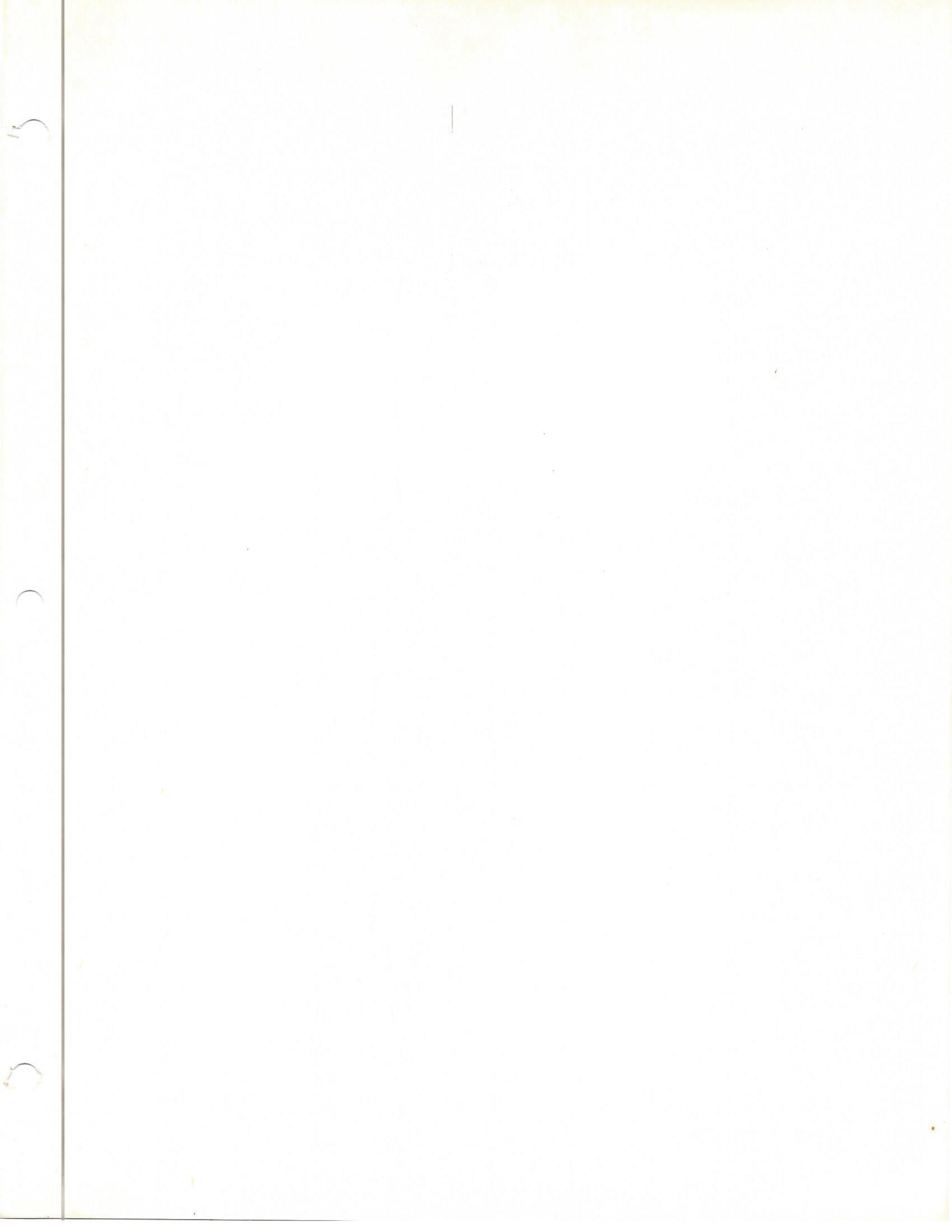


PRESENTED
TO
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY
MR. & MRS. ROGER H. DAVIS

OCTOBER, 1983



83.56.1

THE KISTLER DIARY

The Diary of a Civil War Soldier

March 1864 - March 1865

Transcribed and Edited

by

Teresa L. Rice

Director

North Manchester Public Library

1983

North Manchester, Ind.: The Library

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I extend my warmest thanks to Mr. Roger Davis of Warsaw, Indiana, for his generous and invaluable aid in researching the Kistler family, and for allowing me full use of the original diary.

I also wish to thank the staff and Board of Trustees of the North Manchester Public Library for their encouragement, support, and patience with a director who on occasion neglected her duties to tap out this transcription.

I thank the North Manchester News-Journal, and the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette, for their generous coverage of the diary saga, which has led not only to its rediscovery by Mr. Davis, but also to an awakening of interest in this project in the community.

And finally, I thank the unknown person who had the foresight and uncommon good sense to give the diary to a library for safekeeping.

Without the help of all of these, this project could never have been completed.

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THE STORY BEHIND THE DIARY

The story behind George Kistler's diary and its remarkable journeys begins on April 8th, 1864, in J. Sceva's store in Warsaw, Indiana. There George's younger brother Henry purchased the diary for 50 cents. The diary is quite small; designed to be a pocket diary; about 3 inches wide by 6 inches long by a half-inch thick. It is bound in thin black leather with an overflap to completely enclose the pages, and a small leather tongue which slips through a slit to fasten it. The front contains several pages of almanac-type information, as can be seen in the facsimile. The main body of the diary is non-ruled, and printed three dates and entry spaces per page. The back has several pages for memoranda and monthly cash accounts. All printed dates are for 1864, and the leather binding has a small "1864" stamped in gold on the front. Henry sent this gift to George via Captain Thomas Morgan, who returned with it to George's camp in Ringgold, Georgia, on April 16th. George managed to keep it safe, and relatively dry, through twelve months of marching, camping, battles, trenches, torrential rain and thieves in the night. When he died, his diary passed to his sister, Lizzie. She later gave it to her daughter Blondel, who in turn bestowed it to her son, Roger Davis. When Roger was a young boy in Pierceton, Indiana, in the early 1920's, he took the diary along with some other Civil War artifacts to school for a display. Alas, the items came up missing, and Roger gave the diary up for lost. In late 1982, as a new and inquisitive director, I came across the diary in a cabinet in the North Manchester Public Library. I have yet to discover how the diary made the 18-mile journey from Pierceton to North Manchester. I mentioned the find in one of my articles in the local newspaper, the North Manchester News-Journal. This article was, in turn,

picked up by Michael Bennett, a writer for the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette. He decided to write a feature article about the diary, and it was published in the Sunday, November 14, 1982, issue of the Journal-Gazette. This article was, by chance, read by Mr. Davis, who was astounded by the possibility that this might be his great-uncle's long-lost diary. He appeared soon after at my office door with photos and documents to verify his claim as the diary's previous owner. After a lengthy discussion, during which Mr. Davis described the diary and its contents with what could only have been first-hand knowledge, I conceded that he did have a prior claim to the document. Mr. Davis agreed to let me keep the diary as long as was necessary to complete this transcription, and provided me with invaluable data on George and his family. Mr. Davis now has the original in his keeping, and intends to pass it down to his son as a family heirloom. For those who wish to get a better idea of the original, a photocopied facsimile of the diary appears at the end of the transcription. Thus, through 120 years and thousands of miles, Kistler's diary at last receives the wider audience it deserves.

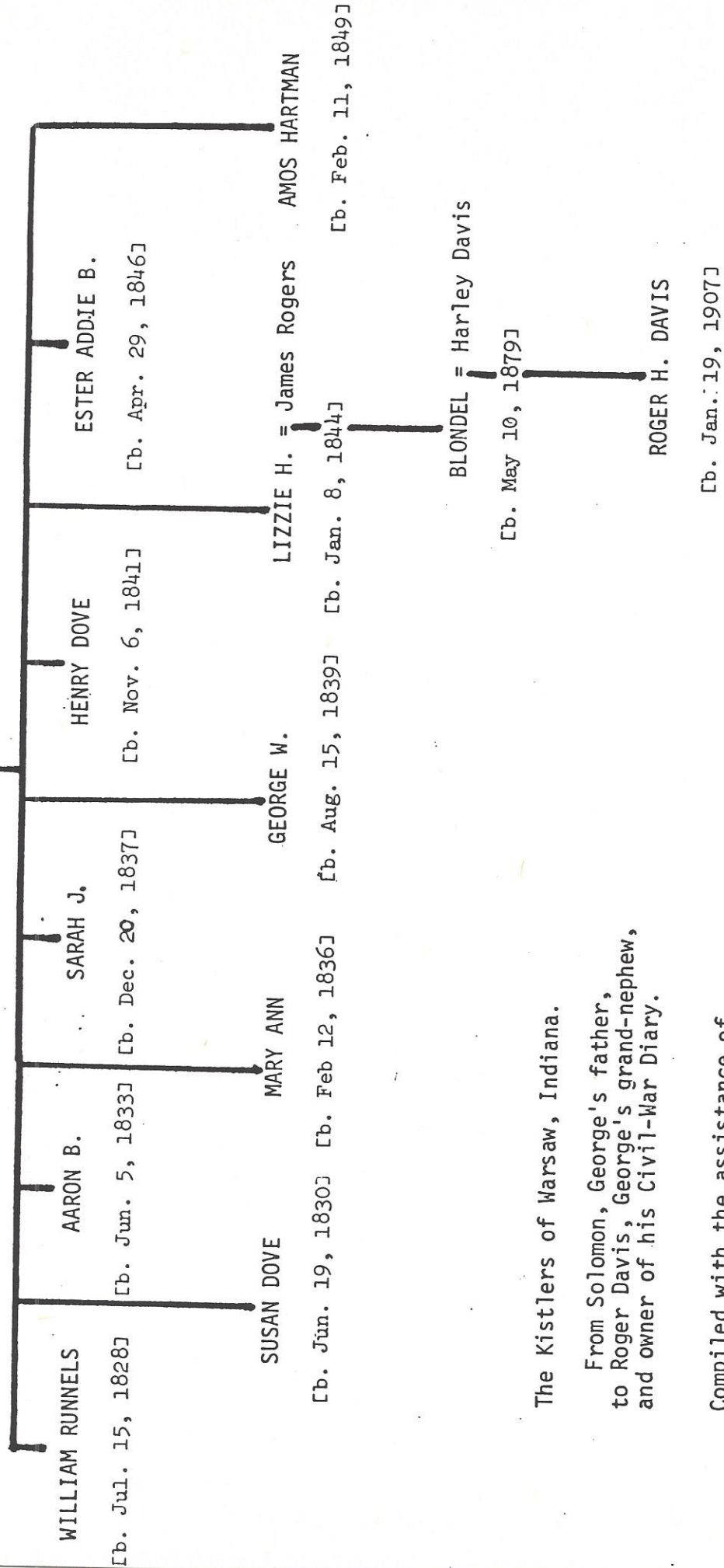
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF GEORGE W. KISTLER

George W. Kistler was born August 15, 1839, to Solomon and Elizabeth (Dove) Kistler of Lithopolis, Ohio. He was the sixth of ten children. Sometime before 1862, he and his family moved to Warsaw, Indiana. In August of 1862 he mustered out of Ft. Wayne with Company K of the 74th Indiana Volunteer Infantry to fight in the Civil War. He served 2 years and 10 months under General W. T. Sherman until the end of the war in June, 1865. During his first year of service he saw action in Kentucky and east Tennessee, including the Bowling Green pursuit of Bragg, Gallatin, Munfordsville, pursuit of Morgan, Nashville, Tullahoma, Hoover's Gap, Chattanooga, and was wounded in the battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. His diary covers 1864 - 1865 during the Georgia campaign. He was involved in the battles of Dallas, Kenesaw, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and Savannah, and the pursuit of Hood. From March to June, 1865, he traveled north to Goldsboro and Raleigh, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; and Washington City, Maryland (Washington, D.C.). He attained the rank of Corporal. He returned home from the war to marry Mary E. Carpenter of Wesley, Indiana. They resided in Atwood, Indiana, for a time before returning to Warsaw. They had no children. Mary died on September 4, 1918, and was followed by George on April 1, 1922. They are buried together in Oakwood Cemetary in Warsaw; Block 27, Lot 21.

(Note: all information on the movements of the 74th Indiana Volunteer Infantry was obtained from Olin Dee Morrison's Indiana at Civil War Time, Athens, Ohio: E. M. Morrison, 1961, p. 106. Information on George and Mary Kistler was obtained from Roger Davis of Warsaw, Indiana. --TR)

A BRIEF KISTLER GENEALOGY

SOLOMON KISTLER & ELIZABETH DOVE (m. Oct. 18, 1827)
 [b. Apr. 1, 1801 [b. Oct. 1, 1806,
 d. Dec. 20, 1870] d. Jan. 6, 1871]



The Kistlers of Warsaw, Indiana.

From Solomon, George's father,
 to Roger Davis, George's grand-nephew,
 and owner of his Civil-War Diary.

Compiled with the assistance of
 Roger H. Davis of Warsaw and Richard
 Kistler of Kokomo, Indiana.

1983, Teresa L. Rice, North Manchester
 Public Library, North Manchester, Indiana.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRANSCRIPTION

In this transcription, I have attempted to reproduce in standard type a version of the Kistler diary as close to the original as possible. Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization throughout the text are Kistler's. Where the spelling or the meaning of a word is in doubt, I have added an explanatory note to the immediate right of the text line containing the word. In addition, I have added footnotes where appropriate to expand upon the battles, troop movements, and routine army life with which Kistler was involved. I gleaned the information for these footnotes from several sources, and present it both in direct quotes and paraphrases. These sources are listed in the bibliography.

Through the one hundred and twenty-odd years since Kistler first received and began to enscribe his diary; through the countless opportunities for it to be lost, forgotten, or destroyed; it is amazing that this document has survived for posterity. Kistler's diary is an illuminating and often moving account of the daily life of a Civil War infantryman. He provides the reader with terse, intimate glimpses of the glory ("Our Corps was reviewed this fore noon on the streets of Savannah by Generals Jefferson C. Davis and W. T. Sherman"), the misery ("I have been busy hulling rice all day as that is all I have to eat"), and the desolation of a country ("burnt about all the principal part of Atlanta last night") that was the Civil War. In his simple, economical phrases, Kistler brings the traditional history books' flag-waving battles and spectacular strategies to us from an infantryman's-eye view. He reminds us of the true price our foremothers and fathers paid for that war, on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

Kistler's diary is also a fascinating account of army life during the Civil War--certainly unique in the history of warfare. For the first time, soldiers had to fear not only organized assaults, but sharpshooters, landmines, underwater mines ("torpedoes"), longrange cannon and shrapnel bombs. For the first time, railroads were used extensively in warfare to move troops, wounded, and tons of supplies. The twisting and straightening of rails became a skill as necessary as loading a gun. For the first time, trench and guerilla warfare was used on a large scale. And in no other war before it, of the same duration, did so many men die and was so much land laid waste.

Kistler tells us of the common man's Civil War experiences: the boredom of waiting in camp; the fear of sharpshooters; the endless marching; the trenches; the letters from home; the short rations; trading gossip with Confederate soldiers from across the river after dark; the mass baptisms before a battle; and, of course, the battles.

Kistler begins his diary in March of 1864 in Ringgold, Georgia. He recounts his movement with Sherman's forces through the battles of Dallas, Kenesaw, Atlanta and Jonesboro in the Atlanta campaign, the pursuit of Hood in northern Georgia, Sherman's March to the Sea and the capture of Savannah, and finally the march through South Carolina to Goldsboro, North Carolina. Through it all, even during the worst battles, he never missed an entry, and meticulously recorded the daily number of miles marched, and the weather.

The original diary is now brittle and fading. It is my hope that this transcription will help preserve his words for future generations -- they are not only valuable to the Civil War buff and the historian, but to every reader who would like a clearer, more personal view of the war. Kistler, perhaps, did not foresee any purpose for his diary other than to aid his own memory,

yet he has left us a vivid picture of one of the most important and frightening eras in our nation's history which has extended far beyond his own time. Certainly, readers another hundred and twenty years from now may still find something here of worth. It is to these -- the readers who find in the jottings of a young rural Indiana man something of their own to keep -- that I dedicate this work.

TERESA L. FINE

TRANSCRIPTION OF
KISTLER'S
CIVIL WAR DIARY



GEORGE KISTLER

(1839 - 1922)

(FRONTISPIECE)

50

(50 = 50 cents?)

Geroge W. Kistler

Co I 74 Ind Vol Inft*

Received Apr 16th 1864

Ringgold Georgia

Place of Residence

Warsaw Kosciuscko Co

Indiana

(* In general, the Union Army was structured in this manner:

First, the entire army was divided into three smaller "armies" -- the Army of the Potomac, the Army of the Ohio, and the Army of the Cumberland.

Each Army was divided into at least three Corps, each Corps was divided into at least three Divisions, each Division into at least three Brigades, each Brigade into 4 Regiments, and each Regiment into 10 Companies.

Each Company technically consisted of 100 men: 1 Captain, 1 1st Lieutenant, 1 2nd Lieutenant, 1 1st Sergeant, 4 Sergeants, 8 Corporals, 2 Musicians, 1 Wagoner, and 82 Privates.

Each Regiment was commanded by a Colonel assisted by a Lieutenant Colonel, a Major, and Adjutant (Lieutenant), a Quarter Master (Lieutenant), a Surgeon, and an Assistant Surgeon. There was also a Sergeant Major, a Regimental Quarter-Master Sergeant, one Regimental Commissary Sergeant; one Hospital Steward, two principal Musicians, and twenty-four Bandmen (later done away with).

As always, no Company was exactly standard, and most Federal units were half the size they were supposed to be.1)

Sunday, January 1, 1865

In camp all day
wrote a letter to day
was very cold last
night there has
been a cold wind
all day the sun
shone all day
very pleasant winter
weather

(Note: the diary was
actually begun on March
22, 1864, and runs through
March 21, 1865.)

Monday 2

In camp all day
wrote a letter to
Henry D. Kistler
drilled Co drill one
hour this fore noon
with the Co and
drilled recruits
one hour this after*
clear & pleasant all day

(Co = Company)

(after = afternoon)

Tuesday 3

Clear & warm all day
drilled 1 hour Co drill
this fore noon and
one hour battallion
this after was fixing
at my shanty* bet-
ween times has
comenced to drizzle
rain

(battallion = battalion
drill)

(Besides the basic motions of handling his weapons, facing right, left, etc., the underlying principle of all drill and tactics was to bring the soldier expeditiously and in good order to the field of battle; and when there, to arrange him, with as little confusion and delay as possible, in a position where he might employ his weapons to the best advantage. To accomplish this with large bodies of men and where roads were narrow and few in number was no easy task.²)*

(The veteran prided himself on his ability to make do with the most meager shelter, or none at all, when campaigning, (and) his ingenuity knew no bounds when making himself comfortable in permanent camps and winter quarters. Log or sod cabins, wood and canvas contraptions, dugouts and combinations of all these were built, drainage was carefully planned (at least by the more experienced), and much thought and labor put into chimneys and fireplaces.³)*

Wednesday, January 4, 1865

Drilled one hour Co
drill this fore noon
& one battallion
this after was up
to the City a little
while to day boug
-ht 75 cts worth of
rice paid 25 cts a qt
clear & pleasant

(City = Ringgold, GA)
(to day = today)
(cts = cents)
(qt = quart)

Thursday 5

Drilled one hour
Co Drill this fore
noon & one Brig
this after clear &
pleasant to day
had a mess of beans
to day for dinner
the first that we have
had since we left Atlanta*

(Brig = Brigade drill)

Friday 6

Did not have to
drill to day rained
this fore noon &
cloudy all the after
the frogs have
been hollowing all
day it is real spring
weather we are still
on short rations

(* The Standard Rations (daily allowance) for a Union Soldier consisted of:

3/4 lb. pork or 1 1/4 lb. salt beef
1 lb. hard bread (hard tack)
1/3 cup dried peas or beans (about 1 cup when cooked)
1/4 cup rice or hominy
1 1/4 oz ground coffee or tea (enough for three cups)
1/4 cup sugar
a little vinegar
1 tbsp. salt
pinch pepper
swallow of molasses
1/4 lb potatoes.

CONTINUED. . .

Saturday, January 7, 1865

There was no drill
to day as it was
Saturday I was down
Town all day bought
\$.1.00 worth of Rice
got a meals victuals
paid \$.1.00 there was
Review of the 15 A.C.
to day clear but rathear
raw to day

(A.C. = Army Corps)
(rathear = rather)

Sunday 8

Clear & pleasant un-
-til a bout the midle
of the after noon
the clouded up and
turned colder I have
been in quarters all
day wrote a letter
to Olive Dove to day

(a bout = about)

Monday 9

Drilled 1 hour Co drill
this fore noon intend-
-ed to drill Battallion
this after but it comen-
-ced to rain a bout 12
oclock and is still at it
got orders this even to
be ready for fatigue at
6 1/2 oclock to morow morn
to work on fortifications up
at town

(even = evening)

(to morow = tommorow)

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE:

*Of course, this represents what the regulations said a soldier should
get. War conditions might and did often drastically reduce it.⁴)*

Tuesday, January 10, 1865

Went up to the City
this morn to work
on the fortifications*
worked until noon &
it comenced to rain
& we came back to
camp it rained 2 or 3
hours & quit is still cloudy
& the frogs are hollowing
all a around

Wendesday 11

Out on picket to
day the whole Reg't
came out this morn
cloudy and a raw
wind to day there
has several citizens
came in our lines
to day blind folded
two & sent them to
head qtrs

(picket = a small body
of troops sent out to
guard the grounds around
the main camp)

(two = too ?)
(qtrs = quarters)

Thursday 12

Got in off of picket
a bout 11 oclock to day
did not have any
duty to do this after
noon clear & very
pleasant to day
there was a heavy
frost last night
there was a small mail
came in yester day

(* Fortifications around cities were often field works of earth, sandbags, and logs with makeshift blockhouses connected by trenches. Axes, shovels, and wheelbarrows in the hands of husky pioneer battalions could transform the most peaceful site into an impregnable redoubt in a very short time.⁵)

Friday, January 13, 1865

Drilled one hour Co
drill this fore noon
& a battallion this
af cloudy & dul to
day there was part
of the 2 Div of the 14th
A.C. moved into the
City to day

(af = afternoon)

(Div = Division)

Saturday 14

Did not have to
drill to day as it
was saturday
cloudy & a raw
wind all day there
was several Boys
came up to the Reg
to day Henry Alen of
Co G and Eli Coy of Co E

(Reg = Regiment)

Sunday 15

Had Gen Inspection*
this fore noon by
our Brig Inspector
I went to the City
after inspection to
Church and staid
up Town all the
after noon got orders
this even to be ready
to march at 5 oclock to
morow morn with 2 days
rations in our
haversacks & to leave camp
got 3 letters to day
one from S Hosman
one from H.D. Kistler
& one from E.H. Kistler

(Gen = General)

(Brig = Brigade)

(haversack = a small
sack for provisions)

(* In addition to a cartridgg box or two on the belt, a sword, and a canteen, the fully equipped soldier also carried a large knapsack, a double wool blanket, half a shelter tent rolled in a rubber blanket, and a haversack. Often, however, equipage consisted of a gun, a blanket, and a haversack. 6)

Monday, January 15, 1865

Out on picket to
 day a bout 9 miles
 from camp got out
 here this morn a
 bout 9 oclock our wh-
 -ole Brig is out there
 was 9 men and six mules
 taken by the Rebels
 yester day a bout 3 miles
 from here rathr cool to day

(rathr = rather)

Tuesday 17

A raw wind all
 day to day I wrote
 a letter to Henry
 D. Kistler got orders
 a bout 3 olcock
 to come to camp
 did not start until
 9 oclock got to camp
 at 11 oclock

Wednesday 18

In camp all day
 until even then
 went up to town
 heard that fort fisher*
 was taken by our
 forces with 1700
 prisoners & 75 pieces
 of artilery it is
 clear and warm
 to day

(* The surrender of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, was one of the decisive battles of the war. Located at the mouth of the Cape Fear River near Wilmington, North Carolina, Fort Fisher was the last haven for the Confederate blockade runners. With its fall, the Union sea blockade was complete (the "Anaconda coil"), and the Confederate army was cut off from its supplies. The victorious forces were commanded by General A. H. Terry, 8,000 strong, and were joined by the fleet of Rear Admiral David D. Porter. The fort fell in three days.)

Thursday, January 19, 1865

Had to drill Co drill
 this fore noon
 went down to the
 City this after noon
 it comenced to
 rain a bout 12 oclo
 and rained all the
 after noon the 15 A.
 C. started to march this
 morn & came back to
 their old camp
 this even

(oclo = oclock)

Friday 20

Revalee was beet*
 this morning at 4 olcock
 got up & got orders to
 be ready to march
 at 7 oclock started at the
 appointed time & ma-
 -rched up the Savannah
 River a bout 9 miles &
 went in camp at 12 ocl
 comenced raining at
 12 oclock & is
 still at it at
 5 oclock

Saturday 21

Did not march to
 day it rained prety
 near all night was
 not raining when I
 got up rained several
 showers through the
 day and still cloudy
 and warm for the time
 of the year

(* Drum calls were used just as often as bugle calls, and a veteran regiment could maneuver by drumbeat, no spoken commands being given.⁸)

Sunday, January 22, 1865

Cloudy & trying to
rain all day wrote
a letter to Susan
Hosman there was
a mail to day
did not get any mail

Monday 23

Still cloudy and try
ing to rain wrote
a letter to Addie
Kistler Major Mann
went to the City of
Savannah to day
since writing the
a bove it has
cleared off

Tuesday 24

Clear and rather cold
to day not talk of
a move yet there
was two of our Co
went to the City
of Savannah to day
started a bout 9 oclock
& got back at 7

Wednesday, January 25, 1865

Got orders last night
to be ready to ma-
-rch this morn at 7
oclock started at 7 up
the river marched
a bout 5 miles until
11 ocl stoped 1 hour for
dinner then went a
bout 3 miles further
& camped raw & cold

Thursday 26

Started to march this
morn at 7 oclock only
marched a bout 5 miles
until 12 oclock stoped 1 hour
for dinner then went a
bout 5 miles further &
went in camp at 3 oclock
at a little Town called
Springfield windy & very cold

Friday 27

Very cold all day lay
still until 3 oclock then
started & marched a bout
2 miles and went in
camp for the night
heard this even that
Jefferson Davis the pres
of the confederacy had
run the blocade & left
the U.S for Urop*

(pres = president)

(Urop = Europe)

(* Just another of the rumors which ran rife through both armies. Mr. Davis was, in fact, offered quietly safe passage to some foreign land with his family and effects by General William T. Sherman. Postmaster General John Reagan said long afterward that Mr. Davis rejected the offer, both because he did not want to be under obligations to any Yankee, and because he refused to leave "Confederate soil" while a single Confederate regiment remained under arms.⁹⁾

Saturday, January 28, 1865

Started to march a bout
9 oclock marched 10. or 12
miles & went in camp
near Sisters Farry on
the Savannah River
at 4 oclock P.M. very
raw & cold had 3 men
from a Co forraging* to
day they did not get any
thing

Sunday 29

Lay still all day no
sines of a move had
two men from a Co
foriageing to day they
got some fresh pork
& beefe & plenty of
Mule fead was out a
bout 4 miles still raw
& cold

(sines = signs)

Monday 30

Was out forigeing to
day with a detail of 40
men from the brig
was out a bout 8 miles
got corn & blades & pork
& beefe fresh there was
a order issued to day that
we should drill twice a day
have rorecall 4 times & come
out avry time with our catr-
idge boxes on

(avry = every)

(catridge = cartridge)

(* To eke out marching rations, which were often just a memory by the time the supply wagons could come up, a certain amount of foraging was resorted to. In friendly territory this might amount to little more than handouts ... In enemy territory. . .the local inhabitants might expect to be left with little more than their eyes to weep with. Foraging should not be confused with looting, however. . .while feeding oneself at the enemy's expense was considered a legitimate part of war, looting and senseless destruction that often accompanied it was frowned on as the work of the very worst characters.¹⁰)

Tuesday, January 31, 1865

Rather pleasant to
day had to drill twice
one hour Co drill in
the fore noon & one
in the after there
was a detail fixing
road & raising Torpedoes*
on the other side of the
River to day ther was one
exploded & tore a manes
leg off

(manes = man's)

Wednesday, February 1, 1865

Had to drill twice a
gain to day clear and
very warm no sines
of a move heard some
cannonading up the
River this evening
no newse in camp
to day have had no
mail for several days

(newse = news)

Thursday 2

Drilled twice to day
& cleaned up camp
cloudy & some appear-
-ance of rain the
mail came in to
day I did not get
any my self

(* Torpedoes, or "mines" as they are now called, first gained prominence in the Civil War. In its then state of development the torpedo was the natural defensive weapon for a weaker naval power, and the variety and ingenuity of some of the infernal machines devised by the Confederates showed great inventiveness. If malfunction due to poor workmanship and faulty materials prevented their accomplishing more than they did, it was not for want of enterprise on the part of their designers. Admiral David Farragut's famous "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" was in reference to the mine field in Mobile Bay in which the ship Tecumseh had just gone down.¹¹)

Friday, February 3, 1865

On picket came out at
9 oclock cloudy and sprin-
kling rain all day has
the appearance of a wet
night Gen Kilpatric's
Cavalry moved out to
day & comenced crossing
the river on the
pontoons*

Saturday 4

In camp came in
off of picket at 9 oclock
rained prety near all
night & still cloudy
there was not drill
to day there is a
prospect of starting to
march soon there is some
of the Inft crossing the River (Inft = Infantry)
to day

Sunday 5

Got orders last night
at 10 oclock to be ready
to march this morn
at 8 did not start until
10 crossed the Savannah
River on pontoons a bout
12 oclock marched up the
River 1½ mile and we-
-nt in camp for the
night

(* Pontoon bridges were a vital necessity to troop movement since most conventional bridges were destroyed early in the war. Pontoons were wooden or canvas boats, and were anchored crosswise in the river 20 feet apart. They were then connected by wooden rails (balks), and then planks (chesses) were laid across. The completed bridge was usually 13 feet across, and covered with straw or earth to protect the chesses and to deaden the sound. All materials for making the pontoon bridges were hauled in wagons in back of the troops. The Federals built a 2200-foot pontoon bridge across the James River in five and one-half hours.¹²)

Monday, February 6, 1865

Lay by all day to day
have been drawing
clothes and rations
all the Roades that we
have travled over in
South Carolina have
Been cordaroy have a
bout 2 miles to go over
yet before we leave theRiver
is raining this even

(clothes: see page 159
for clothing account)

(cordaroy = corduroy*)

Tuesday 7

All the 3rd Div except
our regt puled out this
morn a bout 8 oclock
we staid back to finish
loading our suppli train
& to guard it started
after our brig at 4 ocko
only went a bout 2
miles and sent in camp
roads very bad
rained prety
near all day

Wednesday 8

Started this morn at
6 oclock got a bout 5 miles
until 12 stoped a bout
1 hour got dinner & drew
rations then started
and joined the Brig in
a bout 11 miles & went
in camp a little after
dark rather cold to
day

(* A corduroy road is a road built of logs laid side by side transversely.
Often used in low or swampy areas.)

Thursday, February 9, 1865

We puled out this morn
at 8 oclock travled until
12 then stoped 1 hour
for dinner after dinner
we started and marched
until dark & camped
having marched 18 mi
saw several houses that
our men had burnt
windy & cold to day

(mi = miles)

Friday 10

Started this morn a
bout 7 oclock marched
a bout 10 miles stoped
1 hour for dinner then
started and came 11
further to a little Town
called Barnwell C. H.
and went in camp
a bout dark rather cool
to day

(C.H. = Court House?)

Saturday 11

Lay still until 12 oclock
to day then puled out
& marched a bout 10
miles and went in
camp a bout dusk
in an opend field
Clear and pleasant to
day we get plenty of
forageing these times

(opend = open)

Sunday, February 12, 1865

Struck Tents this morn
at 6 oclock & marched
18 miles until 3 oclock
stoped on the Augusta
& Charleston R. Road
got dinner then tore
up some R.R. and*
marched one mile
further & went in camp
at dark

(R. Road = Railroad)

Monday 13

Got up this morn
at 5 oclock & went to
taring up R.R. tore
up one mile to a Regt
then got breakfast
and started to march
marched a bout 16
miles and went in
camp I came out on
picket

(taring = tearing)

Tuesday 14

The Regt started this
morn a bout day light
they were gon when I
came in off of picket
comenced raining a
bout 12 oclock & is still
at it at dark when we
go in camp marched
a bout 17 miles

(* Men were divided into parties, and the men of the first party distributed along the track, one man to each tie. At a signal the whole section of track was raised on edge and tipped over, ties on top. The ties were pried loose from the rails and the first party moved on to another section, while the second party stacked the ties and laid the rails over them. The ties were then set alight and when the rails were red-hot the third party, using pinchers or "railroad hooks", bent them around trees and also twisted them. The twist was important, for both the Southern and Northern repair crews became as adept at straightening rails as the soldiers were at bending them. Rails which were not bent into a small "U" could be straightened, but a scientifically twisted one had to go back to the rolling mill.¹³⁾

Wednesday, February 15, 1865

(On picket came out
at 9 oclock and
sprinkling rain)
Struck tents this morn
and started to march
a bout 11 oclock was
in the rear of the whole
train marched a bout 10
miles & stoped a bout 4 oclock
& got supper then came a
bout a mile further and camped

(Words in parentheses
were crossed out)

Thursday 16

Was out foriaging to
day got some flour lard
peach butter & molasses
passed through a little
town called Lexington
in S. C. marched a
bout 12 miles and
went in camp a little
after dark clear & pleasant

(S.C. = South Carolina)

Friday 17

Struck tents this morn
& started to march at
day light I was detailed
to stay in the rear with
the convalescents the Reg
went in camp a little
before night after they
had marched a bout 12
miles I did not get in
until $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after the Reg*

(* On the march, a brigade of four regiments of six hundred men would take up close to one thousand yards of road. In battle order (two ranks), they would extend about the same distance. On the march, carrying some forty-five pounds of equipment, a regiment on good roads might make three miles an hour. There was always a certain "tailing out" of a column, depending to a great extent on the discipline and morale of the troops. Elongation of a regiment might amount to ten per cent,¹⁴⁾ that of a division fifteen per cent--and an army corps, twenty percent.

Saturday, February 18, 1865

Started to march at
12 oclock to day only
marched a bout 5 miles
& went in camp on
the Broad River a
bout dark. David
Poon was foriageing
got some flour &
meat

Sunday 19

Started to march at
9 oclock crossed the
Broad River on
Pontoons marched
a bout 12 miles &
tore up some Rail
Road* and went in
camp a little after
dark

Monday 20

Started to march at
6 oclock this morn
marched a bout 5 mi
& went in camp at
11 oclock AM a fiew
Rebels in our front
our foriagers got plenty
of foriage to day
Clear & warm

(fiew = few)

(In the Civil War, for the first time in history, railroads played a major role in warfare. Campaign strategy was often based on the availability and capacity of a railway line, and defense of these vital links involved large numbers of men and much equipment. Throughout the war the railroads bore an ever-increasing load, carrying tens of thousands of men and hundreds of thousands of tons of urgently-needed supplies.^{15}})*

Tuesday, February 21, 1865

Started this morn at
6 oclock marched 14
miles to a town called
Winsboro in S. C.
stoped there for dinner
at 2 oclock after dinner
we came 3 miles furth-
-er and went in on
the R. Road 3 miles
from Winnsboro

Wednesday 22

Struck Tents & started
to march at 6 oclock
this morn marched
8 or 9 miles north on
the Columbia & Branch
-ville R.R. tore up
several miles then left
the R.R. to our left &
marched 4 miles further &
camped

Thursday 23

Started to march this
morn at half past 6
oclock marched a bout
8 miles & stayed one
hour for dinner then
started & came 4 miles
further & went in
camp a bout 4 oclock
it is raining this
even

Friday, February 24, 1865

Lay still all day to
day has been raining
all day we are rear gua
-rd of our Corps all the
rest of our Corps has
gon past our Divis
I am detailed to go
on picket at 4 oclock
this even is going to be
a very disagreeable night

Saturday 25

In Camp came in
this even at 4 oclock
off of picket had a
very disagreeable time
last night it rained
all night & is still at
it no talk of moving
yet rations are geting
prety scarce

Sunday 26

Got orders this morn
to be ready to move
at 8 oclock I was deta
-iled to go on back
with the Convalesce-
-nts at 6.30 min
the regt only moved
one mile and camped
intended to cross the
river but the pontoons
have washed a way

(min = minutes)

Monday, February 27, 1865

In camp all day there
 was forigers sent out
 from each reg moun-
 -ted on mules prety
 much all the 14 O.V.
 V. I. detail was gobeled
 by Rebels they attacted
 our pickets to day all
 of our detail got in safe
 has rained very little to
 day

(gobeled = gobbled
 (attacted = attacked)

Tuesday 28

Struck Tents and started
 to march this morn at
 3 oclock this morn rain
 -ing & very muddy
 went a bout 1 mile
 & crossed the Catawby
 River on pontoons
 lay by the River until
 even then went a bout 2
 miles & camped

(even = evening)

Wednesday 29 *

(No entry)

(* There was no February 29th in 1865. It was a leap year. --TR)

Wednesday, March 1, 1865

Started to march at 6
oclock still drizzling
rain the roades were
very muddy & hilly
marched a bout 15
miles and went in
camp a bout sun
down

Thursday 2

Started to march at day
light comenced to rain
a bout 7 oclock and
rained prety near all
day part of the roades
were very muddy but
fiew hills marched
a bout 15 miles & camped
on a hill at flat Creek

Friday 3

Lay still until 10 oclock
then started & was detail-
-ed to help our Divis
Train through the
mud travled a bout
12 miles and went
in camp a bout 8
oclock at night rained
some to day roades very
bad

Saturday, March 4, 1865

Started to march at half
past 6 oclock still cloudy
& raining crossed the
line between N.C. & S.C.
S.C. Carolina a bout
2 oclock marched a bout
15 miles and went in
camp at sun down in
N.C. Carolina

(N.C. = North Carolina)

Sunday 5

Was out foriaging to
day started a head of
the colume before day
light the reg marched
12 miles and went in
camp a bout noon on
the Pede River I got to
camp at 3 oclock got meat
swet potatoes & molasses
clear & warm

(Pede River = Pee Dee River

(swet = sweet)

Monday 6

Did not march to day
lay in camp waiting
for the Pontoons to be
laid they are drone at
dark the cavalry are cro-
-ssing the 1st Divis goes
next then then ours then
the 2nd we are in S.C.
Carolina a gain close to
the line clear & warm to
day

(drone = drawn)

Tuesday, March 7, 1865

Revalee this morn at 4
oc1 got orders to be ready
to march at 7 oc1 did
not march until 12
crossed the big Pede
and stoped to help our
wagon train over started
at 4 oc1 & marched 10 miles
and went in camp after
dark

Wednesday 8

Struck Tents & started
to march at 6 oc1 march-
-ed a bout 28 miles
and went in camp
a bout dark raining
& very muddy has been
raining all day got
orders this even to be
ready to march at 6 oc1
A.M.

Thursday 9

Struck Tents & started
to march at 6 oc1 passed
the first Divis of our
Corps in camp came
10 miles & stoped to wa-
-it on our train lay there
2 or 3 hours then started
& marched 8½ miles fur-
-ther and went in camp
comenced raining at 3 oclock
& rained until 9

Friday, March 10, 1865

Started to march at 7
oclock marched a bout 4
miles & went in camp
at 11 oclock there has been
cannonading in the
rear this morn it is
reported Gen Hardee is
in our rear dont ced-
it the report

(cedit = credit)
(Gen Hardee = General
William J. Hardee :
famous for leading Rebel
attacks at Shiloh, Perry-
ville, and Stone River)

Saturday 11

Started this morn
at 6 oclock marched
a bout 8 miles with
in 5 miles of Faett-
-ille ran a gainst
a rebel picket post
stoped & formed a line*
lay there 2 hours then
started & went in to
town
with only a
little skirmis-
hing

(Faettille = Faettville)

(skirmish = minor battle)

Sunday 12

On Provost duty in
Faetville to day gua-
rding sitizen Houses
the second Brig of
our Divis was the
first ones in this
place & our Brig was
the next wrote a
letter home to day

(Provost = military police)

(sitizen = citizen)

(* A Regiment might fight with all its companies abreast, forming a long, double line of men--or one or more companies might be held back as reserve. One or more companies were usually sent forward as a skirmish line. Skirmishers sought to keep down enemy fire and harass his ranks with musketry. They fought in open order, taking advantage of the ground. Skirmish lines might be 400 to 500 yards in advance of the main formation.16)

Monday, March 13, 1865

Am off of duty to
day the 2 Divis of
our Corps crossed the
Cape Fear River last
night & part of the
first Divis to day
some of our forces
have had a fight
down the river

Tuesday 14

In camp to day
I am act Orderly
the orderly went on
provost duty in
my place we have
a gradeal of duty
to do here the
Troops are a bout
all a cross the River
except our Divis

(act = acting)

(gradeal = great deal?)

Wednesday 15

Am on patrole
duty to day
got orders to be ready
to cros the river at
12 ocl A.M. but
did not start
until 11 P.M. com-
-enced to rain at
3 ocl P.M. & rained
until 9 or 10

Thursday, March 16, 1865

Got a cross the River
& went in camp
a bout 3 oc1 A.M.
lay there until 7
A.M. then started
and went a bout
8 miles further &
camped at dark
rained prety near all
day

Friday 17

Started to march ths
morn at day light
had to work at
cordaroy the roades
they are very muddy
only got a bout
10 or 12 miles and
went in camp
after dark

(ths = this)

(work at cordaroy =
laying logs across the
road side by side to make
a corduroy road)

Saturday 18

Was out foriageing
to day got nothing
except some lard &
peas this is a very
poor country the
colume only moved
a bout 3 miles to
day I marched a bout
20 miles clear & warm

(colume = column)

Sunday, March 19, 1865

Did not start to
march until 12 ocl
our Co is rear guard
of the whole Army
hear some cannon-
ading this morn
in our front
marched a bout 12
miles & camped

Monday 20

Started to march
this morn at 7 ocl
marched a bout
5 miles & went in
camp in a pine
grove I went on pick-
-et Agt Sent Bair
Jt M Sargeant
Barnhartz & Hepler
were captured to day

(Agt Sent = Agent Sentry)
(Jt M = Joint Master?)

Tuesday 21

Started to march
this morn at 7
ocl marched a bout
8 or 10 miles stoped
a bout noon and
lay until night &
went in camp
close to the Road
Rained some to day*

(* For the last dated entry in the diary (March 20, 1865) see page 133.)

Tuesday, March 22, 1864*

Ringgold Georgia
 Snow on the ground a bout
 6 inches deep
 Capt Morgan is
 ready to start home
 on lief of absence of
 20 days

(lief = leave)

Wednesday 23

Clear to day the snow
 is melting fast
 Capt Morgan star-
 ted home to day
 he took our Co flag
 home with him
 there was five more
 recruits came to our
 Regt to day

Thursday 24

Rather pleasant to
 day the snow is a
 bout all gon is clou-
 dy this evening and
 sprink rain and the
 wind is raising I
 am detailed to go on
 picket in the morning
 the whole regt goes on
 in an other place

(gon = gone)

(sprink = sprinkling)

(goes on = goes on picket)

(* At this point in the diary Kistler stopped crossing out the name of the day and amending it to the appropriate 1865 name, and stopped crossing out the printed "4" in "1864" and changing it to "5". The diary actually runs from March 22, 1864 to March 21, 1865.)

Friday, March 25, 1864

Out on picket to day*
 rained last night
 and snowed a little
 has ben cloudy and
 dul all day

(ben = been)

Saturday 26

Still cloudy and dul
 came in off of
 picket this morning
 and have been
 detailed to go on a
 gain in the morn

Sunday 27

On picket clear and
 pleasant to day
 Dunick and Cattell
 Started to Chattanooga
 this morning with
 a detail that went
 as guard for a wagon
 train

(* Note that Kistler makes careful note of the date and time he goes on picket duty. Perhaps one reason for this might be that, as the picket line was by far the most dangerous position during an encampment, he thought there might be a good chance that he would not return to finish another entry.)

Monday, March 28, 1864

Came in off of
picket this morning
comenced raining
a bout noon and
rained nearly all the
after noon got a letter
this after noon from
Henry D. Kistler

Tuesday 29

Rained last night
a gain cloudy and
cold to day drilled
two hours to day

Wednesday 30

Rather pleasant to day
drilled two hours
to day and wrote
a letter to
Henry K. Kistler
this evening

Thursday, March 31, 1864

Out on picket to
day the sun shine
very warm we are
on a very high mou-
ntain has some
appearence of rain

Friday, April 1

Did not get in
off of picket this
morning until a
bout twelve oclock
rained last night
still cloudy and
drizzling rain

Saturday 2

Cloudy and cold to
day wrote a letter
to Cousin Christian
and Amand Stamab
to day and got one
from home

Sunday, April 3, 1864

Very warm to day
Clear all day until
this evening has
clouded up and is
raining was to Chu-
rch this evening
down in the town
of Ringgold in a
brick Church

Monday 4

Coudy and dul to
day very stormy
last night had rained
some was to
have General inspec-
tion to day but
was not a fit day

(Coudy = Cloudy)

Tuesday 5

Clear and pleasant
to day had Gen
inspection this after
noon at three oclock
by our Brig inspector
Capt Stafford
heard to day that
Capt Morgan had
arived in Warsaw
Ind

Wednesday, April 6, 1864

Clear and very warm
to day had to drill
one hour this fore
noon and one this
after Co drill Received
three letters to day

Thursday 7

Cloudy this morning
cleared off a bout
twelve oclock and
the sun shone very
warm this morning
at seven oclock

Friday 8

Came in off of picket
this morning rained
a little last night
cloudy and windy
to day

Saturday, April 9, 1864

Has been rather warm
to day clouded up this
after noon is windy
and raining this
evening wrote two letters
last night and one
to day

Sunday 10

Raw and cold to day
there was 24 Soldiers
baptized to day by
immercion a bout
one mile from our
camp there was a
great many of our Regt
went I was not well
so I stayed at home

Monday 11

Clear and warm there
was a detail sent
out in front to day
to get some lumber
they changed papers
with the Reb Cavelry
pickets they are only a
short distance from ours
Lieut John Runion and
Dr. J.K. Leeda arrived here to
day

Tuesday, April 12, 1864

Dul and cloudy in
quarters all day am
not very well took
some medicine yester-
day the Doct gave
me for a pain in
my head

(Doct = Doctor)

Wednesday 13

Clear and pleasant
to day drilled twice
and I drew clothing
for the Co I drew
1 pair of pants
and one pair of shoes
have orders to ready
for picket in the
morn at half past 7 olco

Thursday 14

Out on picket to day
the whole Regt is
out Liut McKneere
is in comand of my
Co cloudy and rather
cold heard to day
we had 3 cavelrymen
killed at one place out
in front in the last week

(Liut = Lieutenant)

Friday, April 15, 1864

Came in off of
picket this morning
and drew rations
did not have to
drill to day
still cloudy and dul

Saturday 16

Windy & cold to day
Capt Morgan has got
back to the Co came
this morn brought me
a package of paper &
envelopes & a Diary*
lost his Valise bet-
ween here & Nashville
Tenn left Warsaw Sun the 10th

Sunday 17

Rather pleasant to day in
camp all day with the
exception I went a bout
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from camp
to see some soldier
Baptized by immercion
there was 27 of them
and several spinkled
had dress parade this
even at half past 5 oclock

(spinkled = sprinkled)

(* This entry, as the one on page 1, states that Kistler received the diary on April 16th, 1864. As he started making entries on March 22, 1864, it must be assumed that he filled in the dates from the 22nd to April 16 from memory. It is interesting to note that March 22 is the day Captain Morgan, the man who delivered the diary, made ready to leave on his trip to Warsaw.)

Monday, April 18, 1864

Cloudy to day drilled
Co drill this fore noon
and battalion this after
recieved a letter from
Olive Dove to day there
was a detail started to
guard a wagon train to Cha-
tanooga from our Regt
to day there was 4 went
from our Co

Tuesday 19

Coudy and cold to
day had to drill
twice to one hour Co
drill in the fore noon
and one this noon
battalion Y. McConel
of Co A came up
to the Regt from the
hospital at Chattanooga to
day*

(Coudy = Cloudy)

Wednesday 20

Rather pleasant to day
drew five days rations
to day & some Clothing
I drew my self a
blouse we had to
drill twice a day one
hour Co drill this
fore noon and one Brig
this after I was to
Church last night

(* At one time, there were 205 Federal base (general) hospitals. Such hospitals were generally well laid out, with good ventillation, skilled surgeons, choloroform for anesthetic, and morphine or opium to relieve pain. However, the need for sterilization of instruments or for the simplest preventative measures against the spread of infection was unknown. Most hospitals had no plumbing, but rather open latrines; surgeons simply wiped their knives on their aprons while waiting for the next patient; and the notion that wounds could heal without inflammation was unthinkable. Over 600,000 men died in the Civil War, and of these twice as many died of disease as from enemy bullets.17)

Thursday, April 21, 1864

Rather pleasant to day
had to drill twice a
gain to day there was
11 recruits came up
to our Regt to day
4 for Co A 6 for Co I
& 1 for Co G one of our Co
that was back at the
hospital at Chattanooga
came up with them

Friday 22

Came out on pick-
et this morning
the whole Regt is
out to day heard
Cannon to day
supposed to be the
rebs received a letter
to day from W. R. Kistler
and A. H. Kistler

Saturday 23

Came in off of picket
this morn cloudy and
very windy this after
noon wrote a letter
to W. R Kistler
went down town
to church this even
and heard a sermon
preached drew two days
rations of pork to day

Sunday, April 24, 1864

Clear and warm to
day there was 37 soldi-
-ers Baptized to day
by immercion and
several by sprinkling
there was 3 recruits
came up to our Regt
to day one was James
Hosman

Monday 25

Very windy to day
& rather cold came
out on picket in front
on Talors Ridge
can see the Rebel
Cavalry picket from
this mountain with
a field glass*received
a letter to day from H.D. Kistler

Tuesday 26

Clear and very warm
to day came in off
of picket this morning
there was a lot of
recruits came up to
our regt a gain to day
there was one came
to our Co yester day and
one to day there was
7 came to Co A to day

(* The Rebel forces mentioned might well have been those under the command of General John B. Hood, or General Patrick R. Cleburne. Also, General Joseph E. Johnston had his troops arrayed in front of Dalton, Georgia, a junction point on the railroad to Atlanta, thirty miles southeast of Chattanooga. West of Dalton, extending several miles to the north and south of town, there was a mountain called Rocky Face Ridge, and the main approach from Chattanooga passed down through a northern gap in this ridge, called Buzzard Roost. Hood held this gap. Both Hood and Cleburne were moving their forces to this area to protect Johnston, who formed the main northern defense of Atlanta.¹⁸) See map on page 174.

Wednesday, April 27, 1864

There was 7 more
recruits came up to
our Regt to day
saw 10 Soldiers
baptized to day by
immercion and a bout
the same number sprin-
kled and pored wrote
a letter this even to H.D.
Kistler

(a bout = about)

(pored = poured)

Thursday 28

Coud and very warm
to day drilled Brig
drill this after noon
there was several
recruits came up to
Co. H. of our regt
this evening I was
down to Ringgold
to Church this even

(Coud = Cloudy?)

Friday 29

Stil very warm there
was quite a skirmish
out in front this morn
Gen Baird sent out
a detachment of troops
to drive in the rebel
pickets there was sever-
-a] recruits came to our
Regt this even I was
to Church a gain this even*

(troops = troops)

(* With all the incoming recruits, baptismals, and church-going, it seems the soldiers were sensing an oncoming battle. They were right. General William T. Sherman, head of the Union Army, planned to use the Army of the Cumberland (Kistler's army) under General George H. "Pap" Thomas, 60,000 strong; the Army of the Tennessee under General James B. McPherson, 30,000 strong; and the Army of the Ohio under John M. Schofield, 17,000 strong; to defeat Johnston's army and capture Atlanta. Thomas was to move from Ringgold and meet Schofield at Rocky Face Ridge and keep Hood, Cleburne and Johnston busy while McPherson moved south through unguarded Snake Creek Gap to the Atlanta railroad at Resaca, some thirty miles from Dalton. This would cut off the railroad, Johnston's supply lifeline, and force a retreat from Dalton to Atlanta right through McPherson's forces. It almost worked.19)

Saturday, April 30, 1864

Very warm and
cloudy to day rained a
little drew five days
rations this evening
had Gen inspection
and mustred for pay
this after noon
there was skirmishing
on the right this morn

Sunday, May 1

Still cloudy and warm
was called up this
morning at 4 oclock
our men was looking
for an attact the 3 & 4
O.V.V.I was marched
our in to the gap at
2 oclock this morning
there was 30 soldiers imm
-erced to day

(attact = attack)

Monday 2

Rather cool to day there
was a detachment of
our men went out
this morning and
drove the Rebels as far
as Tunel Hill we had
a fiéw men wounded
and killed a fiéw Rebels
Gen Davies' Divis moved
up here this evening

(Tunel Hill = Tunnel
Hill; a point halfway
from Chattanooga to
Dalton and Rocky Face
Ridge)

Tuesday, May 3, 1864

Drilled battalion drill
 this after noon Capt
 Rogers had comand of
 the battalion Lt. Col. Baker
 is gon to Chttagnooga
 Gen Johnsons Division
 went in camp here to
 day we have three divisions
 here now I got a letter to day
 from H.D. Kistler

Wednesday 4

Out on picket to day
 have had the head
 ache all day cmae out
 with out my breakfast
 Capt Mann has charge
 of our reserve the Officers
 are packing up therr
 extra baggage & Co books
 to send to the reare

(therr = their)

Thursday 5

Came in off of picket
 this fore noon and
 wrote a letter to
 Henry D. Kistler this
 after it is reported
 this evening that the
 Rebels are falling
 back we are expecting
 marching orders evry
 day very warm to day

(evry = every)

Friday, May 6, 1864

Just came in from
Church there was prare
meting with in 20 rods
of ur tent in the 10th
Ind all the force here
is going to move out
in the morning except
our brig the 3rd brig of
the 3 division of the 14 Army
Corps

(prare = prayer)
(1 rod = 16½ feet)
(ur = our)

Saturday 7

Was on fatige to day
onloding forage and rations
off of the cars the Army
moved out to day and
attacte the Rebels skirmish
-ed with them and drove
them several miles there
was a detail taken from
our Regt to day to remove
obstructions put in the way by the
Rebs

(fatige = fatigue duty:
manual or menial labor
such as cleaning up camp
or mending a road)
(cars = railroad cars)

Sunday 8

Clear and very warm
to day report says our
men are out as far
as Buzard Roost
fiting the Rebels said
to be 100000 strong*
there was a vetran
reg came in here to
day on their way to the
front the 79 Penn

(fiting = fighting)

(vetran = veteran)
(reg = regiment)

(Penn = Pennsylvania)

(* Buzzard Roost, a high gap in Rocky Face Ridge, presented an almost sheer cliff face to the attacking Union forces. This position was so tough and had been fortified with such care that Sherman called it "the terrible door of death."²⁰ Even with a force of far less than the 100,000 Kistler mentions, the Confederates could have held the gap.)

Monday, May 9, 1864*

In camp all day to day
received 2 letters one
from Reb W. R. Kistler
and one from Miss
S. W. drew five days
rations of very thing
but bread only 3 days
of that just now heard
the orders to march in
the morn

(S.W. = S. Wand? p. 89)
(very = every)

Tuesday 10

Has rained some to day
and rather cool left
Ringgold this morning
at 9 oclock and marched 10
miles until 1 went in
camp 2 miles from Tunnel
Hill a bout 1 mile from
our front line heavy skirmi
in front can hear our men
charging

(skirmi = skirmishing)

Wednesday 11

Rained very hard 1st
night and still cloudy
struck tents to day at 3
oclock and started to
march marched 5 to 6
miles down the flank &
went in camp for the
night in an opend
field got a letter to day
from S.A.W. & a paper from
W.R.K.

(1st = last)

(S.A.W. = S. Wand?)
(W.R.K. = Wm. R. Kistler)

(* On May 9, McPherson led his troops into Resaca, and met unexpected and heavy fire from 5000 Confederate soldiers led by General James Cantey and sent by Major General Leonidas "Bishop" Polk. They had arrived in Resaca on May 7th, and were just enough to make McPherson dig in and wait. Meanwhile, Johnston was retreating from Rocky Face Ridge to Resaca, with the rest of Sherman's forces following in McPherson's trail. Also, another Confederate division was moving to the aid of Johnston led by Bishop Polk himself. The trap the Sherman had hoped to spring was never realized and Johnston encamped at Resaca. 21)

Thursday, May 12, 1864

Got up this morning at
half past 3 oclock & started
to march at 8 marched
a bout 8 miles and went
in camp for the night
cloudy and rather cool to
day revalee in the morn
at half past 4 & march
at 6 am on duty to night

(morn = morning)

Friday 13*

Did not start this morn
until 7 oclock saw the
129th Regt this morn our
regt is garding the wagon
train marched a bout 2
miles and stoped and
lay there until after noon
then started and marched
a bout 8 miles & camped

(garding = guarding)

Saturday 14

Sarted to march this morn
at 9 oclock and marched
4 or 5 miles until 12 and
stoped with the wagon
train to get diner heavy
skirmishing on front
our men driving the
Rebes have been fiting all
the after noon still laying
where we stoped at noon

(Sarted = Started)

(* On May 13 heavy fighting began at Resaca, and lasted three days. During that time Sherman lost 6800 men and Johnston nearly that number, but Johnston had been reinforced by Bishop Polk's division and his position remained intact.²²)

Sunday, May 15, 1864*

Started at 8 oclock and
 ----- Dalton to guard
 a wagon train got here at
 2 oclock dist 15 miles got
 ride expect to camp here
 to night fiting all day
 have not heard the
 results warm and cloudy
 to day

(----- = to faint to read)

(dist = distance)

Monday 16

Started from Dalton this
 morn at 6 oclock and got
 to Resacat* at 5 PM 12 miles
 had to march and cary
 our knapsacks the Rebels
 evacuated last night and
 retreated to wards Atlanta*
 our Army in pursuit have
 captured some prisoners

(Resacat = Resaca)

(to wards = toward)

Tuesday 17

Was called up this morn
 at 2 olcock & started to march
 at 3 marched out a bout 4
 miles and stoped to get
 breakfast heard some cann
 -onading out in front lay
 here until 12 oclock then
 started & marched 10 miles
 further & camped for the
 night heavy skirmishing
 not far off

(* When Sherman saw that Resaca could not be easily overrun, he sent a force of infantry and cavalry around Resaca to the south to hit the railroad at Johnston's rear. Heavily outnumbered, Johnston could do nothing but shift his own army to meet this threat. He evacuated Resaca, ordering things so deftly that the Federals confessed he left behind not so much as a solitary wagon or disabled cannon, and marched down across the Oostenaula River to Adairsville, fifteen miles to the south. Again Sherman sent out a flanking column, and again Johnston shifted his army to meet it, going ten miles further south to Cassville. The campaign followed this pattern all the way to Atlanta.²³)

Wednesday, May 18, 1864

Started this morn at 6 oclock
marched 5 or 6 miles & stoped
to get diner the Rebels
fell back last night have
not heard any skirmishing
to day marched a bout 8
or 9 this after noon went
in camp 2 miles from
Kingston passed through a
little town called Adairsville

Thursday 19*

Started to march this morn
at 10 oclock marched a bout
12 miles came up to the
enemy at 3 oclock the 4 corps
skirmished with them our
brig built brest work out
of rails and stoped for the
night George Moon came
up to this Co day before yester
day

(brest work = breast
works: a defensive wall
built of earth, logs,
and any available material)

Friday 20

Lay still all day to day
the Rebels have left our
men captured a lot of
them last night or this
morn reported a brig or
more the cars run up
as far as Kingston last
night very warm to
day the rodes very dusty

(rodes = roads)

(* Sherman had made his headquarters at Kingston, a town about five miles directly west of Cassville. Johnston again retreated, and followed the railroad about fifteen miles south-east to Allatoona Pass, where the railroad passed through a defile in a high rocky ridge. Sherman tried to get around him again, by going south of Allatoona to a small town called Dallas, some twenty-five miles to the south. Johnston once again moved to meet him, and both sides dug in around Dallas to begin one of the longest campaigns of "trench warfare" of the war.²⁴)

Saturday, May 21, 1864

Have not marched any to
day had orders this morn
to wash up our clothes & get
ready for a 30 days march
a gainst the 23rd
the 9th O.V.I. just marched
past here on their way home
their time having expired
saw Eli Wilkinson of the 93 O.V.I.
to day

(30 days march = presumably
the march to Dallas)

Sunday 22

Lay still all day to
day got a letter
from Mary A. Cons
and wrote one to H.
D. Kistler all the officers
sent their valices back
with their extra baggage
to the rear I and sever
-al of the boys sent our
blankets

Monday 23

Started to march at eleven
oclock marched until 4 oclock
then waided the
Etowah River then marched
until 10 oclock and stoped
for the night in an
open field the 10th Ind
of our brig stayed back
at Kingston to guard the
place

(waided = waded)
(Etowah River = runs just
north of Allatoona Pass)

Tuesday, May 24, 1864

Had orders to be ready to march at 10 oclock but did not start until 1 marched a bout 2 miles then came back a bout 1 mile and went in camp close to a larg barn cloudy and appearence of rain

Wednesday 25

Rained hard last night* still some cloudy this morn & very warm no orders to march yet at 8 oclock 5 oclock and have not moved yet think we will stay here until morn any how rained some this after noon

Thursday 26

Started to march this morn at 5 oclock and marched until 2 oclock marched a bout 12 miles heard some cannonading last night have not heard any to day our advance is said to be 8 miles from here still cloudy

(* This rain was to continue, with very little respite, through June. Roads turned to mud, the men were miserable, and the miles of trenches became quagmires. By mid-June, the flanking maneuvers that Sherman had used so often became impossible due to the terrible condition of the roads and the flooded creeks.²⁵)

Friday, May 27, 1864

One oclock and no orders
to move yet there is some
troops & artilery moving out
jus now but dont know
what comman they belong to
7 oclock & no orders to
move yet there was a man
died this after noon very suden
he belonged to the 10th Ky Vol Inf

(jus = just) (dont = don't)
(comman = command)

(suden = sudden)
(Vol Inf = Volunteer
Infantry)

Saturday 28

Got orders this morn to
be ready to march at half
past eleven oclock did
not march until one
marched a bout 2
miles & went in camp
for the night the man
that died so suden yester
day was buried to day with
the honors of war

Sunday 29

Skirmishing in front this
morn 2 oclock have been
laying still all day got orders
half an hour a go to get ready
to move started to march
at 7 oclock and camped
at 10 did not march
over 5 miles came back
the same road we traveled
over before

(a go = ago)

Monday, May 30, 1864

5 oclock & no orders to march yet have been laying all day where we stoped last night on the road leading to Maryetty & 2 miles from the place clear and very warm started a letter to Lizzie A. Kistler have had no mail for several days

(Maryetty = Marietta: a small town about 20 miles North-west of Atlanta; also surrounded by trenche

Tuesday 31, 1864

Have been laying still all day 5 oclock P.M. & no orders to march yet saw some wounded going to the rear to day some cannona- ding all day in front a bout 10 or 12 miles from here very warm and some appearance of rain

Wednesday, June 1

Eleven oclock have orders to be ready to march at 12 cloudy & very warm heard cannon- -ading all the fore noon Sarterd to march at 2 oclock and marched until even marched a bout 10 miles came up to where there was brisk skirmishing going on and stoped for the night

(Sarterd = Started)

(skirmishing = presumably near Dallas)

Thursday, June 2, 1864

There was heavy skirmishi
-ng all night and still at
it this morn some of the
20 & 23 corps going of to the (of = off)
left started to march at
10 oclock & marched to the
front a bout 2 miles &
relieved a Brig there was 2
men wounded to day in the
14th O.V.I. rained very hard to
day

Friday 3

The sun is shining very
warm this morn we are
building brest works* the
Rebel skirmishers are not
40 rods in advance of us
clouded up and rained some to
day heavy skirmishing all day
have not advanced any to day
Maj Norton of Gen Parmers staff
was shot through the head to day
and killed

Saturday 4

Advanced last even and
built brest works heavy
skirmishing all night & all
day had 2 men of Co G
of our Regt wounded to day
by one of our shels has (shels = artillery shells)
been cloudy & raining
all day Co E went out
on the skirmishing line
this even

(* In an area measuring roughly 10 - 20 miles around Dallas, the two armies built between 400 and 500 miles of earthworks in six weeks. There was no end to the skirmishing, picket-line sniping and general volleying that went on from those trenches, and for a time the Army of the Cumberland was expending 200,000 rounds of small arms ammunition a day. Even with such fierce fighting, no real advances were made by either side. Atlanta lay scarcely 25 miles away. 26)

Sunday, June 5, 1864

Two oclock resting on rebel works came out on the skirmish line this morn at 7 oclock and advanced a bout 9 to their works but found no enemy rained some this morn is still cloudy & very warm the pickets came out at dusk and relieved us & we went back to our regt*

Monday 6

Got orders early this morn to get ready to mar but did not start until 12 oclock our brig went in rear of the train marched off to the left only marched a bout 5 miles and stoped for the night saw the boys of the 129th Ind Vol Inft to day

(mar = march)

Tuesday 7

Only moved a fiew rods to form a line are going to fortify here we are 6 miles North of Maryetty in the woods a bout 30 miles from Atlanta cloudy and very warm to day and rained some the 2nd brig have built some brest works

(* Veteran soldiers grew very canny when it came to attacking trenches, and some ardent generals thought they were losing their fighting edge. General Schofield saw it otherwise, saying that reluctance to make hopeless assaults simply showed that the men had good sense. He added a remark that applied to both sides: "The veteran American soldier fights very much as he has been accustomed to work his farm or run his sawmill; he wants to see a fair prospect that is going to pay."27)

Wednesday, June 8, 1864

Two oclock and no orders
to march yet cleaned up
camp this morn have
not fortified any yet war-
m cloudy & has rained
some to day dark & no
orders to move yet got
mail this even I got
a letter from Susan W.

(Susan W. = S. Wand = S.W.?)

Thursday 9

Twelve oclock and no orders
to march yet got some
more mail this morn
wrote a letter to S.W.
clear and very pleasant
rained some last night
dark and no orders to
move yet are looking
for orders every moment

Friday 10

Struck tents this morn
at 7 oclock started to
march marched a bout
2 miles when we came
to the rebel cavelry videts
marched a bout 1 mile
further & came to their
inft pickets threw out skir-
mishers & built brest works
and places for cannon & stoped
for the night

(videts = videttes or
vedettes: mounted sentinel
stationed in front of
pickets to watch the enemy
and give warning of danger)

Saturday, June 11, 1864

Have been laying still
all day only moved a few
rods to the left Co G of our
regt is on the skirmish
line to day no skirmishing
worth noticing to day the
Rebels are on a hil close
here it is called pine Hill
wet & rainy all day

(pine Hill = Pine Mountain:
5 miles North-west of
Marietta, a couple of mile
west of the railroad. Con-
federate General Bishop
Polk stationed here)

Sunday 12

After writin the above
last even we moved off to the
left 2 or 3 miles and
stoped in the woods
lay still all day to day
& got mail I got a letter
from H.D. Kistler rained
all day very disagreeale
have heard no fiting to day

(disagreeale = disagreeable)

Monday 13

Lay still all day to day
have heard some fiting
on the left to day there
was a party sent out
on a recanoicence to see
whare the rebel lines
were in front of us
found them a bout 1 mile
from ours rained all day
until this even is still
cloudy

(recanoicence=reconnaissanc
(whare = where)

Tuesday, June 14, 1864

Advanced a bout 9 oclock
 came on to the rebels after
 going a bout 1 mile threw
 out skirmishers & skirmish-
 -ed with them all the
 after noon Co. B of our
 regt lost 4 men wounded
 & one killed built breast
 works after night it is reported
 Rebel Gen Pope was killed to day &
 his body captured*

Wednesday 15

Got up this morn and found
 the Rebels had fell back lay
 still until a bout 12 oclock
 when we advanced and found
 them not far off threw out
 skirmishers & skrimished with
 them until dark when we
 went to building breast works
 Lieut Runion & Claton of Co A
 were wounded on the skirmish line
 to day

(Lieut = Lieutenant)

Thursday 16

Lay behind our works all
 day Co F or our regt was
 out on skirmish line Sergt
 Baker & Himes were wounded
 the former supposed to be mo-
 -rtal the latter slight our men
 sheled the woods that the
 Rebels were in our Divis
 got mail to day some
 cloudy to day & very warm

(* Kistler has obviously misunderstood the pronunciation of the General's name; it was General Bishop Polk that was killed. In a strange fluke of war, General Sherman noticed some Confederate officers surveying his line with field glasses from Pine Mountain, and irritably ordered some shells fired in their direction to drive them off. The second shell sent over by the Federals directly struck Polk and killed him instantly. It was some time later before Sherman learned that Polk had even been present.²⁸)

Friday, June 17, 1864

Did not advance any
to day heavy skirmis-
-hing all day there was
a charge made on the
left by the Rebels I
think there was a fiew
prisoners taken by our
Division to day

Saturday 18

Struck tents a bout 8 oclo
this morn & started to
advance it rained all day
drove the Rebels a bout
1 mile by heavy skirmish-
-ing behind their breast
works there was a brig in
front of us they had several
men killed our men sheled
their works it rained all day

Sunday 19

Got up this morn and
found the Rebels had fell
back folowed them up
skirmishing with them all
day drove them a bout 11 mile
to the foot of the Kenasaw
Mountain* where we stoped
& the troops in front threw
up breast works rained
prety near all day very disagree-
able under foot

(Kenasaw Mountain = Kenne-
saw Mountain: one mile
North-west of Marietta; wi
Little Kennesaw to the
South, and a rise now know
as Cheatham Hill.)

(* Here Johnston held a very stong line. His troops were well entrenched on the wooded slopes of the hills, and held all the advantage. Sherman was forced to hold him there, as there was no hope of flanking him by the flooded roads and fields.²⁹)

Monday, June 20, 1864

Lay still all day heavy skir-
-mishing in front our
men opened several cannon
on the rebels this after noon
and the rebels opened a few
heavy fiting on the right,
this even Freelan of Co I
of our Regt was wounded
through the foot this even by a spent
ball rained a gain to day (a gain = again)

Tuesday 21

Struck tents last night at
eleven oclock & moved a little
to the right our brig is on the
front line lay behind breast
works all day heavy skirmis-
-hing & artilery fiting had two
of our regt wounded by rebel
shels one of Co D. & Fisher of
Co F started a letter to H.D. Kistler
to day have had several showers of rain
to day

Wednesday 22

Strengthened our works & lay
behind them all day skirmi-
-shing kept up all day very
heavy cannonading on bothe (bothe = both)
sides Co C had one man
wounded on the skirmish
line to day his name is
Flutter there has been sev-
eral of Regt wounded by
Rebel shell very warm to day

Thursday, June 23, 1864

Lay behind our works all day some skirmishing & very heavy cannonading Fleming of Co A shot a big toe off through accident to day Henry Baughman of our Co was hit by a spent ball to day on the back of the neck our Co goes out on the skirmish line at 6 o'clock this evening

Friday 24

Came in off the skirmish line about 8 o'clock A.M. all sound Co G was out to day came in this even got one man slightly wounded in the head Co P went out this even very little cannon at this point to day the rebels have not fired a canon here to day

(sound = unhurt)

("P" is unclear)

Saturday 25

Some cannonading a gain to day have to lay close to our works when the Rebels shell us our cannons firing at this time Co B was relieved this morn by the 2 brig did not get a man hurt Co A went on this even Wagon of Co C was -----
----- to day -----
by a spent ball-----*

(* The bottom part of this page appears to have gotten wet and the ink is nearly all washed away. Considering the continual rain and mud Kistler lived in at this time, it is remarkable that the diary was kept as dry as it was. He must have taken particular care with it, even in such adverse conditions as described in the above entries. -TR)

Sunday, June 26, 1864

Rather quiet to day the skirmish fire is not so regular to day very little cannonading Co A came in all right this morn there is still stray balls coming over our camp clear & not very warm to day wrote a letter to Lizzie H. Kistler

Monday 27

We struck tents last night after dark and moved a bout 2 miles to the right we were relieved by some of the 15 Corps we were supporting the 2 Divis it made a charge to day & was reported with great loss on our side*

Tuesday 28

Did not move to day very little skirmishing all day some cannonading on bothe sides there was 15 sick sent to the rear from our Regt to day Capt Morgan was sent back to the Hospital heard this even that the 13 A. Corps had came to reinforce at this place

(* Sherman ordered a full assault on Kennesaw Mountain, perhaps in the hope of ending the stalemate. Generals Thomas and McPherson sent three divisions forward in a headlong assault up the mountainside, and opened a furious cannonade. The Confederates, however, were too well entrenched, and lost fewer than 500 men while Sherman's forces lost over 3,000. The rains, however, were stopping, and Sherman began to slowly reach out beyond the enemy flanks again.³⁰)

Wednesday, June 29, 1864

Lay still all day there
was some pretty heavy
skirmishing off to the
right last night our
men are working under
a flag of truce burying
our dead that were killed
in the charge on the 27th
our loss was pretty heavy the
Rebels say their loss was 10 killed
& 9 wounded

Thursday 30

Lay still all day until
after dark when we moved
out to the front we are
supporting the skirmish
line there was very hea-
-vy skirmishing here last
night a bout 1 o'clock
warm & rained a shower
this after noon

(shwer = shower)

Friday July 1*

Strengthened our works
& lay behind them all
day Meagnor of Co C
was wounded while
working on the works
flesh wound in the calf of
the leg I was thrwn
out-----last night
they were drove in-----
-----*

(thrwn = thrown)

(* By this time Sherman's advance forces had moved behind Johnston and were actually closer to Atlanta than he was. Johnston saw this and began to retreat.³⁰)

(* Once again the page has apparantly gotten wet.)

Saturday, July 2, 1864

Lay behind our works
all day kept up shooting
from the works the Rebels
opened several pieces
of artilery on us this even
& our men replied with
several pieces Co C. & H
was on picket last night
& E went out to night

Sunday 3

Got up this morn and
found the rebels had
retreated* some of our men
started after them at day
light we did not go in
front to day marched a
bout 8 or 10 miles and stoped
for the night have heard
cannonading all day

Monday 4

Built a line of works
this fore noon got orders
a bout noon to be ready
at a moments notice to
move to the front did
not move until even
when we moved out
a bout 1 mile and stop
-ed for the night and
built brest works

(* The Federals had reached the infamous lines on Kennesaw Mountain
attacked on the 27th. Johnston was retreating toward the last barrier
before Atlanta, the Chattahoochee River.³¹)

Tuesday, July 5, 1864

Got up this morn and
found the Rebels had
fell back started in
pursuit and skirmished
with them all day
drove them with in a
bout a mile of the
Chattahoochee River where
we stoped for the night

(with in = within)

Wednesday 6

Lay still all day to day
there has been skirmish
ishing in front all
day got a letter from
H.D. Kistler it is a bout
1 mile to the Chattahoochee
River at the nearest
point there was 2 or 3 of the
10th Reg wounded to day

Thursday 7

Lay still all day Co G & B
went out on the skirmish
line this morn and a
detail out of the rest of
of the Regt got orders a
bout noon to make
ourselves comfortable
as in all probability we
would stay here a day or
two wrote a letter to H.D.K.
to day

Friday, July 8, 1864

Lay in camp all
day clear and very
warm our men have
our regular pickets it
going by detail in
the place of by Co
there has been some
shooting all day there
was heavy cannonading
on the left last evening

(This passage is written
clearly, but does not
make sense)

Saturday 9

Our Brig advanced
their picket in skirmish
line a bout 200 yds
had quite a skirmish
had 3 men of our Regt
wounded on the skirmish
line and one in camp
his name is Conkiln orderly
of Co E Nicasosi & Yoowell
of Co C John Tern of Co T

Sunday 10

Built breast works on
our old skirmish line
last even got up this
morn and found that
the Rebels had fell back
a cross the Chattahooche
River* lay still all day
until even when we
moyed a bout 1 mile to
the left

(a cross = across)

(* Johnston had retreated into the stongest defensive works encountered in the entire campaign: an entrenched line six miles long, covering the railroad bridge and the principal highway crossings, with cavalry screens extending upstream and downstream to guard more remote crossings. He had had these works constructed earlier to prepare for such an emergency.³²)

Monday, July 11, 1864

Cleaned up camp to day with the expectation of staying here a few days our picket line is on one side of the River & the rebels on the other they come over & talk with the Boys & our Boys go over to their side warm & cloudy to day

Tuesday 12

In camp all day no newse to day have heard some cannonading heard to day that our men captured a factory on the Chattahooche River with a bout 300 women in it doing business for the Confederates*

Wednesday 13

In camp all day wrote a letter to S.W. very warm and some appearance of rain our comandars have stoped the trading between our boys and the Rebels* have had some cannonading to day

(* Atlanta had in fact become a center of war industries which the Confederates could not afford to lose. Equally important was the transportation network that centered there; after the war, Mr. Davis testified to "our dependence on the system of Georgia railroads for the food with which we were holding the field in Virginia."³³)

(* It is unfortunate that Kistler does not go into greater detail concerning this remarkable practice. It seems the men from the opposing camps hobnobbed secretly with each other by night, and fought fiercely with each other by day. --TR)

Thursday, July 14, 1864*

In camp all day a gain
to day have heard some
canondaing on our
right to day very war-
-m had a shower of
rain this evening &
some wind with it
drew three days rations
to day

Friday 15

No newse of importance
to day Co I is on
picket to day some of
the Boys traded papers
with the Rebels the
Rebels have orders to
arest all of our men
that cross the River
warm and cloudy

Saturday 16

Still has the appear-
-ance of rain was out
a bout 3 miles this
fore noon after blac-
kberries got enough
for one mess
Bert of the 4th Ind
Cavalry was here this
after noon warm
and cloudy yet

(Sometime during these three days Sherman was blessed with a stroke of good luck -- ranging upstream several miles above Johnston's right, Schofield found a gap in the Confederate cavalry screen, got down to the river, laid pontoon bridges, and put two infantry divisions across before Johnston knew what was happening. Now the last barrier was broken, and Johnston retreated behind the fortified lines around Atlanta, burning the bridges behind him, and placed his army on high ground behind a substantial stream known as Peachtree Creek, a few miles north of the city.³⁴)*

Sunday, July 17, 1864*

Got orders last evening
to be ready to cross the
River last night or to day
got orders to strike tents
at 3 oclock and started to
the River crossed and went
in camp close to the River
for the night the 4th Corps drove
the rebels back from the River

Monday 18

Our men have two pont-
-oons thrown a cross the
River here struck tents
a bout eleven oclock and
started tords Atlanta
only went a bout 2 or 3
miles when we went in
camp for the night cannon
-ading in front at this time
Capt Morgan came up to day

(tords = toward)

Tuesday 19

Got up this morn at 4 oclock
and started to march at 6
only marched a bout 2
miles when we stoped our
Regt was sent out to sup-
port the skirmishes was
called in at evening and
our Brig crossed a creek
called peach creek and went
in camp at 12 oclock in the
night

(peach creek = Peachtree
Creek)

(This was a very important day. Sherman moved his entire combat force to the Atlanta side of the Chattahoochee River, and Johnston received a telegram from Richmond ordering him to turn command of his army over to General John B. Hood. Hood immediately planned an attack, and decided that Thomas and his Army of the Cumberland made the most likely target; he represented Sherman's grip on the vital railroad back to Tennessee, and if he could be struck while his men were still getting across Peachtree Creek he could be caught at a disadvantage. He planned the attack for July 20.³⁵)*

Wednesday, July 20, 1864

Got orders before we were up this morn to get ready to march had to go with out our breakfast the Brig only moved a few rods our Co was sent out on skirmish some skirmishing all day the rebels made a charge this even on some of the 4th and 20 Corps and were repulsed casualties not known as yet* (casualties = casualties)

Thursday 21

Came in off of skirmish this morn a bout 8 oclock Co G of our Regt is out to day W. H. Bowers of the 14th O.V. Inft was killed & 1 or 2 wounded yester day advanced our line a bout 1 mile and built works Hart of Co G. was wounded on the skirmish line Co B went out this even

Friday 22

Got up this morn & found the Rebels had fell back* advanced 2 or 3 miles when we came on to the Rebels in force stoped and built works Co A was out to day skirmishing and Co F went out this evening can see 2 or 3 Rebel forts from here

(* Hood's attack came hours too late. Thomas' men had already crossed Peachtree Creek and entrenched. Hood lost 5000 men in that single attack, while Thomas lost but a few. On the 21st Hood ordered a fifteen mile overnight march to bring his forces around to meet McPherson to the east of the city. On the 22nd Hood's battle-weary and footsore army attacked. McPherson was killed, but the Federals held their ground. In the end, Hood had lost another 7000 to 8000 men. The Federals lost about half as many.³⁶)

(* Hood used about half of his total forces to attack McPherson. The other half drew a new defensive line closer to Atlanta, to hold off Thomas and Schofield.³⁷)

Saturday, July 23, 1864

Have strong works here
worked on them last
night until 11 oclock got
up this morn at 4 and
went to work and finish-
-hed them Co D was out
on the skirmish line to day
& Co I relieved them the rebs
charged them to day but did
not make any thing

Sunday 24

Co C went on picket this
morn & Co H relieved them
this evening skirmishing
& canonading all day
recieved a letter this after
noon from Henry & Lizzie
Kistler & answered it
clear and very warm to
day prety cool at night

Monday 25

Co E and our Co wen on the
skirmish line this morn
& Co C relieved us this even
rather quiet to day some
cannonading mostly ours*
the rebels shelled us some
last night there was one
of Co A wounded by a
piece of shell only slight
his name is Isaac Ducket

(wen = went)

(* The bombardment of Atlanta lasted over a month, until the Federals captured the city. Sherman centered his forces on the north and west of the city, slowly moving south to cut the railroad lines, and to attempt to encircle the city.³⁸)

Tuesday, July 26, 1864

Got orders this morning to
clean up camp and stay
close to our works have
been expecting an attack
some cannonading this
after noon Co B went
out on skirmish this morn
& Co A went out this even
some appearance of rain to day

Wednesday 27

Some cannonading &
picket fighting Co F &
D went out this morn &
I & C this even the 15th
16th & 17th Corps went to
our right to day Maj
Gen McKferson was
killed in a charge on the
22 inst near Atlanta Ga

(McKferson = McPherson)

(Ga = Georgia)

Thursday 28*

Heavy fighting on our right
& left party heavy skirmi-
shing all a long the line
Co H. was on skirmish
to day & Co E went out
this even Capt Morgan
was elected Major of our
Regt to day very warm
to day one of the 12th Ind
stayed with us last night

(a long = along)

(* Sherman had General Oliver Howard, who was now commander of McPherson's troops, swing far to the Federal right --note troops movements mentioned in the July 27 entry-- to get west of the city. Hood believed Howard's move offered an opening, and on the 28th attacked him in a woodland near Ezra Church, to the west of Atlanta. The attack was poorly coordinated, however, and by nightfall Hood had lost another 5000 men, and the Federal advance was not halted.³⁹)

Friday, July 29, 1864

Was out on picket to day
with the Co advanced
our line a bout 100 yards
there was one of the 10th
Ind. V. I wounded
through the right side
some cannonading mostly
on our side the Rebel loss
on the right yester was very
heavy

(yester = yesterday)

Saturday 30

Heavy picket fiting all
day on our right some
prety heavy cannonading
the rebels opened a larg
gun on us this after
noon said: to be a 32 lbs*
one shell killed one
man & wounded 5 or 6
in the 2 brig of our Divis

Sunday 31

Had some rain to day
rather quiet all day some
little canonading there
was a man wounded
last night after dark
by a stray ball while
laying in his bunk
he belonged to the 14th
O.V.V.I there was one
of the 10th I.V.I wounded on
picket to day

(* The gun mentioned was probably a 32-lb. Howitzer cannon, one of the largest guns used. It had an effective range of about 1500 yards, and its projectile with charge weighed approximately 28 lbs. Most often used was the 12-lb. cannon. Shells used could be solid shot--"cannonballs"; spherical case shells, which exploded and threw shrapnel; or just about anything which could be flung from a cannon. Confederate ammunition consisted of canvas bags of scraps of metal, pieces of trace chain, etc.⁴⁰)

Monday, August 1, 1864

Heavy picket fighting on
our right this morn
the rebels opened a larg
gun on us a gain to day
the first shell wound-
ed two of the 10th I.V.I.
killed one of the 15th Regm
& one of the 98 O.V.V.I.
& wounded one in the
same Regt proved to be a 64 lbs

Tuesday 2

Some little picket fighting
to day & cannonading
the 23 Corps went to the
right to day saw some
of the 129 boys wrote a
letter to H.D. Kistler
Co E went on picket
this morn to stay 24 hr
we go on in the morn

(129 = 129th regiment)

(hr = hours)

Wednesday 3

Got orders this morn for
Co Comanders to keep their
Comands in camp as we were
going to move reported for
picket but did not go on
was relieved by the 20th
A. Corps and moved to
the extreat right and built
works went on picket at
night got a letter to day from
S. W.

(extreat = extreme?)

Thursday, August 4, 1864

Came in off of picket
 this morn Co G is out
 to day there was several
 dezerters came in last
 night* several men woun-
 -ded yester day & to day by
 shell and some killed
 had quite a skirmish fig-
 ht this evening

Friday 5

Co B was on skirmish
 to day had one man shot
 in the leg his name is
 Groosbeck Act Orderly ad
 our line and built works
 in sight of the Rebel work
 Col Baker was shot throu-
 gh the head by a musket
 ball and killed instantly

(ad = advanced)

Saturday 6

Had to lay close in our
 ditch all day had to work
 prety near all day on our
 works can see the Rebel
 works from ours plain
 the Rebel skirmish line
 and ours is only a bout
 200 yds a part had quite
 a rain this evening

(Both President Lincoln and Jefferson Davis complained of the chronic absenteeism, but Davis' Confederate army was fast becoming crippled by it. Men deserted by the thousands, and a great deal of time was wasted in attempts to round them up and return them to duty. Also, a great many men found ways to be legally exempted from service. In 1864 it was estimated that in Virginia alone there were 40,000 men between the ages of 18 and 45 who were not in the army. In many counties it was impossible to enforce the conscription law because the absentees were armed and defiant. Confederate statesman Howell Cobb said, "it would require the whole army to enforce the conscript law if the same state of things exists throughout the Confederacy as I know is the case in Georgia and Alabama, and I may add Tennessee."⁴¹)*

Sunday, August 7, 1864

Heavy skirmish fighting
 all day had 5 men of
 our Regt wounded 2 mortally
 -ly Prowty of Co A & George
 of Co H. & Berch of the same Co
 seriously the 2 latter by our shell
 Lieut Bean of Co I slight
 and shadel of Co C scalped
 on the head while on picket

Monday 8

Very little picket fighting
 to day La. Miller of Co I
 went half way and traded
 papers with the Rebels Co H
 on picket Co E or a detail
 of the Co went out to night
 rained some to day Cloudy
 -dy all day received a
 letter from Addie Kistler

(La. = Lieutenant?)

Tuesday 9

Still cloudy & drizzling
 rain Lieut Moon & 14 men
 went on picket this morn
 one of Co E Isaac Horn
 was wounded seriously in
 the face in camp this morn
 the remainder of our Co goes
 on picket this even with
 Lieut McKneer there was one
 of the 38 O.V.V.I shot dead
 in camp this even
 by a stray ball

Wednesday, August 10, 1864

Came in off of picket this
morn all right rained
some last night & still
cloudy there was one of the
17th O.V.I killed dead to
day a bout noon by a shell
& an other wounded there
was one of Co B of our Regt
wounded in the hand last
even here in camp

Thursday 11

The pickets have kept
up a heavy fire all
day some cannonading
Ritter of Co G wounded
here in camp to day
his wound was flesh
in the back there was
1 of the 38 O.V.V.I. killed
wrote a letter to E.A.K.

(E.A.K. = Elizabeth "Lizzie"
Kistler)

Friday 12

Rather quiet to day with
the exception of cannon-
-ading William Wires
of Co E. was shot to day
and killed by a sharp*
shooter while in camp
the ball lodged near the
heart several dezerters
from the rebel Army came
in to day

(* Sharp shooters, or snipers, were formed into regiments, or attached singly or in small groups to various commands. They used special super-accurate, heavy-barreled rifles, often with telescopic sights. Admission to one sharpshooting regiment required that the applicant shoot, from 600 feet, ten consecutive shots at an average of five inches from the bulls eye. With the special rifle and a steady rest, sharpshooters presented a very real danger from 800, 900 and even 1,000 yards.⁴²)

Saturday, August 13, 1864

Very little picket fighting
 to day a great many deserters
 came in on our left to
 day report says there was
 several hundred Waggerman
 of Co I was killed on
 the picket line to day
 was shot through the breast
 there was one of the 10th Ky.V.I.
 mortaly wounded

Sunday 14

All quiet in our front to
 day some picket fighting
 on our left saw George
 Evers of the 129th Ind Vol
 & Capt George Crowse
 of the 130th Ind Vol
 thes two Regt lay on
 the extream right of
 this Army

(thes = these)

Monday 15*

Out on picket all day
 Lieut George Moon & 19
 men of our Co were out
 to day and the rest go
 out to night very little
 firing on the line to
 day our Co did not fire
 a shot saw Lieut Runion
 of the 129th this even

(* This, by the way, was Kistler's 25th birthday. --TR)

Tuesday, August 16, 1864

The 10th Ind Vol Inft
left the front this morn
and started to the rear
their time being out the 18th
of Sept considerable firing
on the picket line to day
Shives of Co C was wou-
-nded in camp to day
4 dezerters came in last
night

Wednesday 17

Very quiet a long the
line to day only an
occaisonal shot from a
sharp shooter there was
a detail sent out foragi-
-ng from our brig to day
there was 5 went from
our Co was out a bout 10 or 12
miles got some corn

Thursday 18

The skirmish line got
orders to get ready to ad
and there was a detail
of 60 men to support them
they did not ad but start
-ed up a brisk fire on the
line Robert Read of Co F
was killed to day by a shar
-p shooter Wm. Talor of the same
Co was wounded

(ad =advance)

Friday, August 19, 1864

There was 2 brigs of our
divis moved out this morn
the 1 & 2 and our brig stre-
-tche out in a single line
and filled the place of the
divis a constant fire kept
up on the picket line all
day there was one of the 38
O.V.V.I. killed to day on
picket

(stretche = stretched)

Saturday 20

The troops that left yester day
morn came back last night
& left this morn our Co was on
picket last night William
Todd of Co A was killed
this morn shot through the
bady by a musket ball
while in camp got 2 letters
to day one from H.D. & one from
E.H. Kistler rained last night & to
day

(bady = body?)

Sunday 21

Very quiet all long the
line to day rained
some to day very disagree-
able under foot wrote
a letter to Henry D. Kistler
Sipes of Co A came up
to the Co to day has been
back at the Hospital
had a fight in the Co G this
even

Monday, August 22, 1864

Still cloudy and warm
our boys and the Rebels
are trading papers this morn
sent several sick to the rear
wrote a letter fo W.R.
Kistler very quiet all
day Co D. is on picket
to day Co F was on last
night rained hard in the
night

Tuesday 23

Very quiet all day no
shooting except an occ-
-sion shot from a sharp
shooter there was a
detail made to day of 3
men from our Regt for
provo guard Crider of Co
E. J.E. Stephenson of Co
I & William Hartman of Co
A

Wednesday 24

On picket to day very
quiet all day some can-
-nonading this even
some sick sent to the
rear to day Wm. H. Miller
of our Co was sent and
several others of our Regt.
warm and cloudy the
roomer is we are going to
march soon

(roomer = rumor)

Thursday, August 25, 1864

Very little shooting on
the picket line to day
some sharp shooting
and a little canna-
ding still talk of moving
drew an extra days rations
this after noon no mail
to day our boys had quite a
conversation with the Rebes
this morn before day light

Friday 26

Still quiet on the picket
line this even have orders
to be ready to move out
some time to night there
is great many roomers in
camp as regards whare we
are going cant tell where
we are going cloud and
appearance of rain

(whare = where)

Saturday 27

The rebels suspeciened we
were moving and threw
several shell after dark say
still until tords morn then
moyed out with out the Rebels
hearing us moved off to the right
andrear several miles and
threw up a new line for works
we are not very close to the Rebes
have orders to be ready to march
at day light

(suspeciened = suspected)

(say = lay?)

(with out = without)

Sunday, August 28, 1864

Started to march at day
light marched a bout 10
miles* and stoped and put
up temporary works and lay
down for the night on
the East Point & Mobeal R.
R our cavalry have skirmish
some with the Rebel cavalry
to day George Moon is out with
a detail as flankers

(Mobeal = Mobile)
(East Point & Mobile R. R.
about 10 miles north-east
of Jonesboro)
(flankers = a group of
soldiers sent out to eithe
side to protect a marching
column)

Monday 29

Lay still all day our boys
went out foraging and
got plenty of corn some
of our boys were run
by Rebel cavalry tore up
some of the railrode
five of our Co go on
picket to night I for one clear &
warm

Tuesday 30

Was called inn off of picket
this morn and started to
march at 8 oclock marched
until noon and stoped 1/2
an hour for diner started and
marched until a bout 3
when we stoped for the
night having marched a
bout 10 miles the Rebels
are close

(* When the Federals moved out, some of the Confederates thought they had given up the siege and were retreating. Sherman was, however, moving his forces toward Jonesboro, some fifteen miles south of Atlanta, to bring near completion his encirclement of the city. 43)

Wednesday, August 31, 1864

Got orders this morn before
day to be ready to march at
5 oclock did not march unt
-il 12 went a bout 2
miles and built works (we)
have had no oposition except
some Rebel cavalry the Macon
R. R. is said to be close heavy
cannonading on our right
this even

("we" is unclear)

Thursday, September 1

Started a bout 12 oclock
and moved to the front
a bout 2 or 3 miles came
on to the Rebels at 3 oclock
charged and took 2 lines
of works captured a lot of
prisoners our Regt lost 68
killed & wounded our Co
lost 1 killed & 4 wounded*

(68 = the number "6" is
unclear. May be "5")

Friday 2*

Were relieved from the front
last night lay still until a
bout 10 oclock until all the
dead were buried then moved
a little to the right lay there
until dark when we
started and moved to
the left and crossed the
R. R. and went in camp
behind some rebel works

(* Hood realized too late that the Federals were about to encircle the city, and made a desperate strike at Jonesboro. The Rebels were repulsed, evacuated Atlanta, and retreated back across the Chattahoochee toward Allatoona Pass. 44, 45)

(* On September 2, General Sherman wired to Lincoln the now-famous message, "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won." This was not only a turning point in the war, but in Lincoln's campaign for re-election. Atlanta had become a symbol all across the North. While it held out, the war was a failure; when it fell, the war was visibly on the way to success. 46, 47)

Saturday, September 3, 1864

Had a hard shower this morn
a bout day light still warm
and appearance of rain have
heard some cannonading all
day heard this morn that
our men were in Atlanta
that the Rebels evacuated
on the 1 and burnt 80 cars
loaded with amunition*

Sunday 4

Lay in camp Near Jonesboro
all day our train started
this morn to move all
our Hospitals & wounded
back to Atlanta it is
reported we are going
back in a fiew days
very warm and appear-
-ance of rain

Monday 5

Cleaned up camp to day
and set our tents in
order & mustred for pay
our orderly James H. Stepenson
got a Com to day as first
Lieut Jacob Addams
was to see me to day
got mail I got 2 letters
one from Henry D and one
from Ester A. Kistler

(mustred = mustered)

(Com = Commission)

(* Unable to remove all ammunition in their hasty retreat, and yet unwilling to let the Federals capture it, Hood's rear guard did indeed blow up carloads of ammunition on the night of September 1st. It is reported that the ground shook underfoot while the stunned Union soldiers witnessed an incredible fireworks display flash across the sky.⁴⁸)

Tuesday, September 6, 1864

Got orders to be ready to
march at day light did
not start until noon
marched a bout 2 miles
and went in camp for
the night some skirmis-
-hing in front suppose
the Rebel Caval are folo-
-wing us up

(Caval = Cavalry)

Wednesday 7

Struck tents and started
to march at day light
tords Atlanta marched
a bout 10 miles and
went in camp near a
station on the Atlanta
& Macon R. R called
Rough & Ready David
Poon left the Co last nig-
-ht to ride in the ambulance

Thursday 8*

Struck tents and started
to march at 7 oclock stoped
and went in camp a
bout 1 with in 2 miles
of Atlanta cleaned up
camp with the expectati-
-on of staying here a while
David Poon came back
to the Regt this even
cloudy & drizzling to day

(* On September 8, Sherman ordered the evacuation of the civilian population of Atlanta, and arranged a ten-day truce with Hood so that the refugees could be transported across Confederate lines. This action was protested by Atlanta's mayor James M. Calhoun, on behalf of the sick and aged. Sherman replied, ". . . my orders are not designed to meet the humanities of the case but to prepare for the future struggles. . . War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it. . . You might as well appeal against the thunder storm as against these terrible hardships of war." The exodus took place.⁴⁹)

Friday, Saturday 9, 1864

Went to head
quarters of the 3 brig
this fore noon to hear
some orders from Lieut
Gen U.S. Grant &
Pres A. Lincon read
complimenting us for
our galantry and great
victory won over the Rebes
in the capture of Atlanta

(Pres = President)

Saturday 10

Clear and pleasant had
no duty to do to day
except to poliece up qr's
a little our Sutler* came
up yester day with goods
there was an order came a
round this morn that
each Co Com could give one
man of his Co a pass each day
to the City of Atlanta

(qr's = quarters)

(Co Com = Company Commander)

Sunday 11

Out on picket a bout
1 mile from camp the
whole Regt is out wrote
a letter to Henry D
& Addie Kistler received
one from Mary A. &
Jacob B. Coons clear
and pleasant to day
very cool of nights

(* The sutler was a civilian merchant, a sort of PX in a wagon. One was allowed to each regiment. Among the many articles to be found on the sutler's shelves were tobacco, fruit, candy, canned goods, fish, soft drinks, cutlery, loaf sugar, paper, clothing, books, razors, paper collars, and cheese. Sutlers often charged outrageous prices, but could argue that large profits compensated for the high risks they ran; the sutler's wagon followed the rear of the regiment, and was often a prime target of the ragged and half-starved enemy.⁵⁰)

Monday, September 12, 1864

Got in off of picket this
morn at 8 oclock went
down to the Hospital this
after noon to see our
wounded boys came
back and went to brig
head qrts to attend the
funeral of Col Choat of the 38
O.V.V.I. John Mackrill
of Co. K was detailed for as brig
blacksmith & Wm H. Moore
as provo guard

(provo = provost)

Tuesday 13

In camp all day had
no duty to do the Sold-
-iers got a larg mail
to day I did not get
any Col Choats body
was started home this
morn he died from a
wound recieved in
battle on the 1st of Sept

Wednesday 14

Had gen inspect this
morn at 9 oclock of
Arms & acooterments &
Camp equipage
went down to the
city of Atlanta this
after noon heard that
John A. Porter of our Co
was dead died this after
noon

(gen inspect = general
inspection)
(acooterments = accouter-
ments: military attire and
equipment.)

Thursday, September 15, 1864

In camp all day have
not had to drill any
yet Thomas Morgan &
Charles B. Mann received
Commissions to day as
field Officers the former
as Lt Col & the latter
as Maj. we drew onions
to day from the sanitary
Com*

(Lt Col = Lieutenant
Colonel, Maj = Major)

Friday 16

Nothing occurred to day
worthy of note nothing
occurred every days occurrences
there was three came up
to our Regt to day Oswalt
of our Co B. T. Leyman
& F. Fetters of Co
A there were at Nashville
in A Hospital

Saturday 17

The 10th Ky Regt left
our brig this morn
to go back & garison
Ringgold, Ga. I was
down in the Town of
Atlanta this after
noon and got some
Corn meal it is worth
4 dollars per bushel

(* The U.S. Sanitary Commission was a relief agency set up by civilians in 1861. Besides inspecting camps and recommending improvements, the Commission distributed \$15,000,000 worth of food, clothing, and medical supplies.⁵¹)

Sunday, September 18, 1864

In camp all day has
 been raining all day
 received two letters
 and wrote one recieved
 one from S. Wand
 one from Henry D
 Kistler wrote one to
 S. W. Mcgrew from
 the 30 Ind was here
 yester day

Monday 19

Clear and warm to
 day Capt Morgan
 was mustered to day
 as Lieut Col Capt
 C. B. Mann as Major
 Lt Moon as Capt
 Sergt Beck as Capt
 Sergt G. Craw as 1st Lt
 Sergt J. H. Stephenson as 1st
 Lt

(Lt = Lieutenant)

Tuesday 20

Clear and warm to day
 was on duty last night
 in Camp had to be
 up until 12 oclock
 wrote a letter this morn
 to J. B. Coons to send
 home with S. W. Kelly
 he started this morn on
 a furlow of 30 days

("S." is unclear)

Wednesday, Spetember 21, 1864

Cloudy & drizzling rain
all day I was out this
morn with Capt
Moon to get a load of
boards to build him a
shanty the
extra baggag that we sen
-t back from Ringold came
up to day

(baggag = baggage)

Thursday 22

Came out on picket
this morning at 7 oclock
relieved the 75 Ind
still cloudy & drizzling
rain Capt Moon did
not come out with us
this morn there was
Officers enough with
out him Col Morgan did
not come out with us

Friday 23

Came in off of picket
this morn rained all
night but not very
hard still cloudy and
showery our Regt is
making out payrolls
or the Officers Com
the Co are looking
for pay soon

(Com = Commissions)

Saturday, September 24, 1864

Cleared off to day have
 been on fatigue duty
 all day Cleaning up
 & ditching Camp & dra-
 wing rations heard to
 day that Gen Sheridan
 had had an other fight
 with Gen Early & whipped
 him out & captured a bout
 2000 prisoners*

(ditching = digging
 drainage ditches)

Sunday 25

Clear all day had
 inspection this
 morn at 8 oclock
 wrote a letter to
 H. D. Kistler
 had dress parade this
 evening there was
 several orders read to
 us on dress parade

Monday 26

Very pleasant to day
 was prety cool last ni-
 -ght the 28 Ky V.V. Inft
 came up to day and
 joind the Brig they have
 been back at Ringgold
 all summer we have
 orders to clean up our guns
 & accouterments & be
 ready for inspection at 9 oclock
 in the morn

(* General Philip H. Sheridan attacked Confederate General Jubal Early on September 19, near Winchester, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley. Early was forced to retreat. Sheridan pursued him to Fisher's Hill three days later, routed Early's forces, and went on to raze the Shenandoah.⁵²)

Tuesday, September 27, 1864

Had Gen inspection
this fore noon at 9
oclock of Camp & Garr-
-ison equipage and
quarters had to drill
this after noon wrote
a letter to W. R. Kistler
recieved one from him
last evening

Wednesday 28

Was inspected a gain
to day by Gen Baird
and staff & brig Officers
it was decided that
there was 4 Co of our
Regt had the cleanest
guns in the brig had
to drill 1 ½ hour Co drill
this after noon

Thursday 29

Clear and warm to
day had to drill twice
Co drill 1 ½ hour in
the fore noon and
the same in the
after noon had an
order read to us on dress
parade this even that
we would have to
drill bat drill once a day
after this

(bat = battalion)

Friday, September 30, 1864

Was on duty last night
here in camp Alen T.
Blain and I was down
to the City of Atlanta
this after noon the
Regt had to drill twice
to day 1 ½ hour Co drill
this fore noon & 1 ½ hour
battal this after noon

(Co = Company)

(battal = battalion drill)

Saturday, October 1

Had quite a rain last
even & is still cloudy
came out on picket
this morn at 7 oclock
relieved the 105th
O.V.I. Co Morgan
is in charge of the
Regt our Co does
not go on an out post
until 12 oclock to night

(Co = Colonel)

(Co = Company)

Sunday 2

Was relieved off of
picket this morn at
the usual time by
the 75th Ind Vol Inft
Came to camp and
had to fall in at
half past nine oclock
and go to brig head
qr to hear Col Este
speak

(qr = quarters)

Monday, October 3, 1864*

Got orders this morning before day light to be ready to march at 6 oclock A.M. did not start until 3 P.M. started in the direction of Sand Town marched until a bout 12 oclock in the night went in camp a bout 1 mile from where the R. R. crosses the Chattahoochee River marched a bout 10 miles

Tuesday 4

Started this morn to march at 6 oclock crossed the River on pontoons and marched in the direction of Mariettee stoped a bout 2 oclock and went in camp in the woods cloudy & has rained some rained several showers yester & last night

(Mariettee = Marietta)

Wednesday 5

After writing the a bove yester day we puled up stakes and marched a bout 2 or three miles further and went in camp after night Started to march this morn at 7 oclock marched a bout 15 miles and went in camp close to Kenisaw mount

(Kenisaw = Kennesaw Mountain)

(* For route of Sherman's pursuit of Hood through northern Georgia, which began on October 3, see map on page 175. --TR)

Thursday, October 6, 1864

Struck tents this
morn at 7 oclock and
started to march marched until
a bout 12 and stoped
and went in camp
has rained prety
near all day very
stavish marching

Friday 7

Was out on a reconoicence
to day our Div started
a bout 7 oclock and went
west a bout 4 miles to
lost Mountain halted
there to get dinner &
the 1st and 2nd Brigs of our
divison went sev miles
further then came back &
we started back to our old camp
got back a little after dark

(Div = Division)

(sev = several)

Saturday 8

Clear & cold to day struck
tents at 2 oclock P.M.
and started to march
went a bout 2 miles in
the direction of lost Mountain
then turned north & went
a bout 3 miles & went in
camp in an open field
a little after dark

Sunday, October 9, 1864

Did not move camp
to day clear & pleasant
was very cool last night
the boys were pretty near
all out in the country
to day I was out a
bout one mile got
nothing but some
corn in the ear

Monday 10

Drew rations to day did
not start to march
5 o'clock started north
marched until dark then
stopped 1 hour to make
coffee then started and
marched to the Ettawa R
and crossed on a bridge
close to the R. R. & went in
camp close to the R a bout 3 o'clock

(Ettawa R = Etowah River)

Tuesday 11

Puled out this morn at 7
o'clock and started in the
direction of Kingston saw
M. Climer, E. Bert, J. Lister
and others with whome I
am acquainted with stopped
long enough at noon to get
dinner then started & got
in camp after dark 2 miles
west of Kingston travled
a bout 15 miles
the Ohio soldiers
in our Brig
voted for state
officers to day
Gov Williams*
yongest son
got with our
regt to day

(ackuated = acquainted)

(yongest = youngest)

(* The Governor of Indiana during the Civil War was Oliver P. Morton, who served from 1861-1867.⁵³ Williams, later mentioned as being from Warsaw, was perhaps the mayor and given the misnomer "governor" by Kistler.)

Wednesday, October 12, 1864

Got mail this morn
I got a letter from H.
D. Kistler started to ma-
-rch at 7 oclock marched
in a north west direction
a bout 15 miles and
went in camp a bout
1 hour after dark 5 miles
north of Rome Ga.

Thursday 13

Lay still all day got
orders a bout the midle
of the after noon to stay
in camp that in all
probability we would have
to march this even drew
rations after dark and
started to march at 9 oclock
P.M. & marched until 2 A.M.
& lay down until day light

Friday 14

Started this morn at day
light with out my brea-
-kfast marched until a
bout 2 oclock & stoped to
get dinner only stoped a
bout 1/2 hour then start
-ed & marched until
dusk and went in camp
with in 1 mile of Resaca.

Saturday, October 15, 1864

Had revalee this morn before
 day got orders to be ready
 to march in 2 hours
 started a little after day
 light crossed the Ostanola
 R. on a pontune bridge
 at Resaca
 & started north a long the
 R. R. the road is tore up close
 to the north side of Town
 travled sev miles & camped on a
 mountain

(Ostanola = Oostanaula)
 (pontune = pontoon)

(sev = several)

Sunday 16

Started this morn a bout
 7 oclock & came down off
 of the mountain in to
 Snake Creek Gap the 4th
 Corps or part of it lay there
 passed them and marched
 a bout 10 miles in a nor-
 -thern direction went in camp
 at 4 oclock in the woods west
 of Dalton

Monday 17

Lay still all day to day
 drew three days rations
 it is reported it has to
 do us six we have been
 living on pumpkins
 & Corn to day boilt the
 pumpkin & made graters
 and grated the corn &
 made mush foraged
 fresh pork & swet potato do
 not draw any salt pork

(swet = sweet)

Tuesday, October 18, 1864

Got orders this morn
before day light to be
ready to march at 7
oclock did not march
until 11 crossed Tay-
lors ridge and marched
a bout 15 miles went
in camp a bout 7 oclo
P.M. in an opend field

(oclock = o'clock)
(opend = open)

Wednesday 19

Started to march this
morn at 7 oclock marched
until 12 & stoped to
get dinner after dinner
went a few miles
further and went in
camp in the woods
travled a bout 12 miles
there was a detale of our Regt
out foraging to day

Thursday 20

Drew rations this morn
& started to march at
9 oclock marched through
a little Town called
Summerville by with
in one mile of it last night
stoped at 12 oclock & got di-
-nner then started & marche-
-d until 11 oclock P.M. 2
went in camp in the woods
marched a bout 18 miles

Friday, October 21, 1864

Got orders this morn
to be ready to march
at 7 oclock got ready
to march and the ord-
-ers were counterterm-
-anded sent out
foragers and they got
several hogs & 3 cows
& one yearling pr beef

(pr = prime)

Saturday 22

Lay still all day to
day got mail I got
a letter from H.D.
Kistler & answered
it also one from S.W.
sent out foragers
a gain to day they
did not get much
forage to day

Sunday 23

Moved camp to day
a fiew rods and poli-
-eced up the ground
Sent out a foraging
party to day & they brought
in 2 yearling heiffers
dressed & a bout 10 Bu
of sweet potatoes several
Chickens tobaco & seve-
-ral other things

(Bu = bushels)

Monday, October 24, 1864

I was out with a foraging party to day we were a bout 4 or 5 miles up the River we are camped on the Chat-oage did not get any forage except 2 hogs we have gathered a lot of corn ad sheled it & intend to have it ground

(Chatoage = evidently the Coosa River or a nearby tributary)

(ad = and)

Tuesday 25

Thair was a foraging party sent out a gain to day Lieut J. H. Stephenson had charge of the detail their wagon broke down a bout 3 miles back & will not be in to night it is loaded with sweet potatoes & beef

Wednesday 26

Did not send out any foragers to day our broken wagon got in this after noon we got a bout 1 Bu of sweet potatoes for our Co & some beefe Major Mann started to Nashville this morn has lief of absence for 10 days

(Bu = bushel)

(lief = leave)

Thursday, October 27, 1864

Sent out foragers to day
they did not get any
thing except some
corn cloudy prety near
all day rained last
night drew one cracker*
a piece this even the
first we have drew since
we stoped here

Friday 28

Cleaned up camp this
morn got orders a bout
noon to all stay in
camp have been looking
for orders to march all
the after noon got orders
this even to get up at
3 oclock in the morn & be
ready to march at 5

Saturday 29

Struck tents this morn
& started to march at 5 oclock
crossed the Chattooga River
at Gales-ville Al. & started
for Rome Ga. marched a
bout 16 miles until 1 oclock
then stoped 1 hour for din-
ner went 5 miles after
dinner & went in camp
a bout 4 oclock in an opend
field

(Chattooga = the Coosa
River runs through
present-day Gaylesville,
Alabama.)

(opend = open)

(* The cracker mentioned here is hardtack, a hard bread formed in crackers about three inches square by one-half inch thick. Nine or ten crackers constituted a standard ration.⁵⁴)

Sunday, October 30, 1864

Star this morn at day
light arived at Rome
a bout 8 oclock having
marched 5 miles Lieut
Kuder came to us here
also Gov. Williams of Warsaw
is here went in camp
one half mile North of
Town on the bank of the
Ostanola River

(Star = Started)

(Gov. Williams = perhaps
the mayor)

(Ostanola = Oostanaula)

Monday 31

Lay in camp all day
Signed up our pay rolls
this morn expect to draw
pay in afiew day it is
Rumored we are going
to leave here in the
morn think it is doubt-
-ful wrote a letter to
S. W. this after noon

Tuesday, November 1*

Did not leave to day
as was predicted I was
over in town this fore
noon Rome has been
quite a Town one day
Saw John Taras and
several other of the 129
Ind boys to day
David Poon was out
foraging to day got some
sweet potatoes & pork

(* Since the beginning of October, Sherman had been marching his Union forces around northern Alabama and Georgia chasing Hood. Near the beginning of November Sherman reached a radical conclusion: he would simply turn his army around, leaving Hood and abandoning the chase, go back to Atlanta wrecking his long-protected railroad as he went, regroup, and march 300 miles to capture Savannah. Thus began Sherman's famous March to the Sea.⁵⁵)

Wednesday, November 2, 1864

Got orders last even to
be ready to start for
Kingston at 5 oclock A.
M. owing to its being
a very wet morn we did
not start until a bout
7 got in camp a bout
3 oclock 1 mile west of
Kingston having marched
a bout 14 miles drizzled rain all day

Thursday 3

Still cloudy & misting
rain was ordered to
stay in camp to day
as we would probably
be paid off went
down town and reci-
-eved our money a bout
12 oclock at night I reci-
eved \$.124. eight months
pay

(\$124 = that comes to
\$15.50 per month)

Friday 4

Still cold & blustry fixed
up our money to day
to send home by a draft
I sent \$.100. dollars our
Co sent \$.3393 dollars
wrote a letter to day
to Father there was
a mail come in
to day I did not get
any letter

(Co = Company)

Saturday, November 5, 1864

No material change in
the weather yet I was
down to the town to
day it does not amo-
-unt to much our men
burnt a little Town to
day a bout 3 miles
east of here it was
called Cassville*

Sunday 6

I was down Town
a gain to day there
is a great many
Citizens there wating
for transportation north
I saw a bout 400
drafted men in Town
from Ind for the 9th
and 58th Ind Regts

Monday 7

No newse of importance
to day still laying in
camp doing foraing
and picket duty there
was 5 of our Co out foraging
to day and the whole
Regt is ordered to be
ready at 6 oclock in
the morn to go foragi-
ng

(foraing = foraging)

(With Hood out of the way, the Union army moved unopposed. Cassville was but a foretaste of the destruction of Atlanta and the March to the Sea. The Union army began to destroy what it could not eat, and loot where it did not burn in a final push to bring the Confederacy to its knees. To make matters worse, what the regular foragers did not take was seized by uncontrolled stragglers and Confederate deserters. After the March to the Sea, Sherman said that about one fifth of the destruction "inured to our advantage" while the rest was "simple waste and destruction." A forty-mile-wide path from Atlanta to Savannah was laid waste.⁵⁶)*

Tuesday, November 8, 1864

Got back from foraging
at 5 o'clock was out a
bout 12 miles got 9 wago-
-n lodes of corn 5 beef
cattle 2 or 3 hogs & some
poltry there was a squad
of rebel cavalry got after
some of the boys &
captured 7 or 8.

(lodes = loads)

(poltry = poultry)

Wednesday 9

In camp all day washed
some clothes & wrote a
letter to send home
with Capt G. W.
Harter he has resned
and talks of starting
Home in the morn
got orders this even at 5
o'clock to be ready to march
in half past 5

(resned = resigned)

Thursday 10

Got in camp a bout
5 o'clock started last night
at the appointed time
& marched all night was
out a bout 17 miles stoped
stoped there and stayed
a bout 4 or 5 hours then
started back burnt 3 or 4
houses & brought 8 gurila
prisoners in one of them is
a capt

(gurila = guerilla)

Friday, November 11, 1864

In camp all day had
no duty to do to
Capt. G. W. Harter
started home to day
did not start as
soon as he had
intended got orders
this even to be ready
to march at half past
6 o'clock A.M.

Saturday 12

Did not start as soon
as we expected to this
morn started to march
in the direction of
Atlanta at 8 o'clock
marched until 5 and
went in camp close
to Altona Pass having
marched 17 miles

(Altona = Altoona)

Sunday 13

Started to march this
morn at 6 o'clock went
as far as Acworth and
comenced to tare up the
Railrode R. our Divis
tore up a bout 3 miles
went in camp at Big-
-shanty a bout 8 o'clock P.M.
having marched a bout
10 or 12 miles

(Acworth = 20 mi to Atlanta)
(tare = tear)

Monday, November 14, 1864

Started to march at 6 oclock
 come came a bout 10 or 12
 miles until 12 oclock stoped
 1 hour for diner then start
 -ed & marched to & crossed
 the Chattoogee River and
 went in camp close to the
 River at 8 oclock got on the rong (rong = wrong)
 road and went a bout 6 miles
 out of our way marched a bout 14 or 15
 miles in the after noon

Tuesday 15

Sarted to march this morn (Sarted = Started)
 at 7 oclock got in to the
 edge of Atlanta at 9 ocloc
 lay there until 12 then
 marched through Town
 & went in camp a
 bout 1 mile from the
 City & sat it on fire
 the principal part of
 it

Wednesday 16

Drew clothes this morn
 cast from Atlanta
 & started to march at
 9 oclock marched a bout
 15 miles and went in
 camp burnt a bout
 all the principal part
 of Atlanta last night
 burnt several Houses
 to day past 1 or 2 little (past = passed)
 Towns to day*

(* This day saw the beginning of Sherman's March to the Sea. He sent General "Pap" Thomas north to Nashville to meet Hood, with about half of the Army of the Cumberland, while he started the rest of his forces on the long trek to Savannah. What he attempted; to lead 60,000 men through 300 miles of enemy territory, with no supplies save what they could glean from the surrounding countryside, to attack an enemy stronghold that must be taken to keep his 60,000 from starvation; would have been military suicide if the South had not already been weakened beyond repair. Sherman's march was not so much a strategic offensive maneuver as it was a demonstration of his power to smash things.⁵⁷)

Thursday, November 17, 1864

Started to march this
morn at half past six
oclock marched a bout
15 miles until 2 oclock
& went to taring up
the Railroad our Regt
tore up 1/2 mile it is the
Agusta Road went a bout
2 miles further & went in
camp a bout dark

(taring = tearing)

Friday 18

Lay in camp until 11
oclock then started
& went a fiew miles
tore up some Railr-
oad marched through
(a) town called Covington
and went in camp
with in 1 mile of the
place a bout dark I hav
to go on picket
crossed (the) Yellow
River to day

(a = word blotted out)

(the = word blotted out)

Saturday 19

I got in off of picket
this morn before day light
& we started to march
at 7oclock and crossed
the Sou River on
Pontoons went a
bout 8 or 10 miles
and went in camp
Rained last night

Sunday, November 20, 1864

Started to march
at 7 oclock and
marched a bout 18
miles and went
in camp

Monday 21

Started to march
this morn a bout
7 oclock marched a bout
1 mile and stoped
until after noon then
started and went a
bout 8 or 9 miles and
camped very muddy
rained prety near all
day

Tuesday 22

Started to march this
morn at 6 oclock A.M.
marched a bout 12 mi
until 2 oclock and
stoped for dinner
went 1 mile further
and went in camp
Cold and very windy
to day

Wednesday, November 23, 1864

Struck Tents this morn
at 6 oclock & started to
march marched a bout
9 miles until 11 oclock
& stoped with in 1 mile
of Milageville*the
Capital of Ga & got
dinner the moved 1/2
mile & went in camp

(Milageville = Milledgeville

(the = then)

Thursday 24

Struck Tents & started
to march at 6 oclock
marched down in Town
& stoped close to the
state House & went
to patrolling the Town
I was on duty until
12 oclock our Brig is
acting as rear guard for
the Army

Friday 25

Left Milledgeville Ga at
10 oclock A.M. crossed the
Oconee River & burnt
the Bridge lay there a bout
1 hour then started &
marched a bout 11 miles
until 2 oclock stoped
1 hour for dinner then came
5 miles further & went in
camp a bout 8 oclock P.M.

*(*Milledgeville was the capital of Georgia from 1807 to 1868. For some reason, relatively little damage was done to it by Sherman on his way to Savannah. Many of the fine antebellum homes were left unburned and remain there to this day.⁵⁸)*

Saturday, November 26, 1864

Struck Tents & started to march this morn at 7 oclock marched a bout 2 miles and lay there several hours then started & marched 11 mil and went in camp a bout dark 1 mile from Saundersville I went on picket

(Saundersville = Sandersville)

Sunday 27

Our Brig started to march this morn at 6 oclock it was in advance of the Corps our regt captured sev Horses & Mules we marched a bout 12 miles until 1 oclock then stoped 1 hour for dinner then started and marched 6 miles & went in camp at 4 oclock

(sev = several)

Monday 28

Started to march this morn at 7 oclock marched a bout 5 miles and had to stop until they put down pontoons over a Creek close to the Town of Louisville the Rebels had burnt the Bridge crossed and went a bout 2 miles & went in camp at 4 oclock

Tuesday, November 29, 1864

Lay still all day got orders to be ready to move at 7 oclock A.M. but did not go some of the teams puled out and came back our Regt got 75 recruits to day our Co got 8 of them quite warm to day

Wednesday 30

Lay still all day to day got orders this morn to wash up some of our clothes prety heavy skirmishing a bout 2 miles from our camp between the Cavalry* there was a forage detail went out this after noon brought in a load of sweet potatoes & a barel of sorgum

(sorgum = sorghum; a type of syrup)

Thursday, December 1

Started to march at 12 oclock marched a bout 5 miles when our cavalry run on to some rebel cavelry* had a littel skirmish with them when they fell back then we went a bout 4 miles further & camped

(* In all likelihood this was Confederate Joe Wheeler's cavalry, sent by Hood to oppose Sherman on his march. Besides harassing his cavalry, the Confederates did Sherman little harm.⁵⁹)

Friday, December 2, 1864

Started to march at
7 oclock and march-
-ed a bout 10 miles
until 12 oclock & came
up with the rebel cava-
-lry the left wing of
our regt was sent out
to skirmish with them
charged on them & they
run Adams of Co. D. was
wounded
we went a
bout 2 miles
further &
Camped

Saturday 3

Started to march at 7 ocloc
A.M. marched a bout 10
miles until 1 oclock &
got dinner then started
and went a bout 5 miles
further & went in camp
a bout 4 oclock on the
railrode have to tare it
up to night our reg's share
is 3/4 of a mile

Sunday 4

Tore up our share of
Railroad last night
lay still all day at Tho-
-mas Station until
4 oclock then started
marched a bout 7 miles
& went in camp at 10 oclock
P.M. our cavalry had a fight
with the rebes to day killed
& wounded a bout 100 &
took a bout the same amount
of prisoners*

(* Perhaps this battle was with Wheeler's forces. The only other opposition offered Sherman at this time was by small guerilla bands.⁶⁰)

Monday, December 5, 1864

Struck Tents & started
to march this morn
at half past six oclock
marched a bout 10
miles until 12 oclock
stoped 1 hour for dinner
then marched 8 miles
further & went in camp
a bout night I went on
picket

Tuesday 6

I came in off of pick-
-et this morn before
day we did not start
to march until half
past 9 oclock marched
a bout 5 miles until
12 stoped 1 hour for
dinner then marched
6 miles & went in camp

Wednesday 7

Started to march at
half past 7 oclock m-
-marched a bout 11 mil
until 12 oclock stoped
1 hour for dinner then
marched 5 miles further
and went in camp
a bout 4 oclock rained
some to day which
made it very disagreeable

Thursday, December 8, 1864

Started to march last night at 12 oclock marched a bout 7 miles and went in camp at 5 oclock A.M. lay there 2 hours then puléd out & marched a bout 5 miles until 12 oclock lay there all the afternoon some fiting in our rear

Friday 9

Started to march this morn at 2 oclock marched a bout 2 miles crossed a River or Creek called Eboneezer stoped a little before day light & lay still until 12 oclock then started & marched a bout 7 miles & went in camp a little after dark

Saturday 10

Started to march this morn a bout 10 oclock marched 2 or 3 miles & stoped & lay still until 3 oclock then came 3 miles further & went in camp a bout dark 11 miles from Savana heavy cannonading in that direction*

(*It must be remembered that Sherman had decided to march his 60,000 men 300 miles without the aid of a supply line. They had successfully lived off the land during the trek, but now faced the very real prospect of starvation if they failed to capture Savannah from General Hardee and his 10,000 Confederates.⁶¹)

Sunday, December 11, 1864

Lay still to day until
a bout 12 oclock then
started and lay on the
road all the after noon
only came a bout one
mile and went in
camp a bout 1 hour
by sun the rebels fired
on our pickets but did
not drive them in

Monday 12

Lay still all day have
heard some cannon-
-ading all day not
very heavy have noth-
-ing to eat to day
but beefe & Coffee
have been living on
sweet potatoes for sever-
-al day but did not get
any to day

Tuesday 13

Started this morn a
bout 8 oclock and
moved a bout 5 or 6
miles to the right
and went in camp
6 miles from the
City of Savannah
on the Macon &
Savannah Rail
Road

Wednesday, December 14, 1864

Lay still all day
 heard that the 2 Div
 of the 15 A. C. charge-
 -d on & took Fort McKa-
 -laster & all its garrison
 consisting of several
 larg guns & one Brig
 of Rebels Infantry*
 the weather is warm
 & cloudy

(larg = large)

Thursday 15

No prospect of a move
 yet still warm &
 cloudy some cannon-
 -ading all day but not
 very heavy I have
 been busy hulling rice
 all day as that is all
 that I have to eat
 some one hooked all
 my rations last night
 & also my haversack

Friday 16

Had to set our tents
 in regular order and
 fix up bunks to day
 very warm for the
 time of the year
 Martin R. Robinson
 was detailed yester
 day as Commisary
 Sargeant of the 74th
 Ind Vol Inft

(* Fort McAllister was an important coastal garrison for Savannah. Its capture allowed Sherman to get in touch with the Federal fleet and at last establish a supply line. None too soon, apparently; as Kistler himself painfully discovered that if hungry enough, a man will steal even from his comrades.⁶²)

Saturday, December 17, 1864

Out on picket to day
 a bout 1 mile from
 camp warm enough
 for July our regt had
 inspection to day at
 1 oclock of Camp and
 garrison ecuipage very
 heavy cannonading
 on the River this
 even

(ecuipage = equipage)

Sunday 18

Got in off of picket
 this fore noon at
 9 oclock have been
 busy all day getting
 wood hulling Rice
 & cooking got mail
 yester day I got 2 letters
 still continues very
 warm some little
 cannonading all day

Monday 19

Nothing worthy of note
 to day I had to assist
 in drilling the recrui-
 -its to day one hour
 this fore noon &
 one this after still
 continues warm
 some little canno-
 -nading to day

Tuesday, December 20, 1864

Was out foraging to
day with the whole
Brig started this morn
at 7 oclock went out a
bout 10 miles & loaded
our wagons with corn
& fodder & Rice straw
got in camp a bout 4
oclock have heard cann-
-onading all day

Wednesday 21

Savannah is ours the
Rebels evacuated it
last night* we heard
it this morn a bout
9 oclock struck tents
& started for there a
bout 12 went 3 miles
& had to turn & come
back to our old camp

Thursday 22

Struck Tents and
started to march to
day at 12 oclock
marched 5 miles &
went in camp 1
mile from the City
of Savanna cold &
raw for this part
of the world

(* The Rebels did not so much evacuate the city as they escaped from it. Sherman seems to have been unconcerned that Hardee and his 10,000 slipped away into South Carolina, perhaps because from Savannah his army could go anywhere -- even to Grant in Richmond. The doom of the Confederacy was thus effectively sealed.⁶³)

Friday, December 23, 1864

Raw & cold to day
 I was down to th
 City to day
 saw several Boats
 on the Savanna
 River also saw quite
 a lot of large guns
 that we captured
 from the Rebels
 got two letters
 this even

Saturday 24

All the Boys have
 been busy all day
 fixing up quarters
 I have a shanty
 nearly done are
 fixing as tho we
 were going to stay
 here some time
 rather pleasant to day
 the boys are
 firing Christ-
 -mas salutes
 all over camp

(tho = though)

Sunday 25

Has been warm &
 pleasant all day until
 even when it com-
 nced to rain I had
 to drill twice to day
 and go on inspection
 this is the way I spe-
 -nt Christmas had
 very little to eat

Monday, December 26, 1864

Still warm & cloudy
have been busy
all day fixing at my
tent and drilling
had to drill 1 1/4 hour
Battalion this after
noon hav orders to
be ready for grand
review to morow morn
at 7 1/2 oclock

Tuesday 27

Our Corps was revi-
-ewed this fore noon
on the streets of Savannah
by Generals Jefers-
Hon C. Davis & W. T.
Sherman* Clear &
warm all day until
4 oclock when it
clouded up and has
the appearance of rain

Wednesday 28

Out on picket to
day a bout 1 1/2 mile
from camp was rain
-ing when I got up
this morn the sun
shone very warm sev-
-eral times to day be-
-tween showers cleared
off this even & turned
cold

(* The Jefferson C. Davis mentioned here was, of course, the Union Brigadier General by that name, not the Confederate Commander-in-Chief. W. T. Sherman was savouring his triumph and reviewing the army about which Confederate General Johnston once remarked, "there has been no army like Sherman's since the days of Julius Caesar." Sherman's major work in the Civil War was done. He would lead his army through the Carolinas to Goldsboro with little trouble. And on April 9th, Palm Sunday, 1865, Lee would surrender the Army of Norhtern Virginia to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.⁶⁴)

Thursday, December 29, 1864

Got in off of picket
at 11 oclock got a pass
& went to the City
& got my dinner paid
\$.1.00 bought \$.100 of
Rice paid 10 cts a lbs
have been on half
rations for several days
raw and cold all day

Friday 30

No newse of importan
-ce to day had to
drill twice 1 hour in
the fore noon & 1
in the after comenced
a letter to S. W.
but did not get to
finish it rather
pleasant winter
weather

Saturday 31

No drill to day got
orders this morn
to clean up for
New years David
Poon & built a chim-
-ney to our shanty
and it rained all
the time we were
at it mustered for
pay at 2 oclock P.M.*

(& built = & I built?)

(* Here end the chronological diary entries. The back of the diary contains pages for memoranda and cash accounts. Among the blank pages are various notes, names, and accounts, and a list of the casualties in the 74th Indiana Volunteer Infantry from the September 1st battle at Jonesboro. --TR)

Memoranda

(3 blank pages)

Memoranda

Casualties of the 74 Ind. Vol. Inft. in a fight near Jonesboro Ga
Sept 1st A.D. 1864

Co. B

Priv William Moore wounded shot through the Arm

Co G

Sergt Joseph Benet killed shot through the breast
Corp Henry Allen wounded " through the sholder
Priv Joseph Mitchell " mortal through the bowels
" Sirus Milspaugh " " through the thigh & neck
" Simen Culler " " through the " & hand
Hosp st Henry Dodge " " through the thigh

Co K

Priv David M. Davis killed " through the head
" Medcalf B. Blain died in hospital through the breast
" John A. Porter wounded shot through the knee
" William H. Cattell " " through the Aarm (Arm)
" John W. Watkins " " through the finger

Co E

Priv Isaac Huet killed " through the hips
" Pat King died in hospital through the breast
Corp John Wean died in hospital through the back
" Ily Hess wounded shot through the arm
Sergt Gustaves Barns " " through the breast

Co H

Priv John Stout killed shot through the breast
" Nelson Letts wounded " "
" Pete Kemry " " "
Segt Samuel Coal " " through the right breast
Lieut Medcalf Perfict " seriously through the breast

Memoranda

Casualties of the 74 Ind. Vol. Inft. in a fight near Jones Borow Ga
Sept 1st A. D. 1864

Co. A				
Priv	Robert Daisy	killed	shot	through the head
"	Wat Sipes	killed	"	through the breast
"	Henry Pleacher	killed	"	through the head
"	Fredric Tinky	wounded	"	through the ankle (ankle)
"	Henry Kency	"	"	through the thigh
"	Popham	"	"	through the leg
Co F.				
Priv	Adam Gardner	killed	"	through the breast
"	Samuel Hepler	wounded	"	through the arm
"	James Amie	"	"	through the had
"	Henry McCrarie	"	"	through the thigh
Sergt	Reno Hamlin	"	"	through the thigh
Co D				
Priv	Thomas Graham	wounded	"	through the hand
Co I				
Capt	E. F. Abbet	killed	"	through the breast
Priv	Henry Greider	killed	"	through the bowels
Sergt	Kiler	wounded	"	through the body
Priv	Autry Rink	wounded	"	through the
Sergt	Alen Ripy	wounded	mortal	through the sholder & jaw
Corp	Martin Tomson	wounded	"	through the leg
Priv	Daniel Gerky	wounded	seriously	through the leg
Co C				
Corp	Henry Fry	killed		
Priv	Thomas Carson	killed		
"	John Simson	killed	"	through the head
Corp	Jery Shorb	wounded	"	through the sholder

*Sergt. Henry Polter? is also
listed in Co. A (see photocopy
of original book)*

Cash Account. January.

(2 blank pages)

Cash Account. February.

March 29, 1865

In camp near
Goldesboro N.C.
cloudy & trying
to rain the
health of of the
regt is prety good
at present all
the boys from
Kosciusko are
well I am going
to mail this
this after noon
for Warsaw
Kosciusko Co
Indiana
and want it
kept until I
call for it

(This is the last dated entry. In less than a week from this date, the Civil War would be officially over. At the age of 26, George Kistler returned home from the war to his family in Warsaw, Indiana, and lived there for the rest of his 82 years. --TR)

Cash Account. February (1 blank page)
Cash Account. March (2 blank pages)
Cash Account. April (")
Cash Account. May (")
Cash Account. June (")
Cash Account. July (")
Cash Account. August (")
Cash Account. Sept. (")
Cash Account. October (")
Cash Account. November (")
Cash Account. December (")

Total blank pages = 21.

Summary of Cash Account, & Memoranda

Mrs. Mildred Oldham

Mr. James Stokley

Miss Hester

Miss Larutta

Mrs. Bella Garrason

Memoranda

(1 blank page)

Memoranda

<u>Date</u>		<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Cts</u>
	Wm H. Miller	Dr	
June 15	to Tobacco		33 ½
30	to 1½ plug Tobacco	1	87 ½

Memoranda

Date		Dollars. Cts.		
1864	Clothing Account			(Clothing)
Jan 29	1 pontees on ruber	2	75	
Apr 13	1 pants 1 shoes	3	98	
" 20	1 blowse 1 drawers	4	02	
June 15	1 pair shoes	1	48	
Sept 24	one pair pants	3	15	
" 29	one drawers 1 hat	2	80	
Oct 22	one pair shoes	1	86	
Nov 16	1 drawers 1 shirt 1 stocks	2	92	
		<u>22</u>	<u>96</u>	
1865				
Jan 4	one pair of pants	3	10	
" 7	one pair shoes	2	40	

Memoranda

<u>Date</u>		<u>Dollars.</u>	<u>Cts.</u>
1865	Albert Morgan	Dr	
Jan 14	to bread		25
23	settled by cash		25

Memoranda

Bought by
H. D. Kistler
April the 8th/64
Price 50 cts

Bought of J. Sceva

Warsaw Ind

Send me some
thing nice Hank
Is raining here
to day the 10 of the
month

Your money has
not come yet
that you sent
home

(Presumably H. D. Kistler's
handwriting. --TR)

(next to last page)

If this Book is
lost the finder he
or she will please
send it to

George W. Kistler
Warsaw
Kosciusko Co
Indiana

George W. Kistler Inft
Co K 74 Ind Vol
3 Brig 3 Divis
14 A. Corps

Army of the Cumbula
Department of the
West

(Cumbula = Cumberland)

(verso of next to last page)

George W. Kistler

Co K 74 Ind

Vol Inft

3rd Brig 3rd Divis

14th A. C.

Army of the Cumberlin

(Cumberlin = Cumberland)

(last page)

George W. Kistler

Warsaw

Indiana

FOOTNOTES

¹Jack Coggins, Arms and Equipment of the Civil War, (New York: Doubleday, 1962), pp. 10-22.

²Ibid., p. 23.

³Ibid., p. 18.

⁴Ibid., p. 122.

⁵Ibid., p. 101.

⁶Ibid., p. 17.

⁷Bruce Catton, Never Call Retreat, (New York: Doubleday, 1965), pp. 416-417.

⁸Coggins, p. 20.

⁹Catton, p. 467.

¹⁰Coggins, p. 123.

¹¹Ibid., p. 146.

¹²Ibid., pp. 104-105.

¹³Ibid., p. 114.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 23.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 111.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 23.

¹⁷Ibid., pp. 115-117.

¹⁸Catton, p. 321.

¹⁹Ibid., pp. 320-322.

²⁰Ibid., p. 321.

²¹Ibid., pp. 322-323.

²²Ibid., p. 323.

²³Ibid.

- ²⁴Catton, pp. 324-325.
- ²⁵Ibid., pp. 326-327.
- ²⁶Ibid., pp. 325-326.
- ²⁷Ibid., p. 326.
- ²⁸Ibid., pp. 326-327.
- ²⁹Ibid., p. 327.
- ³⁰Ibid., pp. 327-328.
- ³¹Ibid., p. 328.
- ³²Ibid., p. 329.
- ³³Ibid., p. 331.
- ³⁴Ibid., p. 329.
- ³⁵Ibid., pp. 329, 384.
- ³⁶Ibid., p. 384.
- ³⁷Ibid.
- ³⁸Ibid., P. 386.
- ³⁹Ibid.
- ⁴⁰Coggins, p. 67.
- ⁴¹Catton, pp. 307, 403-4.
- ⁴²Coggins, pp. 29, 37.
- ⁴³Catton, p. 386.
- ⁴⁴Ibid.
- ⁴⁵Benson J. Lossing, Mathew Brady's Illustrated History of the Civil War, (New York: The Fairfax Press, 1912), p. 390.
- ⁴⁶Richard M. Ketchum, ed., The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War, (New York: American Heritage Publishing Company, Inc., 1960), p. 526.
- ⁴⁷Catton, p. 387.
- ⁴⁸Ibid., p. 386.

- ⁴⁹Catton, p. 398.
- ⁵⁰Coggins, p. 124.
- ⁵¹Ibid., p. 118.
- ⁵²Ketchum, p. 518.
- ⁵³Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, Here Is Your Indiana Government, (Indianapolis: The Chamber, 1979), p. 129.
- ⁵⁴Coggins, p. 123.
- ⁵⁵Catton, pp. 399-401.
- ⁵⁶Ibid., pp. 415-416.
- ⁵⁷Ibid.
- ⁵⁸Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1979 ed., s.v. "Milledgeville, Georgia."
- ⁵⁹Catton, p. 408.
- ⁶⁰Ketchum, p. 531.
- ⁶¹Catton, p. 416.
- ⁶²Ibid., p. 418.
- ⁶³Ibid.
- ⁶⁴Ibid., pp. 434, 449, 552.

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Listed below are all personal names mentioned in the diary, in alphabetical order. All spelling is Kistler's. Page number(s) where the names are found are listed below each name. All companies are from the 74th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

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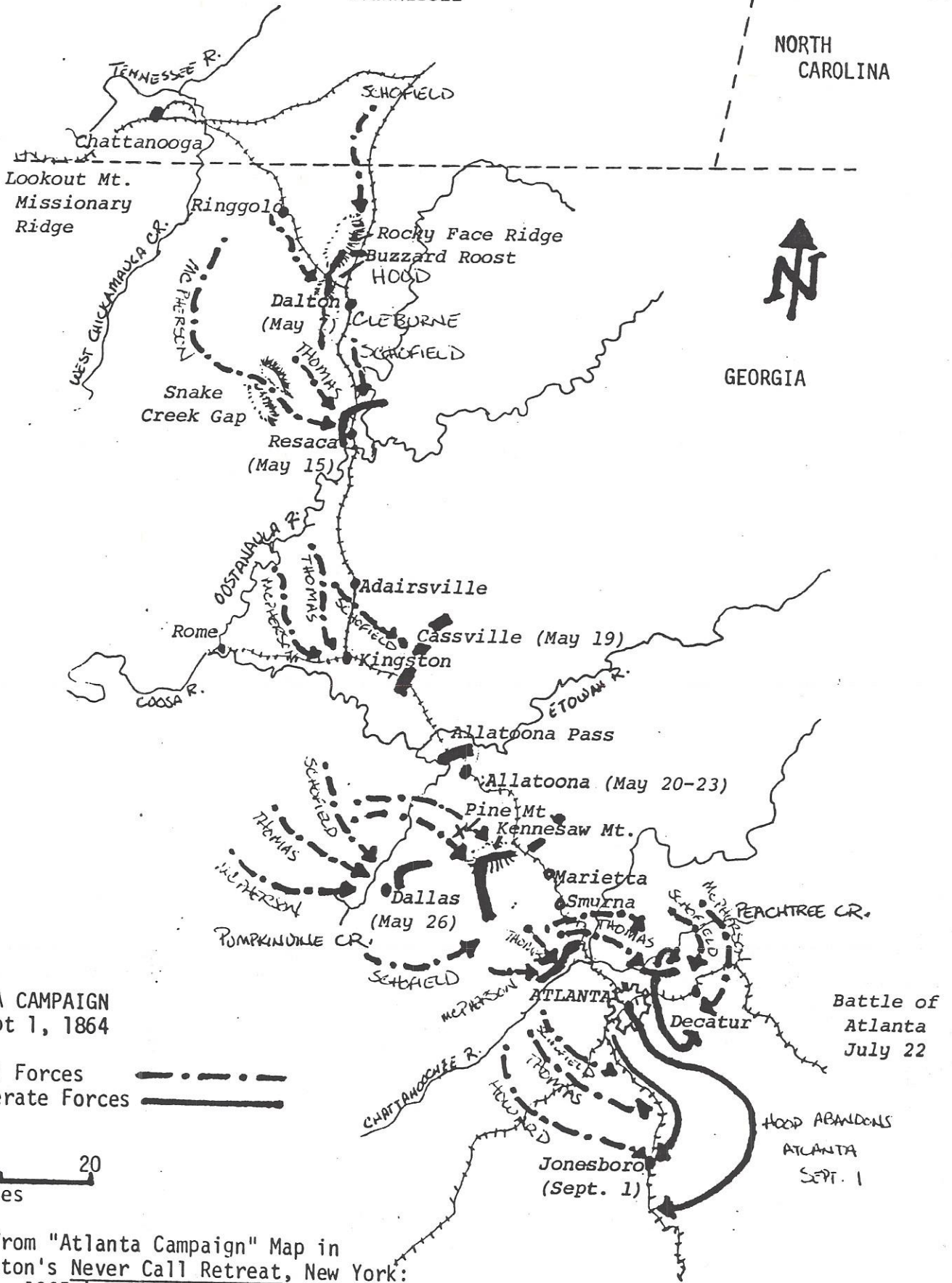
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APPENDIX I

ATLANTA CAMPAIGN
May 7 - Sept. 1, 1864

NORTH CAROLINA



ATLANTA CAMPAIGN
May 7-Sept 1, 1864

Federal Forces 
Confederate Forces 

0 20
Miles

(Adapted from "Atlanta Campaign" Map in
Bruce Catton's Never Call Retreat, New York:
Doubleday, 1965.)

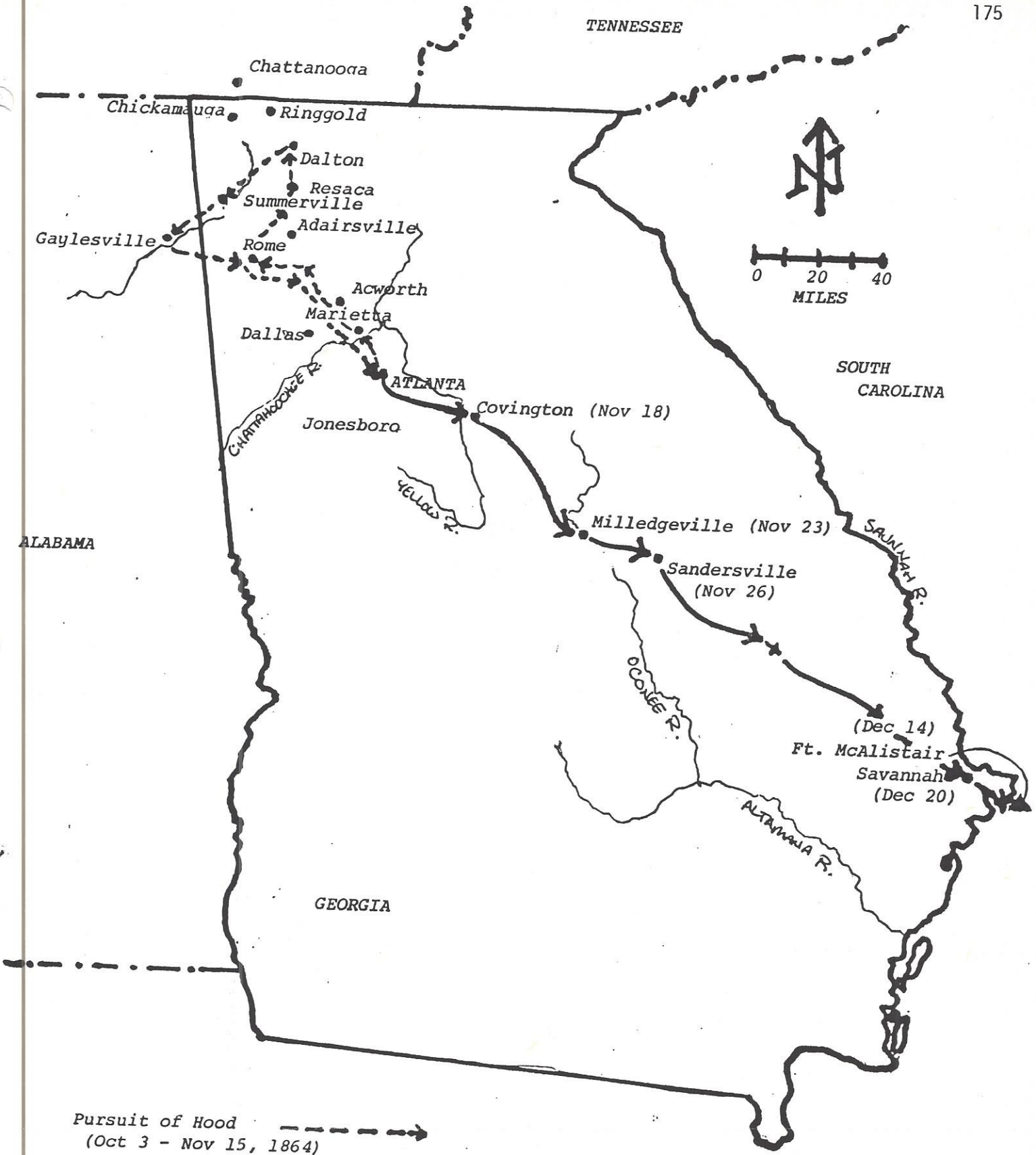
APPENDIX II


PURSUIT OF HOOD


Oct. 3 - Nov. 15, 1864

MARCH TO THE SEA

Nov. 16 - Dec. 20, 1864



Pursuit of Hood 
 (Oct 3 - Nov 15, 1864)

March to the Sea 
 (Nov 16 - Dec 20, 1864)

George W. Fuller
Co 76 71 Ind Nol
Received Apr 16th 1866
Pinggolel Georgia
Place of Residence
Warsaw Kosciusko^{Co}
Indiana