retreat which began in a reasonably orderly fashion, under the circumstances, but quickly turned into pandemonium as soldiers, horses, guns, and hundreds of civilians from Washington, D.C., encumbered by buggies, wagons, and picnic hampers, converged upon the fields surrounding Bull Run to compete for space on the lone highway that offered escape from the jeering Rebels.⁵

Consequently, throughout the latter half of 1861, McClellan constantly put his new recruits through countless formations to assure that they would move competently in future

¹James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom, The Civil War Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), pp. 361-62.

² On July 27, 1861, Lincoln commanded McClellan to take control of the Federal Division of the Potomac, subsequently called the Army of the Potomac, which had been routed at Bull Run under the command of Gen. Irwin McDowell. John S. Bowman, executive ed., *The Civil War Almanac* (New York: World Almanac Publication, 1983), p. 61.

³McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, p. 322.

⁴ Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years* (One vol. edition; New York: Galahad Books, 1954), p. 259.

⁵ Bruce Catton, *The Civil War* (New York: American Heritage Press, 1971), pp. 46-47.

⁶ Sandburg, p. 258.

military actions. In September, he asked the President to ride out into the Virginia hills to view the army's progress. Thus, Lincoln, Secretary of War Simon Cameron, and Pennsylvania Governor Andrew G. Curtin rode around the army while McClellan pointed out a Confederate flag on Munson Hill, still occupied at that point by the Rebels. The general surprised them by noting that they were presently just outside Union lines.⁶ This was a young army whose soldiers were mainly in their early 20's, with thousands only 19 or younger.⁷ McClellan held at least two Grand Reviews of his army that fall, one on October 8, 1861, in Washington, that focused on cavalry and artillery. An estimated 5,500 cavalry and 18 batteries of artillery participated on a warm Indian summer day and were reviewed not only by McClellan, but also by President and Mrs. Lincoln, Secretary of State William H. Seward, and several other generals, including General Joseph Hooker.⁸

On November 20, in Northern Virginia, between Munson's Hill and Bailey's Crossroads,⁹ McClellan conducted the most impressive military review of his career. By all contemporary accounts, the weather had dramatically changed to cold, wintry conditions. Private Robert Knox Sneden of E Company, 40th New York Volunteers (Mozart Regiment), described in his diary leaving his camp in Alexandria, Virginia, at 5 a.m. that morning to participate in a Grand Review. Playing bands and waving flags accompanied the soldiers. Their pride was evident in the polished brass of their buttons and the gleam on their guns. Sneden described their arrival at Bailey's "Cross Roads" in vivid terms:

It was a fine, though cold and windy day. Patches of snow were on the ground when we arrived there about 10 a.m., which made it muddy in places. Many regiments had overcoats on the men. Ours had not as the colonel wanted to show off the fine uniforms. The brigades were drawn up in columns while general McClellan and staff with President Lincoln rode up and down the lines while the bands played and a battery fired salutes. . . .

The heavy and light artillery with cannon polished up like gold, and the ugly looking black Parrott guns [rifled cannon] were drawn up in a long line, while the cavalry were massed in squadrons. Then about 2 p.m. all marched past in review. . . . About half of the men had to stand in the cold wind for hours. Nearly everyone was thoroughly chilled. Many soon filled up the camp hospitals. . . .

The President with his bodyguard . . . was cheered from end to end of the long lines of troops. . . . The review lasted until 5 p.m. and all were not off the ground until darkness had set in. As the men had brought no rations and had been up and marching since five in the morning, all were hungry, thirsty, and cold. They got to camp much quicker than on going out to the review. They were all much elated and no one ever can forget the splendid military sight [it] afforded. All the cooks in camp were at work for half of the

⁷ *Ibid.*, p.275.

⁸ *Harper's Weekly*, October 26, 1861.

⁹ Often referred to as "Cross Roads" in 19th century documents.

night when we returned at 7 p.m. in a drizzling rain.¹⁰

General McClellan arrived with his staff and an escort of 1,800 cavalry.¹¹ The news account published by *Harper's Weekly's* on December 7, 1861, vividly described what made this review so memorable for everyone who participated. The First Rifle Regiment of Pennsylvania Reserve, the "Bucktail Regiment," was given the honor of leading the column of troops. Seven divisions, all of which passed before President Lincoln, his Cabinet, and General-in-Chief McClellan, followed it.¹² The first division, led by General George McCall, featured the brigades of Generals George G. Meade, John Reynolds, and Edward O.C. Ord.¹³ Represented were 12 infantry regiments, two batteries, and one cavalry regiment.¹⁴ S.F. Heintzelman's division, formed by the brigades of Generals John Sedgwick, Charles D. Jameson, and Israel B. Richardson,¹⁵ was second, consisting of seven infantry regiments, two batteries, and one cavalry regiment.¹⁶ These two divisions began their march from near Dranesville, Virginia, approximately 10 miles from Bailey's Crossroads, between two and three a.m.¹⁷

Third came General William F. Smith's division, including the brigades of Generals Winfield S. Hancock, William T.H. Brooks, and H.W. Benham,¹⁸ containing 10 infantry regiments, two batteries, and one cavalry regiment.¹⁹

General William B. Franklin's division marched in fourth, made up of the brigades of Generals Henry W. Slocum, John Newton, and Philip Kearny.²⁰ This division consisted of 12 infantry regiments, three batteries, and one cavalry regiment.²¹

Fifth came the brigade of General Julius Stahel as well as two brigades commanded by senior colonels, composing General Louis (Ludwig) Blenker's division.²² Marching together here were 11 infantry regiments, two batteries, and Colonel Christian F. Dickel's regiment of mounted riflemen.²³

General Fitz John Porter's division was sixth, with brigades led by Generals George W.

¹⁰ Robert Knox Sneden, "Diary," quoted in *Eye of the Storm: A Civil War Odyssey*, ed. by Charles F. Bryan, Jr., and Nelson D. Lankford (New York: The Free Press, 2000), p. 6.

¹¹ Margaret Leech, *Reveille in Washington: 1860-1865* (Alexandria, Va.: Time-Life Books, Inc., 1980), p. 142.

¹² "The Great Review," *Harper's Weekly*, December 7, 1861.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ "The Grand Review--A Magnificent Display--Four Miles of Troops," *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

¹⁵ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861. Jameson is erroneously reported as "Jamison."

¹⁶ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

¹⁷ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861.

¹⁸ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861.

¹⁹ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

²⁰ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861.

²¹ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

²² *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861. Stahel is erroneously reported as "Stahl."

²³ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861. Dickel is erroneously reported as "Deckett."

Morell, John H. Martindale, and Daniel Butterfield.²⁴ This division contained 13 infantry regiments, three batteries, and two cavalry regiments.²⁵ Completing the parade of divisions was General Irvin McDowell's, composed of the brigades of Generals Rufus King and James S. Wadsworth, and Colonel Edward Frisbie.²⁶ This division consisted of 11 infantry, three batteries, and one cavalry regiment, for a total of 76 infantry regiments, 17 batteries, and seven cavalry regiments, "perhaps in all about 70,000 men, forming only a portion of the army on the Potomac."²⁷

This was indeed an impressive display of military might, as the press duly noted: "This was the largest body of troops ever before reviewed on this Continent. They were fully equipped, and in every way supplied, with forty rounds of cartridges. Every division was accompanied by ambulances, so that every branch of the service might be represented."²⁸ Nevertheless, McClellan took no chance that Rebel forces might take advantage of the absence of his army. He left behind enough men in each of the seven divisions to "supply double the usual picket force to guard the camps, and a reserve in addition strong enough to repel any attack in force the enemy could make."²⁹

General McDowell directed the divisions' movements across the Bailey's Crossroads plateau, a daunting task involving more than 20 generals, "seventy thousand men, including seven regiments of cavalry, numbering some eight thousand men, and twenty batteries of artillery, numbering a hundred and twenty pieces."³⁰ When all divisions were finally in place, they formed "a semi-circle of about four miles."³¹

The troops began the actual parade before their leaders at approximately 1:30 p.m. The entire review lasted about three hours.³² By all accounts, 20,000 to 30,000 enthusiastic civilian onlookers watched the review from the sidelines.³³ The crowd was large partly because no passes were required to attend this special event.³⁴ Nevertheless, roads from Washington were heavily guarded along the entire distance to prevent civilians from diverging from the prescribed route.³⁵ It was truly a day for demonstrating pride in and allegiance to the Union. Private Sneden of New York, marching with his regiment, conveyed his amazement at the sight: "There were thousands

²⁴ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861.

²⁵ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

²⁶ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861.

²⁷ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861. Accounts of the number of participants vary.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Harper's Weekly*, Dec. 7, 1861.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ Since Bull Run, citizens had been required to obtain passes to cross the Potomac in the Government's attempt to control casual traffic and keep routes open for military passage. Leech, p. 142.

³⁵ *New York Times*, November 21, 1861.

of citizens and officials from Washington and elsewhere among the spectators, and hundreds of ladies in carriages or on horseback. The French Princes de Joinville, Duc de Chartres, [Comte] de Orléans, who were on McClellan's staff, rode with him."³⁶ A sense of pageantry and the awareness that an historical event was unfolding before their very eyes characterized these civilian onlookers:

Ladies in wide crinolines and tiny bonnets sat marveling in their carriages, and little boys and girls stared popeyed at the white gloves and glistening bayonets, the flags, the polished brass, the cannon smoke. . . .

The Comte de Paris thought it curious to see these civilians "boldly caracoling at the head of a brilliant military cortege." To thousands of uncritical onlookers, the sight was imposing beyond anything they had ever imagined. The division extended for miles over the plain. Until twilight veiled the muddy fields, troops passed in review.³⁷

This Grand Review so inspired some of those on the sidelines that it resulted in an important contribution to America's cultural patrimony. Among those present that day was the Boston writer Julia Ward Howe, who had accompanied her husband, the abolitionist Dr. S.G. Howe, to Washington for her first visit to the nation's capital. While returning to Willard's Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, she and her party of fellow Bostonians sang "John Brown's Body." The next morning, with the tune still in mind, she scribbled new lyrics for it inspired by what she had witnessed. It became "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."³⁸

The onlookers' obvious awe at the spectacle of this Grand Review was a concrete sign that General McClellan had accomplished one very important goal in organizing such events: uplifting morale in both the public and his soldiers. For months he had been berating Lincoln for more and more soldiers. This majestic public display of the army he had created in such a short period would certainly inspire more volunteers to enlist and motivate Congress to support his requests for a larger, better equipped military, he must have thought. It was a perfect showcase for General George B. McClellan's organizational genius. It was also a moment that will forever make Bailey's Crossroads a source of pride for those who honor the United States of America.

³⁶ Sneden, p. 6.

³⁷ Leech, p. 142.

³⁸ <http://civilwarhome.com/battlehymn.htm>; Leech, p. 142.

PICTURES

Federal Encampment on Pamunkey River

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Cumberland Landing, Virginia Federal encampment on Pamunkey River, Va.; another view



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The photograph illustrates Photograph from the main eastern theater of war, the Peninsular Campaign, May-August 1862.

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City Point, Virginia View of waterfront with Federal supply boats



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The photograph illustrates the main eastern theater of war, the siege of Petersburg, June 1864-April 1865.

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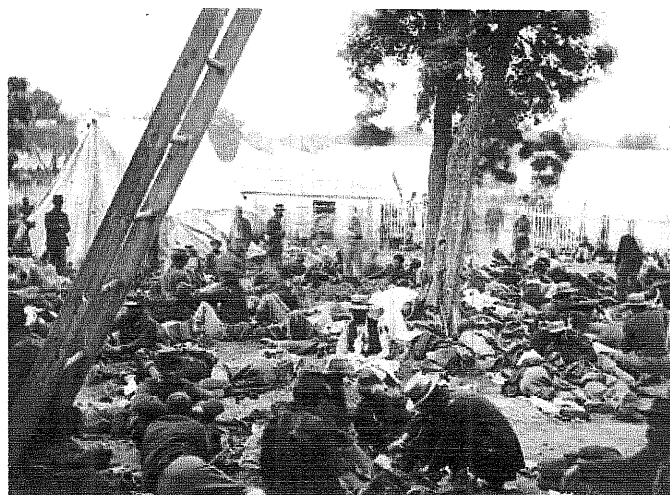
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Here for your enjoyment is a highly creative photograph of Savage Station, Virginia. Union field hospital after the battle of June 27. It was created in 1862 by Gibson, James F., b. 1828.

The photo illustrates United States.

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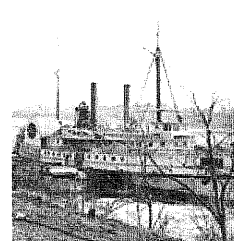
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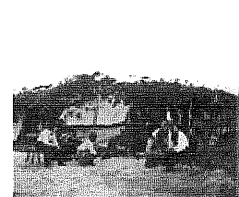
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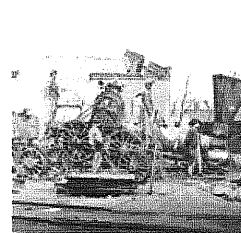
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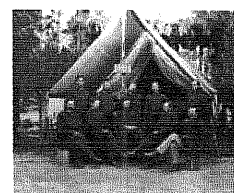
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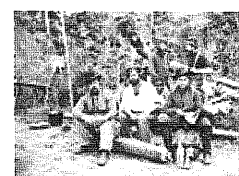
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Civil War Surgeons



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