

The Civil War Diary of Andrew J. Hall

Andrew J. Hall was born in Epsom, son of Benjamin Hall and Polly Wells. Around 1858 he left Epsom for Illinois where he married Sarah J. Poynter, and had two children. He resided in Lebanon, Illinois and in July of 1861, he enlisted in the U.S. service at Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois. He started a diary when he entered the service, and this diary found its way to the Special Collections department at the library at the University of New Hampshire. They were kind enough to offer a photocopy of it, which has been transcribed and also re-written to make it easier to read. Below is the revised version followed by the direct transcription.

This book belongs to A.J. Hall
Lebanon, St. Clair County, Illinois

I enlisted in the U.S. service at Summerfield, St. Clair, Il, July 8th, 1861. I left Summerfield for Camp Butler in Springfield, Illinois August 21st, 1861. Stopped at East St. Louis over night and took the cars. On the 22nd am, arrived at Camp Butler at three o'clock pm, and was sworn into U.S. service, and bought a horse for one hundred and twenty five dollars on the 26th of August. Received our saddles and receipted for them at thirty-five dollars on the 30th of August.

Left Camp Butler on the morning of September 4th, took the cars at James town on the great Western R.R., changed cars at Decatur Junction of the G.W. & S.C. R.R., arrived at Carbondale Jackson County, Illinois at eleven o'clock pm. No arrangements had been made for our comfort. We tied out horses in the woods back of town without any feed for them, and without any supper for ourselves. Some of us got into an old school house for a shelter. I took one of the seats for my bed and rested as well as circumstances would admit.

On the 5th our camp was selected in the timber joining the town, our camp was named Camp Logan. I belong to Co. E, 2nd Regiment of Illinois Cavalry. On the 11th of September we had everything ready for a move at daylight – it was raining very hard and continued to rain all the forenoon after a muddy and fatiguing march of eleven hours. We arrived at Camp Nason near Daquoin on the S.C.R.R. On the 22nd of September, we left camp Nason for Metropoles on the Ohio River, twelve miles below Paducah.

On the night of the 22nd we camped near Blairsville. On the 23rd we camped on the Saline Creek, and on the 24th camped near Viana. Nothing of interest has occurred on our march until tonight when we came into Viana. We found several Union flags proudly floating over the town and three salutes from a cannon was fired as we entered the town. This was cheering to us for we had been traveling a country where the inhabitants strongly sympathized with the South. They gave us many a sour and surly look.

After we had camped for the night, a German came into camp and reported that we would find the road blockaded by rebels 14 miles from Viana on our next days march. Our men were also stating that they had seen the trail of a large gang of horses across the road several miles back in the woods before we got to Viana. We also remembered that for the last 25 miles, nearly every house was vacant. Sometimes we would see some woman and children, but no men. This began to look suspicious and began to create considerable excitement. Some thought that the trail we had seen was a company of mounted rebels that were watching our movement. It is necessary here to state that our force amounted to about 940 men (cavalry) commanded by Col. Noble, and our arms consisted of forty carbines and about cartridges enough to load them once. These are all the arms that we had to defend ourselves with – this is what caused the excitement.

We could have been whipped very easily. Some expected that we would be attacked before morning. Some were in favor of keeping their horses saddled so as to be ready for a retreat in case we should be attacked; others declared that they would fight with clubs and die on the spot before they would leave the ground. As for myself, I did not approve of the management. I thought it was not right to take us into the enemy's country without arms. I was not the least excited, for I did not think that we were in any danger. I went to sleep with my head on my saddle and had a good nights rest. I woke up in the morning and found everything all right.

Lieutenant Col. Hogg, with twenty men, scouted all night, but discovered nothing unusual. On the 25th we took up our line of march and arrived at Metropoles and camped at the Old Fort Massac, a little above Metropoles, on the bank of the Ohio River, twelve miles below Paducah, Kentucky. No provisions were made for us. We had to buy bread and meat for our supper and sleep on the ground without any straw, the ground being very wet and we only had one blanket. We could not sleep very comfortably. We were in this condition four nights, then we got some straw to sleep on. Soon as we came into Metropoles, our boys got a secesh flag from a yawl, which was soon distributed among the boys.

Sept. 28th. I must state that since we have been at this camp we have been having hard bread and it was full of worms. The boys had become very much dissatisfied. They thought they were imposed on and they were determined to oppose the insult, so they formed a funeral procession of about twenty-five or thirty men and started with a barrel of wormy crackers towards the river to bury them. Before they got to the river there were two or three hundred soldiers in the procession. The crackers and worms were buried together in god order, then another barrel was taken to the quartermaster's tent and turned out on the ground, and three groans were given the quartermaster. The processions then marched back in front of the Colonel's tent. One of the soldiers made a brief but eloquent speech. Three cheers were given for the speaker and three groans for the quartermaster, and they then retired to their quarters.

Sept. 29th. A yawl with two barrels of whiskey was taken from the Kentucky shore. The whiskey was turned out into the river.

Oct. 1st 1861. Nine prisoners were taken by our men in Kentucky today.

Oct. 3rd. We left Camp Massac early in the morning for Cairo. After a march of forty miles we arrived at Cairo about sundown. No arrangements had been made for us. We had no tents with us and nothing to eat until eleven o'clock at night. As for myself, I went to bed without any supper. I slept in a wagon and had a very good nights rest and was awakened in the morning by the rain beating down in my face.

Oct. 4th. We went into the barracks that the 9th Regiment Illinois Volunteers occupied in the three months service. We were completely wiped out of these quarters by the fleas. They were so numerous and so hungry that we could not stand them.

Oct. 8th. We moved our camp one mile above Cairo near the Ohio River. It is called Camp Noble.

Oct. 18th. I got a furlough for ten days to go to Summerfield, St. Clair County, Illinois.

Oct. 19th. I took the cars on the S.C. R.R. , went to Ashley, took the hack for Nashville. From Nashville I rode in a wagon in Company with Joseph Pointer, Lowrin Hull and Malanklin Hull. Arrived at home 8 o'clock pm and found my family in good health and every on the place in good order.

Oct. 28th. I left home to join my Company. I took the cars at Lebanon, changed cars at Odin, took the S.C. R.R., arriving at Cairo two o'clock in the morning of the 29th. On the 23rd of October, Companies D & E went aboard the steamboat Memphis, ran up to Caledonia and took aboard Company C. They then crossed the river to the Kentucky shore opposite Caledonia, then proceeded to the farm belonging to Jasper Turner, a Colonel in the rebel army, took forty eight mules and returned to Cairo the same day.

Nov. 25th. We moved to Birds Point, Missouri, and camped one mile west of Birds Point in the timber.

Dec. 1st. Three rebel gun boats came up the river and fired several shots at Fort Holt, but did not do any damage. The batteries at Fort Holt returned the compliment and one of our gunboats gave them chase, but the rebels retreated down the river. Our boat, after a short chase, returned to Cairo.

Dec. 3rd. One rebel gunboat came up the river near to our battery as was safe for them and threw three shells at Fort Holt. The shells fell into the water before reaching the fort.

Dec. 4th. A detachment from Companies A, B, E & F was sent to Charleston, Missouri to capture some secesh cavalry that was reported to be there, but on arriving at Charleston, we found that they had left. Our force amounted to about one hundred and fifty men under the command of Major Bush. Charleston is about 14 miles from Birds Point.

Dec. 6th. Four o'clock pm, we had orders to be ready in our saddles at six o'clock for a march and to report at headquarters at Birds Point. Every man that could go was mounted at the time appointed and in good spirits. We remained at headquarters until seven o'clock, when a force of thirteen cavalry companies had collected. We were then ordered to Belmont to surprise a rebel camp and take some batteries that were supposed to be there. The night was quite dark, and the road very muddy which made it very disagreeable traveling. When we got to Belmont, we found a line of battle on the old battleground and within three hundred yards of four rebel gun boats, but they were not aware of our being there or they would have been very likely to have fired on us. The place was thoroughly reconnoitered, but no enemy or batteries were to be found. We got back to our camp at eight o'clock the next morning.

Dec. 9th. Went to a sale about 8 miles from Birds Point to hunt stray horses.

Dec. 11th. At daylight we started from camp in pursuit of rebel cavalry we expected at Charlestown. Our force amounted to about two hundred men under the command of Major Mudd. We went into Charlestown at double quick time. The rebels had left and gone west. We pursued them and overtook some of them at Bertrand, six miles west of Charleston. We found five of them under a grocery, they had their arms with them. Their horses and mules were hitched to a fence at the grocery. One man and his rifle and mule were found in a smoke house. On hearing that some of them were in a distillery half a mile from Bertrand, a small party started for the distillery. Three men were in advance and saw two men with arms mount their horses at the distillery and start for the swamp, which was but a short distance. Our men halted them several times, but the rebels paid no attention. Two of our men pursued them at full speed and chased them into the swamp. The rebels dismounted and each one took a tree and fired at our men. They killed one man and one horse, the man belonging to Company B, the horse to Company E. We took 13 prisoners and some arms and horses and mules and returned to our camp the same day.

Dec. 14th. Our horses were kept saddled all night expecting that our camp would be attacked.

Dec. 27th. Moved to Cairo and camped two miles above Cairo on the bank of the Ohio River. We had just got our tents fixed up so that we could be more comfortable than we even had been before. We have been in this camp two days and now we have received orders to pull up stakes and move to Paducah, Kentucky. Our orders are to move tomorrow morning.

Dec. 30th. We left Cairo by steamboats and arrived at Paducah late in the afternoon. No arrangements had been made for our comfort. No campground had been selected for us. We were marched to some vacant

houses that some Kentucky soldiers had occupied some time previous. The houses were dirty and filthy and not fit for stables without cleaning out, but our men wanted shelter and they contented themselves as well as they could. Some slept on the floor, some under wagons, others sat up all night rather than to stay in such filthy quarters. As for myself, I got on top of a wagon that was loaded and tried to rest. I got to sleep but only for a short time, for I had only one blanket with me. When I awoke I was about half froze. I went to a fire in the house, but the disagreeable smell soon drove me out. I again tried the wagon. I got a little sleep, but I was again forced to leave my bed on account of the cold, so I sat up the balance of the night by a little fire out of doors. Our officers put up at the St. Francis Hotel.

Dec. 31st. Before we could get to strike our tents, we were ordered to muster. Before the review was over, it was after twelve o'clock. We then all pitched in getting up our tents and to get something to eat. We have not had anything to eat since we left Cairo, except some dry bread that we took in our haversacks. We got our tents up and had our supper and felt two hundred percent better than we did this morning.

Jan. 1st 1862. Last night we slept on the soft side of a plank, but we were so tired that we could sleep on anything that was clean. This day I dined with Lieutenant William Britt and Lady of the Company F, 9th regiment Volunteers, one of my nearest neighbors when we are at home.

January 2. We have got a floor in our tent, which we find first rate to keep our bodies off of the cold ground.

Jan. 3rd. We moved our camp about four hundred yards. We have got our horses in stables for the first time and we have got a fire in our tents, the first fire that we have ever had in them.

Jan. 6th. We scouted all day on the Cairo and Paducah Road and the Paducah and Columbus Road, and Paducah and Loversville Road. We went about ten miles on each road.

Jan. 9th. We have received orders to be in our saddles at three o'clock with six days rations. At three o'clock we were ready, but the order was countermanded. We are to start tomorrow morning at eight o'clock.

Jan. 10th. We were ready at eight this morning with six days rations ready for march and a fight. The streets of Paducah were lined with soldiers (cavalry, artillery and infantry), but we were again sent back to camp and to be ready at eight o'clock tomorrow morning. The streets of Paducah are in a very muddy condition, for we have not had a fair day in two weeks.

Jan. 11th. The order was again countermanded; our orders are to hold ourselves in readiness at an hours notice.

Jan. 13th. Twenty-five of us under Lieutenant Babcock, went on a scout. We went ten miles from Paducah on the Cairo Road, then crossed over to the Loversville Road, and returned to camp. When we started out in the morning, it was very cold. We suffered very much and were compelled to walk to keep from freezing our feet. When we were about eight miles from camp, on our return, it commenced snowing and the wind was in our faces and blew so hard that it nearly blinded us. When we got into camp we found that we had orders to march in the morning at eight o'clock with eleven days rations.

Jan. 14th. Our march is delayed until the 15th.

Jan. 15th. Our force of about six thousand (cavalry, artillery and infantry) left Paducah and marched a south course in the direction of Mayfield. The road was rough and frozen hard with a little snow and a sleeting rain and hail, which was still falling. This made it very disagreeable and uncomfortable traveling. Our march was very slow on account of the condition of the roads. We left Paducah at ten o'clock am and camped at sunset in the timber about twelve miles from Paducah. We kept ourselves off the ground by carrying rails from a fence and placing them close together. It made rather a rough bed, but we managed to sleep some. At the present time I am sitting by the fire to get warm and let my bones rest. It is about 12 o'clock at night. My fellow soldiers lying by my side on the rail bed, and I am writing by fire and moon light. The sky is once more clear.

Jan. 16th. At eight o'clock we took up our line of march towards Mayfield. The weather was very cold and the ground frozen hard. The road was so slippery that it was very difficult for our horses to travel for they were smooth shod. The day passed without any excitement. Our advance guard went into Mayfield and had a little chase after one rebel who poked spurs to his horse and made good his escape. The guards shot several times at him, but missed the mark. We camped one mile of Mayfield. We jay-hawked hay enough to make us a good bed, the first bed we have had since we left Cairo. Mayfield is in Graves County.

Jan. 17th. At eight o'clock we continued our march. The weather was cloudy and cold in the forenoon today and rainy late in the afternoon. Company E was the advance guard. We had not traveled more than two hours when we came in sight of five armed mounted men not more than four hundred yards distant. When they discovered us, they ran through a cornfield into a thicket. Our men fired several shots at them as they ran, but did not hit them. We caught four of them; one got away. We took them along with us. At night they took the oath to support the constitution and were set at liberty. This day we traveled east. Our right flank scouting party sent a messenger to us that they had discovered a company of rebel cavalry about two or three miles from us. Companies E & F started in pursuit at double quick time. When we had rode about three or four miles, we met our scouts returning. They had frightened the rebels away and captured one mule. We camped in the woods about 14 miles from Mayfield.

Jan. 18th. It commenced raining before daylight and continued to rain all day. We moved only about three miles on account of the muddy condition of the road. Our baggage train could hardly get along. The soldiers plundered a house belonging to a strong resesch who had been aiding in the rebellion.

Jan. 19th. Lay in camp all day on account of bad road.

Jan. 20th. Moved about five miles and camped. Major Mudd of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment was in advance of the column for the purpose of engaging forage. He stopped at a house of Mr. Gardner, who is a wealthy farmer and a merchant, and inquired of young Gardner if he could get corn fodder of sheaf oats for some cavalry horses. Young Gardner took the major for a southern soldier and said that he could have all that he wanted and that his father had gone to Murry and had taken his rifle along with him to kill some Union soldiers that were expected to come that way. Mr. Gardner came home in the night and was taken prisoner and his store was broken open by the soldiers who helped themselves. Some horses were taken and his rifle also.

Jan. 21st. We commenced our march this morning very early and camped at night near the Tennessee River. Four Companies of the 41st Illinois Volunteers and four Company of the 2nd Cavalry Illinois Volunteers were the rear guard when near the Tennessee River we heard sharp firing about one mile ahead. We supposed

that the advance was engaged with the enemy. We were ordered to examine our arms and have them ready for we might be ordered forward or attacked in the rear. After the firing had been kept up thirty or forty minutes, we learned that the firing was nothing but the first Brigade firing their guns into the river.

Jan. 22nd. We remained in camp. Received seven days rations.

Jan. 23rd. We commenced our march down the river road towards Paducah. We traveled about fifteen miles and camped after night. The soldiers was very much dissatisfied because they could not have an opportunity to attack Fort Henry, for we were within twelve miles of it.

Jan. 24th. We marched eighteen miles.

Jan. 25th. We commenced our march early in the morning and arrived at Paducah at three o'clock pm.

Jan. 27th. Company E, under command of Lieutenant E.F. Babcock, left Paducah for a scout at 4 o'clock pm, got back the 28th at 1 o'clock am with three prisoners, one gun, one drum. We traveled about seventy miles.

Feb. 7th. Twenty-five of us scouted all day.

Feb. 13th. Company E left camp at two o'clock in the morning on a scout and returned at 5 o'clock pm.

Feb. 14th. An attack is expected on Paducah. It is reported that a large body of soldiers is marching in this direction from Columbus. A close watch is kept. The picket guard is doubled on all the roads.

Feb. 21st. Went to the hospital.

Mar. 2nd. Left the hospital, obtained a furlough from March 2 to March 30.

Mar. 3rd. Arrived at home.

Mar. 31st. Joined my Company at Columbus, Kentucky.

Apr. 3rd. A report came into camp that the rebels was setting up their tents within three miles of us. Fifty of us were ordered our to attack them. We went out on double quick time, but found nothing in the shape of secesh. Somebody had cot scared at nothing.

Apr. 6th. Went on a scout to Millborn, Kentucky. There we got a guide and went three miles into the country and took some furniture from a secesh that he had stole in Columbus. The property belonged to a lady from New York. The property was identified by our guide (Mr. Green), who was guardian for the lady. We also took six horses and one mule and returned to Columbus. Millborn is a nice little village and the inhabitants are nearly all Union loving people. They rejoice to think that they have got rid of the annoying secesh soldiers. We got into town about noon and we were all invited to dinner by the citizens.

Apr. 7th. Ten of us with Captain Lipton went to Belmont to get some secesh property, but we did not accomplish our design. The place was so much overflowed with water that we could not get around much.

A great many horses are still lying on the battleground. Some of the cannon balls are to be seen and shells that did not explode.

Apr. 12th. Two companies, E & F, went to Clinton, Kentucky and hoisted a Union flag on the Courthouse. The people of Clinton had said that a union flag should not be put up in that place, but we put up the flag and no one tried to prevent us from doing so. Clinton is 18 miles east of Columbus. We got back to our camp about sunset. It rained hard all day, we and our horses were very much fatigued.

Apr. 13th. One o'clock am, we had not been in bed but a few hours when we were called up and ordered to pack up everything that we could not carry on our horses, and put them on a steam boat to go to Hickman, which is about 15 miles down the river. We soon got our trumpery on the boat at ten o'clock am. We commenced our march by a circuitous route, which we were obliged to do on account of the bridges being burned between Columbus and Hickman by the rebels when they evacuated Columbus. We went to Clinton and camped for the night, our Union flag was still proudly floating to the breeze on the courthouse that we hoisted the day before. I was on picket guard that night. Early Monday the 14th, we commenced our march and got to Hickman about 4 o'clock pm. We traveled about 25 miles that day.

Apr. 15th. I was paid for January and February.

Apr. 27th. Companies E & F went to Union City, then on to the Obine River and burned a railroad bridge and tressel work to prevent the rebels from getting supplies from Union City. Returned to camp the 30th.

May 1st. About eighty of us left camp provided with four days rations. We left Hickman at noon and camped at sundown at Troy, Tennessee, 20 miles from Hickman. The next morning we continued our march southward at twelve o'clock. We came to the Obine River 17 miles from Troy. We intended to go on some twenty miles further, but could not cross the Obine on account of high water. The backwater of the Mississippi had overflowed the Obine bottom for two miles wide. There was a small ferry at this point, but was not sufficient to take us across. This was 18 miles from the Mississippi, a little below New Madrid, but on the Tennessee side. We captured five southern soldiers. One was Lieutenant Steward of the Company I, 22 Tennessee. The others were privates in the same regiment, except one that belonged to the artillery. We got some muskets, tents, canteens, and one cutlass powder and knapsacks &c. We got back to camp the night of the 3rd and were quite wet, for it rained all the afternoon.

Apr. 5th. Joseph L ___ and myself were sent to return a horse that was borrowed for a prisoner to ride into camp. The owner of the horse lives 8 miles from Hickman.

Apr. 6th. We got orders to be ready for a march at ten o'clock to go to Risdon, Tennessee, where some rebels are said to be camped. The same day we went to Jacksonville, 17 miles. We started from camp with part of six companies of cavalry, about three hundred in number, two pieces of artillery, when about ten miles from Hickman we got the report that there was from fifteen hundred to two thousand southern cavalry in the neighborhood of Risdon, and that they had taken 220 of our cavalry prisoners that were from Fort Henry. Our force was commanded by Colonel Hogg. He immediately sent orders to camp for the remaining force at Hickman to come up immediately. The next morning at daylight we were reinforced by two more pieces of artillery; four companies of Infantry and the balance of our cavalry. Our force in all amounted to about 550, but we considered ourselves capable of whipping two thousand southern cavalry. I stood picket guard all night. We camped at Jacksonville. The next morning our cavalry went on to the Obine River, leaving the artillery and infantry at Jacksonville. The ford on the river that we went to is about 12 miles from

Jacksonville, On arriving at that point we learned the river could not be crossed for several miles except at this point and Colonel Hogg thought it not prudent to cross the river. So we were ordered right about and marched back to Hickman, which was a great disappointment to the men and caused a great deal of grumbling, for we all expected to have some fun.

Colonel Hogg was accused of cowardice. Some said his whiskey had given out &c. We got back to camp after dark the 7th. That day we traveled 43 miles.

May 13th. 35 of us from Company E went on a scout or rather a reconnoitering party. Information came into camp that there were some secesh soldiers in the State of Tennessee, about 14 miles from Hickman. The informant went with us as a guide.

After we had traveled a few miles, the guide was sent by Capt. Tipton on ahead, but by a different road from the one that we traveled. He was to meet us about 8 miles from where we separated and give us such information as he should learn concerning the rebels. We traveled slowly along by the railroad towards Union City. Our guide met us as was agreed upon. He said that we were within 2 ½ miles of 150 rebel cavalry. Capt. Tipton sent two men back to Hickman with a message to Colonel Hogg. The commander of the post, myself, and five others, were sent on ahead about a half mile to take a citizen prisoner, one who our guide had seen in the morning guiding the rebels about. We found the man at home and made him prisoner; also another one that was at his house. We returned to the company. We were then marched back to within five miles of camp and stopped to feed our horses. I was very unwell and tired, but it was my turn for picket, so there was no chance for rest for myself or horse. We had not remained here more than two hours when reinforcements of 250 from Hickman joined us and we mounted and pushed on to Union City, expecting to find the rebels there. We got there about One o'clock at night and did not find them. We then went to Jacksonville. We got to Jacksonville at day light, finding no one there. We did not stop. We went directly to Hickman. We were in the saddle nearly all the time for 24 hours, and our company traveled about 85 miles, and part of the road was very bad. The firs day of this tramp we had one of the hardest showers, but our oil clothes were a great protection to us.

May 16th. We are under marching orders.

May 18th. Companies E, F,G, and H numbering about 200, left Hickman on an expedition down the river. I was not able to go with them. The expedition returned on the night of the 24th. They went into Arkansas opposite Fort Pillow. We had been under marching orders for three days and on the morning of the 9th of June, we struck our tents and marched to Union City, Tennessee, and camped. Our force that left Hickman was five cavalry companies, four companies of infantry, and two sections of artillery. We had been camped but a short time when other troops came in.

[end of A.J. Hall's entries]

This book belongs to
Sarah J. Hall
Wife of Andrew J. Hall
331 Pine Street
Manchester, NH

The claimant files this diary as evidence in her claim for pension and desires the diary is returned to her after the case is adjudicated.

This Book belongs to A.J. Hall
Lebanon, St. Clair, County, Illinois

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Sept 28th I must state that
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worms was buryed together in
good order then another bbl was
taken to the quarter masters
tent and turnd out on the
ground, and three groans

was given for the quarter
master, the procession then
marched back in front of the
Col. tent one of the soldiers
made a brief but elequent
speech, three cheers was
given for the speaker and three
groans for the quarter master,

and then retired to their quarters.

Sept 29th a yawl with two
bbls of whiskey was taken from
the Ky shore the whiskey was
turned out into the river.

Oct 1st 1861 nine prisoners
Was taken by our men in
Kentucky today

Oct 3rd we left camp massac
Early in the morning for
Cairo after a march of forty
Miles we arived at cairo
About sundown no arrangements
had ben made for us we had
no tents with us and nothing
to eat until eleven Oclock
at night as for myself I went
to bed without any supper
I slept in a wagon and had
a very good nights rest
and was awaked up in the
morning by the rain beating
down in my face.

Oct 4th we went into the
barracks that the 9 regt Ills V

occupied in the three
months service. We was
completely whipped out of
these quarters by the fleas
they was so numerous and
so hungry that we could not
stand them

Oct 8th we moved our camp
One mile above cairo near
the Ohio river this camp
is cald camp Noble

Oct 18th I got a furlough for
ten days to go to Summerfield
St. Clair, county, Ills,

Oct 19th I took the the cars
on the S.C.R.R. went to ashley
took the hack for Nashville

from Nashville I road in
a wagon in company with

Joseph Pointer Lowrin Hull
and Malanklin Hull
arrived at home 8 oclock
PM, and found my family
in good health and every
thing on the place in
good order
Oct 28th left home to join
my Company took the cars
at Lebanon changed cars at
Odin took the S.C.R.R.
arrived at cairo two Oclock
in the morning of the 29th
On the 23rd of Oct Co. D & E went
aboard the steam boat Memphis

run up to Caladonia and
took abourd Co. C. then crosed
the river to Kentucky shore
opposite Caladonia then
proceeded to the farm belonging
to Jasper Turner a Col in
the rebel army, took
forty eight mules and return
ed to cairo same day
Nov 25th we move to Birds
Point Missouri and camped
one mile west of Birds Point
in the timber
Dec 1st Three rebel gun boats
came up the river and fierd
several shots at Fort Holt
but done no damage

the batterys at Fort Holt
returned the compliment
and one of our gunboats gave
them chace but the rebels retre
ated down the river our
boat after a short chace
returned to cairo
Dec 3rd one rebel gun boat
came up the river near
to our batterys as was safe
for them and throwed three
shells at Fort Holt the
shells fell into the water

before reaching the Fort
Dec 4th a detachment from
Co A B E & F was sent to
Charleston MO. To capture

Some secesh cavalry
that was reported to be there
but on arriving at Charleston
we found that they had left
our force amounted to about
one hundred and fifty men
under command of Major
Bush Charleston is about
14 miles from Birds Point
Dec 6th four O'clock PM
we had orders to be ready
and in our saddles at six
O'clock for a march and to
report at head quarters at
Birds Point every man
that could go was mounted
at the time appointed
and in good spirits, we

remained at head quarters
until seven O'clock when
a force of thirteen cavalry
companys had collected
then we was ordered to
Belmont to supprise
a rebel camp and take
some batterys that was
supposed to be there
the night was quite dark
and the road very muddy
which made it very
disagreeable traveling, when
we got to Belmont we found
a line of battle on the old battle
ground and within three

hundred yards of four rebel
gun boats but they was not
aware of our being there or
they would have ben very
likely to have fired on us
the place was thoroughly

reconnoitered but no enemy
or battery was to be found
we got back to our camp at eight
O'clock next morning
Dec 9th went to a sale about
8 miles from Birds Point
to hunt stray horses
Dec 11th at day light we
started from camp in
pursuit of a company of
rebel cavalry we

expected to find them
at Charleston our force
amounted to about two
hundred men under command
of Major Mudd we went
into Charleston at double
quick time the rebels had
left and gone west we
pursued them and overtook
some of them at Bertrand
six miles west of Charlston
we found five of them under a
grocery they had their
arms with them their
horses and mules was
hitched to a fence at the
grocery. one man and

his rifle and mule was
found in a smoke house
on hearing that some of them
was at a Desstillery half
a mile from Bertrand a
small party started for
the Desstillery three men
was in advance and saw
two men with arms
mount their horses at the
Desstillery and start for
the swamp which was but
a short distance our men
halted them several times
but the rebels paid no attention
two of our men persued
them at full speed

and chased them into the
swamp the rebels dismount-
ed each one took a tree
and fired at our men
and killed one man and
one horse the man belong-
ing to Co B the horse to
Co E we took 13 prisoners
and some arms and horses
and mules and returned
to our camp same day
Dec 14th our horses were
kept saddled all night
expecting that our camp
would be attacked
Dec 27th moved to Cairo
camped two miles above

Cairo on the bank of the
Ohio river we had just got
our tents fixed up so that
we could be more comfortable
than we ever had been before
we have been in this camp
two days and now we have
received orders to pull up
stakes and move to
Paducah Ky our orders
is to move tomorrow
morning
Dec 30th we left Cairo by
steam boats and arrived
at Paducah late in the after-
noon no arrangements had
been made for our comfort

no camp ground had been
selected for us we were march-
ed to some vacant houses
that some Ky soldiers had
occupied some time previous
the houses were dirty and
filthy and not fit for stables
without cleaning out but our
men wanted shelter and
they contented themselves

as well as they could some
slept on the floor some under
wagons, others sat up all night rather
than to stay in such filthy
quarters as for myself
I got on top of a wagon that

was loaded, and tried to
rest I got to sleep but only
for a short time for I had only
one blanket with me. when
I awoke I was about half froze
I went to a fire in the house
but the disagreeable smell
soon drove me out.

I again tried the wagon
I got a little sleep but I was
again forced to leave my
bed on account of the cold
so I sat up the balance of
the night by a little fire out
of doors. our officers put
up at the St Frances Hotel

Dec 31st before we could
get to strike our tents we
was orderd to muster before
the review was over it was
after twelve Oclock, then
we all pitched in for getting
up our tents and to get
something to eat for we have
not had any thing to eat since
we left cairo except some
dry bread that we took in
our haversacks we got our
tents up and had our suppers
and feel two hundred per cent
better than we did this morning
Jan 1st 1862 last night we
slept on the soft side of a
plank but we was so tired

that we could sleep on any
thing that was clean. this
day I dined with Lieut Wm
Britt and Lady of Co F 9th

regt Ills V one of my nearest
neighbors when we are at
home

Jan 2 we have got a floor
in our tent which we find
first rate to keep our bodys off of
the cold ground

Jan 3rd we moved our
camp about four hundred
yards we have got our horses
in stables for the first time
and we have got a fire in our
tents the first fire that we
have ever had in them

Jan 6th we scouted all day
on the cairo and Paducah road
and the Paducah and Columbus
road and Paducah and Lovers
vill road we went about ten
miles on each road

Jan 9th we have received orders
to be in our saddles at three
Oclock with six days rations
at three Oclock we was ready
but the order was countermanded
we are to start tomorrow
morning at eight oclock

Jan 10th we was ready at eight
this morning with six days
rations ready for march
and a fight the streets

of Paducah was lined with
soldiers (cavalry artillery
and infantry but we was again
sent back to camp and to be
ready at eight oclock tomorrow
morning the streets of Paducah
are in a very muddy condition
for we have not had a fair day
in two weeks

Jan 11th the order was again
countermanded our orders
is to hold ourselves in
readiness at an hours notice
Jan 13th twenty five of us under

Lieut Babcock went on a scout
we went ten miles from Paducah
on the Cairo road then crossed

over to the Loversvill road
and returned to camp
when we started out in the
morning it was very cold
we suffered very much and wss
compeld to walk to keep
from freezing our feet
when we was about eight miles
from camp on our return
it commenced snowing
and the wind was in our
faces and blowd so hard
that it nearly blinded us
when we got into camp we
found that we had orders to
march in the morning at
eight oclock with eleven
days rations

Jan 14th our march is delayed
until the 15th

Jan 15th our force of bout six
Thousand (cavalry artillery
and infantry) left Paducah and
marched a south course in
the direction of Mayfield
the road was rough and frozen
hard with a little snow and
a sleeting rain and hail which
was still falling this made
it very disagreeable and uncomfor
table traveling our march
was very slow on account of
the condition of the roads
we left Paducah at ten oclock AM

and camped at sunset
in the timber about twelve
miles from Paducah. We kept
ourselves off of the ground
by carrying rails from a fence
and placing them close together
it made rather a rough bed but
we managed to sleep some

at the present time I am sitting
at by the fire to get warm and
let my bones rest it is about
12 oclock at night my fellow
soldiers laying by my side on
the rail bed and I am writing
by fire and moon light
the sky is once more clear
Jan 16th at eight oclock we

took up our line of march
towards Mayfield the weather
was very cold and the ground
frozen hard the road was so
slippery that it was very difficult
for our horses to travel for they
was smooth shod. The day
passed with any excitement our
advance guard went into Mayfield
and had a little chace after one rebel
who poked spures to his horse
and made good his escape, the
guards shot several times at
him but missed the mark
we camped one mile of May
field we jayhawked hay
enough to make us a good

bed the first bed that we
have had since we left cairo
Mayfield is in graves county
Jan 17th at eight oclock we
continued our march
the weather was cloudy and cold
in the forenoon today and rainy
late in the afternoon Co E
was the advance guard we had
not traveld more than two
hours when we came in sight
of five armed mounted
men not more than four
hundred yards distant. when
they discovered us they run
through a cornfield into a
thicket our men fierd

several shots at them

as they run but did not hit them we caught four of them one got away we took them along with us at night they took the oath to support the constitution and was set at liberty this day we traveled east our right flank scouting party sent a messenger to us that they had discovered a company of rebel cavalry about two or three miles from us. Co E & F started in pursuit at double quick time when we had road about three or four

miles we meet our scouts returning they had frightened the rebels away and captured one mule. we camped in the woods about 14 miles from Mayfield

Jan 18th it commenced raining before day light and continued to rain all day we moved only about three miles on account of the muddy condition of the road our baggage train could hardly get along the soldiers plundered a house belonging to a strong rebel who had been aiding in the rebellion

Jan 19th Layed in camp all day on account of bad road

Jan 20 Moved about five miles and camped Major Mudd of the 2nd cav regt was in advance of the column for the purpose of engaging forage he stopped at the house of Mr. Gardner who is a wealthy farmer and a merchant and inquired of young Gardner

if he could get corn fodder
or sheaf oats for some
cavalry horses young
Gardner took the major
for a southern soldier and
said that he could have

all that he wanted and
that his father had gone to
Murry and had taken his
rifle along with him to kill
some union soldiers that
was expected to come
that way Mr. Gardner came
home in the night and was
taken prisoner his store was
broken open by the
soldiers who helped them
selves some horses was
taken and his rifle also
Jan 21st we commenced our
march this morning very early
and camped at night near the

Tennessee river four Co
of the 41st Ills V & four Co of the
2nd Cav Ills V was the rear
guard when near the Tennessee
river we heard sharp firing
about one mile ahead we
supposed that the advance
was engaged with the enemy
we were ordered to examine
our arms and have them
ready for we might be ordered
forward or be attacked in the
rear after the firing had been
kept up thirty or forty minutes
we learned that the firing was
nothing but the first Brigade
firing of the guns into the river

Jan 22nd we remained in camp
received seven days
rations

Jan 23rd we commenced our
march down the river road

towards Paducah we traveled
about fifteen miles and camped
after night the soldiers was
very much dissatisfied
because they could not have
an opportunity to attack
Fort Henry for we was
within twelve miles of it
Jan 24th we marched eighteen miles
Jan 25 we commenced our
march early in the morning
and arrived at Paducah at

three o'clock PM
Jan 27th Co E under command
of Lieut E.F. Babcock left
Paducah for a scout at 4 o'clock
PM got back 28th at 1 o'clock
M with three prisoners
one gun one drum we traveled
about seventy miles
Feb 7th twenty five of us
scouted all day
Feb 13th Co E left camp at
two o'clock in the morning
on a scout and returned at
five o'clock PM
Feb 14th an attack is expected
on Paducah it is reported
that a large body of soldiers is
marching

in this direction from
Columbus a close watch is
kept the picket guard is
doubled on all the roads
Feb 21st went to the Hospittle
Mar 2nd left the Hospittle
obtained a furlough from Mar 2
to Mar 30
March 3rd arrived at home
March 31st joined my company
at Columbus Ky
Apr 3rd a report came into
camp that the rebels was setting
up their tents within three
miles of us fifty of us was

ordered out to attack them we
went out on double quick

time but found nothing in
the shape of secesh some
body had got scared at nothing
Apr 6th went on a scout to
Millborn Ky
there we got a guide and went
three miles into the country
and took some furniture from
a secesh that he had stole
in Columbus the property belonged
to a Lady from NY The
property was identified by
our guide (Mr. Green) who was
gardian for the Lady we also
took six horses and one mule
and returned to Columbus
same day, Millborn is foreteen

miles from Columbus
Millborn is a nice little
Village and the inhabatance
are nearly all union love
ing people they rejoice to
think that they have got rid
of the annoying secesh soldiers
we got into town about noon
and we was all invited to
dinner by the citizens
Apr 7th ten of us with Capt.
Lipton went to Belmont
to get some secesh property
but we did not accomplish
our design the place was so
much overflowed with
water that we could not get

around much a grate
many horses are still layng
on the battle ground some
of the cannon balls are to be
seen and shells that did
not explode
Apr 12th two companey's
E & F went to Clinton Ky and

hoisted a union flag on the
Court house the people of
Clinton had said that a union
flag should not be put up
in that place, but we put
up the flag and no one tried to
prevent us from doing so
Clinton is 18 miles east of
Columbus we got back to our

camp about sun sett it
rained hard all day ourselves
and horses was very much
fatigued Apr 13th one Oclock
A.M. we had not ben in bed
but a few hours when we was
called up and ordered to pack
up everything that we could
not carry on our horses and
put them on a steam boat to
go to Hickman which is
about 15 miles down the
river we soon got our
trumpery on the boat
at ten oclock A.M. we commen
ced our march by a circuitous
route which we was

obliged to do on account
of the bridges being burnt
between Columbus & Hickman
by the rebels when they evacu
ated Columbus we went to
Clinton and camped for
the night our union flag
was still proudly floating
to the breese on the court
house that we hoisted the day
before I was on picket guard
that night early Monday the
14th we commenced our
march and got to Hickman
about 4 oclock PM we
traveld about 25 miles
that day

Apr 15th was paid of for

January and February

Apr 27th Co E & F went to Union City then on to the Obine river and burnt a rail road bridge and tressel work to prevent the rebels from getting supplies from Union City returned to camp the 30th

May 1st about eighty of us left camp provided with four days rations we left Hickman at noon and camped at sundown at Troy Tennessee 20 miles from Hickman the next morning we continued our march southward

at twelve oclock we came to the obine river 17 miles from Troy we intended to go on some twenty miles further but we could not cross the Obine on account of high water the back water of the Mississippi had overflowed the Obine bottom for two miles wide there was a small ferry at this point but was not sufficient to take us across this was 18 miles from the mises a little below New Madrid but on

The Tennessee side we captured five southern soldiers one was Lieut Steward of the Co I 22 Tennessee the others was privets in the same regt except one that belonged to the artillery we got some muskets tents, canteens, and one cutlass powder and knapsacks &co

we got back to camp in
the night of the 3rd and
was quite wet for it
rained all the afternoon
Apr 5th Joseph L____ and
myself was sent
to return a horse that
was borrowed for a prisoner
to ride into camp the
owner of the horse lives
8 miles from Hickman
Apr 6th we got order to
be ready for a march at ten
oclock to go to risdon
Tenese whare some rebels
are said to be camped
the same day we went to
Jacksonville 17 miles,
we started from camp
with part of six compa
neys of cavalry about
three hundred in number
two pieces of artillery
when about ten miles
from Hickman we got
the report that the was
from fifteen hundred to
two thousand southern
cavalry in the neighborhood
of Risdon and that they
had taken 220 of our
cavalry prisoners that
was from Fort Henry
our force was command
ed by Col Hogg he imme
diately sent orders to
camp for the remaining
force at Hickman to
come up immediately

the next morning at
day light we was reinforced
by two more pieces of artillery
and four companey of
Infantry and the balance of
our cavalry our force in all
amounted to about 550

but we considered ourselves
capable of whipping two
thousand southern cavalry
I stood picket guard
all night we camped at
Jacksonville the next
morning our cavalry
went on to the Obine
river leaving the artillery
and Infantry at Jacksonville

the ford on the river that
we went to is about 12 miles
from Jacksonville on arriving
at that point we learned
that the rebel force was very
strong and the river could not
be crossed for several miles
except at this point and
Col Hogg thought it not
prudent to cross the
river so we were ordered
right about and march
back to Hickman which
was a great disappointment
to the men and caused a
great deal of grumbling
for we all expected

to have some fun
Col Hogg was accused
of cowardice some said
his whiskey had given
out & co) we got back to
camp after dark the 7th
that day we traveled 43 miles
May 13th 35 of us from Co E
went on a scout or rather
a reconnoitering party
information came into
camp that there was some
secessionist soldiers in the
state of Tennessee about
14 miles from Hickman
the informant went
with us as a guide

after we had traveld a few miles the guide was sent by Capt Tipton on ahead but by a different road from the one that we traveld he was to meet us about 8 miles from whare we separated and give us such information as he should learn concerning the rebels we traveld slowly along by the rail road twords Union City our guide meet us as was agreed upon he said that we was within 2 ½ miles

of 150 rebel cavalry Capt Tipton sent two men back to Hickman with a message to Col Hogg the commander of the Post myself and five others was sent on ahead about half a mile to take a citizen prisoner one who our guide had seen in the morning guiding the rebels about we found the man at home and made him prisoner also another one that was at his house we return ed to the company

we was then marched back to within five miles of camp and stop to feed our horses I was very unwell and tierd but it was my turn for Picket so the was no chance for rest for myself or horse but we had not remaind here more than two hours when reinforcements of

250 from Hickman
joined us and we mounted
and pushed on to Union
City expecting to find
the rebels there
we got there about one

o'clock at night and
did not find them we
then went to Jacksonville
we got to Jacksonville
at day light finding no
one there we did not
stop we went directly
to Hickman we was
in the saddle nearly all
the time for 24 hours
and our company traveled
about 85 miles and part
of the road was very
bad the first day of
this tramp we had one
of the hardest of
showers but our oil
clothes was a great protection to us

May 16th we are under
marching orders

May 18th Co. E. F. G. H.
numbering about 200 left
Hickman on an expedition
down the river I was
not able to go with them
the expedition returned on the
night of the 24th they went
into Arkansas opposite Fort
Pillow

we had been under marching
orders for three days and on
the morning of the 9th of

June we struck our tents
and marched to Union
City Tennessee and camped
our force that left Hickman
was five cavalry companies
four companies of Infantry

and two sections of artillery
we had ben camped but a short
time when other troupes
come in.

[end of A.J. Hall's entries]

This book belongs to
Sarah J. Hall
Wife of Andrew J. Hall
331 Pine St.
Manchester, NH

The claimant files this diary
as evidence in her
claim for pension
and desires the diary
is returned to her
after his case is
adjudicated

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