

Collection #
SC 0020
F 1301

**HENRY B. SPARKS
CIVIL WAR DIARY, 1864**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	2
Contents	3

Processed by:
Ellen Swain
9 July 1992
Updated 17 May 2004

Updated by:
Mikayla Knight Kinley
1 October 2022

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder, 1 reel of microfilm

COLLECTION DATE: 1864

PROVENANCE: Ralph W. Stark, Lebanon, IN 46052, via Indiana Civil War Commission, March 1965

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Held by Indiana Historical Society

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: See [Civil War Materials webpage](#) under 3rd Indiana Cavalry section.
See card catalog under United States History - Civil War, 1861-1865 and Indiana History – Civil War, 1861-1865

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1965.0301

NOTES: Transcribed by volunteer Barry Slivka, 2013

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Henry B. Sparks was born August 4, 1841 in Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana. Sparks mustered into Company C Third Indiana Cavalry at Rising Sun, Ohio County, Indiana on August 15, 1862 at the age of 21.

On June 30, 1863, the day before the Battle of Gettysburg began, Sparks led his company on horseback into the town of Gettysburg, and they took several Confederate soldiers as prisoners. On the morning of the battle, the Third Indiana Cavalry was on watch duty and formed the first skirmish line of defense against the Confederate attack.

Sparks was taken prisoner on January 27, 1864 and after a short stay in Pemberton Prison (a tobacco warehouse near Libby Prison), he was imprisoned at Belle Isle, an island on the James River in Richmond, Virginia. Sparks was relocated to Andersonville Prison (officially named Camp Sumter) in Andersonville, Georgia on March 22, 1864. During the fourteen months Andersonville operated, 45,000 Union soldiers were imprisoned there, resulting in overcrowding, and nearly 13,000 died due to the unsanitary conditions and inadequate rations. By July 1, 1864, five of the twelve captured men of Sparks' company had died, all of scurvy.

On the night of September 10, 1864, Sparks and four others escaped from Andersonville. In a later retelling, Sparks says he and his companions escaped recapture for seven days, and they were within 35 miles of Sherman's Army when they were finally captured. After days of marching and traveling by train, staying in various jails along the way, Sparks was moved into in a newly opened prison, Camp Lawton in Millen, Georgia. On November 21, 1864, he was released in an exchange of prisoners. On August 7, 1865, Sparks mustered out of service.

Sparks went on to live to age 88, marrying twice: to Laura Blakely Kemp (1847-1909) in 1866 and to Elizabeth M Howey (1875-1948) in 1916. In 1913, he attended the 50th anniversary reunion of the battle of Gettysburg. He died in Rising Sun, Indiana on March 8, 1929 and is buried in River View Cemetery in Aurora, Indiana.

Sources:

This collection (Henry B. Sparks' diary)

Ancestry.com

"History of the Andersonville Prison." National Park Service. Updated September 3, 2020. https://www.nps.gov/ande/learn/historyculture/camp_sumter_history.htm.

Indiana Archives Digital Index Records. Accessed June 30, 2022.

https://researchindiana.iara.in.gov/DigitalRecords/Detail.html?WORK_FILENAME=NDX00114&WORK_RECORD_ID=178077

Pickerill, William N. Indiana Gettysburg Anniversary Commission. *Indiana at the fiftieth anniversary of the battle of Gettysburg*. Indianapolis [?], 1913.

<https://archive.org/details/indianaatfiftiet00indi/page/42/mode/2up?q=sparks>

Regan, Gerald A. "Mystery of Sgt. Henry B. Sparks remains." *The Washington Times*, December 30, 1995. <https://tinyurl.com/5b99w45p>

Sparks, Henry B. "A Year in Andersonville Prison." *Boone County Magazine* 11, no. 3 (March 1984): 16-17, 23-25.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of Sparks' diary (1864) written during his time in the Civil War. Approximately three hundred fifty pages, the diary contains descriptions of life in Belle Isle and Andersonville prisons as well as drawings and sketches. Sparks refers to many notorious aspects of the Andersonville prison, including: the overcrowding and lack of shelter; the insufficient rations, especially of vegetables; the prevalence of scurvy due to lack of vegetables; the off-limits area known as the "deadline" (April 17); prisoner escape attempts, including his own (September 11); and one minor reference to the controversial Captain Wirz (May 17).

CONTENTS

Folder 1	Diary, 1864
F1301	Microfilm of diary

TRANSCRIPTION

This is the beginning of this little memoranda oh may its pure and [unsullied?] pages as now never be stained with a record of evil deeds but a memoir of brave deeds and actions that I may look over in aftertimes and try to make my life better every day. This day we marched from Culpepper to Bealton S[?] a distance of some 20 miles a cold dreary march it was walked a good part of the way[?]

January 1, 1864
Friday

Today our Brigade went to Warrenton (all except our Regiment) and we came to this place camped in an oak woods near Morrisville very cold but build big fires and slept. Camp for half this march was made together on foot.

January 2, 1864

Have been making rolls for pay to charge a

January 3, 1864

Finished up the rolls and sent them in all correct. Spent the rest of the day fixing my tent to make it comfortable.

January 4, 1864

Received orders to march and march early. Started for Warrenton, arrived after a disagreeable time. About 2 o'clock and went into camp for the night with orders to march at seven in the morning. Got a letter from Jennie M.

January, 5, 1864

Marched all day and arrived in our old camp at Culpepper about dusk. Quite cold disagreeable. Found all our houses torn down and carried away by the infantry.

January 6, 1864

Went out on picket near Slaughter Mountain. Our company takes the center E & B, the left A & F. the right. Not very hard duty, our 6 posts to the squadron.

January 7, 1864

Nothing happened not dangerous enough out here to make it interesting standing picket.

January 8, 1864

Went out on the lines with Capt. Martin came back and went rabbit hunting with Major Anderson. I got two, he got one.	January 9, 1864
Had rabbits and potatoes for breakfast. Went down and talked awhile with the Misses Cooks. Very intelligent ladies they are. Was relieved by the 8 th New York and came to camp put up tents and went to bed. Jimmie Abbot came back to the company from the Battery.	January 10, 1864
Have worked very hard today trying to make a house. A poor affair when done. Got a letter from Mary today so glad to hear from them. Put up a house and daubed it. Leints Leong went home day before yesterday. How I long to get to bed, I am so very tired.	January 11, 1864
Nothing going on today of interest. Was building my house all day. Very tired got a letter from Mary.	January 12, 1864
All day been working at the co - . Books charging clothing and made out John Dodge[?] descriptive and discharge. Anderson was promoted to Sergeant and Kincaid & Marsh Corporals. H.B.S. promoted a rank by order of Sgt.	January 13, 1864
Saddled at eight o'clock and charge up the.... to the right of Cedar Mountain and relieved the 8 th New York off picket andour old stand.	January 14, 1864
Alarm out on the picket line. Company D got ready to go out don't go all quiet again. Corpl. Chap of Co. B was captured by Capt. Smithers Co., 4 th Va. Cav. (Reb) escaped with the of his army.	January 15, 1864
Nothing of interest transpired today. Went out on a scout as far Jance ?City. Saw nothing and went over and chatted awhile with Palmiger Ross very final time.	January 16, 1864
All quiet today. Was at home all day – News that the enemy is making some hostile movements. Went on a scouting with a Capt. and 12 horsemen. Saw nothing and returned at dark.	January 17, 1864
Went over to Lee with Palmira Ross. This morning all quiet along the lines. Running steadily since daybreak. Was relieved about 2 o'clock by a squadron of 8 th New York, and arrived in camp through a heavy rain and dry mud.	January 18, 1864

None down any Today and put it up to suit one it was to deep, not Horrible, have now fixed quite comfortable

January 19, 1864

Nothing going on today.dull routine of camp life passes over without a "riffle". And we retire our "Dog Lends quietly to rest..... better to "Quinie. And "Lister Mary, though had to let up quite late.

January 20, 1864

Now to Culpepper to the Commissary. Tolerable cold day. Saw "King Alcohol reigned supreme. Oh, when will this evil befrom the Army. Returned, found men cleaning up camp. Extra duty, men have to make stable tomorrow.

January 21, 1864

Took extra duty men up to Major. Lt. Davis Officer of the Day put them to making stables. Have been making descriptive list for Ira Peabody and final of Alfred Pickett today. Quite a job and feel quite tired.

January 22, 1864

Henry Bascom Sparks

January 23, 1864

Set the whole length of the fish. 2 = length of tail. 9= the length of body and tail... [Math equations]

January 24, 1864

At Chris Rose house... [Math equations]

January 25, 1864

Henry Morris [Handwriting practice] Bascom Sparks Oh Roman Catholic. John W. Higgins Cinamon

January 26, 1864

On my way to Richmond was captured by Capt. Strathers Company 4th Cav. Took 12 of us, went as far as Madison Court Ho. on horseback and walked from there to Orange C. House, a long wearysome journey for cavalry men. Tried hard to escape on the way Greenwood and myself nearly succeeded.

January 27, 1864

Spent an almost sleepless night in a guard house a dirty hole in Orange C. Ho. on our way to Richmond in a passenger car at Gordonsville. Later near at Louise Court House. Arrived at Richmond about 7 o'clock at night. Marched to Libby Prison, searched for money did not find any. Were brought marched to Pemberton and was put in here for the night.

January 28, 1864

Slept quite well last night, better place here than I expected, have drawn no grub yet and am very hungry had nothing given us since we were captured. Later got Lima Bean Soup / beef, pickles and bread this morning. Feel tolerable well now, have been looking for Charlie Allen ever since have been here but not seen nor heard of him.

January 29, 1864

Got along fine today. 100 more prisoners came in from Danville, quite crowded in here now, got a big dinner today

January 30, 1864

Were waked early this morning and 100 marched to Belle Isle. Such a place as hard as it is enough to kill the heartiest man alive. If our government only knew the suffering of our soldiers here. They would certainly make some arrangement for an exchange.

January 31, 1864

Slept very well last night on the wet sand but done very well considering had no tents or anything for shelter. Misting rain this morning quite cool.

February 1, 1864

Bascom Sparks

February 2, 1864

[Drawing of long-haired man with a crown and with a ring in his nose.] Wharfmaster. Big Foot. H. B. Sparks. Henry B.S.

February 3, 1864

[Math equations – addition and multiplication]

February 4, 1864

Head 9 inches long, its tail as long as its head and half the body. It's body as long as head and tail both.

February 5, 1865

Three hundred more prisoners came into camp this morning. There are perhaps about 10 thousand Yanks here now, about 600 without tents or shelter of any kind, we drew salt beef this morning. The first we have had since we came here, but only got 6 loaves of bread for today. Great murmurs of an exchange that somewhat raises the spirits of the discouraged soldiers on this island.

February 6, 1865

Nothing going on today of interest..... Bean soup today this afternoon. The sun came out quite warm, although it threatened to storm all day. It is reported that Kilpatrick is within 52 miles of this place, on another great raid, but I am afraid it is all a humbug though the rebels are more in line of battle on the hills opposite here, but perhaps only in Grand

February 7, 1864

Review as this is the Sabbath. Oh, may another Sabbath not pass over till we are out of here. but I am afraid it is all a humbug though the rebels are more in line of battle on the hills opposite here, but perhaps only in Grand Review as this is the Sabbath. Oh, may another Sabbath not pass over till we are out of here

We hear rumors this morning that the flag of truce was up and that Jeff Davis had given Congress today to decide whether to recognize Genl. Butler and agree upon an exchange. I think if our government knew how we are suffering here that they would agree to exchange anything. For many of "Uncle Sam's brave boys are literally "starving here, great rumors of Kilpatrick's doings here, if he has done that as reported he has....authorized the Company.

February 8, 1864

No report today of any kind though there is great anxiety to know the decision of the Rebel Congress in regard to the acceptance of Genl. Butler as commissioner of exchange.

February 9, 1864

Nothing of interest today. Weather cold and windy. Wood run out long before night.

February 10, 1864

Everything quiet today and we all anxiously await the decision of the Rebel Congress about Butler.

February 11, 1864

A prisoner attempted to steal a blanket from one of the guards today when the guard drew up and shot after him hitting 3 other men, one through the body one through the groin and one through the leg. The first one died and the others were taken to the hospital. The man who stole the blanket was tied up and whipped soundly. Butler was accepted today, great rejoicing, for there is now some prospect of an exchange.

February 12, 1864

About 3 hundred Yanks came on the island this morning. One of Co. E came with them from the hospital. Traded my new velvet pants for a pair of grey ones with a red stripe down the leg. Got 25 dolls(sic) to boot. Had a blanket stolen this morning by one of my own men. had my fill of something to eat today for the first time.

February 13, 1864

This morning opens up with a warm sun but a cool wind. Rumors[?] Say that some thousand are going to leave today. Don't think it is so though some may leave tomorrow. Oh may the time soon come when we are off the island.

February 14, 1864

[Drawing of horse with bridle and tack] February 15, 1864

[Drawing of American flag being held by Lady Justice with scales.] "Old Lady Libberty" February 16, 1864

[Addition equation] February 17, 1864

I have not written for a few days because it was so bitter cold I could not. Yesterday morning 200 were sent away from the island, said they were going to Georgia but think they will be exchanged. This morning 400 more were sent away with the same word. Last night and tonight Island we almost froze to death it was very cold and without much cover with only 3 blanket to 9 of us, we did not.... will. We get in a tent today. 400 hundred more prisoners came this morning. Elliott Driver was one of them. February 18, 1864

400 more left this morning. Charley Allen & Riley Dillind, went there with all talk of their going to Georgia. I don't know for my part where they are going, I had a good night sleep last night for the first time for sometime. Got in a tent with James Norman of Co. B. Sleep with Sodden & Kelso. We have very good tent with chimney in it making quiet and comfortable.... February 19, 1864

Last night someone stole Sodden boots and my wood out of the tent and tried to pull one of the blankets that covered us. We waked in time to save it this morning. The 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th squads got ready to leave but did not go for some reason. [Person's name] intended to go with them, but perhaps they will go to morrow and rumors says that they are parrolling them over in the city. February 20, 1864

275 prisoners left this morning for the city. Some say that they are getting special parole in the city and being sent to Yankeedom. I would like to go wherever they are going. This is Sabbath morning, Oh, may we not havefor another Sabbath on the Island. How much I should like to go to some church or Sabbath School today. The church bells of Richmond sound so familiar to me, seems as if I should be at home. February 21, 1864

[Drawing of soldier.] February 22, 1864

400 prisoners left this morning, two of my squad went. They began at the 89 and went down. I am in hopes they will take us tomorrow. Though all the talk of our destination is February 23, 1864

Georgia, most think we are going to our lines.

This morning the 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 squads got ready to leave but have not yet left this date. 11 October - all my thoughts of those prisoners going to our lines are now abandoned especially till I can hear something that is reliable from them. February 24, 1864

[Drawing of building.] View of Libby Prison from Pemberton. February 25, 1864

[Too faint to be legible.] February 26, 1864

The news today is cheering on the union cause. We hear that Charleston & Fort Moultrie are taken afraid tis most to good to be true, nothing of interest going on today. We drew nothing but bread, neither soup nor meat nor beans. Oh , this Confederate Gov. will most assuredly soon be against at this rate it is from [illegible] to feed their prisoners from day to day. February 27, 1864

The news today is very meager, nothing stirring at all. We drew nothing but bread and not even dry beans with it. I cooked some beans today and they went very well and far to relieve the pangs of hunger that grow and ever assaults their stomachs of a prisoner on the Beautiful Hights of Belle Isle by the way there is a song written by one of the prisoners and I shall have to copy it in my sketch book for future use and amusement. February 28, 1864

[Handwriting practice.] February 29, 1864

[Handwriting practice.] March 1, 1864

[Handwriting practice.] March 2, 1864

[Alphabet and handwriting practice.] March 3, 1864

[Handwriting practice.] March 4, 1864

I have not written to you my "Diary" for some time. I should not so neglected you, this is the 5th and today I have loose(sic) the oysters that I wagered on being off the island by today. Kilpatrick has again awakened the rebel capitol, a great raid he came very near the city. Our regiment was with him. Two of them were taken prisoner and arrived on the island last night. Henry Paps of Co E & Thomas Marsh of Co. B. They know nothing of our exchange. Kilpatrick went March 5, 1864

to Buttlers Department – Peninsula.

There are some 4 or 5 hundred prisoners going out this morning. Weather quite cool and last night was quite a cool night. Yesterday I made the drawing on the opposite page by mistake thinking it was on [illegible] page. This morning 12 hundred prisoners were taken from here on parole. All our regiment most left and all Cooks and Bakers. Their papers say it is a General Exchange not through Buttler but Major Mardford.

March 6, 1864

[Picture of a tent.] Lt Bossieux Tent. Edmundt Camp Belle Isle. None left the island today, but papers says it is an exchange but don't say General Exchange.

March 7, 1864

Some six hundred more Yanks left camp this morning. I could have left but was afraid they were going to Georgia, but since then I believe from what I hear that they were going to our lines and if further opportunity offer I think I will try it, and trust to Providence for the result.

March 8, 1864

[Handwriting practice and alphabet.]

March 9, 1864

Some prisoners left this morning. Our Squad came very near going. Rainy and cold all day got some wood from [illegible]. Squads then went out and kept a good fire all day in the tent and set there almost all day

March 10, 1864

Yesterday about 8 hundred prisoners left the island yesterday. I almost think they were going to our lines. They began at the 56th squad and took to the 46th. that is ours and if they take any more that and ours will be the first squad that goes. Some of the Indiana Third came in yesterday from the Army of the Cumberland. I have not seen them yet, don't suppose that I know them.

March 11, 1864

At 9 o'clock we were called upon to pack up and be ready to leave and were marched to Richmond and put into Pemberton Prison on the second floor where we are now and still in the dark as to our destination.

March 12, 1864

Early this morning we were taken up on the 3rd floor. They are taking the name, company and regiment of those left on the 2nd floor. Called us down and took our names and are almost through with the rest. It is now almost 1 o'clock and, have had no breakfast yet am getting very hungry. I very foolishly lost my blanket by coming down and leaving it in

March 13, 1864

the open Room when we were called.

At two o'clock this morning we are taken and put aboard the cars Bound for Georgia. Sure enough started provisions with one loave of bread. March 14, 1864

Stopped in the woods about 4 or 5 hours and are now at Raleigh North Carolina waiting for a train to pass us very much crowded into box cars 60 to 65 in a car. March 15, 1864

Was on the cars all day. Last night we stopped after daylight but did not get off the cars went very slow today arrived at Charlotte S.C. March 16, 1864

Got off the cars last night and laid in the woods all night. Very cold night bought wood of the Guards for buttons and are now quite comfortable. Drew beef and crackers this morning. Appears as if it is [illegible] here as in Richmond. March 17, 1864

Still lay out all night passed the night quite comfortable had large fire. Yanks [illegible] last night in camp – still stay in this camp this afternoon. The home guards from Charlotte came up and relieved the old guards all the afternoon. at 8 in the evening the old guards came on again. 6 hundred more Yanks came from Richmond about 4 o'clock and camped on the opposite side of the railroad. March 18, 1864

Laid in camp last night – wind blew very cold but had very good fires – kept very comfortable during the night – this morning were called into line at 8 o'clock and put aboard the cars on the Charlotte & South Carolina R.R. where we now lay waiting for the locomotive to come and take us away. Morning bright and beautiful. Was in cars all day run very slow Still in the cars at dark going to run all night to Columbia S.C. most all out of rations and no prospect of drawing any very soon. March 19, 1864

Sabbath morning has come to us as we are still aboard the cars passed the night very uncomfortably we were so crowded 68 men in this car. Weather cloudy, have stopped near Columbia. Guards are drawing rations. It will take us some to time to go to Americus Ga – yet perhaps 4 days ride. Arrived at Bentonville at about 6 in the evening. The guards were relieved by South Carolina troops. We did not change cars as was expected, nor draw rations. But started on our way to Augusta Ga. Began to rain and very hungry, have nothing to eat but raw corn. March 20, 1864

Run all night last night, very cool night. Arrived at Augusta Ga. about 2 o'clock this morning where we still are at 8 o'clock AM. Did not yet draw rations this morning have been 8 days from Richmond now on one corn dodger and 25 crackers. 2 + [?] nights since we have had anything at all but some raw corn. Run all day very fast will make the whole distance tonight.

March 21, 1864

Arrived at Andersonville last night about 11 o'clock rainy cold and disagreeable. We were kept standing out in the wood for about an hour almost perishing. Were then marched into our future camp and divided off into squads we fell to – No 58 – were then turned out like sheep to shift for ourselves. The wind blew very cold rain fell in abundance and but for the kindness of old camp residents in letting us to their fires we would almost have perished.

March 22, 1864

Got wood today and made very good fire. If we only had some kind of shelter here we could live very well. We draw about a quart of meal a day and bacon every day. Oh, how delicious a little bit of grease does taste to a man that has had none for so very long. Charlie Allen came over to live with us today. This I think is a very good camp if it was not divided into by a large swamp. There are 18 acres in it enclosed by a stockade 20 feet high. Impossible to get out of.

March 23, 1864

Passed last night very well. Morning opened. Sun warm with some clouds flying. Quite warm all day, got plenty of wood.

March 24, 1864

Clouded up along in the forenoon, rained some this evening. A thunderstorm blew up, rained quite hard for a little while and then along in the evening about 9 o'clock it cleared off and was quite comfortable during the rest of the evening.

March 25, 1864

Sun came out warm this morning and we were called into line again and squaded off again. 90 men in a squad, 270 in a big squad. There is some talk of an exchange of the sick this morning and also of the prisoners in general. Got no rations today at all because the men were so long getting into line. I managed to trade a piece of soap for a pint of meal and some salt for a pint, thereby kept from being quite so hungry. Got no wood today either.

March 26, 1864

This is Easter Sunday and we have no eggs. Sun came out warm and pleasant this morning. We were called into line early and kept there until the roll of the whole camp was called. Still no prospect of getting any rations They seem

March 27, 1864

determined to punish us till they get the roles straightened up and the prisoners learn to fall in promptly. Did get rations, but it was after 2 or 3 o'clock before they were divided and we had began to be very hungry.

Am Hungry. It was warmer last night than it has been since we were on the island. On the island I said we are off that place now and am very thankful for it. Oh, could I hear from home today how happy I would be. Clouded up and began to rain about 1 o'clock and still raining hard at dark. Had to do all of our cooking in the rain. Got wet to the skin.

March 28, 1864

Am Hungry. Last night we put up blankets stretched like a tent that kept the rain off us but could not sleep any for cold and want of covering. It rained almost all night and pretty hard. 200 Yankees came in last night from Atlanta. They report an exchange going on. Were not kept long in line this morning but [illegible] is a long time coming.

March 29, 1864

Am Hungry. Rumor says this morning that 8,000 rebel's prisoners are on their way to Savannah for exchange – Don't Believe It – Later -- that some Major has gone from here to complete arrangements with our commissioners at Savannah. – Later -- that our Gov. has instructed Genl. Wadsworth to inform the Rebel authorities that there will be no exchange until they exchange "Man for Man" white or black. If that is so we may expect to be here for the war. If we could make some kind of shelter we would get along very well.

March 30, 1864

Slept well last night though it was tolerable cool. Sun came out warm but the sky looks smoky. Some ladies came this morning in carriages to see the Yankee prisoners. accompanied by the Col. and several other officers. The officer of the day told the boys that they were not exchanging but were paroling. Went out today and got some poles for a tent and dug a hole. Am going to cover it with dirt and pine boughs, they make a very comfortable "Ranche"

March 31, 1864

This morning all the squads on the opposite side of the swamp were not given any rations because they broke ranks before they were done calling the role. Covered our side of the "Ranche". Went out in the evening with Charlie Allen and got a load of leaves to sleep on. Evening has closed around us. All quiet except those men that were cut out of rations made a raid on our meat and took some of it.

April 1. 1864

Morning came cold and dreary, did not have to stand in line

April 2, 1864

very long though. Covered the other side of our house today and made an arrangements for to cover the end. The whole camp got rations today, no raiding. Has been quite cool today, wind blew from north and east. Traded salt beef for meal today. Have plenty of bread and that is all that I want.

This reminds me of Sabbath at home. It is so quiet and the sun shines bright and beautiful. Were called into line very early and they are taking our descriptive lists, for what I cannot imagine, the like has never been done before. The rebel Sergeant has told us that there certainly was to be an exchange or parole, perhaps in two weeks, but it was certain to come. God grant it may be so. How many happy men would go out of here then.

April 3, 1864

Got our ration very late yesterday. The old Captain did not keep us in line, only just long enough to be counted. Rained all night and still raining this morning, quite cool. No news today. This morning there were 67 dead carried out a larger "No". than has ever been carried out in one day yet.

April 4. 1864

Cool today. A few more Yankees came in this morning. This evening a Yankee Freemason was buried by members of the Order by both Yankee and Reb, by their usual mode of burial. Southern papers of late state that negotiations for an exchange have been favorable and that all the rebel prisoners in our hands will be in there awaiting within 30 days and a Flag of Truce boat is expected up [illegible] with one thousand prisoners.

April 5, 1864

Sun came up warmer this morning. Don't feel very well – now up at the gate waiting to go out after some wood. Poor chance. Did succeed though in getting a load after while. Day passes off quietly. Cloudy this evening, appearance of rain. I feel much better since I have been after wood.

April 6, 1864

Rained quite hard last night, but we were comfortable enough in our "Ranche". How much better it is to have some kind of shelter though poor. But bester than to lay out in the rain. The old Captain did not keep us in line this morning, but dismissed us missing on calling of the Roll. No news of interest this morning.

April 7, 1864

Cool and cloudy this morning. Rained in the night. Gave me a cold. Ed Kelso is down sick with cough and laying about don't help him any. Diarhea. & cold is the prevailing diseases here. There are some cases of Small Pox and a

April 8, 1864

curious disease that swells the feet and legs but causes the afflicted no pain other than [illegible]. Were dismissed and not no roll called this morning.

Still cloudy, rain, winds, today were not kept in line long some new prisoners came in today, though they have been captured some time where they are from I don't know. Two days rations were issued today because the L.M. said he wanted Sabbath to himself. Small rations though for two days. was out afternoon the Guard gave me some Sonber Peas.

April 9, 1864

The weather was cool with high winds today though the sun shone quite warm at times. There were no rations issued today as was expected. I went after wood in the afternoon. One of our mess went to the hospital with the Small Pox this morning. A good many ladies came to view the Yankee prisoners, but did not make fun of us. 9 died last night on this side of the camp.

April 10, 1864

Did not rest well at all last night had toothache all night. Got up before daylight and baked two ash [illegible] of bread very sweet bread they make. Was out after wood again today. Feel very well today.

April 11, 1864

Hot day all day have been to the gate trying to get some poles, but did not succeed. A Sergeant of our squad was rode on a rail this evening and then bucked for stealing two hams from his squad. No news from the exchange

April 12, 1864

Well, this is getting pretty well along in the month. And we are not out of "Sumter" yet, but the prospect grows brighter every day. The papers of the 11th state that all Richmond and Danville prisoners are exchanged and all the old Belle Island prisoners will be in a few days. May it speedily come for many are dying off here. The above news was confirmed today.

April 13, 1864

Cool and cloudy this morning. Were kept in line the old Captain said there were to be some express boxes here for some of us today. How I wish I could get one but I don't recon(sic) there is any one for me. No news of interest going the rounds of camp now.

April 14, 1864

Today the papers of the 12th came into camp and it stated that there were 3 transports laying at Richmond waiting for the water to subside, so they could land and take away Federal

April 15, 1864

prisoners. The water in Richmond was over 6 feet deep in Carey Street and Libby prison.

It rained some last night and today. It is really cold we only got a little wood in today one log and could get n oway to cut it up. Got some “Hog Ham” have to see if they would not make greens but they did not they were too bitter to taste well. We need some vegetables for there are many getting the Scurvy.

April 16, 1864

A new arrangement is going on around the stockade they draw a line around 20 feet from the wall and forbid any prisoners coming within that line on penalty of being shot. The guard have a platform to walk on so that they could see over the stockade. I saw the list of express boxes today there was one for Charlie Allen of our company.

April 17, 1864

Nothing going on today the sun shone bright and warm all day. Feel rather bad today.

April 18, 1864

Today is cold and rain was out after wood and got some Maple leaves for greens made very good ones. Drew molasses to and rice in place of meat a very agreeable change for us Drew splendid molasses. Some six hundred prisoners came in today from Danville that looks like there never was going to be an exchange at all.

April 19, 1864

I passed a very uncomfortable night because of the toothache. More prisoners came in this evening. They say that they were sent here for an exchange, but it seems to me that if they were going to exchange them or parole. They would not go to the expense and trouble of transportation all the way down here and then back again to Center Point or Savannah.

April 20, 1864

There are no further news of an exchange as yet though most undoubtedly arrangements have been made for one though why -- is it so long in taking effect. 6 hundred more came in this morning from Danville and six this evening I baked some bread and went and traded them for soap. Now I will have good wash for I have been so black with pine smoke that will not come off without the use of soap in plenty

April 21, 1864

Went to get a tooth pulled this morning doctor told me to come again tomorrow and he would pull it but don't think I will. – We did not get rations until very late and It was long after dark before I got it issued to my mess. We drew fresh

April 22, 1864

beef – salt pork & bacon – a little of each – express boxes will be distributed on Sunday – there is a report in camp that four hundred Conf. guards have arrived from Savannah to take away prisoners Sunday to be exchanged.

This is a bright and beautiful morning. How much should I like to be at home. Such a morning as this I fear though it will be a long time before I have that pleasure. April 23, 1864

[Hand drawn map of Alabama, Georgia and Florida] April 24, 1864

Today has been pleasant and agreeable. This evening rations came in very early and then they gave out the express boxes and very unexpectedly to me. I got some things in a box with Charley Allens from [illegible] but no letter came with it or papers. April 25, 1864

Nothing going on in camp, wrote home today and sent for a box of things, I don't know whether I will ever receive them or no. but think that I may afford to lose them if we are exchanged before that time. Got a lot of wood this morning from out the swamp by wading in the water and fishing for it. April 26, 1864

Today we are almost out of wood for our Squad neither got any wood Yesterday or today by some orders from the Commandant of the camp. Yesterday 3 prisoners captured the guard went with them for the wood and escaped with his gun let him come into camp. [illegible] try such things very often here, but seldom escape for they run them with Blood Hounds and when they are caught they are put back in here with a ball and chain to their legs. April 27, 1864

All night we could hear the hounds on the track of those prisoners and today two of them were caught and brought back. They got as far as Flint River 12 miles from here. The other one made his escape the hounds could not track him at all. Washed a shirt today for Charley Allen and waded in the swamp and got a good load of wood. Saw a big eel caught today out of the swamp. Made a fine mess. April 28, 1864

It rained last night. I had the toothache almost all night and did not sleep much though, the night was rather warm. The sun came up warm and bright this morning, the news today is that Butler is to be at Savannah to take away prisoners by the 4th of May, in today's papers from Augusta Ga. had the toothache considerable today. April 29, 1864

Had my tooth pulled this morning, didn't pain much. Was April 30, 1864

also vaccinated but don't think it will take on me. Very warm today. This evening 5 hundred prisoners came in who have been captured about two weeks at Plymouth, North Carolina, they know of nothing new in the way of exchange or parole.

Drew two days rations as usual for today, this being the Sabbath we draw more. Sun is very warm today here. Glad I am to have a good shelter. This is the 1st of May and I suppose the usual May Day parties will come off at home tomorrow just as if we were not there. But there many a seeming gay countenance among friends will often think of us and wish that we too could be happy

May 1, 1864

But they don't know that we live happy here in the thought that it is all for home and country and – not withstanding our sufferings, if we die we are resolved to die the death of a soldier. Charley went outside to stay this morning. They planted artillery so as to sweep the camp today and began to build breastworks around the camp that looks as if they expect an attack from our side.

May 2, 1864

Nothing of interest transpiring today. 6 hundred more new prisoners came in today from Plymouth, N.C. They are well provided for and got plenty of Greenbacks. It was very cold last night and as we have no covering but an old overcoat we lay cold all night

May 3, 1864

Nothing stirring today. They have now got artillery planted all round us. Perhaps, they think to cow us So must by that there that we won't attempt any serious demonstration. There are too many Brave Boys here to slay in this stockade guarded by a brigade of rebels

May 4, 1864

Last night there were a good many Yanks made their escape by digging out under the stockade. How many, we don't know yet. They have ordered us to stay in line at roll call till they ascertain how many are gone on pain of being shot if we break ranks. Later – they could not ascertain how many left but suppose it was about 80. They put a ball and chain on 3 men that dug the hole.

May 5, 1864

Yesterday they favored us with a little Molasses and rice besides issued meat. The Confederacy must be getting rich to be feeding us so much at once. They have not yet caught any of those escaped men. Yesterday and today they have given us no word at all. They say they are going to issue cooked rations after this. Rumors says that Belle Island prisoners are

May 6, 1864

going to begin to leave [illegible] for exchange. All a fudge. I think but will some know for certain.

There were no prisoners left as was reported this morning. May 7, 1864
But they say they are to go tomorrow. They still give us no wood. I gave one dollar this morning for the use of an ax one hour and got me some wood from the swamp. They issued us some cooked meat but some meal, though part got bread and meat both cooked,

Today is Sabbath, the sun came up bright and warm. After May 8, 1864
today no citizen is allowed a travel on the R.R. for what reason is unknown. This morning paper states that our forces are leaving alone City Point on the James River and are advancing on Richmond. I hope that will take the place. We drew Belle Island rations of bread today already cooked and only half a loaf to the man for one day. Wrote to [illegible] 6 Reg.

Sent my letter off this morning. We are going to get some May 9, 1865
wood today it will very acceptable now. Would like to hear some news of exchange but none is stirring. The morning paper states that there has been a battle fought on the Rapidan, say they took 3 hundred prisoners but does know their own loss. Longstreet is wounded & Gen. Jenkins killed. Drew bread & meat and a little more than we did yesterday.

Nothing of interest to write today. There is a report afloat May 10, 1864
that our government has demanded that the prisoners of the Confederate Government and that the demand is signed by both the nations of England and France & that the demand will have to be complied with.

News from the Rapidan states the Rebs are whipping us bad, May 11, 1864
but have lost a great many men themselves and that our army is retreating.

Nothing of interest going on today. Cornelius Hollenback of May 12, 1864
our..... regiment Co. A came in. He had escaped from the cars among the first squads that came from the Island. Arrived within 8 miles of our own lines and sad to relate was recaptured. Very cold for such time of year. a person needs fire such a day as this.

Nothing new today some prisoners came who were captured May 13, 1864
last Saturday this side of Dalton. They say that Kilpatrick is making a raid this way and our forces probably have Dalton

by this time and all the Confeds in it.

Here I am again weary weary of this laying around in this place. Oh, tis a bitter thought that we will have to stay here during the war, but we hopeful for the better and may the day soon come when I can make a record of leaving this pen for our own lines. May 14, 1864

This is the Sabbath and is a beautiful and bright day such as I would like to pass at home. Yesterday the Citizens of the County gave a big picnic dinner to the Alabama Regiment that is going home to reorganize. Some of the 2 the 1st and 4th Indiana Cavalry came in yesterday captured near Dalton. May 15, 1864

I found Wm. Edwards & Kent Douglas of the 2nd Cav. yesterday, they are from our county. There was a man with only one leg went across the dead line yesterday. rumor says that there is 15 hundred going to leave today that transports are laying at Savannah loaded with rebel prisoners for exchange. Drew wood today. May 16, 1864

Sun came up bright and warm this morning and bids fair for a very warm day. Captain Wurtz told some of the boys yesterday that arrangements have been made to exchange the Plymouth prisoners. I think that would be very unfair. May 17, 1864

[Blank] May 18, 1864

[Blank] May 19, 1864

[Blank] May 20, 1864

For 3 days I have not written because I had nothing to write. A few prisoners came in Tuesday from Dalton and report that the rebels are rapidly retreating toward Atlanta and our troops victorious in their onward march. The rebel papers report that the exchange of prisoners is resumed, but state whether it is going to be general or not. Vainly, I look for a letter from home, but still find myself compelled to be disappointed any morning. May 21, 1864

5 hundred prisoners came in last night from Danville. They report Petersburg in our possession and also Lynchburg but don't think the later place taken. This is Sabbath morning, they are moving the hospital outside today, twill be much better for the sick out there. The weather is getting unmercifully hot here now. They are enlarging our stockade May 22, 1864

here. A few more prisoners came in from Danville.

Nothing stirring today. Some prisoners came in from near Atlanta. They report very favorable for our army there. There were only 3 or 4 of them. May 23, 1864

Last evening some one thousand prisoners came in from Danville. from Grants Army on the Rapidan they were captured on the 5th – 6th & 7th . They say Richmond is being evacuated. from present appearances the “Cornfed Confederacy” is just about played out. May 24, 1864

This morning I am considerably surprised to hear my name called to come outside for what purpose I could not imagine, but I got ready and came out side with several others. I found that I had been sent for through the influence of Charlie A. to make shingles for the hospital. We had to give parole of honor not to escape. We get plenty to eat & have a good place to sleep. May 25, 1864

Am very tired this evening but feel much better than if I had not been to work. Tomorrow I will be more careful and not work so hard. I am very doubtful about this matter – whether it is right or not – to work, and are we not thereby aiding the Southern Confederacy. I will stay a few days anyhow and then go in though many of our officers tell us that we are doing no wrong and only working for extra rations which we so much need. May 26, 1864

Still out here and at work and I feel better today but rather sore. The shingles we are making are for to cover a hospital for our men and we certainly could not do anything that would be more benefit to them than to build a hospital for the thousands of sick. No news from the front. Today, have been a prisoner 4 months. May 27, 1864

Did not work hard today but made a good many shingles. 118 prisoners came in from Atlanta. Could not get to talk to them about anything. The paper states no fighting but some skirmishing in front. Also that the Flag of Truce boat came up with dispatches but don't state of what character they were. May 28, 1864

Today is Sabbath and we rest as of old. Charley and I went out into the country and got a mess of eggs, the first I have had since I have been a prisoner. Yesterday we had some chicken & warm biscuit. Oh, if I was home now I had not May 29, 1864

wish for such things. Some more prisoners came in today & last night. Reports of heavy fighting today at Atlanta.

Went to work again this morning, but have decided that I will go back into the stockade tomorrow morning. No news of importance today. No paper published yesterday and so cannot get any news today. Some 15 hundred Yanks came today and a woman with them that was captured at Plymouth, also some officers.

This morning I bundled up and came into camp. I concluded that I could not work out there with a clear conscience, if others can, let them work, I will not. I am of the opinion that some of them will pay dearly for working out there. I found Kelso had gone to the hospital & George Martin too. George has the Scurvy very bad indeed.

George Martin. Last night George Martin of our company died of the Scurvy in the hospital. Have not heard from Kelso since he went. I had sick headache today and was very poorly. My feet swelled some too There many rumors afloat of an immediate exchange or parole. Well the time must come and every day brings it nearer.

Still great rumors of exchange. The Col. says we will none of us will be here in two months. I hope so at least. I was sick at the stomach today with violent headache. We draw rations of mush now every night and tolerably good rations of meat.

There is nothing stirring this morning. Last evening it rained very hard made the camp a great deal cleaner and the air cooler. All the prisoners are under the impression that release from here is very near at hand; but we can have no settled views on the subject and will not know much of it when the exchange has come.

Yesterday evening it rained again and this morning it is still raining quite hard. It was rumored that 3 thousand were going to be sent away yesterday but they did not go and now they say they are going Monday, but I think there will be no exchange or parole until the Spring Campaign is ended if then. Isaac Lewis very sick with scurvy and Rheumatism. How much I should like to get a letter today.

[Blank] June 5, 1864

[Drawing of bird and "ANDERSONVILLE" at the bottom of June 6, 1864

the page.]

I am hungry, did not write any yesterday or day before. June 7, 1864
There were [illegible] yesterday. They are hard at work in the stockade now and will soon have the camp enlarged. Lewis is very bad with the scurvy. I have begun to sell almost all my meat and buy vegetables with it. So if possibly I can be rid of that disease.

About 14 hundred Yanks came in last night from Richmond. June 8, 1865
They bring good news from our army. Grant is so close upon the city that firing is distinctly heard. I hope for the sake of the poor men of this camp he will soon take the place for then I think there will be an exchange affected. Men are dying now at the rate of from 60 to 100 per day.

Rocking River / Flint River [in script. Then, picture of open June 9, 1864
diary with date of 1864. Name at bottom in fancy script.]

Rumor says today the Governors of all the states have agreed June 10, 1864
to keep their own prisoners of war if the government will have them paroled for during the war and that the war governments have agreed to parole all prisoners for during the war.

I am hungry. Nothing going on in camp at all. They have June 11 1864
begun to give our squad meal again and let us go out for wood but they make us give word of honor that we will not try to escape. The guard is not sufficient to prevent a Yank from escaping. Was out today and carried a big load of wood. The sun was quite hot today and confines us to our tent to escape the burning heat.

This day passed off very quiet except that 65 prisoners came June 12, 1864
in from Atlanta. They set the camp all in excitement by confirming the rumor that our officers at Macon had all been paroled. They say they saw a car load of theirs ready at the Depot to leave. I don't think the report can be true or can have any foundation whatever. We drew nothing but rice and meat today, they running short of rations and cannot furnish them very well. I am hungry.

[Handwriting practice and multiplication problem] June 13, 1864

[Blank] June 14, 1864

Ed Kelso. Last night Ed Kelso died out at the hospital I don't June 15, 1864
know what was matter him he only had the Rheumatism in

his legs when he went out. Isaac Lewis 13th June

I have almost abandoned my Book for the past few days. June 16, 1864
There is nothing going on worthy of recording. Yesterday Porter Baird of Co A came in. he was captured the 29 of May. He reports the regiment in good condition. I was glad to hear from the boys but sorry to see any of them come in this place.

It rained almost constantly today and very hard. It started our June 17, 1864
tent to leaking so we could not keep very dry. It rained all the time we were drawing rations. Got meal and meat.

Still rained all night and this morning. There is a fair June 18, 1864
prospect of its raining today. Yesterday paper states the all our officers are exchanged that is all field officers. Genl. Winder was here yesterday. I think that looks favorable for something being done. A great many prisoners were getting away now and will continue to do so I think.

All passed off as usual today. It rained very hard in the June 19, 1864
afternoon while I was after wood. Got very wet, but got a good load of wood. Hunger, starvation, death seem to be our lot, but we hope on.

[Blank] June 20, 1864

[Blank] June 21, 1864

HBSparks....Henry Bascom....Co. C. 2nd Ind. Cav 2nd June 22, 1864
Brigade 2 Division Cavalry captured July 27, 64 near Sandtown Ga. By some of Hood Scouts.

[Blank] June 23, 1864

[Blank] June 24, 1864

[Blank] June 25, 1864

[Blank] June 26, 1864

Isaac Humphrey. Five months ago this morning we were June 27, 1864
captured but we hope we will not have to stay six more in that Rebel Confederacy, but Byron says. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." I am afraid that many hearts will be made sick. There is talk of an exchange and great rumors about that they will begin 7th of July. God grant it may be so. At one o'clock today Isaac Humphrey died of scurvy. He felt

quite hearty of [illegible]

but this morning he was delirious when he got up and remained so until he died. I expect Isaac Lewis is dead too for I have no way of no way of finding out now we have no roll call. I have not written for a few days because I had lost my pencil. I will buy one this evening and then write more. June 28, 1864

["WEDNESDAY 29" crossed out in journal heading] August 1st. I saw by the register today that James Tinker 117 Ind. I Co. died April 13th of Chronic Diarrhea. No. of his grave is 914. June 29, 1864

Today the last day of the month [illegible] there is parole yesterday, then begin the [illegible] and are still at it. They all ought to be listing the killed to men lately. There is still every rumour of exchange to begin the 7th of this next month, but it is very doubtful. June 30, 1864

One year ago today was began the memorable Battle of Gettysburg. A court martial has tried some of their raiders. It is sad if they are sentenced to be hung. Mort Higgins died this morning with scurvy. He passed off very suddenly about 11 o'clock. That leaves but 7 of us, 1/2 that were captured 5 months ago and all have died with scurvy [illegible] no accounts of any kind nor said anything before he died [illegible] an hour before July 1, 1864

Nothing going on except the new stockade is finished and they moved half this camp into that which makes it much more pleasant and healthy here. There are thousands of rumors afloat about exchanges to begin the 7th of July. A report says that a parolling officer is here from Macon to take charge of [illegible] stopped our parole. July 2, 1864

This Sunday and a bright beautiful morning bids fair to be a very warm day though. Oh, if they will only begin to take some prisoners out of here on parole [illegible] glad that have [illegible] and told us [illegible] and on Belle Isle. July 3, 1864

Nothing going on there is all rumors of exchanges on the 7th. I had a mess of beans for my 4th of July dinner. They gave us no rations because they were fixing the detachments oven. July 4, 1864

News came today that Richmond was taken with 40 thousand prisoners, rather too good to be true I think. We got rations very late today and they issued very small rations of pork and July 5, 1864

bread too.

Rumor has quite died away. Some prisoners came in today who were captured on the Danville R.R. at Stony Creek Station while tearing up the track. They report Petersburg not taken. Who can believe rumors of any kind have after some few still think they would be sent away tomorrow but most of them have given up the idea. July 6, 1864

As I have predicted today has been the most still, lonesome and dull day there has been in camp. For some here it is always the case whenever some particular day has been picked on for exchange that day is very still and not even a rumor afloat to relieve the dullness of the camp. July 7, 1864

I saw by the register today the Corpl. Isaac Lewis died June 13 of Scurvy. July 8, 1864

["H. B. Sparks" in script. Drawings of a swan and two faces, one clean shaven and the other with a mustache and goatee.] July 9, 1864

This day has passed off very quietly. About 15 thousand prisoners came in Captured from our division and 4 of our Regt came up David Hooker Co. A & Gus Weaver Co. A, Jack Brice Co. E & Tom Conyers Co B. They report the death of Henry Bledsoe & Sam Heath. Benj. was killed by a Bushwhacker and died instantly. July 10, 1864

This has been a day of great excitement in camp. Those raiders have been tried by a court martial of our own men. Then at 4 o'clock the Capt. brought them into the scaffold and said he to us "you delivered these men to me and have guarded them until they have had a fair and impartial trial by yourselves and have been sentenced to be hung and now I deliver them to you July 11, 1864

again and you can do as you please with them and God bless you all & them. He then withdrew the guards leaving them in our hands. One of them attempted to make his escape but was brought back and six of them ascended the scaffold and were hung until dead. The vigilance committee that has been formed here had charge of them. July 12, 1864

Very warm today and sultry. There are several rumors afloat of an exchange to be done the 15th of this month, but it will turn out as others have done. All a grand fizzle, all a grand humbug. I would like very much to get a letter from home now but it seems that I am doomed to disappointment day July 13, 1864

after day.

[Handwriting practice] July 14, 1864

This has been quite a cool and pleasant day considering that it is so very warm month and that we Northerners are away down in the extreme of the Sunny South. July 15, 1864

[Blank] July 16, 1864

July 21st. In making a register today I found the name of L.D. Sparks, Co. D., 66 Ind. died in hospital June 7th of Diarrhea and of E.S. Kelso June 13th. Sparks no. was 2556. July 17, 1864

There are reports in camp that part of us are going to go south to Atlanta but I don't think that there is much danger of going. July 18, 1864

Walter Fuget. This morning about 7 or 8 o'clock Walter Fuget died, that makes 6 that have died out of the little squad that were captured with me leaving only 6 of us. And there is no way knowing how many of us will be left if we stay here much longer. July 19, 1864

Nothing of interest going on in camp, except that the men confined here are getting up a petition to our Gov to release us to be taken through to our lines by 6 of the prisoners who have already been appointed and Genl Winder has sent on for passports for them and says that they can get and that they can get through and I but hope they will report to here that our cavalry is at Collumbus Ga July 20, 1864

There is no news stirring today of interest. That petition to our Gov was read to our Detachment this morning and was unanimously adopted by them and signed by the Sgt. of squad in our name. About 11 o'clock the Reb. Sgt, came in for me to do some writing and I am now at the Commandants Hdqtrs. My business is to keep a register of the name company and Regt. of those that die here July 21, 1864

[Handwriting practice] July 22, 1864

[Names of various officers] July 23, 1864

Yesterday and day before. I was busy writing. I saw that Isaac Lewis died June 3 by the register. This morning we have glorious news that Atlanta has gave up for good and Johnson badly whipped if so I hope there may be some July 24, 1865

prospect of our release from prison. Anxiously we await something more definite.

We have found some good and clever fellows here who gave us vegetables every once in awhile and a little wheat bread. Oh, how sweet it does taste this morning and had flapjacks and molasses and cucumbers for breakfast. I think I can fatten up some out here now and sun will stay out as long as possible. I am going to write home and perhaps it will go. I know the folks at home must be very anxious to hear from me

July 25, 1864

[Handwriting practice]

July 26, 1864

Nothing special occurred today. I saw a paper of yesterdays date stating that Sherman had been defeated at Atlanta, but I think the main battle has not yet been fought. And when it is we will hear different news. The place is being well fortified now and would be hard to take if our Cavalry should come to release us.

July 27, 1864

Went to the creek to bathe early this morning and then had a good breakfast. I feel much better this morning than I have for some time. 11 hundred prisoners came in last night from Atlanta.

July 28, 1864

Nothing unusual going on. Some prisoners came in this morning and some one thousand came in this evening. They search them here take away all their money but 1.00 dollar and all but their cases, knives and papers. There are rumors of an exchange today but only a rumor.

July 29, 1864

[Blank]

July 30, 1864

News came last evening that our Cavalry were at Macon and had left there about 4 o'clock they expect them here at 4 this evening. God grant they may come and release us, but they have failed yet to come and it is now 10 o'clock at night though they might yet come before 3 days passes over.

July 31, 1864

I don't feel very well this morning though I did not work much yesterday.

August 1, 1864

7 hundred prisoners came in today from that cavalry raid that was made on Macon, they are fine looking fellows and some one hundred and forty came in from Atlanta. The Rebs report that Genl Stoneman and forty of his men are captured and in Macon prison and the whole party are cut off and likely to be

August 2, 1864

captured.

[Blank] August 3, 1864

One hundred and sixty nine prisoners came in yesterday. They belonged to the raiding party who came so near Macon and then went back without even attempting to relieve us which they could have done easily enough if they had come before the works were done. August 4, 1864

[Blank] August 5, 1864

[Blank] August 6, 1864

Today an order came to send 91 men to Macon to be exchanged. The officers tell us that they think it will be a general exchange and they let those 6 men who were appointed to carry through that petition go with the no. and we are greatly in hopes that by those means or some other the exchange now commenced will be kept up till all are exchanged. August 7, 1864

[Blank] August 8, 1864

John Lee. In the list of deaths today of yesterdays I see that John Lee died. His disease was Diarrhea and Scurvy. Poor fellow, that makes 7 out of 12 leaving only 5 that are likely to stand it through. Last night part of the stockade fell down and the troops were called out in double quick time. August 9, 1864

[Handwriting practice] August 10, 1864

[Too faint – appears to be a ledger for payments made] August 11, 1864

[Blank] August 12, 1864

[Blank] August 13, 1864

114 Died. Last night the officers expected a break of the prisoners here but I don't think that anything of the kind was intended by the prisoners. On Thursday one of our company came in Hogan he had not been at the company for some time. The weather has been quite calm for 3 or 4 days back. The mortality is very great among the prisoners and last night there were an hundred & 14 died. There is now great talk of an exchange. August 14, 1864

[Blank]	August 15, 1864
Last night some more prisoners got out of the stockade through a tunnel and the dogs are after them now. The office is going to be moved today outside of the fortifications.	August 16, 1864
Today I was sent down to the hospital to act as an assistant. The reason alleged was that there were too many clerks in the office. I think it was more spite work of old Martins than anything else though I have the promise of going back in a day or two. If I do not I will go into the stockade for I can't bear to see so much misery here as there is among the sick.	August 17, 1864
[Blank]	August 18, 1864
[Blank]	August 19, 1864
[Blank]	August 20, 1864
[Blank]	August 21, 1864
Today I went up to the office and got Lieut. Davis to let me come to the cookhouse and work where I was and I am contented to stay here as long as I can get an abundance to eat and don't have to work very hard.	August 22, 1864
[Blank]	August 23, 1864
[Blank]	August 24, 1864
[Blank]	August 25, 1864
[Blank]	August 26, 1864
Rebel papers state that our government objects to the most reasonable propositions of an exchange. If so, I think they are very much to blame. Prisoner deaths average 104 per day or more than a thousand in ten days and seems that sickness increases instead of decreases,	August 27, 1864
Nothing to do today but cook. We hope that the day is not far distant that will release us from this miserable place before many other brave and good men die that are here now.	August 28, 1864
[Handwriting Practice, including "John Hewitt," "Collumbia"(sic) and "Fayette Co. Indiana"]	August 29, 1864

<p>Today all us old hands were transferred to the new cookhouse. We are to be on the night watch this week. We have to have hard work here, but that is good for us men. Watter(sic) is very scarce here and hard to draw. My job is carrying water and no easy job at that. I have me a shanty in course of erection.</p>	<p>August 30, 1864</p>
<p>[Blank]</p>	<p>August 31, 1864</p>
<p>[Blank]</p>	<p>September 1, 1864</p>
<p>[Blank]</p>	<p>September 2, 1864</p>
<p>[Blank]</p>	<p>September 3, 1864</p>
<p>Charley Allen came over and took dinner with me today. Sterrett does not mess with me. I stay all alone keeping bachelors hall. Have quite a nice little Ranche with bed table & shelves erected. The news of exchange are very encouraging and news from our army states that we have Atlanta and a corps of infantry on their way. Supposedly to release we prisoners.</p>	<p>September 4, 1864</p>
<p>We will be on the day watch today and hard work it will be for us.</p>	<p>September 5, 1864</p>
<p>News came today that Sherman had got Hood in a critical position and was now as far this side of Atlanta as Jonesborough and right upon top of them, came orders to send prisoners to Savannah it is said for exchange but I don't believe it. They are getting afraid to leave us here. We had orders to cook 5000 rations of meat tonight.</p>	<p>September 6, 1864</p>
<p>This morning they are issuing rations and preparing to leave 5 detachments go this morning. That will take Elliott Driver Severall of our (watch) go to day.</p>	<p>September 7, 1864</p>
<p>[Blank]</p>	<p>September 8, 1864</p>
<p>[Blank]</p>	<p>September 9, 1864</p>
<p>Prisoners still going away but very slowly. My squad went yesterday or day before. I only hope that Sherman will make haste and relieve us before they get us out of his reach. I am very confident that there is no exchange though the Rebs would like to have us believe so.</p>	<p>September 10, 1864</p>
<p>Last night I in company with John Sherrit, Harry Hartwell,</p>	<p>September 11, 1864</p>

Knowles, & Twist ran away and started for our lines. They broke our parole and then we left. Oh how we hope to get through. We traveled all night and all day today and have just stopped this evening to rest a bit.

[Handwriting practice including "Apollo," "Armstrong," and "4th Pa. Cavalry"] September 12, 1864

[Handwriting practice with names and "Lumpkin Ga"] September 13, 1864

This evening about 3 o'clock we were retaken by 18 men and hounds innumerable. A little boy saw us this morning and reported and the got the hounds after us and we were not aware of it until they were right upon us. There was no chance of escape. We were taken by good clever fellows some of whom I shall long remember and I verily believe they would not have followed us if they had known that we were prisoners. September 14, 1864

We were brought to the village of Lumpkin the county seat of Stuart Co. and lodged in jail but could not have been treated better. Ladies came to see us talk to us and Union ladies too, and every meal they send us some extra dish and Splendid biscuit. One lady Mary C. Parker sent us a Splendid chicken pot pie and dish of soup today for dinner and some of the best biscuits I have ever saw in the Confederacy. September 15, 1864

[Blank] September 16, 1864

Yesterday they took us out of jail and marched us to Florence on the river a distance of 16 miles. I should like to have staid(sic) at Lumpkin. One of the citizens gave John Sherritt a good new pair of shoes & stockings. This evening we will start for Collumbus and go ten miles and stop for the night. September 17, 1864

We marched ten miles yesterday and stoped for night at an old planting house and got nothing to eat there and we only had a little corn bread, meat and very little too. September 18, 1864

Yesterday we marched 30 miles and arrived in this city of Collumbus about 8 o'clock in the evening almost worn out with fatigue. Sore in every joint and muscle and very hungry. Were lodged in the jail and a very fine one too. Had cotton mattress for a bed and oh how good I slept. September 19, 1864

We are here in jail yet and I would not mind staying here very much if we have to stay in any prison. The jailer is very kind and we get pretty good rations. Thing(sic) we will be September 20, 1864

sent to Macon today no doubt.

Last night we were taken out of jail & put aboard the cars and came to this place (Via Macon) and are quartered in the old camp where our officers used to be there are none here now but 2 one Capt. & one Lieut. There is not much prospect of an escape here but I will not fail to improve the first opportunity that offers. I cannot tell how long they will keep us here.

September 21, 1864

Last night one hundred men came in who had been up to the front to be exchanged and were refused by Genl. Sherman. Was a hard sight to see them looking as they did and be taken clear to our own lines and then sent back to you may say death for most of them are sure to die before they are exchanged.

September 22, 1864

[Handwriting practice: "Roman Catholic Cathedral of Rome" and drawing of man in profile]

September 23, 1864

[Drawing of tents and "Post Haste"]

September 24, 1864

We are still here and likely to remain here and I am well satisfied as there are not many here (about 200) and it is a very clean and healthy place with tolerable rations of rice, meal, meat & salt, with molasses occasionally. Some more prisoners came in from the front who had been up for exchange but went back. News from the front are very cheering. Hope a raid will come and release us.

September 25, 1864

[Blank]

September 26, 1864

[Blank]

September 27, 1864

[Blank]

September 28, 1864

[Handwriting practice]

September 29, 1864

[Blank]

September 30, 1864

[Blank]

October 1, 1864

[Handwriting practice]

October 2, 1864

[Blank]

October 3, `864

[Blank]

October 4, 1864

[Blank]	October 5, 1864
[Blank]	October 6, 1864
[Blank]	October 7, 1864
[Blank]	October 8, 1864
[Blank]	October 9, 1864
[Blank]	October 10, 1864
[Blank]	October 11, 1864
[Blank]	October 12, 1864
[Blank]	October 13, 1864
[Blank]	October 14, 1864
[Blank]	October 15, 1864
[Blank]	October 16, 1864
[Blank]	October 17, 1864
<p>Today we had orders to be ready and at 4 o'clock, we were put aboard the cars for Camp Lawton. Sherritt Hartwell Knowles & Twist all stayed, they were outside at work. We arrived at Lawton about 12 o'clock in the night. There was a hole cut in every car as we came down and a good many escaped.</p>	October 18, 1864
<p>This morning we were marched into camp. A nice place and plenty of room though rations are very short. About a dozen boys who were dressed in grey clothes walked outside the guard and escaped.</p>	October 19, 1864
[Blank]	October 20, 1864
[Page missing]	October 21, 1864
[Page missing]	October 22, 1864
[Blank]	October 23, 1864
[Blank]	October 24, 1864

[Page missing]	October 25, 1864
[Page missing]	October 26, 1864
[Blank]	October 27, 1864
[Blank]	October 28, 1864
[Blank]	October 29, 1864
[Blank]	October 30, 1864
I have not written for some time for a want of a pencil. Little did I think I would be a prisoner long enough to want to use this book on the 1 st of November, but still it is so and yet there is still not much prospect of our being exchanged. There are some sick to be exchanged at Savannah in a day or two and unfortunately in this instance we are well and hearty. Can it be possible that our government will let us stay here another winter, yes, it must be so for I hear that clothing has been sent to us and is now here.	October 31, 1864
Important receipt(sic) for soldiers – In almost all sections of the south there is a large tree called Sweet Gum, its real name is Liquid Amber. It exudes from wounds on trees, aromatic gum & bears a burr about an inch in diameter perforated with cells like honey comb. Its leaves are five-pointed and resembles those of the maple tree bark is rough & striated and upon young trees very rough and what is termed warty. Take the inside bark – that of an old tree is best or make a tea of it of such strength that	November 1, 1864
it will resemble in color and somewhat in taste strong coffee and let the patient drink from half a pint to 4 pints clear or with sugar cold or hot it is a sure and safe remedy for every grade of Bowel Complaint from the most ordinary case of relief up through all stages of Diarrhea and Cholera Morbus to Asiatic Cholera in its first stage of not absolutely incurable and its great value consists in its leaving the bowels in a healthy condition. A handfull the sweet gum bark steeped in a pint of water for half an hour to not an unpalatable drink.	November 2. 1864
The following lines were composed by a prisoner on Belle Isle by the name of Huntress	November 3, 1864
[Page missing]	November 4, 1864

[Page missing]	November 5, 1864
[Blank]	November 6, 1864
[Blank]	November 7, 1864
[Blank]	November 8, 1864
[Blank]	November 9, 1864
I hear today that one thousand sick are to leave here next Saturday enroute to Savannah for exchange. Oh it is true they were trying to do something to relieve the suffering of these poor fellows. Thirteen thousand brave boys want help in this dust at Camp Lawton and many more will die if they are not removed before cold weather for many of these have no shelter or [illegible]	November 10, 1864
[Blank]	November 11, 1864
[Blank]	November 12, 1864
[Blank]	November 13, 1864
[Blank]	November 14, 1864
Camp Lawton. November 15th, 1864	November 15, 1864
[Page missing]	November 16, 1864
[Page missing]	November 17, 1864
[Page missing]	November 18, 1864
[Page missing]	November 19, 1864
Today is Sunday, we were called into line this morning for to pick out the old prisoners it is said for parole. Oh I hope that will give me a chance. Am trying hard to get on the sick list that are going today.	November 20, 1864
Sgt. John L. Richard Co B. 117 th ovs. Fastoria Seneca Co. Ohio Box 96. Sgt. H. Vanbuskirk Drum Major 23 rd Mich I. Joyful to tell I am at Savannah Paroled and on my way to Yankee Land once more by paying ten dollars I got out of the stockade and was paroled last night.	November 21, 1864
[Page missing]	November 22, 1864

[Page missing]	November 23, 1864
1 Lee 2 Norman 3 Higgins 4 Kelso 5 Martin Thornton 6 Sedden 7 Castle 8 Williams 9 Bevere 10 Winters 11 Deyl 12 Berman 13 Stacey 14 Challis 15 Greeley	November 24, 1864
[Blank]	November 25, 1864
This morning we landed at Annapolis and as the boys stepped on shore they sent up 3 hearty cheers for the band that saluted us & 3 times 3 for the Union. Tears of joy glistened in many a soldiers eye as he recognized some friend ready to welcome him back from that land of sorrow. Oh, how many will look for friends who will never return.	November 26, 1864
1 Norman 2 Sparks 3 Greenwood 4 M Higgins 5 Lewis 6 John Higgins 7 Martin 8 Humphrey 9 Kelso 10 Kanak 11 Lee 12 Suggit 13 Sedden 14 King 15 Brown 16 J. W. Taylor 17 West 18 Clark 19 Umphries 20 McGill	November 27, 1864
[Page missing]	November 28, 1864
[Page missing]	November 29, 1864
1 John West 2 [illegible] 3 Cox 3 Wm. Griffin 4 Henry Umphries 5 James [illegible] 6 Wm. Clark 7 W.H. Cox 8 Thomas Mc Gill 9 John Matthews [crossed out] 10 Adison Williams 11 Wm. W. Robberts	November 30, 1864
1 Dibble 2 Franks 3 Briton 4 Thomas 5 Draper 6 Marona 7 Clark 8 Leech 9 Fink 10 Sheppard 11 Shoop 12 Young 13 Beers 14 Richey 15 Sammons 16 Harris Andrew 17 Stifer 18 Bath	December 1, 1864
19 Terrell 20 Ellsworth 21 Sawyer 22 Holcomb 23 Crouch 24 Rider 24 Almond 25 Pearson 23	December 2, 1864
Yesterday we were paid two months pay. I read 48 dollars Orderly Seargents pay at 24 per month. We are promised furloughs immediately. I am getting quite anxious to see them coming.	December 3, 1864
18 Harden 19 Conley 20 Castle 21 Hurd 22 Nelson 23 Salmon 24 Miller 25 Richmond	December 4, 1864
1 Statts 2 Sackett 3 Clifton 4 Williams 5 Fruiman 6 Sarbis 7 Holston 8 Isaacson 9 Crisman 10 Haynes 11 Griffin 12 Flora 13 Sherwood 14 Cantrell 15 Packer 16 Wright 17 Edmunds	December 5, 1864

18 Mullens

[Another list of names: numbers 19 through 22 are superimposed by a math equation] 23 Bastion 24 Oshondesy 25 McGutch 26 Walters December 6, 1864

1 Alec Wade 2 Jewell 3 Jennings 4 Napper 5 Evans 6 Adkins 7 Hammonds 8 Williams 9 Cutwright x 10 Adams x 11 Hise 12 Challis 13 Milligan 14 Andrews 15 Bare 16 Winters 17 Keeth December 7, 1864

18 Bliss 19 Walker 20 London 21 Bettis 22 Coupt 23 Haford 24 Richison December 8, 1864

[Handwriting practice] December 9, 1864

[Page Missing] December 10, 1864

[Page Missing] December 11, 1864

[Blank] December 12, 1864

[Handwriting practice, including "Thomas Murphy No. 510 South Eleventh Street Philadelphia Penn."]

[Page Missing] December 14, 1864

[Page Missing] December 15, 1864

George Martin Dr I Borrowed money \$15.00 Walter owes John Irby \$1.25. George Martin He left a note of \$35.00 on Charley Robbins. What else he had we know not anything about for he died out at the hospital and we had no chance of knowing. December 16, 1864

Isaac Lewis Went out to the hospital and died there. he gave me no account of his affairs. Ed Kelso died out at the hospital and did not leave us any accounts or could we find whether he had any with him or not. December 17, 1865

Sgt. Sparks " Martin Breuck Corpl Lewis Lewis Marcot Fuggit Seddin Greenwood Higgins Higgins Humphrey Kanah Kelso J. Lee J.R. Richardson G. Keeth John Miller McCollion Michael Swartz December 18, 1864

Mess 5 1 H Sparks 53 2 E Kelso 54 3 M Higgins 57 4 J Lee 55 5 W Kaney 60 6 W Greenwood 52 7 I Lewis 58 8 G Clark 62 9 G Humphrey 59 10 H Vanbuskirk 70 11 B December 19, 1864

Long 71 12 Patrick Maloney 69 13 O Olson 61 14 N Fuget
56 15 W H Grey 64 16 John S Farrell 87 17 S B Larabee
88 18 Mc Worthy 89

Sparks M Higgins J Higgins J Lee I Lewis I Humphrey December 20, 1864
W Greenwood W Fuget A Gooden Wm. Kana Ed Kelso
George Martin

1 Sparks 41 2 Kelso d 3 M Higgins d 4 Lee d 5 Kaney d 6 December 21, 1864
Greenwood d 7 Lewis d 8 Clark d 9 Humphrey d 10 F M
Baily d 11 E Newby d 12 J Shaw A 13 J Williams A 14 G
L Carrell d 15 O Olson d 16 J Higgins d

17 H Vanbuskirk A 18 B Long A 19 J Pate d 20 G Martin d December 22, 1864
[Handwriting practice]

[Handwriting practice, including "Charley Gillet" and December 23, 1864
"Indiana Agent" and "W.H. DeMotte No. 332 7-Street
Corner of Tenth"]

Ephraim H Martin William N Long George Rodgers 1 H B December 24, 1864
Sparks 2 Francis L Mumet 3 Newton Kirkpatrick 4
William D Peters 5 Eugene Myers 6 Allen Burton 7
Charles Johnson 8 George Anderson 1 Benjamin Bledsoe
2 John M. Irby 3 George Martin

4 Christopher Peelman Corpl 5 Audie Taylor 6 Isaac Lewis December 25, 1864
7 John Kincaid 8 James Marsh 1 Charles N Allen 2
William McSparks, Bugle 1 John Gailey 2 James Rodgers
1 John Tower 1 James C Kincaid

1 Albro James 2 Alley Huel 3 Barkis Francis 4 Bayze December 26, 1864
Albert 5 Blackburn James 6 Boso William 7 Campfield
William 8 Cline, Milton N 9 Dailey Jesse T 10 Demaree
Benjamin L 11 Dillinder Joseph R 12 Driver Elliott 13
Elston Isiah 14 Frankra Henry 15 Fugget Morton D 16
Fugget Walter 17 Golden Albert 18 Greenwood William H

19 Heath Samuel A 20 Higgins Martin 21 Higgins John F December 27, 1864
22 Higgins James 23 Holmes David N 24 Humphrey Isaac
25 Joice James 26 Kanah William 27 Kelso Edward S 28
Kennett James N 29 Kincaid John E 30 Laurl George W 31
Lee George 32 Lee John 33 Long John G 34 McCloud
James

35 Morris John 36 Morris Henry 37 Moxley John 38 Myers December 28, 1864
Abigah 39 Myers John M 40 Noah Balsler 41 Peabody Ira
42 Pickitt Edward 43 Pittman William 44 Plew Daniel 45

Ricketts Albert 46 Robinson Calvin 47 Shroder John T 48
Shadey George 49 Shaddey Fogleman 50 Smith William
51 Swange Lewis 52 Thomas, Fredrick

53 Tower Oliver O 54 Vales William 55 Walk Andrew J December 29, 1864
56 Walk Martin T 57 White Charles A 58 Wiley John R
HBS

Buela Bledsoe got George Lamb sabre George Martin got December 30, 1864
Moxley sabre Henry Morris got J Myers sabre Luna
Ricketts got [illegible] carbine and sabre

[Drawing of symbolic eagle] Charley Allen The Buzzard of December 31, 1864
Liberty, why not an Eagle

[Drawing of bird on tree branch] Memoranda

Henry B. Sparks promoted to orderly Sergeant and Anderson Memoranda
to Sergeant & John Kincaid & Jim Marsh to Corpls to late
from Jan 1stt, 1864 Jan 10 –Jimmie Albro returned to duty
Lt. Long went home on furlough Jan. 22nd Lee Kanah &
Vales returned to duty Jan. 15th Alfred Pickett died of
chronic Diarhea H.B. Sparks